

President of India graces the opening ceremony of the 16th Asian Organisation of Supreme Audit Institution Assembly Audits and evaluations by SAIs not only safeguard public funds but also enhance public confidence in governance: President Murmu

New Delhi (KCN): The President of India, Smt. Droupadi Murmu graced the opening ceremony of the 16th Asian Organisation of Supreme Audit Institution (ASOSAI) Assembly, being organised by the Comptroller and Auditor General (CAG) of India, in New Delhi today (September 24, 2024). Speaking on the occasion, the President said that the CAG of India plays a key role in ensuring transparency and accountability in the country's public finance. It was not without reason that the Indian Constitution vested the office of CAG with a

wide mandate and complete autonomy. She was happy to note that the office of the CAG has lived up to the expectations of the Constitution-makers. It follows a strict code of ethical and moral conduct that ensures the highest order of probity in its functioning. The President said that the mandate of public sector audits has expanded beyond traditional auditing to include assessing the effectiveness of public welfare schemes and projects, ensuring that they serve all citizens equitably. She stated that in an increasingly

technology-driven world, more and more public services are being delivered using technology. Audit, therefore, needs to keep up with technological evolution in order to be able to perform its oversight functions effectively. The President said that today, we are at a critical juncture where emerging

digital technologies like artificial intelligence, data analytics, machine learning and geo-spatial technology are becoming the backbone of modern governance. Digital Public Infrastructure (DPI) serves as the foundation to support and enhance the functioning of the digital economy and services provided to citizens. From digital

identities to e-governance platforms, DPI has the potential to revolutionise the delivery of public services and goods, making them more accessible, efficient, and inclusive. The President said that in many parts of the world, women and vulnerable sections of the society have less access to digital

technologies, fewer opportunities to develop digital skills, and are under-represented in the digital economy. This divide not only limits their ability to access essential services but also perpetuates inequality. This is where the role of Supreme Audit Institutions (SAIs) becomes crucial. As auditors, they have the

unique responsibility and opportunity to ensure that digital public infrastructure is designed and implemented in a way that is inclusive and accessible to all. The President said that the financial world is often beset by opaque accounting practices. In this setting, the role of independent Supreme Audit Institutions is to see that public resources are managed efficiently, effectively and with the utmost integrity. Audits and evaluations by SAIs not only safeguard public funds but also enhance public confidence in governance. The President said that

The institution of CAG of India has a rich history of public auditing. She expressed confidence that SAI India, as hosts of the 16th ASOSAI Assembly, will have a lot to offer in the deliberations of the learned minds gathered in the Assembly. She congratulated SAI India for assuming the Chairmanship of ASOSAI for the period 2024 to 2027. She expressed confidence that under the able stewardship of the CAG of India, ASOSAI will reach new heights, fostering greater cooperation and innovation among the members.

Odisha CM felicitates two students for success in WorldSkills Competition



Bhubaneswar (KCN): Odisha Chief Minister Mohan Charan Majhi Tuesday felicitated two students of Bhubaneswar-based skill training institute, who won medals in the recently held WorldSkills Competition in France, with cash rewards at Lok Seva Bhawan in Bhubaneswar.

The Chief Minister also interacted with all the participants from the state.

Notably, Amaresh Kumar Sahu from the Deogarh district won a bronze medal at the WorldSkills Lyon, France

2024. Amaresh excelled in the 'Renewable Energy' skill, showcasing outstanding performance. Meanwhile, Gedela Akhil from Gajapati district won the Medallion for Excellence in 'Water Technology' at WorldSkills Lyon, France.

The Chief Minister has awarded Amaresh with Rs 25 lakh cash prize while Gedela was given Rs 5 lakh for his performance in the WorldSkills Lyon, France 2024.

While interacting with the participants, the Chief Minister.

Minister said that the skills of the children of Odisha have now come to the attention of the world, adding that the skill development will be turned into a movement in Odisha in the coming days.

"Our program is being prepared to build a developed Odisha in view of 2036 and 2047. Our talented youth will be the real driver of our developed Odisha. Our youth is our identity. They are new to us. They are the basis of integrity for us," said the Chief Minister.

At least 60 participants from India participated in the WorldSkills Competition held in Lyon, France between September 10 to 15. Meanwhile, out of 60 participants, 15 were from Odisha. "We have prepared a road map for skill development in Odisha. We don't just believe in dreams, but we create metaphors for reality. This year's budget has earmarked Rs 1,050 crore only for progr a m implementation in the field of skill development and technical education," added the Chief Minister.

to all this.... now the so called precedents must give way to primacy of law," said the bench. Terming the high court verdict "absolutely right," the court said, "Look at the deleterious consequences... the candidates who have three times higher marks will lose admission (in NEET-UG courses)."

The top court said distant relatives of a 'mama, tai, taya,' who are settled abroad, will get admissions ahead of meritorious candidates and this cannot be allowed.

"This is completely a fraud. And this is what we are doing with our education system!... We will affirm the high court judgement. We must stop this NRI business now. The judges know what they are dealing with. The high court has dealt with the case threadbare," the CJI said. "Let us put a lid on this... what is this ward? You just have to say that I am looking after X... We cannot lend our authority to something which is blatantly illegal," the bench said while dismissing the plea of the state government.

Senior advocate Shadan Farasat, appearing for the Punjab government, said that other states like Himachal Pradesh, Uttar Pradesh also followed the broader interpretation of term 'NRI quota.'

"This is nothing but a money-spinning machine," observed a bench of Chief Justice D Y Chandrachud and Justices J B Pardiwala and Manoj Misra. "We will dismiss all the petitions. This NRI business is nothing but a fraud. We will put an end to all this.... now the so called precedents must give way to primacy of law," said the bench. Terming the high court verdict "absolutely right," the court said, "Look at the deleterious consequences... the candidates who have three times higher marks will lose admission (in NEET-UG courses)."

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JSW group not withdrawing Rs 40,000 cr EV project from Odisha: Company official



The JSW group signed a memorandum of understanding with the Odisha government February 10, 2024 for establishment of an integrated electric vehicle and EV battery manufacturing project at an investment of Rs 40,000 crore in the state. At Naraj in Cuttack district, the JSW group had planned to set up an EV vehicle and

component manufacturing plant, while at Paradip in Jagatsinghpur district, it proposed to establish a copper smelter and lithium refinery. The project consists of a 50 GWH EV battery plant, EV, lithium refinery, copper smelter and related component manufacturing units. The MoU was signed after the state cabinet

approved a special incentive package for the group's ambitious EV and component manufacturing projects. Amid media reports about the company's planning to shift its project to Maharashtra, Odisha Industries Minister Sampad Swain on Tuesday said the state government was talking to the JSW group for implementation of the EV project in the state.

Swain said the state government was not aware of the company's plans as "reported" in the media.

"Though MoU was signed in February this year and the previous government had not

allocated land for the JSW's project. Now, we are talking to the company to set up its plants. We are not informed regarding the shifting of the plant from Odisha. However, there is a delay in the implementation of the project," Swain told PTI over phone.

The minister said the new BJP government, during its first 100 days in office, has attracted investment of Rs 45,000 crore in various sectors like chemicals, semiconductors, steel pipes and others.

"The government is serious about rapid industrialisation of the state," Swain said.

institutes were asked to form the panels as per the provision of the Sexual Harassment of Women at Workplace (Prevention, Prohibition and Redressal) Act, 2013.

asked to ensure a safe and secure environment for their employees and students. The Act mandates each workplace to set up an internal complaint committee to receive and address sexual harassment issues, an official said.

An internal complaint committee should consist of a "presiding officer who is a senior-level woman employee of the organisation concerned, at least two employees and one member from an NGO or association committed to the cause of women", he said. At least one-half of the total members so nominated shall be women, as per the Act.

Heavy rain likely in Odisha as low-pressure forms over Bay of Bengal: IMD



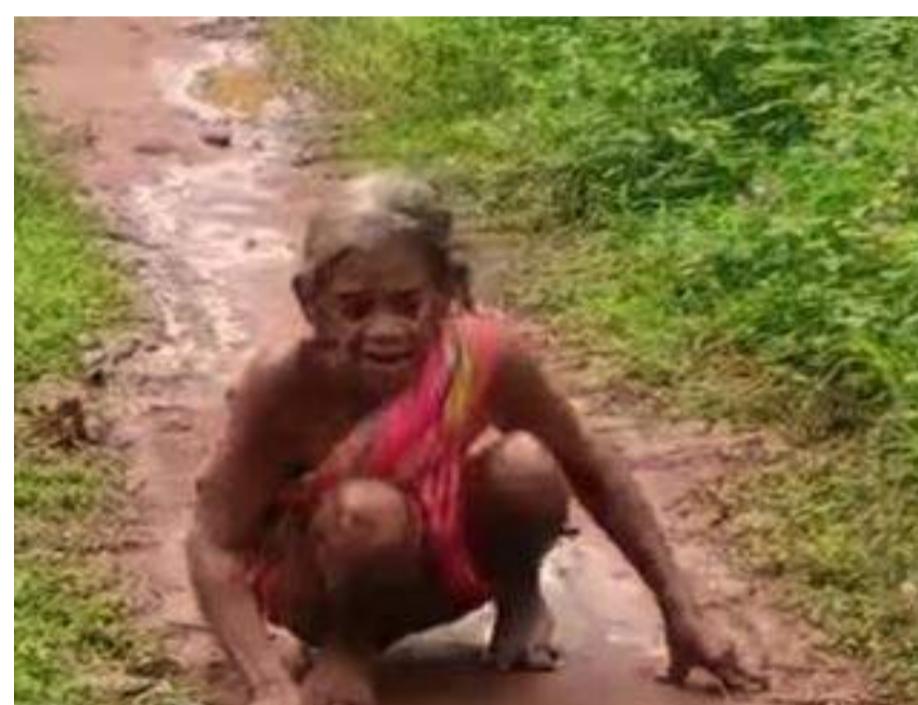
Bhubaneswar(KCN): Odisha is likely to receive heavy rainfall at most places in 20 districts for the next few days under the influence of a low-pressure area over the Bay of Bengal, IMD said Tuesday.

The weather office has forecast torrential rain (7-11 cm) accompanied by thunderstorms and lightning at isolated places in the 20 districts Wednesday.

"Under the influence of a cyclonic circulation over the central Bay of

Bengal, a low-pressure area has formed over west-central Bay of Bengal & its adjoining northwest off north Andhra Pradesh and south Odisha coasts," it said in a bulletin. The system is likely to trigger heavy rainfall till September 26 in Sundargarh, Jharsuguda, Bargarh, Sambalpur, Deogarh, Angul, Dhenkanal, Keonjhar, Mayurbhanj, Balasore, Bhadrak, Jajpur, Kendrapada, Cuttack, Jagatsinghpur, Puri, Khurda, Nayagarh, Ganjam and Gajapati districts. Besides, thunderstorms with lightning may occur at isolated places in Nuapada, Kandhamal, Kalahandi and Rayagada, the bulletin said. In the past 24 hours till 8.30am, Odisha recorded an average rainfall of 19.7 mm, with the highest downpour of 105 mm at Binjharpur in Jajpur district, followed by 98.3 mm at Gopalpur in Ganjam and 94.9 mm at Nuagaon in Nayagarh.

70-year-old woman crawls 2km to collect pension in Odisha's Keonjhar



Keonjhar(KCN): A 70-year-old woman in Odisha's Keonjhar district crawled nearly two kilometres from her home to the panchayat office to collect her old-age pension.

The ailing woman identified as Pathuri Dehury, a resident of Raisuan gram panchayat, cannot walk. A video of Dehury crawling on a village road has gone viral on social media.

Raisuan gram panchayat sarpanch Bagun Champia said that he drew the attention of the administration after watching the old woman crawling on the road on television news and seeing her pictures in newspapers.

"I have also verified from the villagers that the woman is not able to walk properly due to her age-related ailment," the Sarpanch said.

Though the state government had earlier issued a directive to officials to deliver the pension of elderly and disabled beneficiaries at

their doorstep, Dehury said a panchayat official had asked her to visit the office to collect the monthly pension.

The woman is 70 years old and had no other alternative to reach there, according to villagers. The gram panchayat concerned is under Telkoi block in Odisha Chief Minister Mohan Charan Majhi's home district Keonjhar.

Telkoi block development extension officer was asked to disburse the old-age pension to Dehury at

officer (BDO) Geeta Murmu told PTI that the old-age pension was earlier sent to Dehury's bank account.

However, as she became ill and expressed her inability to visit the bank, the local administration has started disbursing the pension by hand, she said. Now, the panchayat extension officer was asked to disburse the old-age pension to Dehury at

her home each month. A wheelchair has also been provided to her, the BDO said.

Raisuan sarpanch said the civil supply assistant will provide rations to Dehury at her doorstep. The state government provides pension to 42 lakh elderly people under schemes like Madhu Babu Pension Yojana and the Indira Gandhi National Old Age Pension Scheme.

ASI conducts underground survey at Konark Sun Temple to locate hidden structures



Bhubaneswar(KCN): A day after completing the technical survey of Lord Jagannath's Ratna Bhandar in Puri, the Archaeological Survey of India (ASI) Monday conducted a ground penetrating survey at the Sun Temple in Konark. The survey, which will take place over two days, aims to locate any hidden structures or artefacts beneath the ground, according to ASI Puri Circle Superintendent DB Garnayak.

"We are utilising the machinery and scientific equipment brought to Odisha for the Ratna Bhandar survey. Following that, the Hyderabad-based

National Geographical Research Institute (NGRI) has agreed to conduct the ground penetrating survey at the Konark Temple," an official said.

The survey of the temple's surroundings is part of preparatory work for upcoming

beautification efforts. A three-member team from NGRI conducted the ground penetrating survey, assessing the potential existence of structures, artifacts, or debris up to 10 metres below ground.

Garnayak said the ASI will submit the survey



Women march in procession ahead of immersion ceremony of goddess Solapua Maa in Cuttack



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Actor Pratibha Ranta 'beyond excited' after Laapataa Ladies' Oscar entry

heart, especially my character, Jaya."

She also said, "I believe the story beautifully resonates with audiences worldwide, showcasing themes of love, loss, and the search for individuality. It's a celebration of our culture and an invitation for international viewers to experience the richness of Indian storytelling. I'm grateful to be part of such an important project!"

Along with Pratibha, the film features Nitanshi Goel, Sparsh Srivastava, Ravi Kishan, and others. Kiran Rao expressed happiness after Laapataa Ladies' big feat. She said, "I'm beyond excited that Laapataa Ladies got nominated at the Oscars. "I am deeply honoured and delighted that our film Laapataa Ladies has been chosen as India's official entry to



the Academy Awards. This recognition is a testament to the tireless work of my entire team, whose dedication and passion brought this story to life," read a part of her note. "Cinema has always been a powerful medium to connect hearts, transcend boundaries, and ignite meaningful conversations. I hope that this film will resonate with audiences across the world, just as it has in India," she added.

Laapataa Ladies was competing against titles like Ranbir Kapoor's Animal, Kartik Aaryan's Chandu Champion, Prabhas's Kalki 2898AD, National Award-winning Malayalam film Attam, Rajkummar Rao's Srikant, Vicky Kaushal's Sam Bahadur, and others.

Sexy! Shehnaaz Gill turns up the heat as she poses in tube short dress

Actress Shehnaaz Gill, known for her stint on 'Bigg Boss 13', set the internet ablaze on Monday with stunning glimpses from her latest photoshoot. Dressed in a chic white tube short dress and elegantly complemented by a striking red cape, she exuded confidence and style, captivating her fans and followers.

Taking to Instagram, Shehnaaz, who boasts 18.5 million followers, shared a stunning array of photos showcasing her in a chic white tube short dress paired with a striking red cape. Her glam makeup look featured shimmering golden eyeshadow, perfectly contoured and highlighted cheeks, and a wet hairstyle that added to her allure. She completed the ensemble with a silver choker necklace, chunky rings, and bangles, effortlessly embodying a blend of

elegance and modern flair that captivated her fans.

In the caption she posted two red heart emojis. The post was liked by actor Ayushmann Khurrana. Fans took to the comment section and wrote: "She is red hot", "hotness overloaded", "Hotty gill", and "Khubsurat".

On the professional front, Shehnaaz began



her modelling career with the 2015 music video, 'Shiv Di Kitaab'. In 2017, she marked her debut in Punjabi film 'Sat Shri Akaal England'. She has been a part of films like 'Kala Shah Kala', 'Daaka', 'Honsla Rakh', 'Kisi Ka Bhai Kisi Ki Jaan', and most recently 'Thank You for Coming'. Shehnaaz has appeared

in several music videos titled- 'Maar Kar Gayi', 'Pindaan Diyaan Kudiyaan', 'Je Haan Ni Karni', 'Putt Sardaran De', 'Lakh Laanhta', 'Viah Da Chaa', 'Jatt Jaan Vaarda', 'Gusse Ho Ke Nahiyo Sarna', 'Jatti Hadd Sekhdhi', 'Gunday Ik Vaar Fer', 'Peg Paun Wele', 'Gedi Route', 'Shona Shona', and 'Habit'.

The diva will be seen in a special appearance in the upcoming movie Vicky Vidya Ka Woh Wala Video. The upcoming comedy film starring Rajkummar Rao and Triptii Dimri is directed by Raaj Shaandilyaa and produced by T-Series Films, Balaji Motion Pictures, Wakao Films and Kathavachak Films. The film is scheduled for a theatrical release on October 11.

She also has 'Sab First Class' in the pipeline.

Deepika Padukone shares video showcasing adorable newborn quirks



Hindi film actress Deepika Padukone, currently savoring the joys of motherhood, has offered fans a delightful glimpse into her maternal journey, by sharing a playful video titled 'if adults ate like newborns', humorously capturing the antics of mealtime from a newborn's perspective. On September 8, Deepika and her husband and actor Ranveer Singh officially announced the arrival of their first bundle of joy, a baby girl. Now, Deepika took to Instagram Stories, where she has 80.2 million followers and re-shared a Reel video which is titled "If Adults Ate Like Newborns". It features a woman waking up on the couch and heading to the kitchen to prepare a meal. After a moment of staring at her plate, she comically attempts to eat messily, ultimately passing out after just one bite, her mouth agape. Throughout the clip, she mimics the head-shaking antics of a newborn, bringing a humorous twist to the everyday challenges of mealtime.

Filmmaker Ali Abbas Zafar claims non-payment of dues against producer Vashu Bhagnani

Three prominent filmmakers have accused producer Vashu Bhagnani of non-payment of dues, escalating the matter to FWICE.

Bade Miyan Chote Miyan director Ali Abbas Zafar, Mission Raniganj director Tinu Desai and Ganpat maker Vikas Bahl have claimed non-payment of fees from Pooja Entertainment head Vashu Bhagnani and his son, Jackky Bhagnani. The matter has now reached the Federation of Western India Cine Employees (FWICE), who issued an official statement regarding the same.

FWICE's statement against Bhagnani about non-payment of dues can be read, "There have been certain speculations going on in the media regarding non-payment of dues to the technicians, workers, artists, and vendor by Vashu Bhagnani -

Producer of M/s. Pooja Entertainment. We would therefore like to make certain clarifications in the above regard. FWICE has received complaints from our various affiliated associations belonging to different crafts."

"Director Tinu Desai has filed a complaint for not being paid the balance amount towards his remuneration of Film 'M I S S I O N RANIGANJ' which was released on 6th of Oct. 2023. Our constant follow-ups on Tinu Desai's matter have not yielded any results to date. We have also received individual complaints from the technical crew and vendors of the Film 'GANPAT' which was directed by Mr. Vikas Behl and was released on 20th Oct 2023," the statement further read.

"We have now received a complaint from Director Mr. Ali Abbas Zafar for not being paid his direction fees for the film 'BADE MIYAN CHOTE MIYAN' which was released on 11th April 2024. Not only this, we have received complaints from the largest association of daily wage setting workers FSSAMU, regarding the nonpayment of the dues of these poor daily wage workers. We have gone through all the contracts

and come to the conclusion that our workers, technicians, artists, and vendors owe a huge amount of money which the said producer will have to pay. We are trying our best to sort out the above issues and hope that Vashu Bhagnani ji comes forward and clears all the payments which would be in the interest of all those who contribute to making the film as it's their right to earn what they have

worked for," concluded the statement.

Meanwhile, Vashu and Jackky Bhagnani of Pooja Entertainment have filed a complaint against Ali Abbas Zafar, accusing him of misappropriating subsidy funds received from Abu Dhabi authorities during the filming of Bade Miyan Chote Miyan, Mission Raniganj, and Bell Bottom. However, Vashu Bhagnani stated that hits and flops are normal in the film industry and don't entirely determine the company's path.



India towards renewable energy

- Energy sources like solar, wind and hydropower have immense potential. Attention will have to be paid to improving the quality of domestic coal to reduce dependence on imports in the energy sector. The crisis can be solved by encouraging the use of renewable energy.



Once again, the energy sector has begun a topic of global debate. This is an indication of the increasing importance of the energy sector. But why are the countries thinking so seriously about it? Raising this issue on global forums shows that the dangers of the coming times are very big. Actually, the world is facing crises in the energy sector. Everyone has understood that if serious attention is not given to this now, the coming times will be so challenging. The emerging energy crisis, depleting fossil fuel resources and high oil prices along with climate change concerns have drawn global attention towards the development of renewable, alternative, environmentally friendly and carbon neutral fuels to meet growing energy demands. Most energy crises have been caused by local shortages, war and market manipulation.

There are many

challenges in tackling the energy crisis in India. First of all, energy resources on the earth are limited. India has only coal, oil and gas as energy resources and it is dependent on imports to meet its growing energy demands. As a result, our country is looking for alternative sources of energy, such as solar, wind and hydropower. There is still insufficient investment in the country's energy sector. There is a need for massive investment to improve the infrastructure and expand its energy capacity, but the government and the private sector are not able to invest enough in the energy sector. Low per capita income and high poverty rate also make it difficult for people to afford energy sources. India is one of the world's largest greenhouse gas emitters and its energy sector is a major contributor to these emissions.

However, efforts are being made by the government to achieve the target of 500 GW of non-fossil fuel capacity by 2030 in terms of short-term and long-term renewable energy capacity addition. Meanwhile, India is

emerging as a global leader in energy transition in the world. This is evident from the development that we have achieved in the field of renewable energy. The renewable energy sector is also showing promise in terms of employment generation. While the whole world is trying to develop the energy sector to prevent the threat of climate change, a developing country like India has achieved good success in the development of this source. During the last ten years, the country has increased its capacity of renewable energy production by five times. Along with this, new targets have been set in the field of energy production.

In terms of generating employment in the renewable energy sector, India is at fourth position in the world after China, Brazil and America. 5.7 percent of the people employed in the renewable energy sector in the whole world are in India. According to the report of the International Renewable Energy Agency, the renewable energy sector had generated four lakh jobs in India ten years ago. Actually, there is a lot of growth potential in the energy sector here.

Therefore, if students take up this course, their career prospects will also be strong. There are many courses like BTech Power, MBA Oil and Gas, MA Energy Economics, Solar Energy etc. in the energy sector, but in the coming times, the most potential is in solar energy. Opting this course would be beneficial for the students. Experts say that to make India a five trillion-dollar economy, it will be necessary to revive the energy sector.

The use of LED bulbs in the country has reduced the electricity consumption for lighting by about 75 percent. Studies show that about 30 percent of electricity consumption can be reduced by the use of energy efficient devices, that is, there is a possibility of saving 1.20 lakh gigawatts of electricity in buildings. If energy efficiency standards are implemented in buildings, an additional 30 percent of electricity can be saved. This electricity is equal to the one-year requirement of states like Bihar and Jharkhand. According to the report of the Ministry of Statistics, the industry sector

consumes the maximum electricity in the country, i.e. 42 percent. The domestic sector consumes 24 percent of electricity. Commercial buildings consume eight percent of electricity. The total consumption of the building sector is 32 percent, but the implementation of energy efficiency standards in buildings has been the lowest.

Talking about investment, the country's energy sector has received foreign investment of \$14.32 billion between 2000 and 2019. The government is paying special attention to this sector, due to which investment in this sector will increase further in the coming time. This will also increase job opportunities. By 2022, the Government of India has increased the capacity of renewable energy to 175 gigawatts. This includes 100 gigawatts of solar power and 60 gigawatts of wind power. India's coal-based capacity is expected to increase from 191 gigawatts to 400 gigawatts by 2040. Although India has long relied on coal for energy production, the participation of green energy in it has been significant since the

middle of the last decade. Since 2017, green energy has been at the forefront of new methods of power generation, in which solar energy has a large share.

At present, India's energy dependence is more on other countries. Many initiatives are being taken to make the country self-reliant in the field of energy. In this context, renewable energy is playing an important role, for which a lot of work is being done by the government in the field of solar energy. India has set a target of zeroing carbon emissions by the year 2070, for which producing about 50 percent of the energy from renewable sources is a big target. By the year 2040, India has also set a target of producing 15,820 terawatt hours of electricity from renewable sources. In such a situation, solar energy can play an important role in achieving this goal. To achieve this goal, various companies are working rapidly towards solar energy. Due to this, good growth is being seen in the companies of this sector. In the coming time, with the growth of these companies getting faster, India will be able

to successfully achieve all the goals of the energy sector.

If seen, there is a need for fast reforms in the energy sector in the country. First of all, to reduce dependence on imports, attention will have to be paid to improving the quality of domestic coal. This can be achieved by investing in technology to increase the calorific value of coal and reduce the ash content. The crisis can be solved by encouraging the use of renewable energy. The country has immense potential for energy sources such as solar, wind and hydropower. The government should encourage the development of renewable energy projects through incentives and subsidies. Carbon pricing can help encourage the use of renewable energy. Investments have to be made in the development of energy infrastructure to ensure efficient transmission and distribution of energy. This can be achieved through upgrading existing infrastructure and building new power plants, pipelines and transmission lines.

In fact, solutions to

the global energy crisis are not being widely used. The best option is to eliminate the world's dependence on non-renewable resources and improve overall conservation efforts. Replace yellow bulbs with LED bulbs. They consume less energy and last longer. If millions of people in the world use LEDs for residential and commercial purposes, the energy demand will be reduced and the crisis can be avoided. Apart from this, financial assistance should be provided for solar panels to encourage the public to investigate renewable energy options. Appliances with higher star rating should be purchased, this will save electricity. The sale of appliances without rating should be banned. In the last few years, people have become more aware about energy efficiency, but there is still a need to be aware.

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A Fragile Balance: How Fossil Fuels Shaped and Strained Society Only those nations are wise that care for the generations to come



Aubaid Akhoon / Sabreena Shabir

From the dawn of the Industrial Revolution, fossil fuels like coal, oil, and natural gas have been the lifeblood of modern civilization. They powered factories, fueled global transportation, and brought unprecedented economic growth. These energy sources improved living standards, enabling access to electricity, modern healthcare, and infrastructure development. Society benefited greatly as entire economies flourished, industries thrived, and human mobility expanded across the globe. However, with progress came an unforeseen cost. Day by day, our environment began to pay the price for our reliance on fossil fuels. As an Urdu poet eloquently wrote: "Iss ghar ko aag laghi ghar ke he charagh se," which translates to, "The house caught fire by the very lamp that lit it." In essence, the very source that ignited our prosperity has also set us on a path of environmental peril. The Global Fossil Fuel Dilemma

Nations worldwide, particularly in industrial powerhouses like the United States, China, and Germany, have begun confronting the detrimental effects of fossil fuels. Air quality has degraded,

environmental and energy concerns. From previous administrations to the current government, efforts to reduce pollution, increase energy efficiency, and develop sustainable energy alternatives have grown in scope and urgency. One of the most ambitious plans to date is the Viksit Bharat 2047 campaign, led by Prime Minister Narendra Modi. This initiative envisions a fossil fuel-free India by the centennial of its independence, creating a roadmap for sustainable development and economic prosperity. The Viksit Bharat 2047 vision isn't just about environmental stewardship—it's about transforming India into a global leader in renewable energy, technological innovation, and inclusive growth. It's a vision that seeks to align economic progress with the health of our planet, fostering a cleaner, greener future for all.

A Vision for a Fossil Fuel-Free India

At the heart of Viksit Bharat 2047 is the aspiration to see India free from fossil fuel dependence, embracing renewable energy sources like solar, wind, and hydroelectric power. This vision will not only reduce India's carbon footprint but also position the country as a leader in the global fight against climate change. With ambitious targets and substantial investments, India's energy landscape is set to undergo a radical transformation. India's solar energy sector has already seen significant growth, with the country becoming one of the world's leaders in solar capacity. Large-scale solar

India's Path Toward a Fossil Fuel-Free Future

Recognizing the pressing need to address these challenges, the Government of India has taken bold steps to tackle its

projects such as the Bhadla Solar Park in Rajasthan are key drivers in this journey. The International Solar Alliance (ISA), spearheaded by India, has further strengthened the nation's role in promoting renewable energy across the globe. Innovations in Energy and Infrastructure

The shift from fossil fuels to renewables won't be without its challenges. Renewable energy, though abundant, is often intermittent—solar power, for example, depends on sunlight, and wind energy relies on wind patterns. To address this, India will need to make major advancements in energy storage. Innovations in battery technology and energy storage solutions will help store excess energy for use when it's needed, ensuring a stable and reliable supply.

Smart grid technology will also be vital. These intelligent systems can monitor energy production and consumption in real-time, distributing power efficiently and minimizing waste. By building smart grids, India can enhance energy resilience while lowering costs, making the system more robust against fluctuations in supply and demand. Urban planning and the development of smart cities are additional components of the vision. These cities will integrate renewable energy solutions, improve air quality, and optimize energy use, enhancing the quality of life for millions of residents.

Economic and Social Benefits

India's transition away from fossil fuels brings profound economic and social benefits. Renewable energy is labor-intensive, which

means millions of jobs will be created in sectors such as solar and wind power installation, maintenance, and manufacturing. Furthermore, India's vast manufacturing base will benefit from the production of renewable energy components, such as solar panels and wind turbines. On a macroeconomic level, this shift will enhance India's energy security. Today, India imports vast quantities of fossil fuels, leaving the country vulnerable to global market volatility. By developing domestic renewable energy infrastructure, India can reduce its dependence on foreign oil and gas, ensuring greater energy independence and economic stability.

There are also significant public health benefits to this transition. Reducing reliance on fossil fuels will lower air pollution levels, cutting down on respiratory diseases and other health issues caused by poor air quality. Cleaner air will lead to a healthier, more productive population, further bolstering India's economic growth. Government's Role and Public-Private Partnerships

The Indian government will play a crucial role in steering the nation towards its renewable energy goals. Policies that incentivize clean energy projects, electric vehicles, and energy-efficient technologies are already in place, but more will be needed. The government's ambitious target of achieving 450 GW of renewable energy capacity by 2030 is a clear indicator of its commitment to this cause. Public-private partnerships will be instrumental in

achieving the goals of Viksit Bharat 2047. The private sector can bring capital, technical expertise, and innovation, while the government can provide regulatory support and incentives. International collaborations will also help India leverage global expertise and funding to drive the transition. Empowering India's Citizens: Youth, Women, and Farmers

The success of Viksit Bharat 2047 hinges on the participation of every demographic in society. The campaign focuses on four key pillars: Youth (Yuva), Poor (Garib), Women (Mahilayen), and Farmers (Annadata), ensuring that the benefits of this transition reach every corner of society. Youth play a pivotal role in driving innovation and spreading awareness about renewable energy technologies. Educational programs will help prepare the next generation of leaders to tackle India's clean energy challenges. Women are also a central part of this transformation. By encouraging more women to enter the renewable energy workforce, India is not only promoting gender equality but also ensuring that half of its population actively contributes to the country's economic and environmental future.

Farmers, who are often disproportionately affected by the consequences of environmental degradation, will benefit from clean energy technologies such as solar irrigation pumps. These innovations will reduce their reliance on expensive, polluting diesel engines and boost agricultural productivity. The path ahead may be long and fraught with challenges, yet it promises a future where economic prosperity and environmental stewardship can coexist. This

vision is not solely about advancing India's interests but also about leading by example on the global stage. As India pioneers this transformation, it aims to inspire nations around the world to embrace sustainable practices and innovative solutions. In striving for this future, India positions itself at the forefront of a global movement towards a greener planet, setting a precedent for how economic development and environmental care can work hand in hand. The commitment to a fossil fuel-free future reflects a broader aspiration: to create a legacy of progress that benefits not only the people of India but also contributes to the health and well-being of our planet as a whole.

This journey towards a brighter, more sustainable future is one that we must all support, for it is through collective effort that we ensure a thriving world for generations to come.

About the Authors
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Aubaid is a columnist, motivational speaker, and the Associate Editor of the weekly publication Education Quill. He is dedicated to empowering students and educators through his insightful Sabreena Shabir
Sabreena is a BSc student with a passion for learning. She brings a fresh perspective on student life and is committed to inspiring her peers.

Setback to CM Siddaramaiah as HC dismisses his petition challenging Guv's order

Bengaluru(KCN): In a setback to Chief Minister Siddaramaiah, the Karnataka High Court Tuesday dismissed his petition challenging the Governor's approval for investigation against him in a site allotment case. The Chief Minister had challenged the approval given by Governor Thaawarchand Gehlot for an investigation against him in the alleged irregularities in the allotment of 14 sites to his wife by the Mysuru Urban Development Authority (MUDA) in a prime locality. After completing the hearings on the petition in six sittings from August 19, the single judge bench of Justice M Nagaprasanna September 12 reserved its verdict. It had also extended its August 19 interim order directing the special court for

people's representatives that was slated to hear complaints against him in the case, to defer its proceedings till the disposal of the petition. "The facts narrated in the petition would undoubtedly require investigation, in the teeth of the fact that the beneficiary of all these acts is not anybody outside but the family of the petitioner. The petition stands dismissed," Justice Nagaprasanna ruled. He said: "interim order of any kind subsisting today shall stand dissolved." The Governor on August 16 accorded sanction under Section 17A of the Prevention of Corruption Act, 1988 and Section 218 of the Bharatiya Nagarik Suraksha Sanhita (BNSS), 2023 for the commission of the alleged offences as mentioned in the

petitions submitted to him by complainants Pradeep Kumar SP, TJ Abraham and Snehamayi Krishna. August 19, Siddaramaiah moved the High Court challenging the legality of the Governor's order. In the petition, the Chief Minister submitted that the sanction order was issued without due application of mind, in violation of statutory mandates, and contrary to Constitutional principles, including the advice of the Council of Ministers, which is binding under Article 163 of the Constitution of India. Siddaramaiah sought quashing of the Governor's order contending that his decision is legally unsustainable, procedurally flawed, and motivated by extraneous considerations.

Reading out the summary of findings, Justice Nagaprasanna said, the complainants were justified in registering the complaint or seeking approval at the hands of the Governor. Stating that the approval under section 17A of PC Act is mandatory in the fact situation, he said: "Section 17A nowhere requires a police officer to seek approval in a private complaint registered under section 200 or 223 of BNSS against a public servant for offences punishable under the provisions of



the Act. It is the duty of the complainant to seek such approval." The Governor in normal circumstances has to act on the aid and advice of the council of Ministers as obtained under Article 163 of the Constitution of India, the Judge said, "but (the Governor) can take independent decisions in exceptional circumstances, and in the present case projects one such exception." "No fault can be found with the Governor exercising the independent discretion to pass the impugned

order; it would suffice if the reasons are recorded in the file of the decision-making authority, particularly of the high office, and those reasons... form part of the impugned order. A caveat reasons must be in the file. Reasons for the first time cannot be brought before the constitutional court by way of objections," he added. The gubernatorial order nowhere suffers from want of application of mind, the Judge further said, "It is not a case of not even a semblance of application of mind by the Governor, but abundance of application of mind." The grant of an opportunity of hearing prior to the approval under section 17A is not mandatory, he further said. "If the authority chooses to do so, it is open to it." "The decision of the Governor of the alleged hot haste has not vitiated the order. The order is read to be restrictive to approval under section 17 A of the (PC) Act and not an order granting sanction under section 218 of the BNSS," he added. As the judge dismissed the petition, senior counsel Abhishek Manu Singhvi who appeared for Siddaramaiah, said, "the matter related to dates of 1990's, and the complaint if filed now..." as he requested the bench to consider "a two weeks' stay on this." Responding to this, Justice Nagaprasanna said, "I can't stay my own order.... The petition stands dismissed. Interim order of any kind subsisting today shall stand dissolved." While noted lawyer Abhishek Manu Singhvi and Prof. Ravivarma Kumar had appeared

for Siddaramaiah, Solicitor-General of India Tushar Mehta represented the office of the Governor. Advocate General Shashi Kiran Shetty also made his submissions. Senior Advocates Maninder Singh, Prabhulal K Navadgi, Lakshmi Iyengar, Ranganath Reddy, K G Raghavan, among others, made submissions on behalf of the complainants (respondents) who had sought the sanction for investigation against Siddaramaiah. In the MUDA site allotment case, it is alleged that compensatory sites were allotted to Siddaramaiah's wife B M Parvathi in an upmarket area in Mysuru, which had higher property value as compared to the location of her land which had been "acquired" by the MUDA.

Pulwama terror attack accused dies in J&K hospital



Jammu(KCN): An accused in the 2019 Pulwama terror attack died in a government hospital in J&K's Jammu city, said officials here Tuesday.

Officials said the terror attack accused, Bilal Ahmad Kuchay was admitted to the Government Medical College Hospital in Jammu after he complained of chest pain in Kishtwar district jail. Kuchay was a resident of Kakapora in Pulwama district.

"Late last night he passed away in the Government Medical College Hospital (Jammu) due to heart failure according to the doctors attending to him," the officials said.

It must be recalled that the terror attack occurred in the Lethpora area of the Jammu-Srinagar national highway (in the Pulwama district) February 14, 2019, in which 40 CRPF troopers were killed.

The attack was carried out by a suicide bomber, Adil Ahmad Dar, who rammed his explosive-laden car into the CRPF convoy at Lethpora.

Kuchay was one of the three main accused in the terror attack and was arrested in 2020 for providing support to the attackers.

The perpetrator of the attack, Dar, who was a local Kashmiri

youth from the Pulwama district also died in the attack. The responsibility for the attack was claimed by the Pakistan-based Islamist terrorist group, Jaish-e-Mohammed (JeM).

India blamed Pakistan for the attack, while the latter denied having any connections to it.

The attack dealt a severe blow to India-Pakistan relations, consequently resulting in the 2019 India-Pakistan military standoff. In the early hours of February 26, 2019, the Indian Air Force carried out airstrikes and bombed terrorist camps and training centres deep inside Pakistan-occupied Kashmir.

Investigations identified 19 accused in the Pulwama terror attack case. By August 2021, the main accused along with six others were killed, and seven had been arrested.

India observes the anniversary of martyred CRPF troopers each year with solemnity. The paramilitary forces and police renew their pledge to guard the hinterland against forces inimical to peace and tranquillity in J&K.

"Don't Drag Us Into Your Agenda": Supreme Court To Child Rights Body

New Delhi(KCN): The Supreme Court on Tuesday told the NCPCR not to drag the court in its agenda over a petition seeking a special investigation team (SIT) probe into cases of children allegedly sold by shelter homes in Jharkhand of the Missionaries of Charity founded by Mother Teresa.

Slamming the National Commission for Protection of Child Rights (NCPCR), a bench of Justices BV Nagarathna and Nonogram Kapoor Kotiswar Singh dismissed the petition filed by the child rights body.

It said the relief sought is vague and omnibus, and it cannot be considered.

"Don't drag the Supreme Court into



your agenda. What kind of relief is sought in your petition? How can we pass such directions?

The petition is totally misconstrued," the bench told the lawyer appearing for the NCPCR.

At the outset, the lawyer submitted

that the petition has direction for a Supreme Court-monitored time-bound investigation of all such organisations in Jharkhand to ensure protection of children.

The Supreme Court said the NCPCR was empowered to conduct enquiry and take action in accordance with law under the Commission for Protection of Child Rights (CPCR) Act, 2005. The bench then dismissed the petition.

The NCPCR in the petition filed in 2020 had sought enforcement of fundamental rights of prohibition of trafficking guaranteed under Article 23 of the Constitution. It had

said discrepancies have been found in children's homes in various states and it has added them as parties in its petition.

The petition cited cases of child rights violation in Jharkhand, and alleged the authorities in the state have adopted a callous approach to protect minors. "During the course of inquiry by petitioner (NCPCR), shocking revelations were made by victims which included the fact that the children were being sold from children homes. These facts were emphatically brought to the notice of the state government (Jharkhand) but continuous attempts were made to sabotage and derail the inquiry," the petition said.

Water conservation, Need for the Future.

Ariindam Bhattacharya (Kolkata):

The other name of water is life. March 22 is observed as World Water Day since 1993 after United Nations declaration. This day is about understanding the importance of water. A large number of people in today's world do not have access to clean drinking water. So water conservation and providing clean water to all is the biggest challenge today. Water is a major natural resource. Every living being needs water and air to survive. At present the multinational commercial companies have started controlling the water supply in the world and this will gradually increase with time. Every now and then common people are forced to drink dirty

polluted water. Every day ponds, rivers, lakes, sea water are being polluted in various ways. These sources are also drying up or being drained due to global warming and the desire for more development. Even many rivers in India have disappeared or have changed their courses. This is becoming a matter of great concern and the common people are paying for it. Though most of the earth's surface is covered with water, the fresh drinking water is very limited. Since the majority is salty water. According to a United Nations report, every six people in the world are deprived of clean drinking water. The water crisis is increasing in India also during summer as the temperature is increasing gradually.

As groundwater is a common natural resource, water is being pumped indiscriminately through pumps. This is the result of lack of awareness amongst common people as well as the lack of political and administrative will. Water shortage in villages is also increasing day by day, which has direct impact on agriculture. This is also due to the present Indian financial system. Consideration should be given to water use and groundwater recharge. It is also necessary to think about how to use less water in agriculture. Rainwater can play a big role in this. Of course there are government schemes for rainwater harvesting, but awareness about water conservation should be widely spread from students to common people.

BJP Using Kangana Ranaut to Reignite Contentious Farm Laws Debate: Bajwa



The BJP is launching a veiled assault on the farmers through her rhetoric," Bajwa remarked. Taking direct aim at Ranaut, Bajwa rebuked the actor-turned-politician for her lack of understanding of the three repealed farm laws. He accused the BJP of "shooting its gun from her shoulder" to propagate an agenda that has already caused deep anguish among the farmers of India. "Kangana is a mouthpiece, and the BJP has given her a free hand to spout nonsense.

Instead of reviving the debate on the discredited farm laws, Kangana should reconsider her political ambitions and focus on reviving her dwindling career in Bollywood," Bajwa retorted.

Bajwa further lambasted the BJP government for failing to deliver on its promises made after repealing the farm laws in November 2021. He reminded the public that Prime Minister Narendra Modi, at the time of repealing the laws, had pledged to legislate the Minimum Support Price (MSP). A committee was established in July 2022 to work on this issue, but nearly three years have passed with no tangible results.

"Farmers are still waiting for the legalisation of MSP, which has led to continuous protests at Shambhu and Khanauri borders since February," he noted. As paddy harvesting begins in various parts of Punjab, Bajwa directed his criticism towards both the Aam Aadmi Party-led state government and the BJP-led Union government for their failure to manage storage capacities. He accused them of inefficiency in clearing the previous year's stock from storage facilities, thus jeopardizing the upcoming procurement season, which is slated to begin on October 1. "Both the state and central governments have failed the farmers once again by not freeing up storage space in time for the new paddy stock. This mismanagement adds to the long list of grievances that farmers are already struggling with," Bajwa concluded.

NGT notice to CS over stone mining

Bhubaneswar(KCN): The National Green Tribunal (NGT) has served a notice on the Chief Secretary (CS), seeking his responses in connection with a plea demanding cancellation of environmental clearance to Kharbhui-I stone quarry under Harabhanga tehsil in Boudh district. Boudh Collector and superintendent of police (SP), and divisional forest officer (DFO), director of Mines and Geology, Odisha State Pollution Control Board (OSPCB), deputy director general of Forests have also been made respondents by the tribunal. The Eastern Zone bench

of the environment watchdog sought the replies within four weeks while hearing a petition filed by Naresh Majhi, a resident of Kharbhui under Harabhanga police limits of Boudh. The petitioner had informed the tribunal that Kharbhui-I stone quarry – spread over 2.833 hectare land on Plot No 275/A, Khata No 194 in Kharbhui Jungle under Harabhanga tehsil in Boudh – has been operating in violation of environmental norms. The quarry received environmental clearance July 10, 2024, Majhi's counsel Sankar Prasad Pani said. Highlighting the alleged violations of

environmental norms, the petitioner said the lessee has carried out excess mining without environmental clearance and environmental compensation has not been realised.

"Reclamation of void pits has not been done, trees and medicinal plants in the lease and adjoining areas have been felled while clearing the land for quarry activity and

illegal as well as uncontrolled blasting in the quarry has resulted in damages/cracks to the houses near Kharbhui jungle village," the petitioner said. The petitioner also

claimed that the overburden dumps were not being dressed, benched and barricaded so as to prevent soil erosion during monsoon. Besides, there is no

garland drain around the mining pit. "Proper site visit has not been done by the district authorities prior to grant of environmental clearance. The District Survey Report (DSR) of Boudh is invalid as it is not approved by the SEIAA and SEAC. The quarry and the plot for which the EC is granted is not a part of the DSR," the petitioner alleged. It was also alleged that the site has no billboard informing people about the conditions in mining. The environment clearance letter is neither displayed in Kharbhui jungle village or panchayat office, nor is it available in the website of SEIAA, Odisha. "In the DSR, Kharbhui-I stone quarry is located in khata no.2, plot no.50. However, the environmental clearance granted to the lessee mentions Kharbhui-I stone quarry on khata no.194, plot no.275/A," the petitioner pointed out. Judicial member Justice B Amit Sthalekar and expert member Dr Arun Kumar Verma posted the next hearing to October 10, 2024. The notices have also been served on Harabhanga tehsildar, deputy director of mining, deputy director of explosives, State Environment Impact Assessment Authority (SEIAA), Odisha and the lessee.

My first priority is to install CCTV cameras: IIC

Bhubaneswar(KCN): Soon after assuming charge as the Inspector-In-Charge (IIC) of Bharatpur Police station – which is presently in the eye of a storm following the alleged custodial assault of a woman and her male friend from the Indian Army – Monday, Inspector Deepak Kumar Khandayatray said that his first priority would be to install CCTV cameras at all sensitive locations of the police station as per the Supreme Court guidelines. When asked



why the police station didn't have CCTV camera set up earlier, Khandayatray said, "The cameras installed in the old building (of the police station) will now be fixed at the new building." Khandayatray replaced

Dinakrushna Mishra who had been suspended, along with four more cops of the police station, on an order of the Director General of Police (DGP) pending the Crime Branch (CB) investigation against them

MSME multi-product parks in all dists: Minster



New Delhi(KCN): In a bid to give an impetus to the food processing industry in the state, the state government is in the process of establishing MSME multi-product parks in all the districts. This was revealed by Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises (MSME) Minister Gokulnanda Mallik while addressing the World Food India 2024, organised by Ministry of Food Processing Industries (MoFPI), held at Pragati Maidan here recently. World Food India 2024 provided a global platform for businesses to network, collaborate, and explore new avenues for growth. Odisha's active participation underscored the state's leadership in the food processing industry, positioning it as a preferred destination for investments, according to a release. "Key pillars such as facilitation, infrastructure, financing, market access and entrepreneurship are critical to the

development of the food sector. The state government plays a pivotal role across these verticals. Both the Central and state governments continue to support the sector through policy initiatives and schemes for promotion and sustenance of MSMEs, including food processing units. In addition, MSME multi-product parks are being established in all districts to meet the infrastructure needs of the sector," said the MSME minister. The MoFPI successfully concluded World Food India 2024, with Odisha emerging as a key highlight for its exceptional display of diverse food products, innovative technologies, and significant investment opportunities, according to a release issued by the state government. The event brought together manufacturers, producers, food processors, buyers, investors, policymakers and global organisations, offering a comprehensive platform for collaboration across the food industry. The event featured a diverse range of activities, including exhibitions, conferences, thematic knowledge sessions, buyerseller meetings for B2B engagements, as well as B2G and G2G meetings, and CEO roundtable discussions. The Odisha Pavilion, with Palladium as the knowledge partner, stood out as one of the major attractions, captivating visitors with its vibrant representation of the state's rich cultural heritage. State Industries director D Prasanth Kumar Reddy, who inaugurated the Odisha Pavilion and interacted with exhibitors, lauded the contributions made by local entrepreneurs and their quality food products.

As part of the event, the state government hosted a dedicated session titled 'Unlocking the Flavour of Odisha: Opportunities in Food Processing'. The

session, moderated by MSME department special secretary Bibhuti Bhushana Dash, featured a distinguished panel that included the MSME minister, the department's principal secretary Hemant Sharma, Industries director Reddy, Palladium India CEO Amit Patjoshi, OUAT vice-chancellor Pravat Kumar Roul and Odisha Seafood Exporters' Association president Kamlesh Mishra. The panel discussion emphasised Odisha's growth potential in food processing and highlighted its strategic role as an investment hub in the sector. "We are grateful to the Odisha government for making Palladium their trusted partner to support the growth of MSMEs in food processing.

As Odisha is one of the

fastest growing economies in India, we are keen to take this partnership forward and contribute to its economic growth," said the Palladium India CEO.





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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,

training, and education to individuals, teams, and coaches from the grassroots to various experience levels. It has recently launched its first high-performance cricket academy in Hyderabad and is on track to launch its second project in Chennai by August.

R Sridhar, Co-Founder of Coaching Beyond, said, "We are delighted to announce our partnership with Capri Global for the upcoming UAE ILT20 League. It is an exciting opportunity to work and do justice to the enormous cricketing talent and add value to the international platform. With a focused team effort, inclusive vision, and holistic approach, we can achieve consistent success during the tournament. We are confident that the League will be a grand success and are looking forward to a successful season".

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

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

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

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

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

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



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

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

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

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

Jindal Stainless Chairman, Mr Ratan Jindal, conferred with the Stainless Steel Executive of the Year Award

Bhubaneswar, (KCN): Steel and Metals Market Research (SMR) GmbH, an international independent market research organisation, recently conferred the Stainless Steel Executive of the Year 2024 Award to Chairman, Jindal Stainless, Mr Ratan Jindal. The award was given to him for his exceptional leadership, strategic vision, and firm commitment to driving Jindal Stainless' success in the stainless steel industry globally. The award ceremony took place in Rome, Italy, as part of the three-day International Stainless & Special Steel Conference 2024.

Chairman, Jindal Stainless, Mr Ratan Jindal, said while receiving the honour, "Standing here today, I am overwhelmed with a deep sense of gratitude and humility as I receive the Stainless Steel Executive of the Year Award. While it is a



moment of immense pride for me, it's also a reflection of the incredible journey of Jindal Stainless over the past 54 years. I want to express my deepest gratitude to my team and colleagues, partners and customers who have been a part of this journey. This award is as much theirs as it is mine. It is their hard work, dedication, and belief in our shared vision that

has brought us to where we are today. All of them have not only made my journey possible, but they have also made it worthwhile."

SMR presents this award annually to individuals who have made significant advancements in the industry. The three-day conference also included panel discussions around varied topics such as fairness in the

supply chain and CBAM, generational differences, labour shortage, remote work, chromium as an enabler of sustainable and strategic applications, etc.

Mr Jindal was honoured for his role in transforming India's stainless steel industry. Owing to his business acumen, Jindal Stainless has emerged as a major player in the global stainless steel market, renowned for its high-quality products, technological advancements, and sustainable practices. His courage of conviction, strategic thinking, and ingenious financial planning turned the company profitable. Some of his key milestones include commercialising the 200 series of stainless steel in India; initiating usage of stainless steel in Indian Railways' wagons and coaches, replacing the conventionally used

carbon steel; introducing blade steel and precision strips and making Jindal Stainless the top producer of razor blade steel in the world today; financial turnaround of Jindal Stainless to make India's largest and among the world's top 5 stainless steel producing companies; championing sustainable practices, including achieving Net Zero carbon emissions by 2050; entering into a strategic agreement to set up a nickel pig iron smelter in Indonesia. His strategic initiatives have enabled the company to diversify its product portfolio, enhance its operational efficiency, and strengthen its market position. Furthermore, Mr Jindal has been a strong advocate for sustainability in the stainless steel industry, implementing initiatives to reduce the company's environmental footprint and promote responsible sourcing.

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 branch network can provide general Banking products like Current Accounts, Savings Accounts, Working Capital facilities and other related services to the MSME Customers of SIDBI."

Also, speaking on the tie-up arrangement, Shri Vivek Kumar Malhotra, CGM, SIDBI reiterated SIDBI's commitment towards timely financing for MSMEs across all sectors.

Unacademy produces 178 Rankers for UPSC CSE

Bhubaneswar: Unacademy, India's largest learning platform*, today announced that 178 out of 685 rank holders of UPSC CSE 2021 are Unacademy Learners. Among the top rankers from the Unacademy platform are Gurni Singla (AIR - 3), Aishwarya Verma (AIR - 4), Utkarsh Dwivedi (AIR - 5) and Yaksh Chaudhary (AIR - 6). 3 Learners have secured ranks between 1-5, 32 have secured ranks from 6-100 and 143 have secured AIRs from 101-685.

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

Bhubaneswar: Blue Dart, South Asia's premier express air and integrated transportation & distribution company and a part of the Deutsche Post DHL (DPDHL) Group has signed the 'Climate Neutral Now' (CNN) pledge by the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC). The pledge highlights the organisation's commitment to ambitious CO2 reduction targets.

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

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

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.



CSA delegation 'satisfied' with security arrangements for Test series, says BCB



New Delhi: Former South African all-rounder Farhaan Behardien was part of the delegation along with three CSA officials. © BCB

A Bangladesh Cricket Board (BCB) official said on Monday that they are confident about the upcoming home series against South Africa, as the visiting Cricket South Africa (CSA) delegation seemed satisfied with the arrangements.

Cricbuzz previously reported that Bangladesh is set to host South Africa for two Tests, pending security clearance. This comes after the ICC moved the Women's T20 World Cup from Bangladesh to the UAE due to political unrest. The CSA's four-member delegation arrived in Dhaka on September 21 and visited Chattogram the following day, where one of the Test matches is scheduled. On Monday, they inspected the Sher-e-Bangla National Cricket Stadium in Mirpur.

During their visit, the delegation reviewed the stadium's facilities and observed security drills conducted by Bangladesh's security forces.

"As much as I could gather from their

conversations, they are very satisfied. They thanked the BCB and the security forces for arranging everything in such a short time. They will now fly back home and submit their final report while we complete our internal work," Shahriar Nafees, BCB cricket operations manager, told reporters on Monday.

"We showed them the protocol BCB usually maintains for any international series. Unfortunately, due to the political unrest, we couldn't host the Women's T20 World Cup.

"They had concerns about the situation, so they came to observe the current conditions and how we will maintain security protocols. South Africa has never sent a delegation before, but after we lost the hosting rights to the Women's T20 World Cup, they came to review the arrangements," said Nafees, who accompanied the delegation during their stay in Dhaka and Chattogram.

Former South African all-rounder Farhaan Behardien, now serving as cricket operations and player engagement manager at the South African Cricketers' Association (SACA), was part of the delegation, along with three CSA officials. The team also visited the Zahir Ahmed Chowdhury Stadium in Chattogram on Sunday for a similar inspection. BCB officials held meetings with the Bangladesh Army and had discussions with members of the Dhaka Metropolitan Police (DMP) and Chattogram Metropolitan Police (CMP). South Africa is scheduled to arrive on October 16, with the first Test in Dhaka starting on October 21, followed by the second Test in Chattogram on October 29.

Shreyas, Shardul to play for Mumbai in Irani Cup; Rahane to lead

New Delhi: Shreyas Iyer and Shardul Thakur are set to play in the upcoming Irani Cup match between Mumbai and the Rest of India. The Mumbai Cricket Association (MCA) is yet to announce its full squad for the annual fixture, scheduled to take place in Lucknow from October 1 to 5. Ajinkya Rahane, who captained Mumbai to their record 42nd Ranji Trophy

victory last season earlier this year, will lead the side. Shardul's availability comes as a welcome boost for Mumbai, strengthening their bowling and batting departments. The India all-rounder has been sidelined since undergoing ankle surgery in June. He recently participated in the KSCA tournament, and according to a top MCA official, he has made himself available for the

five-day first-class fixture. The MCA is expected to announce the squad on Tuesday. Iyer, who is striving for an international comeback after missing out on selection for the Indian team for the ongoing Test series against Bangladesh, will feature in the prestigious annual domestic fixture between the current Ranji champions and the Rest of

India. Iyer, who last played an international match in an ODI against Sri Lanka, recently captained India D in the just-concluded Duleep Trophy. The Irani Cup could be a crucial

game in his bid to reclaim a place in the Indian team for upcoming international assignments.

New NCA to be unveiled on September 28. Meanwhile, the Board of Control for Cricket in India (BCCI) has announced that the new National Cricket Academy (NCA) in Bengaluru will be inaugurated on September 28. This information was shared by BCCI secretary

Ace Afghans deserved series success against South Africa

New Delhi: To illustrate the difference between Afghanistan and South Africa in their men's ODI series in Sharjah, which ended on Sunday with the latter winning a dead rubber in the wake of two thumping victories by the Afghans, Rob Walter reached for the peerless example set by Rashid Khan.

"The values around life don't change - you've got to work hard, you've got to really invest in the game," Walter told a press conference. "Improving your skills takes time. It doesn't just happen."

"Rashid Khan has played 500 T20 games. You don't become the best in the world just by chance. You've got to put the time and effort into developing your craft to be the best in the world. That doesn't change. It's the same for

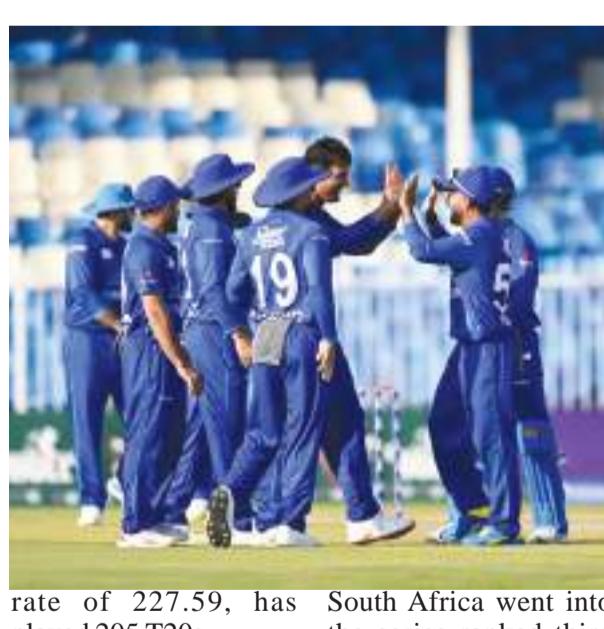
everyone."

Rashid hasn't played 500 T20s. But Walter's guessimate wasn't far off: the Afghan champion has turned out in 448 for 18 different teams, including in The Hundred. That's 201 more than Reeza Hendricks, the most capped South African in the format among those who featured in the series. All told, the Afghans have 1,717 T20 caps compared to South Africa's 1,483, a difference of 234.

Mohammad Nabi has played in 417, which means he and Rashid account for a touch more than half the total. Rahmanullah Gurbaz has 192 appearances, Gulbadin Naib 141 and Azmatullah Omarzai 112. The experience is more spread among the South Africans - Aiden

Markram has played 165 T20s, Bjorn Fortuin 141, Andile Phehlukwayo 140, Lungi Ngidi 133, Temba Bavuma 131, Wiaan Mulder 116, and Tristan Stubbs 102.

South Africa could have fielded a vastly more experienced and stronger side. David Miller, for instance, has played 499 T20s - the most recent of them in the ongoing CPL. Keshav Maharaj and Tabraiz Shamsi are also in the Caribbean. That's another 451 caps. Heinrich Klaasen isn't around because he is dealing with a family issue. Neither is Kagiso Rabada, who is resting. They have played 211 T20s each. Rassie van der Dussen, currently knocking bowlers' socks off for NYS Lagos in the Zim Afro T10, in which he has scored 132 runs in two innings at a strike



rate of 227.59, has played 205 T20s. But this was an ODI series, not a T20I rubber. The Afghans who played in the series have 1,149 list A caps, the South Africans 1,171. That marginal difference of 22 doesn't explain Afghanistan dominating South Africa in the first two games. Especially as

South Africa went into the series ranked third and Afghanistan ninth. Rather, the relative paucity of South Africa's resources in a series that didn't mean much - the next World Cup is more than three years away - against opponents who deployed most of their heavyweights played out as it should have.

On Wednesday, Fazalhaq Farooqi took 4/35 and AM Ghazanfar 3/20 to send the South Africans crashing to 106 all out in 33.3 overs. Afghanistan had little trouble knocking off the target with six wickets standing and 24 overs remaining. On Friday, Gurbaz scored 105 and Omarzai made 86 not out in the Afghans' total of 311/4. Then Rashid fought off a hamstring injury he sustained while batting to take 5/19. Nangeyalisa Kharote claimed 4/26, and South Africa were bowled out for 134 in 34.2.

That made Sunday's result is disappointing, in particular the first two games where we exposed some of our depth and fringe players. But we can only get better if we are exposed to different conditions.

And these were tough, so hopefully this is a catalyst to us getting better and the depth getting stronger."

Intense heat and slow, turning pitches made batting, bowling and even fielding a remorseless grind, but of course it was the same for both teams. The Afghans came to terms with the conditions significantly better than their opponents.

"It's hard to explain the toughness of the conditions in the subcontinent and the different nature of the spin bowlers, but we faced a mystery spinner [Ghazanfar] in game one who we hadn't seen before," Walter said. "Rashid Khan is a world-class leg spinner, and even tougher to face under lights when it's difficult to pick his variations."

Rafael Nadal in Spain squad for Davis Cup quarterfinals alongside Carlos Alcaraz

New Delhi: Rafael Nadal will be part of the Spain squad for the Davis Cup finals alongside Carlos Alcaraz, the Royal Spanish Tennis Federation announced on Monday, September 23. Nadal last competed in the Paris Olympics 2024. Rafael Nadal has been named in Spain's squad for the Davis Cup quarterfinals in November. The 38-year-old former world number one joins a strong lineup that includes world number three Carlos Alcaraz, along with Roberto Bautista Agut, Pablo Carreño Busta, and Marcel Granollers.

Nadal has not competed since the Paris 2024 Olympics, where he lost to Novak Djokovic in singles and was eliminated in the doubles quarter-finals alongside Alcaraz. He withdrew from both the US Open in August and the Laver Cup last weekend due to fitness issues.



"Rafael Nadal will join Carlos Alcaraz, Roberto Bautista, Pablo Carreño and Marcel Granollers in the Spanish MAPFRE Tennis Team that will play the 2024 Davis Cup Final 8 in Malaga, from November 19 to 24, as confirmed this Monday by

captain David Ferrer in a press conference."

"Nadal will return to the Davis Cup team five years after leading Spain to its last triumph in the competition in 2019, when he lifted the sixth silverware in the list of achievements," read the statement from the Royal Spanish Tennis Federation.

Spain, six-time Davis Cup champions with their latest triumph in 2019, will face the Netherlands in the quarter-finals starting on November 19. Nadal had missed the US Open, citing his inability to give "100%," and also withdrew from the Laver Cup in September, stating other players could contribute

ISL: Mohun Bagan complete Durand revenge after tense 3-2 win over NorthEast United

New Delhi: Mohun Bagan Super Giants completed a dramatic 3-2 comeback against NorthEast United in an ISL thriller at Salt Lake Stadium, with Jason Cummings' late strike sealing the win after a controversial equalizer by skipper Shubhashish Bose. Mohun Bagan Super Giants scripted a perfect revenge on NorthEast United, completing a thrilling 3-2 comeback victory in the Indian Super League (ISL) on September 23 at the Salt Lake Stadium in

Kolkata. The match between the defending Shield champions and the up-and-rising NorthEast United delivered one of the best end-to-end thrillers of the season, living up to its high anticipation. Defying expectations, NorthEast United struck first with a long-range screamer from Shubhashish Bose. Mohun Bagan Super Giants scripted a perfect revenge on NorthEast United, completing a thrilling 3-2 comeback victory in the Indian Super League (ISL) on September 23 at the Salt Lake Stadium in

and restored parity within six minutes. Dippendu Biswas headed past NorthEast's Gurmeet Singh, restoring his side's lead. Mohun Bagan entered the second half determined, with coach Jose Molina's team pushing hard for an equalizer. It finally came in the 62nd minute when Mohun Bagan



skipper Shubhashish Bose scored amidst controversy. Gurmeet Singh fumbled a gliding strike, and Bose took advantage, kicking the ball away from the NorthEast goalkeeper's loose grip. NorthEast players protested, but the goal stood, intensifying the drama. The game's deciding moment arrived in the 87th minute when super-sub Jason Cummings netted a sublime first-time strike past Gurmeet Singh, securing three crucial points for Mohun Bagan.

Shreyas, Shardul to play for Mumbai in Irani Cup; Rahane to lead



India. Iyer, who last played an international match in an ODI against Sri Lanka, recently captained India D in the just-concluded Duleep Trophy. The Irani Cup could be a crucial

Jay Shah with the state associations through an email recently.

In his email, Shah wrote, "I hope this message finds you well. It is our pleasure to extend an invitation to you for the much-anticipated inauguration of the New National Cricket Academy (NCA) in Bengaluru, India, on 28th September 2024."

game in his bid to reclaim a place in the Indian team for upcoming international assignments.

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