

NDA shy of 300-mark after INDIA fightback



Minister Jagannath Saraka, Women and Child Development Minister Basanti Hembram 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 Pattanayak was defeated at the hands of Planning and Convergence Minister Rajendra Dholakia in Nuapada Assembly

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.

BJP stronghold Uttar Pradesh was headed for an upset. The INDIA bloc was ahead in 44 of the 80 seats up for grabs, while the ruling BJP was trailing with leads in 35 seats. Allies Congress and Samajwadi Party were leading on eight and 36 seats, respectively.

West Bengal was seeing a neck-and-neck fight between the ruling Trinamool Congress (TMC) and the BJP in early trends, but the Mamata Banerjee-led party pulled ahead on 28 seats, beating exit poll predictions of a saffron sweep. The BJP, meanwhile, was leading on 12 seats.

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.

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

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 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.

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, Jagannadh Mohan Reddy's side has so far won zero seats and is leading in only 15

PM Modi's winning margin from Varanasi this time, however, is much less than the over 4-lakh-vote margin he got in the 2019 election. Political analysts found Uttar Pradesh to be the biggest surprise of the day, with the BJP and Samajwadi Party (SP) neck and neck in what was seen to be an easy contest for the BJP.

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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

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

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,

with its vote share dropping by three percentage points to 37. In contrast, the TMC's vote share increased to 47 per cent, up from 43 per cent in 2019. In the last Lok Sabha polls, the TMC had won 22 seats, the BJP 18, and the Congress two. The Communist Party of India (Marxist) led Left Front failed to win any seats in 2019 and appears to be repeating that performance, not leading in any of the 42

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 Funkwal 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



Nagarik Suraksha 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 Bachel-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, 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 support 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: 1. Community Engagement: Successful

restoration projects often involve local communities. Engaging residents ensures that restoration efforts are culturally relevant and receive ongoing support, making the initiatives more sustainable in the long run. 2. Scientific Guidance: Restoration should be guided by scientific research to understand the best methods for different ecosystems. Continuous monitoring helps track progress and adjust strategies as needed. 3. Policy and Funding Support: Government play a crucial role by creating policies that protect natural areas and provide funding for restoration projects. International cooperation can also mobilize resources and expertise for large-scale efforts. 4. Innovative Techniques: Using new technologies and methods, such as drone planting, genetic diversity studies, and sustainable land management practices, can enhance restoration efforts and ensure long-term success. 5. Education and Awareness: Educating the public about the importance of ecosystems and how to protect them fosters a culture of conservation. Schools, media, and community programs can all play a role in raising awareness. Inspiring Examples of Ecosystem Restoration The Great Green Wall: This

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

questioned why many in the industry fail to look at an artist as an artist: "I have 100 per cent been told that you are too beautiful for this role. But I am a person. I am a sum total of many things." Aditi quipped, "Also, why is this a problem? You don't tell somebody that 'you act too well'. It doesn't make sense. But that is also being heard now, oh 'that girl is too good an actor, she will outshine the others.' It has not been told to me, but I have heard this as well. It just doesn't make sense. It means your intentions aren't pure." '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 S u b r a m a n i a m, 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.

'Amar Singh Chamkila' not a work of fiction, it's true, authentic: Imtiaz Ali

Filmmaker Imtiaz Ali, speaking exclusively to IndiaToday.in, revealed that his upcoming film, 'Amar Singh Chamkila' is not a work of fiction. The film, which features Diljit Dosanjh and Parineeti Chopra, is a biopic on the life of legendary Punjabi singer, Amar Singh Chamkila. He also opened up about the reason behind doing this biographical drama.

In his interview, Imtiaz explained that he stayed authentic and true to the story and how much of the film is based on the fiction. He said, "As far as I know, it's completely authentic and true. I have not taken any shortcuts. I have not made any scenes out of my imagination. I have tried to be very authentic for my own sake because I feel that I always make films by imagination, but how would this film be different from the others for me? Also, as a filmmaker, when you go out looking for the truth, you end up knowing more dramatic things."

The 'Jab We Met' director also revealed that he never thought of making a biopic. Explaining further, he



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 U N 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 Bhumi Putroham Prithivya” which means the earth is our mother and we are her children. In Ramacharitamana, it is said, “Kshiti jal pawak gagan sameera, Panch rachit ati adham shareera” It means adham shareera (our body) comprises panch (five) tatva (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 Panchmahabhutas (five great elements) composed of Prithvi (Earth), Jala (Water), Agni (Fire), Vayu (Air) and Ether (Aakash). 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.

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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 secluded serenity and silence of the Dhyana Mandapam on the

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, he hit upon a glorious plan for his future and sensed the tumultuous present of India in its actuality and

completely had an insight of what India had been in the past. He contemplated India's past, present and future. Vivekananda is believed to have swum across the raging waves and sat on the rock in 1892. Being a follower and admirer of Vivekananda and also being attracted to the magnetic spiritual eminence of Kanyakumari with Bhagavathi Amman temple at the shore, Modi's spiritual exercise on the rock was his natural choice. Vivekananda believed in the principle 'Service to man is service to God'. And Modi, throughout his administrative period of a decade, remained deeply rooted in this principle, which he often quoted. His association with the Ramakrishna Mission and his interest in the philosophy 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 association with Eknath Ranade during the emergency and the way he undertook 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

power to push the British off its soil. Until then, he predicted, freedom would be a disaster and Indians were not capable of handling that effectively. Drawing parallels to the Vivekananda saga almost illustratively, the Prime Minister seemed to have been confident of another victory and the meditation he sat on the rock for, might have given him the necessary stuff for the transformation of India into a developed country before it crossed a century of its independence. Setting plans for the third term, as Narendra Modi envisioned, India's Amrit Kaal is going to be extremely crucial and as a leader his fame would redefine the paradigms of leadership values. The exit polls seem to have once again dismantled the defeatist propaganda of his adversaries while Modi's victory and his unbridgeable popularity separate him from other global leaders. He remains the one who rose from the ashes of a vitriolic witch hunt that was fiendishly carried out on him by the international media and

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 Area Nagri wherein a Naka was also established at Nagri Park by Kupwara police based on specific Input from JKP/SOG," army said in a statement. "In this joint Operation, one Suspected individual Aijaz Ah Parry, son of Gulam Ah Parry, resident of Kunan

Poshpura 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 Convener 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

centre one-and-a-half hours before the commencement of the Test with hall ticket, black or blue ballpoint pen and valid photo identification card such as aadhar card, driving licence, voter ID. Carrying a calculator, mathematical table, cellphone, large spectacles and other electronic gadgets are prohibited into the examination hall. The candidates are not allowed to bring loose sheets or blank sheets of paper into the examination hall for the purpose of rough work, clarified the Convener Prof. Chary and added that candidates will not be allowed to leave the examination hall till the end of the Test. Prof. Chary further said that candidates will not be permitted entry into the examination hall even if they were late by one minute.

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 Gandhi had got only

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.

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 Fourm 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 &

haemorrhoids, fibromyalgia, digestive issues, UTI, asthma, allergies, sleep apnea, improved energy levels, etc. Average duration of treatment is usually less than 1 to 2-3 months.

The patient has to increase the water intake to 2 to 2 1/2 litres of water (minimum) every day. Currently, average cost of average treatment is Rs 15,000/month approximately. Electrical stimulation treatment can be taken with allopathic treatment except in certain cases. Patients with implants containing metals like pacemakers, electronic hearing aid, any/certain metal implants, or during pregnancy or lactation need to be extra careful while taking Electrical Stimulation treatment. Electrical Stimulation wellness treatment can be used by healthy persons for detoxification of body as well as rejuvenation of biological body, restoration of youth in similar lines like other naturopathy based wellness treatment.

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 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,

40 girls will be selected for the four-week residential program commencing on July 1, 2024. NTPC officials conducted health assessments, obtained consent forms from parents and guardians, and took measurements for the students' uniforms.

This program, now in its third iteration at the Bongaigaon station, is meticulously designed to enhance essential education, health awareness, and self-defense skills among the participants. The curriculum covers basic communication skills in

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 as a part of the social responsibility has already been running and supporting several programs for the wellbeing of the society including empowerment of women, in various age brackets residing in the neighbourhood of its plants. 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

New Delhi(KCN): Not ruling out an attempt at government formation by the INDIA bloc, Congress leaders Rahul Gandhi and Mallikarjun Kharge have said a call on reaching out to the Telugu Desam Party and the Janata Dal United, both of which have been former allies of the party, will be taken by the opposition alliance at a meeting tomorrow. The statement becomes relevant because a margin of only 60 seats separates the NDA and

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

sit in the opposition or make attempts to from the government, Mr Gandhi said, "We are going to have a meeting with our INDIA alliance partners, I believe the meeting is tomorrow, and these questions will be raised and answered there. We respect our partners and we are not going to make a statement in the press without seeking their opinion." e Bareilly as well, said, "There is a fine line... We will act according to the decision taken by the INDIA alliance."



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 acclimatised 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-

11, 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





Champa(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

installed in the village to alleviate drinking water issues.

However, in the past four months, the tube well has become defunct, cutting the only potable water source for the residents during summer. Some families have to travel half a kilometer distance to collect drinking water and have to wait for hours to get their quota. Additionally, for bathing and other purposes, the residents of the village have to rely on a pond, located 2 kilometres away. Local Sarpanch Santosh Kumar Nayak stated that the matter has been communicated to the authorities. Once the election code of conduct is lifted, a new tube well is expected to be installed, he said.

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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



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

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 SADRIe 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.

Bhubaneswar,(KCN): East Coast Railway General Manager (in-Charge) Shri Mohes Kumar Behera inspected the Boudh-Champapur Railway Section of Khurda Road-Balangir Rail Line project, today. During the inspection Shri Behera taken stock of the progress of the construction work. Reviewing the progress, Shri Behera advised railway officials to take necessary steps for timely completion of the project and passenger amenities at the proposed Stations.

Out of the total length of 301 Kms of this project, altogether, 152.805 kms rail



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.

Airtel Xstream Fiber unlocks its NEW All-in-One plans

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

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

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

EXCEPTIONAL EXPERIENCES AWAIT 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 S\$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

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

Mr Goh Choon Phong, Chief Executive Officer, Singapore Airlines, said: "Extensive customer

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

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

WHEC recognizes Amrita Vishwa Vidyapeetham as excellence worldwide in Gender Equality

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

The WHEC aims to reshape ideas and practices in higher

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

policy dialogue, exchange, and networking. Swami Amritaswarupananda Puri, President of Amrita Vishwa Vidyapeetham, participated in a round table called "Universities' Contribution to Gender Equality: A global perspective". Adding to his views Swami Amritaswarupananda expressed how Amrita is

making a difference in terms of gender equality and which policies have been put into place at the university level. Gender equality is number five in the United Nations' list of 17 Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). He explained how the culture of gender equality is not implemented only in terms of policies within Amrita, but also practiced in spirit.

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

