



The poster features a purple and gold border. At the top, there are four circular icons: a microphone, a newspaper, a globe, and a network of people. Below these icons, the text "NATIONAL PRESS DAY-2024" is written in large, bold, red letters with a white outline. Underneath this, the theme is stated: "A press for the planet: journalism in the face of the Environmental crisis". Below the theme, the organizing bodies are listed: "Rashtriya Patrakar Mahasangh (RPM)", "Indian federation of Small and Medium Newspapers (IFSMN)", and "National Media Confederation (NMC)". At the bottom, the venue is given as "Constitution Club of India, Rafi Marg, New Delhi". The date and time are listed as "Date: 10 November- 2024" and "Time: 10.00 AM to 1.00 PM".

NATIONAL PRESS DAY-2024

:-THEME:-


A press for the planet: journalism in the face of the Environmental crisis

:-Organized by:-

Rashtriya Patrakar Mahasangh (RPM)
Indian federation of Small and Medium Newspapers (IFSMN)
National Media Confederation (NMC)

Venue: Constitution Club of India, Rafi Marg, New Delhi

Date: 10 November- 2024
Time: 10.00 AM to 1.00 PM



NATIONAL PRESS DAY-2024

THEME:-
A press for the planet: journalism in the face of the Environmental crisis

FELICITATION CERMONY OF FOUNDER & LIFE MEMBERS AND DELEGATES

-Organized by:-
Rashtriya Patrakar Mahasangh(RPM)
Indian federation of Small and Medium Newspapers(IFSMN)
National Media Confederation(NMC)

Venue: Press Club of India, Raisina Road, New Delhi

Date: 16 November 2024
Time: 6:00 PM to 8:00 PM

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participating in the

Imphal(KCN): Bodies of two elderly men were recovered Tuesday morning in Manipur's Jiribam district where a gunfight between suspected militants and security forces broke out a day before, police said. During a search operation for missing persons, the bodies of Laishram Balen and Maibam Kesho were detected in debris in Jakuradhor Karong area where a few shops were set on fire by suspected militants Monday, a senior officer said. "The two elderly men died after the insurgents torched a few shops in Jakuradhor Karong area," he said. The search operation has been launched as five individuals have been reported missing, the police said. The Jiribam district administration imposed prohibitory orders to avoid any untoward incident in the area, the officer said. A shutdown has been observed since 5 am Tuesday in Kuki-Zo majority areas in the hills to protest against killing of suspected insurgents in the gunfight with security personnel, another police officer said. The Kuki-Zo Council called for a total shutdown in the hill areas of the state from 5 am to 6 pm Tuesday to express their "collective grief and solidarity who were brutally shot dead". Eleven suspected militants were killed in the fierce gunfight with security forces Monday after insurgents in camouflage uniforms, armed with sophisticated weapons, fired indiscriminately at a police station and an adjacent CRPF camp in Jiribam district. Two CRPF personnel also sustained injuries during the heavy exchange of fire at Borobekra, and the condition of one of them was stated to be critical, another officer said. The situation in Jiribam remained calm but tense Tuesday morning with policemen patrolling at vulnerable points, he said. Following the incident, fresh violence was reported from multiple places in Imphal Valley where armed groups from the two warring sides engaged in exchanges of fire, the state police said. Locals and security forces recovered several improvised mortar shells in two villages of Imphal West district this morning, another official said. Operations were continuing to flush out militants, and reinforcement teams consisting of Assam Rifles, CRPF have been deployed in disturbed areas, the officer added.

petition with the SDJM Court, reviving the case and resulting in the recent issuance of two new NBWs. According to Samuel Tandi, representing the petitioner, the warrant was based on evidence and witness statements, invoking charges of murder, destruction of evidence, and common intent under Sections 302, 201, and 34 of the Indian Penal Code.

Odia Bhasa Pratisthan Organized Training Program on Usage of Odia Language in Government Work Over 100 Government Officials Participated in Training Program

Bhubaneswar (KCN): A training program focused on the use of the Odia language in government functions, organized by the Odia Bhasa Pratisthan, commenced today in the conference hall of Sanskruti Bhavan. This two-day program, scheduled for November 12th and 13th, aims to equip government officials with the skills needed to effectively use Odia in their official work. The workshop was formally inaugurated by

Shri Subodh Acharya, Joint Director of the Department of Odia Language, Literature and Culture. With more than 100 government officials in attendance, the session began with the unveiling of a training manual published by the Odia Bhasa Pratisthan. In his address, Shri Acharya emphasized the importance of the Odia language in preserving cultural identity. He highlighted its role in strengthening Odia heritage and extended gratitude to intellectuals



and literary contributors for their dedication to Odisha's development. He further encouraged all officials to participate attentively and consistently strive to elevate the use of Odia

in their official work. Dr. Fanindra Bhushan Nanda from the Odia Bhasa Pratisthan provided an overview of the training program. He mentioned that participants would receive certificates from the Odia Bhasa Pratisthan on the concluding day. The training covers various topics, including the use of Odia vocabulary in official work, administrative terminology, drafting orders, memos and notes in Odia. On the first day, distinguished linguists Dr. Kailash Chandra Tikayat and Dr. Ramesh Chandra Mallik led the sessions. Tomorrow's schedule includes sessions from experts in Odia language and literature, along with contributions from the Odia Virtual Academy. This initiative to promote the effective use of Odia in official communication has been widely welcomed as a constructive step forward.

Experience an Unforgettable Night with Anuv Jain at CASA BACARDÍ On Tour in Bhubaneswar

Bhubaneswar (KCN) : Music lovers in Bhubaneswar are ready for an extraordinary treat as CASA BACARDÍ On Tour, presented by B A C A R D Í Experiences, returns for its highly anticipated Season 4. This exciting event will take place on November 16, 2024, at Dreamcity Resorts, featuring the soulful sounds of acclaimed independent artist Anuv Jain.



Celebrated for his soulful sound and captivating lyrics, Anuv Jain has garnered a devoted following worldwide. His performance in Bhubaneswar is set to be a highlight for fans eager to experience his unique artistry in person. The city, known for its rich cultural landscape, provides the perfect setting for this musical celebration. Mahesh Kanchan, Marketing Director at Bacardi India Pvt Ltd,

shared his excitement about the event: "We're really thrilled to bring Anuv Jain to Bhubaneswar for the first time ever. With Anuv Jain trending among Gen Z, it was the perfect moment to bring him closer to his fans here. The response has been absolutely phenomenal since we announced the event." The CASA BACARDÍ On Tour has been a

remarkable journey thus far, with previous performances drawing impressive crowds. Talwiinder's electrifying shows in cities like Noida, Pune, and Jaipur attracted over 10,000 attendees, while digital campaigns generated an astounding 35 million impressions. Anuv Jain's performances in Chandigarh and Indore also saw substantial



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Loco Pilots Felicitated for their Alertness



BHUBANESWAR, (KCN) : Goods Train Loco Pilot Sri Sandip Patil and co-Loco-Pilot Sri Toran Lal Sahu felicitated by Divisional Railway Manager of Sambalpur Division of East Coast Railway for their alertness while performing their duties. Divisional Railway Manager Shri Tushar Kant Pandey felicitated both the loco pilots with

Cash Award and Meritorious Certificates in presence of Addl DRM and other Branch officers of Sambalpur Division. While performing their duties, Shri Patil and Shri Sahu found Stones lying on Down Line Track between Nawapara Road & Khariar Road Railway Stations of Titlagarh - Raipur Section at about

2040hrs (08.40 p.m.) on 10.11.2024. Both the loco-pilots stopped the train and informed Station Staff. Later the Stone was removed from the track by Railway Officials and then Goods train passed safely. FIR has been lodged under GRP Titlagarh Police Station. The matter is now under Investigation. The position of Vande

Bharat Express was at Lakhma Station at about 2035hrs (08.35 p.m.) which is about 14 Kms from Nawapara Road. The alertness of loco pilots while performing their duties is praise worthy as their quick actions played a critical role in preventing major mishaps, safeguarding both human lives and the integrity of train operations.

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Sikandar Ka Muqaddar trailer: Neeraj Pandey brings another thrilling heist drama

The Netflix film Sikandar Ka Muqaddar is the story of a diamond heist set in 2008. The film is directed by Neeraj Pandey, and stars Jimmy Shergill, Avinash Tiwary, Tamannaah Bhatia and Divya Dutta, among others.

It featured Avinash Tiwary, Tamannaah Bhatia, and others. Netflix on Monday, November 11, released the trailer of its new film, titled Sikandar Ka Muqaddar. Created by Neeraj Pandey, it's a heist drama, like most of his previous films, and features Avinash Tiwary, Tamannaah Bhatia, Rajiv Mehta and Divya Dutta in important roles. The story is set in 2008 Mumbai where a diamond heist takes place, and Investigating Officer Jaswinder Singh, played by Jimmy, enters



the scene to probe the matter. The trailer established the basic storyline and built enough curiosity around its characters. Everyone is under the scanner, right from the one who called the police to those who probably have nothing to

do with the case at all. An interesting scene in the trailer features Jaswinder talking to Avinash's Sikandar Sharma, telling him that if a biopic is ever made on his life, it will be titled 'Sikandar Ka Muqaddar'.

The trailer promises a strong premise, some thrills and a lot of excitement - something that we have already seen in Pandey's previous directorials, namely Baby (2015), A Wednesday (2008), and Special 26 (2013), among

others. At the trailer launch of the film in Mumbai, director Neeraj Pandey expressed his love for telling stories which can engage and entertain the audience at the same time. He said he likes to build a puzzle for the

audience and wants them to treat each scene like a clue to solving that puzzle.

Jimmy agreed with the director and added at the event, "The trailer invites the audience to a world filled with obsession and intrigue. With every twist, a new piece of the puzzle is revealed. I'm eager for viewers to immerse themselves in this mystery, connect the dots, and discover — will instinct prevail?"

Avinash called it "more than a crime drama", and Tamannaah credited Neeraj for trusting her with a "transformational character". Sikandar Ka Muqaddar is produced by Friday Storytellers, while the screenplay and dialogues are written by Neeraj and Vipul K Rawal. It is slated to premiere on November 29 on Netflix.

Parineeti Chopra turns filmy to wish hubby Raghav Chadha on his birthday

Actress Parineeti Chopra recently took to social media to wish her husband and Aam Aadmi Party leader Raghav Chadha on his birthday. On Monday, the Kesari actress posted a video featuring her cherished memories with Raghav alongside a heartfelt note. In her special post, Chopra mentioned how Raghav graciously taught her how to be strong, the value of emotional stability, and the true meaning of respect and love. Sharing the heartwarming video on her Instagram, the actress wrote, "Happiest bday my Ragaii. Your grace, honesty, patience and maturity make me wanna be a better person every day. You graciously lead me and teach me how to be strong, the value of emotional stability and the true meaning of respect and love."



She added, "I promise to never stop learning from you. Everyone around me says it because its true, 'they dont make gentlemen like you anymore'. I'm glad God gave me the best one of them all (Also in the middle of all this classness, how are you actually the biggest jokester and goofball of all?? #ChupaRustam) P.S. He's gonna find this

a compilation of Chadha's speeches from the political rallies. Parineeti and Raghav tied the knot September 24 last year. The duo exchanged vows in a private wedding at The Leela Palace, Udaipur, Rajasthan. Their grand nuptials were attended by cousin Priyanka Chopra's mother Madhu Chopra, Delhi CM Arvind Kejriwal, Aadiya Thackeray, and Punjab CM Bhagwant Mann, Manish Malhotra, Harbhajan Singh, and Sania Mirza, among others. In an interview, the actress revealed that she decided to marry Raghav within five minutes of their meeting at an event in London. On the work front, Parineeti was last seen opposite Diljit Dosanjh in Imtiaz Ali's directorial Amar Singh Chamkila. The sweet videos capture Parineeti's candid moments with Raghav. It also features

Bipasha Basu enjoys a cup of 'chai on beach' in Maldives



Actress Bipasha Basu, who is currently enjoying her Maldivian holiday with her family, shared a glimpse of "chai on beach."

Bipasha took to Instagram, where she shared a video. In the clip, the actress is seen holding a nice cup of hot tea with the backdrop of the beautiful sea and bright blue sky.

The actress had also shared a picture of herself flaunting her hair. She captioned it: "Rare good hair day on a beach holiday."

She had also shared a video from her date night with her husband Karan Singh Grover. The clip had "date night" written on it with the song "Doobey" from the film "Gehraiyaan" playing in the background. Bipasha married her beau Karan Singh Grover in 2016. They welcomed their daughter, Devi in November 2022.

Karan rose to fame by playing the lead role of Dr. Armaan Malik in the popular show 'Dill Mill Gayye'. The medical drama aired on Star One from August 20, 2007, to October 29, 2010. It was a sequel to the hit Star Plus series 'Sanjivani: A Medical Boon'.

Singh Is Kinng 2 in the works without Akshay Kumar, producer wants Ranveer Singh

Producer Shailendra Singh has made it clear that his first choice for Singh Is Kinng 2 is Ranveer Singh, and if things don't materialise with him, he will approach Diljit Dosanjh. Here's more about the project. Producer Shailendra Singh, who had earlier 'gifted' the title Singh Is Kinng to Akshay Kumar and fellow producer Vipul Amrutlal Shah, is back at planning his passionate project - Singh Is Kinng 2. As per a media report, the producer has made up his mind and the initial work has begun on converting the romantic-comedy into a franchise, with the second part rolling next year. But, to the fans' disappointment, he is not thinking about getting Akshay Kumar back for the second part. A report in Mid-Day

quoted Shailendra Singh confirming that it took him 12 years to get the title back, and now that he has finally received it, he doesn't want to delay the production on the film, which could either be titled Singh Is Kinng 2 or Singh Is Kinng Returns. He said the film is expected to be on the floor towards the end of next year. Shailendra said, "I had gifted the title to Akshay Kumar, and they tried to make part two, but I asked them to return the title as I wanted to make a sequel. After 12 years of going back and forth with Vipul and Akshay, I finally got the title three years ago. I have started the process of [making] Singh Is Kinng 2. I will begin production from October 2025 so that I can release it in 2026." The report further



mentioned that the producer had initially thought about getting Happy Singh, the protagonist, on a new mission to bring the Koh-i-noor back to India. However, that didn't work out, and now he has decided to change his protagonist altogether. He explained, "But that didn't get made. Now, I am mounting the second

part because it seems to be the era of sequels and remakes. We'll see whether the final name will be Singh Is Kinng 2 or Singh Is Kinng Returns. The hero won't be called Happy Singh. We'll create a new character." In all possibilities, the film is not going to have Akshay on board, who played Happy Singh alongside Katrina Singh

in the 2008 hit film. Shailendra Singh revealed that his first choice for the role is Ranveer Singh, who is quirky, energetic and has the qualities that suit the character best. "My first choice is Ranveer Singh. We reached out to his manager on Saturday. His energy, cheekiness and fun fit the character. Also, Ranveer has never played a Sardar

before."

The actor was reportedly offered the same film in 2017 as well, but things didn't work out at that time. Shailendra insisted that the time is different today and the talks are on with the actor's team. The producer added that his second choice is Diljit Dosanjh.

He shared, "Now the time is right for both Singhs, Ranveer and Shailendra, to create magic. If Ranveer doesn't work out, then Diljit is my next choice," adding that he wants either Priyadarshan or Anees Bazmee to direct the film.

Singh Is Kinng is one of the most successful and celebrated films of Akshay's career. It also featured Sonu Sood, Jaaved Jaaferi, Kirron Kher, the late Om Puri and Ranvir Shorey, among others. It was directed by Anees Bazmee.

Ensuring Effective Human Rights Oversight in India



The National Human Rights Commission (NHRC) is a pivotal institution for safeguarding human rights in India, ensuring that the government and its agencies respect and uphold the dignity of all citizens. However, the NHRC has been embroiled in a crisis stemming from vacancies in its leadership. The plea filed by lawyer and social activist Radhakanta Tripathy, which brought this issue to the attention of the Supreme Court, underscores the urgency of addressing this problem. The court's decision to grant the central government two weeks to respond has ignited a broader conversation about the functioning of the NHRC and the implications of its leadership gaps. Established under the

Protection of Human Rights Act of 1993, the NHRC is tasked with investigating human rights violations, recommending action against perpetrators, and raising awareness about human rights issues across India. The commission's role is crucial in a diverse and complex society like India, where human rights violations can stem from various sources, including state actions, social inequalities, and systemic discrimination. The NHRC conducts inquiries into police brutality. Custodial deaths and discrimination which ensures that the government remains accountable for its actions. It also plays a vital role in ensuring India complies with international human rights standards. Without a full complement of members and an appointed Chairperson, the effectiveness of the NHRC is significantly undermined. Adv. Tripathy's petition highlights a critical

issue—the NHRC has been functioning without a full-time Chairperson and four other members, leaving the commission with only one woman member, Vijayabharathi Sayani, who has been designated as the acting Chairperson since June 3, 2023. While it is historic that Sayani is the first woman advocate to lead the NHRC, the lack of a permanent Chairperson and the unfilled member positions severely compromise the commission's ability to fulfil its mandate. The NHRC is meant to be a five-member body, and the absence of key members has crippled its operational capacity. With cases piling up and the public relying on the NHRC to address human rights violations, these vacancies represent not just administrative inefficiency but a failure of governance that directly impacts the protection of human rights in India. Right activist Tripathy's petition is not his first attempt to address this issue. This is his third Public Interest Litigation (PIL) concerning NHRC vacancies. In the past, the

Prof (Dr.) S N Tripathy

Supreme Court's notices prompted the government to act on filling these crucial positions. However, the current situation reflects a more profound institutional inertia. Since the Supreme Court issued its notice on Tripathy's PIL on July 4, 2023, the case has been listed more than 12 times without substantive action. The government needs to act faster, repeatedly requesting more time to provide information on the steps being taken to fill the vacancies. The delays in appointing members to the NHRC are symptomatic of a broader issue—India's lack of prioritization of human rights institutions. The government's slow response has exacerbated an already critical situation. In his plea, Advocate Tripathy expressed frustration at the delays, noting that the NHRC's headless state was predicted in his earlier applications. This sense of urgency and the court's repeated delays further underscore the need for swift action. The NHRC's history of

leadership crises is not new. During the COVID-19 pandemic, the commission also faced a vacancy crisis. Only after sustained pressure and a PIL by Tripathy did the government appoint Justice Arun Mishra as Chairperson. The NHRC has often found itself operating in a state of limbo, with acting Chairpersons and vacancies limiting its effectiveness. The systemic nature of this issue points to a need for institutional reforms. One significant reform came as an amendment to the Protection of Human Rights Act of 1993, which mandates that at least one member of the NHRC and state human rights commissions must be a woman. This amendment is a step in the right direction, promoting gender diversity in these commissions. However, gender diversity alone is not enough to ensure that the NHRC can function effectively—it must be fully staffed with competent and

committed individuals who can carry out its mandate without delay. The failure to resolve the leadership vacuum in the NHRC has far-reaching consequences. With a full commission, the NHRC can address human rights violations promptly. This leads to a backlog of cases, investigation delays, and a growing sense of mistrust among the public. Victims of human rights abuses rely on the NHRC for justice, and its inaction only serves to compound their suffering. Moreover, an ineffective NHRC weakens India's international standing on human rights issues. As the world's largest democracy, India is expected to uphold the highest standards of human rights protection. The current state of the NHRC reflects poorly on India's commitment to these principles, particularly when critical human rights issues such as police brutality, custodial deaths, and systemic discrimination remain pressing concerns. To ensure the NHRC can carry out its vital

functions, several steps must be taken: The central government must prioritize filling the Chairperson position and the four other vacancies. The NHRC cannot operate effectively without a full complement of members, and these appointments must be made without further delay. The process of appointing members to the NHRC should be streamlined to prevent future delays. This could involve setting specific timelines for the appointment process and ensuring transparency in selecting members. The NHRC must be held accountable for its performance, and mechanisms should be put in place to ensure that the commission is responsive to the public. Regular audits of its functioning and the timely handling of cases should be instituted. The NHRC must engage more actively with the public to ensure that citizens know their rights and the avenues available to seek justice.

This could involve public outreach programs, educational campaigns, and collaborations with civil society organizations. India should engage with international human rights bodies to strengthen the NHRC's capacity. Learning from global best practices could help the NHRC more efficiently handle human rights issues domestically. Advocate Radhakanta Tripathy's persistent efforts to bring attention to this issue reflect the gravity of the situation. The central government must act swiftly to fill these vacancies, and institutional reforms must be introduced to prevent such crises in the future. Only then can the NHRC fulfil its mandate and uphold the human rights of all citizens in India.

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

Patients as Clients in a Profit-Driven System: The Healthcare system should focus on Healing

Dr. Shalini Yadav



India boasts one of the world's oldest and largest healthcare systems including Ayurveda and homeopathy with allopathic treatment, catering to a population exceeding 1.4 billion people. However, beneath the surface of this vast network lies a troubling reality: an increasing tendency to view patients primarily as clients whose financial resources can be exploited. This scenario raises concerns about not just the ethics of healthcare delivery but also about the efficacy and quality of medical services available to the general populace. In the contemporary Indian healthcare backdrop, hospitals often operate with a business-first mentality. The objective is not merely to treat patients but to maximize profits through various mechanisms, often at the expense of patient welfare. This profit-centric approach manifests in several ways including excessive formalities and hidden charges, over-prescription of tests and medications, frequent changes in medical staff,

irregular availability of doctors, moreover, the incentive structure of doctors and its impact on patients' treatment. Recently, I had a shattering encounter that forced me to share my highly painful and disturbing experience within the health sector of our country. My young child was suffering from high fever and I had to take him to the hospital for proper medication and treatment, and all the chaos started. My son's feverish body, always used to get comfort by the reassuring presence of two seasoned pediatricians, now was lying vulnerable in unfamiliar hands; hence the management of the hospital changed the whole staff. For years, those gentle, caring, compassionate and well-practiced doctors had been the inspirations and rays of hope, their warm smiles dismissing half of my son's illnesses as soon as he used to step in their cabins. However, the hospital's management policies and conflicts also drove these guardians of health away, taking with them a team of dedicated staff. This time, during the visit to the hospital, I was met with a changed scene. Gone were the familiar faces, replaced by unfamiliar ones. The novices who attended my son seemed detached, lacking the empathetic touch that once depicted this place adding to fast recovery of patients. The

hospital became a garden that once bloomed but now seemed barren land. The hospital's pursuit of profit now overshadowed compassion. Extra charges were levied, creation of new files was imposed, and fees multiplied. The prescription, hastily scribbled, promised relief but delivered none. Three days of faithful adherence to the medication yielded no improvement in the health of my chirpy bird. He had forgotten to speak with feverish body. Fever was like Philippines' typhoons coming back again and again in few hours with more power. My ever-hungry bird could not even eat a handful of grains and it was worsening and heart-breaking. As the fourth day dawned, my child's fragile form still wracked by fever's relentless grip. With hope that it will be better this time with medication, I took him to the hospital again seeking relief once more within the same hospital's sterile walls. Fate, however, had other plans for us. Again a new doctor, unfamiliar and untested, greeted us with a detached air. His scribbled orders sealed my little bird's fate—a barrage of tests, a painful journey of needles and syringes in a closed room with nurses. In that close, claustrophobic room, my innocent child's eyes widened in terror as the cold, unforgiving steel pierced his tender skin. His cry echoed through my very being, a dagger to my maternal heart. It was first time in life he got to know

what a blood test is and the blood is taken from the body for the test. My poor tiny soul! I wish he never had to go through all this. The world around him was hazy and aching, leaving only the traces of tears on his face and pain on his hand with a wool swab and bandage on from where the blood was taken. His tiny hands, once full of life and laughter, now became subject to the merciless urges of medical necessity. In that depressing moment, the hospital's antiseptic scent including nursing staff, rather than becoming a symbol of hope, reeked of despair and terror to my son like the terrifying Monjulika of Bollywood movie Bhool Bhulaiya. To me, the hospital seemed a place for cold transactions where money was sucked but no outcomes gained. The syringe's cruel kiss became a painful reminder of childhood's lost innocence for future reference for my kid. My little warrior's spirit, though battered, remained unbroken with a glimmer of resilience. His tears, an authentication to life's fragile reality, stirred within me a resolve to shield him from harm. And with hope of negative reports, and fast recovery after that, we came home. Three more days passed in hope of lowering temperature, yet no improvement in the condition of my son's health. But all in vain! Sleepless nights, chills throughout nights in his

body and frightening high fever scared me to the extent I never wished to think of. We again went to the hospital and this time, some more tests, then cannula in his tiny vein of hand for five interminable days, reminding us helplessness in sharing the pain of our kid. Morning and evening, the sting of antibiotic injections in his flesh, our frequent requests to the staff to tell us about those two doctors whose prescriptions always had immediate effect on my son for speedy recovery, no one gave us any contact detail or address of those doctors, last day when we broke in front of a young receptionist girl, she being little sympathetic, finally gave us the hint of the address of those doctors. We immediately left, searched, found the doctor, told and showed all reports. Taking immediate action, he ordered his nurse to remove cannula from child's hand at first, as it's a big torture for a kid to keep it for five days, gave three days medicines and my son started recovering after two-three doses and became a chirpy bird again after two and half weeks. Here writing this whole experience is to serve the purpose as a wake-up call, reminding all of us that healthcare's true foundation lies not in profit, but in the healing touch of humanity. Many patients entering hospitals

frequently encounter a maze of administrative hurdles. From exorbitant registration fees to unexpected charges for basic services, each step can feel like an uphill battle. Even I spent more than twenty thousand in these seventeen days on the treatment of my little one and what he had to go through that itself was highly traumatic and unexpected experience for a ten year old. To generate additional revenue, many healthcare providers resort to recommending unnecessary diagnostic tests or prescriptions for expensive medications, though I suffered personally yet I haven't highlighted the name of such money minting hospital here where I had such bad experience. They, often leading to inflated bills and unnecessary anxiety for the patient, turn a simple ailment into a sequence of tests. Moreover the hiring practices adopted by many hospitals further exacerbate the issue. By offering lower salaries to healthcare practitioners, institutions tend to hire less experienced staff who often lack the required expertise. This results in a high turnover rate, leaving patients in the lurch, as they deal with constantly changing caregivers who lack familiarity with their medical histories. The disruption not only threatens the continuity of care but can also lead to misdiagnosis and ineffective treatment

plans. The widespread irregularity in doctor availability poses a significant challenge to timely treatment. Many hospitals operate on lean staffing models that prioritize cost savings over patient care. As a result, patients may find it difficult to consult a specialist when needed; causing delays that can exacerbate health conditions. The emphasis on financial performance compels healthcare providers to adopt practices that prioritize profit over patient welfare. The National Health Policy aims to provide accessible and affordable care, yet the ground reality deviates from these ideals. A lack of stringent regulatory oversight allows hospitals to operate with relative impunity, leading to practices that can marginalize the patient experience. The ramifications of this profit-driven model are profound. Patients often feel vulnerable and exploited in a system designed to prioritize revenue generation. Those from economically disadvantaged backgrounds bear the brunt of these practices, often forced to forego necessary medical treatments due to prohibitive costs. To combat this troubling trend and restore the primacy of patient welfare, India's healthcare system must undergo a significant

paradigm shift. Stakeholders must advocate for a more patient-centric approach, emphasizing ethical healthcare delivery that prioritizes outcomes over profits. This could be achieved through stricter regulatory frameworks and monitoring mechanisms to discourage unethical practices, transparency in billing, and over-prescription of tests and medications; improving salaries and working conditions for healthcare professionals. While the Indian healthcare sector possesses the potential to deliver high-quality care, the inclination to treat patients as mere clients in a profit-driven system must be addressed. A collective effort involving regulatory authorities, healthcare providers, and patients is crucial to reshape the narrative. By prioritizing patient welfare over profits, India can move toward a healthcare model that truly benefits its citizens, ensuring that the focus remains on healing rather than on financial gain. Thus, I clung to the hope that compassion and care would ultimately triumph over the cold calculus of medicine.

(Author is a Professor, Writer, Journalist and Columnist from Jaipur, Rajasthan.)

Punjab Has Been Abandoned By CM Mann and AAP, Alleges Raja Warring

Chandigarh (JAG MOHAN THAKEN), November 11(KCN): In a sharp criticism of the Punjab government, Punjab Pradesh Congress Committee Chief and Member of Parliament from Ludhiana, Amarinder Singh Raja Warring, has come forward with a scathing condemnation of Chief Minister Bhagwant Mann and the Aam Aadmi Party for "abandoning Punjab to mismanagement, broken promises, and a false vision of 'Badlaav'." Mentioning a series of videos, the release of the congress party states that Warring has condemned the AAP government's performance in multiple sectors, calling out CM Mann for turning Punjab's governance into "a mess of unfulfilled claims, broken systems, and deteriorating quality of life."

"The people of Punjab were deceived by hollow slogans of 'Badlaav,'" Warring stated emphatically. "You won

92 seats on the back of false promises, but Punjab will not be fooled again. Punjab knows the reality of your governance—a state neglected, hospitals in disrepair, farmers ignored, and lawlessness unchecked," he continued. In a searing critique of AAP's healthcare model, Warring noted that the Gidderbaha government hospital, once regarded as the best even by the BJP-led Central government, has now been led to ruin under AAP's governance. "Is this what you call healthcare? Is this your model of public service? Punjab's healthcare is collapsing, all while CM Mann indulges in distractions," he said.

Warring also drew attention to AAP's promises to combat the drug menace, a crisis that has only grown under its administration. "You vowed to bring the drug situation under control within four months. Instead, drug abuse has

skyrocketed fourfold. Is this the progress AAP promised?" he remarked. Criticizing AAP's handling of law and order, Warring pointed to incidents of violence, increasing insecurity, and how jailed gangster Lawrence Bishnoi was conducting interviews from custody. "Law and order have deteriorated so drastically that criminals now act with impunity from behind bars, yet the government remains oblivious. This is the chaos that 'Badlaav' has brought us," he stated.

The PPCC Chief also responded to claims by CM Mann that Warring "didn't ask for funds" for Gidderbaha. "If you say I didn't request funds, what about your own constituencies?" Warring questions. "What about Lambi, where your Cabinet Minister is the MLA? What about Muktsar, where your party's MLAs are in charge, yet sewerage issues continue to torment the residents? If funds are being distributed, show us



the documentation. Show the people of Punjab the proof that you've invested in these areas!" he challenged. Turning to education, Warring castigated the CM's mockery of government schools, highlighting his own background in government institutions. "You routinely brag about studying in government schools to ridicule other leaders, but I studied in those very schools too and know their value. While you

joke that your biggest school decision was whether to attend or bunk, I learned values and discipline. It's disgraceful that, as the son of a teacher, you allow teachers to be mistreated and beaten for simply asking for their rights. Is this the respect your government shows to educators who are the backbone of our society?"

On the issue of agricultural procurement, Warring did not mince words. "You promised

that crop procurement would be smooth, yet today, our farmers sit stranded in mandis, waiting in vain for their harvest to be lifted. They have been deprived of their festive celebrations, all thanks to your government's ineptitude. Farmers are watching their livelihoods decay right before them, and you remain silent. This is not governance; it's betrayal," he lashed out. Warring further exposed AAP's glaring financial mismanagement,

questioning the unprecedented levels of debt accrued under Mann's administration. "This government has borrowed a staggering 92,000 crore rupees, yet there is no sign of development or tangible improvements for the people. Where are the new medical colleges, the hospitals, the airports that Punjab desperately needs? Instead, all we see are glossy election campaigns and advertisements in other states like Goa and Kerala. Is this where Punjab's money has gone? Are the people of Punjab now merely funding AAP's political ambitions?" Warring demanded.

He also took aim at AAP's "unrealistic" promises to the state's youth. "You promised that Punjabis would no longer need to go abroad to find work, and that foreigners would flock to Punjab for jobs. But what is the reality? Over 100,000 young Punjabis have left, disillusioned and desperate to escape

the hopelessness you have created here. Far from bringing prosperity, you've become the reason our youth feel compelled to leave their home state. This is the bitter reality of AAP's empty words," Warring states.

In his closing remarks, Warring lamented the deterioration of Punjab under CM Mann's leadership, remarking that "AAP has led Punjab into a crisis of governance, integrity, and vision." He called on CM Mann to provide clear answers to the people of Punjab and demanded accountability for the grave challenges facing the state. "Stop with your jokes, CM Mann, and start working for Punjab. It's time for real leadership, not empty slogans and irresponsible spending. This is not the 'Badlaav' Punjab wanted—it's time you deliver, or Punjab will make sure that AAP is held responsible for every failed promise," Warring concluded.

GOI 's focus on growth in per capita GDP, employment, & social equity: Niti Aayog



New Delhi & Kolkata (PARTHA ROY): Bharat is in for transformative economic development path to become Vikshit Bharat by 2047. Dr. Arvind Virmani , Member of NITI Aayog, spoke on theme 'A Vision of Viksit Bharat' on November 8 , 2024 at CSOI (Civil Services Officers' Institute) in New Delhi.

Dr. Virmani, outlined India's ambitious goal to elevate its economy to developed-nation standards by 2047, marking a century of independence. Dr. Virmani highlighted the Government of India's

strategic focus on accelerating growth in per capita GDP, employment, and social equity, noting that India is well-positioned to achieve high-income status through targeted reforms and global partnerships.

India currently leads the world in GDP and per capita GDP growth, with Dr. Virmani projecting average per capita GDP growth at 6.2% for the remainder of this decade and 5.7% into the next. These growth levels are essential, he emphasized, to achieving parity with Upper Middle Income Countries (UMIC) like China and Malaysia by

2030 and with High-Income Countries (HIC) like the USA and EU by 2050. Rising trends in employment and wages are reducing poverty and improving income distribution, though Dr. Virmani highlighted the need for further advancements in basic education and job skills to sustain this momentum. He also stressed the importance of reducing reliance on China and reinforcing supply chains for a more resilient economy.

Dr. Virmani emphasized India's demographic advantage, with the highest global share of working-age population,

which he views as a cornerstone for future growth. He advocated for a collaborative approach, combining Bharat's manpower with technological and market strengths from developed countries, and called for a shift from the legacy 'Control Mindset' to a 'Growth-focused' administration across central, state, and local levels.

Improvements in social services, particularly in health and education, are also critical to achieving India's development aspirations.

He also highlighted key government initiatives, such as the New Education Policy, NIPUN Bharat, and vocational training programs, as transformative measures driving India's vision for 2047. He expressed confidence that with robust reforms and a proactive approach to workforce and trade opportunities, India can secure its place among developed nations by its centenary independence anniversary.

KIMS Installs Odisha's First 3D Digital Mammography Machine with Advanced Stereotactic Biopsy System

Bhubaneswar, Nov 12(KCN): As part of its efforts to offer advanced care and treatment to patients, Kalinga Institute of Medical Sciences (KIMS) has installed Odisha's first 3D Digital Mammography Machine featuring an integrated Stereotactic Biopsy System. Unveiled by the Founder of KIIT and KISS Dr. Achyuta Samanta, the state-of-art technology is set to transform breast cancer diagnosis in the region by enabling early and accurate detection.

The new system, known for its high-resolution imaging capabilities and minimal radiation exposure, offers dual-mode tomosynthesis, an innovative method of capturing breast tissue images from multiple angles. This feature allows clinicians to see a detailed, three-dimensional view of breast structures, significantly enhancing diagnostic accuracy. A key highlight of the machine is its flat-panel detector, which facilitates



quick, low-dose examinations to minimize patient exposure to X-rays.

One of the standout features of this technology is the Image-based Spectrum Conversion (ISC) technology, which enhances image contrast to improve the clarity of dense breast tissue. This is particularly beneficial for patients with higher breast density, as it ensures more accurate screenings and reduces

the risk of missed diagnoses. Additionally, the tomosynthesis iterative super-resolution (ISR) method applied in this system further optimizes image quality while significantly reducing the required X-ray dosage.

For added precision, the Intelligent Automatic Exposure Control (AEC) technology adjusts the X-ray dose based on individual breast types, ensuring a customized, safer diagnostic

experience. The machine is also equipped with Breast Density Measurement Software, which assesses and displays density categories, providing clinicians with valuable information for risk assessment and follow-up care.

Dr. Samanta expressed his pride in this technological leap, emphasizing its potential to save lives by providing the people of Odisha with access to early breast cancer diagnosis.

Training-cum-exposure visit was conducted at ICAR-CIFRI for the farmers of Mayurbhanj and Kendujhar,Odisha

Kolkata, (KCN): Mayurbhanj district is in the northeast corner of the state of Odisha, and the Budhabalanga River flows through it, while Kendujhar is a landlocked district in the northern part of Odisha and mainly drained by the river Baitarani with numerous tributaries. Both the Mayurbhanj and Kendujhar districts have enough potential for fish culture as several rivers and tributaries flow in and around.

A five-day training-cum-exposure visit program on "Inland Fisheries Management" was conducted for fish farmers of Mayurbhanj

and Kendujhar districts of Odisha from November 4-8, 2024. The program, which was sponsored by the State Fishery Department of Odisha, sought to improve the knowledge and abilities of rural farming communities. Thirty fish farmers in all, including two assistant fisheries officers (AFO), took part in the training program to learn how to increase fish culture's profitability, sustain livelihoods, and maximize output.

The program was inaugurated by the director of ICAR-CIFRI. He underlined in his inaugural speech that to secure their sustainable

means of livelihood, fishermen must increase their understanding of inland fisheries management. Dr.Samanta also provided the trainees with an outline of the latest economic opportunities in the inland fisheries sector. The growth of inland aquaculture in both the Mayurbhanj and Kendujhar Districts of Odisha has a lot of potential for better livelihoods. ICAR-CIFRI aimed to bridge the farmers' gaps in understanding, proficiency, and perspective about the management of inland



fisheries through this training program. Aspects of the inland fisheries sector that were covered in the course

included pond construction and management, water quality management, nurseries and rearing

ponds management, composite fish culture, natural fish food organisms in inland open waters, induced fish

breeding and hatchery management, fish disease management, fish feed management, socio-economic and governance pattern in inland fisheries sector, economic evaluation of fisheries enterprise, participatory problem identification for improving fish production in Odisha, etc.

The trainees were taken to the East Kolkata wetland and Halisahar fish farm as part of their exposure tours to the field. Along with receiving hands-on training in a multitude of need-based subjects, such as basic water quality parameters, preparing fish feed using

locally sourced ingredients, identifying fish pathogens and appropriate remedies, etc., they were also exposed to the Institute's Recirculatory Aquaculture System (RAS), Bio-floc units, ornamental hatchery units, and feed mill.

In his final remarks, the director of the institute suggested that the farmers combine greater outputs using the knowledge they had gained from this training program. The training program was coordinated by Dr.Dibakar Bhakta and Pritijyoti Majhi, with assistance from Mr. Sujit Choudhury, Mr. Manabendra Roy, Dr.AvishekSaha and Mr. Pankaj Kumar.

World Skill Center Hosts 4th Graduation Ceremony

21 Meritorious Students in 7 Trades Awarded Medals

Bhubaneswar, (KCN): The fourth graduation ceremony of World Skill Center, a state of the art global skilling facility established by the state government was held in Bhubaneswar. Hon'ble Minister of Industries, Skill Development and Technical Education Department Shri Sampad Chandra Swain attended the program as the chief guest and congratulated the students who completed their training in 2023-24 Batch.

On this occasion, Hon'ble Minister inaugurated the Center of Excellence in Welding at the World Skill Center (WSC) premises. Similarly, the 'Nano Unicorn' program, implemented to promote various entrepreneurs at the grass roots level was launched by the Minister. Each 'Nano Unicorn' will be given a seed money of Rs 1 Lakh for setting up their enterprise. "Under the state government's 'Skilled In Odisha' vision, skill development programs

for the youth are being augmented to help them realise their potential. Various programs are being undertaken to help the youth succeed in the field of innovation. Initiatives like setting up centers of excellence in welding and nano unicorns will help in upskilling the youth of Odisha and inculcate entrepreneurial spirit in them," said Hon'ble Minister Shri Sampad Chandra Swain.

The graduation ceremony was organized on Monday at the World Skill Center campus. The best students from each course under School of Engineering and School of Services were selected and awarded as 'Best Trainee'. In addition, certificates were given to all the students who completed the 1-year advanced training in 7 trades.

Gold, Silver and Bronze medals were awarded to students who secured the first, second and third positions respectively in each trade at the World Skill Center. Similarly, 21 students were honored on the stage.



Shri NBS Rajput, Principal Secretary, Department of Skill Development and Technical Education joined the program as a special guest and motivated the students on building a successful career for themselves. "Today, the youth of Odisha are getting placements with national and international companies after

receiving industry ready training in various cutting-edge subjects at the World Skill Center. 100% placement success in vertical transportation course is a shining example of the same. In the coming days, the government is coming up with various programs to take the skills of the youth to new heights," said Shri Rajput.

Mr. VV Kamath, Managing Director, Fronius India attended the event.

On the occasion, Smt Rashmita Panda, CEO of Odisha Skill Development Authority and World Skill Center, gave the welcome address and wished the departing students good luck. In the end, Shri T Thambyrajah, Principal World Skill Center proposed the vote of thanks.

Students completing training in various advanced & industry ready courses World Skill Center get employment opportunities in various national and international level companies through placement programs. Senior officers of major

companies attended the graduation ceremony as guests. Tata Strive COO Ameya Vanjari, AM/NS HR Head Sunila Das, AM/NS East India HR Head Dr. Debabrata Dash, Pollutech COO Mr. Bibhas Mohanty, Aroma Group Director Mr. Arup Ranjan Mishra, JSPL General Manager (HR) and Employee Relations Mr. Banabasa Acharya, Mr. Abhishek Nath, General Manager and Mr. Nrusingha Nath Sahu, Manager (HR) of Swasti Grand Hotel and Mr. Subhrajit Parida, Area Manager of Green Trends attended the event.

Among others, Shri Pinaki Patnaik,

Additional Secretary of the Department and COO World Skill Center, Shri Bruce Poh, CEO ITEES Singapore and Smt Jeetamitra Satapathy, Dy Principal WSC attended the ceremony. Under the State Government's 'Skilled in Odisha' program, World Skill Center has been set up by Odisha Skill Development Authority and Department of Skill Development and Technical Education. This global and industry-leading state-of-the-art training institute is recognized as a unique facility in the country in the domain of skill development among youth, thereby strengthening the vision of a Viksit Odisha.

International Symposium on Shree Anna & Forgotten Foods concludes with suggestions for roadmap for the neglected crops and forgotten foods



Bhubaneswar(KCN): The two-day International Symposium on Shree Anna & Forgotten Foods (ISSFF), Department of Agriculture and Farmers' Empowerment, Government of Odisha, at Lok Seva Bhavan, Bhubaneswar concluded with appreciations and valuable suggestions from participants from the state, national and international level for developing a roadmap for the promotion of Shree Anna and forgotten foods/neglected crops in the state.

Addressing the gathering, Shri Kanak Vardhan Singh Deo, Hon'ble Deputy Chief Minister, (Minister A&FE and Energy), Govt. of Odisha, said, "Smt. Pravati Parida, Hon'ble Deputy Chief Minister, Odisha (Minister W&CD, Mission Shakti and Tourism), distinguished guests and colleagues, thank you for joining the closing ceremony of the International Symposium on Shree Anna and Forgotten Foods. Over these two days, we have reaffirmed our commitment to reviving resilient, traditional crops. Let us carry forward the insights gained here to strengthen sustainable agriculture and food security for Odisha and beyond. Thank you."

Speaking on the occasion, Smt. Pravati Parida, Hon'ble Deputy Chief Minister, Odisha (Minister W&CD,

Mission Shakti and Tourism), said, "Millets, or Shree Anna, are more than a food source—they are our heritage and our future. To see them flourish again, we must bring them back to every family's plate. Women, especially mothers, are key to this revival. When mothers adopt millets, they lead a generational shift toward health and sustainability. Through initiatives like Millet Shakti Cafes and the Millet Mother campaign, we are empowering communities to reconnect with these climate-smart crops. With the support of our partners and the vision of Hon'ble Prime Minister Modi, I am confident Odisha will lead the way in reviving millets and forgotten foods for a resilient future. In Odisha there are 33 Millet Cafes running successfully while 263 Millet Tiffin Centres are there. In the 30 districts of Odisha 177 Blocks have millet based Mission Shakti and Women SHGs."

A total of five sessions were conducted on the second day of the symposium. Those were Marketing & Entrepreneurship on Neglected Crops/ Forgotten Food by Women Entrepreneurs/ WSHG; Community Experiences and Best Practices on Organic Cultivation of Neglected Crops; Promotion of Suitable Neglected Crops for Large Scale

Cultivation and Seed Production; Long Term Approach for Sustainability of Millet Service Centre (MSC); and Culinary History and Community Engagement on Forgotten Food and Neglected Crops. Following the end of the sessions, a quiz on forgotten foods was organised, which drew enthusiastic participants. All the discussions held were around the theme of the event "Celebrating Shree Anna & Agricultural Heritage of Odisha". Speakers and experts gave valuable insights into how forgotten food crops are important for dealing with climate change, supporting sustainable farming, and improving nutrition. Many of these crops can resist droughts and pests, making them ideal for sustainable agriculture. Odisha's traditional foods are linked to these crops, which grow well in local conditions without much extra input. Preserving these foods would not only safeguard Odisha's agricultural heritage but also provide households with nutrient-rich, locally adapted options.

The ISSFF 2024 brought together different stakeholders such as Women's Self-Help Groups (WSHGs), Farmer Producer Organisations (FPOs), Policymakers, FAO, APAARI, WRI, MSSRF, MSMEs,

Research organisations, Health institutions, Hotel associations, Chef associations, Bloggers, Students, and Others to develop a roadmap for the promotion of Shree Anna and forgotten foods/neglected crops. ISSFF focussed on innovative and sustainable agricultural practices of farming communities, mainstreaming agro-biodiversity conservation, marketing opportunities, and policy perspectives related to Shree Anna and neglected crops/ forgotten foods.

High-level dignitaries from national and international organisations like Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO), World Food Programme (WFP) Asia-Pacific Association of Agricultural Research Institutions (APAARI), different ICAR institutes, National Institute of Nutrition, M. S. Swaminathan Research Foundation (MSSRF), International Food Policy Research Institute (IFPRI), Revitalising Rainfed Agriculture Network (RRAN), World Resources Institute, and others participated in this one-of-its-kind event being organised by the Government of Odisha. A total of 9 stalls had been set up at the venue displaying the diversity and potential of neglected crops and innovative agricultural practices.



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Capri Global Appoints Coaching Beyond as Consultant for UAE ILT20 League

Mumbai: Capri Global has announced an association with Coaching Beyond, a premier cricket coaching institute, as a consultant for the franchise team of the UAE ILT20 League. The institution will assist Capri Global in appointment of coaching staff and matters related to cricket operations. R Sridhar, former fielding coach of the Indian Cricket Team and one of the founding members of Coaching Beyond, will be the Director of Cricket for Capri Global during the UAE ILT20 League. Capri Global intends to strengthen the cricket ecosystem on the global platform by engaging the right sporting talent and nurturing them. The company aims to play a vital role as an enabler by empowering deserving talent to showcase their sporting strength to the globe. Speaking on the association, Mr. Rajesh Sharma, Director, Capri Global, said, "Capri Global aims to reinforce the visibility and

popularity of sports nationally and globally and popularize homegrown sports to create opportunities for aspiring talent. We are pleased to associate with Coaching Beyond, a brainchild of sports stalwarts who will assist us in evaluating the deserving talent and offer state-of-the-art sports training infrastructure, world-class technology, and training to sportspeople. Mr. Sridhar's experience as a player and coach is almost unrivaled and his strategic insights, coaching approach, and collaborative style will be invaluable for our franchise team. We see great synergy coming through this alliance, including a host of exciting moments that are set to elevate the cricketing experience for the Indian audience on the global platform." Coaching Beyond is a premier cricket coaching institute in India that provides performance-driven cricket coaching,

training, and education to individuals, teams, and coaches from the grassroots to various experience levels. It has recently launched its first high-performance cricket academy in Hyderabad and is on track to launch its second project in Chennai by August. R Sridhar, Co-Founder of Coaching Beyond, said, "We are delighted to announce our partnership with Capri Global for the upcoming UAE ILT20 League. It is an exciting opportunity to work and do justice to the enormous cricketing talent and add value to the international platform. With a focused team effort, inclusive vision, and holistic approach, we can achieve consistent success during the tournament. We are confident that the League will be a grand success and are looking forward to a successful season".

Nuvoco Vistas Launches Its Second Ready-Mix Plant in Patna



Bhubaneswar(KCN): Nuvoco Vistas Corp. Ltd., India's fifth-largest cement group has widened its operational presence with the inauguration of its second state-of-the-art Ready-mix Concrete Plant (RMX) as Patna-II. Situated strategically at Ranipur Milki Chak,

Begampur, bypass, this plant marks Nuvoco's continued commitment for providing top-quality building materials to the Patna region. Strategically located approximately 24 kilometers from the first plant, Patna-II is positioned as Nuvoco's regional flagship plant. It

capitalizes on untapped market potential by providing quick access to Nuvoco's Cement Plant in the region. Its proximity to nearby Industrial, Commercial, and Residential developments guarantee high-quality concrete solutions on time.

Mr. Prashant Jha, Chief of the Ready-Mix (RMX) Concrete and Modern Building Materials business at Nuvoco Vistas expressed his excitement at the inauguration of this latest plant, stating, "The launch of the Patna-II plant underscores Nuvoco's dedication to providing

innovative solutions to meet the evolving needs of the construction industry in Bihar. This new facility will not only strengthen our presence in the region but also enable us to serve our customers more efficiently." The Patna-II facility has a capacity of 60 cubic meters per hour and features a Twin Shaft Mixer capable of producing all grades of concrete. This includes Value Added Products (VAPs) under the brands of XCON - Xpert concrete with Nuvoco mixes, CONCRETO visualizing Self-Compacting Smart Concrete, Light Weight Concrete (Structural & Non-structural grades), Fibre Enriched Concrete, High Strength Concrete, Water & Crack Resistant Concrete, Foundation Expert Concrete. ECODURE - Range of Green Concrete, ARTISTE - Decorative Concrete Floors, and INSTAMIX - Ready to use Bagged Concrete.

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."

Union Bank of India signs MOU with SIDBI for Co-Financing arrangement of MSMEs

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.

OPPO India launches Reno12 5G series; makes AI phones accessible



Bhubaneswar: OPPO India today announced the launch of the Reno12 series, its first step towards accelerating the availability of AI phones in the country. The Reno12 series—"Your Everyday AI Companion"—boasts features such as AI Eraser 2.0, AI Clear Face, AI Best Face, and Smart Image Matting 2.0 for flawless yet fun photos without complex image editing. The devices also pack the AI Toolbox, powered by Google Gemini LLM, that comprises AI Writer, AI Summary, and AI Speak to enhance daily productivity. The Reno12 Pro 5G will be available in two variants: INR 36,999 for the 12GB+256GB model and INR 40,999 for the 12GB+512GB version.

The Reno12 5G will be priced at INR 32,999 and come with 8GB RAM and 256GB storage. The Reno12 Pro 5G will go on sale in India starting 18th July, and the Reno12 5G will be available from 25th July on the OPPO e-Store, Flipkart, and across mainline retail outlets. Speaking at the launch Peter Dohyung Lee, Head of Product Strategy, at OPPO said, "The Reno12 series marks a milestone for OPPO as we pledge to accelerate AI phone adoption. The Reno series, which showcases OPPO's advanced GenAI capabilities, futuristic fluid design, and unparalleled energy efficiency, reflects our commitment to cutting-edge technology. We envision that AI will

make mobile devices more personalised and intuitive to not only enhance smartphone capabilities but also transform the way users interact with their devices." The Reno12 Pro sports a unique Quad-Micro Curved Infinite View screen with a 43-degree curve for extremely narrow bezels of just 1.69mm and a 93.5% screen-to-body ratio. Both devices come with 6.7-inch FHD+ AMOLED displays with 120Hz refresh rate for smooth browsing and scrolling; their 1200 nits peak HDR brightness ensures legibility even under direct sunlight. The handsets boast 10-bit panels that output 1.07 billion colours to display images with a high dynamic range (HDR) and subtle colour gradations for life-like, immersive pictures. The Reno12 Pro 5G—available in Sunset Gold and Space Brown—sports a Panda Glass back with dual textures: The top half is treated with anti-glare technology that is smudge-resistant, while the lower glossy area is defined by a smooth ribbon that carries the OPPO branding.

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 Gamini Singla (AIR - 3), Aishwarya Verma (AIR - 4), Utkarsh Dwivedi (AIR - 5) and Yaksh 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.

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

in the industry to set quantified carbon-reduction targets. The organisation, as a part of the Deutsche Post DHL Group aimed to increase their CO2 efficiency by 10% by the year 2012 and 30% by the year 2020. Against the 30% target, Blue Dart achieved a 34% CO2 efficiency in 2021. Pablo Ciano, EVP Corporate Development, DPDHL Group says, "As a Group, we have

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.

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.

