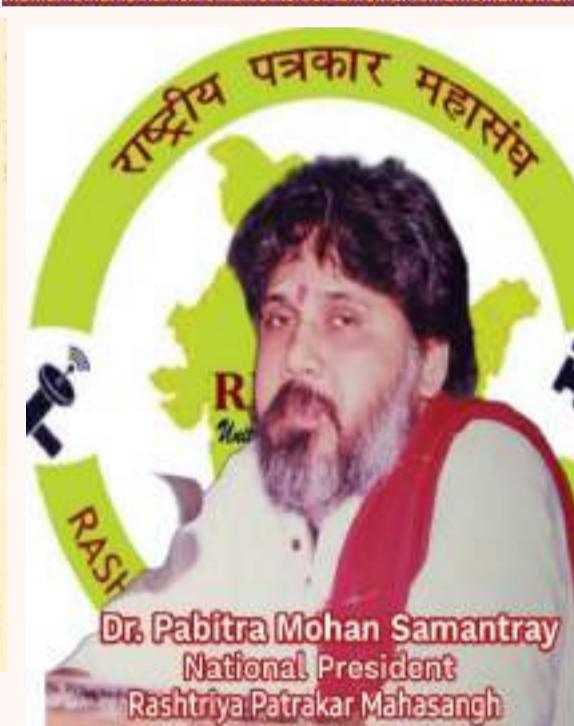
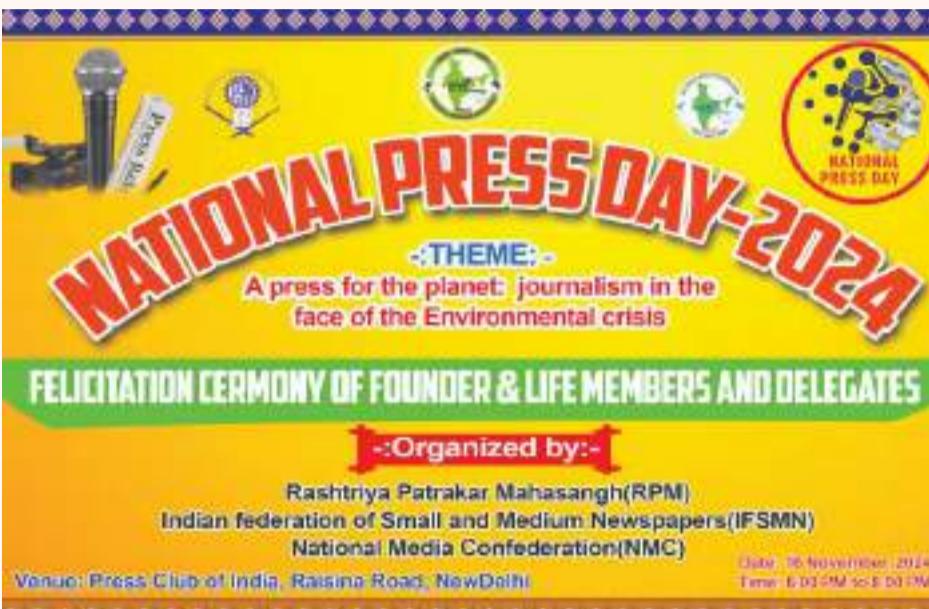


## National press day celebration & Demonstrations at Jantar mantar jointly By RPM, NMC & IFSMN

New delhi(KCN): Rashtriya Patrakar Mahasangha (RPM), Indian federation of small and medium newspapers (IFSMN) & National media confederation (NMC) are jointly organizing National press day at Constitution club of India, Rafi Marg, New delhi on 16th November from 10 am to 2 PM. National press day theme of this year is "A press for the planet: Journalism in the face of Environmental crisis". Information and Broadcasting ministers, Press council chairman, Principal Director general, CBC, PIB, Press registrar general, PRGI, Ministers, Members of parliament, Distinguished journalists, Advocates have been invited to grace the occasion as guests. On this occasion eminent journalists, film makers, Writers & Media leaders, founder Members of RPM, NMC & IFSMN will be felicitated by honourable guests.

Launch will be served thereafter  
Delegates across the



Mahadharana  
There after a 22 points memorandum will be submitted to hon'ble prime minister sri Narendra modi & information and broadcasting minister sri Ashwin Vaishnav by the delegation team led by Rashtriya patrakar Mahasangha National president Dr pabitra mohan samantary, Indian federation of small and medium newspapers Chairman Arun goyal, RPM organising secretary Sushil sharma, NMC deputy president Surinder verma, Delhi incharge Virendra saini, RPM National treasurer Dhrij kumar, NC member Jagdish yadav, IFSMN Founder members K Sanjeev, Sri Shivprakash & Life member sanjay ray All arrangements including Launch have been made & being personally monitored by RPM National president, NMC CO Founder and IFSMN Chief national coordinator Dr Pabitra mohan samantary

## Thousands of devotees visit Jagannath temple in Puri on 'Panchuka'

Puri(KCN): Thousands of devotees Tuesday visited the Shree Jagannath temple here on the occasion of 'Panchuka', the last five days of the holy month of Kartik, amidst tight security measures, officials said.

While at least 30 platoons (1 platoon comprise 30 personnel) of security forces were deployed to man the crowd, the Shree Jagannath Temple Administration was allowing the devotees to enter the 12th-century shrine only through the 'Singhadwar' (Lion's Gate), they said.

"As there is a huge rush of devotees on the occasion of Panchuka, the last five days of the holy month of Kartik, the administration allowed entry into the shrine only through the Singhadwar



and exit by three other gates. We seek the cooperation of servitors and devotees for smooth conduct of Panchuka," SJTA chief administrator Arabinda Padhee said. Puri Collector Sidharth Shankar Swain said that the administration has also raised barricades and 'Bada Danda' (grand road in front of the temple) has been declared a no-vehicle zone from municipal market square. The collector said

lifeguards and fire services personnel have been deployed on the five km stretch of sea from Chakratirtha to Swargadwar to prevent any drowning incident on the beach as a large number of devotees take holy dip in the sea on the occasion of Panchuka. Though Panchuka is celebrated for five days every year, this time it is confined to four days as per the almanac. The people of Odisha usually refrain from eating non-

vegetarian food during Kartik month. During the Panchuka, the devotees worship Goddess Lakshmi and Lord Narayan. Married women also worship Goddess Vrundavati, the wife of the demon Jalandhara, in the form of the sacred tulsi plant, praying for the long life of their husbands.

During the Panchuka, Lord Jagannath is adorned in different Beshas (attires). Lord Jagannath is adorned in Laxmi-Narayan Bhesa on the first day of the Panchuka (Tuesday). Laxmi-Narayan Bhesa will be followed by Bankachuda Beshas, Tribikrama Beshas and Laxminrusiha Beshas. On the last day of Panchuka the Lord gives darshan to devotees in Rajarajeswar Beshas (Golden attire).

Odisha CM on two-day visit to Delhi over Pravasi Bharatiya Divas celebration

Bhubaneswar: Odisha Chief Minister Mohan Charan Majhi is on a two-day official visit to New Delhi, officials said Tuesday.

According to the itinerary, Majhi is scheduled to attend a preparatory meeting organised by the Ministry



of External Affairs (MEA) related to the celebration of the Pravasi Bharatiya Divas.

The 18th Pravasi Bharatiya Divas will be held in Bhubaneswar at Janata Maidan from January 8 to 10, next year. The event would be organised jointly by the Odisha government and the Ministry of External Affairs (MEA), the officials said.

The chief minister is also supposed to attend the launch of a website for the Pravasi Bharatiya Divas event. He is scheduled to return to Odisha Wednesday morning, the officials added.

## Two bodies recovered in Manipur's Jiribam, Kuki-Zo Council calls for total shutdown in hill areas



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 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

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".

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.

## NBW issued against BJD leader N. Bhaskar Rao in 14 years old murder case



the longstanding case. The case dates back to December 2010, when Bhagirathi's half-burnt body was found floating in a dam in Andhra Pradesh. His family suspected foul play, prompting a murder case that has seen limited progress despite an initial Crime Branch investigation ordered by the police. In 2023, Jagannath filed a new

petition with the SDJM Court, reviving the case and resulting in the recent issuance of 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.

Bhubaneswar, November 12(KCN): A Rayagada court has issued a non-bailable warrant (NBW) against N. Bhaskar Rao, former Rajya Sabha MP and BJD leader, along with five others, in connection with the murder of tribal leader Bhagirathi Mandangi in 2010. The Sub-Divisional Judicial Magistrate (SDJM) Court issued the

# 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 consistently to attentively and elevate the use of Odia in their official work. Dr. Famindra 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 I 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, said,



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. Talwinder'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

turnouts, with over 6,000 fans attending and more than 20 million online impressions. Kanchan emphasized the tour's impact, stating, "The CASA BACARDÍ On Tour has truly been an extraordinary journey till now. After the immense success of Season 3, where we hosted events in 8 cities with 5 incredible artists and 24,000 attendees, we are thrilled to continue delivering these high-energy experiences."

As anticipation builds for the Bhubaneswar event, music enthusiasts are encouraged to seize this opportunity to witness Anuv Jain live. His unique blend of melodies and storytelling is sure to create a magical atmosphere, leaving a lasting impression on all attendees.

Don't miss this chance to be part of CASA BACARDÍ On Tour.

### 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 Lakhna 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

**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 "Gehraiyan" 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'.



She added, "I promise to never stop learning from you. Everyone around me says it because it's true, 'they don't make gentlemen like you anymore'. I'm glad God gave me the best one of them all (Also in the middle of all this classiness, how are you actually the biggest jokester and goofball of all?? #ChupaRustam) P.S. He's gonna find this

reel tooooooo filmy guys. Send help!"

The Ishaqzaade actress also thanked RJ Simran Singh for her popular dialogue, "oh jina shant mai uni tufan." She wrote, "Thank you so much @rjsimransingh for this audio, it encapsulates us perfectly."

The sweet video captures Parineeti's candid moments with Raghav. It also features



a compilation of Chada'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, Delhi CM Arvind Kejriwal, Aaditya 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.

# 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 Kumar on board, who played Happy Singh alongside Katrina Singh



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.

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

# 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

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 underscores 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



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 BhoolBhulaiya. 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.

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 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 asked. "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.

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 stated.

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



Dr. Arvind Virmani addressing on "Vikshit Bharat"

**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.

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



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

# 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 realize 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.

## 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 organized, 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 safeguards 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.

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.



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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 franchisee 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".

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

**Chennai:** Ashok Leyland, flagship of the Hindujas 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

## 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, 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 1200nits 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.

## 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 guarantees 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

## 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.

## 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.

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 Climate 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

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

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



# Gurbaz's ton, Omarzai's all-round heroics guide Afghanistan to series win

**New Delhi:** A blistering 70\* and career-best figures with the ball (4-37) by Azmatullah Omarzai saw Afghanistan clinch the ODI series against Bangladesh 2-1 in Sharjah. Rahamanullah Gurbaz's century (101) set up Afghanistan's chase of 244 before Mohammad Nabi helped add the finishing touches. For Bangladesh, veteran Mahmudullah's fighting 98 was in vain as the side lost four wickets in quick succession and therefore needed an elaborate period of rebuilding in the middle overs.

Bangladesh had no qualms in batting first on a fresh pitch in Sharjah, following their win in the second ODI after defending 252. After a couple of sedate overs, Tanzid Hasan rode his luck after he was dropped at first-slip by Gulbadin Naib and subsequently by Hasmatullah Shahidi off consecutive overs. Bangladesh punished the

drop catches as Soumya Sarkar scored two boundaries in a 16-run over off Fazalhaq Farooqi as they raced to 35 in five overs.

Bangladesh continued to up the ante as offspinner Allah Ghazanfar was dispatched for two boundaries through extra-cover, followed by a four from Sarkar which brought up the 50-run partnership. But things started to unravel for Bangladesh when Omarzai got Sarkar to chop one back onto his stumps. Tanzid followed suit in the next over as he drove one straight to Shahidi at point. Mehidy Hasan Miraz then sold Zakir Hasan down the river as he called for a single before turning his back, allowing Nangeyalia Kharote to run out Zakir.

Having tumbled from 53 to 0 to 58 for 3, Bangladesh suffered another setback as Rashid Khan managed to spin a couple of deliveries

past Towhid Hridoy before the batter edged one to Naib at slip. Due to the continuous fall of wickets, Bangladesh became very cautious in the next phase of play. The pair of Mahmudullah and Mehidy scored only 78 runs from the 15th over to the 35th over, going under four an over and scoring only five boundaries and a six in this phase of play. Although Mahmudullah was scoring close to a run-a-ball, Mehidy's strike-rate dropped closer to the 50 mark.

Mahmudullah brought up his fifty with a single to long-on in the 40th over while Mehidy followed suit in the next over in similar fashion. Mahmudullah ended Mohammad Nabi's spell - which consisted of two maidens - with a six. Bangladesh upped the scoring rate in the last ten overs, running the singles hard, and finding the boundary at least once in four out of the five overs from the 42nd to the 46th

over.

But Omarzai broke the 145-run stand as he got Mehidy to sky a short-ball to mid-off. Wicket-keeper Jaker Ali did not survive long as he was caught behind off Omarzai. Mahmudullah, however, hit Farooqi into the stands to enter the last over on 96 but the batter gave strike to Nasum Ahmed who was castled after he attempted a slog off Omarzai. On 97 with one ball to go, Mahmudullah only

managed to find the fielder in the deep and was well-short in attempting to take the second run as Bangladesh finished on 244 for 8.

Similar to Bangladesh, Afghanistan got the ball rolling immediately as they raced to 20 in three overs. Debutant Nahid Rana bowled a maiden in an attempt to quieten the scoring rate but Gurbaz hit a maximum on the onside off Shoriful Islam. Rana finally got his reward for his accurate

bowling in his fourth over as he bowled Sediqullah Atal with a nip-backer hitting the top of off-stump.

This allowed Nasum and Rana to quieten the scoring as Afghanistan were 45 for 1 at the end of the PowerPlay. Mustafizur Rahman, however, was dispatched by Gurbaz for his third six before coming back to scalp his partner Rahmat Shah, caught and bowled. Despite skipper Shahidi struggling,

Gurbaz hit a four off Mehidy and clobbered Rahman for six to keep the scoreboard ticking.

Luck was on Gurbaz's side as Bangladesh missed a crucial run-out chance in the 19th over, but Shahidi on the other hand fell to Rahman for the third time this series as he edged one to the wide slip fielder. This was sandwiched by Gurbaz bringing up his 50 with a single. Omarzai then got into the act with a six off Mehidy as Afghanistan continued to hold all the aces in the chase. Finding the boundary at ease and regularity, the batting side always had the required rate under control. Gurbaz, who fought cramps, brought up his century which was also his third against Bangladesh. Omarzai and Gurbaz brought up the 100-run stand in 18.3 overs before coming back to scalp his partner Rahmat Shah, caught and bowled. Despite skipper Shahidi

finished off the game with a six.

**Brief Scores:** Bangladesh 244/8 in 50 overs (Mahmudullah 98, Mehidy Hasan Miraz 66; Azmatullah Omarzai 4-37, Mohammad Nabi 1-37) lost to Afghanistan 246/5 in 48.2 overs (Rahamanullah Gurbaz 101, Azmatullah Omarzai 70\*; Nahid Rana 2-40, Mustafizur 2-50) by 5 wickets



## WCA urges BPL to clear outstanding payments

**New Delhi:** Officials from the World Cricket Association have urged the leadership group of the Bangladesh Premier League to resolve the outstanding payments of foreign cricketers who took part in the last edition.

Cricbuzz learnt that WCA, global players' body in cricket which collectively represents the players across the majority of top cricket-playing countries through their domestic players' association, already sent a letter to the board regarding foreign players' non-payment issues.

When contacted, WCA chief executive Tom Moffat admitted to this website regarding the same. "A significant number of late and non-payment issues have been reported to us with respect to the last BPL



event, and most of them remain outstanding. This is a broader ongoing issue across our whole sport and it is disappointing these issues continue to be reported," said Moffat. "We continue to urge the game's leadership to step in and ensure they are resolved and the players are paid what they are owed urgently," he added. At least 15 cricketers complained about non-payment in the last BPL that amounted to approximately USD 250,000 while a franchise,

Chittagong Kings, which participated in the league's first two seasons, is set to make its return. Additionally, two new teams, Dhaka Capitals and Durbar Rajshahi, have joined the BPL this season.

Nazmul Abedin, BPL governing council member secretary, said that they are aware about foreign players' non-payment issues in the last edition and work is in progress to resolve it. "That issue has been addressed and the process has started (as far as clearing them is concerned)," said Nazmul. "It is handled by the CEO and he can give you the correct answer but that issue (letter from World Cricketers Association's concern) has been addressed and work is in place to solve it."

Debabrata Paul,

Cricketers Welfare Association of Bangladesh, said that 12 cricketers out of the 15 players were cleared by the franchises. "There are three cricketers from three franchises that still did not get their payment but we are hoping they will also get back their payment soon," said Paul. The next edition of BPL is scheduled to kick off on December 30 with the final scheduled on February 7 next year. Players' payments have always been an issue in BPL during the Nazmul Hasan led regimes and it remains to be seen how newly elected board president Faruque Ahmed, who is also the chairman of BPL governing council, handles the same in the next edition that will mark the first BPL under his leadership.

"We're gutted for



Lockie," head coach Gary Stead said. "He showed in the space of just two overs what an asset he is with the ball and he's also brought a lot of leadership to this group, so he'll be a big miss heading into an important ODI series for us."

"To be ruled out so early in a tour is always tough to take, but we're hopeful his recovery will

## How Australia's debutant McSweeney is planning for 'unique' Bumrah challenge

**New Delhi:** Border-Gavaskar Trophy: Australia's uncapped opener Nathan McSweeney has admitted that facing Jasprit Bumrah will be "quite the challenge" as he prepares for his Test debut against India in Perth.

Australia's uncapped opener Nathan McSweeney is already deep into his preparation for the formidable challenge in the Border-Gavaskar Trophy: facing India's premier fast bowler, Jasprit Bumrah. The series opener, set in Perth, marks McSweeney's anticipated debut, and the young right-hander is meticulously planning

how to handle the pace attack led by Bumrah, whose unconventional action and pinpoint accuracy have earned him a stellar Test bowling average of 20.57, placing him amongst cricket's all-time greats. McSweeney, 25, recently solidified his place in Australia's 13-player squad after an impressive domestic season and strong performances for Australia A, and will likely join Usman Khawaja at the top of the order. His debut series comes with high expectations, especially given Bumrah's outstanding record, which rivals those of icons like Glenn McGrath and Dale Steyn. To prepare, McSweeney turned to video analysis, studying Bumrah's unique release and rhythm. While he admits there's no perfect way to replicate Bumrah's unusual style in practice, he remains committed to mentally readying himself for the task ahead. "I'll definitely dive a lot deeper into it when I get to Perth, but I can't help myself," he said on SEN radio. "I'm just trying to visualize how I'm going to go about it."

Acknowledging the difficulty of replicating Bumrah's distinctive action, McSweeney said, "He's one of the best bowlers in the world, so it's going to be hard to mimic that, that's for sure. But I'm just looking forward to all of that and I can't wait."

With a recent standout showing in the Sheffield



Shield, where he ranks fifth among leading scorers, McSweeney earned his Test call-up by making a significant impact in Australia A's series against India A. His domestic success follows years of persistence and

straightforward: "Decision-making is the most important thing for my game. Being an opening batter, it's making sure I'm leaving the ball well and making the bowlers bowl to me." McSweeney's preparation also included a tempered expectation of matching the high-scoring rates of his predecessor, David Warner. Instead, he is focusing on spending time at the crease, taking the match session by session. If he can implement his strategy effectively, he hopes to translate it into a solid start for Australia against one of the most challenging bowling attacks in world cricket.