

Peaceful conclusion to Durga Puja festivities as idols immersed

Cuttack/Bhubaneswar, Oct 14(KCN): As the five-day Durga Puja celebrations concluded peacefully across Odisha, the idol immersion took place under tight security in the twin cities of Cuttack and Bhubaneswar on Monday.

Cuttack, a major hub for Durga Puja festivities, saw all routes leading to Devi Gada on the left embankment of the Kathajodi River bustling with activity as the immersion proceeded smoothly without any incidents.

This year, Bhubaneswar hosted 187 puja pandals, while Cuttack featured 170, said sources.

The clay idols of Maa Durga, accompanied by beautifully adorned tableaux, were paraded in grand processions to temporary ponds for immersion, all under the watchful eye of a significant police presence. Notably, procession participants in both cities chose to forgo vehicles for live music or DJs, adhering to an agreement with local authorities to

maintain the mantra "No Liquor and No DJ" during the immersion. This decision encouraged organizers to embrace traditional music and dance, enhancing the festive atmosphere.

In Cuttack, over 120 idols are set to be immersed at Devigada, with lorries transporting the idols from various puja pandals to the Kathajodi River, accompanied by lively music and dance. To address the low water levels, three temporary ponds have been created along the riverbank, with pump sets on standby if needed.

Meanwhile, the Bhubaneswar Municipal Corporation has set up five large temporary ponds to facilitate a smooth immersion process—two near the Kuakhai River, two near the Daya River, and one close to the Sai Temple in Hanspal. Additionally, stringent security measures have been implemented by the Bhubaneswar-Cuttack Commissionerate Police, along with a traffic advisory to manage congestion.

India withdraws High Commissioner from Canada, citing lack of faith in Trudeau Government

New Delhi, October 14(KCN): India has withdrawn its High Commissioner to Canada, Sanjay Kumar Verma, along with other diplomats, following rising tensions between the two nations.

The Indian Ministry of

fostering an atmosphere of extremism and violence. "We have no faith in the current Canadian Government's commitment to ensure their security," the release said, emphasizing that India's decision was prompted by what it

supporting extremism, violence, and separatist movements. This withdrawal follows months of diplomatic strain, particularly after Trudeau's allegations in September 2023 about Indian involvement in a domestic matter. India criticized the Canadian government for not providing any evidence to support its claims.

India highlighted Sanjay Kumar Verma's distinguished career and condemned the aspersions cast on him. The statement further accused Trudeau's government of having a history of hostility towards India, referencing past incidents of interference in Indian politics.

The diplomatic rift between the two countries continues to deepen, with India reserving the right to take further steps in response to Canada's actions.

External Affairs (MEA) summoned Canada's Charge d'Affaires Stewart Wheeler and expressed strong disapproval over what it described as the "baseless targeting" of Indian diplomats in Canada. In a statement, the MEA conveyed that Prime Minister Justin Trudeau's government has endangered the safety of Indian officials by

considering hostile actions by Canada. The Indian government rejected recent diplomatic communications from Canada, which implied that Indian diplomats were involved in a Canadian investigation. India's MEA called these allegations "preposterous" and linked them to Trudeau's political agenda, accusing his administration of



Odisha to bid emotional farewell to Goddess Durga

Odisha govt contemplating to amend RERA to simplify land transactions



Bhubaneswar, October 14(KCN): The Odisha government is considering amending the Real Estate (Regulation and Development) Act (RERA) to streamline land purchase and sale processes, said Suresh Pujari, Revenue and Disaster Management Minister, here on Monday. Pujari emphasized that there is a need to make land transactions more accessible, particularly during emergencies such as medical treatments or educational expenses. He said "RERA currently restricts landowners from selling their land under urgent requirements like a daughter's marriage or

medical needs. Therefore, the Revenue Department will consult with the Urban Development Department to identify necessary amendments". Pujari acknowledged the complaints about the challenges faced by people during the land registration process and highlighted the previous outsourcing of the e-registration system.

He noted that low wages paid by the outsourcing agency have led some employees to engage in unethical practices. Pujari warned that the government would take strict action against middlemen and brokers, barring them from office premises if caught exploiting citizens.

Sick Can Get Bail Under Stringent Anti-Money Laundering Law: Chief Justice

New Delhi, (KCN): The maxim that bail is norm and jail exception and even stringent laws have a humane face, was reinforced again today by Chief Justice of India DY Chandrachud, who allowed bail for an ailing man arrested under the rigorous anti-money laundering law.

"However stringent PMLA is, as judges we have to operate in the four corners of the law. Law tells us that someone who is sick and infirm be granted bail," Justice Chandrachud said. "That he could be treated at a government hospital is no answer to what the statute says. Sick or infirm means you can be granted bail," he added, while presiding over a three-judge bench hearing the interim bail petition of 67-year-old Amar Sadhuram Mulchandani, former chairperson of Seva Vikas Co-operative Bank, who was arrested in July last year.

The Prevention of Money Laundering Act



or PMLA is non-bailable since unlike other laws, the accused here has to prove that he is not guilty. An accused gets bail only when the court is satisfied that there are reasonable grounds for believing that he is not guilty of the offense, and not likely to commit any offense while on bail. Even so, the public prosecutor has to be given an opportunity to oppose bail. This provision --- listed under Section 45 of the law - was upheld earlier by the Supreme Court.

The bench today said the "Proviso to Section 45(1) of PMLA specifically contemplates that a person who 'is sick or infirm' may be released on bail if the special court so directs".

Earlier several people, including Aam Aadmi Party's Arvind Kejriwal, Manish Sisodia and Bharat Rashtra Samithi's Kavita had got bail, though after spending months in jail. AAP's Satyendar Jain had also got interim bail last year on health grounds.

Odisha govt forms task force to address distress migration

Bhubaneswar, Oct 14(KCN): The Odisha government has formed a high-level task force to brainstorm and recommend holistic measures to address the problem of distress migrations in the state. The task force will be headed by Deputy Chief Minister Kanak Vardhan Singh Deo. Other members are Deputy Chief Minister Pravati Parida, Panchayati Raj Minister Rabinarayan Naik, Chief Secretary Manoj Ahuja, Development Commissioner Anu Garg and secretaries of concerned departments. This high-level task

force will discuss in detail the problems of migrant workers and prevent distress migrations and decide the course of action to solve the problems, said an official. It will also recommend steps to be taken up by various government agencies to check distress migration and also to mitigate the sufferings of the migrant labourers of Odisha, the official said. The secretariat of the task force shall be located in Panchayati Raj and Drinking Water Department. It shall meet at least once in six months to review the progress.

The task force may co-opt a few expert members of national/international repute working in this field. It may also co-opt academicians, development practitioners, UN agency representatives, etc. Such members shall be intimated to attend the meetings on a need basis. The task force will examine the nature of migration region-wise and recommend specific interventions needed, the official said. It will also deliberate upon the regional variation, seasonality as well as the magnitude of the migration and recommend strategies to reduce distress migration and will suggest the institutional framework required to be put in place at state, district, block level to tackle the issue in holistic and sustainable manner. In order to address the issues effectively the

Task Force will deliberate upon the need to develop partnerships with expert agencies, civil society, and technical organizations for improving the effectiveness of the interventions proposed and

Apart from these, the task force will discuss and recommend the necessary coordination with the Government of India and various state governments to ensure availability of resources for all these measures and to resolve the problems of migrant workers in a comprehensive manner.

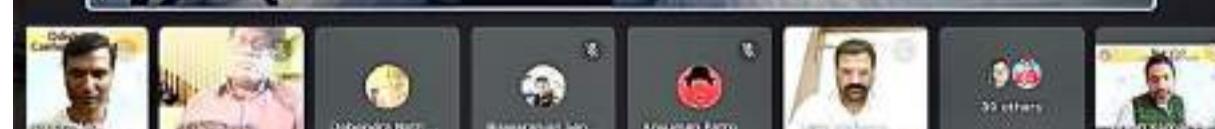


made by different departments to reduce distress migration and the effectiveness of the same by studying the existing legal/policy provisions to tackle the problem.

America Hosts Fifth Odisha AI Conference : Worldwide IT Gurus Participate

California, (KCN) ; IT Experts from across the globe participated in the Fifth Edition of The Odisha Artificial Intelligence Conference 2024 held recently. Hosted by California based voluntary organisation Odisha AI, the 32 hours long convention was in hybrid mode on both online and offline platforms. The convention having theme entitled "Gen AI Now, What's Next ?" witnessed the presence of hundreds of IT professionals, Information scientists, research scholars, budding innovators and AI enthusiasts both at physical and virtual venues. The much sought after IT Fiesta was declared open by Col Prof. Aditya Parida from Sweden, when Japan woke up with the first sunlight of the day. The curtain fell on the marathon summit, while American Samoa was bidding goodbye to the setting sun of the day. The physical locations of the conclave at California, Stockholm, London, Abu Dhabi, Tokyo, Johannesburg, Bengaluru, Chennai, Berhampur and

Bhubaneswar experienced unusual interest, unexpected enthusiasm and unprecedented excitement among the participating young community members. The spectacular AI meet commenced with the insightful Audio Visual presentation by the talented team from Japan led by Anup Sahoo. This was followed by a brilliant talk on Angel Investing 101 delivered by noted investor Raj Mрутin from the Bay Area of California. The Conference broadly deliberated on the latest advancements, eventual challenges and prospective opportunities in the field of AI. The unique feature of the Mega Event was the diverse lineup of speakers such as leading scientists, noted entrepreneurs and top notch policy makers. The major attraction of the conference was the power point presentation on the future perspectives of Generative AI by the chief scientist of Google Jeff Dean. Jeff deliberated on key trends such as the development of multimodal models that can seamlessly process



diverse data types, including texts, code, images and videos. He emphasised on the transformative potential of AI models capable of reliably completing complex multistep tasks. Sheding light on the history of bringing two reputed science research institutes like NISER and IISER to Odisha, Prof. Dr Chitta Baral appealed to youngsters to keep pushing for the digital advancement of the state. Dwelling on his critical innovation "InterConnect", Intel Senior Fellow and Co-GM of memory and IO scientist Dr. Debendra

Das Sharma elaborated on the crucial role of interconnects in achieving power efficient performance and ultimate success in AI era through properly navigating the environment of exponentially increasing demand of compute. Former President of Odisha Society of Americas Kuku Das advised the community members to use AI in a positive and constructive manner for the betterment of the society. An AI wizard and MP from Jajpur Dr Rabindra Narayan Behera complemented the organisers for their sincere commitments

towards popularisation of AI and pledged his firm support towards the noble initiative. Chairman NIST, Berhampur Dr. Sukanta Kumar Mohapatra, Deputy VC of G.E.I.T. A.V.N.L.

in the space of Indic languages. Prof Jay Lee focussed on the fast changing landscape of Industrial AI. Presenting their viewpoints during the occasion Editor Sambad Tanaya Patnaik, Sailendra Panigrahi, Rashmita Panda, Dr. Priyadarshan Patra, Dr. Raj Dabre, Sukanta Sahu, Debendra Nath Rout, Om Mohapatra and Sunil Sabat highlighted the importance of evolution and collaboration of AI for a bright future.

The Conference concluded with a clarion call by the core team of organisers to the participating members to act unitedly for ensuring the use of AI for the overall welfare of mankind and society. The entire arrangements of the Odisha AI

Conference-2024 was smoothly conducted and successfully executed with the active and able supervision of the members of the core committee consisting of Convenor Research scientist at Google DeepMind Dr. Swaroop Mishra, Founder Anjan Kumar Panda, Col. Prof Aditya Parida, Soumendra Kumar Sahoo, Kumarika Mohanty Panda, Subhendu Biswal and Santosh Panda alongwith a support team of volunteers led by Ravindra Jena.

The conference was attended by AI Chapter heads from Odisha, community leaders, prominent social influencers, functionaries at Ground Zero and activists from nook and corner of the World.

Parity in Other allowances and promotion policy for Gramin Bank.



Bhubaneswar, (KCN) : Parity in other allowances and immediate implementation of promotion policy for Gramin Bank officers and employees is the main demand of Gramin Bank. Unfortunately, despite of the Hon'ble Court order and Central Government circular, many Gramin Bank have not yet implemented the other

allowances as per with nationalized bank and not implemented the Mitra Committee report for new promotion policy said Dr. Ramachandra Khuntia, Ex-MP, National Vice President of INTUC in the state level Conference Rajasthan Baroda's Gramin Bank Officers and Employees joint Conferences held on 13.10.2021 at Churu Rajasthan. Although Gramin Bank is playing

an important role in developing the rural economy of the country. Modi government is totally neglecting the Gramin Bank officer and employees who are contributing for the development of Gramin Bank said R.C. Khuntia, Ex-MP, the President of All India Gramin Bank Officers Congress, Shri Ramkumar Kaswan, Shri Rajendra Bhadu, Shri Ramnivas Dhaka, Shri Sanjay Barwad, Shri Nitesh Nehra spoke in the meeting.

"I am no more in BJD, I am independent", says Amar Satpathy



and national parties active in Odisha are in contact with him. Internal conflicts have surfaced within the BJD as senior leaders have begun holding party president and former Odisha chief minister Naveen Patnaik accountable for the party's crushing defeat to the Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) in the 2024 Assembly election held earlier this year.

Amar Prasad Satpathy on Saturday directly blamed Patnaik for the party's electoral setback, urging him to take responsibility for the failure.

Commenting on his statement, Mohanty said, "Amar Satpathy should resign from BJD if he feels suffocated".

Speaking to reporters in Bhubaneswar, Satpathy on Saturday said, "We had imposed faith on our leader Naveen Patnaik, expecting him to shoulder the full responsibility. All the credit for continuous victories of the party was going to him; now, he must also accept the responsibility for its defeat".

Bhubaneswar, (KCN): Senior BJD leader and former minister Amar Prasad Satpathy on Monday said he is no more in Biju Janata Dal (BJD) amid internal tensions in the party that ruled Odisha for the last 24 years.

"I am no more in BJD, I am independent. I have not renewed my BJD membership and kept myself away from party programmes," the former Barchana MLA said replying party spokesperson Lenin Mohanty's statement who advised the senior leader to keep himself distant from making statements against party leadership.

Satpathy also said that he is not in active politics for last few months



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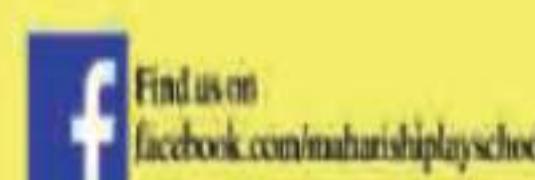
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Impact of Social Media on our Mental Health



health is complex. There are both potential negative and positive effects, and the impact of social media on an individual's mental health will likely depend on a variety of factors, such as their personality, their use of social media, and their overall mental health.

From an ethical and humanistic perspective, it is important to be mindful of the potential negative effects of social media on mental health. We should be aware of the risks of unrealistic expectations, social comparison, and cyberbullying, and we should take steps to mitigate these risks. For example, we can be selective about the content we consume on social media, and we can limit our time spent on social media. We should also be aware of the potential positive effects of social media on mental health.

Additionally, social media can lead to unrealistic expectations about life, which can make people feel inadequate or unhappy with their own lives. However, it is important to note that not all research on social media and mental health has found negative results.

Some studies have shown that social media can actually have a positive impact on mental health, by providing a platform for social support and connecting people with others who share their interests. Ultimately, the relationship between social media and mental

still developing their sense of self.

Reels and Body Image

One of the most common concerns about Reels is that they can lead to negative body image issues. This

because Reels often feature videos of people who seem to be living perfect lives. This can make it difficult for people to see their own lives as being good enough. A study by the University of California,

Reels were more likely to be addicted to social media than those who did not use the platform. The study also found that Reels use was associated with increased levels of stress and anxiety. The key is

platforms are designed to keep you engaged, so they may show you content that is designed to trigger negative emotions. Be aware of this and take steps to avoid it. Limit your time spent on

be afraid to reach out for help if you need it. Focus on the positive. When you're feeling down, try to focus on the positive aspects of your life. Think about things you're grateful for, or activities that make you happy. Be mindful of your thoughts and feelings.

If you start to feel down or anxious after using social media, take a break. Try to be social without social media! Spend time with friends and family. This is the most obvious way to stay social, but it's also one of the most important. Make time for the people you care about, and don't rely on social media to stay in touch. Join a club or group. There are clubs and groups for just about everything, so you're sure to find one that interests you. This is a great way to meet new people and make friends.

Lastly, Be kind to yourself and to others. Social media can be a breeding ground for negativity, but it doesn't have to be. Choose to spread kindness and positivity, and you'll make the world a better place. Your worth is not determined by the number of likes you get on a post or the number of followers you have. You are beautiful, valuable, and worthy of love, regardless of what social media says. We all humans are beautiful. We come in all shapes, sizes, colors, and abilities. We have different backgrounds, experiences, and beliefs. But we are all human, and we all deserve to be treated with respect. Don't let social media make you feel like you're not good enough. Remember that you are beautiful, valuable, and worthy of love.

Retired Principal
Educational columnist
street kour Chand MHR
Malout Punjab



is because Reels often feature heavily edited and filtered videos, which can create unrealistic expectations about what it means to be beautiful. A study by the University of Pittsburgh found that young women who used Reels were more likely to have body image concerns than those who did not use the platform. The study also found that Reels use was associated with increased levels of anxiety and depression.

Reels and Comparison

Another concern about Reels is that they can lead to feelings of inadequacy and low self-esteem, especially in young people who are

Los Angeles found that young people who used Reels were more likely to feel envious of others than those who did not use the platform. The study also found that Reels use was associated with increased levels of social anxiety.

Reels and Addiction

Finally, there is also a concern that Reels can be addictive. This is because Reels are designed to be highly engaging and to keep users hooked. As a result, it can be easy to spend hours scrolling through Reels without even realizing it.

A study found that young people who used

social media. Aim for 30 minutes or less per day. Take breaks from social media. We should be mindful of our own mental health, and we should take steps to protect ourselves from the potential negative effects of social media. We should also be aware of the potential positive effects of social media, and we should use it to connect with others and to build healthy relationships. Here are some tips for using social media in a healthy way:

Be selective about the content you consume. Don't follow people or accounts that make you feel bad about yourself. Be aware of the algorithms. Social media

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adopts the virtues of Lord Ram and reducing my demonic tendencies. They are busy finding new ways to commit crimes. They care neither for their families nor for the dignity of their country. Instead, they are only concerned with increasing the height of my effigy year after year. They think it is a matter of pride to burn a 95-foot effigy (Dehradun, 2021), a 125-foot effigy (Ambala, 2022), a 171-foot effigy (Panchkula, 2023), a 210-foot effigy (Panchkula, 2018), a 211-foot effigy (Delhi's Ramlila Ground, 2024), or a 221-foot effigy (Dhanas, 2019). It seems that with the rise of criminal and demonic tendencies, humans no longer care about my original height of 18 feet

urge humanity to burn my effigy on Dussehra, but also take an oath to burn the evils I harbored, and not repeat the mistakes I made. They should resolve to adopt the virtues of Lord Ram in their lives. Humanity must reflect on whether any person today is as knowledgeable as I was, as powerful, as devoted to their deity, or as committed to their family and clan? Do they have the patience, courage, and patriotism that I had? Hence, I, Ravana, appeal to today's humans to burn my evils, not my virtues. Instead of focusing on increasing the height of my effigy, they should focus on eliminating criminal and demonic tendencies from society. Only then will the celebration of Dussehra and the burning of my effigy be meaningful.

Author is
Independent Journalist

Ravana: burn my evils with effigy, but not my virtues."



sacrificed the fame and honor of my lineage, my family, and even my beloved sons. I seized the golden city and the Pushpak Vimana from my brother. At the root of my penance and meditation was always a desire for personal gain and pride. In my arrogance over knowledge and power, I even made the mistake of imprisoning the nine planets. I became an enemy of mankind, sages, and sacred rituals like yajnas because I feared that another human might become as powerful as me and dare to challenge me. Yes, I enjoyed hearing praises of my valor and courage, and it pained me to hear anyone else praised in my presence. I never promoted superstition or unscientific practices. I knew that Vibhishan's daughter Trijata was



helping Devi Sita and sharing information from within the kingdom, but I never tried to remove her. I knew that Lord Hanuman was requesting me to perform the rituals for Lord Ram's victory, yet I did not refuse my priestly duties. There were many other virtues and qualities in

me that were worthy of emulation by humanity. I was proud of the unity, strength, and expertise in arms and skills of my family members, and their respect and dedication toward me. I had unwavering faith in my deity, Lord Shiva. I was a great scholar of astrology, tantra, Vedas, scriptures, and several arts. It was

Dr. Manmohan Prakash

Therefore, I, Ravana, find it ironic that during Dussehra, today's humans focus more on outdoing my evils rather than

NHRC Demands Action on Freebies, Ineligible Welfare Beneficiaries



The National Human Rights Commission (NHRC) has expressed concern over unregulated freebies and the provision of welfare benefits to ineligible beneficiaries. In a significant development, the NHRC has requested an Action Taken Report (ATR) from the Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment Secretary, reflecting the growing attention to the misuse of welfare schemes and the potential impact of populist measures on human rights and social equity.

This action by the NHRC comes in response to a petition filed by Supreme Court lawyer and human rights activist Radhakanta Tripathy. The petition sheds light on the enduring failure of the Union and State governments to eradicate poverty despite the introduction of numerous

poverty alleviation schemes. A vital element of the petition focuses on how the rampant distribution of freebies in various states contributes to malpractices, discrimination, and the violation of human rights. Freebies, as highlighted in the petition, are goods and services provided free of cost to targeted populations. While they are often justified to offer immediate relief to vulnerable groups, the petitioner emphasizes that the underlying intent behind such distribution is often political. Freebies serve as a tool to lure voters by offering populist promises ranging from televisions, bicycles, and free electricity to subsidized water and household goods.

Critics of this practice argue that these short-term measures cultivate a culture of dependency and entitlement among beneficiaries. Such dependency diminishes the motivation to contribute productively to society and places an increasing burden on state resources and fiscal health. According to

Prof (Dr.) S N Tripathy

Tripathy, the misuse of government welfare schemes to distribute freebies leads to resource misallocation, compromises quality, and perpetuates inefficiency in the system. The petitioner highlights several key disadvantages associated with the unchecked distribution of freebies. First, it creates a negative pattern of dependency, where recipients come to expect more handouts in the future. This undermines personal initiative and discourages hard work, negatively impacting economic productivity. Moreover, it diverts resources that could otherwise be allocated to more sustainable development programs, causing a misalignment in policy priorities. Tripathy also notes that the quality of services and goods provided through such schemes often needs to improve due to the need to cater to a broad beneficiary base within limited fiscal constraints. In addition to addressing the misuse of welfare schemes, the NHRC is concerned about the broader issue of social security. This concern led the Commission to remind the Secretary of the Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment

further giveaways leads to a vicious cycle of entitlement, resentment when benefits are withheld, and dependency on political promises rather than systemic support. The NHRC, recognizing the potential human rights implications of the unchecked distribution of freebies, has decided to take up the matter with the government. In its order, the Commission directed the Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment to examine the issues raised by Adv. Tripathy and take appropriate action. The NHRC acknowledged the need for a detailed analysis of the issue of poverty in the country and called for the Ministry to develop long-term solutions for addressing citizens' conditions.

In addition to addressing the misuse of welfare schemes, the NHRC is concerned about the broader issue of social security. This concern led the Commission to remind the Secretary of the Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment

regarding implementing the Social Security Code, 2020. In another Petition, Adv. Tripathy referred to the Social Security Code, which was introduced in September 2020, designed to consolidate and streamline the provision of social security benefits across sectors. It aimed to cover all workers, including those in unorganized and informal sectors, through welfare programs such as Provident Fund Schemes, the Employees' State Insurance Corporation (ESIC), and provisions for occupational diseases and accidents. Despite the ambitious goals of the Code, its implementation could have been better at best. Tripathy's petition argues that the failure to enforce the Social Security Code has left many vulnerable populations without the safety net they were promised, particularly in the aftermath of the COVID-19 pandemic. The Code was supposed to establish a National Social Security Board and similar boards at the state level, tasked with

overseeing the provision of benefits to workers and ensuring that they receive adequate protection. However, according to the petitioner, these mechanisms have yet to be operationalized effectively, leaving a significant gap in the social safety net. Considering the lack of action on the part of the Ministry, the NHRC has issued multiple reminders, urging the government to expedite the submission of the Action Taken Report. The NHRC warned that failure to comply with its directives may lead to coercive measures under Section 13 of the Protection of Human Rights Act, 1993. This could include summoning the concerned authorities for a personal appearance before the Commission to explain the delays in implementing the Social Security Code and addressing the issues raised by Advocate Tripathy.

To this end, the recommendations presented by human rights activist Radhakanta Tripathy offer a roadmap for reform, particularly in

linking welfare benefits to Aadhaar and reconsidering the criteria for identifying vulnerable groups. Moreover, the NHRC's focus on the Social Security Code highlights the importance of implementing robust, legally binding measures to ensure that all citizens, especially those in the informal sector, receive the protection and benefits to which they are entitled. The outcome of this case will likely set a precedent for regulating freebies and providing welfare in India, marking a step toward more transparent, equitable, and accountable governance.

Human rights activist Tripathy has proposed several suggestions to mitigate the negative consequences of the current freebie culture, which the NHRC is reviewing. One notable recommendation is the mandatory linkage of welfare benefits with beneficiaries' Aadhaar cards. This would help ensure that only those eligible for the benefits receive them, thereby reducing the scope for corruption, ineligible beneficiaries, and multiple

claims on welfare resources. Furthermore, the petitioner emphasizes that the classification of beneficiaries, particularly those classified as Economically Weaker Sections (EWS), should be re-evaluated based on social behaviour and expenditures. Adv. Tripathy points out that individuals involved in the purchase and consumption of narcotics, liquor, and other non-essential commodities should not qualify for welfare benefits meant for genuinely vulnerable populations.

The timely legal action taken by Adv. Tripathy emphasizes the urgency of safeguarding welfare schemes from political exploitation. The NHRC's intervention underlines the imperative of balancing essential support for the vulnerable with sustainable development and equitable economic resource allocation.

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

Virendra Sharma's Commendable Journey- Punjab Village to British Parliament (Virendra Sharma's 50 Years of Public Service Lauded in International Conclave)



Eleanor Roosevelt, the esteemed wife of Franklin D. Roosevelt, the 32nd President of the United States, and a renowned diplomat and humanitarian, once aptly observed, "For our own success to be real, it must contribute to the success of others." This profound statement resonates deeply when reflecting on the significant contributions of Virendra Sharma throughout his remarkable tenure as the Member of Parliament for Ealing Southall, a position in which he distinguished himself across five consecutive elections.

To commemorate the invaluable service of the long-serving and widely respected Labour Party MP, Virendra Sharma (2007-2024), a special event was recently held at the House of Commons, UK Parliament. The programme was spearheaded by Bob Blackman, MP for Harrow East, and conceived by Nachiket Joshi, Founder of the World Leadership Forum, alongside Cllr Anjana Patel, Deputy

Mayor of Harrow. The event was skillfully moderated by Khushboo Shah, a well-regarded professional in cultural and social event hosting in London. The event brought together prominent leaders from both India and the United Kingdom, fostering collaboration and mutual understanding in the realms of governance, business, and cultural exchange. The highlight of the evening was the words of Martin Luther King Jr.: "If you can't fly then run, if you can't run then walk, if you can't walk then crawl, but whatever you do, you have to keep moving forward."

The centerpiece of the conclave was the celebration of Virendra Sharma's 50 years of exemplary public service. Dignitaries reflected his distinguished career as the Member of Parliament for Ealing Southall, where he served with unwavering dedication for nearly two decades. His journey echoes the words of American author Stephen Covey: "Life is not about accumulation. It is about contribution."

Indeed, Sharma's contributions to the Labour Party, the local community, and the broader British political landscape were lauded for their profound and lasting impact. The event was attended by a host of prominent dignitaries, including Seema Malhotra, Under-Secretary, Home Office; Shivani Raja, MP for Leicester East; Deirdre Costigan, MP for Ealing Southall; Tanmanjeet Singh Dhesi, MP for Slough; Andy Slaughter, MP for Hammersmith and Chiswick; Peter



Dr. Ravi Chaturvedi



Mason, Leader of Ealing Council; Bassam Mahfouz, Assembly Member for Ealing & Hillingdon; Deepak Choudhary, IPS, Minister Coordination at the Indian High Commission; and Umesh Patel, MP for Daman and Diu. Throughout the event, the achievements and accomplishments of the former parliamentarian resonated within the historic halls of the

House of Commons. Distinguished speakers highlighted his lifelong commitment to public service and his transformative contributions to British politics. His political career, spanning over five decades, began in the early 1970s, shortly after immigrating to the UK from India in 1968. He quickly became involved in local politics and his community,

championing social justice, equality, and immigrant rights. Sharma's early work as a local councillor in Ealing, where he represented Southall for over 25 years, addressed critical issues such as housing, education, and community cohesion. His advocacy for the South Asian community and other ethnic minorities continued into

his time in Parliament, where he championed immigration reform, healthcare, and education.

Sharma's legacy of dedication and perseverance was celebrated as a powerful and inspiring example of leadership, reflecting his tireless work to uplift and empower marginalized communities. Nachiket Joshi, the torchbearer of this decade-long initiative, emphasized the importance of good governance while commanding Virendra Sharma's exemplary leadership. In his remarks, Joshi noted, "Virendra Sharma's tireless commitment to public service is a shining example of integrity and dedication. His work has not only strengthened the community he serves but also elevated the standards of public office. His journey stands as an inspiration to leaders, reminding us that true progress comes from unwavering service to the people."

Joshi, while praising Sharma's efforts in fostering strong ties between his ancestral and adopted countries, seemed to echo the words of Tony Robbins, the American author and motivational speaker, who once said, "Only those who have learned the power of sincere and selfless contribution experience life's deepest joy: true fulfillment." In the concluding session, the Indian delegation, led by Joshi, was widely praised for their committed involvement, ensuring the conclave's success. The event's central theme—Women Empowerment and Sustainability—was explored in sessions held at both the House of Commons and the House of Lords. The grand finale, marked by dazzling performances, highlighted the interconnectedness of global cultures, fostering a sense of unity, inspiration, and education among diverse communities. Joshi's own hard work and determination in bringing the event to fruition reflect the words of Jesse Owens, the American athlete who won four gold medals at the 1936 Berlin Olympics: "We all have dreams. But to make dreams come into reality, it takes an awful lot of determination, dedication, self-discipline, and effort."

TV & Radio Cricket Commentator C/O Manish Chaturvedi 50 Dubois Street, Stamford, CT-06905 USA



Preparations for the immersions of the Durga idol. Photo - Arindam Bhattacharya

Andal Parivar Ashram in Burdwan district of Bengal provides good education and upbringing to orphan children.

New Delhi(Ahsan Ansari): There are very few people like Sanjay Singha, a famous social worker of Burdwan district of Bengal, in this

child to his ashram with the help of the administration, where they are given a good education and a good upbringing. He tries to

way. There are currently 24 orphan children in the ashram, who are provided with good education, good upbringing, good food.

for two meals a day. We try to make such children capable by giving them good education and upbringing so that when they grow up they have



country and the world. Sanjay Singha runs an ashram named Andal Parivar for orphan children and the destitute. Where he tries to make hundreds of orphan children good human beings with a good education. When Sanjay Singha sees an elderly or an orphan child begging at the railway station of Bengal, Bihar, Jharkhand, then Sanjay Singha brings the orphan

make the children capable of whatever they have, if any child is interested in any sport, Sanjay Singha gives that opportunity to the children. Recently, a child from the ashram has got admission in Kolkata Cricket from Burdwan district. If the children of any very poor family nearby need help in education, the Andal family comes forward to help in every possible

Sanjay Singha gets full support from the administrative officials for his excellent and noble work, recently some time ago journalist Ehsan Ansari from Delhi visited the ashram. Where in an interview given to journalist Ehsan, Sanjay Singha said that it is our resolution that there should not be any orphan child in our society, no child should need to beg

everything to live a good life - home, family, respect, honour. We have to give a good human being to the orphan children in the society and create a beautiful society. During the interview, he said that in our ashram, God has chosen many noble people for this work, who come to our ashram as helpers for the orphan children and help them in every way.

This decision was taken at a meeting of the core committee which was presided over by party Working President Balwinder Singh Bhundar, states a party release. The core committee noted that farmers were suffering due to the utter failure of the government to either procure paddy coming into the Mandis or get the same lifted in coordination with the central government. It

noted that this state of affairs had not been ever witnessed in the history of the State and asked chief minister Bhagwant Mann to wake up from his slumber and ensure farmers did not suffer or else resign from his chair. Briefing newsmen about the decisions of the core committee, senior leader Dr Daljit Singh Cheema said the core committee expressed concern at the manner in which the

AAP government had murdered democracy in the ongoing Panchayat elections. He said there were hundreds of instances where opposition candidates were not allowed to file nomination papers by turning them away, snatching their papers or even using violence to keep them away from offices of Returning Officers. He said with the State Election

Commission (SEC) also succumbing to pressure from the government and not adjudicating on complaints filed before it, it was left to the high court to ensure justice was done. He thanked the high court for restoring nomination papers with regard to 321 petitions filed before it. Dr Cheema said following this the SEC was also forced to cancel elections in 24 villages in

ICC mourns passing away of legend of Indian industry Ratan Tata

Kolkata(PARTHA ROY): Indian Chamber of Commerce (ICC) mourned passing away of doyen of Indian Industry Chairman Emeritus of Tata Group Shri Ratan Tata on 9th October 2024 in Mumbai

"Indian Chamber of Commerce deeply

regrets the passing away of Ratan Tata, noted industrialist, philanthropist, and former Chairman of Tata Sons at the age of 86. A void like this would be difficult to fill. This Corporate Doyen leaves behind a legacy of Leadership, Philanthropy and Values. The mark he has created in Indian Industry would be difficult to match.

Niira Radia Explains Why Ratan Tata Chose Singur For Nano Factory

New Delhi(KCN): The decision to build Nano, the ₹1 lakh car, in Bengal's Singur, had taken Ratan Tata's team by surprise, as did the price point of the car, Niira Radia, former chairperson of now-shut Vaisnava Communications -- which managed public relations for the Tata Group from 2000 to 2012 -- told NDTV in an exclusive interview today. Recalling Mr Tata and their decade-long association, Ms Radia described him as a dreamer and visionary who wanted to build a car that would keep the common man "out of rain".



Ratan Tata
(2012-2024)

Over 1 million employees and a market

capitalisation of over \$400 billion gives an indication of the height reached by Tata Group under him, where he was Chairman from 1991 to 2012. And his philanthropic works were all in silent and benefitted innumerable Indians. We will never forget him," said, Dr Rajeev Singh, Director General, Indian Chamber of Commerce

The left Front government had won the state assembly election 2006 on the promise of industrialization, development and jobs. The Nano project - announced by then Chief Minister Buddhadeb Bhattacharjee that May -- was seen as the vanguard of change. But of the 997 acres acquired by the state government, 347 acres became disputed. The farmers found a champion in Mamata Banerjee, who held a 26-day hunger strike drew attention across the country and ultimately changed the course of Bengal's future.

Procure each grain of paddy and lift it within 72 hours or be ready to face an agitation - SAD warns AAP govt

Chandigarh (JAG MOHAN THAKEN), October 13 - The Shiromani Akali Dal (SAD) on Sunday warned the Aam Aadmi Party (AAP) government to procure each and every grain of paddy and lift it from the Mandis in the State within 72 hours or be ready to face a sustained agitation to ensure justice to the farmers.

This decision was taken at a meeting of the core committee which was presided over by party Working President Balwinder Singh Bhundar, states a party release. The core committee noted that farmers were suffering due to the utter failure of the government to either procure paddy coming into the Mandis or get the same lifted in coordination with the central government. It

AAP government had murdered democracy in the ongoing Panchayat elections. He said there were hundreds of instances where opposition candidates were not allowed to file nomination papers by turning them away, snatching their papers or even using violence to keep them away from offices of Returning Officers. He said with the State Election

Commission (SEC) also succumbing to pressure from the government and not adjudicating on complaints filed before it, it was left to the high court to ensure justice was done. He thanked the high court for restoring nomination papers with regard to 321 petitions filed before it. Dr Cheema said following this the SEC was also forced to cancel elections in 24 villages in

Gidderbaha where papers of opposition candidates were rejected illegally. The core committee also took umbrage to the manner in which the Advocate General's office in Punjab was working against the interests of Punjabis by opposing the petitions of highhandedness filed by them. "This makes it clear that the AG Office is being used to crush the

democratic rights of the people instead of safeguarding them. The chief minister must clarify if he gave these instructions", the committee asked.

Meanwhile in an important development, Dr Cheema disclosed that an eleven-member committee led by party Working President Balwinder Singh Bhundar would approach the Sri Akal Takht Jathedar and apprise him of important developments vis a vis the complaint filed against the SAD president and other leaders before the Takht.

"The SAD president and the concerned leaders have already submitted their clarifications with regard to the complaints filed against them to the Takht with utmost



humidity. Now we are in the process of seeking an appointment with the Jathedar in this regard. We will make an important appeal to him based upon certain information with us", Dr Cheema added.

The core committee also condemned the murderous attack on journalist Ramesh Behal in Batala which the latter claimed was done at the behest of Batala legislator Sharry Kalsi.

It demanded a case be registered against the MLA and other guilty persons even as it appealed to civil society to stand up for freedom of the press. The committee also paid glowing obituaries to former Takht Patna Sahib President Mahinder Singh Romana and Tata group Chairman Ratan Tata on the occasion.

Odisha Chief Minister Mohan Majhi Performs Puja at Home During Dussehra in Keonjhar

Keonjhar (KCN): Odisha Chief Minister Mohan Majhi celebrated Dussehra by performing a special puja at his ancestral home in Raikela, Keonjhar. The Chief Minister, accompanied by his wife was warmly welcomed by the local residents as he arrived in his native village.

The puja, conducted early in the morning, was attended by a large number of villagers who gathered to catch a glimpse of the Chief Minister and seek his blessings. The atmosphere was filled with festive fervor as traditional rituals were performed to mark the auspicious occasion of



Vijayadashami. Speaking on the occasion, Chief Minister Majhi expressed his gratitude to the people of Keonjhar for their unwavering support and love. He emphasized the importance of cultural and religious traditions in strengthening community

bonds and fostering a sense of unity among the people. "Celebrating Dussehra at my home in Raikela is a deeply personal and spiritual experience for me. It allows me to reconnect with my roots and the people who have

always stood by me," said Majhi. He also extended his best wishes to the people of Odisha, hoping for peace, prosperity, and happiness for all. The local administration ensured tight security arrangements to

facilitate the smooth conduct of the event. The Chief Minister's visit to Keonjhar is part of his three-day tour of the district, during which he is expected to participate in various community events and interact with the local populace.

Technical survey report of Jagannath temple's Ratna Bhandar to be out soon: Minister



Bhubaneswar (KCN): The technical survey report of Ratna Bhandar in Puri's Jagannath temple is likely to be released soon, Odisha Law Minister Prithiviraj Harichandan said Sunday.

The Archaeological

Survey of India (ASI) had in September conducted the exercise, including the Ground Penetrating Radar (GPR) survey of the Ratna Bhandar (chambers of Lord Jagannath's treasury). "The state government

will get the GPR survey report in the next three to four days... If any hidden storage of some valuables is found, we will take necessary action. Otherwise, the ASI will start the repair and restoration work of the Ratna Bhandar,"

Harichandan told reporters here.

The Ratna Bhandar was opened after a gap of 46 years in July to take stock of the inventory of valuables and repair of the structure.

Ornaments and other valuable items from the inner and outer chambers of the treasury have been stored in a temporary strongroom inside the temple for the repair work.

Harichandan said the valuables will be moved back to the Ratna Bhandar after the restoration exercise is completed and an inventory is documented.

Another elephant carcass spotted in Athmallik forest



Sankhamal village reported the forest official after they spotted an elder elephant carcass in the village forest. Acting on it, the range officials visited the spot,

recovered the carcass and initiated an investigation into it. Worth mentioning, an elephant was reportedly killed in the Dhanatopa forest almost four days ago due to electrocution.

However, neither the Athmallik DFO nor the Range officer has yet

revealed any thing on

what led to the

pachyderm's death.

5 poachers held in Balangir for detusking elephant: Ivories recovered



Balangir (KCN): Balangir forest Range officials held at least 5 poachers for allegedly

killing an elephant and detusking it for trading its ivories. The ivories which were

about to be trafficked out of state, were recovered from the accused.

The Balangir Range

Southwest monsoon withdraws from large parts of Odisha

Bhubaneswar (KCN): Subarnapur, Bargarh, Sambalpur, Jharsuguda and Sundargarh districts," the Centre said far, the Bhubaneswar Meteorological Centre said Sunday.

It is expected to withdraw from the remaining districts over the next two days, weather scientist Umashankar Das of the Centre said. "The southwest monsoon has completely withdrawn

in a statement. It has also withdrawn from many parts of Bolangir, Kandhamal and Ganjam districts and some parts of Nuapada and Kalahandi districts, the statement said.



the remaining parts of the state over the next two days, it said. The southwest monsoon had entered the state on June 8 this year, four days ahead of its schedule.



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Brandon King, Evin Lewis drive West Indies to victory

New Delhi: West Indies won the first T20I by five wickets against Sri Lanka in Dambulla. Brandon King (63) and Evin Lewis (50) were the stars of the show as the duo were involved in a 107-run partnership for the first wicket chasing 179. Kamindu Mendis and Charith Asalanka scored brisk fifties for the hosts but it proved to be in vain.

Put in to bat, Pathum Nissanka and Kusal Mendis were cautious at the start with only 11 runs off the first two overs. Nissanka stepped on the accelerator in the third over with back-to-back boundaries off Romario

Shepherd. But he nicked the next ball behind to Shai Hope. Kusal Perera got off the mark with a boundary but was then castled by Shamar Joseph. This brought man in form Kamindu Mendis to the crease as he got off the mark with a pull to the boundary. Kusal hit a four and a six off Alzarri Joseph while Kamindu hit a brace of boundaries in the next over as the Lankans raced to 54 for 2 in the PowerPlay. A quiet over from Roston Chase brought about a wicket in the following over as Kusal missed a cut shot and was bowled off Gudakesh Motie.

Out came Charith Asalanka who along with Kamindu took the attack back to West Indies as the former hit three boundaries in the 12th over. Kamindu scored his second T20I 50 to continue his stellar form. But soon after, the batter fell to a pull, holing out in the deep. Asalanka hit two more fours in the same over as he brought up his 50 as well. However, he perished after skying one to deep-midwicket. Bhanuka Rajapaksa's cameo (17 off 10) guided Sri Lanka to a competitive 179 for 7.

West Indies began the chase menacingly. Evin

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West Indies began the chase menacingly. Evin

Lewis smashed Charith Asalanka who along with Kamindu Wickramasinghe for a six and a four. King at the

other end looked to be in a belligerent mood, scoring three boundaries off Asitha Fernando. The duo brought up the 50-run stand in 4.4 overs and a costly 16-run sixth over saw West Indies race to

74 for 0 in the PowerPlay. King brought up his 50 with a six and a four off Pathirana. His partner caught up to him in the next over with two massive sixes off Hasaranga. The left-hander finally succumbed to a low catch at backward point in the following over.

Sri Lanka managed to pull things back with quick wickets of Shai Hope and King across two overs. New batters Chase and Rovman Powell weren't able to continue the onslaught and the scoring rate slowed down. A crucial 16th over saw West Indies score two

boundaries in the 12-run over. Powell's rusty innings came to an end as he was caught in the deep while Chase nicked one behind to Pathirana. With 13 needed off 12 balls, West Indies ran their two hard and Sherfane Rutherford sealed the win with a boundary with four balls to spare.

Brief Scores: Sri Lanka 179/7 in 20 overs (Charith Asalanka 59, Kamindu Mendis 51; Romario Shepherd 2-39, Gudakesh Motie 1-16) lost to West Indies 180/5 in 19.1 overs (Brandon King 63, Evin Lewis 50; Matheesha Pathirana 2-27, Kamindu Mendis 1-14)

Ali Khan returns; USA drop Steven Taylor and Nitish Kumar for Nepal T20Is

New Delhi (KCN): Former captain Steven Taylor has been dropped from the T20I squad for the series against Nepal later in the week. The 31-year-old, who had been wrestling with poor form throughout the world cup and the 50-over series in Netherlands has been axed. Taylor was part of the T20I squad in the Netherlands but was 'rested' after picking up an injury in the 50-over series that preceded the T20I series.

Cricbuzz understands that Taylor was still 'recuperating' from his injuries before the team set sail for the Namibia tour which was widely believed to be the reason for his absence from the touring party. The big-hitting southpaw proved

his form and fitness with twin hundreds in the recently-concluded Minor League T20 but those remain overlooked.

Also shown the door was Nitish Kumar after averaging 13 in his past 7 innings since the world cup. The former Canada captain, who switched sides in the lead up to the T20 world cup earlier this year, found his form waning after an impressive innings of 27 against India. Smit Patel's ascendancy in American cricket has once again been marred by a groin injury that will keep him out of action for six weeks, effectively sidelining him for the 50-over tri-series following the T20I series.

USA though will be buoyed with their

talismanic fast bowler Ali Khan. The 33-year-old is set to turn out in USA colours for the first time post world cup after opting to skip the Netherlands tour and being further out of action owing to a leg injury that saw him miss a CPL season with

Trinidad and Tobago Knight Riders.

Aaron Jones is back in the mix after preferring to play in the CPL for the St. Lucia Kings over touring Namibia with USA. It is understood that Jones may have been ignored for the Nepal series if not for his heroic innings in the CPL final

that made waves in the cricketing world. Monank Patel will be back to captain the side after a shoulder niggle had him asking for rest in the T20Is in Namibia. Utkarsh Srivastava retains his place in the side for the third straight USA tour. Srivastava, 17, has featured once out of 15 games USA has featured in since his announcement in the squad.

Squad: Monank Patel (Captain), Andries Gous, Abhishek Parakar, Ayan Desai, Harmeet Singh, Juanoy Drysdale, Milind Kumar, Ali Khan, Nosthusha Kenjige, Jasdeep Singh, Aaron Jones, Saiteja Mukkamalla, Shayan Jahangir, Utkarsh Srivastava, Yasir Mohammad.

UEFA Nations League: England return to winning ways with 3-1 Finland win

New Delhi: England bounced back from their loss against Greece with a convincing 3-1 win in Group B2 with nine points, tied with leaders Greece. Finland, on the other hand, remained at the bottom without a point. England were looking for a response after their loss to Greece at Wembley and were given the ideal start by Grealish. Alexander-Arnold and Rice scored for England against Finland. England are second in Group F with 9 points.

England will next face

Greece on November 14 and Ireland on November 17. England bounced back from their loss to Greece with a 3-1 win over Finland at the Helsinki Olympic Stadium on Sunday, thanks to goals from Jack Grealish, Trent Alexander-Arnold, and Declan Rice. The victory revived England's Nations League campaign after a disappointing defeat, leaving them second in Group B2 with nine points, tied with leaders Greece. Finland, on the other hand, remained at the bottom without a point. England were looking for a response after their loss to Greece at Wembley and were given the ideal start by Grealish. The Manchester City midfielder opened the scoring in the 18th minute, netting his fourth goal for England after Angel Gomes cleverly set him up with a sharp pass. Alexander-Arnold extended England's lead in the 74th minute with a stunning 20-meter free-kick that curled over the wall into the top corner. Ten minutes later, Rice capped off the scoring by tapping in Ollie Watkins' cross after a surging run. Carsley's decision to return to a more traditional formation, with captain Harry Kane leading the attack after recovering from injury, paid off after his experimental approach against Greece had been widely criticized. Sunday's win keeps England's hopes of promotion to League A alive, but they will likely need a victory in their upcoming rematch against Greece in Athens on November 14.

Powerful Australia reach semi-final leaving India's position dicey

New Delhi: India were left hanging by a thread following a nine-run loss to Australia in a decisive clash at the Sharjah Cricket Stadium. Harmanpreet Kaur scored a valiant unbeaten 54* and threatened to pull the rug from under the world champions in the closing stages of a tense chase of 151. However, there was no miracle, no great escape of which to speak. As a glut of wickets fell in the final over, the Indian captain was pictured hunched over her bat at the non-striker's end, crestfallen with the reality of the qualification scenario looming large. India now need Pakistan to do them a favour in tomorrow's clash against New Zealand. The holders, on the other hand, sealed qualification to yet another World Cup semifinal.

Harmanpreet will revisit different parts of this game in her debrief. Among those will be a five-over stretch between overs 8 and 13 that brought just 25 runs with the experienced pair of Kaur and Deepa

Sharma hunkering down to rebuild to try and take the chase deep. That meant, India allowed the asking rate to climb up above 10. In the context of the game itself, it wasn't all that bad. They were 99 for 3 after 15 overs compared to Australia's 101 for 5. But where Australia are blessed with hitting power right through their line-up, India were reliant on Harmanpreet to do most of the heavy lifting. Batting on 27 off 31 at that stage, Harmanpreet kicked into gear and managed to get to a 44-ball half-century, hitting two fours of Ash Gardner in the 18th over and another off Sophie Molineux in the 19th. But having brought the equation down from 40 off 18 to 14 off 6, she found herself away from the strike after the first ball of the final over and was powerless to have any say as Annabel Sutherland (2 for 22) produced a fine display of death-overs bowling.

India, who lost a final and semifinal to Australia in the last two T20 World Cups, found themselves

having to chase again after stand-in skipper Tahlia McGrath called right at the toss. Almost immediately, Harmanpreet was left to do some eleventh-hour firefighting as Asha Sobhana picked up a knee injury during the warm-ups and had to be replaced by Radha Yadav.

Radha found herself in the hot zone on the field right away as she held on to a sharp catch at backward point to dismiss Beth Mooney in the third over. The bowler, Renuka Thakur, made it two from two balls when she got the next delivery to bend in to Georgia Wareham and struck her pad to win an LBW shout. The movement in the air was exaggerated and the decision would have been overturned if Australia's No.3 had opted to review.

The double strike brought together McGrath and Grace Harris. Australia's captain got going with a tuck through fine leg for four against the fit-again Pooja Vastrakar. With Renuka bowling a good

three-over spell, India were able to keep Australia down to a PowerPlay score of 37 for 2, conceding just three boundaries to the batters. However, McGrath and Harris went through their gears steadily as their partnership flourished. Twenty-eight runs came off the next four overs with both batters picking up a boundary each in Vastrakar's second over. McGrath, the more free-flowing of the two batters, was reprieved

when Harmanpreet put down a straightforward chance at cover. However, no damage was done as Radha had McGrath stumped two balls later in the same over for a 26-ball 32. Harris found some rhythm in the following over with a pair of boundaries off Arundhati Reddy but no sooner did she push her strike-rate to 100, than she was dismissed for a 41-ball 40 after pulling Deepa Patil for a four and then heaving the over

wicket. Australia also lost Ash Gardner in the following over leaving them at 101 for 5 after 15 overs. While that may have pushed another team into taking conservative options to bat out the full quota of overs, the depth in Australia's ranks allowed them to keep going. Veteran all-rounder Elyse Perry re-injected momentum to the innings by pulling Shreyanka Sharma straight to mid-

sweep. Her shot ended straight down the throat of long-on and she was dismissed for a 13-ball 20. India continued to force the pace in the PowerPlay as Jemimah Rodrigues played two exquisite lofted shots off Annabel Sutherland for fours. However, they were dealt another setback in the sixth over as Smriti Mandhana was trapped LBW by Sophie Molineux with her first ball. India slipped to 48 for 3 after the seventh over as Rodrigues' enterprise ended with a pull shot off Schutt that went straight down deep mid-wicket's throat.

Harmanpreet and Deepa put on 63 off 55 balls from that point on. As it turned out, it wasn't enough to get India over the line in the final act of the game.

Brief scores: Australia 151/8 in 20 overs (Grace Harris 40, Elyse Perry 32; Renuka Thakur 2-24, Deepa Sharma 2-28) beat India 142/9 in 20 overs (Harmanpreet Kaur 54*; Annabel Sutherland 2-22) by nine runs.



Printed, Published & Owned by Arabinda Mekap & Printed at Mayur Offset Printers, D-1/1, See A, Zone-D, Manchesar Industrial Estate, Bhubaneswar-751010, Dist.-Khordha & Published at N-4, IRC Village, Nayapalli, Bhubaneswar, Dist.-Khordha, Pin 751015, Phone: (0674) 2550751/2555116, Fax No.: 0674-2550504, E-mail: kalingachronicle@gmail.com, editorpbkc@gmail.com Editor: Dr. Pabitra Mohan Samantray