

Top Court Says "Compromise" Can't Lead To Sex Harassment Case Cancellation



Protection of Children from Sexual Offences (POCSO) Act to expedite justice for young victims. Reflecting on past governance, Majhi criticized the previous BJD administration for Odisha's low conviction

New Delhi, (KCN): A sexual harassment case cannot be cancelled because the complainant and the accused have reached a 'compromise', the Supreme Court ruled today. The court set aside a Rajasthan High Court order, which had given relief to a teacher accused of sexually harassing his minor student, and ordered his prosecution.

The matter relates to a 2022 case in Rajasthan's Gangapur city. A minor Dalit girl accused a government school teacher for sexual harassment in a police complaint. Accordingly, a case was filed. The case also invoked the POCSO Act and SC/ST (Prevention of Atrocities)



Act. The minor's statement was also recorded. However, the accused teacher, Vimal Kumar Gupta, got a statement from the girl's family on a stamp paper. This statement said that they registered a police complaint out of a misunderstanding and no longer wanted any action against the teacher. Police accepted this and filed a report. But a

lower court rejected this statement. The accused then approached the high court, which accepted it and ordered the FIR cancelled. Ramji Lal Bairwa, a social worker, challenged this high court judgment in the Supreme Court. The bench of Justice CT Ravikumar and Justice PV Sanjay Kumar overturned the high court ruling, clearing the decks for the accused teacher's prosecution.

India slams Canada for blocking Australian media outlet airing EAM Jaishankar's presser

New Delhi(KCN): India Thursday called out Canada for blocking an Australian media outlet hours after it broadcast the press conference of External Affairs Minister (EAM) S Jaishankar and his Australian counterpart Penny Wong. External Affairs Ministry spokesman Randhir Jaiswal said the Canadian action of blocking the social media handles and certain pages of Australia Today smacked of hypocrisy towards freedom of speech. “We understand that the social media handles, pages of this particular outlet, which are important diaspora outlets, have been blocked and are not available for viewers in Canada. This happened just an hour or few hours after this particular handle carried the press conference of EAM Dr S Jaishankar with Penny Wong,” Jaiswal said in



response to a question at the weekly media briefing. "We were surprised. It looks strange to us. But nonetheless, what I say is that these are actions which yet again highlight the hypocrisy of Canada towards freedom of speech," the external affairs ministry spokesman said. He said Jaishankar, in his media interactions in Australia, had spoken

about the allegations levelled against India by Canada without sharing any specific evidence. "You would have seen that the External Affairs Minister, in his media engagements, spoke about three things. One was Canada making allegations and a pattern has developed without any specific evidence," he said. The spokesperson said the second thing he

highlighted was surveillance of Indian diplomats happening in Canada, which he termed as unacceptable. “The third thing which he highlighted was the political space which has been given in Canada to anti-India elements. So you can draw your conclusions from that, why the Australia Today channel was blocked by Canada,” Jaiswal said.



Bhubaneswar(KCN): In a significant update for ration card holders in Odisha, Food Supplies and Consumer Welfare Minister Krushna Chandra Patra announced on Thursday that wheat will be distributed along with rice under the state's food security schemes starting from the first week of January. Minister Patra confirmed that the state has received the wheat supplies necessary for this initiative. However, he noted that the distribution will commence in January due to the time required to

complete the necessary government procedures. "We have received the wheat, but the distribution will begin from January as we need to finalize the administrative formalities," he stated. Minister Patra also mentioned that the government is exploring

Bhubaneswar(KCN): The Odisha government has announced the launch of bus services to the Char Dham pilgrimage sites. Commerce and Transport Minister Bibhuti Bhushan Jena revealed that the new service will commence before the New Year, providing a much-needed travel option for pilgrims. The Char Dham, comprising

Badrinath, Dwarka, Puri, and Rameswaram, are revered pilgrimage sites in Hinduism. The state government has decided to offer subsidies on ticket prices for pilgrims and women, making the journey more affordable. Special luxury buses have been procured for this purpose, ensuring a comfortable travel experience. Minister Jena stated, "We are committed to making religious travel

accessible and affordable for our citizens. The subsidized fares will encourage more people to undertake these spiritual journeys.” In addition to the Char Dham services, the government is also considering expanding bus routes to connect Bhubaneswar with other states, enhancing interstate travel options for residents.

New Delhi(KCN): The Centre has doubled the fine for farmers burning crop residue in view of the deteriorating air quality in the Delhi-NCR region, the penalty going up to Rs 30,000 for those with more than five acres of farmland. According to the notification, which was published Wednesday and comes following the Supreme Court's tough stance on the issue, farmers with less than two acres of land will now have to pay environmental compensation of Rs 5,000, up from Rs 2,500. And those with land between two and five acres will be fined Rs 10,000 instead of Rs



5,000. Unfavourable meteorological conditions combined with vehicular emissions, paddy-straw burning, firecrackers, and other local pollution sources contribute to hazardous air quality levels in Delhi-NCR during late autumn and winters. According to a Delhi Pollution Control Committee (DPCC) analysis, the city experiences peak

pollution from November 1 to 15 when the number of stubble-burning incidents in Punjab and Haryana increases. Major factors behind stubble burning include the paddy-wheat cropping system, cultivation of long-duration paddy varieties, mechanised harvesting that leaves standing crop stubble in the field, labour scarcity, and the lack of a viable market for crop residue.

Odisha Government to act upon 'Zero FIR' policy soon: CM

Bhubaneswar, Nov 7(KCN): In view of efficient police services for common citizens, the Odisha government is all set to act upon 'Zero FIR' policy said Odisha CM Mohan Majhi on Thursday. Attending a program at the Lok Seva Bhawan in Bhubaneswar relating to dispensation of justice and efficient policing Majhi said that his government is committed to the cause of justice. Apart from it, the state is also committed to

provide accessible and efficient police services to citizens even at their homes. Underlining the robust ways of police services, Majhi said that, each and every complaint will be registered by police. No police station can refuse to register a complaint filed by a denizen. The CM further said that, victims need not be present in the PS personally to lodge an FIR. The police are as such bound to lodge an FIR even the complainant



is from out of the jurisdiction of the concerned police. Complaints of this nature

will be considered as a 'Zero FIR' which will be referred to the respective police station for further

action and assistance. However, the police will act on the primary information at the earliest and provide assistance to the victim. Later on, it should be forwarded to the adequate officials, the CM added. Similarly, the police can't summon a handicapped person, a minor below 15 years of age or an elderly citizen to the police station in odd hours, without an exigency or anticipating critical outcomes involving the persons, Majhi added.

Significant Progress in Khurda Road-Balangir Rail Line Project: CRS Inspection between Jharmunda & Boudh conducted.

Bhubaneswar, (KCN): In a major step forward for the Khurda Road-Balangir Rail Line Project, engine rolling and testing between newly laid train line between Jharmunda and Boudh stations over a distance of 16.270 kilometers has been completed successfully by Commissioner of Railway Safety (CRS), yesterday. This achievement marks a critical milestone in the construction of the highly anticipated railway line that is poised to significantly improve connectivity in remote regions of Odisha. Apart from this, construction work between Boudh-

Champapur Rail Section, a distance of 13.701 kms and Champapur-Purunakatak, a distance of 13.437 kms is also going on full swing, demonstrating steady progress in the overall project. To ensure faster completion, construction efforts are being undertaken from both ends simultaneously, highlighting the commitment to meet the ambitious deadlines for this vital infrastructure initiative. The Khurda Road-Balangir Rail Line is an extensive project spanning 301 kilometers, and to date, 199 kilometers have been commissioned, including 106 kilometers from



Khurda Road to Daspalla and 93 kilometers from Balangir to Boudh. Another 27 kms from Boudh to Purunakatak is being developed in full swing and is about to complete

soon. The remaining 75 kilometers from Purunakatak to Daspalla, which passes through challenging jungle and sanctuary areas involving tunnel construction, is

progressing and will be completed in due course. This railway project holds great significance for enhancing transportation and economic development in remote areas, with the

Ministry of Railways closely monitoring the project's advancement to ensure timely commissioning. Despite facing formidable engineering challenges, particularly in tunnel

construction through rugged terrain, the project continues to achieve major milestones. The Khurda Road-Balangir Rail Line is not only crucial for improving connectivity but also stands as a testament to Indian Railways' ability to overcome some of the most complex engineering challenges ever encountered in railway construction. Successful completion of the tunnels will be a major breakthrough, underscoring Indian Railways' commitment to delivering critical infrastructure in even the most remote regions of the country.

After successful inspection of safety aspects of the newly laid Jharmunda & Boudh Railway section, this line has been authorized by Commissioner of Railway Safety for running of train traffic. However, train services will have commenced in this section after completion of other infrastructural and passenger amenities work. A light engine trial run has already been conducted. This remarkable progress on the Khurda Road-Balangir Rail Line brings the region one step closer to enhanced connectivity and new avenues for economic growth.

Neelachal Ispat Unveils New Classroom Building at Government Project Upper Primary School in Danagadi



Kalinganagar, (KCN) :- In a significant boost for education in the village of Ollala, Danagadi, in Jajpur district, a new classroom building at the Government Project Upper Primary School, Ollala, was inaugurated by Sudhir Kumar Mehta, Managing Director and Chief Executive Officer,

Neelachal Ispat Nigam Limited (NINL) today. The event was attended by Laxmipriya Jena, Sarpanch of Ollala Gram Panchayat, the school principal, local community members, and members of the School Management Committee (SMC), who gathered on the

school campus to celebrate this important addition to their educational institution. Built with a plinth area of 1600 square feet, the facility was made possible through the support of NINL as part of their commitment to create positive learning spaces

for children from rural and tribal communities around its plant. The building houses classrooms, with a capacity to serve approximately 190 students from surrounding villages, providing a welcoming and safe environment for young learners.

50th Raising day of NTPC LTD observed at NTPC ER-II headquarters at Bhubaneshwar.



Bhubaneswar, (KCN): The 50th Raising Day of NTPC Ltd., a Maharatna Public Sector Undertaking, was celebrated at NTPC's Corporate Centre, in New Delhi, as well as at its Regional Headquarters, projects and stations. On this occasion, Shri Gurdeep Singh, CMD-NTPC, addressed employees through video conference from NTPC's Corporate Centre. In his address, he emphasized the importance of achieving efficient and sustainable operations across all power generation activities. The CMD-

NTPC also outlined NTPC's future plans, highlighting the role of new technology and data analytics in optimizing results. At the NTPC Eastern Region-II (ER-II) Headquarters in Bhubaneswar, the Raising Day was marked with a flag-hoisting ceremony led by Shri Arindam Sinha, Regional Executive Director of NTPC ER-II. Addressing the employees, Shri Sinha shared the history and growth of NTPC from its inception to its current installed capacity. He emphasised the operational

achievements of the power stations in Eastern Region-II and commended employees for their dedication, which has earned numerous accolades for the region. RED(ER-II) also expressed his sincere thanks and deep gratitude to the former NTPCians whose contributions have been vital in attaining the accomplishments of NTPC which is being celebrated today. Shri Sinha also encouraged employees to rise to new challenges and to contribute fully to NTPC's success. He emphasized that the people at NTPC are the driving force behind the

organization's significant role in powering the nation. Since its humble beginnings in 1975, NTPC has grown to become India's largest integrated power major, with an installed capacity of 76,475.68 MW. This includes 51 NTPC-owned stations (27 coal-based, 7 gas-based, 1 hydro, 1 small hydro, and 15 solar PV) and 42 Joint Venture/Subsidiary stations (9 coal-based, 4 gas-based, 8 hydro, 1 small hydro, 16 solar PV, and 4 wind). By 2032, NTPC aims to have nearly 50% of its portfolio based on non-fossil fuel generation.

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Andhra Pradesh HC junks poll code violation case against Allu Arjun

In a huge relief to Tollywood actor Allu Arjun, the Andhra Pradesh High Court Wednesday quashed a poll code violation case against him.

On a petition filed by the Pushpa actor, the High Court quashed the First Information Report (FIR) booked by the Nandyal town police which alleged that he violated the poll code during the Assembly elections in May.

The actor May 11 had visited the house of the Nandyal MLA and his friend Silpa Ravi, who was seeking re-election.

As no prior permission was taken from the Returning Officer, a case was booked

against him and the then MLA and YSR Congress candidate.

Allu Arjun visited the then MLA's house to show his support on the last day of the campaigning. On getting to know about Allu Arjun's visit, a large number of his fans gathered outside the then MLA's house to see him.

A local government official lodged a complaint against the actor at the Two Town Police Station for disobedience to an order duly promulgated by a public servant.

Since Section 144 of the Election Code and Section 31 of the AP Police Act were in force, a case was registered against the



actor and the YSRCP leader.

Taking serious note of the incident, the Election Commission of India (ECI) ordered

action against then Nandyal District Superintendent of Police Raghuvver Reddy for failing to implement the election

code of conduct.

The poll panel had asked Andhra Pradesh Director General of Police to file charges against the SP. It also

ordered a departmental inquiry against SP and two others.

Allu Arjun had moved the High Court seeking quashing of the case against him. In an interim order October 25, the court had directed that no legal action be taken against him until November 6. The actor's counsel had argued that his visit to Nandyal was a personal one and had nothing to do with elections. He submitted to the court that Allu Arjun could not be held liable for the gathering outside the house of Silpa Ravi.

Silpa Ravi, whose real name is Singareddy Ravichandra Kishore Reddy, suffered a defeat in the elections held May 13.

Emergency: Makers of Kangana Ranaut's film agree to changes by censor board



Zee Studios, the production company backing Emergency, on Monday, told the Bombay High Court that they have agreed to make the changes suggested by the revising committee of the censor board.

The next hearing in the matter will take place on October 3 in Bombay High Court. The makers of Kangana Ranaut's Emergency on Monday, September 30, agreed to the changes suggested by the revising committee of the Censor Board of Film Certification (CBFC). During the latest hearing in the Bombay High Court, the representative of Zee Studios informed the court that they have submitted a format for

the implementation of the changes and are waiting for the board to respond now.

The development in the case was confirmed by the news agency ANI. A notification by the agency also revealed that the further hearing in the matter will take place on October 3.

"Production company Zee Studio's lawyer told Bombay HC that they have agreed to the suggested changes by the Revising Committee, and they have submitted a format for the implementation of the changes suggested by the CBFC. CBFC will respond to this format and the next hearing on the matter is kept on Thursday, 3rd October (sic)," read the post

shared by the agency on social media platform X.

Bombay HC hearing on the film 'Emergency' | Production company Zee Studio's lawyer told Bombay HC that they have agreed to the suggested changes by the Revising Committee and they have submitted a format for the implementation of the changes suggested by the CBFC. CBFC will respond to this format and the next hearing on the matter is kept on Thursday, 3rd October (sic)," read the post

shared by the agency on social media platform X. Earlier, the board issued around 13 cuts and changes to the film, passing the content with a UA certificate. The revising committee told the makers to make the changes and obtain the certificate for its release in theatres. The

list of cuts included removal of a few violent scenes, and a reference to Jarnail Singh Bhindranwale as 'saint or sant' in a dialogue. The decision was made following multiple complaints by several Sikh groups, alleging the film showed the Sikh community in a bad light.

The makers had three options to proceed ahead: to accept all the changes and cuts, to contest the recommendations in a higher court, or to follow up with the board in further discussions and try to reach a common ground. It seems like the makers chose to end the entire fight to finally get the certificate and release the film on the big screen.

Emergency, directed by Kangana Ranaut, also features her in the role of former Prime Minister of India, Indira Gandhi. It also stars Anupam Kher, Shreyas Talpade, Mahima Chaudhary, Milind Soman and the late Satish Kaushil in important roles. The film was earlier scheduled to release on September 6.

Missed Suraj Pe Mangal Bhari in 2020? Diljit, Manoj Bajpayee film to re-release



Zee Studios is re-releasing the comedy film, Suraj Pe Mangal Bhari, in cinemas on October 18. The film stars Manoj Bajpayee, Diljit Dosanjh and Fatima Sana Shaikh.

Despite pandemic challenges, the film made a lasting impression with its humour and performances. Zee Studios is set to re-release Suraj Pe Mangal Bhari in cinemas on October 18. Starring Manoj Bajpayee, Diljit Dosanjh, and Fatima Sana Shaikh, this light-hearted comedy by Abhishek Sharma will return to the big screen for viewers who may have missed its initial release in 2020.

Diljit Dosanjh's strong screen presence and comic timing, combined with Manoj Bajpayee's exceptional talent and Fatima Sana Shaikh's charm, make this film one not to miss. Suraj Pe Mangal Bhari was first released when theatres were just reopening after the pandemic, and despite the challenges, it made a lasting impression on viewers.

With its re-release, Zee Studios offers audiences another opportunity to enjoy this delightful comedy on the big screen, where its larger-than-life humour and heartwarming moments are best appreciated. India Today Digital's review of the film read, "The film may have some really problematic portions that later make you feel guilty about chuckling at when you judge from the sensibility of 2020. But it still offers some genuine laughs. In the climax, an outstanding recreation of Dilwale Dulhania Le Jayenge's train sequence made us want to whistle from our seats."

Saurabh Shukla-Directorial Dry Day Is The Comedy Drama You Need To See - Here's How You Can Watch it

Jitendra Kumar-starrer 'Dry Day' is a powerful and emotional story that delves into the complexities of addiction, love, and the extent of a man's sacrifices for his family. Directed by Saurabh Shukla, and produced by Monisha Advani, Madhu Bhojwani, and Nikkhil Advani, under the banner of Emmay Entertainment, the comedy drama features Jitendra Kumar, Shriya Pilgaonkar, and Annu Kapoor in pivotal roles. The film is set to premiere exclusively on Prime Video in India and across more than 240 countries and territories worldwide

on December 22. Dry Day is the latest addition to the Prime membership. Prime members in India enjoy savings, convenience, and entertainment, all in a single membership for just ₹1499/ year. Dry Day is a story of an imperfect hero who challenges societal conventions, rebelling against norms out of love for his unborn child. The trailer of this comedy-drama intricately explores the societal impact of alcoholism, presenting a thought-provoking narrative rooted in social relevance. Speaking about the film,



Director Saurabh Shukla said, "The movie is a social satire presented with a hilarious tragic-comedy of errors with lots of drama and emotions. Dry Day gives an important and relevant message about alcoholism and I consider myself fortunate to have had the opportunity to craft this film, aiming to

entertain and enlighten the audiences. It brings me immense joy to partner with streaming service Prime Video, Emmay Entertainment, and a talented bunch of actors, collectively breathing life into a compelling and beautiful narrative."

"Dry Day is a captivating blend of comedy and

drama, offering a rollercoaster of emotions," shares actor Jitendra Kumar. "It was an exhilarating experience playing the character of Gannu in the movie. Getting into the skin of this intriguing character was like adding a new skill to my toolbox. The character's struggle of defying all odds in pursuit of trust adds depth to the narrative of the film. I'm excited for audiences to witness this unique journey on screen. The film's fusion of heartwarming moments and compelling storytelling is something I can't wait for people to experience and appreciate."

Playing the role of Nirmala, actor Shriya Pilgaonkar shares, "The experience of working on Dry Day has been wonderful and enriching in so many ways. It's a film that will entertain you and emotionally strike a chord as well. I really enjoyed building that relationship between Nirmala and Gannu. The story of our film is all about the transformative power of love and it will also draw your attention to certain important societal issues. I'm so grateful to have got the opportunity to collaborate with Saurabh Sir and the wonderful team at Emmay Entertainment."

AI is revolutionizing skill development



In the contemporary, rapidly evolving digital environment, artificial intelligence has surfaced as a transformative force for experts across diverse disciplines. Artificial intelligence instruments are transforming our approach to work. It streamlines procedures, boosts efficiency, and stimulates creativity. In the beginning, people thought that AI was the biggest threat to professionals because they were afraid of losing their jobs. But the truth is that AI is not the biggest threat to professionals. Not only does it help young people find new jobs, but it also helps them get better at what they do. It helps them in a lot of different ways, from teaching students to training teachers and professionals. Artificial intelligence (AI) can help you find new jobs and make the future better if you want to work in business or improve your skills. Make the resume impressive:

Artificial intelligence facilitates the crafting of compelling resumes and cover letters, effectively showcasing your skills to potential recruiters. Reji serves as a valuable resource for the development of resumes and cover letters. It enhances the resume by presenting the skills and educational background in a compelling manner. Additionally, it tailors a job application to align with the published advertisement for the candidate and the hiring organization's designation. Preparing for the interview: These computer-led interviews are quite popular these days. Understanding the format will help you prepare the best. Just as in every interview: research the business and the position ahead. Out loud, practice your responses, paying especially attention to concision and clarity. Treat it seriously; even if it is a computer, you want to present your best self. While for many of them, feeling anxious about the interview questions is a common response. To overcome this anxiety, one can seek assistance from ChatGPT. Nevertheless, relying entirely on ChatGPT is not advisable. This serves as a viable alternative for individuals seeking potential

suggestions. This resource provides insights into potential interview questions and key considerations to keep in mind during the interview process, based on the company name and the candidate's profile. Utilizing the skills and capabilities proposed by ChatGPT can enhance your response. AI for promotion: Artificial intelligence not only facilitates the job acquisition process but also empowers professionals to strategically navigate their career advancement. One may also explore methods to engage in a dialogue regarding one's promotion with one's superior through platforms such as ChatGPT and Gemini, among others. Creativity: Automation Anywhere's AI-powered automation platform empowers professionals to streamline repetitive tasks, thereby liberating time for more strategic contemplation and creative endeavors. Google Cloud AI provides sophisticated machine learning tools, empowering professionals to construct AI models that facilitate business insights and foster growth. IBM's AI platform equips professionals with an array of sophisticated tools for the analysis of data, visualization, and informed decision-

making. Computer vision tools: Computer vision tools like TensorFlow and OpenCV enable professionals to implement artificial intelligence models that can understand visual data and make sense of it. Chatbots: Chatbots such as Dialogflow and Botpress empower professionals to develop conversational interfaces that enhance customer engagement and support. Consequently, AI tools are transforming the professional landscape, allowing us to operate with greater intelligence, efficiency, and expertise. Through the adoption of these tools, professionals may unveil novel opportunities. AI Conversation Starter Tool: Some companies choose not to use traditional advertising methods to announce job openings. We refer to this phenomenon as the concealed employment landscape. Engaging in networking proves to be quite advantageous for acquiring job-related information. In addition to this, LinkedIn's AI conversation starter tool facilitates connections with professionals in analogous fields while showcasing your competencies. In

addition to LinkedIn, there exist AI tools like Taplio and Engage that can enhance your networking capabilities through integration with the platform. Also, certain abilities will be in high demand in a world where artificial intelligence is becoming more prevalent since they are necessary to complement and operate alongside AI systems. They are frequently referred to as "human skills" or "soft skills," and they are skills that artificial intelligence is unable to simply mimic. A few of the talents that will prove to be especially helpful are as follows: The capacity to analyze difficult situations, evaluate information, and make judgments based on that evaluation will be crucial. Critical thinking and problem-solving skills are also essential. Among these are creative approaches to problem-solving and thinking that is outside the norm. When it comes to emotional intelligence, qualities such as empathy, compassion, and the capacity to comprehend and connect with other people on an emotional level will be put in high demand. The ability to communicate with people is essential for positions that need

human interaction, such as those in customer service, healthcare, and leadership. Capability to swiftly adjust to new technologies, procedures, and settings will be necessary. Adaptability and flexibility are two characteristics that will be required. It is necessary for workers to be adaptable and willing to continue their education and acquire new skills. Communication in Interpersonal Relationships: Strong communication skills, both verbal and written, will continue to be essential for effective cooperation, teamwork, and relationship-building. It is easier to bridge the gap between human users and AI systems when there is clear communication. Leadership and Management: Leadership traits such as vision, strategic thinking, and the ability to encourage and inspire people will be extremely valuable. Management skills will also be essential. Effective managers will steer their teams through transformations driven by artificial intelligence and encourage innovation. Ethical Decision-Making: As the application of artificial intelligence (AI) expands across a variety of fields, ethical considerations are becoming increasingly important. There will be a

significant demand for people who are able to handle ethical challenges and ensure that artificial intelligence technologies are employed in a responsible manner. In spite of the fact that artificial intelligence is capable of processing enormous volumes of data, humans are still required to analyze and contextualize that data. It will be vital for anyone working in any industry to possess fundamental data literacy abilities, which include the capacity to comprehend, analyze, and interpret data. When it comes to technical skills, having a solid understanding of technology and digital tools will continue to be necessary, despite the fact that soft skills are quite important. Skills in fundamental coding, familiarity with topics related to artificial intelligence and machine learning, and competency in appropriate tools and platforms are included in this. Resilience and Stress Management: The capacity to deal with difficulties, failures, and stress will be extremely valuable in organizations that are driven by technology and consist of a fast-paced environment. Individuals that are resilient are able to recover more quickly from setbacks and are better able to adjust to new circumstances. Cultural Competence and

Awareness of Diversity Issues: As the workforce becomes more varied and interconnected, it will be vital to have cultural competency and awareness of diversity issues. The ability to collaborate well with individuals who come from a variety of backgrounds and have a variety of points of view will be highly valued. Despite the fact that artificial intelligence will automate a great number of tasks and alter the nature of work, human skills that place an emphasis on creativity, emotional intelligence, adaptability, and ethical decision-making will become increasingly crucial in a future where AI is dominant. By cultivating these talents, individuals will be able to prosper in the ever-changing employment market and make important contributions to society more effectively. In the end! Confidence serves as a fundamental element. Clearly express your skills. Don't view it as a test. The dialogue ought to be reciprocal. It's primarily about showcasing who you are, what you enjoy, and what you can do. Demonstrate your exceptional qualities to them! All the best!

veteran journalist and freelance writer based in Brampton Canada 647-829-9397

Pollution affects Beauty

Shahnaz Husain



India's air pollution levels are rising. The seasonal spike combined with pollutants emitted by factories, cars, construction materials and seasonal agriculture practices like crop stubble burning is intensifying the air pollution crisis in the country this season like in previous years. Living in a bustling city offers countless opportunities, but it comes with a price—pollution. And urban lifestyles can take a toll on your skin. As an The rising air Pollution has become a buzzword nowadays and is affecting the normal functioning of life due to toxic air and a heavy blanket of smog. Living in a bustling city offers countless opportunities, but it comes with a price—pollution. And urban lifestyles can take a toll on your skin. As an urban dweller, it's crucial to understand the effects of air pollution and make informed choices to protect and rejuvenate

your skin Pollution breaks down collagen and oxidizes the lipid layer in the skin, which impairs skin-barrier function. Smog particles are generally too large to penetrate the skin, but they can disturb the barrier, resulting in dehydration, sensitivity, uneven skin tone, dullness, acne, and premature aging. Airborne pollutants on human skin can contribute to skin cancer, skin aging, atopic dermatitis, skin discoloration, eczema, psoriasis, and can be absorbed through the skin into the body, causing a wide range of diseases. Skin of women living in a city is more likely to age 10 per cent faster than those living in rural areas. Airborne pollutants on human skin can contribute to skin aging, atopic dermatitis, skin discoloration, eczema, psoriasis, and acne and can be absorbed through the skin into the body, causing a wide range of diseases. While pollution takes a toll on the environment and health but it also affects natural beauty very adversely. Pollution breaks down collagen and oxidizes the lipid layer in the skin, which impairs skin barrier function.

Highly toxic air containing smoke, soot, acid, and other pollutants severely affects the skin by draining away skin moisture which leads to allergies and pigmentation spots on the forehead and cheeks on dry and rough skin. The toxic haze hanging in the sky cause uneven skin tone, accelerated ageing, wrinkles, and black spot on the face For many living in big cities like in Metropolitan cities it is completely unavoidable so it is matter of reducing exposure, repairing the damage and protecting it as much as possible Among the other organs of the body, the skin is also one of the first to bear the brunt of air pollutants, which not only attack the skin's surface but also lead to an accumulation of toxins. In fact, they are potent skin irritants. There are both long and short-term effects of pollutants. Chemical pollutants cause oxidation damage and this can lead to the manifestation of premature ageing signs on the skin, like wrinkles, loss of elasticity, dark patches, spots, etc. Chemical pollutants also disrupt the normal balance of the skin and scalp, leading to problems like dryness, sensitivity, rashes, acne,

irritation or allergic reactions, dandruff, and related conditions. They also make the skin and hair dull, lacking vitality. All of us who live and work in urban areas need protective beauty care, whether we are housewives or working women. Of course, for working women, the job may involve traveling long distances to work. The skin is thus more exposed to the pollutants in the air. Cleansing of the skin assumes more importance in order to get rid of the impurities and pollutants that are deposited on the skin. If you have dry skin, use a cleansing cream or gel. Deep clean the skin at night, neutralize it with antioxidants and create a barrier with sunscreen. Include antioxidants in your diet and skincare regime. Citrus fruits contain Vitamin C, E, and limonene which lower the risk of cancer and protect your skin from damage. Avoid cleansers containing Sodium lauryl sulphate and sodium laureth sulphates or denatured alcohols as they dry out the skin and can damage our skin barrier over time. Use skincare rich in antioxidants. Pamper your skin with sheet

masks or hydrating overnight masks to repair the damage. For oily skin, cleansing milk or face wash may be used. For oily skin, also use a facial scrub after cleansing. Look out for products with ingredients like sandalwood, eucalyptus, mint, neem, tulsi, aloe vera, etc., when you buy cleansers. The anti-toxic and tonic properties of such ingredients have helped in clearing the skin congestion and eruptions that result from exposure to chemical pollutants. Aloe vera, for example, is also a powerful moisturizer and an anti-oxidant. So are ingredients like apricot kernel oil, carrot seed, wheatgerm oil, etc. the skin needs to be protected. If the skin is prone to eruptive conditions like acne, pimples, or rash, it should be protected with specialized creams that not only protect but also reduce oiliness and deal with the problem. After cleansing, wipe the skin with a rose-based skin tonic or rose water, to complete the cleansing process and refresh the skin. Soak cotton wool in chilled rose water and tone the skin with it, patting briskly. It also improves

blood circulation to the skin's surface and adds a glow. Green tea also makes a good skin toner. If there is a rash or eruptions, add a little rose water to the sandalwood paste and apply it to the face. Wash off with plain water after 15 minutes. Anti-pollution cosmetics help to provide protection and reduce the damage caused by environmental effects. These are basically "cover creams" that form a barrier between the skin and pollutants. sandalwood protective cream is very useful to protect the skin from environmental effects. It forms a transparent protective cover. Sandalwood soothes the skin and protects it from irritative reactions and eruptive conditions. It suits all skin types and increases the skin's moisture retention ability too. The hair also needs frequent washing if one regularly travels long distances for their work. Pollutants also collect on the scalp. Shampoo, hair rinses, serums, and conditioners help to restore normal balance if they contain ingredients like amla, Brahmi, Triphala, bhringaraj, and henna. They also coat the hair and form a protective cover. Mix one teaspoon

each of vinegar and honey with one egg. Massage the mixture lightly into the scalp. Leave on for half an hour and then wash the hair. Rinse well with water. Or, give the hair hot oil therapy. Heat pure coconut oil and apply it to the hair. Then dip a towel in hot water, squeeze out the water and wrap the hot towel around the head, like a turban. Keep it on for 5 minutes. Repeat the hot towel wrap 3 or 4 times. This helps the hair and scalp absorb the oil better. Leave the oil on overnight and wash your hair the next day. The impurities and pollutants can also affect the eyes, causing burning or redness. The eyes should be washed with plain water several times. Soak cotton wool pads in chilled rose water and use them over the eyes as eye pads. Lie down and relax for fifteen minutes. This really helps to remove fatigue and brightens the eyes. if one is also exposed to cold weather, poor diet, a lack of sleep, or simply stress, as many of us are. In the presence of any of these factors along with pollution, the quality of the skin can become further diminished. To brighten the skin and

even skin tone, I recommend products containing Vitamin C to be used in conjunction with richer creams. Deeply moisturizing creams can truly help repair and hydrate the skin. Use an air purifier with a humidifier at home and the workplace to lessen the effects of pollution. Humidifiers make the air breathable and maintain the room's humidity. Eat your greens, Vitamin C rich foods, jaggery and drink loads of fluids rich in antioxidants. Antioxidants can neutralize the effects of pollutants. Lemon, orange, amla, green vegetables, grapefruit, tomatoes and potatoes are some examples of Vitamin C rich foods. My advice is while rely on healthy eating, drinking water, and regular exercise to keep your skin healthy. Making the right choices about our skincare regimen is an equally or even more important part of a successful beauty routine. It's a rough deal for your skin, but there are plenty of ways to care for it in the face of pollution.

The author is an international fame beauty expert and is called the Herbal Queen of India

Initiatives taken by Government to Help Pensioners Submit Life Certificate Digitally through Jeevan Praman Portal or Face Authentication Technology

Kolkata, (KCN):It is a common practice that every Central Government pensioner should submit an Annual Life Certificate in the month of November for further continuation of pension. To avoid the inconvenience of submitting a Life Certificate physically by visiting bank branches, pensioners now can submit Life Certificates digitally through the Jeevan Praman portal. Pensioners may also submit Life Certificates using face authentication technology, whereby it is possible to generate a Digital Life Certificate (DLC) from any android based smart phone. In this regard,

Department of Pension and Pensioners' Welfare (DoPPW) is in the spree of conducting nation-wide DLC campaign 3.0 in 800 cities and towns covering all district Headquarters from November 1, 2024, till the end of this month, with the target of reaching out to all the pensioners, including those residing in the remotest corner. The key partners include the Banks, India Post Payments Bank, Pensioners' Associations, UIDAI, MeitY, Ministry of Defence, Ministry of Railways and DoT. Camps will be set up across cities to help pensioners with digital submissions and special arrangements are made

for super senior or disabled pensioners, including home visits. Social media will promote the campaign, with oversight from the DoPPW via the DLC Portal. DoPPW organized nation-wide campaigns in November 2022 and November, 2023 in association with various stakeholders. Doordarshan, All India Radio and Press Information Bureau had been active stakeholders in awareness generation and publicity in the past campaigns. This time too, these three media units have taken an active role in gearing up the campaign.

Mahseer Conservation in Tehri: ICAR-CIFRI Promotes under NMCG Initiative

Kolkata, (KCN):To promote sustainable fishing practices and conserve biodiversity in the river Ganga, ICAR-Central Inland Fisheries Research Institute, Barrackpore, conducted a Mahseer Mass Awareness Campaign and Net Distribution Program in Tehri, Uttarakhand on November 7, 2024, under the National Mission for Clean Ganga (NMCG) initiative. The event focused on educating local communities about the ecological importance of Mahseer fish, a key species in the region's freshwater ecosystem. Through a series of awareness campaigns, ICAR-CIFRI highlighted



the role of Mahseer in maintaining the health of river systems and the need for its conservation. As part of the program, the Dr. B.K. Das, Director, ICAR-CIFRI, distributed fishing nets to local fishers, aimed at promoting sustainable and non-destructive fishing practices. In addition, the event

included a capacity-building session, where local fishers were trained in environmentally friendly fishing techniques and given the tools to adopt more sustainable practices. The initiative is part of ICAR-CIFRI's ongoing efforts to balance conservation with the socio-economic needs of

local communities, empowering them to protect the river ecosystem while improving their livelihoods. This initiative marks a crucial milestone in the ongoing efforts to restore and preserve the river Ganga and its tributaries, which are vital for both ecological health and the livelihoods

of millions of people. The Program represented a comprehensive approach to address the complex challenges facing the river, from pollution and habitat loss to unsustainable fishing practices. As one of the most bio-diverse river systems in the world, the Ganga has seen significant environmental degradation, making the conservation of flagship species like the Mahseer essential to preserving the overall health of the ecosystem. By focusing on the Mahseer, which plays a critical role in maintaining water quality and aquatic food webs, the initiative directly contributes to the "Clean Ganga" mission, aimed at rejuvenating both the river and its tributaries.

SOUTH EASTERN RAILWAY RUNNING 160 TRIPS OF SPECIAL TRAINS DURING CHHATH PUJA

Kolkata, (KCN): Chhath is a significant festival primarily celebrated in the northern and eastern parts of India. To ensure safe journey for people travelling back to their hometowns to celebrate the occasion, South Eastern Railway (SER) is running 36 pairs of Festival special trains towards different directions of the country. Altogether 160 trips of Special trains are catering to the rush of passengers during Chhath puja. The SER authority has planned Special trains much ahead of the festival and will continue to run the Specials even a few days after the festival to manage the flow of returning passengers. In SER jurisdiction, the Special trains are running from Santragachi towards Patna, Mumbai, Chennai, Puri, Secunderabad, Ajmer, Pune etc. From Shalimar the trains are running towards Chennai,



Tirunelveli, Secunderabad, Bhanjpur, Visakhapatnam, Bengaluru etc. Special trains are running from Ranchi towards Madar, Purnia Court, Gorakhpur, Jaynagar, Anand Vihar etc. From Tatanagar the trains are running towards Buxar and Katihar. Special trains are also running from Bhanjpur towards Puri and Shalimar. On 7th of November 7, 2024, six Chhat Puja Specials have departed from SER jurisdiction to clear the huge rush

01108 Santragachi-LTT Mumbai Special
06090 Santragachi-MGR Chennai Central Special
07070 Santragachi-Sanathnagar Special
08007 Shalimar-Bhanjpur Special
08185 Hatia-Durg Special
08011 Bhanjpur-Puri Special
Tomorrow (November 8, 2024) five Chhat Puja Specials will run from SER jurisdiction to accommodate the passengers
02837 Santragachi-

Puri Special
06096 Santragachi-Tambaram Special
08845 Santragachi-Secunderabad Special
08183 Tatanagar-Buxar Special
02877 Ranchi-AnandVihar Special
Apart from running Special trains and augmenting regular trains by extra coaches, SER has also made special arrangements at stations for the festive rush. Crowd controlling measures by forming a queue at the terminus stations under the

supervision of RPF staff for orderly entry of passengers in unreserved coaches is being ensured. Additional RPF personnel have been deployed at major stations to enhance security of passengers. Officials are deployed on Emergency Duty at major stations to ensure smooth running of trains. Additional staff are deployed to attend any disruption of train service on priority. Measures have been taken for frequent and timely announcement of arrival/departure of trains with platform numbers. "May I Help You" booths are kept operational at important stations where RPF Personnel and TTEs are deputed for proper assistance and guidance of the passengers. Medical Teams are available at major stations on call. Instructions have been issued for maintaining cleanliness at waiting halls, retiring rooms, platforms and station premises.

Placard & Tiranga Campaign at Victoria Memorial in Honour of Governor, West Bengal



Kolkata, (KCN):As a part of the month-long celebration honouring the "APNA BHARAT, JAGTA BENGAL" initiative led by Dr. C. V. Ananda Bose, the Governor of West Bengal, the Victoria Memorial Hall hosted a significant Placard

Campaign and Tiranga (Indian Tricolour) Campaign involving 68 students from ST. MARY'S SCHOOL, Noamundi, Jharkhand. The event marked two impactful years of the Governor's tenure in West Bengal, underscoring his

commitment to fostering unity, cultural pride, and progress in West Bengal. The placard campaign and the prominent showcasing of the Tiranga symbolised the collective spirit of the people of Bengal and their continued dedication to the nation's ideals of unity, diversity, and progress.

50th NTPC Raising Day Celebration at Farakka



Kolkata, (KCN):The 50th NTPC Raising Day was celebrated at Farakka on November 7, 2024 at Admin Building Premises. The chief guest Shri Ramakanta Panda, HOP Farakka, unfurled the NTPC flag

followed by the NTPC geet. Smt. Niva Panda, President Udit Ladies Club; Shri AK Patra, GM (O&M); Shri Satheesh S, GM (BE & EMG); Shri Alok Kumar Ranbir, HOHR; other HODs; representatives of Unions and Executive Association, and other employees & families also graced on the occasion. The programme commenced with garlanding the statue of former Prime Minister Smt. Indira Gandhi, inspection of CISF contingent, address by the chief guest, balloon release, and cake cutting ceremony. In his address, HOP Farakka praised the achievements of the station and inspired all employees to continue working with dedication and excellence. He emphasised on the

importance of NTPC and its contributions over the past 49 years to the nation. Later, NTPC Farakka employees gathered in the Administration Building Auditorium to view the live broadcast of the Raising Day ceremony from the Corporate Centre. The programme featured an inspiring address by the CMD, NTPC Ltd., and concluded with prize distribution for winners of the Vigilance Awareness Week and Cyber Security Program competitions. Earlier in the day, a Walkathon was organized at FHC Township, engaging employees and families in a spirited start to the celebrations. The event honoured NTPC's 49 years of excellence and its significant contributions to the nation's energy security.

Samosa Mix-Up During Himachal Chief Minister Visit Termed "Anti-Government"

Shimla (KCN): A matter of refreshments getting served to the staff of Himachal Pradesh Chief Minister Sukhvinder Singh Sukhu instead of the chief minister by mistake has assumed disproportionate dimensions following a CID probe that termed the goof up an "anti-government" act. Due to a lack of

coordination, three boxes of samosas and cakes were brought from Hotel Radisson Blue in Lakkar Bazaar to be served to the chief minister who had gone to the CID headquarters for a function on October 21. However, the eatables were served to the CM security staff, according to the enquiry report conducted by a deputy

SP rank officer. The report stated that an officer of IG rank had asked a sub-inspector (SI) of police to get some eatables from the hotel for the CM's visit. The SI in turn directed an assistant SI (ASI) and a head constable to bring the refreshments. The ASI and the head constable fetched the refreshments from the

hotel in three sealed boxes and informed the SI. The police officers in their statement said when they asked the tourism department staff on duty whether the snacks in the three boxes were to be served to the chief minister, they said they were not included in the menu. The enquiry report said only the said SI, who deputed the ASI and the

head constable with the task of getting the snacks from the hotel, was aware of the fact that the three boxes were for Sukhu. The lady inspector, to whom the food items were handed over, did not ask any senior officer and sent the refreshments to the mechanical transport (MT) section which deals with refreshments.

International Workshop on Gender-Responsive Agricultural Extension at MANAGE concludes

Hyderabad, Nov 7 (KCN): A three-day international workshop on 'Gender-Responsive Agricultural Extension: Transforming Practices, Policies, and Institutions' at MANAGE organized by the National Institute of Agricultural Extension Management (MANAGE) in collaboration with the International Rice Research Institute (IRRI) and the CGIAR Gender Impact Platform concluded here on Thursday. The workshop was held in the presence of Interim



Director General, Agricultural Extension) at MANAGE. A total of 30 participants from organizations including FAO, ICAR-IVRI, APAARI, CRISP,

IFPRI, ICRISAT, Digital Green, J-PAL South Asia, African Centre for Field School (Uganda), HAPRI, SEWA Cooperative

from 10 countries participated in the workshop. The workshop was aimed at revolutionizing the delivery of agricultural Extension and Advisory Services (EAS) to empower women farmers through a dynamic dialogue among key stakeholders, including policymakers, researchers, practitioners, and development partners. The workshop explored innovations and identified strategies to make agricultural

extension and advisory services (EAS) more inclusive and gender-responsive, addressing gaps that had limited women's access to essential agricultural knowledge, technologies, and resources. Peter Ballantyne, Deputy Director (Gender Studies), MANAGE Dr. Veenita Kumari, and Evidence Module Lead, CGIAR GENDER Impact Platform and Principal Scientist of Gender and Livelihoods, IRRI Dr. Ranjitha Puskur also participated.

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Probe begins into mango kernel deaths in Odisha, Opposition blames govt

Bhubaneswar/Phulbani(KCN): The Odisha government Wednesday began an investigation into the death of two women allegedly after consuming mango kernel gruel, while opposition BJD and Congress blamed the BJP administration's "negligence" over the incident.

Chief Minister Mohan Charan Majhi Tuesday ordered an inquiry by the Revenue Divisional Commissioner (RDC) of the Southern Division into the alleged deaths and medical complications among the people in Kandhamal district for eating mango kernel gruel.

RDC Roopa Roshan Sahoo, accompanied by Kandhamal collector Amrit Raturaj, visited Mandipanka village under Daringbadi block where two women reportedly died after eating gruel made from mango kernel October 29.

Six others also fell ill and two of them were now under treatment at the SCB Medical College

and Hospital in Cuttack. As part of her inquiry, Sahoo interacted with the affected families and locals besides the Collector and other officials of Kandhamal district.

The RDC also inspected records of the Public Distribution System at the large area multipurpose societies (LAMPS) scheme, following accusations by opposition parties that the villagers did not receive food grains in October. The RDC will submit its report to the government in seven days, officials said.

The Congress, however, demanded a judicial inquiry led by a sitting high court judge to ensure impartiality and transparency in this case. "The RDC is a party to the case and should be held responsible for this neglect. The district collector also did not visit the affected village for a week. How can the RDC lead an impartial inquiry?" asked senior Congress leader Srikant Jena.

Jena, a former union minister, sought to know why the people of Mandipanka village were "deprived" of food grain for October.

"Had the food supplies been released on time in October, the loss of two precious lives could have been saved. Delay in food distribution violates the National Food Security Act (NFSA) and is a criminal offence," he said.

When asked, Civil Supply Officer of Kandhamal, Jananendriya Mishra, said, "We have already supplied rice for this quarter, but its distribution to the beneficiaries gets delayed at times due to certain reasons beyond our control. Still, we have taken steps to strengthen the distribution system more effectively".

However, a section of villagers have alleged that they do not get rice on time and in inadequate quantity.

"The administrative authorities have turned a deaf ear to our genuine demand in every matter," one of them alleged.



Meanwhile, Kandhamal Collector Amrit Raturaj said that the administration has been creating awareness among the people of the area, to refrain from eating mango kernel gruel.

In a separate press conference, BJD spokesperson Lekhashree Samantsinghar demanded the resignation and arrest of Food Supplies and Consumer Welfare Minister Krushna Chandra Patra for the tragedy.

"Let the minister answer why the people were deprived of rice for

October. What will they eat? They were forced to eat mango kernel gruel for scarcity of food grain," the BJD leader said. Samantsinghar claimed the incident has tarnished Odisha's image across the country.

"Death due to starvation is not acceptable in a state where BJP claims to be running a double-engine government," she said. Samantsinghar also criticised the BJP government over its "meaningless positioning" of tribals at top posts. "The BJP has made a

tribal a chief minister, an Odia tribal MP as Union Tribal Affairs minister and a tribal woman as President. The BJP is simply symbolising tribals while it deprives PDS rice to tribal people in villages," Samantsinghar alleged. The BJD also demand an apology from Deputy Chief Minister Pravat Parida, Health Minister Mukesh Mahaling and Food and Civil Supplies and Consumer Welfare Minister KC Patra for allegedly insulting tribals.

"All these ministers have publicly said that mango kernel was part of tribal food habit.

They have insulted the entire tribal community," Samantsinghar said.

BJP state vice-president Suresh Oram in a press conference accused the BJD of playing politics in the name of tribals.

"It is a case of food poisoning and not starvation death. Similar incidents had occurred at Rayagada in 2016 and Nabarangpur in 2018. Had the then BJD ministers resigned?" Oram asked.

Civil society organizations asked the chief minister to personally review programmes undertaken for the poverty alleviation and welfare of Kandhamal district.

5 engineering students detained by police for ragging, suspended from Odisha college for a year



Keonjhar: At least five students of a state-run engineering college here were detained by the police Wednesday on the charge of assaulting a junior student during ragging, police said.

They were also suspended from the institute for a year following the incident which took place at the

Government Engineering College in Keonjhar Tuesday night.

The senior students allegedly barged into the room of the junior student and physically assaulted him with a stick and an iron rod, the police said based on the complaint lodged at the Town police station.

The junior student,

identified as Biswajeet Behera, is undergoing treatment at the district headquarters hospital with injuries on his back, hands and legs.

He was taken to the hospital by the hostel warden. Several students claimed it could be a revenge attack by senior students as he had earlier complained to the

principal about an incident of ragging in the college.

Biswajeet's father B K Behera said he was worried about the safety and security of his son. He lodged a complaint with the Town police station, following which a case was registered against the five senior students. "At around 2:45 am, my son called me over the phone after which we went to the hospital. Later, I filed a complaint with the police. Our children are not safe in hostels," Behera said.

The principal of the college, Saroj Kumar Sarangi, who visited the hospital and enquired about the victim's health, said he convened a meeting of the anti-ragging cell to discuss the situation.

Backyard poultry farming to extend to all districts: Odisha deputy CM

Bhubaneswar(KCN): The Odisha government, in collaboration with a private organisation, is all set to extend the reach of innovative backyard poultry farming across the state to make rural women self-reliant, a minister said here Wednesday.

The model, an initiative designed to empower rural women through sustainable poultry farming, has been adopted by 50 women farmers in Mayurbhanj and Keonjhar districts, Deputy Chief Minister Kanak Vardhan Singhdeo said. Odisha has 30 districts.

He encouraged the organisation to collaborate with all 30 district administrations in Odisha to extend the reach of its innovative backyard poultry model. The deputy chief minister suggested leveraging funds from the district mineral foundations




(DMFs) to support backyard poultry initiatives which focus on indigenous poultry breeds and scientific farming methods. "Collaboration with each district could bring about significant change in women's economic standing through poultry farming," he emphasised. Singhdeo also highlighted the crucial role of women farmers in advancing the

state's economy during the second edition of the 'Hatching Hope Groundbreaking Summit', organised by Passing Gifts, a subsidiary of Heifer International. In its website, Heifer International describes itself as a development organisation on a mission to end hunger and poverty, in a sustainable way, by supporting and investing alongside local

farmers and their communities.

The deputy chief minister also commended the increasing participation of women in agriculture, viewing it as a promising trend for the state's development.

"The state government is committed to supporting organisations like Passing Gifts that drive the socio-economic empowerment of women farmers," Singhdeo said.

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EMAMI DELIVERS SUSTAINED PROFITABLE GROWTH IN Q2 FY25

Kolkata, (Ambar Mukherjee): The Board of Directors of Emami Limited met on Thursday, August 7, 2024 to consider the unaudited financial results of the company for the second quarter and half year ended 30th September 2024. At a macro level, the quarter brought its share of challenges, with demand trends aligning closely with those seen in the first quarter. Persistent high food inflation continued to weigh on mass consumer spending. Internationally, political unrest in key markets, including Bangladesh, created some temporary disruptions. In the given context, the Company reported overall Revenues at Rs 891 crore grew by 3% with Domestic Business growing by 2.6%. Major brands Navratna, Dermicool and Healthcare range and Pain Management range performed well. The company continued to drive its innovation pipeline forward, launching 11 new products this quarter. These include the DermiCool Sweat Reliever Super Active Talc and Ice Cool Shower Gel, as well as the De-Tan & Deep Cleansing Face Wash, Style Lock Shampoo, Fresh Impact Body Wash, Odour Control

Shower Gel, and two EDT perfumes under the brand ‘HE’. In the healthcare segment, new additions to the Zanducare portal included Zandu Daily Health Super Greens, Zandu Dirghayuprash, and Zandu Hair Growth Serum. Additionally, the company relaunched its light moisturizing cream, BoroPlus Soft, with a new look. The company’s International Business demonstrated resilience amid geopolitical challenges, achieving a 12% sales growth excluding Bangladesh. Overall, the International Business expanded by 6% in both constant currency and INR terms during Q2, driven by strong performance in the MENA region. In the Q2FY25, gross margins increased by 60 basis points to 70.7%, while EBITDA grew by 7% to ₹250 crore, with margins expanding by 110 basis points to 28.1%. Profit Before Tax rose by 13% to ₹220 crore, accompanied by a 220 basis point margin expansion, and Profit After Tax surged by 19% to ₹213 crore. Mr Harsha V Agarwal, Vice Chairman and Managing Director, Emami Limited said: We are pleased to close the first half of the year with strong performance, achieving 6% revenue growth, 10% EBITDA

growth, and a 16% profit increase despite macroeconomic challenges. For H2 FY25, we expect stronger offtakes driven by improved rural demand and stable seasons ahead. Our international business demonstrated resilience despite geopolitical challenges, delivering double-digit growth, excluding Bangladesh. Besides good performance of our existing brands, strategic investments and the recent launch of 11 new domestic products are set to boost consumer confidence and drive double-digit revenue growth in the second half.” Mr Mohan Goenka, Vice Chairman and Whole-Time Director, Emami Limited said: “Organized channels like Modern Trade, e-Commerce, and Institutional sales now contribute 26.6% to our domestic business, a 190-basis point increase in the first half. We remain committed to achieving high single-digit revenue growth and double-digit EBITDA growth for FY25. The Q3 relaunch of Fair and Handsome and focused efforts on Kesh King strengthen our confidence in driving H2 growth. With a favourable winter forecast, we expect strong performance from our winter portfolio.

SBI now offers Real Time Xpress Credit on YONO app

Mumbai : With an aim to digitally empower customers and offer additional convenience, the country’s largest lender, State Bank of India (SBI) has announced the introduction of Real Time Xpress Credit (RTXC) on YONO. The bank’s flagship personal loan product for salaried customers – Xpress Credit has a Digital Avatar now. Customers can now avail RTXC from the comfort of their homes through YONO – which is going to be 100% paperless and digital. The end-to-end 8 step journey would be easy and instant for the customers.

Under Real Time Xpress Credit, Central/ State Government and Defence salaried customers of SBI will no longer be required to visit the branch for availing a personal loan. The credit checks, eligibility, sanction & documentation will now be done digitally in real-time.

Shri Dinesh Khara, Chairman, SBI said, “We are pleased to introduce Real Time Xpress Credit (RTXC) Loan facility for our eligible salaried customers on YONO. The Xpress Credit product will enable our customers to experience a digital, hassle-free, and paperless loan process. We at SBI constantly endeavour to offer technology-led enhanced digital banking experience to the customers in order to simplify banking.” The digitalization of Xpress Credit delivery will also help the bank to do away with the need to handle and store enormous paperwork.

Blenders Pride Fashion Nights arrives in Bhubaneswar

Bhubaneswar : Blenders Pride Fashion Nights, a unique travelling experiential property, arrived in the City of Temples – Bhubaneswar – celebrating the authentic spirit of the city through fashion and style. A spirit that echoes with Pride and inspires the creators of today to become icons of tomorrow. Bhubaneswar’s ‘Made of Artistic Flair’ edition for Blenders Pride Fashion Nights, brought together an eclectic evening that blended fashion, culture and dance, celebrating a symbolic amalgamation of homegrown artistry and the unwavering spirit of local talent.

Exemplifying the region’s signature weave through a curated evening at the majestic Vivanta, Bhubaneswar, DC Square was Odia designer Sabyasachi Satpathy, whose intricately crafted ensembles drew inspiration from the multicultural city and its colourful history. In a true celebration of Odisha’s distinct and masterful craftsmanship, the show was elevated with a captivating performance by the Prince Dance Group– from the small Odisha town of Berhampur – widely lauded for their artistry.

Mivi Unveils SuperPods Opera: The First Indian Brand to get Hi-Res Certification by the Japan Audio Society

Bhubaneswar (KCN):- Mivi, a leading innovator in wireless audio solutions, is proud to announce the launch of its latest True Wireless Stereo (TWS) earbuds Opera, the third generation of SuperPods series that set a new benchmark for high-fidelity sound. SuperPods Opera marks a significant milestone for the brand as Mivi is now the first Indian brand to receive certification for Hi-Res Wireless Audio by the Japan Audio Society. The SuperPods Opera series is designed to deliver an exceptional audio experience, thanks to its cutting-edge features and technology. The earbuds boast Hi-Res Wireless Audio capabilities, capturing intricate details and nuances in music that are often lost in lower-quality



formats. Coupled with LDAC Bluetooth codec, the Opera series ensures seamless transmission of Hi-Res Wireless Audio without compromising on audio quality. We are thrilled to bring the ultimate wireless audio experience to music lovers with Opera," said Midhula Devabhaktuni, CEO of Mivi. It is a proud moment for India since we have become the first brand to get certification for Hi-Res Wireless Audio by the

Japan Audio Society. No other Indian brand has been able to achieve this yet. Our commitment to innovation and quality has resulted in a product that truly redefines the boundaries of wireless sound. Mivi’s SuperPods Opera series is a testament to the brand’s commitment to innovation and delivering exceptional audio products. With its impressive features and superior sound quality, the Opera series is set to redefine how we experience music.

realme launches the Stylish realme narzo 60 Series 5G and the revolutionary realme Buds Wireless 3

Bhubaneswar(KCN) : realme, the Most Reliable Smartphone Service Provider in India, unveiled its latest offerings today, the realme narzo60 Series 5G and realme Buds Wireless 3. These newest additions to realme’s legacy of innovation are crafted to provide users with an unrivaled experience. The realme narzo 60 Series 5G introduces two standout smartphones: the realme narzo 60 Pro 5G and the realme narzo 60 5G, accompanied by the cutting-edge realme Buds Wireless 3 for an immersive audio experience. The realme narzo 60 Series 5G is the first and only smartphone in the segment to come with 1TB storage. The realme narzo 60 Series 5G is a groundbreaking lineup that revolutionizes the smartphone industry with its cutting-edge features. realme narzo 60 Pro 5G is equipped with up to 12GB + 12GB of dynamic RAM and is the only smartphone in the segment with 1TB of ROM storage. It runs on the Dimensity 7050 5G chipset and boasts a massive 5000mAh battery with 67W SUPERVOOC charging support. The realme narzo 60 Pro 5G comes in two stunning colors: Mars Orange, Cosmic Black and three

storage variants: 8GB + 128GB which will be priced at INR 23999, 12GB + 256GB priced at INR 26999 and 12GB + 1TB priced at INR 29999. realme narzo 60 5G also showcases a Premium Vegan Leather and Martian Horizon design. The device offers a remarkable 90Hz Super AMOLED Display with 20,000-level auto brightness adjustment. The 64MP Street Photography Camera, equipped with 2X in-sensor zoom, DIS Snapshot, and 20X digital zoom, capturing stunning images with ease. Powered by the Dimensity 6020 5G Chipset, the narzo 60 5G gives you a worthwhile experience. The narzo 60 5G comes in two stunning colors: Mars Orange, Cosmic Black and two storage variants: The 8GB + 128GB is priced at INR 17999 and the 8GB + 256GB is priced at INR 19999. Buyers can avail bank offers of INR 1500 on the realme narzo 60 Pro 5G with 6 months No Cost EMI and 18 month warranty on pre-booking starting from 6th July 1 PM on Amazon.in. and realme.com. Users can also avail bank offers of INR 1500 on the realme narzo 60 Pro 5G with 6 months No Cost EMI on first sale

on Amazon.in and realme.com. For realme narzo 60 5G, buyers can avail a coupon of INR 1000* and No Cost EMI for up to 6 months and 18 month warranty on pre-booking starting from 6th July 1 PM on realme.com and Amazon.in. Users can also avail coupons worth INR 1000 and No Cost EMI for up to 6 months on first sale on Amazon.in and realme.com. Introducing the realme Buds Wireless 3, designed to elevate your audio experience with a 13.6 mm Dynamic Bass driver. Enjoy uninterrupted music with its 40-hour long battery life. Immerse yourself in crystal-clear sound with active noise cancellation. Indulge in a captivating audio journey with the 360-degree spatial audio effect. The realme Buds Wireless 3 comes in three stunning colours: Bass Yellow, Vitality White and Pure Black and is priced at INR 1799. Users can avail a special first sale day offer on realme Buds Wireless 3 on 12th July, 12 noon onwards. Therealme Buds Wireless 3 will be available on realme.com, amazon.in, flipkart.in and offline stores near you.

Servotech Power Systems Ltd. Launches Innovative Solar Solutions, Strengthening Commitment to Renewable Energy

KOLKATA (AMBAR MUKHERJEE) : Servotech Power Systems Ltd., a leading manufacturer of renewable energy solutions, launches its new series of innovative and high-tech range of solar on-grid inverters, solar hybrid inverters, solar micro inverters, battery energy storage systems, and solar Pump controllers in alignment with central government schemes like PM Surya Ghar Muft Bijli Yojana and PM-KUSUM Scheme for residential and commercial rooftops and empower farmers to harness solar energy and promote sustainable farming practices. These cutting-edge solutions will work in harmony for a more

efficient, reliable, and readily available solution for domestic and commercial applications and are designed to meet the growing demand for clean energy and reduce dependency on conventional power sources. Speaking at the launch, Raman Bhatia, Founder and Managing Director stated, "We are thrilled to introduce our solar solutions to the market. These solutions not only help individuals and businesses reduce their carbon footprint but also drive sustainable growth. As a global leader in the renewable energy sector, we are at the forefront of accelerating a more productive and sustainable future. We continuously push the

boundaries of technology to deliver energy-efficient, decarbonizing, and circular solutions that benefit customers, industries, and societies. With our digitally enabled and advanced solutions, we empower our customers and partners to achieve greater performance, safety, and reliability in their operations." The product range consists of On-grid inverter with a Range 1 kW – 100 kW, a hybrid inverter with range – 2 kW to 7.5 kW (1 Phase) & 10 Kw to 22.5 kW (3 phase). Further, the range consists of Battery Energy Storage System (Range – 1.2kWh to 15kWh for Domestic User and 5.1KW model for E Rickshaw), Solar

Pump Controller and Micro Inverter. Recently, the company signed a sole distribution agreement to expand their EV charger distribution network across the UK and beyond, including North America. This agreement will capitalize on the rapid growth of electric vehicle adoption in these regions. By combining Servotech's innovative EV charging solutions with Ensmart Power's expertise in energy storage and distribution, the partnership aims to provide a reliable and accessible charging infrastructure for consumers. The collaboration will drive the development of green mobility alternatives,

contributing to a carbon-neutral transportation ecosystem and setting new standards in efficiency, reliability, and environmental responsibility. Earlier, the company secured a substantial contract to build 11 DC Fast EV charging stations from Bangalore Electricity Supply Company Limited (BESCOM). This contract involves Servotech installing public electric vehicle (EV) charging stations at 11 Regional Transport Office (RTO) premises across Karnataka. The project will significantly enhance the charging infrastructure for electric vehicles, making it more convenient for EV owners to charge their vehicles across various regions of Karnataka.

NSDL launches “Market ka Eklavya- Express” in 75 cities to mark 75 years of Independence

Mumbai: India’s largest depository, National Securities Depository Limited (NSDL) launched ‘Market ka Eklavya– Express’, an online investment awareness program for students that will be conducted in 8 different languages including Hindi. The program would serve as a beginner’s guide for investing for the youth. To mark the significance of Azadi Ka Amrit Mahotsav, an

initiative of Government of India to celebrate 75 years of independence and the glorious history of our people, culture and achievements, NSDL has launched a new initiative towards investor awareness ‘Market Ka Eklavya - Express’ across 75 cities, especially aimed at the college students who would very soon be entering the phase where they would start earning and naturally,

look for avenues of investment. Earlier this month, Market ka Eklavya (5-hours program) was launched by the hon’ble Finance Minister of India, Smt. Nirmala Sitharaman at the silver jubilee event of NSDL. On the launch of the initiative Ms. Padmaja Chunduru, MD & CEO, NSDL said, "Azadi Ka Amrit Mahotsav is a special initiative launched by our Prime Minister to

celebrate and commemorate 75 years of India's Independence. Our program has been particularly aimed to create awareness about the financial markets to the young minds who will be the future of our country. In this Amrit Kaal, our digital education initiative focuses on building a path towards Financial Freedom for our youth, symbolizing the spirit of Atmanirbhar

Bharat.” Students across India will benefit from this program as it does not restrict to just an area of the population. The program will be conducted for 1 hour and mainly educate the students on demystifying the jargons, 3D’s – types of Income; Inflation and its impact, types of Investment; 3S – Start early- Power of Compounding, Spread wide, Stay long etc.

Jindal Stainless signs MoU with SCTEVT, Odisha to train future-ready stainless steel professionals

Bhubaneswar: Odisha’s State Council for Technical Education & Vocational Training (SCTEVT) today signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with Jindal Stainless to promote technical education in the field of stainless steel and its various applications. Under this MoU, stainless steel courses will be introduced in all the Polytechnic colleges in Odisha from June 2022. The MoU was signed by Vice Chairman,

SCTE&VT, Shri Reghu G (IAS) and Unit Head, Jindal Stainless Limited (JSL), Shri Deepak Agrawal. Dignitaries present at the ceremony included Chairman, SCTE&VT and Principal Secretary to Government, SDTE and Industries Departments, Shri Hemant Sharma (IAS) said, “This collaboration with Jindal Stainless will enhance the learning experience for students and faculty both, as it will give them insights about and practical exposure to the stainless steel industry.

Upadhyay, and General Manager, Sales & Distribution, Mr Ranit Rana. Commending the development, Chairman, SCTE&VT and Principal Secretary to Government, SDTE and Industries Departments, Shri Hemant Sharma (IAS) said, “This collaboration with Jindal Stainless will enhance the learning experience for students and faculty both, as it will give them insights about and practical exposure to the stainless steel industry.

Carty and King's tons seal 2-1 series win

New Delhi: The pace trio of Matthew Forde, Alzarri Joseph and Romario Shepherd picked up seven wickets between them before Keacy Carty (128 off 114) and Brandon King (102 off 117) registered centuries to lead West Indies to a series-clinching eight wicket victory against England in the third ODI in Barbados. Chasing 264 for victory, King and Carty were involved in a 209-run partnership, West Indies' highest for any wicket in an ODI against England, as the hosts crossed the line in 43 overs to seal a 2-1 finish to the series. Evin Lewis and King gave West Indies a strong

start in the chase before Jamie Overton dismissed the former for 19, rushing him on a pull. King and Carty then put on a big partnership, with the latter using the DRS early in the innings to have a decision overturned after being given out leg-before off Liam Livingstone. Together, they helped West Indies past the 100-run mark in 19 overs and the team crossed 150 before the 27th over was completed, with the two batters crossing fifty and extending their stand past 100. There was no respite for the England bowlers as King and Carty struck fours and sixes with regular frequency. To add

to England's problems, King was also put down by Jordan Cox off Jofra Archer when he was on 86. He went on to reach three figures but before that, Carty became the first St Maarten player to score a hundred for West Indies. The took the partnership beyond 200 before England finally had some success as King was bowled by Reece Topley. But the dismissal came too late as Carty provided the finishing touches to West Indies' victory. Earlier, after opting to bowl, the West Indies pacers had England in early trouble with the conditions suiting the quick bowlers initially. Forde got Will Jacks to



edge to the 'keeper in the third over while Cox fell in the next, gloving a short ball from Joseph behind the stumps. The Barbados-born Jacob Bethell fell to Shepherd thanks to an excellent catch from Roston Chase at backward point. It soon became 24/4 as the in-form Livingstone got an outside edge off Shepherd, leaving England in a sorry state. Phil Salt and Sam Curran led England's recovery and the batting conditions got slightly easier as the pitch got better. The pair added 70 for the fifth wicket, although they had to take their time, which meant the scoring rate was a bit on the slower side on a pitch which Salt later described as 'tacky'. Curran got out to Chase on 40,

following which Salt and Dan Mousley raised another 70-run stand. Salt, however, fell to a good piece of relay work from King and Joseph close to the boundary as he departed for 74, giving Forde another wicket. Mousley went on to score his maiden ODI fifty while Overton and Archer struck brisk 30s to help England finish better than they started, but the total proved insufficient in the end. Brief scores: England 263/8 (Phil Salt 74, Dan Mousley 57; Matthew Forde 3-35, Alzarri Joseph 2-45) lost to West Indies 267/2 in 43 overs (Keacy Carty 128*, Brandon King 102; Jamie Overton 1-17) by 8 wickets.

Didn't bowl good balls in first spell, wanted to come back stronger: Ghazanfar

New Delhi: Allah Ghazanfar, the 18-year old Afghanistan offspinner, felt he did not bowl well in his first spell despite picking up the wicket of Tanzid Tamim. The 6'2" tall spinner, was keen to come back stronger in his second spell and he in turn wreaked havoc to lead Afghanistan to a 92-run victory in the first ODI against Bangladesh. Ghazanfar had figures of 4-1-21-1 when he was brought back into the attack in the 31st over. After just 2.3 more overs, he ended up with a remarkable 6 for 26 as Bangladesh, from 132/3, ended up being bowled out for 143. "When I came to bowl, in first part of my spell my rhythm was good, I got a wicket. But didn't bowl good deliveries after that wicket, then I thought I have to come back stronger in the second part of my spell



and I did that," Ghazanfar said after the game. "I made an effort and won the match for my team. "It is an every bowler's wish to take 5 or 6 wickets for his team in a match and it was my wish as well which was fulfilled today," he said, before crediting Rashid Khan and Mohammad Nabi for supporting him. "Rashid and Nabi's roles are so crucial for my bowling, they always give me handy advice during the match and that gives good result," he said. Ghazanfar, who began his journey as a pace

bowler before former Afghan skipper Dawlat Ahmadzai turned him into a mystery spinner, had already made his mark after bowling brilliantly in the last edition of Under-19 World Cup. Ghazanfar is known as the new Mujeeb-ur-Rahman in Afghanistan circuit after showing his potential in the ninth edition of Shpageeza T20 Cricket League where he ended up being the highest wicket taker and bowler of the competition. The right-arm off-spinner also showed his talent during the ODI series

against South Africa in September and also played a crucial part in Afghanistan clinching the Emerging Teams Asia Cup a few days ago. Speaking about the young offspinner, Afghanistan skipper Hashmatullah Shahidi said: "He is a special talent and has a good future for Afghanistan. He bowled well in the first spell, but he bowled that no-ball and I asked him why did he bowl a no-ball (laughs). I am very happy with the options we have on the bench." Bangladesh skipper Najmul Hossain admitted that Ghazanfar was too hot to handle. "Afghanistan always have mystery spinners and he bowled really well," said Najmul, who made 47 runs before top-edging a sweep against Mohammad Nabi that brought Afghanistan back in the game after visitors were cruising ay one stage in the chase of 236.

Ganguly and my wife pushed me to play on for another season: Saha

New Delhi: Veteran wicket-keeper batter Wriddhiman Saha has already announced that the 2024-25 Ranji season will be his last. On the sidelines of Bengal's game against Karnataka in Bengaluru, Saha revealed that his original plan was to walk away after last season, but was then persuaded by two people to carry on. "I wasn't going to play this year. But Sourav Ganguly and my wife pushed me to play in Bengal this year," Saha said. "I played in Tripura for two years and then came to Bengal, and I am pushing for the last year. But this season, due to my body condition and injuries, I won't be able to play for the full season. So I chose the most vital format. It will still be tough, but I will play." Saha also confirmed that he is not one of the 1165 Indian players to put their



name up for the upcoming mega IPL auction, thus ending a 17-year association with the league that dates back to the inaugural season in 2008. His first-class bow came a year before. Yet, Saha revealed that the decision to bring down the curtains on his long career wasn't difficult at all. "It was very easy for me. I was already prepared that I won't even play this year. I'd been prepared from last year itself that I wasn't

going to play this year, but I've been pushed [to play on]. So I couldn't refuse them [his wife, and Ganguly]. When I started from Bengal last year, I played there again and there was an emotional attachment," Saha said. The Siliguri-born cricketer had moved away to play two seasons for Tripura before returning to his home state this season. Reflecting on his international career that includes 40 Tests, Saha said that he was happy to always be a team man. "I could have

played better. But I always thought about the team first. If I played a little for myself, which shouldn't happen, then the stats would have been better. "But I played 40 Tests. I played on and off. I had injuries. But I came back. I am happy. I represented India for 17 years. I played in the IPL. I played in Bengal. It was all a good experience," Saha said. "There were a lot of innings where we were going to declare. If I hadn't been out for 3-4 overs... my average is around 30 [29.41], but it could have been 35. But I don't look at the stats. I always played for the team. I did the job I was supposed to do. If I was told to go out there and hit, then I've done that. In that process if I get out, I get out. But I played for the team, always," he added.

The vast, stark differences between South Africa and India

New Delhi: The men's T20 World Cup final in Barbados in June marked the start of journeys in opposite directions for the teams involved. Including that match, South Africa have lost five of their last six games in the format. India have won 10 of their last dozen T20Is and tied another. Considering the gutsy cricket the South Africans played to reach their first final in a senior men's World Cup, why have they struggled from there? "I don't know what to put it down to," Reeza Hendricks told a press conference on Wednesday. "But we haven't had most of the players who played in that game. We gave opportunities to new players in the last couple of series. We didn't get the results we

wanted, but there were a lot of learnings. Coming against India now is another opportunity. Hopefully we can correct that and get the results we're after." Hendricks spoke from Kingsmead, where South Africa and India will meet on Friday in the first of four T20Is. He has a point about the personnel changes. Or maybe half a point. Of the XI South Africa fielded in the final, only Hendricks, Aiden Markram and Tristan Stubbs played in the series against West Indies in Trinidad in August or against Ireland in Abu Dhabi in September. The South Africans' sole success in those matches was an eight-wicket win over the Irish. They played all of them without World Cup finalists Quinton de Kock,



Heinrich Klaasen, David Miller, Marco Jansen, Keshav Maharaj, Kagiso Rabada, Anrich Nortje and Tabraiz Shamsi.

But Hendricks' argument is less convincing when we consider India's post-World Cup T20Is. Of their XI in the final, just

three played in a series in Zimbabwe in July. Seven were involved in a rubber in Sri Lanka in the same month, but only three featured in a

home series against Bangladesh in October. And yet their only loss was to Zimbabwe by 13 runs. Significantly, perhaps,

six of India's XI in Barbados have since appeared in T20Is. That's double the number of South Africans. Seven members of each squad in the series starting on Friday were in the World Cup final. Four of the South Africans who helped the Test team earn a 2-0 win in Bangladesh last month are in the T20I squad, but any expectation of the visitors arriving under the cloud of New Zealand completing a 3-0 Test whitewash at the Wankhede on Sunday are unfounded. None of the Indians who played in that Test series will be at Kingsmead on Friday, not least because all but one of them are in the squad for the five-Test series in Australia starting on November

22. How can India afford to spread themselves so thinly? There's a clue in a comparison of South Africa's and India's domestic competitions. In the 2023/24 Ranji Trophy, 623 players appeared for 32 teams. In CSA's 2023/24 first-class tournament, 15 teams fielded 268 players. So India have more than double the number of active first-class players than South Africa. That's hardly surprising considering South Africa's total population amounts to only 4.42% of India's. Put differently, there are 22.65 as many people in India than in South Africa. In GDP terms, India's economy is 9.8 times the size of South Africa's. The differences are stark and vast, and they tell us what real depth in everything, including cricket, looks like.