



220 para athletes participate in ONGC Para Games 2019

The third ONGC Para Games 2019 was inaugurated by Gujarat minister Ishwarsinh Patel at Sports Authority of India Centre, Gandhinagar, on December 3. ONGC CMD Shashi Shanker, Onshore director S K Moitra, HR director Alka Mittal and CVO R C Joshi were present. About 220 para athletes — 190 men and 30 women — from different oil PSUs attended the event.

Rupesh, Advani do it for ONGC

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Rupesh Shah and Pankaj Advani helped ONGC claim the billiards title in the 16th PSPB inter-unit championship here on Saturday. It beat Indian Oil 2-0 in the final. ONGC, which had clinched the snooker crown earlier, made it a grand double.

Rupesh defeated Dhvaj Haria 200-93 before Advani cruised past Brijesh Damani 200-19.

Rupesh won the individual professional billiards crown too, defeating ONGC teammate Alok Kumar 3-1 in the final. Alok had beaten Advani in the semifinals. Srimanta Hazari of Oil India defeated teammate Tasrique Haque 185-67 to bag the non-professional billiards crown.

OIL and gas groups were accused Saturday of seeking to influence climate talks in Madrid by paying millions in sponsorship and sending dozens of lobbyists to delay what scientists say is a necessary and rapid cut in fossil fuel use.

A day after tens of thousands marched in the Spanish capital demanding climate action, seven environmental groups raised concerns to AFP over the role of fossil fuel representatives at the COP25 summit. Under the 2015 Paris Agreement, nations agreed to limit global warming to 'well below' two degrees Celsius and as close to 1.5C as possible.

The UN's top science panel says that 1.5C would require a radical drawdown in fossil fuel usage. Delegates are gathered in Madrid negotiating how to implement the Paris pledges. The summit was moved at

Energy giants have paid millions in sponsorship

short notice after domestic unrest forced original host Chile to cancel. Spanish energy giants Endesa and Iberdrola stepped in to sponsor the conference, which brings together more than 20,000 negotiators, scientists, NGOs and journalists from around the world.

AFP has been told that each company paid 2 million euros to be COP25 'Platinum' sponsors, affording them prominent branding and trade stalls at the event.

Endesa is one of Spain's largest greenhouse gas emitters, producing just over 60 million tonnes of CO2 equivalent last year alone. Iberdrola produced 24.6 million tonnes in 2018.



Tens of thousands marched in Madrid to demand climate action.

"Bankrolling the global climate negotiations is a classic trick from the polluters playbook," said Jean Su, energy director with the Center for Biological Diversity.

"For just a fraction of yearly profits, big polluters are able to wrap themselves in the branding of the COP and use this access to influence the negotiations," added Sriram Madhusodanan of the Corporate

'Fossil fuel groups destroy our planet'

Oil and gas firms accused of paying millions to 'influence' the climate summit in Madrid

Accountability watchdog.

Environmental groups including Oil Change International, Corporate Europe Observatory, the Observatorio de Multinationales en America Latina, and Power Shift Africa all told AFP they considered oil and gas presence at COP25 as unacceptable. "Our hard work and determination is easily overpowered by the vast resources of the biggest polluting corporations," said Sarah Dobson, from UK Youth Climate Coalition.

"These companies are destroying our planet and our right to fair climate negotiations free from their influence," Sarah added. —AFP

MARINE LIFE UNDER THREAT

THE loss of oxygen from the ocean due to climate change risks dire effects on sea life, fisheries and coastal communities, a global conservation body said Saturday. The International Union for the Conservation of Nature (IUCN) said that around 700 sites had been

identified globally with low oxygen levels — up from only 45 in the 1960s. In the same period, the group warned, the volume of anoxic waters — areas totally devoid of oxygen — have quadrupled. Oceans are expected on current trends to lose 3.0-4.0 per cent of their oxygen globally by 2100. —AFP