

9 Dead, 41 Injured After Goods Train Hits Kanchanjunga Express In Bengal



Kolkata(KCN): Nine people, including two Railway employees, have died and about 50 others injured after an express train collided with a goods train in Darjeeling district of West Bengal this morning. Kanchanjunga Express was travelling from Agartala in Tripura to Sealdah in Kolkata when a goods train hit it from behind near Rangapani station, close to New Jalpaiguri.

Three coaches of Kanchanjunga Express were derailed in the crash. One factor which limited casualties is the fact that the rear part of Kanchanjunga Express comprised of the parcel coach and the guard's coach and the passenger compartments further ahead suffered less impact.

Railway Board chairperson Jaya Verma Sinha told the media that

the accident took place around 9 am. "The rescue work is complete. The injured have been shifted to the North Bengal medical college and they are being provided the best possible treatment," she said.

The unaffected front portion of Kanchanjunga Express, she said, will resume its onward journey soon so that the passengers can reach their destination. Bengal Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee has said doctors and disaster response teams have been rushed to the spot. "Shocked to learn, just now, about a tragic train accident, in Phansidewa area of Darjeeling district. While details are awaited, Kanchanjunga Express has reportedly been hit by a goods train. DM, SP, doctors, ambulances and

disaster teams have been rushed to the site for rescue, recovery, medical assistance. Action on war footing initiated," she posted on X.

The Kanchanjunga Express is a daily train that connects Bengal with the Northeastern cities of Silchar and Agartala. This route is in the Chicken's Neck corridor, which connects the Northeast with the rest of the country. The accident on this line can potentially impact the movement of several other trains.

The Kanchanjunga Express is frequently used by tourists to travel to Darjeeling. The accident comes at a time when Kolkata and neighbouring south Bengal are reeling under a sultry summer and many are travelling to the hill station for some relief.

BJP Appoints Election In-Charges For Four States For Assembly Polls



New Delhi(KCN): The Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) has appointed election in-charges for four states where assembly polls are scheduled for later this year.

On Monday, the party appointed Union ministers Bhupendra Yadav and Ashwani Vaishnav as in charge and co-in-charge for Maharashtra, while

Union minister Dharmendra Pradhan and lawmaker from Tripura, Biplob Deb have been appointed as in-charge and co-in-charge for Haryana. In both the states the BJP's performance in the recently concluded Lok Sabha polls has been subpar. In Maharashtra where the National Democratic Alliance (NDA)

progress made by Mission Shakti in empowering women



various ongoing schemes and activities, underscoring their importance in fostering women's empowerment, enhancing livelihoods, and promoting entrepreneurship among women. She also deliberated on the preparation of a 100-day work plan aimed at accelerating the implementation of key initiatives and achieving tangible outcomes within a short span.

Pravati Parida conducted a comprehensive review of various schemes and activities under the Department of Mission Shakti on Monday. During the review, Smt. Parida emphasised the crucial role of Mission Shakti in realising the dream of a developed Odisha. She acknowledged the

4 Maoists Killed In Encounter With Security Forces In Jharkhand, 2 Arrested

Chaibasa(KCN): At least four Maoists, including a woman, were killed in an encounter with security forces in Jharkhand's West Singhbhum district on Monday, officials said. The encounter broke out around 5 am near Lipunga area under Gua police station limit, around 200-km from Jharkhand's capital Ranchi, they said.

"Four Maoists were killed in the gunfight, while two have been arrested," Jharkhand Police spokesperson and IG (Operations), Amol V Homkar, told PTI. Homkar said that one INSAS rifle, two SLRs, three rifles (.303) and one (9mm) pistol were recovered during the search operation. Later briefing media persons, he said that the killed Maoists were identified from the primary sources as zonal commander Kande Honhaga, a resident of Thalkobad in Chaibasa and he was carrying a bounty on his head, sub-zonal commander Singrai alias Manoj, a resident of Jaigur police station area in Chhattisgarh, area commander Surya alias Munda Devgami and a woman cadre Junga Party alias Marla.

According to police sources, Singrai was carrying a bounty of ? 10 lakh, Kande ? 5 lakh and Surya ? 2 lakh.

Odisha CM asks officers for timely completion of ongoing irrigation projects

Bhubaneswar(KCN): Odisha Chief Minister Mohan Charan Majhi Monday directed the officers of the Water Resources department for timely completion of the ongoing irrigation projects.

Holding a meeting with the top officers of the department, the Chief Minister also directed them to manage water efficiently during the delayed monsoon period. He advised the officials to be in a state of preparedness for managing possible flood situation during the ensuing monsoon, the Chief Minister's Office (CMO) said in a statement.

Stressing that the improvement of the status of the farmers of the state is a top priority of his government, Majhi said that the Water Resources department



has a key role to play in making water available to farmers, it said.

He further exhorted all the officers of the department to work with utmost sincerity, transparency and dedication to ensure greater benefit for farmers.

Development Commissioner Anu Garg, who is also the additional chief secretary (ACS) of the Water Resources department and many senior officers of the department were present at the meeting.

Meanwhile, the Development Commissioner along with the senior officers of the Planning and Convergence department called on the Chief Minister this forenoon. They apprised the CM about the activities and role of the department.

Majhi advised the officials to start the process of consultation with the Finance department and other stakeholders for preparation of a people-centric annual budget 2024-25 for programme expenditure that reflects the hopes and aspirations of the people.

He also advised the officers to ensure effective and efficient implementation of the schemes of the department and strengthen the planning process at the district level.

Odisha: Hot, humid weather conditions likely to prevail in some districts till June 19

Bhubaneswar(KCN): IMD Monday said that hot and humid weather conditions will likely prevail in some Odisha districts until June 19, while thunderstorms are also likely. The weather agency predicted heavy rainfall at a few places June 20 and 21. The conditions are favourable for further advance of southwest monsoon into some more

parts of the state during the next four days, the IMD said. Though monsoon had set over the state June 8, its progress has been slow. The delay in the advancement of monsoon caused heat wave conditions in the interior districts and sultry weather in the coastal belt, a weather official said.

The monsoon is currently active in Malkangiri and Koraput districts, he said.

So far, the state has received 36.6 mm of rainfall against the expected 91.4 mm, which is a deficit of 42 per cent, the IMD said. Hot and humid weather conditions may prevail at some places in Balasore, Bhadrak, Jajpur, Kendrapada, Cuttack, Jagatsinghpur, Puri, Khurda, Nayagarh, Ganjam, and Gajapati till June 19.

800 MW Ultra Super Critical Thermal Power Unit to be set up in Haryana - CM Saini

Chandigarh (JAG MOHAN THAKEN), June 17 - To step towards self-reliance in the field of power generation, Haryana Chief Minister Nayab Singh Saini on Monday announced the establishment of an additional 800 MW Ultra Super Critical Thermal Power Unit at the Rajiv Gandhi Thermal Power Plant in Kherad, Hisar, at a cost of Rs 7,250 crore.

CM Saini claimed that this initiative will enable Haryana to achieve self-reliance in power generation in the near future. The Chief Minister was addressing the gathering while launching the Additional Subsidy Scheme in Haryana under 'Pradhan Mantri Suryaghar Free Electricity Scheme' at a state-level function organized in Ambala Monday. He also distributed certificates to the beneficiaries of the scheme on this occasion. In another important announcement, the Chief Minister declared the abolition of the monthly minimum charge for electricity. From now on, residents of the state will receive bills based solely on the number of units of electricity consumed, providing much-needed



relief to electricity consumers. While congratulating the people of the state on the launch of the 'Pradhan Mantri Suryaghar Free Electricity Scheme,' the Chief Minister said that under this scheme, a subsidy of Rs 60,000 will be provided by the Central Government, led by Prime Minister Narendra Modi, for setting up a rooftop solar plant for poor families with an income of less than Rs 1,80,000.

Additionally, a subsidy of Rs 50,000 will be provided by the State Government. Although the cost of installing a rooftop solar plant is Rs 1,10,000, the consumer will not have to spend anything from their pocket.

Similarly, families with an income between Rs 1,80,000 and Rs 3 lakh will receive a subsidy of Rs 60,000 from the Central Government and Rs 20,000 from the State Government. The Chief Minister said that Prime Minister resolved to start this scheme on January 22, 2024, from the holy land of Ayodhya. Today, this scheme is being implemented in the state of Haryana. The Prime Minister aims to install solar rooftop plants on one crore houses through this scheme, which operates

forgiveness once in power. These deceitful leaders gained power through deception but never fulfilled their promises. The Chief Minister asserted that it is the double-engine government of the Center and Haryana that has put an end to this type of dishonest politics.

CM Saini stated that under the leadership of Prime Minister Narendra Modi, the country is making rapid progress in solar energy. In 2016, the Prime Minister inaugurated the International Solar Alliance Secretariat in Gurugram, accelerating the nation's transition to green energy.

Highlighting recent initiatives, the Chief Minister mentioned the allotment of 100-square-yard plots to poor families in Sonipat. The government not only passed the bill for this in the Assembly but also made a separate budget provision. Recently, more than 7,500 eligible people received allotment/possession for their plots. Where Panchayats lack available land, eligible individuals receive Rs 1,00,000 in their accounts to purchase plots.

Dy CM Pravati Parida Reviews Mission Shakti Activities

Bhubaneswar(KCN): The Deputy Chief Minister of Odisha, Pravati Parida conducted a comprehensive review of various schemes and activities under the Department of Mission Shakti on Monday.

During the review, Smt. Parida emphasised the crucial role of Mission Shakti in realising the dream of a developed Odisha. She acknowledged the

Art of Giving Celebrated in 25000 Places Worldwide

Bhubaneswar, (KCN): The 11th edition of the International 'Art of Giving' Day was celebrated today in 25,000 locations across 200 countries, including in India. In Odisha, the Day was celebrated in 35 cities, including the headquarters of 30 districts, as well as in every block and 6,500 panchayats. Each year, the Art of Giving is based on different themes, and this year's theme was 'Let's AOG'. The worldwide

movement was initiated by the Founder of KIIT and KISS Dr Achyuta Samanta on May 17, 2013 to promote peace, friendship, and happiness in the world, extending a helping hand whenever and wherever needed, establishing friendships with everyone, and respecting all.

Since then, every year, May 17 is being celebrated as International Art of Giving Day at various locations worldwide. This year, it was moved to June 17 in view of the



general elections. Currently, the Art of Giving has over 20 million followers and 10 million members, spreading its message

globally. It has coordinators present in 200 countries, with every state of India and every block and panchayat in Odisha. It is an altruistic practice filled with selflessness, gratitude, appreciation, kindness, compassion, and humility. A person gains the greatest joy in life through sharing with others. It is based on the philosophy of giving to others in various ways without expecting anything in return, said Dr Samanta. "I realised that everything I practiced and achieved in my life revolved around the Art of Giving. My life can be summarised in three words: Art of Giving," he added. Today,

millions of people from different sections of society have been inspired to join the Art of Giving campaign. Dr. Samanta, who lost his father at the age of five and grew up in poverty, has been getting help and giving love and affection since childhood. From his early days, he never hesitated to assist other poor and helpless villagers with the small amounts of money he earned from minor jobs. This spirit of giving eventually gave birth to the Art of Giving.

Hopes soar high as double engine govts take charge



Gunupur / Padmapur (KCN): Hopes for construction of the proposed Gunupur-Therubali rail route have soared high after the BJP formed governments both at the Centre and the state, a report said. This is on account of the fact that Aswini Vaishnav, representing Odisha, has once again become the Union Railway Minister. He is well aware of the proposed rail route, while Prime Minister Narendra Modi has given a road map of 100-days to his ministers for implementation of pending projects. Residents believe that Vaishnav will take note of the pending rail route project and work towards it in his 100 days

of joining office. Earlier, the project caught fire and was caught in a slugfest between the Centre and the state. The previous state government had agreed to provide land free of cost but did not commit to bearing half of the project cost. As a result, the project failed to take off and remained a non-starter. Meanwhile, with the saffron party in power at both the Centre and state, observers expect that both governments will give due importance to the project as per the demands of the residents. Meanwhile, a detailed project report (DPR) has been prepared for the Gunupur-Therubali rail route project. Experts said the fate of the project is hanging in the balance

project in the 2017-18 Railway Budget which will be 73.62 km in length. The Centre had made a plan outlay of Rs 935.72 crore in the Railway Budget. However, though six years have passed since then, the project has remained a non-starter. The Centre even included the rail route under PM Gati Shakti Yojana, but the fate of the project is still mired in uncertainty. Meanwhile, the project cost has increased to Rs 1,398 crore with the passage of time. In the meantime, the Centre has been sanctioning small amounts of funds in the budget every year in the name of the Naupada-Gunupur-Therubali rail route project. Experts said the fate of the project is hanging in the balance



Property dispute: Man kills brother



Morada (KCN): A man brutally killed his younger brother allegedly over a land dispute at Lunichati village under Nalagaja panchayat and Rasagobindpur police station limits in Mayurbhanj district, Sunday. The deceased has been identified as Jayant Mahana, while the accused happens to be his elder brother Arun Mahana, both residents of Lunichati village.

Sources said Arun and Jayant were locked in protracted land-related disputes since a long time which led to frequent altercations. Jayant was trying to erect a fence to

demarcate the boundary of his house Sunday morning to which Arun objected. This resulted in a fierce altercation between the brothers, they added. An enraged Arun attacked Jayant with a sword, following which the latter fell on

the ground. Arun then repeatedly hacked Jayant on his neck, leading to his death on the spot. After being informed about the incident, Rasagobindpur police station in-charge Sukanti Kerai, with her team arrived at the crime scene.

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Eid-ul-Adha: Embracing Sacrifice and Spiritual Renewal



Introduction:

Eidul-Adha, known as the Festival of Sacrifice, stands as a cornerstone of Islamic tradition, embodying profound spiritual significance and cultural richness. Rooted in the Quranic narrative of Prophet Ibrahim's unwavering devotion to Allah, this sacred occasion serves as a testament to the values of sacrifice, obedience, and compassion. In this comprehensive article, we delve deeply into the historical, religious, and Quranic dimensions of Eid ul-Adha, exploring its

origins, significance, rituals, and Quranic foundations.

Historical Roots:

The origins of Eid ul-Adha lie in the story of Prophet Ibrahim (A.S) and his son Isma'il (A.S), as recounted in Islamic scripture. According to tradition, Ibrahim received a divine command to sacrifice his son as a test of his faith and obedience. Despite the immense challenge, Ibrahim remained resolute in his devotion to Allah and prepared to fulfill the command. However, before he could carry out the sacrifice, Allah intervened and provided a ram as a substitute, affirming Ibrahim's faith and devotion. This event serves as the

foundational narrative of Eid ul-Adha, symbolizing the ultimate surrender to the will of Allah.

Religious Significance:

Eid ul-Adha holds profound religious significance for Muslims worldwide, serving as a commemoration of Ibrahim's unwavering faith and submission to Allah. It is a time for believers to reflect on the lessons of sacrifice, humility, and obedience imparted by Ibrahim's story. The festival also marks the culmination of the Hajj pilgrimage, during which millions of Muslims journey to the holy city of Mecca to perform sacred rituals and rites. Eid

ul-Adha thus symbolizes the culmination of spiritual fulfillment and the celebration of Allah's mercy and grace.

Quranic Foundations:

The Quranic narrative of Ibrahim's sacrifice is central to the significance of Eid ul-Adha, as it underscores the virtues of faith, obedience, and devotion. Surah As-

Saffat (37:102-107) praises Ibrahim (A.S) for his unwavering commitment to Allah's command, highlighting his exemplary character as a model for believers. Surah Al-Hajj (22:34-37) emphasizes the spiritual essence of sacrifice, stating that it is not the meat or blood of the sacrifice that reaches Allah, but rather the piety and sincerity of the

Conclusion:

Eid ul-Adha stands as a profound testament to the values of faith, sacrifice, and community in Islam. Through its rich historical roots, religious significance, and Quranic foundations, the festival serves as a reminder of the enduring legacy of Prophet Ibrahim (A.S) and his unwavering devotion to Allah. As Muslims worldwide come together in congregation, they exchange greetings and blessings, visit relatives and friends, and partake in festive meals together. Traditional dishes and sweets are prepared

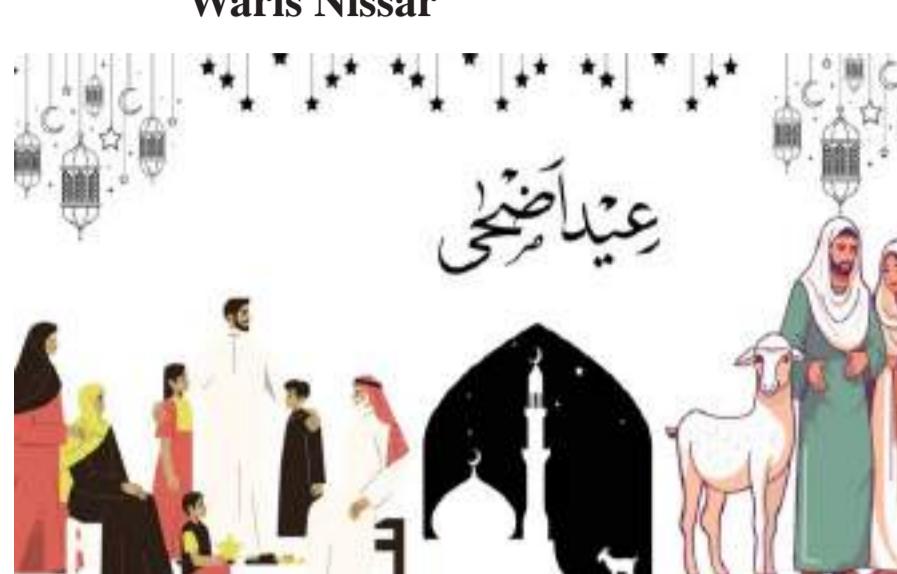
respect. The meat from the sacrifice is then divided into three parts: one-third is given to the needy, one-third is shared with relatives and friends, and one-third is retained for personal consumption.

In addition to the sacrifice, Eid ul-Adha is marked by communal prayers, feasting, and social gatherings. Muslims gather at mosques or designated prayer spaces to offer special prayers, known as the Eid prayer, in commemoration of Ibrahim's sacrifice. This act of sacrifice is performed following specific guidelines and regulations outlined in Islamic law, ensuring that it is carried out with reverence and

individual.

Rituals:

The primary ritual of Eid ul-Adha is the sacrifice of an animal, typically a sheep, goat, cow, or camel, in commemoration of Ibrahim's sacrifice. This act of sacrifice is performed following specific guidelines and regulations outlined in Islamic law, ensuring that it is carried out with reverence and



The crucial role of Start-Up Laws for Indian Startups



In recent years, India has emerged as a global startup hub, brimming with entrepreneurial energy and innovative ventures. From fintech and e-commerce to biotech and artificial intelligence, Indian start-ups are making significant strides across various sectors. However, to sustain this momentum and ensure that these nascent enterprises thrive, it is crucial to have a robust legal framework specifically tailored for start-ups. This piece argues that a comprehensive start-up law is essential for fostering innovation, protecting intellectual property, ensuring fair competition, and providing a sustainable growth framework in India. Such a legal structure not only supports the start-up ecosystem but also contributes to the broader economic and social development of the nation.

Catalyzing Innovation
Innovation is the lifeblood of start-ups. In India, where diverse socio-economic challenges exist alongside immense opportunities, start-ups are uniquely positioned to drive change through innovative solutions. However, the journey from ideation to implementation is fraught with regulatory complexities. A well-defined start-up law can streamline this process, providing entrepreneurs with the clarity and support they need to innovate freely. Government initiatives like the Start-up India scheme,

Jitamanyu Sahoo

which offers tax incentives, simplified compliance, and easier access to funding, have set the stage for a conducive start-up environment. However, these initiatives must be codified into a cohesive legal framework that ensures long-term stability and support for start-ups. By institutionalizing such measures, start-up law can create an ecosystem where innovation thrives unhindered.

Safeguarding Intellectual Property

For many start-ups, intellectual property (IP) is their most valuable asset. Whether it's a groundbreaking technology, a unique business model, or a distinctive brand, protecting these assets is crucial for the survival and success of start-ups. In India, the lack of effective IP protection can deter innovation and investment.

A robust start-up law must address the critical aspects of IP rights, including patents, trademarks, copyrights, and trade secrets.

Efficient mechanisms for registering and enforcing these rights are essential. The Indian Patents Act and the Trademarks Act provide the necessary legal framework, but their implementation needs to be more streamlined and accessible to start-ups. For instance, fast-tracking patent applications for start-ups can help protect innovations quickly, allowing businesses to capitalize on their ideas without fear of infringement.

Strengthening IP protection not only secures the interests of entrepreneurs but also instills confidence among investors. This, in turn, attracts more investment into the start-up ecosystem, fostering a

virtuous cycle of innovation and economic growth. Ensuring Fair Competition A fair and competitive market is crucial for the success of start-ups. In India, where large conglomerates often dominate the market, start-ups can face significant challenges. Start-up law must ensure that these new entrants have a fair chance to compete and succeed.

The Competition Act, 2002, is designed to prevent anti-competitive practices and promote a level playing field. However, the effectiveness of this legislation depends on its enforcement. Start-up law should focus on strengthening these regulations and ensuring that start-ups are protected from monopolistic practices by larger entities. This includes addressing issues such as predatory pricing, abuse of dominant position, and unfair trade practices.

Moreover, start-up law can provide effective dispute resolution mechanisms. Quick and fair resolution of disputes can save start-ups valuable time and resources, allowing them to focus on growth and innovation. By ensuring fair competition, start-up law not only benefits individual companies but also enhances overall market efficiency and consumer choice.

Framework for Sustainable Growth
Sustainable growth is vital for the longevity of start-ups. This encompasses various aspects, including corporate governance, regulatory compliance, and ethical business practices. A comprehensive start-up law can provide the necessary framework to guide start-ups towards

sustainable and responsible growth. Corporate governance is a key area where start-up law can make a significant impact. Clear guidelines on the roles and responsibilities of directors, shareholders, and other stakeholders can ensure transparency and accountability. This is particularly important as start-ups scale and attract external investment.

Employment law is another critical component. Start-ups often face challenges related to hiring, employee retention, and compliance with labor laws. By simplifying labor regulations and providing flexibility in employment contracts, start-up law can help start-ups manage their workforce effectively while ensuring the protection of workers' rights.

Additionally, start-up law can promote environmental and social responsibility. In a country like India, grappling with issues such as pollution and social inequality, start-ups have the opportunity to adopt sustainable practices that contribute to the broader goals of societal well-being. Legal incentives for corporate social responsibility (CSR) can ensure that start-ups grow not just economically but also sustainably.

Navigating Global Markets
In an increasingly globalized world, Indian start-ups are looking beyond domestic markets for growth opportunities. Start-up law must address the challenges and opportunities of international expansion, including cross-border transactions, compliance with international regulations, and protection of IP in foreign jurisdictions.

International trade laws, bilateral agreements, and treaties play a crucial role in this context. Start-up law

can provide guidance on navigating these complexities, ensuring that Indian start-ups can compete globally. For example, the Patent Cooperation Treaty (PCT) facilitates the filing of patents in multiple countries, providing a streamlined process for protecting IP internationally.

Furthermore, start-up law can address issues related to foreign direct investment (FDI) and partnerships with international entities.

By creating a favorable legal environment for foreign investment, India can attract global investors and collaborators, further boosting the growth of its start-up ecosystem.

WayAhead
Start-up law is an indispensable component of India's legal and economic framework. By fostering innovation, protecting intellectual property, ensuring fair competition, and providing a framework for sustainable growth, start-up law plays a crucial role in enabling start-ups to thrive.

Moreover, as Indian start-ups increasingly operate in a global marketplace, start-up law helps them navigate international legal challenges and seize new opportunities.

For India to fully realize its potential as a global innovation hub, it is imperative that policymakers, legal professionals, and entrepreneurs work together to strengthen start-up law. This collaborative effort will ensure that start-ups not only contribute to economic growth but also drive social progress and sustainability.

By building a robust legal foundation, India can pave the way for a vibrant, inclusive, and resilient start-up ecosystem.

Author is an advocate practicing at the High Court of Orissa and Delhi High Court.

A Guiding Light in the Dark Night



Meera Beura

adventurer, story teller and singer of dongs.

A father is one who wants to catch us before we fall but instead, picks us up and brushes us off and lets us try again. A father is someone who wants to keep you from making mistakes and instead lets you find our own way even though his heart breaks in silence each time we get hurt. A father is the root of his family binds each member with love and respect. A father is the strength of the family who binds and holds us together. A father is always ready to help in a kind and thoughtful way with forgiveness and encouragement.

Fathers are wonderful in millions different ways and they always deserve loving compliments and praise. A father is also a bodyguard that protects us and gives his comfort and also offers his compassion by offering us his shoulder and arms. A father is neither an anchor to hold us back, nor a sail to take us there. He is a guiding light who shows us the way. He always stands behind us endlessly and though at times we tend to fall. He is always there to guide us to the light. Really a good father is more than a hundred school teacher. Fathers are the most ordinary men who are turned by love into the biggest heroes.

According to scholars celebrating father's day is not tradition but one can be traced as far back as to the ruins of Babylon. A father is a daughter's first love, her forever hero and he has always been a pillar of strength, and protector and also best friend. A father's love may not always be expressed

the same way as a mother. A father cares for his family. He shows his children the way they should go in this world. He protects and works hard for his family. A good father does three things they provide, they nurture and they guide. If there is any immortality to be had among us human beings

Father's love is very unique. No so much expressive yet a guiding light in all our thoughts and actions. He is the first hero of every child. One greatest sign of a good father is being attentive of his kid's interest. Being a father is a full-time job he plays a vital role in their children's life.

Father's day was inaugurated in the United States in the early 20th century to complement Mother's day in celebrating fathers, fatherly and fatherhood. Father's day was founded in Spokane, Washington at the YMCA in 1910 by sonora smart Father who was born in Arkansas.

Father's day is not an original custom of India but is rather followed by the influence of the western world. It is observed on the third of June. But this event is not a public holiday.

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Gopal Krishna Gokhale: India's Independence Pioneer



Gopal Krishna Gokhale stands as a seminal figure in the Indian Independence Movement. He was a distinguished leader of the Indian National Congress and a fervent advocate for social and political reform. Known for his profound intellect and dedication, Gokhale was among the first generation of Indians to receive a college education, earning respect within the intellectual community across the nation.

Born in Ratnagiri, Maharashtra, Gokhale hailed from a modest Chitpavan Brahmin family. After completing his education at Elphinstone College in Bombay, he embarked on a teaching career with the Deccan Education Society in Poona. Here, he met his mentor, Justice Mahadev Govind Ranade, a remarkable moderate constitutionalist. Under Ranade's guidance, Gokhale preferred systemic reforms from within

rather than revolutionary upheaval. His political journey saw him join the Bombay Legislative Council and later the Imperial Legislative Council. In 1905, he was elected president of the Congress Party, marking a significant milestone in his political career.

Gokhale's eloquence and public speaking mastery were well-documented, particularly in his speeches on the budget and social reforms. These orations, rich with data and logical clarity, highlighted his commitment to more excellent Indian representation in elected bodies, the judiciary, and academia. He was a staunch advocate for universal and free primary education, emphasizing its importance for national development.

After graduating from Elphinstone College in 1884, Gokhale joined Fergusson College in Poona as a professor of history and political economy. His tenure there eventually led him to the position of principal, a role he held until 1902. His involvement with the National Congress

movement deepened during this period, serving as joint secretary and later as president at the Benares session in 1905. His higher education instilled in him a deep appreciation for liberty, democracy, and the parliamentary system of government.

Gokhale's relationship with Mahadev Govind Ranade was pivotal. Ranade, a respected scholar, judge, and social reformer, shaped Gokhale's ideological foundation. Together, they established the Servants of India Society in 1905, aiming to train Indians to serve their country and advocate for their rights. Gokhale also collaborated with Ranade on the quarterly journal "Sarvajanik," which boldly addressed contemporary public issues.

Though Gokhale's life was cut short before witnessing India's independence, his influence on the freedom struggle was profound. His relationship with Mahatma Gandhi is particularly noteworthy. Gandhi considered Gokhale his political mentor, a

Prof (Dr.) S N Tripathy

expressed in his anthology, "Gokhale – My Political Guru." Their first meeting in Poona in 1896 began a deep and enduring connection. Gandhi's portrayal of Gokhale as a nurturing and accessible figure contrasts sharply with other Congress leaders, highlighting Gokhale's unique appeal and impact.

Gokhale's influence extended to Gandhi's work in South Africa, where he designed the legal framework for the Natal Indentured Labour Bill in 1910. Despite being political rivals, even Bal Gangadhar Tilak, a prominent leader of the era, recognized Gokhale's contributions, referring to him as the "diamond of India" and the "jewel of Maharashtra" at his funeral.

One of Gokhale's significant achievements was his role in the Minto-Morley Reforms of 1909, which aimed to introduce greater Indian participation in governance. Although the reforms did not fully meet his democratic aspirations, they marked a step forward by providing Indians access to higher governmental

positions and amplifying their voices in public affairs.

On his deathbed, Gopal Krishna Gokhale urged his Servants of India Society colleagues to avoid writing biographies or erecting statues in his honour. Instead, he implored them to dedicate their entire being to serving India, emphasizing that faithful service to the nation was the highest tribute.

As a moderate leader, Gokhale relied on logic and morality to appeal to the British, advocating for reasoned persuasion over confrontation. In 1910, Gopal Krishna Gokhale proposed the Natal Indentured Labour Bill, providing a legal framework for Mahatma Gandhi's struggle in South Africa. He also raised funds to support Gandhi's efforts.

Gokhale travelled to Africa in 1912, meeting with local leaders, and Gandhi acknowledged that Gokhale's involvement was crucial in resolving the South African issue.

Gandhi accompanied Gokhale to Zanzibar, where Gokhale urged him to return to India and travel extensively

to understand the country. He advised Gandhi to remain silent on Indian issues for a year until he was well-acquainted with the nation's conditions. Gandhi later wrote in 'Satyagraha in South Africa' that Gokhale's words were filled with truthfulness, patriotism, and tender feelings, preparing him for his role in India.

On February 27, 1914, Gandhi informed Gokhale of his plans to return to India, expressing his desire to learn from Gokhale. He aimed to serve as Gokhale's nurse and attendant, seeking discipline through obedience. Gokhale asked Gandhi to return via London to discuss the freedom movement. Gandhi left Cape Town on July 18, 1914, but was stranded in England due to the outbreak of World War I. Gokhale, undergoing treatment in Vichy, France, met Gandhi on September 18, 1914. Gandhi boarded the ship Arabia on December 19, 1914, donning a dhoti and turban. In a letter to Hermann Kallenbach, he noted that the attire surprised

passengers. On January 9, 1915, Gandhi arrived in Bombay, where Gokhale welcomed him back to India. Gokhale's moderate approach does not align neatly with any current political ideology in India, be it the populist politics of the Gandhi/Nehru Congress, the religious-right stance of the Bharatiya Janata Party, or the agendas of regional parties.

Gokhale was highly esteemed by Gandhi, who considered him a political mentor. In 1905, Gokhale established the Servants of India Society, aiming to train Indians to dedicate their lives to the nation's service. Mahatma Gandhi lauded Gokhale, describing him as "pure as crystal, as gentle as a lamb, as brave as a lion, and the most perfect man in the political field." This tribute reflects Gandhi's deep respect and admiration for Gokhale's character and contributions to the Indian independence movement.

Gokhale's legacy is particularly relevant for contemporary India, which values a constitutional framework and democratic

principles. His dedication to duty, moral integrity, and the distinction between spirituality and religiosity offer guiding principles for modern governance. His belief in education as a tool for national salvation and his openness to reasoned debate remain pertinent in today's political landscape. In an era where illiberalism can pervade political discourse, Gokhale's commitment to tolerance, free speech, constructive criticism, and a free press is a crucial reminder of the values essential for a thriving democracy.

Through his life and work, Gopal Krishna Gokhale left an indelible mark on India's journey to ward's independence and its ongoing quest for social justice and democratic governance. His vision and principles continue to inspire and guide the nation in pursuing these ideals.

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

Naxalism : High time to uproot it

The government will have to take tough decisions to eradicate Naxalism from its roots. Along with this, the social system needs to be corrected, steps will have to be taken to eradicate poverty and rapid development will have to be ensured. Law and order will have to be strictly implemented. There is a need to strengthen the police force technically.

Naxalism is not a normal crime, nor is it just a law-and-order problem. The social base of Naxalites tells its story far beyond the problem of law and order.



The central and state governments claim that the problem of Naxalism is continuously decreasing because of their tough stance. Statistics show that from 2017 till date, the number of Naxal-affected districts has continuously decreased. If we talk about the reduction in Naxal violence, 223 districts were Naxal-affected in 2008. But the continuous efforts of the government

reduced it. And, in 2014 this number came down to 161. In 2017, the number of Naxal-affected districts further decreased to 126.

Chhattisgarh, Jharkhand, Odisha and Bihar have been placed in the category of most Naxal-affected states. Thousands of people have died in Naxal attacks in the last few years. Till now no government has been completely successful in eradicating this problem which started in the year 1967. However, the government claims that Naxalite attacks are gradually

decreasing and Naxal-affected areas are continuously shrinking.

Naxalism or Naxalite ideology is associated with a movement. In the 1960s, the supporters of communist ideas started this movement. This movement started from Naxalbari village of Darjeeling district of West Bengal; hence it became famous as Naxalite movement. The people involved in it are called Naxalites. Naxalism is the result of lack of development and poverty in Naxalbari of Bengal. The supporters of this movement have been

demanding the solution of hunger, poverty and unemployment. After independence, land reform initiatives were taken, but it was not successful. The atrocities of the landlords on Naxalbari farmers kept increasing. After this, a land dispute arose between the farmers and the landlords. In 1967, the communists started an armed movement against the government, which continues till date.

Historians believe that Communist Party of India leader Charu Majumdar, along with Kanu Sanyal and Jangal Santhal, led a

peasant revolt against the government. In the late 60s and early 70s, the Naxalbari rebellion radicalised both urban youth and rural people. This movement soon reached Bihar, Jharkhand from West Bengal and gradually spread to Odisha, Andhra Pradesh and Maharashtra. For the first time in independent India, a movement strengthened the demands of poor and landless farmers, which changed the face of then Indian politics. What started from one village and one police station, the movement spread to 2,000 police stations in 230 districts of 20 states.

Leaving aside the agricultural issues, today this movement has gained momentum with the thought and ideology of capturing power. The militarisation of Naxalism and its violent form is a matter of great concern. Naxalism is the biggest challenge for the security forces; security personnel have lost their lives. Retired IPS K. Satyanarayan's book 'Naxalism and Society' says that

Naxalism is not a normal crime, nor is it just a law-and-order problem. The social base of Naxalites tells its story far beyond the

problem of law and order. Apart from unemployed poor youth, deprived tribals, exploited villagers, there are many educated youths who have followed Naxalism. Some intellectuals in urban areas also sympathize with the Naxalite ideology. This cannot be said to be right under any circumstances.

Many leaders, security personnel and common people have lost their lives in Naxalite attacks. The problem has not been solved yet. It is difficult to eradicate Naxalism without strict decisions and action. The social system needs to be corrected, steps will

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Education Interface 2024 Sets Stage for Career Empowerment in Kolkata

Kolkata (ABHIJIT SETH): The highly anticipated Education Interface 2024, organized by Career Planner Edu Fair, recently took place at the iconic Netaji Indoor Stadium in Kolkata. This landmark event, aimed at enhancing career development and expanding educational opportunities, attracted an enthusiastic crowd and was graced by the presence of several distinguished personalities. Among the notable dignitaries were Shri Bratya Basu, Hon'ble Minister-in-Charge of the Higher Education and School Education Department, Government of West Bengal; Shri Firhad Hakim, Hon'ble Mayor and Minister for Urban Development & Municipal Affairs, Government of West Bengal; Shri Sobhandeb Chattopadhyay, Hon'ble Minister of Parliamentary Affairs and Minister of Agriculture, Government of West Bengal; and Smt Mala Roy, Hon'ble

Chairperson of Kolkata Municipal Corporation (KMC) & Member of Parliament at Kolkata (South). The event also saw participation from key figures in the educational sector, including Sardar Taranjit Singh, Managing Director of JIS Group, and Manashi Roychowdhury, Co-Chairman of Techno India Group. Education Interface 2024 brought together aspiring students, young professionals, and industry experts from across the country, facilitating invaluable interactions with prestigious educational institutions, training centres, and industry leaders. This event, designed to bridge the gap between academia and industry, provided attendees with essential tools and perspectives to effectively navigate their career journeys. The inaugural edition of India's Premier Career Education Fair marks a significant milestone in

the nation's educational landscape. The event received robust support from government officials, industry leaders, and educational institutions, underscoring its importance in shaping the future of career education in India.

Reflecting on the occasion, Mr. Dipak Sinha Roy, Founder of Career Planner Edu Fair,



stated, "Career education extends far beyond textbook knowledge. Hosting Education Interface 2024 is a privilege as it serves as a central hub for colleges and universities. This event offers students and parents an exclusive opportunity to directly engage with representatives from a

wide spectrum of educational institutions, empowering them to make informed decisions and carve out clear academic pathways. It's about democratising access to information and opportunities, ensuring that enthusiastic students and families can navigate the diverse educational landscape seamlessly, with no barriers to entry."

Mr. Roy's vision for the fair emphasizes the democratization of education and opportunities, ensuring that all students, regardless of background, have access to the information and resources necessary to make well-informed decisions about their futures. This focus on accessibility and

informed decision-making is at the heart of Education Interface 2024, setting the stage for a more empowered and educated generation.

Throughout the event, participants engaged in various activities, including interactive sessions, panel discussions, and workshops led by experts in different fields. These activities provided deep insights into emerging trends in education and career development, offering practical advice and strategies for success. In addition to the numerous educational opportunities, Education Interface 2024 also facilitated networking among attendees, fostering connections that could lead to future collaborations and career advancements. The fair's holistic approach ensured that every participant left with a clearer understanding of their career path and the steps

Braithwaite Unveils India's First Green Hydrogen Transport Container



Kolkata (ABHIJIT SETH): Braithwaite & Co. Limited (BCL), a Miniratna-1 Central Public Sector Undertaking (CPSU) under the Ministry of Railways, has achieved a significant milestone by developing India's first container specifically designed for transporting green hydrogen. This development is a testament to BCL's commitment to the 'Atmanirbhar Bharat' and 'Make in India' initiatives, championed by the Government of India, and positions BCL as a leading hub for container manufacturing in the country.

The pioneering container measures 40 feet by 8 feet by 9.6 feet and is both insulated and ventilated. It is engineered to facilitate the electrolysis process, which involves splitting water into hydrogen and oxygen using electricity derived from renewable sources such as solar and wind energy. This specialized and customized container is the first of its kind in India, reflecting a significant advancement in the

country's green hydrogen infrastructure. This innovative container stands out from standard ISO containers due to its unique design and features. It is equipped with nine doors and seven ventilators to ensure adequate ventilation and ease of access for maintenance and operational needs. The container also includes advanced equipment such as a Stack Arrangement Unit, Cooling Unit, Water Treatment Plant, Air-Cooler, Rectifier, Hydrogen Purification Unit, Electrical Cabinet, and Exhaust Fan. The hydrogen produced is purified through an integrated purification unit, with an air cooler and a chiller unit mounted on the roof to maintain optimal operating temperatures. Upon the successful installation, commissioning, and testing of this container, BCL anticipates a surge in orders from various sectors and industries both domestically and internationally. This

development is expected to significantly reduce dependence on imported containers, which were previously sourced from Sweden, thereby enhancing cost-effectiveness for the logistics sector. Md. Asad Alam, Chairman and Managing Director of BCL, emphasized the importance of this achievement: "BCL has developed the country's first Green Hydrogen Container, and this is a proud moment for all of us. After successful testing and commissioning, BCL expects to get a large number of orders from different sectors and industry houses in India and abroad. Earlier, these containers were imported from Sweden, but with indigenous design and development, it will be very cost-effective for the logistics sector."

The breakthrough container was developed following an order placed by GreenH Electrolysis Pvt. Ltd., a leading hydrogen technology company based in Gurugram. This

company operates in a joint venture with H2B2 Electrolysis Technology, based in Spain and Germany. This collaboration underscores the potential for international partnerships to drive innovation and sustainable development in India's burgeoning green hydrogen sector.

Braithwaite & Co. Limited's development of India's first green hydrogen container marks a significant stride towards sustainable and self-reliant industrial progress. By leveraging indigenous design and advanced technology, BCL is set to revolutionize the logistics and transportation of green hydrogen, paving the way for a greener and more energy-efficient future.

This achievement not only aligns with national goals but also places India on the global map as a hub for innovative container manufacturing solutions.

Judiciary Plays Important Role in Upholding Democracy: Governor, West Bengal

Kolkata, (KCN): "Law ensures human dignity... The judiciary as an institution plays an important role in upholding the democracy," said Dr C V Ananda Bose, the Governor of West Bengal addressing the large gathering of legal luminaries and stakeholders at the valedictory session of the conference on 'India's progressive Path in the Administration of Criminal Justice System' organised in the city on Sunday (June 16, 2024) to sensitise people on the new three criminal laws framed for the benefit of the people. In his Valedictory speech, he

stated that these legal reforms would ensure protection of human rights. "Even though these reforms were started a long time back, passing of these laws in 2023 was the real turning point." He emphasized on the supremacy of the Constitution, the power of people and the value of various democratic institutions.

Calling these legal reforms "a bold step away from the shadows of our colonial past and towards a future that resonates with the ethos of an independent India," the Governor reiterated that these new laws, crafted with the wisdom of our rich heritage and the vision of a progressive society, aim to redefine the administration of criminal justice." He said, "These new laws are not mere replacements; they are the harbingers of a legal revolution. He added, "As we stepped into the 21st century, the call for decolonizing our legal system grew louder. It was a call to introspect and re-evaluate laws that

were crafted under a colonial mindset and to align them with the values of our sovereign, socialist, secular, democratic republic." The Department of Legal Affairs, Union Ministry of Law and Justice organised this day-long conference on Sunday which was attended by a large audience and eminent guests comprising of judges of various High Courts, advocates, academics, representatives of law enforcement agencies, police officials, public prosecutors, District Judges and other officials and law students.

Apart from West Bengal, nearly 3600 participants from the states of Bihar, Jharkhand, Odisha, Uttar Pradesh and Union Territory of Andaman & Nicobar Island, were also present at the Conference.

The Conference was set on the backdrop of the enactment of three new Criminal Laws, namely Bharatiya Nyaya Sanhita 2023, Bharatiya Nagarik Suraksha Sanhita 2023 and Bharatiya Sakshya Adhiniyam 2023 which

are to replace the Indian Penal Code 1860, the Code of Criminal Procedure, 1973 and the Indian Evidence Act, 1872 respectively. These new criminal laws are scheduled to take effect from July 1, 2024. The inaugural session was addressed by Shri Arjun Ram Meghwal, the Union Minister of State (I/C) for Law & Justice, Justice Shri T. S. Sivagnanam, Chief Justice, Calcutta High Court, and was followed by three technical sessions on Bharatiya Nyaya Sanhita, 2023, Bharatiya Nagarik Suraksha Sanhita, 2023, and Bharatiya Sakshya Adhiniyam, 2023.

The first Technical Session was chaired by Justice Shri Joymalya Bagchi, Judge, Calcutta High Court. The other panelists of the session included Sh. Zoheb Hossain, Special Public Prosecutor & Advocate at E n f o r c e m e n t Directorate. Shri Amit Prasad, Special Public Prosecutor & Advocate at Delhi High Court, Dr. Sarfaraj Ahmed Khan, Asst. Prof. at WBNUS, Kolkata, and Dr. Shubham Pandey, Asst. Prof. at the National Forensic Sciences University, Gandhinagar. The session was moderated by Prof. Vageshwar Deswal of Faculty of Law, University of Delhi. The session brought attention to several key elements

of the Bharatiya Nyaya Sanhita (BNS). Justice Bagchi highlighted the historical context of India's criminal laws, noting the necessity for a unified legal framework identified in 1833 by the East India Company. The other panelists discussed various aspects of the BNS. From new provisions like community service as a form of punishment, to the inclusion of organised crime as a new category of offense, discussions were surrounded around the incorporation of terrorism offenses and the nuanced approach towards first-time offenders under the BNS versus the UAPA. The legal treatment of mob lynching was addressed, while stressing the protection of vulnerable citizens. Emphasis was also laid on the transformative shift in criminal law administration and the integration of forensic science in legal processes.

The second Technical Session was chaired by Justice Shri Ananya Bandopadhyay, Judge, Calcutta High Court. The other panelists included Sh. Zoheb Hossain, Special Public Prosecutor & Advocate at E n f o r c e m e n t Directorate. Shri Amit Prasad, Special Public Prosecutor & Advocate at Delhi High Court, Dr. Sarfaraj Ahmed Khan, Asst. Prof. at WBNUS, Kolkata, and Dr. Shubham Pandey, Asst. Prof. at the National Forensic Sciences University, Gandhinagar. This session was moderated by Dr. K. A. Pandey, Professor at Dr. Ram Manohar Lohiya National Law University (RMNLU), Lucknow.

Coastal erosion wreaks havoc in Kendrapara

Kendrapara(KCN): People for centuries have gravitated toward shores, building their lives in proximity to major waterways for easy access to trade, seafood and recreation. However, climate change continues to create conditions that chip away the malleable geological structures, robbing the residents living near coastlines of their life and livelihood. The seaside villages in Kendrapara district are a classic example of this phenomenon where rise in tidal waves and constant erosion of the coastline are wreaking havoc on the life and properties of the residents.

According to reports, around 28 km, of the total 48 km, coastline of the Bay of Bengal in Kendrapara district, are facing serious threats of erosion due to frequent ingress of tidal waves into seaside villages. On June 6 when residents of the seaside Tanda village in Mahakalapara block were celebrating the Sabitri Amavasya – on

the new moon day – tidal waves crossed the coastline and gushed into the village. Such frequent flooding, resulting in coastal erosion, has sparked unprecedented fear among inhabitants of all seaside villages in the district. Same is the situation in the sea-ravaged Satabhaya panchayat, under Rajnagar block, where tidal waves have devoured around 40 metres of the coastline in the past one year. Things have come to such a pass that the ancient Panchubarahi temple and Barahipur village in the panchayat are likely to be consumed by the sea during this rainy season with coastal erosion is ruining the area. Meanwhile, the sea appears to have set its eye on the SunetiTupei jungle on the coastline and threatening to erase the green cover.

Experts said given the alacrity of the situation, it has become necessary to create more mangrove forests on the remaining land mass in Satabhaya

panchayat. This is the only way through which the tidal waves can be checked from entering seaside villages, and erode the land mass, they said. Sudarshan Swain, a native of Barahipur village in Satabhaya panchayat, who is currently rehabilitated at Bagapatia, said that the panchayat consisted of seven revenue villages. However, these seven villages have been gobbled up by the sea in the last five decades, while hamlets like Magarkanda, Adhasal are slowly moving towards extinction, he said. The rapid erosion of the villages has forced the inhabitants to shift to Bagapatia.

After four years of struggle, 571 families have been shifted and rehabilitated at Bagapatia. Towering tidal waves are constantly lashing the coastline and have posed extinction threat to the SunetiRupei jungle, of late. Swain demanded a long term solution to the advancing tidal waves

and erosion of the land mass. In the absence of some concrete measures, people living in seaside villages will be always under threat, he added.

Environmentalists Hemant Kumar Rout also echoed the demands of converting the rest of the farmland in Satabhaya into mangrove forests. He said the geo-synthetic tube wall which was constructed along Pentha coast by the state government has failed to stand to the onslaught of the rising tidal waves. The huge stones in the gabion boxes set up along the

coast of Pentha village have been washed away into the sea after the tidal waves tore up the iron mesh of the boxes. Even the stone embankment constructed to protect the geo-tube wall is facing the wrath of rising tidal waves. Water-level in the sea is

rising due to climate change and increase in global warming. The tidal waves on the full moon day and new moon day are also crossing the saline embankment and gushing into seaside villages. There is a need to create more mangrove forests which

can act as a shield against the threat of tidal waves, Rout said. However, freshwater which is a must for the growth of mangrove forests is unable to reach this wetland. The wetland requires at least 40 per cent freshwater, while only 15 per cent reaches the area during the summer season, he said. Social activist Pramila Mallik of Rajnagar said that the Agarnasi island was earlier seven km long and acted as a shield for Tanda area against the tidal waves. However, the island has been washed away into the sea since 2022. As a result, areas like Tanda, Suniti and Babar panchayats under the block have been exposed

to the threat of tidal waves. The seawater is entering their villages on full moon days, new moon days, and during cyclonic storms. This has caused the residents to perennially live under constant fear and spend time in trepidation.

When contacted, Forest ranger, Pradosh Moharana, said efforts are on for creation of more mangrove forests along the coastlines, while mangrove saplings have been planted at Satabhaya and Pentha coasts. "Experts have been apprised of the issue of coastal erosion and remedial steps will be taken as per their advice," he said.

Rajabati wedding on Raja festival



Keonjhar(KCN): On the concluding day of the three-day-long Raja festival, thousands of people, mostly women, witnessed the marriage of deity 'Rajabati' in Harsapur, Sendkap and other villages in Keonjhar district, Sunday. Various rituals were performed before Rajabati, a village deity made of clay by the women and girls at Raja ground in these villages. The marriage ceremony of the deity was solemnised at the Doli ground in Sendkap village amid festivities.

A big procession was taken out in the village to the marriage venue which was decorated with colorful light and gates. Prasanna Kumar Mohapatra, a servitor in Sendkap village said, "This is Radha-Krishna's marriage. Mother Radha or Mother Earth is m e n s t r u a t i n g . Therefore, for three days, young women and girls in the village do not work. They worship the idols made of clay and play on a swing for three days. That is why

it is called as Rajabati Vivah which is organised during the Raja festival." People believe if Rajabati is happy, people in the village and the area will live happily and there will be good harvest. People from far and wide come to the village and participate in Raja festival and the unique wedding ceremony. It maintains unity in the village and creates a vibrant atmosphere. On this day, girls and young women play on swings, called Raja doli, which is also an integral part of the wedding rituals. "We are trying to maintain this tradition" said Ranjan Behera, an organiser at Sendkap village.

According to the villagers, on the first day of Raja festival, the idol of the deities – a male and a female – called Rajabati (Mother Earth) are made from clay, and a swing is also installed at the festival ground. On the second day – Raja sankranti – the idols are dressed in colorful wedding attires and brought to the marriage pandal at the festival ground in a big procession from the village. On the third day, the marriage of the two idols are organized which is followed by a grand feast. The idols are taken in a big procession before they are immersed in the water on the fourth day, which is the Basumati Snana.

Man shot dead by brother-in-law during poaching

Parlakhemundi(KCN): A man was allegedly shot dead by his brother-in-law while they were on a hunt for wild animals at Bhaliagani village, under Mohana police limits in Gajapati district, late Saturday night. The deceased has been identified as Kailash Nayak and the accused Udaya Nayak.

According to reports, Kailash, along with his brother-in-law Uday, and some other youths of the village had gone to a forest in the vicinity of the village to hunt wild animals on the occasion of the Raja festival. However, Kailash received gunshot injuries after a bullet was

allegedly fired by his brother-in-law Uday during hunting. He died on the spot. On being informed, a team from Mohana police reached the spot and recovered the body which was later sent to a hospital for post-mortem. Police seized a country-made firearm from

at Kailash, resulting in his death. Following preliminary investigation, police learnt that Uday and Kailash had gone to the forest for poaching. Uday fired

at an animal and the bullet accidentally hit Kailash leading to his death on the spot. SDPO, Ashwini Nayak said a murder case (No-119/24) has been registered at Mohana police station in connection with the incident and further investigations are on.



coast of Pentha village have been washed away into the sea after the tidal waves tore up the iron mesh of the boxes. Even the stone embankment constructed to protect the geo-tube wall is facing the wrath of rising tidal waves. Water-level in the sea is

rising due to climate change and increase in global warming. The tidal waves on the full moon day and new moon day are also crossing the saline embankment and gushing into seaside villages. There is a need to create more mangrove forests which



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Add a Healthy Twist to Holi: Make Almonds Your Go-To Festive Snack

Bhubaneswar (KCN): Holi is a joyous festival celebrated with vibrant colours, symbolizing the spirit of togetherness as families and friends unite in cheerful gatherings. During this festive occasion, exchanging gifts and relishing delicious meals with loved ones are cherished traditions. However, amidst the festivities, it's crucial to exercise caution against overindulging in unhealthy snacks and foods, recognizing their potential long-term impact on our health. Therefore, practicing mindfulness while celebrating Holi becomes imperative. Incorporating a handful of almonds into your diet during this time can enhance taste as well as provide essential health benefits, ensuring a balanced and enjoyable celebration.

Almonds, rich in 15

essential nutrients like vitamin E, magnesium, protein, riboflavin, and zinc, are renowned for their ability to provide numerous health benefits, including supporting heart health, managing weight, and regulating blood sugar levels. Incorporating these powerhouse nuts into Holi celebrations can elevate the festivities. Whether presented as gifts, incorporated into traditional recipes, or enjoyed as snacks, almonds symbolize prosperity and well-being. Their delicious taste and satisfying crunch enhance the flavors of various Holi dishes, from sweet gujiya to savory almond chaat. Moreover, gifting almonds expresses good wishes for health and happiness. By embracing almonds in Holi festivities,

everyone can enhance the joy of the occasion while embracing a healthier lifestyle. Sharing thoughts on the celebration of Holi, Bollywood actress, Soha Ali Khan said, "Like everyone else, I cherish celebrating Holi with my loved ones. I love hosting Holi parties at home, where family gathers to indulge in festive delicacies. As a tradition, I always prepare healthy almond brittle for my family, a delightful fusion of taste and nutrition. This dessert not only enhances our enjoyment of the festival but also promotes overall health by providing a healthier alternative to sugary treats."

Ritika Samaddar,

the Regional Head-Dietetics, Max Healthcare – Delhi said, "During Holi celebrations, making mindful choices about snacks can significantly impact our health. Opting

for nutritious options like almonds instead of unhealthy snacks not only adds to the festive spirit but also enhances our well-being. Almonds, loaded with good fats and proteins, are an ideal addition to any weight-loss plan, providing satiety and valuable nutrition. Moreover, studies suggest that incorporating almonds into our daily diet may help reduce dyslipidemia, a critical risk factor for



cardiovascular disease. This highlights the importance of including almonds in our Holi festivities. By savoring Holi delicacies mindfully and enjoying the sensory experience with a handful of almonds, my family and I not only celebrate the joy of the festival but also prioritize our health."

Speaking about how to maintain skin health during Holi, Skin Expert and Cosmetologist, Dr.

Geetika Mittal Gupta said, "It is crucial to take precautions during the festival of Holi due to its vibrant colors and festive spirit, which can potentially harm the skin. Synthetic dyes used in the festival often contain harsh chemicals, leading to irritation, dryness, and allergic reactions, particularly in sensitive skin types. My advice is to gently cleanse the skin post-celebrations with a mild, hydrating cleanser

to remove color traces and sweat without stripping away natural oils. Additionally, I recommend moisturizing the skin thoroughly and staying hydrated by drinking plenty of water to restore hydration levels and promote skin healing. Furthermore, I suggest incorporating a handful of almonds into the diet, as they are rich in vitamin E, copper, zinc, and polyphenols, which can contribute to improving skin health." Sheela Krishnaswamy, Nutrition and Wellness Consultant said, "Almonds serve as a meaningful and auspicious gift during festivals and special occasions, embodying the care and concern of the gift giver for their loved ones. Not only are almonds a thoughtful gesture, but they are also a nutritional powerhouse, packed with essential nutrients like protein, fiber, and healthy fats, making them a valuable

addition to any diet. Regular consumption of almonds has been associated with improved heart health, as they can help lower cholesterol levels and reduce the risk of heart disease. Furthermore, almonds are rich in antioxidants, vitamins, and minerals, which contribute to overall well-being and support a healthy immune system. Therefore, I prefer to gift my family and friends something that promotes fitness during these festive occasions, and that is where almonds come to my rescue."

Fitness Expert and Celebrity Master Instructor, Yasmin Karachiwal said, "During festivals like Holi, where physical activity may decrease due to socializing, almonds can be a valuable addition to maintain cardiovascular health and overall well-being.

Ashok Leyland launches industry first 8-wheel truck – AVTR 2620

Chennai: Ashok Leyland, flagship of the Hinduja Group and India's leading commercial vehicle manufacturer, today, launched the industry first 8 wheeler truck – AVTR 2620. With this launch of AVTR 2620, Ashok Leyland becomes the first and only player in the country to have a full range of trucks based on lift axle technology from GVW of 25.5 to 47.5T. This new product can be operated as 25.5 T (6x2) truck with the lift axle down (offering

payload closer to regular 6x2 MAV truck) and a 4x2 truck (18.5T GVW) with lift axle up ((lower fuel and operating cost similar to 4x2) during light load/partial load/ return empty. This new product thus offers an excellent operational flexibility to customers to choose the option based on their load, offering best-in-class Total Cost of Operation (TCO) benefits.

Speaking on the occasion, Mr. Sanjeev Kumar, Head - M&HCV, Ashok Leyland, said, "Ashok

Leyland has a history of introducing products which have disrupted the CV industry. AVTR 2620 with its unique lift axle configuration offers higher TCO advantage to our customers operating in Ecom, Parcel & tanker. AVTR 2620 is a testament of Ashok Leyland's technological prudence & our commitment towards providing better logistical solutions to our customers, aligning with our philosophy of AppkiJeet, HamariJeet."

Mumbai : Union Bank of India today signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with Small Industries Development Bank of India (SIDBI) for a Co-Financing arrangement for MSMEs. The MoU was signed by Shri Lal Singh, Chief General Manager, Union Bank of India and Shri Vivek Kumar Malhotra, Chief General Manager, SIDBI. SIDBI is country's principal financial institution

engaged in the Promotion, Financing and Development of Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises (MSME). Under the MoU, Union Bank of India would consider Joint financing/ Co-Financing with SIDBI to Projects/Units in the MSME. This MoU would help the Banks to increase their customer base, while helping the MSMEs to meet their funding requirements. The key highlights of the arrangement include joint

identification of viable projects and term loan and working capital financing to MSMEs. Initially the arrangement would be at specific centers and once the arrangement stabilizes at these centers, more locations would be covered.

Speaking on the occasion,

Shri Lal Singh, CGM (MSME), Union Bank of India, said "MSME is one of the key sectors of our Indian Economy contributing to GDP,

Exports, Manufacturing Output, Employment, Women Empowerment etc. MSME is one of the focused areas of the Bank and at Union Bank of India, we aim to become Bank of 1st choice for MSMEs. This tie-up with SIDBI aids in realizing the Bank's vision to have increased credit flow to the MSME sector and extend operational convenience to the MSME clientele. Under partnership, Union Bank of India through its Pan

India branch network can provide general Banking products like Current Accounts, Savings Accounts, Working Capital facilities and other related services to the MSME Customers of SIDBI."

Also, speaking on the tie-up arrangement, Shri Vivek Kumar Malhotra, CGM, SIDBI reiterated SIDBI's commitment towards timely financing for MSMEs across all sectors.

Unacademy produces 178 Rankers for UPSC CSE

Bhubaneswar: Unacademy, India's largest learning platform*, today announced that 178 out of 685 rank holders of UPSC CSE 2021 are Unacademy Learners. Among the top rankers from the Unacademy platform are Gurni Singla (AIR - 3), Aishwarya Verma (AIR - 4), Utkarsh Dwivedi (AIR - 5) and Yash Chaudhary (AIR - 6). 3 Learners have secured ranks between 1-5, 32 have secured ranks from 6-100 and 143 have secured AIRs from 101-685.

From the 178 Rankers, 45 Learners were Unacademy's Plus/ Iconic subscribers guided by India's Top Educators. The other rankers were guided by Unacademy's Last Mile Programme for UPSC CSE 2021 Interview. Last Mile Programme is an interview guidance program for the last stage of the UPSC CSE exam that helps Learners who have qualified the Mains exam to crack the Personal Interview stage. The questions are asked by retired bureaucrats, former UPSC members and Top Educators in a mock set-up. In last year's Unacademy's Interview Guidance Program 170+ Rankers qualified the Interview stage by securing AIR 2.

India to see largest increase in energy demand worldwide over the next 20 years, says Infomerics

New Delhi: India faces the twin dilemma of co-existence of shortage and abundance in several parts of its energy system. While the provision of electricity has increased significantly over the years, weak institutions and utility governance hamper the power sector's financial performance with issues of accountability, operational efficiency, customer service, and transmission to state-level transmission institutions. The sector takes a huge and grossly unacceptable hit due to extensive losses, leakages and pilferages, and the cost recovery

from tariffs. These are some major findings of a report titled Power Sector in India: New Emerging Opportunities and Challenges released by Infomerics Valuation and Rating Pvt Ltd., the well-known SEBI-registered and RBI-accredited financial services credit rating company.

The report explores the opportunities and challenges ahead for India as it seeks to ensure reliable, affordable and sustainable energy for a growing population. During FY20 and FY19, the growth of electricity generation was lower than in the previous financial years because

of the impact of COVID-19. The report quotes the International Energy Agency (IEA) stating that during FY21 recovery in electricity demand from the COVID-19 pandemic was faster and stronger in India than in EU countries.

India is the third-largest producer and the third-largest consumer of electricity in the world.

With the increasing population, electricity demand is rising at a fast clip and India has improved its power generation capacity over the years. India has added more than 500 billion units until FY22 from FY10.

Blue Dart signs the UNFCCC Climate Neutral Now Pledge

Bhubaneswar: Blue Dart, South Asia's premier express air and integrated transportation & distribution company and a part of the Deutsche Post DHL (DPDHL) Group has signed the 'Climate Neutral Now' (CNN) pledge by the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC). The pledge highlights the organisation's commitment

to ambitious CO2 reduction targets. Deutsche Post DHL Group has adopted a package of measures worth up to \$7 billion to reduce its greenhouse gas emissions by 2030 in line with the Paris Climate Agreement, primarily to expand the use of sustainable technologies and fuels in its fleets and buildings. Its long term goal is to reduce GHG emissions to net zero by 2050.

The Climate Neutral Now

Initiative encourages and supports interested stakeholders to act now in order to achieve a climate neutral world by 2050 as enshrined in the Paris Agreement. The initiative is a tool to promote voluntary action on climate change. Blue Dart has already invested extensively in remaining a Sustainable Provider of Choice by being the first

developed a Sustainability Roadmap that supports the UN's Sustainable Development Goals. We are constantly working towards introducing innovative green logistics solutions that improve our carbon footprint. I am delighted to share that representing the DHL eCommerce Solutions Division in India, Blue Dart has been delivering high on its sustainability initiatives.

Statement by State Bank of India

Mumbai : Shri Vijay Kumar, Branch Manager, Arreah branch of EllaquaiDehati Bank (EDB), a Srinagar-headquartered Regional Rural Bank sponsored by SBI was shot dead today in the branch premises by a terrorist. Vijay Kumar, who belonged to

Rajasthan, was just 29 years old and had joined EDB in March 2019. Vijay Kumar was one of many such bankers hailing from different parts of the country, who are working in the Kashmir Valley and other difficult places to ensure delivery of



Babar Azam pinpoints collective failure in underwhelming World Cup campaign

New Delhi: Less than two years ago in November 2022, Babar Azam stood on the roof of the Melbourne Cricket Ground, setting his eyes on the coveted T20 World Cup trophy. His team ended up second-best in the summit clash but that they went that far was a story of them defying odds after losses to India and Zimbabwe. That grit and perseverance however, was a no-show in this year's tournament as the previous edition finalists bowed out of the group stage, following repeated batting failures in bowling-friendly conditions in the US.

"We did not play well as a team," Pakistan captain Babar Azam said in his last press conference at the tournament on June 16. "It's not that we lost because of one person. As a team, we lost. As a team we were not able to click. Sometimes we did well with our bowling but we did not do well in

batting. The pitches here - you saw that they helped the fast bowlers a little. But I think our batting did not click." In both the losses to USA and India, batters found life difficult. In the stunning Super Over finish, they started poorly before recovering well to make 159. In the small chase against India, they dramatically fell from 73 for 2 to 102 for 7 to squander two valuable points. The two subsequent wins - against Canada and Ireland, which also saw a brief batting wobble, counted for nothing as they finished third in their group behind the two teams they lost to.

"When the games were in our hands - we lost wickets because of which we lost two crucial matches. We were going ahead and the pressure was on the other team. But when you lose back-to-back wickets, you know the pressure builds. We didn't qualify. We

There are some dot balls, where you have to build partnerships. When the pressure builds, you take chances. Today, you saw that we were going easily, but then the back-to-back wickets fell. There was a little pressure and we took the game deep," Azam said. Pakistan have been fairly successful in the format in recent years, having reached the semifinal of the 2021 T20 World Cup, and two finals - T20 World Cup 2022 and Asia Cup 2022 - in the space of two months. Azam reiterated that his team that pulled off those feats very recently just failed to perform as a collective this year.

"We have played the Asia Cup final, the World Cup final, and the semi-final as well. But we were not able to finish. But we should also see that we have achieved those things. Unfortunately, we didn't achieve it this time. We didn't qualify. We

accept it as a team.

"I as a captain and as a team accept that we didn't play the same cricket. We couldn't perform the same way. The expectations that we had made of the team, the way our senior players were, we didn't execute. We couldn't deliver at different times. So, we accept that as a player and as a captain, I don't want to blame anyone. I don't want to

basis. The pitch in New York even came under the scanner for uneven bounce and carry that could have led to injuries. Azam felt batting was tough throughout the tournament and that the pitches should have been better.

"In New York, you saw that the game was played on toss. I think the timing was a little too early. Because when you give a toss, every second team has bowled. And the bowler gets help. And here you don't have the idea of bounce because there is no consistent bounce. Sometimes the ball goes too high, sometimes it comes down. So as a batter, you have to take a little bit of time and build your innings. You have to expect the same in the first six overs. I think we should have got better pitches," Azam opined.

The captaincy merry-go-round in Pakistan landed

Azam back at the helm of the white-ball teams in March this year after fast bowler Shaheen Afridi had led the T20I side for a solitary series - for the tour of Pakistan in January. The underwhelming World Cup campaign now puts the pressure on Azam and his job as the leader once again.

"About captaincy - when I had left it, I thought that I shouldn't be doing it now, that's why I left it and I announced it myself [last November]. Then when they gave it back to me, it was the decision of the PCB. When I go back, we will discuss all the things that happened here. And if I have to leave the captaincy, I will tell you openly. I will not announce anything behind the scenes. Whatever happens, will happen in front of you. But for now, I have not thought about it. The decision is of the PCB."



We've let the entire nation down: Angelo Mathews



New Delhi: Veteran Sri Lanka all-rounder Angelo Mathews reflected on a tough 2024 T20 World Cup, which his team will exit after Sunday's final group-stage fixture against the Netherlands in St Lucia. The 2014 champions lost to South Africa on a tough pitch in New York and then fell to continental rivals Bangladesh in a low-scoring thriller in Dallas. Their other fixture against Nepal was washed out, effectively eliminating them from the race to the Super 8s with a match to be played.

Citing the turn of events as unexpected, Mathews said: "I think first of all we've let the entire nation down and we are really sorry because we've let ourselves down. We never expected this. I mean, we came across a lot of challenges but those are not something to sort of worry about, but it's unfortunate that we didn't make the second round," Mathews

said on the eve of the Netherlands game.

"We have just one more game in the tournament, and we'll play for our pride. And we haven't done justice to ourselves, especially the way we played in the first two games. So, it's very unfortunate, we are heartbroken and we are hurting so much within ourselves.

Coming into the tournament, Sri Lanka were on a decent run of form having defeated Afghanistan at home and Bangladesh away in bilateral series. With quite a few of their players having featured in the IPL, they would

have hoped for a better showing than a first round exit.

"That's something that we regret because the way we played Afghanistan, Zimbabwe, and Bangladesh in Bangladesh, I thought we didn't do justice for our capabilities in this tournament. I mean, as you say, when you come into a World Cup, you can't take any team lightly but unfortunately the way we played against those teams just before the World Cup and then once we came back here and the way we played... obviously the wickets were quite different but we didn't do

justice to ourselves."

One of the 'challenges' that Mathews touched upon was the recurring theme of scheduling. Echoing teammate Maheesh Theekshana's earlier criticism of the itinerary which saw Sri Lanka being one of only two teams - Netherlands the other - to play in four different venues, Mathews said he'd never had to travel as much in any previous World Cups. "We are very frustrated as I mentioned earlier a few times. I think in my career, we have never travelled this much for a world cup. It's not an excuse, but it is about the reality. I think that only Sri Lanka and the Dutch team played the four matches of this tournament in four different locations. As I said before it's not an excuse, but in my career, this is the most travelled World Cup in history. But as I said before, we were not able to achieve our hope as a team or as a country. I'm very sorry

about it." Mathews, who turned 37 at the start of the tournament, was non-committal on his white-ball future and said any decision would be made after understanding the national selectors' ideas regarding the future of the team. "It's like this, I play every match thinking it's my last match. Because everything is uncertain, even our life," Mathews said.

"So, I try my best to do [well] in every match for my team. I have no high hopes about playing the next match or the next tournament. So, there is some more time, so there will be some things to be concerned about, but until now I have nothing planned from my side. We just need the selectors' opinion in the future, before my opinions. So, as I mentioned, I play this game, as I love the sport. Even if it's the national team or a club team, I play with that love and the bond. As I mentioned earlier, I always think that's my last game."

New Delhi: A well-compiled maiden ODI century at home from Smriti Mandhana, followed by a spin strangle, helped India begin the multi-format series with a clinical 143-run thrashing of South Africa at the M Chinnaswamy Stadium on Sunday (June 16).

In testing conditions, Mandhana anchored India's competitive total of 265/8 with her sixth ODI hundred before the spin troika, led by Asha Sobhana's 4-21, bundled out South Africa for just 122 inside 38 overs to collect the two ICC Women's ODI Championship points on offer.

Mandhana batted for 200 minutes of India's 217, battling cramps to put on a masterclass that kept the innings together amidst South Africa's early success. The India vice-captain kicked off with back-to-back classic cover drives before switching to her preferred on-side, hitting half of her

dozen boundaries in the arc between square leg and midwicket during her knock of 117. But it wasn't before a handful of hiccups, on a pitch with some variable bounce, for a rusty top-order with India not having played the 50-overs format in over five months.

Masabata Klaas lured Shafali Verma into an expansive drive, and induced a thick outside edge that Sinalo Jafta lapped up in a superb diving effort behind the stumps. Five overs later, the move to bring in spin in the powerplay paid dividends for the visitors as Mlaba had D Hemalatha - India's new

99/5 after 22 overs.

Allround Sri Lanka bow out with a win



New Delhi: Sri Lanka were terrific in all three departments against Netherlands to register a comfortable win by 83 runs in their final game of the 2024 T20 World Cup. An early wicket would have sent nerves in the dressing room of the Island nation but key contributions from the top and middle order got Sri Lanka to 201-6 on a terrific batting pitch.

Netherlands who came in with the hope of making it into the Super 8s with a win and requiring results to go their way, picked up early wickets but couldn't capitalise on the early inroads. The Dutch

commenced the chase with great intent but the quality of the Sri Lankan bowling and the news that Bangladesh had defeated Nepal dented the chase, as they bowled out for 118 with the bat.

Vivian Kingma dismissed Pathum Nissanka off the second ball, Engelbrecht taking a good catch at deep backward point. The opening bowlers for Netherlands managed to keep the scores tidy bowling consistent lines and lengths.

Having spent a decent amount of time at the crease, Kusal and Kamindu Mendis broke the

shackles in the fifth over hitting Kingma for a couple of boundaries while rotating the strike. Paul van Meekeren, introduced in the 6th over, was flicked off the pads for a six by Kamindu Mendis into the breeze but Meekeren had the last laugh as Kamindu hit a short and wide ball straight to backward point. With boundaries drying up after the powerplay ended, Sri Lanka plugged the ball into gaps and ran well between the wickets. An expensive 9th over by Tim Pringle produced 12 runs with Dhananjaya dabbing a ball past the keeper for four while Mendis thumped him

over square leg for four. A decent partnership between Dhananjaya and Kusal came to an end when the latter pulled Aryan Dutt against the wind, an easy catch for Engelbrecht. He continued on his merry way taking on Van Meekeren in the 13th over for 18 runs

before being finally dismissed off Pringle. Mathews was dropped by Engelbrecht while Asalanka survived a lbw scare and the batters didn't fail to capitalise. Erratic lines and lengths by the Dutch were bonuses to Sri Lanka and Pringle was

dispatched for 19 runs in his final over. A change of ends resulted in Thushara picking up O'Dowd who was caught at deep square leg. Theekshana tied up Vikramjeet Singh with a favourable matchup and the resulting pressure created led to the dismissal of Levitt who charged the off spinner too early to get stumped. The momentum created by the Sri Lankan bowlers carried on after the powerplay with tied-down Vikramjeet attempting to pull Shanaka was caught at deep midwicket. Engelbrecht hit Hasaranga for a six but

quickly perished to Pathirana chipping a ball to long on. Bas de Leede and Logan van Beek perished off consecutive deliveries with the Dutch reeling at 71-6 in 10 overs. The lack of experience playing the slingy action was visible as the associate side struggled against Pathirana, especially Aryan Dutt who gave himself too much room but had his off stump uprooted. After the initial onslaught from Levitt, the bowlers stuck to stump-to-stump bowling not giving any freebies to the Dutch.