

# Afghanistan's floods: PM Modi lashes out at Congress over Death toll exceeds to 330 Ram mandir 'purification' remarks



**Kabul, May 11(KCN)** : More than 330 people have been killed as rainstorms and flash floods hit major parts of the provinces of Baghlan, Takhar, Badakhshan and Ghor of Afghanistan, according to the Afghanistan office of the World Food Programme and local Afghan officials, Xinhua news agency reported.

The UN agency said Saturday on social media that more than 300 people have been killed in northern Baghlan province alone, with more than 1,000 houses destroyed. "WFP is now distributing fortified biscuits to the survivors," it said. Local officials said on Saturday that at least 160 people have been killed and 117 others injured as

rainstorms and flash floods hit major parts of the provinces of Baghlan, Takhar, Badakhshan and Ghorn of war-ravaged Afghanistan. Afghanistan has been experiencing heavy rain and floods in the past month, leading to casualties and property damage (IANS).

**Bargarh(KCN):** Prime Minister Narendra Modi Saturday lashed out at Congress over remarks on the “purification” of the Ram mandir by the senior Congress leader Nana Patole.

Addressing a huge public meeting at Odisha’s Bargarh Lok Sabha constituency, PM claimed that after President Droupadi Murmu offered prayers at the Ram temple in Ayodhya, a senior Congress leader held a press conference and sought purification of the temple.

“This is an insult to the President, tribals, women and the country as a whole. Congress has no right to remain in politics. All Congress candidates must lose their deposits,” he said

He said that the BJP made a tribal daughter of Odisha the President of India but the Congress and its allies are



repeatedly disrespecting President Murmu. “President Droupadi Murmu recently visited Ram mandir. She offered puja inside the sanctum sanctorum of the Ram mandir. She sought the blessings of Ram Lalla for the well-being of the country. On the next day, one of the Congress leaders said that Ram mandir would be purified with Ganga water. Isn’t this an insult to the country, mothers and sisters and the whole

tribal society?" PM Modi asked. He also urged the people to "punish" Congress for the disrespect to President Murmu by making the party's candidates lose their deposits in every Lok Sabha and Assembly seat for disrespecting President Droupadi Murmu. PM Modi also said Congress is trying to snatch away the rights of SC/ST or OBCs by backstabbing the Constitution. He termed

himself as the “Chowkidar” of the rights of all the poor and deprived people of the country. PM Modi told the gathering that everyone should remain alert from the Congress Party. “Congress wants to snatch away the reservation rights of ST/SC and OBC and give it to its vote bank. No one has the power to backstab the Constitution when a tribal daughter is holding

the highest constitutional position and your Pradhan Sevak who belongs to a backward caste, holds the Prime Minister's post. Modi won't allow anyone to snatch the rights of ST/SC and OBC," said PM Modi.

Referring to senior Congress leader Rahul Gandhi, Prime Minister Modi said that nowadays Congress's "Prince" is now talking about the Constitution but he tore it into pieces during a press meeting. He stated that this is not only an insult to the Cabinet and Indian government but to the Constitution itself.

PM Modi further asserted that the Congress will get less number of seats than the age of its "Prince" Rahul Gandhi this time and will also lose the recognised opposition party status in the Parliament.

# People of disputed Kotia likely to cast votes in both Odisha, Andhra Pradesh polls May 13

**Kotia(KCN):** Armed with two voter cards issued by two states, over 5,500 electors of the disputed Kotia region are eligible to exercise their franchise in both Odisha and Andhra Pradesh elections in the fourth phase May 13. Twenty-one of the 28 villages of the picturesque Kotia cluster are claimed by both states and a case over the dispute has been pending with the Supreme Court since 1968. Due to the dispute, residents of Kotia get the best of both worlds since they have Aadhaar and ration cards issued by both states and receive the benefits of schemes announced by the two governments. “I will vote in both states.



While the Andhra Pradesh booth is nearer, the one established by Odisha for our village is at Ransingti, and to reach there we have to trek a few miles. Nevertheless, we will participate in polls of both states,” Tamal Kanaya, a resident of Tadivalsa village, said.

“We are not bothered about the dispute between the two states. We vote in both states because we benefit from the schemes of both,” said Gamel Chinmoyee, another villager.

Lok Sabha and assembly

elections will be held simultaneously in both Odisha and Andhra Pradesh. When contacted, Odisha's Chief Electoral Officer Nikunj Bihari Dhal said, "The issue of dual voting in Kotia has not come to my attention. No one has made any formal or informal complaint so far." Requesting anonymity, an official of Odisha's Koraput district confirmed that the people of Kotia cast votes in elections of both AP and Odisha.

"An individual has two names in voter and Aadhaar cards provided by the two states. Suppose, a man who is known as Parameswar Gamel in Odisha is named G Parameswar in his Andhra cards," he said. Altogether 5,502 voters, including 2,913 women, reside in 21 of the 28 villages of Kotia. They cast their votes in all elections — from panchayat to Lok Sabha — in both Odisha and Andhra Pradesh. Odisha has designated nine polling stations in the area, while Andhra Pradesh has three in this year's election, officials said. Political campaigns have been scant from Odisha parties, with visits mainly from Andhra's TDP and YSR Congress candidates.

"No party from Odisha has come to our village; we don't even know the candidates. However, TDP and YSR Congress candidates from Andhra have visited our village," said Kamati Gamel of Arajuwalasa.

Kotia falls under Koraput (ST) Lok Sabha constituency in Odisha and Araku (ST) Lok Sabha seat in Andhra Pradesh. The Koraput Lok Sabha seat is held by the Congress, while Araku is represented by the YSR Congress.

The main occupation of the villagers is farming on the slopes of the Eastern Ghats, while several others sell minor forest produce like broomsticks, tamarind and bamboo for livelihood.

**New Delhi (KCN):** Prime Minister Narendra Modi and Odisha Chief Minister Naveen Patnaik are “two sides of the same coin”, Congress general secretary Jairam Ramesh said Saturday, accusing the BJP and the BJD of being ‘in cahoots’ with each other.

Modi is on a two-day poll campaign tour of Odisha and will address three rallies in the state on Saturday. Lok Sabha and assembly elections are being held simultaneously in Odisha.

Attacking the Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) and the Biju Janata Dal (BJD), Ramesh said the Odisha party has bailed out the Modi government on a number of occasions in Parliament.

“Na-veen and Na-rendra are two sides of the same coin. Why is the PM lying about his party’s ‘relationship status’ with the BJD?” Ramesh said in a statement which he shared on X.

He said the seat-sharing talks between the BJP and the BJD earlier this year only confirmed what was already known. “Despite officially claiming to be in opposition, the two parties are in cahoots with each other,” Ramesh said.

“In the last 10 years, the BJD’s MPs in the Lok Sabha and the Rajya Sabha have bailed out the Modi sarkar (government) on every contentious Bill, including on No-Confidence Motions. The BJD even supported the Rajya Sabha candidature of BJP leader Ashwini Vaishnav, who didn’t have enough BJP MLA voters to get elected,” the Congress leader said.

Ramesh said the BJP in return has spared them the



“bullying and intimidation” which opposition-ruled states face.

“For its part, the Modi sarkar has spared the BJD all the bullying and intimidation that it usually reserves for opposition states – there has been no onslaught of ED-CBI enquiries and raids, and no meddling by the Raj Bhawan. Can the PM come clean on his party’s association with the BJD? Is this a marriage or is it a partnership?” he asked.

“Will the PM apologise for misleading the people of the state by having his party sit in the opposition ranks while colluding with the ruling BJD?” he added.

The Congress leader also mentioned the 2023 Balasore train accident and accused the government of not taking any corrective actions after that.

“Why has nothing changed after the Balasore train accident? 293 people were killed and over 1,000 injured in the horrific collision of three trains in Balasore last year. While three railway officials were eventually held responsible, one can hardly absolve the central government of their role in this mishap,” he said.

He claimed that the railways is struggling with high staff vacancies

and, in a reply to an RTI, it admitted there were 2.74 lakh vacancies, including 1.7 lakh vacancies in the safety category. The Congress has promised to fill vacancies in 30 lakh government jobs, Ramesh said.

“A similar accident had occurred in May 2022 due to improper wiring and a cable fault, but the railway ministry did not implement any corrective measures. The Modi sarkar clearly has blood on their hands. After a disaster of this scale, why are staff vacancies still rampant in the railways?” he said.

Ramesh, who was Union environment minister during the Congress-led UPA government, also accused the BJP of diluting forest rights of tribal communities.

He said rights given to tribal communities under the Forest Rights Act passed by the United Progressive Alliance (UPA) government in 2006 were undone when the Modi government introduced the Forest Conservation Amendment Act last year.

“The new Act undermines the Forest Rights Act of 2006, doing away with provisions for the consent of local communities and other statutory requirements for forest clearance in vast areas. The intention, of course, is to hand over our forests to the prime minister’s corporate friends,” Ramesh added.

# Punjabi poet Padma Shri Surjit Patar passes away

**Chandigarh (JAG MOHAN THAKEN), May 11:** Eminent Punjabi poet and writer, Dr Surjit Patar passed away at the age of 79 on Saturday in Ludhiana. Born on January 14, 1945, Patar belonged to the village Pattar Kalan in Jalandhar district, from where he got his pen name Surjit Patar. Dr Patar served as a professor of Punjabi at Punjab Agricultural University, Ludhiana, where he embarked on his journey in Punjabi literature. He was awarded the Padma Shri in 2012. But following the farm agitation in 2020, Dr. Patar announced in December his decision to return the civilian honour in solidarity with protesting farmers at



Delhi borders against the now-repealed farm laws. Expressing grief over the demise of Dr Surjit Patar, Punjab Chief Minister Bhagwant Mann wrote on his X account, "Deeply saddened by the sudden loss of a proud son of Punjabi language, Surjit Patar." He said that it is an irreplaceable loss for our mother tongue Punjabi and today there is a stillness in the Punjabi language community. Chief Minister Bhagwant Mann often quotes his poetry during his speeches.

Punjab Finance Minister Harpal Singh Cheema said, "Saddened by the demise of renowned Punjabi poet Surjit Patar ji. He took the richness of Punjabi culture to new heights. His departure is



an irreparable loss not only to his family but to the entire Punjabi world. May God grant him peace and bless the family with the strength to bear this loss." Punjab Education Minister Harjot Singh Bains also shared his condolences through his X account and wrote, "Passing away of Surjit Patar ji is a great loss to Punjab. So much more was to be written. I

shared a very special bond with him. For me this loss is personal too." Cabinet Minister Gurmeet Singh Meet Hayer also shared his heartfelt condolences and said that he was the great poet of our era, we have lost a prominent personality of Punjabi literature. He also prayed for his eternal peace and for the strength for literature and Punjabi language lovers to bear this loss.

Cabinet Minister Dr. Balbir Singh said that he is greatly saddened by the news of the passing away of the great Punjabi poet Dr Surjit Patar. He said that he will live on in the hearts of Punjabis till the end of the time.

Shiromani Akali Dal President and former chief minister of Punjab,

Sukhbir Singh Badal commented- "Someone passed through the sticks as wind".  
 "Due to the demise of Shri Surjit Patar, the beloved son of mother tongue Punjabi, great poet and the man of literature in this century, such a void has been created in the world of literature which will be very difficult to fill. After Shiv Batalvi, Patar Sahib was the most popular and beloved poet of Punjabis. I express my heartfelt grief and sympathy with his family and his countless well-wishers and pray to the Almighty to bless the holy soul of Patar Sahib at his feet. May God grant their loved ones the strength to bear this trauma."



# KLF Corner Unveils the Legacy of 'Nandini Satpathy: The Iron Lady of Orissa' at Oxford Bookstore Bhubaneswar

**Bhubaneswar, May 11, (KCN):-** Today, Oxford Bookstore Bhubaneswar was abuzz with literary enthusiasts and admirers alike as it hosted the much-anticipated book launch and discussion on "Nandini Satpathy: The Iron Lady of Orissa" penned by acclaimed author Pallavi Rebbapragada. The event, organized by the Kalinga Literary Festival's monthly community literary event, KLF Corner, marked a poignant tribute to the indomitable spirit and legacy of Odisha's first lady Chief Minister, Smt. Nandini Satpathy. The discussion was moderated by Educationist and VC of DN Wisdom Tree Global School Panchami Manoo Ukil. "Nandini Satpathy embodies a strong definition of feminism, navigating a life of contrasts as a political figure seeking support from the masses while

challenging patriarchal norms. Her journey reflects the complexities of advocating for ideologies like communism and feminism, which often invite collective suspicion. Despite experiencing the highs and lows of power, from close proximity to the Prime Minister to contesting MLA elections, she maintained an impressive record of never losing an election," said Pallavi. Pallavi said further, "Nandini's political journey mirrored the turbulence of her friendship with Indira Gandhi. United by fate and bound by a deep sense of affection and loyalty, they formed a steadfast duo amidst the storms of politics. However, dynamics of relationships change from time to time." "Nandini Satpathy's indomitable spirit and dedication to championing social



justice and political reform make her an enduring inspiration for the younger generation, demonstrating the power of perseverance, principled leadership, and fearlessness in the pursuit of positive change. I believe she is the perfect example for GenZ. And this generation must know about her." Eminent personalities, including Tathagata Satpathy, and numerous others, graced the

occasion with their presence, lending an aura of reverence and intellectual fervor to the proceedings. The insightful discussion delved deep into the life, achievements, and enduring impact of the formidable leader, shedding light on her unparalleled contributions to the socio-political landscape of Odisha and beyond. Shri Rashmi Ranjan Parida, the founder and director of Kalinga

Literary Festival, expressed heartfelt sentiments on the occasion, stating, "The launching of 'Nandini

Satpathy: The Iron Lady of Orissa' is a humble tribute to our first lady Chief Minister of Odisha, Smt. Nandini Satpathy. Her dedication to Odisha is unmatched, and through this book, we aim to immortalize her remarkable journey and unwavering commitment to public service." "Nandini Satpathy: The Iron Lady of Orissa" promises to be a compelling narrative that not only celebrates the life of a visionary leader but also serves as a poignant reminder of the power of perseverance, integrity, and leadership in shaping the destiny of a nation.

The event was executed and managed by Ms. Debamitra Mishra (Coordinator, Kalinga Literary Festival), Mr. Ved Prakash Nayak (Coordinator, Kalinga Literary Festival), Mr. Jagadish Behera (Manager, Oxford Bookstore Bhubaneswar). Erased from history's annals, Nandini Satpathy, Odisha's inaugural female Chief Minister, dubbed the Iron Lady of Orissa, emerged from a lineage of activists and intellectuals. During the 1940s, she, a diminutive figure in a starched cotton saree, faced

imprisonment for dismantling the Union Jack from Ravenshaw College's apex. Thus commenced her formidable journey. Ascending swiftly, she entered the esteemed halls of the Rajya Sabha at a tender age of 31, later serving as the I&B minister under Indira Gandhi. Despite her closeness to the PM, her dissent during the Emergency led to her political downfall. As Chief Minister, she enacted progressive reforms but faced backlash, ultimately fading into political obscurity amidst personal tragedy.

## International Nurses Day Celebration Observed at KIMS



**Bhubaneswar, May 11(KCN):-** KIMS Bhubaneswar along with its sister concern Kalinga Institute of Nursing Sciences (KINS) commemorated International Nurses Day on the eve of the global observance, highlighting the indispensable role of nurses in the healthcare sector and the challenges they face. This year's celebration was notably vibrant as it marked the golden jubilee of the observance dedicated to acknowledging the contributions of nurses worldwide.

In a series of addresses, KIMS officials emphasized the vital roles nurses play and the urgent need to enhance nursing education and practice in India. KIMS Medical Superintendent Prof R C Das underscored the necessity for India to upscale its nursing workforce to meet World Health Organization standards by 2030. "Without nursing, hospitals cannot grow and expand. The skills and knowledge of nurses have expanded; they must continue to

increase their skills and care," Das stated. Highlighting the emotional and economic value of nurses, Pro-VC, School of Medicine Prof C B K Mohanty described nurses as "the economic power of care." He added, "You the saviors save lives with compassion and empathy. Your service will be reciprocated by the public and remembered by family members of the patients." However, Mohanty also pointed out the significant challenges in nursing education,

such as the scarcity of platforms for practical training which hinders the production of qualified nurse. KIIT Vice Chancellor Prof Saranjit Singh urged nurses to carry out their duties with "a lot of warmth and a smiling face." He highlighted the need for substantial investment in the healthcare sector in the coming years, emphasizing that the growth of healthcare hinges significantly on the enhancement of nursing services. The highlight of the celebration was the presence of the National Florence Nightingale Award, 2021 Khulana Barik of Jagatsinghpur, whose inspiring address left a deep imprint on the nurses and officials present. Top of Form Awards were given away to nurses on the occasion in different categories. KIMS Principal Brig. Prof. Dr AP Mohanty, KIIT Registrar J R Mohanty, KINS Principal Prof Niyati Das and others also spoke.

## Rajnath says time has come for BJD's exit in Odisha

**Ranpur (KCN) :** Defence Minister Rajnath Singh Friday said the atmosphere in Odisha is indicating that the time has come for the exit of BJD in Odisha. Addressing an election meeting christened as "Vijaya Sankalp Samavesh, Rajnath said the Congress had ruled Odisha for 50 years while the BJD for 25 years but now the people of the state have made up their minds to bring a change, vote for BJP and make an exit for the BJD. Singh came down heavily on the Congress for making baseless allegations that if BJP is voted to power again at the centre, democracy

will be murdered and the constitution will be changed and amended. The Defence Minister said when a BJP candidate won unopposed in Surat, the Opposition Congress described it as a murder of democracy. It was rather the Congress party which murdered democracy by imposing an emergency and toppling elected state governments in the country by a record 136 times using Article 356 during their tenure. Rajnath said the BJP has decided to implement one nation and one election in the country and favoured simultaneous elections to

both Lok Sabha and Assembly elections in the country so that it would not only save the time of the people but also the resources. "The Defence Minister further said the Opposition parties are misleading people stating that if the BJP voted to power and crossed the 400 mark in the Lok Sabha election, it would change the constitution. Rajnath said he wanted to clarify that it was rather the Congress which had amended the Constitution 80 times and even attempted to change the preamble of the constitution in 1976. Stating that "BJP does what it says, Rajnath said

since 1951, the Jan Sangh time we had decided that when we will have a majority in both the houses of Parliament we will abrogate article 370 in Jammu and Kashmir and we did it. Similarly, we had announced in 1984 that a Ram temple would be built in Ayodhya and we did it by shifting the Ram Lala to the new temple, he said. The Defence Minister appealed to the people to vote for Sambit Patra contesting the Puri Lok Sabha so that he would take up your plights and problems in the parliament and also Surama Padhi contesting the Ranpur Assembly seat as BJP candidates.



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## Manoj Bajpayee is a formidable force in 'Bhaiyya Ji' trailer

Manoj Bajpayee plays 'Bhaiyya Ji' in his upcoming film, seeking revenge for his brother's death. The film, produced by his wife Shabana Raza Bajpayee, marks The film is a revenge drama, featuring Bajpayee in intense action scenes 'Bhaiyya Ji', directed by Apoorv Singh Karki, hits the theatres on May 24. Manoj Bajpayee returns in as 'Bhaiyya

Ji' in his upcoming film's trailer, which released on May 9. The actor plays the titular character, who avenges his brother's death in this crime drama. The film is produced by his wife Shabana Raza Bajpayee, along with Vinod Bhanushali, Kamlesh Bhanushali, Samiksha Oswal, Shael Oswal, and Vikram Khakhar. The trailer of Manoj Bajpayee's upcoming



film, 'Bhaiyya Ji', released on May 9. It also marks the actor's 100th project. Manoj appears in a desi avatar, killing, beating

and punching those who killed his brother. The trailer provides a sneak peek into the actor's intense action scenes, building

anticipation for the film's release.

Manoj Bajpayee is joined by Suvinder Pal Vicky of 'Kohrra' fame, who plays the antagonist. The film also stars Zoya Hussain, Vipin Sharma, and Jatin Goswami in key roles. Sharing the 'Bhaiyya Ji' trailer, Manoj Bajpayee wrote, "Bhaiyya nahi Bhaiyya Ji! Aa gaye hain, apne pratishodh ki jhalak

lekar (Bhaiyya Ji, not just Bhaiyya! Here we are, bringing a glimpse of our revenge)."

Manoj Bajpayee's first-look poster from 'Bhaiyya Ji' was unveiled in March. The actor's rugged look from a still from the film offered a glimpse into the world of the revenge drama.

Directed by Apoorv Singh Karki, 'Bhaiyya Ji' hits the theatres on May 24.

## Sanjay Kapoor on 'Merry Christmas' wink scene: 'Made all the difference'

Actor Sanjay Kapoor, in an exclusive conversation with IndiaToday.in, delved into the hilarious wink scene from 'Merry Christmas' and its impact on the film's tone, alongside discussing his approach as a director's actor. His performance in the film

garnered widespread acclaim from both audiences and critics alike. Kapoor highlighted how a small difference in a scene can make a lot of change and cited the example of 'Merry Christmas'. He said, "It's a combination of the content and the director.

Sometimes even a correct close up, highlighting a specific emotion on the actor's face can make a huge difference to the whole scene. For example, in 'Merry Christmas' there is a lift scene where I take off my wedding ring, and I'm pretending to tie my

shoe lace. In the same scene, I look at Albert (Vijay Sethupathi) and wink. If that wink was not done, the impact of the scene would have only been 50 percent." He also talked about how a good actor and a good director complement each other. "That wink made so much of a difference in the

scene. It clearly showed that he has come to Maria's (Katrina Kaif) place to have a good time. So it's a combination of everything. And then, obviously, the actor has to be good. So yes, all the things must be taken into consideration, but the film is the director's medium and a good actor

will always complement a good director," the actor said. When asked about whether he is a director's actor, Sanjay Kapoor said, "Every actor is a director's actor. If you see any actors' films, they are excellent in some and for others, they're not that good. I

## 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 Kedamath (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 Subramaniam, 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.

## Movie Review: Kho Gaye Hum Kahan Is Compelling Coming-Of-Age Story In Digital Age

"We are so obsessed staring at the screen these days that we didn't realize life has gone past us," laments Ananya Panday's Ahaana in a poignant moment in Arjun V Singh's "Kho Gaye Hum Kahan." The hustle of living from one post to another, constant life updates, and the thirst for validation from the many faceless followers on social media are perhaps the story of our lives.

Debutante Director Arjun V Singh takes us into the world of three best friends. Imaad (Siddhant Chaturvedi) is a stand-up comic with a happy-go-lucky attitude towards every situation, including his dating life. If not on stage, he is busy swiping left and right on Tinder, the dating app. Ahaana (Ananya Panday) is Imaad's flatmate, a whiz who is in a long-term relationship with her boyfriend, whom she hopes



to marry. Then there is Neil (Adarsh Gourav), a gym trainer who aspires to have his studio someday. Like any regular 25-year-old, they are following their passion, working hard, and partying harder. Introspection of life happens over several bottles of beer; they keep no secrets from each other, or do they? Even though their parents don't understand their mindset—Imaad's rich father asks him to start working in the family's business, while Neil fails to understand the penny-pinching mindset of his working-class parents, who tell him that he does not know the difference between need and want. Ahaana, a brilliant professional with fancy degrees and medals to her credit, is a pushover who gets walked over by her boss as well as her boyfriend. But we live in a world where FOMO (Fear of Missing Out) is a thing. Keeping it private, keeping it real are passé. If it is not on social media, then it may as well not exist. We have given the rite of passage into our lives to strangers and people we are unlikely to meet since a thumbs up or down from them is what can make or break us. Take Ahaana; her heartbreak after getting dumped by her boyfriend is further amplified when she realizes his new girlfriend has over a million followers.

The unsure Ahana creates a fake account to stalk her boyfriend and starts putting out happy and sexy touched-up pictures of herself on Instagram to prove her life continues to rock. Imaad, on the other hand, who flits from one fling to another, meets an older and wiser woman (Kalki Koechelin), but being commitment-phobic, continues to see other women. Neil, who is dating his client LaLa (Any Singh), an influencer, cannot understand her obsession with filtered images and wanting to be constantly seen.





Since the first Lok Sabha election in 1951-52, Delhi has witnessed several very close and grim contests. However, two battles were really out of the world. Delhi still remembers both the contests even after so many years and decades. In 1992, Rajesh Khanna contested and won the Lok Sabha by-election from the prestigious New Delhi constituency. Representing the seat until 1996, he built a reputation as a popular and approachable leader. The 1992 by-election was a unique face-off between two Bollywood giants. Rajesh Khanna also called as Kaka, representing the Congress party, was facing Shatrughan Sinha of the Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP). Well, the election was necessitated after BJP leader L.K. Advani, who had won both the Gandhinagar and New Delhi seats in the 1991 general elections, chose to vacate the latter.

Advani's victory over Rajesh Khanna in 1991 was narrow, with a margin of less than 1500 votes. Recalls noted journalist Aroon Kumar of Hindustan Times, “Even though Advani ji had managed to win that contest, it was Rajesh Khanna who won the hearts of people. He really worked very hard in his first attempt in election. He even humbled Advani ji from couple of assembly seats like Minto Road and Goal Market.” Even after so many years, Delhi recall the image of Rajesh Khanna assisting Rajiv and Sonia Gandhi as they cast their votes on May 20, 1991, at a polling booth in Nirman Bhawan. This became Rajiv Gandhi's last photograph, as he was assassinated the following day. "With Advani's departure, the BJP nominated Shatrughan Sinha for the by-election. Despite their thick friendship, Shatrughan Sinha accepted the challenge, setting the stage for a high-profile campaign. While the by-election's outcome held little significance for the central government, it captured significant media attention," says Pritam Dhariwal, noted political activist. Kaka's triumph and a broken Friendship

From the outset, it was evident that Rajesh Khanna had gained an edge over Shatrughan Sinha. He diligently connected with voters through door-to-door campaigns, demonstrating his commitment and making promises to the public. Despite this, some voters and political analysts remained sceptical that Rajesh Khanna would abandon his constituency once he would be elected. Notably, the Congress initially intended to field Rajesh Khanna from Thane in the 1991 elections, with Ambika Soni being considered for the New Delhi seat. His eventual nomination surprised many. Despite the doubts, Rajesh Khanna convincingly won the by-election. However, this victory came at the cost of his friendship with Shatrughan Sinha, who

admitted that the defeat led to irreparable damage in their relationship. Recalls writer Sunil Negi, who was the media manager of Rajesh Khanna when he was fighting the Lok Sabha elections, “Rajesh Khanna was very bitter with his Bollywood colleague for fighting against him. Honestly, he had never forgiven him for fighting against him. Rajesh Khanna snapped all ties with Sinha.” Before moving to a government bungalow in 54 Lodhi Estate, Rajesh Khanna resided in Som Vihar and Vasant Kunj, maintaining close contact with his constituents and journalists. He earned the affection of Delhi's residents. Delhi has undergone significant transformation between 1992 and 2024. Two generations have

emerged, and Shatrughan Sinha's political journey has seen him transition from the BJP to the Congress and now the Trinamool Congress. As he walks through the streets of New Delhi, the memories of the 1992 by-election are likely to resurface, reminding him of his friend and rival, Rajesh Khanna, whose legacy lives on in the heart of the capital. When Atal was facing Malayali in New Delhi Notwithstanding Janata Party's unending internal squabbles that led to mid-term election in 1980, Atal Bihari Vajpayee has made his presence felt as India's Minister of External Affairs in Morarji Desai led Janata Party government. He had established a unique image of himself, especially in Hindi-speaking states, by delivering a speech in

Hindi at the United Nations General Assembly on October 4, 1977. This was a significant moment as it was the first time Hindi was used on such a global platform. Following the end of the Emergency, a non-Congress government came to power for the first time. However, the Janata Party government collapsed, leading to Chaudhary Charan Singh becoming Prime Minister with Congress support. This support was short-lived, and President Neelam Sanjeeva Reddy dissolved the Lok Sabha, paving the way for fresh Lok Sabha elections. Atal Bihari Vajpayee contested the prestigious New Delhi seat on a Janata Party ticket, as the Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) had not yet been formed then. Political observers were of the view that Atal Behari Vajpayee would easily elected from the New Delhi seat. He had won from here in 1977 too when he defeated Congress candidate Shashi Bhushan. This time Congress fielded C.M. Stephen, a relatively unknown figure in the capital but a prominent leader of the Kerala Congress and a former Leader of the Opposition.

C.M. Stephen's Campaign Tall dhoti clad, Stephen campaigned extensively in New Delhi, connecting with voters in Hindi through translated speeches. He used to address in his native language. His speeches were translated there and then. He focused on the concerns of central government employees, a significant voting bloc in New Delhi, and promised to work for their interests. C.M. Stephen was a strong advocate for workers' rights. Although relatively unknown in New Delhi, his impactful campaign and focus on local issues nearly led him to victory against a stalwart like Atal Bihari Vajpayee. According to Congress activist Rajesh Sharma from Minto Road, “I vividly remember Stephen sahab also addressed the issue of rising onion prices, a major concern at the time, promising to control them if Congress came to power.” While Vajpayee was initially expected to win comfortably, Stephen's strong campaign made the election a close contest. Vajpayee ultimately won by a narrow margin of about 5,000 votes, with Stephen even securing

victories in certain areas of New Delhi. Once noted Delhi based journalist A.R. Wig had said that "When the RSS realised that Vajpayee might lose, it unleashed a whispering campaign on the day of polling. A Swayamsevak would stand in the queue and say a bit loudly, "CM Stephen is a good candidate. But he has one problem. He needs beef even for his breakfast!". Those who hear him would ask, "Oh, is a beef-eater?". Needless to say, Stephen lost by a narrow margin! Stephen's impressive performance earned him a Congress ticket for the Gulbarga Lok Sabha by-election in Karnataka, which he won and subsequently became the Minister of Communications. Vajpayee, after the close call in 1980, shifted his focus away from the New Delhi constituency, contesting from Gwalior and later Lucknow. In conclusion, the 1980 Lok Sabha election in New Delhi highlighted the unpredictable nature of politics and the importance of connecting with voters at the grassroots level, regardless of language barriers.

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# MILK FOR HAIR AND SKIN

SHAHNAZ HUSAIN



Milk, a common household item, has been used for many centuries as a natural beauty product. Its benefits for skin have endured the test of time. Milk consists of nourishing and moisturising properties. It helps in maintaining the health of your skin. It also helps in treating most of your skin concerns. It's packed with vitamins A and D, as well as lactic acid. Some of these components are popular skin care additives. Drinking milk can also contribute to healthy, radiant skin. Milk is considered a miracle drink to control melanin production and to achieve a fair, glowing

and flawless complexion. It is one of the most nutrient-rich foods which is packed with proteins, enzymes, vitamins, minerals and lactic acid that works effectively for lighter, blemish and acne-free skin .. Milk helps to nourish and soften the skin. It contains many Vitamins and minerals which are very necessary for healthy skin. Milk also contains alpha hydroxy acid, which actually helps to reduce blemishes and has an anti-tan effect on the skin. Cotton wool soaked in cold milk can be used to wipe the skin to remove tan and soothe the skin. Cold milk applied daily, using cotton wool, not only helps to soothe the skin but also keeps it soft. It also makes the skin colour lighter over a period of time, if used daily. It would suit normal to dry skin. If you have a sunburn, applying milk to your skin can provide relief. The proteins in milk form a protective layer on the skin, reducing

pain and redness associated with sunburn. Turmeric and Raw Milk Face Pack ---- Take: 2 tablespoons of raw milk and 1 teaspoon of turmeric powder. Apply the mixture on the face and wash it after 15 minutes. Use it twice a week. It will lighten your skin and give radiant look. Turmeric is known for its anti-inflammatory and brightening properties. When combined with the moisturizing effect of

raw milk, this face pack becomes a potent solution for reducing blemishes and dark spots. Take two to three tablespoons of cold raw milk, add half a tablespoon of glycerine into it and mix it up. Apply on the face and lips with a cotton ball, and let it dry for 30 minutes. wash your face with fresh water. It will result in smooth and glowing skin and your skin will remain moisturised throughout the day.

Milk also contains lactic acid, which nourishes and moisturises the skin and helps to delay the visible signs of ageing. Milk can be added to face packs very easily. However, it suits normal to dry skin more. Soak Lotus flowers in 3 to 4 tablespoons of warm milk for an hour. Crush the flowers with your fingers. Add three teaspoons of gram flour (besan) and mix it with the milk and crushed flowers into a paste. Apply on the

face, avoiding the lips and area around the eyes. Wash it off after 20 to 30 minutes. Raw milk should be used on the face for beauty care. Boiling the milk destroys several nutrients. For a face pack. Add 2/3rd tsp of gram flour to raw milk and mix well. Add very little honey and rose to the mixture. Apply on the face and wash off with water after 10 minutes. It contains different kinds of proteins. How to Apply Milk on the Face?---- Start

with cleansing your skin using a face wash. Dip a cotton ball o into milk and apply it gently to your face. Gently massage the milk into your skin in circular motions. Allow it to sit for 10-15 minutes. Rinse your face with lukewarm water and pat dry. Milk for Hair ---- Hair is also made up of a protein matter called keratin. Therefore, protein in milk is beneficial for the hair, in terms of adding strength and body. Milk also contains fats, which help to soften and smoothen the hair. It is of particular benefit to dry hair, as well as hair that has been subjected to chemical treatments. Milk also contains vitamins and minerals, which are nourishing for the hair. Many of them are powerful antioxidants and nourish the hair follicles. Milk can be applied on the hair to nourish and soften it and also to give it a healthy lustre. If the hair has been subjected to sun-

damage, applying milk would help to nourish, soften and restore health to it. After your shampoo, rinse the hair with milk and leave on for 5 minutes. Then rinse off with plain water. It would help to add body and shine to the hair. For extremely dry hair, add a little milk to egg yolk and apply on the hair half an hour before shampoo. This is a wonderful nourishing treatment for dry hair. The hair looks soft, smooth and shiny. A pre-shampoo treatment can also be done with a hair pack containing powdered milk. Add a little water to make a thick paste. Apply it on the hair. Then dip a towel in hot water, squeeze out the water and wrap the hot towel around the head, like a turban. Keep it on for 5 minutes. Repeat the hot towel wrap 3 or 4 times. This helps the hair and scalp absorb the pack bet

The author is an international fame beauty expert and is called the herbal queen of India





## "In 2 Months, Yogi Adityanath Will...": Arvind Kejriwal's Big Claim If BJP Wins

**New Delhi(KCN):** Arvind Kejriwal, addressing his first press conference since leaving jail, said that the Bharatiya Janata Party will not only imprison Opposition leaders but also leaders from their own party. Mr Kejriwal claimed that Prime Minister Narendra Modi has started a "one nation, one leader" mission and he will soon end the political career of Uttar Pradesh Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath too.

"Politics of Advani, Murli Joshi, Shivraj Chauhan, Vasundhara Raje, Khattar, Raman Singh has been finished, Yogi Adityanath is next. If he (PM Modi) wins, he will change UP Chief Minister within two months," Mr Kejriwal said.

"Our country is very old, whenever a dictator tried to take over, the people



uprooted him. Today again a dictator wants to end democracy. I have come to beg from 140 crore people," he added. In his speech, he singled out PM Modi and Home Minister Amit Shah as engineers behind a power takeover within the BJP, referring to how the BJP changes chief ministers in many states

before assembly elections to "clip their wings". He also warned that all the opposition leaders including Chief Ministers Mamata Banerjee, and MK Stalin would be sent to jail in case the BJP-led NDA comes to power after the 2024 Lok Sabha elections.

"They will send

opposition leaders to jail and will finish them (Nipta denge) ...Our ministers, Hemant Soren (former Jharkhand CM), ministers of Mamata Banerjee's party (Trinamool Congress) are in jail...If they (BJP) win again, then Mamata Banerjee, MK Stalin, RJD leader Tejashwi Yadav, Chief

Minister Pinarayi Vijayan, Uddhav Thackeray (UBT Chief) and other opposition leaders will all be in jail." Mr Kejriwal said.

On Friday, the Supreme Court granted the Delhi Chief Minister interim bail to campaign for the Lok Sabha elections. Questioning the arrest just before the elections, the court directed the Enforcement Directorate to investigate Mr Kejriwal after voting ends.

"For one-and-a-half years he was there... he could have been arrested before or after (the election) also. Whatever it is, 21 days here or there should not make any difference," the court said. Mr Kejriwal's release has been cheered by the opposition INDIA alliance, of which the Aam Aadmi Party is a key member.

## "In 5 Years, We Will...": Congress Chief's Big Promise For 'Make In India'

**New Delhi(KCN):** Mallikarjun Kharge, the president of the Indian National Congress today said that his party resolves to make the country a manufacturing hub by raising the share of manufacturing from 14% to 20% of GDP in the next five years.

Writing about making (manufacturing) in India on his official X handle, Mr Kharge tweeted, "Congress resolves to make India a manufacturing hub by raising the share of manufacturing from 14% to 20% of GDP in the next 5 years." Lauding the Congress's regime, Mr Kharge claimed that the nation's manufacturing share of GDP was higher compared to the rule of the BJP.

"It is thus no surprise that in the last 25 years, India's manufacturing share of GDP has been higher during the Congress rule. On the contrary, in the last 10 years (2014-24), the share of manufacturing

has stagnated at just 14%", he claimed. Mr Kharge also said, "Congress is determined to make India the manufacturing powerhouse that produces goods and services for itself and the world."

The Congress leader also said that the party's immediate objective will be to restore a healthy, fearless and trustworthy climate for businesses. Elaborating on the party's goal, Mr Kharge said that the Congress government in 1991 abolished industrial licensing and controls. "The independent regulatory regime that was put in place has deteriorated into a system of overt and covert controls," he added.

"We will conduct a comprehensive review of the current rules and regulations and repeal or amend them in order to restore freedom to industry, business and trade," Mr Kharge said.



Describing the Congress' ambition, Mr Kharge said that the party will aim for India to attain a position of leadership in multiple industries such as steel, metals, garments and textiles, cement, automobiles, electronic goods, pharmaceuticals, engineering goods, petroleum products, chemicals, and mining rare earth and critical minerals.

Putting forward RBI's data on stalled projects, Mr Kharge said that Congress will revive those projects by taking the help of the private sector. "According to the RBI, nearly 60% of the large central government

projects have been stalled or delayed and costs have risen by nearly 5 lakh crores. Congress will address the problem in a mission mode and find ways and means to revive the stalled projects with the help of the private sector," he said.

Throwing light on the Congress approach, Mr Kharge tweeted, "Congress will reform the production linked incentives (PLI) scheme to target specific sectors that can create thousands of jobs by making India one of the top 5 producers in the world in that sector."

Mr Kharge also

mentioned about introducing an employment-linked incentive scheme. He added, "We will introduce a new employment-linked incentive (ELI) Scheme for corporates to win tax credits for additional hiring against regular, quality jobs."

Reiterating the party's opposition to monopolies and oligopolies, Mr Kharge said, "Congress will create a level playing field for all businesses. We are opposed to monopolies and oligopolies. We will strengthen the Competition Commission of India (CCI) to ensure that India will be an open and competitive economy."

The Congress President also talked about strengthening AI and robotics and said, "We will encourage and support the use of Artificial Intelligence, robotics, etc. which will create new and frontline jobs. At the same time, we will ensure that there are more job opportunities in sectors that use conventional technology."

## Powerful Solar Storm Hits Earth, Could Disrupt Communication, Power Grids

Washington: The most powerful solar storm in more than two decades struck Earth on Friday, triggering spectacular celestial light shows from Tasmania to Britain -- and threatening possible disruptions to satellites and power grids as it persists into the weekend. The first of several coronal mass ejections (CMEs) -- expulsions of plasma and magnetic fields from the Sun -- came just after 1600 GMT, according to the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA)'s Space Weather Prediction Center.

It was later upgraded to an "extreme" geomagnetic storm -- the first since the "Halloween Storms" of October 2003



caused blackouts in Sweden and damaged power infrastructure in South Africa. More CMEs are expected to pummel the planet in the coming days. Social media lit up with people posting pictures of auroras from northern Europe and Australasia. "We've just woken the kids to go watch the Northern Lights in the back garden! Clearly visible with the naked eye," Iain Mansfield in

Hertford, England, told AFP. That sense of wonder was shared in Australia's island state of Tasmania. "Absolutely biblical skies in Tasmania at 4 am this morning. I'm leaving today and knew I could not pass up this opportunity," photographer Sean O' Riordan posted on social media platform X alongside a photo. Authorities notified satellite operators,

airlines, and the power grid to take precautionary steps for potential disruptions caused by changes to Earth's magnetic field. Elon Musk, whose Starlink satellite internet operator has some 5,000 satellites in low Earth orbit, described the solar storm as the "biggest in a long time."

"Starlink satellites are under a lot of pressure, but holding up so far," Musk posted on his X platform. Unlike solar flares, which travel at the speed of light and reach Earth in around eight minutes, CMEs travel at a more sedate pace, with officials putting the current average at 800 kilometers (500 miles) per second. The CMEs emanated

from a massive sunspot cluster that is 17 times wider than our planet. The Sun is approaching the peak of an 11-year cycle that brings heightened activity. Mathew Owens, a professor of space physics at the University of Reading, told AFP that how far the effects would be felt over the planet's northern and southern latitudes would depend on the storm's final strength. "Go outside tonight and look would be my advice because if you see the aurora, it's quite a spectacular thing," he said. People with eclipse glasses can also look for the sunspot cluster during the day. In the United States, this could include places such as Northern California and Alabama, officials said.

## "Name All Districts Of Odisha": PM Modi's Dare To Naveen Patnaik

**New Delhi(KCN):** Prime Minister Narendra Modi, during a public meeting in Odisha's Kandhamal, issued a bold challenge to Chief Minister Naveen Patnaik. PM Modi urged Mr Patnaik to name all the districts of Odisha without the aid of written notes. This challenge, as PM Modi framed it, was a litmus test of Naveen Patnaik's intimate knowledge of the state he governs.

"I want to challenge 'Naveen Babu' as he has been the CM for such a long, ask 'Naveen Babu' to name the districts of Odisha and their respective capitals without seeing them on paper. If the CM cannot name the districts of the state, will he know your pain?" the Prime Minister said.

Highlighting what he perceived as a lack of trust by the state government in the people's capabilities, PM Modi emphasized the need for transparency and empowerment. He criticized the incumbent administration, suggesting that such mistrust was stifling Odisha's development potential. PM Modi spoke about the state's vast potential for tourism and its significance in the



economic landscape. Drawing parallels to historic events like the Pokhran nuclear test, PM Modi underscored India's capabilities and the need to harness them for progress.

Further addressing the crowd, PM Modi promised to uplift the living conditions of the people, drawing from his own humble beginnings. He rallied for support, portraying the upcoming elections as a pivotal moment for Odisha's trajectory. "Odisha offers me immense love and support. I will repay every ounce of your trust by selflessly serving the country. 26 years ago, Atal Bihari Vajpayee ji conducted the Pokhran test today. The nuclear test filled Indians all over the world with pride. That was the first time India made the world

aware of its capabilities. Whereas, Congress keeps threatening its own people. They create fear psychosis in the minds of Indians by reiterating, 'Pakistan is a nuclear power'," he said.

Odisha will hold Assembly elections and Lok Sabha elections in four phases from May 13 to June 1, with vote counting scheduled for June 4.

In the 2019 Assembly election, Biju Janata Dal (BJD) won 112 out of 146 seats, while Bharatiya Janta Party (BJP) won 23 seats and Congress won 9.

In the 2019 Lok Sabha polls, the BJD won the majority of seats in the state, while the BJP and the Congress brought up the rear. The BJD won 12 seats, the BJP finished a close second at 8, and the Congress bagged just a lone seat.

## PM To Quit At 75, Says Arvind Kejriwal. No Such Rule, Responds Amit Shah



**New Delhi(KCN):** Home Minister Amit Shah today returned fire at Delhi Chief Minister Arvind Kejriwal over the Aam Aadmi Party (AAP) chief's swipe at Prime Minister Narendra Modi is setting the ground for Mr Shah to take over as Prime Minister in future.

Mr Kejriwal in his first press conference a day after being released from jail attacked PM Modi as someone who wants "one nation, one leader", alluding to the BJP's push for 'one nation, one election' system.

"These people ask INDIA bloc about prime ministerial face. I ask BJP who will be their PM? Modi ji is turning 75 on September 17 next year. He himself made the rule in 2014 that people aged 75 will be retired. They retired LK Advani, Murli Manohar Joshi, Sumitra Mahajan," Mr Kejriwal said. "He will retire next year. He is seeking votes to making Amit Shah the Prime Minister. Will Amit Shah fulfil Modi ji's

guarantee?" said the AAP chief who got interim bail till June 1 to campaign for the Lok Sabha elections, already three of the seven phases completed.

Responding to Mr Kejriwal, the Home Minister told reporters the Delhi Chief Minister is hugely mistaken that PM Modi will step aside when he hits 75.

"I want to say this to Arvind Kejriwal and company and INDIA bloc that nothing as such (75-year-old limit rule) is mentioned in the BJP's constitution. PM Modi is only going to complete this tenure and PM Modi will continue to lead the country in future. There is no confusion in the BJP," Mr Shah said.

The Home Minister also questioned Mr Kejriwal's "misplaced confidence" and pointed at the interim bail as a temporary relief, but not something that frees the Delhi Chief Minister from the liquor policy case, in which former Delhi Deputy Chief Minister Manish Sisodia has also been

jailed.

"Arvind Kejriwal has been given interim bail to hold election campaigns. He prayed in front of the Supreme Court that his arrest was wrong, but the Supreme Court did not agree to it. The interim bail has only been given till June 1 and on June 2, he has to surrender in front of the agencies," Mr Shah said. "If Arvind Kejriwal considers this as a clean chit, then his understanding of the law is weak," he added.

As part of the interim bail, Mr Kejriwal cannot go to his office, sign official documents, or visit the Delhi secretariat. He has to take permission from the Lieutenant Governor for any urgent documents that need to be signed.

The Supreme Court said the Lok Sabha elections has prompted the consideration of interim bail as at this stage, it is not possible for the court to either conclude the arguments or pronounce the verdict on his petition challenging his arrest by the Enforcement Directorate (ED).



## Pregnant woman walks 4 km to reach hospital



**Bhawanipatna(KCN):** A pregnant woman had to walk for 4 kilometre to reach hospital Friday as the 108 ambulance failed to reach Paradangaguda village under Chancher panchayat of Bhawanipatna Sadar block in Kalahandi

district as it lacks a motorable road. As per reports, Mande Majhi, wife of Libri Majhi, experienced labour pain Friday morning following which her family members called the ambulance. However, the ambulance could not reach the

village and stopped at Gudanga, a place 4 km away from the village. Bereft of options, the pregnant woman had to walk for 4 km with the help of family members and the local ASHA to reach Gudanga where the ambulance was waiting. She was then admitted to the district headquarters hospital at Bhawanipatna where she gave birth to a girl child in the afternoon. With the polls scheduled for May 13 in the area, locals have raised questions about various government projects following the pathetic incident.

## Forest officials toil to prevent wildfires, 'poaching' of trees



**Rourkela(KCN):** The alertness of the Forest department has prevented major fires in jungles and 'poaching' of trees this summer, officials informed here Friday. They said there is a new trend to set forests on fire and then cut down the half-burnt trees to sell those as timber outside the state. Hence, officials of various Forest divisions are keeping a close watch on all the ranges, especially those in the Bonai division. "Earlier there used to be illegal poaching of wild animals. Now miscreants are targeting the trees, as plenty of costly teak is easily available. We have to be on our toes always

to prevent it," said an official. "We are determined to stop the smuggling of teak and other forest produce," he added. A Forest Department official working in the Sole and Jarda ranges informed that miscreants are responsible for more than half of the reported cases of forest fires. "The modus operandi is

quite simple. Set a part of the forest on fire and then cut the half-burnt trees and smuggle them out. Hence we have to continuously monitor all the ranges," he stated. An official informed that they received inputs from sources that 22 people including women were clearing a patch of the forest in Bonai range Tuesday on the pretext of

creating agricultural land. "It was just an alibi," said range officer Kailash Kissan. "We rushed to the spot and found that valuable trees were being felled. Among them were mango, sal, jamun and arjuna trees. All the 22 were arrested and we seized sophisticated cutting equipment from them," informed Kissan. In another incident,

Forest department officials apprehended habitual offender Satyanarayan Yadav, a truck driver by profession. He was nabbed while setting a dense forest area on fire in Barsuan range. "As we managed to reach the spot quickly we doused the flames easily," said an official. Forest officials however lauded the locals for their cooperation. They said the locals keep a constant watch on the forest ranges and immediately pass on information if they find anything amiss or suspicious. "This has gone a long way to prevent major forest fires this season," said an official.

## Drop in turtle numbers sparks concern

**Kendrapara(KCN):** The decline in the number of Olive Ridley turtles for mass nesting at Gahirmatha Marine Sanctuary near Bhitarkanika National Park in this district for the last two years has sparked concern among the environmentalists, sources said Sunday. According to an official report, 5.11 lakh Olive Ridley turtles had laid eggs at Gahirmatha in 2022. The number decreased slightly, to around five lakh in 2023. However, this year the drop in the number of turtles visiting the sanctuary is alarming. According to official estimates, only three lakh turtles have arrived at Gahirmatha. This massive decline in numbers has sparked fears of drastic climate changes or some massive natural disaster in the offing. Hemant Kumar Rout, secretary of 'Gahirmatha Marine Turtles and Mangrove Protection Committee', environmentalists Khitish Kumar Singh and Srikant Nayak said there are several reasons behind the decrease in numbers. They pointed out that erosion and loss of land mass is one of the main reasons behind the



decrease in several turtles visiting the sanctuary. As the land is being gobbled up by the sea, the nesting places of the turtles are also being reduced. Hence many turtles are staying away from the sanctuary, pointed out Nayak. Rout on the other hand, added that the only way to stop the erosion is through a plantation of mangroves. "However, awareness programmes about the importance of mangroves and the plantation drive have not been properly implemented," he pointed out. The three informed that the mushrooming prawn gheries in Bhitarkanika National Park have a role to play in soil erosion. They said that the chemical laced water released from these gheries acts as a 'killer'

for whatever little mangrove plantation is there. The toxic water also affects the turtles and hence it may be another reason why a lesser number of turtles are visible in Gahirmatha this year. Fishermen and changes in climate are the other main reasons why there is a decrease in the number of turtles. Despite bans, fishermen enter prohibited areas inside the sea. In the process, many turtles die after getting entangled in the nets, the three opined. They also pointed out that earlier the turtles used to lay eggs in March, but this year they have done so in April. This time shift is proof enough that some climatic change is affecting the visiting turtles, the environmentalists pointed out. They

warned that the turtles will stop visiting Gahirmatha for mass nesting like Harachandi coastline in Puri district if the natural environment is not restored at the earliest. When contacted, Gahirmatha ranger Pradosh Moharana said the Forest department is taking a number of measures for the protection of the turtles. He pointed out that mangrove forest plantations are being carried out to solve the erosion issues. Security has also been beefed up to prevent the unauthorised entry of fishermen in prohibited zones. "We will shortly conduct a review to find out why the number of turtles visiting Gahirmatha this year has declined. Accordingly, we will take steps," said Moharana.

## Woman 'kills' son for stealing money


**Kalimela(KCN):** In a shocking incident, an eight-year-old boy died after being allegedly kicked in the chest by his mother at Tumbaguda village under police limits in Malkangiri district Saturday night. The deceased has been identified as Rohit Padiami, son of Muka Padiami of the same village. It has been stated that Rohit used to steal money regularly. There used to be frequent quarrels between him and his mother Wagi on this issue. Infuriated at the wrongdoing of her son, Wagi landed a hard kick on the chest of Rohit, Saturday night. The



minor boy collapsed on the spot immediately. Initially, Wagi thought that Rohit had fallen asleep. Only Sunday morning family members discovered that Rohit had died. On being informed, officials from the

Kalimela police station reached the spot and initiated an investigation into the incident. A forensic team was also pressed into service. Later Wagi was detained after her husband officially complained to her.

Kalimela PS IIC, Chandrakant Tandi informed that Wagi has confessed that she kicked Rohit under the influence of alcohol. Police are now waiting for the post-mortem report to ascertain the real cause behind Rohit's death.



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# Balasore School triumphs as State Champions in Intach's National Heritage Quiz.

**Bhubaneswar (KCN):** The Indian National Trust for Art and Culture Heritage (INTACH), Odisha Chapter, held the Finals of the State level inter-school quiz competition on 15th Oct 2023 at the Blossoms School, Bhubaneswar. The INTACH National Heritage Quiz is the biggest event of its type held on a pan-India level. It is an effort to raise awareness and cultivate affection for cultural and architectural heritage. The Quiz was based on the heritage and culture of India, and aimed to increase awareness about our glorious nation among

school children. Students from classes 7th to 10th were eligible to participate in teams of two. In an exciting showcase of knowledge and heritage, the State Final Round saw the emergence of St. Thomas Convent, Balasore as the victor, securing their place in the next round which is the National Level Quiz. The questions asked during the quiz comprised from various topics like India's heritage, history, crafts, art forms, architecture, wildlife sanctuaries, National parks, cultural heritage, art-forms, dances etc. with a special focus

on Odisha's legacy and famous personalities. Altogether it was a passionate approach which was put forward as a learning experience for the students. Quizmaster Bivash Rath Attreya conducted the quiz. Four teams from different districts participated in the final round. The teams were from the St. Thomas Convent, Balasore; Odisha Adarsh Vidyayala, Baripada; Odisha Adarsh Vidyayala, Balangir and Blossoms School, Bhubaneswar. The team of Aryashree Das Adhikari and



Dibyajoti Das from St. Thomas Convent Balasore were the first and the team from Odisha Adarsh Vidyayala were runners up. They will go to New Delhi for the National Finals to be held in November. Anil Dhir, Convener of INTACH's Bhubaneswar Chapter, said that the Heritage Quiz was a part of INTACH's initiative for heritage awareness among School children. Amiya Bhushan Tripathy IPS (Retd), State Convener of Intach gave away the prizes and certificates to the participants.

## CM Naveen Launches 32 Industrial Projects Worth Rs 6,993 Cr, To Generate 24,508 Jobs

**Bhubaneswar (KCN):** In a significant milestone in the journey of Odisha's economic advancement, Chief Minister Naveen Patnaik today inaugurated nine industrial projects and performed a ground-breaking ceremony of 23 industrial units. These Inaugurations & Groundbreaking are statements of the Chief Minister's vision for faster conversion of investment intents to grounding. These projects with a total investment of Rs 6,992.94 Crore and employment potential of 24,508 are spread over

14 districts i.e., Bolangir, Boudh, Cuttack, Ganjam, Jajpur, Jagatsinghpur, Jharsuguda, Keonjhar, Khurda, Puri, Rayagada, Sambalpur, Subarnapur & Sundergarh. Speaking on this occasion, the Chief Minister said, "Our industrial portfolio is expanding with the inclusion of new age and employment-intensive sectors such as green energy equipment manufacturing, textiles, tourism, etc. The continuous improvement in the Ease of Doing Business ranking of the state, coupled with a

business-friendly environment, world-class industrial infrastructure, and highly sought-after skill development initiatives, has been instrumental in attracting investments to Odisha. Highlighting the fact that the 32 projects are spread across 14 districts, the Chief Minister expressed his pleasure in the broad-basing of industrialization in the state. The ceremony was held through Video conferencing in the presence of the Minister Industries, MSME & Energy, senior government officials and representatives of these Industries.

## An alltime record cargo handling in 2023-24 at Syama Prasad Mookerjee Port, Kolkata since 1870

**Kolkata (AMBAR MUKHERJEE):** In its 154-year history, Syama Prasad Mookerjee Port, Kolkata (SMP Kolkata) including Kolkata Dock System (KDS) and Haldia Dock Complex (HDC), achieved a milestone in the fiscal year 2023-24 by handling 66.4 million metric tonnes (MMT) of cargo, marking a 1.11% increase from the previous record of 65.66 million tonnes moved in 2022-23. Chairman of the SMP Rathendra Raman attributed this unprecedented throughput to a series of strategic initiatives implemented by the port to enhance productivity, safety measures, business development, and overall capacity

utilization. Highlighting HDC's significant contribution, Raman said that the complex handled 49.54 MMT in FY 2023-24, marking its highest cargo volume ever since its inception and surpassing the previous record of 48.608 MMT in FY 2022-23, representing an increase of 1.91%. Meanwhile, KDS managed 16.856 MMT of cargo in 2023-24 compared to 17.052 MMT in 2022-23. He emphasized the port's robust financial performance in 2023-24, achieving a net surplus of Rs. 501.73 crores as well, a significant 65% growth over the previous year's net surplus of Rs. 304.07 crores, marking a remarkable accomplishment.

To augment capacity of the port, SMP Kolkata is stressing on the PPP Projects in a big way. Concession awarded by SMPK for 2 PPP projects costing Rs 480 crores by Century Ports Ltd. on 24.06.2023 and M/s Adani Port & SEZ on 14.07.2023 respectively for rejuvenation of KPD-I West (Cost Rs. 181.81 crores) and mechanization of berth no. 2 at HDC (Cost 298.28 crore) which could lead to Incremental Capacity Addition of 6.78 MMT (approx.) Three more projects (berth No 5) for HDC, strengthening and mechanization of Berth no. 7 and 8 NSD and Floating Crane at Diamond Harbour at a cost of Rs 1160 crore, incremental capacity of

4.5 MMT) are likely to reach award stage by 2024-25. The chairman said development of drainage network (Phase-IIA) on eastern side of dock basin at Haldia dock complex, Haldia under master drainage plan (Cost Rs.26.79 Cr.) Regarding Implementation of energy efficient/smart fittings and outdoor purpose along-with roof top solar power plant at KDS, Lol issued for smart lght to Schnell Energy Equipment's Pvt. Ltd. on 20.12.23 (Value: 4.76 cr. excluding GST). 4 Major Projects costing Rs. 201.23 cr. completed during FY 2023-24: Procurement of 1 no. 40 tonne Rail Mounted Quay Crane (RMQC) at HDC, (Cost Rs.52.82 Cr. and

0.25 MMTPA capacity addition). Raman thanked Indian Railways, Department of Customs, Government of West Bengal, NHAI and other organizations for their continued support. Furthermore, the Chairman attributed the achievement for the growth in diverse cargo types, the influx of new and additional cargo, and the multi-faceted user-friendly measures, such as better services, improved facilities, cost-effective and customer-friendly charges and all-out efforts of the workers of the port. He congratulated all the officers, staff and unions, PPP Operators, Stewards, Stakeholders, etc. for working like a team to produce the spectacular performance.

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

**Bhubaneshwar, (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 Jagarpur & 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.

## 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 \$S50 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,



