

## HUMAN SOCIETY IS MAKING THE MISTAKE OF FORGETTING THE IMPORTANCE OF FORESTS: PRESIDENT MURMU

**New Delhi, (KCN):** Human society is making the mistake of forgetting the importance of forests. Forests are life givers. The reality is that forests have preserved life on earth, said the President of India, Smt Droupadi Murmu while addressing the officer trainees of Indian Forest Service (2022 batch) at their convocation ceremony at the Indira Gandhi National Forest Academy, Dehradun today (April 24, 2024). The President said that today we talk about the Anthropocene Age, which is the period of human centric development. During this period, disastrous results have emerged along with development. U n s u s t a i n a b l e exploitation of resources has brought humanity to a point where the standards of development have to be re-evaluated. She stressed on the importance of understanding that we are not the owners of the earth's resources, but we are trustees. Our

priorities should be ecocentric along with anthropocentric. In fact, only by being ecocentric we will be able to be truly anthropocentric, she stated.

The President said that in many parts of the world the loss of forest resources has occurred very rapidly. Destruction of forests is in a way - destruction of humanity. It is a well known fact that conservation of earth's biodiversity and natural beauty is a very important task which we have to do very quickly.

The President said that human life can be saved from the crisis through conservation and promotion of forests and wildlife. We can repair the damage at a faster pace with the help of Science and Technology. For example, the Miyawaki Method is being adopted in many places. Artificial Intelligence can help in identifying suitable areas for afforestation and area specific tree species. She stated that there is a need to assess various such options and develop solutions suitable to the



geographical conditions of India.

The President said that the chariot of development has two wheels – tradition and modernity. Today human society is bearing the brunt of many environmental problems. One of the main reasons for this is a special type of modernity, the root of which is the exploitation of nature. Traditional knowledge is neglected

in this process.

The President said that tribal society has made the eternal laws of nature the basis of their life. People of this society conserve nature. But, under the impulse of unbalanced modernity, some people consider the tribal community and their collective wisdom primitive. Tribal society has no role in climate change but the burden of its ill effects is

disproportionately more on them.

The President said that it is very important to understand the importance of the knowledge accumulated by tribal society over centuries and use it to improve the environment. She stated that their collective wisdom can help us move forward on an ecologically sustainable, ethically desirable and socially justifiable path. She

stressed that we will have to unlearn many misconceptions and relearn from the ideals of a balanced lifestyle of the tribal society. We have to move forward with the spirit of climate justice. The President said that the Industrial Revolution in the 18th and 19th centuries increased the demand for timber and other forest products. New rules, regulations and methods of forest use were adopted to

cope with the demand. To implement such rules and regulations, the Imperial Forest Service, the predecessor service of the Indian Forest Service, was formed. The mandate of that service was not to protect the tribal society and forest wealth. Their mandate was to promote the objectives of the British Raj by exploiting India's forest resources to the maximum.

Referring to the mass hunting of wild animals during the British period, the President said that when she visits museums where animal skins or severed heads adorn the walls, she feels that those exhibits are telling the story of the decline of human civilization.

The President said that she was confident that the officers of the Indian Forest Service had become completely free from the colonial mentality and outlook of the former Imperial Forest Service.

She stated that IFS officers not only have to conserve and augment India's natural resources but also use the traditional knowledge in the interest

of humanity. They have to protect the forest wealth by synchronizing modernity and tradition and advancing the interests of the people whose life is based on forests. By doing this, they will be able to make a contribution that is truly inclusive and congenial to the environment.

The President said that the Indian Forest Service has given many officers to the country who have done unparalleled work for the environment. IFS officers such as Shri P. Srinivas, Shri Sanjay Kumar Singh, Shri S. Manikandan have sacrificed their lives in the line of duty. She urged the officer trainees to make such officers their role models and mentors and move forward on the ideals shown by them.

The President urged IFS officers to spend time among the tribal people in the field and earn their affection and trust. She said that they should learn from the good practices of the tribal society. She also urged them to take ownership of their responsibilities and become a role model.

## Campaigning ends for phase 2 of Lok Sabha polls in 89 seats



**New Delhi (KCN):** The curtains came down Wednesday evening on a high-voltage campaigning for the second phase of Lok Sabha polls in 89 seats across 13 states April 26. Staggered over seven stages, the first phase of the elections held last Friday for 102 seats across 21 states and Union territories saw a voter turnout of around 65.5 per cent. Polling is scheduled in all 20 seats of Kerala, 14 of the 28 seats in Karnataka, 13 seats in Rajasthan, 8 seats each in Maharashtra and Uttar Pradesh, 7 seats in Madhya Pradesh, 5 seats each in Assam and Bihar, 3 seats each in Chhattisgarh and West

Bengal, and 1 seat each in Manipur, Tripura and Jammu and Kashmir. Among the prominent contestants are Union minister Rajeev Chandrasekhar (Thiruvananthapuram), BJP's Tejasvi Surya (Karnataka), Hema Malini and Arun Govil (both Uttar Pradesh), Congress leaders Rahul Gandhi (Wayanad) and Shashi Tharoor (Thiruvananthapuram), Karnataka Deputy Chief Minister DK Shivakumar's

brother DK Suresh (Cong), former Karnataka chief minister HD Kumaraswamy (JDS).

During the campaigning, Prime Minister Narendra Modi kicked up a row Sunday while addressing a rally in Rajasthan's Banswara. Slamming the Congress manifesto, he alleged that the opposition party was planning to give people's hard-earned money and valuables to "infiltrators" and "those who have more children" and referred to former prime minister Manmohan Singh's speech in 2006 to contend he had said that Muslims have the "first claim" on the country's resources.

## Kendrapara: Ex-Clerk-Cum-Dealing Assistant Gets 2-Yr RI For Taking Bribe

**Kendrapara (KCN):** The Special vigilance court on Wednesday convicted an Ex-Clerk-cum-Dealing Assistant to two years of rigorous imprisonment in a bribery case.

The accused has been identified as Madhaba Chandra Acharya, Ex-Clerk-cum-Dealing Assistant, Derabira Block, Dist-Kendrapara, A/p-Sr. Clerk, O/o-Mahakalapada Tahasil, Dist-Kendrapara. Acharya was charge-sheeted by Odisha Vigilance in a Case vide Spl. Judge, Vigilance, Cuttack TR No.10/2010 U/s 13(2) r/w 13(1)(d)/7 P.C. Act, 1988 for demanding and accepting a bribe from a complainant for releasing the first instalment in the shape of a cheque for the construction of IAY house allotted to him.

He was convicted by the Special Judge, Vigilance, Cuttack and sentenced to undergo rigorous imprisonment for 2 years and a fine of Rs.5,000 and in default of payment of the fine, to undergo further rigorous imprisonment for 6 months more for the offence U/s 13(2) r/w 13(1)(d)/7 P.C. Act, 1988.

Odisha Vigilance will now move the competent authority for the dismissal of Madhaba Chandra Acharya from service following his conviction. Further reports are awaited.

## Conspiracy claims against PM can't be made irresponsibly: Delhi HC on Pinaki Misra's defamation suit

**New Delhi:** The Delhi High Court Wednesday observed that allegations of conspiracy against the Prime Minister cannot be made irresponsibly and need to be based on "cogent and substantial reasons."

The High Court said this while hearing a defamation suit by BJD MP Pinaki Misra against Advocate Jai Anant Dehadrai over claims of corruption.

The court said that the conspiracy to target the PM is an offence under IPC. "It is treason," Justice Jasmeet Singh said.

Misra, who is also a senior advocate, has sought relief of permanent injunction and damages

against the defendants — Dehadrai, ANI, PTI and X — urging the court to restrain them from making, publishing, circulating ex facie false and defamatory

represented through Advocate Raghav Awasthi.

On the allegation of Misra being the architect of the conspiracy to target the Prime Minister, his counsel Sarangi said that my party (BJD) is ideologically aligned with the BJP and the Prime Minister.

The judge asked Dehadrai's counsel how had Misra targeted the Prime Minister.

The court said, "These are very serious allegations against the PM. You can't be trigger-happy. You are alleging serious allegations of conspiracy against the PM by a sitting MP. You explain it or I will injunction you."

## Naveen Steps Into Poll Campaign Field With Mega Event At Hinjili; Slams Opposition



**Bhubaneswar (KCN):** Odisha Chief Minister and Biju Janata Dal (BJD) president Naveen Patnaik launched his electioneering on his home turf Hinjili Assembly constituency in Ganjam district on Wednesday.

Addressing a public rally at Sheragada this morning, the Chief Minister launched a scathing attack against the Opposition saying that they are opposing for the sake of opposition. "They are opposing all development work undertaken by the state government, including the Puri Parikrama Project, the Ekamra Project and the Samelei Project. They

(the Opposition) are politicising every positive move of the state government. The people of Odisha are aware of their nature and mean politics and this will teach them a lesson in the upcoming twin polls in the state. They need to bear in mind that no one has ever succeeded by opposing development," the Chief Minister said.

"Odisha will complete 100 years of its existence as a separate state in 2036 and Odisha will be the number 1 state in the country by then," Naveen promised the people.

Reminding the people of the achievements of his government, the Chief Minister said, "We have helped to transform the

lives of 7,000,000 through their active participation in self-help groups (SHGs) and now they

are driving development across the state. Even the farmers and their families are better off now as they

benefit from loans with zero per cent interest. Our government has also empowered women

members so far. All these are important milestones in Odisha's development. We have ensured that women in Odisha get their due rights and empower them in all spheres of life."

Naveen went on to say that Odisha has been a pioneer in several fields, including health, education and disaster management. The CM said, "Odisha is the number 1 state in India on several accounts – women's empowerment, attracting investments, and the Biju Swasthya Kalyan Yojna (BSKY)," adding, "The BSKY is a unique initiative. Our government's special budget for farmers is

also the first of its kind in the country."

"In the days ahead we have plans to introduce the youth budget and I promise the 2024-34 will offer a golden opportunity to the youths of Odisha. Our budget for the youth will focus on industrial investment and skill development," the Chief Minister said.

"Odisha's 4.5 crore people are my family and I will continue working for them till the end," Naveen said concluding his address.

5 T and Nabin Odisha Chairman VK Pandian, several senior BJD leaders and ministers attended the programme at Hinjili today

## Shadow

Rabi Satpathy

I left my shadow with you wishing it to remain with you at village which can stand with you will see silently your happy family

Believe me this shadow is very faithful which can sacrifice its life for you can protect you day and night if you so wish

How can I tell you this shadow of mine fears darkness more but loves night much please stand with it calmly when it fears



After leaving it with you I feel lonely, yet thinking, how I left it lonely with you and it agreed blindly to remain with you.

From original Odia to English translation by Manas Ranjan Mahapatra

## For The Society's Welfare

Dr. Samrat Kar

Duty be performed As per one's power, Not as per one's will.

Burden be shared As per one's strength, Not on equal foot.

Alms be extended As per one's wallet, Not as per ratio.

No more is required To prod the society Towards its welfare.

So dear future Social Worker : Be proud, Be curious Be empathetic, Be kind to yourself. And the hidden world into which you step. Will be all the richer to have you in it.

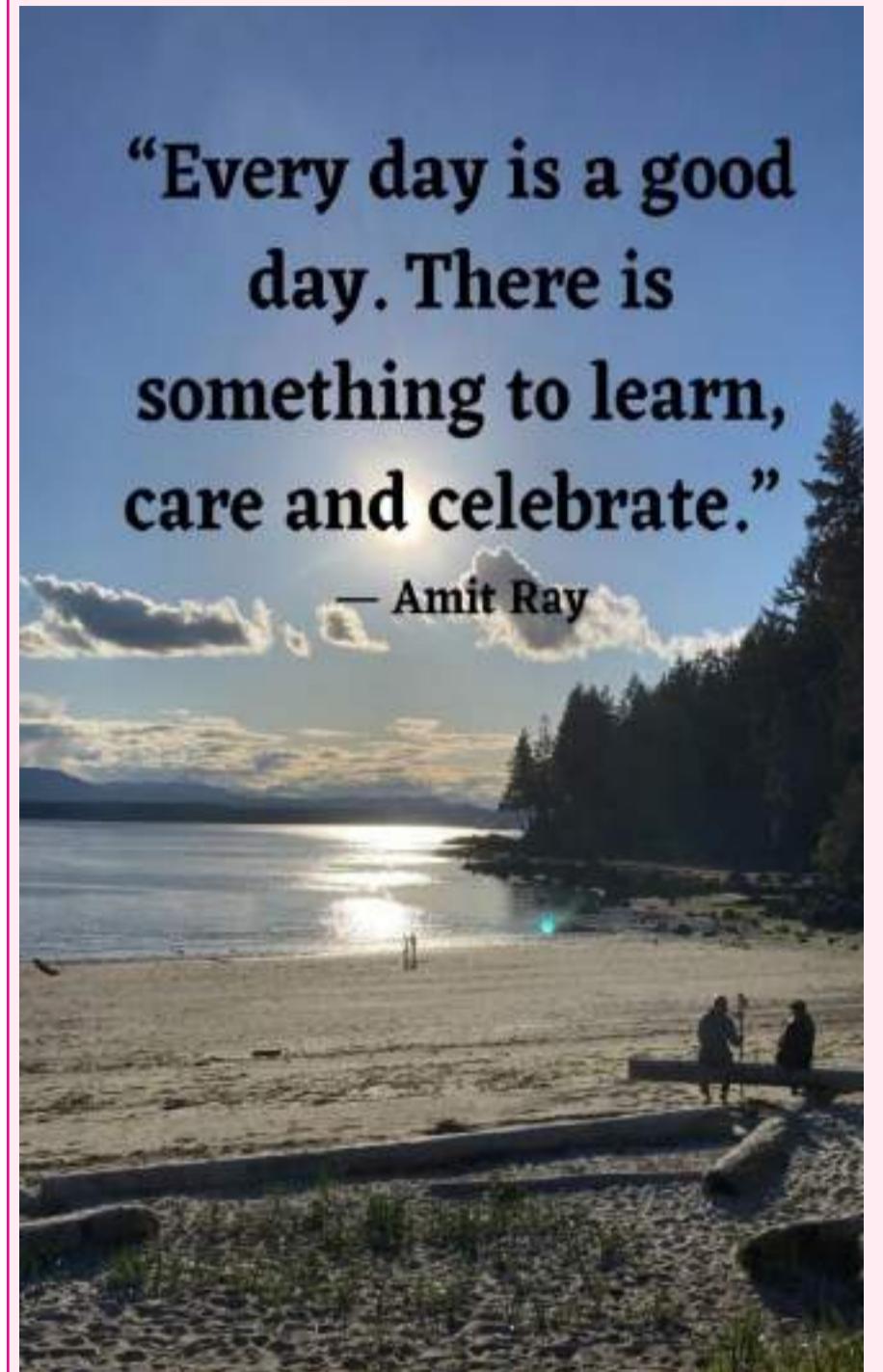
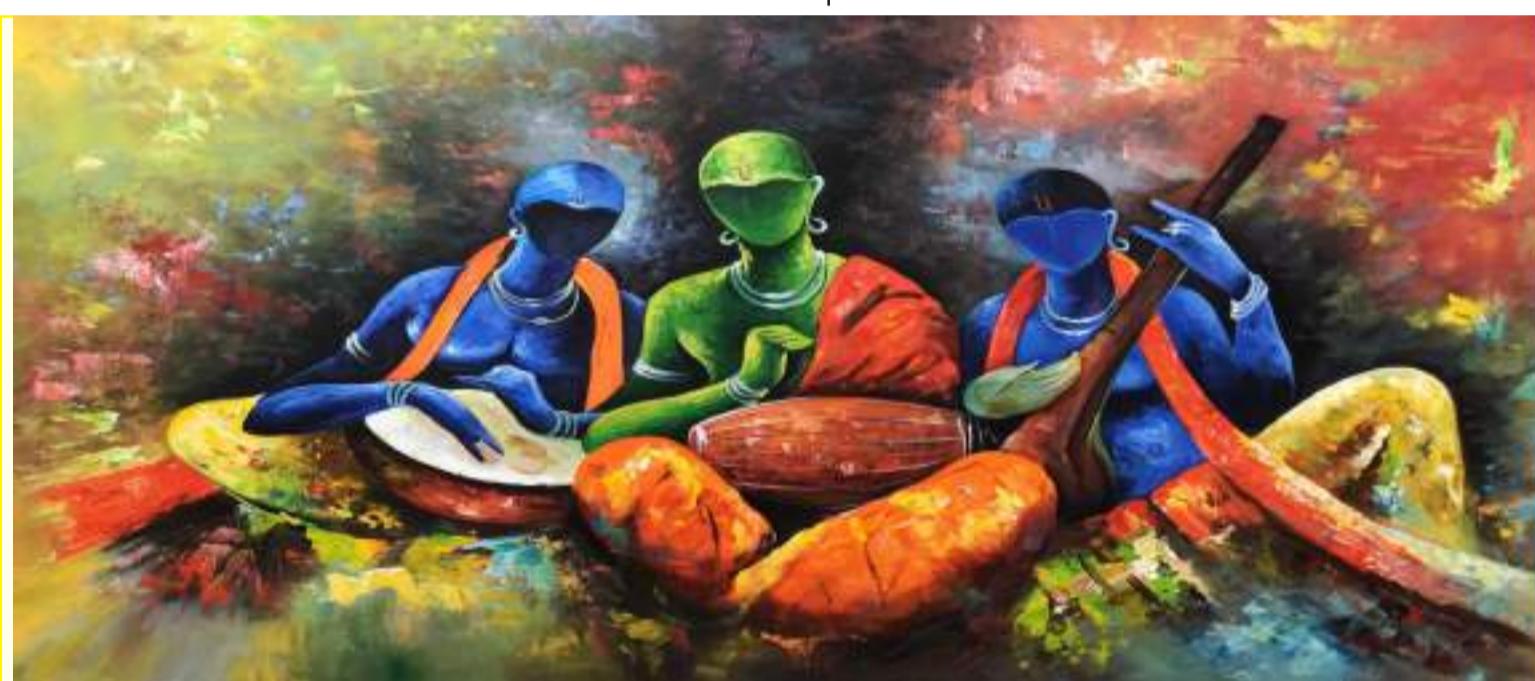
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## Quotation of the Day

**"Every day is a good day. There is something to learn, care and celebrate."**

— Amit Ray



## Secularism in India

Prof. MANAS RANJAN MAHAPATRA



Mughal emperor Aurangzeb was going from Delhi to Calcutta. There were also 44 kings and their queens in the convoy of Aurangzeb.

When the caravan reached Banaras, Hindu queens expressed their desire to visit Lord Kashi. In complying with their wishes, an army camp was built just 5 kilometers away from the temple on the order of Aurangzeb. The queens were taken to the temple in a palanquin to see the Lord Krishna.

The queens took bath in the holy river Ganga and paid visit to the Lord Kashi. After returning from the temple, one out of 44 queens, the Maharani of Kutch, was found missing. The rest 43 queens reached the camp.

A search mission has been launched and surprisingly Maharani was found semi-naked in the basement of the temple. After probing, this was found that the priest of the temple had forced adultery with the queen. Hindu kings begged Aurangzeb for justice. Aurangzeb ordered to hang that priest on the tree. The order was followed and all Hindu kings were happy and raised slogans praising the Emperor Aurangzeb. This incident is



mentioned in the book named "Feathers and Stones" written by historian Pattathi Sitaranayyah.

It has been 60 years since Pandit Jawaharlal Nehru, the first elected PM of India left for his heavenly abode. But, religious fanatics of BJP are still afraid of him and discuss in various forums.

Don't be confused that this BJP has the ideology of the earlier Jansangh or the RSS. The earlier organisations had values and this organisation has criminology and corruption as ideals. For them, Ram, the Maryada Purusottam Incarnation of God Vishnu, is not a God, but a party pamphleteer! You can get awards, but can't live for the next century unless you have a world view and have a great fan following.

Don't always choose people who have reached heights. Choose people who can hold you when you fall from the heights! Every party in power has an agenda. It can be in two styles : Political and Corporate. A corporate style is united positive performance oriented and a political style is individual personal gain oriented. A good leader should lead the team in such a manner that everyone gets a space for maximum positive performance as a team member irrespective of political affiliation or liking. This is the reason why Russia has grown in the last seventy five years and India couldn't.

Many of my friends have suddenly become critical of Javed Akhtar after a crook journalist asked for some money

and Shabana refused to pay. The idiot disgruntled fellow published a news that Javed Akhtar has reportedly said that he feels insecure in India. Fact remains that nobody feels secure after pseudo nationalists occupy the centre stage in any country, be it Germany, India or Afghanistan.

I was a regular visitor to Azamgarh from 1987 to 2007 for works of NCERT and NBT. The more I think of Azamgarh, Shabana Azmi and Javed Akhtar often come to my mind for many good reasons. Azamgarh has many great sons so far as literature is concerned. Sajjad Zahir's place is not very far. But, the most illustrious in the recent years have been Kaifi Azmi.

Aabid Surti's train

'What a rubbish remix...' Kaifi Saab expressed his anguish. 'How could you know it..', the person asked. 'This is my lyric, the pronunciation was wrong.' Kaifi said. At once the crowd understood that the legendary Kaifi Azmi is amongst them. And, the Section Officer also came out of his room to find the legend at his door. And then what happened, if Kaifi's work was done or not, nobody knows. But the fact remains that Kaifi Azmi's name was known to many in Azamgarh. The Section Officer himself came forward to see that the work is done. Alas, in my hometown Puri I once introduced that I am from NBT and the people understood that I am from MBD, the publisher of help series books! Nobody bothers for Art and Culture as some vested interest people are managing the show everywhere.

It was almost sunset when we reached Azamgarh. We had another friend Prof. Paliwal with us. And, outside the India's first ever Rural Cultural Centre cum Library at the village Jokhera, Azamgarh had many great sons so far as literature is concerned. The legendary

Sajjad Zahir's place is not very far.

Suddenly we noticed that, outside the Library, a group was playing Volleyball in the nearby field. I thought of coining the words 'Paliwal' and 'Volleyball' in a poem and composed a few lines. It was like this. They wanted to play Volleyball and we told them to shout the word 'Paliwal'. They did not listen and went on playing. And at last, we told them to shout 'Volleyball' and pat came the response of the blind followers: Paliwal, Paliwal...

Javed Akhtar and Shabana Azmi have donated in Crores for literature and Culture in Azamgarh and these days, useless people make stories on Javed believing fake reports. I have promoted many authors and organisations for promoting literature and culture in Odisha and I am lost in transit in Odisha. That is the national misfortune.

**Visiting Professor of Development Communication**  
**Former Director, I & PR and Culture, North Eastern Council Ministry of DoNER, Govt. of India**  
**Former Director, Book Publishing Courses & Editor, NCCL National Book Trust, Ministry of HRD, Govt. of India**

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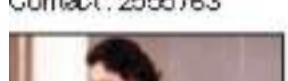
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# 'Papa Kehte Hain' from Rajkummar Rao's 'Srikanth' will tug at your heartstrings

The second song from Rajkummar Rao's 'Srikanth', titled 'Papa Kehte Hain', is finally out. The track is a refreshing twist to 'Papa Kahte Hain' from Aamir Khan's 1988 film, 'Qayamat Se Qayamat Tak'. The music was launched by Aamir Khan himself with the team at a grand event in Mumbai.

'Papa Kahte Hain' from 'Srikanth' is a fresh take on the 1988 superhit song of the same name. The song will remind you of simpler times and the return of the golden retro era. The video is as heartfelt as the music, with Jyothika clapping for her son and Rajkummar's character spending some cute moments with Alaya F. The song launch witnessed a spectacular show by a visually impaired band that performed the track along with other songs including 'Ae Mere Humsafar'. Aamir Khan, Rajkummar Rao, and Udit Narayan joined the



live chorus while creating a truly heartwarming moment. 'Papa Kehte Hain' 2.0 is sung by Udit Narayan, music has been recreated by Aditya Dev, while the original music is given by Anand Milind. The lyrics of the song are written by Majrooh Sultanpuri. The song is a recreated version of the old track with visuals of

Rajkummar Rao playing Srikanth and Jyothika in the role of his mother. The trailer of the upcoming film was launched a couple of days back. Sharing the trailer of 'Srikanth', Rajkummar wrote, "Trailer Out Now. Embark on a journey where every moment becomes extraordinary through Srikanth's vision! #Srikanth releases in

cinemas on 10th May 2024 (sic)." Rajkummar's wife, actor Patralekhaa wrote a long note after 'Srikanth' trailer release. Praising her husband, the 'Phule' actor wrote, "Rajjjjjjj, what an amazing trailer. I am so stoked for you and this amazing character that you played. I just want to scribble a couple of words about your journey with this

character. It all started with you going to the blind school, the very next week you came home with almost a cracked rib as you were practicing blind cricket so you thought may well shut the eyes n play. I dint realise that this wasn't the scary part (sic)." She added, "The scary part began after a few days of your shoot

when I saw your shoulder dropping your posture began to change. I kept yelling that you don't have to do this. At some point I thought you were going to go blind with not letting your eyes rest.. But I see you Rajuuu, you are just the best at what you do. You devout your body & soul to the character. I consider myself lucky to be a part of your madness & super proud of you husband. But kabhi kabhi meri bhi sun liya karna yaar (Please listen to me sometimes) (sic)." "Srikanth" is a biographical drama that chronicles the inspiring journey of Srikanth Bolla, a resilient individual who overcame significant challenges due to visual impairment to attain remarkable success. The film is set to hit theatres on May 10, 2024. Other than Rajkummar, the biopic drama will feature Jyothika, Alaya F, and Sharad Kelkar in significant roles.

## '12th Fail' to release in China, director Vidhu Vinod Chopra shares excitement

Vidhu Vinod Chopra's celebrated film '12th Fail', starring Vikrant Massey and Medha Shankar in lead roles, is set to make its mark in China. The film's release in China signifies a milestone in Chopra's career and highlights the global appeal of Indian cinema.

Chopra, known for his masterful storytelling, expressed his enthusiasm about bringing '12th Fail' to Chinese audiences. He said, "As a filmmaker, I believe storytelling transcends borders. Bringing '12th Fail' to China is not just about reaching a new audience, but about sharing universal human experiences that resonate regardless of geography. '12th Fail' is based on a story of honest people, and I am sure that people everywhere will relate to the struggles and perseverance of the characters. I'm excited to see how Chinese audiences connect with it."

'12th Fail' is based on a 2019 book of the same name, depicting the early life and struggles of IPS officer Manoj Kumar Sharma. The film's narrative, coupled with Chopra's distinctive directorial vision, has earned it love from critics and fans alike.



## 'Love Sex Aur Dhokha 2': Ektaa Kapoor introduces trans woman Bonita Rajpurohit



Ektaa Kapoor has introduced Bonita Rajpurohit, a trans woman, who plays the role of Kulu in 'Love Sex Aur Dhokha 2'. The upcoming film will release in theatres on April 19. 'Love Sex Aur Dhokha 2' makers introduced Bonita Rajpurohit, a trans woman, who plays the role of Kulu in the film. After the teaser launch that gave a glimpse of a gripping and shocking tale, Ektaa Kapoor has now introduced a trans woman protagonist, on the big screen.

Ektaa Kapoor, who is known to give opportunities

to many new talents, recently became the first producer to launch a transgender woman as a lead on the big screen in 'Love Sex Aur Dhokha 2'. Bonita Rajpurohit will be seen playing the character of Kulu in the film, glimpses of which we all have seen in the teaser. Earlier, trans woman, Trinetra Halder Gummaraju created a buzz with her presence in 'Made in Heaven 2'. She is yet to make her big screen debut.

The makers shared a video on Instagram showcasing Bonita Rajpurohit's journey and

## Kartik Aaryan's 'Aashiqui 3' not being produced by T-Series. Read statement

Bhushan Kumar's T-Series has released a statement and officially stated that they are not involved in the production of Kartik Aaryan's upcoming film, 'Aashiqui 3'. Earlier, it was announced that Bhushan Kumar, Anurag Basu and Kartik Aaryan will be joining hands for the next installment in the Aashiqui franchise.

In an announcement on Wednesday, March 6, T-Series clarified that Vishesh Films and Mukesh Bhatt are the joint owners of 'Aashiqui 3'.

"T-Series wishes to clarify that we are not presently involved in the development or production of Aashiqui 3. If and when Aashiqui 3 is initiated, T-Series and Vishesh Films / Mukesh Bhatt being joint owners in the franchise, shall produce it jointly only. We categorically deny any ongoing rumours suggesting that Aashiqui 3 is being produced under a

different title by T-Series. Our proposed film to be directed by Anurag Basu is neither Aashiqui 3 nor part of the Aashiqui



The first part, which released in 1990, featured Rahul Roy and Anu Aggarwal in the lead. The sequel, starring Aditya Roy Kapur and Shraddha Kapoor, came out in April 2013. The third part is expected to feature Kartik Aaryan in the lead. On the other hand, Tripti Dimri has been the talk of the town following the historic success of 'Animal' and the makers feel that she would set the screen on fire with Kartik Aaryan. The two will also be seen sharing screen space in 'Bhool Bhulaiyaa 3'.

# Modi-Shah efforts: BJP set to sweep NE states



The North-Eastern region of India, where the sun's rays first reach, is ready to deliver its verdict in the upcoming Lok Sabha elections. The Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) is aiming to win 370 seats in these elections, including all 25 seats from the Northeast. Looking back at the 2019 Lok Sabha elections, the BJP had secured significant victories in the Northeast, and the party is confident of maintaining its hold this time as well.

This confidence stems from Prime Minister Narendra Modi's belief that the people of the Northeast will not forget the development initiatives his government has undertaken in the region. Additionally, Home Minister Amit Shah, like PM Modi, has played a crucial role in establishing lasting peace in the Northeast.

through various peace accords. Due to robust internal security measures, there have been no major violent incidents reported across the region, with the exception of Manipur, where the Home Ministry is actively working towards a concrete solution.

India's Northeast comprises the eight border states of Arunachal Pradesh, Assam, Manipur, Meghalaya, Mizoram, Nagaland, Sikkim, and Tripura. The region accounts for 25 seats in the 543 seat-Lok Sabha, the lower house of the Indian Parliament. States in the region will vote on April 19 and 26 and May 7.

Assam holds the highest number with 14 seats. In the 2019 Lok Sabha elections, the NDA secured 21 out of the 25 seats. The BJP aims to surpass this figure in the upcoming elections. Assam Chief Minister Himanta Biswa Sarma of the BJP, who is convener of the North East Democratic Alliance, a BJP-led bloc in the Northeast, claims

that the NDA would win 22 seats across the region in the upcoming general elections.

Discussions with political functionaries from different parties revealed that the BJP and its allies



have an edge in 20 constituencies. The contest in the remaining five is expected to be tough.

In Assam, which has the highest number of seats (14) among all the northeastern states, the ruling BJP has fielded candidates in 11 constituencies and its allies – the Asom Gana Parishad (AGP) and the United People's Party Liberal (UPPL) – will contest from the remaining three. In 2019, the BJP won 9 seats from Assam. The

northeastern states. Mamata Banerjee's TMC and Sharad Pawar's NCP had made independent attempts to gain a foothold in the region during the previous elections, but this time, their efforts seem to be absent. This is primarily because Sharad Pawar is currently engaged in a battle with his nephew to maintain control over his party and political existence. Similarly, Mamata Banerjee is facing challenges at home due to allegations

of corruption and communal disturbances. The trust placed in the BJP by the people of the Northeast stems from the active focus on development and peace initiatives undertaken by

the Northeast in the 75 years since independence. These 10 years under the leadership of Modi ji, not only the distance from Northeast to Delhi and the rest of India has reduced due to the creation of infrastructure, but the difference of hearts has also reduced. The Northeast, which was struggling with various ethnic, linguistic, border and extremist groups related problems, has also got the beginning of a fresh and durable era of peace in these 10 years.

It goes without saying that if these 10 years for the Northeast are compared with the 75 years after the country's independence, then this decade will definitely be considered as the Golden period of the Northeast.

In a recent historic development, the Government of India and the Government of Manipur signed a peace agreement with the United National Liberation Front (UNLF), one of the oldest armed groups in Manipur. This agreement paves the way for a new era of peace in the Northeast in general, and Manipur in particular. It marks the first time that a valley-based Manipuri armed group has agreed to renounce violence, return to the mainstream, and respect the Constitution of India and the country's laws. The agreement will not only end hostilities between the UNLF and security forces, which have claimed thousands of lives over the past half-century but will also provide an opportunity to address the community's long-standing concerns. The UNLF has been active since 1964, operating both within and outside Indian territory.

Meanwhile, The Central Government is making all possible efforts to support development of sports in the North-Eastern states through funding. All essential steps are being taken to support the NE States, and the Government is positively and continuously sanctioning the proposals received from the NE, including Nagaland. Under Khelo India Scheme, the second Khelo India Games were held in Guwahati. Given this backdrop, it looks that NE states would give positive results to BJP in the forthcoming Lok Sabha election.

**The Author is a Delhi based columnist and former Editor**

Vivek Shukla

## Ayurvedic Remedies to Keep Healthy Eyes



can cause painful short-term damage to your eyes in the form of sunburn. However, UV's long-term, cumulative effects—cataracts, pterygium and macular degeneration—can dramatically impact your ability to see clearly and enjoy healthy vision in the long term.

Our unprotected eyes are most exposed to UV radiation in the mornings and afternoons, and not just at noontime, as is commonly assumed. At noon, the sun is overhead, shining down on us and not directly into our eyes. Minimizing UV rays exposure can help maintain your healthy vision for as long as possible.

Stay cool and safeguard your eyes-----

1--Aloe Vera Juice There are numerous benefits of aloe vera, including your eye health. You can apply chilled aloe vera juice to your eyes with the help of cotton balls. This will help reduce eye strain and give your eyes a soothing effect. If you have dry skin around your eyes, the sugars in aloe vera

can keep your skin moisturized. The amino acids in it will make your skin soft while the zinc tightens your pores. Aloe vera extract contains properties that can help reduce eye inflammation and dryness. Aloe vera, at

neutralize free radicals, protecting the eyes from their harmful effects. Consuming Amla or using Amla-based eye drops can help maintain eye health. You should drink amla juice to improve your eye vision and keep

**Shahnaz Hussain**

one of the sources of cataracts.. Regular consumption of Amla juice can help prevent cellular damage and maintain the long-term health of your eyes.

Dry eyes are a common condition during summer. Amla

Regular consumption of Amla juice can cure eye problems such as eye strain, fatigue, discomfort, redness, swelling and puffiness

Amla juice is high in essential vitamins, which help our eyes

support healthy eyes. It contains antioxidants like vitamins A, C, and E, carotenoids, lutein and Zeaxanthin that protect the eye from harmful high-energy blue light that can damage the retina of your eyes. They also protect against developing cataracts, glaucoma and other chronic eye diseases.

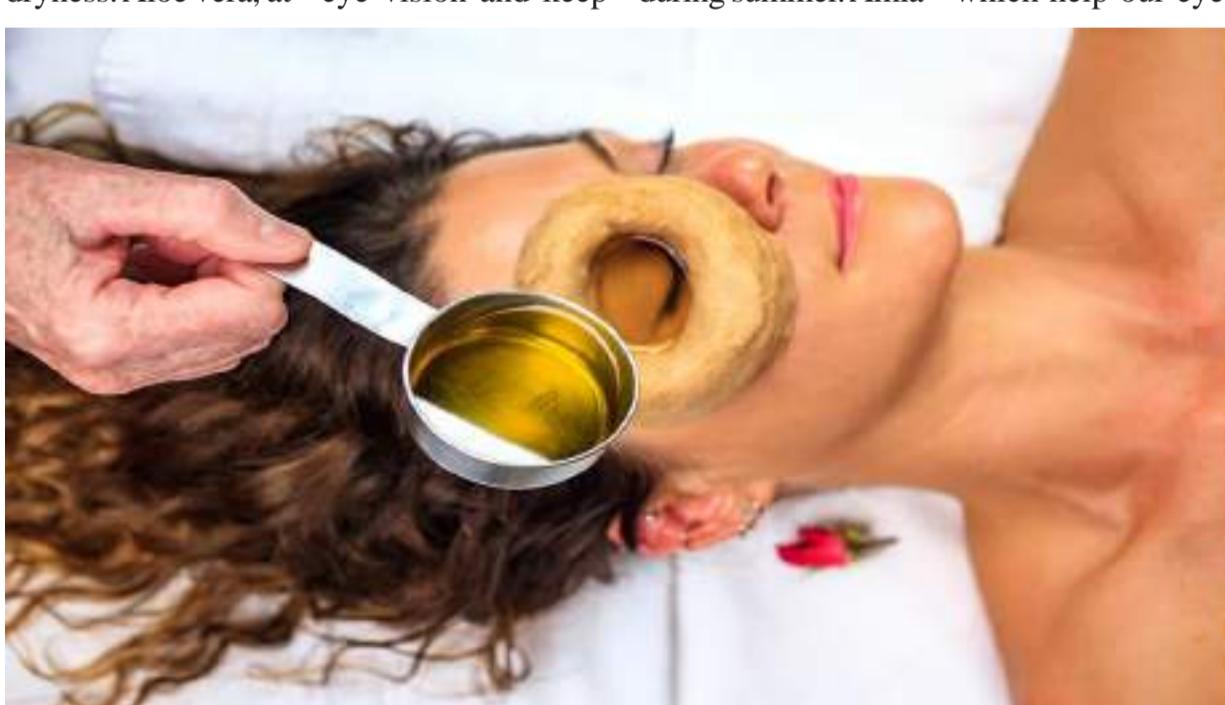
Antioxidants help to prevent retinal degeneration that can cause various eye diseases, while vitamin A strengthens your cornea.

Consuming this nutritious fruit every day can improve your overall vision and protect it from infections

4---Blueberries---

Dubbed as nature's superheroes, These mighty, violet-hued gems are a powerhouse of antioxidants, particularly anthocyanins, as well as vitamin C and E, all of which are

renowned for their potential to protect eyesight and slow the progression of sight loss. Their deep blue hue is a result of anthocyanins, potent compounds that assist in maintaining



low concentrations, does not hurt eye cells. It's important to avoid putting aloe vera gel directly into your eyes. Doing so can cause burning, irritation, redness, and other side effects.

2--Amla ----- Amla helps to improve and preserve the eyesight. Amla is rich in vitamin C and antioxidants, thus, helping you attain a better vision. Amla's potent antioxidants

contains cooling properties that can help soothe and hydrate the eyes, providing relief from dryness, itching, and discomfort. Regular consumption of Amla or using Amla-based eye drops may alleviate the symptoms of dry eyes.

In today's digital age, many people spend prolonged periods looking at screens, leading to eye strain.

to be stronger and healthier.

3--Papaya

Papaya is a juicy and nutritious tropical fruit with a distinct flavour that is not usually preferred by many.

Papayas are a soft, fleshy fruit that can be used in a wide variety of culinary ways.

Papaya is good for healthy eyes due to the presence of nutrients that help

healthy blood vessels in the eyes and strengthen the retina and provide extra vision protection. A regular intake of blueberries for few months improve ocular blood flow and visual field defects.

Blueberries, with their vasodilatory effects and ability to improve blood flow, contribute to this crucial aspect of ocular wellness. By enhancing circulation to the eyes, these berries promote overall eye function and may even help alleviate symptoms of conditions like glaucoma, which involves impaired blood flow to the optic nerve.

Protecting the eyes from UV rays by wearing sunglasses and hats, getting regular eye exams, and effectively managing conditions such as high blood pressure and diabetes are all important for maintaining optimal eye health during summertime.

**The author is international fame beauty expert and is called the herbal queen of India**

# Odias in Singapore Celebrate 89th Odisha Day

**Singapore, (KCN) :** Odias in Singapore celebrated 89th Utkal Divas with much pomp and splendour recently. Hosted by Odia Society of Singapore (OSS) with the support of Indian High Commission at Singapore, the Gala Festival witnessed the showcasing of essence, excellence and fragrance of Odisha. The ceremony venue at Grassroots Club Auditorium was decorated aesthetically and elegantly to mark the grand occasion. Wearing the glitzy and glittering look of a Mini Odisha, the entire ambience was agog with festive fervour. More than three hundred Odias and Odisha lovers



attended the Mega Event alongwith their family members. The sole purpose of the massive celebration was to project, promote, propagate and popularise Odisha's rich art, vibrant culture, lofty tradition, lavish cuisine, enchanting tourism and incredible craftsmanship among the non Indians. The programme commenced with the recital of Odisha's State Anthem, 'Bande Utkal Janani'. The Festival was inaugurated by the Guest of Honour High Commission of India to Singapore H.E. Dr Shilpkar Ambule by lighting the ceremonial lamp placed in front of

the Idol of Lord Jagannath on stage. Dr Ambule was felicitated with Odisha's traditional Uttariya and Flowers bunch by the President of OSS Subrat Nayak and

Secretary Hemanta Rout. Delivering his speech Dr Ambule elaborated on the robustness of Odisha's age old cultural heritage.

The highlight of the much acclaimed celebration

## Swami Gautamananda Maharaj elected 17th President of Ramakrishna Math and Mission



## Renowned Environment Activist Dr. Vandana Shiva at Heritage Institute of Technology



**Kolkata, (KCN):** As a part of Earth Day celebrations, Dr. Vandana Shiva, Scholar and Environment Activist visited the Heritage Institute of Technology today on 24th April for an interactive session on the topic 'Earth, Democracy and Rights of Nature'. Dr. Shiva was welcomed by Mr. Pradip Agarwal, CEO, Heritage Institute of Technology and Prof. Basab Chaudhuri, Principal of the Institute. The event was supported by Institution's Innovation Cell and IQAC, Heritage Institute of Technology, Kolkata. During the programme, Dr. Vandana Shiva gave an insight to how soil content in India is eroding to a greater extent and how organic farming is beneficial for the society at large. Citing the examples of our Father of the Nation, Mahatma Gandhi, the Salt movement, Satyagraha, despite hurdles, she

brought out the truth that had saved the rights of the farmers in our Country.

"We feel proud to have Dr. Vandana Shiva at our campus. Despite her busy schedule, she came and addressed the students on various topics that are pertinent for them to know and be aware. It is the duty of today's youth to take care of Mother Nature so that the future remains protected," said Mr. Pradip Agarwal, CEO, Heritage Group of Institutions, Kolkata.

## 57 Contestants from 4 PCs in Fray in West Bengal for Third Phase of Lok Sabha Poll

**Kolkata, (KCN):** Four Parliamentary Constituencies of West Bengal are going to fray in the third phase of General Election scheduled on May 7, 2024. Fifty seven (57) candidates will be contesting from West Bengal in this phase of election. The Constituencies are,

### Achyuta Samanta Conferred Honorary Doctorate Degree by JV Women's University

**Bhubaneswar, (KCN):** Educationist and social reformer Dr Achyuta Samanta on Wednesday was conferred the honorary Doctorate of Science degree by JV Women's University, Jaipur at the 14th convocation ceremony. This marks Dr Samanta's 57th honorary doctorate, acknowledging his significant contributions to education, social service, and women's empowerment.

While Dr Samanta attended the event virtually, his representative received the honor on his behalf from the university. Retired IPS officer and former Lieutenant Governor Puducherry Dr Kiran Bedi was the chief guest on the occasion. This is the first time that Samanta has received such an honour from a women's university.

Expressing his gratitude to the university, Dr Samanta dedicated the award to his mother Nilimaran, and all the women faculties and women administrative staff of KISS and KIIT.



## EAST COAST RAILWAY TO PROVIDE ECONOMY MEALS AT 09 IMPORTANT STATIONS OVER ITS JURISDICTION IN SUMMER:

**Bhubaneswar, (KCN):** Great news for budget-conscious travelers! Indian Railways along with Indian Railways Catering and Tourism Corporation (IRCTC) is stepping up to serve passengers, particularly those in unreserved coaches, with a new initiative offering hygienic meals and snacks at affordable prices.

This program anticipates the surge in passenger traffic during the summer months. Indian Railways recognizes the challenges faced by those traveling in unreserved compartments (General



Class Coaches), who may not always have access to convenient and budget-friendly meal options.

The initiative offers a two-pronged approach:

- Economy Meals:** Priced at a pocket-friendly Rs. 20/-, these meals provide a satisfying and affordable option for passengers on the go.

from these counters, eliminating the need to search for vendors or venture outside the station.

This service was successfully piloted at about 51 stations last year.

Building on that success, Railways has significantly expanded the program, with counters now operational at over 100 stations and nearly 150 counters in total. The initiative is slated for further growth, encompassing even more stations in the near future.

This program offers a significant benefit for passengers, particularly

those travelling in General Class coaches. The readily available, affordable meals and snacks ensure travelers can stay comfortable throughout their journeys.

In ECoR jurisdiction, economy meals are being provided to the passengers at important Railway Stations like Khurda Road & Palasa in Khurda Road Division; Sambalpur, Titilagarh, Balangir, Kantabanji of Sambalpur Division and at Visakhapatnam, Vizianagaram & Srikakulam Railway Stations in Waltair Railway Division.

## Firdous Baba, Chief of Kashmir Sewa Sangh, Attends Eid Milan 2024 in Delhi Organized by Muslim Rashtriya Manch (RSS)

**New Delhi, (Aasif Malik):** Firdous Baba, esteemed Chief of Kashmir Sewa Sangh, graced the Eid Milan 2024 event in Delhi, organized by the Muslim Rashtriya Manch (RSS) leader, Shri Indresh Kumar Ji. This event was a vibrant celebration of unity and brotherhood, uniting people from various backgrounds to joyously commemorate Eid.

Baba's presence at the gathering highlighted the crucial need for fostering harmonious relationships and bridging societal divides, echoing the values of inclusivity and togetherness that define the essence of Eid.

In his address, Baba emphasized the significance of unity and collective progress, urging everyone to collaborate for the greater good of the nation, transcending



religious or cultural differences.

"The Eid Milan event is a shining example of the strength that lies in unity and the bond of

brotherhood," remarked Baba. "It is through such gatherings that we cultivate understanding and harmony, paving the way for a more inclusive and peaceful society."

Shri Indresh Kumar Ji's message resonated deeply with the spirit of unity, as he emphasized, "Our identity is Indian; we are all one, working together to strengthen our nation. Let our identity not be defined by Hindu or

Muslim; we are all Indians, and this is our identity. The need of the hour is love for the country; the day we all accept that we are all Indians, India will be free from communal riots."

The event witnessed the participation of esteemed dignitaries, including political leaders, religious scholars, and community representatives, all sharing a common goal of promoting unity, peace, and mutual respect.

# Rise in potato price hits consumers hard

**Kendrapara(KCN):** A sharp rise in potato price at the time of harvest of the crop has hit the consumers hard in the state, a report said Monday. The price of the essential tuber is increasing and has now touched Rs 28 per kg whereas it was being sold at Rs 20 per kg only a week back in Kendrapara district.

With its price going up when farmers are harvesting the crop, going by the trend, it is apprehended that the prices might reach Rs 70 per kg towards the year-end. This has sparked concern among consumers. Earlier, potato was sold at Rs 7 to 8 per kg during the time of harvest at various places. Niranjan Parida, a potato farmer from

Kansar village, said he failed to get potato seeds from government stores while starting the cultivation. Left with no option, he bought potato seeds at Rs 45 per kg from the open market instead of the government-approved rate of Rs 11.25. He sowed the seeds but failed to reap a good harvest. Farmer leader Gayadhar Dhal said over 600 quintals of potato are consumed daily in the district while the tuber is cultivated on 700 hectares of land. Moreover, the traders also procure potatoes from neighbouring West Bengal to meet the increasing demand among consumers. The district Horticulture department had planned to carry out the

cultivation on 1,000 hectares. The farmers here had a requirement of 15,000 quintals of potato seeds or 15 quintals per hectare of land. However, they had to buy seeds from the open market due to delays in arrival or non-availability of seeds at the government stores. Harekrushna Behera, a resident of Jajanga village under Kendrapara block said that the tuber, the common man's most favoured vegetable, is required in the preparation of both vegetarian and non-vegetarian food. It is a common food item in every rich and poor home.

A senior resident PN Gourang of Pattamundai area said



in the absence of industries and mines in the district, agriculture is the mainstay of the people. The fertile land and rivers flowing through the district have

strengthened the agricultural economy of the district. However, people have stopped relying on cultivation as a livelihood option and are

switching to other professions due to a lack of foresight among the political leaders and the district administration. River water management is the main

problem hindering the growth of agriculture in the district, he said. There is no plan for irrigation facilities or drainage of water from farmland during floods. The district had earlier earned a name in the cultivation of cash crops, oil seed and vegetables like potato, jute, sugarcane, groundnuts, mustard, sesame and brinjal. However, gone are those days as farmers do not receive any support from the state government or the district administration to raise their crops.

Moreover, the lack of marketing facilities, cold storage, good quality seeds and proper training is also ailing the agriculture scenario in the district. The state-sponsored Potato Mission 2015 has failed to augment tuber cultivation. A potato trader Pradip Kumar Sahu said they have to spend more on procuring potatoes from West Bengal. With the transportation cost increasing by Rs 80-90 per quintal, the market price of potatoes has gone up sharply. Moreover, he added that they have to pay an additional Rs 50 to procure potatoes from cold storage, which is another reason behind the price rise. Farmers have demanded the state government and the district administration intervene and help them become self-sufficient in potato cultivation.

## Amid heatwave, political parties in Odisha focusing more on evening meetings, small gatherings



**Koraput(KCN):** With day temperatures in Malkangiri and Nabarangpur districts of Odisha hovering between 39 and 42 degree Celsius, political parties are focusing more on evening meetings and small village gatherings while campaigning for the Lok Sabha and Assembly elections.

Malkangiri district under Nabarangpur Lok Sabha seat recorded the highest temperature of 42 degrees Celsius recently. The India Meteorological Department (IMD) has forecast more heatwaves in the next few days in the state.

Odisha's Chief Electoral

Officer (CEO) Nikunj B Dhal has suggested that political parties and candidates undertake election campaigning with adequate measures to beat the heat.

BJP candidate for Nabarangpur Lok Sabha seat Balabhadra Majhi said, "I had prepared a chart for my campaigning soon after the declaration of the tickets but altered my campaigning itinerary due to the scorching temperature, focusing more on evening meetings and small village gatherings."

Pradeep Majhi, BJD candidate for the Nabarangpur Lok Sabha seat acknowledged that

heatwave has caused disruption in his election campaign but was optimistic about overcoming these challenges before the election date.

Many candidates, including Kaliram Majhi, BJP's candidate for the Koraput Lok Sabha seat, emphasized the shift towards indoor campaigning due to the unbearable heat, limiting outdoor rallies and roadshows.

"We are unable to take out roadshows and rallies because of the prevailing heat. Hence, I prefer indoor campaigning to outdoor meetings," said Tara Prasad Bahinipati, On Monday BJD Puri Lok Sabha constituency candidate Arup Patnaik was rushed to hospital after he fell down during campaigning near Pipili town in Puri district due to heatwave conditions. However, his health condition later improved after hospitalisation.

## Mahua flowers: Nature's gift providing livelihood to tribals



government also loses lakhs of rupees as revenue every year. The traders are buying Mahua flowers at cheaper rates during the flowering season and earning more profits by selling those to liquor traders. Mahua trees blossom in the spring from February to April and tribal people collect the flowers from under the trees during this time. Banspal, Telkoi, Sadar, Jhumpura, Ghatagaon blocks of Keonjhar district are harvesting more Mahua flowers than other blocks. For the Mahua collection, one can obtain a license from the panchayat. Similarly, the panchayat

is the authority to decide the minimum support price of the Mahua flower. But the ground reality is different. Many traders are allegedly procuring the flowers at throw-away prices without obtaining license. Gopal Munda, a member of a tribe in Banspal said, "As we have no storage facility, we feel it is better to sell the collected Mahua flowers immediately. Many times the traders cheat us in both rate and weight during procurement." "Every year huge quantities of Mahua flowers are collected from Keonjhar forests, but a lion's share of the



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## realme redefines low light photography standards with the realme NARZO 70 Pro 5G starting from INR 18,999

**Bhubaneswar :** realme, the Most Reliable Smartphone Service Provider in India, unveiled the newest addition to their super successful NARZO By realme line-up - NARZO 70 Pro 5G. NARZO By realme is a stylish line of smartphones that delivers a comprehensive user experience. With a rapidly growing user base of over 16 million in India, NARZO By realme represents the next generation of smartphones. These devices are designed with advanced technology and premium features to help users stay ahead of the curve and express their individuality. The new

realme NARZO 70 Pro 5G aims to redefine industry standards for low-light photography, further cementing realme's commitment to innovation and excellence. realme & Amazon have strategically engaged to bring the NARZO By realme line-up and to provide consumers with an enhanced shopping experience. NARZO By realme is exclusively available on Amazon.in and has been committed to bringing advanced technology to its users. In line with realme's dual platform strategy, realme launched its first online store on Amazon in March 2023. The realme NARZO 70

Pro 5G is a power-packed smartphone with remarkable features designed to enhance your smartphone experience. It boasts India's first 50MP Sony IMX890 Camera with Optical Image Stabilization (OIS) in the segment for capturing stunning, blur-free photos. The smartphone's visual appeal is elevated by the Horizon Glass Design and a 120Hz Ultra-Smooth AMOLED Display that offers vibrant colors and deep blacks. Powered by the Mediatek Dimensity 7050 5G Chipset, it ensures fast performance and supports 5G connectivity for faster internet speeds. First in the segment, realme NARZO 70 Pro incorporates Air Gesture controls, allowing

you to perform various actions without touching the screen. To maintain optimal performance during intense usage, it comes with a 3D VC Cooling System that effectively dissipates heat. The smartphone houses a large 5000mAh battery and supports efficient 67W SUPERVOOC charging technology for

quick power-ups. Lastly, the realme UI 5.0 based on Android 14 offers a smooth, intuitive user interface with several customization options and features for enhanced usability. The realme NARZO 70 Pro 5G is available in two stunning colors: Glass Green and Glass Gold and two storage variants:

8GB+128GB, priced at INR 19,999 and 8GB+256GB, priced at INR 21,999. Commenting on the launch, a realme spokesperson said, "Today, we are thrilled to introduce the realme NARZO 70 Pro 5G, exclusively on Amazon, a smartphone that is set to redefine low-light photography standards in the smartphone industry. With NARZO By realme, we are committed to pushing boundaries and delivering products that resonate with our young and tech-savvy audience. With the realme NARZO 70 Pro 5G, we have introduced cutting-edge technology and

advanced features that will redefine the mid-range segment. We believe this smartphone will further solidify our position as a brand that offers innovative and trendsetting smartphones." Commenting on the launch, Ranjit Babu, Director, Wireless and Home Entertainment, Amazon India said, "The NARZO series has been highly rated by customers on Amazon.in for its powerful performance, design and value for money. We extend our congratulations to the entire realme team on the launch of the NARZO 70 Pro, a smartphone that aims to set newer benchmarks in the segment with its cutting-edge camera and stunning glass design. Along with other exciting launch offers, we are happy to announce that customers can also enjoy a hassle-free instant loan within minutes enabling up to 3 months of no-cost installments\* on the NARZO 70 Pro, without the need for a credit card using Amazon Pay Later. We are proud of our continued engagement with realme and with the addition of the NARZO 70 Pro, we have further expanded our portfolio of 5G smartphones."

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

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

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

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

### TVS Motor Company registers sales of 302,982 units

**Hosur:** TVS Motor Company sales was at 302,982 units in May 2022. The year-on-year growth is not comparable due to the low base of sales in May 2021 because of the localised lockdown imposed by the Government of India during that period.

#### Two-Wheeler

Total two-wheeler sales grew from 154,416 units in May 2021 to 287,058 units in May 2022. Domestic two-wheeler sales grew from 52,084 units in May 2021 to 191,482 units in May 2022.

Motorcycle sales grew from 125,188 units in May 2021 to 148,560 units in May 2022. Scooter sales of the Company grew from 19,627 units in May 2021 to 100,665 units in May 2022.

The shortage in the supply of semiconductors has impacted the production and sales of

Spice Money to enable farmers to withdraw PM-KISAN subsidy through its 1 million Adhikari Network

New Delhi: The Government of India has disbursed PM KISAN subsidy, directly to the farmers' bank accounts benefiting over 10 crore farmers and families who have received a grant of Rs 2,000 each. Spice Money, India's leading rural fintech with 1 million strong Adhikari network covering 18,500 plus pincodes, is assisting the farmers and farmer families residing in the heartlands of the country, to withdraw this subsidy through Aadhar PS at their doorstep Adhikari



### RELIANCE BRANDS LIMITED INKS A JV WITH PLASTIC LEGNO SPA

**Mumbai:** RELIANCE BRANDS LIMITED (RBL) and Plastic Legno SPA have signed a joint venture arrangement through which RBL will acquire a 40% stake in Plastic Legno SPA's toy manufacturing business in India. This investment by RBL serves a dual purpose, bringing in vertical integration for RBL's toy business and helping diversify the supply chain with a long-term strategic interest in building toy manufacturing in India.

Plastic Legno SPA is owned by the Sunino group that boasts of more than 25 years of toy production experience in Europe. The group started its India business in 2009 out of a need to develop a strong production hub that would cater to global markets, but more importantly to the fast evolving and growing Indian market.

"Keeping with our

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

RBL has a strong play in the Toy industry with its portfolio of Hamleys, the British toy retailer and homegrown toy brand - Rowan, making RBL one of the leading toy distributors. Hamleys currently has a global

footprint across 15 countries with 213 doors and is India's largest chain of toy stores.

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

premium two-wheeler. We are working aggressively with alternate sources and taking every effort to improve supplies at the earliest. Some improvement has been seen this month. We are optimistic that volumes will revive to normal levels once the semiconductor supplies improve.

The Company's total exports registered sales of 110,245 units in May 2022 as against 114,674 units in May 2021. Two-wheeler exports recorded sales of 95,576 units in May 2022 as against 102,332 units in May 2021.

Three-wheeler of the Company grew by 28% from 12,473 units in May 2021 to 15,924 units in May 2022.

The domestic two-wheeler sales include TVS iQube Electric sales of 2,637 units in May 2022.

New Delhi: The Government of India has disbursed PM KISAN subsidy, directly to the farmers' bank accounts benefiting over 10 crore farmers and families who have received a grant of Rs 2,000 each. Spice Money, India's leading rural fintech with 1 million strong Adhikari network covering 18,500 plus pincodes, is assisting the farmers and farmer families residing in the heartlands of the country, to withdraw this subsidy through Aadhar PS at their doorstep Adhikari

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

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

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

foray will successfully meet the aspirations of digitally native consumers and also create long-term value for investors and other stakeholders."

Prashanth Aluru, CEO and Co-Founder, TMRW said, "I am excited to embark on this journey to build TMRW - a long-term enduring platform that will be home to the leading disruptor brands that provide the new age digitally savvy consumer what she is looking for across Fashion & Lifestyle.

With the backing of the Aditya Birla Group and the right profile of long-term investors we will bring in, we are confident of powering the growth of several brands that shape the next phase of digital commerce growth till 2030 and beyond. With a new age Digital first DNA, at TMRW, we will jointly create an ecosystem of the most-loved disruptor brands partnering closely with highly competent founders."

New Delhi: The Government of India has disbursed PM KISAN subsidy, directly to the farmers' bank accounts benefiting over 10 crore farmers and families who have received a grant of Rs 2,000 each. Spice Money, India's leading rural fintech with 1 million strong Adhikari network covering 18,500 plus pincodes, is assisting the farmers and farmer families residing in the heartlands of the country, to withdraw this subsidy through Aadhar PS at their doorstep Adhikari



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# CSK still trying to find its best combination, says Fleming

**Chennai:** Just past the halfway mark in IPL 2024, defending champions Chennai Super Kings find themselves in the mid-table, and their first loss at home of the season has revealed some chinks in the armour. Having built a reputation of playing with a fixed eleven over the years, this season has seen a change in the action-plan with the likes of Rachin Ravindra being dropped and Daryl Mitchell finding himself in and out of the team, and up and down the order. They've also had to contend with some injury concerns but all of it has led coach Stephen

Fleming to admit that they're not fully there yet with regards to their best combination. "It's a mix of trying to find that [the best XI], and also a bit of form. We are little bit uncomfortable with some areas, so we're just trying to find not a quick fix but try and find the right combination," said Fleming after their game against Lucknow Super Giants on April 23.

"And who are the players that are going to contribute in the back-end of the tournament the most, we've got another change coming up with Mustafizur in a couple of games. So we're just

trying to prepare a side that will give us a run home. We have had injuries, we have been a little bit unsettled. But main thing is getting guys in key areas and in form. And sometimes that will take a bit of time. Yeah, there has been some change - some of it has been forced upon us and some of it has been form," he said.

Mitchell was sent in at No. 3 today after being used in the middle-order on previous occasions without much success.

"There's a lot of pressure obviously. But getting him [Mitchell] up the order is more comfortable for him I



think, or me putting him down the order in a hitting role wasn't his best position. So we're looking to redefine that and put him up the order where his best performances have

been internationally. And that might take a little bit of time. But certainly, the top three need to contribute the majority of the runs. Ruturaj did that today, so hopefully if he can continue his form and the other guys can pick that up...we're in each game, we're not firing in all cylinders in any means but we're in each game," said Fleming.

Compounding their woes has been the lack of adequate support for spinners on their home turf, according to Fleming. While they've won their three previous games at the MA Chidambaram stadium

that we can be stronger if conditions were a little bit different.

"If you look at that we've got spinners in the side, Theekshana as well. But it nullifies that when there's nothing really going on and then there's the dew as well makes it very difficult. We can wish for it, but if we don't get it we just have to get on with it. So that's what we're doing. But it does

take a key component out of our attack. We've got Pathirana who's a weapon, Fiz has done well when it's slow but the spin department has been made redundant and I'd love it to change," he added.

## MCA plans to revive its T20 league; calls an apex council meet



**Mumbai:** The Mumbai Cricket Association (MCA) is planning to revive its Twenty20 league. An emergent Apex Council meeting of the MCA has been called for Wednesday (April 24) to discuss the possibility of restarting the tournament that was shelved five years ago. According to sources in the association, the apex council will discuss the legal implications of reviving the league that was held for two years before it was discontinued in 2019. It was previously called T20 Mumbai and the association's plan is to start afresh with new guidelines. It could be called the Mumbai

Premier League (MPL). Sources say the apex body will see if there will be any legal fallout if a fresh league with a new structure is started. The organisation of the previous league was outsourced to a company called Probability Sports which held all the rights of the tournament. Said a source in the know: "At that time there were still no Lodha rules and if we were to do it now, we will have to do it all afresh and as per the Lodha recommendations. We cannot outsource the league's organisation. The MCA has to do it on its own. So we will have to look into all this."

Another question before

the MCA is if it were to start afresh, how can it address the previous franchises. In T20 Mumbai, there were eight teams and the MCA now wants to have only six franchises. In the fresh tenders, it may consider whether it should give the first right of refusal to the previous owners or not. The apex council will decide that aspect too. A window has been identified which is immediately after the Indian Premier League (IPL) final on May 26. The MCA window could be between the last week of May and first week of June. "It's still 50-50 whether we can hold it or not. But we will decide tomorrow itself whether we will hold it this year or not," said the source. The eight teams in the T20 Mumbai were Aakash Tigers MWS, Arcs Andheri, Eagle Thane Tigers, Namo Bandra Blasters, North Mumbai Panthers, Sobo SuperSonics, Shivaji Park Lions and Triumph Knights MNE.

**Dhaka:** Bangladesh young leg spinner Rishad Hossain is looking to take a leaf out of Mushtaq Ahmed's book as the legendary Pakistani legspinner will guide the team for the T20 World Cup.

BCB recently appointed Mushtaq as the Bangladesh men's national team's new spin bowling coach until the end of the T20 World Cup 2024 in the West Indies and USA. Mushtaq, who replaced Rangana Herath in this position

after the Sri Lankan left the job with the BCB last year following the opening Test against New Zealand, arrived in Dhaka on Monday.

On Tuesday, Mushtaq came to the BCB premises and introduced himself to some of his charges at the BCB board room in presence head coach Chandika Hathurusingha and other members of the coaching panel. Bangladesh had always gone for orthodox spinner to guide the slow bowlers of the country as they included Daniel



of action against different kind of batters and as he is legendary cricketer I am sure he can guide me in this regard," he added. Mushtaq said the major challenge for him is to adapt to the new culture but he added that he is confident about making a difference.

"I have to add variations to my bowling because that is the key to success for any spinner in the modern day cricket and I am sure he (Mushtaq) can show me ways to add more variations in my bowling," he said.

"He is a very experienced man and all I want to know is how I can pick wickets at different junctures of the game, like what kind of mindset should I carry while bowling in different situations," he said.

"I would like to know how to read the batter and what should be my plan

experience to be honest. Coming here, meeting very humble people. As a coach and player, you have to be up to the mark. You have to be upright," Mushtaq was quoted in video posted by BCB in their official Facebook page on Tuesday.

"I have to believe as a coach. I am here to make a difference in the spin department and I think I can make the difference," he said. "I think I can share my knowledge with the young people and senior players. Hopefully we can make a difference. I believe you

"There's always a legspinner, mystery spinner and chinaman in the nets in Asia. I think that's where my experience will come through. Hopefully we can make communication through Bangladesh Cricket Board. We can meet club and first-class coaches," he said.

"We can find legspinners and chinaman bowlers. You need to have spinners who can get wickets in the middle overs of white-ball cricket," he concluded.

## Shakib Al Hasan unlikely to play all T20Is vs Zimbabwe

**Dhaka:** Bangladesh Cricket Board said on Tuesday that Shakib Al Hasan is unlikely to be available for all the games of the five-match T20I series against Zimbabwe, scheduled from May 3 to May 12. BCB announced a 17-member squad for preparation of the Zimbabwe series that had no place for Shakib and Mustafizur Rahman, who is currently playing for Chennai Super Kings in the ongoing Indian Premier League.

Gazi Ashraf Hossain, BCB chief selector, told reporters that Shakib, who is currently in USA, is expected to return by the end of this month and likely to play couple of games in the ongoing Dhaka Premier League for Sheikh Jamal Dhamondi Cricket Club. It is understood Shakib wanted to play these domestic matches in order to prepare fully

to take the load of international cricket. "We have communicated with him (Shakib) and the outcome is that he is expected to come at the end of this month and there is a possibility he will play DPL in one or two games and later will get involved with the team management and there he can do some practice over cricketing skill as per the desire of team management and him. Later definitely we will want him to play a couple of games at the end in the five-match T20I series," Ashraf said.

"We will announce the team on April 28 and by that time you will get a clear picture for how many matches he is available," he said.

Ashraf said that Mustafizur will miss the opening game of the Zimbabwe series. The left-arm pacer is expected to return on May 2 after playing his last game for the season against Punjab Kings in Chennai on May 1.

"Mustafizur will not be available for the first game. He will come and go through screening of our medical team and later we will try to understand where he stands," Ashraf said. Ashraf also said that Bangladesh management will wait till the last minute for Soumya Sarkar, as they included him even as he is yet to recover fully. Sarkar sustained a knee injury during the third ODI against Sri Lanka when he collided with an advertising board

discomfort with his knee which forced him to go into rehabilitation.

"Soumya Sarkar is not totally fit and trying to come back from injury and you know we will have a close look at him by our strength and conditioning coach. We want him to be part of the team and participate in tactical discussion," Ashraf said.

"We are obligated by the ICC to give the team by May 1 unless it is extended but this team will be our World Cup team there is nothing like that. There will be lot of things like injuries, but that team will be close to the World Cup team."

The squad saw the return of Saifuddin among others and Ashraf said that he is looking forward to seeing the pace bowling all-rounder return to his best through the series against Zimbabwe. Saifuddin returns after a long injury

