

## Officials running govt in Odisha as MLAs, Nearly 67% voter turnout in first four phases of Lok Sabha elections: Election Commission

**Padampur / Sundargarh(KCN):** BJP president JP Nadda Thursday warned the people of Odisha that their votes were not being effectively utilised, as those they elected to power were not the ones governing them.

Nadda made the remark at two election rallies in Padampur under Bargh Lok Sabha seat and Sundargarh parliamentary constituency.

He highlighted that although the people voted for BJD candidates, the government was being run by someone who isn't even their elected representative.

"Do you need such a government? Officials are running the government here while MLAs/MPs have been made redundant. Do MLAs wield any power in the state? There is only one person who is taking the stage here and there



is no place for the MPs and the MLAs. Are you able to meet your Chief Minister? Does he speak to you in Odia?", Nadda asked the gathering in both the places. Nadda emphasised the necessity for a young, locally rooted chief minister who actively manages daily administration, stressing the importance of preserving Odisha's cultural identity and pride. While seeking votes for BJD candidates, Nadda accused the BJD government of being corrupt. "Will you allow corrupt people to return power? It is the time to bless the BJP and help it

form the government in the state," he said. Nadda also addressed the issue of Lord Jagannath's Ratna Bhandar (treasury), echoing concerns previously expressed by PM Modi and Union Home Minister Amit Shah.

He criticised the BJD government over the missing Ratna Bhandar keys, suggesting that pressing the lotus button at the polling station would lead to the BJD government opening the temple's treasury, a task the BJD has failed to accomplish. Referring to BJD government's alleged

misrule, Nadda said, "People of Odisha will not tolerate anymore. They will vote for the lotus symbol twice, one for MP and another for MLA, and get double development." Claiming that BJP means growth-centric politics, Nadda said before 2014, that politics was all about vote-bank, divide and rule and appeasement. "But today, the culture of politics has changed completely. It has now become politics of performance and politics of 'report card', " Nadda said.

Though there is no BJD government in Odisha, Nadda pointed out that Prime Minister Narendra Modi has been very concerned towards the state's development. "Modi has always ensured the state's development. He increased the grant-in-aid and also established a permanent campus of IIM at Sambalpur," he said.

Nadda said the allocation in the railway budget for Odisha was increased 12 times and 4,300 km of national highways was laid in the state. The third railway line connecting Manoharpur-Rourkela-Jharsuguda-Jamga is under progress. These are development milestones," Nadda added. The BJP chief also came down heavily on the BJD government for not implementing the Ayushman Bharat scheme in the state.

He said nearly 68 lakh families were deprived of Rs 5 lakh health cover due to non-implementation of the scheme in Odisha. "It would have helped Odias living outside the state but Naveen Patnaik did not like this health cover being given by Modi and kept harping on Biju Swasthya Kalyan Yojna," he said.



polls, the turnout in the first phase was 69.43 per cent.

According to the poll authority, the updated voter turnout in the fourth phase of polling held May 13 was 69.16 per cent, 3.65 percentage points higher than the corresponding phase in the 2019 parliamentary polls. The updated voter turnout figures for the third phase of polling in the Lok Sabha election stood at 65.68 per cent. In the third phase of the 2019 general election, the turnout was 68.4 per cent.

In the second phase of the election held April 26, the turnout was recorded at 66.71 per cent as against the 69.64 per cent in the second phase of the 2019

polls.

In the first phase of the ongoing general elections, a 66.14-per cent turnout was recorded. In the 2019

polls, the turnout in the first phase was 69.43 per cent.

The EC said there is enhanced focus on to inform, motivate and facilitate voters in the remaining three phases of the parliamentary polls and state chief electoral officers have been asked to step up measures. "The Commission strongly believes that partnership and collaboration are essential pillars of voter awareness programme. It's really heartening to see that on Commission's request, different institutions, influencers and celebrities having significant reach are working enthusiastically on pro-bono basis,"

Chief Election Commissioner Rajiv Kumar said.

A total of 379 seats

across 23 states and Union Territories have voted in the first four phases of elections. A high voter turnout, Kumar felt, would be a message from Indian voters to the world about the strength of Indian democracy. He urged voters to cast their ballot in huge numbers, as voting day is not a holiday but a day of pride to participate in the festival of democracy.

The poll panel also listed out outreach efforts undertaken by various private and public bodies to enhance voter participation in the elections.

Banks, post offices, private entities and telecom platforms are using their public interface to encourage registered voters to turn up at the polling stations on various voting days.

**BJP worker killed, seven injured in clash with BJD supporters; Odisha CM Naveen expresses grief**

**Berhampur(KCN):** A BJP worker was killed and seven others were injured in a clash between supporters of the ruling BJD and the saffron party in Odisha's Ganjam district, police said Thursday.

According to preliminary investigation, the clash occurred over putting up posters of a candidate and both sides used sharp weapons in the fight, he said, adding the injured persons are undergoing treatment at

Pahana (28), who was a resident of the village. He succumbed to injuries during treatment at MKCG Medical College and Hospital here, a police officer said.

Irate BJP workers allegedly vandalised several vehicles parked near the house of Khallikote assembly seat's BJD candidate and sitting MLA Suryamani Baidya and blocked the road near the police station.

They also demanded the arrest of the MLA and her husband Daitary Behera.

## BJD's Santrupt Misra richest Lok Sabha candidate in May 25 Odisha polls



**Bhubaneswar(KCN):** Biju Janata Dal nominee Santrupt Misra with a total asset of Rs 482.21 crore, has emerged as the richest Lok Sabha poll candidate among those in the fray for the May 25 elections in Odisha, according to a report.

The Odisha Election Watch and Association for Democratic Reforms (ADR) have analysed the self-sworn affidavits of all 64 candidates of the six Lok Sabha constituencies going to polls in the third phase in the state.

Voters of Bhubaneswar, Cuttack, Dhenkanal, Keonjhar, Puri and Sambalpur Lok Sabha constituencies, along with 42 assembly segments coming under these LS seats will exercise their franchise May 25.

As per the report, 28 (44 per cent) out of 64 Lok Sabha candidates are crorepati, and the average of assets per candidate contesting in the phase-III Lok Sabha elections in Odisha stood at Rs 11.80 crore. With a total asset of Rs 482.21 crore, BJD's MP candidate for the Cuttack segment, Santrupt Misra, is the richest, followed by Abinash Samal (Rs 36.78 crore), who is contesting from the Dhenkanal Lok Sabha seat.

BSP nominee of Keonjhar

Bhubaneswar candidate Aparajita Sarangi has total assets worth Rs 4.62 crore, the report said.

Similarly, BJD nominees Pranab Prakash Das (Sambalpur), Arup Mohan Patnaik (Puri) and Manmath Kumar Routray (Bhubaneswar) have declared that they own assets of Rs 2.30 crore, Rs 22.97 crore and Rs 15.57 crore, respectively. Three candidates with low assets are Dillip Kumar Baral (Rs 4,032), independently contesting from the Puri Lok Sabha seat, SUCI candidate Subash Chandra Bhoi (Rs 19,500) from Puri and Bharatiya Bikash Parishad nominee Natabar Maharana (Rs 25,000) from Bhubaneswar, the report said.

Out of 64 candidates, 18

have declared criminal cases against them and out of them, 13 are facing serious criminal cases. The report further said that 19 candidates have declared their educational qualification to be between class 8th and 12th, while 43 candidates have educational qualification of graduate or above. One candidate is a diploma holder, and another candidate declared himself as literate. Moreover, eight candidates have declared their age to be between 25 and 40 years, while 45 candidates have declared their age to be between 41 and 60 years. Eleven candidates have declared their age to be between 61 and 80 years.

The deceased has been identified as Dilip Kumar

## CM Mann colludes with Haryana govt to attack at farmers of Punjab - Sukhbir Badal



**Chandigarh (JAG MOHAN THAKEN), May 16:** Former Punjab Deputy Chief Minister and Shiromani Akal Dal (SAD) president Sukhbir Singh Badal Thursday alleged that chief minister Bhagwant Mann had allowed the centre and the Haryana government to tear gas and shoot rubber bullets at farmers of Punjab to evade arrest in the multi-hundred crore liquor scam.

Addressing massive public meetings in Bathinda Rural and Bhuchro assembly segments, the SAD president said the chief minister knows he can go behind bars like his boss Arvind Kejriwal because he has perpetrated the same liquor scam in

party can safeguard your interests. Delhi based parties only come to loot you and your resources", he added. Speaking about the

development done by the SAD in this constituency, Mr Badal said "you have seen how Bathinda was developed during the two successive terms of the

SAD government from 2007 to 2017. During this period Bathinda became a modern city with an influx of infrastructure and institutions. The

SAD government brought in the AIIMS institute to the city besides a thermal plant, central university and an airport. You have witnessed how all civic

amenities have fallen into decay and no new project has come to Bathinda in the last seven years of Congress and AAP tenure. I appeal to you to vote and support Mrs Harsimrat Kaur Badal who has always raised your voice in parliament. This will pave the way for the next SAD government in 2027 and a restart of development in the city".

Mr Badal also spoke on how Punjabis could never expect any development under chief minister Bhagwant Mann. "He promised that the government would run from villages but has visited his own constituency Dhuri only

# 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. Dilip 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 Swachhata 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 an 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 aborigines 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 idiosyncratic, 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 idiosyncratic. 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 Dongriya 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 interacting 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 are not 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 Jharnia - "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 observable 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 Vansadhar 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 (SII) 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 SII and Govt of Odisha on 7th June 2003, SII 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 SII 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 Ekavaya Model Residential Schools (EMRS) 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



Vivek Shukla

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.

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

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

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



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

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

imprinting 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

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.

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

## Tips to avoid melting makeup in summer months



Shahnaz Husain

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.

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 penetrate 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

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

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.

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

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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.



Vijay Garg

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  
MaloutPunjab

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

# 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 achievement s 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 Hanumanji 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), Rinzin Bhutia (Agapi Sikkim), Reshma Mukherjee & Anvita Rastogi (of Alsisar Impact)

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

## IJU has welcomed the Supreme Court ruling that the arrest of senior journalist and online portal NewsClick founder Prabir Purkayastha was illegal

**Hyderabad / Chandigarh, (KCN):** The Indian Journalists Union (IJU) has welcomed the Supreme Court ruling that the arrest of senior journalist and online portal NewsClick founder Prabir Purkayastha was illegal. In a statement issued on Thursday IJU President K. Sreenivas Reddy and Secretary

General Balwinder Singh Jammu said, the verdict was a slap on the dictatorial functioning of the government which grew extremely intolerant to independent journalism and dissent. They urged the government to respect media freedom which flows from Article 19(1)(a) that guarantees the right to freedom of expression.

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



Bakumens and Mr. Riwitbroto Mukherjee, a well known Actor who spoke about the basic ingredients of Content

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.

## 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. 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.

## 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

# 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 Surakhyam 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 Surakhyam 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-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): 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. C.S.R.K. 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

## 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 Priya'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. Priya's By Priya Mohapatra showcases handloom collection 'EKATRA' which is amalgamation of sambalpuri handloom fabric and pipli applique 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 from 'the galaxy' 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.

## Bandhan Bank registers strong business growth in Q4FY



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."

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.

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."

## 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,

## 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

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

## 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."



# Curran stars in tricky chase to condemn Royals to fourth straight loss

**New Delhi:** Captain Sam Curran produced an all-round effort but it was his effort with the bat - 63\* off 41 - that stood out as his Punjab Kings side chased down Rajasthan Royals' 144 on a slow surface in Guwahati despite a wobble in the PowerPlay. The result - Punjab's fourth in a row in away games - lifted them temporarily off the bottom of the standings but left the already-qualified Royals with much to ponder following their fourth defeat in a row.

In the middle overs, Rajasthan Royals lost five wickets through the middle overs whereas in the chase, PBKS were able to consolidate after losing three in the PowerPlay. Royals' slide meant they were ultimately short by about 15-20 runs, which could have made the difference on a tricky surface.

The Royals were guilty

of a slow start in their last game in Chennai and that malaise followed them to Guwahati where after opting to bat, they managed 38/1 in the PowerPlay. Yashasvi Jaiswal struck a four off the first ball of the innings and was cleaned up by an excellent inswinger three balls later. Tom Kohler-Cadmore, replacing Jos Buttler, and Sanju Samson struck a handful of boundaries but the Englishman played as many as 14 dot balls and struggled to force the pace on a pitch that played slowly.

The final two overs of the PowerPlay, bowled by Nathan Ellis - in for the injured Kagiso Rabada - brought only seven runs. And that meant the Royals entered the middle-overs needing to kick on. Samson, looking to give the scoring rate a push, perished when his attempted cut shot went straight to backward

point. Kohler-Cadmore tried to take down Rahul Chahar in the legspinner's first over and holed out to long-on for a painstaking 23-ball 18. The Royals promoted R. Ashwin up the order to disrupt bowling plans and inject some momentum into the innings and the veteran spinner largely succeeded in this endeavour by hitting Chahar for a six and a pair of boundaries before falling to Arshdeep Singh for a 19-ball 28. Punjab Kings continued to keep the pressure on. Dhruv Jurel fell for a golden duck while Rovman Powell chipped a simple catch back to Chahar, who finished with excellent returns of 2 for 26. The Royals were forced to bring in Donovan Ferreira as an impact substitute to rescue their tottering innings but he didn't last too long and fell to a fine catch at long-off from Rilee Rossouw off



the bowling of Harshal Patel. Hometown hero Riyan Parag struck a pair of boundaries off Arshdeep Singh while Trent Boult picked a boundary brace himself off Ellis to push the total a little further. Parag fell LBW to Harshal's patented dipping slower ball in the final over while Boult was run-out off the last ball of the innings as the Royals fell

short of the 150 mark. Harshal Patel finished with figures of 2 for 28 and reclaimed the Purple Cap. Punjab Kings raced off the blocks on the hunt of 145 but ended up with a worse PowerPlay than their hosts. Trent Boult took a sixth first-over wicket of the season by dismissing Prabhsimran Singh but post that early setback, Rilee Rossouw

hit five boundaries and by the end of four overs, PBKS were scoring at nearly nine runs to the over. Then their world turned in an over bowled by Avesh Khan. Rossouw sliced a full ball straight to backward point to fall for a 13-ball 22. Two balls later, Shashank Singh was trapped plumb in front of the stumps after missing a flick to a full ball. The threat for PBKS post PowerPlay was RR's double-barrelled spin attack. Yuzvendra Chahar struck early to win his match-up battle against Jonny Bairstow for the fourth time in IPL history. That brought together captain Sam Curran and Jitesh Sharma. The two hunkered down to build a partnership. Jitesh put away a short ball from Ashwin for a six to signal the turnaround. Another boundary came via Curran's inside-edge in the next over. Avesh returned for an over in the middle in search of wicket. He didn't get it but gave away just three runs. And it was back to the spinners. Curran stepped up by hitting Chahar and Ashwin for a four each in otherwise good overs. Momentum turned for good in the 15th over when both batters hit Ashwin for a six each, bringing the equation

down to 42 off 30.

Jitesh fell to Chahar 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 (Riyan 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

## We let ourselves down as a fielding unit - Shubman Gill

**New Delhi:** Absence of key players, losing close matches and a below-par fielding performance in the season were the reasons Shubman Gill, the Gujarat Titans captain, attributed to his team's early exit in IPL 2024.

Hardik Pandya moved to Mumbai Indians before the season while Mohammed Shami was forced to miss the tournament due to an injury, leaving GT hamstrung. To add to their problems, Rashid Khan, their premier spinner, just returned from an injury and didn't appear at his best in the early stages of this edition. David Miller and Wriddhiman Saha also struggled with niggles in the first half of the competition, which meant the Titans couldn't have a settled unit.

"We've been a bit up and down this season. It's important in a big season like this to be balanced as a team and as a performing unit, which we were not able to do this season," said Gill at the pre-match press conference ahead of their final league game against Sunrisers



Hyderabad, before speaking on how injuries before and during the season affected the side. "It's never easy. Some of our key players got injured before the season and in the season as well we have had some injuries. It's never easy when you have had injuries in between and our team was such we had to completely change our team combination in between, because of some players getting injured. And then it's not easy for some players coming in to be able to perform straightaway. "Apart from that I think it's just a matter of one match... one match here and there. The match that we lost against Delhi by one run. A match like that could go either way, which I think in the first

couple of years a lot of our matches like that went in our favour. At the end of the day, winning and losing, the margin is so close it's hard to identify or pinpoint a moment or a particular area. But I think collectively as a fielding unit we let ourselves down in some of the key moments."

Under the leadership of Pandya, the Titans won their maiden edition in 2022 and reached the final in 2023 where they lost a hard-fought thriller against Chennai Super Kings. Pandya's absence affected the team balance this season, admitted Gill, but stressed that the Titans weren't solely dependent on him or any other specific player in particular.

"A player of Hardik

bhai's calibre, if he's missing out of any team then it would affect the combination of any team. But the beauty of team sport is it's never done by one player. Collectively the team has to come together and perform consistently over a period of time. Those are the teams that do well. If you look at some of the other teams in the past 16 seasons that have done well, they have played collectively. You wouldn't see one person or two-three people changing the course of a season, or one or two or 16 seasons for that matter.

"A player does play a big role in that matter but the team can't only be dependent on one player. You wouldn't see too many teams doing well who are just dependent

## Perseverance pays off for Mahmudullah



**Dubai:** It isn't over until it's over!! Bangladesh's Mahmudullah seems to have taken a leaf out of this saying by battling all odds to complete a successful comeback into the national T20I side. He was first picked for the home series against Sri Lanka and played a role in Bangladesh's win over Zimbabwe as well in the recently-concluded series which has now resulted in him getting picked for the T20 World Cup, scheduled to be held next month.

"There are players who are playing the IPL for the first time and then there are experienced players like Kane Williamson or a David Miller or a Matthew Wade, who know how to go about their things. It's important to communicate with them, important for me to tell them what their role is and how I can get the best out of them, and that is the challenge," said Gill, and added: "(But) if I'm thinking those things when I'm batting then I won't be able to get the best out of myself as a batsman," said Gill.

The former T20I skipper surprised the BCB high-ups by stating that he wanted to continue playing when they asked him about his future plans. Many felt the end was near especially after his Test retirement didn't go down well with the board.

The right-handed batter was left in wilderness following his exclusion from the Asia Cup squad and it looked all but over for him as far as his international career was concerned as he was playing only ODIs.

Mahmudullah hardly craved for media attention even at times when he wasn't being picked in the squads across formats. Rather, he focussed on working hard and winning his place back, like he did last year as well just before

the ODI World Cup when the selectors brought him back after ending their youth experiment.

Mahmudullah pushed his way into the World Cup squad and seized the opportunity with both hands to showcase he still had what it takes to deliver at the highest level. The veteran even hit a century and was his country's highest rungetter in the tournament. He put all doubts to rest recently related to his effectiveness in the shortest format by playing a crucial role in Fortune Barishal clinching their maiden BPL title.

Dav Whatmore, the former Bangladesh head coach, who acted as technical director of Fortune Barishal, told Cricbuzz that he feels Mahmudullah had the power to clear the ropes and can be used in the finisher role which requires experience to handle the pressure. "He has got the experience to do the finishers' role. It (T20) is a very athletic and volatile game but it also has a place for experience," Whatmore told this website when his attention was drawn regarding Mahmudullah's place in the shortest format.

Bangladesh head coach Chandika Hathurusingha echoed the same sentiment and insisted that they will use him as an enforcer in the middle 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 bhai 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).

# Rabada injury scare rocks South Africa beyond cricket

**New Delhi:** For a long moment that stretched from Tuesday into Wednesday, hearts were in throats all over South Africa. "We know Rabada's gone home injured, so we've got to find a replacement," Brad Haddin, Punjab Kings assistant coach, said unhelpfully vaguely in Guwahati on Tuesday. Wait! What?

CSA answered the question in a short statement at 10.30 am (South Africa time) on Wednesday: "Kagiso Rabada has returned

home from the IPL due to a lower limb soft tissue infection. The 28-year-old consulted a specialist on arrival in South Africa [on Sunday evening] and is being closely monitored by the CSA medical team. His preparation for the upcoming T20 World Cup in West Indies and the USA is not expected to be affected."

Phew! With that, relieved hearts sank from suddenly relaxed throats nationwide. And not only among the cricket-minded. We need to be woken to the truth that

Rabada is exponentially more than a cricketer. He is the country's most skilled fast bowler and its most successful of the era; the heart, soul and mind of South Africa's attack. Since Rabada made his international debut in a T20I against Australia in Adelaide in November 2014, only Mitchell Starc has taken more wickets across the formats at that level. That hardly nicks the notion of what it is to be Rabada. He is an unblemished exemplar of the fast bowler as artist.

This holds true from his balletic action to his visceral aggression - which used to land him in trouble with the ICC - to his rasping intelligence, to the cold hardness that gleams in his eyes the same way it used to in the eyes of Dennis Lillee, Malcolm Marshall, Wasim Akram and Allan Donald. Rabada is who you would hold up to cricket agnostics as fast bowling's and fast bowlers' fast bowler. But that is not what he means. Rabada is the closest phenomenon in

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.