

Dr. Krishna M. Ella inaugurates Fortified Rice Kernels Pilot plant at CSIR-NIIST

Thiruvananthapuram, (UNI)

In a major step towards combating hidden hunger and enhancing nutritional security, Dr. Krishna M. Ella, Chairperson of Bharat Biotech International and Research Council Chairman of CSIR-NIIST, inaugurated the Fortified Rice Kernels (FRK) Pilot Plant at the CSIR-National Institute for Interdisciplinary Science and Technology (CSIR-NIIST) here on Friday.

The state-of-the-art FRK pilot plant has been established to address the nutritional needs of vulnerable population groups, especially children and pregnant women.

Using technology developed in-house at CSIR-NIIST, the plant enables the continuous production of fortified rice kernels enriched with essential micronutrients such



as vitamins and minerals. The FRK process involves blending micronutrients with rice flour and extruding the mix into rice-shaped kernels that are virtually indistinguishable from natural rice. The system is equipped with advanced drying and cooling conveyors for effective moisture removal, enabling immediate use and distribution.

The plant is capable of producing 30 to 50 kilograms of FRK per hour, which can be seamlessly blended with polished rice for large-scale public distribution.

Speaking at the unveiling, Dr. Krishna M. Ella commended the institute's efforts to develop practical, scalable solutions in food and health sciences.

"This pilot plant is an important innovation that merges science with social responsibility. It holds promise for improving public health outcomes across the country, particularly in underserved regions," he said.

Highlighting the facility's broader role; Dr. C. Anandharamakrishnan, Director of CSIR-NIIST, said "This pilot plant will serve not only as a production unit but also as a training and innovation hub for start-ups, food safety professionals, public health experts, and students." "It exemplifies our commitment to developing technologies that are socially impactful and accessible."



OPPO Launches K13 5G - The OverPowered Performance Smartphone Starting at INR 17,999

OPPO India has launched the OPPO K13 5G, engineered to deliver an "Overpowered" performance experience with power efficiency and a premium user experience. Powered by the Snapdragon 6 Gen 4 Mobile Platform, the device features a 7000mAh graphite battery with 80W SuperVooC fast charger, segment-leading VC cooling, a 120Hz FHD+ AMOLED display, and intelligent network optimization-offering smooth multitasking, immersive gaming, long-lasting battery life, and reliable connectivity. The OPPO K13 5G reflects OPPO's commitment to meaningful innovation, combining advanced engineering and refined design to redefine performance in its segment.

Priced at INR 17,999 for the 8GB+128GB variant and INR 19,999 for the 8GB+256GB variant, the OPPO K13 5G will be available for purchase starting 25th April 2025 on the OPPO e-store and Flipkart from 12 PM onwards, in two colour options - Icy Purple and Prism Black. Consumers purchasing the smartphone can avail an INR 1000 instant discount only on the sale day with select bank offers or with an exchange bonus of INR 1000, bringing the effective price at INR 16,999 and INR 18,999, respectively. Additional launch offers include No Cost EMI for up to six months, further enhancing the overall value proposition of the OPPO K13 5G. Savio D'Souza, Head of Product Communications at OPPO India, said, "With the OPPO K13, we're bringing an OP experience to the under Rs20,000 segment-without compromise. Whether it's the Snapdragon 6 Gen 4 chipset, one of the segments-best VC cooling, or our intelligent graphite battery technology, every aspect of the K13 is engineered to deliver performance that punches above its weight.

This device reflects OPPO's vision to democratize powerful, reliable technology and make flagship-level features accessible to more users than ever before." Saurabh Arora, Head of Mobile, Compute, and XR Business at Qualcomm India, said, "At Qualcomm, we are committed to delivering innovation that enhances user experiences. Partnering with OPPO on the OPPO K13, powered by Snapdragon 6 Gen 4, enables us to provide mobile users and gamers with unmatched performance and responsiveness."

LIC to ensure speedy settlement of claims for Pahalgam terror victims

Mumbai, (UNI): The Life Insurance Corporation of India (LIC) on Friday announced a series of relaxations and concessions for the victims of the terrorist attack in Pahalgam on April 22, expressing deep grief over the loss of innocent lives.

In a statement issued here, LIC said it is committed to standing by the families affected by the tragic incident and will ensure speedy settlement of claims to provide financial relief to the bereaved. Siddhartha Mohanty, Chief Executive Officer and Managing Director of LIC, announced that several concessions have been approved to mitigate the hardships faced by the claimants of LIC policies.

WCL organised workshop on “Importance of forest clearance for resource planning in coal mining”

Nagpur: Western Coalfields Limited (WCL) A one day workshop was organized today on the topic "Importance of forest clearance for resource planning in coal mining". The objective of this workshop was to discuss the importance of forest clearance in coal mining. The purpose was to strengthen compliance and promote sustainable development in the mining sector. The workshop was presided over by the Managing Director, WCL. The workshop was attended by various officials of WCL and representatives of the Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change (MoEF&CC).



Operations Anil Kumar Singh, Director (Finance) Shri Bikram Ghosh, Chief Vigilance Officer Ajay Madhukar Mhetre, Nodal Officer of Maharashtra Government and Senior officials of the Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change (MoEF&CC) were specially present. In his presidential address, J.P. Dwivedi said that forest clearance in WCL is not just a formality. Rather, it is a resolution for responsible co-existence with nature. Emphasizing WCL's commitment towards environmental protection, he said that through this workshop, the participants will gain

knowledge of working efficiently in regulatory scenarios so that they can also fulfill the responsibility of protecting forests. Welcome address in the inaugural session of the workshop by Director (Technical) Operations, WCL Mr. Anil Kumar Singh and vote of thanks was given by General Manager (Forest) Dr. S.K. Jena. Presented. In the workshop, sessions were held on topics such as policy issues related to coal mines, process of obtaining clearance from the forest department for mining work, linear diversion proposal in coal mining, etc.

WEYTEC expands its India footprint with new Experience Center in Delhi



New Delhi: Wey Technology India Ltd., a subsidiary of the Swiss-based Wey Group AG, proudly inaugurated its second India Experience Centre in New Delhi, reinforcing the company's strong and growing commitment to the Indian market. This state-of-the-art facility complements Weytec's existing Experience Centre in Mumbai and serves as a live showcase for the company's cutting-edge technologies tailored for mission-critical environments such as trading floors, command and control rooms, and security operations centers. The New Delhi Experience Centre was formally inaugurated by Armin Klingler, Chairman of the Board and CEO, Wey Group AG; Pascal Kreienbühl, Deputy CEO and CFO, Wey Group AG; and Rajiv Bhalla, Managing Director, Wey Technology India Ltd. With a legacy of over 40 years, Weytec is globally recognized for its Swiss-engineered, high-performance workplace solutions. The company specializes in the seamless transmission, control, distribution, and visualization of real-time data, empowering professionals across sectors with efficient and integrated work environments. "In-

dia is a strategic market for Weytec, and we're excited to bring our globally trusted innovations to support its growth," said Armin Klingler, Chairman of the Board and CEO, Wey Group AG. "Our solutions embody the precision, reliability, and operator-focused design that define Swiss engineering. The Delhi Experience Center reflects our commitment to delivering immersive, high-performance technologies tailored for India's dynamic control room environments."

"We see immense potential in India as it emerges as a global leader in both digital and physical infrastructure," added Rajiv Bhalla, Managing Director, Weytec India. "With significant investments in Roads, Railways, Ports, Airports, Power & Utilities, and Public Safety, this is the right time for Weytec's precision-engineered solutions to deliver transformational value to India's mission-critical sectors." On display at the Experience Center are Weytec's flagship innovations, WDP MX®: A solution that integrates and distributes analog and digital signals from and to systems and video walls in a single, independent IP network.

Trust in Every Click: Amazon's Multi-Layered Approach to Combating E-commerce Fraud

Bangalore: In the bustling marketplace of India, the rise of fraud and abuse is fast emerging as a cause for concern. As online shopping carts fill up, Amazon stands as a vigilant guardian, deploying cutting-edge strategies to protect its ecosystem. "As a customer-centric company, we're committed to fostering a safe and trusted shopping experience. We encourage our customers to actively participate in safeguarding their online shopping by remaining vigilant and adhering to recommended security practices," said Akshay Sahi, Director & Head of Amazon Prime, Speed & Fulfillment Experience, India. "Additionally, we also prioritize seller safety through multiple initiatives. For instance, by filing Safe-T claims, sellers can address delivery or payment issues efficiently, allowing Amazon to investigate and resolve the matter."

Syngenta India unveils roadmap at BioAg congress to boost sustainable farming through innovative biologicals

As farmers need to grow 50 per cent more crops by 2050 in a sustainable manner to ensure enough safe and affordable food for everyone, Syngenta India today unveiled its roadmap at BioAg World Congress here to empower farmers holistically through science-based innovative use of biologicals. "Farming is faced with multifaceted challenges. Therefore, we need to adopt a multi-pronged strategy to make sure that crops are cultivated in a viable and sustainable way. Biologicals are the core of our best practices aimed at enhancing soil health, boosting crop resilience and provide a holistic solution to the Indian farmers," said Susheel Kumar, Managing Director, Syngenta India Pvt Ltd. Kumar, while stressing the need for innovation, said that farmers are faced with several challenges in guaran-



teeing food security globally. He said that the food chain and public pressure for a better residue management in food, further limits farming options. "Reduced solution efficacy due to resistance and pest shifts demands new modes of action," he said. Stressing the need for a policy drive for sustainable agriculture, Susheel highlighted, "We need different tools to realize a modern form of agriculture. Meeting the challenge requires a significant effort and biologicals

and seed treatment is at the forefront of this shift. By innovating boldly, we can transform the future of food security for us all." Talking about biologicals, Kumar said that natural microbial, seaweed and plant extracts help in nutrient cycling, pest and disease management, and improving plant growth. "Three main types of biologicals—biostimulants, nutrient efficiency products and biocontrols—provide farmers with more choices to manage resistance, improve soil health, reduce residue in foods, and address climate change impacts." Detailing how Syngenta India is committed to promoting remunerative farming in a sustainable manner, Kumar said that Syngenta Biologicals bring science-based innovation to give more choices and flexibility to farmers.

Centrum launches Centrum Recharge Energy Drink Mix with Brand Ambassador Anushka Sharma



Vitamin C, Magnesium & Zinc play a very important role. This is where Centrum Recharge comes into play, formulated with 13 essential vitamins and minerals, including B Vitamins, Vitamin C, Magnesium, and Zinc, all crucial for supporting energy levels, supporting immune function, and maintaining hydration. Centrum Recharge has 2X more Vitamins & Minerals than leading multivitamin energy drink beverage additives and mixers in the market, and contains No added sugars, making it a nutritious choice for consumers.

The product is packed in individual sachets, perfect for on-the-go consumption. Sharing insights on the new launch, Mr. Atish Negi, Category Lead - Vitamin & Mineral Supplements, Haleon ISC, said, "We are excited to add Centrum Recharge to our Centrum India portfolio. We believe Centrum Recharge addresses a significant need for a nutritious solution for energy and hydration - that aligns with the active lifestyles of today's consumers. Centrum Recharge is not just an energy drink mix; it's a comprehensive wellness solution when taken along with daily diet provides essential nutrients to support energy, immunity, and hydration, without any added sugars which is generally present in many competing products."

Shine in Abundance' this festive season with ORRA's Akshaya Tritiya and Anniversary Sale celebrations

Akshaya Tiritiya holds great significance in Indian culture. This day is considered auspicious to start any new work or venture. Investments are especially made in gold and jewellery on this day. This festival, a symbol of prosperity and good fortune, holds deep cultural significance. At the same time, Ora's Anniversary Sale has added to the joy of this festival even more as Ora is offering customers the Akshaya Tiritiya collection in this sale and giving them an opportunity to celebrate this traditional festival with modern splendor. Both these joys have given jewellery lovers across the country an opportunity to celebrate tradition and splendor together.

Whether you want to buy jewellery for Akshaya Tiritiya or



to gift it to your loved one, Ora's Anniversary Sale has special collections available for everyone. From everyday use diamond jewellery to jewellery of cultural significance, the collection symbolizes timeless values, prosperity and the promise of a new beginning with this festival. Deepu Mehta, Managing Director, Ora Fine Jewellery said, "Ora jewellery is not just an accessory. It symbolizes an emotion, a legacy

and a celebration. Akshaya Tiritiya is a sacred festival. On this occasion, we want to offer our customers a unique experience in our Anniversary Sale. This season our collection brings age-old symbols into modern diamond jewellery, so that everyone can celebrate this joy in their own way." The new collection consists of necklace sets, earrings, pendants, rings, chains etc., inspired by nature and Indian motifs and suits the woman of today. Each piece of jewellery blends modern design with traditional craftsmanship, encapsulating the essence of new beginnings.

Whether it is wedding planning, buying gifts for festivals or buying timeless jewellery for yourself, Ora offers jewellery for every style and occasion.

CACLB Committee Visits MOIL Mines to Review Welfare Measures for Contractual Workers

A high-level delegation from the Central Advisory Contract Labour Board (CACLB), led by Chairman Shri Surendra Kumar Pandey (BMS), conducted a two-day visit to various MOIL mines across Maharashtra and Madhya Pradesh from April 21 to 22, 2025. The objective of the visit was to review the implementation and compliance of welfare measures for contractual workers engaged at MOIL mines.

The delegation comprised Shri B.K. Bhatia, Director General (FIMI); Shri Kunal Rawat, National Secretary (AITUC); and Member Coordinators Shri Sanjay Dabi, Deputy CLC (Central), Nagpur (Addl. Charge); Shri Subhra J. Mazumdar, Deputy CLC (C), Jabalpur; and Shri Prasant Pajai, RLC, Nagpur.



During their visit, the committee actively interacted with contractual workers at the mining sites to understand their working condi-

tions and assess the on-ground implementation of various welfare initiatives. The team closely examined the facilities and support systems provided to contract labourers, ensuring they align with statutory and regulatory frameworks.

Extensive efforts were undertaken by CACLB committee as they visited MOIL's opencast & underground mines, interacting with the dedicated MOIL workforce and various trade unions operating within the company. The dialogue focused on reinforcing labour welfare, addressing concerns, and strengthening the ongoing efforts for the well-being of contractual workers.