

Odisha to introduce quality check of 'Mahaprasad' in Puri Jagannath temple

Odisha's Law Minister Prithviraj Harichandan said a food inspector will be



“Not only ghee, we will examine the quality of other ingredients being used in the preparation of Mahaprasad,” the law

The minister also said that 20 ex-army men have been deployed at the 'Ananda Bazaar' (food court) to ensure that no stale Mahaparasad is sold to the devotees.

Over 95 Lakh Registered for Subhadra Yojana, to Cross 1 Crore Soon: Dy CM Pravati Parida

In the presence of Deputy Chief Minister Pravatī Parida, Principal Secretary, of the Women and Child Development Department Shubha Sharma made a related presentation. She thanked all the district Collectors for the successful implementation of the “Subhadra” scheme. The presentation stated that 1 crore 57 lakh 155 forms have been distributed so far out of 1 crore 89 lakh 34 thousand 176 forms. To date, over 95 lakh women have been registered. A total of 25 lakh 29 thousand beneficiaries have been paid the “Subhadra” instalments, out of which 25 lakh 17 thousand 545 have been paid directly through their bank accounts and 12 thousand 175 have been sent through CBDC. Awareness about Subhadra Yojana has been created in the villages of Odisha through various information, education and communication methods. Beneficiaries of the National Food Security Scheme (NFSS) and State Food Security Scheme (SFSS) are being monitored through the Social Protection Delivery Platform (SPDP). Beneficiaries excluded from NFSS and SFSS will be



Due to the successful implementation of this scheme with the successful use of technology, the Minister of Health, Information and Technology Mr Mukesh Mahaling praised all the officials concerned and proposed to the District Magistrates to reward the 'Mo Seva Kendra' and 'Jana Seva Kendra' who have registered the most Subhadra forms at the district level.

No compromise with corruption: Odisha CM Majhi tells collectors

“There is no question of compromise on corruption under the BJP government. I have realised that there were significant irregularities and project cost escalations due to delays in the previous



administration," he said. He urged district collectors to investigate any irregularities that come to their attention, asserting, "We will not tolerate corruption at any level. This is as clear a message as possible from me." The CM reassured the district authorities that

funds for development work were available, but criticised the slow pace of project implementation, particularly noting that expenditure often surged at the end of the financial year. "This leads to deterioration in the

quality of work. The officers should write to the departments concerned to resolve the issues. The officials can directly contact the Chief Minister. Collectors should conduct regular monitoring of block-wise implementation of schemes along with

President of India to visit Telangana today

During the daylong stay, the President will grace the 21st convocation of NALS Hyderabad. She will also Kala Mahotsav 2024 at Secunderabad. The eight-day will showcase the art, culture, diversity of Arunachal Pradesh, Meghalaya, Mizoram, Nagaland.



“The Governor of Odisha has been pleased to appoint Arun Kumar



Sarang, IPS, Special Director General of Police (Training) and Director, Biju Patnaik State Police Academy, Odisha as Chairman, Odisha Public Service Commission for a term of six years from the

date he enters upon his office or until he attains the age of sixty-two years, whichever is earlier," the notification said. It also said that the conditions of Sarangi's service as the chairman of OPSC will be regulated in accordance with the Odisha Public Service Commission (Conditions of Service) Regulations, 1952. He was made the acting DGP December 31, 2023, and held the post till YB Khurania was appointed August 16.

Civil society organisations call for release of anti-mining activist Kartik Nayak

According to a joint press notification issued by the organisations, Nayak was detained by Kashipur police and taken to the local station for questioning before being presented in the JMFC Court in Kashipur on the morning of September 19, 2024.

Nayak, a vocal advocate for tribal rights and environmental protection, has been at the forefront of protests against the bauxite mining operations

in Rayagada and Kalahandi districts. Nayak's arrest follows a series of incidents dating back to January 12, 2024, when an FIR was lodged against him and others based on complaints from employees of Vedanta's contractor, Maitri. According to the report, 40 villagers had attacked company employees. Most of the accused were local leaders or members of the 'Mati Mali Suraksha Manch' – an organisation opposing mining activities in the area. While the case is months old, police action now has sparked outrage among locals.

In late August 2024, the Rayagada police obtained arrest warrants for Nayak and 11 others, labelling them as fugitives despite no prior notice being served. While Nayak was present in the village and even had applied for a loan to start a small shop, the police preferred to take him away while he was coming out of a bank, casting doubts over the claim that he was evading arrest, the joint press statement issued today stated.

The protests have drawn attention to the broader issues of administrative repression and misuse of

Activists have pointed out that local authorities are using laws meant for maintaining public order to suppress movements aimed at protecting constitutional rights. Meanwhile, Nayak remains defiant, vowing to continue his fight against the bauxite mining operations. He stated that he was prepared to face jail and sacrifice his life to protect the forests and hills. He also emphasised that the struggle would continue as long as the Indian Constitution guarantees the rights of the people.

Koraput: Retired Forest Range Officer Gets 2-Yr Jail, DA Worth Rs 16 Lakh Confiscated

Koraput (KCN): Retired Forest Range Officer Gets 2-Yr Jail, DA Worth Rs 16 Lakh Confiscated As Special Vigilance Court in Jeypore today convicted a former forest range officer of Balda in Koraput district in a disproportionate assets case and sentenced him to two years of rigorous imprisonment. Saroj Kumar Nanda, former Forest Range Officer (Retired), Balda Forest Range in Koraput Forest Division, was charge sheeted by Odisha

Vigilance for possession of disproportionate assets (DA). Today, Vigilance Special Judge convicted Nanda and sentenced him to undergo rigorous imprisonment for a period of 2 years and fine of Rs 2 Lakhs. Notably, on 30th April 2010, Nanda was intercepted by a team of Odisha Vigilance at Semilguda while he was proceeding to Bhubaneswar along with his spouse in a car carrying 'ill-gotten' cash of Rs 5.50 Lakhs which he could not account for satisfactorily. Following

interception, searches were conducted on properties linked to Nanda and a case was registered against him for possession of disproportionate assets. The Court has also passed orders for confiscation of disproportionate assets of Nanda to the tune of Rs.16,35,316/ to the State. Odisha Vigilance will now move the competent authority for stoppage of pension of the retired forest range officer following his conviction.

NALCO: Growing with Purpose, Delivering with Passion

NALCO setting new milestones with Record-breaking achievements: CMD

Bhubaneswar, (KCN):In the 43rd Annual General Meeting held here today through Virtual mode, the shareholders of National Aluminium Company Limited (NALCO), the Navratna CPSE under the Ministry of Mines, Govt. of India, have approved the Annual Accounts for 2023-24 with a sales turnover of Rs.13,149 crore, net profit of Rs.2,060 crore and an export turnover of Rs.4,275.73 crore. The shareholders also

approved a final dividend of Rs.2 per equity share (40% on face value of Rs.5/- each) amounting to Rs.367.33 crore for the FY 2023-24. Thus, total dividend paid during the year amounts to Rs.918.32 crore, which is 45% of PAT. Among the notable achievements of FY 2023-24, the Aluminium major NALCO achieved highest-ever Bauxite excavation and produced 21.24 lakh tonne Alumina Hydrate operating beyond 100% capacity



utilisation. Similarly, on the sales front, the company has registered the highest-ever metal sale of 4.70 lakh tonne and the Aluminium Smelter plant achieved highest ever cast metal production of 4.63 lakh MT in the FY 2023-24. In FY 23-24, NALCO has developed & operationalized its Utkal D coal block and has also

produced 2 million tonnes of Coal, which is the peak rated capacity of the mine. It may be mentioned that with operationalization of Utkal D & E and signing of lease agreement for Pottangi Bauxite mines, the Company has achieved strong energy and raw material securitization for next 30 years. Addressing the

shareholders on the occasion, Shri Sridhar Patra, CMD of NALCO, conveyed his heartfelt appreciation for the dedication and commitment of NALCO team, unwavering support, trust and confidence of shareholders, which has led to record-breaking metal production and impressive sales figures.

He also expressed that there were some setbacks due to economic and geopolitical landscape, issues arising from fluctuating commodity prices to evolving environmental regulations, but these challenges also present the company opportunities for growth and innovation. NALCO has experienced growth across various areas in FY 2023-24 aligned with the goals of Atmanirbhar Bharat and Viksit Bharat, he said. NALCO is dedicated to drive

forward India's industrial prowess and economic resilience. The future holds immense possibilities for NALCO, as we continue to align our strategies with global trends and national priorities, ensuring that we remain at the forefront of the aluminium industry, said Shri Patra. Shri Patra, further informed that the company has successfully executed the mining lease of Pottangi Bauxite Mines (having mineable reserve of 111 million MT) with the

Government of Odisha for a period of 50 years. He also outlined about the various growth and brownfield expansion projects of the company including operationalization of the remaining allotted coal Block in Odisha. In his concluding remarks, Shri Patra said that NALCO is poised to grow with purpose and deliver with passion and strivetowards making the company, a sought-after name globally in the Alumina and Aluminium sector.

NIT Rourkela Faculty Among World's Top 2% Scientists in Stanford-Elsevier Ranking

Rourkela(KCN):In a significant milestone for research excellence, 25 faculty members from the National Institute of Technology (NIT) Rourkela have been recognized among the Top 2% Most Cited Scientists Globally according to the Stanford University-Elsevier research survey. The ranking features two categories: Career-Long Impact (1996-2023) and Single-Year Impact for 2023. 15 faculty members from NIT Rourkela have been

acknowledged for their long-term research contributions, while 25 faculty members were recognized for their research citations in the year 2023. Notably, 13 faculty members made it onto both lists. This ranking widely respected across the global academic community, acknowledges scientists based on the impact of their research work, citation index, and other critical academic parameters. The Stanford-Elsevier

ranking evaluates the performance of scientists over their careers and also emphasizes their recent contributions, making this recognition particularly notable for the selected scholars. To this notable achievement, Prof. K. Umamaheshwar Rao (Director, NITR) stated, "I extend my heartfelt congratulations to our faculty members for their remarkable research contributions and high-impact publications that have established benchmarks in their

fields. This achievement highlights our institution's commitment to excellence in research and showcases the significant global impact of our faculty's work." Under this ranking, scientists are categorized into 22 scientific fields and 174 sub-fields according to the Science-Matrix classification system. The career-long data are updated through the end of 2023, while the recent year data pertains to citations accrued during the calendar year 2023.

Centre Revises Wheat-Rice Ratio for Ration Card Holders in 9 States Including Odisha; New Rule Effective from October



New Delhi(KCN): The Central Government has announced a significant revision in the wheat-rice ratio for ration card holders in nine states, including Odisha. This new rule, set to take effect from October, aims to address the changing dietary preferences and demands of the population. The revised allocation will see an increase in the distribution of wheat by 35 lakh metric tonnes (LMT) across the states

of Odisha, Bihar, Gujarat, Jharkhand, Madhya Pradesh, Maharashtra, Tamil Nadu, Uttar Pradesh, and West Bengal. This adjustment comes in response to requests from state governments, including Odisha, which had earlier sought a higher wheat quota to meet local demand. Under the new scheme, ration card holders in these states will receive a combination of wheat and rice, with the specific ratio

adjusted to better reflect regional consumption patterns. The Ministry of Consumer Affairs, Food and Public Distribution has assured that there will be no changes in cost-sharing, including food subsidy, intra-state transportation, and dealer's margin. Odisha's Food and Consumer Welfare Minister had previously highlighted the need for this change, citing the growing preference for wheat among the state's

residents. The revised allocation is expected to improve food security and provide more balanced nutrition to the beneficiaries. The new distribution model will be implemented under the National Food Security Act (NFSA) and the Pradhan Mantri Garib Kalyan Anna Yojana (PMGKAY), ensuring that the increased wheat allocation does not affect the overall food subsidy budget.

Assistant Engineer Caught Taking Rs 5K Bribe in Koraput

Koraput(KCN): Odisha Vigilance sleuths today arrested an Assistant Engineer in Koraput district for demanding and accepting a bribe of Rs 5,000. The accused has been identified as Bhanumati Tudu, Asst. Engineer, Kundura Block, Dist-Koraput. Tudu has been apprehended by Odisha

Vigilance while demanding and accepting a bribe of Rs 5,000 at the Kundura Block office from a complainant (beneficiary) for facilitating the release of the bill towards the construction of a "Cattle Shed" by complete. The entire tainted bribe money has been recovered and seized from the



possession of the accused.

Following the trap, simultaneous searches are going on at 3 locations of Tudu from the DA angle. In this connection, Koraput Vigilance P.S Case No. 19 dated 26.09.2024 U/s 7 P.C (Amendment) Act, 2018 has been registered. The investigation is in progress against the accused.



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Vidyaarthi Vigyaan Manthan: The Unique and Distinctive Science Talent Search Exam of the Nation

Dr. Manmohan Prakash



Science and technology are the two fundamental pillars of any nation's development and security, as well as the foundation for the progress and prosperity of human society. Science involves the study, observation, exploration, evaluation, and analysis of any event, situation, or principle with a cause-and-effect approach, while technology and

engineering represent the practical application of scientific knowledge and research findings. Today, new inventions, concepts, principles, technologies, and tools are emerging every day in the world. On one hand, the appropriate use of scientific inventions has made human life easier, simpler, and longer, improving quality of life and reducing hardships. On the other hand, its misuse has increased human difficulties and posed threats to biodiversity and the environment. The ongoing Ukraine-Russia and Hamas-Israel wars, the use of deadly weapons by terrorist organizations to spread fear and terror, and the resulting loss of life, property, and environmental damage are living examples of the misuse of science and technology. However, the development and use of vaccines to combat the global COVID-19 pandemic is an excellent example of the positive use of science and technology.

Vigyan Bharati is a NGO known for continuously encouraging teenagers and youth in the fields of science, research, and innovation. Perhaps that is why hundreds of renowned scientists, educators, and individuals interested in science are associated with this organization. Vigyan Bharati's dedication to promoting modern science and technology along with Indian science, scientists, and technical advancements distinguishes it from other organizations. Looking at Vigyan Bharati's activities, it seems that the organization has been conducting the 'Vidyaarthi Vigyaan Manthan (VVM)' for many years to foster interest in science and technology among school students and to develop scientific thinking, understanding, and research tendencies. In reality, VVM is more of a large-scale digital-based national science talent search exam for children than just a regular exam. This exam stands apart from other talent exams as the evaluation method is unique, the objective of the exam is different, and the prizes given to the selected participants also give it a distinct identity.

The VVM exam is conducted at two levels - the first for students from grades 6 to 8, and the second for students from grades 9 to 11. Forty percent of the questions in this exam are based on India's contributions to science and the life and work of a specific Indian scientist (this year, Dr. Shanti Swarup Bhatnagar), while sixty percent of the questions are based on NCERT and textbooks of various boards. Moreover, this exam is conducted simultaneously in multiple languages across the country - English, Hindi, Tamil, Telugu, Kannada, Malayalam, Marathi, Gujarati, Punjabi, Bengali, Odia, Assamese, Sanskrit, and Urdu. The selection process for participants involves multiple testing methods, such as (i) objective multiple-choice questions, (ii) comprehensive writing, (iii) presentations, (iv) group discussions, (v) role-play, (vi) practical exams, and (vii) scientific methods, etc. (viii) The final selection takes place through state and national-level camps. Therefore, these unique features make the VVM exam different, outstanding, and distinctive from other talent search exams.

The goals and objectives of this exam are also different from other exams, which include: (1) Popularizing science among school going students. (2) Creating an attraction for science principles, experiments, research, and innovation among students. (3) Introducing students to the contributions of Indian scientists (both ancient and modern) globally, ie. Indian Knowledge System. (4) Providing hands-on training related to scientific experiments to selected participants through workshops. (5) Facilitating visits to prestigious scientific laboratories for selected participants to observe ongoing scientific work and research and meet the scientists involved. (6) Identifying scientifically talented students at the district, state, and national levels, awarding selected participants, and providing extensive training-cum-internship opportunities of one to three weeks at organizations like DRDO, ISRO, CSIR, and BARC. (7) Providing mentors to students for science education and research. I believe that there is hardly any other talent search exam in the country for school students that encompasses so many features, selects the best students across so many diverse parameters, and rewards them in such a unique manner. Perhaps, considering all these remarkable features, the National Council of Educational Research and Training (NCERT) and the National Council of Science Museums found it appropriate to collaborate and support this initiative. Therefore, schools should encourage their students to participate in this exam. For more information, one can visit office@vvm.org.in.



India's economic growth, coupled with its expanding global footprint, has created a robust demand for professionals proficient in multiple languages. In an increasingly globalised world, the ability to communicate across linguistic boundaries has become a valuable skill. This has led to a significant surge in interest among students in India in pursuing language courses.

With the rise of international business, cultural exchange programs, and global migration, language proficiency is no longer just an academic pursuit but a gateway to diverse career opportunities.

, the Indian language services market is expected to grow by USD 7.55 billion from 2023 to 2028, progressing at a CAGR of 14.37 percent during the forecast period. This growth is driven by the need for translation, interpretation, and localisation services as

Indian businesses expand internationally. This demand is evident in industries like IT, tourism, hospitality, and international trade, where language skills can significantly enhance job prospects.

As India continues to integrate more deeply with the global economy, the demand for multilingual professionals is expected to grow. This trend is likely to encourage more students to pursue language courses, viewing them as a viable and lucrative career option. Moreover, with the advent of technology, online language learning platforms are making language education more accessible, enabling students from all parts of the country to acquire these valuable skills.

EDUCATIONAL LANDSCAPE : LANGUAGE COURSES ON THE RISE

Recognizing the importance of multilingualism, educational institutions in India have begun offering specialised language courses. Universities and colleges are introducing programs in languages such as Mandarin, Spanish, French, German, and Japanese, and even regional Indian languages like Tamil, Bengali, and

Marathi.

The Ministry of Education has also initiated programmes to promote the learning of foreign languages at the school level, emphasising the importance of linguistic diversity. The National Education Policy (NEP) 2020 also highlights the importance of multilingualism, advocating for the inclusion of more languages in the curriculum. This policy shift is expected to further boost the popularity of language courses among students.

Director of Admissions, Gitam Deemed to be University has shared the most common foreign languages adopted by Indian students

French

French is one of the most popular foreign languages among Indian students, partly due to its global presence and the extensive network of French-speaking countries

Institutions: The Alliance Française network in India, along with numerous schools and universities, offers comprehensive French language programmes. Career Opportunities: French proficiency is valuable in international business, diplomacy, tourism, and academia.

German

German is highly

favoured, especially among students interested in engineering, technology, and science, due to Germany's strong industrial base.

Institutions: The Goethe-Institut (Max Mueller Bhavan) plays a significant role in promoting German language learning in India.

Career Opportunities: German is crucial for careers in engineering, automotive industries, and higher education, particularly for those aiming to study or work in Germany.

Spanish

Spanish is gaining popularity rapidly due to the large number of Spanish-speaking countries and its status as the second most spoken language in the world.

Institutions: Instituto Cervantes and various universities across India offer Spanish language courses.

Career Opportunities: Knowledge of Spanish is beneficial for careers in international business, tourism, translation, and BPO (Business Process Outsourcing) sectors.

Mandarin Chinese

With China being a major global economic power, Mandarin is increasingly being adopted by Indian students aiming for careers in business and

trade.

Institutions: Several universities and cultural centres like the Confucius Institutes offer Mandarin courses in India.

Career Opportunities: Proficiency in Mandarin is particularly useful in sectors like international trade, business, and diplomacy.

Japanese

Japanese is popular among students interested in technology, engineering, and electronics, due to Japan's strong presence in these industries.

Institutions: The Japan Foundation and various universities in India offer Japanese language programs.

Career Opportunities: Japanese language skills are highly valued in industries such as automotive, IT, and electronics, and for those interested in working with Japanese companies.

Russian

Russian is chosen by students interested in science, technology, and literature, especially due to India's long-standing ties with Russia.

Institutions: Several universities in India offer Russian language courses.

Career Opportunities: Russian is useful for careers in international relations, defence, and

technology sectors, as well as for students pursuing higher education in Russia.

Korean

Korean is growing in popularity, driven by the Korean wave (Hallyu) and South Korea's strong presence in the electronics, entertainment, and automotive industries.

Institutions: The King Sejong Institutes and various universities in India offer Korean language programs.

Career Opportunities: Korean language skills are valuable in sectors like entertainment and technology, and for those seeking opportunities in South Korean companies.

The rising demand for language skills across various industries, coupled with the growing availability of language courses in educational institutions, has made language courses a top career choice for emerging students in India. For students looking to position themselves for success in the global economy, investing in language education is a strategic and forward-thinking choice.

**Retired Principal
Educational
columnist
malout, Punjab**

Odisha Police Under Fire for Custody Torture

Prasar Khuntia



The issue of police brutality in Odisha has come under sharp scrutiny following a recent incident involving an Army officer and his fiancée. The couple, who approached the Bharatpur Police Station under the Bhubaneswar Commissionerate seeking protection from miscreants, were allegedly subjected to brutal torture by the very police personnel meant to protect them. This shocking case has become a flashpoint highlighting the growing concerns over police misconduct in the state. The Army officer, stationed in West Bengal and his fiancée, a tech professional and local resident had rushed to the police station in the early hours of the morning after being harassed by a group of hooligans. Instead of receiving the necessary help, the couple was reportedly mistreated and physically assaulted by

the police officers present. The officers, according to reports became enraged when the Army officer requested to speak with higher authorities after the police refused to act immediately on the couple's complaint. The incident has ignited public outrage with widespread criticism of the police's behavior. Various rights groups and citizens have condemned the actions of the police calling for an immediate investigation and accountability. This case is not an isolated event. Over the past decade, Odisha has seen a disturbing rise in instances of custodial torture and deaths. According to a report presented by Chief Minister Mohan Charan Majhi in the Legislative Assembly, Odisha recorded 48 custodial deaths between 2014 and 2023. In many of these cases, the victims were subjected to violence while in police or judicial custody leading to their deaths—a blatant violation of their constitutional rights. The rise in these incidents directly contradicts the Supreme Court's guidelines aimed at curbing custodial violence. In the landmark



"D.K. Basu vs. State of West Bengal" case (1997), the Supreme Court laid down specific directives to prevent custodial torture including the requirement for medical examinations, legal representation and proper documentation during arrests. However, despite these safeguards, Odisha has seen a growing trend of custodial deaths and torture underscoring a troubling disregard for human rights. Several high-profile custodial deaths in Odisha have cast a harsh light on the conduct of the state's police force. These deaths not only represent a failure to adhere to the law but also highlight the growing culture of impunity among certain

police personnel. While many victims' families allege that torture in custody led to their loved ones' deaths, police officials often deny responsibility citing other causes such as suicide or illness. The Supreme Court, in cases like "Nilabati Behera vs. State of Orissa" (1993), has made it clear that the state is responsible for the safety and protection of individuals in custody. In that case, the court held that the state is liable to compensate victims' families for deaths caused by police negligence or brutality. Despite such judicial precedents, Odisha continues to witness cases of custodial violence fueling public anger and calls for

reform. The incident at the Bharatpur Police Station has reignited the debate over the behavior of law enforcement in Odisha. Citizens are demanding justice not only for the Army officer and his fiancée but also for the many victims of custodial violence whose voices have gone unheard. Social media has been flooded with condemnation of the police's actions with many questioning the systemic issues within the state's police force. Rights activists have pointed to a lack of accountability and transparency within the police as key reasons for the rise in custodial torture. They argue that without stringent

enforcement of the Supreme Court's guidelines and stronger oversight mechanisms, such incidents will continue to tarnish the image of the police and erode public trust. The alleged torture of an Army officer and his fiancée in Bhubaneswar's Bharatpur Police Station has brought the issue of custodial violence in Odisha to the forefront of public discourse. With increasing cases of custodial deaths and police brutality, the state is facing a growing crisis in law enforcement accountability. As calls for justice grow louder, it is imperative that the government takes immediate action to address these concerns and ensure that those entrusted with maintaining law and order are held to the highest standards of conduct. The Odisha government must act decisively to implement police reforms, enforce the Supreme Court's directives and restore faith in the justice system. Only then can the state hope to curb the rising tide of custodial violence and safeguard the rights and dignity of its citizens.

**The author is a
journalist and
columnist**

Deep-down Analysis of Odisha's Power System

Prof. Sanjib Pohit and Pradeep Kumar Panda

Among the Indian states, energy intensity of Odisha economy has always been on the higher side due to her higher resource (mineral) base. The proximity of minerals has led to development of extraction-based industries in the state. Moreover, the abundance of coal resources has fuelled development of coal power in the states both for domestic consumption as well as for exports to other states. Expectedly, the location of energy intensive industries and coal power imply that per capita emission in Odisha would be higher than the national average. Though the state has taken significant steps to facilitate a transition towards renewable energy and fight climate change, it appears to be moving slowly in formulating a clear decarbonisation roadmap. Among the India states, only a handful of states have clearly underlined the target they have set for achieving net-zero emission. Among the Indian states, Odisha is the first state to get its second phase of climate action plan approved from the National Steering Committee on Climate Change (NSCCC) under the Ministry of Environment, Forests and Climate Change (MoEFCC), Government of India. The Government of Odisha has roped in Council on Energy, Environment and Water (CEEW) to prepare a roadmap for achieving net-zero carbon emission in line with the country's decarbonisation plan. Odisha's Renewable policy envisions to establish a robust framework that can enable Odisha to undertake an inclusive journey towards energy transition through higher adoption of renewable energy (RE) in their power system. However, Odisha's power sector like that of India operates on an interconnected grid system. Coordinated efforts and grid integration between states are crucial for optimizing renewable energy generation and ensuring reliable and stable power supply. At first, in order to ensure the uninterrupted supply of electricity it is necessary to promptly address issues linked to power system losses and malfunctions of the existing grids. Further, to facilitate the integration of renewable energy resources it is necessary to solve the issues with high energy consumption and demand. In terms of socio-economic factor, states with a higher population or energy-intensive industries may require tailored strategies to manage the energy transition while ensuring social equity and economic growth. To adopt a low carbon

pathway in energy sector, a state has to consider a variety of factors, such as energy accessibility, local energy sources, infrastructure, legal frameworks, and socio-economic conditions. The problem is more challenging for a mining rich state like Odisha States with a higher concentration of energy-intensive industries. Hence, it is essential that to have deep down planning with power system analysis for optimal operation and inclusion of RE technologies in grid. Over the years, Nordic countries with high penetration of renewable energy in the grid have opts for spatial mapping of available RE resources along with transmission and distribution network and mapping of demand to adopt a low carbon transition pathway with increased share of renewable energy. However, this approach namely spatial mapping is yet to take root in the Indian context even though renewable power is expected to play a bigger share in the coming years. It is important that Odisha undertakes in-depth power system analysis while going forward in a big way for renewable power development in the state. The analysis of distribution networks and local level power systems would help the power sector in the following way: cost effective pathways to reduce GHG with optimal operation, management and planning of electricity networks, assessment of transmission infrastructure, storage capacity requirement for higher utilization of RE and analysing the technical impacts of the grid due to the high volume of RE integration, assessment of local demand for designing microgrid system, and further linking decentralized power generation, accessibility of the real time data through locational coordinates, coupling of electricity to other energy sectors, such as gas, heating and transport, and investment & system planning for a stable secures networks through assessment of job potential, enhanced per capita power consumption and income generation. There is no alternative but to go for spatial mapping of power system in the state if Odisha intend to increase her share of renewable power in the electricity sector. Sustainable Development Goal (SDG) 7 calls for ensuring access to affordable, reliable, sustainable and modern energy for all. All these measures will help Odisha to achieve SDG 7.

(Prof. Sanjib is with NCAER, New Delhi and Pradeep is Bhubaneswar based Economist)

The Delhi connection of two Sri Lankan Prime Ministers

By Vivek Shukla



The new Prime Minister of Sri Lanka, Harini Amarasuriya, has joined the distinguished list of Delhi University (DU) alumnus who have risen to become presidents or prime ministers of India or other countries. She studied at Hindu College from 1991 to 1994, graduating with a degree in Sociology. Meanwhile, Sri Lanka's first female Prime Minister, Sirimavo Bandaranaike, has a unique connection with Delhi. A peepal tree in Buddha Jayanti Park is believed to be related to Lord Buddha. A sapling from the original tree, under which Buddha attained enlightenment, was planted in Sri Lanka by Emperor Ashoka's son. Sirimavo Bandaranaike gifted a sapling from this tree to India's then Prime Minister, Lal Bahadur Shastri, in 1964. Shastri planted this sapling on October 25, 1964, and it

has grown into a fully-fledged, vibrant tree. Before Harini Amarasuriya, many other DU students became presidents or prime ministers of India and other nations. Dr. Manmohan Singh, a former DU faculty member, taught at the Delhi School of Economics from 1969 to 1971. He served as Prime Minister of India for ten years. **Who was DU's first president?** India's fifth president, Fakhruddin Ali Ahmed, was a student at St. Stephen's College. When Ahmed was studying at St. Stephen's, the college was located in Kashmiri Gate. He was a native of Old Delhi, born in Hauz Qazi. Dr. Fakhruddin Ali Ahmed served as the country's president from 1974 to 1977. He was the second Muslim president of India and the second president to die in office. **Which Pakistani president was a DU alumnus?** Former Pakistani President Zia-ul-Haq also studied at St. Stephen's College. Zia-ul-Haq studied at St. Stephen's from 1941 to



1945. David Rajaram was the college principal during his time at DU. Zia-ul-Haq visited his alma mater during his visit to the capital for the Non-Aligned Summit in 1983. Professor Mohammed Amin, who taught history at St. Stephen's College for many decades, once said that Zia became emotional while visiting the college. Zia, who had created a fearsome image by hanging former Pakistani Prime Minister Zulfikar Ali Bhutto just a few years prior, interacted with everyone at St. Stephen's as if he had found a long-lost friend. He even visited the Principal's office and found "Sukhia," the lemon soda vendor. Zia used to drink lemon soda from Sukhia. He gave Sukhia an envelope as he was leaving. It was said that he had given Sukhia his old debt. Zia also saw his hostel room at Rudra North. Hostels at St.



Stephen's College are called "residences." Father Solomon George, a member of the Delhi Brotherhood Society, says that Gandhiji stayed at St. Stephen's College in 1915 at the invitation of Sushil Kumar Rudra. The Delhi Brotherhood Society founded St. Stephen's College. It was earlier known as the Brotherhood of the Ascended Christ. **Koirala at Kirori Mal College** Girija Prasad Koirala, who served as Prime Minister of Nepal five times, studied at Kirori Mal College, DU. He was the president of the Nepali Congress. Mahatma Gandhi's principles of truth and non-violence had a profound impact on Koirala's life. He remained a staunch advocate for good relations with India throughout his life. He was an accomplished orator. Nepal's 35th



Prime Minister, Baburam Bhattarai, did not study at DU. He completed his postgraduate studies at the School of Planning and Architecture. He earned his PhD from Jawaharlal Nehru University (JNU) in 1986. Bhattarai believes that JNU first introduced him to communism. **Aung San Suu Kyi at that college** Nobel Prize winner Aung San Suu Kyi, Myanmar's leading politician and former State Counsellor (equivalent to the Prime Minister), graduated from Lady Shri Ram College (LSR) in 1964. Manu Bhaskar, a two-time Paris Olympic medalist, also studied at the same college. Aung San Suu Kyi lived with her mother at 24 Akbar Road, the official residence of the Burmese ambassador to India, while studying at LSR. The residence was also known as "Burma House." Rashid Kidwai, in his book "24 Akbar

Road," wrote that 24 Akbar Road was called Burma House on the instructions of then Prime Minister Jawaharlal Nehru. Daw Khin Kyi, the Burmese ambassador, and Pandit Nehru had a close and friendly relationship. India-Burma relations were steadily strengthening during that period. Daw Khin Kyi's daughter is Aung San Suu Kyi. **Which African President was a DU alumnus?** Bingu wa Mutharika, president of Malawi from 2004 to 2012, who graduated from Sri Ram College of Commerce and holds a postgraduate degree from the Delhi School of Economics, studied at DU from 1961 to 1966. He was a very promising student. Mutharika visited Delhi in 2010 and was honored at Delhi University. He passed away in 2012. Finally, India's current Prime Minister, Narendra Modi, also has a connection to DU. He graduated with a degree in Arts from Delhi University in 1978.

Author Gandhi's Delhi 9818155246

Tourism brings Peace, Smiles and Happiness

- Lalit Garg -



World Tourism Day is celebrated every year on 27 September with different themes; this year's theme is 'Tourism and Peace'. Showcasing how travel bridges cultural divides, supports reconciliation, and promotes harmony worldwide. Every year one country is selected by the United Nations World Tourism Organization to host the Tourism Day; in 2024 World Tourism Day will be hosted in Tbilisi, Georgia, a nation renowned for its rich cultural heritage, stunning landscapes, and warm hospitality. Hosting this global event provides Georgia a platform to showcase its tourism potential while highlighting the theme "Tourism and Peace." Georgia is known for its breathtaking landscapes, rich cultural heritage, and deep historical significance. Nestled between Europe and Asia, this small but diverse country offers a range of natural beauty, from the towering peaks of the Caucasus Mountains to the scenic Black Sea coastline. Last Year 'Riyadh, Kingdom of Saudi Arabia' was hosting the events of this important day. Bali, an island of Indonesia, was chosen as the host country for 2022. Today, the situation of war has deepened at the global level; every person is surrounded by some or the other problems, like--inflation, unemployment, disease, epidemic etc. In this era of fear and life crisis, it seems as if

happiness, Peace and smiles have gone somewhere else. Despite all this, every person should definitely find some time in his life to have happiness, peace and joy coming alive; and tourism is a powerful medium for such wonderful moments. To embrace happiness and peace, one must embark on the world's itinerary. The goal of raising awareness of the importance of tourism to society, culture, the economy, and the environment. This day emphasizes the cultural interchange, and economic development that comes from travel. One of the largest industries in the world is tourism, and it supports millions of jobs and makes a substantial GDP contribution to several nations. It has the capacity to promote global cooperation, accelerate economic progress, and protect cultural treasures. This Year theme also emphasises how tourism may aid in the healing and reconciliation processes because shared travel experiences foster empathy, collaboration, and communication, all of which eventually contribute to world peace. This theme highlights the ability of tourism to bring people together—not just as an engine of the economy, but also as a force for peace in a globalised society. Tourism will not only help in bringing back the happy moments in our lives, but it will also play an important role in the social, cultural, political and economic development of any country. Due to many reasons, clouds of economic crisis are looming over the world, in these circumstances the first need of every country is to strengthen the economy, and tourism will play an important role in it. The economy of many countries revolves around

the tourism industry. European countries, coastal African countries, East Asian countries, Canada, Australia and India etc. are such countries where the income from the tourism industry strengthens their economy. India attracted many foreign travelers in the past due to its perceived wealth, cultural splendour, resplendent nature and picturesque views; the arrival of the Chinese Buddhist monk Hiuen Tsang in India is one such example. Emperor Ashoka and Emperor Harsh got many constructions done to strengthen the pilgrimage. Indian economics indicates the importance of tourism sector infrastructure for governments, which has played an important role in the past. After Independence, the tourism sector has continuously been a part of five year plans. After the Seventh Five Year Plan, various forms of tourism like business tourism, health tourism and wildlife tourism etc. were introduced in India. India's tourism sector ranks sixth in its contribution to the world's gross domestic product (GDP), with a contribution of US\$178.0 billion in 2021, as the World Travel and Tourism Council reports. India has diverse tourism potential and richness, which offers many types of tourism, including—cultural, nature, heritage, educational, sports, rural, eco-tourism etc. This diversity of India makes it a major tourist attraction. Tourism in India has the potential to promote faster, more sustainable and more inclusive growth. September 27 was chosen as World Tourism Day, because on this day the Constitution of the World Tourism Organization was accepted in 1970. Tourism Day is seen as a milestone

in the efforts to promote global tourism and the purpose of celebrating this day is to disseminate and spread awareness to the world about how tourism globally makes the world a family. It can help in developing social, cultural, political and economic values, and also increasing mutual understanding. This is the main basis of world peace. Tourism has special importance for countries like India; besides showing off the archaeological heritage or cultural heritage of the country, the international tourism is also a source of revenue. The livelihood of many people is linked to international tourism sectors. Today, by looking at countries like India, old and historical buildings are being conserved and promoted in almost all the countries of the world. India shows off innumerable tourist spots and exotic destinations. Be it grand monuments, ancient temples or tombs, rivers, waterfalls, natural scenic spots; its bright colours and rich cultural heritage have an inextricable connection with its technology-driven present. Tourist spots like Kerala, Shimla, Goa, Agra, Rajasthan, Madhya Pradesh, Mathura, Kashi are always in the news for their foreign tourists. Every year lakhs of international tourists come to visit India. There are beautiful places for all types of tourists here, whether they are on an adventure trip, a cultural trip, a pilgrimage or a trip to the beautiful beaches. In Delhi, Mumbai, Rajasthan, Madhya Pradesh, Uttar Pradesh and many states of South India, people spend months roaming around. India is famous all over the world for its scenic beauty. In India, people of different sects, religions and castes live together.

Due to its rich cultural, historical and natural heritage, India ranks among the major tourist countries of the world. Every state here has supernatural and unique specialties which attract international tourists. India-travel has a special attraction for those tourists who are looking for calm, magical beauty and adventure. For these tourists, the abundant travel literature in India has been presenting itself with a special identity and usefulness. Till now, from the point of view of travel literature, Rahul Sankrityayan's 'My Tibet Yatra', Dr. Bhagwati Sharan Upadhyay's 'Sagar Ki Waver Par', Kapurchand Kulish's 'Main Dekhte Chala Gaya', Dharamveer Bharti's 'Dhale Par Himalaya' and Nehru's 'Aankhon Dekha Russia', Rameshwar Tanti's 'Memoirs of World Travel', Acharya Tulsi's travelogue. Like travel literature, my friend Shri Pukhraj Sethia's 'Aao Ghoome Apna Desh' is a poignant and interesting travelogue. These travelogues contain all the qualities of a travelogue like factuality, geography, charm and spontaneity. Because of these texts, the diversity of the country has attracted many wandering people from across the country and the world. The aim of life of these itinerant men has been to move away from the hustle and bustle of life; and to find the meaning of life in the major tourist destinations. The search for this truth has led him to encounter various historical, natural, cultural and spiritual places. These travelogues not only describe the major tourist destinations, but also give a lively presentation of the people there, the food there, the lifestyle there, the cultural values there and the historical facts there.

This India is changing every moment, fresh, multi-dimensional and full of miraculous reality to the extent of magic. It is truly a supernatural and unique experience to encounter the complete diversity, daily innovations and contradictions of India, so that this multi-faceted India can be seen in its multi-dimensional and unique form and the beauty hidden in the layers of rough and tumble can be revealed. We experience India like a bouquet, in which different types of flowers are arranged. Some flowers have the redness of Kashmir and some have the magic of Kamrup. Some flowers are cherished buds of Punjab, while some others have the fragrance of Shyama of Tamil Nadu. In some there are stories of sacrifice of Rajasthan and in some there is religiosity of Uttar Pradesh. In Maharashtra, Gujarat, West Bengal and other states, cultural unity in diversity can be seen. Similarly, apart from tourism in Jaisalmer, the experience of detailed information about the ancient manuscripts stored there, architecture and Jain tourist places are also unique. The Indian Tourism Department had launched a campaign named 'Incredible India'. The objective of this campaign was to promote Indian tourism on the global platform, which became successful to a great extent. In the times of shrinking distances, people are curious to know about the outside world also. This is the reason why tourism has become a thriving industry in the world today.

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GOC 15 Corps calls on DGP J&K Police RR Swain



Srinagar, (Aasif Malik): General Officer Commanding (GOC) 15 Corps Lt. General Shri Rajiv Ghai, AVSM, SM, called on the Director General of Police, J&K, Shri R.R. Swain here at

Police Headquarters today. Both had a powwow to ensure that the tempo of the coordinated hard work in maintaining peace and order in the valley is not diminished. A quick review

of the situation as well as the measures being taken ended with General Ghai using the occasion to bid farewell to Sh Swain on account of the latter's superannuation on 30 September.

Lok Vikash Manch organized Block Level Farmers Mela in Semiliguda Block today



Semiliguda: (KCN) A "Kashak Mela" was organized today at Jeevan Jyoti School Grounds, Semiliguda Block with the help of Lok Vikash Manch Koraput and other institutions and this program was organized by Lok Vikash Manch Dura and facilitated by Semiliguda Dhan foundation, FES, CYSD. And the main purpose of this program was that after cultivating the paddy, how everyone will cultivate pulses nationally as a rabi crop and benefit from it, and about this cultivation, a Resource was made on farming in Odisha in 2023. Here, if 8 kg of seeds are cultivated in 1 acre of land, it means 129 kg of pulses, the harvest and 25 to 30 thousand in terms of money, it is profitable,

and because of this cultivation, it is better to cultivate the land once more, and after eating the pulses, some Females and chicks have good health, so last year Rice fellow administration gave free seeds, and the farmers have given feedback that every year such seeds are given, and Pottangi MLA was the chief guest in the program and Semiliguda block Chief Madam and Semiliguda BDO, ADAO from agriculture department, Nandpur, AAO, Semiliguda, OLM and mission shakti Semiliguda, horticulture Semiliguda, veterinary Semiliguda, fishermen officers Semiliguda, and all samiti members and Sarpanch, and more than 500 farmers were present. Lok Vikash

Manch -Krishna Khillo, the meeting was conducted by FES - pradiip mishra, dhan foundation -Manish kumar, and others facilitated the assistance, and all the institutes had one house and from that house showed their programs to Chashii, and so on. There was a plastic Mukta programme, Chief guest - Ram Chandra kadam MLA pottangi constituency, guest - Lili Anta biriya block chir man semiliguda, BDO semiliguda, ADAO - M prakashrao, AAO-Bishnu Prasad Behera Assistant fisheries officer Ankita Nayak, All sarpanch and Samiti members, Dhan foundation - Manish Kumar, FES - Pradeep Mishra, Program was organized Loka Bikash Mancha krishna khillo.

Odisha Poised for Tourism Boom : A New Era of Growth

Bhubaneswar (KCN Bureau): Odisha is on its way to becoming the third-largest tourism destination in India announced Deputy Chief Minister Smt. Prabhati Parida. Speaking on the occasion of World Tourism Day, she highlighted the state's immense potential to attract tourists from across the world and emphasized the government's commitment to driving economic growth through tourism. Odisha's rich natural beauty combined with its cultural heritage offers vast untapped opportunities for tourism. "Odisha is the 'Best Kept Secret' of our country!" remarked Smt. Parida, who also holds



the portfolios of Women and Child Development, Mission Shakti and Tourism. She reiterated the state's ambition to transform into one of the top three tourism destinations in India with a focus on promoting rapid economic development generating employment and creating

sustainable livelihoods through the tourism sector. In her speech, the Deputy Chief Minister quoted lines from Katakabi Laxmikanta Mohapatra's iconic poem 'Bande Utkala Janani', including purified by the waters of the sea, adorned with palm and tamala trees where

the pure breeze dances over the rivers and hills. And the dense forests adorn its body with blue mountain ranges like waves and the sweet song of chirping birds fills the air. She pointed out that these poetic descriptions of Odisha reflect the immense tourism potential

embedded in the state's natural landscapes. Smt. Parida emphasized that Odisha's unique natural assets — its lush forests, towering mountains, flowing rivers and pristine beaches — will play a crucial role in shaping the state's tourism future. With these resources, Odisha is poised to usher in a new era of economic development contributing to the vision of a "New Odisha" while also offering unparalleled experiences to travelers and adventurers. The state govt is committed to harnessing this potential to drive economic progress and enhance employment opportunities across various sectors, she said.

BJP Wins Delhi Civic Body Panel Poll After AAP, Congress Stay Away

New Delhi (KCN): The BJP's Sundar Singh Tanwar was nominated to the 18th, and final, seat of the Delhi Municipal Corporation's Standing Committee on Friday afternoon, following an election that featured only his party's councillors. Tanwar got 115 votes - the number of BJP councillors in the House. Tanwar's win - which will almost certainly be challenged in court - means the BJP now has control over the Standing Committee, which is widely seen as the real power behind the municipal body. The BJP now has 10 of its 18 members and can select the Chair. The AAP has 125 councillors and, had the party voted today (and providing none of its votes would have been poached by the BJP) it would most likely have won the election, and control of the Standing Committee, which takes most of the municipal body's financial decisions. The Congress, which has nine councillors, abstained from voting. All of this comes after the Aam Aadmi Party - last night - boycotted voting in a late-night session summoned by Lieutenant Governor VK Saxena, the centre's rep in the national capital. This morning ex-Deputy Chief Minister Manish Sisodia once again rejected the "illegal election" scheduled for 1 pm, and said, "There is nothing today". Shortly afterwards party boss Arvind Kejriwal said "it is written in the law... only the Mayor has the right to call a sitting of the House".

A storm of change is blowing in Kosli! Jagdish Yadav Only Jagdish Yadav can advocate strongly for Kosli! Sandeep Yadav Rewari, (KCN):

Congress candidate from Kosli assembly constituency and former minister Jagdish Yadav has said that a storm of change is blowing in Kosli region and the public is supporting the Congress party! Addressing public meetings in villages Parkhotampur, Murlipur, Nagal Pathani, Babadoli, Dhani Jatusana, Summa, Katopuri, Ahmedpur Padtal, Lala, Ghazi Gopalpur, Murlipur, and Nagal Pathani etc. of Kosli assembly constituency, Jagdish Yadav appealed to the villagers to maintain this enthusiasm, love and support till 5 October and then leave all the work to me! He said that he knows how to advocate for his region and the public will never have to give any excuse! If he



gets the blessings and support of the public, then this time Kosli will be on the map of India in matters of development! Jagdish Yadav said that the problem of unemployment in Kosli region will be completely eradicated and providing employment to unemployed youth will be his first priority! On this occasion, former MLA of Tijara Rajasthan Sandeep Yadav and Kosli in-charge Sonu Hooda said that the development of

the region and the convenience of the public depends on the party which is forming the government and the public should also elect an MLA from the same party! He said that if the Congress government is going to be formed with a huge majority in the state, then the proud people of Kosli region will also not let go of the opportunity and will have their participation in the government by electing the Congress candidate!

ICAR-CIFRI's initiatives to empower tribal women of Chhotanagpur Plateau region through inland fisheries

Kolkata, (KCN): Purulia, a district located in the western part of West Bengal, India, is predominantly inhabited by tribal communities. Purulia, located on the Chotanagpur plateau, has a tribal population comprising 18.45% of the region's total population. These communities face socio-economic challenges, with tribal women often being the most marginalized. Sustainable Development Goal 5 (SDG 5), which focuses on achieving gender equality and empowering all women and girls, is crucial for addressing the multiple dimensions of gender inequality in Purulia. Tribal women in Purulia often face a triple burden of socio-economic exclusion: poverty, gender inequality, and lack of access to education and health services. Factors such as early marriage, domestic violence, and traditional gender roles limit their opportunities. Keeping this background in view, the ICAR-Central Inland Fisheries Research Institute (ICAR-CIFRI) has taken an initiative to empower the tribal women of Purulia to secure their livelihoods and nutritional security for tribal communities in the



drought-prone areas of Govindpur, Manbazar, Purulia in West Bengal. This initiative focuses on empowering economically marginalized tribal women through community-managed aquaculture in locally available rainfed water bodies known as bandhs. ICAR-CIFRI has provided the necessary training, resources, and support under the Scheduled Tribe Component. A total of eight bandhs (rainfed waterbodies), covering an area of over 40 acres were selected for community fish culture. About tribal women, organized into 22 Self Help Groups (SHGs) will be benefitted from the project. ICAR-CIFRI distributed 1,600 kg of fish seeds and 16 tons of CIFRI cage grow feed to

help initiate fish farming in these waterbodies. Prior to the distribution, women from the community underwent comprehensive training on community pond management, equipping them with the knowledge to sustainably manage water resources and improve their income and food security. In addition to its economic benefits, the initiative also focuses on addressing the nutritional needs of the tribal community. In collaboration with National Award winning Head Master of Govindapur Primary School, Moynadanga Social Welfare Society, and with graceful presence of Block Development Officer Mr. Debashis Dhar, Panchayat Samity President Mrs. Sabita Mudi, and Dr. Basanta

Kumar Das and Dr. Aparna Roy, ICAR-CIFRI organized an awareness camp at Govindapur Primary School. It was decided that 50% of the fish produced by the SHGs would be allocated to the school's mid-day meal program, which will help to secure the nutritional needs of the tribal children. During the sensitization programme, Dr. B.K Das, Director of ICAR-CIFRI, highlighted the probable impact of the initiative, emphasizing that empowering women through fish farming will not only improve their livelihoods but also strengthen the entire community. This initiative is a vital step towards ensuring food security, better health, and sustainable growth for the community, paving the way for a more resilient and self-sufficient future.

Chandrababu Naidu vs Jagan Reddy Over Cancelled Tirupati Temple Visit

New Delhi, (KCN): Andhra Pradesh Chief Minister Chandrababu Naidu has hit back at YSR Congress president Jagan Mohan Reddy for claiming his government obstructed his visit to Tirumala. "He is spreading lies," said Mr Naidu, adding no notices had been served to his predecessor blocking his temple visit. "Did anyone stop you from going? Show the notice if you have, to the media. Why are you spreading lies," he lashed out.

Mr Reddy had said that all his party cadres and leaders were issued a notice that no permission had been given for the temple visit. His statement came after Mr Naidu's TDP and its ally BJP demanded that Mr Reddy sign a declaration meant for non-Hindus before visiting the temple. According to the rules of the Tirumala Tirupati Devasthanams, which manages the popular temple, foreigners and non-Hindus should declare their reverence for the presiding deity at the hill shrine, Lord Venkateswara, before their visit. However, faith declaration signboards have recently



sprung up in Tirumala. Addressing a pressing conference, the Chief Minister scaled up his attack on Mr Reddy, deepening the row that was triggered by his claim that animal fat was used to make laddoos which are offered as 'prasad' at the shrine during the previous YSRCP regime. "People in public life should follow the traditions and do what needs to be done. Every religion has certain traditions. If you want to visit a place of worship, you need to respect those traditions. No one is above those beliefs and traditions. No one should disrespect the

traditions of the gods and beliefs of the devotees and you can't act in a manner that is humiliating to both," Mr Naidu said. Mr Reddy defended his proposed visit without signing a declaration, saying everyone in the country knows his religion and that he had visited Tirumala temple several times even before becoming the Chief Minister. He said though he reads the Bible within four walls, he respects Islam, Hinduism and Sikhism. Pointing to the recent controversy sparked by his claim that the famed laddoos were made with adulterated ghee, Mr Naidu said, "Hindu

sentiments have been hurt, and devotees are reportedly organising protests. If he visits Tirumala, these groups have indicated they will mobilize as well. Police are on duty to maintain peace and order. Why is he spreading false information on this issue? Every religion has traditions and principles that deserve respect." Mr Reddy retorted that Mr Naidu brought up the laddoo issue "to divert failures of his (Chandrababu Naidu) 100 days rule". "To cover up his failures on the laddoo issue, he came up with the faith declaration issue. He intentionally planted seeds of doubts on the Laddu quality," he said.

BJD suffered debacle for these five reasons: Abinash Samal to Naveen Patnaik

BHUBANESWAR (KCN): After Nabarangpur MP candidate Pradeep Majhi, it was Dhenkanal's MP candidate Abinash Samal who on Thursday poured his heart out in front of his party supremo Naveen Patnaik, pointing out five reasons that proved fatal for BJD in the General Elections 2024.

BJD chief Naveen Patnaik was reviewing the party's position in Dhenkanal district. There, Samal while giving vent to his annoyance pointed out five reasons that caused the party's failure in the

General Elections 2024. The five reasons he pointed out were overconfidence, wrong strategies, senior leaders not joining hands, Naveen Patnaik's lack of campaigning and inertia of the party's IT Wing or Social Media.

"We had overconfidence that as we were in power for 25 years, we would win another term as well. There was also a lack of coordination and strategic management. Had senior leaders come forward and shared brains; there would have been better results. We couldn't make the best



use of social media as they did," said Samal. Some other leaders said the party is preparing for the Panchayat elections.

"There was nothing wrong in our election management. The party has taken a decision not to repeat what it did in



the last elections," observed Sudhir Samal, a BJD leader.

Meanwhile, the party has formed an Advisory

Committee, Membership Drive Committee and Programme Implementation

Committee. But what surprised many is that Pranab Prakash Das and Manas Mangaraj, who enjoyed clout in the party before the elections, have been kept away from the committees.

After the electoral drubbing, party leaders and workers have been opposing both the leaders. It is being discussed that the party in its move to pacify the disgruntled leaders and members has clipped the wings of Das and Mangaraj. BJD leader Mahesh Sahu termed the discussions as

baseless. "They are very much with us. They are attending meetings and programmes."

According to political observers, Naveen Patnaik has started uniting his leaders.

"There had never been a dearth of leaders in the BJD. Even today, the party has many leaders. I think the uncertainty that has been created in the party after the elections can be overcome if he takes steps on what the leaders are pointing out," said Sandeep Mishra, a political analyst.

BJD threatens to hit streets over rapes of girls in Rourkela

Rourkela (KCN): Expressing concern over the rape of three girls in Rourkela city in a week, the opposition BJD Thursday said it would hit the streets if the situation does not improve.

A delegation of the Rourkela unit of the BJD led by local MLA Sarada Prasad Nayak met Rourkela Superintendent of Police Brijesh Kumar Rai and discussed the prevailing situation in the city and demanded strong action against the culprits. Speaking to reporters, Nayak alleged the law and order situation has collapsed in the city. Several rapes, murder and other cases were



reported in recent past and people are not feeling safe in Rourkela, he said. "As a responsible opposition, we are going to raise this issue as it affects the people. If the administration fails to do something tangible then

we will hit the streets," he said. Instead of waiting for complaints to be filed, the police should take suo motu action and maintain peace in the steel city, the former minister said. On the other hand, local

BJP leader Latika Patnaik said several crimes were reported during the previous BJD government.

On the recent crime cases, she said, the police are doing their investigation properly. Notably, three girls were allegedly gang raped while another school student was physically abused by her teacher during past few days in the city.

Three persons involved in the gang rape of two girls were arrested while the police detained several persons in the alleged gang rape of another girl, a police officer said.

Coast Guard, Odisha Marine Police rescue 14 fishermen stranded at sea



Paradip (KCN): As many as 14 fishermen standard in the sea amid inclement weather were Thursday rescued by the

personnel of Odisha's Marine Police and Coast Guard, police said. The 14 fishermen in two boats were stranded in

the rough sea near the Mahanadi river mouth close to Paradip. The boats had developed technical glitches for

which they became defunct in the sea, the police said.

All the fishermen were rescued to safety by the Coast Guard and the Marine police, a police officer said.

The sea condition is rough due to a low-pressure area over the Bay of Bengal.

Meanwhile, several fishing boats, mostly from neighbouring Andhra Pradesh, have also moved towards the Paradip coast due to unfavourable conditions in the sea, the police officer added.

Jackal scare in Odisha's Ganjam district

Berhampur (KCN): Polasara area in Odisha's Ganjam district is on high alert after more than 20 people in three villages were injured after they were attacked by jackals over the last two days, officials said Thursday. Most of the injured, including several elderly people and women, from Hatiota, Jemadepur Shasan, and Chandramadepur villages received treatment at the community health centre (CHC) in Polasara, they added.

"We have treated at least 21 patients—mostly elders—who were attacked by jackals. All have been discharged and their condition is stable," said Narayan



Swain, medical officer at CHC Polasara. One victim from Hatiota recounted that a jackal attacked him while he was walking to a pond early Wednesday morning. He said two persons accompanying him were also attacked by the animal. The jackal later fled to the neighbouring village of Jemadepentha after


being chased away by residents, he said.

Panic has gripped the local community, with many villagers fearing to go outside alone. They are also demanding compensation for the victims.

"A forest team rushed to the area to investigate the incident," said BK Acharya, divisional forest officer (DFO) for Ghumusar South division.

He assured that compensation would be provided to the victims in accordance with government guidelines. According to officials, jackals have become more aggressive due to flooding caused by recent rains, which have displaced them from their hiding places. Additionally, this is their mating season, during which they tend to be more aggressive.

"We are keeping a close watch on the situation," Acharya added. Anil Kumar Panda, range officer in Polasara, said the forest team is working to identify whether the animals are indeed jackals. "We are closely monitoring the situation," he said.



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‘UnserHaus’ by BSH Home Appliances - Kolkata’s new luxury address

Bhubaneswar: BSH Home Appliances Group, one of the world’s leading home appliances companies today launched its first ‘UnserHaus’ in Kolkata. This is BSH’s only experience center in India to house all its three brands—Bosch, Siemens and Gaggenau under one roof. Located at Salt Lake city’s Adventz Infinity @ 5, this new experience center is all set to welcome customers as well as Kolkata’s strong architecture & design community. The company already has two other stores in Kolkata—a multi-channel Bosch & Siemens Brand Store in Dhakuria and a Bosch Studio in Shakespeare Sarani. UnserHaus is the German name for “Our House”. It is a place where comfort,

convenience, inspiration, and memories reside in every corner. The philosophy and core ethos of BSH’s UnserHaus are focused on building long-lasting trust with all customers & business partners. Keeping this in mind, the space is designed to ensure that all visitors feel at home when they visit, helping them experience the products as if they were in their own house.

Commenting on the launch of UnserHaus, Kolkata, Neeraj Bahl, MD & CEO, BSH Home Appliances (India & SAARC)said, “Kolkata is one of our high performing markets and we’re thrilled to further expand our presence here by opening doors to our 101st retail space*. The new-age Indian consumer continues to look for offline

experiences especially in the home and cooking category and we’re glad to offer this state-of-the-art, practical space where buyers can get a first-hand experience of our innovation-fueled appliances across all three brands Bosch, Siemens and Gaggenau. This is our sixth experience center in India and the only one to house all our three brands. We look forward to continued growth momentum in the city and we’re confident that this space will also boost our presence in key neighboring cities as well.”

*The company now has six experience centers across Mumbai, Delhi, Bangalore, Chennai and Kolkata, and an India-wide retail network of 95 brand shops (80 brand stores for Bosch and 15 brand stores for Siemens).

Mahagram offers door to door banking services through Kirana stores

Bhubaneswar: Mahagram is a social enterprise focusing on Financial Inclusion that has enabled banking from the mom-and-pop store around the corner through fintech solutions. The company’s mission is to enable rural women to save money at the local Kirana (or grocery) stores, instead of traveling miles to the nearest bank branch.

Recently, Mahagram has tied up with a public sector bank – the Bank of Maharashtra to roll out the ‘Bank Sakhi’ project in Odisha. The fintech would provide financial technology

and infrastructure support to augment rural financial inclusion. As part of the tie-up, the company has onboarded more than 11,000 bank sakhis (women) on the BharatATM platform to help the rural citizens avail themselves of basic banking services at their doorstep or the next door Kirana stores.

Mahagram aims to increase the ratio and habit of household savings in rural India. “At Mahagram, we are indulged in offering basic banking services

like deposit and withdrawal transactions to consumers but it is now high time for rural people to save money. We are focusing on Financial Inclusion the flagship project of Modi government, by helping lot of beneficiaries to open bank accounts under the ‘Jan DhanYojana’. We are also emphasizing on rural women because they are the ones who run households. Our vision for 2022 is to offer women the service of recurring deposit.” says Mr. Ram Shriram, CEO, Mahagram.

Amazon.in launches ‘Back to School’ store

Bhubaneswar: With the opening of schools and resuming of offline classes, Amazon.in announced the launch of ‘Back to school’ store – a one stop destination to simplify the shopping needs of children. The specially curated store offers deals on a wide range of products across study essentials like stationery, laptops, tablets, mobile phones, PCs, headsets & speakers, printers, Amazon devices, home furnishing among others

to help parents, teachers and students with school supplies and to create an effective learning and productive environment. The offers and deals will be available till 12th June 2022.

Here are some popular products customers can choose from the ‘Back to school’ store on Amazon.in. All offers & deals are from participating sellers. HONOR MagicBook X 15, Intel Core i3 Anti-Glare Thin and Light Laptop – It has stylish

appearance with premium aluminum metal body with 16.9MM thickness, 5.3 MM narrow bezels and the weight of the laptop is only 1.56kg, which allows you to carry it easily, making it very convenient for school, travel, and work. It is available for starting INR 37,990 on Amazon.in. Lenovo Tab M10 FHD Plus Tablet, Platinum Grey - Make way for the stylish 8.1 mm Tab M10 FHD Plus.

OSL Group founder bags ‘Lifetime Achievement Award’ for reshaping Shipping & Logistics scenario in Eastern India



Bhubaneswar(KCN) : On the august occasion of the 4th Edition of prestigious Times Business Awards Odisha 2023, Orissa Stevedores Limited (OSL) founder Sri Mahimananda

(Mahima) Mishra was conferred with the coveted ‘Lifetime Achievement Award’ for reshaping the shipping and logistics scenario in eastern India.

The OSL Group founder received the honour at a glittering event organized by the TIMES Group at the Central Hall, Mayfair Convention here in the state capital city. Notably, the TIMES Group organizes such a glorious event in a bid to celebrate and honour outstanding business houses and business leaders who have made significant contributions to their respective fields and communities as decided by a renowned research agency.

Celebrate the Festive Season with the OPPO Reno12 Pro 5G Manish Malhotra Edition

Bhubaneswar : This festive season, OPPO India unveils the OPPO Reno12 Pro 5G Manish Malhotra Limited Edition, the perfect smartphone to celebrate India’s vibrant culture and traditions. Inspired by Manish Malhotra’s iconic World Collection, this special edition reflects the opulence of Indian design heritage through intricate gold filigree and floral embroidery over an elegant black backdrop. The fusion of OPPO’s innovative material design with Malhotra’s signature motifs brings together luxury and craftsmanship in a stunning celebration of India’s festive spirit. The smartphone’s body graphics draws from India’s rich artistic traditions, notably the floral motifs of Mughal art and the intricate embroidery techniques from regions like Rajasthan and Uttar Pradesh. Patterns inspired by Zardozi and Parsi Gara embroidery in the black and gold celebrations. While black represents timeless beauty and versatility, gold symbolises luxury and grandeur, evoking the opulence and festivity associated with Indian celebrations. This combination not only enhances the OPPO Reno12 Pro 5G’s visual appeal but also mirrors the regality of traditional Indian attire to make it the perfect companion for the festive season. Savio D’Souza, Head of Product Communications at OPPO India, shared, “We



are excited to introduce the OPPO Reno12 Pro 5G Manish Malhotra Limited Edition that blends functionality with aesthetics. This collaboration merges Manish Malhotra’s craftsmanship with OPPO’s advanced technology to deliver a product that is stylish, unforgettable and deeply resonates with our target audience.” To create the Manish Malhotra Limited Edition Reno12 Pro 5G, OPPO combined its cutting-edge technology in material science with intricate artistry. OPPO used advanced double etching and annealing—a high-precision heat treatment process—to achieve a rich contrast between the gold filigree and the black background. This process allows for

vibrant colours, finer detailing, and a smooth, flawless surface that showcases the floral motifs. The intricate patterned annealing process—a complex and high-cost technique—ensures the lines of the design remain continuous and uninterrupted. This is achieved through multiple rounds of optimisation, including adjustments to screen material, ink viscosity, and screen-printing parameters. Manish Malhotra, sharing his excitement about the association, said, “I have always endeavoured to fuse tradition and opulence, and this collaboration with OPPO India captures that vision perfectly. The OPPO Reno12 Pro Limited Edition melds my passion

for intricate detailing with the fine craftsmanship that OPPO brings to the table. With its luxurious design, this phone is the perfect companion for the festive season, combining beauty, elegance, and celebration. Together, we have created something that looks beautiful and feels luxurious to hold and flaunt.” The Manish Malhotra edition goes beyond the standard design; it utilises an eight-layer process—compared to the usual six-layer construction of a Reno back—which includes two layers of plating (one for the gold and the other for the black) along with UV texturing, CounterPoint Screen Printing, and Stereo Etched Glass. This meticulous attention to

detail elevates the design and makes the OPPO Reno12 Pro 5G a true masterpiece that embodies luxury and craftsmanship to celebrate the festive season in style.

The Reno12 Pro limited edition with 12GB RAM and 256GB storage will be available for INR 36,999 across OPPO e-Store, Flipkart, and mainline retail outlets. Pre-orders for the Reno12 Pro 5G Manish Malhotra Limited Edition start today; the first Sale on October 3. Customers can avail an instant cashback of up to 10% on Flipkart, OPPO e-Store, and mainline retailers with leading bank cards (Debit/Credit) from SBI, HDFC Bank, ICICI Bank, Kotak Bank, IDFC First Bank, RBL Bank, Kotak Bank, AU Small Finance, Bank of Baroda Cards, and DBS. Additionally, customers can benefit from flexible payment options with 3- and 6-month no-cost EMI plans, as well as 9-, 12-, and 18-month low-cost EMI options. Customers can also avail of Zero Down Payment schemes for up to 12 months from leading financiers. This festive season, OPPO also presents the ‘My OPPO Exclusive’ 10 lakh Raffle’, running from 1st October to 7th November 2024. By enrolling in the My OPPO App, participants can win exciting rewards, including cash prizes of 10 lakh, OPPO Find N3 Flip, OPPO Pad, and more.*

Annual General Meeting of Vitesco Technologies

Regensburg: Vitesco Technologies, a leading international developer and manufacturer of cutting-edge drive systems for sustainable mobility, held its first Annual General Meeting (AGM) today. The AGM was held virtually due to the continuing COVID-19 pandemic.

In separate votes, the shareholders formally approved the actions of all the Executive Board members during their term of office in the 2021 financial year. The actions of all members of the Supervisory Board in office in 2021 were also approved for their respective terms. “We are delighted to have received this vote of confidence from the Annual General Meeting.

We regard this outcome as a clear mandate to continue the successful collaboration and positioning of Vitesco Technologies as a supplier of sustainable drive solutions with a clear goal,” said CEO Andreas Wolf.

All current members of the Supervisory Board representing the shareholders who were up for election were re-elected to office. The members of the Supervisory Board who represent the employees will be elected separately. A complete list of all Supervisory Board members and the results of the voting at the AGM are available on the Vitesco Technologies website under ‘Annual General Meeting’.

LV Prasad Eye Institute Organizes a Retinoblastoma Awareness Walk

Bhubaneswar: L V Prasad Eye Institute’s MithuTulsiChanrai Campus in Bhubaneswar organized a Retinoblastoma Awareness Walk on 8th May 2022. This walk is part of the ‘Whitathon’ event organized by LV Prasad Eye Institute across its campuses in Bhubaneswar, Hyderabad, Visakhapatnam and

Vijayawada. Celebrity actor, Mr Sabyasachi Mishra, will be flagging off the walk.

Whitathon is L V Prasad Eye Institute’s annual cause-related event focusing on raising awareness and funds for early diagnosis and treatment of Retinoblastoma – a Life and Vision-threatening Eye Cancer in Children. One of the most common

symptoms of Retinoblastoma is White Reflex (white glow) in a child’s eye. Through this walk, LVPEI aims to raise awareness among the public that if they spot a ‘White Reflex’ in a child’s eye, it could be a sign of eye cancer that needs immediate medical intervention. Hence, the event is named ‘Whitathon’.

Ocular Oncologist, MithuTulsiChanrai Campus, Bhubaneswar, L V Prasad Eye Institute said, “Our aim is to raise awareness about early detection and treatment of retinoblastoma eye cancer in children. No child should die of eye cancer because of lack of awareness and treatment. We extend our sincere thanks to Mr Sabyasachi Mishra for joining us for

the Retinoblastoma Awareness Walk and spreading awareness about Retinoblastoma. We also acknowledge the support received from Aroh – Giving Hope, an NGO working for children with Cancer and their families.”

Dr Tripathy further added that it is time to make detailed eye check-ups a part of mandatory paediatric examinations.

Shakib's security is not in our hands: Faruque Ahmed

New Delhi: Shakib al Hasan could play his final Test match against India in Kanpur if he does not play against South Africa. It turned out to be the major talking point following the press conference of Bangladesh Cricket Board (BCB) president Faruque Ahmed after a four-hour long board meeting at the Sher-e-Bangla National Stadium on Thursday (September 26). Faruque and his other board directors were aware about Shakib's decision of quitting Test cricket after the home series against South Africa in order to pave

the way for the youngsters in the shorter format cricket. However, Faruque cannot guarantee him the exit plan the all-rounder wished for of his dream of playing his last Test at his home ground in Mirpur. This is despite the fact the BCB officials earlier insisted that the ace all-rounder will not face any trouble coming to Bangladesh, and feature in the two-match Test series against South Africa. Shakib on Thursday announced that he has expressed to the Bangladesh Cricket Board (BCB) his desire to retire from Test cricket, at the end of next

month's home series against South Africa in Mirpur. However, it is contingent on the ace all-rounder procuring the security clearance to play in that series. "We don't have it (Shakib's security) in our hand. The security needs to come from the government and he will have to take his own decision. We cannot say anything about his security. We don't have the ability to provide security to any individual," Faruque told reporters at Sher-e-Bangla National Stadium. "I am neither an agency nor police or the Rapid Action Battalion (RAB). The security issue needs



to be cleared by the government because from the board we cannot say anything." "Shakib is going through

a tough time personally so we cannot say much from our side. Like him even I think if he can play his last Test from here,

there cannot be anything better than that but his security issues need to be assured by the higher authorities."

"He is going through a tough time. He felt this is the right time for him to play his last Test and we have showed respect to his decision." When asked whether they can arrange an exit plan for Shakib, Faruque said that it is not possible for them, while he added that the Kanpur Test might be his last Test if he cannot come, provided he plays. Shakib was accused in a murder case by the Adabor police station during the unrest that led to the fall of the government, although, the BCB allowed him to continue playing for the national team until he was proven guilty. The

board had also assured that Shakib wouldn't face any trouble if he were to return to Bangladesh to play. Whether Shakib plays his last Test at home or in India is a decision that depends on the government of Bangladesh, but what the BCB boss tried to project during the nearly half-an-hour long media session suggests that BCB is thinking life without Shakib and that too from immediate effect. The all-rounder has been struggling with his form for quite some time along with an injury concern that has probably prompted Faruque to indicate that he is not sure whether he will be playing the Kanpur Test or not.

Yuvraj Singh smartly dodges controversial Virat-Dhoni question with witty answer

New Delhi: Former India cricketer Yuvraj Singh took a safe route as he was asked to choose between the Indian duo of Virat Kohli and MS Dhoni. Yuvraj was asked to choose among Virat Kohli, MS Dhoni and Rohit Sharma to play, sell and bench in the context of IPL. The former all-rounder picked Rohit Sharma to play as he provides a great combination of a captain and an explosive batter. However, when asked to choose between Kohli and Dhoni to bench, Yuvraj refrained himself from taking any names and hilariously picked himself. The all-rounder revealed that whoever he picks between the two will create a wild uproar. Hence, to avoid controversy he took his name.



"As a player, I would go for Rohit Sharma if it's T20 cricket. He is an outstanding captain and someone who can change the game with his batting for sure, he will be my first choice," said Yuvraj on the Club Prairie Fire podcast. "I would bench myself

as naming one between Virat and Dhoni would be in the headlines. I don't want that to happen. We're all smart enough, we know who needs to go on the bench but I'm going to stick to Rohit Sharma's name," he added.

Notably, MS Dhoni and Rohit Sharma are the most successful captains in the history of IPL having led their respective teams to five titles each. Notably, Dhoni has led CSK to five trophies in the years 2010, 2011, 2018, 2021 and 2023.

On the other hand, Rohit has led Mumbai to IPL victories in 2013, 2015, 2017, 2019 and 2020 seasons. However, Virat Kohli is yet to win his first IPL trophy as the RCB star hasn't been able to taste glory even after playing 17 seasons for the franchise. Under his leadership, RCB even reached the final of the tournament in the 2016 season but couldn't lift the trophy. Kohli left RCB captaincy after the 2021 season while Dhoni handed over leadership duties to Ruturaj Gaikwad ahead of IPL 2024. Meanwhile, Rohit Sharma was made to step down from MI's captaincy as Hardik Pandya replaced him as team's skipper for the recent 2024 season.

Bravo retires from all cricket

New Delhi: His CPL 2024 cut short by injury, Dwayne Bravo has confirmed his retirement from all forms of cricket. Bravo, who retired from IPL last year, is the all-time leading wicket-taker in T20 history.



"Twenty-one years as a professional cricketer - it's been an incredible journey, filled with many highs and a few lows," Bravo wrote in his Instagram post announcing retirement on Thursday (September 26). "Most importantly, I was able to live my dream because I gave you 100 (per cent) at every step. As much as I'd love to continue this relationship, it's time to face reality. "My mind wants to keep going, but my body can no longer endure the pain, the breakdowns, and the strain. I can't put myself in a position where I might let down my teammates, my fans, or the teams I represent. "So, with a heavy heart, I officially announce my

retirement from the sport. Today, the Champion bids farewell." The West Indies great had earlier retired from international cricket in 2021 and freelanced since in the T20 leagues besides also dabbling in coaching. Over the last 12 months, Bravo has worked with both his IPL side Chennai Super Kings and was also appointed Afghanistan's bowling consultant for the 2024 T20 World Cup in West Indies and USA. In his 18-year career in T20 cricket, Bravo won championships with his CPL teams, in the IPL, the Pakistan Super League as well as the Big Bash League. Three of his five CPL titles are

with Trinbago Knight Riders, leading them to consecutive trophies in 2017 and 2018 before leading St Kitts & Nevis Patriots to their maiden title in 2021. He also led Besides, he's a two-time World Cup winner with West Indies, and walks into the sunset with 631 wickets in the shortest format of the game in 582 matches. Bravo had already announced at the start of the ongoing CPL that it would be his last season. While he had been retained by MI Emirates in UAE's ILT20, but a groin injury while fielding during a CPL 2024 game earlier this week put paid to those chances.

Nayar backs Rahul to match potential with performances

New Delhi: Abhishek Nayar, India's assistant coach, has backed KL Rahul to come good in his Test career which was seen a wayward swing over the last 10 years. Since making his debut at the MCG in 2014, Rahul has found himself in and out of the side owing to indifferent form. There have been moments of glory - like the century in his second Test at the SCG, followed by more in Colombo, in Kingston, In London, in Centurion (twice). But all those fine knocks have come around mediocre returns. In fact, among all the Indian batters who have featured in 50 or more Tests, KL Rahul's average of 34.12 is the worst. After having played most of his games as an opener, he has now found a place in the middle order, where Nayar believes he will hopefully be able to translate his

potential into more consistent performances for the side. "When you are playing for India, inspiration is not something you need," Nayar said on Thursday, a day ahead of the second Test against Bangladesh in Kanpur. "Sometimes it is just direction, and I feel, having spent a little time with KL in the last few days, he is someone who understands his game very well. Yes, there are times when a player is sort of is finding his feet. "I feel, in South Africa, he played tremendous knocks for India when he was there. So we are very hopeful with the kind of conversation that Gauti [Gautam Gambhir] bhai and I have had with him, that hopefully we can have a turnaround in KL as well. These things sometimes take time." Rahul was selected for the first Test in Chennai

where he registered scores of 16 and 22* in the two innings. With India pushing for a declaration in the second innings, Rahul's innings was cut short after a fluent start. However, it was promising enough for the Indian team, according to Nayar. "Even in the last game, I know we did not end up giving him much of a shot in the second innings, but the way he was batting in the second innings is the kind of cricket we are expecting and hoping from him. And I am pretty sure going forward you will see the expectations and the performances that you have from him." In Chennai, Rahul took the place of Sarfaraz Khan at No. 6 after the Mumbai batter had put up commanding performances against England, scoring three



half-centuries in five innings. His escalation to the national team itself had come on the back of a decade-long grind at the domestic level, where he scored truckloads of runs in the last few years. While Nayar expects Sarfaraz,

like other cricketers, to understand the situation, he also highlights the importance of the coaching staff in ensuring that players who are left out in such a scenario are handled well. "The communication is

very clear," Nayar asserted. "The last Test match was 7-8 months ago and there has been a lot of time between that Test match and this one. The communication is very clear, what are your expectations from the players and what do you want them to work on. "Every player is motivated, and to be a part of an Indian team, is a big thing in a lot of ways. A player understands that there will be times when he will have to sit out for someone else. Such times will come in every player's career - whether it was Rohit Sharma or Virat Kohli [they had to go through that]. Sarfaraz is unlikely to feature in the Kanpur Test either. However, on Wednesday, he was seen taking additional half an hour practise ahead of the scheduled

nets session for the team, alongside Dhruv Jurel and Yashasvi Jaiswal. "There will be times when he will have to make way for a senior player. But in those times, it is very important that we as a support staff have a growth mindset and try to develop the players. If the players are even better, when they come back to the team and get a chance, they should be ready to perform." While India are unlikely to make changes in the batting department, with Rahul expected to retain his spot, there could be a possibility of including an additional spinner in the XI in Kanpur. With rain also expected to play a part on most days of the Test match, Nayar refused to divulge details of the team combination India might opt for, using the same line of defence that Bangladesh's head

coach Chandika Hathurasingha had used a day earlier viz. the lack of clarity of which surface they are going to play. "To be honest, I don't know which surface we are going to play on yet," Nayar said. "But both the pitches look pretty good. Kanpur is often known to have good pitches. I am not sure about the bounce yet. With the conditions and the forecast, it is going to be interesting as to how when we turn up to go in the morning, the conditions are. A lot will depend on that because as you know in Test wicket, conditions can be a huge factor in how the pitch plays. "So it is too early for us to judge and decide or have any sort of thought process on the pitch or the conditions. But we are hoping we come in tomorrow to a sunny day and not an overcast Kanpur."