

Earlier at the seminar, leading intellectual Dr Piare Lal Garg said it was high time the regional party of Punjab – the Shiromani Akali Dal – came forward and took up the issues of the State forcefully. Intellectual Dr Gurmeet Singh Sidhu said that the SAD alone could safeguard the interests of the State as people had lost hope from all other parties. Senior SAD leader Prof Prem Singh Chandumajra said, “The system is collapsing as the ruling party and the prime opposition were both hand in glove.” Senior leader Dr Daljit Singh Cheema said the SAD was the voice of the poor, downtrodden, minorities and farmers.

Chief Electoral Officer Reviews Poll Preparedness In Nabarangpur District

Bhubaneswar(KCN): Odisha Chief Electoral Officer Nikunja Bihari Dhal reviewed the preparedness for the ensuing elections in Nabarangpur district. The CEO along with Additional DG Police and State Police Nodal Officer Sanjay Kumar reviewed various aspects of election preparations in the district. DIGP (South Western Range) Charan Singh Meena has also participated in this review and took stock of the law and order

situation. Dhal reviewed the various aspects of the election preparations in Nabarangpur district keeping in view the upcoming simultaneous general election-2024. He held a detailed discussion with all the officials engaged in the election duty of Nabarangpur district. He discussed various aspects of election management such as law and order situation, increase in voting rate, polling centers, voter



facilities, opinions and proposals of political parties, use of various applications issued by the Election Commission of India etc. Along with this, he also inquired about the

steps being taken to conduct the elections with the officials of all the departments. The Chief Electoral Officer directed the officials of the concerned departments such as forest, transport, police, unemployment and state GST departments to work in harmony with each other. Later, the Chief Electoral Officer visited the EVM and VVPAT warehouses of the district and reviewed the security and related

arrangements there. Talking to the media representatives, he said that the district administration has made all arrangements for free, fair, impartial and participatory elections for all. Dhal sought the help of the media to create a social awareness about the polls and conduct the polls in a peaceful and orderly manner. Nabarangpur Collector Kamal Lochan Mishra and other officials were present during the review.

BJP-BJD alliance haze clears, battle lines drawn in Odisha

BHUBANESWAR(KCN): After clearing the air on alliance in Odisha, the Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) and the Biju Janata Dal (BJD) have reportedly changed gears to expedite their poll preparedness. The BJP is expected to announce the names of Lok Sabha candidates shortly, even as the meeting of the party's Central Election Committee was being held in New Delhi on Saturday. Odisha BJP President, Manmohan Samal and organizational secretary, Manas Mohanty also left for Delhi to take part in discussions. The BJP's CEC is expected to give its stamp of approval to the names of candidates of some Lok Sabha seats in Odisha any time soon amid reports that a list of candidates for 100 Assembly seats and 16 LS seats has been prepared. The Odisha BJP chief has already asserted that party leaders and cadres have gone into overdrive for the upcoming polls. BJP leader Manmohan



Samal said, "The CEC meeting will be held. Party workers have started working." On the other hand, BJD supremo Naveen Patnaik has been chairing meetings at his residence Naveen Niwas with senior leaders and party functionaries of various Parliamentary and Assembly segments almost every day. Even during the days of alliance speculations, the BJD had set its exercise in motion. The party's high command has so far reviewed its organizational strengths, weaknesses and preparedness in 11 Lok Sabha and 77 Assembly segments. On the basis of a survey report, the party has allocated tasks to leaders to ensure electoral success.

Meanwhile, political observers have been reading between the lines, particularly the wording used in social media posts by Manmohan Samal and BJD's organizational secretary Pranab Prakash Das. Samal 'thanked' the BJD for supporting the BJP-led NDA government at the centre for the last 10 years while Das has pointedly stressed on 'cooperative federalism'. Such calculated statements of the two parties created misgivings for Congress. The Odisha Congress suspect that both parties are going to play friendly matches. Former Odisha Congress president, Prasad Harichandan came down heavily on the two parties saying, "Though they

have not gone for an open understanding, they are working tacitly. This means they have agreed on the seats, where they will be fielding weak candidates to help each other out." BJD MLA Prasanta Muduli said, "The statement made by our organisational secretary is based on the current situation. We had a clear victory in the last panchayat elections. People are with the BJD in Odisha." BJP leader Dilip Malik said, "The fight will be more intense for the target of 400+ seats. The fight will be against the corruption and inefficiency of the 24-year-old government. The fight will be for public justice and public welfare." JD legislator Parsuram Dhada said, "The BJD was never in favour of an alliance. There is no such formula as A & B. The number one formula is Chief Minister Naveen Patnaik and BJD. The BJD had got a clear mandate in the past and will get the same in the upcoming polls."

Electoral bonds: Odisha BJP hits out at Congress over 'Chanda and Dhanda' jibe



BHUBANESWAR(KCN): The Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) spokesperson Dilip Mallick on Saturday took a swipe at the Congress over its statement on electoral bonds. While addressing a

press conference, Dilip Mallick said, "Earlier leaders were collecting this as donations. Instead of going to the party, the money was going to the leaders' pockets. It has now been formalised. The parties are receiving

donations through electoral bonds. While the details of donations are being recorded in the party books, the donors are also maintaining records of how much money has been given and who are the recipients. The

entire system is impeccable." "The Congress is terming this as 'Chanda and Dhanda'. The Congress has received Rs 1123 crore, which was later estimated to be something around Rs 1400 crore. Let them say first what 'dhanda' they have given and to whom to receive the donation," said Mallick. Responding to Mallick's statement, Congress leader Babita Sharma said, "They are so much afraid of Rahul Gandhi that they have even got our account frozen. They are collecting 'chanda' to keep their 'dhanda' going on and freezing our accounts. People should understand how much they fear us."



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Raaju Bonagaani's Two Much-Anticipated Movies Under Jayaram Devasamudra's Productions Are Ready To Hit Cinemas

Film enthusiasts and fans alike are eagerly awaiting the release of two upcoming movies, 'Rave Party' and 'Engagement,' as both films wrap up their post-production phase in January 2024. The duo promises an engaging cinematic experience, exploring distinct themes under the adept direction of Raaju Bonagaani and produced by Jayaram Devasamudra. Smooth Transition from Shooting to Post-Production

'Doubtwa' Out Now: Makers Unveil The First Song From Kiran Rao's Laapataa Ladies



The trailer of Jio Studios and Aamir Khan Productions' 'Laapataa Ladies' directed by Kiran Rao has given a glimpse of its humorous world that dwells in the rollercoaster ride of the lost brides. This has indeed elevated the excitement to see what the director Kiran Rao has to bring to the table this time. Amid the rising exhilaration for the film, the makers are here with the first song 'Doubtwa' leaving the audience gripping their eyes on the bride. The first song 'Doubtwa' from Laapataa Ladies gives a broader narrative of its laughter-studded story. The song is sung by

Efforts of a dedicated team playing helped identify these works, providing a high-quality viewing experience for the audience. About the movie 'Rave Party' 'Rave Party' is set to explore the social and psychological aspects of the growing rave party culture. Given the increasing popularity of such events, the film aims to highlight the complexities of these encounters in urban settings. The 'rave party' in particular will shed light on the often controversial elements associated with this subculture, such as substance abuse. Exploring the Depths of Rave Culture



The film is poised to answer tough questions about what goes on with planning and a fun party. From the iconic nature of these events to the motivations behind the attendees, 'Rave Party' promises to explore an inspiring subculture that

continues to capture the attention of many minds. Inavars Cinema Factory and Suram Movies join the league in bringing this cinematic exploration to the audience. About 'Engagement' While 'Rave Party' explores the dynamics of

contemporary social scenes, 'Engagement' takes audiences on a different journey. The film, also directed by Raaju Bonagaani and produced by Jayaram Devasamudra, promises to unravel the complexities of

relationships with unexpected twists and turns.

Anticipation Peaks as Release Date Nears

As the post-production phase comes to a close, both 'Rave Party' and 'Engagement' are set to hit screens, giving audiences a taste of cinematic experiences Raaju Bonagaani's directorial vision combined with Jairamdev Samudra's production skills see promising results.

Movie enthusiasts can now frantically count down the days until these highly anticipated films grace theaters, providing a delightful escape for immersion and information if it's wonderful in the world of 'rave parties'.

Siddharth Anand Opened A New Genre Of Aerial Action Drama With Hrithik Roshan's 'Fighter'

Fighter has been released on the big screens and has indeed redefined the action genre with its enthralling aerial action. With its nail-biting action sequences, the film has indeed left an indelible mark on the minds of the audience. Watching the fresh chemistry of Hrithik Roshan and Deepika Padukone has indeed come as yet another treat for the audience. The world got to witness a kind of action that has never been seen before on the big screens and Siddharth Anand has indeed



created yet another action spectacle with the film.

Director Siddharth Anand's direction was at full display in Fighter. Bringing the aerial action and that too with such perfection is just way beyond what anyone has ever imagined. The audience loves the film and has been showering immense love ever since its release. The film has indeed added yet another spectacle to Hrithik's filmography. While the superstar has already delivered two biggest action blockbusters with director Siddharth Anand with Bang Bang and WAR, the director-actor duo has yet again redefined action on the big screen. On the other hand, after Pathaan, Siddharth Anand and Deepika Padukone came together in Fighter and created a wonder on the big screen again.

Directed by Siddharth Anand and presented by Viacom 18 Studios in association with Marflix Pictures, 'Fighter' epitomizes cinematic brilliance. This film seamlessly intertwines heart-thumping action and patriotic fervor, promising an unparalleled cinematic experience. Fighter is now running in the theaters.

Orry Calls Isha Malviya A 'Bunny Rabbit With Villainous Twist'

In a surprising turn of events, popular social media sensation Orry shared his unfiltered thoughts on Bigg Boss 17 contestant Isha Malviya. Known for her sweet demeanor, Isha has often been hailed as the "bunny rabbit" of the Bigg Boss house, but according to Orry, there's more to her than meets the eye. Orry, renowned for his witty commentary and humorous take on reality show contestants, labeled Isha as a bunny rabbit. "She's like this bunny rabbit, and you want to pull her cheeks!" Orry exclaimed. However, he quickly added a twist to his characterization, stating, "But you soon realize she's the villain. She's just like the character she played in the Udariyaan serial, Jasmine." This comparison to her on-screen persona in



Udariyaan, where Isha played the character Jasmine, known for her cunning and manipulative traits, raises eyebrows and adds a layer of complexity to Isha's personality in the Bigg Boss house. Isha Malviya's journey in the Bigg Boss house has not been without controversy. Previously labeled as manipulative, she has faced criticism for playing with the emotions of co-contestant Abhishek Kumar, despite having a boyfriend, Samarth Jurel, inside the Bigg Boss house. Fans have expressed disappointment,

questioning the authenticity of Isha's actions and relationships within the confines of the reality show.

Orry's candid remarks have stirred conversations among social media users, prompting discussions about the authenticity of personalities within the Bigg Boss house. As viewers eagerly await the unfolding drama, Orry's insights have added a new dimension to the narrative surrounding Isha Malviya, turning the spotlight on the complexities of her character beyond her sweet exterior.

Vicky Kaushal Finally Opens Up On Sam Bahadur's Clash With Ranbir Kapoor's Animal, Says 'Audience Will Decide'

The biggest clash of the year between Ranbir Kapoor's Animal and Vicky Kaushal's Sam Bahadur is here! Both the films are set to hit the theatres on December 1st and fans are eagerly waiting for them. Animal, Directed by Sandeep Reddy Vanga is a film comprising a stellar star cast including Rashmika Mandanna, Anil Kapoor and Bobby Deol among others. Sam Bahadur on the other hand, stars Sanya Malhotra and Fatima Sana Shaikh in the Meghna Gulzar's film. Animal is one of the most talked about films of the year, thanks to its gripping storyline and intense music. However, it is set to clash with Vicky Kaushal's Sam Bahadur at the box office. In a conversation with



News portal The Indian Express, Vicky expressed his thoughts on the clash. He said, "When two opening batsmen come to the crease, playing for the same team, you won't say that the two batsmen are clashing with each other; they are playing for a single team, so we are playing for Hindi

cinema." When asked about which film will score this big hit, Vicky said, "The audience will decide." Meanwhile, the advance bookings for Animal opened on Saturday, November 25 and according to Sacnilk, the film sold a total of 2,09,986 tickets across 6,036 shows, earning an impressive revenue of Rs 6.42 crore.

Pakistan holding an unenviable position

R.K. Sinha



Largely because of its own follies, Pakistan has put itself in a position which is not enviable. Not only has it been facing attacks from enemies but also friends, Muslim countries. Two of them, Iran and Afghanistan, have come out in the open against it. The first such country was Iran. What is worse, it is also facing attack from forces within the country. In short, it is facing all sorts of problems. Of the two, Afghanistan has clashed with Pakistan at the border as well. To be fair to Afghanistan, it was Pakistan which had made the attack first. It was on Monday last. In response, the Afghanistan had fired on Pakistani posts

along the border. In such a situation, anything can happen. It can lead to bigger clashes, worse of all, war. Following the Pakistani attacks, the Taliban had warned Pakistan of serious consequences. Simultaneously, it had told the newly formed government in Pakistan that "irresponsible actions" would jeopardize the relations between the two neighbouring countries. Allegations and counter-allegations have been made by the two with regard to the recent terrorist attacks in Pakistan. Pakistan alleges that the attacks were carried out from Afghan soil. The Taliban has denied, calling it a propaganda. As far as Iran is concerned, it had attacked the hideouts of terrorists in Pakistan on January, 16. Iran had carried out attacks targeting

the bases of terrorist group, Jaish Al-Adl, in Pakistan. Iran's state media was quoted as saying that missiles and drones were used in the attack. Iran had targeted two bases of Balochi terrorist group Jaish-al-Adl in Pakistan with missiles. Iran had also fired mortars on Pakistan's western border eight years ago. The two countries have 900 kilometers long border. On the other hand there is 2400-km-long international border between Afghanistan and Pakistan. It has been named as Durand Line. In fact, relations between Pakistan and Afghanistan started deteriorating after Pakistan started sending back Afghans from its country last year. Hundreds of Afghans are returning to their country every day from Pakistan. Many Afghans say that they have been in

Pakistan for decades. Several Afghanistans have also acquired citizenship of Pakistan. Despite all this they are facing harassment. The big question here is, why are the Islamic countries angry with Pakistan which calls itself the "leader of the Islamic world"? The simple answer is that it is in Pakistan's DNA. It is in its nature to fight with neighbours. India has also faced troubles because of it. It has faced three full-scale wars -- in 1948, 1965 and 1971. It has been defeated in all. Still, it intruded into Kargil in 1999. There too it

had suffered badly. The problem with Pakistan is that it does not learn a lesson from the past. After India, it is having a fight Iran and Afghanistan. The country has a bad relationship with another neighbour, Bangladesh, as well. It was a part of Pakistan before war in 1971. Both are sworn enemies. The relationship became bad to worse after Bangladesh hanged Qasim Ali, alleged mastermind of 1971 massacre and leader of Jamaat-e-Islam. Bangladesh has made it clear that it will not tolerate interference

by Pakistan in its internal matters. To understand the current situation between the two countries, one has to dig up history. A K Fazal-ur-Haq, the popular Muslim League leader, known as Shere-e-Bengal, proposed a separate nation at the Muslim League conference at Minto Park (now Jinnah Park) in Lahore on March 23, 1940. There was a large participation of representatives of United Bengal at that conference. All of them were demanding a separate nation for the Muslims of India. After seven years,

Pakistan was formed in 1947 to disintegrate after about 25 years. What was East Pakistan at one time has come to be known as Bangladesh the two which were once part of one country, have now become thirsty for each other's blood. I have been myself an eyewitness to the massacre in Bangladesh. I was working as a war correspondent in India and had this assignment for about one and a half years at that time. Those responsible for massacre in Bangladesh are being punished by the court on the basis of evidences. Pakistan has a different view. It has a contempt for Bangladeshis and nothing more, nothing less. They are being shown in poor light in Pakistani serials and dramas. Pakistan society makes fun of Bangladeshis

Muslims. However, it claims to stand for Muslims all over the world. Bangladesh Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina has also been complaining against Pakistan. Her main complaint is that instead of blaming itself Pakistan has often blamed Bangladesh for 1971 war and action against the perpetrators of the crime. Presently, there is an outcry in Pakistan over rising prices, especially because of Ramadan. The army and greedy persons have ruined Pakistan. It has itself to blame for most of the unsavoury developments. The main reason is it has got the priorities wrong. Instead of education it is spending more on defence. The result is there for everyone to see.

(The writer is a senior editor, columnist and former MP)

May life be as colorful..

Dr. Laxman Sahoo



The world of two days, the voice of two days. I came alone, I will go alone. What kind of pride and arrogance is there in such a small life. We do not know where we were before birth and where we will go after death! Whatever is left to us today, why not live each day with enthusiasm, laughter, happiness. Here we all belong, no one is a stranger. All are ours, our own. No one is bad if seen with an open and honest heart. Sometimes the eclipse of grief becomes so deep that even our own people begin to appear as painful enemies. On the other hand, when the full moon of happiness comes, even strangers begin to look like our very own people. All these people are the real color of our life. Life seems dull without them. If we see,

there is no sorrow in anyone's life. Truth is that happiness and sadness are an integral part of life. That is why the joy of being with loved ones is not found anywhere else. Those are the moments when we feel alone. It cannot be that we are lying on our deathbeds. There is a lot of pain and suffering from not living our lives properly in the past. Even insects are living like living. But isn't that the price of living? True happiness celebrates living a whole life in one moment. In the end, whether we have anything or not, this color of happiness must remain. Very few people are blessed with the color of happiness in the Holi of life. Moments filled with rainbow colors not only enhance the beauty of our lives, but also fill us with new energy. Each color wants to tell us something. Want to talk to us. Want to hug us. If white color spreads in life then happiness and peace spread all around. There will be no enmity with anyone or quarrel with anyone. The red

color on the face fills a kind of energy. Everything seems amazing. Start believing in yourself. With that faith, we begin to win the hearts of others. The greenness of the potential increases. This greenness comes like happiness in the desert of sadness that pervades our lives. It is from this that the goodness and healing qualities of the banana leaves are derived from the pure yellow. As the yolk of goodness is spread from one hand to the other, evil thoughts

automatically disappear. No color is good or bad. It is not right to entertain such an idea about colour. Each color has a significant purpose. Of course, a man can have bad thoughts. But it is foolish to divide colors in the name of religion or caste. Know the color of the person well once, try not to be the color of the person. Practitioners of Dharma have answers for everything. They can tell if the color of blood is red, then what is the color of pain. It is

difficult to say what color the black color on the paper evokes in the mind. It is even more difficult to perceive. So it is meaningless to associate the color green or saffron with any religion. It is necessary to finish the division of such colors. Everyone on earth sees the green in the green crops and the saffron in the fire of the clay oven. Everyone sees white, yellow and other colors in grains, whatever they see, their life is seen. The color of each grain is dear.

So they want to live again in their deep thoughts, feelings, visions. While some people have never experienced it, they don't want to relive any of the past. They do not feel that there is no shortage of problems in life. There were problems then and there are still problems. Everyone has and will have their own problems. They no longer seem as complicated as they are today. Today they do not seem small because we are standing so far

away. If we learn this fine art of judgment, no sorrow will affect us as much as it does. All colors of life are divided into happiness and sadness. This saffron color of life should be kept in mind. At each stop we meet different guides. Every time we feel it is happening for the first time. Then the same cycle repeats itself throughout life. So we should try to live life with enthusiasm. We should never be under the illusion that colors have their own existence by understanding, sharing and enjoying its voice. Nothing in this world has color. Our five elements water, air, sky, earth and fire are all colourless. Even the things we see are colorless. Color exists only in light. That light is nothing but our feeling of happiness, hope, brotherhood, love, harmony, unity and world brotherhood. This is the real existence of light color. There is great joy in not keeping it to yourself, but in sharing it with others. As many

festivals as there are in the world, there is no substitute for the spring festival of Holi. Such a festival of life is full of joy. This festival is the visitation of Shrikrishna's Gopalila to the festival. In this, Radha Damodar's gopis with the color throwing Holi game carries the memory of Rasalila described in Srimad Bhagavat. That is why if you want to add the happy colors of Holi to your life, then you have to change your thinking first. A true person is a person who sees only his own happiness in everyone's happiness and his own sadness in everyone's sadness. The happiness of making all yours and making yourself all yours cannot be found anywhere in the world. That's why Kabir said, 'Lali Mere Lal Ki, Jit Ocho Tit Lal'. Means I went to see red and got red....!!! # Principal & Senior columnist, Mahanadi Vihar Women's Degree College, Cuttack - 9040151475



PM with the King of Bhutan, Mr. Jigme Khesar Namgyel Wangchuck at Thimphu, in Bhutan

"Privileged Pedigree Has Disappeared": Vice President's Dig At Opposition

New Delhi(KCN): In an apparent dig at the opposition and dynastic politics, Vice President Jagdeep Dhankhar today said democratic values blossom when there is equality before the law and where there is no patronage, favouritism, or nepotism.

Speaking at the NDTV Indian Of The Year awards, Mr Dhankhar said, "Democratic values optimally blossom and flourish when there is equality before the law when there is transparent and accountable governance, and where



patronage, favouritism, and nepotism have no space. There was a time when these three pernicious tendencies dominated our workings. But that is a matter of the past." "The privileged pedigree has disappeared

and those who thought they were more equal than the others have realised this to their pain, he asserted. "The privileged pedigree has disappeared. Equality before the law is the writing on the wall. Those

who thought they were immune to the law, above the law, are different than others, have realised it to their pain. What can be a greater pain to the human soul and the young people in a democracy that some people are greater than others and they are more privileged? That system has gone."

The remarks are significant at a time when the country's political discourse is seeing an impassioned debate between the ruling BJP and the Opposition over parivarvaad, or dynastic politics.

'Silkyara Saviours' Win India's Heroes Award. They Recollect Daring Rescue

New Delhi(KCN): A group of men who rescued 41 workers trapped inside a collapsed tunnel in Uttarakhand were honoured with NDTV's India's Heroes Award.

The workers inside the tunnel in Uttarakhand's Silkyara had been trapped for 17 days, and some of the world's best experts and equipment had failed to make any progress - until these men came with basic tools and started digging, using an outlawed technique known as "rat-hole mining". They are the Silkyara Saviours.

The men honoured with the award are Vakeel Hasan, Munna Qureshi, Nasheen Md, Rasheed Md Eshaad, Feroz, Naseerudin, and Kalimullah.

"It was God's blessing and the wishes of 144 crore people of India that made this rescue mission a success," the Uttarakhand rescue heroes said. "What can a human do alone? It was the love and encouragement that gave



us the strength," they said.

On whether at any point during the rescue operation they felt they wouldn't be able to make it, considering the huge challenge they faced, Munna Qureshi said his friend Vakeel Hasan called him to say 41 people are trapped under a tunnel and we need to do something fast.

"I didn't know about it. We work hard for a living, take care of family, and get no time to see the news. Then bhaiyan said 41 people need to be rescued. Big,

big machines have failed. I asked him to send us a video of the condition, which he did," Mr Qureshi said.

"I saw the video and told him, yes, we can rescue them. Our whole team got ready. When we reached the site later, we figured it would take 24 to 36 hours. But these days people believe more in diploma than in experience," he added. An American auger machine had failed to cut through the debris blocking the escape path for the 41 workers. Mr Qureshi and his team

then used the rat-hole mining technique, which involves one man drilling, another collecting the rubble, and the third placing it on a trolley to be pulled out. They were not rat-hole miners, but knew the technique, the Uttarakhand government's nodal officer Neeraj Khairwal had said.

The NDTV Indian of the Year Awards honour people who have displayed foresight, embraced uniqueness, and redefined the essence of being a true Indian.

AAP Seeks Urgent Appointment With Poll Panel For "Level Playing Field"



New Delhi(KCN): The Aam Aadmi Party has sought an urgent appointment with the Election Commission to ensure a level playing field in the Lok Sabha elections, Delhi Minister Atishi said on Saturday. Ms Atishi claimed that despite the representation made to the Election Commission (EC) by the INDIA bloc leaders on Friday, the Income Tax department conducted a raid on an AAP MLA and that the party office had been sealed in the national capital.

In a post on X, Ms Atishi said, "The Aam Aadmi Party has sought an urgent appointment with the Election Commission, to ensure a level playing field in the Lok Sabha elections. Despite the representation made yesterday. Today, the

Aam Aadmi Party office was sealed. Lok Sabha candidates and party leaders could not come to the party office for campaign meetings. There was an IT Dept raid on the home of one of our MLAs. It is the responsibility given by the Indian Constitution to the @ECISVEEP to ensure a level playing field."

.@AamAadmiParty has sought an urgent appointment with the Election Commission, to ensure a level playing field in the Lok Sabha elections. Despite the representation made yesterday, today @AamAadmiParty office was sealed. Lok Sabha candidates and party leaders could not come to... pic.twitter.com/cqb6V8QTSM

Following the arrest of Delhi Chief Minister Arvind Kejriwal, the INDIA bloc on Friday submitted a memorandum to the Election Commission of India urging its intervention in the "targeting of opposition leaders" by the ruling Bharatiya Janata Party through the "misuse of central agencies".

The representation to the EC was made by Congress General Secretary KC Venugopal, Abhishek Singhvi, NCP (SCP) leader Jitendra Awhad, CPI (M) leader Sitaram Yechury, TMC MP Derek O'Brien and several other leaders. The INDIA bloc in its memorandum, has urged the poll body to ensure that any further raids, investigations, and arrests are first

vetted and approved by the Commission or a committee set up under it.

It also urged the EC to take immediate action, including the launch of investigations against all those individuals and officers who have misused their offices to harass the leaders of the opposition.

"Take any other steps necessary to ensure the constitutional mandate of a level playing field and to prevent political parties in power from misusing the State machinery against the leaders and political parties contesting elections in a democratic setup," the memorandum submitted to the poll body read.

Delhi Chief Minister Kejriwal was arrested after he skipped multiple summons by the investigation agency, nine in total, calling them "illegal". He has been remanded to ED custody till March 28.

The case pertains to alleged irregularities and money laundering in framing and implementing the Delhi Excise Policy 2022, which was later scrapped.

Man Caught While Fleeing With Mobile Phone Near Niti Aayog In Delhi: Cops

New Delhi(KCN): A 30-year-old man was caught red-handed while fleeing with the mobile phone of a woman near Niti Aayog in the Parliament Street area, police said on Saturday.

According to police, the incident took place outside the main gate of Niti Ayog on Friday afternoon.

Deputy Commissioner of Police (New Delhi) Devesh Kumar Mahla said the victim, Sheetal, along with her husband and friend, was crossing the road in front of Niti Aayog when they were pounced on by a snatcher.

The accused, later identified as Asif, snatched Sheetal's phone and was trying to flee when the



three chased him down, he said. The snatcher again ran after hitting Sheetal, however, the entire commotion was noticed by Assistant Commissioner of Police Abhinendra Jain, who was passing from the street in his along with Assistant sub-inspector Ravinder and head

constable Sukhveer. "They immediately acted and arrested Asif from the spot and recovered the mobile phone," Mr Mahla said. The local police were called and Jain, who is posted in the south district, handed him over to them.

The whole act was caught in a CCTV

camera installed at the main gate of Niti Aayog, police said. During interrogation, Asif told police that he was accompanied by his associate Mohammad Shahbaz, who managed to escape. Mohammad Shahbaz was later arrested from east Delhi at Asif's instance.

2 Day National Seminar of Economics Department concludes at CUO

KORAPUT, (KCN): The 2 day National Seminar on, 'Contemporary Research and Methods in Social Sciences' organized by the Dept. of Economics, Central University of Odisha, Koraput successfully concluded today at the CUO campus with the Valedictory Session deliberations and award of certificates to the participants. The dais featured Prof Chakradhar Tripathi, Hon'ble Vice-Chancellor, CUO; Prof. Prashant Ku. Panda from Pondicherry University, Prof Minaketan Behera from Jawaharlal Nehru

University, New Delhi, and Dr. Minati Sahoo, Head, Dep't of Economics & Convener of the seminar. Dr. Minati Sahoo started the proceedings by reading out the report of the 2-day national seminar. She reported that the seminar was enriched by four special invited talks on various aspects of social science research by Prof. Prashant Kumar Panda and Prof. Minaketan Behera. Dr Sahoo also informed that 31 papers were presented in the seminar in two days. The papers were presented by Faculty members,



research scholars, and PG students which would be published as a seminar proceeds. Prof. Chakradhar Tripathi felicitated the

experts and thanked them for traveling to CUO, Koraput, and sharing their knowledge. He emphasized that research methods in

social science should be deliberated upon as the role of the Economics department is to research how to develop the economy of the country. Prof. Tripathi also contextually mentioned

Koutilya and the contemporary relevance of Arthashastra. Prof. Tripathi laid stress on the importance of interdisciplinary and collaborative research in social sciences.

Prof. Prashant Panda in his address described Koraput as a laboratory of social science research due to the variety of socio-economic profile of the place. He emphasized the various ethical dimensions of research and cautioned the researchers about the consequences of ethical practice. Prof. Behera stressed the collection of primary data and the use of modern software to analyze the data. Both the experts lauded the efforts of the Dep't of Economics especially the efforts of the convener, Dr. Minati Sahoo for organizing a fruitful seminar.

An edited book titled, 'Sustainable Environment & Agriculture: An Indian Perspective' was released by the VC, CUO and guests on this occasion. It is edited by Dr. Minati Sahoo, Dr. Prasant Kumar Behera, and Mr Biswajit Bhoi, all three Faculty members of the Dep't of Economics. The session concluded with a formal vote of thanks by Dr. Prasant Kumar Behera, Assistant Professor, and followed by a Cultural Function of students. The national seminar saw wide participation from Faculty, Officers, staff, research scholars, and students of the CUO.

Shri R S Gopalan, Commissioner-cum-Secretary, Labour & ESI Deptt has inaugurated Industrial Safety & Accident Prevention at NTPC Kaniha



Kaniha, (KCN): One day Safety Seminar on "Industrial Safety & Accident Prevention" was organized at NTPC Kaniha Premises on 22.03.2024. This program was organized by Directorate of Factories & Boilers, Govt of Odisha in association with M/s Institute of Quality and Environment Management Services Pvt. Ltd. More than 300 participants of various industries of Angul and Dhenkanal District participated in the program. Shri. AK Sehgal, Head of Plant of NTPC Kaniha welcomed all

distinguished guest and thanked the Directorate of Factories & Boilers, Govt of Odisha for choosing NTPC-Kaniha as the venue to host the safety seminar in NTPC Kaniha which will increase the sensitivity towards safety by industry professional. Shri R. S. Gopalan, IAS, Commissioner-cum-Secretary, Labour & ESI Deptt., Odisha was the Chief Guest, who joined virtually and address the gathering with giving inputs of fatal accident statistics and various accident prevention measures taken by the

Directorate of Factories & Boilers, Govt of Odisha, and Shri. Sudip Nag, Regional Executive Director, NTPC Ltd (Eastern Region I&II) also joined virtually and gave his thoughts on the importance of safety in industries. Shri. Niranjana Jena, Deputy Secretary, Labour & ESI Deptt along with Dr. Malay Kumar Pradhan, Deputy Director Factories & Boilers (Safety), Bhubaneswar were also present during the program and enlightened the importance of safety with changing times. Dr. Ramesh Kumar

Behera, Deputy Director Factories & Boilers, Angul Division, coordinated the program along with his team comprising Shri Manoja Kumar Mishra, Assistant Director Factories & Boilers, Angul, Zone-I and Shri. Madhab Chandra Mallik, Assistant Director Factories & Boilers, Angul, Zone-II. Various renowned faculties from IQEMS gave lecture on subject matter like Mental Stress, Behavioral, Safe workplace for Women and other safety topics which was highly appreciated by all the participants. The program was ended with Vote of thanks given by Shri Ch. Satya Rama Krishna, GM(O&M) in which he also appreciated the program and said such program is need of hour time to meet golden "Zero Harm" target.

Four flight trials of 'ABHYAS' conducted successfully at Odisha's Chandipur by DRDO




Balasore (KCN): Four flight trials of high-speed expendable aerial target 'ABHYAS' were successfully carried out by the DRDO from the Integrated Test Range at Odisha's Chandipur between January 30 and February 2, official sources said. The trials were conducted with four different mission objectives in a revised robust configuration using a single booster designed by Advanced Systems Laboratory, Hyderabad to provide reduced launch

acceleration, they said. The objectives such as the safe release of the booster, launcher clearance and attaining the required end of launch velocity were achieved. During the flight trials, various parameters such as required endurance, speed, manoeuvrability, altitude and range were successfully validated. Designed by the Defence Research and Development Organisation's Aeronautical Development Establishment (ADE),

ABHYAS offers a realistic threat scenario for the practice of weapon systems, the sources said. It is designed for autonomous flying with the help of an auto pilot indigenously made by the ADE. It has radar cross-section, visual and infrared augmentation system required for weapon practice. ABHYAS has a laptop-based ground control system with which the aircraft can be integrated and pre-flight checks, data recording during the

flight, replay after the flight and post-flight analysis can be carried out. It requires minimum logistics and is cost-effective compared to imported equivalents, they said. The systems tested recently were realised through production agencies Hindustan Aeronautics Limited (HAL) and Larsen & Toubro (L&T) Defence. With identified production agencies, ABHYAS is ready for production. The system has export potential and can be offered to friendly countries, they added. Defence Minister Rajnath Singh has congratulated the DRDO, the armed forces and the defence industry for the successful flight trial of ABHYAS. DRDO chairman Samir V Kamat appreciated the efforts of the teams associated in the design, development and testing of the system.



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Add a Healthy Twist to Holi: Make Almonds Your Go-To Festive Snack

Bhubaneswar (KCN): Holi is a joyous festival celebrated with vibrant colours, symbolizing the spirit of togetherness as families and friends unite in cheerful gatherings. During this festive occasion, exchanging gifts and relishing delicious meals with loved ones are cherished traditions. However, amidst the festivities, it's crucial to exercise caution against overindulging in unhealthy snacks and foods, recognizing their potential long-term impact on our health. Therefore, practicing mindfulness while celebrating Holi becomes imperative. Incorporating a handful of almonds into your diet during this time can enhance taste as well as provide essential health benefits, ensuring a balanced and enjoyable celebration.

Almonds, rich in 15

essential nutrients like vitamin E, magnesium, protein, riboflavin, and zinc, are renowned for their ability to provide numerous health benefits, including supporting heart health, managing weight, and regulating blood sugar levels. Incorporating these powerhouse nuts into Holi celebrations can elevate the festivities. Whether presented as gifts, incorporated into traditional recipes, or enjoyed as snacks, almonds symbolize prosperity and well-being. Their delicious taste and satisfying crunch enhance the flavors of various Holi dishes, from sweet gujiya to savory almond chaat. Moreover, gifting almonds expresses good wishes for health and happiness. By embracing almonds in Holi festivities,

everyone can enhance the joy of the occasion while embracing a healthier lifestyle.

Sharing thoughts on the celebration of Holi, Bollywood actress, Soha Ali Khan said, "Like everyone else, I cherish celebrating Holi with my loved ones. I love hosting Holi parties at home, where family gathers to indulge in festive delicacies. As a tradition, I always prepare healthy almond brittle for my family, a delightful fusion of taste and nutrition. This dessert not only enhances our enjoyment of the festival but also promotes overall health by providing a healthier alternative to sugary treats."

Ritika Samaddar, the Regional Head-Dietetics, Max Healthcare – Delhi said, "During Holi celebrations, making mindful choices about snacks can significantly impact our health. Opting



for nutritious options like almonds instead of unhealthy snacks not only adds to the festive spirit but also enhances our well-being. Almonds, loaded with good fats and proteins, are an ideal addition to any weight-loss plan, providing satiety and valuable nutrition. Moreover, studies suggest that incorporating almonds into our daily diet may help reduce dyslipidemia, a critical risk factor for

cardiovascular disease. This highlights the importance of including almonds in our Holi festivities. By savoring Holi delicacies mindfully and enjoying the sensory experience with a handful of almonds, my family and I not only celebrate the joy of the festival but also prioritize our health."

Speaking about how to maintain skin health during Holi, Skin Expert and Cosmetologist, Dr.

Geetika Mittal Gupta said, "It is crucial to take precautions during the festival of Holi due to its vibrant colors and festive spirit, which can potentially harm the skin. Synthetic dyes used in the festival often contain harsh chemicals, leading to irritation, dryness, and allergic reactions, particularly in sensitive skin types. My advice is to gently cleanse the skin post-celebrations with a mild, hydrating cleanser

to remove color traces and sweat without stripping away natural oils. Additionally, I recommend moisturizing the skin thoroughly and staying hydrated by drinking plenty of water to restore hydration levels and promote skin healing. Furthermore, I suggest incorporating a handful of almonds into the diet, as they are rich in vitamin E, copper, zinc, and polyphenols, which can contribute to improving skin health." Sheela Krishnaswamy, Nutrition and Wellness Consultant said, "Almonds serve as a meaningful and auspicious gift during festivals and special occasions, embodying the care and concern of the gift giver for their loved ones. Not only are almonds a thoughtful gesture, but they are also a nutritional powerhouse, packed with essential nutrients like protein, fiber, and healthy fats, making them a valuable

addition to any diet. Regular consumption of almonds has been associated with improved heart health, as they can help lower cholesterol levels and reduce the risk of heart disease. Furthermore, almonds are rich in antioxidants, vitamins, and minerals, which contribute to overall well-being and support a healthy immune system. Therefore, I prefer to gift my family and friends something that promotes fitness during these festive occasions, and that is where almonds come to my rescue."

Fitness Expert and Celebrity Master Instructor, Yasmin Karachiwalasaid, "During festivals like Holi, where physical activity may decrease due to socializing, almonds can be a valuable addition to maintain cardiovascular health and overall well-being.

Ashok Leyland launches industry first 8-wheel truck – AVTR 2620

Chennai: Ashok Leyland, flagship of the Hinduja Group and India's leading commercial vehicle manufacturer, today, launched the industry first 8 wheeler truck – AVTR 2620. With this launch of AVTR 2620, Ashok Leyland becomes the first and only player in the country to have a full range of trucks based on lift axle technology from GVW of 25.5 to 47.5T. This new product can be operated as 25.5 T (6x2) truck with the lift axle down (offering

payload closer to regular 6x2 MAV truck) and a 4x2 truck (18.5T GVW) with lift axle up (lower fuel and operating cost similar to 4x2) during light load/partial load/return empty. This new product thus offers an excellent operational flexibility to customers to choose the option based on their load, offering best-in-class Total Cost of Operation (TCO) benefits.

Speaking on the occasion, Mr. Sanjeev Kumar, Head - M&HCV, Ashok Leyland, said, "Ashok

Leyland has a history of introducing products which have disrupted the CV industry. AVTR 2620 with its unique lift axle configuration offers higher TCO advantage to our customers operating in Ecom, Parcel & tanker. AVTR 2620 is a testament of Ashok Leyland's technological prudence & our commitment towards providing better logistical solutions to our customers, aligning with our philosophy of AppkiJeet, HamariJeet."

Union Bank of India signs MOU with SIDBI for Co-Financing arrangement of MSMEs

Mumbai : Union Bank of India today signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with Small Industries Development Bank of India (SIDBI) for a Co-Financing arrangement for MSMEs. The MoU was signed by Shri Lal Singh, Chief General Manager, Union Bank of India and Shri Vivek Kumar Malhotra, Chief General Manager, SIDBI. SIDBI is country's principal financial institution

engaged in the Promotion, Financing and Development of Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises (MSME). Under the MoU, Union Bank of India would consider Joint financing/ Co-Financing with SIDBI to Projects/Units in the MSME. This MoU would help the Banks to increase their customer base, while helping the MSMEs to meet their funding requirements. The key highlights of the arrangement include joint

identification of viable projects and term loan and working capital financing to MSMEs. Initially the arrangement would be at specific centers and once the arrangement stabilizes at these centers, more locations would be covered. Speaking on the occasion, Shri Lal Singh, CGM (MSME), Union Bank of India, said "MSME is one of the key sectors of our Indian Economy contributing to GDP,

Exports, Manufacturing Output, Employment, Women Empowerment etc. MSME is one of the focused areas of the Bank and at Union Bank of India, we aim to become Bank of 1st choice for MSMEs. This tie-up with SIDBI aids in realizing the Bank's vision to have increased credit flow to the MSME sector and extend operational convenience to the MSME clientele. Under partnership, Union Bank of India through its Pan

India branch network can provide general Banking products like Current Accounts, Savings Accounts, Working Capital facilities and other related services to the MSME Customers of SIDBI."

Also, speaking on the tie-up arrangement, Shri Vivek Kumar Malhotra, CGM, SIDBI reiterated SIDBI's commitment towards timely financing for MSMEs across all sectors.

Kansai Nerolac Paints Ltd. placed in Leadership position in CRISIL's Sustainability Yearbook, 2022

Mumbai: In recognition of its relentless commitment towards sustainability and the environment, Kansai Nerolac Paints Ltd (KNPL) has been placed in the 'Leadership' category in the CRISIL Sustainability Yearbook 2022. The company is one among the only 14 companies that have been placed in this category for their ESG initiatives. Further, Kansai Nerolac Paints Ltd has earned the highest ESG score amongst paint and manufacturing companies. This recognition further reinforces the company's commitment towards nurturing a beautiful and healthy world for future generations.

The CRISIL

Sustainability Yearbook is one of the most comprehensive annual publications based on CRISIL's proprietary ESG framework on Indian companies. Analyzing over 575 companies across 53 sectors in India based on data, from the fiscal data from 2021, the Yearbook covers the latest global and domestic developments in the ESG space, incorporation of climate risks by global financial institutions, decarbonization of hard-to-abate sectors in India, implications of transitioning from BRR to BRSR for Indian companies and showcases insights on ESG trends based on the scores and data of the Indian companies.

Commenting on the

achievement, Mr. Anuj Jain, Managing Director, Kansai Nerolac Paints Ltd. said, "We are elated to be placed in the 'Leadership' position in the CRISIL Sustainability Yearbook 2022. This report is a testament to our commitment towards sustainability. At Nerolac, sustainability is at the forefront of all our operations to deliver value to our stakeholders. ESG continues to remain a priority and that has helped us create a positive impact on our communities and the environment. We will continue increasing our ESG efforts as we focus on growing our business sustainably.

Statement by State Bank of India

Mumbai : Shri Vijay Kumar, Branch Manager, Arreah branch of Ellaquai Dehati Bank (EBD), a Srinagar-headquartered Regional Rural Bank sponsored by SBI was shot dead today in the branch premises by a terrorist. Vijay Kumar, who belonged to

Rajasthan, was just 29 years old and had joined EDB in March 2019.

Vijay Kumar was one of many such bankers hailing from different parts of the country, who are working in the Kashmir Valley and other difficult places to ensure delivery of

uninterrupted banking services to the public. SBI, as the sponsor of Ellaquai Dehati Bank, remains committed to ensure the safety and well-being of all its employees, including those posted in the Valley.

Unacademy produces 178 Rankers for UPSC CSE 2021

Bhubaneswar: Unacademy, India's largest learning platform*, today announced that 178 out of 685 rank holders of UPSC CSE 2021 are Unacademy Learners. Among the top rankers from the Unacademy platform are Gamini Singla (AIR - 3), Aishwarya Verma (AIR - 4), Utkarsh Dwivedi (AIR - 5) and Yaksh Chaudhary (AIR - 6). 3 Learners have secured ranks between 1-5, 32 have secured ranks from 6-100 and 143 have secured AIRs from 101-685.

From the 178 Rankers, 45 Learners were Unacademy's Plus/ Iconic subscribers guided by India's Top Educators. The other rankers were guided by Unacademy's Last Mile Programme for UPSC CSE 2021 Interview. Last Mile Programme is an interview guidance program for the last stage of the UPSC CSE exam that helps Learners who have qualified the Mains exam to crack the Personal Interview stage. The questions are asked by retired bureaucrats, former UPSC members and Top Educators in a mock set-up. In last year's Unacademy's Interview Guidance Program 170+ Rankers qualified the Interview stage by securing AIR 2.

Blue Dart signs the UNFCCC Climate Neutral Now Pledge

Bhubaneswar: Blue Dart, South Asia's premier express air and integrated transportation & distribution company and a part of the Deutsche Post DHL (DPDHL) Group has signed the 'Climate Neutral Now' (CNN) pledge by the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC). The pledge highlights the organisation's commitment

to ambitious CO2 reduction targets. Deutsche Post DHL Group has adopted a package of measures worth up to ₹7 billion to reduce its greenhouse gas emissions by 2030 in line with the Paris Climate Agreement, primarily to expand the use of sustainable technologies and fuels in its fleets and buildings. Its long term goal is to reduce GHG emissions to net zero by

2050. The Climate Neutral Now Initiative encourages and supports interested stakeholders to act now in order to achieve a climate neutral world by 2050 as enshrined in the Paris Agreement. The initiative is a tool to promote voluntary action on climate change. Blue Dart has already invested extensively in remaining a Sustainable Provider of Choice by being the first

in the industry to set quantified carbon-reduction targets. The organisation, as a part of the Deutsche Post DHL Group aimed to increase their CO2 efficiency by 10% by the year 2012 and 30% by the year 2020. Against the 30% target, Blue Dart achieved a 34% CO2 efficiency in 2021. Pablo Ciano, EVP Corporate Development, DPDHL Group says, "As a Group, we have

of the impact of COVID-19. The report quotes the International Energy Agency (IEA) stating that during FY21 recovery in electricity demand from the COVID-19 pandemic was faster and stronger in India than in EU countries.

India is the third-largest producer and the third-largest consumer of electricity in the world. With the increasing population, electricity demand is rising at a fast clip and India has improved its power generation capacity over the years. India has added more than 500 billion units until FY22 from FY10.

developed a Sustainability Roadmap that supports the UN's Sustainable Development Goals. We are constantly working towards introducing innovative green logistics solutions that improve our carbon footprint. I am delighted to share that representing the DHL eCommerce Solutions Division in India, Blue Dart has been delivering high on its sustainability initiatives.

