

# BJD announces seventh list of candidates for Odisha Assembly polls, drops five sitting MLAs

**Bhubaneswar(KCN):** Biju Janata Dal president and Odisha Chief Minister Naveen Patnaik Monday announced the names of six more candidates for the Assembly elections, denying nomination to five sitting MLAs. With the announcement of six names, the BJD has so far announced the names of 141 candidates for the 147 Assembly constituencies. The party

has already nominated candidates for all 21 Lok Sabha seats. The five sitting MLAs denied tickets were Simran Nayak of Hindol, Raghunandan Das of Balikuda-Ersama, Subrat Tatariu of Raghunathpalli, Sunanda Das of Bari and Sudam Marndi of Bangiriposi. Marndi has been fielded by the BJD from the Mayurbhanj Lok Sabha seat while his wife Ranjita



Marndi has been nominated by the regional party from the

Bangiriposi Assembly segment. The BJD has renominated Sports Tusharkanti Behera from the Kakatpur Assembly segment in Puri district. Patnaik offered BJD nomination to wives of two sitting MLAs – Sudam Marndi and Subrat Tarai. Marndi’s wife Ranjita Marndi has got the ticket from Bangiriposi and Tarai’s wife Archanarekha Behera

has been fielded from Raghunathpali. The BJD has nominated Dhenkanal MP Mahesh Sahu from Hindol Assembly segment, Sarada Prasanna Jena from Balikuda-Ersama and Biswaranjan Mallick from Bari Assembly constituency. The opposition BJP has announced the names of 132 candidates while the Congress named 135 nominees.

## PRESIDENT OF INDIA PRESENTS PADMA AWARDS 2024



**New Delhi,(KCN):** The President of India, Smt Droupadi Murmu presented Padma Vibhushan, Padma Bhushan and Padma

Shri Awards for the year 2024 at the Civil Investiture Ceremony-I held at Rashtrapati Bhavan today (April 22,

2024) in the presence of Vice President of India, Prime Minister, Union Minister for Home Affairs and other dignitaries.

## Mangrove pitta bird population rises in Odisha’s Bhitarkanika

**Kendrapara(KCN):** Officials have reported an increase in the population of mangrove pitta birds during the latest bird census at Bhitarkanika National Park in Odisha’s Kendrapara district. Forest officials Sunday released the mangrove pitta bird census report, which pegged their population at 218. This marks an increase of 39 compared to the previous census. Forest officials had sighted 179 mangrove pitta birds in 2023 during the

first census of the species in Bhitarkanika. The census was carried out Saturday by around 80 forest personnel under the supervision of the forest range officers of Dangamala, Rajnagar, Mahakalapada, Gahirmatha, and Kujang forest ranges of the park. The mangrove pitta is colourful birds that have a black head with a brown crown, white throat, greenish upper parts, buff under-parts and reddish vent area.

## Odisha STF arrests absconding ganja peddler, seizes seven vehicles

**Phulbani(KCN):** The special task force (STF) of Odisha Police arrested a ganja peddler from Tikabali, a small town in Kandhamal district, the police said. The 25-year-old accused, who was absconding, was arrested Sunday during a raid conducted by STF with the help of

Kandhamal district police. According to the police, the man was wanted in a case registered April 11, 2024, and was absconding following the seizure of 52 kg ganja along with a car. During investigation, it was found that the man and his brother were a

part of a big racket and involved in the illegal contraband business for the last three years, a police officer said. The two brothers belong to Kandhamal which is a major cultivation area of cannabis (Ganja) and also a Maoist hotbed in Odisha. The accused persons

used to collect contraband ganja from the Kandhamal and Boudh area, he said. They have earned a huge amount of money and have purchased at least five vehicles and two motorcycles. The total cost of the vehicles would be more than Rs 50 lakh.

All the vehicles have been seized, the police officer informed. The officer said that the STF will also examine whether the arrested brothers have any connections with other inter-district and inter-state drug traffickers and the Maoists.

## Delhi High Court dismisses PIL seeking ‘extraordinary interim bail’ for CM Kejriwal with 75k costs

**New Delhi(KCN):** The Delhi High Court Monday dismissed a Public Interest Litigation (PIL) seeking extraordinary interim bail to incarcerated Delhi Chief Minister Arvind Kejriwal, in all the criminal cases registered against him by the central agencies, till the completion of his tenure or the trials, whichever ends earlier. Imposing a cost of Rs 75,000 on the petitioner — a law student — a Bench presided over by Acting Chief Justice Manmohan termed the petition as “totally misconceived” and questioned his locus standi to file such a plea. The Bench, also



comprising Justice Manmeet PS Arora, remarked that an accused cannot be given extraordinary interim bail merely for holding high constitutional office. It took into account the fact that Chief Minister Kejriwal remains under judicial custody pursuant to court orders and the PIL litigant does not hold any Power of Attorney on the

former’s behalf. The PIL filed in the name of ‘We, the people of India’ sought interim relief, permitting Chief Minister Kejriwal to fulfill his official duties during working hours and granting him the freedom to visit government offices and inspect various locations while under judicial custody.

It stressed concerns over Chief Minister Kejriwal’s safety while in custody, citing incidents of custodial deaths and the presence of hardened criminals in Tihar Jail. The petitioner said that he wanted to draw the attention of the court to the ‘confinement’ of the AAP leader in jail, “without any conviction just because of the delay in the investigation(s) and/or trial(s) in the criminal case(s) registered against the Chief Minister”. Further, he contended that as a public servant, Chief Minister Kejriwal requires constant access to quality healthcare, medical experts, and heightened security, which may be compromised while in judicial custody.

## Mayurbhanj Beauty's & BAWA Odisha Hosts 1st Creators Meet-up in Baripada



**Baripada:(KCN):** In a bid to enjoy the enthusiasm of creation with the ground level efforts, Mayurbhanj Beauty's first creators' consortium meet up organized in Baripada on Sunday. The event was graced with all the young talents gathered at Waterpark here and started the ceremony by lighting the lamp in the traditional style before Lord Shri Jagannath. Mr. Rakesh Kumar Behera, Body member (Mayurbhanj Beauty’s) Youth Icon and the chief guest of the program, gave his inaugural speech while the founder of the ceremony, Mr. Purushottam Agarwal,

President, Mayurbhanj Beauty's, introduced the guests and all the creative personalities present at the ceremony. International travel vlogger, Laba Hansdah, Pathi Brothers- Owner Shrestha Events, Dibyajoti Panigrahi - Owner, Dam View Eco Park, Jayesh Patra-Body member (Mayurbhanj Beauty’s), Mayurbhanj Creators Consortium Founder - Sriyansu Pradhan, Co-Founder - Jyotirmay Nath, Coordinator - Debabrata Dey along with the Chief Guest unveiled the logo of the event and officially launched the programme eve. On this occasion, all the creative young talents

and sponsors of the event were felicitated by the institution & later the session of the ceremony started with colorful programmes and performances by the young talents of Mayurbhanj. With a spiritual classical dance was performed by Samikshya Padhi, while youth musicians Ankit Joshi and Jyotirmay Nath performed sensational songs in their soulful vocals. Renowned dance and cine star Doll Mishra and child artiste Latasa Khurana entertained everyone with their mesmerizing dance moves while host Khushi Kumar moderated the stage with significant

anchoring. All the members of Mayurbhanj Creators Consortium thoroughly enjoyed the evening with the colorful programmes. The main attraction of the program is the youth talent and the inherent power of the major social media, the event will create a new chapter of progress in the future of the district state and the entire country, said the chief coordinator of the program Mr. Debabrata Dey. In the meanwhile, Ankur Khurana, Suraj Kiran Das, Shovan, Nikhil, Kumar Rakesh, JP Mohapatra, Shubham Prasad, Harekrishna Patra and Mukti Dutta conducted the program smoothly.

## 17 Cities In Odisha Record Max Temp Above 40°C, Bhubaneswar Hottest With 43.8°C

**Bhubaneswar(KCN):** Thundershowers across the state on Monday have brought a brief respite from the sweltering heatwave conditions for the people of Odisha, reeling under the hot and humid weather conditions for the last seven days. According to the IMD regional centre here, the maximum day temperature soared to 40 °C or above at 17 places in the state. Bhubaneswar was the hottest place in the state with the maximum temperature rising to 43.68 °C today. ‘Meteorological conditions becoming favourable for moderate thunderstorm activity with lightning, gusty surface wind, wind speed reaching 40 to 50 kmph and scattered to



Isolated rainfall over the districts of Odisha within next 3 days,” the IMD said. As per the IMD observation, at Paralakhemundi temperature was recorded at 42.9 °C, Baripada at 42.6 °C, Nuapada at 42.4 °C, Kendrapara at 41.8 °C, Jagatsinghpur at 41.6 °C, Bhadrak & Jajpur at 41 °C, Boudh at 40.8 °C, Balasore & Angul at 40.7 °C, Chandbali & Talcher at 40.4 °C, Cuttack at 40.2 °C, Malkangiri & Dhenkanal at 40.1 °C, and Nayagarh at 40 °C.

Due to prevailing mainly Northwesterly/Westerly dry air and high solar insolation, day temperature is very likely to be 40°C or above at many places over the districts of interior Odisha and likely to be above normal by 3 to 5°C over some districts of Odisha during next 2 days, the IMD said in a special bulletin. “Due to likely interaction of middle tropospheric westerly trough with lower level moist air from the Bay

of Bengal, Meteorological conditions are becoming favourable for moderate thunderstorm activity with lightning, gusty surface wind, wind speed reaching 40 to 50 kmph and scattered to Isolated rainfall over the districts of Odisha within next 3 days,” the IMD added. According to Bhubaneswar Meteorological Centre scientists, heatwave conditions prevailed over the districts of Khordha, Kendrapada, Jajpur, and Jagatsinghpur districts today. It’s the 8th day in a row of heatwaves in the state. Odisha has already witnessed 10 heat wave days against normal days of 1 to 3 Days for April 2024. Last year 5 heat wave days were realized in April, the IMD scientists added.

## High School Head Master Caught Taking 14K Bribe In Bargarh

**Bargarh (KCN):** Odisha Vigilance sleuths today apprehended the headmaster of a high school in Bargarh district for demanding and accepting a bribe of Rs 14000. The accused has been identified as Balamukunda Padhan, Head Master, Kushanpuri High School, Bargarh. Pradhan has been



apprehended by vigilance while demanding and accepting a bribe of Rs.14,000 from a functionary of local SHG to process a file for release of payment in

their favour towards cleaning and night watch duty of the school. The entire bribe money has been recovered from the possession of accused Sri Pradhan and seized.

Following the trap, simultaneous searches are going on at two locations of Sri Pradhan from a DA angle. In this connection, Sambalpur Vigilance PS Case No.09 dt.21.04.2024 U/s 7 PC (Amendment) Act, 2018 has been registered. The investigation is in progress against the accused Pradhan. Further reports are awaited.

# Ratan Tata Receives Prestigious KISS Humanitarian Award

**Mumbai, (KCN):** Renowned industrialist and philanthropist Ratan Tata, Chairman Emeritus of the Tata Group, was honored with the prestigious KISS Humanitarian Award 2021 on Monday. The award ceremony was held at his residence in Mumbai, marking a significant recognition of his commitment to social development and exemplary corporate leadership. The ceremony was attended by Tata Group Chairman N. Chandrasekaran and

three-time Grammy Award winner Ricky Kej, among others. The award was presented by the Founder of KIIT and KISS Achyuta Samanta. Due to health reasons, Tata has been avoiding public appearances, leading to the private arrangement of the ceremony at his home. Ratan Tata, usually reticent about accepting accolades, agreed to accept this award following a personal request from Achyuta Samanta, recognizing the importance of the KISS humanitarian honour.



The award was announced in 2021, but Tata was unable to receive the award then because of the COVID pandemic. In his acceptance, Tata expressed his gratitude towards KISS and its founder. "I am extremely happy to receive this honour. This is the most significant moment of my life", he remarked. "Ratan Tata is a revered name in India, and he is truly a good person. Being able to honour him today with this award is a privilege for

us", said Samanta. "Ratan Tata's social work and leadership have been influencing me since my childhood. I have respected and liked him from a young age. My father was an employee of Tata Company. Since then, I have respected and liked Ratan Tata," he stated. When I was just four years old, my father died in a train accident. Initiated in 2008 by Achyuta Samanta, the KISS Humanitarian Award is the highest honour of KIIT and

KISS dedicated to recognizing individuals and organizations that embody the spirit of humanitarian work worldwide. Previous recipients of this prestigious award include a diverse group of global leaders, Nobel laureates, and notable figures from various sectors, showcasing the award's broad international appeal and respect. On the occasion, around 40,000 students of KISS wished Ratan Tata a healthy, long, and disease-free life.

## BJD's Puri LS candidate falls ill due to heat while campaigning



**Bhubaneswar(KCN):** BJD's Puri Lok Sabha candidate and former IPS officer Arup Patnaik Monday fell ill due to scorching heat while campaigning near

Pipili town. Patnaik, a former Mumbai police commissioner, was rushed to a nearby hospital and then to the Capital Hospital in

Bhubaneswar where his condition is stated to be stable, hospital sources said. The incident took place near Haat Chhak during a procession

from Uttara Chhak to Pipili town in Puri district. The Lok Sabha nominee fell ill when he and the candidate from the Pipili Assembly seat, Rudra Maharathy, were participating in it. Patnaik developed uneasiness due to the blistering heat and humid weather, his supporters said. Sources in the Regional Meteorological Centre, Bhubaneswar, said the day temperature in the city and nearby areas was 39.8 degrees Celsius at 11.30 am Monday.

## 12 members of royal families contesting Assembly, Lok Sabha elections in Odisha

**Bhubaneswar(KCN):** Twelve members of different royal families in Odisha are contesting the Lok Sabha and Assembly elections seeking votes of commoners. Elections to the 21 Lok Sabha constituencies in Odisha and 147 Assembly segments will be held simultaneously in the state from May 13 to June 1. The ruling Biju Janata Dal had fielded eight members from royal families followed by BJP three and Congress one. Ten members of the royal families are contesting Odisha Assembly elections while two are in the fray for Lok Sabha polls. The BJD has fielded 28-year-old Sulakshana Geetanjali Devi, granddaughter of veteran leader late AN Singhdeo of Dharakote as its candidate for the Sanakhemundi assembly constituency. A law degree-holder, Geetanjali is the fifth member of the Dharakote royal family to contest assembly election. Her grandfather AN Singhdeo was elected from the Surada constituency four times – 1967, 1971, 1977 and 1995 – as an MLA and in 1989 as the MP of Aska Lok Sabha constituency. Her grandmother Shanti Devi and father Kishor Chandra Singhdeo had also been elected from

the seat in the 1990 and 2004 elections respectively. Her mother Nandini Devi had won from Sanakhemundi seat in 2014. This time, Geetanjali will contest against Congress's sitting MLA Ramesh Chandra Jena in the May 20 election. "I have been inspired by my grandfather, mother and father to join in the politics to serve the people. I thanked the chief minister for giving me the opportunity to serve the people of the constituency," said Geetanjali, who is the chairperson of the panchayat samiti of Dharakote. The BJD has also fielded Chinmayananda Srirup Deb, son of Usha Devi, royal scion of Chikiti to contest from Chikiti Assembly segment. Srirup Deb, son of Usha Devi, Urban development minister, is the third member of the Chikiti royal family to make electoral debut from his mother's seat Chikiti. His grandfather Sachidananda Deo was elected in the seat in 1971, while his mother Usha Devi won five times in a row since 2000. Deb who worked in a multinational IT company for over two decades and then started his own business after quitting the job. "I have also been

working with my mother in politics since 2018", said 48-year-old Deb. To provide service to the people and to make Chikiti a model constituency is his aim to enter politics," he added. The BJP has re-nominated its MP Sangeeta Kumari Singh Deo from the Bolangir Lok Sabha seat. She hails from the Bolangir royal family. Her husband senior BJP leader KV Singh Deo has also been fielded by the saffron party from the Patnagarh assembly segment. Sangeeta has been elected from the Bolangir Lok Sabha seat four times in the past. The BJD has fielded Kalikesh Narayan Singh Deo, two-time MP from Bolangir, this time to contest from the Assembly segment. The saffron party has fielded Malavika Keshari Deo, wife of former MP Arka Keshari Deo in Kalahandi Lok Sabha seat. The royal couple joined the BJP in 2023 after quitting the BJD, after being denied ticket in 2019. Arka is the son of Bikram Keshari Deo, Kalahandi royal family scion and BJP leader, who had won the seat thrice. The BJD has also fielded Bamanda 'Rani' Arundhati Devi, who is the wife of erstwhile Deogarh king and BJP's Sambalpur MP Nitesh

Ganga Dev, as its Deogarh Assembly candidate. Pushpendra Singh Deo, another member of the royal family has been fielded by BJD in the Dharmagarh assembly seat. The BJD has also fielded Sanjukta Singh to contest from the Angul Assembly segment. She replaced her husband and sitting MLA Rajanikant Singh who is the scion of the Angul royal family. The regional outfit has also fielded Pratyusha Rajeswari in the Nayagarh assembly segment while Pratap Deb, a member of the Aul royal family, will fight for the Aul seat for BJD. The Congress has fielded Susmita Singh Deo, a member of the Dhenkanal royal family for the Dhenkanal Assembly seat. Prahallad Sinha, a political analyst said royal families still commend respect from villagers. The people still have faith that royal family members will address their problems and raise their issues in proper place. However, Bolangir royal family member and senior BJP leader KV Singh Deo said: "I have never been considered as a member of a royal family. People have showered their love and affection on me and my wife who has been elected to Lok Sabha four times."



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# Political situation today and the marital bondage



Let's today talk about how much wives love their husbands. There are two women who are married to two top Indian politicians. One is the current Chief Minister of Delhi, and the other was the former Chief Minister of Jharkhand. Their names are Sunita Kejriwal, who is married to Delhi Chief Arvind Kejriwal, and Kalpana Soren, who is married to Hemant Soren. Sunita Kejriwal and Kalpana Soren's speeches reflect their deep love for their husbands, which I have elaborated on in a

story and may be read page by page about the INDIA alliance narrative. Both senior political wives protested their husbands' arrest by the Enforcement Directorate (ED) in a money laundering case. As such, there is nothing wrong with standing by their husbands as the bride and groom promise each other at the Saat Phere of Hindu marriages. In the following paragraphs, I will elaborate on what husbands and wives vow to each other during the Fifth and Sixth Pheras of Hindu marriages. So, what other politicians say about Sunita and Kalpana's comments at the March 4 and March 31 rallies is irrelevant. However, if Arvind Kejriwal and Hemant Soren are proven guilty in a

money laundering case, the law has the authority to take action against them. I'm not qualified to comment on the ongoing legal proceedings against Arvind Kejriwal and Hemant Soren. Because I believe in love, I stand firm with Sunita Kejriwal and Kalpana Soren, who are like my daughters, as well as all husbands and wives who believe in strong love and spread it. And I feel that in order to become a decent person, you should try to understand and help others. This allows you to become the best person in God's eyes. Sunita, the wife of Delhi Chief Minister Arvind Kejriwal, and Kalpana, the wife of former Jharkhand Chief Minister Hemant Soren,

Prof. MANAS RANJAN MAHAPATRA

addressed an opposition bloc INDIA rally for the first time on March 31 and made a strong pitch for voting out the BJP, indicating their larger political role following their husbands' arrests. Two chairs were left empty for Arvind Kejriwal and Hemant Soren at the 'Loktantra Bachao' (Save democracy) event at Ramlila Maidan, and their spouses blamed the arrests on the BJP-led central government. On March 4, Hemant Soren's wife Kalpana made an excellent political debut for the Jharkhand Mukti Morcha (JMM) by addressing as the chief guest at the JMM's 51st foundation day celebration in Giridih district. Kalpana started her first

political statement with tears in her eyes, expressing her feelings to the crowd. "I had intended to hold back my tears, but in witnessing your love and support, I found myself unable to contain them. Today, I am being infused with a level of strength that surpasses even my wildest dreams," she said. The Saptapadi ceremony, also known as the Seven Pheras, is a crucial part of Hindu weddings. After tying the holy knot known as the mangalsutra, the newlywed couple walks seven steps together, or seven circuits around a holy fire, to solemnise the marriage. Following the seventh step or circuit, the couple's marriage is considered irrevocable.

But it's not just going around a holy fire seven times that ties them together as husband and wife; it's also the promises they make to each other during these walks. Each phera has a different promise that the bride and groom make to each other so that they can have a happy marriage. The priest says the promises in Sanskrit and gives the couple a chance to repeat them. After that, he leads the ceremony and talks about the importance of each of the seven vows. As stated in the fourth paragraph, here I shall discuss the fifth and sixth Pheras of the Seven Pheras. The fifth phera is used to have obedient and noble children, as well as to pray for the couple

and the wellbeing of all living beings in the universe. They also make individual promises to each other to lead a loveful life. The groom recites, "Om Prajabhayaha Santu Jaradastayaha " and declares his wife as his best friend and his dearest well-wisher. He expresses gratitude for her enriching presence in his life and hence seeks blessings for her from the god. On the other hand, the bride promises to trust and love him until her last breath. She also pronounces that his happiness will be her happiness. The fifth phera the bride takes is, "Arte Arba Sapade Vadet." In the sixth phera, the groom says, "Rutubhyah shat padi bhava," that translates to "You have filled my heart with

immense happiness by taking these six steps with me. Will you fill my heart with happiness by walking with me like this forever?" To this, the bride replies, "Yajna Hom Shashthe Vacho Vadet," which means "I will stand by you forever and always keep you happy." Now it's time that wives can help the politician husbands to fight against all odds.

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**Former Director, Book Publishing Courses & Editor, NCCL National Book Trust, Ministry of HRD, Govt. of India**

## Should marks in exams be affected by handwriting of students

Vijay GarG



Should handwriting be considered for awarding marks in exams Students are always advised to work on improving their handwriting in schools. In fact, they are provided cursive writing books, writing exercise and even during vacations practicing writing on daily basis is included in students holiday homework. But, why so much value is given to handwriting in students' life? The conflict arises when people start comparing or even criticising an individual on the basis of handwriting. This comparison and ensuing criticism have led to the debate on whether handwriting should be considered a

criteria to decide marks of any student. Let us discuss and understand the role of handwriting in a student's life and it's importance for awarding marks in exams - Handwriting is necessary for students' marks in exams: Handwriting is a beautiful art. It is not only about putting letters on paper but it also indicates how organised and methodical a person is. Good handwriting is important even in this era of computer typing and talking writing tools. We should start focusing on handwriting from an early age itself; say 4 or 5 years (Preschool and Kindergarten). It will help the young hands to gather control of their motor skills and also devise their unique writing styles which will develop as they grow up thus adding to their personalities.

When we write, it creates an invisible yet very strong connection between the brain and content, thus giving us a much better and intense understanding of the matter. A good handwriting always attracts attention and appreciation, and subconsciously helps in studies as well. Many types of research have shown that there is a constructive association between good handwriting and better academic performances. Scientists have attributed this phenomenon to the fact that writing using pen and paper enhances memory hence adding up to the remembrance which is vital at the time of tests and exams.

**Retired Principal Educational columnist malout Punjab**



When you become dehydrated, your liver's function decreases because it no longer has sufficient water to help flush waste from the body. Also, water makes up most of your blood. Hydration makes it easier for your blood to pass through the liver and thus, be filtered. The liver is located in the upper-right portion of the abdomen, below the diaphragm and on top of the stomach, right kidney and intestines. In adults, it weighs about three pounds and is shaped like a cone. Over half of our bodies are made up of water. Because water plays a vital role in ensuring our bodies are functioning at their best, staying hydrated is key to supporting proper liver function. The liver is especially affected when the body is dehydrated. In this article, we look at why it is important to stay hydrated, what this means for your liver and tips to make sure you are getting enough H2O.

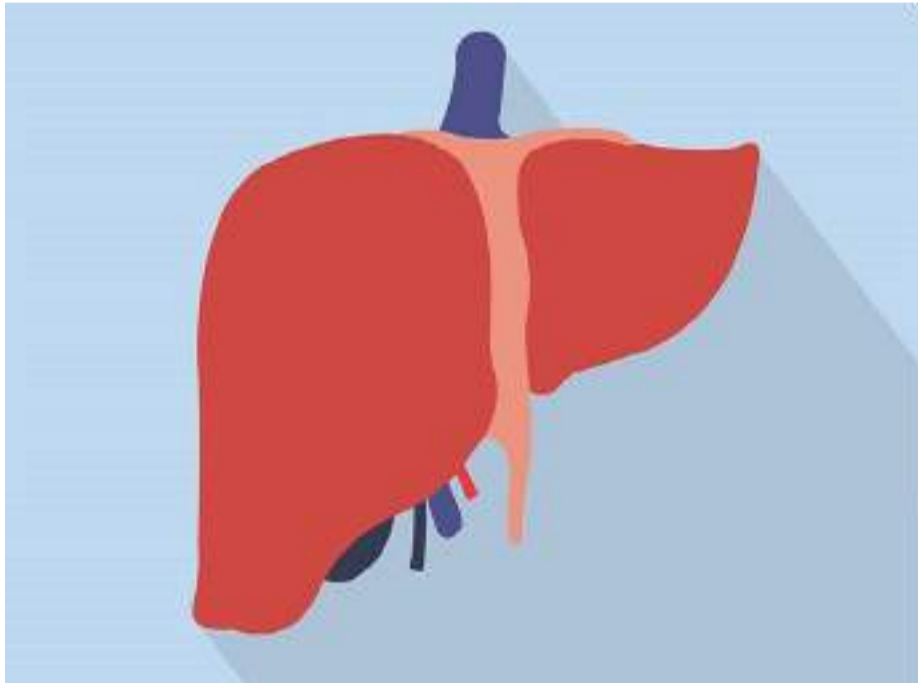
# Dehydration & Liver

Prof. Dr. Umesh Chandra Patra

**Stay Hydrated:** Drinking an adequate amount of water is essential for liver health. Water helps flush out toxins and aids in digestion. Aim to drink at least 8 cups (64 ounces) of water each day.

level of physical activity and diet. Water is beneficial for your organs to ensure they are functioning properly. It also helps the liver as it filters out the toxins from drugs and alcohol, stores

lungs, kidneys, and GI tract. The loss of body water without sodium causes dehydration. Water is lost from the skin, lungs, gastrointestinal tract, and kidneys. Many think of alcohol as the main



Drinking water when waking up, in between meals, avoiding too much water 2 hours before bed, not while eating, and drinking water in the early evening can be very effective. A pinch of salt or turmeric in your water can do wonders for your detoxification process. Dehydration is caused by not drinking enough fluid or by losing more fluid than you take in. Fluid is lost through sweat, tears, vomiting, urine or diarrhoea. The severity of dehydration can depend on a number of factors, such as climate,

essential vitamins and minerals, produces bile to carry away waste, and conducts other important functions. Drinking warm water with lemon in the morning can help in reducing the layer of fat on the liver and help in detoxifying the system. Apart from that, it helps in better digestion and boosts liver functioning. To test liver function, a simple blood test is usually done. Other tests, such as an ultrasound, CT scan, MRI or biopsy, may also be ordered if liver damage, liver enlargement or cancer are suspected. Body water is lost through the skin,

cause of liver complications. But contrary to popular belief, various factors impact liver health, including weight, certain medications, genetics and even viral infections. No matter the trigger, a major concern surrounding liver disease is its silent progression. Your liver could be losing its ability to filter out harmful substances from your blood long before symptoms appear. Most of the time you don't know your liver has been harmed until you develop the advanced symptoms of cirrhosis.

That's the tough part of treatment. Convincing patients that they need to act now in order to avoid complications in the future can sometimes be a challenge, because they don't feel any different today.

In conclusion, hepatic enzymes can be temporary elevated in patients with uncomplicated acute AGE with severe dehydration. We observed that hepatic liver enzymes were associated with some inflammatory markers (ESR, platelet count, WBC). If you struggle to drink plain water try infusing it with lemon or a selection of fruits to add flavor. You could even try a home carbonation system especially if you have trouble giving up soda or sugary carbonated drinks. Filtered water often tastes better than the water that comes from the tap. Invest in a filter system at home or for your portable bottle. Add fruits and vegetables that contain a high-water content to your diet. These include: cucumber (96% water), zucchini (95% water), watermelon (92% water), and grapefruit (91% water).

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# Rethinking Wildlife Conservation: Towards Holistic Strategies



Wildlife conservation is essential for maintaining the delicate balance of ecosystems and guaranteeing the survival of various species. Wildlife conservation helps maintain biodiversity, which refers to the variety of life on Earth. Biodiversity is indispensable for the stability and resilience of ecosystems. Each species plays a significant role in the ecosystem, contributing to its overall health and functioning. Every species within an ecosystem has a specific function: pollination, seed dispersal, or regulating prey populations. Conservation efforts help preserve these roles, promoting stability within ecosystems. This stability, in turn, benefits both the environment and the human populations that depend on these ecosystems. Many species contribute to climate regulation through carbon sequestration and oxygen production. Forests, for example, act as carbon sinks, helping mitigate

climate change. Conserving wildlife and their habitats contributes to these ecosystems' overall health and ability to regulate climate. Numerous plants and animals have provided essential compounds for medicinal purposes. Conserving wildlife ensures the preservation of potential future resources for medicine and pharmaceuticals. Furthermore, studying wildlife has led to important discoveries that have advanced medical knowledge. Wildlife conservation can have direct economic benefits through ecotourism. Many people are drawn to areas with diverse and unique wildlife, contributing to local economies. Conserving wildlife habitats ensures that these economic opportunities persist over the long term. Wildlife is often deeply intertwined with communities' cultural identities. Conservation efforts help preserve traditional practices and beliefs associated with certain species. Moreover, wildlife contributes to recreational activities such as bird watching, hiking, and wildlife photography, enhancing the quality of life for many. Studying wildlife provides valuable insights into

ecological processes, animal behaviour, and the interconnectedness of life. Conservation efforts often involve research and monitoring, contributing to our scientific understanding of the natural world. This knowledge is essential for making informed decisions about how to protect best and manage ecosystems. Healthy ecosystems provide a wide range of services necessary for human well-being, including clean water, pollination of crops, and disease regulation. Wildlife conservation helps maintain these ecosystem services, ensuring they continue benefiting human societies. Recently, the approach to wildlife conservation has undergone a paradigm shift. Traditional methods often focused on preserving individual species through protected areas and anti-poaching measures. While these efforts have been essential, there is a growing recognition that conservation strategies need to evolve to address emerging challenges effectively. Instead of concentrating solely on individual species, a holistic approach involves managing entire ecosystems. This recognizes the intricate web of interactions between species and the

## Prof (Dr.) S N Tripathy

environment. By preserving the whole ecosystem, conservationists can ensure the sustainability of all its components. Rethinking conservation involves actively engaging local communities. Recognizing their role as stewards of the land and involving communities in conservation efforts fosters a sense of ownership and ensures conservation initiatives align with local needs and traditions. With the escalating impacts of climate change, conservation strategies must incorporate adaptation measures. This may involve creating migration corridors for species to move in response to changing climate conditions or assisting with relocating vulnerable populations. Advances in technology, such as satellite monitoring, DNA analysis, and artificial intelligence, offer new tools for conservation. These technologies can aid in tracking wildlife movements, identifying critical habitats, and predicting potential threats, enabling more proactive and efficient conservation strategies. Rethinking conservation requires innovative policy frameworks. This includes considering the impact of development

projects on wildlife habitats, implementing sustainable land-use planning, and creating incentives for conservation practices. Effective policies should balance the needs of both human populations and wildlife. Promoting public awareness and environmental education is crucial for successful conservation. Fostering a deeper understanding of ecosystem interconnectedness and biodiversity's significance will encourage individuals to support and actively participate in conservation efforts. Ecosystems are dynamic and constantly changing, so conservation strategies must be adaptive. Regular monitoring and assessment of conservation initiatives will allow adjustments based on new information and changing conditions. In their pursuit of progress, humans often forget the fundamental scientific truth that they share the planet with thousands of other species. The failure to recognize this fact contributes to the root cause of animal-human conflicts. Unlike human borders, animal territories are dynamic and constantly changing based on food availability,

climate conditions, and predation pressure. Conservation efforts, therefore, should focus on preserving and restoring habitat connectivity rather than designating fixed borders. Wildlife does not adhere to state boundaries, and attempts to impose such limits can lead to mismatches between habitat ownership and responsibility for wildlife protection. Conservation strategies should prioritize preserving and restoring habitat connectivity, safeguarding key wildlife corridors, and mitigating human-wildlife conflicts. Frequent interactions between forest officials from neighbouring states are crucial for tracking wild animal movements effectively. Moreover, mechanisms should be evolved to ensure an ample food supply to animals within their range, discouraging them from venturing into human settlements. Constructing artificial water reservoirs and providing food resources within forests can be effective preventive measures. Designing conservation efforts around fixed borders may lead to oversights and fail to account for the dynamic nature of wildlife populations. Holistic

approaches encourage the integration of alternative livelihoods, such as ecotourism and sustainable agriculture, which are compatible with wildlife conservation. The forest department should embrace technological advancements to minimize conflicts and enhance protection measures. Early warning systems utilizing sensor-triggered alarms, camera traps, and drones can alert both forest officials and local communities to the presence of potentially dangerous animals like elephants or tigers. However, it is crucial to acknowledge that animals have evolved strategies to evade conventional protective measures, necessitating continuous research on animal behaviour to develop effective countermeasures. The presence of wildlife, including sizable wild animals, has been an integral part of this social-ecological system. Integrating conservation as land use was tailored to seamlessly align with the multifaceted management systems that fulfil various roles within the social-ecological framework. Rather than imposing rigid structures, the approach has been one of adaptation, allowing

conservation efforts to coexist harmoniously with existing practices, thereby fostering a more sustainable and inclusive conservation model. Rethinking wildlife conservation involves embracing a more comprehensive and adaptable approach that considers the broader context of ecosystems, involves local communities, harnesses technological advancements, and resolves the pressing challenges of climate change. By adopting these principles, we can build a more sustainable future where humans coexist harmoniously with our planet's diverse species. Cooperation between state forest departments, preservation of habitat connectivity, and the integration of alternative livelihoods are essential components of a comprehensive approach. Forest officials can better protect human lives and wildlife by embracing technological innovations and understanding animal behaviour, fostering a harmonious coexistence between humans and the diverse species inhabiting our planet.

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



The biggest question that puzzles our minds: is death larger than life and does it annihilate life altogether? Ignoring death leaves us with a false sense of life's permanence and perhaps comforts us to lose ourselves in the intricacies of daily life. By contrast, obsessive rumination on death, on the other hand, can lead us away from life and dampen and decimate the spirit, urge and impulse of achieving something in life. Hence, when birth and death is not within one's hand, and all become nonentity in death, it is very imperative what types of life one was leading; how he/she was discharging his/her social, official responsibilities; how much he/she had contributed to society etc. What is most important, how one was grappling with a trying, troubled and grim period of life and uphold human, ethical and moral values. Here we pay tribute to a professor who lived a purposeful, meaningful, quality life and maintained honesty and integrity throughout his life. He is no other than my esteemed teacher late Professor Bhabani Prasad Dash who breathed his last on April

11, 2024 at the age of around 84. As a student, I am not the right person to evaluate my teacher but can express my feelings about him. The Education Commission (1964-1966) under the chairmanship of D.S Kothari emphasised that to make any process of education a success, the quality, competence and character of teachers were the most important aspects. The future of India is being shaped in her classroom is the statement with which The University Education Commission (1948-1949) under the chairmanship of S.Radhakrishnan had examined various aspects of the teaching staff and emphasized the importance of the teacher and his responsibility. Khwaja Ghulam Saiyidain (1904-1971), an Indian educationist, writer and the erstwhile Secretary at the Ministry of Education of the Government of India) made the role of teacher quite illustrative when he had said that the teacher had to patiently cut out of a crude and unshaped stone, a thing of beauty. Bhabani sir had all the above qualities. He was an effective, affectionate, ideal and sincere teacher which means he made the most significant impact on

student's lives. He was sincere because he came to class prepared; maintained positive attitudes about teaching. He was affectionate in the sense that he held high expectations for all students; exhibited creativity while teaching the class; treated all students honestly and fairly; displayed a personal, approachable touch with students; cultivated a sense of belonging in the classroom; dealt with student problems empathetically. He was an ideal teacher in the sense that he also had the ability to transfer his knowledge to the students and deeply cared about their students and always helped students learn effectively. Students wanted to be in his class not by force but by choice. He not only taught them subject matter but became their friend, philosopher and guide, in all matters concerning them. He shared his personal books with students. He was always available to the students in the educational institutions beyond working hours and not to speak of only delivering the lectures in the seminars. He used to pay attention to slow learners as he did to bright and intelligent ones. He had an ability to put oneself in students'

## Dr Santosh Kumar Mohapatra



situations, sense their emotions and understand them from their perspective. He was able to teach subject matter from simple to complex, concrete to abstract, and easy to difficult. He was effective in the sense that students were attentive throughout the class. He was trying to understand the problems of students and never tried to humiliate them; forgiving students for any mistakes and not holding any grudge; used to help in organising picnics, seminars and various meetings. He was enjoying full support of erstwhile HOD, late Professor Basudeb Sahoo. Late Professor Basudeb Sahoo was a great creative personality, noted columnist too. There was the time when disciples used to study at

"GURUKUL". In the morning as they meet their teachers, they touch their feet. The reason to do so was, there was a line between a teacher and a student, but in today's time we can see that line getting blurred and students forget all about discipline and obeisance. Now, students think only how to score good marks and get better jobs. No effort is made to become a good human being and contribute to society. On the other hand, in the old times, a teacher knew how to deal with students with love and affection, and clear his/her doubts. Never students are asked to pay money to teachers for getting doubts clarified or acquiring knowledge. But with the onset of privatisation, commercialisation of

education, relationships between teachers and students are no more sanctimonious rather than drowned in commercial gimmicks. For deteriorating relations between students and teachers, all stakeholders say the government, parents, teachers and students are responsible. One reason for the growing indiscipline, insolence and peevishness among students is political interference in educational institutions and students resorting to violence, insolence at the behest of their political masters. When teachers show a very friendly attitude, some of the students create nuisance in the class. Overall, teaching or learning has become only a business-by-business behemoth today. It's shocking that the teacher-student relationship has been deteriorating rapidly which has a detrimental impact on society. But Bhabani Sir stood firm, unscathed, rock-like in the face of such a degenerated society, commercialisation of education, degradation of human values, deterioration in student teachers' relationship. He never sacrificed moral values, principles to achieve anything in life. His steadfast devotion to duty, deep

commitment to the teaching profession, and affection for students is unparalleled and unprecedented. He had inspired, enamoured his/ students and instilled in their mind moral values, honesty, integrity, inquisitiveness, intellectual pursuits. Among teachers, he is one who had a tremendous impact on my creativity - writing ability and speaking prowess. He had a lot of encouragement for me and others too. My first rendezvous with Bhabani Sir carries a lot of significance. On the first day of the first year of PG (Economics) in Ravenshaw College (now University) in 1986-1988, there was a seminar on "Deficit financing and economic development" organised by second year PG students. Bhabani Sir asked, "Can anyone from the first year of PG student speak". I voluntarily spoke. Then Bhabani Sir appreciated and called me by my name. In the next class, he used to call me by name and used to cheer my creativity, speaking ability. I used to write seminar papers and participate in seminars and got first prize in my final year of PG. Certainly, I owe a lot to him for my emergence as a writer. I had gone to his Cuttack

house on some occasions which is 1 km from my home. Though, I have written articles uninterrupted for 22 years, I have published only one book compiling my first twelve articles in 2003. He had written preface and hoped and blessed me to write more for society. He described my articles as reflection of voice of voiceless people and meant for changing society. He had advised me to give priority on Odia as few write on economics in Odia. On some occasions, I had met him on road and talked with him. I have interacted with him in annual conference of Odisha Economic Association (OEA). He was key person of the association. His sad demise is great loss to society especially student-teachers community when the student, teacher relationship is drowned in commercial gimmicks and teaching quality has deteriorated and the role of the teacher to build, nurture students as a good human being is no longer considered important today. In such a dismal situation, the philosophy of Bhabani Sir is very important who was totally dedicated to building good, cordial, and congenial relationship between students and teachers.

**The author is an Odisha-based eminent columnist/ economist and social thinker. He can be reached through e-mail at skmohapatra67@gmail.com**

# A ground breaking documentary to highlight the plight of the ethnic communities of Western Odisha

**Kolkata(Saikat Kumar Basu):**Howrah Suparna, an NGO based on Howrah district of West Bengal has recently conducted an extensive ground survey of medicinal plants and herbs across Odisha in eastern India. The major focus was on identifying medicinal plants and herbs from the remote forests of Western Odisha across the Raigad and Kalahandi district including herbs, shrubs, trees and medicinal mushrooms. The ground level survey was rewarding in the sense

many species were recorded and their corresponding conservation status are now being investigated in the lab. The comprehensive survey recorded around 250 plus species across Odisha. Howrah Suparna, has also initiated a documentary movie under the direction of Sourav Sarkar who is working towards finishing a documentary on the socio-cultural, socio-economic and ethnographic elements of the local Dongriya Khond hunter gatherer



primitive tribe from the Niyamgiri hills in Western Odisha. The documentary is highlighting on the tribal lifestyle, the role of the tribe in protecting the

local forests, wildlife and biodiversity as well as sustainable environment-friendly indigenous tribal technology important for their survival and



sustenance. Niyamgiri hill is famous for the buxite mine. About 11 years ago these remote tribal communities united to protest against the

establishment of a giant bauxite mine here. The decision of the indigenous Gram Sabha to prevent the opening of the bauxite mine by the then Odisha government was

supported by the apex court of the country. This movement was initiated by the tribals only, the Dongriya Khond. Hence the Niyamgiri is still maintaining its unique beauty and greenery which is the ultimate source of natural resources. The Secretary of Howrah Suparna, Prof (Dr.) Suparna Sanyal Mukherjee in the documentary has highlighted upon the plight of this forgotten primitive tribe and their local aspirations of socio-economic development

from a purely tribal perspective. The documentary captures the life style, culture, economy, helplessness and the aspirations of the local tribal communities of the little known Niyamgiri hills of Western Odisha. Both the producer and Director sincerely believe that this will catch the eye of the audience as well as State and Central Governments for the improvement of the quality of life for the ethnic communities of the region.

## National PR Day celebrated jointly by THA & PRSI Kolkata



**Kolkata,(KCN):**Public Relations Society of India (PRSI), Kolkata Chapter in association with the Department of Media Science, The Heritage Academy (THA), Kolkata celebrated National PR Day at the Heritage campus on 22nd April, 2024. The event was supported by I can fly TEA KAFI and Perfect Pause, Bio Toilet. The theme for the National PR Day was 'Sanatan Values and Emerging India: ROLE OF PR'. The programme was addressed by Swami

Vedatitanandaji Maharaj, Correspondent, Ramakrishna Mission Shilpamandira, Belur Math as the Chief Guest. Mr. Tarun Goswami, Coordinating Editor, The Statesman, Kolkata, was the Guest of Honour and Mr. Pradip Agarwal, CEO, Heritage Group of Institutions, Kolkata was the Special Guest. During the programme, Mr. Uday Kumar, one-legged, mountaineer, who scaled Mount Rhenock and now eyeing for Mount Everest was given a

special felicitation by the Chief Guest Swami Vedatitanandaji Maharaj. During the inaugural ceremony, Mr. Soumyjit Mahapatra, Chairman, PRSI, Kolkata Chapter welcomed all the distinguished guests and also spoke about the origin of PRSI, how it had shaped the PR sector across the Country. Swami Vedatitanandaji Maharaj spoke about the real meaning of Sanatan and made the audience aware that nowadays various interpretations are made of Sanatan which is not at all

acceptable. Mr. Tarun Goswami stressed on the basic principles of Swami Vivekananda and urged that every media science institute should focus on moral science as one of the core subjects since that is equally important pertaining the current scenario. Mr. Pradip Agarwal stressed on the importance of National PR Day celebrated across the Country and also motivated the PR professionals and students to focus on content which matters a lot in the PR sector.

Dr. Madhupa Bakshi, Dean, the Department of Media Science also addressed during the inaugural session of the event.

The programme also witnessed felicitation of PR Toppers from various colleges and Universities across West Bengal like Brainware University, Adamas University, Aliah University, North Bengal University, MAKAUT, WB, Jadavpur University, Swami Vivekananda Institute of Modern Science, Darjeeling Hills University and many more.

Mr. Biswajit Matilal, Vice President- Corporate Communications, Birla Corporation Ltd., Mr. Subhash Mohanti, Vice Chairman, PRSI, Kolkata Chapter, Prof. Basab Chaudhuri, Principal, Heritage Institute of Technology and Prof. Gour Banerjee, Principal, The Heritage Academy were also present among the other distinguished guests and audience. Also new individual and associate members of PRSI were felicitated.

## NTPC Bongaigaon plants more than 50 saplings on World Earth Day



**New Delhi:** NTPC Bongaigaon committed itself towards a sustainable planet by planting 50 saplings on the World Earth Day coinciding. The NTPC Bongaigaon senior management led by Shri K C Muraleedharan, CGM and Business Unit Head, NTPC Bongaigaon planted saplings of varied types at its plant premises.

Shri KC Muraleedharan, Business Unit Head, NTPC Bongaigaon spoke on how NTPC as a group company is focusing on inspiring governments, businesses, and citizens to combat climate change. Shri Muraleedharan also highlighted the efforts of NTPC Bongaigaon towards creating a healthier planet for its

stakeholders. Shri Induri S Reddy, GM (O&M), Shri Asutosh Biswas, GM (Operation) along with Shri Somnath Bhattacharya, AGM (BE and In-charge EMG and Ash Utilization) and Heads of Departments and employees also participated in the plantation program. The program was organised by EMG Deptt.

## Lok Sabha Polls 2024: Akali Dal Says It Will Support INLD In Haryana



**Chandigarh(KCN):** The Shiromani Akali Dal on Monday said it will support Indian National Lok Dal candidates in the Lok Sabha elections in Haryana. The decision was taken at a meeting of the SAD's Haryana unit which was presided over by the party's state affairs incharge Balwinder Singh Bhunder, a party statement said. The meeting held at the SAD's head office here was attended by the party's Haryana president Sharanjit Singh Sotha and INLD general secretary Abhay Singh Chautala. Mr Chautala thanked the

SAD for its decision to extend wholehearted support to the INLD in the Lok Sabha polls, according to the statement. Polling for the 10 Lok Sabha seats in Haryana will be held in the sixth round of the seven-phase general elections on May 25. Mr Chautala said the INLD and the SAD are traditional alliance partners and their unity in the forthcoming elections will help his party emerge victorious. The former Haryana chief minister Om Prakash Chautala-led

INLD is contesting all the 10 seats in the state. The party has announced candidates on six seats so far. According to the statement, Mr Chautala highlighted "how an effort was on to marginalise and even finish off regional parties". "Only regional parties can fulfill the aspirations of the people of the region and I am confident that with the INLD and the SAD joining hands, the aspirations of the people of Haryana will be fulfilled," he said. SAD's Bhunder said, "The party has taken feedback from its cadre in Haryana and there is an overwhelming view that the SAD should support the INLD which alone stands in support of farmers, farm labourers as well as the poor and downtrodden." He said the SAD will soon depute its Haryana team in the field to support the INLD.

## Rahul Gandhi "Lies, Conspires": Now BJP Approaches Election Commission

**New Delhi(KCN):** The BJP, in a tot-for-tat measure against the Opposition INDIA bloc, has also approached the Election Commission, flagging the comments of Congress's Rahul Gandhi and seeking "peaceful election" in West Bengal. The party has brushed away the Congress remarks, saying the party is desperate because it is

unable to find candidates for elections. BJP leader Tarun Chugh said, "The way Rahul Gandhi is conspiring to make (people) fight on the basis of language and region, we complained about that (with the Election Commission)". "We told the Election Commission that he is a serial and habitual offender who lies,

conspires and divert people's attention," he added. Earlier today, the Congress approached the Election Commission demanding action over Prime Minister Narendra Modi's comment that the Congress, if voted to power, "will redistribute the nation's wealth to imposters". The Congress manifesto, PM Modi said, promises

that if they come to power, "everyone's property will be surveyed, it will calculate gold belonging to mothers and sisters and then redistribute it. They won't even spare your mangalsutra". The Congress, which vehemently criticised the comments as "divisive", told the Commission that his remarks were "far

worse than any ever made by a sitting Prime Minister in the history of India". The party also said the PM Modi and the BJP's repeated comments invoking religious sentiments "has been bolstered by the Hon'ble Commission's inaction" in penalising them for their "blatant and direct violations of electoral laws".

## "First Lotus Has Bloomed": Surat BJP Candidate On Being Elected Unopposed

**Surat (Gujarat)(KCN):** Mukesh Dalal, the BJP candidate for the Lok Sabha who was declared winner from the Surat parliamentary constituency after several withdrawals and disqualifications of opposition candidates, has said that the development symbolises the beginning of a comprehensive victory for the party in the general elections.

Mukesh Dalal won the election "unopposed" a day after the nomination of the party's Surat Lok Sabha candidate was rejected on Sunday over alleged discrepancies in the signature of the proposers. BJP's Mukesh Dalal received the Member of Parliament (MP) certificate from Surat District Collector on Monday after all other candidates withdrew



from the fray. "Today I have been declared winner, so the first lotus has bloomed in Gujarat and in the country. I thank PM Modi, HM

Amit Shah, party chief JP Nadda, state CM, and state BJP chief for showing faith in me. This is the first step towards the formation of a full majority government," Mr Dalal said. The last date to withdraw nominations ahead of the Lok Sabha polls in Surat as part of phase 3 on May 7 was April 22, Monday. Yesterday, the nomination papers of the

Congress party's candidate Niles Kumbhani were rejected after his three proposers claimed in an affidavit to the district election officer that they had not signed his nomination form. The nomination form of Suresh Padsala, the Congress' substitute candidate from Surat, was also invalidated, pushing Gujarat's principal opposition party out of the poll fray in the city.

# Wild animals hit hard by water shortage

**Keonjhar(KCN):** Once famous for its pleasant climate, this natural environment-rich district has now become a hot cauldron. The heat has not only affected people but also wild animals as they are suffering under the scorching sun. To compound their problems, most of the water bodies have dried with the mercury soaring to over 43 degrees Celsius in many parts of this district. Sources informed that many of the animals have died due to the heat, but the Forest department is not reporting the incidents. DFO Keonjhar division

Dhanraj HD however ruled out water scarcity in the jungles under Keonjhar division. "Forest department personnel are on alert to all possible situations. They will take steps when the need arises. Water bodies have been dug in various forest range areas to quench the thirst of wild animals," Dhanraj said. Dhanraj may say that the animals are not facing water shortage. However, the fact is that major rivers like the Baitarani, Kanjhari, Karo, Sona, Kusei and Aradei have dried up due to the high temperatures. Sources said that a herd of 90 elephants



including 29 calves in Keonjhar forest division are suffering due to an acute shortage of water. Other animals like monkeys, bears, jackals, deer, squirrel,

snakes and hares are also facing similar problems. They are trying to stay as close as they can to the water bodies. However, even then the quantity of water

available is too little for them. "The animals are suffering due shortage of food and water. Most of the trees and plants have been affected due to the heat. The problem

is acute for herbivorous animals. They are neither getting food nor water. They cannot even come out of the forest," pointed out Duskar Barik, an

environmentalist. Hundreds of monkeys near Anjara (Talaka insari panchayat) under Bhuyan and Juanga Pidha forest ranges are also suffering due to soaring temperatures and lack of water. Many bats and owls in Raisuan village under Sadar block and Balabhadrapur village under Ghatagaon block have died due to the heat, sources said. "I have never seen such high temperatures since my birth. In our time 35 degrees Celsius was considered very high. Due to mining activities, massive deforestation and

unnecessary felling of trees, the situation has changed drastically," said 70-year-old writer, Karunakar Barik. According to environmentalists, trouble started after 1998 and became acute after 2002. Today many places in this district have turned into furnaces. It is due to heavy mining and industry operations, destruction of forest cover, and plying of heavy vehicles creating pollution that have led to temperatures rising, they said. To add to the woes, sparse rainfall has affected the district leading to acute water shortage, they added.

## Mantra For Budding IAS



**Bhubaneswar(KCN):** Anu Garg, Development Commissioner has advised budding IAS Officers to uphold the principles of inclusivity and equity. She was speaking to 6 IAS Officer Trainees of 2022 Batch and 8 IAS Officer Trainees of 2023 Batch of the Odisha Cadre. These Young IAS Officers are currently undergoing training at Gopabandhu Academy of Administration and they called upon the

Development Commissioner, Shrimati Garg on Saturday at LokaSeva Bhawan. Principal Secretary Planning & Convergence, Chithra Arumugam, Additional Secretary Planning & Convergence Manish Kumar Agarwalla was also present during discussion. They were briefed comprehensively on the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) as well as the intricacies of the

National Multidimensional Poverty Index. Alongside gaining insights into the initiatives spearheaded by the administration towards implementation of the Agenda 2030, the officer trainees were also familiarized with the various schemes and programmes under the Planning & Convergence Department. Emphasizing the importance of citizen-centric governance, DC,

Shrimati Garg urged the officer trainees to uphold the principles of inclusivity, equity and leave no one behind as they undertake their administrative responsibilities in various capacities. Earlier in the day, the Officer Trainees also attended the visioning exercise of Odisha Construction Corporation (OCC), a Premier PSU under Department of Water Resources at Rajiv Bhawan.

## Boats in Kendrapara lack safety measures




**Kendrapara(KCN):** Despite the recent boat mishap in which eight persons lost their lives in the Jharsuguda district, people continue to use this mode of transport from 63 ferry ghats in this district. Most of these boats do not have an adequate number of life jackets and other safety measures for the passengers. At times the boats are also overloaded, sources pointed out Sunday. However, the boats continue to ply violating rules as the district administration has failed to implement disciplinary actions against the offenders, the sources added. This district is no

stranger to boat mishaps and the casualties arising out of it with seven rivers and several water bodies flowing through it. Last year two persons including the boatman met their watery graves when a motorboat from Keredagad Ghat carrying 30 passengers capsized in the river. In March 2013, 13 youngsters all of whom were cricket players, drowned when their boat capsized near Pitapata under Mahakalapara block in this district. Similarly in January 2019, 10 people including kids, died when the boat they were travelling on, capsized at Nipania. However, despite the mishaps, it

seems that the district administration has not learned its lessons. Boats without proper safety measures continue to operate putting the lives of passengers in peril from almost all the ghats in this district. Social activist Pratap Kumar Padhi pointed out that 17 panchayats including Padanipal, Ekamanika, Singhagaon and Batighar are surrounded by rivers on all sides. Residents have no option, but to travel on boats. Moreover, visitors to the tourist sites in Bhitarkanika also have to use boats. Country-made boats and motor boats are the only mode of travel from one place

to another in these riparian areas. However, most of the boats lack proper safety equipment for the passengers, he pointed out. Another social activist Rashmiranjan Swain informed that most of the boats operating in the district, do not have fitness certificates, as per the 'Boat Rules' framed in 2024. He pointed out that 60 such boats are operating in the vicinity of Bhitarkanika National Park on rivers full of crocodiles. He shuddered as to what would happen to people if a boat capsizes in the river full of crocs. Bibhuti Bhushan Rout, a resident of Mahakalapara said that delay in construction of bridges is helping the owners of the boats to run their operations without proper safety measures. When contacted, ADM Pitambar Tarai said awareness programmes are being conducted at frequent intervals among the boatmen. He said that the district administration is taking strict action against boats violating rules.



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## NTPC Bongaigaon's Digital Literacy Drive: Empowering more than 10,000 Citizens across Bodoland, Assam



**New Delhi, (KCN):** NTPC Limited, Bongaigaon (3x250 MW) and the Bodoland Territorial Region (BTR) Government have joined hands to initiate a significant partnership aimed at fostering digital literacy and career development in the region as a part of Corporate Social Responsibility of the power plant. A Memorandum of Agreement (MoA) was signed between the two entities on 5th March, 2023, highlighting the commitment to social development and educational excellence. The MoA signing ceremony was presided by Shri Pramod Boro, BTR Chief Executive Member, NTPC Bongaigaon in the presence of Shri Akash Deep, IAS, Principal Secretary, BTC and Shri Karunakar Das, Executive Director, NTPC Bongaigaon witnessed the formalization of plans to establish Bodoland Digital Literacy & Counselling Centres across key 5 educational institutions in the Bodoland Territorial Region. The cost of the entire initiative includes NTPC Bongaigaon contributing Rs.200 lakhs and BTR Government contributing Rs.150 lakhs towards the noble cause. These centres will offer high-quality training, professional counselling services, and access to e-libraries, aiming to empower individuals and foster sustainable development in the region. As part of the MOA, the Bodoland Digital Literacy & Counselling Centers across BTR will greatly

benefit the children, college going students, jobseekers, SHGs, farmers and budding entrepreneurs by providing them tailor-made and cutting-edge hands-on training. From e-skilling to psychological and spiritual support, these centres will also strive to empower the community on all fronts. These centers will be strategically located at each of the 5 Districts of BTR - Baksa Degree College, Baganpara; Kalaguru Bishnu Rabha Degree College, Orang; Bengtol College, Bengtol; Zamduar College, Saraibil; and Tamulpur College, Tamulpur of the BTR, Assam. The project will directly benefit more than 2000 citizens per centre adding upto 10000 for five centres. The benefit of the project will indirectly benefit citizens across all age groups and socio-economic categories of BTR. Expressing his enthusiasm for this collaboration, Shri Pramod Boro emphasized the importance of partnerships with prominent organizations to advance social development in the region. He commended NTPC Bongaigaon for their commitment to support the establishment of these centers, which will cater to the diverse educational and skill-building needs of the community. Shri Karunakar Das, Executive Director of NTPC Bongaigaon, shared his gratitude for being a major part of the collaborative efforts

yielding fruitful partnerships for a progressive BTR. Earlier, Shri Akash Deep, IAS, Principal Secretary, BTR, highlighted the government's existing efforts, including the Bodoland Knowledge Centers, Bodoland Science Mission, and Bodoland Digital Libraries, which collectively aim to enhance educational excellence in the region. It is pertinent to mention that NTPC, Bongaigaon will provide major financial support for the project under CSR based on Detailed Project Plan (DPR), periodically monitor the activities and progress of the project, and extend necessary guidance to the other parties for the effective implementation of the projects. The event was attended by prominent dignitaries including Shri Reo Reoa Narzihary and Shri Wilson Hansda, Executive Members of BTR Shri Amar Jyoti Barman, Education Secretary, BTC, Shri JP Brahma, Director of Education, Shri Onkar Nath, AGM(HR), NTPC Bongaigaon, Shri Madhurjya Singha Lahkar, Sr. Manager, HR-Communications, Bongaigaon, Ms. Aduity Thakuri, Executive, CSR and officials of the implementing agencies of the project- Northeast Foundation Trust (NEFT) and Action Group for Rural Advancement (AGRA). The establishment of these centers aligns with the broader vision of the BTR Government and NTPC to transform the educational landscape of the region.

## SHRI M K BEHERA JOINED AS NEW ADDITIONAL GENERAL MANAGER OF EAST COAST RAILWAY



**Bhubaneswar, (KCN):** Shri Mohes Kumar Behera, an officer of the Indian Railway Service of Engineers (IRSE) has assumed office of the Additional General Manager of East Coast Railway (ECoR). Prior to this, he was working

as Chief Planning & Design Engineer of ECoR at Bhubaneswar. Shri Behera, has graduated from, University College of Engineering, Burla, Sambalpur, in Civil engineering and did

M.Tech in Ocean Engineering from IIT, Madras joined Indian Railways in 1991. He worked in various capacities in Railways like Chief Bridge Engineer, Chief Engineer (Bridge Rehabilitation) in ECoR; Group General Manager of Rites at Bhubaneswar, Chief Engineer (Construction) of Ganga Bridge under East Central Railway at Patna & Munger and many other crucial posts including Sr Divisional Engineer (Co-Ordination), Sambalpur, Dy. Chief Vigilance Officer in ECoR and Dy. Chief Engineer (con) in NF Railway.

## BITM to Celebrate International Women's Day

**Kolkata, (KCN):** Birla Industrial & Technological Museum (BITM), a constituent unit of National Council of Science Museums (NCSM), under Union Ministry of Culture is going to celebrate the invaluable contributions of women in science globally, this International Women's Day, at its premises BITM, with an interactive session titled 'The Journey to Green Chemistry' - an experiment-backed narration of the evolution of Chemistry into Green Chemistry. The session will be deliberated by Dr. Kamalika Sen, Assistant Professor, Department of Chemistry, University of Calcutta. This will be followed up with the Open-House Quiz 'Women of Wonder' - visual quiz on the Life and Work of Women Scientists and Film show 'Women in Science who Changed the World'. The sessions will be available to registered students from Matrix Modern School, Belehata Deshbandhu Girls' High School, Agrasain Balika Siksha Sadan, New Horizon School, La Martiniere for Girls and Mitra Institution - live at the BITM premises and online at <https://www.youtube.com/BirlaMuseum>.

## Get your daily grocery needs fulfilled during Super Value Days on Amazon Fresh

**Bhubaneswar:** Get ready to shop for daily grocery essentials during Amazon.in 'Super Value Days' till 7th June, 2022. Customers can avail up to 50% off on fresh produce, daily and household essentials, packaged foods, personal care, baby products, pet care essentials and much more. They can enjoy grocery deals starting at ₹1 and free delivery for prime members. Customers can also avail great prices and fresh offers from popular brands including Daawat, Fortune, Tata, Nestle, Godrej, Cadbury, and Himalaya among others at convenient delivery slots options from a single online destination. Credit card holders can avail of an instant discount of 10% by using SBI Bank Credit Card and Credit EMI with a minimum transaction of INR 2,500, and discounts up to INR 300 till 3rd June 2022. From 4th to 7th June 2022, customers can avail of an instant discount of 10% by using ICICI Bank Credit Card and Credit EMI with a minimum transaction of INR 2,500, and discounts up to INR 500.

## Union Bank of India signs MOU with SIDBI for Co-Financing arrangement of MSMEs

**Mumbai :** Union Bank of India today signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with Small Industries Development Bank of India (SIDBI) for a Co-Financing arrangement for MSMEs. The MoU was signed by Shri Lal Singh, Chief General Manager, Union Bank of India and Shri Vivek Kumar Malhotra, Chief General Manager, SIDBI. SIDBI is country's principal financial institution engaged in the Promotion, Financing and Development of Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises (MSME). Under the MoU, Union Bank of India would consider Joint financing/ Co-Financing with SIDBI to Projects/Units in the MSME. This MoU would help the Banks to increase their customer base, while helping the MSMEs to meet their funding requirements. The key highlights of the arrangement include joint

## Emami Limited announced a second interim dividend of 400 % translating to Rs 4, per share

**Kolkata (Ambar Mukherjee):** The Board of Directors of Emami Limited met on Friday, to consider the unaudited financial results of the company for the third quarter and nine months ended 31st January 2024. The third quarter witnessed subdued demand trends particularly in rural markets. Moreover, the period was characterized by the late onset of winter, negatively impacting the demand for winter contextual products. Despite these challenges, the company navigated the dynamic business environment, demonstrating resilience and achieving profit-led growth during Q3FY24. The Company's Consolidated Revenues at Rs. 996 crores grew by 1% in Q3 with a flat growth in Domestic Business. However, non-winter products grew by 5%. The International business delivered a constant currency growth of 11%, primarily attributed to robust performance in the MENAP region. During the quarter, the Company launched Zandu Agni Balm - a stronger multi-purpose balm to counter regional competition and gain share for overall balm portfolio. The Company also launched 5 digital first

launches during the quarter on its D2C portal Zanducare - Zandu Mahabhringraj Tel, Zandu Shilajitprash, Zandu Livital - Ayurvedic Liver Syrup & Tablets and Zandu Dantveer Ayurvedic Toothpaste. In the International markets, the Company launched Creme21 Pure Glycerin Oil and 7 Oils in One Double Conditioning Shampoo range. In light of reduced input costs, the Company experienced a noteworthy enhancement in gross margins, reaching 68.8%, reflecting a substantial expansion of 290 basis points during the quarter. Furthermore, EBITDA at ₹315 crore grew by 7%, with margins expanding by 170 basis points to 31.6%. Profit after tax at ₹258 crore, also grew by 9% with margins expanding by 180 basis points to 25.9%. For the nine months ending December 2023, the Company witnessed a 5% increase in revenues, coupled with an expansion of gross margins by 290 basis points. EBITDA surged by 11%, with margins expanding to 27.5%, indicating a rise of 170 basis points. Notably, the profit after tax demonstrated an impressive surge of 16%, amounting to ₹575 crore. The Board of Directors also

recommended a second interim dividend of 400%, translating to ₹4/- per share for the fiscal year 2024. The Company remains optimistic about future growth, supported by a favourable economic landscape, a positive trend in inflation, anticipated rural market recovery, government initiatives, and promising macroeconomic factors, all contributing to a confident outlook for sustained positive performance. Mr Harsha V Agarwal, vice Chairman and Managing Director, Emami Limited said "I am happy that we could deliver another quarter of resilient performance along with substantially improved profitability with a 7% growth in EBITDA and 9% growth in Profit after Tax, despite subdued demand in Q3. Disrupted winter, weak rural demand and continued inflationary woes impacted the winter and discretionary outtakes. We remain committed to deliver volume led profitable growth going forward aided by accelerated scale up of emerging channels, distribution initiatives, ongoing brand and strategic investments coupled with launch of innovative products"

identification of viable projects and term loan and working capital financing to MSMEs. Initially the arrangement would be at specific centers and once the arrangement stabilizes at these centers, more locations would be covered. Speaking on the occasion, Shri Lal Singh, CGM (MSME), Union Bank of India, said "MSME is one of the key sectors of our Indian Economy contributing to GDP,

Exports, Manufacturing Output, Employment, Women Empowerment etc. MSME is one of the focused areas of the Bank and at Union Bank of India, we aim to become Bank of 1st choice for MSMEs. This tie-up with SIDBI aids in realizing the Bank's vision to have increased credit flow to the MSME sector and extend operational convenience to the MSME clientele. Under partnership, Union Bank of India through its Pan

India branch network can provide general Banking products like Current Accounts, Savings Accounts, Working Capital facilities and other related services to the MSME Customers of SIDBI." Also, speaking on the tie-up arrangement, Shri Vivek Kumar Malhotra, CGM, SIDBI reiterated SIDBI's commitment towards timely financing for MSMEs across all sectors.

## India to see largest increase in energy demand worldwide over the next 20 years, says Infomerics

**New Delhi, :** India faces the twin dilemma of co-existence of shortage and abundance in several parts of its energy system. While the provision of electricity has increased significantly over the years, weak institutions and utility governance hamper the power sector's financial performance with issues of accountability, operational efficiency, customer service, and transmission to state-level transmission institutions. The sector takes a huge and grossly unacceptable hit due to extensive losses, leakages and pilferages, and the cost recovery

from tariffs. These are some major findings of a report titled Power Sector in India: New Emerging Opportunities and Challenges released by Infomerics Valuation and Rating Pvt Ltd., the well-known SEBI-registered and RBI-accredited financial services credit rating company. The report explores the opportunities and challenges ahead for India as it seeks to ensure reliable, affordable and sustainable energy for a growing population. During FY20 and FY19, the growth of electricity generation was lower than in the previous financial years because

of the impact of COVID-19. The report quotes the International Energy Agency (IEA) stating that during FY21 recovery in electricity demand from the COVID-19 pandemic was faster and stronger in India than in EU countries. India is the third-largest producer and the third-largest consumer of electricity in the world. With the increasing population, electricity demand is rising at a fast clip and India has improved its power generation capacity over the years. India has added more than 500 billion units until FY22 from FY10.

## Blue Dart signs the UNFCCC Climate Neutral Now Pledge

**Bhubaneswar:** Blue Dart, South Asia's premier express air and integrated transportation & distribution company and a part of the Deutsche Post DHL (DPDHL) Group has signed the 'Climate Neutral Now' (CNN) pledge by the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC). The pledge highlights the organisation's commitment

to ambitious CO2 reduction targets. Deutsche Post DHL Group has adopted a package of measures worth up to ₹7 billion to reduce its greenhouse gas emissions by 2030 in line with the Paris Climate Agreement, primarily to expand the use of sustainable technologies and fuels in its fleets and buildings. Its long term goal is to reduce GHG emissions to net zero by

2050. The Climate Neutral Now Initiative encourages and supports interested stakeholders to act now in order to achieve a climate neutral world by 2050 as enshrined in the Paris Agreement. The initiative is a tool to promote voluntary action on climate change. Blue Dart has already invested extensively in remaining a Sustainable Provider of Choice by being the first

in the industry to set quantified carbon-reduction targets. The organisation, as a part of the Deutsche Post DHL Group aimed to increase their CO2 efficiency by 10% by the year 2012 and 30% by the year 2020. Against the 30% target, Blue Dart achieved a 34% CO2 efficiency in 2021. Pablo Ciano, EVP Corporate Development, DPDHL Group says, "As a Group, we have

developed a Sustainability Roadmap that supports the UN's Sustainable Development Goals. We are constantly working towards introducing innovative green logistics solutions that improve our carbon footprint. I am delighted to share that representing the DHL eCommerce Solutions Division in India, Blue Dart has been delivering high on its sustainability initiatives.

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