

PRESIDENT OF INDIA HOSTS PRESIDENT OF TANZANIA

New Delhi: The President of India, Smt Droupadi Murmu received H.E. Dr Samia Suluhu Hassan, the President of the United Republic of Tanzania at Rashtrapati Bhavan today (October 9, 2023). The President also hosted a banquet in her honour.

Welcoming the President of Tanzania at Rashtrapati Bhavan, the President recalled India's centuries old friendship with Tanzania, which is based on a rich history of cultural and trade relations between our people, and our shared struggle against colonialism. The President said that the presence of the Indian diaspora for over 200 years in Tanzania is



testimony to Tanzania's warm hospitality and inclusive culture. The President was pleased to note that under the leadership of President Hassan, our bilateral relations have grown considerably in

recent years. There has been comprehensive progress in all areas, including in bilateral trade, investments in key sectors of Tanzanian economy, development partnership, defence, and maritime cooperation.

The President said that Tanzania is India's biggest development partner in Africa. She expressed confidence that in the coming years, the newly opened IIT Madras Zanzibar campus will become a technical

education hub in Africa. The President noted that as countries of the Global South with similar goals and challenges, today we are supporting each other in international platforms, and advocating for the priorities of the developing world, including for reform of multilateral organizations. In this context, she expressed satisfaction that the African Union was made a permanent member of the G20 during India's Presidency. Both leaders agreed that elevation of the India-Tanzania relationship to a 'Strategic Partnership' during this visit would benefit the people of both countries.

Assembly Election Schedule For 5 States Announced



New Delhi(KCN): The Election Commission of India has announced the dates for Assembly election in five states to be held next month. The poll body announced the dates for elections in Madhya Pradesh, Chhattisgarh, Rajasthan, Telangana and Mizoram. Mizoram will go to polls on November 7 while Chhattisgarh will vote in two phases — on

November 7 and 17. Elections will be held in Madhya Pradesh on November 17, Rajasthan on November 23 and Telangana on November 30. The Results will be declared on December 3. The BJP-ruled Madhya Pradesh will elect legislators from 230 constituencies while the Congress- governed Rajasthan Assembly

comprises 200 seats. In Telangana, the ruling Bharat Rashtra Samithi will face off against BJP and the Congress over 119 Assembly seats. In the 90-seat Chhattisgarh assembly, Congress is all set to fight the BJP while both the parties will attempt to get a foothold in the 40-seat Assembly of Mizoram, currently led by the Mizo National Front.

Odisha CM Launches 'Drink From Tap' Scheme



Bhubaneswar(KCN): Odisha Chief Minister Naveen Patnaik on Monday launched the 'Drink From Tap' scheme in 149 suburbs of five metropolis areas and 13 cities of the state at a programme organised at the Lok Seva Bhawan here. Launching the facility on the third anniversary of the scheme, the Chief Minister said that 24X7 'Drink From Tap' scheme will be effective in Rairangpur,

Birimtrapur, Rajgangpur, Champua, and Nimapada from Monday. In addition, this drinking water scheme will be available in several suburbs in Brahmapur (37), Bhubaneswar (27), Cuttack (21), Rourkela (20), Sundargarh (17), Besnagar (6), Khurda (4), Jatni (3), Hinjilikatur (3), Ladbil (2) and Joda (1) and four each in Keonjhar and Anandpur from today. An additional 12 lakh people in these areas

would be benefitted from the implementation of the scheme. The 'Drink From Tap' scheme aimed at providing clean drinking water to every family is being implemented in mission mode. The 'Drink From Tap' scheme was started in 12 pilot zones of Bhubaneswar and Puri in September 2020. In 2021, Puri became the first city in the country to get a drink from a tap facility.

Bus Strike On Hold Till Oct 31

Bhubaneswar(KCN): All Odisha Bus Owners Association Secretary has informed that the strike has been put on hold till October 31. Amid plans by private bus owners to launch an indefinite strike across

Odisha from Tuesday, officials of the Chief Minister's Office (CMO) held a meeting with their leaders on Monday to discuss their demands in a bid to prevent the stir. Describing the meeting

as 'fruitful,' general secretary of the Odisha Private Bus Owners' Association later announced that the strike has been put on hold till October 31 after the steering committee meeting.

Odisha 5T Secy Holds Discussion With Employees Of Buses In LAccMI Scheme

Under the LAccMI Scheme, Buses will run in 6 southern districts of Odisha from Oct 12

Bhubaneswar(KCN): Secretary to Chief Minister (5T) V.K. Pandian today discussed with the employees of buses under the LAccMI Scheme and advised them to provide selfless service. About 650 staff including bus drivers, conductors and managers participated in this discussion. In the first phase, buses under the LAccMI scheme will start operating in 6 districts— Malkangiri, Nabarangpur, Koraput, Rayagada, Gajapati and Kandhamal, situated in the southern part of the state. Chief Minister Naveen



Patnaik will launch the LAccMI bus scheme from Malkangari district on the 12th of October. In LAccMI Yojana, buses will run from Panchayats to Blocks and from Blocks to District Headquarters. Addressing the bus workers, 5T Secretary VK Pandian said that communication is the basis of economic and social progress. "So providing high quality

service to people should be our first responsibility. From small children to farmers, traders, mission workers, everyone will benefit from this bus scheme. School & college students can go to their educational institutions. The farmer can take his produce and sell it in the market. Merchants can do business smoothly. Patients can access the

facility at the hospital. Mission Shakti mothers will also find it easier to travel for their work," he said. Mr Pandian further said that this transport service will bring prosperity to the village and will ensure economic development further transforming rural areas. So he advised the bus staff to treat the passengers as their own family members. He said that it is the duty of the staff to take care of the safety of all, the convenience of the passengers and that everyone travels with dignity. After the discussion, all the staff thanked the 5T secretary.

Odisha Govt Approves 100-Bed Hospital At Begunia In Khurda

Bhubaneswar(KCN): In order to ensure proper health care accessible to all, the Odisha government has accorded in-principle approval for the establishment of a 100-bed Sub District Hospital (SDH) at Begunia of Khurda district. In a notification issued on Monday, Shalini Pandit, Secretary, Health and Family Welfare Department, said the government has approved the establishment of a 100-bed hospital at Begunia. The government would provide necessary infrastructural and manpower resources before the hospital starts functioning, the notification read.



decent clothes by devotees inside the 12th-century shrine. The attire of the devotees who come to the temple should be modest. This order will be strictly enforced from January 1 next year. "Devotees will be

requested to wear only 'decent' clothes and refrain from wearing short clothes such as half pants, bermuda, mini skirts, ripped jeans etc while they are coming to the temple," said Ranjan Das, Chief Administrator of SJTA. He added that devotees

will be made aware and sensitized in this regard by the Srimandir administration from tomorrow. From 1st January 2024, Jagannath Temple Police (JTP) at Singhadwara (Lion's Gate) and Pratihari Sevayats (servitors) inside the temple will supervise the attire of the devotees. Devotees not modestly dressed and those wearing half-pants or rugged clothes will not be allowed to enter the temple. But, children below 12 years old with half pants will be

allowed into the shrine. During the meeting, the Niti sub-committee also held discussions on rituals to be held at Sirmandir during the lunar eclipse and the Holy month of Kartika. SJTA Chief Administrator Ranjan Das presided over the Niti sub-committee meeting, Niti Administrator Jitendra Kumar Sahu, Chhattisa Niyog Mahanayaka Janardan Patajoshi Mohapatra, and members of the management committee were present.

Indians In Israel Contact Embassy For Assistance: External Affairs MoS

New Delhi: V. Muraleedharan, the Union Minister of State for External Affairs, stated on Sunday that Indian citizens living in Israel can get assistance from the Indian Embassy. Speaking to local media representatives, he urged Indian citizens in Israel to take the Ministry of External Affairs' advice and remain in secure shelters. He claimed that only those in Israel know the situation there and that Indian embassy employees there are prepared to assist Indian citizens living

there. Indian nationals are urged to exercise extreme caution in that nation, according to a warning published in English, Hindi, Marathi, Tamil, Telugu, Malayalam, and Kannada. For the first time since May of last year, the Palestinian militant group Hamas launched a volley of rockets into Israel from the Gaza Strip on Saturday after announcing a new military operation against the Jewish state. Around 700 Israeli people were killed, and more than 1,000 were hurt.



PM and the Tanzanian President, Ms. Samia Suluhu Hassan witnessing the Exchange of MOUs at Hyderabad House, in New Delhi

Central University of Odisha Hosts Transformative Training Program on Kuwi and Desia Languages for Primary School Teachers

Koraput, (KCN):In a bid to empower primary school teachers and enhance the educational experience of Kuwi and Desia-speaking students in Koraput district, the Central University of Odisha, Sunabeda, in collaboration with the Regional Institute of Education (RIE), NCERT Bhubaneswar, inaugurated a three-day training program on the fundamentals of Kuwi and Desia languages. The event, held at the Central University of Odisha campus, commenced today on October 9, 2023. The training program aims to equip 60 primary school teachers with the necessary knowledge and skills to effectively teach Kuwi and Desia languages, aligning with the National Education

Policy (NEP) 2020 goals, which emphasize the importance of native languages in elementary education. Professor Chakradhar Tripathi, the Hon'ble Vice-Chancellor of the Central University of Odisha, extended his best wishes and emphasized the significance of preserving native languages, as outlined in NEP 2020, in his message to the participants. The program saw distinguished guests, including Professor P.C. Agarwal, Principal of RIE, NCERT Bhubaneswar, and Professor N.C. Panda, Dean of the School of Languages and Registrar I/c of the Central University of Odisha, Koraput, and ten

External Resource Persons (ERPs) are in attendance. Professor P.C. Agarwal addressed the changing perspectives of education and the role of youth in shaping society, emphasizing the significance of education for sustainable national development. He noted that culture and language go hand in hand, and educating students in their mother tongue can elevate educational standards while preserving and promoting rich cultural heritage. Professor Agarwal also commended the efforts of key contributors, including Hon'ble Education Minister Shri Dharmendra Pradhan, Professor Dinesh Prasad Saklani, Director of NCERT, Professor B.K.



Panda and Dr. Mahendra Kumar Mishra, among others, in developing the Kuwi and Desia Primer. Professor N.C. Panda stressed the importance of native languages as a vital source of information for children and highlighted the transformative potential of NEP 2020 in education. He also

highlighted the implementation of the Indian knowledge system in education through the native language.

Associate Professor at RIE, NCERT Bhubaneswar, delivered the welcome address and provided an overview of the training program's objectives and purpose.

Dr. Kapila Khemundu, Associate Professor in the Department of Sociology and University Coordinator of the Program, expressed his gratitude in a formal vote of thanks, highlighting the significance of culture, traditions, and customs in the context of NEP and NEP 2020. The event was attended by faculty members of the Central University of Odisha and primary school teachers from various blocks in Koraput. Notable attendees included Dr. Phagunath Bhoi,

Public Relations Officer; Shri Pradeep Kamanu, Principal of Kendriya Vidyalaya, Koraput; Mrs. Milani Mittra, Principal of Navodaya Vidyalaya Samiti, Koraput; Dr. Purna Chandra Tanti from Government College Koraput and Mr. Tarun Kumar, teacher, Kendriya Vidyalaya Koraput. This training program represents a crucial step in promoting linguistic diversity and enriching the educational experience for Kuwi and Desia-speaking students in the region.

MAHAK & U TSAHA-2023 Celebrated at District Level

Puri, (KCN):With participation of 120 children of 6 Child Care Institutions of Puri district, the district level children's festival was conducted by District Child Protection Unit and District Administration at Sports Complex, Talabania, Puri for outdoor sports events & Sanskruti Bhawan, Puri for all indoor events on 2nd October 2023 and 8th October 2023 respectively. Outdoor events like; 100mtr race, 200mtr race, High Jump, Long Jump, Football conducted on the day of Gandhi Jayanti and indoor events like; Drawing, Debate, Solo Song, Group Dance, Quiz, Carom, Chess conducted on 8th October 2023. Winners of the all events positioned 1st, 2nd 3rd felicitated by trophy, prizes and certificates by Additional District Magistrate, Puri and other dignitaries. In the valedictory session, Mr. Pradip Kumar Sahoo, Additional District Magistrate, Puri Joined as Chief Guest and Dr. Ajit Kumar Mohapatra, Chairperson CWC, Puri, Mr. Sangram Kishore Samal PO OSCPS, Mr. Santosh Kumar Sethi,



DIPRO, Puri, Ex CWC Member Mr. Saktipad Mishra, Mr. Rudhisundar Mishra & Mr. Upendra Biswal CWC Member attended the programme as Hon'ble Guest. Chief Guest said that Children imbue of Talents. Such platform for the children is highly required to find out the talents as well as improve intellectual ability. Therefore, all the children must be encouraged to participate in various competitions. ADM, Puri declared and allowed to all the inmates of Children's Home on free entry fee to visit Birthplace of Utkalmani Gopabandhu at Suando village tomorrow on the occasion of Utkalmani's Anniversary. Mr. Manoj Kumar Tripathy, District Child Protection Officer,

Puri presided over the meeting and welcomed all the participants and dignitaries on the occasion. As the same day observed as Indian Air Force Day, the participants made drawings on Indian Air Force, which were displayed at the venue for public view and dedicated it to IAF. In Group Dance competition, Nilachal Seva Pratisthan and Utkal Balashram were winner in Junior & Senior category. Similarly, Utkal Balashram was Champion in Football match and Nilachal Seva Pratisthan was Runner's up. Apart from that, 60 child participants of different CCIs were awarded. Mr. Ramesh Ch Dash, Ms. Krishna Kumari Dei, Ms. Rosalin Samantaray, Ms.

Sanchita Mishra, Mr. Bhimasen Barik, Mr. Krushna Kumar Das, Mr. Durga Madhab Kar, Mr. Sarat Kumar Mohanty, Mr. Jagulal Mohammad joined as Jury. This kind of initiative has been conducted by the Government to find hidden talents of Children residing in childcare institutions. Mr. Subhanarayan Satapathy, Protection Officer of DCPU managed the programme with support of Mr. Harekrushna Sahoo Accountant, Ms. Rojalini Patra Counselor, Mr. Akashaya Kumar Chaudhury DA, Ms. Kamala Moharana & Mr. Bijay Kumar Parida SW, Ms. Sakuntala Pattanaik ORW, Ms. Susmita Nanda ADEO, Mr. Santosh Kumar Sahu LPO, Ms. Snigdharani Sahoo PONIC, DCPU Puri.

Subarnapur District Level Milita Amala Manch Meeting Held

SUBARNAPUR (KCN):After a long gap, the seeds of the movement are forming again. District level joint Amla Manch. However, only one demand of the district level officials is for grade pay 4200/ Odisha Amla Manch , Odisha Revenue Officers Manch , Odisha Treasury Amla Manch and Odisha Sub-Registrar. A district-level joint official forum was formed with the Amla Manch. On April 22nd, a reminder letter was issued to the Hon'ble Chief Minister through thirty district officials for a single demand of 4200/-. Then on May 1st. A reminder letter was issued by the state union. All district level officials to wear black badges from 22nd

May 2023 to 31st May 2023 as per the earlier decision of the Federation in case of non-fulfillment of demands and 1st June 2023 in case of non-fulfillment of any demands by 31st May. All were on collective leave from 17th June 2023. Subsequently, after extensive discussions, deliberations and assurances with the Chief Administrative Secretary to the State Government and the Chief Minister's Private Secretary, the Milita Amala Manch suspended its agitation on 18th June 2023. Even after a long gap. In view of the lack of concrete steps taken by the government to meet the single demand of 4200/

- and the government's indifference in this regard, a meeting was held yesterday under the chairmanship of Chittaranjan Tarasia. the chairman of district branch of Subarnapur, district level. In the meeting, all the civil servants present expressed their deep displeasure at the indifference of the state government in meeting the single demand of the district level officials and expressed their opinion to resume the suspended agitation and for this the state joint officials forum will be held on 11/10/23 In the meeting to be held in Cuttack on 23rd, a proposal was made to request the state union to give an ultimatum to the government. In this

meeting, among others, Dinesh Ranjan Mishra, President of District Milita Amla Manch, Nilambara Satpathy District Chairman of Revenue Amla Sangha ,Jyotiranjani Dani, President, Banamali Meher, Secretary Odisha Amla(Sangha)Mancha, Chief Advisor of Subarnapur District Branch, Chhanda Charan Mishra Chairman Dillip Kumar Panigrahi, Organizational Secretary Ranjan Pujari, Sanjib Babu, Heramb Prasad Sahu, Surya Narayan Purohit, Prasanna Behera, Manasi Das, Manabhanjan Patnaik, Rakesh Padhan, Gaurishankar Pandia, Jitendriya Deep, Jitendriya Pathi , Machhindra Suna Major Present.



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Like One Family- World, Global Education should also be One



Teachers' communities wield great power in the world, their relevance, necessity and usefulness can never end. The huge responsibility of building a better world rests on the shoulders of teachers. If there is even a little mistake in this responsibility, then the foundation for building society, nation and the world remains hollow. Keeping this in mind, World Teachers' Day was started by the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO) on October 5, 1994. Its objective is to discuss the important contribution that teachers around the world are making in shaping the lives of approximately 2.5 billion children of the world. UNESCO is determined to give the message of education, science, peace and progress to the world through its programs. India has been a major center of education from ancient times and has played a pioneering role in the world. In the modern era of economic turmoil, terror, war and violence, the role of teachers has become

very important as they not only impart knowledge to the students, but also teach them other skills necessary in life. Teachers collaborate with the students and also make them understand the moral values and peaceful life which are very important for a good citizen. For the all-round development of students, teachers will have to prepare such students who are scientific-spiritual, who have physical and mental development along with intellectual and emotional development. Famous educationist Dr. A. S. Altekar has written - "Education is such a source of light and power, which changes our nature and makes it excellent by continuous harmonious development of our physical, mental, material and spiritual powers and abilities." When the foundation is strong, the pillars and roof become strong, then the palace can be erected. When the individual consciousness becomes pure, when it comes to the development of community consciousness, this strengthens the world consciousness. Education based on universal humanity will be sacred and effective only when the role of human consciousness or individual consciousness remains sacred in its background.

Nobel Prize winner Nelson Mandela had said, "Education is the most powerful weapon that can change the whole world." Thoughts of war and peace originate in the human mind. The best stage for a human being to receive thoughts is childhood. Thoughts of peace have to be inculcated in the human mind right from childhood. Education should be such that the child develops a global outlook of loving the whole world. In the era of Global Village, there should be a uniform educational system all over the world. The uniformity of world education is the biggest need of this era. Dr. Kofi Annan, former Secretary-General of the United Nations, had said, "The twentieth century has been the most bloody and violent century in human history." In the twentieth century, two world wars, the attacks by two atomic bombs on Hiroshima and Nagasaki and the widespread devastation in the world took place; all this havoc has happened due to narrow nationalism. The Russia-Ukraine war has been going on continuously for about one and a half years, for which our education is the most responsible. Schools in all the countries of the world teach the children of their respective countries to love their country, but do not teach them to love the whole

world. If the world remains safe, all the countries will also remain safe and then the individual will also remain safe. Western educationist John Dewey has written, "The teacher is always the prophet of God for the child, who is the one who brings entry

- Lalit Garg -

within, hence he does not want anything for himself, he is not ambitious, he does not base his teachings on the basis of position or power." It does not create a means to achieve anything; true culture is not based on engineers and technicians, but on



into the true kingdom of God." Like a creator, a teacher fills the void created by the society through building future generations of the society, or tries to fill this void. If his responsibility is lacking, then he cannot be forgiven. A teacher is like a gardener who decorates a garden with flowers of different colours, who inspires the students to walk with a smile even on the thorns. The criteria of a true teacher presented by J. Krishnamurti reveals the greatness of his personality. "A true teacher is rich from

teachers. Today's education, however, has become a business, rather than a mission. Many teachers and schools have started bidding for their knowledge. If we look at the present world perspective, the tradition of Guru-disciple is getting tarnished somewhere. Every day we listen to numerous reports of misbehaviour, assault and indiscipline by teachers. World Teachers' Day is an occasion when we work to refine the fading tradition and ideal education of teachers and to create responsible

individuals. In the present times, the role of teacher may have changed, but the importance and responsibility of personality-building has become even more relevant, because without the development of all-round ability, it is

corruption-free, and has become a nation of beautiful minds, then I strongly feel that there are three major social members who can make a difference, and they are father, mother and teachers." This quote from Dr. Kalam symbolizes the influence of teachers in the world. Teachers have the most inspiring profession and a huge responsibility in this world. The post of a teacher is very dignified, because just as there are seeds, fertilizers and equipment for farming, if there are no farmers, then everything is useless. Similarly, if there is a school-building, teaching material and students; however, without teachers everything is useless. In the words of the great philosopher Acharya Mahapragya - "The task of personality-building is very difficult. Only a selfless and conscious teacher can create another personality." We saw the passion of a teacher in the film Super-30. In this film Prof. Anand's education movement has been presented effectively. Today the importance of teachers and education has become a lot more than ever before. As Mahatma Gandhi had said, "If one school is opened, a hundred jails will be closed." But today the opposite is happening. With the increase in the number of schools, the space in jails

is becoming smaller. The number of jails is also increasing in the same proportion. It is clear that the present education system and teachers are also responsible to some extent for the increase in violence and crimes. In ancient times, the aim of education was 'Sa Vidya Ya Vimuktaye' i.e. education is that which leads to liberation. Today the aim of education has become 'sa vidya ya niyuktaye' i.e. only education which leads to appointment in government jobs. From this point of view, the changing meaning of education has changed the world mentality. This is the reason why people in today's society only want to be educated and do not want to become well-educated and cultured. According to the proclamation of Vasudhaiva Kutumbakam, the great thought of making the world one family is developing, along with this, it is expected to work on the policy of 'the same teachers and the same education' all over the world. For this, it is expected that there should be not only an educational revolution, but also a teachers' revolution.

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My Love with Post Office



Nobody writes a post card these days. Forget about post card, nobody writes a letter in this electronic age. Gone are the days when our great freedom fighters were used to write letters to people on many issues. Pandit Nehru wrote letters to his daughter Indira and it became a book ! A year ago I was talking to Som Kamei, a young friend of mine who is now the Post Master General, Dimapur. Som was the most illustrious Director of North Eastern Zonal Cultural Centre at Dimapur, Nagaland. He is also a Manipuri Naga. We are friends for years and share

views on many matters. Som shared the news of success story of Department of Post of their Indian Postal Bank. The news took me back to my school and college days. My mother and I had Post Office Savings Accounts and for us, Post Office was the bank. We had very few banks in Puri those days and those were a bit far from our place. Post Office was in our vicinity. There was a provision that a school student can open an account on furnishing a certificate from the Headmaster and I did so to open an account in the Station Road Post Office to save my scholarship amount. Later, my mother joined me. I don't remember if my sister had one. Those were the days of our courtship in 1981. My fiancée, now my wife, urged that we should have a joint

savings account. We first went to the State Bank. They wanted several documents which we did not have. We came back and approached our dear Post Master brother Samanta Chandrasekhar Mahapatra. He was a writer and translator too. 'Yes', he said and we opened a joint Post Office Savings Account there. The only rider was, you can deposit individually, but withdraw on joint signature of both in the withdrawal form. I was an emerging writer, used to get a lot of letters by post in my college days. So, I used to go to Post Office almost every day, it was on my way to college. All the Postmen became my intimate friends. Alas, these days writing a letter has become a dead art form. I developed my

Manas Ranjan Mahapatra

skill of Public Relations by meeting numerous people from various walks of life in the post

had a Bengali Senior Superintendent, Young Officer, he used to join us at times in our Adda.



office. In the later years I opened a Savings Bank Account in a bank. But the type of friendship I grew in post office was not there in the bank, life was a mechanised one there. We had a big brother Budhabhai, he was a clerk in the Office of Senior Superintendent of Post Offices. The tea stall in front of Budhabhai's office became our Adda. He

Budhabhai's colleagues got jealous and made conspiracy, poor fellow was transferred. That Adda was continued for years before I left Puri to join as Headmaster in a school at Umerkote. The school had a few Post Office Savings Bank Accounts too for depositing Govt Funds. My bondage with Post Office continued and I used

to go to Post Office, the small town had only one. Post and Telegraph, if I correctly

of my friends too. But once my colleague Usha made a complain, she did not get an ordinary letter. She doubted that I have collected her letter and have not given her. She was a spinster of nearby forty and possibly it was a love letter. Courier service was not there. I then stopped collecting letters from Post Office. Many years after, on invitation of my friend Mr Bisoi, Director, Rafi Ahmed Kidwai National Postal Academy, I interacted there with young probationer Indian Postal Service Officers and narrated my story, they were amazed. Som enjoyed my story of love with post office and craze for post cards. This may be the common story of many of us, Post Office was a part of

our life way back in 1970s and 1980s. We don't know where we lost it, but will love to regain. 'Please tap people of my age. We will certainly open accounts in Indian Postal Bank', I said. As I fondly remember, Speed Post Courier Service of Department of Post has been operating for the last three decades. I have no update information about Indian Postal Bank. I will soon ask Som Kamei on the matter. **Visiting Professor of Development Communication Former Director, I & PR and Culture, North Eastern Council Ministry of DoNER, Govt. of India Former Director, Book Publishing Courses & Editor, NCCL National Book Trust, Ministry of HRD, Govt. of India**

Shielding Whistleblowers: Safeguarding Anti-Corruption Crusaders

Prof (Dr.) S N Tripathy



"It is time to clean the air, punish the guilty and protect the whistle-blowers" –Tony Leon

Good Governance is crucial in combating corruption, promoting social growth, and fostering economic development. Corruption can be curbed by implementing measures like participation, transparency, accountability, and integrity in administration. The right to Good Governance is a fundamental citizen's right. Whistle-blowers play a pivotal role in exposing corruption and maladministration. These individuals bring forward malpractice claims within an organization, often after unsuccessful attempts to address the issues internally. However, whistle-blowers fear reprisals and hesitate to report corruption without legal protection. Therefore, enacting laws that safeguard and

protect these anti-corruption crusaders is essential. In India, the Whistle-blowers Bill of 2011 was passed to establish a mechanism for receiving complaints about corruption or misuse of power, conducting inquiries, and providing safeguards against victimization. Such legislation is necessary for any country striving to eradicate rampant corruption.

Importance of Whistleblowing : Whistleblowing promotes accountability by allowing individuals to disclose misconduct while protecting them from repercussions. It applies to all organizations, public and private, fostering transparency and accountability. Whistleblowing brings to light instances of corruption, exposing them to scrutiny. It encourages surveillance among organization members, effectively combating corruption. Internal members are better equipped to detect irregular behaviour and provide compelling evidence due to their proximity to the "crime scene." Governments play a vital role in

creating an environment where anyone can report wrongdoing without fear. Protecting whistle-blowers and facilitating their access to authorities is crucial in fulfilling this responsibility.

Genesis of Whistle-blower Protection in India: "Whistle-blower protection is a policy that all government leaders support in public, but few in power tolerate in private" –Thomas M Devine

Over the years, India has witnessed the sacrifices of brave whistle-blowers who have lost their lives to expose wrongdoing in society. These unsung heroes, such as Satyendra Dubey and Lalit Mehta, fought against corrupt practices in government institutions, emphasizing the urgent need to protect these anti-corruption crusaders. In response to the murder of Satyendra Dubey, the Supreme Court recognized the need for suitable machinery to address complaints from whistle-blowers until proper legislation was enacted. Consequently, the Central Vigilance Commission (CVC) was appointed as the designated agency to

obtain written complaints of corruption or misuse of office. The resolution, known as the Public Interest Disclosure and Protection of Informers (PIDPI) Resolution, was partially amended in 2014, authorizing Chief Vigilance Officers as the designated authorities for specific government departments. Parliament later passed the whistle-blowers Protection Act (WPA), 2011 (Act No.17 of 2014), establishing a mechanism for receiving complaints and safeguarding against victimization. The WPA aimed to encourage citizens, including public servants, to report corruption or misuse of office. The journey towards protecting whistle-blowers began with a draft bill initiated in 1993 by Mr N. Vittal, the then Chief Vigilance Commissioner. The Law Commission's 179th Report in 2001 recommended a law to protect whistle-blowers, leading to the proposed bill on "Public Interest Disclosure and Protection of Informers." The murder of Satyendra Dubey in 2003, after exposing corruption in the National Highway Authority of India

(NHAI), triggered public and media outrage, demanding the enactment of a whistle-blower-blower bill. The Supreme Court, in response to the writ petition (C) no. 536/ 2003, directed the establishment of machinery to address complaints from whistle-blowers until a law was enacted. A resolution was notified in April 2004, designating the Central Vigilance Commission (CVC) to receive corruption complaints from central government employees. The RTI Act was enacted in 2005 to enhance transparency and accountability in Governance, and the Second Administrative Reforms Commission recommended the enactment of a specific law to protect whistle-blowers in 2007. Progress on the bill remained stagnant until 2010, when the Public Interest Disclosure and Protection to Persons Making the Disclosures Bill was introduced in Parliament. The cabinet approved the bill in June 2011, and it was renamed 'The Whistle Blowers' Protection Bill, 2011, by the Standing Committee on Personnel, Public

Grievances, Law, and Justice. After amendments, the bill was passed by the Lok Sabha on December 27, 2011. These legislative efforts aimed to ensure the safety and support of whistle-blowers, acknowledging their critical role in combating corruption and upholding the principles of transparency and accountability.

WPA: An ineffective tool in India: The whistle-blower's Protection Act (WPA) in India, despite its intent to safeguard whistle-blowers, has been criticized for its shortcomings. One major issue is that the WPA does not cover the private sector, which was a significant recommendation of the Second Administrative Reforms Commission. This omission leaves whistle-blowers in private organizations vulnerable and without legal protection. Furthermore, the WPA provides for only one authority at the Central and State levels to receive complaints of wrongdoing. International best practices suggest that multiple sources should be empowered to receive and inquire into

public interest disclosures. Limiting the number of authorities makes the WPA fall short of global standards. Another crucial aspect missing from the WPA is the provision allowing whistle-blowers to disclose information to the mass media in cases where the designated authority takes no credible action. This provision aligns with international best practices, as it serves as an additional channel to expose wrongdoing and hold accountable those responsible. However, the Indian government has ignored this critical standard in its amendments to the legislation. The absence of these crucial safeguards starkly underscores the inefficacy of the Whistle-blower Protection Act (WPA) in India. This deficiency carries grave repercussions, as it leaves whistle-blowers vulnerable to threats, retaliation, and, tragically, even loss of life as they courageously combat corruption and administrative misconduct. The gaping void in protection mechanisms not only

undermines accountability but also endangers the very individuals who strive to uphold integrity and transparency in the nation's governance systems. Urgent reforms are imperative to fortify the WPA and ensure the safety and empowerment of whistle-blowers.

The government's failure to enact standalone legislation dedicated to protecting whistle-blowers further exacerbates the problem. The corrupt practices within the executive branch and the greed of bureaucrats for power and money have left whistle-blowers in a vulnerable position. They are like artists who possess the knowledge and desire to unveil the complete picture of truth but are denied their hands or the right to claim protection. This denial of protection only serves to further the insecurities faced by whistle-blowers and emboldens wrongdoers.

Former Professor of Economics, Gokhale Institute of Politics and Economics, currently at Berhampur, Odisha

Medicinal plant conservation is the need of the hour



Medicinal plants play a significant role in the healthcare practices of tribal and non-tribal communities across Asia, Africa and Latin America. Some common uses and applications include: Traditional Healing Practices: Tribal communities have a rich tradition of using medicinal plants for various health purposes. They often rely on traditional healers within their communities who possess knowledge about the preparation and use of these plants. Treatment of Ailments: Medicinal plants are used to treat a wide range of ailments, including digestive disorders, skin conditions, respiratory problems, and more. For example, the leaves of neem are used for their antiseptic properties, and tulsi (holy basil) is used to alleviate cold and cough. Antidotes: Some plants serve as antidotes to snake bites and other poisonous substances. The roots or extracts of certain plants are applied or ingested to counteract the effects of toxins. Herbal Remedies: Medicinal plants are often used in the preparation of herbal remedies, which are believed to have fewer side effects compared to modern pharmaceutical drugs. These remedies can include various plant

parts like leaves, roots, and bark. Cultural and Ritual Significance: Medicinal plants also have cultural and ritual significance within tribal communities. They are sometimes used in rituals and ceremonies to ward off evil spirits or to invoke blessings for health and well-being. Income Generation: Harvesting and selling medicinal plants can provide a source of income for marginalized and economically backward tribal communities. Sustainable harvesting practices are essential to ensure the continued availability of these plants. Conservation Efforts: Recognizing the importance of medicinal plants, there have been efforts to conserve and promote their sustainable cultivation. This includes initiatives to educate tribal communities about responsible harvesting and cultivation techniques. Collaborative Research: Researchers and organizations often collaborate with tribal communities to document traditional knowledge about medicinal plants, validate their efficacy through scientific studies, and develop herbal medicines based on this knowledge. Economic Empowerment: Medicinal plant cultivation and trade can be part of economic empowerment programs for tribal communities, providing them with livelihood opportunities. Healthcare Access: In remote tribal areas with limited access to modern

healthcare facilities, medicinal plants can be a crucial resource for addressing common health issues. It is important to note that while the use of medicinal plants has cultural and historical significance, efforts are needed to ensure the sustainability of these practices and the preservation of biodiversity. This includes promoting responsible harvesting, conservation of rare and endangered plant species, and integrating traditional knowledge with modern healthcare systems for the benefit of tribal communities. However, it is quite alarming that the number of medicinal plant species across vast stretches of South Asia are slowing depleting at a very fast and unprecedented pace. This is a very distressing news as we are at the verge of losing several medicinal plant species necessary for medical treatments both by tribal and non-tribal communities (mostly harvesting by pharmaceutical companies producing drugs from plant based chemicals or 'phytochemicals'). Conserving endangered medicinal plants is essential for several reasons. Medicinal Value: Many of these plants are a source of traditional and modern medicines, providing treatments for various ailments. Losing them could limit our ability to develop new medicines and treat diseases. Biodiversity: Medicinal plants are a crucial component of

Earth's biodiversity. Their loss can disrupt ecosystems and impact other species that depend on them. Cultural Heritage: Indigenous and local communities often have deep cultural and spiritual connections to medicinal plants. Preserving these plants helps protect cultural traditions and knowledge. Economic Value: Medicinal plants can be an important source of income for communities through sustainable harvesting and trade. Their loss can affect livelihoods. Research Potential: Endangered medicinal plants may hold undiscovered compounds with medicinal properties. Conserving them allows for future scientific exploration and drug development. Ecosystem Services: Medicinal plants contribute to ecosystem services like pollination and soil health. Their conservation benefits broader ecological stability. Food Security: Some medicinal plants are also used for food. Conserving them ensures a diverse food supply. Climate Resilience: Medicinal plants can adapt to changing environmental conditions. Preserving their genetic diversity can help future-proof ecosystems. Ethical Responsibility: As stewards of the planet, we have an ethical responsibility to protect species, especially when human activities threaten their survival. Legal

Obligations: Many countries have legal frameworks and international agreements (e.g., CITES) that require the protection of endangered species, including medicinal plants. The need for the conservation of the endangered medicinal plants is crucial for human health, cultural heritage, global biodiversity, and the overall well-being of the planet. It's an investment in both our present and future.

Conservation of medicinal plants poses several challenges. Habitat Loss: Deforestation, urbanization, and agricultural expansion result in the destruction of natural habitats where these plants grow. Over harvesting: Unsustainable harvesting for medicinal use can deplete plant populations, leading to rarity or extinction. Climate Change: Altered climate patterns can affect the distribution and viability of medicinal plants, making it challenging to predict their availability. Invasive Species: Invasive plants can outcompete and threaten native medicinal species. Lack of Awareness: Many people are unaware of the importance of conserving medicinal plants, which can lead to unsustainable practices. Regulatory Issues: Regulations on the trade and use of medicinal plants may be inadequate, making it difficult to control their exploitation.

Limited Research: There's often limited scientific knowledge about medicinal plants, making it hard to develop effective conservation strategies. Cultural and Economic Factors: Local communities may rely on harvesting these plants for their livelihoods, creating conflicts between conservation and economic needs. Land Use Conflicts: Medicinal plant conservation may compete with other land uses, such as agriculture or infrastructure development. International Trade: Global demand for medicinal plants can lead to overexploitation, especially in regions with weak regulation. Addressing these challenges requires a multifaceted approach that involves conservation organizations, governments, local communities, and scientific research.

Conserving medicinal plants requires a combination of strategies aimed at protecting both the plants and their habitats. Here are some key conservation strategies: Habitat Protection: Establish protected areas, reserves, or sanctuaries where medicinal plants grow. These areas should have legal safeguards against habitat destruction. Sustainable Harvesting: Implement and enforce sustainable harvesting practices, including quotas, seasonal restrictions, and

guidelines to ensure that plant populations are not overexploited. Cultivation and Farming: Promote the cultivation of medicinal plants in controlled environments or through agroforestry, reducing pressure on wild populations. Encourage local communities to participate in cultivation. Ex Situ Conservation: Establish botanical gardens, seed banks, or gene banks to preserve genetic diversity and protect rare species outside their natural habitat. Research and Monitoring: Conduct scientific research to understand the biology, ecology, and medicinal properties of these plants. Regular monitoring can track population health and inform conservation efforts. Community Involvement: Involve local communities in conservation efforts by providing education, training, and incentives for sustainable harvesting or cultivation. Legislation and Regulation: Enforce laws and regulations that prohibit the illegal trade and exploitation of endangered medicinal plants. Collaborate with international organizations like CITES to regulate trade. Awareness and Education: Raise awareness about the importance of medicinal plant conservation among the public, policymakers, and stakeholders. Promote ethical consumption of herbal products. Ethnobotanical Knowledge Preservation:

Document and preserve traditional knowledge of medicinal plant use within indigenous and local communities. Partnerships: Collaborate with government agencies, NGOs, research institutions, and international organizations to pool resources and expertise for conservation efforts. Climate Change Mitigation: Address the impacts of climate change through habitat restoration, assisted migration, or assisted evolution to help medicinal plants adapt to changing conditions. Restoration Ecology: Restore degraded habitats where medicinal plants once thrived through reforestation and habitat rehabilitation. Market Initiatives: Encourage sustainable sourcing and certification of herbal products in the market to promote responsible consumption. Incentives: Provide economic incentives to landowners and communities who actively participate in medicinal plant conservation. Conserving medicinal plants is a complex and ongoing process that requires collaboration at local, national, and global levels. It's vital to balance human health needs with the preservation of these valuable species and their ecosystem.

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Lab Grown Diamond is catalyzing Sports necessary for good health" - Justice Bindal

Diamond Industry evolution in India

Kolkata(PARTHA ROY): Diamond industry in India is undergoing evolution with introduction of Lab Grown Diamond (LGD) in large scale in Gems and Jewellery market.

"Diamond Conclave" was organised by Indian Chamber of Commerce (ICC) on Saturday, 7th October 2023, on the theme Diamond Vision 2030 in Kolkata.

ICC Diamond Conclave was attended by Shri Pankaj Parekh, Regional Chairman—East, Gem & Jewellery Export Promotion Council; Shri. Sachin Jain, Managing Director, DeBeers India; Shri. Russell Arunkumar Mehta, Managing Director, Rosy Blue (India) Pvt. Ltd.; Shri Ghanshyam Dholakia, Founder & Managing Director, Hari Krishna Exports Pvt. Ltd.; Shri. Rajesh Rokde, Vice Chairman, All India Gem & Jewellery Domestic Council; Shri Vinod Bamalwa, Chairman, ICC Expert Committee on Jewellery & Lifestyle; Mr. Suvankar Sen, Co-Chairman, ICC National Expert Committee on Jewellery & Lifestyle and Dr. Rajeev Singh, Director General, ICC, and large no. of Diamond traders and jewellers from across the country. The Conclave deliberated on various aspects of diamond trade including diamond wholesale as well as retail markets economics, introduction of Lab Grown Diamond in large scale, competition between Natural diamonds versus Lab Grown Diamonds, price differential between Natural Diamond and Lab Grown Diamond, fast changing market scenes, integrating and synergizing diamond manufacturing & trade and gold jewellery manufacturing & trade for sustainable Business practices in long term, diamond "certification"

processes, changing macro trade practices including introduction of e-commerce platforms, impact of social and cultural value changes and perceptions, impact of urban and rural population mobility, mobility of financially empowered young generations and others. Traditionally, Natural diamonds are marketed as high value, rare products which are billions of year old and not easily accessible. Natural diamonds are bought by customers on the basis "trust" on family jewellers. Natural diamonds are gifted as a symbol of treasured emotional relationship and become part of family heirlooms. However, diamond manufacturing and trade economics is fast changing with introduction of Lab Grown Diamonds.

Introduction of Lab Grown Diamonds (LGD) made accessibility of diamonds easy. LGDs are manufactured in large scale at reasonably low cost. LGDs are sold at much lower price than Natural Diamonds most of the time in jewellery market. Huge price difference exist between Natural Diamonds and Lab Grown Diamonds. Introduction of Lab Grown Diamonds expanded diamonds market in general, as well as shifted diamonds from niche market to mass market. Lab Grown Diamonds are chemically and optically identical to natural diamonds. In terms of certification and grading, Lab Grown diamonds go head-to-head with natural ones and come out indistinguishable in every which way.

Shri Vinod Bamalwa, Chairman, ICC Expert Committee on Jewellery & Lifestyle said, ".... From the ancient Golkonda mines to the



present day manufacturing hub in Surat, India has played a vital role to the global diamond industry for centuries. Today, ... India exports diamond jewellery to the entire world including USA, Europe and Middle-East etc. This Industry has expanded greatly. Today, India has reached a leadership position in the number of gems and jewellery segmented industries. This industry is composed of over 85 percent MSMEs. With over 5 million workers, it has a massive economic impact on the nation. India has the potential to play a bigger role in the global diamond industry in the future. One of the primary challenges is that the sector is unorganised. The need of the hour is high quality infrastructure, technology, finance and logistics for the industry to reach greater heights.... One district one product scheme has potential to significantly improve the local economy and lead to creation of more jobs." Shri Rajeev Singh Director General of ICC said "..... Diamond has a huge aspirational value. It is given as a pledge of love and a symbol of commitment." Shri Sachin Jain, Managing Director, DeBeers India, said, "..... To continue the growth, we need to look at long

term goals for the consumption of natural diamonds. The industry's growth has also increased from 6 % to 10.5 % between 2019 and 2023. Moreover, capital investments are also seen.... We need to work together to grow in this industry." Shri Russell Arunkumar Mehta, Managing Director, Rosy Blue (India) Pvt. Ltd. said, "We are looking towards domestic market in the country as the next big market.... And there are initiatives afoot to excite consumer demand". Shri Ghanshyam Dholakia, Founder & Managing Director, Hari Krishna Exports Pvt. Ltd. said, "It is the right time for the industry to grow. It is our responsibility to retain the authenticity of the industry." Shri Dholakia stressed on building "trust" in market place with customers as a long term sustainable Business strategy and practices. Shri Pankaj Parekh, Regional Chairman—East, Gem & Jewellery Export Promotion Council, said, "Post-pandemic there has been a surge in exports of studded jewellery probably owing to the re-pricing of diamonds that has led to pulling down the values of exports. Kolkata is the jewellery hub of India. Nonetheless, along with domestic consumption, we ought to focus more on exporting studded

jewellery." Shri Parekh highlighted on talent and role of Bengali jewellery artisans from across Bengal and their high quality craftsmanship which receive appreciation globally. Parekh suggested distinct and separate market creation for Natural Diamonds and Lab Grown Diamonds.

Shri Rajesh Rokde, Vice Chairman, All India Gem & Jewellery Domestic Council, said, ".... If we merge gold and diamond, the results will be good. Moreover, if we need to sell diamonds to every person, then we need to bring trust and transparency within the diamond business and create a code of conduct." Shri Suvankar Sen, Co-Chairman, ICC National Expert Committee on Jewellery & Lifestyle said "The Government of West Bengal is providing a space of about 2,500 to 3,000 sq ft along with machineries and instruments that pledge an investment of INR 1 crore to train technicians. The Gem and Jewellery Skill Council of India is taking the responsibility of the training. Such a programme is already running in Mumbai. The industry needs collaborations to run training programmes to develop skill." Neelam Kothari Soni who is in to family jewellery business of several generations mentioned when a diamond is integrated with any metal gold, platinum, silver to create a piece of jewellery there is no way to distinguish between Natural Diamond and Lab Grown Diamond. A special session took place featuring Neelam Kothari Soni and Sheetal Bamalwa Member of Ladies Study Group (LSG). The conclave concluded with a captivating Jewellery Fashion Show, adding a touch of glamour to the program.



Kolkata / Chandigarh(KCN): Sports activities play an important role for our good health said Justice Rajesh Bindal. He was inaugurating the AIFTP Premier League matches at Punjab Cricket Association Stadium, Chandigarh.

National President Pankaj Ghiya and National Deputy President Narayan Jain of All India Federation of Tax Practitioners have Congratulated Sandeep Agarwal Chairman of Central Zone for successfully leading the team and for winning the

KL Goyal trophy in AIFTP PREMIER Match. They also congratulated G Baskar Chairman of Southern Zone team for being Runner up in the Match. It was organised under the Chairmanship of Advocate Sandip Goyal. Anup Gupta, Mayor of Chandigarh distributed the awards. Mementos of appreciation were given to other individuals for winning tournament in Chess, Carrom and Badminton. Jain informed that Sports tournament were held by AIFTP for the first time and with such grand

success shows the vibrancy of the Federation. Aanchal Goyal, Anil Mathur, Samir Jani, Vinayak Patkar, Pardosh Patnaik, Anuj Bansal, Basudeb Chatterjee, Ashvin Acharya, Nitish Bansal, Varinder Sharma, Vineet Gandhi, Shaman Jain, Adarsh Vir Singh, Vivek Sharma, Ram Bansal, Abhay Sharma, Rishab Singla, Jasjit Dhindsa, Arvind Mishra and others played active role for success of the programme. OP Shukla Zone Chairman (NZ) thanked all.

India Post, West Bengal Circle puts Thrust on Increasing the Service of DNK

Kolkata, (KCN): India Post, West Bengal circle has taken the mission to increase the service of Dak Niryat Kendras (DNK) in the near future. At present such a service is operational in 30 locations across the State. The Department has the target of increasing the number to 50 in the near future adding another 20 such Kendras, stated Shri Anil Kumar, Postmaster General (Mails & BD) Shri Anil Kumar today, while addressing the anniversary of World Post Day, commemorating the Universal Postal Union. As a part of the celebration of National Postal Week from October 9 to 13, 2023, Shri Kumar said, 219 countries are receiving in retail products which are being sent through DNK. Products like jewellery, leather items, jute products, rice in 2 kg, 5 kg & 7 kg, coconut, and textile



products are being sent abroad taking the help of DNKs. Even products like 'Go Mutra' and cow dung cakes are also in the list of exports. He inspired the small and medium enterprises to take initiatives to sell their products across the globe taking help of such DNKs and for that the India Post, West Bengal circle has taken the initiatives to expand such kendras in numbers throughout the State. Meanwhile, the department has also taken the initiative of increasing the Prasadam service, which is now available for

Tarapith, Kalighat from West Bengal and Padmanabhaswamy temple prasads. Efforts are on to expand the service for Tarakeswar temple prasad also stated Shri Kumar. The India Post, West Bengal circle has also shown stupendous growth in its revenue during the FY 2022-23. The total revenue achieved in Speed Post document and Parcel was 196.39 crore and that of other BD products was 97.78 crore. The Circle thus attained a remarkable achievement of 126.36%.

Shah prioritizes ending malnutrition and zero school dropouts

Uttarakhand(KCN): In the 24th meeting of the Central Zonal Council chaired by Shri Amit Shah, the Union Home Minister and Minister of Cooperation. He underscored the collective responsibility in addressing malnutrition among children. Shah stressed that this issue demands sensitivity and prompt action. The meeting served as a platform to deliberate on strategies and policies to effectively combat this pervasive problem. Furthermore, he urged member states to prioritize areas such as cooperation, reducing the school drop-out rate, and called for collective responsibility to resolve this too. Addressing the assembly, Shri Amit Shah highlighted the evolution of Zonal

Councils under the leadership of Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi. He emphasized that these councils have transitioned from advisory platforms to active mechanisms for policy implementation. The states in the Central Zonal Council, including Madhya Pradesh, Uttar Pradesh, Uttarakhand, and Chhattisgarh, have made significant contributions to the nation's GDP and overall development. These states play pivotal roles in agriculture, animal husbandry, food grain production, mining, water supply, and tourism. Shri Amit Shah reiterated Prime Minister Narendra Modi's emphasis on cooperative federalism. He noted that Zonal



Councils have played a crucial role in solving problems, enhancing financial inclusion, and driving policy changes. The states within the Central Zonal Council have successfully implemented the concept of "Team India" at the grassroots level.

To substantiate this, comparison between Congress and BJP regime sheds light on this. Between 2004 and 2014, a total of 570 issues were discussed in Zonal Council meetings, with 448 being resolved. From 2014 to 2023, a total of 1315 issues were

discussed, with 1157 being successfully resolved, indicating the efficacy of these deliberations. Also, during the meeting, a resolution was unanimously passed, congratulating Indian athletes for their exceptional

performance in the Asian Games, securing more than 100 medals for the first time. The Central Zonal Council also commended the successful achievements of Chandrayaan-3, the well-organized G20 Summit, and the historic passage of the Women's

Reservation Bill by Parliament. The Union Home Minister announced a significant step towards fulfilling the Prime Minister's vision of ensuring prosperity for farmers. NAFED will now procure pulses, oilseeds, and maize from farmers across the country at Minimum Support Price (MSP). Further, discussions were held regarding the inclusion of lac production in the Kisan Credit Card and Crop Insurance Scheme. This move is expected to benefit farmers engaged in lac production. The meeting was attended by Chief Minister of Uttarakhand, Shri Pushkar Singh Dhami, and Chief Minister of Uttar Pradesh, Shri Yogi Adityanath. Chief

Minister of Madhya Pradesh, Shri Shivraj Singh Chouhan, participated via video conferencing. Also present were Home Minister of Chhattisgarh, Shri Tamradhwaj Sahu, Union Home Secretary, Secretary of Inter State Council Secretariat, Chief Secretaries of member states, as well as senior officials from state governments and central ministries and departments. The meeting underscored the pivotal role of Zonal Councils in catalysing development and policy implementation across member states. It demonstrated the Modi government's commitment to cooperative federalism and proactive measures in addressing critical issues.

SOP For Body Disposal

Bhubaneswar(KCN): The Bhubaneswar Municipal Corporation (BMC) today issued a standard operating procedure (SOP) regarding the disposal of the 28 unidentified dead bodies of Bahanaga train tragedy victims.

Speaking to reporters here, Bhubaneswar Municipal Corporation (BMC) Mayor Sulochana Das said that they are prepared to dispose of the unclaimed bodies and they have informed their decision to the authorities of the AIIMS, Bhubaneswar. "However, we have to wait for a day or two to dispose of the bodies as the AIIMS authorities will hand them over to us in the presence of a CBI representative," she said.

It is worth mentioning here that the CBI is



currently investigating the triple train tragedy that killed over 290 persons.

The Mayor informed that the unclaimed bodies would be cremated at Bharatpur crematoriums.

The BMC has decided to provide two to three dead body carriers for the smooth transportation of bodies from AIIMS to the cremation ground. "The Director, AIIMS shall hand over the 28 unidentified dead bodies lying in the

mortuary of AIIMS, Bhubaneswar to the Health Officer, BMC following existing rules, procedures, rituals, guidelines of State/Central Government and NHRC for cremation of the bodies," read the SOP.

The BMC Health Officer will receive the dead bodies at AIIMS, Bhubaneswar and maintain records of the same. Communication expert of the civic body will make videography starting from receiving

of the dead bodies at AIIMS, Bhubaneswar till cremation of bodies for record purpose and submit it to the authority.

The Assistant Health Officer, BMC will receive the dead bodies at cremation ground at Bharatpur and maintain records of the bodies. Adequate manpower will be deployed for smooth cremation of the bodies under the direct supervision of cremation in-charge

officer.

All 28 bodies are preserved in special containers at the All India Institute of Medical Sciences (AIIMS), Bhubaneswar.

According to the AIIMS, Bhubaneswar, authorities, 81 bodies were stored in the special containers and there were 110 claimants for them. As of date, 53 bodies have been handed over to the relatives of the deceased after matching their DNA samples. However, there were no claimants for 28 bodies.

The tragic train mishap involving Coromandel Express, Yashwantpur-Howrah Express and a Goods train occurred at Bahanaga Bazar on June 2, 2023. Over 290 people were killed in the tragic train accident.

Goddess Durga to give darshan at majestic 'Golden Palace' in Odisha's Jharpada

BHUBANESWAR(KCN):

As the capital city gears up for another grand and big-budget Durga Puja, the Jharpada Durga Puja Samiti is all set to welcome the Mother Goddess with a majestic 'Golden Palace' themed pandal this year. With barely 12 days left for the festival, a group of 50 artisans led by West Bengal's artist Pratap Chandra Giri is busy making the pandal that will be a staggering 85 feet tall and 150 feet wide.

"The design of the palace is unique and has been planned by our own artists who are working for the last one and half months to give it shape using bamboo, plywood, fibre, sunpack sheets, colour glasses and other materials," said samiti president Sikhar Jena.

Apart from a large entrance gate for darshan, the pandal will have four exit gates from inside to facilitate smooth darshan to the devotees. To attract crowd, the committee



has also decided to focus on decoration with the portrayal of mythological characters and tribal culture in illumination.

Members of the samiti said the idol will be 12 feet tall with a 20 feet high altar in the backdrop. Besides, the goddess and other deities in the pandal will be decorated with silver ornaments.

"Thousands of people turn up for darshan in our pandal every year. To facilitate hassle-free darshan to devotees, we will have around 300 volunteers and puja committee members. Besides, 12 CCTVs will

also be installed for security purpose," said samiti secretary Dharanidhar Jena.

Jena said special arrangements will be made to ensure smooth darshan for differently-abled persons and senior citizens at the pandal. Melody and cultural programmes will also be organised as part of the five-day celebration.

Besides, samiti members said a 40-ft high effigy of Ravana will also be created for Ravana Podi on the day of Dashami. They said a Meena Bazaar planned during the festival will also be a crowd puller.

Like Bihar and Rajasthan, conduct caste-based survey in Odisha, demands PCC chief Sarat Pattanayak

Bhubaneswar,(KCN): The Odisha Pradesh Congress Committee (OPCC) on Monday demanded a full-fledged caste-based survey in the state so as to know the present socio-economic status of different caste groups.

Speaking to reporters here, OPCC president Sarat Pattanayak said when the Bihar government has completed the caste survey process and Rajasthan chief minister Ashok Gehlot on Saturday last ordered for the similar exercise, Odisha's ruling Biju Janata Dal (BJD) must not dither to act on the demand.

"We have been demanding since long a caste-based survey in Odisha so as to get a complete socio-economic picture of our

population. However, the Naveen Patnaik government is just dilly-dallying over the issue. If the BJD shows no interest to conduct the caste-based survey, we will do it after coming to power in the state in 2024," said Mr Pattanayak.

The OPCC chief reiterated his demand for convening a one-day special session of Odisha Legislative Assembly to pass a resolution for conducting caste-based survey.

"The Naveen Patnaik government must immediately convene a special session of the Odisha Legislative Assembly and pass a unanimous resolution for caste-based survey as it was done in Bihar. The Bihar government published the caste census report Gandhi Jayanti. The

survey will not only consider one's caste but also one's economic status. This will help the government make plans and policies for the development of all caste groups," said Mr Pattanayak.

In fact, the Bihar government's recent caste survey report reveals that Other Backward Classes (OBCs) and Extremely Backward Classes (EBCs) constitute more than 63 per cent of the population of Bihar.

"While in Bihar, they have now a clear picture of various caste groups, in Odisha we don't have any. Only one half-hearted survey was recently conducted by Odisha OBC Commission and its report says the state has only 43 per cent OBC people. This report is highly erroneous as no door-to-door survey was

conducted. The OBC people were asked to visit panchayat offices and submit their caste records. No survey is conducted in such a fashion," said Mr Pattanayak.

He warned the government that the Naveen Patnaik government can no longer deprive the OBC students from availing their due reservations in government jobs and admission processes in educational institutions.

"In the absence of caste census, there is no proper estimate for the population of OBCs, various groups within the OBCs, and others in Odisha. The Mandal Commission estimated the OBC population in the country at 52 per cent. And, in Odisha, the OBC and SEBC population is said to be around 54 per cent," said the OPCC president.

BJP Nominates Purandar Mishra from Raipur North Seat

Raipur/Bhubaneswar, (KCN): Bhartiya Janata Party nominated Renowned social leader and founder Chairman of Lord Jagannath Temple at Raipur, Purandar Mishra as its candidate to contest ensuing Assembly Election. Shri Mishra has been given Party's Ticket from Raipur City North Assembly seat. Shri Mishra will be having the privilege of contesting Chhattisgarh Assembly

poll as the lone Odia candidate from any nationalised party. It is worth mentioned here that the Gayatri Nagar, where Shri Mishra has founded the largest Lord Jagannath Temple of Chhattisgarh State comes under his electoral constituency.

Recently Purandar Mishra has been unanimously elected as the President of Greater Odia Samaj in Chhattisgarh. The Samaj has been formed with the

representatives of 24 odia communities representing 35 lakhs of odia inhabitants in the state. At present Shri Mishra also holds the coveted position of Chief Patron of Chhattisgarh Branch of World Odisha Society.

The entire Odia Community from the nook and corner of Chhattisgarh welcomed the pleasant news of the announcement of Shri Mishra's candidature in

Assembly poll with much fanfare and massive euphoria.

Congratulatory notes and best wishes have been pouring in from his fans, followers and well wishers from Odisha and across the country. As per family sources several Non Resident Odia leaders from India and abroad have also sent their goodwill messages to Shri Mishra.

SPECIAL SWACHHTA CAMPAIGN 3.0 AT DIFFERENT STATIONS OF BLUE LINE, GREEN LINE AND PURPLE LINE

Kolkata, (KCN): The Metro Railway is in the mission of conducting 'Special Swachhta Campaign 3.0' from October 2, 2023 to October 31, 2023. During this campaign intensive cleaning and sanitisation drives at stations, trains, colonies, hospital and

other railway establishments are being carried out. Metro staff made commuters aware about the importance of cleanliness and sought their co-operation to maintain the highest standard of cleanliness in the Metro premises. All

the stations of Metro Railway, Blue Line, Green Line and Purple Line are being covered under this special campaign.

A special cleanliness campaign was conducted today at Noapara, Netaji Bhavan, Sealdah and Sakher Bazar also at

different stations of Blue Line, Green Line and Purple Line.

Repeated announcements were made through the Public Address System to create awareness among the passengers about the importance of cleanliness in daily life.



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Odisha Government Announces Ground Breaking Subsidy Scheme at Global Stainless-Steel Expo 2023

Bhubaneswar: The Odisha Government has unveiled an ambitious Special Subsidy Scheme to boost the stainless-steel Industry within the state. This momentous announcement was made during the inauguration of the Global Stainless-Steel Expo 2023 (GSSE 2023) in Mumbai, further solidifying Odisha's commitment to becoming the 'Stainless Steel destination' for the world. The GSSE 2023 event, was inaugurated by esteemed dignitaries including Shri. Hemant Sharma, Principal Secretary, Industries, Government of Odisha; Mr. Abhyuday Jindal, Managing Director, Jindal Stainless Ltd.; Dr.

Aruna Sharma, GSSE Steering Committee Member and Former Secretary, Ministry of Steel; and Ms. Anitha Raghunath, Director, Virgo Communications and Exhibitions. In his inaugural address, Managing Director, Jindal Stainless, Mr Abhyuday Jindal said, "It won't be an exaggeration to say that stainless steel is omnipresent, and even for a big event like the G20, stainless steel adorned the roads. Be it the art installations in Lutyens Delhi or the security barriers, stainless steel made its presence felt. It was a historic moment to witness stainless steel reach the moon when the Chandrayaan-3 made a



soft landing on the lunar surface recently." He also touched upon the industrial park in-the-making in Odisha by his company, and said it is the first-ever stainless steel Industrial park in India with the vision to strengthen the industry.

A special report on stainless steel titled 'India's Amritkal' by SteelMint was unveiled at the event. According to the report, the stainless-steel industry struggled to regain equilibrium due

to the lingering impact of weakened global and domestic demand. This demand contraction reverberated throughout global melt-shop production, with the first quarter of CY23

witnessing a 5% year-on-year decline to 13.66 million tonnes (mnt). China led this dip with 8.27 mnt. The report also underlined that the Indian Stainless-Steel industry quickly recovered by FY23, reaching about 3.5 mnt. Looking forward, SteelMint's forecasts are intriguing, estimating demand to rise to 4.5 mnt by FY25. Shri Hemant Sharma, Principal Secretary, Industries, Government of Odisha (Orissa), is making significant contributions to the stainless-steel sector and the minerals sector. Being the largest

producer of iron ore and bauxite in India is indeed a noteworthy achievement. Odisha's status as the largest producer of iron ore and bauxite showcases its rich mineral resources. This positions the state as a critical player in the raw materials supply chain for various industries, including steel and aluminium. He announced Jindal Stainless steel Plant is a massive 1.2 MTPA stainless steel plant and proposed plant expansion to 3.2 MTPA by Jindal Stainless Limited (JSL) in Odisha is a game-changer. This

investment represents a substantial commitment to the stainless-steel sector in the state and will likely contribute to its growth and prominence in the industry. "The demand for stainless steel in India is expected to grow at an average of 9 to 10 per cent per annum over the next few financial years, doubling the growth rate of 4.5 per cent in the last five financial years," said Ms. Anitha Raghunath, Director of Virgo Communications and Exhibitions, the organizer of the GSSE Expo.

RELiance BRANDS LIMITED INKS A JV WITH PLASTIC LEGNO SPA

Mumbai: RELIANCE BRANDS LIMITED (RBL) and Plastic Legno SPA have signed a joint venture arrangement through which RBL will acquire a 40% stake in Plastic Legno SPA's toy manufacturing business in India. This investment by RBL serves a dual purpose, bringing in vertical integration for RBL's toy business and helping diversify the supply chain with a long-term strategic interest in building toy manufacturing in India. Plastic Legno SPA is owned by the Sunino group that boasts of more than 25 years of toy production experience in Europe. The group started its India business in 2009 out of a need to develop a strong production hub that would cater to global markets, but more importantly to the fast evolving and growing Indian market.

"Keeping with our

honourable Prime Minister's vision of Atmanirbhar India, this collaboration with Plastic Legno's deep experience in world-class toy manufacturing coupled with our strong footing in the global toy retail industry would open new doors and unparalleled opportunities for toys manufactured in India. It is imperative for RBL to build design to shelf capability for a strategic advantage over the competition and to be an accelerator in building a robust toy manufacturing ecosystem in India not only for domestic consumption but also for global markets," said the spokesperson of Reliance Brands Limited. RBL has a strong play in the Toy industry with its portfolio of Hamleys, the British toy retailer and homegrown toy brand – Rowan, making RBL one of the leading

toy distributors. Hamleys currently has a global footprint across 15 countries with 213 doors and is India's largest chain of toy stores. "We are very privileged to have RBL as a partner in this Joint Venture. We are confident that Plastic Legno's experience in Toys production and Hamley's commercial outreach, will complement one another to enable the JV Company to achieve greater heights and successes. We have important development plans to implement, always in the spirit of creating a cultural background in this specific sector in India. We are ready for the challenges of the future, but when there is a group like RBL alongside, we are sure that together we can do a great development," said Paolo Sunino, Co-owner, Sunino Group.

Honda Motorcycle and Scooter India registers 3, 53,188 unit sales

Gurugram: Noting a positive upward movement during the month, Honda Motorcycle and Scooter India today announced its sales numbers for May 2022.

The company's total sales for the month stood at 3,53,188 with 3,20,844 domestic sales and 32,344 exports compared to the subdued market performance for same period last year amidst multiple lockdowns owing to impact from second wave of pandemic.

Commenting on the sales performance in May'22, Mr. Atsushi Ogata, Managing Director, President & CEO, Honda Motorcycle & Scooter India said, "The market is gaining back strength as disturbances in terms of supply side are subsiding coupled with rise in physical presence at office and educational institutions. The sales figures this month remain incomparable from May'21 as frequent lockdowns in wake of second wave marred the performance during this period last year. Growth in domestic as well as international trade continues to complement each other as we approach an early monsoon."

Kirloskar Oil Engines Launches Largest Range of CPCB IV+ Compliant Gensets, Flexi-Fuel, and Optiprime Range

Bhubaneswar (KCN): Kirloskar Oil Engines (KOEL), a leader in the power generation industry, is proud to announce the launch of its range of CPCB IV+ compliant gensets. With a focus on delivering high-performance, fuel-efficient, and environmentally responsible solutions, the new gensets meet the latest emission norms set by the Central Pollution Control Board (CPCB). These gensets demonstrate Kirloskar's commitment to sustainable power generation and environmental stewardship. They are designed to cater to diverse power requirements across various sectors, ensuring businesses and communities have access to more reliable, cleaner and better power. Kirloskar gensets are engineered to operate efficiently on multiple fuel options, including diesel, natural gas, biogas etc. providing



unmatched flexibility to consumers. Hence by offering fuel agnostic gensets, Kirloskar aims to empower businesses and industries to choose the most suitable fuel source based on their needs, location, and availability. This initiative reinforces the brand's commitment towards resource optimization, contributing to a

greener and more energy-diverse future. Kirloskar was the first company to launch IoT-enabled gensets with over 60,000 gensets deployed successfully in the field. The data shows that 90% of the gensets operate below the efficient load threshold for most of their running time. Kirloskar's new range of Optiprime gensets based on our patented

hybrid technology helps expand the range of efficient load, leading to significant savings for our customers by significantly lowering the consumption of fuel and other consumables. The Optiprime range of gensets provide increased flexibility, even lower emissions and increased savings for our customers. "During her address at

the launch event, Gauri Kirloskar, Managing Director, emphasized, 'Kirloskar Oil Engines Limited has been a leader in the power generation industry since its inception. Our unwavering position as a market leader in Diesel Generating sets is a testament to our journey of success. Our ability to swiftly adapt to change and deliver innovative solutions has established us as India's foremost manufacturer of reliable and fuel-efficient Gensets. We believe that our latest offering, the Optiprime version, will further solidify our leadership in the market. At the core of our operations lies our unwavering commitment to our customers. Backed by an unparalleled product service network of over 3,000 dedicated technicians available round the clock, we ensure the highest level of customer-centricity."

Aditya Birla Group formally launches TMRW – a Digital First 'House of Brands' venture in the Fashion & Lifestyle space

Mumbai: Aditya Birla Group today announced the formal launch of its new 'House of Brands' entity – TMRW. This move is in line with the group's strategy to launch and back new-age digital ventures. TMRW, an Aditya Birla Group venture, will create India's largest portfolio of disruptor brands in the fashion & lifestyle space and enable the next phase of direct to consumer (D2C) growth in India, which is poised to be a \$100bn market by 2025. Over the next 3 years, TMRW will acquire as well as incubate 30+ innovative, customer-obsessed brands. The venture will also enable multiple founders to operate within a synergistic 'house of brands' platform that share a common vision and shared capabilities.

will set-up a nimble and agile founding team with the right skill sets and capabilities. Prashanth comes with extensive experience in Digital & Technology across strategy, growth and investing. He also brings to the fore rich entrepreneurial experience in helping build and scale new age ventures in Digital & E-Commerce. Ashish Dikshit, MD of ABFRL said, "The formal launch of our D2C business, TMRW, is a key milestone for the company. This venture has the potential to become a significant growth engine by tapping into the new wave of entrepreneurial energy in India. Our aspiration is to build a portfolio of 30+ brands in the next 3 years. With the launch of this venture, we intend to double down on our ongoing program of strategically attracting new pools of capital that are seeking investment in high-growth businesses. We are confident that this

foray will successfully meet the aspirations of digitally native consumers and also create long-term value for investors and other stakeholders." Prashanth Aluru, CEO and Co-Founder, TMRW said, "I am excited to embark on this journey to build TMRW - a long-term enduring platform that will be home to the leading disruptor brands that provide the new age digitally savvy consumer what she is looking for across Fashion & Lifestyle. With the backing of the Aditya Birla Group and the right profile of long-term investors we will bring in, we are confident of powering the growth of several brands that shape the next phase of digital commerce growth till 2030 and beyond. With a new age Digital first DNA, at TMRW, we will jointly create an ecosystem of the most-loved disruptor brands partnering closely with highly competent founders."

Clinical India make winning start to World Cup campaign

Chennai: India put up a clinical show against Australia in Chennai on Sunday (October 8) to get their World Cup campaign off to a winning start. India's spin trio of Ravindra Jadeja, Kuldeep Yadav and R Ashwin posed problems on a surface that was on the slower side to keep Australia to 199 before KL Rahul and Virat Kohli started in the chase.

It wasn't a straightforward chase for India by any stretch. For a side that was reduced to 5/3 in their last World Cup game in 2019, an encore was in store at Chepauk. Ishan Kishan failed to make use of his

opportunity in place of Shubman Gill by chasing a wide delivery to get caught at slip in the very first over. More misery was in store in the second over of the chase when Josh Hazlewood caused havoc by dismissing both Rohit Sharma and Shreyas Iyer for ducks to stun the crowd and the dressing room.

India could have been in more trouble had Australia capitalised on an opportunity provided by Kohli a few overs later when he miscued a pull shot. Unfortunately, Mitchell Marsh failed to grasp the chance following which Kohli was a lot more subdued in his approach. At the

end of the powerplay, India had only 27 on the board but slowly started asserting themselves, adding 53 in the next ten. While India's spinners had a field day, Adam Zampa and Glenn Maxwell quite couldn't recreate the same impact. Cameron Green was taken out of the attack by Kohli who clipped him for successive boundaries and Rahul was positive against Zampa in his first over, fetching three boundaries. Post that, the duo were content rotating the strike and scoring predominantly at four runs an over, which was also the required rate. Once the two batters



edged closer to the target, they started to free up a little more and in that process, Kohli fell for 85 to give Hazlewood his third wicket. Rahul then almost helped himself to a century before narrowly missing out by

four runs.

Earlier in the day, India's spin trio rattled Australia big time in the middle overs, triggering a collapse that saw Australia get bowled out for just 199. Marsh edged one behind to slip

to depart for a duck very early but post that, David Warner and Steve Smith steadied the innings by batting watchfully on a tricky surface. Smith was severe against anything that was bowled either too full or too short like

Hardik Pandya found out and India's decision to bring on Ashwin early didn't work either.

After 15 overs, Australia were 71/1 with both batters looking set. Kuldeep then provided a crucial breakthrough as Warner chipped one back to him and then Jadeja took over to cripple the former world champions big time. The left-arm spinner got one to turn and hit the off stump for the key wicket of Smith before he got rid of both Marnus Labuschagne and Alex Carey in the same over. The wickets continued to tumble as the last recognised pair of Maxwell and Green

couldn't rescue Australia either. Maxwell lost his leg stump to Kuldeep and Green gifted Ashwin his first wicket that saw Australia go from 111/2 to 140/7. Things could have been a lot worse for Australia if not for Pat Cummins and Mitchell Starc adding some vital runs in the end. Eventually, that only ended up delaying the inevitable as India cantered home with 52 balls to spare.

Brief scores: Australia 199 in 49.3 overs (Steve Smith 46, David Warner 41; Ravindra Jadeja 3/28) lost to India 201/4 in 41.2 overs (KL Rahul 96*, Virat Kohli 85; Josh Hazlewood 3/38) by six wickets

Dharamsala outfield rated 'average' after Afghanistan-Bangladesh game

New Delhi: The outfield at the HPCA stadium in Dharamsala that looked patchy in the Afghanistan-Bangladesh fixture on Saturday has been rated 'average'. However, that will not hinder the next game between England and Bangladesh from going ahead on Tuesday (October 10) as a spokesperson from the ICC confirmed that the board's independent pitch consultant Andy Atkinson is 'comfortable with the conditions'.

"The process for assessing the condition of the pitch and outfield lies with the match officials under the ICC Pitch and Outfield Monitoring Process and the

outfield at Dharamsala was rated as average after the Afghanistan v Bangladesh match. Additionally, the ICC independent pitch consultant has taken a look at the outfield today and is comfortable with the conditions as is Javagal Srinath, the Match Referee for the next game," an ICC spokesperson was quoted as saying.

The Dharamsala outfield came under the scanner in the first game of the World Cup at the venue as Mujeeb Ur Rahman nearly got injured while putting in a dive in the deep as he ended up jamming his knee on the hard soil beneath that caused some of the soil to kick

up. On Sunday, members of the support staff were seen working on that area of the ground. At the same time, head curator of the venue Sunil Chauhan and a few others went around the ground inspecting the surface.

Afghanistan head coach Jonathan Trott had said his players were unsure of putting in a dive and another member of their team management reckoned that the outfield was not fit for hosting international games but, upon inspection, the ICC - including match referee for the next fixture Javagal Srinath - have given the game a go-ahead.

Batters' return to form a positive sign - Samarawickrama

New Delhi: The predicament of Sri Lanka cricket couldn't get worse. Over a considerable period of time, there have been financial problems, trouble with the board, and a subsequent fall in the performance of the team since the golden generation hung up their boots.

To add insult to injury, they have timed their low in the worst possible manner in the build-up to the World Cup. Right before the Asia Cup final, it may have seemed like a good thing - reaching an ODI final right ahead of a World Cup. And then the humiliation followed - all-out for 50 in the final. And this was no aberration. It was backed up by more poor performances, like the seven-wicket loss to Bangladesh and a six-

wicket loss to Afghanistan in the warm-ups - teams that Sri Lanka had overcome to reach the Asia Cup final. To cap it off, another steep margin of loss followed in their World Cup opener against South Africa, where they conceded 428 - the highest World Cup total of all time, and three individual hundreds, one of which happened to be the fastest ever. Sadeera Samarawickrama, in particular, was not impressed with the team's bowling performance. "Actually, it's difficult for us as a team to be happy with the bowling (performance). We rarely bowled consistently as a team," assessed Samarawickrama. "On a wicket like this, even a minor mistake from us can result in the opposing team scoring six or four



runs. If we had bowled with more patience, we might have kept them to a lower score."

After a deflating bowling performance, Samarawickrama spoke about the talk in the dressing room about chasing down the total and keeping things positive, given that the conditions were extremely well suited to batting. He further opined that if not for the regular

wickets, and one big stand, Sri Lanka would have been in with a chance. "We could trust the wicket and play. If we had good momentum, we needed to maintain it. We actually lost by almost 100 runs," he said. "If we hadn't lost those few wickets in the middle overs, I believe we would have had a chance to come close to their score or even win the match."

Samarawickrama also insisted that there were positives to come out of the match, with batters playing with freedom in a big chase, and emphasised that the return to form for Kusal Mendis and Dasun Shanaka was crucial.

"Actually, we are very happy that Kusal Mendis and especially Dasun Shanaka have returned to their usual rhythm," said Samarawickrama optimistically. "Also, the way Kusal Mendis and Charith Asalanka gave a lot of confidence to the batting unit of our team was great. When we're chasing such a big number, we don't have time to set up in the middle part."

"I think we always have to play positively. I think it's a significant achievement for us to have been able to play like that in these

Glenn Phillips emphasises importance of adapting, IPL experience

New Delhi: Having cruised to a nine-wicket win over England in the World Cup opener in Ahmedabad - chasing the target of 283 in just 36.2 overs - New Zealand, a team that usually flies under the radar at world events, have made an early, emphatic announcement of being considered serious title contenders. That they could crush the defending champions as easily despite the absence of three key players - Kane Williamson, Tim Southee and Lockie Ferguson - only reinforces the strength of the squad. Despite fairly different conditions from what's on offer in New Zealand, Phillips credits the IPL experience for the control with which the team played the two warm-up games and the opening encounter. "Obviously, we've got guys who have played in various IPL teams,"

Phillips said. "Myself and Kane playing here obviously brings a little bit of an advantage to giving information to the boys. We try to take all the information and put it together and as I said, come on the day and adapt to the conditions as fast as possible. Obviously, a pitch can play differently one day than it will for another. So, for us to be able to collate that information, understand what we have in our bank, and stick to our strengths and skills on that particular pitch will be very important. "When 90% of the teams are away teams, it almost levels the playing field quite nicely. India have the home advantage and they play incredibly strong cricket at home. But with the other subcontinent teams Pakistan, Sri Lanka and Bangladesh, these are still a semi-foreign conditions to them... so for us to be able to go

out there and try to adapt as quickly as possible on the day [will be key]. I think that's what we pride ourselves on understanding that you get one shot at each team and it comes down to who can adjust to the conditions on the day. Most of us are all actually very foreign to these conditions, barring probably guys who have had a lot of success in the IPL over the years."

However, with only one game down, he has stressed that the team is trying to not get too carried away by victories or even fall too low in defeat. "The mood is very neutral. Obviously, we enjoyed the first win incredibly much, but obviously, with the tournament being such a quick turnaround, we try to keep things as neutral as possible, not get too high when we win and not get too low when we lose. And I think that's the key for us throughout this



competition."

Rachin Ravindra, who was picked in the XI as a fill-in for the injured Williamson, became the third youngest centurion at the World Cup as he cracked a 96-ball 123*, a knock which included 11 boundaries and 5 sixes, and was declared Player of the Match. While Williamson's expected return for New Zealand's third game could lead to some selection headaches, Glenn Phillips isn't surprised by what

Rachin did deliver in his absence and can deliver in the future.

"I wasn't surprised at all [by Rachin's knock]," Phillips admitted on Sunday. "Obviously, I've played a lot of cricket with him back home and he actually plays a very aggressive brand of one-day cricket being at the top of the order. He likes to play with a lot of flair. He plays that square drive incredibly well, which with the new ball is an absolute asset. And then the way he combined with Dev

[Devon Conway] as well, the tempo they both set, they struck at 120, 130 without even almost lifting a finger. It was phenomenal to watch."

The unbeaten 273-run stand between Rachin and Devon Conway helped New Zealand overhaul England's total, with the latter also stroking his maiden World Cup century (121-ball 152*), carrying forward the good show from the second warm-up game. The performance, Phillips

believes, bodes well for the side.

"They were absolutely brilliant. Obviously 270-odd run partnership is phenomenal, especially for two guys in their first World Cup. I guess from a team perspective it's really nice to know that those two boys are in some serious form and obviously everyone in the warm-up games obviously had a nice little head out and yeah, it's a good feeling in the camp at the moment," Phillips said.

They will be up against a side that maybe lacking in experience and game-time but did manage to give a scare to their opponents - Pakistan - in the tournament opener despite eventually losing by a margin of 81 runs. Phillips admitted that New Zealand will be cautious of the threat Netherlands are likely to pose in their contest on Monday in Hyderabad, especially with their self-admitted nothing-to-lose approach.

"We approach every game the same way every time, every team is strong in their own right, especially on the given day. The Netherlands have a lot of strong players, and we're going to have to still put our best foot forward, as I'm sure they will. So, keep coming up with our plans, doing our scouting, making sure that we have everything set in place, and not taking any team lightly."

"I think they're a really good team. Obviously, they've beaten quite a few good opponents to be able to qualify for the tournament in the first place. So, they're a team definitely not to be taken lightly. They have a lot of high professional cricketers that play all through county cricket as well. So, they've definitely got a good skill set. They know their roles. They bond together well as a team. And I definitely think they're going to be a tough team to beat in this competition."