

Odisha minister says AM/NS 'not shifting' its proposed steel project from Kendrapara to AP

Bhubaneswar(KCN): Odisha Industries minister Sampad Chandra Swain Monday said ArcelorMittal Nippon Steel (AM/NS) was "not shifting" its proposed mega steel plant from the state.

The minister accused the opposition BJD of misleading the people by alleging that the AM/NS was shifting its proposed project from Odisha. Speaking to the media persons in Bhubaneswar, Swain said "The leaders of BJD are misleading the people of Odisha. ArcelorMittal is a major steel manufacturing company not only in India but in the world. The company has several steel plants in various countries and it will establish more plants in future as well."

The minister stated that the BJD leaders were tight-lipped when the

company, in their term, set up a mega steel plant in Gujarat's Hazira after the signing of MoU with Odisha.

"There is no probability of the company moving out of Odisha. We have already held review meetings twice with the officials of the company. Around 200 Indian and Japanese employees of the company are working on the project in Odisha. It is also true that the previous government didn't take any initiatives on the project in the last two years," added Swain.

The minister stated that work on the project is speeding up after the BJP government came to power in the state. Swain also added that Odisha Chief Minister Mohan Charan Majhi has recently held a discussion with the top company officials in



Mumbai. Swain told the media persons that the company is imparting skill training to as many as 60 diploma holders from the Marshaghai block of Kendrapara district where the steel plant is proposed to be established. He also asserted that the industries which had left Odisha during the tenure of the previous BJD government are now evincing interest to set up their units in the state. Earlier, BJD leader Pratap Jena alleged that the Arcelor Nippon company is leaving Odisha due to the

"incompetent government" in the state. Jena had said the former CM Naveen Patnaik himself held discussions with the chairman of Nippon Steel in Japan and ensured the company set up one of the largest steel plants in the Kendrapara district of Odisha. He also said that it is unfortunate that the company is moving out of Odisha to Andhra Pradesh. Meanwhile, the company in a statement on Monday said, "ArcelorMittal Nippon Steel India (AM/NS

36 killed as bus falls into gorge in Uttarakhand; CM announces Rs 4 lakh ex-gratia

Dehradun(KCN): A privately operated bus fell into a deep gorge in Uttarakhand's Almora district Monday, killing at least 36 of the about 60 people on board and injuring 24. Chief Minister Pushkar Singh Dhami announced a compensation of Rs 4 lakh for the next of those killed in the accident and financial assistance of Rs one lakh for the injured, according to an official

statement. Officials said the chief minister was on his way to the accident spot.

Four of the injured are serious out of which three were airlifted to AIIMS, Rishikesh and one was taken to Sushila Tiwari Hospital, Haldwani, Almora District Disaster Management Officer Vineet Pal said. There were around 60 people on board the 43-seater



bus when the accident took place, he said, adding that overloading of the vehicle could have led to the accident, he said. District Magistrate Alok Kumar Pandey said the bus, operated by the

India) continues to explore accelerated growth opportunities as it aims to scale its production capacity. We are engaging with some state governments to evaluate possibilities that align with our business synergies and long-term strategic goals. It does not change our existing project plans."

A senior executive of AM/NS India on Monday said that the company has no such intention to drop the 24 MTPA steel plant planned in Odisha's Kendrapara district. The company official said that AM/NS India has been exploring investment opportunities as various locations to further expand its business. He said required formalities for the Kendrapara project are in different levels of government approvals.

Properties worth Rs 600 crore damaged by Cyclone Dana in Odisha: Suresh Pujari

Bhubaneswar, Nov 4(KCN):

As per the preliminary assessment severe cyclone Dana has caused damage to public and private properties worth around Rs 600 crore in Odisha, Revenue and Disaster Management minister Suresh Pujari said on Monday. "Odisha has suffered around Rs 600 crore damage due to the Cyclone Dana. The final damage assessment report will come up in a day or two," said Pujari speaking to media persons.

All concerned departments have submitted their damage assessment report and the Odisha coast on October 25 triggering torrential rain, flash flood. High-speed wind upto 110 km per hour uprooted trees and electric poles causing severe damage to crop and infrastructure in 14 districts. Notably, Cyclone Dana

hit the Odisha coast on October 25 triggering torrential rain, flash flood. High-speed wind upto 110 km per hour uprooted trees and electric poles causing severe damage to crop and infrastructure in 14 districts. Notably, Cyclone Dana

Paddy procurement to begin on Nov 21 in Odisha's Bargarh: Minister.



Bhubaneswar, Nov 4(KCN): The Odisha government is set to begin its paddy procurement process on November 21 in Bargarh district, with a procurement rate of Rs 3,100 per quintal, marking a significant increase from the previous rate of Rs 2,100. Revenue Minister Suresh Pujari announced the decision, emphasizing the state's commitment to supporting farmers by

enhancing the minimum procurement price. The decision followed a high-level meeting held at the State Secretariat in Bhubaneswar.

To ensure transparency, each Mandi (purchasing point) will be equipped with quality control machines to assess the paddy quality, and Cooperative Department supervisors will oversee 4-5 Mandis each.

Additionally, eligible

Violence at Hindu temple: Expect Canadian government to ensure justice, uphold rule of law, says PM Modi

New Delhi(KCN): Prime Minister Narendra Modi Monday slammed the attack on a temple by a pro-Khalistani mob in Canada and asked the government there to ensure justice and uphold the rule of law. In a post on X, Modi also flayed the "cowardly attempts" to intimidate Indian diplomats.

He said, "I strongly condemn the deliberate attack on a Hindu temple in Canada. Equally appalling are the cowardly attempts to intimidate our diplomats."

He added, "We expect the Canadian government to ensure justice and uphold the rule of law."

Official sources noted that this is the first statement by Modi since the recent slump in India-Canada ties over the North American country's alleged support to Khalistani separatists and its accusation of

India's involvement in the killing of Hardeep Singh Nijjar, a Canadian citizen and Khalistani separatist who has been designated a terrorist by India.

The strong statement underscores that Modi stands up for Indians across the world, they said.

Protestors carrying Khalistani flags clashed with people at a Hindu temple in Brampton, triggering condemnation by Canadian Prime Minister Justin Trudeau who said every Canadian has the right to practise their faith freely and safely.

In a statement, the Ministry of External Affairs said it expects that those indulging in violence will be prosecuted. We remain deeply concerned about the safety and security of Indian nationals in Canada. The outreach of our consular officers to provide services to Indians and Canadian citizens alike will not be deterred by intimidation, harassment and violence," he said.

The opposition Congress said the acts of violence perpetrated by pro-Khalistani elements were "absolutely condemnable" and urged the government to take up the issue "very strongly" with the Canadian authorities. The Congress in no uncertain words criticises

separatists at the Hindu Sabha Temple in Brampton, Ontario yesterday. We call on the government of Canada to ensure that all places of worship are protected from such attacks," MEA Spokesperson Randhir Jaiswal was quoted as saying in the statement.

"We also expect that those indulging in violence will be prosecuted. We remain deeply concerned about the safety and security of Indian nationals in Canada. The outreach of our consular officers to provide services to Indians and Canadian citizens alike will not be deterred by intimidation, harassment and violence," he said.

The opposition Congress said the acts of violence perpetrated by pro-Khalistani elements were "absolutely condemnable" and urged the government to take up the issue "very strongly" with the Canadian authorities. The Congress in no uncertain words criticises



what happened there, the party's media and publicity department head Pawan Khera said. "We urge the government of India to take up this issue very strongly with the Canadian authorities. No one can be allowed to disrupt any devotee from going into a temple," he said in a video statement. The devotees were harassed by pro-Khalistani elements and the Canadian police was also seen trying to physically stop devotees from a counter-protest instead of taking action against the pro-

Khalistani elements, the Congress leader said. Punjab's ruling party AAP also strongly condemned the incident.

In a statement issued by the Aam Aadmi Party (AAP), its senior leader and cabinet minister Aman Arora said the entire Punjab is shocked by the attack on the Hindu temple in Canada. "Punjab is a secular state and violence based on religion is not part of its culture. Even during the dark days of terrorism in the 1980s and 90s, there was no violence on religious grounds.

"Justin Trudeau has successfully divided the Indian diaspora in Canada for his dirty politics".

"Justin Trudeau has successfully divided the Indian diaspora in Canada for his dirty politics" whenever it comes to the

politics. Sikhs and Hindus live together like family and have coexisted peacefully," said Arora.

Punjab is known for its brotherhood and social harmony, and people from all communities are upset by this incident, he said.

He urged the Union government to raise this issue with the Canadian government in order to ensure that such incidents do not happen again. Canadian Prime Minister Justin Trudeau has condemned the incident, saying every Canadian has the right to practise their faith freely and safely.

However, Union Minister Ravi Singh Bittu targeted Trudeau over the temple attack, accusing the Canadian prime minister of dividing the Indian diaspora for his "dirty politics".

"These are some people (Khalistani elements) whom you are using. They are on your payroll," Bittu said.

After the incident, the High Commission of India in Ottawa issued a statement on Monday condemning the attack. The ruling BJP asserted that the party and its government have always taken "tough steps" whenever it comes to the

persecution of Hindus or the infringement of their rights.

"We have seen how strongly and clearly a firm reply has been given to Canada while displaying India's strength," BJP national spokesperson Gaurav Bhatia said at a press conference at the party headquarters in Delhi when asked about the incident.

He said the BJP and its government take "tough steps" whenever it comes to persecution of Hindus or infringement of their rights.

The Vishva Hindu Parishad alleged that the Indian consulate's prior request to the Canadian administration to provide security was "intentionally" ignored. VHP international president Alok Kumar said the attack was a cause of concern, more so because a consular camp had been organised by the Indian consulate at the temple.

'Hidden' form of leprosy can silently affect brain, spinal cord: AIIMS Bhubaneswar study

New Delhi (KCN): A new study by researchers at AIIMS Bhubaneswar Monday showed a 'hidden' form of leprosy can silently affect the brain and spinal cord. The study was published in the medical journal *Acta Neurologica Belgica*. While leprosy is an ancient disease that often leads to disfiguring skin sores, a lesser-known form of leprosy — pure neuritic leprosy (PNL) — can inflict significant damage without any visible skin changes. This "hidden" form of leprosy primarily

affects peripheral nerves, and is often undiagnosed.

Not being diagnosed on time can lead to delayed treatment and potential disabilities. The study challenges the conventional understanding of PNL as solely a peripheral nerve disease.

It highlights the importance of assessing central nervous system involvement for early detection and treatment, a finding that can lead to new therapies and treatments that can boost outcomes.

A majority of PNL cases have subclinical involvement of the

central nervous system, said Head of the Neurology Department, AIIMS Bhubaneswar Dr Sanjeev Kumar Bhoi. "This means the disease can silently affect the brain and spinal cord even without causing noticeable skin lesions — a hallmark of leprosy," the doctor explained.

The new finding may



have significant PNL can subtly affect implications for the central nervous system. Such leprosy cases are often left undiagnosed due to the absence of skin-related symptoms," Bhoi said. "Our study shows that

He stressed the need to test "both peripheral and central nervous involvement" to accelerate early detection of PNL, "allowing for treatment to reduce disability risks."

Funded by the Odisha government, the study involved a comprehensive analysis of 76 patients suspected of having PNL.

Using nerve biopsies, the team confirmed the diagnosis in 49 patients aged between 14 and 72.

Most patients were men, a unilateral foot drop and claw hand was the most common symptom, said the researchers.

The team also suggested new approaches to PNL diagnosis such as Nerve Conduction Studies, and Central Nervous System tests.

Nerve Conduction Studies should be done for patients with nerve-related symptoms like sensory loss or muscle weakness without skin lesions.

For a more comprehensive diagnosis, tests like VEP (for vision nerve pathways), SSEP (for sensory pathways), and BAEP (for auditory pathways) should be considered, the study said.

NASS-BWI and Nikhila Utkal Gramin Chasi Mulia Sangha jointly organized State Level workshop for Unorganized Workers

Bhubaneswar, (KCN): Today, Nikhil Utkal Gramin Chasi Mulia Sangha in association 'NASS' and BWI jointly organised a workshop in connection with the presentation of demands for workers working in the unorganized sector at the office of the INTUC. The Chief Guest at the conference was Dr. Ramachandra Khuntia in his speech said that India's 50 crore unorganized workers are totally neglected. There is no social security and health security system for them. On the other hand, the government has not made the minimum wage system for them. As a result, it is difficult for them to eat daily. Government of India has made arrangements for computerized registration of unorganized sector workers. But in any state in the last budget not even a single rupee has been provided for their social security. So the only way is to mobilize the unorganized workers and

organize them at the state and national level. AICCTU President Radhakant Sethi in his speech said that there are many schemes planned by the government but the workers are not getting any benefit from any of the schemes. Our government is working only for the corporate mafia. Recently Odisha government has sold the bauxite mine at the actual price of Rs 8000 for only Rs 465 in the auction process. The workers of our state are just begging for all the government sponsored schemes. It is violating the basic rights of workers. The General Secretary INTUC, Kishore Jena, in his speech said that every citizen has the right to live with dignity, but our government is suppressing the idea of giving basic rights to the citizens through various schemes. Madan Mohan Dhal, Vice President of INTUC, in his speech said that the various

health schemes launched by the government are ineffective and said that the benefits of every scheme, be it BSKY or Ayushman Bharat Yojana, are not available to the unorganized workers. Recently, the Ayushman Yojana proposed by our Prime Minister included senior citizens of all categories above 70 years of age, but according to the said plan, it is written that the government will pay it later after each beneficiary spends from his own contribution. So it would not be unreasonable to say that it was like showing lanterns to senior citizens during the day. If all the district level, subdivision level and block level hospitals of our state are upgraded and equipped with modern medical equipment and facilities then all the citizens of our state can get better health care. In today's discussion, including all unorganized workers in the Employees State Health Insurance Scheme

TPSODL Commences Quality Month with a Pledge to Uphold Quality Excellence



Berhampur, (KCN): TP Southern Odisha Distribution Limited (TPSODL) has launched its month-long 'Quality Month' celebration under the global theme, "Quality: From Compliance to Performance". This initiative is dedicated to uphold a culture of quality in every aspect of TPSODL's operations. The celebration across TPSODL kicked off in alignment with World Quality Month, celebrated globally each

November to highlight the vital role of quality standards in organizations. The opening ceremony featured an integrity pledge at TPSODL's corporate office, where employees committed to upholding excellence in their daily operations. CEO Mr. Amit Kumar Garg, along with senior officials, attended the event and led the pledge. Emphasizing the company's commitment to quality, Mr. Garg said, "Our objective is to go

beyond meeting standards and truly embed quality into every facet of our work. By doing so, we not only serve our consumers better but also build trust across the communities we serve. This Quality Month celebration will empower us to deliver lasting value and ensure that TPSODL sets a benchmark in quality excellence." Throughout November, TPSODL will host a variety of quality-focused activities to

engage employees and drive continuous improvement. These initiatives include process improvement workshops, 5S implementation competitions, and events such as quizzes, slogan and poster-making contests, essay writing, and quality initiative competitions. Each event is designed to inspire higher standards and celebrate the critical role of quality in the company's operations. Through this Quality Month celebration, TPSODL aims to reinforce its quality processes, strengthen its commitment to reliable power distribution across Southern Odisha, and acknowledge the essential role of quality within the business ecosystem.



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Juhu from Beverley Hills of Bollywood to alleged Anti-India abode



Dr. Ravi Chaturvedi



Diwan Bahadur Kunj Bihari Thapar, Motilal Chimanlal Setalvad, Sujan Singh

Gen PN Thapar, Romesh Thapar, Romila Thapar, Nayantara Sahgal, Karan Thapar



Nirant Bungalow on Juhu beach alleged anti-India abode

donations aimed at poverty alleviation. Allegations have since surfaced suggesting that her platform may have been used to propagate anti-India sentiment. Over the years, some of Setalvad's relatives have been implicated in activities perceived as contrary to national interests.

Historical scrutiny of the Jallianwala Bagh massacre, which occurred on April 13, 1919, raises questions about the Setalvad family's involvement in contentious national events. On that tragic day, a large crowd gathered in Amritsar's Jallianwala Bagh during the annual Baisakhi festival to protest the Rowlatt Act and the detention of pro-independence leaders Saifuddin Kitchlew and Satyapal. In response, General Reginald Dyer ordered his troops to open fire on the gathering, killing approximately 1,500 and injuring 1,200. The massacre shocked the nation and severely damaged Indian trust in British rule, drawing condemnation from Winston Churchill and a parliamentary vote of 247 to 37 against Dyer's actions.

Karan Thapar's ancestry adds further context. His father, General Pran Nath Thapar, served as India's Army Chief during the difficult Indo-China war of 1962. Defense Ministry records indicate that General KS Thimayya, the outgoing Army Chief, had recommended Lt Gen SPP Thorat as his successor. However, Prime Minister Nehru intervened and appointed Pran Nath Thapar as the Army Chief.

Initially Juhu was called "Juvem" by the Portuguese. At its north point, nestled in the village of Juhu, inhabited by Agris (salt traders) and Kunbis (cultivators) and at its south point, opposite Bandra island, lived a small colony of fisherfolk and cultivators (Koliwada).

Juhu came into prominence when the Portuguese built The Church of St. Joseph in 1853. Tata family has contributed both locally and nationally. Jamshedji Tata built a bungalow in Juhu Tara in 1890. The advent of aviation in reality brought Juhu on the national reckoning with the Bombay Flying Club.

Karan Thapar is also related to other prominent figures. He is the youngest son of General Pran Nath Thapar and Bimla Thapar and a cousin of both the late journalist Romesh Thapar and historian Romila Thapar. Additionally, Karan has distant familial ties to the Nehru family; his mother's brother, Gautam Sahgal, was married to Nehru's niece, the writer Nayantara Sahgal.

With this background, readers are invited to draw their own conclusions on the allegiances of the Setalvads, Singhs, and Thapars.

Juhu is the Beverly Hills of Bollywood as it is home to many Bollywood celebrities. Famous for the Juhu

Beach and ISKCON temple, Juhu is an inherently peaceful part of Mumbai, visited by fans in the hope of having a glimpse of their matinee idol.

There is a mind-boggling web of interconnectedness that relates one journalist-historian-writer-politician-bureaucrat with another journalist-historian-writer-politician-bureaucrat.

Almost every high-profile person in the Congress-Communist establishment related to each other whether it is in politics or bureaucracy or journalism.

Recent books by Kuldip Nayar, Tayleen Singh, and Sanjaya Baru also tell the same. Here is one set of sample:

There are several spacious bungalows, including Bollywood shenshah Amitabh Bachchan's and along that way another very big bungalow is "Nirant" 3 acres of lawn. It is a very luxurious bungalow belonging to Teesta Javed Setalvad.

Teesta is a social worker. However, from 2004 to 2012, she received millions of dollars of donations from abroad to alleviate poverty. However, it is allegedly a platform used for the anti-India propaganda.

It seems over the years, Setalvad's relatives have been in the forefront of anti-national activities.

While scanning the records of the Jallianwala Bagh massacre committed on April 13, 1919, the dubious role of the

ISKCON Temple became conclusive. A large crowd had gathered at the Jallianwala Bagh in Amritsar during the annual Baishakhi fair to protest against the Rowlatt Act and the arrest of pro-independence activists Saifuddin Kitchlew and Satyapal.

In response to the public gathering, the Gen. Reginald Dyer after blocking the exit with his troops, ordered to shoot at the crowd, killing nearly 1,500 and injuring 1,200. The brutality stunned the entire nation and eroded faith in the intentions of the British rulers.

Although, the attack was condemned by the secretary of state Winston Churchill and parliament voted 247 to 37 against Dyer.

Surprisingly, the notorious Hunter Commission gave a clean chit to Dyer, who ordered the Jallianwala Bagh massacre.

From here onwards, starts the saga of betrayal of national interest by the Setalvad clan. Harilal Chimanlal Setalvad, who was a member of this commission was the great-grandfather of Teesta Setalvad. It was Harilal Chimanlal Setalvad's son, Teesta's grandfather, Motilal Chimanlal Setalvad.

Setalvad was the man who backed the actions of Brigadier-General Reginald Dyer during the Jallianwala Bagh massacre.

Kunj Behari Thapar was also awarded the Most Excellent Order of the British Empire in 1920 for his loyalty.

The readers will be shocked to know that Diwan Bahadur Kunj Bihari Thapar was noted media man Karan Thapar's great-grandfather. The Thapar family is a wealthy family and amassed fortune during the First World War, by supplying men and materials to the British for substantial commissions.

The story of the British loyalty found favour even in the post-independent India. During the trial of Dyer in the Jallianwala Bagh case, Diwan Bahadur Kunj Bihari Thapar went a step ahead in his unwavering British fidelity by collecting Rs 1.5 lakh on behalf of Gen Dyer. Thapar honoured Dyer with a kirpan and a turban, the highest Sikh decoration.

Kunj Behari Thapar did everything necessary to please his colonial masters to keep his hold in the British Indian Army. For loyalty during Jallianwala crisis, Kunj Behari Thapar was awarded the Most Excellent Order of the British Empire in 1920.

For loyalty during Jallianwala crisis, Kunj Behari Thapar was awarded the Most Excellent Order of the British Empire in 1920.

The "elite" of India after independence were largely those who had been collaborators of the British. The Thapar clan, including Karan and Romila Thapar, exemplifies that. The British rewarded collaborators who seized the properties of freedom fighters. We've been ruled by the sepoys.

"Born in 1855, Karan Thapar's paternal grandfather was Diwan Bahadur Kunj Behari Thapar of Lahore. He belonged to a section of the Punjabi elite that came into new wealth as commission agents for the British.

Kunj Behari Thapar was also one of four people, including Umar Hayat Khan, Chaudhary Gajjan Singh, and Rai Bahadur Lal Chand, who donated Rs 1.75 lakh to the fund of Punjab governor Sir Michael O'Dwyer — the man who backed the actions of Brigadier-General Reginald Dyer during the Jallianwala Bagh massacre.

Kunj Behari Thapar was also awarded the Most Excellent Order of the British Empire in 1920 for his loyalty.

There is much more in this story. Karan Thapar is the youngest child of General Pran Nath Thapar and Bimla Thapar. The late journalist Romesh Thapar was his cousin and Karan is also a cousin of historian Romila Thapar.

Karan is also related distantly to the family of Prime Minister Jawaharlal Nehru. Nehru's niece, the writer Nayantara Sahgal who was married to Gautam Sahgal, brother of Bimla Thapar, his mother. With these inputs, it is for readers to decide where Setalvads, Singhs and Thapar's stand?

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NHRC's Initiative for Police Training and mitigating Healthcare Negligence



The National Human Rights Commission (NHRC) has launched a two-day skill development training programme aimed at fostering a deeper understanding of human rights among police officers from Tamil Nadu and Karnataka. This initiative, which took place at a private hotel in Coimbatore, serves as a vital step towards addressing the critical issue of human rights violations committed by law enforcement personnel and improving humane practices within police operations. Simultaneously, the NHRC's intervention in a tragic healthcare incident at MGM Hospital in Jamshedpur highlights the broader spectrum of human rights concerns, emphasizing the need for

accountability in public healthcare systems. Together, these actions illustrate the NHRC's commitment to upholding human dignity and justice across various sectors. One of the primary objectives of the NHRC's police training initiative is to sensitize officers about human rights violations that have become all too frequent. Complaints lodged with the NHRC include allegations of excessive use of force, abuse of power, and custodial violence. These issues tarnish law enforcement agencies' reputation and erode public trust in their capacity to maintain justice.

During the programme, 44 senior police officers from Tamil Nadu and Karnataka participated in sessions led by experts, including Director General of Police Shankar Jiwal, Tamil Nadu Human Rights Commission Member V Kannadasan, and other prominent figures from both the NHRC and state commissions. The presence of high-

ranking officials such as Inspector General of Police B Shamoodeswari from Tamil Nadu and Inspector General of Police (Grievances and Human Rights) Devajyoti Ray from Karnataka underscores the importance of this initiative. Their involvement ensures that the lessons learned during the programme will cascade through the ranks, impacting police culture at all levels. Central to the NHRC's training programme is that law enforcement officers must balance their duties with respect for human rights. This balance is particularly crucial during arrests, interrogations, and other high-pressure situations where excessive force or abuse of power can quickly occur. By instilling the importance of empathy and humane treatment, the NHRC aims to reduce incidents of human rights violations, thereby fostering a more just and equitable society. The training sessions included case studies of human rights violations

and discussions on how officers can adopt less confrontational conflict management approaches. Practical solutions, such as employing de-escalation techniques and adhering to procedural safeguards, were proposed to prevent abuses and minimize violence. Moreover, the officers were briefed on international human rights standards, emphasizing the need for compliance with global norms when dealing with suspects and detainees. This training is expected to play a pivotal role in transforming the police force into an institution that not only enforces the law but does so with compassion and dignity. While the NHRC was conducting its police training in Coimbatore, it simultaneously addressed a significant healthcare-related human rights violation in Jamshedpur, Jharkhand. The tragic case of a woman who lost her unborn child due to medical negligence at MGM Hospital brought

to light the dire state of healthcare infrastructure in some areas of India. According to reports, the pregnant woman was made to lie on the floor for over 27 hours in the hospital's labour room due to a lack of available beds. The NHRC took suo-motto cognizance of the case, issuing a notice to the Chief Secretary of Jharkhand, demanding a detailed report on the incident. The Commission also requested information on the health status of the mother, the availability of beds and facilities at the hospital, and whether compensation had been provided to the grieving family. This case is an isolated incident and a reflection of a broader, systemic issue in India's public healthcare sector. The negligence faced by the woman, who was referred to the largest government hospital in the Kolhan region, raises questions about the availability of primary medical care and patients' rights. The

NHRC's intervention underlines the need for urgent reforms in healthcare services, particularly in underserved regions where infrastructure is insufficient to meet the population's needs. The NHRC's proactive stance in the MGM Hospital case highlights the growing recognition that healthcare access and patient safety are fundamental human rights. Every individual is entitled to quality healthcare, and failing to provide this violates their right to life and dignity. In many public hospitals across India, poor infrastructure, overcrowding, and a lack of medical personnel result in substandard care. In the case of MGM Hospital, the unavailability of beds and the lack of timely medical attention to the pregnant woman were direct factors in the tragic outcome. Such lapses reflect poorly on the healthcare system and highlight the pressing need for accountability at all levels. To resolve these issues, the NHRC has recommended that hospitals improve their infrastructure and ensure that no patient is denied necessary care due to the unavailability of beds or other resources. Furthermore, the NHRC has called for state governments to implement strict protocols for patient care and establish mechanisms to monitor and address healthcare violations. Similarly, addressing negligence and poor infrastructure in healthcare requires systemic reforms. Public hospitals must be equipped with adequate resources and healthcare professionals should be trained to prioritize patient safety. The NHRC's intervention in the MGM Hospital case should serve as a wake-up call for health authorities nationwide to ensure that such tragedies do not recur.

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

Effort to reassure farmers through MSP

- The legal guarantee of MSP will ensure food security as well as control market inflation, which will protect farmers from exploitation. They will also have to be saved from dependence on middlemen, commission agents and government officials.

Amit Baijnath Garg



Recently, the central government has increased the minimum support price (MSP) of six Rabi crops. This increase is a minimum of Rs 130 and a maximum of Rs 300 per quintal. The MSP of wheat has been increased by Rs 150 per quintal to Rs 2425 per quintal. The highest increase has been in the price of rapeseed and mustard. It has been increased by Rs 300 per quintal. Similarly, the price of lentils has been increased by Rs 275 per quintal. The purchase and sale of Rabi crops at the government rate will start from April 2025. It is worth mentioning that the MSP of most crops has now become about one and a half times the cost, which was being continuously demanded by the farmers. So far, 23 crops have been included in the MSP by the government. Actually, farmers have been continuously agitating for increasing the MSP. Yet the question again remains: will the increase in MSP this time not lead to agitation next time?

MSP is the guarantee of the government to buy crops from farmers at a fixed rate. The purpose is, to give at least a fixed amount to the farmers on their crop. Due to MSP, farmers get protection from market fluctuations. MSP was started in 1967.

The report of the Commission for Agricultural Costs and Prices (CACP) is used to determine MSP. CACP determines MSP according to production cost, market trends and demand-supply. To calculate MSP, CACP divides the cost of farming into three parts.

Along with the cash expenditure of farmers for crop production, family labour is also calculated here. Increase in MSP gives farmers a profitable price and promotes crop diversification. Actually, farmers have protested many times regarding MSP. They are demanding to buy every crop on MSP, although it looks impractical. Last time they had submitted a list of almost all the crops to the government. Farmer organizations say that the government is emphasizing on diversification of crops, but it depends on the attitude of the government. Farmers want that the MSP declared by the government for all crops should be guaranteed. If such guarantee is given, diversification of crops will happen automatically. When the farmer will get more profit by selling pulses and oilseeds, then why will he grow paddy and wheat? The government and the intellectuals want diversification of crops. This must be admired, but farmers should get the guarantee that their crops will be sold on MSP.

The government believes that increasing MSP will increase the income of farmers.



However, farmer leaders do not agree with this claim of the government. They say that other measures should be taken to increase the income of farmers. One of the measures is the formation of a price stability fund, that is, when the market price of crops goes below the MSP, the government should compensate for it. At the same time, farmers should be encouraged to grow crops that give higher prices instead of paddy-wheat crops. Farmers should be encouraged to grow fruits, vegetables, cattle and fish. They say that farmers should not be left at the mercy of companies under the guise of contract farming. These companies break the contract and farmers have to bear losses. Such contracts can drown

farmers in debt and force them to commit suicide. At the same time, agricultural experts say that the dominance of the MSP system will discourage innovation in this sector. The farmers will become dependent on the government system and will be afraid to take risks, so farmers need to be freed from the cycle of MSP purchase of rice and wheat. The legal guarantee of MSP will harm the farmers. They claim that if the prices of crops increase according to the Swaminathan Commission, then the prices of food items will increase by 25 to 30 percent and it will become very difficult for the government to control inflation. On the other hand, farmers say that the government will have to

take the responsibility of purchasing their entire crop. The government and its agencies will have to buy the entire crop produced by the farmers at MSP. Only by doing this will the farmers benefit and the diversification of crops will also be completed. The government will have to take its decisions keeping the farmers in mind.

A study by the Indian Council for Research on International Relations-Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development (ICRIER-OECD) shows that the country's farmers have been incurring losses since the year 2000 due to biased government policies to keep farm prices artificially low, which has

ensure food security of the country as well as control market inflation, thereby protecting farmers from exploitation by middlemen. This will encourage them to adopt better agricultural production technologies. It will also control the manipulation of market inflation with intervention mechanisms to protect the interests of consumers, as has been done regularly during the last few years by selling agricultural produce purchased by the government in open markets. MSP legal guarantee will ensure food security through self-sufficiency in all agricultural commodities including oilseeds-pulses, which will be more profitable for farmers than the production of grain crops that consume more water and resources.

In fact, the major problem with MSP is the lack of government machinery to procure all crops except wheat and rice. Wheat and rice are actively purchased by the Food Corporation of India under PDS. Many state governments purchase the entire grain, farmers in such states get maximum benefit, while farmers of states with less purchase are often adversely affected. CACP had suggested making a law on MSP in its price policy report. This was said to be necessary to encourage farmers. It said that the government should promote agriculture and animal husbandry, so that people can consume food items rich in protein, vitamins, minerals and fiber. To do this, the MSP of paddy

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The Minister of State for Petroleum and Natural Gas & Tourism, Shri Suresh Gopi attends the Kaveri Meets Ganga presented by Amrit Parampara at Kartavya Path, in New Delhi

SPES Organises Successful Training of Trainers Programme for BSF Personnel



Kolkata (KCN): The School of Physical Education and Sports (SPES) at Rashtriya Raksha University (RRU) has successfully conducted two consecutive Training of Trainers programmes for personnel from the Border Security Force (BSF), with the objective of improving physical fitness within the force. The training was organised in two separate batches, each featuring the active involvement of 15 committed BSF trainers, resulting in a total of 30 participants across both sessions.

The Training of Trainers programme was meticulously designed to equip BSF personnel with the skills and knowledge

necessary to improve physical fitness and its critical components within their teams. The initiative aligns with RRU's commitment to enhancing the health and performance of national security forces. The sessions featured a blend of theoretical knowledge and practical training, led by experienced faculty from SPES. Recognising the vital role of fitness in operational effectiveness, this initiative aims to equip BSF trainers with the latest methodologies and best practices to promote overall health and well-being among their teams. Participants engaged in a comprehensive curriculum featuring both theoretical and practical

sessions, focusing on essential topics such as: Psychology of Performance: Understanding mental resilience and motivation. Physiology of Fitness: Insights into how the body responds to physical training. Strength Training: Techniques for building muscular strength safely and effectively. Endurance Development: Strategies for improving cardiovascular fitness. Flexibility Training: Importance of flexibility for injury prevention and recovery. Injury Prevention: Best practices to minimise risks during training and operations. The trainers engaged in hands-on activities that emphasised the importance of fitness

in maintaining operational readiness and resilience. A warm welcome was extended to all participants by Prof. (Dr.) Bimal N. Patel Vice Chancellor of RRU, who underscored the significance of physical education in fostering a robust defense force. He acknowledged the hard work and dedication of both the participants and the faculty in making the program a success. The success of this program highlights RRU's ongoing commitment to supporting the health and well-being of our security forces. By empowering trainers within the BSF, the initiative aims to create a ripple effect that promotes fitness and well-being across the ranks.

Tripura Minister Sparks Row With "Waqt-Sanatan Board" Comment

Guwahati (KCN): Tripura's minister for Welfare of Scheduled Castes, Sudhangshu Das, has sparked controversy with his comment that if Muslims have Wakf Board, Hindus should be entitled to have 'Sanatan Board'.

Other communities like Christians and Sikhs should have their separate boards, he said in a social media post, adding that unless that happens, all such boards should be cancelled. In a post from his official Facebook handle, Sudhangshu Das wrote,

"This is my appeal to the

Government of India," he added with the hashtag #HinduUnity.

The post has led to sharp reaction from the Opposition.

"He (Das) has been

sworn in twice as MLA,

once as minister till now.

All those oaths were taken in the name of the Constitution but it seems he has failed to develop respect and show dignity for the Constitution. He has made several other comments previously that we objected to. If he chooses to make such comments, he should step down from his

government position and then make random comments as a common public," said CPM state secretary and former Lok Sabha MP Jitendra Chaudhary.

In September this year, he landed in another controversy by saying in a social media post that he felt Hindus did not have the moral right to perform puja of gods and goddesses any more. A community that can't save its deities and temples from infidel jihadis (bidhormi jihadi), does not have the right, he wrote

Siddaramaiah Summoned For Questioning By Lokayukta In Mysuru Land Scam

Bengaluru (KCN): Karnataka Chief Minister Siddaramaiah has been summoned by the Lokayukta for questioning on Wednesday in the Mysuru land scam case.

The Lokayukta Police have already questioned the Chief Minister's wife, Parvathi BM, in connection with the case. Asked if he would answer the summons for questioning, Mr Siddaramaiah answered in the affirmative this

evening. The summons come after a court declared that Governor Thaawarchand Gahlot was within his rights to allow an investigation against the Chief Minister by the Lokayukta.

The Lokayukta has already filed a First Information Report on the orders of a special court. Besides Mr Siddaramaiah and his wife, his brother-in-law Mallikarjuna Swamy,

Devaraju and others have been named in the FIR.

Mr Siddaramaiah has denied any wrongdoing and claimed that the allegations against him are politically motivated. The case is linked to the allotment of 14 high value plots -- located in an upmarket area in Mysuru -- to Ms Parvathi as compensation against her 3.16 acres of land in Kesare village near the city.

Activists have alleged that this had caused a loss of 45 crore to the state.

An anti-corruption activist had filed a complaint. The activist has also alleged that the land, shown to be gifted to Ms Parvathi by her brother, was illegally acquired by him. BM Parvathi has already offered to return the land to MUDA, which has agreed to take the plots back.

Darkness of life can be dispelled only with the light of knowledge – Haryana CM

Chandigarh (JAG MOHAN THAKEN), November 4:

"Darkness of life can be dispelled only with the light of knowledge", said Haryana Chief Minister, Nayab Singh Saini on Monday, while inaugurating the 'Third Panchkula Book Fair', being organized at Indradhanush Auditorium, Sector-5 in Panchkula. He said that the Prime Minister, Narendra Modi, has said that where there is darkness, it is not forbidden to light a lamp. If we read even one book today, that one book will light a lamp.

Addressing the gathering, the Chief Minister said that our culture and heritage are available in the books. The purpose of this book fair is also to enhance our knowledge. Haryana Chief Minister, on this occasion, also

inaugurated Sardar Patel libraries built in village Arunai, district Kurukshetra, village Bara, district Karnal and village Madana Kalan, district Jhajjar through video conferencing. He also went around the Book Fair and released several books.

Nayab Singh Saini said that the Fair features thousands of books in various languages. Observing the large crowd gathered, he underlined the significance of books in our lives. "Anyone with an interest in a particular subject can find valuable knowledge in the wide selection available at this fair," he added.

The Chief Minister highlighted that Mata Saraswati, the goddess of knowledge, is revered in schools and libraries. He emphasized that by learning under the

guidance of teachers and studying in libraries, we acquire in-depth knowledge of various subjects. He said that the Uttar Haryana Bijli Vitran Nigam (UHBVN) has established over 25 libraries in the past three years through its CSR initiatives. "Today, we

inaugurated three more libraries, which serve as an inspiration for other departments," he stated. The construction of Sardar Patel Library by UHBVN in Bara village of Karnal, Arunai village of Kurukshetra and Madana Kalan village of Jhajjar has cost Rs 20

lakh each. Computer and internet facilities have been provided in these libraries. The youth of the nearby villages will also be largely benefitted from these libraries. Emphasizing the importance of libraries for preparing for recruitment and

competitive examinations, CM Saini said that the BJP government has committed to providing 2 lakh jobs for the youth of the state. He added that District-level libraries are already operational at district headquarters, and the government is now

upgrading digital libraries in colleges and schools. "The government is also opening libraries in villages, equipped with computer facilities," he said. "Online resources and e-books are being made available, allowing youth to access information about their subjects online." He said that for the past ten years, youth in the state have been securing jobs without the need for bribes

or recommendations. "Now, instead of seeking recommendations, the youth are preparing for their future by utilizing library resources," he added. The Chief Minister said that under the Maha Gaon-Jagmag Gaon Yojana, 86 percent of the villages in the State are being provided 24-hour electricity. He emphasized that the state's power utilities have achieved self-reliance in the power sector. The Chief Minister also highlighted the Adarsh Gram Yojana, which aims to transform over 200 villages into model villages. Under the Corporate Social Responsibility (CSR), support is being provided for various initiatives, including poverty alleviation, malnutrition reduction, healthcare, sanitation, environmental sustainability, pensions, education, improving the sex ratio, sports development, and contributions to the Prime Minister's Relief Fund. He also acknowledged the significant support from private companies and industries during the COVID-19 pandemic, which greatly assisted local communities through their CSR initiatives.



Road on forest land sans gram sabha sparks row

J o d a (K C N) : Authorities of a mining firm have committed irregularities in the construction of a road by clearing a forest without conducting any gram sabha at Tonto village under Bhadrashri panchayat of Joda mining division in Keonjhar district, a report said. The road construction was taken up by the mining firm for the transportation of minerals from its Roida-II mines at Tonto. Peeved over the issue, more than 1,300 villagers including women have been staging a sit-in at the place for the last 100

days demanding a high-level inquiry into the alleged wrongdoing. The matter came to the fore when the villagers narrated the issue before the media while its jungle committee demanded an impartial probe. The villagers alleged that Narbheram Company owns the Roida-II mines in Tonto. The mining firm flouted norms and constructed a road in a forest by clearing the green cover without conducting any gram sabha. The villagers alleged that the mining firm has constructed the road even without the approval of Mines department. Villagers and



members of the village committee Sukadev Munda, Budhuni Munda, Radhika Munda, Gora

Munda, Muni Munda and Suna Munda have alleged that the mining firm has felled 40-feet tall trees and cleared the hills without conducting any gram sabha. The mining firm also did not consult with the jungle committee before taking up the road construction. The mining firm has siphoned off iron ores, blue dust (precious

iron ores) and other stones weighing thousands of tonnes while cutting down the hill using heavy stone-cutting equipment, the villagers and members of the jungle committee alleged. Kasturi Oram, former sarpanch of the panchayat, said the mining firm has cut down trees from the forest without conducting any gram sabha. It has also swindled large volumes of iron ore and earned crores in premium without the approval of the Mines department. Demanding a thorough investigation into the issue, she alleged that the mining firm had smuggled

more than 1 lakh tonne iron ore to a nearby plant. Sources in the office of the deputy director of mines at Joda said that the office has seized over 5,000 MT iron ore in the first phase and 35,000-tonne iron ore in second phase of construction of the road by clearing forest cover of 700 metre in length. Keonjhar DFO Dhanraj HD said the road is being constructed with the approval of the Union government. Barbil forest ranger Ranjan Kalo said the state government has approved the construction of the road.

Neelachal Ispat expansion on cards



J a j p u r (K C N) : Neelachal Ispat Nigam Ltd (NINL) at Kalinganagar in Jajpur district will undergo expansion soon as it plans to increase its crude steel production capacity to 9.5 million tonnes per annum (MTPA).

The Neelachal Ispat was established in 1982 for iron and steel production. In line with the National Company Law Tribunal's process, the corporate insolvency resolution for NINL began February 6, 2019.

Accordingly, Tata Steel Long Products Limited was declared the successful investor in this process. Share sale and agreement signing was completed between NINL stakeholders and Tata Steel Long Products Limited March 10, 2022. Following this, Tata Steel

completed the acquisition of NINL July 4, 2022. Plans are in place to increase the crude steel production capacity at NINL plant from the present capacity of 0.981 MTPA to 9.5 MTPA annually. The Ministry of Environment, Forest, and Climate Change of the Government of India has been approached for permission to conduct necessary public hearings regarding this proposed expansion.

According to available information, raw material demand for this steel plant is expected to increase from 4.7 MTPA to 27 MTPA. The plant's maximum power requirement of 758 megawatts (MW) will be met with 557 MW from grid, 288 MW from the captive power plant, and 78.5 MW from renewable energy

sources. The plant will also require around 400 cubic metre to 4,600 cubic metre of water per hour, which will be sourced from the Kharasrota river. The estimated cost of the proposed expansion project is around Rs 61,769.03 crore, and its implementation has the potential to create 4,500 direct and 9,500 indirect employments.

The National Steel Policy aims to reach 300 MTPA steel production by 2030. This project is expected to accelerate regional development, improve current infrastructure, and enhance transportation facilities to meet the management of the plant and the expansion of the project.

Moreover, rail and local transportation facilities will be further upgraded. Environmental impact

assessments conducted by the company highlight these improvements. On the other hand, frequent protests by the Displaced Landowners' Forum, which has outlined a 34-point charter of demands for fulfillment, raise concerns about the success of the proposed public hearing. Since February, families displaced by the NINL plant have continued their protests in front of the plant due to unmet demands.

Despite a tripartite meeting being held involving plant authorities, protesters and Kalinganagar ADM, a solution has yet to be reached. Consequently, protesters locked up the main gate of NINL and also of Tata Steel May 20 this year and staged an economic blockade.

This apart, office bearers of around 25 organisations across the state gathered at Birbhum in Ambagadia in Kalinganagar to protest and present their demands. These demands are yet to be fulfilled.

When contacted, trade union leader Babuli Purty expressed support for NINL expansion but stated that the public hearings would be opposed if the demands of the displaced were not met.

Another lone elephant tranquilised in Bonai



Rourkela (KCN) : Fourteen days after a wild elephant was tranquilised and a radio collar was put around it, another wild elephant has been tranquilised under Bonai Forest Division. The elephant was terrorising residents for the last three months and was finally tranquilised in the small hours of Wednesday. This male elephant, left

out of a herd, has been a troublemaker in the area. It has caused large-scale damage to properties, crops and injuries to human beings during the last three months, said sources. The villagers of many remote areas and also the residents of Bonai had made fervent appeals to the DFO of Bonai, Lalit Patra, to tranquillise it and put a radio collar around it so

that the department could track it. Patra and his squad including, ACF of Bonai Jagannath Prasad Bisoi, all rangers of the division, foresters, guards, elephant squad, staff from Simlipal Forest, a special doctor and the tranquilising team started keeping track of the elephant and it was tracked inside the jungle near Bonai town around

12:30 am. Soon, the tranquiliser was shot into it. "Without wasting time, we immediately put the radio collar around it. The previous one is also helping us," said Patra. It was later allowed to go deep into the jungle when it regained its senses. On September 18, another elephant was tranquilised and a radio collar was put around it.

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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,

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."

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.

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

Unacademy produces 178 Rankers for UPSC CSE

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

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.

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 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

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.

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.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Blue Dart signs the UNFCCC Climate Neutral Now Pledge

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

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



'Lost for words in terms of what's happened over the last three weeks'

New Delhi: A few minutes past 1 PM on a hot Sunday afternoon, the sparse partisan crowd at the Wankhede stadium witnessed unprecedented scenes. Ajaz Patel knocked back Washington Sundar's stumps, prompting his teammates to converge on him within seconds to celebrate the kind of series win New Zealand had never experienced before. The moment capped off a surreal [nearly] three weeks for the visiting side, that became the first to inflict a 3-0 whitewash on India in their own den.

"I'm lost for words a little bit in terms of what's happened over the last three days, but also the last sort of three weeks," New Zealand captain Tom Latham said. "I guess if you asked me at the start of the tour whether I would have liked to be in this position... to be here now

and play the cricket that we've played is really special and I'm really proud of the group."

New Zealand arrived in India with a bag of red flags. Their senior-most batter Kane Williamson was out for the first - and eventually all three - Tests due to an injury and Tim Southee had just relinquished captaincy in the aftermath of Test series humbling in Sri Lanka, including an innings where they were bundled out for 88. As far as initiations go, Latham couldn't have stepped in as permanent skipper of the side in a tougher tour on paper. But, with a collective effort, his team ripped up all the conventional wisdom that came with being a touring side in India in some style.

"I guess from my point of view, leading this group... It's always a really proud moment to lead New Zealand and I guess to



come here and be my first time as full-time captain and to be in this position is really special," Latham said.

"But for me it's not about me, it's about the team and yeah the team has done the job. At the end of the day, everyone's chipped in when they need it and that's the beauty of a team sport. It's not going to be everyone's day on

particular days but guys stand up when they need to. And guys stood up at certain times throughout this whole series which I'm really proud of," he added.

New Zealand's stronghold in the series began as early as the first morning, when the grey overheads and India's misstep at the toss allowed them to make a statement start. The

quicks made most of the assistance to bundle out the home side for 46, after which India played catch-up all through.

"I think that wicket in Bangalore was a pretty tricky one and I think our seamers did a fantastic job in terms of what we were able to achieve there and we certainly knew in these conditions naturally, the way that India play, they are quite

aggressive and tend to take the game on a little bit more and that's something we spoke about and something that we tried to plan for," Latham opined.

New Zealand bowlers began what was the last day of the series exactly like they did the first - by rattling India's top-order quickly. In chase of 147, the home side had fallen to 29/5. Latham talked up his team's ability to have runs on the board throughout the series, and yet remained wary of the threat that Rishabh Pant brought in such situations. "Even today, you know with Rishabh [Pant] still there, I certainly didn't believe that the game was over and you know they have match winners throughout their side and they've been successful playing the way that they've been playing for a long period of time," Latham said.

"They certainly haven't got easier from a batting point of view, so we knew today India were going to come hard. They did that in Pune and they did that again today. And we obviously managed to get the results which was really nice," Latham added. One of the big reasons for Latham's team pulling off the unthinkable with a 3-0 win has been their determination to not take their feet off the pedal, even after a winning start to the series. Going on to

tame a wounded Indian side in Pune and then finishing off the job in Mumbai shortly after has left Latham with a series win he'll 'never forget'. "Pretty happy we got the job done. It's been a massive achievement and I think after the first one it was obviously pretty special the second one - to win a series you know was even more special. And we spoke about coming here and trying to adapt as much as we can and I guess to be in this position [3-0], it's certainly a series that I'll never forget. "We'll obviously share that, and we'll celebrate as a group together tonight and the next couple of days before we head home, but yeah it's certainly been an amazing series to be a part of. I think it will sink in a little bit more when we get home and once the dust settles, but yeah it's been a fantastic achievement," he said.

Wriddhiman Saha to retire from all forms of cricket after ongoing Ranji Trophy

New Delhi: Indian wicketkeeper-batter Wriddhiman Saha has announced his retirement from all forms of cricket at the end of the ongoing Ranji Trophy season. The 40-year-old, renowned for his prowess behind the stumps and crucial knocks for India, took to social media on Sunday to share the news. Saha expressed his gratitude for a "cherished journey in cricket" and his commitment to making this final season for Bengal memorable.

Saha has had a



distinguished career in Test cricket, playing 40 matches for India and scoring 1,353 runs, including three centuries. Known for his exceptional skills as a wicketkeeper, Saha became India's first-choice keeper-batsman following MS Dhoni's retirement from the game's longest format. He ranks just behind Dhoni and Rishabh Pant in terms of centuries scored by an Indian wicketkeeper in Tests. However, his last appearance in international cricket was in 2021 against New Zealand. Despite some resilient performances, Saha was sidelined when the new management under head coach Rahul

ride; your support has meant the world."

After a cherished journey in cricket, this season will be my last. I'm honored to represent Bengal one final time, playing only in the Ranji Trophy before I retire. Let's make this season one to remember!

Wriddhiman Saha (@WriddhimanSaha) November 3, 2024

While Saha is set to play in the Ranji Trophy for Bengal, he won't be seen in next year's IPL. Not retained by Gujarat Titans, Saha also hasn't registered for the mega auction, a clear indication of his retirement from franchise cricket. A veteran of the Indian Premier League, Saha has played every season since its inception in 2008, representing

Kolkata Knight Riders, Chennai Super Kings, Punjab Kings, Sunrisers Hyderabad, and most recently, Gujarat Titans. After spending 15 years representing Bengal in First-Class cricket, Saha made headlines last season when he transferred to Tripura. A dispute with a senior Cricket Association of Bengal (CAB) official, who questioned his commitment to the team, pushed Saha to leave Bengal temporarily, despite an appeal from former CAB chief Avishek Dalmiya. However, after a conversation with Sourav Ganguly, the former India captain and ex-BCCI president, Saha decided to return to Bengal for one final season, taking on the role of a mentor for his younger teammates.

Aslam Inamdar led Puneri Paltan to a 35-28 victory with 10 points. Gaurav Khatri shined in defense, securing 7 tackle points for Puneri Paltan. On the other hand, Ajit Chavan won 9 Raid Points for U Mumba. An even start to the derby clash saw the two sides winning early points. For the Puneri Paltan, skipper Aslam Inamdar was in peak form, regularly getting the U Mumba players off the mat. However, the opposing skipper and defender Sunil Kumar

was equally effective, and with only three U Mumba players on the mat, he trapped Pankaj Mohite for a Super Tackle. The Puneri Paltan found their groove as the first half went on and got their first ALL OUT after Mohit Goyat entered the party. Playing in tandem with his skipper Inamdar, Goyat won consecutive points, and their combined raiding prowess ensured that the Puneri Paltan had a six-point lead heading into the second half as the score read 22-16.

Many questions in India's way following stunning drop-off

New Delhi: In Bengaluru, India had cited the adverse weather conditions and the decision at the toss as critical factors for the loss. In Pune, the batters were not able to get the likes of Mitchell Santner out of the box and had admitted that they needed to be playing more sweeps and reverse-sweeps on occasions to put the bowlers off. By the time they were in Mumbai, they had no excuses. No solutions. No answers.

They were instead left fending for reasons to fathom just how New Zealand had managed to do the unthinkable and become the first team to clean sweep them 3-0 on Indian soil in 130 years. For instance, they did play their sweeps and reverse

sweeps - both of which had a couple of disastrous consequences - and had no change in the eventual result from the second Test. And no longer could the outcome be brushed away as "things that are allowed to happen once in 12 years". The scoreline, after all, aptly reflected the way in which New Zealand had outplayed India, and left them in a state of shock. This was just not just a one-off defeat. This was complete domination on the part of the Kiwis and an abject surrender as far as India are concerned.

Kapur, 2024 has been cited multiple times by different members of India's team-management over the course of the series. That

they could produce quick runs was never in doubt after that. But sticking to a largely aggressive approach, has often waylaid the team in direr conditions that have prevailed throughout this series in all three Tests. At the centre of that approach was the captain himself, who on the final day was out trying to score quick runs on a wavy pitch.

While his shot-selection - an attempted pull - could be in question, the approach for the surface was par for the course. But tellingly, Rohit's poor run has extended through the year. His average of 29.40 is the lowest for him in a calendar year since he started opening in the format in 2019. Remarkably, this has been his best year in T20

cricket in the same period with his avg (36.13) & strike rate (154.66) both the highest for a calendar year. "I haven't defended a lot in this series because I haven't been there much to defend," Rohit said. "I have to look at my own game and try and see what best I can do. When I go to bat, I always think

about how I can put the team in the best situation of the game so sometimes when the openers go in, they set the tone.

"Sometimes you can fall on the other side of it as well, and in this series, I have fallen on the other side of it. I don't see that I have lost faith in my defence. It's just that I need to spend more time defending balls, which I haven't done in this series," admitted Rohit and added a revelatory statement. "So, as you grow, you try and evolve, and I am trying to evolve as a batter as well to try and see what else I can do. So, in that, there is a chance that you can fall on the other side of it, which

clearly I have. So, I will relook at my game and see what best I can do."

India's batting evolution or

the attempt to do so has been exaggerated since Kanpur. Whether it's their relative success there that has spurred them on to do so, or if they believe that this is the way Test cricket should now be played, like England do, is up for debate.

"When sometimes the wickets are tricky as they have been over the last couple of games and sometimes trying to fire a shot and get runs is certainly more important than necessarily batting time," believed Tom Latham.

Interestingly, the Man of the Series Will Young had a strike-rate of only 53



over the series and his trust in defence and the ability