



Chief minister Mohan majhi & his two deputies KV singh deo, Smt Pravati parida called on Prime Minister Narendra modi at PMO, New delhi

## Low-pressure area over BoB likely to trigger heavy rains in Odisha: IMD



**Bhubaneswar(KCN):** Several parts of Odisha are likely to receive heavy rains in the next two days as the low-pressure area over northwest Bay of Bengal (BoB), off north Odisha coast, moves northwards during the period, IMD sources said Friday. The low-pressure area has been formed under the influence of a cyclonic circulation over northwest and the adjoining west-central Bay of Bengal (BoB), they added. Meanwhile, widespread rainfall activity with very heavy rainfall at one or

two places was recorded in Koraput district, Friday. Heavy rainfall was also witnessed at one or two places in Dhenkanal, Koraput, Malkangiri, Khurda, Rayagada, and Jajpur districts during the day. Jeypore in Koraput recorded 12 cm of rainfall, followed by Nandapur (Koraput) and Bhuban (Dhenkanal) with 11 cm each, Malkangiri with 9 cm, and Bolagarh (Khurda) with 8 cm. IMD sources said light to moderate rain/thundershowers are very likely to occur at most places over the

districts of the state in the next two days. They further stated that heavy to very heavy rainfall (7 to 20 cm) is very likely to occur at isolated places in Kalahandi, Kandhamal, Rayagada, Nayagarh, Ganjam, Jagatsinghpur, Kendrapara, and Bhadrak districts. Heavy rainfall (7 to 11 cm) is also very likely to occur at isolated places over the districts of Khorda, Puri, Balasore, Jajpur, Cuttack, Bolangir, Nuapada, Boudh, Angul, Dhenkanal, Gajapati, Keonjhar, Mayurbhanj, and Koraput. Fishermen have been alerted that squally weather with gusty surface wind speeds reaching 40 to 50 kmph is likely over the northwest Bay of Bengal off the Odisha coast until June 30.

## Rajya Sabha witnesses repeated adjournments over NEET issue; opposition including BJD stages walkout

**New Delhi(KCN):** The Rajya Sabha witnessed repeated adjournments Friday following an uproar by opposition parties demanding immediate discussion on the alleged irregularities in NEET as the House took up the Motion of Thanks to the President's address. When the Rajya Sabha reassembled at 2:30pm after the third adjournment, DMK member Tiruchi Siva informed the House that Congress MP Phulo Devi Netam, who had fainted earlier, had blood pressure. In response, Chairman Jagdeep Dhankhar said, "I have taken all steps, suspended the working of the House. All arrangements were made and that was the most that could be done. Everything is being taken care of." However, the opposition



was apparently not satisfied and started sloganeering. Soon after, they staged a walkout and were also joined by members of the Biju Janta Dal (BJD). Dhankhar again expressed anguish over the situation prevailing in the House. He said it was "unbelievable" that Leader of Opposition Mallikarjun Kharge entered the Well of the House to protest. "It was very painful for me, unbelievable for me, that Mallikarjun Kharge, a leader with Parliamentary experience of over five

decades, having held the position of Leader of Opposition both in the state and in Parliament walking into the Well of the House. "The deputy leader of the party Pramod Tiwari also walked in, and senior leader Mukul Wasnik also walked in. It was a very painful moment for me. We expect the Leader of the Opposition and Leader of the House to exemplify their conduct that is worth emulating," Dhankhar said. The Rajya Sabha Chairman said, "He (Kharge) came to the

Well the entire House saw. But what is more painful, hurtful for me, is that he has outside, misreported, misrepresented and has spoken untruth... He is in denial mode and his statement which has been put on Twitter (now X) ... is self-contradictory." "At one point of time, he says that he did not get into the Well... Now the second part is far more serious. What I have seen is that this institution was tarnished, tainted and demeaned. It was the worst sacrilege that could be committed for this temple of democracy and if this happens from those who have to lead as custodians of the order, nothing can be more unfortunate." Earlier, the Rajya Sabha was adjourned for the third time at 2:20 pm for

10 minutes amid continuous sloganeering by opposition party members, demanding a discussion on the alleged irregularities in the conduct of the National Eligibility cum Entrance Test (NEET) When the House re-assembled at 2 pm following two adjournments, BJP leader Sudhanshu Trivedi, who earlier initiated the discussion on the Motion of Thanks to the President's address, completed his speech that was repeatedly interrupted by members from opposition parties. Meanwhile, speaking to reporters in the Parliament complex, Congress leader Renuka Chowdhury expressed displeasure over the lack of decorum and empathy and criticised the decision to continue to run to the House.

## Govt ready for discussion on NEET but that should happen by maintaining decorum: Pradhan

**New Delhi(KCN):** Union Education Minister Dharmendra Pradhan Friday said the government is ready for discussion on the medical entrance exam NEET but that should take place as per tradition and by maintaining decorum. Interacting with reporters after the Lok Sabha was adjourned for the day amid protests by the opposition demanding a discussion on the alleged irregularities in the conduct of NEET-UG, the minister appealed to



them not to confuse the students "The government is ready for every kind of discussion, but everything should happen following norms and maintaining decorum. The President spoke about the exam in her speech yesterday and it shows the government's

intention that we are ready to face any issue," Pradhan said outside Parliament. He said the government's responsibility is towards the youth and students of the country. "When the government is ready to put forth its side then what is the confusion? We are

going to take the strictest action and the CBI is going to nab everyone (involved). We will not spare anyone," Pradhan said. The National Eligibility cum Entrance Test (Undergraduate) or NEET-UG was conducted by the NTA on May 5 with around 24 lakh candidates taking part in it. The results were announced on June 4 and almost immediately were followed by allegations of irregularities and question paper leaks in states such as Bihar. "We are not going to spare anyone. Those in

charge of NTA have been removed and the responsibility has been given to senior officials. All of this is proof of the government's commitment. I want to appeal to the opposition that they should not confuse the students," Pradhan said. "A credible high-level committee has also been formed for reforms. Soon, the dates of all those exams (postponed or cancelled) will also be announced. I request the opposition to join the discussion," he added.

## Devastating rains bring Delhi to its knees, one killed as canopy collapses at airport's Terminal 1



**New Delhi(KCN):** Delhiites woke up to a rain-devastated city Friday with a canopy at Delhi airport's busy Terminal 1 collapsing, killing one person, and many parts of the city inundated with water entering homes, submerging vehicles and leading to miles-long traffic snarls.

As early morning rains brought the national capital to its knees, flight operations were suspended at Terminal 1 till further notice and thousands of commuters stranded while on their way to office, school or college, or for important appointments. Key tunnels, including the one at Pragati

Maidan, were closed and reports of homes being flooded came in from across the city, including the upscale areas of Hauz Khas, South Extension and Mayur Vihar on the first day of heavy rain. According to India Meteorological Department (IMD) data, 228.1 mm of rainfall was recorded at Safdarjung, the city's primary weather station, 192.8 mm at Lodhi Road, Mausam Bhavan, 150.4 mm at Ridge, 106.6 mm at Palam, and 66.3 mm at Ayanagar in the last 20 to 30 hours.



# BJP Triumphs in Odisha : Samal's Leadership Shines

**Bhubaneswar(Prasar khuntia) :** In an extraordinary political upheaval, the Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) has clinched a historic victory in Odisha, attaining an absolute majority in the state assembly elections for the first time in more than two and a half decades. This exceptional success is chiefly credited to the strategic leadership of Manmohan Samal, the BJP state president, whose pivotal role in guiding the party to triumph cannot be overstated. As the election

approached, there was widespread speculation about a potential alliance between the BJP and the Biju Janata Dal (BJD). Both parties engaged in extensive discussions over seat-sharing arrangements with senior leaders convening in New Delhi. The political atmosphere in Odisha was charged with anticipation as the electorate eagerly awaited the outcome of these high-stakes negotiations. Despite a general consensus among decision-makers from both parties favoring a

pre-election coalition, Manmohan Samal remained steadfast in his belief that the BJP should contest the elections independently. Samal's stance was a bold deviation from the prevailing sentiment within the party, yet he assured the central BJP leadership of a decisive victory without the need for an alliance. His unwavering confidence and strategic foresight ultimately convinced the party high command to approve a solo campaign. The election results bore out Samal's confidence



and strategic brilliance. The BJP not only secured an absolute majority in the state assembly but also achieved an unprecedented victory in the parliamentary elections capturing 20

out of the 21 parliamentary constituencies in Odisha. This resounding mandate from the electorate marked a significant shift in the state's political history and underscored

the effectiveness of Samal's leadership. Under the guidance of Manmohan Samal, the BJP's campaign in Odisha was distinguished by robust organizational efforts, grassroots mobilization and a compelling message of change and development. The party's success in both the state assembly and parliamentary elections reflects a profound connection with the aspirations of the people of Odisha. The historic victory is widely attributed to

Manmohan Samal, whose strategic foresight and resolute leadership have reshaped the political landscape of Odisha. By leading the BJP to an unprecedented electoral triumph, Samal has proven himself to be a formidable leader and a kingmaker in Odisha's politics. His success stands as a testament to the power of conviction and the impact of effective leadership in shaping political outcomes. As the BJP forms the government in Odisha for the first time in history,

the focus now shifts to governance and fulfilling the promises made during the campaign. The party's leadership under the stewardship of Manmohan Samal faces the challenge of meeting the high expectations of the electorate and steering the state towards a new era of development and prosperity. This victory heralds the beginning of a new chapter in Odisha's political narrative, one that promises transformative change and a brighter future for its people.

## World Odisha Society Felicitates Elected MPs



**New Delhi,(KCN):** World Odisha Society (WOS) warmly felicitated elected members of the Parliament in a glittering ceremony here. The law makers of Lok Sabha were honoured by WOS with the presentation of traditional Angavastras, Flower garlands and mementos during the Grand Felicitation Ceremony. While the offline celebration was held at Civil Services Officers' Institute (CSOI), the online world wide live streaming of the spectacular fiesta was done through social networks. Hundreds of members of WOS, representatives of Pravasi Odia Organisations, Senior Odia Officers, Prominent Non Resident Odias based in around 72 countries and Odisha lovers attended the Mega Event both physically and virtually. Vice President of the ISCKON temple in New Delhi Vrajendra Nandan Das presented copies of Bhagawat Gita to MPs and Guests. Delivering Welcome Address the Chairman of WOS Kishore Dwibedi exuded confidence that the Newly elected Members of Parliament will definitely come upto expectations and aspirations of the common people. Particularly Shri Dwibedi expressed hope that the MPs from Odisha will strive hard to make Odisha the Number One

prosperous State of the Country by the year 2036, when our Mother State will be celebrating 100 years of her formation. Addressing the August gathering Founder of WOS Dr Arundhati Debi observed that as the apex Organisation of the Odia Diaspora worldwide, WOS has initiated several measures for the all round development of Odisha during its existence since last three and half years. Accepting the Honour Former Union Minister and MP from Balasore Pratap Chandra Sarangi appealed to uphold the dignity of Mother, Motherland and Mother Tongue. Distinguished Guest Editor of Sambad Tanaya Patnaik expressed hope that the Newly elected MPs will be able to fulfil the dreams of the masses. Joining virtually Vice – President of Servants of the People Society Dipak Malviya praised the noble efforts of WOS to promote Odisha's culture across the Globe. Chairman of Organising Committee Ajay Agarwal, Chairman of Reception Committee Dr Rabindra Narayan Behera and President of India Chapter of WOS Dr Bipin Mishra heartily congratulated the MPs for their electoral victory during their speeches. MPs who were felicitated include Union Minister and MP from Sundargarh Jual Oram, BJP President of Rajasthan and MP

Chandra Prakash Joshi, Balasore MP Pratap Chandra Sarangi, Jajpur MP Dr. Rabindra Narayan Behera, Kandhamal MP Sukanta Kumar Panigrahi, Jagatsinghpur MP Bibhu Prasad Tarai, Mayurbhanj MP Naba Charan Majhi and Bargarh MP Pradeep Purohit. Others who spoke during the occasion include Guest of Honour Director of National School of Drama Chittaranjan Tripathy, Chairman, Organising Committee Ajay Agarwal, President India Chapter WOS Dr. Bipin Bihari Mishra, President, Utkal Journalists Association Bibhuti Bhushan Kar, Chief Coordinator of Odia Swabhiman Pratisthan Sushant Kumar Sabat, President of Odisha Without Border Khirod Kumar Jena, Secretary General of WOS Siba Ranjan Biswal, Convenor of Language Movement Pabitra Maharatha, President, Kuwait chapter of WOS Biswaranjan Sahoo, Sanjay Das from Zimbabwe, Director, Odia Mahamanch Manoj Nayak, Founder, Odisha Positive Sanjib Mohanty and President of Samudayik Vikas Samiti Manoranjan Mohanty and Chairman of World Human Rights Protection Organisation Abhinna Hota. The special attraction of the supersonic show was the presentations of soul stirring musical numbers by Renowned Singers Anindita Das, Jeet

Pramanik and Sudhir Dash. Ace anchors Pratima Sharma and Ipsa Pratibimbita Sadangi conducted the entire proceedings smoothly. Nandan Dwibedi and Ankit Maurya ably handled the digital control room. Vice President of WOS's Women's wing Reeta Patra proposed vote of thanks. Entire arrangements of the Ceremony were well organised and neatly managed by WOS's New Delhi & NCR Branch's President, Bimal Bhal, General Secretary Jnana Prakash Jena, Chief Co –ordinator Umakanta Jena, Wos's General Secretary, Culture Kaveri Behera, Joint General Secretary ,Cuisine, Pushpanjali Barik, Member Priyatama Kar, Sagar Satpathy, Sarat Kar, Saroj Sahoo and Prabodh Samantara. Dignitaries present during the occasion include Dharendra Kar and Akshay Mohanty from USA, Dr. Nalini Pati from Australia, Dr. Sitansu Sekhar Nanda from South Korea, Manoj Panigrahi, Amarendra Khatua, Sanjib Patajoshi, Kulamani Biswal, Rabindranath Pradhan, Ashok Pradhan, Bibhu Sahoo, Dillip Mohanty, Dr Chidatmika Khatua, Dr Tapan Kumar Mahanta, Dr Sagar Tripathy, Prashanta Patra, Shubhro Roy, Advocate Sasmita Tripathy, Prabir Mohanty, Minaketan Samal, Minaketan Mishra, Sandip Mohanty, Soumitra Lenka, Hrudananda Prusty and Gautam Behera.



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# Yoga is the journey of the self

Prof. Dr. Umesh Chandar Patra



“Yoga is the journey of the self, to the self, through the self”- The Bhagavad Gita. Chronicles of Hindu mythology line out the significance of yoga and its positive impact on mind, body and soul; rooting from the Indian culture, yoga has garnered popularity worldwide. With the innate efforts of our honorable Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi, everyone including UN has extrapolated the significance of yoga for today's youth and society and has declared that June 21 be celebrated as “The International Yoga Day.”

Yoga has its deep roots from the very beginning of the

civilizations. The science of yoga was originated thousands of years ago. As per the Hindu chronicles, Lord Shiva is seen as the first yogi or Adiyogi. For knowing the origin of yoga, one has to look back in the history, for the narrative. It is believed that Lord Shiva introduced the teachings of yoga to the legendary Saptarishis. The sages, then, carried these powerful teachings of Yoga to the different corners of the world including Asia, the Middle East, northern Africa and southern America. After experiencing the powerful energy of Yoga, people from different corners of the world started peregrinating to India; these wanderers were curious and seek knowledge about the starting point of yoga, its founder and the ever-evolving yogic journey.

As per Hindu mythology, there are four paths of yoga that have the common goal of leading each being towards enlightenment: Karma yog: the path of



action, Bhakti yog: the path of devotion towards God and it's creation, Raj yog: the eight-step path, Gyanyog: the path of self knowledge, Hatha Yoga: this has also been considered as one of the path of yoga where the focus is more on physical postures. It considers the body as the vehicle for the soul. The path works more on an external level and includes asanas, pranayama, shatkarmas, all that cleanses your body. This path has been into practice with the modern world a quite lot.

Story of Patanjali and The Knowledge Of Yoga As A Gift. Patanjali is a revered name of Yoga; Patanjali is often referred as the backbone of Yoga. The ancient rishi 'Patanjali' defined Yoga as the control over the fluctuations of the mind. There's a story as to why people give so much respect to Maharishi Patanjali; the legend goes as- “Long ago all the munis and rishis approached Lord Vishnu to tell him that

even though he had made numerous cures for physical illness, people were still falling ill. Sometimes not just the physical illness but the emotional and mental illness too needs to be dealt with. Emotional sickness often proves to be more dangerous than a physical breakdown. Anger, lust, jealousy, greed etc. are some forms of disastrous mental sickness that wreak havoc in one's daily life. How does one get rid of all these

ailments? What is the formula? As an answer to this, Lord Vishnu gave them the Adisheshha, who took birth in the world as Maharishi Patanjali.”

The true essence of Yoga in the spiritual pages of the Bhagavad Gita lies in the evenness of the mind, which means thriving off to the unpleasant and bad times of life. The astonishing benefits of Yoga often leave the modern science awe-struck. Offering immense health benefits, sunshine meditation helps attain

many things besides peace with oneself. Yoga is the detachment of human soul from misery, pains and sufferings and enlightening the soul towards spirituality. One can achieve transcendence by learning to control the eternal power that exists in our human body and by acquiring inner virtues.

And what exactly you people are thinking right now is some supernatural stuff that you'll attain after practicing yoga and meditation, right? And the answer is yes. But this requires in-depth practice. The cultivation of these supernatural powers takes time and as you practice bit by bit, the powers like these will continue to develop. But since 'you - the 21st-century generation' are super busy, giving a lesser time to meditation and yogic exercises shall surely reward you with some basic supernatural benefits which are- One of yoga's lesser-known powers is the focus; attaining focus will help you in every corner of

your life. Whether it's your workplace or your social matters, being focused will help you to come out with flying colors. In a yoga pose, Tratak is as simple as where we place our gaze. In life, it's where we place our energy. Watch it and watch your superpowers of focus improve!

Yoga will reward you with the strength of character and identity that comes from the core. By learning yoga, you learn to overcome your emotional storms and deal with the bad times calmly. Yoga is a balancing factor, a substratum across all of your life so that you don't keep shifting in one direction or another. It gives you freshness; it gives you light and recharges your batteries. You become a stable person. You realize what balance is, what 'sukha' is, what contentment is, what joy is.

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## The servant-leader is servant first

Dr. Bichitrananda Acharya



Elections are over. Govt formation has begun. New GOI will want to have a new agenda. Here's a thought for all newly elected public representatives: adopt the idea of servant leadership. The term 'servant leaders', coined by Robert K Greenleaf, refers to leaders who prioritise empowering individuals over their personal gains, focus on well-being of people, and sincerely seek solutions to the electorate's most persistent problems.

Greenleaf says, “The servant-leader is servant first... It begins

with the natural feeling that one wants to serve first. Then conscious choice brings one to aspire to lead. That person is sharply different from one who is a leader first, perhaps because of the need to assuage an unusual power drive or to acquire material possessions. For such it will be a later choice to serve – after leadership is established.”

Gandhi says, “President means chief servant,” emphasising that elected leaders must serve those who have reposed their faith in the leaders' ability to govern. A servant leader does not seek power for herself but only to help people better their lives by putting them first. Servant leaders – whether elected members of Parliament, founders of unicorns, or CEOs of large

corporations – have empathy towards all, patience to actively listen and help others, an awareness of problems of people they work for, and the ability to find workable solutions and provide a healing touch.

More importantly, servant leaders do not use authority; they rely on consensus-building as the basis for policymaking. They are visionaries focused on long-term gains rather than short-term victories and have foresight to anticipate future problems and find solutions. Such leaders analyse mistakes to learn from the past, so that they are not bitter and are ready to face the present. Servant leaders are not independent governors/managers in ivory towers but stewards of their organisation/country, conserving resources and acting responsibly. They are willing to invest in and

promote others, irrespective of their allegiances. Pettiness has no place in servant-leaders' mental makeup. They believe in fostering a sense of belonging among the community and their organisations, promoting inclusivity and unity.

The world has seen several servant leaders, such as Ram, Bharat, Mahavir, Buddha, Jesus, Abraham Lincoln, Gandhi, Martin Luther King Jr, Nelson Mandela, BR Ambedkar. In the corporate world, Herb Kelleher, Indra Nooyi, Satya Nadella, and Ken Blanchard, among others, are examples of servant leadership.

Indic philosophy and mythology have several examples of servant leaders. At the centre of Ram Rajya is an empathetic leader with his ear to the ground. Ram is the epitome of

justice, and his reign is marked by fairness and equity. He ensured that every citizen, regardless of status, received justice. Ram sacrificed his desires to ensure the well-being of his people. Virtues synonymous with servant leaders are also reflected in the Buddhist concept of shunyata, emptiness, which says that all phenomena depend on several causes and conditions and are empty of independent existence. So, all phenomena arise through interconnected causes and conditions. Understanding shunyata fosters a sense of humility, interconnectedness and compassion, essentials for a servant leader focused on her constituency's well-being.

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## Diphtheria

Prof. Dr. Jyotiranjana Champatiray



Diphtheria is a severe communicable and bacterial infectious disease that causes inflammation of the mucous membranes by forming a false membrane in the throat which creates a problem while swallowing food and during breathing. It can also damage nerves by the bacterial toxin present in the blood. Currently, this syndrome is rare in developed countries. This disease spreads easily from one person to another but can be prevented by the use of vaccines.

further symptoms may develop. Difficulty in swallowing, Slurred speech, Sweating, Rapid heartbeat, Redness and ulcers in the affected region.

Types of Diphtheria are Respiratory diphtheria, Cutaneous diphtheria, Malignant diphtheria, Nasal diphtheria.

The first step in treating diphtheria is an antitoxin injection. This is

tetanus, and pertussis. The DTaP is given in five shots to the children of the ages 6 months, 12 to 18 months, 4 to 6 years. A child may be allergic to the vaccine in rare cases. This may result in hives or seizures that last only for a few days from the date of vaccination.

Vaccines last only for ten years, and the child needs to be vaccinated again at the age of 12. But for adults,



used to minimize the effect of the toxins produced by the bacteria. The doctors also prescribe antibiotics, such as erythromycin and penicillin to clear the infection. During the treatment, patients are instructed to stay in the hospital in order to avoid the spread of infection to others.

Diphtheria can be prevented to an extent by the use of vaccines and antibiotics. The vaccine for diphtheria is called DTaP. It's normally given in a single shot with vaccines for diphtheria,

it's suggested that they get a combination shot of tetanus and diphtheria. This is called the tetanus-diphtheria (Td) vaccine.

Some diphtheria develops if there is poor hygiene. So it is highly recommended to maintain good hygiene by regular washing hands before eating and cooking and by keeping surrounding clean and tidy.

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## Better Life with Books

Vijay Garg



Today, in the confines that we have created for ourselves by being immersed in smartphones, smart TVs or such resources all the time, many such things have been left behind which used to enrich our lifestyle on many levels. For example, once upon a time we used to consider reading books from around the world as a means

of betterment of our lives, but today the mobile screen in every hand has hypnotized us in a way and our hunger for reading has transformed into this form. It is happening that today You start feeling burden even while holding the book in your hand. physical mental health Reading books has always been not only one of the most important sources of knowledge, but it also gives us happiness and joy. Also, it has been shown in many studies that by reading books, a person gets many benefits at the level of physical and mental health. It is possible that we can get

more detailed information about the country and the world on the internet, but the kind of details and reportage regarding tourism that we have been reading in books is less than that. These images also provide an open sky of thoughts to our mind. Whereas the screen of smartphone or computer gets absorbed in our habit. Then, in a way, it starts controlling our thinking, understanding and assimilation process. thinking process With and after the study of books, the sky of our thoughts opens up, the scope of thinking expands infinitely, where our mind gets a chance to work hard and

improve itself more. It has been observed that if reading books in everyday lifestyle When it develops as a habit, it affects physical health as well. The body gets energized and there is a feeling of agility while doing any work, going out somewhere etc. It should be kept in mind that the mental impact of reading books is completely different from the impact of a computer or mobile screen. source of solace Even in case of mental distress, counselors recommend that reading books is an important means of achieving peace and tranquility. It has been

revealed in many researches that While other remedies like yoga or humor have the same effect on students who are stressed, reading books also has a positive effect on blood pressure, heart rate and brain. Naturally, reading helps in relieving stress. If everything from increased knowledge to better sleep can be achieved by reading books, then why not seize the friendship of books at the right time and make it a helpful element in choosing four moments of happiness in your lifestyle.

**Retired Principal Educational Columnist Malout Punjab**



# Britain's Election: Will Rishi Sunak Get All the "Indian" Votes?

By Vivek Shukla



Will Rishi Sunak, Britain's first Hindu Prime Minister, remain in office after the upcoming general election on July 4th? Will Sunak's Conservative Party receive the votes of British Indians? Will Labour Party also receive votes from the Indian diaspora? These are important questions indeed. According to the 2011 British census, there are approximately 1.5 million people of Indian origin in Britain, representing 2.5% of the country's total population. Indians are the largest immigrant group in Britain. They are relatively well-educated compared to other immigrant groups and are considered to be among the wealthiest in Britain. Hinduja, Lakshmi Mittal,

and Swaraj Paul are some prominent Indian-origin individuals who feature in the list of Britain's richest people. Rishi Sunak and his wife Akshata Murthy, daughter of Infosys founder N.R. Narayan Murthy, were ranked 245th in the Sunday Times list of Britain's wealthiest individuals released in May. Historically, Indian immigrants in Britain have leaned towards the Labour Party. It was during the Labour government that India gained independence from British rule. However, recent surveys suggest a growing inclination towards the Conservative Party, the main rival to the Labour Party. Vinod Chavan, a writer residing in London since the 1970s, believes that Hindu voters in Britain may vote en masse for the Conservative Party in the upcoming elections. This news could be a relief for Sunak and his Conservative Party. It's important to

understand that when we talk about Indians in Britain, we also include those who have settled in the country from East Africa, the Caribbean Islands, and other places. Sunak's family settled in Britain from Kenya in the 1960s, although his ancestors originally hailed from Punjab. There is also a belief that a large number of Indian residents in Britain became supporters of the Conservative Party after Narendra Modi became India's Prime Minister in 2014. Hindus comprise the majority of these supporters. The total Hindu population among Indians in Britain is over a million. Modi addressed over 60,000 people of Indian origin at a packed Wembley Stadium in London during his 2015 visit to Britain. Gujarati and Punjabi people were in the majority at that time. Boris Johnson, the then British Prime Minister, was known to proudly call himself "India's son-in-law". He was a unique son-in-law. His (second



divorced) wife Marina Wheeler's mother, Deep Singh Kaur, was previously married to Sardar Daljit Singh, son of renowned contractor Sir Sobha Singh from New Delhi. Sobha Singh had four sons, one of whom was the writer Khushwant Singh. Now, let's understand another subtle point. Not all Indian immigrants in Britain think alike politically or support any specific party. You could say that British Indians are also divided, to some extent, along religious

lines. It is believed that most Indian Muslims and Sikhs may vote for the Labour Party. They are not fond of the close ties between the Conservative Party and Modi. From the 1960s to the 1980s, a significant number of Indian immigrants settled in Britain from Uganda, Kenya, and the Caribbean Islands. These communities viewed Labour as sympathetic to immigrants. They were particularly attracted to Labour's commitment to immigrants' rights, especially following the introduction of the Race

Relations Act in 1965 by Labour Prime Minister Harold Wilson. Thousands of Indian immigrants came to Britain from Uganda after Uganda's cannibalistic president Idi Amin ordered the expulsion of all Indians from his country within 90 days in August 1972. A deeper analysis reveals that British Hindus have been leaning towards the Conservative Party since 2010. This trend includes wealthy and educated second and third-generation Hindus. In the

past 20-25 years, a new wave of immigrants from India has arrived in Britain. These are doctors, engineers, IT professionals, etc. They all identify themselves as Conservative Party voters. The Indian diaspora's disaffection with the Labour Party did not happen overnight. It was triggered by Labour's 2019 resolution calling for "the right of self-determination" for the people of Jammu and Kashmir. This resolution led a large section of the Indian diaspora in Britain to distance themselves from the Labour Party. They saw it as direct interference in India's internal affairs. Meanwhile, Rishi Sunak became Britain's first Hindu Prime Minister in 2022. This development deepened the bond between Hindus and the Conservative Party. It is still too early to say whether Hindus will vote en masse for the Conservative Party in the upcoming British general election. However, for the first time, British Hindus

have released a manifesto outlining their aspirations and expectations from the next government. They say they will only support those who endorse their demands. Hindus are the third-largest religious group in Britain. 29 Hindu organizations have so far endorsed this manifesto. According to the manifesto, "Hindus are the backbone of the British economy. Our contribution to the country's economy is disproportionately high. We are one of the most law-abiding communities. Yet, anti-Hindu hate is on the rise in the country." One of their key demands is for their safety. There are several things to watch out for. Will the Hindu votes be split or go to the Conservative Party? Will the Labour and Conservative parties consider the manifesto of the Hindu organizations? Will British Indians, other than Hindus, stand with the Labour Party?

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# The Transformative Power of Art: Preserving Cultural Heritage through 'Vibrant Exploration'

Dr. Shalini Yadav



**"Art possesses the ethereal capacity to metamorphose, to illuminate, to educate, inspire, and motivate."**  
**-Elizabeth Castillo Esguerra, Artist, Philippines**  
Art, in its essence untouched, has always possessed the profound ability to inspire, enlighten, and connect people across the annals of time and vast stretches of space. It exists as a medium that transcends the limitations of language, ethnicity, and geography, tenderly caressing the depths of human emotions and proffering a tantalizing glimpse into the kaleidoscopic beauty of our shared existence. The transformative power of art, an undeniable force, flows with the potential to dissolve rigid boundaries, safeguard cultural heritage, and nurture a harmonious unity among civilizations. Delving into the profound depths of burgeoning cultural diversity and the boundless realm of human imagination, the globally acknowledged Veteran Visual Artist, Ashok Kumar, embarks on an artistic odyssey that surpasses the confines of borders and symbolism, expertly intertwining threads of inspiration from the bustling streets of France to the

resplendent city of New Delhi, India. Embracing his inheritance of the vibrant landscapes of Bihar, Kumar's artistic odyssey unfolds, reaching far beyond the city of Patna, whispering boldly to the farthest corners of the world, serving as a beacon of inspiration for neophyte artists seeking solace in their artistic endeavors. Ignited by an unwavering quest for artistic excellence, Kumar sets sail upon a transformative voyage of learning, securing a coveted scholarship for advanced studies in fine art at the esteemed "L'Ecole Superieure des Beaux-arts de Marseille, France". His unfaltering dedication and raw talent are further recognized with a prestigious senior fellowship in painting granted by the esteemed Ministry of Culture, Government of India, bearing witness to his enduring commitment to his indelible craft. Kumar's artistic repertoire dances with an intoxicating kaleidoscope of imagery, akin to a triumphant symphony of symbols and signs that speak to the very essence of the human experience, celebrating our intrinsic connection to Mother Nature herself. Through his mesmerizing creations, he extends a captivating invitation to viewers, beckoning them into a realm of heightened consciousness and spiritual awakening, where semi-figurative forms intertwine harmoniously with the very fabric of the organic world, evoking an unshakeable sense of wonder and awe. A true citizen of the world, Kumar's masterpieces

traverse the continents, leaving an indelible mark on captivated audiences across the globe, from the hallowed grounds of France to the vibrant landscapes of Peru, from the celestial realms of China to the enchanting shores of Chile, and beyond. His participation in prestigious national and international workshops, festivals, art residencies, and exhibitions has garnered him unparalleled acclaim and admiration, carving his name into the bedrock of artistic excellence. Notably, his art has graced the prestigious ARTSY PAGE by ACS Gallery, Chicago, USA, ensnaring audiences with its profound and ineffable beauty and profound depths. Within the ever-evolving tapestry of contemporary art, Kumar remains resolute, unwavering in his commitment to uplifting the diverse cultural heritage of India, whilst seamlessly embracing the universal language of creativity. His presence, steadfast and unwavering, in a myriad of esteemed international art exhibitions from 2020 to 2024, stands as a testament to his unwavering dedication to sharing his profound vision with the world. A staggering 800 masterful artworks of his adorn the sacred halls of museums spanning across the European continent, decorating galleries in the United Kingdom, Russia, Europe, and India, and standing as treasured possessions of numerous esteemed private collectors. Most recently, Ashok Kumar unveiled his magnum opus, the 7th solo art exhibition, entitled "Vibrant Exploration," held within the hallowed halls of the RPR



Gallery, nestled in the very heart of New Delhi. The grand opening, graced by eminent personalities and luminaries, stands as an ethereal tapestry of beauty and artistic splendor. The esteemed presence of Honorable Mr. Anil Kumar, Senior Secretary of the Lok Sabha Secretariat, Government of India, brought luminosity as he lit the ceremonial lamp, thus illuminating the path of artistic excellence set forth by Kumar. Mr. Ram Prawesh Paul, a renowned luminary in his own right, served as the curator for this wondrous art extravaganza, ensuring a masterful curation that delighted the senses of visitors and art enthusiasts alike. The exhibition showcased a selection of Kumar's eclectic masterpieces, crafted with unwavering devotion, inviting onlookers into an otherworldly realm brimming with vibrant hues and intricate details. To further foster the artistic spirit, the exhibition also showcased selected drawings created by promising and gifted young visual artists, serving as a testament to Kumar's benevolent commitment to nurturing the artistic seedlings that dot our creative landscapes. The gallery walls, adorned with Kumar's immaculate

signature style, pulsed with an intoxicating array of colors, creating an aura of profound majesty that captivated each and every observer. It must be duly noted that Kumar's awe-inspiring artworks have graced the hallowed halls of countless local and international art exhibitions and magazines, bewitching and beguiling art aficionados worldwide with their breathtaking beauty and raw magnetism. It was the visionary curator, Mr. Paul, who aptly described the event as an ostentatious affair of grandeur and ethereal beauty. In his declaration, he prophetically expressed, "When future generations take count of the painters who emerged in the wake of Patna Kalam, the name that shall etched upon the annals of history shall be none other than that of Ashok Kumar, hailing proudly from New Delhi, India." He further added, "The national or regional styles of a country are not extinguished but transform, forever shifting and evolving like the graceful dance of the cosmos. The once Mughal style, transmuted under the British, was aptly known as the 'Patna Kalam,' wherein the pictures of common folk took precedence over the once exalted portraits of royalty. Today, we bear witness to the re-birth of this

transformative style, catapulting it to new heights on a global platform. In Kumar's paintings, we witness a tapestry of unrestrained expression, unbound by the shackles of convention, poignantly reflecting satire, socialism, and the tender bond shared between humans and the creatures that coexist alongside us. The radiant colors contained within his art do not wane under the gaze of celestial bodies; they instead harness the very essence of the heavens, weaving a dazzling drapery that enchants and captivates. My visit to this magnificent exhibition left my soul satiated, nourished, and my eyes soothed by the unparalleled beauty on display." It is with immense admiration that we acknowledge Kumar's artistic prowess and the laudable exhibition that serves as a guardian, holding steadfast the flame of our cultural heritage. In this rapidly unfurling world, where the march of modernity o f t e n i m e s overshadows the antiquities of tradition, the preservation of artistic legacy emerges as a necessary and vital endeavor. Exhibitions such as these serve as gentle custodians of history, bestowing upon us the opportunity to bear witness to the rich tapestry of our collective human civilization, resplendent in its richness and breathtaking diversity. The protection and

preservation of cultural artifacts emerge as paramount, for they stand as tangible manifestations of the collective identity and t r e m e n d o u s contributions of nations and communities. In an exclusive and i l l u m i n a t i n g conversation, Kumar graciously imparts his wisdom, stating, "My creative endeavors yearn to unravel new visions, springing forth from the very essence of our cultural diversity, utilizing an intricate tapestry of symbols and signs. These creations aim to encapsulate the ebullient energy and boundless splendor that emulates from our natural surroundings, imbued with the irrevocable power of positive vibrations and thoughts, forever intoning ecstasy within our inmost beings and radiating towards a unified peace that binds us all. Aesthetically, my paintings artfully interweave semi-figurative human forms with the majesty of nature and the h a r m o n i o u s companionship shared between organisms, in an exploration of heightened states of consciousness and spiritual emancipation." When the topic turns to nature, Kumar eloquently expresses, "Indeed, we find ourselves entangled in a great many conflicts and tribulations as a direct consequence of our misalignment with

the bountiful splendor of the natural world. It becomes imperative to revere and pay respect to the delicate planetary ecosystem that lies at the very core of our survival as human beings. Striving to achieve synchronicity with nature begets tranquil harmony within and throughout the world that envelops us. Only when we come to fully comprehend our intrinsic connection to nature can we operate in a manner that ensures optimal functionality on this exquisite planet. We must delve into the laws that govern the cosmos and align ourselves with the cosmic dance that permeates every fiber of existence. By doing so, we shall bear witness to breathtaking beauty permeating the very essence of our surroundings." Mr. Kumar believes that by nurturing the arts and nature and providing platforms for artistic expression, we can actively contribute to fostering a sustainable global society that values and respects the artistic contributions of all nations and peoples. Thus, experience the transformative power of Ashok Kumar's art to embark on a journey of enlightenment and introspection, where boundaries dissolve, and the essence of humanity shines forth!

**(Author is a Professor and Columnist from Jaipur, Rajasthan.)**





Odisha Chief Minister Mohan Majhi, Deputy chief ministers KV Singh Deo, Smt Pravati Parida, Education Minister Dharmendra Pradhan, Railway and I&B Minister Ashwin Baishnav with newly elected MPs at Odisha Bhawan, New Delhi

## Australia and India Forge Path to Stronger Trade Ties in Clean Energy and Innovation



**Kolkata, (ABHJIT SETH):** In a significant move towards bolstering bilateral relations, Australia is setting the stage for deeper collaboration with India, particularly focusing on sectors poised for mutual growth such as clean energy, innovation, and agriculture. This initiative was underscored by Mr. Nicholas McCaffrey, Deputy High Commissioner of Australia to India, during an interaction hosted by the Confederation of Indian Industry (CII) in Kolkata. Australia's strategy revolves around leveraging India's burgeoning economy, which ranks among the fastest-growing globally. Over the past five years, India's exports to Australia have surged by 65%, reflecting a robust trade momentum. To further facilitate this growth, Australia has already removed tariff barriers on most Indian products, with the remainder set to be phased out by 2026. This move aims to enhance the accessibility of Indian goods in Australia, fostering a more integrated economic relationship. Central to Australia's collaboration with India are key sectors like clean energy

and innovation. India's ambitious target of generating 500 Gigawatts of renewable energy by 2030 aligns with Australia's expertise in sustainable technologies and resource management. The countries aim to strengthen supply chains through initiatives like the Subsea Innovation Cluster Australia (SICA), which promotes market expansion and enhances tariff structures for critical imports from India. The economic cooperation between Australia and India is further bolstered by ongoing efforts to upgrade the Australia-India Economic Cooperation and Trade Agreement (ECTA). This initiative is expected to streamline trade regulations and facilitate smoother bilateral transactions. Moreover, both nations are Indo-Pacific partners, sharing a vision for an open, resilient region that fosters inclusive growth and innovation. Looking ahead, the relationship between Australia and India is poised for significant expansion. The implementation of a free

trade agreement (FTA) holds the potential to elevate bilateral trade in goods and services to over US\$ 70 billion within the next five years. This mutually beneficial partnership not only enhances economic ties but also reinforces the strategic alignment between the two countries on regional and global issues. As Australia and India deepen their economic engagement, driven by shared values and complementary strengths, the stage is set for a dynamic collaboration that extends across sectors critical to both nations' sustainable development goals. With a focus on clean energy, climate resilience, and technological innovation, the future holds promising opportunities for mutual prosperity and regional leadership in the Indo-Pacific. This proactive approach underscores Australia's commitment to harnessing India's economic dynamism and fostering a resilient partnership that transcends traditional boundaries, paving the way for a prosperous future built on innovation and cooperation.

## Zoological Survey of India to Celebrate 109th Foundation Day with Animal Taxonomic Summit & Unveiling of Comprehensive Fauna Checklist

**Kolkata (ADVAITA SETH):** The Zoological Survey of India (ZSI) is celebrating its 109th ZSI Day on June 30, 2024, marking over a century of contributions to zoological research and biodiversity conservation. Established on July 1, 1916, in Kolkata, ZSI has grown into a premier research institution under the Ministry of Environment, Forests, and Climate Change, Government of India. Over the years, ZSI has documented the faunal resources of India, leading to significant advancements in the knowledge of the country's rich faunal diversity. The celebration of the 109th foundation day will be graced by the presence of the Hon'ble Union Minister of Environment, Forest and

Climate Change, Shri Bhupender Yadav, who will be the Chief Guest. Shri Yadav will also inaugurate the 'Animal Taxonomic Summit-2024' organized by ZSI, scheduled from July 1 to 3, 2024. The Hon'ble Minister of State, Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change, Shri Kirti Vardhan Singh, will be the Guest of Honor, and the Director General of Forests and Special Secretary, MoEFCC, Mr. Jitendra Kumar, will address the gathering. One of the highlights of the event will be the launch of the 'Fauna of India Checklist Portal' by the Hon'ble Union Minister. This portal, the first of its kind, will cover all faunal species reported from India, making India the first country in the world to have a comprehensive list of its documented fauna. Additionally, the

Minister will release 'Animal Discoveries-2023,' which includes over 600 new animal species and records, and 'Plant Discoveries,' which features more than 300 new plant species and records from India. Other significant releases will include 'Current Status of Faunal Diversity in Lakshadweep,' 'Fauna of India-109 barcodes,' 'Catalogue of Hoverflies,' 'Catalogue of Muscidae,' 'Avifaunal Diversity of Important Bird Areas of Goa,' 'Handbook on Moths and Butterflies of Western Ghats,' and 'Flora of India Series.' The 'Barcode Atlas of Indian Fishes,' a joint publication by ICAR-NBFGR, Lucknow & ZSI, Kolkata, and 'ROAR - Celebrating 50 years of Project Tiger,' written by Shiladitya Chaudhury & Ketan

Sengupta, will also be unveiled. Shri Kirti Vardhan Singh will launch the 'International Society of Zoology (ISZ),' which aims to enhance the ability of individuals and institutions to contribute to the global understanding and protection of biodiversity. The event will emphasize the exploration and protection of faunal resources, the importance of safeguarding the environment, and ZSI's contributions to these efforts. More than ten Memoranda of Understanding (MoUs) will be exchanged between ZSI and various universities, national institutes, and the Ghana Wildlife Society (GWS) to foster better coordination and benefits for the masses. A cultural program highlighting

environmental issues and ZSI's outreach efforts will also be showcased. The 'Animal Taxonomic Summit-2024,' the second summit organized by ZSI, will focus on three broad themes: Taxonomy, Systematics and Evolution; Ecology and Animal Behaviour; and Biodiversity and Conservation. The summit will host over 350 delegates from four countries, including the Natural History Museum London. More than 20 plenary and lead lectures by eminent speakers and experts from India and abroad, along with 142 oral and poster presentations, will take place during the three-day event. The summit will conclude on July 3, 2024, and its recommendations will be conveyed to the Government of India for biodiversity conservation initiatives.

## Actor Vijay's Big Attack On DMK Over Drugs Issue In Tamil Nadu

**New Delhi:** Set to make his political plunge ahead of 2026 Tamil Nadu assembly polls, Tamil star Vijay today took on the ruling DMK over drugs issue in his address to student toppers he honoured from across the state. "In recent times in Tamil Nadu, drugs have become high among youngsters. As a political leader and as a parent even I am scared. I'd not say saving youngsters is the government's responsibility and the present ruling government has failed to do that," said Vijay, president of Tamilaga Vettri Kazhagam (TVK). A few months ago, a DMK man Jaffer Sadiq was arrested for allegedly sending ₹2,000 crore worth drugs overseas. The DMK expelled him soon after. Seen as the next Rajinikanth of Tamil cinema, Vijay, who has a cult following among the young and is at the peak of his career, said he will quit cinema. persuade my parents to vote for him".



**New Delhi (KCN):** Girdhari Yadav, who was elected MP for the second consecutive time from Bihar's Banka district, met Prime Minister Narendra Modi in Delhi on

Wednesday along with Union Minister Rajiv Ranjan alias Lalan Singh and several JDU MPs. Banka MP Girdhari Yadav put forward several proposals for

Banka district to the Prime Minister and discussed the matter. The Prime Minister posted on X and said that the meeting with JDU MPs was pleasant

# AAP MPs protested outside Parliament against Kejriwal's arrest

**Chandigarh (JAG MOHAN THAKEN), June 28:** Stating the arrest of Delhi Chief Minister, Arvind Kejriwal a gross misuse of investigation agencies, Aam Aadmi Party Members of Parliament on Thursday held a protest outside the Parliament House and also boycotted the President's address, saying – 'full respect for the President, but the address is written by the government'. On Thursday, all the MPs of Aam Aadmi Party (AAP) protested against the arrest of AAP convenor and Delhi Chief Minister Arvind Kejriwal by the CBI outside the parliament and said that

this is a gross misuse of investigation agencies. AAP MPs also boycotted the President's address and said, "We have full respect for the President but the address is written by the government. That is why we are not attending this program". AAP MP from Sangrur Gurmeet Singh Meht said that the Modi government talks big about democracy and the Constitution but in reality, on the contrary, the Constitution and democracy are being crushed in the entire country. Investigative agencies are being openly



misused from Delhi to West Bengal, Jharkhand and Maharashtra. Current Chief Minister of Delhi Arvind Kejriwal was put in jail. Current Chief Minister of

Jharkhand Hemant Soren was put in jail. Our education minister Manish Sisodia and Health Minister Satyendra Jain have been arrested and kept

in jail for about two years. AAP MP Sanjay Singh was kept in jail for six months without any reason. This is very dangerous for the democracy of the country.

He said that Arvind Kejriwal was arrested by the CBI in a hurry when he had every possibility of getting bail from the Supreme Court because he had got bail from the

trial court. This is a big example of dictatorship. He said that the misuse of investigation agencies is very unfortunate for the democracy of the country. Therefore, the Prime Minister should stop its misuse and clarify his stand on this matter. He should also speak on the atrocities being committed against Arvind Kejriwal and release him as soon as possible. Meet Hayer said that today we have started a protest against the arrest of Arvind Kejriwal at our party level. Talks are also going on with the leaders of the INDIA Alliance. This issue will be discussed with them

too and with their support this voice will be raised louder. Punjab Chief Minister, Bhagwant Mann tweeted, "The Modi government, which is destroying democracy, is misusing the investigation agencies... The arrest of Arvind Kejriwal by the CBI just before the Supreme Court hearing is a direct indication of this.... In protest against the arrest of Arvind Kejriwal, today all the MPs of Aam Aadmi Party protested against this dictatorship in the Parliament. We are not going to be afraid or bow down... The fight against dictatorship will continue."



# Lower Suktel oustees live in darkness

**Bolangir(KCN):** The landless villagers of Kharsabahal village in Bolangir district, who were displaced for the Lower Suktel Irrigation Project, have been pushed to darkness after the district administration rehabilitated them at Barapudagia village without power supply to their makeshift houses. The displaced villagers comprising 15 landless families mostly from Scheduled Caste (SC) and Muslim communities have been rehabilitated on government land. They earn their living by working as daily wagers or by peddling bangles in the nearby villages. Being landless, the villagers have been deprived of government assistance except for a ration card with which they get rice every month. The state government has neither given them any plot to

build houses nor announced a big package for them for being landless. The oustees have built makeshift houses on the land at their own cost. Living in the temporary huts, they are passing through a harrowing time in complete darkness after evening due to a lack of power supply. It has been over a year since they have been rehabilitated but their sufferings do not seem to end. They were not even given solar panels or even a torch to light up their houses. Sources said the first rainwater was stored in the reservoir in July 2023. However, people in many of the villages were in the submergence area were not displaced then. Later, incessant rainfall occurred. As a result, the backwaters of the reservoir gushed into the riparian Kharsabahal,



Gadashankar, Duguripalli, Banchhorpali and Kumiapalli villages. Alarmed over the development, the district administration hurriedly evacuated hundreds of landless families and rehabilitated them at the hostel of a tribal school at Chudapali, August 2,

2023. The evacuation was so swift that the displaced villagers even failed to bring with them many of their belongings. The state government only announced financial assistance of Rs 3.45 lakh for each family. Later, the district administration

announced that government land at Barapudagia village has been identified for their rehabilitation and shifted

the villagers there. It was also announced that the displaced families will be given a housing plot each under Vasundhara Yojana.

The villagers were rehabilitated on the government land but the place does not have basic facilities such as a good road, drinking water, power supply or readymade houses to live in. As a result, the villagers constructed houses on their own and started living in the area. Meanwhile, over 10 months have passed since then, but the district administration is yet to ensure the basic facilities for them. The whole area plunges into darkness after sundown. Women are the worst sufferers as there is no pond or any water body in the area. Children have failed to study sans an Anganwadi

centre in the area. The villagers always live in constant fear of wild animals and snakes as the area is close to a forest. Rains further worsen their sorrows. They have lodged several complaints but the district administration is yet to address their pleas. When contacted, Nutan Seth, project director (in-charge) of Lower Suktel Irrigation Project (rehabilitation and resettlement), a final estimate has been prepared for power supply and sent to TPWODC. The RWSS department has also installed two tube wells for the villagers. The rest of their problems will be resolved gradually, he added.

## Devotees throng Alarnath temple to have darshan of Lord Jagannath

**Puri(KCN):** Devotees in large numbers visit Alarnath Temple, situated 23 km westward along the Puri-Satpara National Highway, every day to have darshan of the presiding deity Alarnath Deb and to taste the 'kheer' prasad. According to popular belief, during the anasara period, when darshan of Lord Jagannath and his siblings is not possible in the main temple as the deities remain in the Anasarghar (sick house) for a fortnight, Lord Jagannath manifests in Alarnath Dev. Sri Chaitanya Dev, the founder of the Krishna cult, elaborately mentioned in his writings that he visualized the manifestation of Lord Jagannath in Alarnath. In 1610 AD, Sri Chaitanya Dev, along with his followers, camped there for years worshipping the deity. The small temple became a place of



pilgrimage during the anasara period of the presiding deities of the Sri Jagannath Temple. A handful of temple servitors work hard to prepare huge quantities of kheer to be offered to the deity and then sold to devotees. The kheer is prepared with buffalo milk, and a variety of sweeteners are added to make it tasty. Sources say that every day, over ten to fifteen thousand liters of buffalo milk, are used to prepare

the kheer, which is offered to the Lord and then distributed to the scores of devotees waiting to taste it. The administration has put in place elaborate security arrangements to manage the large number of devotees flocking to this small town daily. Police and traffic personnel have been deployed to regulate pilgrim traffic. Several temporary rest sheds have been erected, with provisions

for drinking water, toilets, and washrooms in the vicinity of the temple. Temporary parking places have been developed for vehicles. The entire temple and its surroundings have been illuminated. Everyday darshan continues in a queue system until late at night. Recitals of bhajans by noted singers are organized every evening by local cultural bodies.

## Extend skill devpt to higher education: Swain



**Bhubaneswar(KCN):** Skill development programmes should not be confined to a few categories of students, rather they should be extended to higher education courses, Skill Development Minister Sampad Chandra Swain said Thursday. At a review meeting, the minister highlighted the extension of programme offerings to the industrial sector and Mission Shakti. "Due to lack of skill development, our youths are being deprived of employment outside the state. That is why it is necessary to link the skill development training programme to higher education," said Swain. Skill Development Principal Secretary Usha Padhee briefed the minister about ongoing projects of the department. She proposed to launch 'Kaushal Rath' initiative



to create awareness among youths on various skill development programmes. The initiative shall cover all districts and focus on schools, childcare institutions, vulnerable tribal groups, government ITIs and polytechnics, she said. Two OSRTC buses, equipped with an audio-visual system and experimental labs will be engaged for the purpose, Padhee added. The first

'Kaushal Bhawan' with a capacity of providing training to around 300 youths annually, is also being developed at World Skill Center (WSC) here. The center will provide training in culinary science, food and beverages, housekeeping services and hospitality. Additionally, the Chief Minister's Skill Development

Fellowship Programme, in line with Mahatma Gandhi National Fellowship Programme, has been initiated to support the employment officers at district levels. A dedicated National Institutional Ranking Framework cell will also be established at Biju Patnaik University of Technology, Rourkela, to monitor and guide registered technical institutions and colleges.

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# Hindustan Coca-Cola Beverages ensures circularity at the Puri Rath Yatra: Estimated collection of over 50 lakh used PET bottles

**Bhubaneswar(KCN) :** Hindustan Coca-Cola Beverages (HCCB), one of India's leading FMCG companies, partners with the District Administration and Puri Municipality for a 'used PET Bottle-Free' Rath Yatra in Puri, Odisha, with a holistic waste management initiative. Committed to circularity, the drive is estimated to collect over 50 lakh used PET bottles. The Rath Yatra, the largest and oldest worldwide, sees a footfall of lakhs of devotees and tourists. This influx places significant responsibility on corporates and the District administration to ensure a clean environment for the pilgrims. As a joint responsibility, HCCB,

the District Collector, and Puri Municipality have launched a waste collection initiative for used PET bottles. The drive is in collaboration with The Odisha State Pollution Control Board, Odisha Development Management Program (ODMP), as well as The Y4D Foundation and Foundation for Climate Protection (FCP). To strengthen the collection infrastructure for used PET bottles during this period, collection mechanisms are placed along the Rath Yatra route, strategically located at critical points such as Badadanda, Bholanath Vidya Peeth, The Railway Station, The Bus Stand, The Sea



Beach Area, and Grand Road. Multiple help desks have been set up to provide continuous assistance to event attendees, operating 24/7 to collect and transport waste to the warehouse. The collected bottles will undergo a thorough segregation and scientific recycling process, reducing plastic waste and promoting sustainability. Over 1000

volunteers are actively involved in the sustainable waste management drive, raising awareness and working towards environmental conservation. Commenting on the initiative, Mr. Himanshu

Priyadarshi, Chief Public Affairs, Communications & Sustainability Officer, Hindustan Coca-Cola Beverages, said, "Celebrating the heritage of Puri, we are honoured to contribute towards waste management during the

festival. The 'Used PET Bottle-Free' initiative, enabling the collection and recycling of over 50 lakh used PET bottles, underscores our commitment to circularity and sustainability. With the support of our partners and local authorities, we continue our dedication towards responsible waste management and environmental stewardship."

Dr. Krushna Chandra Mahapatra, Minister for Housing and Urban Development (H&UD) & Public Enterprise, Odisha said, "We appreciate Hindustan Coca-Cola Beverages for ensuring a 'Used PET Bottle-Free' Rath

Yatra in Puri. This initiative, promoting circularity and recycling practices, sets a benchmark for corporate responsibility in sustainable development. With more than a million devotees, the impact of this initiative is impressive, not only in preserving the sanctity and cleanliness of this grand festival but also in leading the way for environmental stewardship. HCCB's commitment is a shining example for others to follow, showcasing how corporate actions can align beautifully with our cultural and spiritual heritage." Shri Siddharth Shankar

Swain, IAS, Collector and District Magistrate Puri said, "The collaboration for waste management at Rath Yatra aligns with our focus on sustainability and recycling. Taking collective responsibility with Hindustan Coca-Cola Beverages, Puri Municipality, and partners, strategic collection points and dedicated systems ensures a clean festival, leading the way in environmental management. This joint effort promotes circularity and sets a precedent for corporate collaboration in sustainable development across the state."

## Mahagram offers door to door banking services through Kirana stores

**Bhubaneswar:** Mahagram is a social enterprise focusing on Financial Inclusion that has enabled banking from the mom-and-pop store around the corner through fintech solutions. The company's mission is to enable rural women to save money at the local Kirana (or grocery) stores, instead of traveling miles to the nearest bank branch.

Recently, Mahagram has tied up with a public sector bank – the Bank of Maharashtra to roll out the 'Bank Sakhi' project in Odisha. The

fintech would provide financial technology and infrastructure support to augment rural financial inclusion. As part of the tie-up, the company has onboarded more than 11,000 bank sakhis (women) on the BharatATM platform to help the rural citizens avail themselves of basic banking services at their doorstep or the next door Kirana stores.

Mahagram aims to increase the ratio and habit of household savings in rural India. "At Mahagram, we are indulged in offering basic banking services like

deposit and withdrawing transactions to consumers but it is now high time for rural people to save money. We are focusing on Financial Inclusion the flagship project of Modi government, by helping lot of beneficiaries to open bank accounts under the 'Jan Dhan Yojana'. We are also emphasizing on rural women because they are the ones who run households. Our vision for 2022 is to offer women the service of recurring deposit." says Mr. Ram Shriram, CEO, Mahagram.

**Bhubaneswar:** Godrej & Boyce, the flagship company of the Godrej Group announced that its business Godrej Appliances plans to strengthen its presence and expand its network of exclusive brand outlets further, inaugurating its first store in Chandol, Kendrapara district in the state of Odisha, India. This will be the brand's 26th exclusive outlet in Odisha under Bhubaneswar branch.

Towards strengthening the supply chain and creating a next-level experience for customers in Kendrapara, Godrej Appliances has launched its exclusive brand outlet- called Godrej

Inspire Hub spread over 1200 sqft, strategically located on the Chandol main road, in collaboration with its channel partner Jagannath Electronics.

Convenience and comfort are primacies for consumers today. This is evident from the gradual increase in demand for premium products, even in tier II and tier III cities. Moreover, with the pandemic in the backdrop, appliances have emerged as a necessity in every Indian home.

EBOs solidify Godrej Appliances' already extensive network across the country, fulfill the premium product

requirement of its customers and most importantly give them a much wider display to choose from thus enhancing their purchase experience. The brand currently has 120+ exclusive outlets across the country and aims to have 140+ EBOs by this financial year.

Speaking on the occasion of the launch, Sanjeev Jain, National Sales Head - Godrej Appliances said, "We have always endeavored to be as close to our customers as possible. We believe our Exclusive Brand Outlets will give even greater value to our loyal customers. With our exclusive showroom, we

have the opportunity to showcase our entire range of best-in-class appliances at a single location. Odisha is an important market for us and we look forward to delighting our customers with the best shopping experience."

Adding further, Sanjay Kumar Behera, Owner of Jagannath Electronics said, "We are extremely delighted to have partnered with Godrej Appliances, which is a highly respected and trusted brand. We are sure that our outlet will prove to be a great destination for the discerning customers of Chandol through its unique offerings from Godrej Appliances." The exclusive brand

outlet will display the entire range of Godrej appliances including refrigerators, washing machines, air conditioners, dishwashers, air coolers, deep freezers, microwave ovens, thermoelectric technology-powered Godrej Qube and UV-C technology-based Godrej Viroshield. To top it, there are inaugural assured gifts on purchase of select models for customers. Consumers will also be able to avail one-year free extended warranty on select models and one year of product insurance, exclusively, at every Godrej Appliances' exclusive brand outlet. The brand also provides priority after-sales service to every Godrej exclusive store customer.

## Amazon.in launches 'Back to School' store

**Bhubaneswar:** With the opening of schools and resuming of offline classes, Amazon.in announced the launch of 'Back to school' store – a one stop destination to simplify the shopping needs of children. The specially curated store offers deals on a wide range of products across study essentials like stationery, laptops, tablets, mobile phones, PCs, headsets & speakers, printers, Amazon devices, home furnishing among others

to help parents, teachers and students with school supplies and to create an effective learning and productive environment. The offers and deals will be available till 12th June 2022.

Here are some popular products customers can choose from the 'Back to school' store on Amazon.in. All offers & deals are from participating sellers. HONOR MagicBook X 15, Intel Core i3 Anti-Glare Thin and Light Laptop – It has stylish

appearance with premium aluminum metal body with 16.9MM thickness, 5.3 MM narrow bezels and the weight of the laptop is only 1.56kg, which allows you to carry it easily, making it very convenient for school, travel, and work. It is available for starting INR 37,990 on Amazon.in. Lenovo Tab M10 FHD Plus Tablet, Platinum Grey - Make way for the stylish 8.1 mm Tab M10 FHD Plus.

## OSL Group founder bags 'Lifetime Achievement Award' for reshaping Shipping & Logistics scenario in Eastern India



**Bhubaneswar(KCN) :** On the august occasion of the 4th Edition of prestigious Times Business Awards Odisha 2023, Orissa Stevedores Limited (OSL) founder Sri Mahimananda

(Mahima) Mishra was conferred with the coveted 'Lifetime Achievement Award' for reshaping the shipping and logistics scenario in eastern India.

The OSL Group founder received the honour at a glittering event organized by the TIMES Group at the Central Hall, Mayfair Convention here in the state capital city. Notably, the TIMES Group organizes such a glorious event in a bid to celebrate and honour outstanding business houses and business leaders who have made significant contributions to their respective fields and communities as decided by a renowned research agency.

## Annual General Meeting of Vitesco Technologies

**Regensburg:** Vitesco Technologies, a leading international developer and manufacturer of cutting-edge drive systems for sustainable mobility, held its first Annual General Meeting (AGM) today. The AGM was held virtually due to the continuing COVID-19 pandemic.

In separate votes, the shareholders formally approved the actions of all the Executive Board members during their term of office in the 2021 financial year. The actions of all members of the Supervisory Board in office in 2021 were also approved for their respective terms. "We are delighted to have received this vote of confidence from the Annual General Meeting.

We regard this outcome as a clear mandate to continue the successful collaboration and positioning of Vitesco Technologies as a supplier of sustainable drive solutions with a clear goal," said CEO Andreas Wolf.

All current members of the Supervisory Board representing the shareholders who were up for election were re-elected to office. The members of the Supervisory Board who represent the employees will be elected separately. A complete list of all Supervisory Board members and the results of the voting at the AGM are available on the Vitesco Technologies website under 'Annual General Meeting'.

## LV Prasad Eye Institute Organizes a Retinoblastoma Awareness Walk

**Bhubaneswar:** L V Prasad Eye Institute's MithuTulsiChanrai Campus in Bhubaneswar organized a Retinoblastoma Awareness Walk on 8th May 2022. This walk is part of the 'Whitathon' event organized by LV Prasad Eye Institute across its campuses in Bhubaneswar, Hyderabad, Visakhapatnam and

Vijayawada. Celebrity actor, Mr Sabyasachi Mishra, will be flagging off the walk.

Whitathon is L V Prasad Eye Institute's annual cause-related event focusing on raising awareness and funds for early diagnosis and treatment of Retinoblastoma – a Life and Vision-threatening Eye Cancer in Children. One of the most common

symptoms of Retinoblastoma is White Reflex (white glow) in a child's eye. Through this walk, LVPEI aims to raise awareness among the public that if they spot a 'White Reflex' in a child's eye, it could be a sign of eye cancer that needs immediate medical intervention. Hence, the event is named 'Whitathon'.

Dr Devjyoti Tripathy,

Ocular Oncologist, MithuTulsiChanrai Campus, Bhubaneswar, L V Prasad Eye Institute said, "Our aim is to raise awareness about early detection and treatment of retinoblastoma eye cancer in children. No child should die of eye cancer because of lack of awareness and treatment. We extend our sincere thanks to Mr Sabyasachi Mishra for

joining us for the Retinoblastoma Awareness Walk and spreading awareness about Retinoblastoma. We also acknowledge the support received from Aroh – Giving Hope, an NGO working for children with Cancer and their families."

Dr Tripathy further added that it is time to make detailed eye check-ups a part of mandatory paediatric examinations.



