

Odisha CEO announces Rs 15 lakh ex-gratia for polling official killed in road accident

voters is more than 30.97 lakh men electors in the first phase of polls in the state, he said. The four Lok Sabha seats are spread over six Maoist-affected police districts – Malkangiri, Koraput, Rayagada, Nabarangpur, Nuapada and Kalahandi – and three other police districts of Ganjam, Berhampur and Gajapati, Odisha DGP Arun Kumar Sarangi said. Arrangements for webcasting have been made in 60 per cent of the 7,303 polling

Adhiraj Panigrahi, former chief secretary, Bijay Patnaik, ex-minister DS Mishra, former leader of opposition Pradyot Naik, former MLA Ramesh Chandra Chayupattnaik are trying their luck in the Assembly elections. Odisha has witnessed Prime Minister Narendra Modi, union ministers Amit Shah and Rajnath Singh, BJP president JP Nadda, Assam Chief Minister Himanta Biswa Sarma, Chhattisgarh CM Vishnu Dev Sai campaigning for BJP candidates in the first round of twin polls. Odisha Chief Minister Naveen Patnaik and senior leader Kartik Pandian have also campaigned for the BJD. Congress leader Rahul Gandhi has addressed a rally at Rayagada under the Koraput Lok Sabha seat through virtual mode.

Nabarangpur district while he was on the way to a polling station for Monday's elections. Meanwhile, a report from Ganjam district said that a bus carrying polling personnel and EVMs turned turtle near Pitatali in Ganjam district Saturday. At least 14 polling staff along with EVM machines were being transported to Khariaguda in Chikiti

Assembly segments in the district when the bus turned turtle.SF (Berhampur) Sarthak Sarangi said all the polling personnel were safe. The EVMs which they were carrying are also in the safe. The polling staff were going to their allotted booths at Khariaguda in another vehicle, he said. The accident took place as the driver failed to negotiate a curve on the way, police suspected.

Bhubaneswar(KCN): Prime Minister Narendra Modi is set to visit Odisha on May 20. This is the third of the PM to the state in the month of May. As per information given by Odisha BJP VP Golak Mohapatra, PM Modi will hold roadshow in Puri and address public gatherings in Cuttack and Angul on May 20 (Monday). On the other

hand, Union Home Minister Amit Shah will visit Odisha on May 15. He will address public meetings in Rourkela, Kantabanji and Sorada. Similarly,

BJP National President JP Nadda will visit Odisha on May 17. He will visit Sundargarh, Hinjili and Padampur, informed State BJP VP Golak Mohapatra.

ADR
Association for Democratic Reforms

(second in the state). According to the report brought out by the Association for Democratic Reforms (ADR) and Odisha Election Watch, Singh was followed by Sundargarh's two major contestants — BJD's Dilip Tirkey (Rs 12.26 crore) and former Union minister and BJP MP Jual Oram (Rs 8.63 crore). Three candidates with the lowest assets were National Apni Party's Bargarh nominee Devika Sika (Rs 10,000), Bolangir's Independent candidate Balaram Sa (Rs 30,000) and SUCI's Sundargarh nominee Justin Lugun (Rs 33,000),

the report stated. The average assets per candidate in fray for the five seats was Rs 3.05 crore. Among major parties, the average assets per candidate for five BJP candidates was Rs 16.27 crore, followed by five BJD candidates (Rs 4.58 crore) and an equal number of Congress nominees (Rs 2.17 crore), it said. The report also stated that 12 candidates (30 per cent) declared criminal cases registered against them, and of them, eight faced serious charges. A total of 21 candidates (52 per cent) were graduates or had higher qualifications. Elections to 21 Lok Sabha and 147 Assembly constituencies will be held in Odisha in four phases from May 13 to June 1, while the results will be declared June 4.

Bolangir(KCN): After Prime Minister Narendra Modi held a victory rally in Bolangir on Saturday, Chief Minister Naveen Patnaik participated in marathon campaigning in Kantabanji and Muribahal, seeking votes for the upcoming elections. Arriving in a private helicopter, Patnaik held his first meeting in Bangomunda, where he asked, almost one by one, the locals about various state government schemes such as BSKY (Biju Swasthya Kalyan Yojna), Mission Shakti, Mamata, Laxmi Bus, ST school transformation and Nua-O Student scholarships. Upon being asked by the CM himself, about the goodness of schemes provided by his

government, the people unanimously gave overwhelmingly positive responses. After asking the people about their well-being, the CM asked whether he has been good for them or not. There

Patnaik sought the blessings of the people of Kantbanji for himself and the MP candidates of Bolangir. He criticized the opposition, accusing them of inaction and insincerity. He also announced that residents would not have

to pay electricity bills from July onwards. During the meeting, 5T Chairman and BJD leader Karthik Pandian strongly criticized the BJP, quoting the PM's speech he questioned the authenticity of the

BJP's promise of free solar electricity. Following the meeting in Bangomunda, Patnaik held a similar gathering in Muribahal. He reiterated his questions about the state government's schemes and targeted the BJP, accusing opposition leaders of dishonesty and indifference towards the people's needs. He even said the opposition is only shedding crocodile tears.

BJD Lok Sabha candidate Surendra Singh Bhoi of Bolangir was present at both meetings, along with other senior leaders. Notably, this is the first time Patnaik is contesting from the Kantabanji seat. In the last election, he was a candidate from the Bijepur seat in Bargarh district. He will also be standing from his usual Hinjili assembly seat.

Barrackpore / Hooghly (West Bengal)(KCN): Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Sunday slammed the "vote bank" politics of the Trinamool Congress and alleged that the party's goons are threatening the tormented women of Sandeshkhali, where allegations of sexual abuse against TMC leaders have surfaced, to protect the culprits. Without mentioning 53-year-old Rahul Gandhi by name, he also claimed that the Congress will get fewer seats than the age of its

'shehzada' Lok Sabha polls across the country. While addressing an election rally at Barrackpore in North 24 Parganas district, PM Modi alleged that under the TMC rule, Hindus have turned into second-class citizens in the state and asserted that "as long as Modi is there, no one can repeal the CAA law." "All of us have seen what the TMC has done with the sisters and mothers of Sandeshkhali. The TMC goons are now threatening the women in Sandeshkhali as the name of the main culprit is Shajahan Sheikh. TMC is

doing everything to protect the culprits of Sandeshkhali," he said. His remarks come in the backdrop of multiple purported videos surfacing on social media, which claimed that a local BJP party leader made several women of Sandeshkhali sign on blank papers which were later filled up as complaints of sexual assault against TMC leaders. The prime minister, however, did not directly refer to those videos. PTI could not independently verify the authenticity of those



videos, which has kept the state's political cauldron on the boil for the last few days. Claiming that under the

TMC regime, Bengal has turned into a centre of corruption and a "cottage industry of bomb-making", PM

Modi said the state's ruling dispensation has surrendered before the vote bank politics. "The TMC has surrendered before vote bank politics in Bengal, where you cannot take the name of Shri Ram and neither can celebrate Ram Navami. The Hindus have been turned into second-class citizens in Bengal under the TMC rule," he said. Later in another rally in Hooghly, "This time the Congress would get fewer seats than the age of its Shehzada (Rahul Gandhi)." The Congress leader is in his early

fifties. Last week, the Prime Minister had said that in the upcoming Lok Sabha elections, the Congress's tally will be at an "all-time low". "The TMC also cannot form the government; it can't do anything in opposition even. The Congress and the Left too can't form the government. Only the BJP-led NDA can provide you with a stable and strong government," he said. Criticising the "appeasement politics" of the INDIA bloc, PM Modi claimed that

Congress and its other constituents are making disjointed statements sensing defeat. "They have lost their sleep after the construction of Ram Mandir. These people have boycotted the Ram Mandir as well. The souls of our ancestors who struggled for 500 years to get the Ram Mandir are watching your deeds. TMC and Congress people, at least do not insult the penance and sacrifice of your ancestors. Boycotting Lord Ram is not the culture of Bengal," he said.

The righteous cultural significance of "SVASTI - 2024"



Rudrarup Gupta
Kolkata, India

The best elevation of culture determines an unquestionable "Matrix" of a team and its consequential participation. School of "Agricultural Sciences, JIS University organized an overwhelming programme entitled: "SVASTI - 2024" on 9th of May, 2024 in a very conforming manner. This decisive "Plan of Action" comprised a conventional "Farewell" which was followed by an imperative session of "Training and Placement" for the students at that very day. The entire "Team" of "School of Agricultural



Sciences" was truly well managed and perceptually engaged to focus upon "SVASTI" on [9th May, 2024] through their most epoch making initiatives which was in connection with an unforgettable adieu to the outgoing fourth-year students, one of their pioneer batches of the department. The very occasion has had the real celebrated thrill along with endless emotions, distinct memories, and

extensive prayers for the graduating students. The elite programme has been instigated by Respected Professor Susmita Dey by her ear friendly song, which was followed by a warm welcome and greetings extended to all esteemed & admiring "Faculty Members" and the fourth-year seniors by the event coordinators. The prime focus of the evening was invariably insightful because of a

momentous "Talk" delivered by Respected Professor Dr. Sukanta Dasgupta, Dean, School of Agricultural Sciences, JIS University. Professor Dasgupta reminisced about the superior journey to entrench the existing departmental standing and praised the pioneering batch for their appreciable dedication and determination in paving the way for future endeavors.

On the other hand, a key



session regarding both "Training and Placement" which has been conducted by Respected Anjan Dutta (Training and Placement Officer) was really invaluable from the perspective of insights and impacts to the graduating students regarding career opportunities and professional developments in the field of agriculture.

Dr. Shamik Dey, Eminent

Personality, Assistant Professor and Departmental Head shared his precious words and wisdom. Moreover, he advised to the outgoing students for refining their existing educational stature and brilliance respectively. Furthermore, he encouraged them to embrace new challenges and opportunities in reshaping the destined future indeed.

All the respectful

"Former Faculty Members" have stretched their magnanimous frame of minds for the aspiring learners and they have all brought out substantial expectations and inclinations in favor of the entire departmental community of learning without any second thought. All the deferential students have really been blessed to introduce a brand new occupational

journey in the forthcoming days to come.

The juniors have ensured their delightful efforts through plenty of cultural up bringing like, energetic dance performance, talent acquisition and absolute admirable expressions, to their seniors, poetry recitations, comedian acting and so on. This is how they have refined the entire splendor of that quality conglomeration in style. This scholarly assemblage shall definitely bring out an exemplary all-round "Metamorphosis" of culture which shall be truly adoptable for all the fervent associates from "School of Agricultural Sciences" to deal with for an emphatic victory of far-reaching occupational pinnacle over the coming years.

Empowering Person with TB: A Case Study on Drug supply support by the team of TB



Field outreach photographs during their support in drugs supply for the people with TB in Bhubaneswar, Odisha

simultaneously the involvement of forefront health providers and the community also bit essential to combat these issues. As in the midst of this current drugs crisis situation, those frontline health providers find themselves at the sensitive role for dealing such situations to ensure access to those life-saving TB medication. Over the last few months, the primary TB drugs like 4FDCs and 3FDCs are found to be out of stock, and the facilities in Bhubaneswar also facing great challenges to maintain the drugs management and disbursement. It has been realized that there is major scarcity of drugs across all the facilities starting from state to districts and districts to sub-districts. This situation has been deeply realized by the TB Champions who are working under REACH ALLIES Project and their role is to provide need-assessment through their personal Interview using a standard CAF tool by visiting at their door-step. So, while they were on the visit, they went through these struggle and experience of drugs crisis and how that was affecting people with TB on their treatment and

their family on socio economical aspects too. As they experienced and explored that there has been profound impact of drug supply disruptions on family dynamics, economic condition, and most importantly, the well-being of the distressed individual who is on TB treatment. So, all the TB champions of Bhubaneswar understood and experienced the practical scene of the grounds and also they learned that there is a huge shortage of medicine in Bhubaneswar like of other districts, and medicine is hardly available in the private medical shops too, however there are only few people who find their ability to buy those medicines whatever is available, but there are some affected people who can't afford to purchase despite they are out of stock of their daily intakes, so keeping this in mind, TB champions asked them to come together and plan something. And they did their individual assessment to identify them and made their line list. One of their team member Kalinga tried to explore the availability of these TB drugs based on

their discussion they had in a team and he had found the availability of these medicines in a nearby shops, so he shared this update in the team and encouraged his fellow TB Champions to come forward and support for medicines. And fortunately, on the same day, 200 rupees was received by each of their team members from REACH against their travel claims, hence a proposal was given to everyone that they can buy some amount of medicine with that TA money if they collect together and they estimated and realised that they provide the medicine to the people who are in dire need atleast for few days until further resolution action by the health providers. So, considering this situation in mind, they did not want get it mishandled, and a quick step was taken and then the medicine was procured and reached their home. They could arrange 5-day medicine for around 15-20 people who are in dire need of medicine and they were such people who had no capacity to purchase on their own. Thus, they could mobilize their own

resources and spent some TA money for purchasing those medicines in consultation with the local health staff of the TB units. Such drug supply support by TB Champions of Bhubaneswar has marked a critical component of comprehensive efforts to combat this crisis for some days and to address the health issues of affected individuals and communities. It is because of their dedication, and resilience, a small initiative has been demonstrated to seek the attention of providers. As by doing such support among some selective individuals, they have ensured uninterrupted access to TB dosages, and they tried to empower them to counter such situation by their counselling support too. Hence, let us confirm our collective resolution to support and empower TB Champions in their mission to end the TB epidemic once and for all. Together, we can turn the tide against tuberculosis, ensuring that every individual affected by the disease receives the care, support, and dignity they deserve.

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Janhvi Kapoor's 'heart is full' after watching Kiran Rao's 'Laapataa Ladies'



Actor Janhvi Kapoor shared her review of Kiran Rao's 'Laapataa Ladies', which has been garnering widespread acclaim ever since it released on OTT, and praised the satirical drama. She also shared words of appreciation for the film's cast and crew. On Saturday, Janhvi shared on her Instagram Story and wrote, "Pratibha Santa, your silent strength; Nitanshi Singh, your innocence

and heartwarming smile; Sparsh Srivastava, your honesty and disarming humour!!! Hats off to you guys and Kiran Rao, ma'am, for making such a beautiful work of art. Such a special movie and such special performances. Heart is full (sic)." Earlier, Priyanka Chopra along with Rajkummar Rao and Ananya Panday, joined the league of stars who reviewed Kiran Rao's 'Laapataa

Ladies'.

Priyanka shared a poster of the film on her Instagram story and wrote, "Thank you for the entertainment and the education @raodiness! Congratulations on this gem, make more movies!" Rajummar called the makers 'impeccable'. 'Laapataa Ladies' features Nitanshi Goel, Pratibha Ranta, Sparsh Srivastav, and Ravi Kishan in crucial roles.

Varun Tej, Manushi Chhillar-Starrer Air Force Action Film Makers Drop Big Update



The suspense will soon be over as the title for India's biggest Air Force action film will be unveiled tomorrow. The Hindi-Telugu film, also stars Manushi Chhillar as a radar officer. VT 13, inspired by true events, will take us through the biggest and the most deadly attacks witnessed by India and the victory of our Indian Air Force over their enemies by demonstrating strong courage to protect their country. The highly anticipated film is produced by Sony Pictures International Productions and Sandeep Mudda from Renaissance Pictures, co-produced by Nandakumar Abbineni and God Bless Entertainment and is written by Shakti Pratap Singh Hada, Aamir Khan and Siddharth Raj Kumar.

It's almost a month since Shah Rukh Khan's action-entertainer 'Jawan' has been released but its craze among the audience doesn't seem to settle down at any cost. One after the other, the film is creating new records at the Box Office not just in India but also across the world. Having set its strong feet in different parts of the world, 'Jawan' has now made a distinctive mark in the UAE market as well, as the film has emerged as the #1 Indian film in the Middle East with its phenomenal collection figures. Talking about the same, Nelson D'Souza, Vice President International Distribution, said, 'Jawan' has been received

Rashmika Mandanna joins Salman Khan-AR Murugadoss' 'Sikandar'

Rashmika Mandanna has been roped in for Salman Khan's upcoming film 'Sikandar'. The film, directed by AR Murugadoss, will release in theatres on Eid 2025. Rashmika Mandanna has

After the success of her recent blockbuster 'Animal', Rashmika Mandanna is set to captivate audiences once again in 'Sikandar.' The unusual pairing of Salman and Rashmika is likely to

update and here it is...Surprise!! I am truly grateful and honoured to be a part of #Sikandar (sic)." On May 9, a picture of Salman Khan from the sets of 'Sikandar' went



joined the cast of Salman Khan's next 'Sikandar.' The film, directed by AR Murugadoss and produced by Sajid Nadiadwala, will release in theatres on Eid 2025. The makers shared the announcement with a post on Instagram while welcoming the 'Animal' actor on board.

generate excitement among moviegoers about what will happen on Eid 2025 when the film hits the theatres. An excited Rashmika reacted to the announcement by the production house on X and wrote, "You guys for a long time have been asking me for the next

viral as he began the shooting. The photo featured the actor posing with a girl on the set. 'Sikandar' heralds the reunion of Salman Khan and Sajid Nadiadwala after their blockbuster collaborations on iconic films like 'Kick', 'Judwaa', and 'Mujhse Shaadi Karogi'.

Shah Rukh Khan's Jawan Becomes First Film To Cross USD 16 Million At Box Office In UAE



exceptionally well in international markets and continues to perform exceptionally well, becoming the first Indian film to cross USD 16 Million in the Middle East and emerging as the #1 Indian Film while raking in an outstanding 44.43 million in overseas till date.

There is nothing quite like this we have seen before and we are now looking forward to even more exciting times ahead with Dunki! - Nelson D'Souza, Vice President, International Distribution 'Jawan' is spreading its magic in the UAE market. The film has become the

first film to cross the whooping collection of USD 16 Million and has made it the #1 Indian film in the Middle East. Well, among many, this is indeed yet another example of its success and the unprecedented love that the film is receiving from the audience. Well, as we see, Jawan is constantly on the rise, it would be interesting to see how the film will create more records in the future. 'Jawan' is a Red Chillies Entertainment presentation directed by Atlee, produced by Gauri Khan, and co-produced by Gaurav Verma. The film was released worldwide in theaters on September 7th, 2023, in Hindi, Tamil, and Telugu.

Prime Video's Maitri: Female First Collective Hosts Its First Session In Chennai

Prime Video released the latest session of 'Maitri: Female First Collective', hosting its maiden discussion in Chennai. Launched last year, the collective is an endeavour to create a safe space where women from the Indian media and entertainment industry can come together to discuss their experiences, challenges and successes, and offer their perspective on bringing about a positive shift.

The session featured 8 eminent women from India's various entertainment industries, ranging from award-winning prolific actors who have worked across languages like Malavika Mohanan, Aishwarya Rajesh and Madhoo, to women who have left an indelible mark behind the camera, like creator, writer, showrunner & producer Reshma Ghatala, writer & director Swathi Raghuraaman, and



cinematographer Yamini Yagnamurthy, in addition to Aparna Purohit, creator – Maitri & head of India Originals, Prime Video, and Smriti Kiran, creator and curator of Maitri & founder, Polka Dots LightBox. Sharing personal anecdotes, the participants discussed the existing gender dynamics in the film industry, the challenges faced by female professionals, including stereotyping, colourism, ageism, and much more.

Surprisingly, the women noted how the issues were similar irrespective of whether they worked in front of the camera or behind it, or whether they worked in production or corporate roles. The core discussion also touched upon the true essence of feminism and empowerment, what gender-equality really means for the trailblazers gathered in the room. An interesting insight that was shared by all was that true equality can be

achieved when the industry stops tagging a particular role, a narrative or a job as woman-oriented or male-oriented. The group as a whole agreed that age-old conditioning often restricts the personal and professional growth and potential of women, and can be changed only if it is internalized in one's home and social environment. The interaction also highlighted the critical role that streaming was

playing in improving female representation, creating new opportunities for actors, regardless of their age, body size, or skin colour, and for creators to tell all kinds of unique stories. "Equitable representation opens up a new world for young girls to draw inspiration from, making it all the more important to have women in positions of influence, where they can provide a platform for newer voices and open up doors for more women," said Aparna Purohit, creator – Maitri & head of India Originals, Prime Video. "However, we know that change is a gradual process. It is, therefore, important for us to continue having these discussions across the country, and we are thrilled to have hosted our first session in Chennai. Even though it is only a year old, Maitri has managed to drive change

in the right direction. It is heartening to see people having a conversation about diversity, equity and inclusion when writing or planning their projects." Speaking about the need to have such conversations frequently, Smriti Kiran, creator & curator of Maitri and founder, Polka Dots LightBox said, "There is an undeniable need for spaces where women can voice their stories without any fear. Creating an environment that allows women to share their experiences without judgement is the first step in enabling any change, whether it is in the industry or society. This is precisely why we have to keep the conversation going relentlessly. Thrilled that Maitri is in Chennai today, tomorrow it will be in another part of India. We will continue to connect women across sections and states through conversation and collaboration."

Stay of Income Tax demand u/s 220(6) Part 1



Adv. Narayan Jain & CA Dilip Loyalka

1. Steps to be taken for stay of disputed tax demand: The assessee should write to the A.O. in case he has filed an appeal, requesting him not to treat him in default. The petition for stay u/s 220(6) should be well formulated keeping in mind the following points: a) The petition should state the prima facie merits of the appeal. The test of merit of appeal lies much upon the grounds of appeal, which should be strong enough. b) The hardship involved in the recovery of the disputed demand should be clearly and precisely stated. The petition should state why and how the balance of convenience is in favour of the stay, e.g., bad effect on the liquidity position of the business, jeopardy of the employment of workmen through possible closure of business and possibility of dead-lock in wage payment etc. as the case may be. c) Copy of grounds of appeal as well as

statement of facts should accompany the petition to show the prima facie merit of the appeal. Further this petition should be submitted before A.O. within 30 days of receipt of demand notice. Section 220(6) empowers A.O. not to treat the assessee in default and allow stay for payment subject to the conditions, which he may impose. For example, he may ask for part payment of disputed demand or may allow payment by instalments. In Pawan Kumar v. ITO [1998] 146 CTR (P&H) 152 it was held that ITO is required to afford an opportunity of hearing to the assessee and pass a speaking order while deciding the application filed by the assessee u/s 220(6) - World Vision India v. Commissioner of Income-tax, (Exemptions), Chennai [2018] 89 taxmann.com 193 (Madras). In M.L.M. Mahalingam Chettiar v. Third ITO [1967] 66 ITR 287 (Mad.) it was held

that discretion vested in the ITO u/s 220(6) is not merely a naked and arbitrary power but a power coupled with a responsibility and the concerned officer should take all the circumstances into account and all the considerations that could be urged or are urged by the assessee as to why he should not be treated 'as not being in default', and then make such order as is appropriate to the facts of the case. In other words, a request for exercise of the power u/s 220(6) cannot be summarily rejected on the basis that power is there with the officer but that he is not bound to exercise it. 2. CIT(A) is also vested with the powers of granting stay order: In Prem Prakash Tripathi v. CIT [1994] 208 ITR 461 (All.) it was held that CIT(A) is also vested with the powers of granting stay order, which is not only necessary but expedient for effective adjudication of appeal. If the amount mentioned in notice of demand is neither paid within the time or within the time extended u/s 220(3) nor any action is taken for stay of demand u/s 220(6), the assessee may be deemed to be in default. 3. Guidelines issued by CBDT for granting of stay of demand: a) CBDT vide its Office Memorandum No. F.NO.404/72/93-ITCC, dated 31-7-2017

has modified its earlier Instruction and directed that under normal circumstances, stay should be granted till the disposal of first appeal on payment of 20% [Earlier it was 15% vide Order dated 29-02-2016] of total demand. b) Where, A.O. is of view that nature of addition resulting in disputed demand is such that payment of a lump sum amount lower than 20% vide Office Memorandum 31-7-2017 is warranted (e.g. in a case where addition on the same issue has been deleted by appellate authorities in earlier years or the decision of the Supreme Court or jurisdictional High Court is in favour of the assessee, etc.), the A.O. shall refer the matter to the administrative Pr. CIT/CIT, who after considering all relevant facts shall decide the quantum/proportion of demand to be paid by the assessee as lump sum payment for granting a stay of the balance demand. d) In a case where stay of demand is granted by A.O. on payment of 20% vide CBDT Memorandum dated 31-7-2017 of the disputed demand and the assessee is still aggrieved, he may approach the jurisdictional administrative Pr. CIT/CIT for a review of the decision of A.O. e) The A.O. shall dispose of stay petition within 2 weeks of filing of the petition. If a reference has been made to Pr. CIT/CIT under para 4(B) or a review petition has been filed by the assessee under para 4 (C) of the CBDT Order, the same shall also be disposed of by the Pr. CIT/CIT within 2 weeks of the assessing officer making such reference or the assessee filing such review, as the case may be. f) In granting stay, the A.O. may impose such conditions as he may

decision of the Supreme Court or jurisdictional High Court is in favour of Revenue or addition is based on credible evidence collected in a search or survey operation, etc.), the A.O. shall refer the matter to the administrative Pr. CIT/CIT, who after considering all relevant facts shall decide the quantum/proportion of demand to be paid by the assessee as lump sum payment for granting a stay of the balance demand. d) In a case where stay of demand is granted by A.O. on payment of 20% vide CBDT Memorandum dated 31-7-2017 of the disputed demand and the assessee is still aggrieved, he may approach the jurisdictional administrative Pr. CIT/CIT for a review of the decision of A.O. e) The A.O. shall dispose of stay petition within 2 weeks of filing of the petition. If a reference has been made to Pr. CIT/CIT under para 4(B) or a review petition has been filed by the assessee under para 4 (C) of the CBDT Order, the same shall also be disposed of by the Pr. CIT/CIT within 2 weeks of the assessing officer making such reference or the assessee filing such review, as the case may be. f) In granting stay, the A.O. may impose such conditions as he may

think fit. He may, inter alia,- (i) require an undertaking from the assessee that he will co-operate in the early disposal of appeal failing which the stay order will be cancelled; (ii) reserve the right to review the order passed after expiry of reasonable period (say 6 months) or if the assessee has not co-operated in the early disposal of appeal, or where a subsequent pronouncement by a higher appellate authority or court alters the situation; (iii) reserve the right to adjust refunds arising, if any, against the demand, to the extent of the amount required for granting stay and subject to the provisions of section 245. 4. Whether stay of demand can be granted for amount lower than 20% of demand or without paying any demand: it has been held in Jagdish Gandabhai Shah v. Pr. CIT [2017] 81 taxmann.com 45 (Guj.) that payment of 15% or 20% (amount prescribed by CBDT), tax is not a pre-requisite for making stay petition or granting stay. In Flipkart India Private Limited v. ACIT [TS-97-HC-2017(Kar.) it was held that, where payment of 15% or 20% will cause genuine hardship and the assessment made by

A.O. is an high pitched one, the Pr. CIT may grant stay without paying any demand or paying a lower sum than 15% or 20%. Although process for granting stay was streamlined, and standardized by Circular dated 29-2-2016 but it could not mean that Instruction No. 2-B(iii) contained in Circular No. 1914 dealing with situation of unreasonably high pitched or dealing with situation of genuine hardship caused to assessee was erased by Circular dated 29-2-2016, therefore, both these factors should be considered by both, A.O. as well as Principal Commissioner before requiring the assessee to deposit 15 or 20 per cent of the disputed demand amount. Also refer: Suresh Anuradha v. CIT [2020] 115 taxmann.com 73 (Mad). 5. Where addition made by the AO is under appeal and there are conflicting views of the ITAT on the issue :Circular No. 530 dated 6-3-1989 stating that a stay of demand be granted if there are conflicting views of High Court, or there are conflicting views of different Benches of ITAT. Thus, unconditional stay should be granted to assessee till disposal of appellate proceeding- General Insurance Corporation of India v. ACIT [2019] 111 taxmann.com 412

(Bom). 6. Whether AO can direct assessee to pay 20 per cent of amount demanded for granting stay during pendency of appeal by mechanically referring to CBDT instruction dated 31-7-2017: AO has to examine the applicability of Circular No.1914 in as much as whether the assessment is "unreasonably high-pitched" or whether "any genuine hardship would be caused to the assessee" in case the assessee was required to deposit 20% of the disputed demand amount. A.O. cannot demand 20% of the demand amount while disposing of the stay application, without any application of mind - Charishma Hotels (P.) Ltd. v. ITO [2018] 92 taxmann.com 428 (Karnataka), Flipkart India (P.) Ltd. v. Asstt. CIT [2017] 79 taxmann.com 159 (Kar.); Turner General Entertainment Networks India Pvt Ltd. v. ITO (2019) 104 taxmann.com 333 (Del); ArchitKhemka v. PCIT [2019] 101 taxmann.com 488 (Mad). (to be contd.)

(Narayan Jain is author of books "How to Handle Income Tax Problems" and "Income Tax Pleading & Practice" with CA Dilip Loyalka).

Gujarat: Sliding into abyss



Addressing his first election rally in the state on May 6, 2024, Modi urged people to give a chance to the BJP to make Odisha the number one state in the country. He asserted that "The BJP will form a double-engine government here after elections. The expiry date of the BJD government is June 4, 2024.". He cited examples like Tripura, Uttar Pradesh, Assam, and Chhattisgarh, where BJP governments have accelerated development after its return to power. But he did not tell what development means and on which indexes, and how he wants to make Odisha number one. But the question creeps in mind that he can dare to say in other BJP ruled states that he wants to make Odisha as the number one state in the country. It is sheer hypocrisy. In which state he speaks, promises to make that state number one. If we examine various

indexes, Kerala tops the list. But he never praises Kerala governments where BJP has never ruled. Ex-President of India Ram Nath Kovind had also said on Dec 23, 2021, that Kerala leads other states on several indices of human development, including aspects of sustainable development and successive governments in the state have kept a sustained focus on the agenda of growth and development. One state can outpace another state easily if later does not perform. When other states are trying to improve, one state ranked abysmally cannot rise to top position. In such a situation, Odisha has performed well, though there are many dark areas too. In term of poverty reduction, Odisha has done even better than BJP ruled states. Niti Aayog's first Multidimensional Poverty Index (MPI) report. Is calculated considering three equally weighted dimensions - health, education, and standard of living which are represented by 12 indicators. Once Odisha was the poorest country but now

its poverty ratio of 11.07 percent is lower than the national average of 11.28 percent. Odisha ranks at 19th place and ahead of eight states like Tripura (11.49 percent), Chhattisgarh (11.71 percent), Nagaland (11.76 percent), Assam (14.47 percent), Uttar Pradesh (17.47 percent), Madhya Pradesh (15.1 percent), Jharkhand (23.94 percent), Meghalaya (25.46 percent), Bihar (26.59 percent). Many of those states are ruled by BJP. As per the index 2023, Kerala's poverty ratio of 0.48 percent is 2nd lowest in the country, while Gujarat is the 16th poorest state with a poverty ratio of 9.03 percent down by 3 places from the previous ranking of 13th poorest state. Uttar Pradesh with a poverty ratio of 17.40 percent is the fifth poorest country in India. The larger the size of the population of any state, the higher likely to be Gross State Domestic Product (GSDP). Hence, we can draw erroneous conclusions if compared with states in terms of GSDP. But in terms of NSDP per capita (Current Prices). Odisha with ₹128181 is ahead of 10 states such as Nagaland, West Bengal, Madhya

Pradesh, Jammu and Kashmir, Chhattisgarh, Meghalaya, Assam, Manipur, Jharkhand, Uttar Pradesh and Bihar. Many of those 10 states are ruled by BJP. Kerala occupied 11th rank while Gujarat being a big and industrialised state ranks 10th position down by 4 slots from previous year. Modi's own state Gujarat is sliding into an abyss. Gujarat with 12,119 infant deaths was ranked second from bottom in the country, only better than Maharashtra with 13,807 deaths. This was the fourth consecutive year when the state was ranked second from bottom. Infant deaths are mainly because of measles and malnutrition. According to the government data (February 7, 2024), more than 5.70 lakh children in Gujarat are malnourished. Out of which, nearly 4.38 lakh children are underweight, while 1.31 lakh fell in the 'severely underweight. Notably, the highly-urbanised district of Ahmedabad accounted for the highest number of malnourished children (56,941), followed by tribal-dominated Dahod (51,321).

No government medical colleges have been established in the state since 1995, the Gujarat government has admitted in the assembly in March 2024. By contrast, four private medical colleges were given a go-ahead in 2023. Gujarat's performance in housing also leaves room for improvement when compared to other states. According to NITI Aayog, 23.30 per cent of the population is deprived of housing in Gujarat. Kerala, Punjab and Tamil Nadu have performed better than Gujarat. There is talk of Nari Shakti. Gujarat reported an average of six rape cases per day in 2022-23, with Ahmedabad reporting one per day. In 2022-23, there were 2,209 cases of rape and 36 cases of gang rape registered. According to NCRB data, from 2016 to 2020, over 41,621 women went missing in Gujarat. Women go missing due to family disputes, elopement, failure in examinations, etc. The Annual Status of Education Report, a study conducted by NGO Pratham and released in January 2023, says only 22 per cent children in rural Gujarat can perform

basic subtraction in class 3, while 35 per cent in class 5 can read class 2 texts, both lower than the national average of 27 per cent and 39 per cent, respectively. Digital education in Gujarat is still low despite BJP's radical promise. Extensive teaching vacancies across Gujarat are failing students. Gujarat faces a severe shortage of school teachers. The crisis upsets government and government-aided schools, with students in the remote and rural areas the worst sufferers. On February 12, 2024 the state government informed the Assembly that 1,606 of the state's 32,000 government primary schools operated with only one teacher for all students of Classes I to 8. As of December 31, 2023, there were 341 government primary schools in the state that operate from a single room. Data presented in the state assembly in March 2023 shows 32,674 teaching posts lay vacant statewide as of December 2022. There are 439 vacant posts in Gujarat Education Service class-I and 1,020 vacancies in class-II.

The recent Household Consumption Expenditure Survey (HCES) report threw up a momentous metric on high rural-urban inequality in consumption expenditure. Among the major states, Gujarat tops the list where the rural monthly per capita expenditures (MPCE) are way behind urban while the rural-urban skew is the lowest in Kerala and Punjab. The MPCE of the rural population in Gujarat as compared to their urban counterparts is a gigantic 74 percent, same as Odisha. While GDP measures economic growth of a country, the Human Development Index provides a measure to assess human development, i.e., how people's lives are changing. This is measured in terms of health and education and per capita income indicators. In the HDI (as of 2021), among 34 Indian states and union territories, Kerala occupies the first position while Gujarat is ranked abysmally at 23rd position. Kerala also tops the Niti Aayog's Sustainable Development Goal Index. Kerala is also leading charts when it

comes with proper toilets, higher life expectancy (75.3 years) higher literacy (94 percent and lower mortality rate (4.4 per thousand). A research paper by Andrea Malji (published in ResearchGate in June 2021), has compared how the Gujarat and Kerala models performed during COVID-19 pandemic. Since 2000, the Gujarat model has emphasized industrialization and economic development, often at the expense of social development. By contrast, the Kerala model underlines social development, often at the expense of economic development. It was observed that the Kerala model and its emphasis on social development helped the state respond more effectively to the first wave of the pandemic compared to Gujarat. Hence, policy should not emphasize only economic development but social development. Economic development comes at the cost of natural resources. The author is an eminent economist, columnist and social thinker. Email: skmohapatra67@gmail.com



Polling parties carrying EVM's-VVPAT's and other polling materials are rushing to polling stations in Bardhaman-Durgapur Parliamentary, West Bengal

Won't Have To Go Back To Jail If You Choose AAP: Arvind Kejriwal's Pitch

New Delhi(KCN): Delhi Chief Minister Arvind Kejriwal -- out of Tihar Jail on interim bail -- told people at a roadshow today that he would not have to return to jail if they vote for him. "I have to go back to jail after 20 days. If you choose jhadu (AAP's symbol), I won't have to go back to jail," the Chief Minister said. Mr Kejriwal's return to teahouse and dust of campaigning after 50 days in jail has reinvigorated AAP, which had been firefighting on multiple fronts. Senior party leader Saurabh Bhardwaj said it would also be a "gamechanger" for the INDIA bloc. Fresh out of jail, the Chief Minister has plunged into campaigning, holding a



roadshow in Moti Nagar in support of Sonam Bharti, the party's candidate for the New Delhi seat. And there, he told the crowd that his absence would reflect on the work done for the people.

"If I went back to jail, the BJP would stop your work, free electricity, degrade schools and shut down hospitals and Mohalla Clinics," said the Chief Minister, accompanied by his Punjab counterpart Bhagwant Mann. "They

sent me to jail because I worked for you. The BJP does not want that work of Delhi people are done," Delhi votes for its seven Lok Sabha seats on May 25. The AAP chief, arrested

in the Delhi liquor policy case, is out on interim bail till June 1, the day the voting for the Lok Sabha election ends. He has to surrender on June 2. The Supreme Court, which was hearing the challenge to Mr Kejriwal's arrest, had unexpectedly sought to hear his bail petition also. While releasing him on bail, the judges said he was not a "habitual offender" and pointed to the ongoing election. "There are elections (and) these are extraordinary circumstances, and he is not a habitual offender. This is a question of public interest," said the bench of Justices Sanjiv Khanna and Dipankar Datta.

"Is He PM Candidate?": Smriti Irani On Rahul Gandhi Debating PM Modi



New Delhi(KCN): Union Minister Smriti Irani questioned Congress leader Rahul Gandhi after the latter accepted an invitation to debate Prime Minister Narendra Modi on crucial election issues. Ms Irani questioned Mr Gandhi's ability to engage in a debate with someone of Prime Minister Modi's stature, given his reluctance to contest in his historical stronghold, Amethi. The Amethi constituency had been synonymous with the Gandhi family's political legacy, represented by Mr

Gandhi since 2004 until his defeat in 2019. The Congress leader last week filed his nomination papers from the Rae Bareilly Lok Sabha seat, a constituency held by his mother Sonia Gandhi for the last two decades. Responding to Mr Gandhi's challenge for a debate, Ms Irani, the BJP Lok Sabha candidate from Amethi, said, "Firstly, the person who does not have the courage to contest against a normal BJP worker in his so-called castle, should refrain from boasting. Secondly, who

wants to sit at level with PM Modi and have a debate, I want to ask him if he is a PM candidate of the INDIA alliance?" Mr Gandhi welcomed the proposal for a public debate, expressing eagerness for either himself or Congress chief Mallikarjun Kharge to participate. Mr Gandhi's acceptance of the debate invitation came in response to Justice (Retd) Madan B Lokur, Justice (Retd) Ajit P Shah, and journalist N Ram, who had extended the invitation in a non-partisan effort to foster informed decision-making

among citizens. Mr Gandhi revealed that both him and Mr Kharge have agreed that such a debate would help people understand "our respective vision and enable them to make an informed choice". "It is also critical to put to rest any unsubstantiated allegations attributed to our respective parties. As the principal parties fighting the election, the public deserve to hear from their leaders directly," Gandhi said in his letter replying to the invitation. "Accordingly, either myself or the Congress president would be pleased to participate in such a debate." "Congress welcomes this initiative and accepts the invitation for discussion. The country also expects the prime minister to take part in this dialogue," he added. The former Congress chief said he was "100 per cent" prepared to take on PM Modi in a debate but claimed the Prime Minister would not agree.

Ashok Gehlot-Sachin Pilot Old Tussle Seems Far From Over

Jaipur(KCN): The rift between Ashok Gehlot and Sachin Pilot camps in Rajasthan, which started soon after the 2018 Assembly polls, seems far from over even after the completion of Lok Sabha elections in the desert state. Now, there seems to be discontent among a section of party workers over Mr Gehlot's appointment as Congress poll observer for the high-profile Amethi Lok Sabha constituency in Uttar Pradesh. At the same time, Mr Pilot has been given the charge of the

North East Delhi and is being called an "outsider". Congress has fielded Gandhi family loyalist, Kishori Lal Sharma, against BJP's Smriti Irani from the Amethi Lok Sabha constituency. Congress leader Varun Purohit says that this indicates a rift is still going on between Mr Pilot and Mr Gehlot. "Mr Gehlot seems to have been given an upper hand as he has been appointed the poll observer for Amethi, which was a crucial Lok Sabha seat held traditionally by the Gandhi family. This seat

Kumar since they consider him an 'outsider'. Now, one can easily say that Mr Gehlot is still in a better political position than Mr Pilot. Mr Gehlot has again proved that he has vast political experience to win the trust of the Gandhi family," Mr Purohit says. Meanwhile, another Congress worker on condition of anonymity told IANS: "The party is trying to depend on veteran party leaders considering their vast experience in politics. Mr Gehlot is a senior party leader and still has the political acumen to win



North East Delhi seat being contested by 'controversial' former JNU student leader Kanhaiya Kumar. While the Gehlot camp credits the former Chief Minister's credibility in the Gandhi family as the reason for being appointed as the observer for Amethi, the Pilot camp says his image as a youth icon has landed him the role to mobilise the youth in Kanhaiya Kumar's support. Mr Gehlot loyalists also say that the party trusts his vast political experience. Therefore he has been given the charge of Amethi. In contrast, Mr Pilot loyalists say that he can win the trust of local party leaders who are upset over Kanhaiya Kumar's candidature from

becomes crucial as Priyanka Gandhi herself has been managing the election campaign in both Raebareilly and Amethi, which will give more time to Gehlot to win the trust of the Gandhi family again. "Moreover, Sachin Pilot is being considered as a youth icon and is yet to join the cadre of senior Congress leaders. Therefore, he has been appointed as a poll observer from a Lok Sabha constituency in Delhi where 'controversial' candidate Kanhaiya Kumar is contesting on a Congress ticket." "Mr Pilot has been given the task to placate those Congress party workers who are upset with the candidature of Kanhaiya

Lok Sabha seats. He also knows how to manage party expenses on a prestigious Lok Sabha seat and hence has been sent to Amethi." Sushil Asopa, former Secretary, Rajasthan Pradesh Congress Committee, says it is surprising that such a party leader has been sent to Amethi, who himself has been unable to bring Congress back to power in Rajasthan despite being the Chief Minister thrice. "It's surprising to see a former Chief Minister (Gehlot) addressing a press conference in Amethi, who could not win the elections from Jodhpur, his home district, in 1999 when Mr Gehlot was the Rajasthan Chief Minister."

"Desperate Opposition" Using PM Modi's Age As Excuse, Says Yogi Adityanath

Lucknow (KCN): Slamming Delhi Chief Minister Arvind Kejriwal over his "retirement at 75 years of age" remark on Prime Minister Modi, Uttar Pradesh Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath said that knowing their defeat in the Lok Sabha elections, desperate opposition making futile attempts. Earlier, Kejriwal claimed that PM Modi after turning 75 next year will make way for Home Minister Amit Shah and also alleged Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath will be left out in the cold after the general elections. In his post on X, CM Yogi said, "The entire propaganda of the opposition has failed in the face of the immense public support that the honorable Prime Minister of India, Shri Narendra Modi ji is receiving from East to West and North to South. Knowing that its defeat in the Lok Sabha elections is certain, the desperate opposition is making futile attempts to launch a pseudo-attack by



using the excuse of Modi's age. The people of India know that every moment of Modi ji is dedicated to taking Mother India to the ultimate glory." Further, he asserted that the people of India know that every moment of Modi ji is dedicated to taking Mother India to the ultimate glory. "Under the successful leadership of respected Prime Minister Modi ji, the concepts of 'Viksit Bharat', 'Aatmnirbhar Bharat' and 'Ek Bharat Shreshth Bharat' are being realised. Certainly, in the third term of Modi ji, India

will touch new heights towards becoming a global superpower. Modi Ji is the accepted leader of 140 crore Indians and our guardian. We are proud that we are Modi Ji's family members," CM Yogi Adityanath said. Earlier, Arvind Kejriwal claimed that PM Modi is making way for Home Minister Amit Shah and Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath will be left out in the cold after the general elections. "These people ask the INDIA alliance who will be their prime minister. I ask the BJP, Who will be

your Prime Minister? PM Modi is turning 75 on September 17. He made a rule that leaders in the party would retire after 75 years. LK Advani, Murli Manohar Joshi, Sumitra Mahajan, and Yashwant Sinha were retired and now PM Modi is going to retire," CM Kejriwal said. "If their government is formed, they will first dispose of Yogi Adityanath and then make Amit Shah the Prime Minister of the country. PM Modi is asking for votes for Amit Shah. Will Amit Shah fulfil Modi's guarantee?" he added.

BJD's Pandian says BJP would get less than 10% votes if party projects any CM face in Odisha

Bhubaneswar(KCN): Senior BJD leader VK Pandian Saturday challenged the BJP to declare its CM candidate for Odisha and claimed that the party would get less than 10 per cent votes if it names any of its current state leaders. Campaigning in the Sundargarh Lok Sabha seat, Pandian said BJP has been "day-dreaming" about forming a government in Odisha since 2014. "When elections come many leaders come as election tourists, and then they are not seen for five years," he said. "It's a very old habit of BJP leaders of Odisha to

daydream about forming the government as Naveen Patnaik has said. They have been daydreaming since 2014," he added. Pandian claimed the BJP was unable to declare its CM candidate because it knows the day it will announce, its vote share will go below 10 per cent. "PM Modi is claiming that the BJP chief minister will take oath on June 10. The people of Odisha have the right to know who is the BJP's CM candidate. Let the people decide between Naveen Patnaik and the BJP candidate. The BJP is afraid to declare its CM candidate because they



know that if they choose any one of the current leaders, they will get less than 10 per cent votes," he said. "I challenge the BJP to declare its CM candidate," he added. In an indirect reference to Pandian's earlier assertion that he is the natural successor to all

great values of CM Patnaik, Modi told an election rally, "I am here to invite you to the swearing-in ceremony of the BJP chief minister in Bhubaneswar June 10. A son or daughter of the soil who understands the state's culture, language and tradition will be made the CM."

Pandian said the BJP is

claiming that it will make Odisha the top state in the country, "but is Gujarat the number one state?" "Malnutrition among children in Gujarat is 40 per cent. Anaemia among children in Gujarat is 79 per cent. Per capita debt burden of Gujarat is close to Rs 60,000," he claimed. Claiming that CM Patnaik never forgets his promises, Pandian said that the BJD manifesto will be converted into a policy document after the elections. Odisha will vote for its 21 Lok Sabha seats and the 147-member assembly, simultaneously, in four phases, starting May 13

Bhubaneswar(KCN): Nandankanan Zoological Park (NZP) today mourned the death of Nandan, a beloved wild tiger and an integral part of the Nandankanan Family. Lameness in hind limbs was first seen on the tiger in December 2023 and since then he was continuously under treatment. He was examined by the experts in January and February 2024, zoo officials said. He was immobilised, x-ray images of limbs and spine were taken, USG of the whole abdomen was carried out and whole blood and serum samples were analysed. The treatment advised by Centre of Wildlife Health, OUAT, Bhubaneswar was



continued. Many tiger health experts were also consulted by the Zoo Vets, the officials informed. However, his condition deteriorated progressively and eventually he was moving by dragging his hind limbs. Therefore, in February 2024, he was shifted to tiger safari feeding cell under general anaesthesia to restrict movement.

He developed decubital ulcers at both hip joints and was immobilised for treatment twice in the last two months and was completely confined to the feeding cell since March 21, 2024. He left feed and water on 29-04-2024 and remained in lateral recumbency. From 30-04-2024 he was under fluid therapy.

Man kills self as daughter marries against his wish

Tihidi(KCN): Unable to bear his daughter's move to get married against his wish, a 51-year-old man allegedly committed suicide by jumping in front of a train on Bhadrak-Dhamra railway track near Kandapur village under Tihidi police station limits in Bhadrak district late Friday night, police said. The deceased was identified as Hemanta Kumar Rout, a resident of Kandapur village. Villagers said he took the drastic step after his daughter married a person without his wish. As per reports, Hemant's wife departed some years ago. After his wife's



death, he was taking care of his three daughters alone. Out of his three daughters, one has left home and residing at Bhadrak. Shocked over the news of his elder daughter's marriage to a person Friday without his wish,

the man got severely depressed and killed himself by jumping in front of a train late Friday night. Locals came to know about the incident around 4am Friday and informed police. On being informed police

reached the spot, seized the body and initiated an investigation into the incident. Police after registering a case of unnatural death sent the body for post-mortem Saturday morning.

Naveen On Counter Attack




Bhubaneswar(KCN): Chief Minister Naveen Patnaik today counter attacked Prime Minister Narendra Modi raising central negligence towards Odisha and Odia Asmita. In a video message, the Chief Minister said, "Nothing will happen on June 10 nor in another 10 years. The BJP can't win the hearts of the people of Odisha. With the blessings from Lord Jagannath and the love of the people of Odisha, the Biju Janata Dal (BJD) will form the government in Odisha for the sixth time." Shri Patnaik said this while countering PM's claim that BJP will form government in Odisha this time and the

new Chief Minister will take oath in Bhubaneswar on June 10. "What I remember is that the people of Odisha have known this well for the last 24 years. But Prime Minister, how much do you remember about Odisha?," he asked. "Even though Odia has been declared as a classical language, you forgot about Odia language. You have allotted 1000 crores for development of Sanskrit, but nothing for Odia language," he said. Shri Patnaik also said to the Prime Minister that he has forgotten about Odissi music too. "I have sent proposals for classical music recognition for Odissi,

but you have rejected those twice," he said. Stating there are so many brave sons in Odisha, a few of whom the PM named during his election campaigning today, the BJD chief asked, "Don't any of them deserve the Bharat Ratna? You have given away the Bharat Ratna to so many people, but you again forgot about the great son of Odisha, Biju Patnaik," "You promised to double the MSP for the farmers of Odisha and forgot about it. You should have kept the people of Odisha in mind and built the Coastal Highway and you, which also you have forgotten," the Chief Minister stated.

"Odisha's natural wealth is coal and you take coal from Odisha but you have forgotten to increase the royalty in the last 10 years," he told the PM. Further the CM said to the Prime Minister that he is remembering Odisha only at election time, which will be of no use. Do you remember the promises you made in 2014 and 2019 ?, he again asked. "People of Odisha remember your promise to reduce prices of essential commodities, to create 2 crore jobs, reduce prices of LPG, petrol, and diesel, provide mobile connectivity to all and reduce & waive GST. The people of Odisha have not forgotten any of these," he added. For the first time in the history of BJD, the Chief Minister has attacked the Prime Minister by sending a video message raising several issues related to Odisha.



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Indulge the salon: 3 new salon launch by Aftab shivadasani

New Delhi, (KCN): Indulge launched 3 new salons at DN Regalia Mall, Sum Hospital Square & Ram Mandir Square on the 12th of May 2024. Bollywood Star Aftab Shivdasani inaugurated the 3 salons and presided over the gala event at DN Regalia Mall. He congratulated Sukirti for building a successful brand that is a pride of Odisha. and also appreciated her for promoting women entrepreneurs. He congratulated the franchise owners and also gave away awards to employees, influencers, and momentos to top



clients. Ms Sukirti Patnaaik, founder of Indulge congratulated the franchise owners Ms. Saloni Kumari, Ms. Suchismita Mohanty, Ms. Swarnalata Samal, Ms. Prasanna Pati & Ms. Sanjana Das. The a l l - w o m e n Entrepreneurs is a

testimony of the dynamism of women in Odisha's business environment. Indulge's strong focus on quality and safety has made it the most trusted salon brand in Odisha. Indulge has won over 150+ awards including several national and international awards.

Indulge is one of the most trusted and recognized brands in the Indian Beauty Industry. International brands from the US and France also partnered with Indulge for the salon launch. Aftab and Sukirti interacted with customers, fans, and

guests. They also shared their experiences, their journey and encouraged women to dream big and pursue their passion. Aftab shared snippets of his upcoming movie Welcome to the Jungle with Akshay Kumar. Siddharth Nayak, VP of DN Group welcomed Aftab to DN Mall and was the Guest of Honour at the launch. On behalf of all the women franchise owners, Ms. Saloni Kumari thanked Sukirti and Aftab for their overwhelming support and their presence at the opening.

Flipkart’s Shopsy Summer Store steers tremendous growth for sellers in Odisha

Bhubaneswar: As the summer starts rolling in, Shopsy - Flipkart’s social commerce platform, recently launched the Summer Store, a unique curation to address customers’ nuanced seasonal needs by offering a wide range of products across categories under one umbrella. As a testimony to this endeavor, sellers in Cuttack recorded nearly a 9X growth in sales and sellers in Puri recorded nearly a 16X growth in sales bolstered by the summer store initiative. Sellers in Sundergarh have garnered atremendous 34X growth in their sales over the past month. The summer store recorded increased traction from women buyers which indicates a positive women reseller growth in

Cuttack. Amongst several categories, Hygiene and Wellness, Fashion, Kitchenware and Home Decor emerged as top priorities for customers with demand for products such as deodorants, sunglasses, body washes, essential oils, sarees, table covers, bedsheets and kitchen tools topping the charts. Shopsy Summer Store is a one-stop-shop for products ranging from electronics, personal care, baby care, food and beverages, apparel, swimwear and kitchenware including air conditioners, deodorants, baby sunscreen, aerated drinks, cotton clothes for men and women, swimsuits and juicer mixer grinders. Of this, deodorants have taken up the major share of the

demand pie clocking over 50% growth, followed by sunglasses which grew by close to 22%. Kitchen tools also contributed to a 6X growth over the past month in Cuttack. This was followed by categories such as kurta sets, cotton sarees, deodorants and body washes that witnessed a 3X jump over the past month in Puri. Shopsy aims to continue its endeavor to offer a wide range of quality and engaging products for customers at affordable prices, while being a value-based and reliable platform. By providing a simplified social media interface, Shopsy is able to overcome user apprehension of trust and authenticity while shopping online.

Celebrate Mother’s Day with a Healthier Twist by Gifting Almonds

Bhubaneswar (KCN): There’s no one day to celebrate the invaluable contribution of mothers in our lives. As caregivers, mothers have always put our well-being before their own. This Mother's Day, it's crucial to acknowledge their selfless efforts by prioritizing their health and wellness. Gifting your mother, a curated box of almonds is a thoughtful way to ensure her good health. Almonds are packed with some of the essential nutrients that promote overall well-being, making them an ideal gift choice for Mother's Day. Almonds contain protein, zinc, magnesium, iron, calcium, phosphorus, and vitamin E, among others. Daily consumption of a handful of almonds as a

part of a well-balanced diet can offer numerous health benefits, including better control of blood sugar levels, promoting cardiovascular health, supporting skin health, and aiding in weight management. Therefore, gifting a box of almonds to your Mother’s Day can be a thoughtful way to show your love and care while also contributing to your mother's well-being. Bollywood actress and celebrity Soha Ali Khan said, “Almonds have been a cherished tradition in my family for generations, thanks to the wisdom of my mother. I've made sure they're a constant in my family's diet too. Adding almonds to my diet has not only helped improve my skin health but also



keeps me energetic and active throughout my hectic shoot days. I always carry a box of almonds with me, perfect for quick snacks between meetings and shoots. I do believe gifting almonds to mothers this Mother’s Day is the perfect gesture.”

Fitness and Celebrity instructor, Yasmin Karachiwala said, “As a fitness enthusiast, I can't stress enough the importance of nourishing your body with wholesome foods like almonds. They're packed with 15 essential nutrients like copper, zinc,

folate, iron, vitamin E, magnesium, and phosphorus, providing various health benefits. Plus, they're a rich source of protein, a nutrient crucial for muscle growth and maintenance. That's why I feel almonds definitely make a thoughtful gift for Mother's Day, symbolizing health and care.” Ritika Samaddar, Regional Head of Dietetics at Max Healthcare - New Delhi also believes that almonds are a great gift to give this Mother’s Day. She said, "Celebrating Mother's Day with healthy, crunchy, and delicious almonds can be a meaningful way to show appreciation for all that mothers do.

Ambuja Cements and ACC’s ChangeTheStory campaign wins Bronze at theABBY Awards

Mumbai: The first sustainability campaign ‘Change The Story’ of Ambuja Cements and ACC, has won a Bronze Award at the recent ABBY Awards 2022, under the Green Award category. This category is awarded to outstanding communication that features planet conservation, sustainability etc. The “Change The Story”

campaign aimed to create awareness about sustainability and showcase technology-backed solutions that offer effective and measurable outcomes in this regard.

The #ChangeTheStory campaign highlights a non-invasive bubble barrier technology, which will remove around 2,400 tonnes of plastic waste from Agra’s Mantola

canal, thereby preventing its entry into the Yamuna river. The crux of the campaign lay in reaching out to a wide audience across India and globally — and communicating the campaign’s features. The campaign winning this honour at the ABBY Awards—often touted as the Oscars of Indian advertising—was designed in collaboration

with Alok Nanda and Company and serves as another reminder of the crucial role sustainability plays at Ambuja Cements and ACC.

#ChangeTheStory campaign was rolled out across multiple platforms, including print and digital, reaching out to an approximate 32 million people. One of its lead video films conveyed the message, through the lens

of a scientist, that it’s time to change the story by taking out the plastic and freeing our rivers of their polluted past. The campaign further leveraged the power of music and created a rap song across owned platforms featuring the campaign mnemonic “Bubble Sharma”. This was followed by a bouquet of informative posts and videos on social

Nothing launches Phone (2a), CMF by Nothing Buds and Neckband Pro

New Delhi: Nothing today announced Phone (2a), its highly anticipated new smartphone offering. Phone (2a) is here to provide the optimal daily smartphone experience, doubling down on core user needs with all of Nothing’s expertise, engineering and craftsmanship. A device for people who love to explore new innovations and designs but also know what they want (and don’t want) from their smartphone. Including a powerfully unique processor, an exceptional 50 MP dual rear camera, an extra bright flexible AMOLED display, and an intuitive OS that delivers a fast and smooth experience with every interaction. “This year is all about accelerating our progress, and Phone (2a) is our first big step forward. Phone (2a) is going to enable more people to experience the Nothing innovations that many have come to love, and we’re confident it will become our bestselling product ever,” said Carl Pei, CEO and Co-founder of Nothing. Featuring a Dimensity 7200



Pro processor co-engineered with MediaTek, Phone (2a) ensures unparalleled power efficiency and blazing speed, enhanced by a 20 GB (12 GB + 8 GB) RAM with RAM Booster technology. With optimizations like Smart Clean and Adaptive NTFS, Nothing and MediaTek have reduced power consumption by up to 10%. The device boasts a massive 5,000 mAh battery with improved longevity, supporting 45W Fast Charging for rapid power-ups. Equipped with a flawless dual 50 MP rear camera powered by the TrueLens Engine and a 32 MP front camera, Phone (2a) captures life's moments with precision. Its 6.7” flexible AMOLED display delivers stunning visuals with a peak brightness of 1,300 nits and a refresh rate of 120 Hz. Phone (2a) showcases Nothing’s

unique design expression, featuring an industry-first 90° angle unibody cover and an innovative camera placement. Running on Nothing OS 2.5 with Android 14, Phone (2a) offers a seamless user experience with enhanced widgets and AI-powered features. Phone (2a) will be available at Flipkart, Croma, Vijay Sales, and other leading outlets in Black and White colors, starting Tuesday, March 12, 2024, offering three models: 8 GB/128 GB (Rs. 23,999/-), 8 GB/256 GB (Rs. 25,999/-), and 12 GB/256 GB (Rs. 27,999/-). As a special launch offer, customers using HDFC Cards can avail exclusive benefits, including an immediate discount of Rs. 2,000/-.

JioPhone Next ‘Exchange to Upgrade’ Offer

Bhubaneswar: Reliance Retail has launched a limited period Exchange to Upgrade offer for JioPhone Next. As per the offer, customers can exchange a functional 4G feature phone or smartphone for a brand new JioPhone Next for just Rs. 4,499.

The JioPhone Next ‘Exchange to Upgrade’ offer allows many more Indians to embrace a truly smart Digital Life. With this offer existing 4G feature phone and smartphone users will no longer be held back by their device constraints and be able to enjoy the true 4G Jio Digital Life to the fullest. Current users of 4G feature phones will

now be able to migrate much more easily to the large screen digital experience on the world’s most affordable 4G smartphone. Similarly, the current 4G low-end smartphone users too can affordably upgrade to a seamless and enhanced digital life offer by JioPhone Next which runs on Pragati OS – the optimised version of Android that supports a rich suite of applications and usage without compromising on the user experience.

The offer is available through Reliance Retail’s extensive network of JioMart Digital, Reliance Digital and other outlets in the remotest corners of the country, making it

geographically and economically accessible to many more Indians.

It is worth mentioning here that JioPhone Next, designed jointly by Jio and Google, is the world’s most affordable 4G smartphone that comes with a 5.45” HD screen with Corning Gorilla Glass 3 and anti-fingerprint coating, 2GB RAM, 32 GB in-built storage (expandable up to 512GB), 13MP back camera, 8MP front selfie camera, 3500 mAh battery, and a range of other advanced features which include voice fast capabilities, read aloud, translate now, easy and smart camera, automatic feature update, easy media share, OTG support etc.

JK Lakshmi Cement Posted Net Profit up at Rs 161.26 Cr.

Bhubaneswar: JK Lakshmi Cement Ltd., one of the leading cement companies of India, recorded a turnover of Rs.1497.64 crore in Jan-Mar.22 with an increase of 13% over Rs.1321.99 crore in the corresponding quarter Jan-Mar 21. Despite unabated increase in Petcoke and Diesel prices which are hovering at all time high, JK Lakshmi Cement could achieve healthy profitability by continuous improvement in operational efficiencies, energy cost, better

product mix and higher volume. JK Lakshmi Cement’s EBIDTA before Other Income moved up to Rs.276.23 crore in Jan-Mar.22 from Rs.267.88 crore in Jan-Mar.21. After providing for interest, depreciation & Exceptional Item, PBT stood at Rs.197.93 crore in Jan-Mar.22 as against Rs.186.53 crore in Jan-Mar.21. After Providing for Taxes and Other Comprehensive Income, JKLakshmi Cement’s Profit was up at Rs.161.26 crore in Jan-Mar.22 against Rs.138.27

crore logged in the corresponding quarter. During the Twelve months April 21–March 22 Company’s Sales increased by 15% to Rs.5040.78 crore (Rs.4384.71 crore) and EBITDA was up at Rs.868.52 crore (Rs.864.22 crore). JKLakshmi Cement’s profit at PAT level during this period moved up by 14% to touch all time high at Rs.417.56 crore against profit of Rs.366.24 crore in the same period last year.

and the basic functioning of the Bubble Barrier technology. This game convinces the user to play their role in driving change by encouraging players to “bubble pop” their way to cleaner oceans and safer habitats for marine organisms.

Mr. Neeraj Akhoury, CEO India Holcim and Managing Director & CEO of Ambuja Cements Ltd., said that the

award served yet another reminder of the company’s efforts towards sustainability. “We are elated and honoured that a campaign that’s important to us has received the recognition that it deserved. Sustainability and business go hand in hand at Ambuja Cements and ACC Ltd. This will encourage us to further step up our efforts in this direction.”

