

# Big setback to ruling BJD in Odisha; BJP sweeps LS, Assembly polls



**Bhubaneswar(KCN):** The ruling Biju Janata Dal (BJD) under the leadership of Naveen Patnaik, which ruled Odisha consecutively for fifth term, suffered a major jolt in the election, as the Opposition BJP riding on the Modi wave, is all set to form the double engine government in the state. The BJD also swept the Lok Sabha election, as its candidates are leading with a very comfortable and huge margin in 19 of the 21 Lok Sabha seats in the state.

The ruling BJD which had won 12 Lok Sabha seats in the 2019

election, is leading in only Jajpur(SC) Lok Sabha seat where the sitting MP Sarmistha Sethi is leading over her rival BJP candidate Rabindra Behera by margin of only 4,525 votes. On the other hand, Congress-sitting MP Saptagiri Ulaka is all set to retain the Koraput Lok Sabha seat, as he is leading with a huge margin of 1,28,517 votes over his rival BJD candidate Kausalya Hikka.

Most of the 19 BJD Lok Sabha candidates were leading by a huge margin over their rival BJD candidates. Three

BJD sitting MPs Achyuta Samanta (Kandhamal), Rajashree Mallick (Jagatsinghpur) and Manjulata Mandal (Bhadrak) were also conceding defeat at the hands of BJP candidates. Odisha Finance Minister Bikram Keshari Arukha, Science Technology Minister Ashok Panda, Commerce and Transport Minister Tukuni Sahu, Forest and Environment Minister Pradip Amat, Higher Education and Food Supply and Consumer Affairs Minister Atanu Sabysachi Nayak, ST and SC Development

Minister Jagannath Saraka, Women and Child Development Minister Basanti Hembra and Handloom and Textile minister Rita Sahu had conceded defeat in the election. On the other hand, BJP heavyweight Dilip Ray was defeated at the hands of the Labour Minister Sarada Prasad Nayak in the Rourkela Assembly seat. Odisha Congress President Sarat Pattayak was defeated at the hands of Planning and Convergence Minister Rajendra Dholakia in Nuapada Assembly

seat. The ruling BJD had a major debacle in the coastal Odisha which was its bastion for the last two decades. Union Education Minister Dharmendra Pradhan, and BJP national Vice President Baijayant Panda have thanked the people of Odisha for reposing their confidence on Modi's call for a change of the government in the state.

Prime Minister Narendra Modi in his election meeting has appealed to the people of the state to give one chance to the BJP assuring that Odisha will become a number one state in the country. Modi in his election rallies had said that June 4 will be the expiry date of the BJD government in the state and Naveen Patnaik will become former Chief Minister. The Prime Minister had also stated that a new BJP Chief Minister will take oath June 10 at Bhubaneswar and invited the people to come to Bhubaneswar to attend the swearing-in ceremony.

## NDA shy of 300-mark after INDIA fightback

**New Delhi(KCN):** In a closely contested Lok Sabha election, Prime Minister Narendra Modi was set to return for a third term, though his BJP-led NDA coalition fell short of expectations in the face of a surprisingly strong showing by the opposition INDIA bloc. Despite aiming for over 400 seats, the NDA was hovering around 290 seats, hamstrung by an underwhelming performance in the bellwether state of Uttar Pradesh. A revitalised INDIA bloc was ahead on 235 seats.

The BJP, which had set a target of 370 seats, is leading on 243 seats, falling short of the majority mark of 272 and significantly below exit poll forecasts. The Congress is on track to win over 95 seats, a substantial increase from its 2019 tally of 52 seats. Others, including regional outfits and Independents, were ahead in 18 seats.

During a press conference, Congress President Mallikarjun Kharge hailed the results as a mandate against Prime Minister Modi and described it as both a political and moral defeat for the BJP.



Besides a possibly lower seat count, the NDA is also facing a reduced vote share. As opposed to 2019, when it won over 50 per cent, the ruling alliance is hovering around the 46 per cent share of votes. Its loss is the INDIA bloc's gain, with around 41 per cent vote share.

The INDIA bloc was gaining ground in Maharashtra, with leads in 30 parliamentary constituencies of the total 48. The ruling coalition, which comprises the BJP, Eknath Shinde's Shiv Sena and Ajit Pawar-led NCP, was ahead on 17 seats, falling significantly short of its target of bagging 45-plus seats.

Exit polls have predicted a mostly unanimous outcome that PM Modi is poised for a historic third term and, that too, with an unassailable majority. However, the INDIA bloc, comprising 40 opposition parties, remains confident that it can secure a majority. In a shocker, Union Minister Smriti Irani conceded defeat in Amethi, which she snatched from Rahul Gandhi in the 2019 polls. Trends at 6 pm showed Irani got 3,70,754 votes, but Congress candidate Kishori Lal was ahead of her by over 1,65,926 votes.

## "People Have Trusted NDA For Third Time, Historic Moment": PM Modi On Election Results

**New Delhi(KCN):** Prime Minister Narendra Modi today thanked the people of India for giving the National Democratic Alliance (NDA) a third consecutive win.

"People have placed their faith in NDA, for a third consecutive time! This is a historical feat in India's history," PM Modi said in a post on X. Trends show the NDA crossed the halfway mark and won 290 seats. The Opposition bloc INDIA also made a comeback of sorts, winning 234 seats in the Lok Sabha - a huge improvement since 2019. "I bow to the Janata Janardan for this affection and assure



them that we will continue the good work done in the last decade to keep fulfilling the aspirations of people," said PM Modi, who won from Varanasi seat by a margin of 1.5 lakh votes. "I also salute all our Karyakartas for their hard work. Words will never do justice to their exceptional efforts," PM Modi said.

Among the biggest talking points this election was the construction of the Ram temple in Ayodhya, a poll promise of the BJP since the 1980s. The party's supporters had been sure it would be a one of the decisive factors in the Lok Sabha elections. But the SP is leading in Faizabad, which comprises the Ayodhya assembly seat. Here, the SP's Awadhesh Prasad is leading by over 33,000 votes to his nearest rival from the BJP Lallu Singh. Exit polls had forecast the BJP to win a bulk of the seats in Uttar Pradesh, which sends 80 MPs to the Lok Sabha - the highest in the country.

Following the result,

## Chandrababu Naidu's big win in Andhra Pradesh, Jagan Reddy concedes defeat

**New Delhi(KCN):** Telugu Desam Party (TDP) supremo Chandrababu Naidu, who leads the NDA alliance in Andhra Pradesh along with the BJP and Pawan Kalyan's Jana Sena Party, is en route to wresting the southern state from the ruling Yuvajana Sramika Rythu Congress Party (YSRCP) led by Chief Minister Jagan Mohan Reddy.

The TDP has won 80 seats and is ahead in 54 of the 175 seats in the Andhra Pradesh Assembly, while the Jana Sena Party has 21 seats and the BJP has 8, taking the total alliance tally to 164. The YSRCP, which contested alone, is leading in 11 seats.

Following the result,

Jagan Reddy, who conceded the defeat, submitted his resignation to Andhra Pradesh Governor S Abdul Nazeer. Addressing the media, the outgoing Chief Minister said, "Don't know what went wrong for us, but I sincerely served people. I have given a voice to the voiceless. All the best to those who have won," the YSRCP chief said. He also held an internal

meeting of the YSRCP to take stock of the current situation.

Meanwhile, Chandrababu Naidu had a chat with Prime Minister Narendra Modi and Union Home Minister Amit Shah following the NDA alliance's stellar performance in Andhra Pradesh. The TDP chief congratulated both PM Modi and Shah on the alliance winning the maximum number of seats.

PM Modi and Shah also congratulated Chandrababu Naidu for which the TDP chief thanked them.

The India Today-Axis My India exit poll had projected a huge win for the NDA alliance in Andhra Pradesh assembly elections, with the TDP-BJP-JSP pact expected to win 98-120 seats. At the time of writing this report, the alliance won three seats and was ahead in 157 constituencies. The ruling YSRCP was predicted to secure between 55 and 77 seats. As per data shared by the Election Commission, Jagan Mohan Reddy's side has so far won zero seats and is leading in only 15.

## Mamata 'magic' continues in West Bengal, BJP misses target

**Kolkata(KCN):** Defying all exit-poll predictions, the Trinamool Congress (TMC) has surged ahead in 29 of West Bengal's 42 Lok Sabha seats, dealing a blow to the Bharatiya Janata Party's (BJP) target of securing 35 seats as they just managed to reach double digits. The BJP was leading in 12 seats according to the EC website. Three years after putting a halt to the

BJP's advances in Bengal, the TMC, led by Mamata Banerjee, again proved its mettle by thwarting the BJP's formidable campaign, spearheaded by PM Narendra Modi himself. Despite facing a barrage of challenges including corruption allegations and internal conflicts, the TMC stood strong, even after opting to go solo post its withdrawal from the INDIA bloc in the state. Political observers note



that the BJP in West Bengal had set an ambitious goal of securing 35 Lok Sabha seats, banking on the implementation of the CAA as a potential game-changer and leveraging Hindu polarisation, which fell flat on their face. Despite their fervent efforts, they failed to gain substantial ground,

primarily due to internal divisions, organisational frailties, and the formidable impact of the Left-Congress alliance, analysts said. "Internal divisions, organisational weaknesses, and the impact of the Left-Congress alliance all contributed to the BJP's difficulties in garnering anti-TMC votes," political analyst Maidul Islam said. The BJP's tally is likely to decline by six seats,

constituencies. The Congress is leading in one seat. The breakdown of seat-sharing talks between the TMC and the Congress in January appeared to benefit Mamata Banerjee's party, setting the stage for a three-cornered electoral contest and providing a strategic advantage to the TMC. According to TMC sources, this breakdown allowed the party to consolidate nearly 30 per

cent of the minority and anti-BJP votes in the absence of another credible "secular and stronger force." "The breakdown of the alliance worked well for us," said TMC leader Santanu Sen, adding, "The Left and the Congress were decimated. But as we emerged as the strongest alternative to the BJP in the state, we won even in seats which were considered BJP strongholds."

## RPF DG VISITED ECoR:

Director General (DG), Railway Protection Force (RPF) Conducts Comprehensive Review of Security Measures at East Coast Railway (ECoR) Headquarters.

**Bhubaneswar, (KCN):** Director General (DG) of Railway Protection Force (RPF), Shri Manoj Yadava, IPS, undertook a comprehensive review of security operations at East Coast Railway (ECoR) headquarters, yesterday. The visit aimed to evaluate the security performance of ECoR and strategize further advancements in ensuring passenger safety and security.

Shri Yadava also discussed with ECoR General Manager Shri Parmeshwar Funkhur about creating awareness to security personnel of Railways on technologies, judicial precedents and best practices in law enforcement.

During his visit, DG Shri Manoj Yadava engaged in a series of crucial meetings and interactions. He commenced by convening with the Chief Security Commissioner/

ECoR and Senior Divisional Security Commissioners of Khurda Road, Waltair, and Sambalpur, to assess the current security landscape and discussed pertinent issues concerning passenger safety. Highlighting the importance of staying abreast of technological advancements, DG Shri Yadava emphasized the integration of modern technologies into Railway Security efforts. He stressed the significance of leveraging technology to enhance security outcomes and bolster the positive image of railway security personnel through exemplary performance.

In a bid to enhance awareness and understanding of recent legislative changes, a seminar was organized on three new criminal laws, namely Bharatiya Nyaya Sahita, Bharatiya Nagarik Surakshya Sanhita, and Bharatiya Sakshya Adhiniyam. The seminar provided RPF personnel with insights into recent legislative amendments, judicial precedents, and best practices in law enforcement, facilitating their ability to adapt and excel in their roles.



DG Shri Yadava also underscored the importance of prioritizing the well-being of RPF personnel. During the Suraksha Sammelan held at Khurda Road, he emphasized stress management, health discipline, and urged RPF personnel to remain dedicated to ensuring the

welfare of passengers. Accompanied by key officials including IG-cum-PCSC/RPF/ECoR, Chief Security Commissioner/RPF, and Divisional Security Commissioner/RPF/ Khurda Road Division, DG Shri Yadava applauded ECoR's performance in terms of Key Performance Indices (KPI), acknowledging their commitment to excellence. Furthermore, as part of his visit, DG Shri Yadava inaugurated a new RPF Post at Cuttack Railway Station and inspected the ongoing

security enhancements as part of the redevelopment plan. Prior to his visit to ECoR headquarters, DG Shri Yadava visited Waltair Division, where he inaugurated a new office for Divisional Security Commissioner, RPF and assessed security measures in critical areas, including the Bacheli-Kaklur Railway Section. The visit of DG Shri Manoj Yadava underscores the RPF's unwavering commitment to enhancing security measures and ensuring the safety of passengers across railway networks.

## HEALING OUR PLANET: THE CRITICAL ROLE OF ECOSYSTEM RESTORATION ON WORLD ENVIRONMENT DAY

### World Environment Day



World Environment Day, celebrated annually on June 5th, serves as a global platform for raising awareness and taking action to protect our environment. This year, the focus is on ecosystem restoration, a vital initiative aimed at reviving the health of our planet's natural systems. Ecosystem restoration is not just about preserving the beauty of nature; it's about rebuilding the foundation that supports all life on Earth, including human well-being. Understanding the importance and strategies of ecosystem restoration can help us make meaningful contributions to a sustainable future.

#### What is Ecosystem Restoration?

Ecosystem restoration involves repairing and revitalizing damaged or degraded natural environments so they can return to a healthier, more functional state. This process can include activities such as planting trees, cleaning up polluted areas, restoring wetlands, and reintroducing native species. The goal is to help these ecosystems recover their natural balance, enhance biodiversity, and continue to provide essential services to all living creatures.

Why Ecosystem Restoration Matters

1. Biodiversity Preservation: Healthy ecosystems support a wide

variety of species. Restoration helps bring back plants and animals that may have been driven away by habitat destruction or pollution, promoting a richer biodiversity.

2. Climate Change Mitigation: Forests, wetlands, and oceans play a critical role in absorbing carbon dioxide, a major greenhouse gas. Restoring these areas helps sequester carbon, reducing the impact of climate change.

3. Improved Water Quality: Wetlands and other natural water systems act as filters, cleaning pollutants from water before it reaches our rivers and oceans. Restoration helps maintain these natural filtration systems, ensuring cleaner water for all.

4. Soil Health: Healthy ecosystems contribute to fertile soil, which is essential for growing food. Restoration efforts can prevent soil erosion, enhance soil fertility, and support sustainable agriculture.

5. Human Health and Well-being: Access to green spaces and natural areas improves mental and physical health. Restored ecosystems offer recreational opportunities, reduce stress, and promote a higher quality of life.

Effective Strategies for Ecosystem Restoration:

ambitious African initiative aims to restore 100 million hectares of degraded land across the Sahel region. It seeks to combat desertification, improve food security, and create jobs, transforming lives and landscapes.

China's Loess Plateau: Decades of restoration efforts have turned this once barren region into a fertile landscape. The project has significantly improved soil quality, water retention, and local livelihoods.

Coral Reef Rehabilitation: Around the world, projects are working to restore coral reefs through techniques like coral gardening and creating artificial reefs. These efforts are crucial for preserving marine biodiversity and supporting coastal communities.

A Call to Action: Ecosystem restoration is a collective responsibility that requires global cooperation, innovative solutions, and individual commitment. Everyone can contribute to this cause, whether by supporting local restoration projects, advocating for sustainable policies, or making eco-friendly choices in daily life.

This World Environment Day, let us all pledge to take part in restoring our ecosystems. By healing our natural environments, we can ensure a sustainable future where both people and nature thrive. Together, we can rebuild the resilience of our planet and leave a legacy of health and abundance for future generations.

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## Aditi Rao Hydari: 'Been told I'm fragile like glass'

Actor Aditi Rao Hydari is one of the few actors in Indian film industry who has worked with numerous maestros. She has been a Mani Ratnam heroine as well as a Sanjay Leela Bhansali heroine, both depicting a side to her that had never been explored. In SLB's 'Heeramandi', she plays Bibbo Jaan, a sweet woman whose purpose in life is beyond the walls of Heeramandi. In an exclusive chat with IndiaToday.in, Aditi spoke about being perceived as a 'delicate darling' and her looks being used as an excuse to perhaps not cast her sometimes. Speaking about how she felt almost liberated playing Bibbo Jaan, Aditi said, "I am perceived in a particular way because

of the way I look or the way I am or the parts I have played, usually the fragile, feminine, petite girl. Often people say, 'oh, she will just blow away.' Or 'oh she is like glass, if you touch, she will break.' Today, I own it and I am what I am. It is not a burden for me, but if it is for you, then you need to figure it out. Secondly, my vulnerability is my strength."

Aditi then elaborated on why she feels Bhansali manages to show women with their flaws, strength and vulnerabilities alike: "I also feel it is also about directors who bring that out in an actor. To have a vision and say that there are different kinds of strengths. I'm so happy that I lived this life of Bibbo Jaan because it was literally like 'here is a girl who

is so kind, so feminine, and artistic.' She sings and dances. She is celebrated for her beauty, but beneath that, she has this simmering purpose, courage and fearlessness. I feel that fearless belief is so inspiring, and they are not mutually exclusive. You can be both. I relate to it."

Aditi also spoke about

'silly' things actresses hear for any project they are offered, like 'you are too beautiful'.

Responding to it, she shared, "That's so silly.

It is somebody's

insecurity that is

speaking because it is

such a silly thing to say

about somebody. A

person is how they

look, but there is more

to the person. There

are directors who create very beautiful female characters, and in this case, like Sanjay Bhansali, he doesn't look at a woman as a one-tone character. Bibbo could have been a sweet and obedient girl, but the fact that she has this arc, shows how he looks at women as complete beings."

The actor also

'Heeramandi' is currently streaming on Netflix. It also features Manisha Koirala, Sonakshi Sinha, Sanjeeda Shaikh, Richa Chadha and Sharmin Segal in pivotal roles.

## Sara Ali Khan's Christmas Album From London

## Features Mom Amrita Singh And Dad Saif



It was indeed a merry Christmas for Sara Ali Khan, who celebrated with her mom Amrita Singh and dad Saif Ali Khan in London (separately). Amrita Singh is in London, accompanying daughter Sara, while Saif is holidaying there with wife Kareena Kapoor and sons Taimur and Jeh. Sara posted pictures from her festivities in London and she wrote, "Missed my baby brother (or not so baby). Thank you Santa for this Merry merry Christmas. Ibrahim Ali Khan, I wish you was here. To have pecan pie and celebrate and spread Christmas joy and cheer...And then eat black cod individually with the OG two who to us are extremely dear but for now these pics I shear

(share)."

Sara Ali Khan, who was missing brother Ibrahim big time, shared a picture collage comprising photos of Saif and Amrita. No caption needed. In another Instagram story, the actress wrote, "That's a wrap," adding, "Missing brother Jaan."

Sara Ali Khan has a super busy schedule ahead. She will next be seen in Ae Watan Mere Watan. Her line-up of films also includes Metro... In Dino and Murder Mubarak. Her last project was Zara Hatke Zara Bachke. Sara Ali Khan also had a cameo appearance in

Rocky Aur Rani Kii Prem Kahaani song Heart Throb. She has featured in films such as Kedarnath (her debut movie), Simmba, Love Aaj Kal. She also featured in the Coolie No 1 remake. Sara was also seen in Atrangi Re.

## 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.

said, "I have never made a biopic before. But I would often hear about Amar Singh Chamkila through my friends, especially from my production head Rajesh Sharma. He would always say that I should make a film on the singer. In fact, he was the first person who told me about Chamkila."

He continued, "Then, I started listening to his music and found many things interesting about him. Finally, six years back, around the release of 'Love Aaj Kal 2', a gentleman called Harpreet, had the rights to the film Chamkila, which was very difficult to get. For some reason, he felt that he should approach me to direct this film."

"I did ask him 'why did you come to me to make this film?'. I am not even from Punjab, and he said 'Aap ki film mein Punjab bahut his khoobsurati se dekha ya jata hain' (In your films, Punjab is portrayed beautifully). It took five years because I did not have much knowledge about Chamkila. Then, Covid happened, and I was visiting Punjab with Chamkila at back of my mind. I started listening to the stories of the singer and it got interesting. I had my own view and story to tell through Chamkila and that's when I decided to make the film," he added.

Amar Singh Chamkila, with his raw and unabashed lyrics, challenged societal norms and became a voice for the marginalised. His music transcended geographical boundaries and resonated with audiences across generations. His songs, often addressing taboo subjects with unfiltered honesty, remain relevant even today. By immortalising Chamkila's legacy on celluloid, Imtiaz Ali aims to introduce his artistry to a wider audience and pay homage to his contribution to Punjabi music. 'Amar Singh Chamkila' will premiere on Netflix on April 12.



## “Our Land, Our Future”: A Challenging call for Environmental Stewardship



World Environment Day, celebrated annually on June 5th, is a global platform for raising awareness and taking action on pressing environmental issues. Established by the United Nations in 1972, this day serves as a reminder of our responsibility to protect and preserve our planet for future generations. It fosters a sense of global solidarity and collective responsibility for environmental stewardship. It brings together people from diverse backgrounds, cultures, and regions, uniting them in a common cause to protect and preserve our planet. Through community engagement, education, and advocacy, World Environment Day empowers individuals to become agents of change in their communities and beyond. By raising awareness about pressing environmental issues, such as climate change, deforestation, pollution and biodiversity loss etc, this day empowers people to become stewards of the environment and advocates for change. Each year, World Environment Day adopts a specific theme to focus attention on a particular environmental concern, rallying individuals,

communities, and governments worldwide to take collective action. For example, in 2021, the theme for World Environment Day was "Ecosystem Restoration," emphasizing the urgent need to revive and protect degraded ecosystems. In 2022, World Environment Day focused on "Eco-Conscious Consumption," urging individuals to reduce their ecological footprint by making sustainable choices in their daily lives. The theme for World Environment Day 2023 was solutions to plastic pollution under the campaign 'Beat Plastic Pollution'. While the toxic smoke produced by the plastic due to combustion is one of the gravest threats to the planet, the micro-plastics find their way into the food we eat, the water we drink and even the air we breathe posing a threat to our health. Realising this threat from plastic pollution, a concerted effort is needed from governments, companies and other stakeholders to manage and solve this crisis. And now in 2024, World Environment Day campaign focuses on land restoration, desertification and under the slogan "Our land. Our future". According to the UN Convention to Combat Desertification, up to 40 per cent of the planet's land is degraded, directly affecting half of the world's population and threatening roughly half of global GDP. The number and duration of droughts have increased

by 29 per cent since 2000. Expressing serious concern on the issue, the environmentalists opine that without urgent action, droughts may affect over three-quarters of the world's population by 2050. Land restoration is a key pillar of the UN Decade on Ecosystem Restoration (2021-2030), a rallying call for the protection and revival of ecosystems all around the world, which is critical to achieve the Sustainable Development Goals. While land restoration can reverse the creeping tide of land degradation, drought and desertification by boosting livelihoods, lowering poverty, building resilience to extreme weather on one hand, it can increase carbon shortage and slow climate change on the other. Restoring just 15 per cent of land and halting further conversion could avoid up to 60 per cent of expected species extinctions. But we must also end the drivers of land degradation, drought and desertification, such as climate change. Last year, temperatures records were shattered. Much of the world felt the impacts, not just in heat but in storms, floods and drought. Animals and plants are becoming extinct thousands of times faster than they have done in the last 500 million years. According to the International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN), if we don't do something about it now, within a century we will have lost 67% of the currently endangered fauna and 99.9% will be in serious danger of

extinction. According to a study conducted by the University of Aarhus in Denmark in 2018, the damage will be so devastating that the planet will need 3 to 5 million years to recover. The effects of development, agriculture and industrial livestock farming, forest destruction and CO2 emissions, among other actions, are speeding up the loss of biodiversity due to global warming, desertification and the pollution of oceans and rivers. Restoring land without tackling climate change would be like giving with one hand and taking away with the other. So G20 nations must show leadership across the whole climate agenda – as the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia, the host country of the 2024 World Environment Day global celebrations has done and continues to do on land restoration. There is real hope. Countries have promised to restore one billion hectares, an area larger than China. If they deliver, this will be huge. Through World Environment Day and through hosting the UN Convention to Combat Desertification's conference of the parties this December, the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia can build momentum and action towards these restoration goals, slow climate change, protect nature and boost the livelihoods and food security of billions of people around the world. In the tapestry of our planet's natural beauty,

the land holds a sacred place. It is not merely soil beneath our feet but the foundation upon which life flourishes. From the towering forests to the vast plains, the land sustains us, providing resources for our survival and habitats for countless species. The land provides essential resources for human survival, including food, water, and shelter. Healthy soils support agricultural productivity, ensuring food security for billions of people worldwide. Freshwater sources, vital for drinking, irrigation, and sanitation, are sustained by healthy watersheds and wetlands. Moreover, forests and other ecosystems provide timber, medicine, and a multitude of ecosystem services that underpin human well-being. Landscapes are home to an incredible diversity of plant and animal species, each playing a unique role in ecosystem functioning. Biodiversity not only enriches our lives aesthetically but also contributes to ecosystem resilience, providing buffers against environmental disturbances and supporting ecosystem services such as pollination, pest control, and nutrient cycling. Preserving biodiversity is essential for maintaining the stability and productivity of ecosystems. Landscapes also play a crucial role in regulating the Earth's climate. Forests, grasslands, and other vegetated areas act as carbon sinks, absorbing

and storing carbon dioxide from the atmosphere. Additionally, healthy soils store significant amounts of carbon, helping to mitigate climate change. By protecting and restoring natural habitats, we can enhance their capacity to sequester carbon and mitigate the impacts of climate change. Landscapes hold profound cultural and spiritual significance for communities around the world. They are repositories of traditional knowledge, cultural practices, and spiritual beliefs passed down through generations. Indigenous peoples and local communities have deep connections to the land, which forms the basis of their identities, livelihoods, and cultural heritage. Preserving land and respecting indigenous rights are essential for maintaining cultural diversity and promoting social cohesion. Sustainable land management practices are essential for promoting economic prosperity and reducing poverty. Healthy ecosystems support livelihoods through agriculture, forestry, tourism, and other industries, providing employment opportunities and economic benefits to local communities. Investing in sustainable land management can enhance productivity, resilience, and long-term economic growth while safeguarding natural resources for future generations. Healthy landscapes are more resilient to environmental

challenges such as climate change, natural disasters, and disease outbreaks. Ecosystems with high biodiversity and intact habitats are better able to adapt to changing conditions and recover from disturbances. By conserving and restoring natural landscapes, we can enhance the resilience of ecosystems and communities, reducing vulnerability to environmental risks. The Vedas and Puranas also do teach us how to regard the environment and use conservation ethics in routine life. The Atharva Veda says, "Mata Bhumih Putroham Prithivy" which means the earth is our mother and we are her children. In Ramacharitamanas, it is said, "Kshiti jal pawak gagan sameera, Panch rachit ati adham shareera" It means adham shareera (our body) comprises panch (five) tattva (elements) namely, the earth, water, fire, sky and wind. Moreover, ancient Hindu mythology believes that the Shrusti, means the whole Universe is made up of Panchmahabutas (five great elements) composed of Prithvi (Earth), Jala (Water), Agni (Fire), Vayu (Air) and Ether (Akash). Expressing the earth, water, fire, air and ether as the visible form of nature, Lord Krishna in Bhagavad Gita (Chapter 7: 4-10) says that He is the taste of living waters, the light of the sun and the moon, Pranab(Om), the sacred word of the Vedas, sound in silence, heroism in men, pure fragrance of the earth, brightness of the

fire, intelligence of the intelligent and beauty of the beautiful. Since all these abiotic factors are responsible for making our body and the Universe where the Lord exists, it is our responsibility to preserve these factors which may make both our body and environment clean and healthy.

As stewards of this precious inheritance, we bear the responsibility of ensuring its preservation for future generations. "Our Land, Our Future" encapsulates the essence of environmental stewardship. World Environment Day serves as a powerful reminder of the interconnectedness between humanity and nature. It calls upon us to recognize the intrinsic value of our planet's ecosystems and to take meaningful action to safeguard them for future generations. By celebrating World Environment Day and embracing its themes of awareness, action, and solidarity, we can work together to build a more sustainable and resilient world for all living beings.

Let us seize this opportunity to make a positive impact and leave a legacy of environmental stewardship for generations to come.

**General Secretary**  
**Confederation of**  
**Central Govt.**  
**Employees and**  
**Workers**  
**Odisha State**  
**Coordination**  
**Committee,**  
**Bhubaneswar**

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## REDEFINING POLITICS- THE SPIRIT OF TURNING IT SPIRITUAL

**M.R.LALU**

History repeats for certain reasons. Such was the event that the country witnessed recently at Kanyakumari, where on the Vivekananda Rock Memorial the Prime Minister had his two day spiritual practice. As the campaign curtain fell for the last phase, Narendra Modi's post campaign spiritual retreat became a rattling event for his rivals. Amid the mammoth electoral process in the world's most populated country, social media was abuzz with comments and benign spiritual images of the country's Prime Minister on the historic rock. The fiery poll campaign that often crossed the borders of decorum and decency had obviously been charged with personal rants on the adversaries and loaded with ideological gimmicks for

political mileage. Both the leading parties on the fray, the BJP and the Congress, began the campaign with positive declarations and reminders for the voters. As it gained momentum after each passing phase, the acrimony between the rivals got more intense and complaints were filed with the Election Commission frequently. Reports say that about 425 major complaints were filed with the Election Commission by parties between March 16 and May 14. Accusations leveled against the Prime Minister and other ministers and the opposition leaders caught headlines but nothing changed. With Delhi and many other parts of the country being baked under the scorching sun, the election heat had made it the most unbearable. As the political turbulence in the air was almost settled, the Prime Minister decided to take his spiritual retreat, totally immersed in the words of Swami Vivekananda, he hit upon a glorious plan for his future and sensed the tumultuous present of India in its actuality and

Vivekananda Rock Memorial. He meditated 15 hours at Kedarnath after he concluded the campaign in 2019. There are reasons why Narendra Modi chose Vivekananda Rock this time. This seems to be a symbolic move by the Prime Minister. The rock that Swami Vivekananda meditated on for three days and nights before he embarked for his trip to the west was, according to the Swami, the most significant moment in his life. He calls his experience on the rock a moment of enlightenment that Lord Buddha underwent and the one that changed the direction of his life, giving him clarity of vision and ensured his future course of action. The rock is situated on the confluence of the Indian Ocean, Arabian Sea and the Bay of Bengal. To put it more precisely and emblematically in the words of Swami Vivekananda had shaped his ideology basically and the RSS, he says, has helped him strengthen his thoughts shaping his career of

service to the poor. Modi's association with Eknath Ranade, an RSS veteran and the person behind the construction of Vivekananda Rock Memorial, who, under the instruction of M.S. Golwalkar shouldered the gigantic monument movement is well known. "Eknath ji always tried to turn impossible into possible. I am fortunate that I had the opportunity to be close to him", Modi recalled during Eknath Ranade's birth centenary. Modi also recalled his underground mission under the guidance of the veteran RSS leader. Emergency was the period that witnessed the political adversaries of Indira Gandhi being jailed from all over the country.

So, the Prime Minister's meditation on the mid-sea rock was spiritual as well as purposefully meant to cement the ideology that he always stood for. This, according to his political opposition, was an attempt to woo the country's voters through his spiritual mimicking and was necessary for him as India made its mind to bring a change after a decade of Modi Raj. And Narendra Modi, they declared, was all set to return to the gallery. Let us move back to what made Swami Vivekananda sit on the rock surrounded by the uproar of the sea. His plan was to find a solution with clarity for the country's condition that he thought would decide his future course of action. His spiritual mission was afoot and India witnessed a takeoff moment since then. Rest is history. The saint shook the countrymen off the shackles of lethargy and forced them to prepare both spiritually and politically to fight the external colonial dominance. For that, his prediction was exact and he announced with complete certainty that India would take another fifty years to galvanize its internal

centers with vested interests. Gujarat riots and the international ban that followed turned him a pariah in politics. His success for the third consecutive term and the ecstasy that he could mobilize among the country's voters throughout the campaign trail makes him a leader with a historic impact. His meditation on the rock and the message he silently passes to the people would be a reminder of the socio-spiritual footprint that the country witnessed after Swami Vivekananda's spiritual enlightenment. For Modi, the mid-sea rock and its spiritual vibrancy must have given him a gigantic plan that he thinks he is destined to execute in his third term. Though it is a political assignment, he sees its spiritual perspective as well.

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## Man Apprehended With Arms, Ammo in Kupwara Kashmir: Army



**Kupwara (AASIF MALIK):** A man was apprehended with arms and ammunition in north Kashmir's Kupwara district, army said on Monday.

"Today in a Joint Operation launched by Indian Army & Jammu Kashmir Police on specific intelligence, a specific SADO was

launched at General Posphora was apprehended along with one each of hand grenade, pistol with a magazine and four rounds of 9mm ammunition along with other incriminating material," the statement reads. "Further investigation is in progress," reads the statement further.

## All is set for ICET-2024 on June 5 and 6



**Hanumakonda, June 4 (KCN):** All the arrangements have been made for the smooth conduct of Telangana State Integrated Common Entrance Test (TSICET) -2024 for admission into MBA and MCA courses for the academic year 2024-25 in Telangana State in 111 test centres in Telangana State and 5 centres in Andhra Pradesh on the June 5 and June 6, according to Convenor of the ICET-2024 Prof. S. Narasimha Chary of Kakatiya University. Prof Chary on

Monday said that the Test has two sessions on the 5th June with the morning session from 10 a.m. to 12.30 p.m. and from 2.30 p.m. to 5 p.m. in the evening and on the 6th June, there is only one session which is from 10 a.m. to 12.30 p.m. 86156 candidates have applied for the Test which includes 5715 candidates opting to take the test in Urdu medium for whom the test will be held in the morning session on the 6th June. Candidates have been advised to reach the

## Lok Sabha Election Results 2024: Rahul Gandhi Wins Wayanad With Margin Of Over 3.5 Lakh Votes



**Thiruvananthapuram (KCN):** Congress leader Rahul Gandhi on Tuesday won the Wayanad Lok Sabha seat in Kerala with a margin of over 3.5 lakh votes against CPI's Annie Raja, according to figures released by the Election Commission. Mr. Gandhi got 6,47,445 votes which was lower than the 7,06,367 votes he got in 2019 from the same constituency.

This time he won by a margin of 3,64,422 votes against his nearest rival, CPI's Annie Raja who got 2,83,023 votes. In 2019, CPI's P P Suneer who contested against Mr. Gandhi and managed to get 1,41,045 votes.

2,74,597 votes and lost by a margin of 4,31,770 votes.

In the last Lok Sabha polls, BJP's ally Bharath Dharma Jana Sena had contested from Wayanad and its candidate Thushar Vellappally had merely got 78,816 votes.

This time, BJP state President K Surendran had faced off against Mr. Gandhi and managed to get 1,41,045 votes.

INDIA, which are at 292 and 232 respectively. The BJP has failed to attain a majority on its own and is leading in 240 constituencies - including the 62 it has won - as of 6.10 pm while Chandrababu Naidu's TDP is at 16 and the JDU is at 12. When a reporter pointed out at a press conference that while the NDA has attained a majority, some of its partners had been Congress allies and asked whether the party had decided to

## Electrical Stimulation of right type can cure many ailments & Restore and Rejuvenate Good Health

**Kolkata (PARTHA ROY):** The world of medical treatment to cure various ailments are evolving continuously over centuries.

Scope of treatment of traditional as well as new ailments with new methods are expanding.

Medical science and medical treatment of any disease or dysfunctional body area of any patient are art and science as many a times it involves innovative use of already available processes.

A special interactive talk session titled 'Importance of Electrical

Stimulation on Health' by Health Coach Smt. Vinita Mohta was organised by Calcutta Chamber of Commerce Ladies Forum in collaboration with WICCI (Eastern Regional Council) and All Ladies League (West Bengal Chapter) in Kolkata on 3rd June



2024.

Smt. Manjula Jain Chairperson WICCI Eastern Regional Council and President of CCCLF welcomed the august gathering and introduced Smt. Vinita Mohta the speaker. Smt. Vinita Mohta is health and wellness researcher and naturopathy practitioner

. She is introducing some of the traditional European naturopathy based wellness methods to Kolkata. Electro - medicine treatment methodology and practice are an interdisciplinary research and development area. Electro- medicine wellness treatment are

widely accepted and used in UK, USA, Japan, China, Russia, Germany as informed by Smt. Vinita Mohta who studied at School of Modern Naturopathy (UK).

Electro medicine works on principles of harmonisation and optimisation of electrical frequency of cells of a patient through external intervention as well as stabilization of cell frequency at good health condition level. Electro-medicine uses electro magnets.

The wellness treatment offered by Ms. Vinita Mohta are not under any formal regulatory mechanisms of Ministry of Ayush Government of India or any formal approval mechanism for licensing of FDA, USA but based on traditional knowledge.

At present, Ms. Vinita Mohta and her team offering treatments for large no. of ailments including for pain relief, cough and cold, insomnia, constipation, piles &

## NTPC Bongaigaon Conducts Medical Examination and Identification Camp for Girl Empowerment Mission -2024

**Bongaigaon (KCN):** NTPC Bongaigaon, as part of its Corporate Social Responsibility (CSR) initiative, successfully conducted a medical examination and identification camp on June 1, 2024. This event is part of the 'Girl Empowerment Mission' (GEM), which aims to uplift underprivileged girl students by creating an atmosphere of equal opportunity and holistic development.

The camp was inaugurated by Shri Akhilesh Singh, Business Unit Head and Head of Project NTPC Bongaigaon, in the presence of Smt. Sangeeta Singh, President Bardwi Shikla Ladies Club, NTPC Bongaigaon.

Shri Akhilesh Singh highlighted NTPC Bongaigaon's dedication to empowering young girls and ensuring the timely completion of the program.

Shri Akhilesh Singh added that the camp today is just the beginning. Over the next



four weeks, NTPC Bongaigaon will provide a nurturing and supportive environment for these girls, he added. Smt. Sangeeta Singh along with all the office bearers of Bardwi Shikla Ladies Club also inspected the proceedings of the programme and extended all support to the mission.

The event was also attended by Shri Induri S Reddy, GM (O&M), and Shri Asutosh Biswas, GM (Operation), who commended the efforts of the team.

During the camp, 45 girls aged 10-12 years from nine local schools participated. Out of these,

Hindi and English, elementary mathematics, hygiene and nutrition education, yoga, and sports. Additionally, it aims to develop social skills through gender diversity discussions, group activities, movie screenings on social issues, cyber safety education, and cultural activities like music, dance, and theatre.

In May, a baseline survey was conducted to assess the students' knowledge levels and tailor the program effectively. The GEM initiative by NTPC seeks to dispel myths surrounding female foeticide and provide a platform for girls to showcase their talents and capabilities.

NTPC, India's largest power generating company, has been actively involved in various social responsibility programs. The GEM program, in its third year, has already benefited over 3000 students. These efforts reflect NTPC's broader commitment to the empowerment of women and the betterment of society in the regions surrounding its plants.

## On Government Formation Question, Mallikarjun Kharge's "New Partners" Hint



When Congress President Mallikarjun Kharge was asked the same question, he dropped a hint about new partners.

Speaking in Hindi, Mr. Kharge said, "Until we talk to our alliance partners... and the new partners that could join us about how we could

work together and get a majority, we will see. If I reveal all our strategies now, Prime Minister Narendra Modi will become wary ('hoshiyar ho jayenge')."

There have been reports of people from the INDIA camp, especially Sharad Pawar, having reached out to Mr. Naidu and Mr. Kumar this afternoon, but the NCP leader has refuted them.

The TDP-BJP alliance was firmed up just before the elections and, even before counting began, experts had speculated that Mr. Naidu could switch sides if he saw more benefits with the INDIA bloc. The TDP was part of the United Progressive Alliance in 2019. Nitish Kumar's association with the Congress is even more recent and he had played a pivotal role in the creation of the INDIA bloc, before joining the NDA once again in January. The Bihar chief minister had also snapped ties with the BJP ahead of the 2014 Lok Sabha elections because the party had declared Narendra Modi as the prime ministerial candidate.

# Poachers have a field day in Chilika as admin sleeps

**Kanas(KCN):** In a concerning development, poachers near here in Puri district along the coast of Chilika, Asia's largest brackish water lagoon, are hunting birds — both migratory and indigenous — by poisoning and adding sedatives to their feed, sources said Monday. This practice of killing birds is spread from Daya river mouth to Makara river mouth via Bhusandpur on the fringes of Kanas block. It is an endless story of horror and killing as poachers in these areas can be seen adding sedatives and poisoning the food to hunt birds.

Thousands of birds are being poached every day by various tactics including shooting, twisting their necks, or poisoning the fish that the birds feed on. Miscreants carrying avian carcasses, even live ones, on bamboo slings or bags and selling them at roadside dhabas and hotels in the pursuit of fast buck has become a usual scene that one's eyes cannot ignore. However, the Forest officials in these areas are yet to wake up from their slumber and act against these poachers. Lakhs of migratory as well as indigenous birds visit



Chilika lake in winter and return after the onset of summer. The famous annual flocking of the birds to the

Chilika coast has been possible owing to a favourable and secure ecosystem for them spread across the

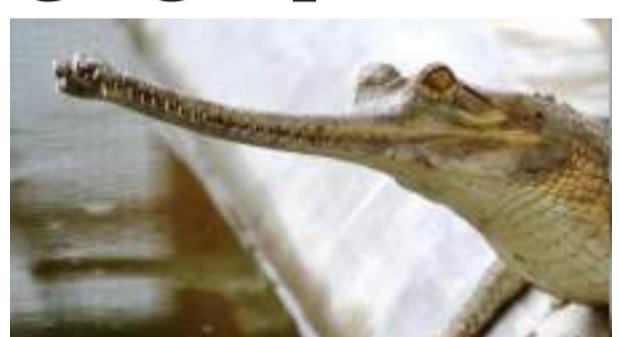
abundant paddy fields and marshy land here. However, it has been observed that some birds stay back for some more time and feed on the dropped paddy on the farmlands of nearby villages. Various species of birds were

seen feeding on the dropped paddy apart from pests and insects on the farmlands of Gopinathpur, Paikamara, Sanaora, Badaora, Og alpur, Gang adhar pur, Dochhian, Alipada, Nuagaon and Deipur villages adjoining the Chilika lake. The birds were also seen surviving on the weeds and water lily fruits growing in Chilika lake. Taking undue advantage of this, poachers are either laying traps on the farmlands or adding sedatives or poison to the birds' feed to kill them. Summer season has proved favourable for them in hunting the birds as strict protection measures for the birds are only enforced during the winter by the Tangi Forest department, and bird protection committees at Satapada and Balugaon. Poachers are having a field day nowadays as the strict measures are no longer in place. They are either killing or catching the birds alive and making a quick buck from their sale. Bird lovers and environmentalists have demanded the intervention of the Forest department to take steps to safeguard the winged guests.

## Decline in Gharial population at Satkosia gorge sparks concern

**Nayagarh(KCN):** Despite the sustained efforts put in by the Forest department, Gharial population in Satkosia gorge of Mahanadi river in the district has failed to witness a rise over the years, a report stated. As many as 880 gharials have been released into Satkosia gorge in the last 46 years, but only eight of them were found during the 2023 crocodile census. This has sparked concerns among nature lovers and wildlife enthusiasts. Experts are curious if the dwindling population of the reptiles was due to them being swept away, or migrated to other areas in the river or deaths after failing to get acclimated to the living conditions in the gorge. They demanded a probe to unravel the actual reason behind the decline in gharial population.

Nevertheless, the decline in the reptile population has been a matter of serious concerns for all. Surprisingly, the population of Muggers stands at 39 in the Satkosia gorge as per the 2023 census. It was 50 during 2019 census, and



52 in 2020. At present, Muggers have outnumbered Gharials. Sources said that the Satkosia Wildlife Sanctuary falls in close vicinity of Angul, Boudh and Nayagarh districts. The state government has formed forest divisions in Angul and Nayagarh districts for the protection of tiger and crocodile populations in Angul, Boudh and Nayagarh districts. The Kusang and Chhamundia forest ranges are in Nayagarh under the Mahanadi forest and wildlife divisions. A total of 867 Gharials have been released into Satkosia gorge, which includes 26 in 1977, 56 in 1978, 25 in 1980, 43 in 1982, 32 in 1984, 100 in 1985, 124 in 1986, 126 in 1987, 18 in 1988, 59 in 1989, 78 in 1995, 51 in 1996, 105 in 1998, five in 2004, four in 2015, eight in 2016, five

in 2019 and two in 2020. The report on the release of the rest of the gharials into the Satkosia gorge is yet to be available. Of these 867 reptiles, 523 were brought from Nandankanan and some of them were released into Satkosia gorge between 1986 and 2014. The rest of the Gharials were released into Tikarpada Crocodile Breeding Centre in Angul. However, seven of the Gharials brought from Nandankanan have died. Given the situation, the decline in Gharial population has sparked serious concerns. The crocodile census report states that there were 11 Gharials in 1975-76, three in 2002-03, one in 2003-04, three in 2004-05, two in 2005-06, two in 2006-07, three in 2007-08, three in 2008-09, three in 2009-10, three in 2010-

2011, two in 2011-12, two in 2012-13, two in 2013-14, one in 2014-15, three in 2015-16, nine in 2016-17, seven in 2017-18 and eight in 2018-19. On the other hand, there were three Gharials in 2020 as per reports, and later their number increased to five after two more were released into the gorge. The 2021 report states that there were six Gharials and later 12 more were released into the gorge. The 2023 report states there were eight Gharials and 39 Muggers in the gorge. Around 25 Gharials laid eggs in 2021. Similarly, 30 eggs were laid in 2022 and 35 in 2023 which later hatched. However, these Gharials are now allegedly missing from the gorge. Recently, 35 hatchlings were born May 25. When contacted, DFO Falguni Sarathi Mallick said Gharials are docile as compared to Muggers. The attack on Gharials by Muggers is on the increase. He, however, admitted that the population of Gharials is fast declining despite frequent release of the reptiles into the Satkosia gorge.

## Keonjhar village faces acute water crisis



**Champua(KCN):** Residents of Hudi Sahi village in Rajia panchayat under this block in Keonjhar district are facing acute water crisis during the scorching summer heat, sources

said. Over 300 people live in more than 50 houses in this village.

All residents belong to various tribal communities and work as daily wagers. The severe heatwave is exacerbating

the water woes in the village, impacting their lives, sources added.

According to reports, the tribal residents have been living in the village for decades. Around 10 years ago, a tube well was



2024-2025



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# Prawaas 4.0 Accelerates Towards Multimodal Transport, Empowering Public Transport Initiatives"

**Bengaluru, (KCN):** The Bus and Car Operators Confederation of India (BOCI) today announced the much-anticipated 4th Edition of Prawaas 4.0, India's flagship Multimodal Transport Show, slated to be held from August 29-31 at the Bangalore International Exhibition Centre (BIEC). With the overarching theme of "Safe, Smart, and Sustainable Passenger Mobility," Prawaas 4.0 is dedicated to bringing together the entire spectrum of multimodal transport stakeholders. This includes manufacturers of buses and cars, fleet owners, as well as partners in metro and LEVs from all 36

States and Union Territories of India. Acknowledging the vital role of efficient public transport in realizing the vision of "Viksit Bharat" by the Honorable PM, Prawaas 4.0 advocates for increased utilization of public transport. Such a shift not only alleviates road congestion but also aligns with sustainability objectives.

Karnataka State Bus Owners Association, Karnataka State Tourism Private Transport Owners Association, Karnataka State Travel Operators Association, Karnataka Tourist Motor Cab Maxi Owners Welfare Association, Bangalore Government of Karnataka, graced the



Tourist Taxi Owners Association are the proud Host Associations for Prawaas 4.0. Today's curtain raiser event provided a glimpse into the exciting array of activities planned for Prawaas 4.0. Esteemed dignitaries such as Shri Ramalinga Reddy, Honorable Minister for Transport and Muzrai, Government of Karnataka, graced the

occasion along with notable personalities including Shri Jagdeo Singh Khalsa, Chairman, BOCI; Shri Prasanna Patwardhan, President, BOCI; Shri Alah Baksh Afzal, General Secretary, BOCI; Shri Harsh Kotak, Treasurer, BOCI and Shri Jagdish

Patankar, Executive Chairman, MM Activ, the Event Curators. Prawaas 4.0 is a ground-breaking expedition towards multi-modal transport, where it will lead the charge in shaping the future of mobility. The conference will host insightful dialogues, the

exhibition will spotlight cutting-edge trends with a display of industry-driven innovations and technologies, and across a myriad of categories, the prestigious awards ceremony will recognize exceptional contributions and talents within the industry. Together, these

components form a comprehensive platform unveiling the roadmap to excellence in mobility. In this edition of Prawaas, significant emphasis will be placed on the School Bus segment, Tourism, Electric Vehicles (EV), and Metro systems. As we explore the future of mobility, Prawaas stands as a beacon, guiding the way forward towards sustainable, efficient, and inclusive transportation solutions.

Tata Motors, redbus, Eberspaecher Suetrak, abhibus, VECV, Ashok Leyland, JBM, Repose, Bitla, Mahindra School Bus Division, Urja Bus, MG Motor, Valeo, Trans ACNR, Valeo Motherson and more corporates are likely to participate in the event. Prawaas 4.0 is poised to be an unparalleled convergence, bringing together over 100+ expert speakers, 200+ leading exhibitors, 1500+ industry delegates, and 6000+ bus and car operators, with an expected attendance of over 10,000 business visitors. Don't miss this extraordinary opportunity to engage, network, and drive innovation in the realm of passenger mobility. For more details, visit [www.prawaas.com](http://www.prawaas.com)

## 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 successful 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, Rajgangpur, and Lanjiberna 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 Jhagarpur & Katang panchayat in Odisha. After witnessing immense success at national exhibitions, Dalmia Bharat introduced the SADRI.e brand for promoting the handmade batik products like bedsheets, handkerchiefs, scarves etc. through multiple marketing platforms. Another successful initiative includes enterprise development through mushroom cultivation. Dalmia Bharat actively facilitates training programs and market linkage support for SHG women, equipping them to earn an additional monthly income of Rs. 5000 by establishing their own cultivation units.

International Day of Rural Women, observed annually on 15th October, celebrates the vital role of rural women in agriculture, food security, and rural development. It highlights the need to empower them, address inequalities, and aligns with global goals for gender equality and sustainable development.

The WHEC aims to reshape ideas and practices in higher

line work has already been commissioned. The Railways has been constructing this line from both the sides, i.e., from Khurda Road and Balangir for early completion of the

project. 105.8 Kms from Khurda Road to Daspalla and 47 Kms from Balangir to Sonepur have already been commissioned.

Construction of rail line in

Khurda Road-Balangir project is going on in war footing basis. Railway line between Sonepur-Purunapani-Jharamunda a stretch of 22 KMs in Boudh District has been laid. Engine rolling and

testing has also been done in the above section, successfully. Apart from this, construction work between Jharamunda & Champapur is in full-swing.

**EXCEPTIONAL EXPERIENCES AWAITS SINGAPORE AIRLINES CUSTOMERS**

**Singapore:** Airlines (SIA) today unveiled its all-new flagship SilverKris and KrisFlyer Gold lounges at Singapore Changi Airport Terminal 3, following a \$50 million re-design, upgrade, and expansion project. This will further enhance the on-ground customer experience at the Airline's main hub, and comes as the demand for international air travel from and through Singapore takes off once again.

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 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

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,



# Bit strange to be practicing in a park: Dravid on facilities in New York

**New Delhi:** On a day when the drop-in pitches for the Twenty20 World Cup came in for all-round criticism, Rahul Dravid took dig at the practice facilities provided for the global championship. "It's a bit strange to be practicing in a park," the India coach remarked. Teams playing in New York have had to train at Cantiague Park, about five miles away from the ground, a situation that clearly did not amuse Dravid.

"Obviously at the World Cups you'd be in big stadiums or you'd be at cricket stadiums

traditionally. But you know, we're at a public park and practicing," Dravid, who has played in three World Cups and coached the India side in the last three ICC events, said flashing a smile that smacked more of sarcasm rather than amusement.

Suddenly, the facilities in New York which will host eight of the 16 World Cup games allotted to the US, have come into focus. The International Cricket Council (ICC) built a temporary stadium and on Monday Sri Lanka got bundled out for 77

against South Africa, who also struggled before knocking off the target.

Damian Hough, who was in-charge of the drop-in pitches, had predicted the pitches to be like any other Twenty20 surface. "We are excited to see the arrival of the pitches here in New York. We're now focused on bedding in the pitches here in New York to ensure we're delivering an end product of the highest quality," Hough, who is also the head curator of Adelaide Oval, said in a statement



released through the ICC last month. The pitch received widespread disapproval,

with Sanjay Manjrekar posting a comment on social media that seemed to capture the general sentiment. "Pitch of the 80s & batters of the 2020s. Not a good union,"

you don't feel that kind of buzz over here. But hopefully once our games start and a lot of the Indian fans do start coming in, you start seeing that similar kind of excitement.

"So things are certainly different from that perspective. But yeah, I think from a preparation perspective and from what we want to get out of it, I don't think that's changed, our preparation, our professionalism, the way we are trying to approach things. It's pretty, pretty similar to what we would normally do."

## 'A great day for cricket' - Nortje brushes aside pitch concerns



**New Delhi:** South Africa fast bowler Anrich Nortje brushed aside concerns over the playing surfaces in the ongoing T20 World Cup, claiming that a lot of skill is involved in low scoring games as well. Nortje starred in South Africa's victory over Sri Lanka in their tournament opener but the game saw both teams combine to score just 157 runs in 35.3 overs.

Sri Lanka were bowled out for just 77 and South Africa took 16.2 overs to chase it down, while losing two wickets. "I thought the game was great," Nortje said. "I thought the entertainment was there. I thought the people were there. It was a brilliant spectacle. It was brilliant to see everyone, to hear the voices, the noise, the cheering. I thought it was a great day for cricket." "It doesn't always mean there needs to be twenty sixes in a game to make it entertaining. There's still a lot of strategy that goes into the game. There's a lot of skill that goes into the game, whether it's sixes or bowlers or spinners, however it might be. So, I thought the game was

a brilliant game. It was still a close game at the end of the day, another wicket or two, and things might have been different. We might have been in a little bit more trouble."

The two games prior to the South Africa - Sri Lanka contest were also low scoring ones but Nortje pointed out that the bowlers sometimes need assistance as well. "I don't think there's anything wrong with the wickets," he noted. "It's nice for bowlers as well. We are also allowed to get some sort of assistance. Yeah, it's different to what guys have been used to for the

last few months or years. There's a little bit more in the wicket for the bowlers and I don't see anything wrong with that.

"When it's flat, people want to see sixes and yeah, so the wheels should turn a little bit somewhere. But yeah, not taking anything away. I don't know what to expect in the next few weeks. It might get a little bit flatter. It might get a little bit slower, faster. Who knows? I'm not the expert on it, but I think our biggest thing is just to sort of adapt to whatever gets thrown in front of us in the next game again. See in the first over what to expect

and try and adjust as best as possible."

Coming into the tournament, Nortje did have a woeful IPL season where he conceded runs at an economy rate over 13 in the six games he played. But the pacer revealed that he kept working with his circle of people to improve and get better. "It's literally one over that's been, from a personal perspective, it's been one over in a game where I've travelled on that side of the world," Nortje said on being carted around in the IPL. "And it's just about following your processes, working hard on what you need to improve. You sort

of get an idea of where you can improve and very quickly as well. The other important thing is keeping the 20 people who work with you and encourage you very close to you and the other 10 million or million that abuses you to keep them out of your circle.

"So yeah, it's just about keeping those close to you, those who know you and who know what you can do, keep on working with them and that's exactly what I did. And to

ground. They went to Mustang Cricket Academy indoor instead of Grand Prairie. Taskin bowled three overs relatively in higher intensity than what he did on June 1 and following the bowling session BCB's physio Bayyedul Islam Bayezid told reporters in USA that a final call will be taken on Taskin after seeing his bowling on June 5.

Bangladesh are desperately looking forward for Taskin to recover before their opening game against Sri Lanka on June 7 in Dallas, more so after Shoriful Islam is all set to miss their opening game after sustaining six stiches in his left hand during their warm-up game against India.

BCB retained Taskin in the 15-member squad for the ICC T20 World Cup even as he was recovering from a rib-fracture that he sustained during the fourth T20I against Zimbabwe and subsequently missing the three-match T20I series against USA as well as the warm-up game against India on June 1. Taskin began his bowling on June 1 and was expected to have an outdoor bowling session on June 3, but due to heavy rain the team management had to change the practice

"Taskin so far the way he progressed, Alhamdulillah [praise be to god]. He progressed really well. We have made some day-to-day plan for him. He was expected to bowl today (June 3) and we planned that he would bowl outdoor. Because it is raining we could not do that. Because according to the schedule today it was very important for him to bowl and that is the reason we brought him indoors. He bowled on the 1st and today on 3rd and we are happy that he is in a better position," Bayezid said.. "He is looking good and we are capturing every session to analyze and he is carrying a GPS meter where we can see how much effort he is giving and what is happening with him as

"Before (the opening game against Sri Lanka) he will have another bowling session on 5th and if we can do that outdoor it is very good and he is expected to bowl with full run-up and intensity, and after seeing that session we can clearly say whether he is available or not," he said.

"It will totally depend on how he is bowling on 5th and only after seeing that decision will be made but till date he has no complains and based on that we hope that he will be better on 5th and later we can say where he stands," he said.

"We are hopeful that he will be hundred percent by seventh," he said.

## Afghanistan demolish Uganda in winning start



**New Delhi:** Afghanistan gave Uganda an incredibly tough initiation to World Cup cricket as they humbled them with both bat and ball to secure a mammoth 125-run victory. Afghanistan came through on Rashid Khan's claim that they weren't just a bowling-reliant side anymore as the openers put on a show for most part of the innings. Even as they stuttered at the end, their total of 183/5 was far too good for Uganda. Left-arm pacer Fazalhaq Farooqi went on to pick a fifer and finish with the fourth-best bowling figures in men's T20 World Cup history (5 for 9).

The PowerPlay.

Afghanistan first blazed away through their openers and then came back to bamboozle the World Cup first-timers by picking five wickets in this period, putting a swift end to any hopes Uganda had of having a memorable evening. Uganda bowlers had a tough initiation to World Cup cricket after their captain Brian Masaba opted to bowl. Rahmanullah Gurbaz signalled his intentions for the night on just the second ball of the innings, from left-arm spinner Alpesh Ramjani, which he carted for a six over long-off. A stroke-filled PowerPlay followed as both Gurbaz and Ibrahim Zadran went hell for

leather against Uganda's bowlers. It rained fours and sixes early before the phase culminated in an 18-run over where Gurbaz hit Dinesh Nakrani for four successive boundaries. With that, Afghanistan got their highest PowerPlay score in T20 World Cups. The two Afghanistan openers ran well and kept scoring at more than 10 an over through the middle. By the ninth over, Gurbaz brought up his 28-ball half-century while Afghanistan's 100 came up in the 10th. Zadran soon caught up, getting his fifty off 34 balls in the 12th over. Bilal Hassan, who bowled just one over in

the PowerPlay, made a woeful return as he started with five wides and a no-ball four in a 25-run over that included a six from Zadran and a four from Gurbaz - both off slower balls. Masaba however, came back and broke the opening stand with his leg spin as Zadran gave him the charge for a big shot and missed to get bowled. He departed for a 46-ball 70 and the opening pair fell 15 short of surpassing the highest opening stand in T20 World Cup history [170]. One wicket brought another almost immediately as Gurbaz fell four balls later - to Ramjani, when his slog sweep found Riazat Ali Shah at deep backward square leg. Masaba then struck for the second time in the game when he had Najibullah Zadran caught at deep backward square leg in the 17th over. A wicket fell in four of the five overs at the death as Afghanistan lost their way completely after the big opening stand. None of the middle-order batters could deal with the smart use of pace variations from Uganda as not one four or six was hit in this period. Masaba finished with excellent figures of 2 for 21 while medium-pacer Cosmas

Kyewuta got 2 for 25. Uganda opener Ronak Patel gave his team's chase a statement start as he drove the first ball - full from Fazalhaq Farooqi - through covers for a four. On the next ball, Farooqi got the ball to swing in and disturbed Patel's stumps. Roger Musaka got another similar peach first up, and was trapped leg before for a first-ball duck. Simon Ssesazi then top-edged an attempted slog sweep to Farooqi stationed at short fine leg, leaving Uganda reeling at 8 for 3 in the second over. The misery was relentless for Uganda as Dinesh Nakrani and Alpesh Ramjani fell to Naveen Ul Haq to lose half their side.