

PM Modi's Odisha visit: Commissionerate Police issues traffic advisory

Bhubaneswar (KCN): Prime Minister Narendra Modi is scheduled to visit Odisha to launch the ambitious Subhadra Yojana scheme at Janata Maidan, Bhubaneswar on September 17. Expecting huge gatherings, the Commissionerate police has issued a traffic advisory to ensure better regulation and free flow of traffic in the interest of the general public. The following restrictions and parking arrangements have been made for the convenience of the general public. The advisory will be in effect from 7:30 in the morning till 3 pm.

Deep Depression Over BoB; IMD Issues Heavy

Bhubaneswar (KCN): Rainfall Alert in Odisha Bhubaneswar: The deep depression over Gangetic West Bengal is currently centred over the region and adjoining Jharkhand. It is expected to move west-northwestwards across Gangetic West Bengal and Jharkhand, diminishing to a depression within the next 12 hours, as reported by the India Meteorological Department (IMD) on Monday. According to the IMD, it will proceed to move west-northwestwards across Jharkhand and North Chhattisgarh over the following 24 hours.



1. No vehicle is allowed to ply from Jaydev Vihar to NALCO Square and from NALCO Square to Jaydev Vihar and its connecting lane/by lane.
2. During this period, the vehicles coming from Nandankanan intending to go towards Jaydev Vihar will avail the road Damana Square – Guru Kelu Charan Park – Acharya Vihar – Sainik School – Acharya Vihar or take the route via Sikharchandi – Patharagadia – DN School – Kalinga Studio Chhak – Fire Station.
3. Similarly, vehicles intending to go from Jaydev Vihar towards Nandankanan will avail the road via Acharya Vihar – Sainik School – Guru Kelu Charan Park – Damana Square or avail the route Fire Station – DN School – Patharagadia – Sikharchandi.
4. Vehicles from the Cuttack side are advised to avail of NH-316 for coming towards Bhubaneswar or avail Nandankanan road.
5. Furthermore, vehicles are advised to

take diversion from Behera Sahi chhak for going towards Acharya Vihar or CRPF chhak and avoid coming to Jaydev Vihar. During this period vehicles coming from Cuttack side are not allowed to avail the service road from Acharya Vihar over bridge end towards Jaydev Vihar square. Similarly, vehicles coming from Baramunda side are not allowed to avail the service road from Crown Hotel towards Jaydev Vihar square. The Commissionerate Police, Bhubaneswar-Cuttack requested the public to plan their route accordingly.

likely to

Sisodia to meet Kejriwal; discuss names of next Delhi CM



New Delhi (KCN): Senior AAP leader Manish Sisodia will meet Delhi Chief Minister Arvind Kejriwal Monday, a day after the party supremo announced to resign and not sit on the chief minister's chair till people give him a "certificate of honesty". The AAP national convener said that he would become chief minister and Manish Sisodia his deputy "only when people say we are honest".

A party functionary Monday said, "Kejriwal and Sisodia will be meeting today. This will be the first meeting after the decision by them. The

meeting is also likely to see a discussion over the next chief minister." The meeting is slated to be held at the chief minister's official residence in the Civil Lines area. Kejriwal, who was

released on bail from the Tihar Jail in the excise policy graft case on Friday, has said that he would hold a meeting of the AAP MLAs in a couple of days and one of his party colleagues would take over as the chief minister.

His unexpected announcement kicked up a strong buzz over the names of his wife Sunita and his ministers Atishi and Gopal Rai as his possible replacement.

Increase in bird population in Odisha's Bhitarkanika National Park



Kendrapara (KCN): Population of nesting birds has registered a marginal increase in Bhitarkanika National Park, located in Odisha's Kendrapara district in this monsoon season, a senior forest

official said Monday. The official statistics of the bird census pegged their population at 1,30,123 belonging to ten species. With this, the population of the monsoon birds has increased by 6,265, compared to the last census as forest officials sighted 1,23,867 birds in 2023. As many as 27,282 nests atop 1,300 mangrove trees were counted this season. The census report

reflects the results only from the direct count method. The census teams monitored all the water bodies and mangrove forest areas of Mathadia, Laxmiprasaddia, Durgaprasaddia and Balidia heronries in and around the Bhitarkanika National Park, the official said.

The increase in the number of birds visiting Bhitarkanika is a good sign for bird conservation programmes in the state, said Sudarshan Gopinath Yadav, Divisional Forest Officer (DFO) of Bhitarkanika National

Park. Abundant fish in the river and creeks and distance from human habitation have made it a suitable congenial breeding place for thousands of birds. Watching these birds make and mend nests, collect green branches for building and repairing nests, lay, incubate, hatch eggs, feed fledglings, guard them from predators, and cover them with outspread wings to protect them from scorching rays of sun and heavy downpours is a sight to behold, said the forest officer.

Khordha 'murder': Odisha Law Minister meets deceased's family, assures police action within 24 hours

Bhubaneswar (KCN): Minister for Law, Works & Excise Government of Odisha and Chilika Assembly Constituency MLA Prithiviraj Harichandan on Sunday met the family members of a suspected 'murder' victim and assured justice.

Law Minister directed the police administration to take immediate action in accordance with the law and arrest the accused within 24 hours. "Our government is committed to providing justice," the minister said. A youth identified as Maga Subudhi was



found dead under mysterious circumstances at Hatabardha village in Khordha district. Suspecting murder, family members put the deceased's body on the NH and blocked the National Highway. Tension ran high until the

Law Minister reached the spot and brought the situation under control. The agitation was called off after Harichandan assured of all help and immediate justice to the victim's family members. Taking to his X handle, the Law Minister wrote, "Today, the family of

Maga Subudhi of Vishwali Sahi village near Hatabardha village under Chilika constituency has alleged suspicious in the death of their son. After investigating, I directed the local police administration to take immediate action in

accordance with the law and take the accused into police custody within 24 hours."

"I offer condolences to the families of the deceased and assure that our government is committed to providing justice to everyone," he added.

Odisha on path to become leader in skill development: CM



Bhubaneswar (KCN):

Odisha Chief Minister Mohan Charan Majhi Monday said the state is on track to become a leader in skill development. He made the announcement while congratulating two local youths for their outstanding achievements at the 47th World Skills Competition held in Lyon, France, from September 10 to 15. The two youths are Amaresh Kumar Sahu and Gedela Akhil. Sahu earned a bronze medal in renewable energy, while Akhil received a medallion for excellence in water technology, bringing pride to Odisha on the global stage.

Praising the

achievements, Majhi in a statement said, "The accomplishments of our skilled youth at the World Skills Competition are a source of immense pride for Odisha. Their success exemplifies the state's commitment to nurturing young talent and developing skills that

Odisha Deputy CM Assures Timely Disbursement of Subhadra Yojana Funds



Bhubaneswar: Odisha Deputy CM Pravati Parida on Monday assured that every eligible beneficiary of Subhadra Yojana will get the first installment of the BJP government's flagship scheme credited to their bank accounts on September 17.

Speaking at a press conference on Monday, Parida emphasized the government's commitment to ensuring timely financial assistance to women across the state.

The Subhadra Yojana, aimed at empowering women aged 21 to 60, promises a total of ₹50,000 in financial aid distributed over five years. Beneficiaries will receive ₹10,000 annually, credited in two equal installments of ₹5,000 each. This initiative is expected to benefit over 1 crore women in Odisha, providing much-needed economic support and promoting financial independence.

Deputy CM Parida addressed concerns

regarding the initial

verification process,

where some beneficiaries did not receive the trial credit of ₹1. "We have conducted a trial run by crediting ₹1 to beneficiaries' accounts to check the system. Those who did not receive it will still get the first installment on September 17," she assured. Parida also advised beneficiaries to be cautious of cyber frauds and avoid suspicious links related to the scheme. Prime Minister Narendra Modi is set to officially launch the Subhadra Yojana during his visit to Odisha on September 17, marking his birthday. The launch event will take place in Bhubaneswar, where the Prime Minister

will also interact with beneficiaries and lay the foundation for several development projects worth ₹3,800 crore.

Union Education Minister Dharmendra Pradhan highlighted the significance of the scheme, stating, "Prime Minister Modi has given a big gift to the women of the state. This initiative will uplift women economically and support their financial independence." As the Subhadra Yojana rolls out, the Odisha government remains focused on ensuring that all eligible women receive their due benefits, reinforcing its commitment to women's welfare and empowerment.

Revanth Reddy Unveils Rajiv Gandhi's Statue, Dares KCR's Party To Touch It



Hyderabad(KCN): Telangana Chief Minister A. Revanth Reddy on Monday unveiled the statue of former Prime Minister Rajiv Gandhi in front of the state Secretariat.

In his address on the occasion, he slammed the Bharat Rashtra Samithi (BRS) for opposing the installation of the statue and asked if its party supremo K. Chandrashekhar Rao's family was aware of the sacrifices made by the Gandhi family for the country.

Referring to the threats of BRS leaders that they

would remove the statue of Rajiv Gandhi after their party came to power again, the Chief Minister dared them to touch it.

On the claim of BRS Working President K.T. Rama Rao that the place where Rajiv Gandhi's statue was installed was meant for the statue of Telangana Talli (Mother Telangana), Revanth Reddy asked what the BRS government did for 10 years.

He said his government gave due place to Telangana Talli by recently laying the foundation stone for the statue in the Secretariat

premises and reiterated that the statue will be unveiled on December 9. The Chief Minister paid rich tributes to Rajiv Gandhi and said he laid down his life for the country. He claimed that Rajiv Gandhi had accepted the post of Prime Minister for the sake of the people and recalled that he lowered the voting age to 18 years.

Recalling the words of Mahatma Gandhi that India lives in its villages, Revanth Reddy said Mahatma Gandhi's dream was fulfilled by Rajiv Gandhi through the 73rd Constitutional

amendments, which gave financial powers to the villages by empowering panchayats.

The Chief Minister said Rajiv Gandhi politically empowered women and introduced Information Technology in the country.

Stating that the Gandhi family's history is full of sacrifices, he recalled that Pundit Jawaharlal Nehru went to jail for the freedom of the country.

He said it was Nehru who protected India's integrity by ensuring the merger of 564 princely states into the country.

When there was bloodshed in the country due to communal violence, PM Nehru with his visionary approach established peace and it was Nehru who laid down the foundation for India's future by giving priority to education and irrigation, he said.

Revanth Reddy remarked that "some useless fellows" talk about political succession and mentioned that when

Nehru was alive, Indira Gandhi did not take up any post.

Even today, the poor worship Indira Gandhi as a goddess. The Chief Minister said it was Indira Gandhi who worked for the poor's development by nationalising banks and abolishing privy purses. She distributed lands to enhance the self-respect of Dalits, tribals and other weaker sections.

It was Indira Gandhi who fulfilled the poor's dream of owning a house by building Indiramma houses. She shed her last drop of blood for the sake of the country.

Ministers Uttam Kumar Reddy, Damodar in Rajanarayana, Ponnambalam Prabhakar, Sridhar Babu, Komatireddy Venkat Reddy, Seethakka, Konda Surekha, AICC in-charge Deepa Dasmunshi, state Congress chief Mahesh Kumar Goud and others attended the

programme.

PM Narendra Modi to inaugurate 26L PM Awas houses in Bhubaneswar today



Bhubaneswar(KCN):

Besides launching Subhadra Yojana, Prime Minister Narendra Modi will also inaugurate 26 lakh PM Awas houses at Gadakana in Bhubaneswar on September 17.

According to the itinerary of the Prime Minister's visit, after his arrival at Bhubaneswar airport at 10.50 am, he will proceed straight to Gadakana slum. He will reach the slum at 11.10 am and he will be there till

11.45 am. During his stay in the slum, he is scheduled to interact with the PM Awas beneficiaries.

The PM will leave the slum at 11.45 am and reach Janata Maidan at 11.55 where he will launch the Subhadra Yojana.

For the Prime Minister's scheduled visit, preparations are at their last stages at Gadakana with last touches being given to the Bhagabata Tungi and houses of the beneficiaries.

In view of the Prime

Minister's visit, a thick security blanket has been thrown around the city with the routes from the airport to Janata Maidan and Gadakana being declared as no-flying zones. For security purposes, 11 DCP rank officers, 22 additional DCPs, 66 ACPs, 100 IICs, 300 senior police officers, 81 platoons of force, around 500 home guards and three units of STO and ODRAF will be deployed during the PM's visit.

Odisha: Seven engineering students expelled from hostel for 'cooking beef' on premises

Berhampur(KCN): Seven students of a state-run engineering college in Odisha's Berhampur district were expelled from their hostel for allegedly cooking beef, a "restricted" activity on the premises, an official said Monday. Parala Maharaja Engineering College

authorities issued an order Thursday, stating that the seven boarders of two hostels were expelled for being involved in "restrictive activities". The college authorities also conveyed the decision to the parents of the students, he said. According to the official, the expelled students

cooked beef in their hostel room Wednesday, violating the rules and the code of conduct of the institution.

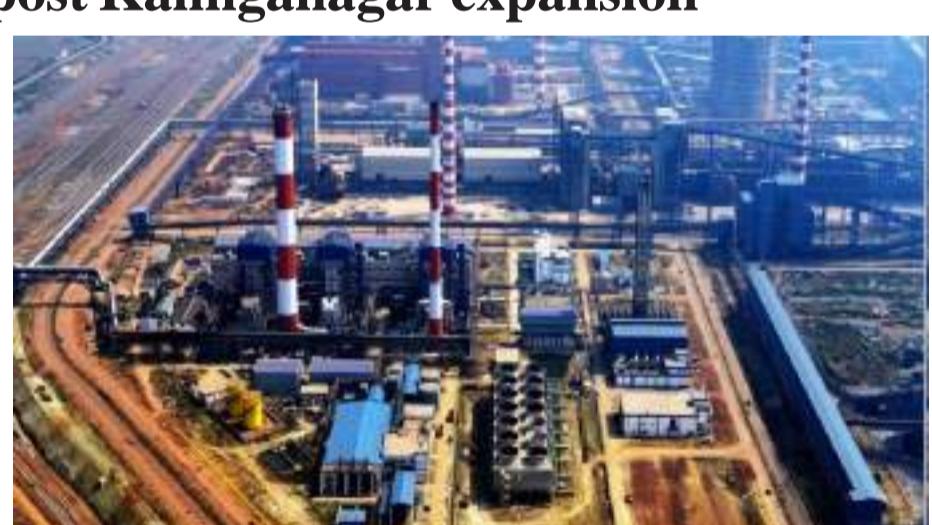
"A section of college students drew the attention of the principal of the institution about the incident. The action was taken against the students after an inquiry,"

the official said. Activists of Bajrang Dal and VHP have demanded strong action against the erring students.

Keeping in view of the situation, a team of police personnel was deployed near the college campus and hostels to avoid any untoward incident.

Odisha to emerge as Tata Steel's largest investment destination post Kalinganagar expansion

Bhubaneswar(KCN): Tata Steel Monday said Odisha would emerge as the company's single-largest investment destination after the phase-II expansion of its Kalinganagar plant from 3 million tonnes per annum to 8 mtpa. The steel major has invested Rs 27,000 in phase-II of the Kalinganagar plant expansion, and the company is on the verge of commissioning its expanded capacity at the unit, it said in a release. The ongoing expansion in Kalinganagar will play an important role in Tata Steel's ambition to achieve its target of 40 mtpa capacity in India by 2030, the company said. "The phase-II expansion of Tata Steel's



Kalinganagar plant in Jajpur district of Odisha... will also catapult the eastern state to an enviable position of becoming the single-largest investment destination for the country's oldest steel maker," the release said. Along with the Tata

Steel Meramandali (formerly Bhushan Steel Ltd) plant in Dhenkanal district, the company's total investment in Odisha stands at over Rs 100,000 crore.

"Even as the company is

on the verge of commissioning its expanded capacity in

Kalinganagar (to 8 mtpa), Tata Steel believes that the plant has a further scope to double this to 16 mtpa in the coming years, which will further strengthen Odisha's role in Tata Steel's growth journey," the release added.

Huge Quantity of 'Duplicate Liquor' Seized from Govt-Licensed Shop in Bhubaneswar

Bhubaneswar(KCN): Excise department officials on Monday confiscated a large amount of counterfeit liquor from a government-authorized shop in the Baramunda area in the capital city. Insiders reported that the confiscation occurred during a surprise inspection by Excise department agents at the shop

situated in Baramunda, within the state capital. Previously, officials had taken samples and noticed discrepancies in the bottle caps, holograms, and other characteristics compared to the authentic brands. Subsequently, the Excise team raided the residence of the shop's staff, uncovering numerous caps and excise stickers.

Following that, they inspected the shop and identified identical caps and labels on various liquor bottles, an official reported.

Liquor authenticity can be confirmed by scanning the QR code, which reveals the bottle's serial number, brand, and volume. Excise personnel will routinely collect samples from various liquor outlets for



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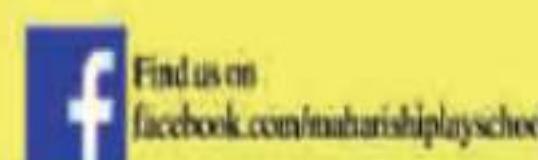
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Why the UPSC Civil Services Personality Test can be a battle of nerves



Services exam is a crucial indicator of candidates' success. UPSC reports in the last few years reveal there has been a decline in the number of qualifiers in 2022 wherein 36.89% (933 candidates) cleared out of a total 2529 candidates; in 2021, the qualifiers were more at 41.09% (749 candidates) out of 1823 candidates; while in 2020, 37.07% (761 candidates) qualified out of 2053 candidates. In the pre-Covid years, the numbers significantly rose – in 2019, 45.58% (927 candidates) cleared the test out of 2034 candidates; while in 2018, 40.76% (812 candidates) qualified out of 1992 candidates. Overall, 63.11% candidates failed to clear the Personality Test in 2022, the highest since 2020, when 62.93% candidates failed to crack the interviews.

Practice makes perfect
who spent 35 years in the services after clearing the UPSC exams in 1982, says, "To cope with the rigours of the Personality Test,

Even though the Interview round carries 275 marks out of a total of 2025 on which the merit list is based, this last leg of the Civil

Haryana BJP's Efforts to Resolve Farmer Resentment



strategies employed by the BJP reflect a broader attempt to regain the confidence of the agricultural community and ensure that the party remains politically relevant in Haryana's rural landscape. On August 16, 2024, Chief Minister Saini held a press conference before the Election Commission announced the state election date. He revealed a Rs 525 crore financial package for Haryana's farmers, crediting approximately 520,000 farmers with Rs 2,000 per acre as a bonus. The funds, aimed at relieving Kharif season challenges, were swiftly disbursed within one or two days.

The primary reason for this bonus can be traced back to the difficult farming conditions prevailing during the Kharif season. The Chief Minister highlighted that the monsoon rainfall had been drastically below average, with only 87 mm of rainfall recorded between June 4 and July 29, 2024. The lack of

adequate rain forced farmers to rely more heavily on alternative water sources, particularly tube wells, which led to an increase in their input costs. This expense rise was further compounded by pest infestations, which were exacerbated by unfavourable climatic conditions. Farmers had to spend more on pesticides and other resources to protect their crops from disease and destruction. As a result, the overall cost of cultivating Kharif crops had skyrocketed, placing additional financial strain on farmers, many of whom were already struggling due to poor yields.

Considering these challenges, the Haryana government's decision to offer a bonus payment is an attempt to alleviate some of the farmers' economic pressures. While the official narrative ties this financial support to the hardships of the current agricultural season, political observers believe that the

timing of the bonus is closely linked to the BJP's defeat in five Lok Sabha seats in rural Haryana. The loss of these seats was widely attributed to farmer resentment, which has been growing over the past few years, particularly in response to policies perceived as unfavourable to the agricultural sector. By extending financial support to farmers at this crucial juncture, the BJP government is attempting to rectify its political standing and address the root causes of rural dissatisfaction.

In addition to the bonus scheme, the Haryana government has introduced several policies to support the farming community. A significant measure is the expansion of the Minimum Support Price (MSP) procurement list to include ten new crops. Besides traditional staples like wheat and rice, the MSP now covers ragi (finger millet), soybean, safflower, barley, maize, jowar

(sorghum), jute, copra (dry coconut), moong (green gram), and kalatil (nigerseed). This broadening provides greater security for farmers growing fewer common crops and responds to demands from farmer unions during protests of central agricultural reforms. Haryana has also launched the 'Mukhyamantri Horticulture Insurance Scheme' to protect horticultural crops from extreme weather, offering financial assistance to farmers in this vulnerable sector. Moreover, the government is promoting natural farming practices by allocating Rs 30,000 to livestock-owning farmers, aiming to reduce reliance on chemical fertilizers and pesticides, which have been criticized for their environmental and health impacts.

Moreover, the government addressed irrigation cost issues by waiving over Rs 133 crore in irrigation cess, a debt accumulated since

the colonial era. The farming community has widely praised this move, which alleviated long-standing financial burdens and demonstrated the government's commitment to supporting farmers and modernizing the agricultural sector. Apart from these measures, the government has also taken actions to address the concerns of arthiyas, the traditional intermediaries facilitating transactions between farmers and buyers in mandis (wholesale markets). The government increased the commission for paddy prices from Rs 45.88 to Rs 55.00 per quintal and allocated Rs 12 crore to compensate commission agents for losses incurred during the wheat procurement process. By resolving the grievances of these intermediaries, the BJP government is attempting to maintain the smooth functioning of the agricultural market system, which plays a crucial role in ensuring farmers' access to buyers and fair prices.

The Haryana government has also announced financial assistance for milk producers. Under the Chief Minister Milk Producer Promotion Scheme, Rs 15.59 crore has been allocated as a subsidy for 35,000 milk producers for April, May, and June 2024. This is in addition to the government's commitment to bear the insurance premium for those supplying milk under the Pradhan Mantri Bima Yojana, further supporting rural livelihoods. Lastly, the government has tried to tackle the issue of stray cattle, which has been a persistent problem for farmers. Stray animals often cause significant crop damage, leading to losses for farmers. The government has introduced incentives for gaushala (traditional cowshed) operators to address this. Under a new scheme to free Haryana from stray cattle, individuals who capture stray cows or calves and bring them to a gaushala will receive financial rewards. Despite these efforts, farmer discontent remains evident, particularly at the Shambhu border in northern Haryana, where protesters have expressed dissatisfaction with the state's recent MSP announcements. These farmers have vowed to continue their protests until an MSP guarantee law is enacted nationwide, indicating that the BJP government's efforts may not fully appease the agricultural community. As the state election approaches, it remains to be seen whether the government's initiatives will be sufficient to sway voters in favour of the BJP or if farmer resentment will continue to challenge the party's electoral prospects.

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The ozone hole is continuing to shrink and could fully repair by 2050 : Scientists

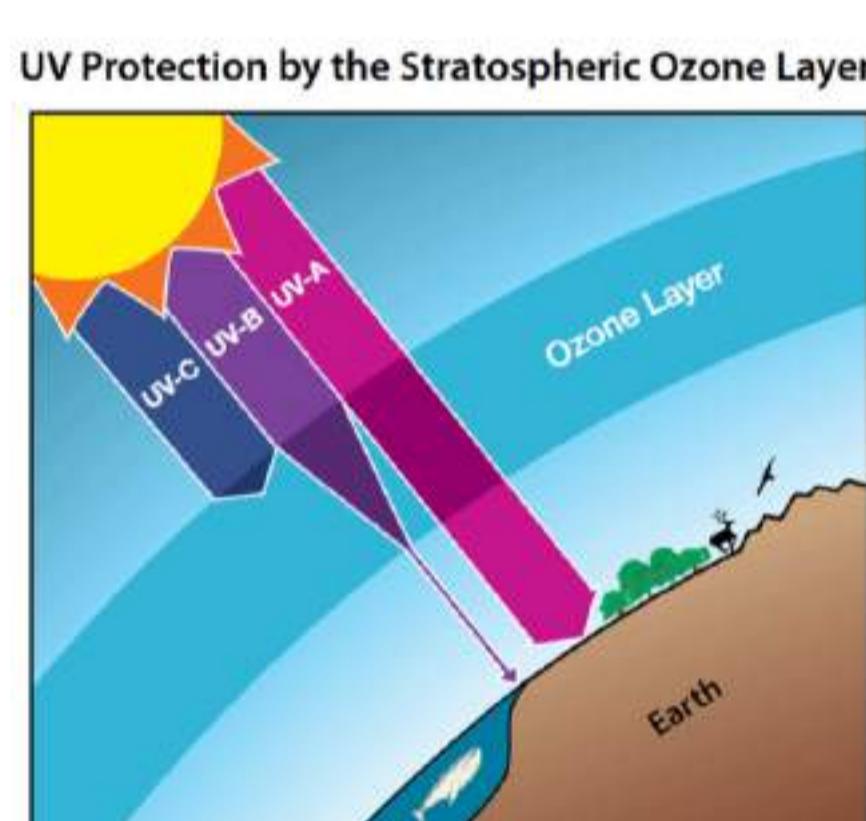
Prof. Sunil Goyal



"The ozone layer is a region in the earth's stratosphere that contains high concentrations of ozone and protects the earth from the harmful ultraviolet radiations of the sun." The ozone layer is mainly found in the lower portion of the earth's atmosphere. It has the potential to absorb around 97-99% of the harmful ultraviolet radiations coming from the sun that can damage life on earth. If the ozone layer was absent, millions of people would develop skin diseases and may have weakened immune systems. However, scientists have discovered a hole in the ozone layer over Antarctica. This has focused their concern on various environmental issues and steps to control them. The main reasons for the ozone hole are chlorofluorocarbons, carbon tetrachloride, methyl bromide and hydro bromo fluorocarbons. Chlorofluorocarbons are the most abundant ozone-depleting substance. It is only

when the chlorine atom reacts with some other molecule, it does not react with ozone. Montreal Protocol was proposed in 1987 to stop the use, production and import of ozone-depleting substances and minimise their concentration in the atmosphere to protect the ozone layer of the earth.

Recent studies of UN Environment Program, Ozone Secretariat, support evidence of a recovering ozone layer and the diminishing size and depth of the Antarctic hole since 2000, despite substantial interannual variability in the size, strength and longevity of the ozone hole which is driven by meteorological conditions. Outside of the Antarctic region (90°N-60°S), there is limited evidence of total column ozone recovery since 1996. There is evidence showing decrease of 1-2% per decade in the tropical lower stratospheric ozone from the period of 2000-2020. Ozone protection efforts have contributed significantly to slowing climate change by avoiding an estimated 135 billion tonnes of carbon dioxide (CO₂) equivalent emissions from 1990 to 2010. This is five times larger



than the annual emissions reduction target for the first commitment period (2008-2012) of the Kyoto Protocol, the predecessor to the Paris Agreement. The decline of ODS emissions due to the implementation of the Montreal Protocol is estimated to avoid global warming of approximately 0.5-1 °C by mid-century compared to an extreme scenario with an uncontrolled increase in ODSs of 3.5% per year. Averaged over the globe (including the oceans), about 1 °C avoided warming corresponds approximately to a

25% mitigation of global warming expected from all greenhouse gases. Assuming full compliance with the Montreal Protocol, surface solar UV radiation is expected to decrease 2-6% by 2090 at mid-latitudes with variable changes in the tropics of less than 3%.

The Montreal Protocol has prevented large increases in surface UV-B radiation, with greatest benefits at high latitudes. In the United States, full implementation of the Montreal Protocol is expected to prevent approximately 443 million cases of skin cancer, 2.3 million skin

cancer deaths, and 63 million cases of cataracts for people born in the years 1890-2100, according to the US Environmental Protection Agency. The Multilateral Fund for the Implementation of the Montreal Protocol has been assisting developing countries comply with their Protocol commitments. As of May 2023, contributions had reached nearly US\$5.1 billion. The Fund has also received additional voluntary contributions of US\$25.5 million from a group of donor countries to finance fast-track activities for the implementation of

the HFC phase-down. The Montreal Protocol will result in an estimated US\$1.8 trillion in global health benefits (US\$1.109 trillion for skin cancer alone) and almost US\$460 billion in avoided damages to agriculture, fisheries, and materials from 1987 to 2060 (both cumulative estimates). The Montreal Protocol's success inspired an effort to avoid HFCs, which have been used as replacements for many banned gases. The average global warming impact of 22 of the most used HFCs is about 2,500 times that of CO₂. Global CO₂-equivalent emissions of HFCs derived from observations increased by 18% from 2016 to 2020. The Kigali Amendment requires a phasedown of 18 high global warming potential HFCs by more than 80% per cent (in CO₂-equivalent) from the baseline level over the next 30 years. Estimates suggest that emissions avoided by 2100 could reach 420 gigatonnes of CO₂-equivalent, which is more than 10 years of present-day annual emissions of CO₂ due to human activities. The potential avoidance of up to 0.5 °C of global warming by the end of

the century would significantly add to global climate warming mitigation efforts. Replacing HFCs also creates an opportunity to increase energy efficiency of cooling equipment by 10-50 per cent, significantly reducing energy costs to consumers and businesses and potentially doubling the climate impact of the Amendment. Ozone recovery is a long-term mission. While the levels of ODSs are expected to decline throughout the world in the coming decades, the evolution of the ozone layer will be increasingly influenced by future abundances of greenhouse gases, natural events such as wildfires and volcanic eruptions, and even possibly geoengineering, that influence climate change and ozone recovery.

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Prime Minister Modi inaugurates 4th Global Renewable Energy Investor's Meet and Expo (RE-INVEST) in Gandhinagar, Gujarat

New Delhi, (KCN): The Prime Minister, Shri Narendra Modi inaugurated the 4th Global Renewable Energy Investor's Meet and Expo (RE-INVEST) at Mahatma Mandir, Gandhinagar in Gujarat today. The 3-day summit honours the important contributors to India's remarkable achievement of over 200 GW of installed non-fossil fuel capacity. Shri Modi also took a walkthrough of the exhibition showcasing cutting-edge innovations from public and private sector companies, startups, and major industry players.

The Prime Minister said that India's diversity, scale, capacity, potential and performance are all unique and pave the way for Indian solutions for global applications. "Not just India, the whole world believes that India is the best bet of the 21st century", exclaimed the

Prime Minister. Recounting the global events hosted by India in the last one month, Shri Modi said that Global Fintech Fest was organized earlier in this month, people from across the globe participated in the First International Solar Festival, Global Semiconductor Summit, India also hosted the 2nd Asia-Pacific Civil Aviation Ministerial Conference and today India is hosting a conference of Green Energy.

The Prime Minister said India is the first G20 nation to achieve the climate commitments set in Paris, that too 9 years before the deadline. Shri Modi outlined the nation's goals to achieve the target of 500 GW of renewable energy by 2030 and said that the government has turned the green transition into a people's movement.



He suggested studying India's unique scheme for Rooftop Solar - PM Surya Ghar Free Electricity Scheme where the government funds a Rooftop Solar Setup for every family

and helps in installation. Through this scheme, the Prime Minister said, every household in India becomes a power producer. He informed that more than 1 crore 30 lakh families have

registered under the scheme and installation work has been completed in 3.25 lakh houses so far. Shri Modi further added that PM Surya Ghar scheme is becoming a medium of employment

generation and environment protection generating around 20 lakh jobs. PM Modi informed that the government aims to prepare 3 lakh youth as skilled manpower under

this scheme. Out of these, one lakh youth will be Solar PV Technicians. "Every 3 kilowatts of solar electricity generated will prevent emission of 50-60 tonnes of carbon dioxide", he said, noting the contributions of every family in fighting climate change.

Addressing the gathering Union Minister for New and Renewable Energy, Shri Prahlad Joshi made the inaugural address and emphasized how under Shri Narendra Modi's leadership India is claiming a leading position in the global renewable energy sector. He also made an appeal to all stakeholders

to invest in India's vibrant and rapidly growing RE sector. He reiterated our commitment to harness the immense potential of renewables that India offers.

Shri Joshi expressed

deepest gratitude to participating States in the RE INVEST Meet. He said, our States not only highlight the collective vision of India for a greener future but also play a key role in attracting and nurturing investments in the renewable sector. Shri Prahlad Joshi also felicitated states and industries for their remarkable contribution in surpassing 200 GW of installed non-fossil power capacity in the country. Urge other States to learn from the success stories in the renewable sector and adopt it suiting their own requirements.

Governor of Gujarat, Acharya Devvrat, Chief Minister of Gujarat, Shri Bhupendra Patel, Chief ministers of Andhra Pradesh, Rajasthan, Madhya Pradesh, Chhattisgarh and Goa were present on the occasion among others.

Will Bury Terrorism In J&K To Such Level It Can Never Rise Again: Amit Shah



Gulabgarh (J-K) (KCN): Asserting that BJP-led central government will bury terrorism in Jammu and Kashmir so deep that it can never rise again, Union Home Minister Amit Shah on Monday reiterated that Article 370 is now history and will never be a part of India's constitution again. Addressing an election rally here in Padder-Nagseni assembly segment of Kishtwar district on the last day of campaigning, Mr Shah said the National Conference-Congress alliance will not be able to form the J-K government.

"Today, I promise to the people of Jammu and Kashmir, including this region which has a history of sacrifices following the eruption of terrorism in 1990, that we will bury terrorism to such a deep level that it will never surface again," the home minister said. He added that attempts are being made to revive and strengthen terrorism like the 1990s. The home minister paid tributes to all those who have been killed in terror-related incidents, and specially referred to the deaths of BJP leaders Anil Parihar, Ajit Parihar and RSS leader Chanderkant Sharma.

"National Conference and Congress have made

promises like releasing terrorists from jails after the formation of their government. In front of Maa (Machial Mata's) shrine, I am saying to you that this is Modi's government and no one has the courage to spread terrorism on the soil of India," he said.

Mr Shah said the BJP government has strengthened the village defence guards and Special Police Officers who are being provided modern weapons, replacing the old .303 rifles with self-loading rifles.

"The security grid being laid is such that any number of people (terrorists) who want to come here from anywhere will face their end in these hills at the hands of our Army and police jawans," the home minister said.

This was the home minister's second visit to the Jammu region within a fortnight. Earlier, during his two-day visit to Jammu on September 6 and 7, he released BJP's manifesto for J-K assembly elections and addressed a workers convention.

Monday is the last day for campaigning in 24 assembly constituencies, including Padder-Nagseni, which goes to polls in the first phase on September 18. BJP has fielded former minister

Sunil Sharma from the constituency for the assembly elections.

Seeking support for the BJP candidate, Mr Shah said, "This election is between two powers, on one side National Conference and PDP and on the other BJP. The NC-Congress are saying that if we form the government we will restore Article 370. Tell me should it be restored?" he asked.

"Reservation given by

BJP to Paharis and Gujjars and others will be snatched," he said.

"Don't worry, I am watching the situation in Kashmir and be assured that neither Abdullah's nor Rahul's party are going to form the government in J-K," the home minister said.

Mr Shah said Prime Minister Narendra Modi has revoked Article 370, and it has now become a part of history books.

"There is no place for it in the constitution of India anymore". The home minister said if they are in power in Delhi, how will the NC restore Article 370. "I am leaving with a promise that neither Article 370, nor terrorism will be allowed to return or reservation of Scheduled Tribes and Scheduled castes can be touched," he said.

Shah added that the NC has fielded former minister

Dogras by deporting the last Dogra ruler Maharaja Hari Singh. The minister said he has seen a video of Maharaja's son Karan Singh expressing displeasure over the return of his ashes to J-K, instead of the mortal remains.

"They insulted the

Maharaja and forced out

Kashmiri

Pandits. Whenever they came to power, terrorism got encouragement. They snatched rights of women and never granted reservation to the deserving sections," he said.

Referring to Jana Sangh leader Pandit Prem Nath Dogra from Jammu and his agitation against Article 370, he said "do vidhan, do pradhan aur do nishan (two constitutions, two prime ministers, two symbols) can never be there in our country. There will be only one constitution, one prime minister and one flag that is our beloved tricolour." Targeting Farooq Abdullah, he said when terrorism erupted in J&K in 1990's, he was enjoying in London.

His son Omar Abdullah, Shah said, is in the meantime giving contradictory statements on contesting elections.

Sometimes Omar

Abdullah is saying that he

will not fight elections in the Union territory, but later he came out to submit his nominations from two seats, the home minister said. His defeat is certain from both seats, he said.

Mr Shah further said that the prime minister has encouraged leadership among the youth by holding elections to all tiers of Panchayati Raj Institutions to strengthen grassroots democracy. Highlighting the BJP's manifesto, he said the party will ensure development of the region and utilization of its natural resources to provide jobs to the local youth besides developing a Machail Mata shrine.

Replies to a question on reports that the BJP-led NDA government

will dispel the notion of it being a caged parrot, Vice President Jagdeep Dhankhar has said all organs of the State need to work in tandem, and that institutions work under tight situations and observations can de-spirit them, set off a political debate and can trigger a narrative.

The Vice President, who has had a long and illustrious career as a lawyer, made the remarks at the inauguration ceremony of Samvidhan Mandir at Mumbai's Elphinstone Technical High School and Junior College yesterday.

"All organs of the state - Judiciary, Legislature, and Executive -- have a single purpose: to ensure the success of the fundamental spirit of the Constitution, to guarantee all rights to the common people, and to help India prosper and flourish," he said.

"They need to work in tandem and togetherness to nurture and blossom democratic values and further constitutional ideals. An Institution is well served when it is conscious of certain limitations. Some limitations are obvious, some limitations are very fine, they are subtle. Let

these sacred platforms - judiciary, legislature and executive -- not be trigger points of political inflammatory debate or narrative that is detrimental to the established institutions that serve the nation well in a challenging and daunting environment," the Vice President added.

"Our Institutions, all kinds of Institutions -- Elections Commission, the investigative agencies they perform duty under tight situations, an observation can de-spirit them. It can set a political debate afloat. It can trigger a narrative. We have to be extremely conscious about our Institutions. They are robust, they are working independently, they are under checks and balances. They work under rule of law. In that situation, if we work in a manner to just generate

some sensation, to become a focal point or epicenter of a political debate or a narrative that I will appeal to the concerned is wholly avoidable," Mr Dhankhar said in his remarks.

Supreme Court judge Justice Ujjal Bhuyan made the strong remarks in his judgment on Delhi Chief Minister Arvind Kejriwal's petition challenging his arrest by the CBI in a case linked to alleged irregularities in Delhi's now-scraped liquor policy. The court granted Mr Kejriwal bail, six months after his arrest. While Justice Surya Kant did not find the arrest illegal, Justice Bhuyan wrote in a separate judgment that the CBI is a premier investigating agency and must be seen to be above board.

"In a functional democracy governed by

the rule of law, perception matters. Like Caesar's wife, an investigating agency must be above board. Not long ago, this court has castigated the CBI comparing it to a caged parrot. It is imperative that CBI dispels the notion of it being a caged parrot. Rather, the perception should be that of an uncaged parrot," he said. The judge's remarks prompted the Aam Aadmi Party to launch a scathing attack on the BJP-led central government and Union Home Minister Amit Shah. "The Union home minister should resign as this raises questions on him. The Supreme Court called the CBI (Central Bureau of Investigation) a caged parrot," Delhi Minister Saurabh Bharadwaj told the media after the top court's judgment.

"One Nation, One Election Not Possible Under Present Constitution": P Chidambaram

Chandigarh (KCN): Congress leader P Chidambaram on Monday lashed out at the BJP-led NDA government at the Centre over the 'one nation, one election' issue, saying it is not possible under the present Constitution and requires at least five constitutional amendments.

Replies to a question on reports that the BJP-led NDA government

would implement 'one nation, one election' within its current tenure, he said Prime Minister Narendra Modi does not have the numbers to place those constitutional amendments either in the Lok Sabha or Rajya Sabha.

In his Independence Day address last month, the prime minister made a strong pitch for 'one nation, one election', contending that frequent

polls were creating hurdles in the country's progress.

Addressing reporters here, Mr Chidambaram said, "'One nation, one election' is not possible under the present Constitution. It requires at least five constitutional amendments." "Mr Modi does not have the majority to put those constitutional amendments in either in the Lok Sabha or Rajya Sabha," the former Union minister said.

He asserted that there were greater constitutional obstacles to 'one nation, one election'. "It is not possible. The INDIA bloc is totally opposed to 'One Nation, One Election.' To a question on PM Modi recently alleging that the Congress wanted to end reservation, Chidambaram rejected the charge.

"Can Trigger Narrative": Veep After Top Court's CBI "Caged Parrot" Remark



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"In a functional democracy governed by

Keonjhar: Non-Odia mafia continue to plunder mines

Keonjhar(KCN): Odia Asmita (pride) seems to have taken a beating in mineral-rich Keonjhar as non-Odia mining mafia and miners continue their nefarious activities unhindered in the district, a report stated. During his first visit to the district after assuming charge as Chief Minister of the BJP-led state government, Mohan Charan Majhi, who is also an MLA from the district, announced to launch of a crackdown against mineral smuggling, and initiated stringent action against outside (non-Odia) mineral traders. He had stated that action would be taken against non-Odia miners for smuggling minerals and other illegalities in mining operations in Keonjhar

district. They will be rounded up and put behind bars – from Keonjhar to Jharpada jail in Bhubaneswar. Majhi had said. The CM's resolve was welcomed by the residents of the district wholeheartedly. This was because it kindled a hope in them that Odia Asmita will be protected in the district after the BJP governments came to power both at the Center and the state. Also it will be in line with the Odia Asmita pre-poll plank which helped the saffron party ride to power in the state. However, even three months after the BJP government assumed power in the state, the promises made by the CM has yet to meet reality. This has sparked resentment among the residents. While Opposition leaders and activists have become vocal about with their criticism over the inaction, workers and leaders of the saffron party are maintaining a dubious silence. This in the backdrop of the relentless criticism made against the previous government by the same BJP leaders and workers over the mining scam. Majhi, after becoming the chief minister, had spoken about mining corruption and mafia menace in Keonjhar district.

Subsequently, the CM's statement became a subject of discussion across the country and the state government's action was keenly watched. However, to everyone's



disappointment, the government is yet to initiate any visible steps in that direction. "Nevertheless, the people of Keonjhar district have not given up all their hopes in the Majhi government. They are eagerly waiting for the day action begins against the mining mafia, and see the accused packed behind bars – from Jharpada Jail to Keonjhar jail," said state Congress OBC Cell vice president and senior local leader Gurbax Singh Ahluwalia.

The Shah Commission paid a visit to the state and asked the government to collect fines from mine owners for illegal mining transactions. However, it was alleged that in a subsequent period, no action was taken for the realisation of the penalty from the illegal miners, and no steps were initiated to confiscate their properties. Significantly, it is now alleged that the loot of mineral resources is going on more than ever

before. Illegal miners have been evading huge taxes by declaring 'high grade' iron ore as 'low grade' and transporting iron ore lumps with the permit of iron fines. The unscrupulous miners and agents are also manipulating in overloading of vehicles and the quantity of iron ores. They are also transporting iron ores more than once using the same transit pass. The mining department often conducts raids on receipt of complaints, but its failure to carry out further probe and follow-up action against the guilty has only encouraged the wrongdoers to continue smuggling minerals with impunity, it is alleged. As a result, such illegal business is thriving as before. Mineral

transportation through rail routes has its pitfalls as the railways lack an established system to check such illegalities. This has raised many eyebrows. To bring transparency in mining transactions, the state government introduced some restrictions on issuing commercial certificates. Former MLA Subarna Naik said as a result of the restrictions, people, or organizations, previously involved in illegal transactions regrouped again and started trading using alibis and changing names of the organizations. In 2012, the owner of a monopolistic mining company was arrested in connection with a shootout that took place at Rungta Mines in Jajang. However, he was back in operation once he was released from jail on bail. He was later detained under the National Security Act (NSA), while many cases were pending against him. Owing to this, he left the mining area for many years and hid in the Capital City. However, what has surprised many is that soon after the new government took charge, he got a NoC for his business which helped him expand his operations by establishing his monopoly over railway loading and transportation work in Nayagarh, Bansapani and Jurudi railway sidings. He has a fleet of trucks to transport ore, while truck owners who make a living out of transporting ore are on the verge of bankruptcy.

Dhenkanal Heritage Walks showcases art of Dhokra craft



Dhenkanal(KCN): Despite heavy rains and adverse weather conditions, over 30 heritage and culture enthusiasts visited the villages of Nuagaon and Sadeibareni on the outskirts of the town Sunday. These villages are renowned for their Dhokra craft. The participants interacted with the artisans and observed the intricate processes involved in creating this

metal craft, which has been passed down through generations in these small, forested hamlets. The 17th Dhenkanal Heritage Walk (DHW), centred on Dhokra crafts, provided an opportunity to explore not only the art form itself but also the struggles and lifestyles of the craftsmen who, despite facing significant hardships, continue to preserve and sustain this traditional art.

"Dhokra is a non-ferrous metal casting technique with a rich history, utilizing the ancient lost-wax casting process. This unique method has been practiced across India for over 4,000 years and remains in use today. One of the earliest known examples of this technique is the famous 'Dancing Girl' from Mohenjodaro. The simplicity, enchanting folk motifs, and bold forms of Dhokra

products make them highly sought after in both domestic and international markets," said one participant.

Award-winning artisan Sanatan Pradhan, a master craftsman from the Nuagaon Dhokra craft village, demonstrated the metal casting process to the visitors. The group also visited the Sadeibareni Cluster House on Dhokra art, built by the district administration.

6 killed, 11 injured in road accidents



Baripada / Bolangir(KCN): At least six people were killed and 11 others injured in three separate road accidents in the state, police said Sunday. Two persons, riding a motorcycle, were killed Sunday morning after being hit by a vehicle on National Highway-26 near Madhiapali in Bolangir district, a senior officer said. Locals spotted the two victims lying in a pool of blood and

informed the police. The two were taken to Bhima Bhoi Medical College and Hospital, where doctors pronounced them dead on arrival, he said. The deceased are yet to be identified, the officer said. He added that the police had registered a case and started an investigation. Four people were killed and 11 others injured in two separate accidents in Mayurbhanj district late Saturday. Two persons,

riding a motorcycle, rammed into a truck and died on the spot near Palbani on NH-18 on the outskirts of Baripada town, the police said. The deceased were identified as Bikash Mohanta (25) and Mitu Mohanta (26). In another accident, a speeding car with 13 people on board hit a roadside tree near Khasadiha on the Baripada-Lulung road, the official said. The district police registered two cases and bodies were sent to the hospital for post-mortem, the officer informed.

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Capri Global Appoints Coaching Beyond as Consultant for UAE ILT20 League

Mumbai: Capri Global has announced an association with Coaching Beyond, a premier cricket coaching institute, as a consultant for the franchise team of the UAE ILT20 League. The institution will assist Capri Global in appointment of coaching staff and matters related to cricket operations. R Sridhar, former fielding coach of the Indian Cricket Team and one of the founding members of Coaching Beyond, will be the Director of Cricket for Capri Global during the UAE ILT20 League. Capri Global intends to strengthen the cricket ecosystem on the global platform by engaging the right sporting talent and nurturing them. The company aims to play a vital role as an enabler by empowering deserving talent to showcase their sporting strength to the globe. Speaking on the association, Mr. Rajesh Sharma, Director, Capri Global, said, "Capri Global aims to reinforce the visibility and

popularity of sports nationally and globally and popularize homegrown sports to create opportunities for aspiring talent. We are pleased to associate with Coaching Beyond, a brainchild of sports stalwarts who will assist us in evaluating the deserving talent and offer state-of-the-art sports training infrastructure, world-class technology, and training to sportspeople. Mr. Sridhar's experience as a player and coach is almost unrivaled and his strategic insights, coaching approach, and collaborative style will be invaluable for our franchise team. We see great synergy coming through this alliance, including a host of exciting moments that are set to elevate the cricketing experience for the Indian audience on the global platform."

Coaching Beyond is a premier cricket coaching institute in India that provides performance-driven cricket coaching,

payload closer to regular 6x2 MAV truck) and a 4x2 truck (18.5T GVW) with lift axle up (lower fuel and operating cost similar to 4x2) during light load/partial load/return empty. This new product thus offers an excellent operational flexibility to customers to choose the option based on their load, offering best-in-class Total Cost of Operation (TCO) benefits.

Speaking on the occasion, Mr. Sanjeev Kumar, Head - M&HCV, Ashok Leyland, said, "Ashok

Leyland has a history of introducing products which have disrupted the CV industry. AVTR 2620 with its unique lift axle configuration offers higher TCO advantage to our customers operating in Ecom, Parcel & tanker. AVTR 2620 is a testament of Ashok Leyland's technological prudence & our commitment towards providing better logistical solutions to our customers, aligning with our philosophy of AppkiJeet, HamariJeet."

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

Chennai: Ashok Leyland, flagship of the Hinduja Group and India's leading commercial vehicle manufacturer, today, launched the industry first 8 wheeler truck – AVTR 2620. With this launch of AVTR 2620, Ashok Leyland becomes the first and only player in the country to have a full range of trucks based on lift axle technology from GVW of 25.5 to 47.5T. This new product can be operated as 25.5 T (6x2) truck with the lift axle down (offering

101-685). From the 178 Rankers, 45 Learners were Unacademy's Plus/ Iconic subscribers guided by India's Top Educators. The other rankers were guided by Unacademy's Last Mile Programme for UPSC CSE 2021 Interview. Last Mile Programme is an interview guidance program for the last stage of the UPSC CSE exam that helps Learners who have qualified the Mains exam to crack the Personal Interview stage. The questions are asked by retired bureaucrats, former UPSC members and Top Educators in a mock set-up. In last year's Unacademy's Interview Guidance Program 170+ Rankers qualified the Interview stage by securing AIR 2.

OPPO India launches Reno12 5G series; makes AI phones accessible



Bhubaneswar: OPPO India today announced the launch of the Reno12 series, its first step towards accelerating the availability of AI phones in the country. The Reno12 series—"Your Everyday AI Companion"—boasts features such as AI Eraser 2.0, AI Clear Face, and Smart Image Matting 2.0 for flawless yet fun photos without complex image editing. The devices also pack the AI Toolbox, powered by Google Gemini LLM, that comprises AI Writer, AI Summary, and AI Speak to enhance daily productivity. The Reno12 Pro 5G will be available in two variants: INR 36,999 for the 12GB+256GB model and INR 40,999 for the 12GB+512GB version.

make mobile devices more personalised and intuitive to not only enhance smartphone capabilities but also transform the way users interact with their devices."

The Reno12 Pro sports a unique Quad-Micro Curved Infinite View screen with a 43-degree curve for extremely narrow bezels of just 1.69mm and a 93.5% screen-to-body ratio. Both devices come with 6.7-inch FHD+ AMOLED displays with 120Hz refresh rate for smooth browsing and scrolling; their 1200nits peak HDR brightness ensures legibility even under direct sunlight. The handsets boast 10-bit panels that output 1.07 billion colours to display images with a high dynamic range (HDR) and subtle colour gradations for life-like, immersive pictures.

The Reno12 Pro 5G—available in Sunset Gold and Space Brown—sports a Panda Glass back with dual textures: The top half is treated with anti-glare technology that is smudge-resistant, while the lower glossy area is defined by a smooth ribbon that carries the OPPO branding.

Nuvoco Vistas Launches Its Second Ready-Mix Plant in Patna



Bhubaneswar(KCN): Nuvoco Vistas Corp. Ltd., India's fifth-largest cement group has widened its operational presence with the inauguration of its second state-of-the-art Ready-mix Concrete Plant (RMX) as Patna-II. Situated strategically at Ranipur Milki Chak,

Begampur, bypass, this plant marks Nuvoco's continued commitment for providing top-quality building materials to the Patna region. Strategically located approximately 24 kilometers from the first plant, Patna-II is positioned as Nuvoco's regional flagship plant. It

capitalizes on untapped market potential by providing quick access to Nuvoco's Cement Plant in the region. Its proximity to nearby Industrial, Commercial, and Residential developments guarantees high-quality concrete solutions on time.

Mr. Prashant Jha, Chief of the Ready-Mix (RMX) Concrete and Modern Building Materials business at Nuvoco Vistas expressed his excitement at the inauguration of this latest plant, stating, "The launch of the Patna-II plant underscores Nuvoco's dedication to providing

Union Bank of India signs MOU with SIDBI for Co-Financing arrangement of MSMEs

Mumbai : Union Bank of India today signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with Small Industries Development Bank of India (SIDBI) for a Co-Financing arrangement for MSMEs. The MoU was signed by Shri Lal Singh, Chief General Manager, Union Bank of India and Shri Vivek Kumar Malhotra, Chief General Manager, SIDBI. SIDBI is country's principal financial institution

engaged in the Promotion, Financing and Development of Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises (MSME). Under the MoU, Union Bank of India would consider Joint financing/ Co-Financing with SIDBI to Projects/Units in the MSME. This MoU would help the Banks to increase their customer base, while helping the MSMEs to meet their funding requirements. The key highlights of the arrangement include joint

identification of viable projects and term loan and working capital financing to MSMEs. Initially the arrangement would be at specific centers and once the arrangement stabilizes at these centers, more locations would be covered. Speaking on the occasion, Shri Lal Singh, CGM (MSME), Union Bank of India, said "MSME is one of the key sectors of our Indian Economy contributing to GDP,

Exports, Manufacturing Output, Employment, Women Empowerment etc. MSME is one of the focused areas of the Bank and at Union Bank of India, we aim to become Bank of 1st choice for MSMEs. This tie-up with SIDBI aids in realizing the Bank's vision to have increased credit flow to the MSME sector and extend operational convenience to the MSME clientele. Under partnership, Union Bank of India through its Pan

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

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

from tariffs. These are some major findings of a report titled Power Sector in India: New Emerging Opportunities and Challenges released by Infomerics Valuation and Rating Pvt Ltd., the well-known SEBI-registered and RBI-accredited financial services credit rating company. The report explores the opportunities and challenges ahead for India as it seeks to ensure reliable, affordable and sustainable energy for a growing population. During FY20 and FY19, the growth of electricity generation was lower than in the previous financial years because

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

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

Blue Dart signs the UNFCCC Climate Neutral Now Pledge

Bhubaneswar: Blue Dart, South Asia's premier express air and integrated transportation & distribution company and a part of the Deutsche Post DHL (DPDHL) Group has signed the 'Climate Neutral Now' (CNN) pledge by the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC). The pledge highlights the organisation's commitment

to ambitious CO2 reduction targets. Deutsche Post DHL Group has adopted a package of measures worth up to ₹7 billion to reduce its greenhouse gas emissions by 2030 in line with the Paris Climate Agreement, primarily to expand the use of sustainable technologies and fuels in its fleets and buildings. Its long term goal is to reduce GHG emissions to net zero by

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

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



There is extra confidence in our team - Najmul Hossain

New Delhi: Bangladesh captain Najmul Hossain acknowledged on Sunday (September 15) that their upcoming tour of India will be a tough challenge. However, he expressed confidence that, following their historic series win against Pakistan, they believe they can perform well against the formidable Indian side.

Earlier this month, Bangladesh secured a 2-0 series victory against Pakistan in Rawalpindi. On Sunday, the Test squad departed for India while members of the T20I squad are set to join later.

"This will be a challenging series for us but after having a good

series against Pakistan, there is an extra confidence in our team as well as among all the people of the country," Najmul told reporters before departing for India. "Every series is an opportunity and we will play to win both the matches. (We will focus on) the things that we need to do for the win...the process is important and we need to do our job properly.

"If we can do our job properly certainly a good result is possible but still it's going to be very challenging. If you see the ranking they are far ahead of us but recently we played a good series and the most important thing is that how we can

play good cricket. The result happens in the last session of the five days and so if we can play good cricket we have a chance to do well in the last session.

"It is important what plans need to be executed to play well for five days and there will be a chance to win but let's not think too far ahead and focus on our strength and how we can play good cricket," said Najmul.

Najmul said Bangladesh's pacers are relatively less experienced than their Indian counterparts but emphasised that their spinners are capable of performing well on any surface. He stressed,

however, that their success will depend on playing cohesively as a team.

"Our spin and pace is in a good frame. But still if you compare the teams, I feel our pacers are relatively less experienced compared to them," said Najmul. "Spin wise we are close to them but experience wise I

would keep them ahead but our spinners can bowl in any condition and I can say this much - that all the players, whether pacers,

spinners or batters, whoever will play, every player will give a hundred percent. The difference can be made when we play as a team."

Meanwhile, Najmul's form with the bat has been a concern for the team. He scored only 32 runs at an average of 8 against Sri Lanka in the two-match Test series at home earlier this year and he also struggled with the bat against Pakistan, with just 58 runs in three innings. Bangladesh batting coach David Hemp recently told Cricbuzz that Najmul is just one good innings away from regaining his form.

It will be 50-50 in Border-Gavaskar Trophy, says Cummins

New Delhi: Pat Cummins thinks it is 50-50 between India and Australia in the upcoming Border-Gavaskar Trophy while Steve Smith says he is looking forward to the big summer.

"The most recent Test match was, of course, the World Test Championship in neutral conditions, and we came out on top in that match. It's always fiercely competitive, and it always feels like it's 50-50. I'm 10 out of 10 excited for the Border-Gavaskar Trophy," the Australia captain told Star Sports.

"The last two series here in Australia, we haven't been successful, so it's been a long time. Hopefully, it's time to make amends. You know, we've played them plenty of times where they've beaten us, but we've also had plenty of wins against them as well, which we'll draw confidence from," Cummins further said. India currently hold the coveted trophy, having



won the last home and away series. Australia last won the trophy in 2014-15. Sharing his thoughts on the series, Smith said, "It's going to be a great series. You know, India have been playing outstanding cricket. We've been playing really good cricket the last couple of years. You know, we haven't beaten India in the last two times they've come out here. Obviously got a

terrific side, very well-balanced team, all bases covered.

Mitchell Starc said the Border-Gavaskar Trophy is as big as the Ashes. "For Australian cricket, you've got the Ashes and then you've got the Border-Gavaskar Trophy in there. I mean there's a long history in the Ashes but that Border Gavaskar rivalry, if you like, has just grown from strength to strength over each series and now we see it as a five Test match series which is fantastic for not

only the rivalry but for the series as well.

"Whether it's the calibre of player, the calibre of matches that we see as fans and as cricketers just continues to grow strength on strength each series and now India obviously winning a number of series in a row, it's created even a bigger rivalry between the two countries. I mean both teams are well known to one another, we play each other very often across the formats so I'm sure it'll be another exciting series but one I think that both experienced sides will showcase some fantastic cricket."

The five-Test series starts in Perth on November 22 and is scheduled to conclude at the iconic SCG (January 3-7) with matches in between in Adelaide (the pink-ball Test from December 6), at the Gabba (from December 14) and the traditional Boxing Day Test at the MCG.

New Delhi (KCN): Harry Brook will lead England for the first time in his career after being named captain for the upcoming ODI series against Australia. Brook has been elevated to captaincy after Jos Buttler was ruled out of the five-match series. Buttler, who hasn't played since the T20 World Cup semifinal against India in late July, will now have to target a return to the squad for their tour of the Caribbean in November. Brook, who has captained England in an Under-19 World Cup in 2018, was recently Ollie Pope's deputy in the Test series against Sri Lanka where Ben Stokes was

absent. The ECB has also confirmed that young pacer Josh Hull, who made his international debut in the final Test against Sri Lanka, has been pulled out of the squad following a quad injury. The ODI series kickstarts on September 19 at Trent Bridge. England squad for Australia ODIs: Harry Brook (Captain), Jofra Archer, Jacob Bethell, Brydon Carse, Jordan Cox, Ben Duckett, Will Jacks, Liam Livingstone, Matthew Potts, Adil Rashid, Phil Salt, Jamie Smith, Olly Stone, Reece Topley, John Turner

Confident Shami backs India to complete hat-trick Down Under

New Delhi (KCN): Mohammad Shami thinks India have a strong chance of making it three-in-a-row against Australia Down Under this winter. "I believe India are the favourites to win the series. In the last series in Australia, we played with a young team, with many senior players absent, yet we still proved we were the best. I expect the next series to be highly competitive, but I'm confident that India will come out victorious," said the Indian pacer, who has been sidelined due to injury for close to 10 months.

India have won the last two away series in Australia, in 2018-19 and

2020-21. In fact, Australia have not laid hands on the Border-Gavaskar Trophy since 2014. Shami was part of the 2018-19 series in Australia but did not feature in the team's most recent visit two years later.

Incidentally, Shami's last Test appearance was against Australia in the World Test Championship final at The Oval in June 2023. He has been out of action since the India-Australia World Cup final in November last year, having undergone a surgery in the meantime.

When questioned about his current fitness status, Shami said, "I've already started bowling. I want to ensure there are no doubts in my mind and that I must not feel any discomfort. Unless I'm 100 percent in every

possible. It's not advisable to return with any doubt. I need to be stronger, and the stronger I feel, the better it will be. My goal is to return at my strongest. While I aim to come back at the earliest, my priority is to be fully fit. So whether it's for the Australia, New Zealand, or Bangladesh series, it doesn't matter."

Shami was speaking at the annual awards function in Kolkata on Saturday night. When questioned about his current fitness status, Shami said, "I've already started bowling. I want to ensure there are no doubts in my mind and that I must not feel any discomfort. Unless I'm 100 percent in every



wickets in 64 Tests, believes India are strong favourites against Bangladesh. He remarked, "It's fine if Bangladesh have beaten Pakistan, but we're playing at home. Bangladesh should consider our record, current form, and the strengths of the Indian team." The two-Test series against Bangladesh starts in Chennai on September 19. Shami also said he wants to play for Bengal. "I definitely want to play for Bengal in the coming season. I am looking forward to playing two to three matches for Bengal in Ranji. It will help me to make a comeback in international cricket. I have been training at the NCA and I want to play as and when I am 100 percent fit."

"I can't thank Bengal enough. I was born in a family in UP where there was no opportunity. So I often say I was born in UP but made in Bengal. This is a journey of 22 years and I am so grateful to Bengal for making me what I am. The love and warmth Bengal has shown will never be forgotten. I want Women's cricket to come up in a big way. People should not discriminate and I would be very happy to see our families."