

Private bus operators in 14 Odisha districts to go on strike from Today



Bhawanipatna(KCN): Private bus operators in 14 districts of Odisha announced a 24-hour strike beginning Monday evening, opposing buses being run under a state government scheme to connect blocks to district headquarters.

The strike will begin at 6pm Monday and continue till 6pm Tuesday in 14 districts in the western and southern districts of the state, Kalahandi Private Bus Owners' Association president Prabodh Rath said.

"We don't want to create problems for commuters. However, for our livelihood, we have called the strike opposing the

state government's decision to run LAccMI buses from blocks to district headquarters," he added. Western and Southern Odisha Private Bus Owner's Association convenor Pravin Khamari said that although initially LAccMI buses were meant to run between panchayats and blocks, on the contrary, they were running services between blocks and district headquarters and that too at a subsidised fare. "The private buses which have valid route permits are facing acute financial losses because of it," he said. Khamari said if the

government does not act even after the strike, the agitation will be intensified.

The strike is likely to affect bus services in Kalahandi, Nuapada, Nabarangpur, Malkangiri, Koraput, Rayagada, Gajapati, Bolangir, Subarnapur, Sambalpur, Bargarh, Sundargarh and Deogarh during the Durga Puja.

Transport Minister Bibhuti Bhusan Jena said the state government was committed to providing affordable bus services to the people. He said a meeting has been convened with representatives of bus operators Monday morning to discuss their issues

Balasore,(KCN): The OSSC Statistical Assistant Recruitment Exam held in Balasore on Sunday was marred by allegations of a paper leak, leading to chaos at the examination center. Aspirants claimed that the seal on the question paper packet was found open before the exam commenced, raising suspicions of a leak. The incident occurred at an exam center in Gopalgaon, where candidates noticed the unsealed question paper



packet and immediately raised concerns. The situation escalated when some aspirants alleged that the CCTV footage from the exam center had been tampered with, further fueling the

controversy. One of the candidates, Goura Hari Sahu, reported being detained by invigilators after he raised the issue. "I noticed the question paper seal was already

open when we were in the exam hall. When we demanded to check the CCTV footage, they did not show us the videos and detained me instead," Sahu stated. The authorities, however, dismissed the allegations, attributing the open seal to a technical glitch and denying any irregularities. They assured that the exam was conducted following due procedures and that no candidate was prevented from taking the test.

Odisha CM on three-day visit to New Delhi to attend Home Ministry review meet on Maoist-related issues



Bhubaneswar(KCN): Odisha Chief Minister Mohan Charan Majhi Sunday left for New Delhi on a three-day official visit.

Majhi is scheduled to attend a review meeting on Maoist-related issues organised by the Ministry of Home Affairs Monday morning.

officials said. Union Home Minister Amit Shah will chair the meeting with the Chief Ministers of left-wing extremism (LWE) affected states at Vigyan Bhawan.

In addition to Majhi, Chief Ministers from Andhra Pradesh, Bihar, Chhattisgarh, Jharkhand, Telangana, Maharashtra, and Madhya Pradesh are expected to participate in the meeting. The Chief Minister is scheduled to return Tuesday.

India To Become Next Chip Manufacturing Hub: Ashwini Vaishnaw

Bengaluru(KCN): Union Minister for Electronics and IT Ashwini Vaishnaw has said that India is moving towards becoming the next semiconductor hub for the world as big investment is happening in this sector in the country.

Minister Vaishnaw referred to a recent roundtable in New York between Prime Minister Narendra Modi and top tech CEOs and said that in the discussion three

top executives had said they had not seen this kind of enthusiasm for any country in the last 35 to 40 years.

The Central government has cleared five semiconductor manufacturing proposals, with a total combined investment nearing ₹ 1.52 lakh crore.

The Union Minister further said Micron Technology will roll out the first made-in-India chips by early 2025. The construction work of the

CG power semiconductor facility is going on. And in Tata's ATMP facility in Assam, construction work is going on very well, he said.

Earlier, the Minister said the growth of the

semiconductor industry in India will further boost PM Modi's vision.

Semiconductor is a foundational industry. Chips manufactured in the industry are used in medical instruments, mobile phones, laptops, cars, trucks, trains, televisions and practically every device.

All the initiatives taken so far, whether it is the Digital India Mission or the telecom mission, have brought technology into the hands of common citizens.

As per the career advancement policy of the teachers, the junior teachers (schematic), also called Sikshya Sahayaks and junior teachers (contractual), have been regularised against the post of Level-V (A) of the elementary teachers cadre after completion of six years of continuous and satisfactory service, the department said.

In no case, untrained junior teachers and those who have not qualified for the Odisha Teachers' Eligibility Test (OTET) will be regularised, it said. On Saturday, the state government also gave appointment letters to 16,009 newly recruited junior teachers in primary and upper primary schools under various schemes.

Chief Minister Mohan Majhi handed over some of the appointment letters during a function at Kalinga Stadium here in the presence of Union Education Minister Dharmendra Pradhan.

17 Students Face Disciplinary Action in Berhampur University Ragging Incident

Berhampur(KCN): In a significant move to curb ragging, Berhampur University has taken disciplinary action against 17 students following an investigation into a ragging incident that occurred on September 21. The university's Disciplinary Committee, in collaboration with a Deputy Superintendent of Police (DSP), conducted a thorough probe based on complaints filed by first-year students with the University Grants

Commission's (UGC) Anti-Ragging Cell. The investigation revealed that a group of second-year students had mentally harassed and ragged first-year

students in their hostel. As a result, four students have been ordered to vacate the hostel within a week, while 13 others have been fined ₹ 1,000 each and directed to

submit written undertakings.

Vice-Chancellor Gitanjali Das emphasized the university's zero-tolerance policy towards ragging and reiterated the institution's commitment to ensuring a safe and supportive environment for all students. The university has also strengthened its anti-ragging measures, including increased surveillance and awareness programs to prevent such incidents in the future.

Pro-Palestinian, pro-Israeli crowds rally across world on eve of Oct 7 anniversary



Paris: Crowds were participating in pro-Palestinian and pro-Israeli protests and memorial events across the world Sunday on the eve of the first anniversary of the Hamas attacks on Israel. Sunday's events follow massive rallies that took place Saturday in several European cities, including London, Berlin, Paris and Rome. Other events are scheduled through the week, with an expected peak Monday, the date of the anniversary.

In Australia, thousands of people on Sunday protested in support of Palestinians and Lebanon in various cities, while a pro-Israeli rally also took place in Melbourne. Samantha Gazal, who

came to the rally in Sydney, said she was there "because I can't believe our government is giving impunity to a violent extremist nation and has done nothing.... We're watching the violence play out on livestream, and they're doing nothing."

In Melbourne, supporters of Israel held up posters showing Israeli hostages who are still missing. "We feel like we didn't do anything to deserve this," said Jeremy Weinstein, one of the participants. "We're just supporting our brothers and sisters who are fighting a war that they didn't invite."

At a rally in Berlin, near the Brandenburg Gate, hundreds of pro-Israeli demonstrators set off up

the famed Unter den Linden behind a banner that read "Against all antisemitism," accompanied by a police escort. With many Israel flags waving over head, some Jewish leaders led a song about "shalom" — peace — while marchers chanted "Free Gaza from Hamas!" and "Bring them home," referring to hostages still held in the Gaza strip. Some in the crowd held up photos of hostages still held by Hamas. Photos of several women featured the word "Kidnapped" in German. Memorial events organized by the Jewish community for those killed in the Oct. 7 attack and prayers for those still in captivity were also to

be held in Paris and London on Sunday afternoon. Security forces in several countries warned of heightened levels of alert in major cities, amid concerns that the escalating conflict in the Middle East could inspire new terror attacks in Europe or that some of the protests could turn violent. On Sunday, Italy's

Pope Francis, celebrating his Sunday Angelus prayer from the Vatican, issued a new appeal for peace "on every front."

Francis also urged his audience not to forget the many hostages still held in Gaza, asking for "their immediate liberation." The pope called for a day of prayer and fasting on Monday, the first anniversary of the attack. On Oct. 7 last year, Hamas launched a surprise attack into Israel, killing 1,200 Israelis, taking 250 people hostage and setting off a war with Israel that has shattered much of the Hamas-controlled Gaza Strip. More than 41,000 Palestinians have been killed since then in Gaza, according to the Gaza Health Ministry, which

does not differentiate between fighters and civilians. It says more than half were women and children.

Nearly 100 Israeli hostages remain in Gaza, with fewer than 70 believed to be alive. Israelis have experienced attacks — missiles from Iran and Hezbollah, explosive drones from Yemen, fatal shootings and stabbings — as the region braces for further escalation.

In late September, Israel shifted some of its focus to Hezbollah, which holds much of the power in parts of southern Lebanon and some other areas of the country, attacking the militants with exploding pagers, airstrikes and, eventually, incursions into Lebanon.

Odisha govt regularises services of 9,200 junior teachers

Bhubaneswar(KCN): Odisha government regularised the services of 9,200 junior teachers engaged in primary and upper primary schools under the 'Samagra Shiksha' scheme, according to an official document. The School and Mass Education Department communicated the decision to the Director of Elementary Education Saturday.



As per the career advancement policy of the teachers, the junior teachers (schematic), also called Sikshya Sahayaks and junior teachers (contractual), have been regularised against the post of Level-V (A) of the elementary teachers cadre after completion of six years of continuous and satisfactory service, the department said.

In no case, untrained junior teachers and those who have not qualified for the Odisha Teachers' Eligibility Test (OTET) will be regularised, it said. On Saturday, the state government also gave appointment letters to 16,009 newly recruited junior teachers in primary and upper primary schools under various schemes.

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Rohit Patro, Student of Central University of Odisha, Shines with Gold and Silver at Commonwealth Powerlifting Championship

Koraput, (KCN): Rohit Patro, a first-year student from the M a t h e m a t i c s Department of Central University of Odisha, Koraput, has made India and his University and his hometown Koraput proud by securing a Gold medal in Deadlift and a Silver medal in Bench Press in the 120kg+ Sub-Junior category at the Commonwealth Powerlifting Championship held in Sun City, South Africa. Competing against top athletes like England's Will Anders and Northern Ireland's Zack Graham, Rohit's

remarkable performance stood out on the global stage. Hon'ble Vice-Chancellor of the Central University of Odisha, Prof. Chakradhar Tripathi, congratulated Rohit for his outstanding achievements, highlighting how his success brought pride not only to the University but also to the entire nation. "Rohit's victory is a landmark moment, not just for him but for our university, our state, and our country. His dedication and perseverance have placed him among the world's powerlifting



elite. This achievement also shines a light on Koraput, a land known for its tribal heritage and scenic beauty, now recognized for producing a powerlifting champion," Prof. Tripathi said. Rohit credits his father and brother as his greatest inspirations, attributing their constant support as the driving force behind his success. His journey to the Commonwealth Games was paved with earlier victories, including three Gold medals and one Silver at the National Powerlifting

Competition held in Shri Ganganager, Rajasthan. In addition to excelling in sports, Rohit continues to balance his academic pursuits as an undergraduate student of Integrated Mathematics, adding further distinction to his achievements. The entire university community congratulated Rohit and has come together to celebrate his remarkable success. Rohit Patro has firmly established himself as a rising star in Indian powerlifting and a role model for the youth of Koraput and beyond.

Hope Springs from Oil Discovery in Puri



Bhubaneswar, (Prasar Khuntia): The exploration of natural gas and oil in the Mahalapada and Banakhandi areas of the GOP block in Puri district, Odisha has reignited hopes for a significant breakthrough. Oil India Company has begun discussions with local farmers for land acquisition with optimism high for successful oil and gas extraction. Preparations by the local administration are already in motion. According to Kanhu Sahu, Chief Engineer (Administration) at Oil

India, Orei and Telikusum Mauza in Mahalapada Panchayat were first identified during a seismic survey conducted in 2019. In a recent meeting at the Mahalapada Panchayat office attended by Sarapanch Shirsha Ranjan Nayak, the company engaged in talks with farmers regarding the acquisition of 9 acres of land in Orei and Telikusum. Oil India plans to lease the land for three years offering ₹15,000 per acre annually. Under this agreement, 27 identified farmers will receive compensation and

excavation work is set to begin soon. Additionally, Oil India has outlined plans to improve infrastructure at the excavation site. The company has also committed to providing ₹1.04 lakh to each child aged 18 to 32 from the affected families to support their education. In 2022, Oil India successfully acquired 8 acres in Kusupur following the discovery of natural gas in the GOP block's Kusupur and Mahalapada Chitra areas. However, after drilling 1,200 meters in Kusupur, operations

were paused due to the presence of a dense stone layer prompting a shift in focus to the Chitra area of Mahalapada. With the second discovery of oil and gas in Orei and Telikusum, the atmosphere in the region is filled with excitement. Local farmers are optimistic that these new findings will drive development and prosperity for the area. Oil India has indicated that after acquiring the land drilling could extend up to 3,000 meters to fully assess the potential for oil and natural gas extraction.

Jindal Stainless Limited Enhances Community Welfare Through CSR Initiatives.

Kalingnagar, (KCN) :- Jindal Stainless Limited, a leading company in, Jajpur District, is actively involved in enhancing the welfare of the peripheral community through its Corporate Social Responsibility initiatives. Recently, it organized "Swachhata hin Seva" program in Solei village of Dangadi, under which garbage dumps in three places of the said village were cleaned and different kinds of flower trees were planted in the said places. Among the guests of honor, Danagadi BDO- Mr. Sarada Prasanna Panda, RWSS Officer- Mr Diptimanta Mallik, Trijanga GP Officer Kamini Sahu and officers from CSR and Environment Department of Jindal Stainless participated in the tree planting program. Apart from this, Jindal aims to make Solei



a model waste-free village by collecting wet and dry garbage daily and educating the residents on environmental issues. In this program, Self Help Group of Solei Village, members of Kishori Girls Mandal and students of the school took major part in planting trees and Jindal Stainless Limited will fully cooperate to make Solei Village a waste free village. A drawing

competition was organized on the occasion, especially at Solei Primary School, where more than 30 children participated and received prizes from the chief guest, Mr. Satya Narayan Nayak. In another initiative, Jindal Stainless Limited launched a sewing training center at Manpada village in Rangundi panchayat, benefiting more than 40 women trainees from the

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Nia Sharma makes special Navratri delicacy; shares pics

Actress Nia Sharma showcased her cooking skills she learnt on the sets of the culinary show she was a part of as she made the perfect Navratri delicacy. The actress, who seems to be fasting on the occasion of Navratri, took to Instagram stories, where she shared a glimpse of sabudana tikkis cooked to perfection. Proud of what she made, the actress tagged Chef Harpal Singh Sokhi, who is the judge of "Laughter Chefs Fun Unlimited" and wrote "look what I have made". She then tagged her co-contestant Aly Goni, who

won maximum stars in the show and said: "You have competition. Who said the Laughter Chef got over".

Celebrated twice in a year for nine days, Navratri is one of the biggest Hindu festivals, where avatars of Goddess Durga are worshiped for nine days. Devotees often observe fast and avoid grains, white salt, meat, garlic and onion among many other things.

Talking about Nia, she will be seen as one of the contestants in the 18th edition of the controversial reality show "Bigg Boss" hosted by Salman Khan.



On September 30, Nia shared a series of goofy pictures with the star cast of the cooking-based television show

celebrate the laughter and connections forged during its run. Taking to Instagram, Nia posted a gamut of photos from the celebrations held at Ankita Lokhande and her husband Vicky Jain's residence. The post also captures candid and goofy moments with fellow cast members Arjun Bijlani, Krushna Abhishek, Kashmira Shah, and Aly Goni. Nia captioned the post, "This is us..VIBE: Pure Goals #laugherteachers... Probably the nicest time ever on a set... onscreen and offscreen it was only love and laughter throughout."

"Laughter Chefs Unlimited Entertainment" is all set to air its last episode in October.

As per an insider, "Laughter Chefs season one is all set to air its last episode in October, due to the upcoming season of the controversial reality show 'Bigg Boss'."

"Earlier the channel had conveyed all the actors and asked for their dates till January, 2025. However, the final contract was not signed with the actors. Extension is not happening anymore, and the show will air its last episode in October," added the sources.

Sonam Kapoor shares a glimpse of her 'breakfast of champions'

Hindi film actress and fashionista Sonam Kapoor Saturday shared a peek into what her "breakfast of champions" looks like. Sonam took to her Instagram stories, where she shared a picture of her hand filled with pills. A pill box can be seen placed next to her. She did not reveal what the pills are for but going by the doctor's bio on the photo-sharing website, it suggests that she is taking pills for detox for "gut and skin". The doctor's bio reads as "LA Naturopathic Doc/CEO... Gut, skin, hormones." Last month, Sonam expressed her affinity for

roles that originate from literary works, highlighting her passion for stories that transition from page to screen. Sonam, who is the brand ambassador for Word to Screen at MAMI Mumbai Film Festival (Mumbai Academy of Moving Image) in partnership with Soho House Mumbai.

"As an actor, I have always believed that a film is only as good as its script. It is imperative to encourage writers and publishers through an ecosystem like Word to Screen where they can ideate and collaborate with filmmakers who can bring their vision to screen in the most authentic and

dynamic manner," she had said. The actress had added: "As an avid reader, I am often drawn to roles that have been adapted from books. Such characters also bring a depth that is important to their evolution from paper to screen."

On September 2, the actress revealed that she is set to start shooting her first project post-pregnancy early next year and said that she loves living so many interesting characters through her profession. Sonam confirmed: "I'm super excited to face the camera again post my pregnancy. I love being an actor and I love living so many interesting characters through my profession. Human beings fascinate me and I love playing varied roles. I'm looking forward to my next." The actress' next will be a streaming project on a global platform. Details related to the project are still under wraps.



Breakfast of champions. Edmigmaralib

India's Best Dancer Returns With Season 4: 'Jab Dil Kare Dancer Kar!'



Dancing stirs diverse emotions, offering a dynamic way to express feelings. Sony Entertainment Television urges viewers to experience this emotional spectrum with the upcoming season of its homegrown dance reality show, 'India's Best Dancer - Season 4.'

Heightening the glamour quotient of the show will be Bollywood's dancing diva, Karisma Kapoor who takes on the role as a judge. And, joining her in this journey will be Terence Lewis, and Geeta Kapur, as they reprise their role as judges this season.

Produced by Frames Production Company Promising a captivating journey of extraordinary talent and electrifying dance moves the fourth season of the much-cherished dance reality show urges viewers, 'Jab Dil Kare Dance Kar!'

In all of 90 seconds on the clock during the auditions, the contestants must showcase three power moves to impress the judges, also known as E.N.T specialists to go ahead in the show. Evaluated based on the criteria

'Entertainment,' 'Newness,' and 'Technique' this season's new judge Karisma Kapoor will look at the 'Entertainment' factor, Geeta Kapur will keep a keen eye on the 'Newness' element and Terence Lewis will focus on the 'Technique' of the overall performance.

Introducing a new game changer this season, the contestants will be given a compelling task called 'Mauka Ya Chauka' where the contestants who get the best buzzer from the judges will face this challenge.

Opting for 'Mauka' ensures direct entry into the Top 12, bypassing the Mega Auditions, while choosing 'Chauka' involves a dance-off against a former contestant of the show who is now a part of the jury panel.

Then comes the Mega Auditions where the selected contestants battle it out in pairs of trios to move into the next round. And last comes the Grand Premiere where the judges will announce the Top 12 contestants as the 'Best Barah' who will be introduced to their respective mentors in their journey ahead.

Judges share their excitement, promising a spectacular season filled with extraordinary talent and captivating performances.

Karisma Kapoor said, 'As a judge this season, I am thrilled to witness the evolution of dance styles and the boundless creativity of our contestants. This platform not only celebrates talent but also fosters a spirit of innovation and perseverance among participants. I am eager to embark on this

journey alongside Terence and Geeta, where we aim to inspire, empower, and elevate each dancer's performance to new heights.'

Celebrating talent, diversity, and sheer entertainment, India's Best Dancer Season 4 promises a dynamic fusion of dance, expression, and emotion. Terence Lewis said, 'As we embark on another exhilarating journey with India's Best Dancer Season 4, I am thrilled

to return to the judges' panel. This show is a beacon for dance enthusiasts nationwide, offering a platform for raw talent to shine. It's truly gratifying to witness the evolution of dance forms and witness fresh, innovative performances that redefine creativity.' Hosted by Jay Bhanushali and ex-contestant Aniket Chauhan, India's Best Dancer Season 4 starts 13th July.

Sharing her excitement for this season, Geeta Kapur said, 'Being part

of India's Best Dancer Season 4 fills me with immense joy and anticipation. Each season brings forth a new wave of talent that redefines the boundaries of dance. I am eager to witness the passion and dedication of our contestants as they showcase their unique styles and stories on stage. This platform continues to inspire and uplift, celebrating dance in its myriad forms.'

India's Best Dancer Season 4 airs every Saturday and Sunday at 8 pm only on Sony Entertainment Television.

Compulsory Tax Audit Penalty can't be imposed in which cases Part 2



Adv. Narayan Jain & CA Dilip Loyalka

(Contd from 30.9.2024)

9. Consequences for failure to get the accounts audited or not furnishing audit report in time: The failure to get accounts audited within specified date u/s 44AB or failure to furnish audit report one month before the due date of furnishing return of income u/s 139(1) or 142(1)(i) may attract penalty u/s 271B, which shall be lower of the following -

(i) half per cent of total sales, turnover or gross receipts, or
(ii) Rs. 1,50,000/- w.e.f. asst year 2011-12.

10. What happens when assessee gets his accounts audited u/s 44AB within prescribed time, but furnishes belated return enclosing the report of Tax Audit: W.e.f. asst. year 2020-21, the due date of furnishing tax audit report is one month before due date of furnishing return of income.

11. In case auditor's report u/s 44AB is prejudicial to assessee:

should adopt judicial approach and consider all attendant circumstances. 12. In what circumstances penalty u/s 271B may not be imposed: In response to show cause notice issued by A.O. if the assessee proves that there was reasonable cause for said failure, penalty u/s 271B shall not be imposed. Penalty u/s 271B is not automatic - CIT v. Ramkrishna Stores 253 ITR 175 (Cal.); CIT v. Haryana Agro Services [2005] 279 ITR 113 (P&H). Therefore, it is advisable to submit written explanation before concerned officer giving cogent reasons for delay and relevant evidences like doctor's certificate or proof of strike, lock out etc. should also be submitted.

13. Decisions about penalty u/s 271B: Following decisions are relevant:

(a) Delhi Bench of ITAT has held in Chandra Sudhir Kumar v. I.T.O. (Delhi-Trib.) [1996] 86 Taxman 272 (ITAT Delhi), that the question of obligatory audit u/s 44AB would arise only when books of account were maintained. In a case when income was returned and assessed on estimated profit rate basis in absence of books of account being maintained by assessee, penalty could not be levied u/s 271B.

(b) Jaipur Bench of

ITAT has held in case of Prabhulal Sahu v. I.T.O. [1995] 83 Taxman (ITAT- Jaipur) 177: [1995] 52 TTJ (JR) 137, that if there was delay in finalisation and audit of accounts of immediately preceding year, which led to delay in finalising accounts for the year under consideration and getting them audited, no penalty was leviable u/s 271B as there was no deliberate or malafide attempt on the part of assessee to commit default. Similar views were expressed in Arun Kumar Bhuwalka [1992] 44 TTJ (Cal.) 84: 40 ITD 373.

(c) Ahmedabad Bench of ITAT has held in ACIT v. Roop Textiles [1996] 86 Taxman (ITAT Ahmedabad) 123 that penalty could not be levied u/s 271B if delay in getting accounts audited and filing audit report was caused because of search and seizure operation carried out by department and disturbed situation in city.

(d) Work of filing return and complying with other statutory requirements entrusted to auditors. Failure on part of auditors to actually comply with said requirement. Partners of assessee- firm not much educated and hence not supposed

to be acquainted with intricate provisions of Income-tax Act, has been held to be reasonable cause for delay-Bangalore Steel Distributors v. ITO [1994] 50 TTJ (Bang) 1: 49 ITD 668.

(e) Late submission

of earlier year's return,

unfamiliarity with

prescribed procedure,

doubt about validity of

provisions of section

44AB, low income

resulting in refund of tax

all together constituted

reasonable cause for

delay in getting accounts

audited- Asst. CIT v.

Mandavilli Venkateswara

Rao [1992] 44 TTJ (Hyd.)

40 ITD 373.

(f) Audit report u/s

44AB ready with

auditors by due date, but

could not be obtained and

furnished due to

communal riots and

illness of assessee's

father. Certificates of

police inspector and

doctor produced, is

reasonable cause for

delay- G.S. Kasat v. ITO

[2010] 1 ITR 103 (Del. Trib.).

(g) Where assessee

was not involved in any

kind of business activity

to earn profit & gains

and the major source of

its income was grant

from Govt of India, it

was held that provisions

of compulsory audit was

not applicable to

such assessee and

consequently no penalty

could be levied - ITO v.

Indian Hockey

Federation [2011] 9 ITR

47 TTJ (Ahd.) 22; Delay

(Trib.) 692 (Del.).

(i) Where advertisement agent had a bonafide belief that only commission will be considered for purpose of gross receipt under section 44AD, whereas AO considered entire receipts for determining turnover, penalty has been set aside - Manoj S Gugale v. ITO 80

taxmann.com 193 (Pune Trib.).

(j) Delay in finalisation of accounts of earlier year on account of negligence of

accountant who left service - Prabhulal Sahu v.

ITO [1995] 52 TTJ (Jp) 137.

(k) Genuine difficulty in closing the

accounts on account of

difference in trial balance

and accountant could not

take up audit work at

once and complete it

owing to other professional

commitments - Asst. CIT v. Gayatri Traders [1996] 56 TTJ (Hyd.) (SM) 303:

[1996] 58 ITD 121 (Hyd.) (SB): Kumar Bros. v. Asst. CIT [1993] 47 TTJ (Ahd.) 22: 45 ITD 262.

(l) Assessee could not undertake tax audit as statutory audit was not

finalised in time- Kripa

Industries (P) Ltd. v. JCIT [2002] 76 TTJ (Pune) 502.

(m) Delay due to illness of the auditor - Indian handloom Textiles v. ITO [1999] 68 ITD 560 (Kol.); ITO v. Gayatri Coal Supply Co. [1997] 63 ITD 237 (Pat.) (TM).

(n) Delay due to resignation of auditor - Progressive Constructions (P) Ltd. v. ITO 20 ITD 182 (Hyd.).

(o) Delay in finalisation of accounts due to reconciliation of accounts with customers and others - H. Ajitbhai & Co. v. Asst. CIT [1993] 47 TTJ (Ahd.) 22; Delay

in finalisation of accounts of earlier years due to absence of regular accountant, voluminous nature of the transactions and difficulty to locate the difference in trial balance - Mehta Drug House v. ITO [ITA No. 621 to 623/Bang/1993].

(p) Delay in finalisation of accounts of earlier year on account of negligence of accountant who left service - Prabhulal Sahu v. ITO [1995] 52 TTJ (Jp) 137.

(q) Genuine difficulty in closing the accounts on account of difference in trial balance and accountant could not take up audit work at once and complete it owing to other professional

commitments. Report is filed with least practicable delay - Asst. CIT v. Gayatri Traders [1996] 56 TTJ (SM) 303; [1996] 58 ITD 121 (Hyd.) (SB).

(r) Delay of filing of audit report caused by delay in filing of return, though audit report was obtained in time - CIT v. K.K. Spun Pipe 200 CTR (P & H) 107.

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Healthy competition and domestic production: - Amantra of the Indian economy.

Gajendra Singh

corporates in the telecom sector is 82 per cent, with Jio having 35%, Airtel 32% and Vi 18% market share. The total participation of five major corporates in the banking sector is 71 per cent, with SBI at 23%, HDFC at 16%, ICICI at 13%, Axis at 11% and Kotak at 8%. Pharmaceutical API production shows 70% import dependency. The sector is highly sensitive with three corporates accounting for 86 per cent of the EV market, where Tata Motors has 52%, Mahindra 23% and MG 11%. The three corporates have 80 per cent share in the e-commerce space, with Amazon at 32%, Flipkart at 30% and Reliance at 18% market share.

For the average Indian, the findings of these statistics have a significant impact. In addition to the immediate effects on the economic condition of the common life and access to services, corporate monopoly in the market has become a challenge for small, traditional Indian businesses. These 63 million enterprises, which account for 30% of India's GDP and 45% of exports, are struggling to compete with large corporations, and are at risk of extinction, which could further increase market

monopolies. The survey highlights sector-specific problems and solutions. In telecom, encouraging new entrants and basic relief for small players can balance the market. The pharmaceutical sector needs to focus on domestic API production, aiming to reduce import dependence from 70% to 40% within five years. The larger banking sector will benefit by promoting a mix of traditional and digital finance services to sustain diverse financial scenarios. The automobile industry needs support for domestic production of EV components to reduce import dependence and increase sustainable transport from 1.3% to 30% by 2030. Stringent regulations are needed to ensure fair competition in e-commerce and prevent aggressive pricing.

To address these challenges, the Government of India should implement policies that encourage competition, promote domestic production and create a fair environment for small businesses. The goal should be to reduce average HHI across key sectors over the next decade, so that the benefits of economic growth are widely distributed, spur innovation, and ensure consumers have access

to diverse, competitively priced products and services. It is important to address corporate share in the market to protect the economic condition of consumers from future shocks and to ensure stable access to essential goods and services. By promoting a balanced market structure, India can harness the benefits of healthy competition, promote innovation, improve the quality of products and ultimately benefit both businesses and consumers in its journey towards becoming a global economic superpower.

Declaration:
This piece of writing is my own unique work, and it has not yet been made public or submitted to any publishing entity for consideration.

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Bio:
Gajendra Singh, a social thinker and development professional, has been dedicated since 2011 to uniting social organizations, government, and society for cohesive development.

The Inextinguishable Occupational Spirits have been accomplished through Dual Appealing Celebrations

Rudrarup Gupta

fascinating dimension, which has had the impactful navigating doorsteps not only for moral participations but it, has been alarmingly successful for individual learning in the end. A number of most distinguished "Dignitaries" have equally graced the most optimistic occasion in style.

Respected Dr. Sukanta Dasgupta, Dean, School of Agriculture,

Department of Agricultural Economics, Faculty of Agriculture, Bidhan Chandra Krishi Viswavidyalaya. He has shared his most pivotal thoughts about the "Importance of Financial Planning" for the entire crowd which has been entirely memorable for each one of us to adopt the concept of "Financial Planning" accordingly. Dr. Suparna Sarkar,

matured realizations regarding the following:

1. Five (5) Year Planning (Students of 7th Semester)

2. Financial Strategy (Students of 5th Semester)

3. Financial Stress (Students of 3rd Semester)

4. Budget - 2024 (Students of 1st Semester)

This is how; all the "Said Topics" have been conceptually



anxiety but those invariably do bring out an absolute avenue of consequential participation in the end. It is unquestionably effective for each one of us to evaluate our present stature from the perspective of real existence in our lives indeed.

School of Agriculture, JIS University has beautifully instigated the proceeding through his epoch making "Welcome Address" and he specifically encouraged the entire initiative as well as expressed his live views about "Financial Planning" in a very conforming manner.



We have really been blessed to have our "Guest of Honour" Respected Professor (Dr.) Md. Hasrat Ali, Professor, Head of the

Assistant Professor, Agricultural Economics, JIS University delivered her most impactful address about "World Financial Planning Day-2024" from the perspective of present day scenario which was absolutely very appealing in nature. This event has already been significantly extended by our very ambitious students who have not only been inspired to initiate their

delivered by our aspiring students who do have their undeniable cognitive intelligence to display their acceptable foundation of maturity and intellect based upon "Financial Planning" already. These public presentations have convincingly followed by the exiting "Cultural Extravaganza" which has been entirely performed by our

Kolkata, India

Sundarbans Through Young Eyes: Celebrating Bengal's Art, Culture & Heritage



Kolkata, (ABHIJIT SETH): In a heartwarming celebration of art, culture, and community spirit, "Children of the Sundarbans," a unique exhibition recently showcased the vibrant perspectives of young artists from Vivekananda Adarsha Vidyalaya. Located in the heart of the Sundarbans, the school serves as a nurturing ground for children aged 5 to 15, whose colourful paintings were the highlight of the event. These artworks captured the essence of life in one of the world's most ecologically significant regions—the Sundarbans.

Organized to provide these children a platform to express themselves, the exhibition not only featured their artwork but also showcased black-and-white photographs by visual artist Gaurav Rai. His collection provided a stunning visual

contrast, depicting the raw, untamed beauty of the region through his lens. Each painting from the children reflected their personal experiences of growing up in the Sundarbans, where nature plays a pivotal role in everyday life. From depictions of the iconic Royal Bengal tiger to the intricate waterways, mangroves, and local livelihoods, the exhibition offered an authentic glimpse into this vibrant landscape. But the event was not limited to visual art alone. The students brought alive the culture of the Sundarbans through traditional dance, music, and poetry, immersing attendees in the rich heritage of the region. The exhibition was attended by Dr. Andrew Fleming, British Deputy High Commissioner to East & North East India, alongside other notable personalities. Their

presence not only highlighted the importance of such cultural initiatives but also brought a global perspective to the local celebration of Sundarbans life.

Vivekananda Adarsha Vidyalaya, nestled in Sankiyan village in South 24 Parganas, is managed by Vivekananda Sangha and the Anu Chowdhury Memorial Educational Foundation. With its roots deep in the community, the school has been dedicated to educating and empowering children in this remote region, offering them opportunities to explore creative outlets and express their unique identities.

Arnab Chatterjee, General Manager of Taj Bengal, Kolkata, was a prominent supporter of the event. His encouragement played a significant role in inspiring the young artists

to pursue their passions. Joykrishna Halder, social activist and President of the Anu Chowdhury Memorial Educational Foundation, emphasized the significance of the event, saying, "This cultural celebration highlights the simplicity, resilience, and beauty of the Sundarbans and its people." His words resonated with the spirit of the exhibition, which stood as a testament to the strength of the community.

Prof. Ujjwal Anu Chowdhury, Secretary of the Anu Chowdhury Memorial Educational Foundation, underscored the importance of the event, stating that it offered an enriching experience, blending art, culture, and community spirit. He also noted how the Sundarbans, a UNESCO World Heritage site, is not just a symbol of natural beauty but also a home to communities with a rich cultural legacy that deserves to be cherished and celebrated.

The "Children of the Sundarbans" exhibition successfully bridged the gap between local culture and the broader world, allowing young minds to voice their stories through art. It stood as a reminder that in the face of modern challenges, the Sundarbans continues to thrive as a beacon of ecological and cultural richness, seen through the hopeful and creative eyes of its youngest inhabitants.

"Save Ladakh, Save Himalaya": Sonam Wangchuk Sits On Fast At Ladakh Bhawan

New Delhi (KCN): Climate activist Sonam Wangchuk on Sunday sat on a fast at the Ladakh Bhawan where he was staying, after the protesters were denied permission to stage the stir for Ladakh's Sixth Schedule status at Jantar Mantar.

Sonam Wangchuk, in a brief interaction with media before starting the fast, said they were forced to stage the protest at the Ladakh Bhawan after

failing to find any venue for their stir. Around 18 people, including Sonam Wangchuk, sat close to the gate of the Ladakh Bhawan, singing the Hindi version of 'We Shall Overcome', and raised slogans such as 'Bharat Mata Ki Jai', 'Jai Ladakh' and 'Save Ladakh, Save Himalaya'.

On Sunday morning, Sonam Wangchuk took to 'X' to say that they have been denied permission to

sit on a fast at Jantar Mantar. "Another rejection, another frustration. Finally this morning we got this rejection letter for the officially designated place for protests," Sonam Wangchuk said.

The climate activist led the 'Delhi Chalo Padayatra', which began in Leh a month ago. The march was organised by Leh Apex Body, which along with the Kargil Democratic Alliance, has

been spearheading an agitation for the last four years seeking statehood for Ladakh, its inclusion in the Sixth Schedule of the Constitution, a public service commission for Ladakh, and separate Lok Sabha seats for Leh and Kargil districts. On Saturday, a majority of the protesters returned to Ladakh while the remaining stayed back to join Wangchuk for the fast.

Green Transition for MSMEs: NITI Aayog Unveils Strategy at Kolkata CII Conclave

Kolkata (ABHIJIT SETH): The Indian government, with the guidance of NITI Aayog, is developing a Green Transition program aimed at transforming Micro, Small, and Medium Enterprises (MSMEs) across the country. This initiative was revealed at the 5th Green Industry Conclave recently organized by the Confederation of Indian Industry (CII) in Kolkata, where industry leaders, policymakers, and stakeholders discussed sustainable practices through Environmental, Social, and Governance (ESG) frameworks. The program aims to decarbonize MSMEs through energy efficiency measures, alternative fuels, and innovative energy solutions such as rooftop solar and virtual power supply mechanisms.

NITI Aayog's Senior Resident Fellow, Mr. Aman Hans, highlighted the conceptualization of the Green Transition program during his address at the conclave. The goal of this ambitious initiative is to create a sustainable roadmap for MSMEs by reducing their carbon footprint. MSMEs, often constrained by resources, face challenges in shifting to cleaner energy sources.

The government's solution includes options like renewable energy sourcing through open access, collaborations with DISCOMs (power distribution companies), and other regulatory support systems. A major obstacle, however, lies in the pricing of green energy. As Mr. Hans noted, the current green tariff system charges a

premium compared to traditional brown energy sources, putting financial pressure on smaller enterprises. The NITI Aayog's objective is to bridge this gap by bringing green energy tariffs closer to brown energy rates in a cost-effective and sustainable manner. This requires coordinated action between the central and state governments, regulatory bodies, and energy suppliers. Throughout the conclave, the importance of integrating ESG practices into business strategies emerged as a recurring theme. ESG, which focuses on environmental sustainability, social responsibility, and good governance, is now seen as a key driver for businesses, especially MSMEs, to realize long-term benefits from green

A SPECIAL DURGOTSAB CELEBRATING WITH THE DIFFERENTLY ABLED CHILDREN AND SENIOR CITIZENS



Kolkata, (KCN): Durga Puja is a much awaited and coveted annual festival for the Bengalis. But due to the recent socio-political mishaps, deaths, destruction and protests, the zeal to celebrate has taken a backseat unlike the other years. But recently a special Durgotsab, rather a special celebration was unveiled through a press conference at Rotary

Sadan on 5th October, where officials from The News Mania Welfare Trust, NIP, Rotary RID 3291, News Mania, The Saini International School Group and Forum of Durgotsab revealed their unique initiative to celebrate Durga Puja 2024 with 50 differently abled children and senior citizens. Through a Puja Parikrama with them, 100 Durga Pujas will be judged considering their

'Disability and Senior Citizen Friendliness' and awarded. Along with that 100 brails will be installed for the convenience of the blind during the Pujas. Among many dignitaries in the event, senior and popular actor/Rotarian Biswajit Chakraborty was present with popular actor/activist/teacher of Method acting Bobby Chakraborty. Both are an active part of this initiative, reiterated the

fact that there can't be a better celebration like this, among a dark and troubled time, where one has the opportunity to extend one's helping hand towards the lesser privileged and needy. Bobby dedicated two soul searching songs towards humanitarian work and one's intention to contribute to the society, which won the hearts of a packed auditorium.

"UN Like Old Company, Not Entirely Keeping Up With Market": S Jaishankar

New Delhi (KCN): External Affairs Minister S Jaishankar on Sunday took a critical view of the United Nations, saying it was "like an old company", not entirely keeping up with the market but occupying the space.

During an interaction at the Kautilya Economic Conclave here, he also said that two very serious conflicts are going on in the world. "And where is the UN on them, essentially a bystander," the minister said.

In response to a query on the possible outcome of the US elections, he said the US actually has "made a shift", geopolitically and in its economic outlook, and irrespective of the outcomes in November, many of these trends will "intensify" in the days to come.

S Jaishankar took part in



the interactive session on 'India and the Globe' and spoke of India's role and challenges amid changing global dynamics. "So, we are both a lifting tide and a bit of a paradoxical one, a ballast as well," S Jaishankar said as he enumerated some of the steps India has taken to help other countries, including its neighbours such as Sri Lanka.

Asked about his upcoming visit to

Pakistan to attend a summit of the Shanghai Cooperation Organisation (SCO), he again sought to rule out any bilateral talks with his Pakistani counterpart. "I am going there for a certain job, a certain responsibility. And, I take my responsibilities seriously. So, I am going there to represent India at the SCO meeting, and that is what I am going to do," S Jaishankar said.

At an event on Saturday, the external affairs minister said that he was going to Islamabad for a "multilateral event" and not to discuss India-

Pakistan relations. In his response to a query on the United Nations' role amid the changing global scenario, he took a rather critical view of the world body that was born in 1945 after the Second World War. Initially, it had 50 countries, which has grown over these years to nearly four times. "The UN is in a way like an old company, not entirely keeping up with the market, but occupying the space. And, when it's behind times, in this world you have start-ups and innovations, so different people start doing their own things," S Jaishankar said.

"So, what you have today is that yes you have a UN at the end, however suboptimal in functioning, it is still the only multilateral game in town," he added.

about by technological advancements, including AI. She stressed that to meet these demands sustainably, India must continue investing in renewable energy infrastructure, as the future energy landscape will rely heavily on renewables. During the discussions, speakers such as Ms. Apurba Mitra from KPMG pointed out the potential socioeconomic implications of the green transition. As India moves towards a low-carbon economy, it is essential to ensure that the costs of this transition do not disproportionately impact MSMEs, many of which are already operating on thin margins. Mitra urged that justice be kept at the forefront of the green transition strategy to protect employment levels and GDP growth.

Two key reports were launched during the conclave, further emphasizing the importance of sustainability. The first report, titled "Comprehensive Framework of Greenhouse Gas Emissions," provided a detailed roadmap for calculating and managing greenhouse gas emissions across industries. The second report, "Integrating Sustainability in Supply Chain," created in collaboration with KPMG, focused on embedding sustainability into supply chains—an essential aspect of building resilient, future-ready businesses. The government's planned Green Transition program for MSMEs represents a bold and necessary step toward a sustainable future for India's small and medium businesses. With the guidance of NITI Aayog and the collaboration of stakeholders across various sectors, the program seeks to decarbonize MSMEs, lower green energy tariffs, and promote ESG practices. These efforts will not only ensure environmental sustainability but also position Indian MSMEs for greater global competitiveness in the emerging green economy. The Green Industry Conclave provided a glimpse into this future, with stakeholders from across industries aligning on the importance of ESG principles and the critical role of innovative, sustainable energy solutions in driving the green transition.

Chorus grows for tourism tag to Panchubarahi Temple

Kendrapara(KCN): The demand for declaring the 500-year-old Maa Panchubarahi Temple at Rehabilitation Colony in Bagapatia under Rajnagar block in Kendrapara district as a tourist spot has gathered steam as locals believe that the Mother Goddess is a living deity and is the saviour for people during natural disasters.

Rarely anywhere in the state are women appointed as trustees of a temple. Similarly, it is uncommon to find women priestesses performing rituals in temples. However, at this famous Shakti Pitha, only women from Dalit communities are engaged as priestesses, while men are forbidden from touching the deities. The tradition has

been followed for nearly 500 years which is not to be found anywhere. The five deities in this temple, built from black stone, are served by women priestesses without any formal government support. Locally cultivated grains, fruits, and, in some cases, financial contributions from devotees are accepted as offerings at this shrine.

Rashmita Sahoo, a local, said that the Mother Goddess is perceived as a living deity. "During natural disasters, or in times of happiness and sorrow, she is believed to fulfill the wishes of devotees," she said. At some point, a male priest was given the responsibility of performing the rituals, but after he was



besotted by the beauty of the sculpture, the priestly duties were returned to women.

Currently, the four Dalit women entrusted with priestly responsibilities are Sujata Dalei, Banalata Dalei, Rani Dalei and Sabitri Dalei. Only married women are

allowed to serve as priestesses, said Rashmita.

Nigamananda Rout, another local, said the Dalit women priestesses are highly respected in the village, with a tradition of villagers bowing at their feet. However, men are not

permitted to enter the temple or touch the Panchubarahi deity.

Priestess Sabita Dalei shared that her mother-in-law, Sita Dalei, was a priest at the temple, and after her demise, she took on the mantle. No male devotees are allowed to participate

in the rituals held Tuesdays, and they must view the deity from the temple's walls through a narrow passage. Sabita Dalei feels content that no devotee has ever shown disrespect to her as a Dalit woman priestess.

Dr Sarbeswar Sen, a researcher, stated that the temple is unique in the state as Dalit women serve as priestesses here. "Only a few places in the country have female priestesses. Recently, Krishna Veni, S Ramya, and N Ranjitha were appointed as priestesses in the Sri Vaishnava Temple in Tamil Nadu. Additionally, temples like the Attukk Temple and Chakkulathukavu Temple in Kerala, Maa Bhagabati Temple in Tamil Nadu, and Mata Temple in Bihar also prohibit the entry of men.

Local resident Sudarshan Rout explains that the temple of the Mother Goddess was originally located near Barahipur in the Satabhaya Panchayat. "However, due to coastal erosion, the deity had to be relocated. In 2020, the Mother Goddess was temporarily moved to Bagapatia, about 12 km from the original site where men were allowed to touch and transport the deity during the relocation," he said.

Now, with the establishment of a new temple at Bagapatia, 571 families have been provided land and homes by the state government. Efforts are underway to recognise this temple as a religious tourism destination, with local political leaders and administration continuing their work on development plans.

In a first, ITC procures turmeric from Kandhamal women farmers



Daringbadi(KCN): The family of Rupeli Pradhan of Sulumaha village is all set to celebrate Dussehra pompously this year. The same is the case with many of her neighbours in this remote hamlet under Daringbadi block of Kandhamal district who would otherwise struggle to buy new cloths for their children during the festive season, years on.

The turnaround in their home finances has been made possible after food major ITC (Indian Tobacco Company), for the first time ever, decided to buy the entire harvest of these women turmeric farmers – belonging to a self-help group (SHG) – at a price they have never got before.

"ITC purchased our entire stock of 15 metric

tonnes of turmeric at Rs168 per kg which we have never earned over the years," said Jenima Pradhan, president of the SHG explaining how the members of the group would struggle to sell their produce as cheap as Rs110 per kg to local traders.

In fact, some time back, these farmers were reluctant to take up turmeric cultivation, and chose corn and other crops instead, due to the low selling price of the household spice. However, the encouragement for the cultivation, carried out using organic methods, came from the Tribal Cooperative Marketing Development Federation of India (TCMDFI) under the Union Ministry of Tribal Affairs which urged ITC to buy

turmeric from women farmers in the district. With ITC finally keeping its promise, the famed turmeric will now reach every nook and corner of the country and abroad. Sources said that the SHG – Pragati Van Dhan Vikash Centre in Sriniketa panchayat earned a total of Rs25 lakh from the sale of turmeric this season. The first turmeric-laden truck left for the ITC godown from Sulumaha village by Velugu association under the supervision of Project Administrator Krupasindhu Behera of Integrated Tribal Development Agency (ITDA) at Baliguda Friday. Behera said the tie-up with the food major will now help the turmeric grown in the region to reach various parts of the country and overseas markets.

Later, in a meeting Behera, TCMDFI Regional Managers Rahul Kumar, Debasish Nanda, Kambupani Babu, Velugu Association Secretary B Sanjiv Rao, Project Coordinator Tirupati Rao, Regional Coordinator Jibanta Nayak advised the women farmers on various aspects of turmeric cultivation through organic methods. A book on turmeric cultivation using organic methods by an agriculture scientist was also unveiled on the occasion. The members also urged the PA, and ITDA to provide them with a room to open a shop and a godown to store their harvest. Behera assured them to take steps in this regard.

40 lakh women to get Rs 5,000 Subhadra money Oct 9

Bhubaneswar(KCN): With Dussehra round the corner, around 40 lakh women will receive the first instalment of Rs 5,000 under the state government's flagship Subhadra scheme October 9.

According to sources, those who have registered themselves in Subhadra portal by October 7 will receive the amount, if found eligible.

With only three days left for the release of the first instalment to the second phase beneficiaries, it has come to the fore that Chief Minister Mohan Charan

Majhi will launch the disbursement of the second phase first instalment from Baripada October 9. Earlier, Deputy Chief Minister Pravati Parida had made an announcement regarding disbursement of the first instalment of Subhadra money for pending beneficiaries in September. Around 40 lakh women, in the age group of 21 to 60, will receive the money in the second phase. Notably, 25 lakh women have already received the first instalment September 17 when Prime Minister Narendra Modi had launched the scheme

rising by the day. Parida had hoped that the number of beneficiaries would cross 1 crore soon. "The state government is committed to providing Subhadra money to all the eligible beneficiaries and no eligible women will be deprived of the benefit," Parida had said earlier. The scheme will cover all the eligible women in the state by March 8, 2025, she had said.

During his visit to Odisha, according to the Prime Minister's Office, Subhadra scheme is the largest women-centric initiative in the state, aimed at supporting over 1 crore women who will receive Rs 50,000 over a period of five years (2024-2029). Beneficiaries will be credited Rs 10,000 annually in two equal instalments through Aadhaar-linked, DBT-enabled bank accounts. During the event, PM Modi will initiate the first fund transfer to over 10 lakh women beneficiaries.



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Linsey Smith, Charlotte Dean inspire England to winning start

Dubai: England's left-arm spinner Linsey Smith, who returned to the T20I side earlier this year after a five-year hiatus, set up England's low-scoring victory over Bangladesh in their Women's T20 World Cup opener in Sharjah. Bangladesh's Sobhana Mostary fought valiantly for a 48-ball 44 but England successfully completed a 21-run victory.

On a low and slow surface in Sharjah, England were not out of the contest despite posting a lowly 118 for 7 in 20 overs. They packed their XI with all the four spinners they took to UAE, and it was their fourth-choice option who finished with figures of 2

for 11 in 4 overs. As early as the fifth over, when Bangladesh had already lost opener Dilara Akter to Charlotte Dean, Smith bowled a wicket-maiden to amp up the pressure on the chasing side. Bangladesh ambled to 20 for 2 in the PowerPlay. Bangladesh's No.3 batter Sobhana Mostary enjoyed the rub of the green upon arrival as Amy Jones missed two chances - a stumping and a catch - to let the batter off. In the ninth over, England failed to review an LBW call against the batter that would've gone in their favour. The reprieves still didn't quite swing the match Bangladesh's way as they were still well behind the eight-ball at 42 for 2 in 10 overs.

ACC sets USD 170 million base price for four Asia Cup rights



New Delhi: The Asian Cricket Council (ACC) has set a base price of USD 170 million for the media rights to the Asia Cup. The ACC is offering global television, digital, and audio rights covering events such as the Men's Asia Cup, Women's Asia Cup, Men's Under-19 Asia Cup, Men's Emerging Teams Asia Cup, Women's Under-19 Asia Cup, and Women's Emerging Teams Asia Cup. The auction is scheduled for November

1. The flagship event of the rights package is the Men's Asia Cup, in an eight-year rights period from 2024 to 2031, covering four editions of the continental championships. The next edition of the Asia Cup will be held in India in 2025 (T20 format), followed by Bangladesh in 2027 (ODI format), Pakistan in 2029 (T20 format), and finally Sri Lanka, which will host the tournament in ODI format.

Each edition of the Asia Cup will feature 13

matches, with the main money-spinner for broadcasters being the highly anticipated games between arch-rivals India and Pakistan. There will be at least two guaranteed matches between the two teams, with the possibility of a third encounter if they meet in the final. In the most recent Asia Cup, which followed a hybrid model with matches played in Pakistan and Sri Lanka, there were two India-Pakistan clashes. India won both games, as

well as the final.

As per the Invitation To Tender (ITT), there are three women's Asia Cup in the rights period. The ACC has announced that the winner will be determined through an e-auction, which has become widely accepted as a fair and transparent process. Prior to the e-auction, interested parties will need to submit their technical bids in Dubai on October 30.

The central question leading up to the auction is how many broadcasters will participate. More specifically, it remains to be seen whether Reliance-backed Viacom18/Jio Cinema and Disney Star will submit separate bids or if only one of them will participate. This uncertainty arises in view of the impending merger between the two broadcasters, for which most regulatory clearances have already been obtained.

London: England will enter the first Test against Pakistan in Multan without their regular captain Ben Stokes as he continues to recover from a hamstring injury that he sustained over two months ago during a match in The Hundred.

Ollie Pope will continue to lead England in Stokes's absence in what will be his first away Test as a captain and overall fourth on the bounce. He led England to a 2-1 series win over Sri Lanka at home last month.

Fast bowler Brydon Carse - who has 127 first-class wickets at 33.78 in 48 matches - will make his Test debut and will be joined by Chris Woakes, playing his first overseas Test in two-and-a-half years, and Gus Atkinson, who made his Test debut this summer, in the fast bowling

department. Carse comes into this series after playing all five ODIs against Australia in which he took eight wickets.

This is the first time the three will play a first-class game in Pakistan. Crawley - who set the tone for England's record 500-plus score on the first day of the Rawalpindi Test in 2022 with 111-ball 122 - will rejoin

Ben Duckett at the top of the order. The tall right-handed batter missed the three Sri Lanka Tests after fracturing his finger while attempting a catch in the slips in the last of the three Tests against West Indies. Off-spinner Shoaib Bashir and left-arm Jack Leach are the regular spinners in the side. Stokes did shuttle runs

Bangladesh's probing bowling. In the 13th over, the set batter was out stumped off Nahida, which triggered a collapse of sorts. England went from 76 for 3 to 90 for 5, and were carried to the three-figure mark by a four from Danielle Gibson. Though she fell off the next ball, England added 21 runs off the last two overs - including a six from Sophie Ecclestone - that proved vital in a low-scorer.

Brief Scores: England 118-7 in 20 overs (Danielle Wyatt-Hodge 41; Fahima Khatun 2-18, Ritu Moni 2-24) beat Bangladesh 97-7 in 20 overs (Sobhana Mostary 44; Linsey Smith 2-11, Charlotte Dean 2-22) by 21 runs



trapping Mostary leg before. Bangladesh eventually finished on 97 for 7, failing to make the most of a commendable bowling effort.

That effort was laid out

brick by brick by the trio of Nahida Akter, Fahima Khatun and Ritu Moni who bagged two wickets each. England openers Danielle Wyatt-Hodge and Maia Bouchier started a touch cautiously as Bangladesh pacer Marufa Akter got the ball to swing sharply. But they soon got comfortable as she was trusted to bowl her third over inside the

PowerPlay. Much to his dismay, Marufa was denied an early wicket when Rabeeya Khan dropped a sitter at point to offer Wyatt-Hodge a reprieve. The openers laid a solid platform by taking England to 47 for no loss in the PowerPlay, but Bangladesh hit back in the middle overs with good discipline over the lines they bowled.

First up, Rabeeya made

amends for drop by having Bouchier caught at mid-on in the seventh over, before Fahima Khatun - another leggie - trapped Nat Sciver-Brunt leg before in the next. Though Wyatt-Hodge 41; Fahima Khatun 2-18, Ritu Moni 2-24) beat Bangladesh 97-7 in 20 overs (Sobhana Mostary 44; Linsey Smith 2-11, Charlotte Dean 2-22) by 21 runs

Wya t t - H o d g e successfully targeted the long-on fence, the runs dried up against

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