

India Successfully Tests Air-Launched Medium Range Ballistic Missile



New Delhi(KCN): India on Tuesday carried out a successful test firing of a new version of a medium-range ballistic missile.

The defence ministry said the user launch has proven the operational capability of the missile with new technologies.

The test firing was

conducted under the aegis of the strategic forces command.

"A successful launch of the new variant of a medium-range ballistic missile was carried out under the aegis of the Strategic Forces Command on April 23," the ministry said.

"The user launch has proven the operational capability of the Command and validated new technologies," it said in a brief statement. It is learnt that the missile is not from the 'Agni' family of weapons systems.

Bhubaneswar Sizzles At 41.8°C By 2:30 PM; Heatwave To Sweep Odisha Till April 27



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.

However, Due to the likely interaction of the middle tropospheric westerly trough with lower-level moist air from the Bay of Bengal,

Meteorological conditions will become favourable for moderate thunderstorm activity with lightning and Isolated rainfall over the districts of Odisha within the next 2 days, the IMD added. There will be no large change in Maximum temperature (Day Temperature) during the next 24 hours at many places over the districts of Odisha and a slight fall by 2-3°C thereafter, the IMD said.

Arvind Kejriwal, K Kavitha to stay in jail as Delhi court extends custody by 14 days



New Delhi(KCN): A Delhi court Tuesday extended the judicial custody of Chief Minister Arvind Kejriwal and BRS leader K Kavitha in a money laundering case related to the alleged excise scam till May 7.

Special judge for CBI and ED matters Kaveri Baweja extended their custody after they were produced before the court through video conference on the expiry of their remand.

The judge also extended the judicial custody of Kavitha, a Telangana MLC and daughter of former chief minister K Chandrashekhar Rao, till May 7 in the related corruption case being probed by the CBI.

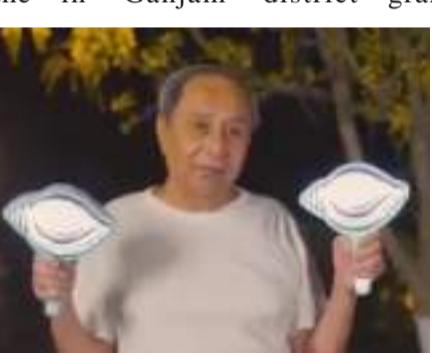
Naveen Patnaik roots for 'double conch' against BJP's 'double engine' call in Odisha's simultaneous polls

Bhubaneswar(KCN): Odisha Chief Minister and BJD supremo Naveen Patnaik Tuesday urged people to vote for 'double conch' in the simultaneous Lok Sabha and Assembly elections in the state. The term was coined to take on the BJP's call for forming 'double engine' government at the Centre and the state, a source said.

In a video released by the BJD, Patnaik is seen holding two conch symbols, the party's logo, on both hands, appealing people to vote for 'double conch' while exercising their franchise.

"This time, vote for double conch, one for MLA and one for MP," Patnaik said.

Simultaneous Lok Sabha and Assembly elections will be held in Odisha in



Wednesday.

This time, he will contest from two Assembly constituencies – Hinjili, which he represents, and Kantabanji in western Odisha.

Patnaik has been representing Hinjili seat since 2000. He has been elected from the seat five times in a row. If he retains power, he is set to become the longest-serving chief

minister in the country. Women were seen performing puja in various temples of Hinjili, wishing Patnaik a grand success in the polls.

The BJD president's campaign trail will begin a day before Union Home Minister Amit Shah's proposed rally at Sonepur in Bolangir Lok Sabha seat.

Patnaik is also scheduled to campaign for BJD candidates in Rayagada district April 25.

Four Lok Sabha seats in Odisha — Kalahandi, Nabarangapur, Berhampur and Koraput — and the Assembly segments under their jurisdictions will go for polls May 13.

New Delhi/Cuttack(KCN): The Supreme Court Tuesday suspended the sentence of Congress MLA Mohammed Moquim in a corruption case.

A bench of Justice Surya Kant and Justice Dipankar Datta issued notice to the Odisha government on the appeal filed by the Cuttack-Barabati MLA

challenging the Orissa High Court's decision. "Issue notice. Having heard the senior counsel for the parties and taking into consideration all the attending circumstances, the sentence of the petitioner is ordered to be suspended," the bench said.

The high court April 10 dismissed the appeal of

Moquim who challenged the order of a vigilance court that sentenced him to three years of rigorous imprisonment and slapped a fine of Rs 50,000 in connection with a corruption case.

Special judge, vigilance, Bhubaneswar, September 29, 2022, convicted Moquim in a corruption case.

The vigilance department, in a statement, said Moquim, as the managing director of Metro Builders Pvt Ltd in collusion with an IAS officer and others obtained a pecuniary advantage in favour of the real estate firm in the guise of loans meant for rural poor from the state-run Odisha Rural Housing & Development Corporation Ltd (ORHDC).

SC suspends sentence of Congress MLA Mohammed Moquim in corruption case



SKM Demands Prosecution of the PM Modi for his Speech at Rajasthan rally

Chandigarh (JAG MOHAN THAKEN), April 23: Stating the speech of the Prime Minister Narendra Modi at Rajasthan rally in Banswara as highly poisonous hate speech against a particular community and violation of the respective laws for national unity, Samyukta Kisan Morcha (SKM) has demanded prosecution of PM Modi and imposing a ban on him for six years from contesting election.

In a press release, SKM Media Cell stated, "He (Modi) must be removed from the post of Prime Minister with immediate effect otherwise the country will face a constitutional crisis of a law breaker holding one of the highest constitutional posts. The provocative speech of Narendra Modi is aimed at contaminating the social sphere and causing blood shed among communities hence the Supreme Court has to take suo moto cognizance and intervene."

SKM alleged that the highly provocative speech of the Prime Minister at Banswara in Rajasthan on 20th April 2024 indicates his total disrespect to the rule of law and abject insensitivity towards the pluralistic social fabric of our country. The Prime Minister has accused all members of the main minority group of the country as 'intruders' without any substance is nothing but insanity that violates the secular constitution that ensures separation of state and religion in governance. SKM states that Secularism is the fundamental feature of our successful democracy being in existence for the last 77 long years after becoming independent from the British colonial yoke.

Slamming the statement of PM Modi, SKM said that the allegation against the congress party of seizing the wealth of the people to give to a particular community is actually to divert the attention of the people

from the greater skew in wealth ownership under the last ten years of Modi government.

Quoting the latest Oxfam report, SKM stated that this report has revealed that the top 1% of the population that represent the entire billionaires too owns 40.5% of the wealth of the country while, the bottom 50% of the population or 70 crore people that represent the poor and middle farmers and rural workers owns merely 3% of the wealth of the nation. There is no Hindu or Muslim divide among these poor sections. The Modi government has reduced the corporate tax from 30% to the range of 22%-16% during the last ten years. One of the corporate groups Reliance owned by Mukesh Ambani has enhanced their assets from Rs. 1,67,000 crores in 2014 to Rs. 8,03,000 crores in 2023. The loan arrear of Rs.14.55 lakh crore of

the corporate houses has been written off during 2014-2022 by the Modi government when not a single rupee of the debt relief was provided to the farmers and farm workers though 154 suicide have been taking place daily in India under the Modi raj.

"This is an extraordinary situation hence; SKM appeals to all sections of the people to take all precautions to maintain peace and social tranquillities against any sort of provocation by the elements of vested interests inimical to the national unity and friendship and brotherhood of the people. Only the

stated that AIKS has described the core of his speech as contemptuous and outrageous with strong potential of inciting violence between communities. "This has been done intentionally as an attempt to polarise the people on communal lines in order to get electoral gains at the cost of our age-old syncretic cultural ethos and social harmony."

The farmers union alleged that spreading hatred based on absolute falsehood by a person of the stature of Prime Minister has brought down the prestige of the highest executive office Modi is holding. His conduct in this case is not only brazen violation of

the election code of conduct but actually tantamount to committing serious offences under various sections of Indian Penal Code (IPC) including hate crime and wilfully creating discord between different communities.

According to AIKS it was even more astonishing that the Election

Commission of India mandated with the task of enforcing and monitoring the provisions of Representation of People Act and the model code of conduct for a free and fair election, has not initiated any action against Prime Minister Modi so far for indulging in gross violation of the relevant laws with impunity. In this situation the Supreme court should take Suo moto cognisance and intervene at the earliest when the PM and other BJP leaders are showing utter disregard and audacity of posing themselves above the law of land.

AIKS has appealed to farmers and other sections to see through the nefarious designs being contemplated by BJP and safeguard their unity that stood tested during farmers movement in spite of repeated attempts to defame and tarnish the farmers movement as anti-national and separatist. AIKS alleges that the Prime Minister

and other leaders are resorting to hate mongering between communities in the face of widespread anger brewing among the people for the treachery and deceit done to them in terms of ruthless destruction of their livelihood during the entire 10 years of pro-corporate Modi regime.

Haryana Kisan Sabha has appealed to all sections of the toiling masses to observe extreme vigilance and not to fall prey to the BJP machinations towards diverting the attention of the people from real livelihood issues and get carried by emotive communal and caste issues.

AIKS has reiterated its call to teach BJP a lesson for cheating the peasantry by not honouring the assurances pertaining to legal guarantee of MSP etc given on the occasion of suspension of 13-month long farmers agitation following withdrawal of pro-corporate three black laws.



people can defeat the politics of communal division and stand firmly to safeguard secular fabrics of India", the release states.

All India Kisan Sabha (AIKS) Haryana state committee, in a joint statement by Master Balbir Singh, President and Sumit Singh, General Secretary has also severely condemned the speech stating it a highly inflammatory and communally provocative utterances of Prime Minister Narendra Modi. A press release shared to our representative by Dr. Inderjeet Singh, National Vice-President of AIKS on Tuesday,

International Conference at CUO concludes with an emphasis on achieving self-reliance by conserving Biodiversity and Agriculture for a Sustainable Future

Koraput,(KCN):The School of Biodiversity and Conservation of Natural Resources at the Central University of Odisha recently concluded its two-day International Conference on "Recent Advances of Biodiversity and Agriculture for a Sustainable Future" on 20 April 2024. Held at the University's main campus, the event brought together scholars and scientists to delve into critical topics surrounding biodiversity and agrobiodiversity.

Key takeaways from the conference include the recognition that biodiversity and agrobiodiversity serve as vital resources crucial for both present and future generations. Experts emphasized that these resources are intricately linked to the life and livelihood of people, underscoring the need for their conservation and sustainable management. Furthermore, discussions highlighted the role of bioprospecting in enhancing biodiversity with



bioprospecting, participants noted the potential to add value to resources such as agriculture, forestry, fisheries, and biotechnology. These practices align with circular economy principles, aid environmental conservation efforts, and enhance livelihoods, ultimately contributing to the preservation of biodiversity and agrobiodiversity.

thus fostering self-reliance in the country. Prof. S.K. Palita, Dean of the School of Biodiversity and Conservation of Natural Resources, presented the outcomes of the conference including information on the presentation of 29 research papers from invited speakers and 102 posters from research scholars. Omprakash Mahamta, Suraj Kumar Padhi and Ankita Das were judged first, second and third for their outstanding poster presentations. Eminent personalities, including Prof. S. P. Adhikari, former Vice-Chancellor, F.M. University, Balasore and Prof. M.K. Satapathy, former Professor of Science, Regional Institute of Education, Bhubaneswar were present, and Prof. Satapathy was felicitated for his significant contributions to biodiversity research.

The Vice-Chancellor also felicitated different NGOs who participated in the Millet Exhibitions, local ayurvedic specialists and rapporteurs of the technical sessions and research scholars of the School of BCNR. Dr. Kakoli Banerjee, Co-convener, delivered the welcome address while Dr. Debabrata Panda, Convener, expressed gratitude to all participants, invited guests, and session chairs for the success of the International Conference.

Five more pairs of Summer Special Trains from ECoR:

Bhubaneswar,(KCN): Considering the demands from the passengers towards different destinations and in various routes and to clear additional rush of passengers in regular trains during summer, it has been decided to run Special Trains from East Coast Railway jurisdiction towards different destinations of the country during the summer.

A. Puri-Udhna (Surat) bi-weekly Summer Special Train. 08471/08472 Puri-Udhna-Puri Summer Special Train from Puri will leave at 0630hrs on every Monday & Thursday between 25th April to 27th June 2024. In the return direction, this train from Udhna will leave at 1700hrs on every Tuesday and Friday between 26th April to 28th June 2024.

B. Puri-New Delhi Weekly Summer Special Train.

08479/08480 Puri-New Delhi-Puri Summer Special Train from Puri will leave at 0845hrs on every Tuesday between 30th April to 25th June 2024. In the return direction, this train from New Delhi will leave at 2130hrs on every Wednesday between 1st May to 26th June 2024.

C. Puri-New Delhi Weekly Summer Special Train.

04082/04081 New Delhi-Puri New Delhi Summer

Special Train from New Delhi left at 2300hrs on 22nd April 2024. In the return direction, this train from Puri will leave at 2220hrs on 24th April 2024.

D. Sambalpur-Erode Weekly Summer Special Train.

0 8 3 1 1 / 0 8 3 6 1 2 Sambalpur-Erode-Sambalpur Summer Special Train from Sambalpur will leave at 1135hrs on every Wednesday between 1st May to 26th June 2024. In the return direction, this train from Erode will leave at 1445hrs on every Friday between 3rd May to 28th June 2024.

E. Visakhapatnam-Bengaluru Summer Special Train.

0 8 5 4 9 / 0 8 5 5 0 Visakhapatnam-SMVT, Bengaluru Summer Special Train from Visakhapatnam will leave at 1315hrs on every Saturday between 27th April to 29th June 2024.

In the return direction, this train from Bengaluru will leave at 1200hrs on every Sunday between 28th April to 30th June 2024.

F. Visakhapatnam-Chennai Egmore Summer Special Train.

0 8 5 5 7 / 0 8 5 5 8 Visakhapatnam-Chennai Egmore-Visakhapatnam Summer Special Train from Visakhapatnam will leave at 1900hrs on every Saturday between 27th April to 29th June 2024.

East Coast Railway urged

passengers to book train tickets in various Special Trains to avoid rush in regular trains and plan their journey accordingly. Apart from this, keeping in view the summer heat wave, ECoR has ensured availability of drinking water at Railway stations.

Crowd control arrangements are also made at all major and important railway stations over ECoR. RPF personnel have been deployed at originating stations to ensure Queue system for entry in General Class coaches.

Apart from the above, 13 pairs of long distance Special Trains are also running through ECoR jurisdiction between important destinations of the country. These are, Secunderabad-Dibrugarh-Secunderabad Special, Secunderabad-Agartala-Secunderabad Special, Chennai-Santragachhi-Chennai Special, Nagercoil-Dibrugarh-Nagercoil Special, Kochuvelli-Shalimar-Kochuvelli Special, Bengaluru-Kharagpur-Bengaluru Special, Santragachhi-Secunderabad-Santragachhi Special, Secunderabad-Shalimar-Secunderabad Special, Bengaluru-Malda Town-Bengaluru Special, Mysore-Muzaffarpur-Mysore Special, New Tinsukia-Bengaluru-New Tinsukia Special and Howrah-Yesvantpur-Howrah Special Trains.

Azim Premji University opens admissions for Postgraduate Diploma in Development Leadership 2025

Bhubaneswar (KCN):Azim Premji University, Bengaluru, has opened admissions for the Postgraduate Diploma in Development Leadership programme. Last date to apply May 15, 2024. Written Assignments & Interviews June – July 2024 and Commencement of classes Jan 6, 2025.

The 11-month part-time Diploma programme is designed to allow participants to continue their existing work and employment while enrolled in the

programme. It offers a blend of on-campus and online learning across three terms. This programme is designed for mid to senior-level professionals with eight or more years of experience in the development sector who are already in leadership roles in their organisations or are likely to take on such roles soon. It is open to those working in NGOs, social movements, and grassroots organisations. This programme will help participants to

deepen their perspectives on the historical processes and lived experiences shaping development realities in India to better inform their work. Imagine alternative development approaches and outcome which foster equity, justice, and sustainability. Strengthen leadership capabilities to build inclusive, adaptive, and collaborative organisations. Enhance capabilities for financial management, communication and data



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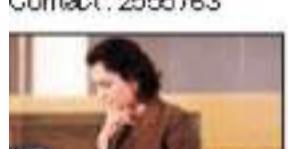
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The Japanese Film 'Monster' Is A Bittersweet Plea For Acceptance

A mother Saori (Sakura Ando) and her son Minato (Soya Kurokawa) witness a raging fire in the neighbourhood, from their balcony. Minato turns around and distractedly tells her how a pig's brain can be transplanted into a human head. Though she laughs it off, after all, kids say the darnest things, but this one off-the-cuff remark weighs on her. But, who put this idea in his head? Alarmed by the change in behaviour from being withdrawn, to sullen, which is typical of adolescence and the



怪 物
TIAN REGISOBEN BAROM
SHOPLIFTERS
MONSTER

onset of puberty. However, Minato's obsession with shearing his locks, and then a night when she finds him in the woods, alone in a dark tunnel, screaming, "Who is the monster?" leads her to investigate the matter, and meet his homeroom teacher Mr. Hori (Eita Nagayama), an eccentric man. After Minato claims that he was hit in class by his instructor, and then she sees his behaviour even getting weirder, she is convinced he is the victim of bullying. Or is the other way round, is Minato the one who is the perpetrator of

the act? It's been said he has bullied a sensitive student Yuri. The claim is substantiated as well as not with several flashbacks, which bring to the fore a montage of varied points of view, as well as school events and relationships between the boys, as it touches upon the queer aspect in a homophobic society. What comes to the surface is a complicated relationship between children, the school and the parents. Kore-eda gives us an intricate narrative of hope as it examines socio-cultural issues and complexities. Family

dysfunction, bullying, homophobia, social media cancel culture and rumour-mongering; along with unwavering devotion to flawed authority, all come together to create a monster of impropriety. As it nudges one to speak your truth and embrace all aspects of oneself, Monster is a heart-rending narrative of perspectives. Where no one is at fault, since every human comes from a place they know best. Monster is Kore-eda's best work, and the screenplay and writing of Yûji Sakamoto, make this one a cinematic masterpiece.

Zee Rishtey Awards Is Back! Nominations are OUT



After entertaining viewers with stories and characters that have found their place in their hearts, Zee TV is all set to enthrall the audience yet again with its annual celebration of Zee Rishtey Awards. Year after year, the grand extravaganza has celebrated the deeply cherished relationships that the viewers have with their favourite Zee TV characters while awarding the finest work by the actors, directors, producers, creative teams and technicians. However, this year, with Holi just around the corner, what better platform for families to come together and celebrate the festival of colours than Zee Rishtey Awards? So, get set for a splash of vibrant colours as the Zee Kutumb comes together

to celebrate familial bonds with a night full of splendid performances, lively banter, and light-hearted pranks because - BURA NA MAANO, FAMILY HAI! Zee TV kicked off the festivities by hosting a star-studded Nomination Party which saw everyone's favourite Zee TV faces take to the red carpet in their most glamorous and stylish attires, captivating everyone present. Popular stars like Shabir Ahluwalia, Sriti Jha, Shraddha Arya, Dheeraj Dhoopar, Arjun Bijlani, Arjit Taneja, Neeharika Roy, Nikki Sharma, Paras Kalawat, Sana Sayyad, Baseer Ali, Shakti Anand, Rohit Suchanti, Aishwarya Khare, Maera Mishra, Krishna Kaul, Abrar Qazi, Rachi Sharma, Avinesh Rekhi, Tanisha Mehta, Manasi

Joshi Roy, Navika Kotia, Karanvir Sharma, Aditi Sharma, Richa Rathore, Yesha Rughani, Seerat Kapoor made heads turn at the Zee Rishtey Awards' Nomination Party. The stars of Zee Kutumb looked stunning on the red carpet with their stylish and glamorous outfits. While the heartthrob Dheeraj Dhoopar stole everyone's heart in his black studded suit, popular actor Shabir Arya wowed everyone with her lovely pink saree, and Nikki Sharma looked elegant in her

sea green lehenga. The handsome boys of television, Arjun Bijlani and Arjit Taneja looked dapper in suits. Paras Kalawat also looked dashing with his co-actors Sana Sayyad and Baseer Ali. Amongst the beautiful ladies, Sriti Jha made heads turn in a red evening gown. Popular Jodi Rohit Suchanti and Aishwarya Khare also graced the red carpet in an all-black and royal blue ensemble respectively.

The Zee Kutumb, then, gathered to witness some wonderful acts. They even indulged in some fun games and engaged in some light-hearted banter during the Nomination Party. With loads of surprises in store for the night, you cannot miss the Zee Rishtey Awards' Nomination Party, when it airs at 5:30 PM on Sunday, 18th February on Zee TV.

Now that the nominations are announced, vote for your favourites by giving a missed call on - 8291829173 for your Favourite Jodi, 8291829174 - Favourite Character - Male, 8291829175 - Favourite character - Female, 8291829176 - Favourite Dharavahik. Viewers can also vote via zra2024.zee5.com.

Jackie Shroff, Neena Gupta Win Hearts In 'Mast Mein Rehne Ka', Fan Urges Everyone To 'Forget The Archies'



Veteran actor Jackie Shroff has struck another chord with the audience with his family entertainer 'Mast Mein Rehne Ka'. Critics and fans alike are showering love on Jackie for his heartfelt portrayal in this film that explores the highs and lows of life. Sharing the screen with the talented Neena Gupta, reviews highlight the delightful on-screen chemistry between the two seasoned actors. Critics expressed, "Jackie Shroff and Neena Gupta shine as individual performers but

also have great onscreen chemistry. Their random conversations, such as about body hair, are as hilarious as deep ones are heart-touching - Kamath compares his lonely existence to the sea waves crashing against rocks. Jackie is outstanding in a scene towards the end when he has a monologue where he compares human life to a video game."

Another fan added, "A sweet little gem called Mast Mein Rehne Ka released along with Archies. Jackie Shroff and Neena Gupta have made their best performance since Gardish days.. A fan compared it to 'The Archies' and wrote, "Everyone needs to forget about archies and focus on Neena Gupta Jackie Shroff Rakhi Sawant in mast mein rehne ka."

Fans have taken to social media to express their admiration for the legendary actor. It is evident that Jackie Shroff's magnetic presence and nuanced performance have made 'Mast Mein Rehne Ka' a

must-watch for those seeking a heartwarming cinematic experience. The legendary actor continues to captivate audiences with his timeless charm and unmatched acting prowess.

In the film, the two will be seen overcoming loneliness in Mumbai city. "I agree today our life has become difficult. Youngsters are facing a lot of problems...there's so much competition out there but we should not take too much stress in our life. Thoda mast mein bhi hona chayie (There

should be some fun too)," Neena Gupta told ANI.

Echoing the same sentiments, Jackie Shroff said, "One should maintain a perfect balance in life... be healthy... do yoga, love nature... use technology

Animal: Sara Ali Khan Never Auditioned For Triptii Dimri's Role In Ranbir Kapoor-Bobby Deol's Starrer



Actress Triptii Dimri might have a brief appearance in Sandeep Reddy Vanga's latest blockbuster 'Animal', but the actress has managed to become the talk of the town for her performance. Her intimate scenes with Ranbir Kapoor in the film have been a topic of debate on the internet with a section of people criticizing the makers for promoting toxic masculinity. While Triptii Dimri has been garnering acclaim for her portrayal in the film, several reports

claimed that Sara Ali Khan had auditioned for the role of 'Zoya' but could not crack it. Putting all the rumors to rest, an industry insider revealed that "Sara Ali Khan never auditioned for Sandeep Reddy Vanga's latest released 'Animal'." For the unversed, rumours of Sara Ali Khan auditioning for the role played by Triptii Dimri in the film made headlines recently. The report claimed that Sandeep wasn't convinced that Sara would be able to pull off

the bold scene in the film. He, however, was impressed by Triptii when she auditioned for the role and cast her in the film, claimed the report. Sara Ali Khan is among the prominent Bollywood actresses of this

generation. She made headlines with her debut in 'Kedarnath' and has been a part of films like 'Atrangi Re', 'Love Aaj Kal', 'Simmba', 'Coolie No 1', 'Luka', 'Gaslight' among others. She was recently seen in 'Zara Hatke Zara Bachke'

opposite Vicky Kaushal. She will be next seen in 'Ae Watan Mere Watan', which will premiere on Amazon Prime Video. Triptii Dimri played the role of 'Zoya' in Animal. Though she had a small screen time, her role is one of the most talked-about elements of the film. Triptii Dimri spoke about her intimate scenes with Ranbir Kapoor in 'Animal'. She said that Ranbir and Sandeep made sure that she was comfortable doing the scenes. She also mentioned Ranbir coming and checking up on her

every 5 minutes to ensure that she is not feeling awkward.

Triptii made her acting debut in the comedy film 'Poster Boys' (2017) and had her first lead role in the romantic drama 'Laila Majnu' (2018). She gained acclaim for her performances in Anvita Dutt's films 'Bulbbul' (2020) and 'Qala' (2022), before bagging 'Animal'. She has a film with Vicky Kaushal among her upcoming projects. Released on December 1, 'Animal' is getting an overwhelming response from the audience.

Can Yogi Adityanath - Pramod Sawant conquer south for BJP

The Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) is vigorously campaigning to establish a strong presence in South India in this 2024 Lok Sabha election. Determined to leave no room for its rivals, the party is actively dispelling the misconception that it lacks a foothold in the region. This election, the BJP aims to prove political pundits wrong by turning the tide in its favor across the southern states. The 2024 Lok Sabha elections could be instrumental in reshaping the perception of the BJP in South India.

The BJP has entrusted two of its most dynamic Chief Ministers, Yogi Adityanath and Pramod Sawant, with the responsibility of leading intensive campaigns in South India. Both leaders have steered their respective states, Uttar Pradesh and Goa, towards significant development through their effective governance.

Campaigning for BJP candidates in Karnataka, Pramod Sawant's ability to deliver speeches in Kannada has resonated with the local populace, making an immediate impact. With a pan-Indian appeal, Yogi

Adityanath is scheduled to campaign across other South Indian states. He has previously campaigned in Karnataka, where his message resonates with the youth, working class, and women. His success in transforming Uttar Pradesh from a struggling state to one of the most developed in the country, coupled with his reputation for strict law and order, has garnered him significant attention. Both leaders represent a new wave within the BJP. Yogi Adityanath's success story in Uttar Pradesh demonstrates the party's commitment to development and efficient governance. It may be recalled that Pramod Sawant is actively working to reshape Goa's image beyond its beaches and churches, emphasizing its rich historical and cultural heritage as a part of 'Sanatan Bhoomi' (the land of eternal Dharma). He envisions Goa's development through a combination of tourism and spiritual nationalism.

The BJP's strategic focus on South India signifies its ambition to expand its national footprint. By deploying popular leaders like Yogi Adityanath and

Pramod Sawant, the party aims to connect with the southern electorate and showcase its development-oriented governance model. This concerted effort could potentially redefine the

political pundits wrong. The southern states of India have been a tough challenge for the BJP. But this time the party has made up its mind to turn the electoral situation in South India in its favor.

people. Yogi Adityanath has campaigned in Karnataka in the past. The youth, hardworking people, and women of Karnataka listen to him very carefully. He has brought sick Uttar Pradesh into the

whereas the truth is that Goa is Sanatan land. Goa Chief Minister Pramod Sawant has resolved to develop Goa with tourism and spiritual nationalism. Of course, along with Prime Minister

receives an unprecedented welcome.

Meanwhile, Tamil Nadu is one of those unique states where, with more than 87 percent Hindu population, the presence of national parties, namely BJP and Congress, has been weak. Yes, the BJP has been gathering votes in Coimbatore and Kanyakumari. The biggest reason for the BJP not being strong in Tamil Nadu has been the lack of leadership in the state, with many BJP leaders known for controversial statements. But Prime Minister Modi and Home Minister Amit Shah have changed this perception. And then, after the appointment of former IPS officer K. Annamalai as the Tamil Nadu BJP president, the BJP's prospects in the Dravidian party-dominated southern state have increased considerably. Annamalai has also been largely successful in preparing the ground for the party in the state. Modi and Amit Shah are constantly supporting Annamalai's leadership.

Finally, the BJP's efforts to engage Southern states through prominent leaders like Yogi Adityanath and Pramod Sawant are indicative of its serious intent to expand its footprint in the region.

**Author of Gandhi's Delhi
Contributor of BBC, NavBharat Times and other papers – M- 9818155246**

Vivek Shukla

BJP's position in South India and influence the outcome of the upcoming elections. The BJP is putting its heart and soul into making a strong presence in the battle for South India this time. It is in no mood to give space to its rivals in this electoral battle.

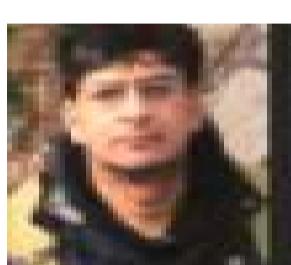
Those who think that the BJP has no existence in South India are mistaken. This time it wants to prove the

It goes without saying that both Yogi Adityanath and Pramod Sawant are taking Uttar Pradesh and Goa to the heights of development thanks to their efficient leadership. Pramod Sawant is campaigning in favor of BJP candidates in Karnataka. They give their speech in Kannada in Karnataka. Obviously, because of this, they immediately impress the local

category of the most developed state in the country. He has proved that goons and miscreants run away from a tight administration. If we talk about Pramod Sawant, then he is changing the established image of Goa. He wants Goa to be known for its rich past besides its beaches and churches. A particular kind of perception has been created about Goa, Wherever he goes, he

Narendra Modi and Home Minister Amit Shah, these two are also going to play a significant role in creating an atmosphere in favor of the BJP in South India. Yogi Adityanath has addressed large gatherings in Uttar Pradesh, Maharashtra, Karnataka, Rajasthan, and Bihar, in addition to his home state. Wherever he goes, he

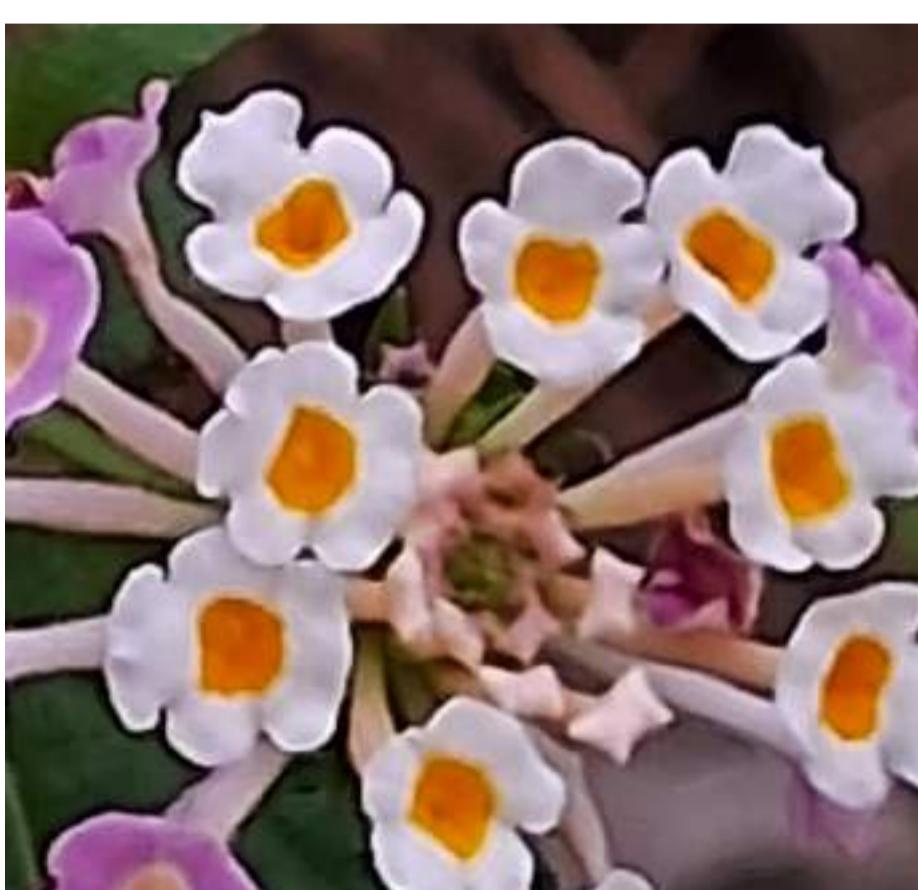
Earth Day

Saikat Kumar Basu

first time on 22 April 1970. At the UNESCO conference in San Francisco in 1969, peace activist John McConnell proposed dedicating a day in honor of Mother Earth. However, this day was celebrated on March 21, 1970, the first day of spring in the Northern Hemisphere.

United States Senator Gaylord Nelson introduced Earth Day on April 22, 1970. First Dharitri Day was organized on this day with the help of some students. About 2 crore people celebrated the day.

This day was celebrated for the



Many people in America took to the streets on this day to raise awareness about climate change. The day started from that. Since 1970, various laws have been established in different countries keeping in mind the protection of



accelerated the global recycling system and paved the way for the organization of the United Nations Earth Summit in Rio de Janeiro in 1992. Unlike the 1970s, its 20th anniversary saw radio and television rich with powerful marketing tools, great access and multimillion-dollar spending. This day is observed to raise awareness among the people of the world about climate change. The world is now plagued by natural disasters due to climate change. Therefore, this day is celebrated in different countries to raise public awareness about nature and environment, to keep the earth safe and livable, and to give a message to the public about the importance of environment and

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Kashmir Road Safety Foundation Engages in High-Level Dialogue with Hon'ble Lt. Governor of J&K, Shri Manoj Sinha



Srinagar (KCN): A significant milestone was achieved today as members of the Kashmir Road Safety Foundation convened with the esteemed Lt. Governor of Jammu and Kashmir, Shri Manoj Sinha, at Raj Bhawan, Srinagar. Led by CEO Mr. Nasir Ali Khan, the delegation embarked on a fruitful discussion encompassing pivotal agendas aimed at enhancing road safety and youth empowerment across the region. Central to the dialogue was the formulation of a comprehensive transport policy tailored to the unique needs of Jammu and Kashmir. This initiative underscores the Foundation's commitment to fostering safer and more efficient transportation systems within the region.

Congress Pick 'Missing', 8 Others Withdraw: What's Behind BJP's Surat Win



Surat (KCN): Surat Congress leader Niles Kumbhani, whose nomination as Lok Sabha candidate was rejected over alleged discrepancies, is missing and can't be reached over the phone, local media reported today. This comes a day after the BJP's Mukesh Dalal was declared winner from the BJP's stronghold after all rival candidates withdrew from the contest.

Amid reports claiming that Mr Kumbhani may join the BJP, Congress workers protested outside his locked house with posters that read, "janata ka gaddar (people's traitor)".

The dramatic events follow the BJP's first Lok Sabha win in Surat, unopposed. Gujarat BJP chief CR Paatil yesterday said Surat has presented

the election in Surat and redo the election shortly to send a clear message that you cannot take advantage of this kind of wrong undue influence," party spokesperson Abhishek Singhvi told reporters after meeting the Election Commissioners yesterday. Mr Singhvi claimed that in Surat, Congress candidate Kumbhani was nominated by four proposers, "but, suddenly all four stood up and denied their signatures". "This is no coincidence. The candidate is missing for many hours and by the time he resurfaces we find that every other candidate has withdrawn his candidature, every one of them. His candidature is rejected by the returning officer," he said.

"We have therefore requested the Election Commission to postpone

region. Furthermore, discussions revolved around the upcoming "Mission Save Lives J&K Road Safety Rally," a pioneering endeavor to raise awareness and instill responsible road behavior among citizens. Additionally, plans were unveiled for the establishment of the Road Safety Heroes Club in both government and private schools across Jammu and Kashmir. This visionary program seeks to cultivate a culture of road safety consciousness among the youth, thereby fostering a generation of responsible drivers and pedestrians. In a bid to nurture talent and passion for motorsports, the delegation also proposed the launch of the J&K Motorsports

Academy. This initiative aims to provide aspiring athletes with a platform to hone their skills and showcase their potential on a national and international stage.

During the interactive session, various avenues for youth engagement were explored, reflecting the Foundation's unwavering commitment to empowering the next generation of leaders and change-makers. The Kashmir Road Safety Foundation expresses its sincere gratitude to Hon'ble Lt. Governor J&K Shri Manoj Sinha for his invaluable insights and steadfast support towards realizing these transformative initiatives.

Together, we embark on a journey towards a safer, more vibrant future for the people of Jammu and Kashmir.

Third Gender Electors for Second Phase of Lok Sabha Poll in West Bengal is Maximum in Number in Raiganj PC

Kolkata, (KCN): Only 72 hours are left, when the country will be undergoing the second phase of Lok Sabha Poll. Total 1210 candidates will be contesting across the country for 88 Parliamentary Constituencies in 12 States/UTs. In West

Bengal three Parliamentary Constituencies - Darjeeling, Raiganj (Uttar Dinajpur) and Balurghat (Dakshin Dinajpur) will be undergoing headstrong contests. Total 47 candidates are contesting for these three

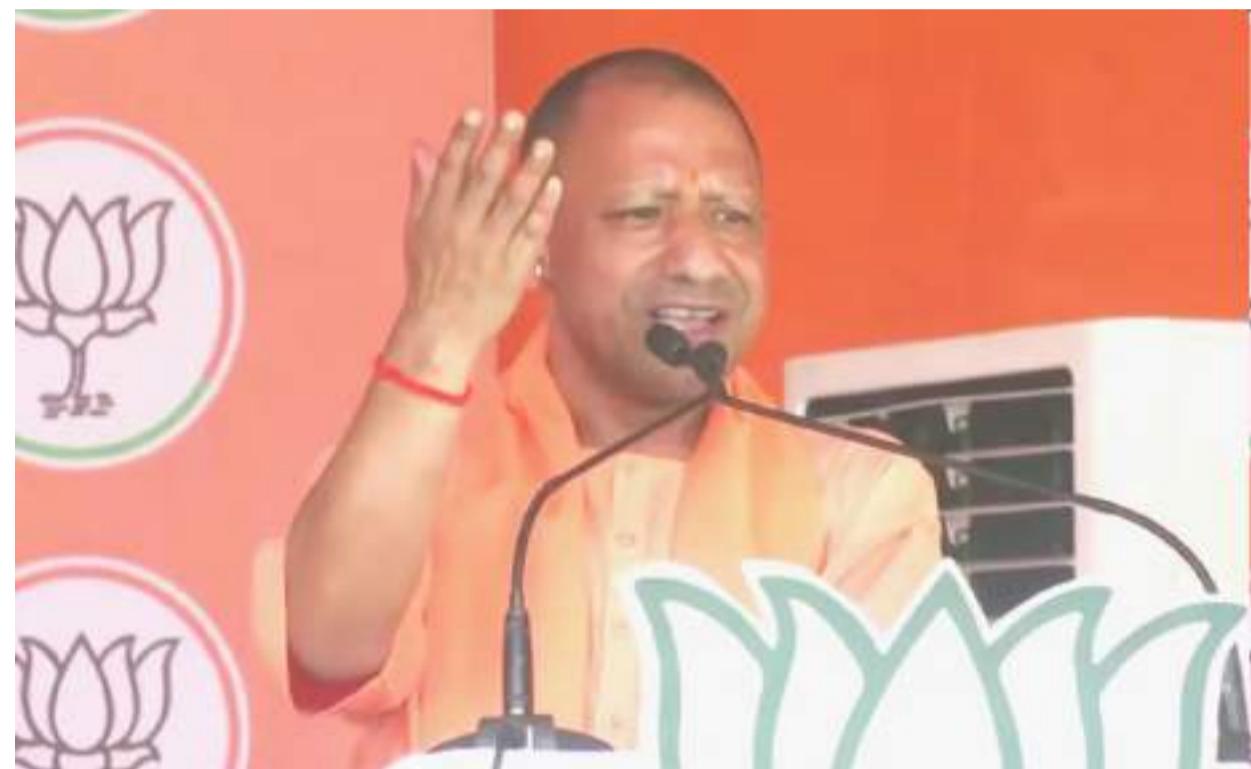
Parliamentary Constituencies in West Bengal. Total 5,11,79,55 electors will be exercising their franchises from these three Constituencies.

The number of male and female voters have increased considerably this time. So is the

number of third gender voters. A total of 210 third gender electors will also cast their votes, this time, the maximum number being in Raiganj Constituency. In Raiganj, total 88 third gender voters will be exercising their franchises. In 2019, their numbers were 73

for the Raiganj Constituency. Next in comes Balurghat, where 81 third gender electors will cast their votes. In Darjeeling Parliamentary Constituency, 41 third gender electors will be exercising their franchises.

"Congress Will Implement 'Sharia Law' In Country," Says Yogi Adityanath



"The Congress manifesto says that if they form a government, we will implement Sharia law." "You tell me, will this country be run by the Constitution made by Baba Saheb Bhimrao Ambedkar or by Shariat?" he asked.

Prime Minister Narendra Modi has in his election rallies said the Congress has included redistribution of people's property in its manifesto.

"Congress people talk in their manifesto that they will implement 'vyaktigat kanoon' (personal laws). That means Sharia law will be implemented because Modi ji stopped the practice of triple talaq," Adityanath said.

"They say that we will again restore personal law. These people will implement Sharia law..." he added.

Escalating his attack, Yogi Adityanath alleged,

The chief minister claimed that terrorism has been finished in India during the tenure of the Modi government.

"There was an atmosphere of fear and terror in the country 10 years ago, people were afraid. After 2014, terrorism was controlled and by 2019, Modi ji did such a thing that the root of terrorism Jammu Kashmir's Article 370 was abolished. Today terrorism has been destroyed in India," he said.

Adityanath claimed that now whenever there is a loud burst of firecrackers somewhere, Pakistan clarifies that it has no involvement.

"Pakistan is afraid that even by mistake, a terrorist incident takes place in India and some innocent citizen is killed, they will have to face consequences," he said.

In his address at an election rally in Baghpat, he said

Yogi Adityanath said the Congress got a chance to rule the nation for 65 years, but they did nothing.

The BJP leader also used the occasion to take a dig at Congress leader Rahul Gandhi.

"The slogan of poverty eradication which was given by the grandmother (Indira Gandhi) is now being repeated by the grandson (Rahul Gandhi) like a parrot. They (Congress) don't have any vision. When they were ousted from power by the people of the country, they again remembered the idea of eradicating poverty," said Adityanath.

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"Pakistan is afraid that even by mistake, a terrorist incident takes place in India and some innocent citizen is killed, they will have to face consequences," he said.

In his address at an election rally in Baghpat, he said

the Congress and the Samajwadi Party (SP) do dynastic politics.

"The SP gave all tickets to its own family members," he added.

Yogi Adityanath said if votes go to the wrong place, terrorism and mafia rule will return.

"The rights of farmers and the poor will again be subject to robbery. Not only this, our daughters and the businessman will again be unsafe," Yogi Adityanath said.

"If we cast our votes for the BJP and its allies, terrorism will be eliminated across the border and mafia and criminals in the country will be sent on the journey of ram naam satya," he added.

Rashtriya Lok Dal (RLD) president Jayant Chaudhury was also present on this occasion. Amroha and Baghpat will go to polls in the second phase on April 26.

Low Vision Clinic Inaugurated at AIIMS Bhubaneswar

Ray of Hope for patients lost all hopes due to severe visual impairments
First-of-its-kind endeavour within any government institution in Odisha

Bhubaneswar (KCN): In an aim to illuminate the lives of patients who have almost lost hope due to severe visual impairments, AIIMS Bhubaneswar has started a "Low Vision Clinic" in the Department of Ophthalmology. The one of its kind vision clinics will help a special group of patients like the socially blind and other patients having very low vision due to glaucoma, age-related macular degeneration, diabetes, retinal diseases, and other blinding diseases, who do not benefit from surgery or spectacle correction.

Kumar Parida, DEAN Dr. Prashant Raghav Mohapatra. In a first-of-its-kind endeavour within any government institution in Odisha, AIIMS Bhubaneswar has collaborated with Dr. R.P.Centre, AIIMS Delhi, and Cristoffel Blinden Mission (CBM), Germany, to establish this visionary clinic. Operational daily, the clinic pledges to offer visual rehabilitation services to those in need, thereby reshaping lives and fostering a sense of empowerment.

Inaugurating the

pioneering initiative Executive Director Dr. Biswas praised the initiatives of the Ophthalmology department and acknowledged the transformative impact of the clinic. Emphasizing the importance of regular patient follow-up and expressed gratitude to AIIMS Delhi for their support under the "ROSHINI" project. He also unveiled training manuals aimed at empowering Asha workers and volunteers with essential eye care knowledge.

Dr. Praveen Vasisth from



Dr. R.P.Centre, AIIMS Delhi, shed light on the "ROSHINI" project. Dr. Sucheta Parija, Head of the Department, Ophthalmology, AIIMS Bhubaneswar, provided insights into the clinic's operational data,

clinics nationwide under the "ROSHINI" project. Dr. Sucheta Parija, Head of the Department, Ophthalmology, AIIMS Bhubaneswar, provided insights into the clinic's operational data,

highlighting its impact on patient welfare. With over 75 patients already benefiting from the Low Vision Clinic at AIIMS Bhubaneswar, Dr. Parija envisioned future collaborations with blind

schools for enhanced rehabilitation efforts and the training of Asha workers for primary eye care at the community level.

The inauguration ceremony witnessed the presence of CMFM HoD Dr. Sonu Subba, Physiology HoD Dr. Prananti Nanda, Dr. Prabhas Tripathy, Dr. (Maj) Mukund Sahu, Dr. Bhagabat Nayak, Dr. Priyadarshini Mishra, Dr. Sandip Sahu, Dr. Bruttendu Moharana, Dr. Bijnya Panda, resident doctors, nursing officers, staff and low vision patients, marking a collective commitment towards enhancing the quality of life for visually impaired individuals.

Wildfire forces animals to stray into human habitats



Koraput / Damanjodi(KCN): The rampant spread of wildfire in the forests of Koraput district has posed a serious threat to the survival of wild animals and forced them to stray into human habitats, a report said. Lack of awareness is stated to be the reason behind the spread of

wildfires. The wildfire is also destroying the green cover with precious plants and trees getting reduced to ashes. A bear found roaming in Koraput town in the wee hours of Saturday is a case at this point. On being informed, forest officials reached the spot but the animal managed to give them slip and

escape through Sunari Sahi without causing any harm to the residents. However, a forest team has been put on alert at the site to track the movement of the wild animal and catch it. The incident has sparked panic among the residents. The animal is suspected to have strayed into Koraput town in search of food and water as most of the jungles in the district have caught fire in this summer season. People are being sensitised not to lit fire in the jungle but that has failed to have any impact on them, a forest official Bikash Patra said. The heat generated by the wildfire and blistering heat waves has made life miserable for the residents living on the fringes of the jungles. Flames were seen leaping towards the villages from a hilly jungle near a petrol pump at Tarlandhaguda village on the outskirts of Damanjodi in Koraput district, Saturday.

Odisha govt deploys seven ODRAF teams to douse forest fires

Bhubaneswar(KCN): The Odisha government Monday deployed seven teams of state disaster response force in vulnerable forests to combat wildfire.

On the request of the Principal Chief Conservator of Forests, the Office of Special Relief Commissioner deployed Odisha Disaster Rapid Action Force (ODRAF) teams in Baliguda, Phulbani, Rayagada, Bonai, Kalahandi South, Similipal South, Paralakhemundi forest divisions to douse wildfire.

Speaking to media persons, Principal Chief Conservator of Forests Debidutta Biswal said wildfire incidents are now under control and all measures have been



taken. Usually, forest fire incidents are reported in January each year. During this year, forest fires were detected at 12,000 points in Odisha as compared to 32,500 during the same period of last year, Biswal said. This year, all forest fire alerts have been responded to, he said.

"To stop the spread of fire in forest areas, seven ODRAF teams have been deployed in vulnerable points. They will reach the spot by Tuesday," he said. Office of Special Relief Commissioner (SRC), Odisha has written a letter to additional DGP (law & order) in this regard Monday.

In its letter, the SRC office asked ODRAF teams to carry the required equipment to manage forest fires along with PPE kits.

Altogether 370 squads have been deployed by the forest department to douse the fire in the state, Biswal added.

NHRC seeks report from Odisha chief secy over condition of tribals in Koraput



Bhubaneswar(KCN): The National Human Rights Commission (NHRC) has sought an Action Taken Report (ATR) from the Chief Secretary of Odisha and Koraput District Magistrate over the allegations of government apathy towards the plight of residents of three blocks in tribal-dominated Koraput district, who are facing many hardships due to lack of communication facilities.

Acting on a petition filed by Supreme Court lawyer and rights activist Radhakanta Tripathy, the

apex rights body asked the Chief Secretary and the District Collector to submit the ATR within four weeks.

Tripathy in his petition said that the locals, who are residing in different villages living across Koraput, Lamapat and Nandapur blocks are crossing Kolab reservoir through a dilapidated bridge risking their own life.

He further asserted that hundreds of habitations situated near Kolab reservoir remain cut off from the mainland due to submergence after heavy rainfall.

conducted and concluded that the bridge is necessary. However, despite the administration's admission and assurance to this commission after enquiry, no concrete steps have been taken by the district administration to construct a bridge over Kolab river to Suku," Tripathy alleged.

There is no all-weather road in the area so the locals are facing extreme difficulties during emergencies like health complications and fire incidents which get aggravated due to lack of communication facilities in the area.

Stating the bridge between Suku and Koraput in Kolab region can allow road connectivity to these cut-off areas and improve access

to communication, health, education and other facilities, Tripathy requested the NHRC for action on a war footing.



Bhubaneswar(KCN): The State BJP today released Odia version of Modi Ki Gurabart, party's national manifesto for ensuing Lok Sabha elections and pledge card here. Senior BJP leaders including election in-charge Vijaypal Singh Tomar, State President Manmohan Samal, former Union Minister Jual Oram and former President Samir Mohanty here at party office.

On the other hand, the central government led by Prime Minister Narendra Modi has kept 99 per cent of the promises including Abrogation of Article 370 and inauguration of Ram Mandir in Ayodhya, he said.

The Modi government is totally dedicated to women, youths and farmers. The Modi government has realized all promises made in the poll manifesto in 2014 and 2019, Samal said. The BJP will reach out to every household with the Odia version of the manifesto as it can be easily understandable for them, the state president said. Centre's free ration scheme will be extended by 5 years, 3 crore Lakhpatti didi will be created, the PM Awas Yojana will be expanded and drinking water supply will be taken to every home, said Shri Tomar. "If BJP will form a government in Odisha, we will implement all the promises made in the central manifesto in the state. The present government has not implemented Ayushman Bharat Yojana in Odisha for which migrant workers are facing hardship," the BJP leader said.

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Nexus Select Malls unveils Purple Weekend across portfolio

Bhubaneswar : As the summer holidays draw near and individuals prepare to embark on a shopping expedition in preparation for their forthcoming sojourns, Nexus Select Malls unveils its latest initiative, "Purple Weekend," a weekend event featuring special offers, unforgettable entertainment, and an unparalleled shopping experience.

The endeavor centered around "Savings & Excitement," is scheduled to kick start on April 19th, 2024 throughout all portfolio malls and will mark the beginning of a recurring monthly tradition wherein Nexus Esplanade will curate a unique weekend to present an ample selection of enticing discounts, deals and curated offers from a



diverse array of categories including fashion, food and beverage, electronics, movies, and hypermarket products

with the intention of accommodating each customer. Don't miss out on the inaugural Purple Weekend event! Mark your calendar, gather friends and family and head to Nexus Esplanade between April 19th to April 21st.

As part of the Purple Weekend initiative

IDEMITSU Honda Racing India's Kavin Quintal clinches 11th position in hard fought battle at the 2024 FIM Asia Road Racing Championship in China



NEW DELHI: AP250 class Race 1 of Round 2: A consistent performance throughout the race resulted in Kavin crossing the chequered line in 11th position, winning 5 points for the team. Mohsin P finished the race in 20th position.

Zhuhai International Circuit (China), 20 April 2024: Making a significant mark

in one of the toughest races of Asia, the IDEMITSU Honda Racing India team rider Kavin Quintal achieved another milestone in race 1 of round 2 of the 2024 FIM Asia Road Racing Championship (ARRC) in China today.

Maintaining steadiness and displaying finesse in an intense race, Kavin Quintal competed well

and bagged another TOP 15 finish this season. Displaying his best performance in the race, young rider Kavin Quintal gave strong competition to the international riders. Starting from 15th on the grid, Kavin began advancing in the initial laps. He maintained his composure and a steady pace throughout. In the final laps, he applied his learnings well

and accelerated fast at the opportune moment, crossing the chequered line in 11th position without making any mistakes on the track. He completed the race with a total time of 19:03.094, earning five valuable points for the team. Kavin's teammate, Mohsin P, also showcased his full power on the racetrack today. Starting the race from the 23rd position, he

Nexus Esplanade will host a variety of entertaining activities to captivate the shoppers during their retail therapy. Marks and Spencer's invites customers to enjoy discounts of up to 50%, while Reliance Trends treats you to an exciting gift with purchases worth 3999 and above. Mia dazzles with flat 50% off on diamond jewelry and 10% off on gold. Helios offers up to 40% off on stylish timepieces, and Carat Lane tempts with a flat 20% off on diamond prices among many other brands offering huge discounts. Consistent with the overarching motif, Nexus Esplanade will embellish itself with a resplendent purple visual aesthetic that further complements indelible shopping experience.

competed fiercely and maintained his pace well to avoid any mistakes or crashes on the track. He finished the race in 20th position with a total time of 19:25.863. However, at this position, he scored no points for the team. "I am satisfied with my performance today. China's track is new to me, and my focus was to maintain positive momentum throughout. After witnessing multiple crashes on the track, my goal was to finish the race without making any mistakes and earn points for the team. Today, my previous learnings and the guidance from my instructors supported me in meeting all the challenges. With today's score, we are motivated and hopeful for better results tomorrow."

I was expecting better results today. In the initial laps, I was confident and throttled well to secure a better position. However, the plan didn't work as per my expectations today. I am happy that Kavin performed well and earned points for the team. Taking today's learnings, I will enhance my strategies for tomorrow's race and expect better results."

TPSODL issues guidelines for the Festive Season

TPSODL
TP SOUTHERN ODISHA
DISTRIBUTION LIMITED

(A Joint Venture of Tata Power and Government of Odisha)

festive season.

In our pursuit of uninterrupted power supply, TPSODL has deployed dedicated teams from the Fuse Call Centre (FCC) to monitor and maintain seamless electricity provision at all pandals.

To ensure safety and reliability, TPSODL strongly advises obtaining temporary connections from our authorities for any temporary pandals and shops erected during the

These teams will also vigilantly ensure that there is no unauthorized hooking or access to TPSODL lines, guaranteeing a festival filled with uninterrupted joy.

Unit, is tirelessly working round the clock to promptly address and resolve any complaints. In case of emergencies or concerns, we encourage to contact our toll-free helpline at 1912 or 1800 3456 797, or visit the nearest Fuse Call

Centre/office.

Mr. Amit Garg, Chief Executive Officer of TP Southern Odisha Distribution Ltd, stated, "We are fully prepared and committed to providing uninterrupted power supply to all pandals during this auspicious festive season. We urge the public to seek proper electricity connections and adhere to all safety measures. In the event of any emergency, please reach out to our toll-free helpline number." TPSODL wishes everyone a safe, joyous, and electrifying festive season.

Capri Global Capital Ltd announces Stock Split and 1:1 bonus

Mumbai (KCN): Board of directors of Capri Global Capital Ltd (CGCL), a diversified Non-Banking Financial Company (NBFC) with a presence across diverse segments like



insurance products. Company has inducted Mr. L V Prabhakar, Mr. Shishir Priyadarshi, and Ms. Nupur Mukherjee as additional independent directors on its Board of Directors subject to shareholder approval. Capri Global is a diversified Non-Banking Financial Company (NBFC) with a presence across diverse and high growth segments like MSME, Affordable Housing, Construction Finance segments, and Car Loan distribution. Company also forayed into Gold Loans in Aug 22. Company is promoted by first generation entrepreneur, Mr. Rajesh Sharma and listed on BSE and NSE. With 917 branches in 14 states & UTs across North and West India and over 10,150 employees, company has reported AUM of Rs. 124 billion in Q2FY24. Promoter Group holds 69.89% stake in the company as on 31st Dec 2023. Going forward company is targeting AUM of Rs. 300 billion and earning target of mid-teen ROE over medium term with a strong focus on the business segments including Gold Loan, Affordable Housing and MSME loans.

On 16th January 2024, company received a composite Corporate Agency license from the Insurance Regulatory and Development Authority of India (IRDAI) in December 2023 to distribute life, general, and health

BOB Financial and HPCL launch co-branded contactless RuPay Credit Card

Mumbai: BOB Financial Solutions Limited (BFSL), a wholly-owned subsidiary of Bank of Baroda (BoB) and Hindustan Petroleum Corporation Ltd. (HPCL) – a Maharatna Central Public Sector Enterprise in partnership with National Payments Corporation of India (NPCI), have announced the launch of HPCL BoB Co-branded contactless RuPay Credit Card.

The card is designed to reward customers for spends at HPCL fuel pumps as well

as the HP Pay app. It also offers accelerated rewards for spends on utilities, grocery and departmental stores. This card can be used across merchants and ATMs globally through the JCB network.

Cardholders of HPCL BoB RuPay Contactless Credit Card will be able to earn up to 24 reward points (per INR 150 spent) for spends at HPCL fuel pumps and on the HP Pay app. In addition, cardholders will also benefit from 1% Fuel

Surcharge Waiver on fuel purchases at HPCL pumps or on HP Pay. Customers who spend INR 5,000 or more within 60 days of card issuance will get 2,000 bonus reward points.

The co-branded credit card will offer 10 reward points (per INR 150 spent) on utilities, grocery and departmental stores and 2 reward points on other categories. The card also offers attractive discount on movie ticket bookings.

Jindal Stainless signs MoU with SCTEVT, Odisha to train future-ready stainless steel professionals

Bhubaneswar: Odisha's State Council for Technical Education & Vocational Training (SCTEVT) today signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with Jindal Stainless to promote technical education in the field of stainless steel and its various applications. Under this MoU, stainless steel courses will be introduced in all the Polytechnic colleges in Odisha from June 2022. The MoU was signed by Vice Chairman,

Upadhyay, and General Manager, Sales & Distribution, Mr. Ranit Rana. Commending the development, Chairman, SCTEVT and Principal Secretary to Government, SDTE and Industries Departments, Shri Hemant Sharma (IAS) said, "This collaboration with Jindal Stainless will enhance the learning experience for students and faculty both, as it will give them insights about and practical exposure to the stainless steel industry."



Laureus Sports Awards Full List of Winners: Novak Djokovic, Aitana Bonmati win big

New Delhi: Tennis great Novak Djokovic won the Laureus World Sportsman of the Year honour for a record-extending 5th time after 2012, 2015, 2016 and 2019, while Spain's World Cup-winning football star Aitana Bonmati won the World Sportswoman of the Year award at a star-studded ceremony in Madrid on April 22. Spain's FIFA World Cup-winning team were voted as the Laureus Team of the Year on a night when the biggest sports stars took centre stage in the prestigious awards ceremony. England's star footballer Jude Bellingham won the Laureus Breakthrough of the Year award for his

early impact at Real Madrid. Meanwhile, legendary gymnast Simone Biles was recognised for her sensational comeback to the sport last year. Tom Brady, a 7-time Super Bowl champion, presented Djokovic with his Sportsman of the Year Award; Usain Bolt, the greatest sprinter of all time, presented the Sportswoman of the Year Award to Bonmati; and last year's winner of the Breakthrough of the Year Award, Carlos Alcaraz, handed the Laureus for that category to Bellingham. Bonmati, who won the Ballon d'Or award for

2023, took to the stage twice – and made history both times: firstly, to pick up Laureus Sportswoman of the Year and in doing so become the first footballer to win the prestigious Award, and again to represent the Spain team which won the FIFA Women's World Cup in Australia and New Zealand.

"I am incredibly honoured to have won my fifth Laureus World Sportsman of the Year Award. I think back to 2012, when I won it for the first time as a 24-year-old. I am very proud to be here 12 years later, reflecting on a year that brought me and my fans a lot of

excitement and success," Djokovic said. "It was thrilling to return to Australia last January and win my 10th title. It is a tournament that is so dear to my heart and set me up for an incredible 12 months. I could not

have achieved so much success without an incredible team behind me, and inspirational rivals who have always pushed me to be the best version of myself. "The Laureus Awards are so special because they represent

recognition from the 69 world-class athletes who make up the Laureus World Sports Academy. To earn the votes of my sporting heroes is what makes these Awards so coveted in all of sport. "Finally, this Laureus

Statuette stands alone because it represents more than sporting achievement. The Laureus mission of using sport as a power for good has been changing lives for 25 years and embodies the values of its founding patron, Nelson Mandela. I want to add my support to Laureus Sport for Good and the work they are doing to transform lives around the world," he added.

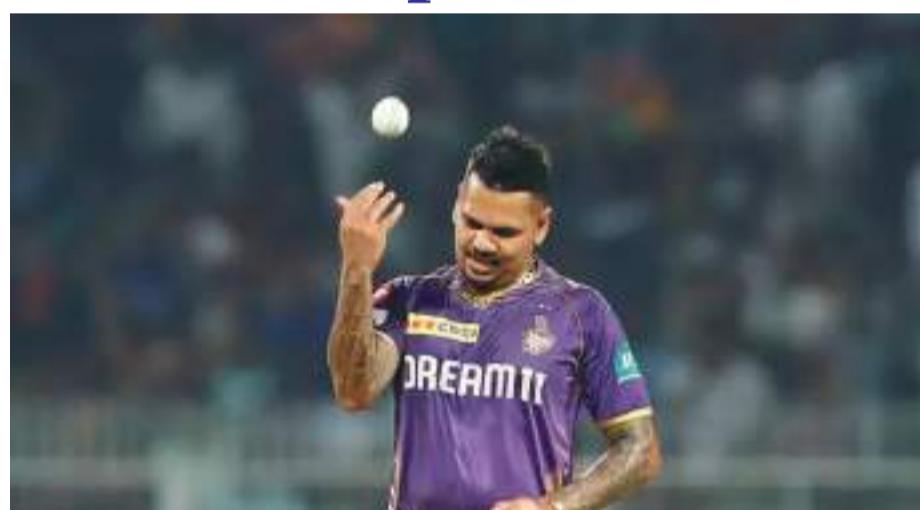
Laureus World Sportswoman of the Year, Aitana Bonmati, said: "I am honoured to receive the Laureus for Sportswoman of the Year – and I am also very happy that my international team-

"To be the first footballer to win this Award makes it even more special and I hope to represent my sport in the same way that those great champions have done," she added.

Sunil Narine rules out international return for World Cup

New Delhi: Sunil Narine has ruled out an international comeback during the upcoming T20 World Cup in the Caribbean and the USA. The Kolkata Knight Riders opener, who last played for the West Indies in August 2019 and announced his retirement in November 2023, had teased a return to the national fold after scoring his first T20 hundred this IPL season. "It is what it is but we will have to see what the future holds," he had told the broadcaster in a sideline chat when asked about the prospect of playing for the West Indies again.

It had led to West Indies captain Rovman Powell also admitting how he had been "whispering in the ears" of Narine to come



out of retirement for almost 12 months.

But now in a statement through KKR, Narine has addressed speculations about his international return and admitted how that "door is now closed".

"I'm truly flattered and humbled that my

performances recently have moved many people to publicly express their wish for me to come out of retirement and play in the upcoming T20 World Cup," Narine said in the statement. "I have made peace with that decision and whilst I never wish to disappoint, that door is

now closed and I will be supporting the guys who take the field in June for West Indies. Guys who have worked hard for the past few months and deserve to show our wonderful fans that they are capable of winning another title - I wish you all the best," he added.

New Delhi: Bangladeshi pacer Shoriful Islam feels that Mustafizur Rahman enjoys playing in the Indian Premier League more than playing for his country as the pressure is lesser in the franchise-based T20 tournament compared to what he faces while turning out for Bangladesh.

Mustafizur has picked 11 wickets in six matches so far for Chennai Super Kings in the ongoing IPL. He has shown through the course of this season his abilities at the highest level against tough oppositions, even as he's had an ordinary 12 months in the international circuit. "I watch every game and every ball Mustafizur bowls. I talk to him the day after the matches,"

Shoriful said. "I think he [Mustafizur] enjoys playing in the IPL more than playing for the Bangladesh team. It is because the pressure is less there. Perhaps, there are a lot of expectations when playing for Bangladesh and you come under immense pressure if you don't play well," he said.

"He (Mustafizur) is performing regularly. It is just that he has been unable to perform in the last two or three games (for the national team). What I mean by pressure is that everyone's expectations are quite high because of his performance over the last couple of years. Perhaps he couldn't meet the expectations in the last one or two games," he concluded.

Mustafizur will get three more games to add to his tally before returning home. CSK's fixture against PBKS on May 1 will be his last for the season, before joining up with the national squad for the Zimbabwe series that kicks off on May 3.

Ponting, Ganguly 'sure' of Pant making it to World Cup squad

New Delhi: A fortnight before the start of IPL 2024, BCCI's medical team issued a statement clearing Rishabh Pant - survivor of a life-threatening car mishap in December 2022 - to resume wicketkeeper-batter role for his franchise, Delhi Capitals. There were apprehensions still, what with an extensive 14-month rehab from the physical and mental toll of a near-death experience.

It was understood that the Indian team management would exercise caution and not rush the return of Pant the keeper just yet, and advise DC the same. Therefore, going into the new IPL season, identifying their first-choice wicketkeeper for the upcoming T20 World Cup in the Caribbean & USA - starting in a week after the finale on May 26 - was high on agenda for national think-tank. Jitesh Sharma and Ishan Kishan, who had been backed in Pant's absence albeit interchangeably, were the front-runners.

However, Capitals' teamsheet had Pant marked as both captain and 'keeper for the team in their tournament opener against Punjab Kings, ahead of the backups Shai Hope and Tristan Stubbs in the starting XI. Although the southpaw's comeback knock was short-lived, he passed both the batting and keeping tests on his return to competitive cricket after 453 days.

Now, DC head coach Ricky Ponting and the team's Director of Cricket Sourav Ganguly have no qualms claiming Pant, having picked up right from where he left, might just have leapfrogged his peers to press a very strong case for his international comeback at the World Cup in the Caribbean.

"I think so, yeah, I think yes," Ganguly said of Pant's chances to make it to India's World Cup squad. "Only 15 can make it, but as in any sport it happens, the most equipped and the better ones play and I think Pant is definitely in that bracket, I'm sure he'll be

going to West Indies," the former BCCI chief noted at a DC media day in New Delhi. "He should bat in the middle order. Where exactly is very difficult to say in T20 cricket, because of [factors like] match-ups, right-left combinations depending on who bowls, the situation of the game. It's probably not possible for anyone - right from no. 3 to 7 - to say with surety what their fixed position is. It doesn't work like that in T20 cricket especially," Ganguly added on Pant's ideal batting position.

Pant has donned the gloves in all eight of DC's games in IPL 2024 thus far, seemingly without any hiccups, and been the team's leading scorer in the tournament with 254 runs at an average of 36.29 and strike-rate a shade above 150. While the bare numbers might lean into the 'it's like he never left' narrative, it's been a steady return to the vintage Rishabh Pant mould for the destructive batter. From quashing doubts that were cast

over just the possibility of a comeback to rigorous rehab, to a composed 18 off 13 on return and finally a typically Pant-like 55 off 25 against KKR three innings later. The middle-order batter has climbed into the top-15 of the season's batting charts, and is the only one from DC to do so.

Ponting detailed how the 26-year-old has regained the confidence on his body while managing the increased workloads over the last month. "It's pretty obvious that he's seemingly gotten better

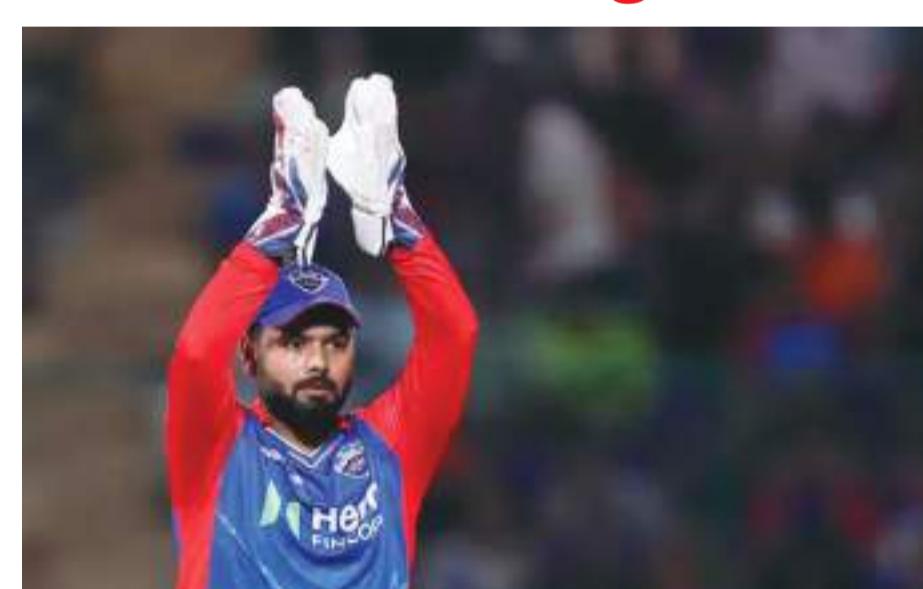
and better every game," said the Australian on Pant's progress. "I think he's starting to get a bit more trust and belief in the body as well. Early on he had been a little bit apprehensive as to what he can do, especially with the wicketkeeping side of it. He had done a little bit of batting coming into the tournament, so he had pretty good trust in his leg with the bat in his hand, but I think what we're seeing with his ability to play every game as a keeper so far, I think he's batting is getting better

and better by the game. "I've been asked a lot already the last couple of weeks now that he's back playing what could be his World Cup chances. I think he'll be in the squad for sure. He's too good a player and can have too much of an impact on games for India to not pick him," the former Australian captain said.

Axar Patel, who has

being able to do what he loves would have been a nightmare for anyone. You know, the extent of his injury - even when I first saw him and that was in the middle of last year's IPL - I must admit I had concerns if he was going to play again as well. But he's worked incredibly hard.

"This franchise has been very, very supportive of everything they can to give him the chance to get back to full fitness again and right now I mean he's not very far off being at full fitness. I'm sure all you guys have watched him closely every game you know he's running between the wickets well, he's keeping really well, he's lost nothing with his hand-eye coordination with the gloves, he's moving well. More importantly, when I saw him just after the accident obviously there wasn't much to be happy about for him, but now that he's back playing and playing well, he's got the smile [back] on his face again and that's the most important thing."



Ponting noted that while Pant may have a fresh perspective on life now, but there isn't an iota of doubt regarding his approach and attitude on the field. "I don't think he's changed much as a cricketer, to be honest. The way he thinks about life now might be a little bit different than it was before. He's been facing pretty terrifying times. You think about the accident in isolation, but then the thought of maybe never playing cricket again and that's the most important thing."