



The President of India, Smt Droupadi Murmu paid floral tributes to Shri R. Venkataraman, former President of India, on his birth anniversary at Rashtrapati Bhavan today

Spurt in murder, crime against women in Odisha; experts express concern over NCRB report

Bhubaneswar,(KCN):The increasing cases of murder in Odisha have become a cause of concern. Three in every 1 lakh population have been murdered in the state in a year, according to the recently released report of the National Crime Records Bureau (NCRB). As per the report, a total of 1,379 murder cases were registered wherein 1,402 people died. Of them, 263 were dowry-related deaths. What is more disturbing is that most murders are committed not by professional killers but by common people. In the latest incident, a man stabbed his two-year-old son and an elderly woman, who was his neighbour, to death at Gujumapadar village under Maidapur Police limits in Nabarangpur district on December 1. The angry villagers handed him over to the police after giving him a



good thrashing. Later, he succumbed while undergoing treatment. These incidents are giving rise to several questions like why the trend is only increasing? Why people are losing their cool in trivial matters? Experts suggested that a change in people's mindset will help curb the trend. "Those who are committing crimes against children generally don't have civic sense. Instead of concealing them, if we keep reporting, one day there will be a decrease in such cases," said Anuradha Mohanty. When it comes to crime against women and

children, the country registered 4 percent more crime against women cases and 8.7 percent more crime against children cases in 2022 than those in 2021. While the state registered the fourth highest cases of women abuse in the country, it secures seventh position in the country in the overall crimes against women. In 2021, a total of 1,55,420 criminal cases were registered. And the number of such cases went up to 1,78,190 in 2022. Similarly, in 2021, the state registered 31,352 cases of crime against women. But the number decreased in 2022. It was

Bill Aimed To Regulate Legal Profession, Curb Touts Passed By Parliament

New Delhi(KCN): A Bill which aims at regulating the legal profession by a single Act and seeks to target "touts" was passed by the Lok Sabha on Monday with Union Law Minister Arjun Ram Meghwal saying there should be no role of such persons in the country's courts.

The Bill was already cleared by the Rajya Sabha in the Monsoon session.

This is the first bill passed by the Lower House of Parliament in the Winter session, which began on Monday. Replying to a debate on the Advocates (Amendment) Bill, 2023, Meghwal said this Bill was passed by the Rajya Sabha on August 3 and it was discussed in the Lok Sabha today.

The Bill provides that every high court and district judge can frame and publish lists of touts (those who procure clients for legal practitioner in return for any payment).

The minister also said that the Narendra Modi government has decided that colonial-era laws, which have no utility, should be repealed. So far, 1,486 such laws have been repealed and some are in the process of being repealed,



Meghwal said.

"I will give you a description of the 10 years of the (Congress-led) UPA government. After Narendra Modi came to power, 1,486 laws were repealed. During the 10 years of Manmohan Singh ji, not even one such colonial-era law was repealed, which means there was no such thought on it," Mr Meghwal said.

He also said the suggestion that there should be a policy on transfer of judges is very good. "We are accepting it and we will consult with the judiciary and the Chief Justice of India, and if a policy can be made on this, then we will work on it," the minister said.

Congress MP Karti Chidambaram said

injustice anywhere is a threat to justice and touts thrive because of the complexity in dealing with the legal system. "Because of the asymmetry in our society in terms of education, access to people in authority and wealth, sometimes people do not know how to navigate the legal system," he said.

"This is what is being exploited and some people step in as touts. Touts thrive because of the complexity in dealing with our legal system," the MP from Sivaganga said and urged the government to focus on the "big fish" rather than targeting touts in small courts.

Some members said the punishment prescribed in the on the Advocates (Amendment)

Bill, 2023, against touts is very less and it should be enhanced.

BJP member Jagdambika Pal said the whole House should welcome the amendments. The changes was also suggested by the Law Commission and the government has consulted all stakeholders before introducing the amendments, he said.

DMK member A Raja said the government is misusing Parliament by encroaching on the powers of states by bringing amendments that deal with state subjects. It is unfortunate that the government has not come up with the 'objects and reasons' of the Bill, he said.

The government, he

added, has not come out with a clear law to deal with corruption in judiciary. "This Bill has no meaning at all...the government needs to revisit the Bill and come up with something which is workable," Raja said.

Congress leader Adhir Ranjan Chowdhury said the judiciary is still being treated as a last resort of affected people and added that the legal aid for the poor and vulnerable people should be further strengthened.

TMC MP Kalyan Banerjee said there is a need to remove "highly paid lawyers-cum-tout".

BJD member Bhartruhari Mahtab said it is important to remove touts from high courts as well as the Supreme Court. Efforts should be made to promote digital interface between lawyers and clients, he suggested.

There is a need to bring a comprehensive measure to deal with the menace of touts in the larger interest of the people, Supriya Sule of the NCP said.

RSP's N K Premachandran said it was a small but important Bill as far as the advocate community is concerned.

Delhi Recorded Highest Number Of Road Accident Deaths In 2022: Report

New Delhi(KCN): The national capital recorded the maximum number of road crash fatalities in the country in 2022 with 2,103 people losing their lives, according to the National Crime Records Bureau. According to the 'Accidental Deaths and Suicides in India 2022' report, Delhi accounted for the highest number of road accidents in the country -- 5,387 -- and recorded 1,412 deaths due to fatal road accidents. Most of the road accident deaths in 53

megacities, including Delhi, were caused due to over-speeding (51.5 per cent), followed by dangerous or careless driving/over-taking (31.3 per cent), and driving under the influence of drugs/alcohol (2.7 per cent). A total of 68,236 road accidents were reported in 53 cities across the country during 2022 and 57,246 people were injured in these crashes while 17,680 people lost their lives, according to the data. The NCRB report comprised road accidents, railway



accidents, and railway crossing accidents -- the three major contributors to accidental deaths. Road accidents accounted for 97.3 per

cent of the total accidents, the report said. Most of these accidents occurred near residential areas (29.1 percent),

followed by industrial areas (9.7 per cent), and areas surrounding educational institutions like schools and colleges (8.7 per cent).

Delhi also topped the list of the cities with the maximum number of railway accidents as it accounted for 50.9 per cent of the total mishaps during 2022, the report said.

Lalduhoma, Who Once Guarded Indira Gandhi, Set To Be New Mizoram Chief Minister

Aizawl(KCN): From earning the dubious distinction of the first MP to be disqualified under the anti-defection law to being all set to becoming the chief minister of Mizoram, 73-year-old Lalduhoma's political journey has been all about battling against odds. Lalduhoma, an ex-IPS officer who served as the in-charge of former prime minister Indira Gandhi's security, is the chief ministerial face of the Zoram People's Movement (ZPM). The ZPM which was

registered as a political party only in 2019 secured a majority in the Mizoram assembly on Monday, winning 27 of the 40 seats and leading in one other, as votes were being counted, according to the Election Commission (EC). Lalduhoma himself bagged the Serchhip seat by defeating his nearest MNF rival J Malsawmzuala Vanchhawng by 2,982 votes. For over three decades, chief ministership in the northeastern state has been a see-saw

affair between two senior politicians - Lal Thanhawla of the Congress and MNF's Zoramthanga. Lalduhoma first contested the Mizoram assembly polls on a Congress ticket in 1984, but lost to People's Conference party nominee Lalhmingthanga by a margin of 846 votes. The same year, he contested the Lok Sabha polls as a Congress candidate and was elected unopposed. The ZPM leader resigned as state Congress president and



withdrew his primary membership from the party in 1986, after he was accused of conspiring against then chief minister Lal Thanhawla and some cabinet ministers. Lalduhoma became the first MP to be disqualified under the anti-defection law after he quit the Congress in 1988. He was also disqualified by Mizoram Assembly Speaker Lalrinliana Sailo in 2020, after 12 Mizo National Front (MNF) legislators filed complaints, alleging he

defected to the ZPM by actively participating in party activities, though being elected as an independent in the 2018 polls. Lalduhoma was the first legislator to have been disqualified under the anti-defection law in Mizoram, but he managed to win the by-election to the Serchhip seat in 2021. Besides the Congress, he was once part of the MNF. He had floated his own party, the Zoram Nationalist Party, and was also instrumental in the formation of the ZPM.

In the 2018 assembly polls, Lalduhoma won two seats - Serchhip and Aizawl West-I. He had defeated incumbent legislator and five-time chief minister Lal Thanhawla from Serchhip by a margin of 410 votes. Lalduhoma subsequently vacated the Aizawl West-I seat to retain Serchhip. Prior to the 2018 elections, Lalduhoma had successfully contested polls as a ZNP candidate from the Ratu seat in 2003 and Aizawl West-I seat in 2008.

People With Disabilities Share Stories, Inspire At Adani Group's Green X Talks

Ahmedabad(KCN): To mark the International Day for Persons with Disabilities (December 3), the Adani Group on Monday organised the Green X Talks where individuals with disabilities - who have surmounted various barriers with their grit, resilience and dedication - shared their life stories and inspired others. Held at Adani Corporate House in Ahmedabad, the event was graced by several inspiring personalities, who have redefined possibilities. Jeet Adani, Vice President, Group Finance, Adani Group, said, "Green X symbolises the vast potential with differently abled individuals. The colour green represents a world

filled with life, symbolising growth, hope and endless possibilities. X signifies mystery, evolving into a potent symbol of extraordinary talent waiting for acknowledgement and cultivation. It represents the resilience of the human spirit, the determination to overcome challenges, and the strength to carve paths through adversity." One of the speakers at the event was Ajay Kumar Reddy, captain of the Indian men's blind cricket team since 2016. He captained the team which lifted the 2017 Blind T20 World Cup and the 2018 Blind Cricket World Cup. Mr Reddy's performance also helped India win the 2014 Blind Cricket World Cup title as the



team chased a formidable target of over 300 against Pakistan in the finals. Another speaker was Nipun Malhotra, a disability rights activist and social entrepreneur, who overcame accessibility challenges and pursued a bachelor's degree in

economics at St Stephen's College in Delhi. He went on to complete a master's in economics from Delhi University. Mr Malhotra is the CEO of Nipman Foundation, a disability rights advocacy organisation. He is also the founder

of Wheels for Life, a former chair at the disability sub-committee of NITI Aayog, a visiting research fellow at World Enabled and an External Expert, Diversity, Equity & Inclusion, BCG. He is the Founder Chair of FICCI's disability

subcommittee, a World Economic Forum (WEF) Global Shaper and a member of the CII National Committee. The event had four panellists who spoke about accessibility and inclusivity in the workplace. Tarun Kumar Vashisth, a

professor at Panjab University, is the first Ph.D candidate with visual impairment at IIM-A. His research explores organisation and positive identities in the context of disability, among other issues. Alina Alam, another panellist, started Mitti Cafe in 2017 when she was just 23. She has around 400 people working across 35 cafes in several big airports. The company employs people with various kinds of disabilities and has served over 10 million meals so far. Panellist Dr Anita Sharma is paralysed from the waist down due to polio. She received her Ph.D in disability and entrepreneurship from IIM-Indore. Founder of the "Drive On My Own" Foundation and Inkpothub, she is also

a DEI (Diversity, Equity and Inclusion) consultant and India's first woman skydiver with disability. Dr Bhushan Punani, general secretary, Blind Association, and an alumnus of IIM, Ahmedabad, was also part of the panel. He is also VP, International Council for the Education of People with Visual Impairment. The inaugural performance was by Rashmi Patil, who has a hearing impairment and completed an advanced degree in Bharatnatyam because of her sheer passion and dedication. She started learning Bharatnatyam when she was six and went on to become a national-level dancer. She has participated in beauty pageants and ran a global jewellery business for five years.

State Favors Electricity For All

Bhubaneswar(KCN): In order to ensure "Electricity To All", the State Government has decided to spend Rs 569.58 crore under its flagship scheme Biju Gram Jyoti Yojana (BGJY) during next three years from the current financial year. The State Expenditure Finance Committee (EFC) headed by Finance Principal Secretary Vishal Kumar Dev has approved the proposal of the Department of Energy in this regard during its meeting held recently. Notably, the State Government launched its flagship scheme Biju Gram Jyoti Yojana in 2007-08 for electrification of habitations having less than 100 population including BPL households in those habitations which are not covered under the erstwhile Rajiv Gandhi Gramin Vidyutkaran Yojana (RGVY). Initially there was a target to cover 10,000 habitations under the scheme, which have already been achieved. Later, the scheme was extended to provide electricity connection to un-electrified schools, Anganwadi Centres, other institutions and households. The Energy Department has set a target to connect over 2.80 lakh households under the



scheme during three years—2023-24, 2024-25, and 2025-26 with a cost of Rs 569.58 crore. Of which, highest Rs 197.30 crore has been earmarked for Tata Power South Odisha Distribution Ltd (TPSODL), while Rs 151.79 crore to be spent in Tata Power North Odisha Distribution Ltd (TPNODL). Similarly, the Department has decided to make an expenditure of Rs 148.9 crore under the scheme in Tata Power Western Odisha Distribution Ltd (TPWODL) area and Rs 71.58 crore in Tata Power Central Odisha Distribution Ltd (TPCODL). During the EFC meeting it was appraised that extended BGJY scheme

is meant to electrify the un-electrified habitations/households as identified in the survey of the rural areas of the State during Year 2021. Also left out schools, AWCs & other identified facilities are covered under BGJY. DISCOMs were instructed to execute the infrastructure projects under BGJY in timely manner so as to achieve 100 per cent household electrification. Upon completion, the Scheme will be audited through an independent agency. Interest accrued on parking of the fund in bank accounts by the implementing agencies is to be deposited in State exchequer, sources said. Apart from the above proposal, the EFC has also accorded its nod for

revision of Odisha Renewable Energy Development Fund (OREDF) to Rs 222. 12 crore in 5 years. The Odisha Renewable Energy Policy, 2022 was released during FY 2022-23 and GRIDCO is notified as State Nodal Agency for implementation of the Policy. In order to provide VGF to RE projects for the State requirements and support to GRIDCO for implementation of OREP, budgetary support of Rs 501 crore was initially proposed under Odisha Renewable Energy Development Fund. However, during a meeting under the chairmanship of Chief Secretary in July 2023, it was decided to recalibrate the budgetary provisions under OREDF as per actual need as well as to avoid huge subsidies/grants. Accordingly, the proposal has been modified with a funding of Rs 222.12 crore during FY 2023-24 to FY 2027-28. Besides, it was decided that a RE Research Institute be set up as a Center of Excellence in one of the existing technical institutes with the prime objective of capacity building of State Government officials and RE ecosystem development, the source said.

Three minors meet watery grave in Odisha

Rourkela/ Baripada (KCN) : Three minors drowned in two separate incidents in Sundagarh and Mayurbhanj districts, Saturday. In the first incident, a 14-year old boy met watery grave and his friend went missing while bathing in Koel river near Pradhanpalli railway bridge under Chhend

police limits in Rourkela. The deceased was identified Priyanshu Bhol, 14, a student of DAV Public School at Basanati Colony in Steel City. Another student, Priyaranjan Padhi, 14, went missing after being swept away in the swirling waters of the river. Chhend police registered a UD case and

sent the body to RGH for post-mortem. All efforts to trace him failed to yield any results when reports last came in, Saturday. In another incident, two siblings drowned while taking bath in the village pond at Majhisahi, Jyotipur village under Sadar police limits in Baripada of Mayurbhanj district, Saturday.

The deceased were identified as Mala Majhi, 6, and Kartik, 2,—daughter and son of Laba Majhi of the village. On being informed, fire personnel recovered the bodies. Sadar police registered a case and conducted a post-mortem of the bodies at PRM Medical College and Hospital at Baripada.



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Tough Parenting of Technology-era Teenagers

Dr Shalini Yadav



“Telling a teenager the facts of life is like giving a fish a bath.” — Arnold H. Glasgow

In today's technology-driven world, parents go through tough time handling teenagers; hence teenagers are flooded with countless distractions readily available at their fingertips and faced with numerous challenges when it comes to obeying parents, managing their time, and staying focused. Therefore it is tremendously challenging for parents and educators to keep adolescents away from the magnetism of technology. Let's delve into some of the major difficulties in handling these technology-era teenagers and explore strategies to combat distractions.

The super-addictive nature of smartphones and social media platforms is one of the major hindrances in managing teenagers and making them constructive. Whether it's scrolling through Instagram, binge-watching videos on

TikTok, or endlessly chatting on messaging apps like whatsapp, these activities effortlessly consume hours of their time and they don't even get to realize it.

Mentioning the story back on Instagram what a friend has posted and tagged, is something like if you don't get to do, you don't exist. It means to them like a matter of life and existence. They behave like psycho if parents don't permit or snatch the phone. The constant need for virtual connection with friends and even strangers usually pull teenagers away from more productive activities such as studying, engaging in physical exercises, inculcating good hobbies or valuing relationship with siblings and parents.

The prevailing practice of using smartphones, tablets and laptops also spearheads to another challenge: the blurring and overlapping of boundaries between academic and personal life. With academic necessities now relying heavily on digital platforms, teenagers find it difficult to untangle themselves from hi-tech distractions. The once-clear separation between study and leisure time has become progressively blurry and fuzzy, triggering complications in time management

and prioritizing roles and responsibilities tied to the age. Even if parents want to take phones away, teachers keep giving one assignment or the other where they get an excuse to take the phone back and the drama starts again of deceptive life full of diversions from fruitful goals.

The invasion and overflow of various forms of entertainment is another big problem and obstacle in dealing and directing teens towards productive activities and tasks. The multiplying availability of online gaming, streaming services, and video-sharing platforms produces an unlimited source of appealing and engaging content that lures them incessantly.

Additionally, flourishing race of influencers on Instagram, Twitter and Facebook with their reels and videos inspire them so much that they start living in fake and dreamy world. They start thinking to opt short cuts for earning money. Arguing with parents for choosing such paths as full time career prospects becomes the part of their nature and if tried to counsel against their wish, they threaten to kill themselves or leave homes and stop listening to parents. It becomes strenuous for them to break free from these distractions and for their parents to

positively instruct them to remain focused on their studies or other essential tasks as they become dumb-eared.

Moreover, the unrelenting blitzkrieg of notifications and updates imposes yet another dare for both parents and teenagers. These notifications act as triggers, releasing dopamine and reinforcing the addictive nature of technology. The fear of missing out (FOMO) often pushes teenagers to constantly check their smartphones, diverting their attention and hindering their ability to concentrate on important activities. They feel it a part of their daily routine to check on Instagram what their friends have posted.

So, how can we confront such hitches and keep teenagers away from distractions? Communication between parents, educators, and teenagers is crucial. Thus, there should be an establishment of a healthy and open line of communication with teenagers listening to their concerns, desires, and frustrations without judgment. It's important to understand their perspective before attempting to guide them.

Establishing rules and setting boundaries

around technology usage can help manage the amount of time spent on digital devices. Encouraging open conversations about the negative impacts of excessive screen time can foster understanding and cooperation. Moreover, their should be a reinforce that they start realizing and implementing it in their schedule as a sacrosanct thing.

Teaching the importance of time management and goal setting is essential. Encourage teenagers to set short-term and long-term goals. Help them connect their goals with their current choices. Assist them in understanding the importance of education and the long-term benefits it can bring. Share stories and examples of successful individuals who have achieved their dreams through hard work, perseverance, and dedicating time to their studies. Encourage teenagers to explore their passions and interests while balancing their academic responsibilities. This can help them find motivation and purpose in their studies.

Teenagers need guidance in prioritizing their activities and managing their time effectively. Utilizing

digital tools such as time management apps and blocking distracting websites and deactivating social media accounts can also aid in minimizing distractions. Though dealing with such distracted teenagers who have an increasingly individualistic attitude and prioritize freedom over their studies and career is very challenging for apprehensive parents. Cutting them from such distractions at times lead them towards psychological or mental issues, in case parents should seek help of counselors or professionals.

Furthermore, promoting alternating activities can divert teenagers' attention away from technology. Heartening outdoor pursuits, hobbies, and sports can provide healthy outlets and reduce dependency on digital devices. Engaging teenagers in intellectually stimulating conversations, book clubs, or volunteering activities can also foster personal growth, increasing their focus on meaningful endeavors. Set limits and establish rules that encourage a healthy balance between leisure activities and academic commitments.

Finally, it is crucial for parents and educators to lead by example. Try to recognize and

celebrate their achievements, both big and small and reinforce positively. Consistently modeling responsible technology usage and demonstrating the benefits of staying focused can greatly influence teenagers. By showing them the advantages of dedicating time to offline activities and cultivating interpersonal relationships, we can help teenagers realize the importance of minimizing digital distractions. Stay vigilant to discard unhealthy peer relationships from their lives, and do not negatively impact it their studies.

Theoretically saying it seems quite easy but pragmatically making them draw such lines or follow rules is extremely heroic deed as this is the age where they start seeking authority and freedom in their matters quoting it as their 'personal space'.

While emphasizing the importance of studies and career prospects, also recognize their need for autonomy and freedom. Help them understand that responsible decision-making and time management can allow for a balance between freedom and commitments ensuring their individualism and 'personal space'.

Though it's big responsibility on the

shoulders of Indian parents managing children lifelong yet handling them in adolescence in the technology era filled with multiple challenges is truly a complex task. The addictive nature of smartphones, the blurring of boundaries, the sheer volume of entertainment, and the constant influx of notifications all make it difficult to keep teenagers away from distractions.

However, by establishing clear communication, teaching time management skills, promoting alternate activities, leading by example, appreciating and celebrating their achievements, seeking professional help, making a balance between their autonomy and guidance by parents, teenagers can be motivated to create a better balance between technology and focusing on essential aspects of their lives and it would surely lessen parents' anxieties and qualms if teens will become more responsible and thoughtful. Consequently parents also need to remain hopeful that teenagers' attitudes and priorities will change over time with provided guidance, support, and understanding.

(Writer, Editor & Professor)

Peer pressure

Dr. Samrat Kar

Peer pressure doesn't bring the best in us. It instead pressurizes a person unduly and the person is not able to do the particular task properly. In fact, in young age, friends and other mates pressurize the other students to do a lot of bad things and it results in the bad future of the affected student. Students start drinking and smoking, as we hear in the news, at a very small age. This is all due to negative influence and peer pressure.

Sometimes you don't realize you are slipping into a bad company. Your peers, who could be your school or college friends, try to influence you to act in the way they want. You try to resist for long but finally succumb to their pressure, which sometimes spoils someone's life, especially when you

are not matured enough to analyze things from every angle. The best way to avoid such a bad company is to choose your friends or colleagues wisely. As soon as you come to know that your friend is a wrong guy, avoid him and shun all contacts. If he still follows you, discuss the matter with your parents.

You should neither let others know your weakness, nor depend on them for any support. Always show the world your strong side no matter how weak you from within. Be strong to handle all your work and duties alone. You should keep yourself busy all the time so that people look for time to approach you. Get involved in some extra co-curricular activities such as singing, swimming, dancing etc., so that you do not

have time to get bored and be part of a bad company. You should learn to say 'no' to things you don't like. The best way to respond to peer pressure is to say 'No'. However, it is not easy but this will save you from the trouble of getting pressurized again. It sends a clear message that you're not interested.

When someone tries to pressurize you to say or do something you don't believe in, just change the subject by cracking a joke or discussing some other topic. Divert the person so that he forgets the purpose of approaching you in the first place. You might not hear a lot about it, but peers have a profoundly positive influence on each other and play important roles in each other's lives:

Friendship.

Among peers you can find friendship and acceptance, and share experiences that can build lasting bonds.

Positive examples. Peers set plenty of good examples for each other. Having peers who are committed to doing well in school or to doing their best in a sport can influence you to be more goal-oriented, too. Peers who are kind and loyal influence you to build these qualities in yourself. Even peers you've never met can be role models! For example, watching someone your age compete in the Olympics, give a piano concert, or spearhead a community project might inspire you to go after a dream of your own.

Feedback and advice. Your friends listen and give you feedback as you try out new ideas, explore

belief, and discuss problems. Peers can help you make decisions, too: what courses to take; whether to get your hair cut, let it grow, or dye it; how to handle a family argument. Peers often give each other good advice. Your friends will be quick to tell you when they think you're making a mistake or doing something risky.

Socializing. Your peer group gives you opportunities to try out new social skills. Getting to know lots of different people — such as classmates or teammates — gives you a chance to learn how to expand your circle of friends, build relationships, and work out differences. You may have peers you agree or disagree with, compete with, or team with, peers you admire, and peers you don't want to be like.

Encouragement. Peers encourage you to work hard to get the solo in the concert, help you study, listen and



support you when you're upset or troubled, and empathize with you when they've experienced similar difficulties.

New experiences. Your peers might get you involved in clubs, sports, or religious groups. Your world would be far less rich without peers to encourage you try sushi for the first time, listen to a CD you've never heard before, or

to offer moral support when you audition for the school play.

But I know, this is a distant reality. Because even though I have given up my desire of dressing up, I find myself giving in to the peer pressure. This peer pressure applies not just to our clothes, but also to the mobile you keep, the kind of TV you have in your house, the kind of car you have. If you are a CEO then you can't come in an Alto car and

carry a Nokia 1600 mobile. Your peers will coax and compel you into buying a sedan and upgrading to an Android or Blackberry. So if you thought it is enough to conquer your infinite desires to lead a simple and content life, well it isn't. A difficult battle with your peers awaits you. Good luck!

Psychiatrist, The Brain Foundation, Purigat Road, Cuttack, Mob. : 9132433333

Sustainable Policies to Combat Air Pollution in India



Implementing sustainable policies to combat air pollution in India is crucial for several reasons. Firstly, the country faces severe health consequences due to poor air quality, with millions suffering from respiratory ailments. Secondly, air pollution adversely impacts the environment, leading to climate change and ecological imbalances. Thirdly, India's economic growth is at risk as productivity declines and healthcare costs soar. Sustainable policies, focusing on renewable energy, emission controls, and urban planning, not only safeguard public health but also contribute to global efforts in climate change mitigation. Prioritizing these policies ensures a healthier populace, a cleaner environment, and sustainable development for India's future. Urbanization in India, the migration of

populations from rural to urban areas, has undergone significant acceleration in recent decades. Fueled by industrialization, improved education, healthcare facilities, and aspirations for a better quality of life, this phenomenon has transformed the physical, social, and economic landscapes of rural areas into bustling urban settlements. While contributing to economic growth, job creation, and improved living standards, urbanization in India also presents a myriad of challenges, notably environmental pollution, and its detrimental effects on public health. Urbanization and Pollution Crisis: A recent report from The Energy Policy Institute at Chicago (EPIC) has highlighted a grim reality: 39 out of the 50 most polluted cities globally are in India. The consequences of this pollution crisis are dire, with the average Indian losing 5.3 years of life expectancy, a number that soars to 11.9 years for the residents of Delhi. The health impacts range from respiratory issues to cardiovascular diseases, epitomized by Mumbai's

label as "Death by Breath" due to consistently unsatisfactory Air Quality Index levels. The prevailing model of urban development in India, marked by real estate expansion and prioritizing vehicular traffic over pedestrians, demands a paradigm shift towards sustainable and ecological urbanization. Key contributors to pollution include road dust, concrete batching, industrial emissions, and vehicular exhaust, with motorized transport alone responsible for 60% of urban pollution. The expansion of "grey" infrastructure has led to the depletion of green spaces, urban forests, and water bodies, exacerbating the environmental crisis. Urbanization Challenges and Social Impacts: Rapid urban growth has strained infrastructure and services, resulting in inadequate housing, overburdened transportation systems, insufficient water and sanitation facilities, and increased pollution levels. Slums and informal settlements have proliferated, giving rise to poverty, social inequality, and limited

access to basic amenities. Child nutrition, a crucial aspect influenced by urbanization, is reflected in the prevalence of stunting, indicating chronic malnutrition, and underlining the need for a comprehensive approach to urban development. Sustainable Urbanization Strategies: An alternative strategy for city building must prioritize public transport, secure pedestrian paths, and bicycle lanes. The estimated need for nearly 10 lakh additional buses to meet urban mobility demands emphasizes the urgency of investing in public transportation. Initiatives such as the Jawaharlal Nehru National Urban Renewal Mission can serve as a blueprint for making public transport accessible and affordable, especially for the 85% of people in the informal sector. Controlling private motorized vehicular movement is imperative, with suggestions including a congestion tax during peak hours and an odd-even number plate formula. City leaders and influencers setting examples by

using public transport can serve as powerful motivators. The transition to green vehicles is equally crucial in curbing pollution. Adopting a Graded Response Action Plan (GRAP), akin to Delhi's anti-air pollution measures, tailored to each city's specific air quality conditions is essential. Real-time monitoring of industrial pollution and active street supervision by residents can supplement statutory bodies' efforts, ensuring a more proactive approach. Conclusion: As India hurtles towards an urbanized future, acknowledging the challenges posed by pollution, inadequate infrastructure, and social inequality is imperative. A sustainable urbanization strategy is not merely an option but a necessity for a healthier, more equitable, and livable future. Balancing economic growth with environmental stewardship, prioritizing public health, and embracing innovative urban planning are critical components of this transformative

journey. The onus lies on policymakers, city planners, and residents alike to collectively forge a path towards sustainable urban development that preserves the essence of India's urban spaces while safeguarding the well-being of its citizens. Preserving urban commons, which encompass ponds, water bodies, urban forests, parks, and playgrounds, should be regarded as non-negotiable in the pursuit of sustainable urban development. These spaces serve as vital lungs for cities, providing recreational areas, maintaining ecological balance, and enhancing overall well-being. It is imperative for urban communities to proactively take charge of protecting, nurturing, and expanding these commons, thwarting any attempts at their takeover for private gains. In conclusion, addressing India's pollution crisis necessitates a comprehensive and sustainable urban development approach. This requires a fundamental shift in focus, from the relentless pursuit of real estate expansion and vehicular

dominance to a more balanced strategy that prioritizes the well-being of residents and the environment. Action is paramount, and the blueprint for change lies in embracing ecological urbanization and fostering inclusive, participatory policies. In the broader context, urbanization in India refers to the ongoing process of population migration, transforming rural landscapes into bustling urban settlements. While this phenomenon brings opportunities for economic growth and development, it simultaneously presents challenges related to infrastructure, social inequality, environmental degradation, and inadequate access to essential services. To effectively manage urbanization, India must adopt sustainable urban planning practices. This involves investing in infrastructure development that considers environmental impact, promotes resource efficiency, and ensures the creation of resilient urban spaces. Additionally, an inclusive and participatory approach is crucial, involving local communities in decision-

making processes to address their unique needs and concerns. Creating livable, inclusive, and environmentally sustainable cities requires a holistic approach that considers the interconnectedness of economic, social, and environmental factors. Sustainable transportation systems, green infrastructure, and policies that prioritize public health and environmental conservation are pivotal elements of this approach. As India navigates the challenges and opportunities of urbanization, it is essential to learn from past mistakes, prioritize long-term sustainability over short-term gains, and actively engage communities in the decision-making processes that shape their urban environments. The transformation of cities into thriving, resilient, and harmonious spaces is not only a collective responsibility but also a strategic imperative for the well-being of current and future generations. *Former Professor of Economics, Gokhale Institute of Politics and Economics, Pune, currently at Berhampur, Odisha

Are we really grateful to the abundance of the nature and environment around us for our sustenance?



Our agricultural lands provide us with food and sustenance, and is an integrated part of our nature and natural ecosystems. This photo humbly attempts to establish this eternal connection to demonstrate how in route of modern agricultural technologies developed; we are still dependent on our weather atternd and climate cycles, natural soil quality and rain and groundwater as our natural resources to produce a batch of successful crop. We often forget how closely integrated and dependent on our natural ecosystems for our survival and sustainability. We often forget the fact that our agrieconomy and ecosystem in the form of our local soil, available water resources, microclimate and human resources are integrated together on a common platform. Without taking care of our agrieecosystems as a human society our economy could not thrive or survive. We need to protect our

nature and build our economy at the same time, creating an integrative model. This sustainable model only could help us survive the challenges of the present time by integrating economy and ecology (in the form of our soil and water resources). Both are realistically

irrigation canal running beside a pasture do we ever remember how blessed we are for this opportunity? A lonely tree welcomes the first ray of the vibrant morning sun blessing the land and water. Do we know how to capture the earnest hope of dynamism, sustainability,

Saikat Kumar Basu day as a fesh start, a rejuvenating push to live and let others live and a boost to conservation of our ecosystem and an inspiration for humanity to continue with zeal .. Soil, water, air, sun, climate regimes constitute the natural tools to create a habitat;



indispensable for our mere existence on this planet, one cannot thrive without the support of the other like two sides of the same coin. It is important to seriously emphasize upon the need of ecological conservation and economic construction simultaneously to help build a sustainable planer and provide hope and security to billions of people across the globe in both hemispheres. While walking by an

productivity and pulsating life regenerating from our soil and water complex that sustain our life, livelihood and local economy; and hence, think of 'A New Beginning!' Just like the morning sun brings hope to the ecosystem to sustain and survive one more day on this planet; similarly, it brings hope to our local soil, water and crop trio to find a new future to start with the advent of a new

and thus it has regenerated life on this planet for millions of years from the tiny unicellular algae to modern humans. This spectacular cycle has

been repeated millions and millions of times by nature and natural ecosystems time and again to create and recreate life in a speechless theatrical performance for ages to come. We often forget the role both biotic and abiotic factors play continuously to sustain our lives, livelihood and in building the economy for our survival on this planet. We need to be sensitive and respectful towards our pre ioyis finite natural resources like soil and water that helps to sustain us and has helped us to thrive as a species on this planet. Soil and water has been regenerating

the Alexandra Falls Day Use Area, the Louise Falls Campground and Day Use Area and the Escarpment Creek Group Campsite. The Park boasts a beautiful two tiered waterfall, pretty day use area, a scenic 2 km trail walking trail to Alexandra Falls and a spectacular winding spiral staircase that leads to the river and the top of the Louise Falls. This nature park and the multicolored waterfall is an inspiration for us to be able to enjoy and explore the vastness of nature created out of soil, sand, stones, gravels, boulders,

blocks of our planet. It reminds us that they need to be respected and conserved for all species sharing the planet as habitat including humans. The waterfalls is a spectacular nature's canvas that connects us to the deeper meaning of our planetary existence and moral wellbeing. Nature proves us with a bounty of natural resources like

soil and water; we as humans need to be responsible for their judicious use for bettering our lives and protecting nature for our next generation.

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and reshaping our lives from time immemorial. The Twin Falls Territorial Park is comprised of three main areas, linked together by a scenic walking trail:

rocks, vegetation and water resources. The spectacular site brings peace and serenity to all while pointing to the fact that soil and water are the basic building

Letter to Editor

Sir
The grand victory by the BJP in Madhya Pradesh ,Rajasthan and Chhattisgarh shows that people are ready to support if they find leaders and the party or alliance they support are ready to voice for the commoners. As for the BJP this result is definitely a shot in the arm and get the leaders ready for the national final next year.

Present day Voters are no more the ones who were gullible, easy -to- be exploited type and a could- be- beguiled lot but have taken to serious thinking before casting the vote. They have started to show their likes and dislikes and that too diligently while choosing their candidate.

The ruling party will have to fulfill the hopes and promises given by them to the people at a war footing . As for the congress it's yet again time for them to learn lessons seriously which they haven't yet learnt so far . That they have got Telengana , the credit goes to the regional leaders . They have to understand that 'yatras' , 'pilgrimage' and sarcastic jibes during election times and freebies will never win the hearts of voters. A strong panel of trustworthy ,hardworking, out of the box thinking leaders to cooperate and coordinate is the need of the hour . Wrong alliances eyeing on vote bank, hollow rhetorics , antics and gimmicks are definitely things of the past .

M PRADYU
KANNUR
Geeth thalikavu kannur 670001.

A Lifesaving Symphony: Kolkata Hospital's Landmark Kidney Transplantation Sparks Hope and Awareness

Kolkata (ABHIJIT SETH): Organ transplantation has been a beacon of hope for individuals grappling with end-stage organ failure, and a recent milestone at the Transplant Unit of Ruby General Hospital has once again underscored the transformative power of this medical marvel. Recently the hospital conducted a press meet to shed light on a groundbreaking kidney transplantation surgery that exemplifies the life-changing impact of organ donation.

The kidney transplant, performed on a 64-year-old gentleman, stands out not only for its success but also for the poignant story behind it. The donor, a 21-year-old brain-dead youth, has bestowed the

gift of life upon the recipient, showcasing the profound impact of organ donation on individuals and families. The surgery, a testament to medical advancement and human compassion, was addressed by key figures at the forefront of the medical field during the press meet organized by Ruby General Hospital.

Leading the discourse at the press meet was Dr. D. P. Samadder, Director of Medical Affairs at Ruby General Hospital. Dr. Samadder highlighted the critical need for organ donation, emphasizing how this surgical feat serves as a reminder of the transformative potential within every donated organ. The distinguished Nephrologist,



Dr. Amritaksha Deb, provided insights into the medical intricacies of the kidney transplantation, emphasizing its significance in improving the quality of life for

patients suffering from end-stage organ damage. Prof. Dr. Mohan Chand Seal, an eminent Uro-Surgeon and transplant surgeon, shared perspectives on the

technical aspects of the surgery, detailing the advancements that have made such procedures possible. The press meet also featured heartfelt

contributions from the family members of the organ donor, who, despite their immeasurable loss, chose to save lives through organ donation.

Deputy Medical Director Dr. Sudeshna Lahiri expressed the hospital's gratitude for the donor family's decision, acknowledging the sorrow they must be enduring. Dr. Lahiri encouraged others to consider organ donation, fostering a culture of awareness and compassion that can bridge the gap between the demand and supply of organs.

Ruby General Hospital's initiative to raise awareness about organ donation and transplantation is a crucial step in addressing the acute shortage of organs for transplantation in India. According to recent statistics, at least 15 patients succumb to organ failure every day while waiting for organs,

and a new name is added to the waiting list every 10 minutes. The success of this kidney transplantation surgery serves as a beacon of hope, demonstrating the life-saving potential of organ donation.

The recent kidney transplantation at Ruby General Hospital not only highlights the hospital's commitment to medical excellence but also underscores the pressing need for increased awareness about organ donation. Through such initiatives, Ruby General Hospital aims to inspire individuals and communities to embrace the noble cause of organ donation, fostering a culture where the gift of life becomes a shared responsibility and a symbol of compassion.

Sattriya and Odissi captivated audience on 3rd day of Konark Festival



Konark (KCN): Day three of the Konark Festival 2023 commenced with the Lamp Lighting Ceremony in the presence of Chief Advisor (Special Initiatives) CMO Shri R. Balakrishnan, Chief Administrator SJTA Shri Ranjan Kumar Das, and Director Tourism Sachin R. Jadhav, post which audiences were treated to mesmerising performances of Sattriya and Odissi. The first set of performances saw Rojalin Mohapatra and group of Debadasi, Bhubaneswar performing S A R A S W A T I V A N D A N A and P A L L A V I choreographed by Smt. Rojalin Mohapatra. The rhythm and music

composition for the performances were by Shri Rama Prasad Behera and Dr. Sachikanta Nayak. In the Saraswati Vandana, dancers paid homage to Goddess Saraswati, depicting her divine attributes through gestures, expressions, and intricate footwork. The choreography emphasized the concept of wisdom and artistic expression, celebrating the goddess's association with learning and creativity. The movements were characterized by fluidity, grace, and precision.

The second half of the show saw Sattriya performances by Guru Anwesha Mahanta and Group from Kalpavriksha Dance Ensemble, Delhi. The troupe performed J A G A N N A T H A,

PRAKRITI PURUSH and CHALI RADANI. The Jagannatha was an invocation to Lord Jagannatha, a Bhakti philosophy and performance genre that involved stylized narrativization of myths from Vedas, Upanishads, epics, and Puranas. The sequence Prakriti Purusha of the Sattriya Dance was rooted in Bhakti philosophy and explored the microcosmic variant of

Prakriti and its interaction with macrocosmic force, Leela. The last sequence was Chali Ridani. The composition by Srimanta Sankaradeva celebrated Vishnu as the supreme source of existence and sustenance. The pure dance sequences showcased the dancing bodies' immersive joy, reflecting on the semiotic layers of space and the inner and physical energy revolving in it. During the day, sand artists participating in the 13th International Sand Art Festival created spectacular sand sculptures on themes of "Women Empowerment" and "Sports Tourism" at the Chandrabhaga Beach. In the morning, the members of Bhubaneswar Super

Bikers Club revved their engines at the International Sand Art Festival organised by Department of Tourism. Ollywood actor and Superbike enthusiast Siddhant Mohapatra visited various stalls of sand artists' and expressed his gratitude to the Government of Odisha for organising the festival successfully every year. The diverse sand arts showcased the finesse and beauty of sand artists across the globe, leaving an indelible mark on the audience. The presence of international tourists from London, Spain, Japan, and other countries at the festival stood as a testament to the event's allure and its ability to resonate with a diverse audience, promoting Odisha's cultural heritage.



ASHOKA KUMAR MISHRA IS NEW CPRO OF EAST COAST RAILWAY



BHUBANESWAR, (KCN): Shri Ashoka Kumar Mishra, an officer of the 2011 batch of the Indian Railway Services of Electrical Engineers (IRSEE), has taken over as the New Chief Public Relations Officer (CPRO) of East Coast Railway. Prior to this, he worked as Dy. General Manager of ECoR.

Jhinkir Hat, Netaji Sangha organized an undeniable "Blood Donation Camp"



NEWDELHI, (KCN): Jhinkir Hat, Netaji Sangha, South Mohanpur, Mograhat,

South 24 Parganas has organized an undeniable "Blood Donation Camp" on 3rd December, 2023

in their "Club Premises". It was a great and 10th initiative for them to enrich the entire society in

a very befitting manner. They have got almost 273 blood donors at that very day. They have really been

successful through their communal magnanimity in the end which would definitely be satisfying the

common mass to refine their most needful cultural synthesis in the near future.

KIIT University gets the "Best Sports Facility" award in the first CII Sports Business Awards 2023



BHUBANEWSAR, (KCN) : Kalinga Institute of Industrial Technology (KIIT) was awarded the first CII Sports Business Awards 2023. Dr. Achyuta Samanta, Founder, KIIT & KISS received the award on behalf of KIIT from Chanakya Chaudhry, Chairman, CII National Committee on Sports. KIIT got the award in the "Best Sports Facility" category for creating top-notch sports facilities in India. Jay Shah, Honorary Secretary, BCCI and President, Asian Cricket Council was recognised as the Best Sports Business Leader, and Nita

Ambani, Chairperson & Founder of Reliance Foundation, and Dr. Achyuta Samanta were recognised as the Sports Business Leaders, for their exceptional leadership in sports business. Royal Challenger, Bangalore was awarded with the Sports Franchise of the Year award; and Tamil Nadu was awarded as Best state promoting sports.

The jury comprised of National and Global leaders from the World of Sports and included Abhinav Bindra; Michelle Wade, Commissioner to South Asia, State Govt. of Victoria, Australia;

Abhishek Binaykia, Partner, Transformation, Head of Technology Center of Excellence and Head of Sports Advisory, Grant Thornton Bharat; Nic Coward, Expert Partner, Portas Consulting and Aahna Mehotra, Partner TMT Law Practice. Earlier, KIIT was awarded with Rashtriya Khel Protsahan Puraskar 2022 by the Govt. of India; FICCI India Sports Award 2022 by FICCI; Sport Star Aces Award 2022 by the Hindu; and Biju Patnaik Sports Award 2019 for 'Best Contribution for promotion of sports and games' by Govt. of Odisha.

Tribals write a strawberry story on Niyamgiri foothill

Rayagada (KCN): Dongria Kondhs, one of the primitive tribes living under the Niyamgiri hills in this district of Odisha, are once again in the news for good reasons. Members of the tribe are being talked about for undertaking strawberry cultivation on the foothills of Niyamgiri, their abode, which means everything to them. The primitive tribals, known for fiercely protecting their culture and sustaining themselves with the resources from the Niyamgiri forests, have

turned a new leaf and are practicing horticulture apart from shifting cultivation. In recent past, the indigenous tribals had reaped success through the cultivation of a variety of fruits and spices like banana, pineapple, turmeric, ginger, arrowroot, jackfruits, mango, flower broom and orange. However, a Dongria farmer Lakunu Yakeshika, a native of Kurli village under Bissam Cuttack block has carved a niche for himself by cultivating



strawberry for the first time on the foothills of Niyamgiri, a feat that was unthinkable in the past. He has achieved this feat

with the help of Dongria Kondh Development Agency (DKDA). The Odisha PVTG Empowerment and Livelihoods

Improvement Programme (OPELIP) and Chatikana Kondh Development Agency have also provided their support for strawberry cultivation,

Yakeshika said. Reports said that the Dongria farmers assisted by the DKDA undertook a field visit to Nuapada district to gain a firsthand experience on strawberry cultivation undertaken by the tribal farmers of Chukatia and Bhunjia tribes. They gained rich experience from the field visit and once they came back the DKDA authorities decided to undertake strawberry farming on Niyamgiri foothills. Lakunu Yakeshika has cultivated strawberries on one acre of land in Kurli

village on the foothills of Niyamgiri. He has planted over 20,000 saplings and nursed them with all sincerity and love. The plants will start giving fruits 45 days after plantation and will bear fruits for two months. Lakunu is elated over the success and hopes he will reap at least 60 quintal strawberry. The harvest will help him earn ₹10 to 12 lakh. He has spent around ₹5 lakh towards buying the saplings, fertilizers, arranging sprinkle irrigation facility and towards engagement of labourers.

He will expand his cultivation to more land if he gets success. When contacted, Sudarshan Padhi, project manager of OPELIP and DKDA said that the cold climate of Rayagada district is conducive for strawberry cultivation. They aim at including more Dongria Kondh tribals if the experimental farming of strawberry proves successful. Moreover, the district horticulture department has also helped them in providing drip irrigation facilities for the cultivation, he added.

Man Mohan Lauds Modi

Bhubaneswar(KCN): BJP State President Man Mohan Samal has said that Prime Minister Narendra Modi's Mantra of 'Sabka Saath, Sabka Vikas, Sabka Vishwas and Sabka Prayas' is being reflected across India today. Shri Samal on the massive victory of BJP in Madhya Pradesh, Rajasthan and Chhattisgarh said that the Modi Government is a government that empowers women, employs the youth and gives good justice to the farmers. For this, the BJP has got a lot of support in the assembly elections in Chhattisgarh, Madhya Pradesh and Rajasthan. Prime Minister Narendra Modi has always given importance to his devotion to duty towards the country. The youth have faith in the Modi government. The youth have expressed their support that Modiji will take India forward on the path of development, said he. The Bharatiya Janata Party is a government



dedicated to the poor. Modiji also oversees the schemes he makes for the poor. Now, the people of the country have realised that only Modiji can make the country a developed country and provide economic cleanliness to every poor person. Today, the BJP is wearing a "victory crown" in three states for modiji's leadership. Prime Minister Narendra Modi, National President JP Nadda, Home Minister Amit Shah, State President Manmohan Samal expressed his gratitude and gratitude to the general public for this. People have reposed

their faith in the "BJP" by uprooting the corrupt Congress government. The countrymen will not tolerate anti-Sanatana and appeasement policies. Corrupt Congress Creating anarchy in India It is the nature of the Congress that the people of the country have realised. The people of the country have reposed their faith in the BJP for this," He said. Celebrations are being held at the state office today as the BJP won a landslide "victory" in three states. All the activities in the state office are celebrated with joy and gaiety, dancing and singing to the beats of baja, rosni,

firecrackers. Former State President Samir Mohanty, Vice President Prithviraj Harichandan, Lekhashree Samantasinghar, State Secretary Saroj Kar, State Secretary Kasturi Mishra, State Spokesperson Ramaranjan Baliarsingh, Rajendra Panda, Thakur Ranjit Das, Manoj Mohapatra, State Social Media Chief Umakanta Patnaik, Mahila Morcha State President Aishwarya Biswal, District President Babu Singh, State Executive Member Jagannath Pradhan were present on the occasion.

Ground Water Level Rises

Bhubaneswar(KCN): Though the quantum of groundwater extraction has continued to rise, estimates show that the groundwater level in the state has increased marginally. In 2017, the state was estimated to have 15.57 BCM of groundwater reserves while in 2022 it was estimated to be 16.34 BCM. Therefore, it is clear that the amount of ground water has increased in these five years. Quantum of groundwater extraction is increasing in the State due to various sectors. From lift irrigation to industries, the amount of water drawn from under the soil is increasing year by year. Maximum groundwater is being used for lift irrigation. In 2017, 5.28 billion cubic metres (BCM) of water was extracted for this purpose, which increased to 5.5 BCM in 2020 and reached 5.83 BCM in 2022. Similarly, water



extraction is on the rise by the private sector. In 2017, 1.15 BCM of water was extracted from under the soil for the region, which reached 1.21 BCM in 2020 and 1.24 BCM in 2022. However, groundwater extraction is lower for industries than in these two sectors. In 2017, 0.14 BCM of water was extracted for industries as against 0.15 BCM in 2020 and 0.16 BCM in 2022. Overall, groundwater extraction in the state is estimated to be 6.57 BCM in 2017, 6.86 bcm in 2020 and 7.23 bcm in

2022. However, in some parts of the state, especially in urban areas, there is a difference due to indiscriminate extraction of groundwater. The high-rise apartments that have come up in and around the capital are arbitrarily exploiting groundwater, leading to depletion of groundwater levels in some places. Not only are they exploiting groundwater, they are also not constructing rainwater harvesting projects near apartments as per rules for groundwater

recharge. However, in some parts of the state, the quality of ground water is not within the prescribed limit. One of the exams conducted by the Odisha State Pollution Control Board. In 2022, the pH in water at 16 places, nitrate at six places, fluoride in one place were not within the prescribed quantity. Similarly, in 2023, tests conducted at 90 locations showed that the amount of pH in 17 places, nitrate in 15 places, fluoride in one place did not remain within the prescribed standards.



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Elevate Your Festive Vibes and Embrace Sennheiser's Exclusive Deals at Amazon Great Indian Festival Sale 2023

Bhubaneswar : Sennheiser, a German audio giant, has unveiled enticing discounts across its premium audio product range during the Amazon Great Indian Festival Sale 2023. Prime users gained early access starting from midnight on October 7th, 2023, while the sale officially kicked off on October 8th. Customers now have a golden opportunity to seize incredible deals and discounts on Sennheiser's extensive lineup of professional audio products,

including the Sennheiser MKE 200, Sennheiser XS Lav USB-C, Sennheiser HD 280 PRO, Profile USB microphone, Sennheiser E835 Vocal Microphone, Sennheiser XS-1, Sennheiser HD25 headphones, and Sennheiser XS Lav Mobile. Sennheiser Profile USB microphone tailored for podcasters, streamers, and gamers, is now offered at an enticing price of INR 7,790 for the Base set and INR 12,499 for the Streaming



set. The Profile USB Microphone seamlessly combines performance with accessibility. Powered by USB-C, this microphone features a

cardioid condenser capsule, prioritizing audio quality and a sleek design. Specifically crafted for podcasting and streaming, the Profile incorporates three essential controls: Gain Control for microphone level adjustment, Mix Control to balance microphone and device audio, and Volume Control for headphone monitoring level settings. Sennheiser Professional Audio XS-1 Dynamic XLR Unidirectional Cardioid Microphone, crafted to deliver

superior sound quality and will be available at an attractive price of INR 2,390. This versatile microphone is designed for those embarking on their professional live sound journey, featuring excellent feedback rejection and a silent mute switch for enhanced flexibility and control. Housed in a durable all-metal casing, the XS-1 stands as a reliable companion on any stage. The Sennheiser MKE 200, crafted to deliver exceptional sound quality will be up for grabs at an enticing price of INR

5,190. This remarkable microphone surpasses the constraints of built-in mics, enhancing videos with high-quality audio. The microphone features built-in wind protection and integrated shock absorption, ensuring compactness and versatility for various recording scenarios. XS Lav mobile omnidirectional condenser microphone is the perfect companion for enhanced dialogue applications will be available at an attractive price of INR 1,999 and XS Lav C Type at INR 2,995.

Doctors at HCG Panda Cancer Hospital successfully treated 33-year-old suffering from a rare case of Salivary Gland Cancer

Bhubaneswar/Cuttack :Doctors at HCG Panda Cancer Hospital, Cuttack, treated 33-year-old Reema (name changed), hailing from Western Odisha, from Parotid Gland Carcinoma, a rare form of cancer that occurs in the salivary glands situated right below the ear lobes. The cancerous gland was resected by conducting an advanced form of Total Parotidectomy Surgery on the patient while preserving her facial nerves, which are responsible for facial expressions. This incredible feat was achieved by Dr Manjunath NML, Senior consultant Surgical Oncologist and his team at HCG Panda Cancer Hospital Cuttack.

Reema suffered from unexplained excruciating pain continuously on the face and earlobes for a period of 8 months. In order to get relief from the pain, she visited neurological specialists and physicians from multiple hospital where she was misdiagnosed for other neurological diseases and was treated with analgesics, as they failed to diagnose her actual condition. She consulted the doctors at HCG Panda Cancer Hospital, who discovered a vague swelling near the earlobes and with suspicion of a tumour. Imaging of the parotid gland was conducted to check for any malignancy and it was discovered that she had

a parotid lobe tumour in the junction between the superficial lobe and the deep lobe, right behind the mandible or the lower jaw bone. Nerve sparing total parotidectomy was conducted using advanced form of equipments such as surgical loupes, nerves monitoring devices and Vessel Sealer, which helped surgeons achieve an absolute haemostasis or minimal blood loss during the surgery. This four- and half-hour surgical procedure was conducted by preserving the facial nerves that passes through the superficial lobe and deep lobe and any implication on the facial nerves would lead to disfigurement of the face, paralysis on one

side of the face, lack of expressing emotions, inability to close the eyes and move the eyebrows. Elaborating the complexities of the surgery, Dr Manjunath NML said, "This is a unique and a rare case among young women, where we usually witness just one or two cases per year. This was one challenging case, as the cancer tumours were adjacent to the facial nerve and we had to carefully dissect them without causing any hinderance or impact to the nerve. With the advanced facilities at HCG Panda Cancer Hospital Cuttack, we were able to resect the tumour successfully and witness a big smile on the patients face." Post her successful

surgery, while thanking her doctors, Reema said, "For the past eight months, the events that occurred to me because of this condition are unexplainable. I would like to express my heartfelt gratitude to Dr Manjunath and the entire team for the timely help in relieving the pain I was enduring and helping me recover back from this deadly tumour. Alsoi was worried about my facial expressions when doctors explained me about the tumor in relation to facial nerve and need for its removal if required. Thanks again to the entire team for helping me to get rid of this bad tumor with my smile intact" (with a big smile on her face).

Ashok Leyland reaches yet another milestone, showcases 'CNG engine H series' at EXCON

Chennai,: Ashok Leyland, the flagship Company of the Hinduja Group and India's leading commercial vehicle manufacturer today showcased 'CNG engine H series' at the ongoing EXCON 2022, organized by Confederation of Indian Industry (CII). Based on strong leverage of Auto BSVI engine development, the CNG engine H series (4 and 6 Cyl) is designed for off highway / CEV clients, and this product will be

the first of its kind in the CEV / mining and off highway segment. The H series CNG engine has a number of features, including ECU-controlled gas leak detection; improved cold start capability; enhanced lower end torque and flat torque from 1200rpm to 2000rpm; gear-based torque control for better fuel economy; durable engine valves and valve seats for CNG operation; proven, durable engine for CEV application;

turbocharged engine provides higher torque, fuel efficiency, better drivability, and transient response; maintenance-free engine. The CNG engine H series also fulfils CEV V standards without SCR or DPF, and features proven multipoint sequential gas injection for dependable performance; a 500 hours oil drain interval; and the maximum power in the sector. Sharing his views, Mr. Dheeraj Hinduja, Executive Chairman,

Ashok Leyland said, "Ashok Leyland's expertise in engineering has paved the way for the company to establish itself as a key player in the CNG engine sector, and we aspire to continue to do so by expanding our portfolio of CNG Engines and technology solutions. Ashok Leyland aims to make India's CNG engine sector self-reliant, and to be one of the leaders in the "Make in India" narrative." Present at the event Dr

N Saravanan, CTO, Ashok Leyland said, "Ashok Leyland has a track record of catering to customer needs with world class products that generate higher profitability. With the increasing need for better fuel efficiency and use of alternate fuels, we have a solid pipeline of such technologies. We aspire to lead the market in this segment, as the need for engines with alternative fuels grows".

AIC-GIM Foundation, Climate Collective and the Taj Hospitality Brand collaborate on a Global Single Use Plastics Challenge

Panaji: The consumption of Single Use Plastics (SUP's) in the food and beverage industry grew dramatically during the Covid-19 outbreak and is now expanding at a 2.5-fold rate. With the aim of reducing single use plastic from the F&B industry in Goa, Atal Incubation Center Foundation at Goa Institute of Management (AIC-GIM) in partnership with Climate Collective Foundation and IHCL's Taj hospitality brand is bringing the Single-Use Plastics (SUP) Challenge.

The SUP challenge is inviting innovations to reduce single use plastic from the F&B sector. The selected solutions will get the opportunity to test their ideas in Goa with the Taj hotel network of Indian Hotels Company Limited (IHCL). "As a company, we want to put a strong emphasis on sustainability as a way of life for everyone, which thus culminates in the adoption of a variety of sustainable business methods. We are happy to collaborate with AIC-GIM Foundation and Climate Collective Foundation for the Global SUP challenge which will reduce the usage of Single Use Plastics across our properties in Goa" said Mr. Vincent Ramos,

Area Director, Indian Hotels Company Limited. The SUP Challenge will assess the volume of single-use plastics waste reduced through piloting and scaling ventures' innovations along with environmental impact avoided, such as waste diverted from landfills, incineration or avoided entirely. Additionally, the challenge will guide startups to fine-tune their business cases for F&B industry and insights derived from their pilots will contribute to a study around understanding the environmental impacts of alternatives to single-use plastic packaging.

Symphony, in partnership with AEEE, invests in the 'SAHARA Programme'

Bhubaneswar : Symphony Ltd., in partnership with Alliance for an Energy Efficient Economy (AEEE), initiated the first-of-its-kind pilot programme "SAHARA", an initiative for Supporting Affordable Heat Action for Resilient Academic Institutions in India by deploying Evaporative Air Coolers. It is envisioned to enable a pathway to achieve Thermal Comfort for a Billion Lives (TCBL). This initiative aims to mainstream energy efficient, affordable and sustainable cooling solutions in India's academic Institutions to bring a paradigm shift at the ecosystem level and enable TCBL. With

around four trillion-person cooling degree days, India is characterised by tropical and sub-tropical climatic conditions coupled with a lack of access to cooling, rising temperatures and ever-evolving socio-economic trends such as rapid population growth and urbanisation, which will not only amplify the climate change-induced heat stress but would also fuel the demand for space cooling. SAHARA programme would act as a catalyst for disseminating knowledge about the thermal comfort situation in India's academic institutions. It could bring about systemic changes on multiple fronts in the long term.

Bunge India expands reach with FIONA Refined Sunflower Oil launch in Odisha



Bhubaneswar, (KCN): Bunge India Private Limited (Bunge India), a leading player in the edible oils market, proudly announces the expansion of its home-grown Refined Sunflower Oil brand, FIONA, in the state of Orissa. The press conference, held in Bhubaneswar, was graced by Mr. Milind Acharya, AVP Marketing of Bunge India and renowned Odiya Actress Supriya Nayak. Fiona Refined Sunflower Oil is enriched with essential Vitamins A, D, E, and K. These vitamins play a crucial role in maintaining health and well-being, making their inclusion in one's diet essential. Many are unaware that a significant portion of these vitamins get destroyed during the cooking process and never reaches the food. Recognizing this, Bunge India introduced FIONA Refined Sunflower Oil in Karnataka market in 2021 with the VitoProtect formula. This unique formulation ensures up to a remarkable 50% higher transfer of vitamins from the oil to your food,

compared to regular sunflower oils in the market. This year, the brand has expanded its reach with the launch of this nutrient-rich cooking oil in the Odisha market. Expressing his excitement about bringing FIONA Refined Sunflower Oil to Odisha, Mr. Milind Acharya, AVP Marketing at Bunge India, stated, "At Bunge India, we are committed to delivering top-quality products that prioritize excellence and safety and the launch of FIONA Refined Sunflower Oil exemplifies this belief. The choice to extend our brand presence to Odisha stems from the recognition that, much like Karnataka, Odisha boasts a rich tradition of sunflower utilization. We are eager to introduce Odisha to the exceptional benefits of FIONA Refined Sunflower Oil and are hopeful that it will be well-received in this thriving market." Speaking at the Odisha launch, Supriya Nayak, renowned Odiya Actress said, "The introduction of FIONA Refined Sunflower Oil in Odisha marks a fresh beginning, introducing a new flavour that will bring

excitement and nourishment to every kitchen. FIONA Refined Sunflower Oil is not just any cooking oil; it's a vital component of a nutritious and delicious meal. I'm delighted to be a part of this launch, and I'm confident that this cooking oil will become the star ingredient in every household's culinary journey." Popular actress Rashmika Mandana, was on-boarded to be the face of the brand in 2021. FIONA Refined Sunflower Oil comes in a wide range of pack sizes to choose from, including 500ml, 1L, 5L, and 15L and Bunge India will work towards making it available across the state of Odisha. About Bunge India: Bunge India is a part of Bunge Limited which is - a leading global agribusiness and Food Company for over 200 prosperous years. Bunge Limited buys, sells, stores and transports oilseeds and grains to serve customers worldwide; processes edible oil products for commercial customers and consumers; and makes ingredients used by food companies.

ICICI Lombard launches Professional Indemnity Insurance for Doctors

Mumbai: ICICI Lombard, one of the leading private general insurance companies has launched Professional Indemnity Insurance for doctors. This new offering covers all specializations, provides instant policy issuance, and comes equipped with transparent and competitive pricing, a hassle-free claim process, and legal counsel services support in case of claims.

As professionals, doctors are vulnerable to human errors where they can be held liable by the kin of the patients. As a solution to situations of such nature, this policy has been curated to provide support to medical practitioners against the scope of various human errors that can happen while rendering professional services to patients. Speaking on the same, Mr. Sanjeev Mantri,

Executive Director, ICICI Lombard said "Doctors and healthcare professionals are prone to uncertainties and risks while they are in the forefront to save lives. Error, omission, or at times unintentional negligence are a part and parcel of their professional life. Any aggrieved person possesses the right to claim damages for medical negligence against them.

India sway away from a Chinnaswamy curveball

NewDelhi:Just past halfway through India's innings on Sunday night, there was a relatively low hum from the packed stands at the Chinnaswamy stadium. The situation was uncommon for the partisan crowd, who are used to turning one of India's iconic venues into a throbbing cauldron while their team bats. Yet, the first hour of the game had gone pear-shaped for those who came expecting to be entertained with sixes. But just then, Shreyas Iyer gave them a break. Ben Dwarshius pushed his luck with his full length outside the off-stump and bowled one at 130kmph that Iyer deposited over the long-off fence. The voice was rapturous again. Chinnaswamy was Chinnaswamy again, and yet came with an asterisk. On just the next ball, Iyer was squared up

by the left-hander's angle from over the wicket as well as the ball stopping on him a little as it flew off the outside edge to the third man fence. Those two deliveries gave a peek into what was transpiring to be an oddly-behaving surface in one of India's biggest batting allies among venues. Despite Yuzvendra Chahal's exceptional six-wicket haul back in 2017, Chinnaswamy has often been a venue where spinners - even the most experienced ones - come in for a humbling. But on Sunday, Tanveer Sangha - the 22-year-old with six T20Is - came with a fool-proof plan to walk away relatively unscathed. By the time he was introduced in the eighth over, the mood at the venue had started to shift. Australia rode some luck - which you need in abundance at this venue - as Yashasvi

Jaiswal miscued a pull on a back of length ball and Rituraj Gaikwad couldn't time a slot delivery pitched up. Suryakumar Yadav too had trouble middling length balls and ended up cutting one to backward point very early in his innings. So when Sangha was on, there was anticipation resonating from the stands for India's newest sensation to leave his imprint again. Rinku Singh has had an incredible past 10 days, finishing games for India, making it to the squad for South Africa tour and most recently, batting from as early as the ninth over and still making his kind of impact with a 29-ball 46. The scenario on Sunday was similar. But Sangha identified the pitfalls of the tacky surface that meant batters found it hard to score square of the wicket if the right



lengths were hit. Sangha also avoided the left-hander's hitting arc by repeatedly going full and wide outside the off-stump, ramping up enough pressure for Rinku to bite the bullet in his second over. Rinku's attempt to clear the long-on fence with a slog sweep was a failed one, leaving India on 55 for 4. Even as Iyer gleefully accepted that gift from Dwarshius in the 11th

over, he was already recalculating what would serve as a safe total. Sangha's confidence to keep the Indian batters from targeting him also came from the fact that the ball spun prodigiously, even forcing Iyer - one of India's best players of spin - to dial down his murderous intent against them. In fact, he faced 9 balls from the young spinner and picked just

six singles off it. Small spells of drizzle leading up to the game made Chinnaswamy conditions alien enough for Jason Behrendorff to try cutters at the death and get away with most of them. Iyer picking and choosing his moments to push the innings ahead protected the hosts from an early collapse and set them up for a big flourish that Axar Patel and Jitesh Sharma contributed well to. Iyer himself saw through the change of pace from Nathan Ellis in the final over, got to a vital 53 that dragged India to 160/8. But lulling the India supporters into silence had become a pastime for Australia as they took a real stab at what was expected to be a tough total on a tricky surface. Dew decided to skip making an appearance so taking on spinners was not viable but India's quicks were carted around to

keep Australia at pace with their target. Axar finished a scintillating spell of 1 for 14, and yet the chase was still within Australia's grasp at 57 off 36, thanks to Ben McDermott's wielding of his willow. McDermott ran into Arshdeep at a time when the left-armer was struggling to land his yorkers, and maximised the situation. Two full-tosses were hit for a six and four to dwarf the equation considerably and rattle the death bowler. Sunday's game was shaping up to be a good test of India's adaptability to these surprising conditions as well as Suryakumar's captaincy nous under pressure. He calmed Arshdeep down with a friendly arm around the shoulder on his way back to the top of the run-up, who then had McDermott caught at long-off to get the crowd going again. Fans who've

never failed to take the name of their beloved IPL franchise - even out of context in international fixtures - took a break from that and fully got behind the national side. This was once again a pivotal moment where the mood within the venue was shifting, but for the good of the home side. Suryakumar added a touch of his sharp game-reading acumen to it to tug at the momentum in the 17th over. After Matthew Short had hit Mukesh Kumar for a four down the ground, the India captain moved his deep point fielder to long-off and his short third man fielder to backward point - in what appeared like an invitation to take a risk and go square of the wicket on the off-side which didn't have boundary riders. Short fell for it, but ended up slicing another low full toss to Gaikwad at backward point.

BCB committee begins assessment of dismal World Cup campaign

New Delhi: The Bangladesh Cricket Board's newly formed three-member special committee began their activities on Sunday to find out the reason behind the team's dismal performance in the recently concluded ICC World Cup. Bangladesh has their worst World Cup campaign since 2003 as they could win only two out of their nine league matches and finished eighth in the 10-team tournament in India. Bangladesh won three matches in each of the four World Cups, in 2007, 2011, 2015 and 2019. The board had formed the three-member panel, constituted by BCB directors Enayet Hossain Siraj (convenor), Mahbubul Anam



(member) and Akram Khan (member), on November 29. BCB chief selector Minhajul Abedin and his selection panel member Habibul Bashar were called upon by the panel in the evening, following which pace bowler Mustafizur Rahman and Litton Kumar were also beckoned.

"The thing is that we are discussing with everybody. It's not an inquiry. The failings we had in the World Cup where our results did not go according to expectations, meant that we had to talk to everyone so that in the future we can take the team to higher levels," Enayet, convenor of the

committee, told reporters following the meeting on Sunday. "It's the initial stages (our findings) and when we end we will hand over our findings to the board and they will give you all the details," he said adding that they are yet to decide when they will meet head coach Chandika Hathurusingha and skipper Shakib al Hasan. "We haven't scheduled it yet," Enayet said. Earlier, Bangladesh head coach Chandika Hathurusingha, skipper Shakib al Hasan and

team director Khaled Mahmud had presented their assessment report of the World Cup. BCB officials insisted that there was no deadline for the special committee to present their findings, so there seems to be no rush at the moment as some of the players and coaching staff are involved in the ongoing Test series against New Zealand. "Some of our players are currently playing against New Zealand in the Test series while following the Test series we have a tour of New Zealand for a white-ball series and we don't want to disturb them when they are playing. Whenever someone is available, they (special committee) will talk with them as per convenience of both parties," said a BCB official.

Suryakumar Yadav Continues MS Dhoni's Tradition, Hands Over Winning

NewDelhi:Trophy To Youngsters After T20 Series Win Over Australia It was a heartwarming moment for the Indian cricket fans and the players when captain Suryakumar Yadav accepted the trophy after series win over Australia in the five-match T20Is and then handed it over to the youngster in the group. It was MS Dhoni who had started the trend to give the trophy at the presentation ceremony to the youngest member of the group to celebrate. When he retired, Virat Kohli, Rohit Sharma followed it as well as Hardik Pandya. Now, Surya has ensured that culture is intact. Rinku Singh, Yashasvi Jaiswal and Jitesh Sharma received the trophy from



Surya after India beat Aussies in 5th T20I by 6 runs to claim the series 4-1 in Bengaluru. Coming to the match, Australia won the toss and opted to bowl first, which is usually the right decision at M Chinnaswamy stadium. This is a small ground where defending is not easy and Australia had almost won half of the match after winning the toss. India put on just 160 for 8 in 20 overs with just

fifty coming off the bat of Shreyas Iyer. The match saw first failure of Rinku Singh who got out for just 6 off 8 balls. India's middle-order crumbled. With contributions from late middle order as Jitesh scored 24 off 16 and Axar Patel hitting 31 off 21, India managed to put up a fighting total on the board. Chasing 161 off 120 balls could have been a cakewalk at the Chinnaswamy.

India see off Wade threat to make it 4-1

NewDelhi: India managed to withstand a late assault from Matthew Wade to pick up another win and finish the series 4-1. The visitors, chasing a consolation win, appeared to be in a very good position when a dangerous-looking Wade was dealing in boundaries. But Arshdeep Singh, making a return to the XI in this contest, delivered an excellent final over to deny the visitors in Bengaluru. **India's poor start** India had only 10 runs on the board off the first 15 balls after Australia opted to bowl. Yashasvi Jaiswal then stepped up with a flurry of boundaries and looked set for more before he got a top-edge while attempting a pull to fall

for 21. Rituraj Gaikwad followed him soon as the right-hander never got going on the night. Ben Dwarshuis then picked up the huge wicket of Suryakumar Yadav as the Indian skipper failed to fire despite walking out to bat fairly early. **Rinku special again?** Not really. The crowd were very disappointed as Rinku Singh finally endured a failure in his blossoming T20I career. The left-hander had plenty of overs to bat and make an impression but a mistimed sweep saw him departing for just 6 and that put India in serious trouble. Shreyas Iyer then broke the shackles with a six and a four off consecutive deliveries, and Jason Behrendorff's error in judgement cost his side another six in the

following over as India found some momentum. **Shreyas-Axar step up** A promising partnership was brought to an end by Aaron Hardie in his final over but Axar Patel stepped up for the home side alongside Shreyas. Axar hit a valuable 21-ball 31 before succumbing to a knuckle ball whereas Shreyas at the other end managed to bring up a fighting half-century with a six and a four off successive deliveries again as India managed to finish with a fighting 160 on the board. Bishnoi does it again While India made only 9 in their first two overs, Australia got off to a flier with Travis Head hammering the first three balls of the run chase to the fence. He added one more in the second over as Australia looked to



assert their dominance. But Mukesh Kumar gave India a vital breakthrough as Josh Phillippe dragged one onto his stumps before Ravi Bishnoi did his thing. The legspinner has been very impressive in the powerplay this series and his stocks only

grew after he managed to castle Head, who had just smashed him for a six the previous ball. While Australia had knocked off 50 in the powerplay, Bishnoi struck again with another googly to peg them back. **McDermott threatens**

Walking out to bat early, Ben McDermott was only dealing in sixes and those hits ensured Australia kept up with the asking rate. Having pulled just his third delivery for a six, McDermott sent one to the roof before going into a shell with Australia

losing wickets. A six from Tim David then appeared to put Australia back on track before McDermott hammered his fourth biggie of the night. Australia appeared to be in a very good position when a fifth six brought the equation down to 60 from 42 before a thrilling climax sealed it for India. **More on that climax...** India nudged ahead when David top-edged a pull as Axar finished with excellent figures of 1/14. McDermott then smashed another six, this time off Arshdeep, to bring up a fifty but his wicket in the same over brought India firmly back into the contest. Mukesh then came back to strike twice in one over that stunned Australia and put India on top again. However, Wade's brilliance in the

18th over changed the entire complexion. Taking on Avesh Khan, Wade managed to hit three back-to-back boundaries and suddenly, the equation was down to 15 off 12. That became 11 off 8 when Wade added to his boundary tally and from thereon, it was definitely Australia's game to lose. But there was another twist in the offing as Arshdeep delivered an excellent final over. Needing 10 from 6, Wade couldn't connect the first two deliveries and was dismissed off the next, which ended the chase once and for all. Brief scores: India 160/8 (Iyer 53; Dwarshuis 2-30) beat Australia 154/8 (McDermott 54; Mukesh 3-32) by 6 runs