

## Nearly 67% voter turnout in first four phases of Lok Sabha elections: Election Commission

twice in the last two years". He also disclosed how the chief minister and his family members including Bhagwant Mann's mother, wife and sister were travelling with hundreds of security personnel in tow even though they had pledged not to take any security. The SAD president also spoke on how former chief minister S Parkash Singh Badal had nursed Bathinda constituency. "Badal Sahab used to hold 'sangat darshan' programmes at your doorsteps. He used to sanction water works, RO systems, Irrigation channel and underground piping projects on the spot. He also used to listen to your grievances and resolve them immediately".



# National Dengue Day observed at AIIMS Bhubaneswar

## Keep homes and surroundings clean, free from water accumulations to prevent Dengue

**Bhubaneswar, (KCN):** AIIMS Bhubaneswar marked National Dengue Day today with a series of public awareness programmes aimed at educating the public on preventive measures to combat Dengue. Dr. Ashutosh Biswas, an international expert on Dengue and vector-borne diseases and the Executive Director of AIIMS Bhubaneswar, emphasized the importance of keeping homes and surroundings clean and free from water accumulations to prevent mosquito breeding, especially with

the onset of the monsoon season. "Larvae can survive for a long time in stagnant or clean water. It is crucial to maintain cleanliness and eliminate water stagnation to prevent mosquito breeding. During the monsoon, preventive measures such as using bed nets, mosquito repellent, and wearing full-sleeve clothes are essential to avoid mosquito bites," stated Dr. Biswas. The Department of General Medicine at AIIMS Bhubaneswar organized a public awareness programme



in the OPD foyer. Public information materials on Dengue were distributed to raise awareness about the disease and its prevention. Dengue, a mosquito-borne viral infection, can cause significant symptoms and serious complications. The event was graced by the presence of Executive Director Prof. Ashutosh Biswas, Medical Superintendent Dr. Dillip Kumar Parida, and DDA Lt. Col. Abhijit Sarkar. Also, in attendance were the Head of the Department of General Medicine Dr. Anupam Dey, faculty members Dr.

Rashmi Ranjan Mohanty, Dr. Debananda Sahoo, and Dr. Srikant Behera. Faculty members from the Pediatrics department, including Dr. Rashmi R Das, and from the CMFM department, Dr. Arvind Singh, also participated in the programme. During the event, experts highlighted the public health importance of Dengue, epidemiological risks, and the necessity of adopting preventive measures. They also provided insights into the clinical diagnosis and treatment of Dengue in both adults and children.

## NTPC Bongaigaon launches Swachhata Pakhwada with more than 150 members



**Bongaigaon, (KCN):** NTPC Bongaigaon, launches its Swachhata Pakhwada initiative with fervor, rallying over 150 members to champion the cause of cleanliness and environmental awareness. Running from 16.05.2024 to 31.05.2024, this fortnight-long campaign is poised to make a significant impact by involving employees, stakeholders, and the wider community in various activities promoting cleanliness and sustainable practices. The inauguration of Swachhata Pakhwada witnessed a stirring pledge ceremony led by Shri Induri S Reddy, GM (O&M), and Shri Asutosh Biswas, GM (Operation), as they rallied employees to commit to upholding cleanliness standards and fostering a cleaner environment. This resolute commitment

highlights NTPC Bongaigaon's unwavering dedication to the Swachh Bharat Mission and environmental stewardship. Over the course of the Pakhwada, NTPC Bongaigaon will orchestrate a series of initiatives, including community awareness programs on eco-friendly practices, discouragement of plastic usage, waste management drives, plantation activities, and street plays (Nukkad Natak) in association with Central Institute of Technology, Kokrajhar. These endeavors aim not only to instill a sense of responsibility but also to educate and inspire sustainable actions within the community. Commenting on the initiative, Shri Reddy emphasized, "Swachhata

Pakhwada embodies NTPC Bongaigaon's commitment to promoting a cleaner, greener society. By harnessing the collective efforts of our employees and the wider community, we aspire to drive lasting change and contribute meaningfully to the Swachh Bharat Mission", he added. Highlighting the significance of youth involvement, school children and teachers from esteemed institutions like Notre Dame Academy and Ankur Tiny Tots have actively joined hands in promoting cleanliness and environmental consciousness. The display of selfie boards and placards at various locations of the plant serves as a visual reminder of the collective commitment towards a clean and green society.

NTPC Bongaigaon's commitment to sustainability extends beyond the Pakhwada, with regular cleanliness inspections scheduled across all divisions and surrounding areas to uphold hygiene standards. Additionally, voluntary clean-up activities (Shramdan) and distribution drives for dustbins will be organized to actively engage the community in maintaining a clean and hygienic environment. Swachhata Pakhwada serves as a testament to NTPC Bongaigaon's proactive stance towards environmental conservation and community welfare. Through concerted efforts and collective participation, the organization is poised to make a tangible impact in its pursuit of a Swachh Bharat.

## Inauguration of 'Swachhata Pakhwada 2024' at NTPC Kaniha



**Kaniha, (KCN):** Swachhata Pakhwada is being celebrated at NTPC Kaniha from 16.05.2024 to 31.05.2024 towards realizing Mahatma Gandhi's dream of 'Clean India'. The fortnight was inaugurated by Mr. Ashok Kumar Sehgal, Project

Head, NTPC Kaniha, by administering the cleanliness oath to the employees. On this occasion, he said that "Cleanliness should be included in every aspect of life, clean lifestyle is the determining factor for a person's development and

success, cleanliness from home to workplace also ensures safety." In the same sequence, Prabhat Pheri was organized from Sangam market to Deep Tarang Recreation Centre in the township, in which all the General Managers, Heads of Departments,

CISF Force, Union and Association officials participated and gave awareness message about cleanliness. Under Swachhta Pakhwada, various programs like awareness rally, Prabhat Pheri, competitions, street plays are being organized.

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# The sage of a forgotten tribe from Odisha

*An interview given by Prof. (Dr.) Suparna Sanyal Mukherjee Interviewed by: Saikat Kumar Basu*

Kolkata based film director Sourav Sarkar has been making films on social justice, human rights and psychology, for the last decade in several languages. Of late, he has taken up the new subject for making a documentary film on the developmental journey of the indigenous tribe, namely Dongriya Khond, residing on the slopes of Niyamgiri Hills in Odisha, following the ten years of the landmark judgement of the Apex Court of India, protecting the ownership of the Hills for the Khond community, against the mining project at the Hills. Through his film, Sarkar aspires to discover the research and observation of senior anthropologist Prof (Dr.) Suparna Sanyal Mukherjee, who visits the forest land of the forgotten Khond community and is one of the main protagonists in this documentary through whom the story unveils. The film digs into the responsibilities and the extent of implementations of the developmental initiatives by the State authority, for the Khond. Despite being a research based documentary, the film conveys the emotion of the grassroots tribe, their love and anguish, their hospitality and disappointment - all in form of a experiential journey through the film, raising questions before the society, the government, the nation and the globe at large. The shoot is completed, and the filmmaker is busy with the post production activities of the film now. Saikat Kumar Basu (SKB) on behalf of Kalinga Chronicle conducted an interview with Prof. (Dr.) Suparna Sanyal Mukherjee (SMM) regarding her experiences, feelings, expectations, understandings, passion as well as present and future plants associated with this movie about the forgotten Dongriya Khond tribe of Odisha.

**SKB: What are the reasons behind your passionate interest about a forgotten primitive tribe like the Dongriya Khond?**

**SSM:** My basic interests on the Dongriya Khond tribe community, just because they are very beautiful and aboriginals of the Indian sub continent, lives in the dense forest of the Niyamgiri hills of Odisha. This community sustains the Niyamgiri forest resources and subsistence farming. Throughout the Niyamgiri hills, the Dongriya Khond tribe lives in the spread villages. They worship the mountain God Niyam Raja. They communicate with each other in the Kui language, which has no written but spoken language among the Khond people. These tribes are also known as Dongriya Kandha.

The traditional Dongriya Khond community has always been based on a fortified family structure that includes people from different generations and these are marked by geographically segregated tribes where each family was named after a male animal. The Dongriya Khond tribe history reflects that the family identification is also divided based on the surname, where the surname of the oldest man in the most powerful family is often used to refer to that tribe. This family segregation program within the Dongriya Khond community is a family segregation program. Their lifestyle is very interesting and exportable.

**SKB: Why did you decide to make a documentary on this tribe?**

**SSM:** I decided to make this into a documentary because of emphasizing media learning. It has been observed that whenever we want to say for the society at large, it may not be noticeable enough for remembering. People may forget any day at any time. NEWS is a day to day up gradation on the facts and figures. That is also a lack of brain restoration. But when it becomes in the form of a documentary, it's become a long-time brain restoration. Moreover, if there is any development that may happen or may not happen, the documentary will be highly regarded. Documentary has its own meaning and gesture for the purpose and processes, which enhances the ultimate step forwardness of the community development.

In 1997 Sterlite Industries, a part of the Vedanta Resources group, put forward proposals to construct an aluminium refinery at the nearby location of Lanjigarh and to extract bauxite from the Niyamgiri Hills as feedstock for the refinery, as a joint venture with the state-owned Orissa Mining Corporation. The refinery opened in 2006, but the mining development was held up by legal action, and it was found that the construction of the refinery had broken laws relating to environmental protection and local people's rights.

The company argued that mining on Niyamgiri should proceed, as it would enable aluminium to be produced more economically than bringing in raw materials from greater distances. There was considerable opposition among the Dongriya Khond, and campaigners against the scheme, including the Wildlife Institute of India, maintained that it would cause damage to the environment and disrupt the way of life of the local people. The company repudiated the environmental claims and said that it was improving the local economy and providing new facilities. The campaign against the mining proposals gathered support from Survival International and individuals including Arundhati Roy, Michael Palin, Bianca Jagger and Joanna Lumley.

The mining development was placed on hold by the Government of India in 2010, with a statement that the company had flouted the law and disregarded the rights of the Dongriya Khond. In 2013, the Supreme Court of India ordered the Odisha Government to consult the local tribal people, citing the protection afforded to the rights of tribal and forest groups under the Forest Rights Act 2006. Twelve Dongriya Khond village councils were consulted, and all rejected the mining proposals. In January 2014, the Indian Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change announced that it was refusing clearance for the mine. The state government of Odisha has since unsuccessfully sought permission from the Supreme Court to restart the scheme.

**SKB: What did you want to capture through this documentary?**

**SSM:** It's a research based film and absolutely idiocentric, which has explored to formulate a step wise endeavour for the mentioned community. The Niyamgiri is a hill range situated in the districts of Kalahandi and Rayagada in the southwest of Odisha, India. These hills are home to Dongriya Khond indigenous people. The hills have one of India's most pristine forests in the interior. It is bound by Karlapat Wildlife Sanctuary on the northwest side and Kotgarh Wildlife Sanctuary on the northeast.

The Environment and Forest Ministry of Government of India scrapped a forest clearance given to a mining firm, Vedanta Resources, to mine bauxite in the area, and the mining project was scrapped. In 2013, the Supreme Court of India asked the tribal people to take the decision, in which BMP was rejected in all village council meetings.

Yes, I have explored Niyamgiri after a decade. How is Niyamgiri now! What is their sustainable development? Can they achieve it without Vedanta! so far as development is concerned! Gram Sava have saved them in the context of socioeconomic and socio-cultural developmental aspects!!

The Apex court has given a verdict in the Favour of the Indigenous mass, especially the Dongriya Khond and their Niyam God, with the compatible enhancement of Gram Sab Is it still protected in this 21st century!!! Ushering in a better future, better perspectives of life sustainability!! What happened was fair enough!! To reside in a Democratic, Republic, Sovereign Society! If so, then



development is up to the mark as with other Indian indigenous people!! Because of being Anthropos and surviving in the same genus called homo and species like sapience in accordance with sub species called sapience!! Can we have earmarked? ....that Dongriya Khond is alright at this present juncture!! LET'S EXPLORE WITH OUR MISSION & VISION. Hence, we explored the same.

**SKB: What is the name of this documentary, any thought on that?**

**SSM:** This is a research based film and absolutely idiocentric. We can explore and formulate step wise. The tentative name of the film is 'Survival'. The concept here is that 'Survival' is the continuation of existence of organisms which are best adapted to their environment, with the extinction of others, as a concept in the Darwinian theory of evolution. According to my connotations as an anthropologist, the name of the film could have been on the basis of Survival 1. - Uttarjibita/ Uttar-Jiban/ Atijiban/ Pratha- in Hindi.

2. Salvos- in Latin America.  
3. Mairsinn- in Scottish Gaelic.  
4. Ukusinda/ Ukusala- in Zulu the tribe of Africa  
5. Udbotran- in Bengali  
Yes, we are exploring Niyamgiri after a decade. How is Niyamgiri now! What is their sustainable development? Can they achieve it without Vedanta! So far as development is concerned! Can Gram Sava have saved them in the context of socioeconomic and socio-cultural developmental aspects!!

The Apex court has given verdict in Favour of the Indigenous mass especially the Dongri Khond and their Niyam God with the compatible enhancement of Gram Sabha. Is it still protected in this 21st century!!! Ushering in a better future, better perspectives of life sustainability!! What happened was fair enough!! To reside in a Democratic, Republic, Sovereign Society! If so, then development is up to mark as with other Indian indigenous people!! Because of being Anthropos and surviving in the same genus called homo and species like sapience in accordance with sub species called sapience!! Can we have earmarked that Dongriya Khond are alright at this present juncture!!

**SKB: What was your experience as a professional anthropologist in interactive with this tribal group?**

**SSM:** It was an articulating, heart threatening experience. According to their socio cultural and hard life, sustainability attitudes make them aggressive in nature. They aren't harmful to anyone till such time you are not harmful to them. But they are very much concerned about their Niyam God. Any discrimination occurred they are ferocious. As an anthropologist, I feel so much proud of them. They are our heritage. They are our fellow citizen. Hence, we must look after them and should restore their cultural, social, and economic nomenclature for future generations. It's also a fact that Niyamgiri Hill areas are full of natural resources. Rich flora and fauna always enhanced a better perspective for the people at large.

The Dongriya Kond derived their name from dongar, meaning 'agricultural land on hill slopes' and the name for themselves is Jhamia - "protector of streams."The people of Niyamgiri use the Kui language. Kui language is not written, but it is spoken among the people of the Kond community. From an anthropological point of view, I can emphasize that the very eminent anthropologist Robert H. Winthrop was pointed out, these type of clans are formed without any kind of hierarchy, where a complete egalitarian system is created by crosscutting any kind of social affiliation. This culture of clan division is undoubtedly an integrated system and primarily has its allegiance with the "Kond Pradhan" The Khond community in the Niyamgiri hills is organized into many clans from which thirty-six clans are clearly identifiable, where each clan possess their own customary territories, which is locally also known as padars (consisting several hills).

The Dongriya Khond people have more than 300 settlements or hamlets within their clan territory, which is also not a permanent establishment. Rather, these communities abandon the other communities in search of new ones within their own habitat region. The reason behind abandoning their houses can be because of the practising of slash and burn agriculture, also locally known as podu in which they leave one piece of land and move to another for further agricultural purposes. These are the reasons which attracted me to explore among them. Moreover, their fight is against wrong to establish truth.

**SKB: Do you feel that such primitive tribal groups are**

**becoming endangered? Why do you think so?**

**SSM:** Yes they are becoming endangered. According to Census 2011 they are only 8000 people are surviving. Their socio-economic and social life is very struggling. They are suffering from malnutrition and various types of diseases. No kinds of medical and health facilities push them in jeopardy. Illiteracy and tough life sustainability dissuade them from modernity. They are in utter dismay with everyday life threatening situation leading them in life threatening conditions. Hence they are in jeopardy. The Scheme defines

PVTGs as the most vulnerable among the Scheduled Tribes and the Scheme therefore seeks to prioritise their protection and development. It identifies 75 PVTGs.

Tribal communities are often identified by some specific signs such as primitive traits, distinctive culture, geographical isolation, shyness to contact with the community at large and backwardness. Along with these, some tribal groups have some specific features such as dependency on hunting, gathering for food, having pre-agriculture level of technology, zero or negative growth of population and extremely low level of literacy. These groups are called Particularly Vulnerable Tribal Groups.

PVTGs are more vulnerable among the tribal groups. Due to this factor, more developed and assertive tribal groups take a major chunk of the tribal development funds, because of which PVTGs need more funds directed for their development. In this context, in 1975, the Government of India initiated to identify the most vulnerable tribal groups as a separate category called PVTGs and declared 52 such groups, while in 1993 an additional 23 groups were added to the category, making it a total of 75 PVTGs out of 705 Scheduled Tribes, spread over 17 states and one Union Territory (UT), in the country (2011 census).

Government of India follows the following criteria for identification of PVTGs.

- Pre-agricultural level of technology
- Low level of literacy
- Economic backwardness
- A declining or stagnant population.

In 1973, the Dhebar Commission created Primitive Tribal Groups (PTGs) as a separate category, who are less developed among the tribal groups. In 2006, the Government of India renamed the PTGs as Particularly Vulnerable Tribal Groups (PVTGs). PVTGs have some basic characteristics -they are mostly homogenous, with a small population, relatively physically isolated, social institutes cast in a simple mould, absence of written language, relatively simple technology and a slower rate of change etc. All above characteristics are observ3d among the Dongriya Khond. Hence they are endangered tribe at present era.

**SKB: What are your principal findings after interacting and surveying this tribal community?**

**SSM:** Basically, the Dongriya Khond Tribe is facing a lot of problems right now. They protected their territory from the Niyamgiri hills region; which is full of natural resources. The Niyamgiri hill range in Odisha state, eastern India, is home to the Dongriya Khond tribe. Niyamgiri is an area of densely forested hills, deep gorges, and cascading streams. Both culturally and ecologically, the Niyamgiri hills are extremely rich and significant.

Most importantly, Niyamgiri Hills are the source of Vansadhara River as well as a major tributary of Nagavali River. It forms a distinct phyto-geographical zone because of its height and its highly precipitous topography. It also has some of the most pristine forests in Odisha, and is home to a number of vulnerable wildlife species, including tiger, leopards, sloth bear, pangolin, palm civet, giant squirrel, mouse deer, langur, and sambhar, etc. It is also on the path of the migration corridor of elephants and comes within the territory of Royal Bengal Tiger.

In view of its ecological importance, it was declared as nature conservation / game sanctuary and also was proposed as a Wild Life Sanctuary in the working plan of Kalahandi Forest Division. The State Wildlife organization has a proposal to

declare this area as South Orissa Elephant Reserve as mentioned in the vide memo no.4643/3WL(Cons) 34/04 dated 20.08.2004. Niyamgiri hills belong to the Eastern Ghats, and in-situ reserves of metallurgical grade bauxite have been reported from this area.

This assumed immense commercial importance during the recent years when the demand of aluminium in the international market jumped substantially, and aluminium giants needed more reserves of bauxite (chief raw material for aluminium production) so as to increase their production to take advantage of boom market conditions. The main consideration of international

finance capital was to maximize profit in areas that are highly rewarding and require almost no pre-requisites for investment. Bauxite mining in fast developing countries like India provides the answer.

Vedanta Alumina Limited, a subsidiary of M/S Sterlite Industries (India) Limited (SIIL is going to mine bauxite deposit from the Niyamgiri hills jointly with Odisha Mining Corporation Limited (OMC) as per the lease agreement signed in between VAL (Vedanta Alumina Ltd.) and Odisha Mining Corporation (OMC) in October 2004.

According to the MoU signed by SIIL and Govt of Orissa on 7th June 2003, SIIL would set up an Alumina Complex, which includes 1.0 MTPA Alumina Refinery Plant, 3.0 MTPA of bauxite mining, and 75 MW Captive Power Plant at Lanjigarh in the district of Kalahandi at an aggregate investment of approximately Rs.4000/- crore. The REIA (Rapid Environmental Impact Assessment) report prepared by the Tata AIG Risk Management Services Ltd., Mumbai (TARMS) for SIIL mentions that the estimated bauxite reserve in the lease area is about 73 million tons and the estimated life span of the mining is 23 years. The proposed mining site is located on the top of Niyamgiri hills. The map of the mining site is annexed in the report. They have fought about their legitimate rights over the forest and adjacent areas.

**SKB: What do you think or feel needs to be done for the social upliftment and economic empowerment of these remote tribal communities?**

**SSM:** Tribal development in anthropology is studied through three different approaches, i.e., isolation, assimilation, and integration. The scheme of Eklavya Model Residential Schools (EMRSs) was introduced in the year 1997-98 to impart quality education exclusively to Scheduled Tribe (ST) children with an objective to provide quality middle and high-level education to ST students in remote areas in order to upliftment of educational quality in the curriculum development.

India has 8.6% tribal population. This scarce population has been in a constant tussle with the mainstream and has suffered atrocities since time immemorial. Their integration and development have been a prime focus of government since independence since unbolting different approaches. Anthropology played a pivotal role in the development of these approaches.

Dr B. R. Ambedkar, the father of the Indian Constitution (Bhongale and Inamdar), had contributed tremendously to the political development of Tribes in India. The Constitution includes many aiding provisions, from Article 32, providing the right for tribes to approach court to enforce their fundamental rights to Article 342, which recognizes scheduled tribes in the Constitution and many such rights that facilitate today's Indian tribes towards better living and prosperity. This documentary attempts to understand Dr. Ambedkar's approach towards tribal development in an anthropological context. The finding is that Ambedkar's approach was an isolation approach.

Tribal development programs in India encompass a comprehensive approach, addressing various aspects of tribal life, including: Economic Development: Promoting sustainable livelihoods through skill training, entrepreneurship support, and access to credit facilities.

**SKB: What are your recommendations to the Odisha government for improving the quality of their life and livelihood?**

**SSM: My humble recommendations are**

1. The survey portrayed us to know so many new things about Odisha and her rich natural resources. The region represents outstanding biodiversity, particularly medicinal plants; and hence needs proper conservation efforts for their long term survival.

2. The need for sustainable economic development is an important issue here for the indigenous communities inhabiting the region and they need proper attention from the State Government.

3. Conservation is one of the surviving tools for the poor tribal communities here; so it is very important to provide necessary protection to the indigenous tribes. Sustainability is a big question for this region. Heritage and culture is possible to protect.

4. The State Government has to recognize the due importance of the local tribal communities and work together with them for their socio-economic development.

5. The State Government has to invest and insist on their efforts in all respects ; it is not only their responsibility but also their duties and the indigenous people have a right to say the government about this.

6. Promoting sustainable growth in the region through the development of ecotourism can help generate revenue for socio-economic development of the region.



# Vincible Modi- Yogi Key for BJP to storm UP



The ancient city of Varanasi was in a festive mood as the Prime Minister Narendra Modi has once again filed his nomination papers from the Varanasi on last Tuesday for the Lok Sabha poll. Prior to filing his nomination papers, when Prime Minister Modi was going in the streets of Varanasi in a massive Road Show with his trusted comrade and UP Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath and others, the mood in holy city was electric. It was so reassuring for the saffron party leaders and workers that it is going to demolish their rivals in the Lok Sabha poll.

Surely, if BJP led National Democratic Alliance (NDA) has to retain power third time in a row, the results of UP are very crucial. If political pundits are to be believed, UP is once

again not disappoint BJP. We all know that the UP has 80 Lok Sabha seats. Of course, it is a big number.

Like in the past, Uttar Pradesh is not only deciding the present of Indian politics, but also its future. It is an old saying in political circles that the path to the throne of Delhi passes through UP. That is, the party that has the most seats in UP will have the easiest path to reach the Prime Minister's chair. This is the reason why political parties are leaving no stone unturned to win the 80 seats of UP in the 2024 Lok Sabha elections.

However, contrary to political manoeuvring, political analysts believe that this time the results of the Lok Sabha elections in UP will not be unexpected. BJP will repeat its performance of the 2019 Lok Sabha elections. The formidable and invincible Modi-Yogi duo will once again give a charismatic performance. In fact, in political circles, the Modi-Yogi duo has become a guarantee of

victory, in front of which the opposition also appears weak.

If BJP has entered the electoral fray with the goal of winning all 80 Lok Sabha seats in Uttar Pradesh, then it is also thanks to the confidence in this pair. The Prime Minister has praised Yogi's development model from public platforms many times. The Prime Minister is also claiming victory on all seats in UP through this model. As the Prime Minister also said in his election recent rally in Amroha, " Yogi has shown what governance is. What is law and order? What is development and that is why records will be broken this time under

Yogi's leadership. This time the record of 2014 and 2019 will be broken and UP will create history."

The 2014 Lok Sabha elections proved to be a milestone in UP's electoral journey. BJP's political exile in UP ended this year. At that time, there was no alliance in front of BJP. The BJP won 71 out of 80 seats, securing about 43 percent of the vote. The Samajwadi Party won five seats while the Congress was reduced to 2 seats. BSP's account could not even be opened.

In the 2019 Lok Sabha elections, BJP contested the elections on the strength of the Modi wave and Yogi's work.

Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath had only completed his two-year in office. The Samajwadi Party and BSP came together to stop Narendra Modi. RLD also supported him. However, the election

election into a virtual referendum due to his performance on the law and order front in the state. BJP made a historic comeback in the elections and the cycle of the Samajwadi Party, which had been going on for three decades, came to a complete halt. BJP's vote percentage in UP has also remained above 40 percent continuously since 2014.

The situation is quite different in the 2024 elections compared to the last two Lok Sabha elections. This time SP has joined hands with Congress while BSP is contesting alone. RLD is also with BJP this time. NDA has also formed alliances with regional parties like Apna Dal (S), Nishad Party and Suheldev Bharatiya Samaj Party to strike a caste equation.

If BJP is in a better position in this Lok Sabha election in UP, then along with the achievements of the Modi government at the Centre, the Yogi model has a significant contribution. The way Prime Minister Narendra

Modi implemented the schemes at the grassroots level in the centre. The way they brought prosperity in the lives of the poor, youth, women and farmers, similarly Yogi established the rule of good governance in UP. If we look at Yogi's good governance on the parameter of figures, it is satisfying to know that not a single riot took place during his seven-year tenure. While during the time of previous Chief Ministers, on average there was a riot every third-fourth day. It is not hidden from anyone that earlier professional mafia and criminals used to spread terror under the patronage of power.

In Yogi Raj, the mafia was reined in. The public in UP is now fearless, the criminals are afraid of the law. The police have cracked down on criminals, mafia and rioters. As a result of which Uttar Pradesh has become crime-free, fear-free and riot-free. Due to the fear of the police in the state, big criminals and mafia have either fled leaving the state or

surrendered.

The central government also gave full support in implementing development schemes in UP. This is the reason why the schemes of the Center yielded good results in UP. Due to which there has been a qualitative improvement in the economy of UP. The Gross State Domestic Product (GSDP) of the state has doubled to 25 lakh crores as compared to the year 2016-17. The state government has set a target to make the state's economy a one trillion dollar economy by 2027.

Where the state budget was Rs 3.46 lakh crore in 2016-17, it has more than doubled to Rs 7.36 lakh crore in 2024-25. Due to these figures of development, BJP is claiming to achieve the target of Mission 80 in UP. Who will win in the Lok Sabha elections is hidden in the womb of the future, but it is certain that the trust of the people of UP on the Modi-Yogi duo remains intact. Ends.

**The Author is a Delhi based columnist and former Editor**

## Tips to avoid melting makeup in summer months



It's summertime and to keep makeup intact in the scorching heat is a big task.

With the sun blazing right upon us, The severe heatwave and sweat often lead to bad body odour, melting foundation, sticky skin and sweat trickling down your face. There's nothing worse than spending time perfecting your look only to have it slide off your face the moment you step outside.

The harmful rays can not only melt your make-up and end up making you look more dull but they can also damage your skin by penetrating deep into it. Due to heat, there is water loss from the body leading to dehydration, more sweat and more oil.

Learning how to prevent makeup from melting in hot weather is important to look your best even on warm, humid days.

From opting for waterproof, sweatproof products to correctly prepping your face before applying makeup, There are ways to

ensure that your foundation, contouring, and highlighting will stay in place, even through the sweat by making some significant changes in your makeup routine to prevent makeup from melting off into nothingness.

The golden rule for summer makeup is "soft, delicate and very sparing." Water-based and powder make-up items are better during summer. Waterproof make-up cosmetics are also available. For example, waterproof mascaras and eyeliners will prevent eye makeup from running during the hot and humid season. Waterproof or water-resistant lip colours and lip liners are also available. Or, go for matte (non-shiny) lipstick and add just a dab of gloss in the centre for a delicious pout.

1-----Always begin with a clean face. Cleansing the skin with plenty of cool water before make-up is most important. Use your face cleanser to get rid of all the excess oil and refresh your skin. After cleansing, use chilled rose water to tone and cool the skin. This is not only refreshing but also helps to close the pores. Dip cotton wool pads in it and wipe the skin. Also, pat briskly on the skin to

Shahnaz Husain

stimulate circulation and add a glow. If the skin is oily, apply an astringent lotion, using cotton wool.

2--Blotting paper-----

----Blotting papers can be your best friend if you tend to sweat on the face. Keep blotting paper handy to slick off any excess oil over the face or T-zone and be ready for touch-ups! They are great at absorbing shine, oil, and sweat and keeping your makeup looking great.

Apply a loose powder in key areas where makeup tends to disappear first, such as around the nostrils, T-zone, and under the eyes. For extra security, use a finishing spray.

3----The fewer products you use, the better your makeup will stay on throughout the day, keeping it easier to maintain in hot weather.

Make sure your makeup is minimal and lightweight to keep up with the easy breezy vibe of the summer season! Avoid rich, thick moisturizers, heavy concealers and foundations that would easily melt off and opt for a lighter formula that contains sunscreen. Your skin will feel less sticky and be able to breathe more easily if you wear less makeup.

use products that are multi-functional, which works as a moisturiser, spf and

foundation all in one. Make sure the SPF is above 30 and has a broad spectrum

4--Go for waterproof mascara

Use mascara wisely. First, swipe a few coats of non-waterproof mascara. Then a coat or two of waterproof mascara to save yourself from the embarrassment and sticks to your eyelids even on a hot and sweaty day

This way, there won't be any smudges on top and it will be easy to clean the makeup off your lashes when you get back home

5---Invest in a good primer. Waterproof primer is the most ideal in the hot summer season. Look for a primer that hydrates the face and helps cool down the skin. Use one which has hyaluronic acid to soften lines and blur imperfections. it can help you stay cool. The less you sweat, the less damage is done to your makeup. You can also try adding a splash of a naturally-cooling essential oil, like peppermint, to keep your face cool. Just make sure to dilute any essential oil you use with a carrier oil, like olive oil, before applying it to your face.

6---Tips to make your make-up last longer in summer:

Use waterproof make-

up in summer to cope with perspiration.

Wrap an ice cube in a clean cloth and wipe the face with it, just for a few seconds. This helps to close the pores.

For oily skin, apply astringent lotion with cotton wool, to close pores and reduce oiliness. After a few minutes, apply a water-based foundation, blending with a damp sponge for a smooth finish. Add a drop or two of water, before applying, to provide a lighter coverage. Then apply powder to "set" the foundation.

When you apply powder, press the powder all over the face and neck, with a slightly damp sponge. This helps it to set and last longer.

Use powder eye shadows and powder blush-on.

If you use kajal, after applying it on the lower lid, just below the eyelashes, apply a line of grey or brown eyeshadow over it. This prevents smudging and helps makeup last longer.

Blot the makeup with a tissue.

Applying foundation on the lips before helps lipstick last longer.

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



This year once again the results of board examinations were in the headlines. In today's generation, which considers marks and 'rank' as everything in life, in parallel with things that seem good and pleasant, there is a fear of failure in exams, low grades or rank, and expectations from parents and teachers. There were also reports of people committing suicide after failing to prove their worth. This is certainly a matter of great concern. Incidents of suicide among children are commonly seen every year after the results of the examinations are declared. But parents, teachers and administration are not able to find any solution to it, nor is such a situation created that today's children consider that if success is good then low marks or failure is an opportunity to improve themselves and achieve next success. is the way. Why can't it be explained to children that the goal of life is only to pass exams? Life is not over if marks are low or results are bad. Happens. The goals of life can also be achieved by doing something else. But the future seems to be at the most in school exams. It is captured within the scope of numbers and everyone from parents to students concentrate their thinking and understanding in this cycle. Its psychological effects are bound to emerge. If we look at the entire structure of today's school education, from studies to exams and results, in the culture of show off, it is the parents of the children who are seen to be more responsible, who, due to

Vijay Garg

their hunger for unfulfilled ambitions, put pressure on the children to achieve Or do not score 100 percent marks. Come first. At the same time, children in schools also Pressure is created. In such a situation, apart from school classes, children trapped in the maze of internet and TV along with the stress and burden of tuition, coaching, exams, become confused. Whereas from the point of view of making a better future after studies, there is no assessment of marks in it. Due to increasing ambition, children are not able to properly demonstrate their entire year's studies and their abilities in a three-hour examination. The complexity of this situation can be gauged from where to become a complete personality. A. Children start their life journey and get trapped in the competition to score maximum marks and come first, the result of this competition This is that many of the children who were supposed to study, play, jump and enjoy, are not shying away from committing suicide due to the stress and frustration arising from studies. The illusion of show-off marks is continuously attracting the child's mind. Children have considered the results of board examinations as the foundation stone of their life, the ultimate truth, everything about their career. Whereas this is not the final truth. The truth is that numbers have no value in life. No, because no one's ability can be properly evaluated through marks or degrees. There are many IAS, collectors, players, actors, singers, businessmen, artists, writers, litterateurs, scientists etc. who were very ordinary students. They did not top the class in their studies, even failed, did not even take graduation or post-graduation degree, yet by going ahead they are bringing glory to the country by achieving a new position in their respective fields. If

today's generation learns from them then they too will forget the victory and defeat of life in terms of numbers. According to one's talent, ability and interest, apart from studies one can achieve success in sports, music, painting, business, acting or any other field. Children should also learn from failures. Try to become a better and better person. It needs to be kept in mind that success can be achieved with continuous hard work, patience, confidence and determination. Even if you do not get success, you should not lose courage. Should try again. If children laugh, laugh and remain focused towards the goal like Arjun, then Success will definitely come sooner or later. All such figures show what kind of ambition today's children have become victims of. His dreams are big and if they are not fulfilled, he does not hesitate to embrace death. The question is, where do they 'learn' to embrace this kind of thinking at the society or school level? If they are given timely counselling, advice, teachers and family members explain something to them, then the children may not reach the decision of committing suicide. Whereas the disintegration of joint families, busyness of working Parents Children are becoming lonely and neglected due to the routine of life. In the desire to move ahead in the competitive era, today the game of numbers and ranks has become the game of life. Who is ultimately responsible for the increasing graph of these suicides? Today's education system, administration, parents, social environment or modern culture. We will definitely have to think seriously about this.

**Educational Columnist Malout Punjab**



## World looking towards India with respect – Dr. Jaishankar

**Kolkata (KCN):** The world is looking towards India with Respect said Minister for External Affairs Dr S. Jaishankar. He highlighted the achievements of India while addressing an Interactive session organised by Calcutta Citizens' Initiative & Rajasthan Bengal Maitri Parishad in association with Concern for Calcutta Tuesday evening.

Dr. S. Jaishankar spoke about the thought behind Vikshit Bharat at 2047 and the importance and relevance of Bharat becoming a developed country in near future. We helped other countries in Covid by providing medicines. After G-20 in India global faith in India has multiplied. It is realised that democracy in India is very strong now. "Countries that go to court for eliciting election verdict need not lecture on the prevalent democratic norms in India, he wondered". Earlier poverty was



considered a brand of India but now all are witnessing that more than 20 crore people have come out of poverty. India is providing Ration, housing and medicines to as many as 80 Crore people in aggregate. He said Pak Occupied Kashmir was always a part of India and the life in Jammu and Kashmir was much better after abolishing Article 370. For becoming a developed country we need a strong leadership. The Minister shared his experience in tackling finer points of foreign policy, Indian Diplomacy, Trade relations, economic issues, and

other associated topics and safeguarding the interest of India. The world leaders understood as to "Why Bharat Matters". Dr Jaishankar kept the audience spell bound with his 75 minutes of deliberations on state of our nation and emergence of India as the hub of Manufacturing. Shishir Bajoria, President of Rajasthan Bengal Maitri Parishad, introduced the Minister and asked him to talk on his book, how 'Bharat' emerged as the keyword to illustrate India and on how the Indian Diplomatic architecture in recent time is shaping the worldview on India. Narayan Jain, President, Calcutta Citizens' Initiative

welcomed Dr Jaishankar and admired his transformation from a successful bureaucrat to eminent politician. On this occasion "Vishwabandhu Bharat" the Bangla Edition of Minister's book "Why Bharat Matters" was released. Also present was Shri Kaushik Dasgupta, who translated the book in Bangla. India is taking steps to become a true Vishwabandhu- a friend of nations, he said. The book Why Bharat matters reflects Indian Mahabharat, Ramayan and other religious books. It explains present political and economic scenario of the world and also analyses

views of various nations and relations with other countries. Jaishankar said that the role of Hanuman ji was unique as seen in Balmiki Ramayan. The Minister spontaneously answered the questions of audience. The Minister was felicitated by presenting a Flower Bouquet, Shawl and Memento by the Organisers. Lekha Sharma, anchored the programme with her inimitable style and Ashok Purohit, President, Concern for Calcutta thanked the dignitaries and all participants. On this occasion Samir Dutt, GM Kapur, Rajendra Khandelwal, Subhash Sethi, Pawan Paharia, Deepak Jain, KS Adhikari, Heena Gorsia, KN Gupta, Annapurna Mishra, Sonali De, Indrani Netram, Ramesh Mahajan, RD Kakra, O.P. Agarwal, Sushil Pareek, Pawan Dhanuka, OP Jhunjhunwala and Deepu Baitha actively supported. Nearly 250 prominent Citizens of Kolkata congregated.

## Indian & US universities collaborate to train & empower women entrepreneurs to explore global market place



**Kolkata(PARTHA ROY):** Women entrepreneurs from West Bengal and Sikkim alongwith academicians from Department of Business Management of West Bengal universities are participating in Entrepreneurship development program of Bradley University in USA to expand their knowledge, skills and business scope and opportunities. The 'Empowering Women Globally' program jointly run by University of Calcutta, Bradley University and Alsisar Impact is targeted to handhold grassroot level women entrepreneurs. The May 2024 Immersion Program to the Bradley University, Peoria, Illinois, USA has participants from West Bengal and Sikkim. Participants are women

entrepreneurs and academicians involved in entrepreneurship research. This program is providing the participants with opportunities to interact with startup specialists (both academicians and professionals), visit local incubators, accelerators and startups. Participants are: Sarbani Das, Mahua Dutta, Varsha Sreshtha (Sikkim), Kona Mondal, Debdipa Basu, Santanu Mallick (of B. B. College, Asansol), Abhik Kumar Mukherjee (of The University of Burdwan), Rinzing Bhutia (Agapi Sikkim), Reshmi Mukherjee & Anvita Rastogi (of Alsisar Impact)

After gaining experiences from the exposures, the participants are expected to go global, either directly or through

global level e-tailers, thus enhancing their products' reach. As most of these entrepreneurs engage local level workers and/or artisans for producing their products or rendering their services, their business growth helps the society by improving the income level of the people operating at the underserved areas of the Indian economy. Prof. Sharmistha Banerjee (University of Calcutta), Dr. Abhik Kumar Mukherjee (University of Burdwan) and Dr. Santanu Mallick (Asansol B. B. College) are participating in the Annual Conference organised by MWAIS in addition to the Immersion program to gain experience to train and empower students in India. (Inputs by Abhik Kumar Mukherjee)

## 7th Heritage Academy Film Festival addressed by Anjan Dutta, Subhashree Ganguly and others

**Kolkata, (KCN):** The Department of Media Science, The Heritage Academy (THA), Kolkata organized the 7th Heritage Academy Film Festival (HAFF) in the campus on 14th and 15th May, 2024. The festival was inaugurated by none other than Ms. Subhashree Ganguly, well known actor and producer in the Bengali Film Industry on 14th May as the Chief Guest in the presence of Dr. Madhupa Bakshi, Dean, Department of Media Science, The Heritage Academy Kolkata (THA), Mr. Pradip Agarwal, CEO, KBT, Dr. Gour Bannerjee, Principal, THA, and other faculty members of the College. There were various events like Fiction Films, Non-Fiction Films, Photography, One-Take



films, Trailer Making and many more. Over 100 entries for various events were received from the students of various colleges across the city. During the inaugural address, Ms. Subhashree Ganguly said that it is really inspiring that within a very short period of time THA had organized such a wonderful film festival

which had already received various films made by the students from various colleges around the city. Moreover he advised the students to get associated more with films since it can mould one's life towards success. There were engaging sessions with Mr. Umesh Ganguly, Content Creator, Actor and Founder,

Bakshis and Mr. Rwitobro Mukherjee, a well known actor who spoke about the basic ingredients of Content Creation and Acting respectively. The second day witnessed a Master Class on Filmmaking in Metaverse which was addressed by Prof. Samir Mukherjee, Founder and Mentor, VR/AR in Academia and Drone Academia. There was one unique event which was Cine Couture fashion Show which was evaluated by Ms. Srijita Ghosh,

Fashion and Social Media Influencer. Apart from these the judges were experts from the film and entertainment industry like Mr. Judhajit Sarkar, Prof. Ayan Nandy from SRFTI and many others. Actress Chaity Ghoshal also addressed a particular session in HAFF 2024. The final day of the event witnessed the address of eminent film director and singer, Mr. Anjan Dutta who was interviewed by Mr. Judhajit Sarakar on his latest movie "Chalchitra Ekhon" which was made as a tribute to the legendary film maker Mr. Mrinal Sen. "Such festival enriches the sense of creativity and innovation among the students," said Shri P.K. Agarwal, CEO, KBT during the event.

## BITM to Showcase Gradual Evolution of Kolkata Metro in its Transport Gallery

**Kolkata, (KCN):** Metro Railway, the Lifeline of Kolkata, is India's oldest Metro system. Over the years, it has spread its wings and presently has been running under a mighty river (Hooghly)- the first instance in the country. As it is the most convenient and cheapest mode of transport in the city which has now been running up to Howrah Maidan, so people of Kolkata, Howrah and other adjoining districts love this Metro and it has become the cynosure of all eyes. In order to recognise Kolkata Metro's contribution towards the socio-economic development of Kolkata and adjoining areas, Birla Industrial and Technological Museum (BITM), country's oldest Government owned science and technological museum, is going to showcase the gradual

evolution of Kolkata Metro in its Transport Gallery dedicated for showing gradual evolution of transport system in the world. This gallery is going to be opened on May 18, 2024 as a part of the International Museum Expo. In this gallery, with the help of diorama, the progress of human civilization since the invention of the wheel to today's electric vehicle has been depicted in attractive storytelling format. Visitors to this gallery, situated at the ground floor of the museum building, once the property of the famous Tagore family, will be able to see the miniature model under the river Metro system of Kolkata. This 3-D model will show how under the river Metro runs. Another 3-D model will show the different levels

of underground Metro station and surface level. Various rare and heritage photographs have also found their places in this gallery which also briefs the visitors about different Metro Railway systems in the world. Just before finishing the visit to this gallery, visitors will be able to see the old tickets, tokens and Smart Cards of Kolkata Metro which will be on display here beside the exit gate. This visit to down the memory lane will be an added attraction of this museum which was established in 1959. Shri S. Chaudhuri, Director, BITM, has thanked Shri P Uday Kumar Reddy, General Manager, Metro Railway for providing all kind of assistance, heritage photographs, drawings as well as other exhibits to make this gallery a reality.

## India Registers Record \$778 Billion Export In 2023-24: Report



**New Delhi(KCN):** India registered record exports in the just concluded financial year 2023-24 at USD 778 billion, sources in the commerce ministry said. In 2022-23, the country exported goods and services combined at USD 776.3 billion. In break up, services exports rose from USD 325.3 billion to USD 341.1 billion in 2023-24.

Merchandise exports though marginally declined from USD 451.1 billion to USD 437.1 billion. Among various steps the government took was to launch a Production Linked Incentive (PLI) scheme in varied sectors, including electronic goods, to make Indian manufacturers globally

competitive, attract investments, enhance exports, integrate India into the global supply chain and reduce dependency on imports. These seemed to have reaped dividends. China, Russia, Iraq, UAE, and Singapore are among the countries where India's exports in the just-concluded financial year have risen substantially, though

with a low base. The other countries in the Top 10 list are the UK, Australia, Saudi Arabia, the Netherlands, and South Africa. Coming to overall imports, they declined from USD 898.0 billion in 2022-23 to USD 853.8 billion. Both merchandise and services exports declined during the financial year. Overall trade deficit significantly improved from USD 121.6 billion in 2022-23 to USD 75.6 billion in 2023-24. In the first month of 2024-25 - April, India exports, including merchandise and services, rose from USD 60.40 billion to USD 64.56 billion. Imports however rose

from USD 63.02 billion to USD 71.07 billion. The trade deficit during April rose from USD 2.62 billion to USD 6.51 billion on a yearly basis. During April, exports of electronic goods, organic and inorganic chemicals, petroleum products, and drugs and pharmaceuticals were higher on a yearly basis. On the contrary, exports of engineering goods, iron ore, gems and jewellery, marine products, and oil meals declined. On the import side, petroleum crude and products, gold, electronic goods, pulses, and vegetable oil, rose while pearls precious metals and precious stones, iron and steel, among others, declined.



# No revival hope for Keonjhar tea garden

**Keonjhar(KCN):** The Taramakanta tea garden in this district was once famous not only in Odisha, but all over the country and even outside India's boundaries. However, now for close to two decades, it has remained shut much to the disappointment of people living in its vicinity. Locals blamed the Odisha government for the closure of the garden. The residents of Banspal block led by chairperson Manas Dehuri, all sarpanchs and samiti members had submitted a memorandum to 5T chairman Kartik Pandian for reopening

of the garden a few months back. However, till now no steps have been taken for the revival of the garden, Taramakanta panchayat samiti member Ajit Kumar Nayak said. He added that chances of reopening the garden appear very slim. Incidentally, the garden, once managed by the Odisha Tea Plantation Ltd, was the lone one in the state. The tea leaves were in great demand for their superior quality. The leaves were sent to different parts of India and also exported to countries like Japan, France, Germany,



Great Britain, USA, Russia and Canada. Sources said the tea garden was set up at Taramakanta under

the collaboration of state-run Industrial Promotion and Investment Corporation of Odisha

Ltd (IPICOL) and industrialist Basant Kumar Dubey in 1982. The promoters took a loan of Rs

2.24 crore from United Bank of India to set up the garden on 896.54 hectares of land. It was named

Odisha Tea Plantation Ltd as it was a joint venture between IPICOL and Dubey. Soon, the garden became a name to reckon with because of the superior quality of its product. The tea garden which became operational in 1983 was doing brisk business till 2002. It was also beneficial for the men and women of the Bhuyan and Juang communities. Many of their members were employed in the garden and were earning a decent livelihood. Since its inception, the garden has earned substantial profits. However, bad times hit

the garden in 2003. Production diminished as demand for tea leaves from the garden decreased. Employees and labourers started leaving for better opportunities elsewhere. It was completely shut down in 2004. Many members of the tribal Juang and Bhuyan communities who worked in the garden are yet to receive their dues till now, sources said. Locals feel that the garden could still be profitable if the state government takes the initiative to reopen it and run it professionally. As of now, the garden wears a haunted look

## Bridge construction resumes as admin provides police cover

**Rourkela(KCN):** Work for construction of a bridge-cum-barrage over Deo river, which had been stalled for some time now, has resumed again under security cover. Due to threats issued by the People's Liberation Front of India (PLFI), the company engaged in the construction of the bridge had deserted the site earlier this year. Initially work for the bridge, being built at Rs 44 crore, started in April, 2022. A company from Chhattisgarh had been entrusted with the responsibility of building the bridge. Once the entire facility is completed it will be hugely beneficial to commuters as well as farmers, locals informed. Trouble started on New Year's Day this year when 10-12 PLFI



members turned up at the site and demanded money. They threatened the site in-charge and workers with dire consequences if the amount was not paid. PLFI is a dreaded organisation as its activities are quite similar to those of Maoists. The armed miscreants again returned to the spot two days later on the night of January 3. They ruthlessly thrashed all those present at the site. The PLFI cadres warned that unless the workers

leave the construction site or the company pays up, they will all be killed. In these circumstances, the company withdrew all its temporary and permanent employees from the site. It stated that unless proper security cover is provided, work will not start. With locals demanding resumption of construction of the bridge-cum-barrage, the district administration has finally decided to provide adequate security

personnel at the site. Work for the past few days have been progressing smoothly in presence of armed policemen. SDPO Biramitrapur, Susant Das said, "We are providing armed security and work is progressing smoothly both during the day and night. I am sure the PLFI cadres will not return as we have got adequate number of policemen guarding the site."


## Sagarpali VSS shines in national webinar

**Sundargarh(KCN):** The remarkable success story of Sagarpali Van Surakhya Samiti (VSS) under Tangarpali block in Sundargarh district took centre stage in the second edition of the national-level webinar 'Community Conference on Commons' organised by the Foundation for Ecological Security (FES). The selected success story, titled 'Transformation of Bald Hill into a Lush Green Forest', authored by SEWAK team leader Digambar Upadhyay, was presented in the prestigious forum during the first session on the initial day of the three-day webinar. Out of numerous success stories submitted by various government and private organisations as well as individuals from India, Bangladesh, and Nepal, Sagarpali VSS's story was among the top 80 selected for presentation. The national-level webinar aimed to showcase and celebrate

impactful initiatives from across the region. In the inaugural session of the first day, Digambar Upadhyay delivered a compelling presentation on the success story of Sagarpali Van Surakhya Samiti under the Sundargarh forest division. The narrative covered the innovative initiatives for forest protection and management initiated by the villagers of Sagarpali since 1985, highlighting the collaboration with the Odisha Forest Development Project-2 and the continuous support and guidance from the voluntary organisation 'SEWAK'. Key aspects of the presentation included the 'Thengapali', 'Mutidhan' system, SHRAMADAN plantation, protection of paddy fields and forests from fire, and strategies to reduce community dependence on forests through income-generating programmes. The presentation also emphasised on biodiversity conservation, alternative fuels, and

wildlife conservation. The success story was highly appreciated by the audience, serving as a shining example of joint forest management, demonstrating effective collaboration with the Sundargarh forest division and the collective efforts of community forest management, supported by the Odisha Forest Development Project-II. Representatives from Sagarpali VSS including Debanand Mahaling and Bharti Patel shared their experiences during the programme, highlighting the importance of community motivation, participation, and action in achieving sustainable conservation goals. The virtual event witnessed active participation from members of Sagarpali VSS, Ujalpur Range Officer Debadatta Nanda, Forester Vinod Kumar Pattanaik, SEWAK Secretary Pradeep Kumar Brahma, SEWAK Chairman Amiya Kant

Naik, Finance Manager Nilambar Upadhyay, Development Officers Haripriya Naik, and Manoranjan Mallick, among other staff members. The success story of Sagarpali VSS stands as a testament to the power of community-led conservation efforts, showcasing the positive impact of collaborative initiatives in preserving and enhancing natural resources. The recognition received at the national level further underscores the significance of such grassroots initiatives in fostering sustainable environmental practices. The author of the case study, Digambar Upadhyay, expresses gratitude to RCCF Arun Kumar Mishra, Sundargarh DFO Pradeep Mirase, ACF Mohan Hemram, Sundargarh DMU, Ujalpur FMU, SEWAK management, and all the villagers of Sagarpali for their unwavering support and guidance.



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## TPSODL Joins hands with Odisha Millet Mission to Promote Sustainable Agriculture and Nutrition

Berhampur, (KCN)r: TPSODL, a dedicated advocate for women and communities in Southern Odisha, is championing Income Generation Activities (IGAs) through its livelihood enhancement program. Collaborating with Mission Shakti, Odisha Livelihood Mission, and NGO partner, TPSODL is identifying and supporting potential Women Self-Help Groups (WSHG) and farmers through various initiatives. One of the noteworthy



endeavours of TPSODL is its commitment to the promotion of millet cultivation. To this end, the organization has mobilized approximately 500 WSHGs and farmers, providing them

with essential resources. TPSODL offers capacity-building programs, training sessions, and input support including seeds and on-ground guidance. The goal is not only to

empower these individuals but also to promote the numerous nutritional and health benefits of millet. Millet, known for its resilience in challenging environmental conditions with minimal water and fertilizer requirements, also aids in mitigating the effects of climate change due to its low carbon footprint. During the kharif season, more than 500 acres of land have been cultivated across 8 districts of TPSODL operational areas. In

total, 70 Gram panchayats were involved impacting a total of 500 farmers and WSHGs. Which includes 24 GPs of Ganjam, 8 GPs of Gajapati, 8 GPs of Koraput, 8 GPs of Nabarangpur, 8 GPs of Malkangiri, 9 GPs of Boudh, and 5 GPs of Kandhamal. Looking ahead to the upcoming Rabi season, coinciding with the International Year of Millets, TPSODL aims to extend its support to 1000 acres of land and farmers.

## Inaugural of 9th Conference on Transportation Systems Engineering and Management

Warangal (KCN):The inaugural of 9th Conference on Transportation Systems Engineering and Management (CTSEM 2023) was held today morning in Chandrasekhar Hall of Seminar Halls Complex. The programme is organised by the Transportation Division, Department of Civil Engineering, National Institute of Technology, Warangal, Telangana. Prof. CSRK Prasad, Chairman of the conference inaugurated the conference. The objective of this



conference is to bring together postgraduate students and researcher scholars to present their ongoing research works. Experts in the field of Transportation Engineering from academic institutions,

industries, and research organizations were also invited to share their knowledge, expertise, and experience with the young participants and to provide an overview on the latest trends and potential research

areas in Pavement Engineering, Traffic Engineering, and Transportation Planning. The keynote speeches will be delivered by the eminent personalities at national and international level. On day one, Prof. J. Murali Krishnan from IIT Madras and Prof. K. Sudhakar Reddy from IIT Kharagpur shared their experiences and the major research works that are being executed by them in Pavement Engineering. The programme is sponsored by LEA Associates South Asia Pvt. Ltd., Coact

Solutions Pvt. Ltd., Avijeet Agencies Pvt. Ltd., and Parameshwari Projects. About 150 Postgraduate students and research scholars will be presenting their papers and receive valuable suggestions from the experts. The coordinators of this conference are Dr. K.V.R. Ravi Shankar, Dr. S. Shankar, and Dr. Arpan Mehar and the co-coordinators are Dr. B. Raghuram Kadali, and Dr. Vishnu R. The Chairman of the conference is Prof. C.S.R.K. Prasad, and the Convenor is Prof. Venkaiah Chowdary.

## Business icons confer with Utkal Tycoons Awards

**Bhubaneswar:**Noted business icons of Odisha conferred with Utkal Tycoons Award in an exotic platform organizes by Utkal Updates and Addiction Fashion Management today at WelcomHotel by ITC Hotels, Bhubaneswar. As part of Epari Sadashiv Jewelry presents Odisha's unique award show and fashion fest 'Utkal Tycoons Awards with Bhubaneswar Runway Week Season-6, numbers of well known and successful face of Odisha business fraternity got thumping applause for their wonderful contribution to the economy of Odisha.

Their contributions were recognized and awarded. Program starts with lighting of lamp by organizer Sushree Sangeeta Sahu, John Ajay, Gaurav, Sridhar Epari and Sunil Murarka. Surya Narayan Patra, Speaker, Odisha Assembly attended as chief guest and Sulochana Das, Mayor, Bhubaneswar as guest of honour. Today, Utkal Tycoons Awards conferred to Rashmi Sahoo, Director, Frozit; Nirupama Biswal, Director, Gayatri Devi Group; Kabir Taneja, Director, Espirit Toyota; Ratnamala Swain, real estate player; Sukirti Pattnaik, MD, Indulge the

Saloon; Sreejet Patnaik, MD, Mother's Public School; Harshavardhan Didwania, Co-founder and MD, EeVe Scooters; Pradeep Pansari, Director, Rajhans, Rajiv Swain, MD, Odisha Hotel; Punya Prakash Parida, MD, Embassy and Biraja Prasad Rout, founder, Biggies Burger. To uplift the fashion statement of Odisha to higher level Bhubaneswar Runway season-6 also organized where eminent fashion designers showcase their creativity and woo the audiences with their authentic design statements. 30 models participated in the event to showcase

designs. Ollywood celebrities like Elina Samantray and Bhoomika graced the occasion as guest designers and brands like Prieya's (Priya Mohapatra), Tasa Wings (Sipra Das), TP Garments (Savitri Panigrahi), AJ Fashion Realm (Selina Dashon) and Reemly Design Studio (Reemly Studio) participated and showcase their designs. Prieya's By Priya Mohapatra showcases handloom collection 'EKATRA' which is amalgamation of sambalpuri handloom fabric and pipli appliqué work. AJ Fashion Realm by Selina Doson

has showcased summer collection which is inspired by gorgeous butterfly hamadryas. Sipra Das's Tasa Wing has brought collection 'Fusion' which is inspired form 'the galaxy' is fit for festive season, evening party and wedding season. Reemly's Design studio is showcasing the Bridal Collection "Rooh" at Bhubaneswar Runway Week 2022( season 6). TP Garments are here with some of our evening gowns collection, rich in colours, unique designs, patterns, and Using shades nude, grey, navy blue, teal blue.

## Mahindra Promises, "Get Highest Productivity Per Liter of Fuel

Pune : Mahindra's Construction Equipment Division (MCE), a part of the Mahindra Group, today announced their unique and disruptive customer value proposition "Get Highest Productivity Per Liter of Fuel or Give Machine Back" Guarantee for their BS4 range of Backhoe Loaders – Mahindra EarthMaster.

The new range features the proven and reliable 74 HP CRI Mahindra Engine and many other technological advancements, besides the cutting-edge iMAXX Telematics solution, all of which together, ensure guaranteed better fuel efficiency. Given the fact that fuel is one of the major element of the operating cost (nearly 50%), with unique features as Banana Boom, joystick lever, robust design, and bigger buckets, EarthMaster range is well suited for all types of backhoe applications,

be it mining, trenching, crushers, building construction or any other work in construction industry. Mahindra BS4 Backhoe Loader – EarthMaster, with this competitive advantage will provide them an edge, complete peace of mind and scale up their CE business, delivering higher prosperity.

Speaking on the occasion, Jalaj Gupta, Business Head, Commercial Vehicles Business Unit, Mahindra & Mahindra Limited said, "The 'Guaranteed Higher per litre productivity (or Give Machine Back)' Promise is a landmark move in the construction equipmentspace. Given the spiraling fuel prices, there wasn't a better time to introduce this Customer Value Proposition. We firmly believe that it will reaffirm our customers' faith in Mahindra's ability to create technologically

advanced, class-leading products and set higher standards for the Indian CE industry. The Service Uptime Guarantee further reinforce our commitment to our customers and our confidence in our products and after-sales capabilities."

Jalaj Gupta further added, "Our new BS4 machines have delivered higher fuel efficiency, which is the outcome of Mahindra's superior technological prowess rooted into a deep understanding of the Indian customer. Additionally, MCE is offering Service guarantee to ensure higher uptime for our customers through guaranteed speedier turnaround of the machine. The state-of-the-art iMAXX Telematics technology is further helping lower the Cost of Ownership by providing a firm control to the owners over their machines, remotely."

## ICICI Lombard launches Professional Indemnity Insurance for Doctors

**Mumbai:** ICICI Lombard, one of the leading private general insurance companies has launched Professional Indemnity Insurance for doctors. This new offering covers all specializations, provides instant policy issuance, and comes equipped with transparent and competitive pricing, a hassle-free claim process, and legal counsel services support in case of claims.

As professionals, doctors are vulnerable to human errors where they can be held liable by the kin of the patients. As a solution to situations of such nature, this policy has been curated to provide support to medical practitioners against the scope of various human errors that can happen while rendering professional services to patients.

Speaking on the same, Mr. Sanjeev Mantri, Executive Director, ICICI Lombard said "Doctors and healthcare professionals are prone to uncertainties and risks while they are in the forefront to save lives. Error, omission, or

at times unintentional negligence are a part and parcel of their professional life. Any aggrieved person possesses the right to claim damages for medical negligence against them. In such cases, our Professional Indemnity insurance safeguards doctors against all professional risks such as legal defense costs, compensation claims, injury among others, as well as against invalid claims. As a company, we are inclined towards protecting the interests and providing the best financial and legal security to the medical practitioners as they truly deserve the same."

Professional Indemnity insurance supports doctors both legally and financially in the event of a law suit. The key features of this offering comprises of coverage against legal liabilities such as defense costs incurred during investigation, cost of representation, and compensation for claims arising out of bodily injury or death caused due to error, omission and

negligence.

It will also provide coverage against invalid claims where there is no fault of the practitioner by covering the legal fees and settlement compensation to be paid against the claims awarded by the court, or in cases of medical malpractices allegations and legal suit due to breach of confidentiality allegations.

ICICI Lombard, among other companies, delivers end-to-end wellness solutions to its valued consumers through its insurance products. Doctors are focused on giving their best when it comes to saving lives. However there are uncertainties which can put their job at stake. The professional indemnity insurance for doctors under the SME category is an innovative offering from this leading general insurance company and goes on to show their focus on delivering a stellar experience to their customers. The product is available with our traditional distribution partners as well as on our website [www.icicilombard.com](https://www.icicilombard.com)

## Bandhan Bank registers strong business growth in Q4FY

Kolkata :Bandhan Bank, the universal bank with inclusive banking at its core, today announced its financial results for the final quarter of financial year 2021-22. The Bank continued to witness strong business growth, as the economy revived strongly. The Bank's total business (deposits and advances) grew 18.6% year-on-year to reach around Rs. 1.96 lakh crores on March 31, 2022. The Bank serves 2.63 crore customers through 5,639 banking outlets across 34 of the 36 states and union territories in India. The total number of employees working at Bandhan Bank stands at 60,211.



During the fourth quarter of the current financial year, the Bank's deposit book grew 24% over the corresponding quarter of the previous year. The total deposits now stand at Rs. 96,331 crore. In this period, the Bank's retail deposit book showed a substantial

growth and grew 21% year-on-year to Rs. 74,441 crore. The current account and savings account (CASA) book grew by 18% year-on-year, and the CASA ratio now stands at 41.6% of the overall deposit book. With respect to advances, the bank saw 16% growth over the

corresponding quarter of the previous year. The total advances are now at Rs. 99,338 crore.

Capital Adequacy Ratio (CAR), an indication of the stability of the Bank, is at 20.1, much higher than the regulatory requirement. To cater to its customers across the

country, Bandhan Bank is focussed on diversifying its presence across India and also growing its product portfolio in areas like SME Loans, Gold Loans, Personal Loans and Auto Loans.

Speaking on the results, Chandra Shekhar Ghosh, MD & CEO, said, "The Bank has yet again proved its resilience with a strong performance in Q4 of FY22. Our belief in our business model has been further strengthened. We thank our customers for their continued trust and support, which has made Bandhan Bank a preferred banking partner for millions of Indians."

## RapiPay launches De Dhana Dhan Offer

**New Delhi/ Bhubaneswar:** RapiPay Fintech Private Ltd, one of the leading fintech companies in India, has announced the launch of RapiPay De Dhana Dhan offer pan India for its 5 Lakhs + agents, also known as, Direct Business Outlets (DBOs). The new scheme incentives thousands of lucky DBOs daily with prizes such as Smart TVs, Smartphones, mobile accessories and cashbacks. To become eligible, DBOs need to do AEPS or Recharge transactions

on RapiPay between 6am – 12pm in the morning and 5pm to 11pm in the evening. The first winner of Smart TV is from Darbhanga (Bihar) and he has been awarded his 55 inch Smart TV with much fanfare and celebration on 12th May 2022. Similarly, every week winners of TV and Smart phones are being gratified instantly so that they don't have to wait for their prizes for long. Mr. Nipun Jain, CEO, RapiPay Fintech Ltd. said "We believe, it is important to bring excitement in the business with regular incentives for

our DBOs, RapiPay's De Dhana Dhan Offer is a step towards that. An effective incentive scheme like this does not just improve customer experience and build your business, but also helps with DBOs retention. Moreover, as a category leader, we are committed to grow the Assisted Payments space and take the financial inclusion to the last mile. "RapiPay is one of top players in AEPS and Micro ATM services. It has witnessed 200% growth in AePS and Micro ATM transactions from April 2021 to March 2022.



down to 42 off 30. Jitesh fell to Chahal having added 63 runs for the fifth wicket but Curran and Ashutosh Sharma ensured there were no further jitters for Punjab by taking calculated risks. Following Jitesh's dismissal, the next nine balls brought only six runs before Ashutosh ramped a short ball from Avesh over the keeper's head for four. Curran, who reached a 38-ball half-century in the 18th over, then pulled Sandeep Sharma for a six to effectively shut the chase. He hit another six off Avesh before Ashutosh helped himself to a six of his own to close out the chase with seven balls to spare.

Brief scores: Rajasthan Royals 144/9 in 20 overs (Riyann Parag 48; Rahul Chahar 2-26, Harshal Patel 2-28) lost to Punjab Kings 145/5 in 18.5 overs (Sam Curran 63\*; Avesh Khan 2-28) by five wickets

overs and as a finisher as well. "He (Mahmudullah) been playing regularly but his comeback, I thought was strong. Lately, if you see, that he's playing his best cricket. He's changed a lot the way he approached batting. He's in good form. His role is going to be batting in the middle order, probably be the enforcer in the middle as well as a finisher role, which he has done remarkably well lately in all formats, in domestic as well," Hathurusingha told reporters at the Sher-e-Bangla National Stadium on Tuesday (May 15).

Bangladesh skipper Najmul Hossain insisted that the 38-year old fighter is an inspiration for youngsters who are aspiring to make a comeback into the national side, "The team is benefiting from Riyad's bhair role in the batting line-up, at No 5 or 6. It gives the team an extra advantage of setting up a good total. He is an inspiration for the youngsters. He has shown how to comeback from such a tough situation," he said.

Perhaps, Mahmudullah's biggest victory in this comeback journey has been earning the trust of the board again who are not keen on pushing him into retirement after the showpiece event. "We haven't spoken about these things (his retirement from T20Is after the World Cup).

South Africa to the demigods cricket has created in Indian society. Central to that assertion is that he is black in a country where race fuels a febrile brand of politics enmeshed, as it must be, in economics. Politically, to be black in modern South Africa is to finally have your humanity recognised after centuries of racist oppression. Economically, to be black in modern South Africa is, with not enough exceptions, to be poor. Rabada is among those exceptions.