

## Mohan Majhi named Odisha's first BJP Chief Minister; to take oath on Today

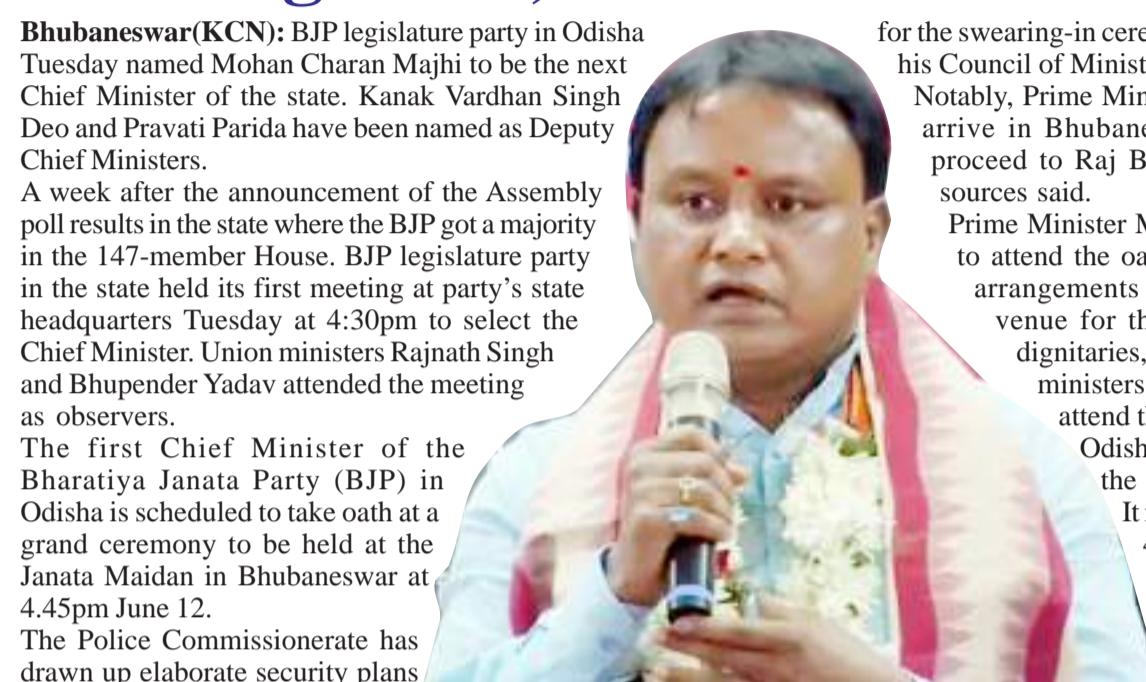
### KV Singh Deo, Pravati Parida Deputy CMs

**Bhubaneswar(KCN):** BJP legislature party in Odisha Tuesday named Mohan Charan Majhi to be the next Chief Minister of the state. Kanak Vardhan Singh Deo and Pravati Parida have been named as Deputy Chief Ministers.

A week after the announcement of the Assembly poll results in the state where the BJP got a majority in the 147-member House. BJP legislature party in the state held its first meeting at party's state headquarters Tuesday at 4:30pm to select the Chief Minister. Union ministers Rajnath Singh and Bhupender Yadav attended the meeting as observers.

The first Chief Minister of the Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) in Odisha is scheduled to take oath at a grand ceremony to be held at the Janata Maidan in Bhubaneswar at 4.45pm June 12.

The Police Commissionerate has drawn up elaborate security plans



for the swearing-in ceremony of the new Chief Minister and his Council of Ministers at the Janata Maidan.

Notably, Prime Minister Narendra Modi is expected to arrive in Bhubaneswar at 2.30pm Wednesday and proceed to Raj Bhavan from the airport, the party sources said.

Prime Minister Modi will reach Janata Maidan later to attend the oath-taking ceremony. Tight security arrangements have been made in the proposed venue for the swearing-in ceremony. Several dignitaries, including union ministers and chief ministers of BJP-ruled states, are expected to attend the oath-taking ceremony of the new Odisha Chief Minister and other ministers, the sources added.

It may be mentioned here that BJP June 4 secured a majority by winning 78 of the 147 Assembly seats, while the BJD secured 51, Congress (14), Independent (3) and CPI(M) 1 seat.

## Who is Mohan Majhi...Odisha's first BJP Chief Minister

**Bhubaneswar(KCN):** Putting all speculations to rest, Mohan Charan Majhi was named the Chief Minister of Odisha by the BJP on Tuesday. His name was announced after the BJP legislature party meeting held in Bhubaneswar on Tuesday.

In the just-concluded 2024 general elections, 52-year-old Majhi won from Keonjhar Assembly seat, defeating BJD's candidate Mina Majhi with a margin of 11,577 votes. While Mohan secured 87,815 votes, Mina got 76,238 votes.

He was elected to the

Odisha Legislative Assembly from Keonjhar in 2019, by defeating BJD's Madhaba Sardar. He was also elected to the Odisha Legislative Assembly in 2004 and 2000.

**Sarpanch to CM**  
He started his career as a teacher at Saraswati

Sishu Mandir. He entered into politics by becoming a Sarpanch from 1997-2000 and there was no looking back for him since.

Majhi, who belongs to the tribal community, is known for his public service and organisational skills. He has served as the

Secretary of the State Tribal Committee of the BJP, the government's Deputy Chief Whip from 2005 to 2009 when there was a BJD-BJP coalition government in the state and was the Chief Whip of the party in the last Assembly.

## "Significant Success": Maldives President On India Visit Amid Strained Ties

**Male(KCN):** Maldives President Mohamed Muizzu on Tuesday described his official visit to India to attend the swearing-in ceremony of Prime Minister Narendra Modi as a "significant success" for the archipelagic nation. Muizzu, who returned to Male on Tuesday morning, was accompanied by Maldives' Minister of Foreign Affairs Moosa Zameer, and the country's Finance Minister Mohamed Shafeeq during the India visit.

"This trip has been a success for Maldives and for the region as well," Muizzu said while



speaking to the Maldives' state broadcaster Public Service Media (PSM) in New Delhi before concluding the trip. Reflecting on the visit, the Maldives President expressed his delight at being invited and

thanked the Prime Minister of India for the invitation.

"The President emphasised that the strong ties between the two nations would bring prosperity to the Maldives and Maldivian

citizens, as he expressed optimism for a successful bilateral relationship in the future," said a statement released by the Maldivian President's office, later in the day.

During his visit, Muizzu attended the swearing-in ceremony and the banquet hosted by President Droupadi Murmu in honour of the visiting dignitaries at the Rashtrapati Bhavan on Sunday.

PM Modi, in his

interaction with the visiting leaders, emphasised that in his third term, India will continue to work for peace, progress, and prosperity of the region in close partnership with other countries, even as it pursues its goal of having a 'Viksit Bharat' by 2047.

Muizzu also separately met President Murmu and External Affairs Minister S. Jaishankar on Monday and discussed strengthening bilateral cooperation between the two countries.

"Look forward to India and Maldives working together closely," Jaishankar posted on X after the meeting.

**Odisha BJP invites Naveen Patnaik for June 12 swearing-in ceremony of new govt**

**Bhubaneswar(KCN):** A delegation of the Odisha BJP led by its state president Manmohan Samal Tuesday met outgoing Chief Minister Naveen Patnaik and invited him for the swearing-in ceremony of the first-ever BJP government in Odisha scheduled Wednesday.

The new Chief Minister and his Council of Ministers will take oath in a grand ceremony at the Janata Maidan in Bhubaneswar Wednesday afternoon.

## AC tunnel and barricades near Puri Srimandir dismantled ahead of Snana Purnima and Rath Yatra

**Puri, (KCN):** The process of dismantling the air-conditioned (AC) corridor and removal of barricades on Bada Danda (Grand Road) near Srimandir in Puri has been completed ahead of the upcoming Snana Purnima and Rath Yatra of the Holy Trinity. As per Sri Jagannath Temple Administration, the barricades have been dismantled owing to traffic jams and other disruptions being faced in the construction of the chariots for the upcoming Rath Yatra to be held on July 7.



Notably, the AC corridor was set up by the Odisha government from Marchikot Square Srimandir for the convenience of devotees waiting in queues to enter the shrine. However, the corridor will not be required anymore after the opening of all four dwaras (doors) of Srimandir as promised by

made accordingly," said a servitor.

"We will be very happy if the government takes the initiative to open all the four doors of Srimandir soon," said a devotee.

"Tourists across the globe are coming to Puri to have darshan of Lord Jagannath. They are facing difficulties due to the heavy rush as entry is allowed only through one door. We request the government to open all four doors of Srimandir for the convenience of the devotees," said another devotee.

## Multi-layer security in place for Odisha CM Mohan Majhi's swearing-in ceremony



**Bhubaneswar(KCN):**

In view of the new Odisha Chief Minister Mohan Charan Majhi's swearing-in ceremony Wednesday, multi-layer security has been put in place in Bhubaneswar, a source said Tuesday.

Police have made elaborate security arrangements for the swearing-in ceremony, which will be attended by Prime Minister Narendra Modi and several other prominent personalities.

It can be mentioned here that BJP legislature party in Odisha Tuesday named Mohan Charan Majhi to be the next Chief Minister of the state. Kanak Vardhan Singh Deo and Pravati Parida have been named as Deputy Chief Ministers.

Speaking to media persons Tuesday, Commissioner of Police Sanjeeb Panda said that as many as 67 platoons of police force will be deployed in view of the oath-taking ceremony of the new Chief Minister.

**Many JDU party workers and district presidents from Uttar Pradesh met Bihar Chief Minister Nitish Kumar in Delhi.**

**New Delhi(KCN):** Janata Dal United State Secretary Bhanu Pratap Singh Yadav and Rampur District President Jagdish Sharan Patel Advocate and Bareilly District President Rishipal Gangwar reached the Chief Minister's residence in Delhi and congratulated the National President of Janata Dal United and Bihar Chief Minister Honorable Nitish Kumar ji, who plays an important role of kingmaker in the central government,

congratulating the National President of the party Hon. Nitish Kumar ji and the aware people of Bihar, he said that the popular Chief Minister of Bihar Hon.

Nitish Kumar has got an important role in the Central Government today due to the success of the public welfare schemes done by his government in Bihar, including women empowerment,

reservation for women in government jobs, plenty of government jobs to the youth, complete prohibition of liquor in the state, caste census and its implementation, government help to the poor, full assistance to farmers, major works like these. Our respected leader Hon. Nitish Kumar ji deserves congratulations for this success, and we will strengthen and activate the party organization in Uttar Pradesh also under the able leadership of our leader, he said that our party contested the elections as an important constituent of NDA, and Hon. Narendra Modi ji was elected to the Center. Our most respected leader, Honourable Nitish Kumar ji, has played a decisive role in making him the Prime Minister of the country for the third time.

Mr. Yadav said that after the spectacular victory of Janata Dal United and NDA in the Lok Sabha elections 2024, in the government formed for the third time at the Center under the leadership of Prime Minister Narendra Modi, he has expressed immense happiness over the appointment of Janata Dal United MP Lok Sabha election Hon. Rajiv Ranjan alias Lallan Singh as Cabinet Minister and MP and Rajya Sabha MP Hon. Ramnath Thakur ji as Minister of State and while

**Union Minister Chirag Paswan took charge, LJP Delhi State President Shankar Mishra congratulated his president by giving flowers.**



**New Delhi(KCN):**

:Bihar MP and Lok Janshakti Party (Ram Vilas) National President Chirag Paswan took charge as Food Processing Industry Minister on Tuesday. Lok Janshakti Party Delhi State President Shankar Mishra reached to congratulate his National President Chirag Paswan. When the media asked the state president about Strike 100%, Shankar Mishra said that the work of our party and our leader Chirag Paswan is 100% guaranteed.

# Signing in: Modi-led new govt gets into work gear as ministers assume charge

**New Delhi(KCN):**

Signalling both change and continuity, India's new government, headed by Prime Minister Narendra Modi for a third consecutive term, got into work gear Tuesday with cabinet ministers and ministers of state filing into their respective offices to assume charge.

A day after the much-anticipated portfolios were announced and two days after Modi and 71 ministers were sworn in at a grand ceremony in Rashtrapati Bhavan, there were flowers and felicitations aplenty in the corridors of power. Some said it with prayers and a few slogans were heard too. NDA 3.0 'took office' a week after election results threw up a majority for the alliance with 293 seats, above the halfway mark of 272, with the BJP getting 240. In a seamless transition from the previous government to the present one, the four big frontline portfolios stay the same — Amit Shah for Home, S Jaishankar for External Affairs, Nirmala Sitharaman for Finance and Rajnath Singh for Defence. Bharat First and Vasudhaiva Kutumbakam (The world is one family) will be the

two guiding axioms of Indian foreign policy, Jaishankar said shortly after taking over.

On ties with China going forward, Jaishankar said some issues remained along the border with that country and efforts will be made to resolve them. "Our focus with regard to China will be on how to resolve the remaining issues," he told reporters.

BJP president J P Nadda assumed charge of the Health as well as the Chemical and Fertilisers ministries.

Several ministers made initial statements as they took charge of their ministries.

Ashwini Vaishnaw who continues to hold the key portfolios of Railways and Electronics and Information Technology, assumed charge as Information and Broadcasting minister in the presence of senior officials, including Information and Broadcasting Secretary Sanjay Jaju.

"Prime Minister Narendra Modi has made service to the poorest of poor the motto of his life and the main aim of the government. He has taken measures for welfare of the farmers, youth and empowerment of women," Vaishnaw told reporters.

Jyotiraditya Scindia, appointed Communications minister, said both the telecom sector and the India post division have key roles to play at the global as well as local stage.

## Vaishnaw takes charge of Electronics, IT Ministry; promises focus on tech, manufacturing

**New Delhi(KCN):**

Union Minister Ashwini Vaishnaw Tuesday said the government will push ahead with its tech-driven agenda of cementing India's global lead in semiconductor and electronics manufacturing, and as a technology and digital hub.

Taking charge of Ministry of Electronics and IT (MeitY) — a nodal ministry tasked with crafting crucial policies and regulations for fast-evolving digital and tech landscape — Vaishnaw vowed that the government would build on the past momentum and leverage the power of technology and digital solutions to improve lives of people.

He highlighted that the Modi government's Digital India initiative has empowered the common man, bringing transformative changes through Jan Dhan, Aadhaar, and other programmes over the last 10 years.

Vaishnaw, who retained his electronics and IT portfolio in Modi 3.0 government, took charge of MeitY Tuesday morning, after assuming office in Railways as well as Information and Broadcasting — the two other ministries allocated to him.

Vaishnaw said his efforts will be to ensure that technology continues to bring positive changes in the lives of people in the country, and that it empowers youth with a promising future driven by new-age tech.

"Modi government will



continue its work of bringing transformative change in people's lives, through use of digital technologies...India will keep its lead in every segment, be it semiconductor, telecom tech, manufacturing tech....," Vaishnaw told reporters.

Over the past years and months, Vaishnaw has scripted success stories around electronics and semiconductor manufacturing and also spearheaded the enactment of crucial pieces of legislation like Digital Personal Data Protection Act.

Mobile phone manufacturing during Vaishnaw's tenure crossed Rs 4.1 lakh crore worth of production, marking a 21-fold jump compared to 2014-15, when 98 per cent of local demand was met through imports. The country now meets 97 per cent of its total mobile phone demand, locally.

So far as regulations go, the DPDP Act approved by Parliament in August last year seeks to crackdown on misuse of individuals' data by online platforms. It mandates several compliance requirements for the collection, processing, and protection of personal data, and entails up to Rs 250 crore penalty for any



Donning his MeitY hat as he resumed charge of the ministry, he said the government will push ahead with its tech-driven agenda of cementing India's global lead in semiconductor and electronics manufacturing, and as a technology and digital hub.

Jyotiraditya Scindia, who took office as Union Minister of State (MoS) for Personnel, Public Grievances and Pensions at his North Block office, said good governance reforms undertaken in the last decade will continue to increase citizen-centricity and ensure ease of living for every citizen.

Modi is in charge of the ministry.

"Last 10 years have witnessed a series of revolutionary governance reforms happening under the guidance of PM Modi, which were basically inspired by the spirit of 'minimum government, maximum governance' and increasing citizen centricity to bring ease of living for every citizen of the country," Singh told reporters.

Jyotiraditya Scindia, appointed Communications minister, said both the telecom sector and the India post division have key roles to play at the global as well as local stage.

"We need not pull each other down on the basis of numerical strength, he added.

The minister recalled his previous tenure as the Minister of State for Communications about one and half decades ago.

"It is also a little bit like coming full circle for me. I worked as a junior minister in this department many many years ago in 2007, 2008 and 2009. Therefore for me it is also a department with which I have had tremendous emotional ties," Scindia said.

Parliamentary Affairs Minister Kiren Rijiju, also given the responsibility of Minority Affairs, said he will make all efforts to take everyone along to ensure smooth functioning of Parliament. There was no need to pull each other down on the basis of numerical strength, he added.

"We need not pull each other down on the basis of numerical strength.

Prime Minister Narendra Modi's dream of a Viksit Bharat.

Culture Minister Gajendra Singh Shekhwat echoed her and said his ministry will contribute towards the vision of making a Viksit Bharat.

Senior BJP leader from Karnataka Pralhad Joshi took over as minister for Consumer Affairs, Food & Public Distribution and said his priority would be to implement the 100-day agenda of the government and further strengthen the food security system.

"I am thankful to the

prime minister who has given me the responsibility of this important department which is linked to the common people, where we provide free foodgrains to 80 crore people," Joshi told reporters.

RSS pracharak, Haryana's former chief minister and now Union Power minister Manohar Lal Khattar met heads of public sector undertakings in the power sector and other top brass of his ministry to understand the dynamics of the sector.



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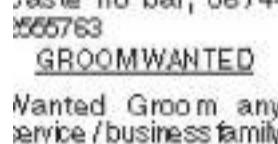


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## 'Tera Kya Hoga Lovely' trailer: Film offers bold take on India's fair skin obsession

The makers released the trailer for 'Tera Kya Hoga Lovely' on February 27, starring Ileana D'Cruz and Randeep Hooda. This marks Ileana's return to the screen after her role in the 2021 film 'The Big Bull'. Directed by Balwinder Singh Janjua, the film sheds light on India's fixation with fair skin and dowry.

Set in the backdrop of Haryana, the film portrays Ileana as Lovely, a dark-complexioned girl seeking a suitable match for marriage, but later deciding to pursue further education instead. Enter Randeep Hooda, who falls for her irrespective of her skin tone. However, complications arise when his family discovers his affection for a dark-skinned woman.

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education instead. Enter Randeep Hooda, who falls for her irrespective of her skin tone. However, complications arise when his family discovers his affection for a dark-skinned woman.

## Suriya Gets Injured On Sets Of Kanguva, Film Shoot Halted



Actor Suriya has been busy with the shooting of his upcoming film 'Kanguva', a Tamil period-drama. The film is directed by Siruthai Siva and the shooting has been taking place at a film city in Chennai. According to TOI report, a grand set has been erected by the makers for the shoot of film.

The latest report stated that a rope camera lost

control during the shooting of 'Kanguva' and it fell on Suriya, thus leaving him injured. The report further mentioned that the actor suffered injuries on his shoulder after which the shoot was halt.

Fortunately, it was a minor mishap and no major injury was caused to Suriya.

According to another report, the actor has

been advised by the doctor for a two-week bed rest.

Meanwhile, Suriya was expected to wrap up the film for his portions in 'Kanguva' this month and the entire filming was slated to be over by next month. However, with the latest development, there may be a slight delay in production.

'Kanguva' was announced in August

2022 with the tentative title 'Suriya 42' as it became Suriya's 42nd film in a leading role. The shooting of the film has taken place in Goa, Kerala, Kodaikanal, and Rajahmundry. The official title 'Kanguva' was announced in April 2023.

'Kanguva' stars Suriya in six roles, leading an ensemble cast that includes Disha Patani and Bobby Deol, alongside Natarajan Subramanian, Jagapathi Babu, Yogi Babu, Redin Kingsley, Kovai Sarala, Anandaraj, Ravi Raghavendra, K. S. Ravikumar, and B. S. Avinash. The film will mark the Tamil debut of Disha and Bobby.

It is scheduled to be released theatrically in early 2024 in standard, 3D and IMAX formats. The official release date of the film is yet to be announced.

## John Abraham, Sharvari, Tamannaah Bhatia Starrer 'Vedaa' Set For Release On August 15.

The release date of John Abraham and Sharvari-starrer 'Vedaa' has been announced. The film will hit the theatres on Independence Day, August 15. Directed by Nikkhil Advani and written by Aseem Arora, 'Vedaa' is produced by Zee Studios, Umesh Kr Bansal, Monisha Advani, Madhu Bhojwani, John



Abraham, and co-produced by Minnakshi Das. The film also stars Abhishek Bannerjee and Tamannaah Bhatia. As per a statement, the film "promises a jaw-dropping story filled with heart-pounding stunts and high-octane action."

Director Nikkhil Advani earlier said in a statement, "Vedaa is not just a film. It's inspired by real events and is a reflection of our society and pushes the boundaries of reality. Working with John, Sharvari and Abhishek Banerjee has been an incredible experience and I'm glad to finally announce the release date and fingers are crossed the audience gets moved the way we all did when we first heard the story of Vedaa."

Madhu Bhojwani, producer, Emmay Entertainment said in a statement, "We are delighted to announce the release date for our film. Vedaa is an inspiring tale based on true events with engaging performances and high-octane action and drama, perfect for a big screen experience."

The film is written by Aseem Arora.

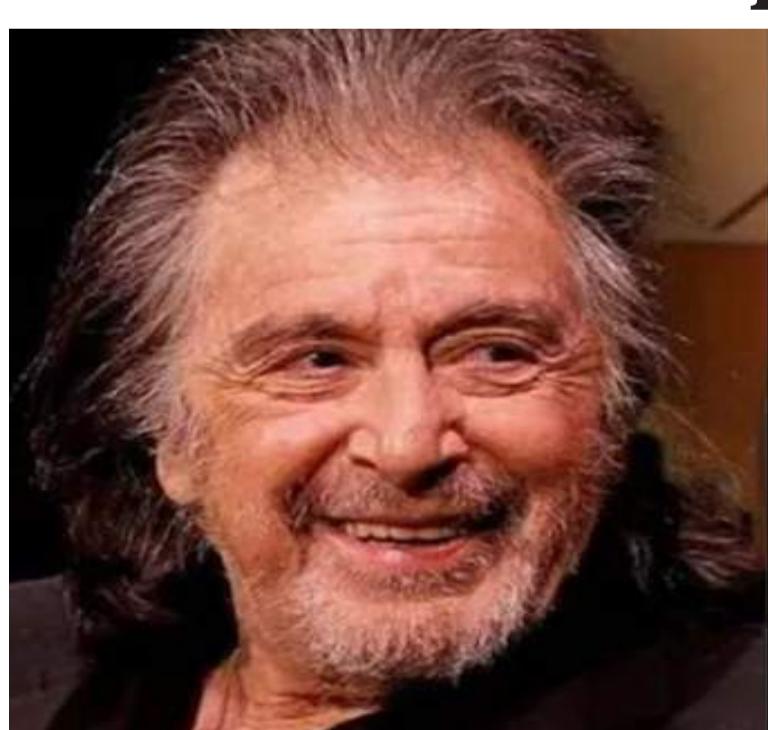
## Diljit Dosanjh shares fun BTS clip from 'Crew' set with Kareena Kapoor

Singer Diljit Dosanjh recently posted a fun video from the sets of the Crew film. The fun clip also features Kareena Kapoor and Kriti Sanon in it.

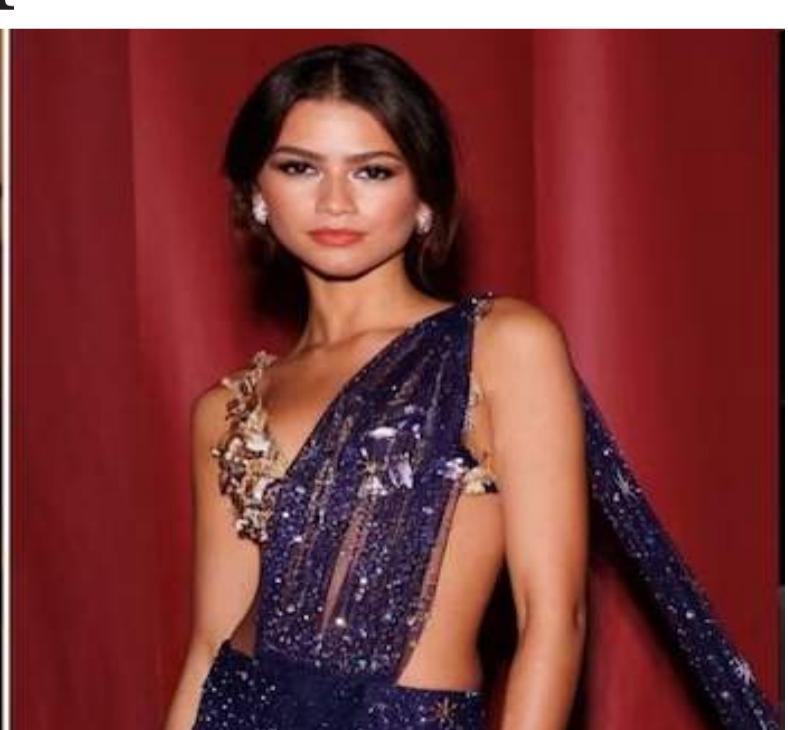
Dosanjh, who is famously a fan of American celebrity Kylie Jenner, posted the video with a caption that read, "Kylie Shado, Ethey Poori KAREENA KAPOOR (sic)" (Forget about Kylie, this is Kareena Kapoor). In the clip, Diljit is seen having the time of his life on the sets of the Crew movie. The clip sees him rehearsing a scene with Kareena Kapoor. It also features Kriti Sanon and Farah Khan. As soon as the video was shared by the singer, a lot of fans dropped comments underneath it. Rapper Badshah, who also featured in the clip, wrote, "Paaji is the not remember the lyrics the song of (sic)."

The video was posted with Dilji's voice-over, which worked as some sort of audio guidance for the viewers.

## Al Pacino to Zendaya, meet the first round of Oscars 2024 presenters



Raj Kapoor (who also serves as showrunner), Molly McNearney, and Katy Mullan. The nominations for Oscars 2024 were announced on January 23 (IST). The nominations list was dominated by Christopher Nolan's *Oppenheimer*, which led with 13 nods. Nisha



Pahuja's *To Kill a Tiger* is nominated for Best Documentary Feature at the Oscars. The 96th Oscars will be held on Sunday, March 10, 2024, at the Dolby

Theatre at Ovation Hollywood and televised live on ABC at the new time of 7 pm EDT/4 pm PDT in more than 200 territories worldwide. Alternatively, Indian viewers can watch the Academy Awards live on Disney+ Hotstar. The event is expected to open at 4 am (IST) with the red carpet, followed by the main event.

## MODI 3.0 AND A VERDICT FOR REAL COALITION DHARMA



It is normal for the political opposition of Narendra Modi to be jubilant as the seats they could harvest in the 2024 Lok Sabha election have considerably accelerated their confidence and brought a fresh sheen to their coalition profile. The next move by the INDI alliance will be to apply the tactics that they applied during the general elections in the upcoming state elections too. But nothing could deter the Modi momentum completely. Though his party was trimmed to a meager size below the required number for an adequate majority, the alliance he could stitch up with TDP and JDU will see him through a vibrant third term. This, unlike the first decade of his dominance in the alliance, would compel him to follow the coalition dharma. Even the smallest

party in the coalition would deserve to be heard. There have been aplauds from particular corners of the world which seem to have been celebrating the pull that the Modi regime was made to face. Columns occupied larger spaces in international dailies commenting it as the failure of the policies enacted by the world's most aggressive Prime Minister, who, they describe, was all set to turn India a Hindutva stronghold. But despite being diminished, Narendra Modi and his party would enjoy the credit for being the most dominant force that could alter the Indian tradition of coalition for a decade but obviously from outside the Congress bandwagon. Though multiple factors played their critical role in pulling the tally of the saffron party, the Congress again failed to create a remarkable comeback. It enjoys a breathing space now as its presence in the parliament counts to be more significant and a vibrant opposition with greater numbers seems to

be a challenging force against the new government. Interestingly, Rahul Gandhi gained a credible acceptance among the INDI alliance. His Bharat Jodo Yatras are understood to have churned a momentum in his party's favor. But his detractors refuse to accept it as the electoral progress of Congress. They call it coalition sympathy and dividends poured in for its divisive agenda. The new government, stitched among unpredictable allies, would force the Modi regime to make coalition adjustments and draw alignments before the government acted on policy matters that his party had a historical commitment. The BJP's tireless efforts to expand into unreachable pockets bore fruits but its strongholds like Uttar Pradesh shattered severely. Undoubtedly, Modi's first two terms will be known for their historical decisions and progressive involvements. What he will be known for will be the steps, the initiatives the country had witnessed in his first two tenures.

### M.R.LALU

Stretching from demonetization to the foreign policies to economic growth to the G20 success, there has been an endless list of unique initiatives by the Modi regime. But the BJP has to seriously ponder on its electoral drag. There has been strong anti-incumbency against its MPs. Most of them appeared to have been depending on the popularity of the Prime Minister. The party and its machinery lost its originality as the whole mechanism failed to make credible efforts to counter narratives that its opposite camp flung innumerable. The most damaging one that gained inroads into the middle class and the minds of the lower stratum of the caste oriented societies was the narrative on the potential danger of changing the constitution if Modi was reelected. This appears to have brought tremors of discontent against the Modi regime. Sensing an impending danger, the Prime Minister himself began to stretch his nerves and his comments against

India's largest minority have shaken his stature remarkably while the Election Commission intervened mildly stressing for restraint. With Modi 3.0 begins to roll, Indian parliament will witness uproarious and abominable situations. More vigorous and contemptuous criticisms will be the new normal. What separates Modi regimes from the other governments in Indian history would be his spiritualizing politics with India's culture being allowed to take the front seat. Jawaharlal Nehru's celebrated years in the beginning of India's post independence journey was skeptical about the power of India's spiritual force. Even Vajpayee remained visibly dispassionate about the idea of India's spiritual ethos and the revival of its culture. His focus was to satiate the impulses of the coalition and he successfully maintained it. Modi's third regime is going to be an ideological rivalry standing face to face with his opposition sharpening its teeth more formidably and

contemptuously. An ideological combat between two principal views; one being the proponent of the philosophy of nationalism and the other waiting to eagerly establish the entity of the country as a union of states. Modi, throughout his decade long administration was trying to infuse a sense of divinity, sacredness and motherhood in 'Rashtram', which he unequivocally remained a strong proponent of. This fundamental ideal of a Rashtram which in his divine political term became the resounding concept of Bharat Mata and victory to her "bharatmata ki jai" was his principal slogan. This slogan and its vigorous reverberation still influence millions and Modi tapped the best out of it. That being said, the BJP and its leadership are to face terrible tremors of a backlash that it has had in the region where Ayodhya is located. The ruling party's plan to make the consecration of the Ram temple an event of significant political

ramification could not fructify. Its failure in Ayodhya has held the party tight-lipped as the temple city was for decades its holy cow. Ever since the party ensured its enhanced presence by systematically packaging its Hindutva agenda through the Ram temple, there have been predictions in the air foreseeing its landslide victory in the state. This electoral setback has seriously pushed its Mathura plan into the cold storage. Hindus, the principal majority could be easily divided into castes and sub castes and they probably, were reluctant to accept what Modi affirmed by reuniting and restructuring the Hindutva base. Going beyond the caste distinctions, Modi's efforts were to systematically nurture the Hindu populace of the country as its political majority since 2014 and that is how he countered the minority appeasement of the Congress. Having been diminished and dismantled, the chunk that voted for him in the last decade stood with caste

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## The Political Odyssey of Naveen Patnaik: A Chronicle of Welfare and Woes in Odisha



In the annals of Odisha's political history, Naveen Patnaik, a name synonymous with modern Odisha politics stands as a testament to longevity and influence. As the Chief Minister of Odisha from 2000 to 2024, he held the reins of the state, steering it through tumultuous times and ushering in an era of development and welfare. However, as with any leader, his tenure was marked by both commendable achievements with a series of electoral victories, governance reforms and significant socio-economic changes in the state on one hand and contentious controversies accompanied with the challenges of prolonged incumbency for two and half decades, internal party conflicts due to creation of another power hub under the control of a bureaucrat, rising opposition, economic slowdown, his personal health issues etc on the other.

Naveen Patnaik entered the political arena following the death of his father, Biju Patnaik, a revered leader in Odisha forming the Biju Janata Dal (BJD) in 1997. However, his actual political career began amidst the aftermath of the Super Cyclone of 1999, one of the most devastating natural disasters in Odisha's history. Striking on October 29, 1999, the cyclone caused widespread destruction and significant loss of life. In the 2000 Odisha Legislative Assembly elections, the BJD, in alliance with the Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP), secured a significant victory. The BJD-BJP

coalition won 88 out of 147 seats, with BJD alone securing 68 seats. This marked the beginning of Naveen Patnaik's tenure as Chief Minister. Upon assuming office in 2000, Patnaik's immediate focus was on relief and rehabilitation for the cyclone-affected regions. Recognizing the need for a robust disaster management framework, Patnaik's government undertook significant institutional reforms. A key initiative was the establishment of the Odisha State Disaster Management Authority (OSDMA) in 1999. The OSDMA was tasked with coordinating disaster preparedness, response, and mitigation efforts, playing a crucial role in enhancing the state's capacity to manage future disasters. Additionally, the construction of multipurpose cyclone shelters in vulnerable areas provided safe havens for thousands during subsequent cyclones. The installation of advanced meteorological equipment also improved Odisha's ability to predict and respond to cyclones. Infrastructure reconstruction was another critical aspect of Patnaik's post-cyclone strategy.

Naveen Patnaik's management of the aftermath of the 1999 Super Cyclone showcased his leadership and administrative capabilities. Through immediate relief efforts, institutional reforms, infrastructure reconstruction, economic rehabilitation, and community involvement, Patnaik effectively addressed the challenges posed by the cyclone. His proactive approach to disaster management not only helped Odisha recover from the devastating impact of the 1999 cyclone but also laid the foundation for the state's enhanced resilience to future natural disasters. This effective management significantly contributed to

his political ascendancy and long-lasting popularity among the people of Odisha. Patnaik's early years were marked by robust governance reforms aimed at improving transparency and efficiency in the state administration. The implementation of the Odisha State Fiscal Responsibility and Budget Management Act in 2005 was a crucial step towards maintaining fiscal discipline. Under his leadership, Odisha's Gross State Domestic Product (GSDP) grew at an average annual rate of 7.5% from 2000 to 2010, surpassing the national average. Naveen Patnaik's government introduced several social welfare programs that resonated well with the electorate. The "Kalia Scheme" (Krushak Assistance for Livelihood and Income Augmentation), launched in 2018, provided financial assistance to small and marginal farmers, and landless agricultural laborers, boosting his popularity among rural voters. By 2024, KALIA had disbursed over Rs.10,000 crores, benefiting more than 50 lakh families and fortifying the agrarian backbone of the state. Empowering women emerged as another focal point of Naveen Patnaik's agenda, exemplified by the Mission Shakti initiative. Since its inception in 2001, Mission Shakti has catalyzed a socio-economic revolution by nurturing over 6 lakh women-led self-help groups (SHGs) across the state. These SHGs, equipped with access to credit, training, and market linkages, have not only fostered economic independence but also empowered women as agents of change in their communities. Moreover, the administration prioritized education and healthcare, spearheading transformative reforms in these sectors. Over 20,000 new schools were established, and 200 new

### Bruhaspati Samal

hospitals inaugurated, ensuring enhanced accessibility and quality of essential services. Schemes like Biju Swasthya Kalyan Yojana further bolstered healthcare coverage, extending vital benefits to over 3 crore beneficiaries and ensuring a healthier populace. The Mamata scheme, targeting pregnant women and lactating mothers, provided financial assistance to promote maternal and child health. Since its inception in 2011, the scheme has disbursed over Rs.500 crores, benefiting more than 40 lakh women and children across the state. Through cash incentives and support for antenatal and postnatal care, Mamata has contributed to reducing maternal and infant mortality rates and improving overall maternal health outcomes. In addition to these initiatives, the administration launched Ama Gaon Ama Bikash (Our Village, Our Development) in 2018. This scheme aimed to decentralize governance and empower local communities in the development process. Each gram panchayat received Rs.1 crore annually for grassroots development projects identified by the villagers themselves. By 2024, over 6,000 Gram Panchayats had benefited from the scheme, fostering participatory democracy and grassroots empowerment.

Naveen Patnaik spearheaded significant temple reformation and beautification projects in Odisha, particularly focusing on the iconic Jagannath Temple in Puri. His government launched the "Abhada Yojana" to enhance the temple's surroundings, improve infrastructure, and ensure better facilities for pilgrims. Efforts included widening roads, creating pedestrian-friendly zones, and upgrading sanitation and security measures.

Additionally, other temples such as the Lingaraj Temple in Bhubaneswar, Sun Temple in Konark, and the Maa Samaleswari Temple in Sambalpur were restored and beautified, preserving Odisha's rich cultural heritage. These initiatives not only revitalized religious sites but also boosted tourism, enhancing the state's cultural and economic landscape. The BJD's pro-poor policies contributed significantly to reducing poverty in the state, which dropped from 57.2% in 2000 to 32.6% in 2010. During the period from 2010 to 2019, Patnaik's handling of natural disasters earned him widespread acclaim. The state's efficient management of Cyclone Phailin in 2013 and Cyclone Fani in 2019, which involved timely evacuation and effective rehabilitation measures, showcased the administration's preparedness and responsiveness. The death toll in these disasters was minimal compared to previous cyclones, highlighting significant improvements in disaster management. During this period, Odisha witnessed substantial industrial growth, particularly in the steel and mining sectors. Major projects like the POSCO steel plant, although eventually shelved, brought significant investments and employment opportunities to the state. The state's industrial output grew by 8% annually from 2010 to 2019, contributing to a reduction in the unemployment rate from 8.5% in 2010 to 5.6% in 2019.

The BJD continued to dominate the electoral landscape, winning consecutive elections in 2004, 2009, and 2014. In the 2014 elections, the BJD secured 117 out of 147 assembly seats, reflecting a 45% vote share. Naveen Patnaik's personal charisma, clean image, and the BJD's grassroots

connect were pivotal in maintaining this dominance. But, after nearly two decades in power, anti-incumbency sentiments began to surface. Despite his efforts, certain regions remained underdeveloped, and issues like unemployment and corruption started to erode public trust. The state's GSDP growth rate slowed down to 5% from 2019 to 2024, reflecting a broader economic slowdown and structural issues within the state's economy. Internal strife within the BJD and allegations of an autocratic leadership style tarnished Patnaik's image.

Most importantly, the rise and fall of Naveen Patnaik's political career is intertwined with the influence of V. K. Pandian, an Indian Administrative Service (IAS) officer who played a pivotal role in Patnaik's administration. Initially celebrated for his efficiency and dedication, Pandian's growing influence within the Odisha government eventually became a controversial topic, significantly impacting Patnaik's public image. Pandian's growing clout and perceived support. The resurgence of the BJD in Odisha posed a significant challenge to Patnaik's leadership. In the 2019 Assembly elections, the BJD increased its tally to 23 seats, up from 10 in 2014, and garnered a 32% vote share. The BJD's focus on issues like corruption and lack of job creation resonated with the youth and urban voters.

Naveen Patnaik's health issues, which became more apparent in the latter part of his tenure, also contributed to his political decline. His frequent medical visits abroad and reduced public engagements created a perception of a leadership vacuum within the state. The COVID-19 pandemic further exacerbated the challenges faced by Patnaik's government. The state's healthcare infrastructure, although improved over the years, struggled to cope with the surge in cases. The economic impact of the pandemic led to increased unemployment and poverty, further straining the government's resources and diminishing public support. The narrative of an unelected bureaucrat exercising disproportionate power resonated with the public

and fueled anti-incumbency sentiments. This perception was further exacerbated by reports of Pandian's involvement in key political decisions, candidate selections, and the administration of crucial welfare schemes. The perception of an overreaching bureaucrat controlling the state's political machinery alienated party members and voters alike, contributing to the decline of Patnaik's political dominance in Odisha. The expulsion of senior leaders also created rifts within the party. Furthermore, the BJD's declining performance in the 2019 general elections, where it won only 12 out of 21 Lok Sabha seats, signaled weakening support. The resurgence of the BJD in Odisha posed a significant challenge to Patnaik's leadership. In the 2019 Assembly elections, the BJD increased its tally to 23 seats, up from 10 in 2014, and garnered a 32% vote share. The BJD's focus on issues like corruption and lack of job creation resonated with the youth and urban voters.

Naveen Patnaik's legacy of simplicity, gentleness, understated demeanor and unassuming lifestyle combined with his focus on empathetic governance, has made him a beloved leader whose impact transcends the usual political divides.

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## Plea in SC seeks cancellation of NEET-UG 2024 exam



**New Delhi(KCN):** A PIL has been filed before the Supreme Court seeking cancellation of the NEET-UG 2024 examination.

The plea seeks directions for the constitution of a Special Investigation Team (SIT) to investigate the "malpractices and fraud involved" in the NEET examination held May 5 and a stay on counselling till the investigations on the paper leak are completed. The PIL filed by two members of an

organisation working for the assistance and benefit of the students said that the news of the NEET exam paper leak has shaken to the core as many of the meritorious students lost the opportunity to become future medical practitioners.

"The petitioners are filing the present petition with the sole purpose of providing justice to the aggrieved students who with the support of their respective family members had put in their entire time, hard-earned

money and energy along with the hard work and dedication in preparing for NEET Exam 2024 and have been denied a level playing field," it said. The plea added that some students have secured 718 and 719 marks which are statically not possible and the entire exercise conduct of the exam is without any rationale and the same is arbitrary and done with mala fide intention to grant entry to the students through backdoor.

Further, it said that 67 students scored 720 out of 720 marks out of which eight students were from the same examination centre, raising serious doubts regarding the examination conducted by the NTA.

Recently, the apex court denied a stay on the declaration of the result of the NEET-UG examination but issued a notice to NTA and others in a similar matter.

Citing an affidavit submitted by the Haryana government in the Supreme Court, the minister said, "The Haryana government has been lying that they have released adequate supply water to Delhi. Their affidavit filed in the Supreme Court presents the data on actual discharge of water which has exposed their lie." According to the affidavit, from May 23 ahead of the elections in Delhi, the water quantities released was reduced by the Haryana government, she alleged. "The figures of the affidavit given by the Haryana government in the Supreme Court show that from May 1 to 22, Haryana is releasing 719 cusecs of water in CLC and 330 cusecs of water in DSB through Munak canal. That means 1049 cusecs of water was released daily. But after this, it started decreasing from May 23. That means, that when there were elections in Delhi, Haryana reduced the sending of water," said Atishi. "Compared to 719 cusecs of water in CLC and 330 cusecs in DSB, the water supply became 675 cusecs and 283 cusecs, this is Haryana's figures. The elections in Delhi were May 25, before that, the water supply to Delhi was reduced for four days, which is clear from his Supreme Court affidavit itself," she added.

## Diarrhea is spreading in Semiliguda Subai village; More than 30 people in the village are suffering from diarrhoea.

**Semiliguda:** (KCN) Diarrhea is widespread in Koraput Semiliguda Subai Gaud Sahi. More than 30 people in the village have contracted diarrhoea. Women, men and children are among the victims. After being treated at the medical center, he is now recovering at home. On receiving the news, the medical team of Semiliguda block administration and district health department reached the village and conducted a health check with the villagers. He checked the sanitation system of the well in the village. The health



department team is investigating the cause of the spread of diarrhea. The situation is now under control, the District Chief Medical Officer has informed. The District Chief Medical Officer has informed that an investigation is being carried out as to why

## Haryana govt 'deliberately', 'illegally' halting water supplies to Delhi: Atishi

**New Delhi(KCN):** Delhi Water Minister Atishi Tuesday slammed the Haryana government and alleged that it was "deliberately" and "illegally" halting the water supply to the capital.

In a press conference here, Atishi alleged that the Haryana government was releasing less water to the city because of which Delhi is unable to meet the daily water requirement.

Citing an affidavit submitted by the Haryana government in the Supreme Court, the minister said, "The Haryana government has been lying that they have released adequate supply water to Delhi. Their affidavit filed in the Supreme Court presents the data on actual discharge of water which has exposed their lie." According to the affidavit, from May 23 ahead of the elections in Delhi, the water quantities released was reduced by the Haryana government, she alleged. "The figures of the affidavit given by the Haryana government in the Supreme Court show that from May 1 to 22, Haryana is releasing 719 cusecs of water in CLC and 330 cusecs of water in DSB through Munak canal. That means 1049 cusecs of water was released daily. But after this, it started decreasing from May 23. That means, that when there were elections in Delhi, Haryana reduced the sending of water," said Atishi. "Compared to 719 cusecs of water in CLC and 330 cusecs in DSB, the water supply became 675 cusecs and 283 cusecs, this is Haryana's figures. The elections in Delhi were May 25, before that, the water supply to Delhi was reduced for four days, which is clear from his Supreme Court affidavit itself," she added.

## First ever UN International Day of Play on 11th June 2024

### Kolkata(PARTHA ROY):

United Nations is observing first-ever International Day of Play, on 11 June 2024. It marks a significant milestone in efforts to preserve, promote, and prioritize playing so that all people, especially children, can reap the rewards and thrive to their full potential.

Play is a universal language spoken by

children develop the cognitive, physical, creative, social, and emotional skills they need to thrive in a rapidly changing world. Play is promoting tolerance, resilience, creativity, and innovation in individuals.

For children in particular, play helps build relationships and improves control, overcome trauma, and problem-solving. It helps

## Restoring Riverine Ecosystem: ICAR-CIFRI Ranched 3 lakh Fingerlings at Mayapur



### Kolkata, (KCN):

ICAR-Central Inland Fisheries Research Institute, Barrackpore under its flagship project NamamiGange project continues the National Ranching Program III at Mayapur, Nadia, West Bengal towards conservation and restoration of River Ganga. The main objective of the river ranching is to replenish the riverine stock, 3.23 lakh additional fingerlings of Indian Major Carps were released into the Ganga River at Swarupganj Ghat, Mayapur.

In this presence, health workers, Anganwadi Asha workers, people's representatives warned the villagers to use boiled water. Meanwhile, Dr. Nil Madhav Shatpathi, who leads the Koraput medical team, which is closely monitored by the district administration, informed. He said that attention is being paid so that no one else gets infected with diarrhoea

**Prof Sudershan Rao awarded 'Gurukul Fellowship' by ICHR**

### Hanumakonda, June 11 (KCN):

Dr Yellapragada Sudershan Rao, a former Professor of History and former Chairman of Indian Council of Historical Research (ICHR), has been conferred prestigious Gurukul Fellowship, according to the Officiating Member



international training initiatives, Deputy Secretary (Extension) MoA & FW GOI Anil Jain praised MANAGE for its growing reputation. He pointed out the innovative programmes that had contributed significantly for strengthening the agricultural extension system in India. During the event, faculty members and staff members shared their experiences about M A N A G E organization. As part of the 37th Foundation Day Celebrations, guests distributed nine awards across three categories, Best Post-Graduation Thesis, Best Ph.D. Thesis, and Best Book in Agricultural Extension in the 37th MANAGE Foundation Day Celebrations. More than 100 participants including MANAGE faculty, MANAGE Fellows, Consultants, Staff members and awardees were present. Dr. B. Renuka Rani, Deputy Director (NRM), MANAGE coordinated the program.

Secretary Om Jee Upadhyay. In a mail sent to Prof Sudershan Rao on Tuesday, it was stated that the Fellowship which has been declined by Prof Sudershan Rao on the dilemma to avail of the Fellowship in the capacity of former Chairman of ICHR, the Council in its meeting held on March 27 unanimously resolved to request Prof Sudershan Rao to reconsider his decision and accept the Fellowship. Speaking to 'The South India Times', Prof Sudershan Rao said that he would accept the Fellowship. The Fellowship is of duration of two years and he would like to work on 'Cultural History of Bharat (Remote Past)', he added.

preserving the Ganges river system's health in order to protect the variety of indigenous fish species. Results from NMCG Phases I and II were emphasised, as were the noteworthy accomplishments. Studies on fish diversity, assessments of populations of economically significant species (such as Hilsa), the development of seeds from wild germplasm of certain fish species, and the mega ranching activities in the designated river length were among them. The Ganga river system may become more viable in the long run if this ranching event is successful.

## CIFRI introduced Amur Carp among beneficiaries of Hill area of Sittong, WB



### Kolkata,(KCN):

The small and marginal fish farmers of the hilly region have their own tiny cemented tank. Due to lack of proper knowledge and technical support on fish farming, they can't do commercial fish production. To improve their livelihoods by providing technical support for enhancing the fish production from these small units, a awareness program along with input distribution was organised by ICAR-CIFRI under SCSP programme at Sittong on 9th June, 2024. With the vision of upscaling

socio-economic condition of rural hill community, ICAR-Central Inland Fisheries Research Institute (ICAR-CIFRI) is promoting the Amur Carp fish farming for strengthening their livelihood under the leadership of Dr. B. K. Das, Director, ICAR-CIFRI. In this programme ICAR-CIFRI distributed 50000 Amur Carp seeds to 50 beneficiaries among them 10 females from Sittong and Mongpu of Darjeeling district in collaboration with Sittong Multi Agro Cooperative (REH). The Sittong Gram Panchayat Pradhan Mr. Sushil Sukhra and Ex. Pradhan Mr. Digger Lepcha also graced the occasion and share their thoughts about the fisheries as alternative livelihood opportunity in the region. Dr. Das has interacted with the farmers and encouraged them about scientific fish farming with the scientists of ICAR-CIFRI. He also provided scientific advice to the queries of a few trainees. Dr. Das has advised the people to continue this fish farming on a mission mode approach on a cluster basis and assure CIFRI's support for them.

## MANAGE celebrates 37th Foundation Day



**Hyderabad, June 11 (KCN):** "National Institute of Agricultural Extension Management (MANAGE) has been established as an autonomous organisation under the Ministry of Agriculture and Farmers Welfare, Govt. of India to address challenges in agricultural extension through training, research, policy advocacy, consultancy, implementation of Govt. of India Schemes and k n o w l e d g e management," said Director General of MANAGE Dr P Chandra Shekara. Presiding over the 37th Foundation Day Celebrations of MANAGE on Tuesday, Dr Chandra Shekara said that MANAGE would reach out to more than one lakh stakeholders that included agricultural

extension officers, scientists, input dealers, agripreneurs, FPO, Agri Startups, private sector, youth, farmer leaders, students etc. He added that through international initiatives such as ITEC training programs, MANAGE had been consistently working beyond borders covering more than 30 countries. Further, he indicated MANAGE's green initiatives for a sustainable organisation, including solar and hybrid solar units to harness solar and wind energy, "Me and My Plant" program for PGDM-ABM students, bamboo plantation on campus, solid waste management, vermicomposting, and the introduction of an electric buggy which could be followed by

# FinMin, Speaker posts curse for Ganjam leaders

**Berhampur (KCN):** With the Biju Janata Dal (BJD) facing a major debacle in the recently concluded elections after 24 years of its rule in the state, many party heavyweights including former Assembly Speaker and Finance Minister Bikram Keshari Arukha from Ganjam district have also faced drubbing. However, the posts of Assembly Speaker and finance minister in the state are proving to be a curse for the politicos in Ganjam district, if the poll performance of the leaders holding such posts in the past is any indication. There are numerous instances to prove this claim where the political careers of high-profile politicians



have declined after their appointment either as Speaker or as finance minister in the state government. Reports said Lal Mohan Patnaik was appointed the Speaker of the Assembly and remained in the post from 1946 to 1952 after Odisha was formed as a separate province April 1, 1936. Later, he vanished from politics. Former Chief Justice of Orissa High Court Lingaraj Panigrahi forayed into politics after his retirement. He contested on a Congress ticket from Berhampur Assembly constituency and became a Cabinet minister after winning the election in 1957. Subsequently, he contested the Kodala Assembly seat in 1961

and was appointed as the Speaker of the Odisha Assembly. Later, he left politics and was appointed as the Vice-Chancellor of Berhampur University. Congress MLA Somanath Rath, who was elected from the Bhanjanagar Assembly constituency in 1980 election, was appointed the Speaker of the State Assembly. He,

however, left the post after a period of two and a half years. Chintamani Dyan Samantara was first appointed a deputy speaker in the Assembly after winning the Chikiti Assembly seat in 1985. Later, he again emerged victorious from the same seat in 1995 and was first appointed a Deputy Speaker and

then a Speaker of the Odisha Assembly. His political career received a jolt after he was defeated in the 2000, 2004 and 2009 elections. Later, he stayed away from politics. Similarly, Binayak Acharya was appointed as a finance

minister in the second term of government of former Chief Minister Nandini Satpathy. Subsequently, he also became the Chief Minister for a brief period. Later, his political career declined and he quit politics. Rama Krushna Patnaik was elected from the Kodala Assembly constituency on a Janata Dal ticket in 1990 election and appointed as the finance minister in the Biju Patnaik-led government. However, he was removed from the ministry after a period of two years. Rama Krushna again won the Kodala Assembly constituency on a BJD ticket in 2000 and was appointed the finance minister in Naveen's first term. He was shifted to a separate ministry after a period of two years and later sacked from the party.

Later, his political career witnessed a sharp decline and ultimately he said goodbye to politics. Likewise, veteran BJD leader Late Surya Narayan Patra won Digapahandi Assembly constituency in 2019. He was appointed the Speaker and became the fifth leader from Ganjam district to get appointed to the coveted post. He resigned from the Speaker post due to illness following which



## Challenge as 'doda' smuggling surfaces in Saranda

**Rourkela (KCN):** A fresh challenge has surfaced for the security forces involved in anti-Maoist operations across the state border which may very well prove to be a test of their strength on this side. In the last couple of months, security forces have found a trail of 'doda' smugglers. 'Doda' is the bark of the opium tree. The personnel have seized 'doda' worth Rs 6 crores during anti-Maoist search operations. The combined forces of CRPF, Jaguar and CoBRA battalion have found huge amounts of 'doda' in two successful operations.

Following a tip-off, security forces recovered the banned substance in an abandoned house April 21, this year. The contraband, weighing over 2,162 kg, was kept in 92 sacks, the market value of which was nearly Rs 3.24 crores. The finding alerted the forces, said one



paramilitary personnel involved in anti-Maoist operations on this side of the border. Subsequently, in another raid conducted in a jungle under Toto PS near the bank of Chaki river June 2, they found another huge consignment of 2,100 kg 'doda' worth nearly Rs 3.15 crore kept in 83 sacks. It became clear to the security forces that such activity could not be carried out inside Saranda forest without the involvement of the Naxals. The banned contraband has a huge market in northern India, especially in Punjab and

Haryana. Notably, seizure of 'doda' consignments was made not very far from the Odisha border — within 30-50 km in West Singhbhum district in neighbouring Jharkhand. "This is another means of earning money by giving protection to this activity apart from their regular sources like mines and industries in the Maoist-affected areas," one official on the other side said. This intelligence has been shared among forces. It is pertinent to mention that Rourkela shares a porous border with Jharkhand and

## Diarrhoea kills man in Rayagada; 4 admitted



**Bissam Katak (KCN):** A person from Gailakana village under Daliakuji panchayat of this block in Rayagada district died of diarrhoea while undergoing treatment at Rayagada Government Hospital Monday. Three other villagers who were also suffering from diarrhoea have been admitted to Government Hospital at Muniguda and Bissam Katak Christian

Hospital. The deceased has been identified as Gopal Kandamaka, 28, and the four other affected villagers have been identified as Kadulu Kandamaka, 40, who is undergoing treatment at Government Hospital at Muniguda and Kumari Mandika, 40, Milan Mandika, 18, and Kabita Sabar, 12, all are undergoing treatment at Bissam Katak Christian

Hospital. According to reports, Gopal started experiencing vomiting and loose motion Sunday. As his health condition deteriorated, family members rushed him to the Government Hospital at Muniguda Sunday later, as per the advice of the doctors he was shifted to the Government Hospital at Rayagada. He died

while undergoing treatment at the hospital Monday. Villagers when informed Bissam Katak BDO and Rayagada Collector about the matter, three medical teams from Bissam Katak, Muniguda and Rayagada reached the village, and distributed medicines and ORS to the villagers.

2024-2025

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## PLATINUM GUILD INTERNATIONAL (PGI) INDIA AND SENCO GOLD & DIAMONDS UNVEIL THE 'PLATINUM EVARA'S NOVA COLLECTION'

Bhubaneswar — Platinum Guild International (PGI)-India, in collaboration with Senco Gold & Diamonds, proudly introduces the Platinum Evara Nova Collection, a tribute to the modern woman embodying joy, abundance, and empowerment. With a legacy of over eight decades, Senco Gold & Diamonds India is known for its high-quality jewellery that blends craftsmanship, exquisite designs, and timeless elegance. With an emphasis on creativity and artistry, the new platinum jewellery collection offers a wide range of statement pieces that can be worn for various occasions as well as paired with a variety of outfits.

Reflecting the inherent

attributes of platinum as a metal—clean lines, understated and timeless elegance, and classy sophistication, the Platinum Evara Nova Collection is designed to resonate with the dynamic spirit of today's multi-faceted women. Crafted from 95% pure platinum, each piece in the collection showcases the versatility and beauty of platinum, complemented by exquisite diamonds and other precious stones, as well as touches of pink gold. With platinum's naturally white luminous leading the design narrative, the collection exudes a sense of modernity and elegance. The collection incorporates interesting themes including organic negative spaces, soft-layering and unique

scheduled for June 12, 2024, and subsequent activities. The restriction includes a prohibition on leave during public holidays, with exceptions only on health grounds, the notification issued by Kumar added.

### Odisha govt enforces leave restriction for officials till June 30

**Bhubaneswar(KCN):** The Government of Odisha Tuesday announced restriction on leaves to all government officials, effective immediately until June 30, 2024.

This directive, issued by

### Bhubaneswar: Half-day holiday at govt offices for swearing-in ceremony

**Bhubaneswar(KCN):** The Odisha government Monday announced that all state government offices and courts in Bhubaneswar will close after 1pm June 12 due to the swearing-in ceremony of the new Chief Minister and Council of Ministers.

According to a

notification issued by the Revenue and Disaster Management Department, the order

will apply to all state

government offices and revenue and magisterial courts (executive) within the jurisdiction of the Bhubaneswar Municipal Corporation (BMC). The new BJP government will be sworn in June 12 at 5pm.

Prime Minister Narendra Modi is

scheduled to arrive here at 2:30pm and proceed to Raj Bhavan from the airport. He

will later attend the oath-taking ceremony at Janata Maidan at 5pm. The state unit of the BJP has urged people to observe June 12 like Diwali by lighting at least two diyas (lamps) — one for the Central government and another for the state government.

Balasore MP Pratap Sarangi highlighted that the two diyas symbolise

the 'double engine sarkar' (dual government) in the state.

### Dalmia Bharat Celebrates Empowerment of 18000 women on International Day of Rural Women

**Bhubaneswar,(KCN):** Dalmia Bharat Group, India's leading conglomerate with businesses in cement and sugar, announces the success of the empowerment of 18000 women on International Day of Rural Women. Through the establishment of Self-Help Groups (SHGs), these women are provided essential skill training and access to vital resources for sustainable livelihood development.

In collaboration with various organisations like NRLM, NABARD, etc. Dalmia Bharat organizes various training initiatives like micro-enterprise development, handicraft production and others in both farming and non-farming sectors. All these activities are conducted in communities settled around their regions of operation across 12 states in India. These initiatives aim to upskill rural women to empower

them, diversify their income sources and provide access to formal credit systems. Two notable initiatives in Odisha include Project Hastakala — upskilling women artisans and enterprise development via mushroom cultivation in communities surrounding its facilities in Cuttack, Rajgpur, and Lanjibera Mines. Dalmia Bharat has enabled over 10,000 women in Odisha to become financially independent earning a monthly income ranging from Rs.4000 to Rs8000, significantly improving their individual well-being and the ability to support their families.

Commenting on the company's initiatives on International Day of Rural Women Mr. Ashok K. Gupta, CEO, Dalmia Bharat Foundation said, "Rural women in developing countries play a vital role in food security and economic development but face severe marginalization,

including limited land ownership, higher illiteracy rates and unequal earnings compared to men. Dalmia Bharat is dedicated to uplifting marginalized rural women through holistic programs that bolster their income while managing household responsibilities. Our commitment aligns with UN Sustainable Goals, promoting self-reliance and gender equality for an inclusive and sustainable India, where empowered women drive community and national development."

Project Hastakala is an 'earning with joy' skill development programme where women are trained in the unique tie & dye batik products. This project is conducted in tribal areas of Jhagpur & Katang panchayat in Odisha. After witnessing immense success at national exhibitions, Dalmia Bharat introduced the



Commenting on the launch, Vaishali Banerjee, MD, PGI India, stated, "We are thrilled to deepen our partnership with Senco Gold & Diamonds through the introduction of the Platinum Evara Nova Collection. This collection is a testament to our commitment to meeting the discerning tastes and preferences of modern women — bold, empowered, and unapologetically themselves. At PGI, we continuously seek new opportunities for platinum jewellery by exploring innovative design avenues. This collection represents our dedication to offering fresh and contemporary platinum jewellery pieces that resonate with our consumers' aspirations and individuality."

### Eastern Command of Indian Army & Red FM Celebrate Vijay Diwas With The Guts & Glory - Salute 71

**Bhubaneswar:** 93.5 RED FM, India's leading private radio and entertainment network is thrilled to announce its partnership with the Eastern Command of the Indian Army to commemorate Vijay Diwas with a grand celebration titled "Guts and Glory - Salute 71." This event aims to pay tribute to the historic victory of the 1971 war and honor the brave soldiers who made it possible. As part of this unique initiative, Red FM will captivate its audience on-air with narrations of intriguing

war stories that depict the valiant efforts of the Indian armed forces during the 1971 war. Listeners will have the opportunity to learn about the heroic deeds of our soldiers, their unwavering spirit, and the sacrifices they made to ensure our nation's victory. Red FM will also collate all stories as episodes under a podcast, which will be available on various audio streaming platforms.

Reflecting on the announcement, Lieutenant General Rana Pratap Kalita,

said "I am delighted to know that Red FM has taken the initiative to narrate stories of valour and courage of our soldiers who fought in the 1971 war. In our vision to salute the bravery of the heroes, and the sacrifices they made to ensure our nation's victory. Red FM will also collate all stories as episodes under a podcast, which will be available on various audio streaming platforms.

Speaking on the announcement, Nisha Narayanan, Director & COO, RED FM, and

Magic FM, said, "On the occasion of Vijay Diwas, we are elated to be joining hands with the Eastern Command of the Indian Army to honor the lives of the 1971 war veterans. Our army men live through times that are unimaginable to us. The sacrifice of our veterans is truly unfathomable but as a brand, we are looking forward to commanding the valor of the keepers of our nation. The Guts & Glory - Salute 71 initiative will also recognize the unsung heroes who walk amongst us as common citizens. We are hopeful that these stories will enrich us with empathy and esteem for the gallant troops who made the ultimate sacrifice for our freedom."

The initiative will be rolled out in 12 East-Indian stations namely, Kolkata, Bhubaneswar, Asansol, Siliguri, Agartala, Patna, Muzaffarpur, Jamshedpur, Guwahati, Shillong, Aizawl, and Gangtok. Tune in to 93.5 RED FM to listen to these stories.

### EXCEPTIONAL EXPERIENCES AWAITS SINGAPORE AIRLINES CUSTOMERS

**Bhubaneswar:** To serve the needs of premium households who want the next generational connectivity and entertainment experience, Bharti Airtel ("Airtel"), India's premier communications solutions provider, has once again raised the bar in the home broadband segment with the launch of three new all-in-one plans built for the evolving entertainment needs of today's connected homes.

Vir Inder Nath, CEO – Homes, Bharti Airtel had this to say: "Our new plans are built for India's emerging entertainment needs. Through these bundle offers we plan to offer our discerning customers great value, convenience and unlock a multi-faceted digital experience."

Increased broadband consumption in Indian homes has given rise to the phenomena of hybrid viewing, where families are looking to consume OTT content on the TV screen along with linear TV without the hassle of managing multiple subscriptions and devices. Airtel's plans are the first of their kind in terms of catering to the evolving entertainment needs of the whole family and come with: Subscription to 17 premium OTTs to go with unlimited data. This includes Netflix, Amazon Prime, Disney+ Hotstar and Airtel Xstream Premium ((SonyLiv, Lionsgate, Hoichoi and 11 more OTTs). 350+ TV channels covering the best of linear TV. Airtel 4K Xstream TV Box\* that allows you to enjoy OTT and linear TV content with a single device and single remote.

their 6,100 square-metres, translating to 30% more seats and space. This also doubles the capacity that was available during the pandemic while the upgrading works were going on. The Airlines created a sanctuary that has been thoughtfully designed to enhance the comfort and convenience of diverse groups of travellers, and meet their evolving needs in the coming years. Customers will be able to enjoy world-class products and services, as well as enticing food and beverage options, around the clock at the lounges before their flight.

The Private Room, the First Class section of the SilverKris Lounge, the Business Class section of the SilverKris Lounge, and the KrisFlyer Gold Lounge can collectively accommodate around 1,150 customers within

engagement and research have gone into the design of the new SilverKris and KrisFlyer Gold lounges. Customers will enjoy the thoughtful and curated product offerings and experience the signature Singapore Airlines hospitality, all within a comfortable and restful environment, ensuring that they are refreshed and ready for their journey.

"Opening these lounges at this time signals our commitment to SIA's premium brand and growth strategy. It reinforces our position as Changi Airport's anchor airline, and reflects our confidence in Singapore's future as a pre-eminent global air hub."

### WHEC recognizes Amrita Vishwa Vidyapeetham as excellence worldwide in Gender Equality

**Barcelona:** Amrita Vishwa Vidyapeetham was invited to the UNESCO World Higher Education Conference (WHEC), which recently took place in Barcelona, Spain. UNESCO recognized Amrita as one of five universities of excellence worldwide for its performance in gender equality.

The WHEC aims to reshape ideas and practices in higher

education to ensure sustainable development for the planet and humanity, as well as to define and prepare a roadmap for a new era of higher education. As the world comes out of COVID-19, the WHEC's goals and strategic scope remain, and the new timeframe represents an opportunity to deepen and expand common efforts of knowledge production, policy dialogue, exchange, and networking.

Swami Amritaswarupananda Puri, President of Amrita Vishwa Vidyapeetham, participated in a round table

called "Universities' Contribution to Gender Equality: A global perspective". Adding to his views, Swami Amritaswarupananda expressed how Amrita is making a difference in terms of gender equality and which policies have been put into place at the university level. Gender equality is number five in the United Nations' list of 17 Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). He explained how the culture of gender equality is not implemented only in terms of policies within Amrita, but also practiced in spirit.

The round table included Dr. Gloria Bonder, UNESCO Chair on Women, Science and Technology; Dr. Ricardo Vilanueva Lomeli, Rector General, University of Guadalajara; Ms. Elizabeth Shepherd, Leader of the Consultancy team, Times Higher Education; and Dr. Victoria Galan-Muros, Chief of Research and Analysis,

# Determined Tanzim repays the faith

**New Delhi:** Ahead of the T20 World Cup, Tanzim Sakib's spot in the squad turned out to be a topic of discussion after he was chosen ahead of Mohammad Saifuddin. The selection panel was at the receiving end considering Saifuddin looked to be in better shape than Tanzim and also picked more wickets than him in the last edition of the Bangladesh Premier League.

Selectors insisted that they felt Tanzim is more aggressive and as a result was picked ahead of Saifuddin as the fourth seam bowler of the squad that had pace trio - Taskin Ahmed, Mustafizur Rahman and Shoriful Islam.

## Hridoy critical of umpiring in Bangladesh's narrow defeat

**New Delhi:** Bangladesh's batter Towhid Hridoy was critical about umpiring standards during their match against South Africa as he believed they had to pay the price for it at the Nassau County International Cricket Stadium in New York on Monday.

During their run chase in the 17th over, a ball from Ottneil Baartman hit Mahmudullah's pad and ran down to the fine leg fence for a four. South Africa appealed for an LBW and the umpire raised his finger. On review, the decision was overturned but since the umpire had given it out on the field, the ball was immediately considered



dead, denying Bangladesh those four runs. In the end, the Asian side lost by the same margin. "To be honest that was not a good call for us in such a tight match. In my point of view, the umpire gave that out but it was pretty hard on us. Those four runs could have changed the match," Hridoy said.

a venue where low-scoring matches are taking place, one or two runs are a big thing. I think those four runs or two wides are close calls and I was given out on umpire's call and there are room for improvements," he said. Hridoy, who scored 37 off 34, was given out LBW off a Kagiso Rabada delivery where the replays showed that the ball was just about clipping the leg stump. "Actually we were very much confident with that score and from that position I should have finished the match. It is difficult for new batter to go and adjust to the conditions. In that position I should have finished the match," Hridoy said.

New Delhi: The outgoing batch of students of the prestigious Dartmouth College in Hanover were treated to a special address by Roger Federer, who was the guest of honour at the graduation ceremony. Federer's speech, which lasted close to 30 minutes, has gone viral on social media, for all the right reasons. Drawing lessons from his decorated tennis career, Federer shared knowledge with the outgoing class, which overcame the challenges of the Covid-19 pandemic. Roger Federer also received an Honorary Doctorate at Dartmouth College on Sunday after which he delivered a

he was not trying to prove a point and justify his selection and revealed he was intent on getting rid of de Kock especially after the South African smashed him for a six and a four. "No there was nothing like that (trying to justify my selection) as my job is to perform and whenever the selectors give me I will perform there and I don't think about any level because I am ready to perform anywhere," Tanzim told reporters at the mixed zone after the game.

"He (De Kock) scored 10 runs in my first over and hit me for an unexpected six and I didn't think that he would hit me a six from that place and so there was a hunger and Shanto bhai

was telling me to go for the wicket and don't bowl defensive rather be attacking and I also felt that," he said. Tanzim added that he reaped the benefit of a changed mindset where there is no place for half-hearted bowling efforts and the decision to not try too much despite even if the wicket is conducive for pace bowlers.

"In the team meeting

we decided that we would bowl according to our strength and basics like we would bowl in good areas and later the ball will do the work and we were following that method like bowling in good areas and in one place," he said. "I have decided to give my best in every single ball in this world cup and won't take any delivery lightly as I am determined that if I bowl 24 deliveries all the 24

pace bowlers.

"I am ready to perform anywhere," Tanzim told reporters at the mixed zone after the game.

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