

## PM Modi arrives at Bhubaneswar on two-day visit



**Bhubaneswar(KCN):** Prime Minister Narendra Modi arrived at Bhubaneswar on a two-day visit to Odisha on Sunday evening, a day before the second phase elections in the state.

He arrived in a special plane of the Indian Air Force in the evening amid tight security arrangements.

On his arrival at the Bhubaneswar Airport,

many senior BJP leaders and party functionaries received him at the airport. From there, his carcade went straight to the party office. The Prime Minister held a key review meeting at the party office for about 30 minutes with many senior party leaders and members of the election management committee and the core committee over the party's strategies and activities of booth

management, campaign and war room management. The PM also got to know about the responsibilities allocated to the leaders for campaign and booth management. He was all praise for the party workers engaged in organizational activities. This review meeting assumed importance for the party in Odisha as it is reportedly working on mission mode.

The PM imparted mantra to party leaders for electoral success at the meeting with Odisha being in the focus of the Central BJP leadership.

After the review meeting, the PM's carcade proceeded to the Raj Bhawan where he will make a night halt.

violence. Stringent action will be taken against anyone found engaged in bloodshed and violent acts."

"I have instructed the officers to ensure the immediate arrest of those involved in poll-related violence and submission of chargesheets in the case so that the accused get punished at the earliest. Strong punitive action will be taken against any person or police officer found neglecting his duty. We hope the upcoming fifth phase of polling takes place peacefully," said Sarangi.

The DGP further said that Odisha Police have been keeping strict vigilance on the overall situation, and any act of violence will be dealt with iron hands. As many as 33,000 police personnel have been deployed for the fifth phase of polling.

Besides, the Odisha police also deployed 655

Voting will be held in the



fifth phase at 9,162 polling stations in 7,339 locations across the state. Of the total booths, 556 booths located in Kandhamal, Boudh, Bolangir, Bargarh and at some places in Rourkela districts are Maoist-affected.

DGP Sarangi said as many as 47 Additional SPs, 88 DSPs, 236 Inspectors, 2,000 Sub Inspectors and Assistant SI rank officials have been deployed for the fifth phase of polling. Recently, two Maoists

were killed in an exchange of fire in the Boudh area a few days back. Earlier, another divisional commander of Maoist group had been neutralised. We have intensified anti-Maoist operations in these areas for the last four months," said Sarangi. He also said that as many as 117 operational parties of CAPF and 38 units of Special Operation Group and District Voluntary Forces are in action in the Maoist-affected areas for the fifth phase of polling.

Assembly and Lok Sabha elections will be held simultaneously in Odisha in four phases from May 13 to June 1. The results of the polling for both Lok Sabha and Vidhan Sabha will be out June 4.

mobile patrolling parties, 257 flying squads and 251 static surveillance teams. Several quick reaction teams and swift action force of Odisha police have been placed in the sensitive areas to check any untoward incident. "We have made adequate security arrangements in the five Maoist affected districts — Kandhamal, Boudh, Bolangir, Bargarh, Rourkela. A Maoist group from Chhattisgarh has been camping in Kandhamal and Boudh districts in central Odisha for the past one year.

Recently, two Maoists

mandate, it will move to cancel all decisions and settlements on river waters that have been made without Punjab's concurrence and in violation of the nationally accepted Riparian Principle. Mr Badal also declared that party will seek royalty on its river water given to non-Riparian states and will take all political or legal steps necessary for this.

The manifesto makes a commitment to renew the fight for the inclusion of Chandigarh and other Punjabis speaking areas left out of the state. "Chandigarh was categorically declared to belong to Punjab and was to remain a UT only for five years. We will fight the centre's betrayal of Punjab on this with renewed force." Warning the people of Punjab against a deep rooted conspiracy to push Punjab back into the dark

era of fratricidal bloodshed and state repression through the use of sponsored political rowdyism, the Shiromani Akali Dal (SAD) Saturday claimed to have made a strongly positive Panthic and pro-Punjab pitch with emphasis on a genuinely democratic and federal structure with genuine political and fiscal autonomy for the state and preserving the religio-cultural identity of the state. The manifesto is steeped in the traditional Akali, Panthic and Punjabi idiom and recalls the party's glorious heritage

## Stage set for polls to five Lok Sabha seats, 35 Assembly constituencies in Odisha



**Bhubaneswar(KCN):**

Tight security arrangements have been made, with the deployment of over 33,000 personnel, for elections to five Lok Sabha and 35 Assembly constituencies in Odisha Monday, officials said.

Over 70.69 lakh voters, including 40.33 lakh men, 39.35 lakh women and 851 transgender persons, are eligible to cast their votes at 9,162 polling stations in Aska, Kandhamal, Bargarh, Bolangir and Sundargarh Lok Sabha constituencies, and 35 Assembly seats falling under these parliamentary constituencies, in the second phase of polls in the state.

A total of 40 candidates

are in the fray for the five Lok Sabha seats, while 265 nominees, including Chief Minister Naveen Patnaik, will try their luck in the 35 Assembly segments.

Patnaik is contesting from two Assembly segments — Hinjili under Aska Lok Sabha seat in Ganjam district and Kantabanji under Bolangir parliamentary constituency — around 400 km apart.

Apart from Patnaik,

major contestants whose electoral fate would be decided Monday include around half-a-dozen Odisha

ministers, BJP's sitting MPs Jual Oram and Sangeeta Singh Deo,

BJD MP Achyut Samant and former Indian Hockey captain Dilip Tirkey.

Prime Minister Narendra Modi, Union Home Minister Amit Shah, Defence Minister Rajnath Singh, chief ministers of Assam, Chhattisgarh, Rajasthan, and film actor Hema Malini have campaigned for BJP candidates, while Congress president Mallikarjun Kharge and party leader Rahul Gandhi have canvassed for their party nominees.

BJD president Naveen Patnaik and his close aide Kartik Pandian have

extensively campaigned across the five Lok Sabha and 35 Assembly seats.

In Aska, tight security arrangements have been ensured following the death of a BJP worker in a clash with BJD supporters.

State Chief Electoral Officer Nikunja Bihari Dhal said 22 companies of central forces have been deployed in Aska. "We are committed to conducting free and fair elections in the state," Dhal said.

Polling personnel, along with EVMs and other materials, have already reached their destinations, he said. Voting will commence at 7 am and continue till 6 pm, but the time duration would be shorter in Maoist-hit areas, Dhal said.

Of the 9,162 polling

stations, 1,541 will be model polling stations, while 1,041 will be managed by all-women personnel and 25 will be run by PwD officials. Nearly 20 per cent of the 9,162 polling stations have been identified as critical, including those in Maoist-hit areas, he said.

"With the IMD predicting heat wave conditions on May 20, adequate drinking water, ORS and essential medicines will be made available at each polling station. Besides, paramedical staffers, ASHA workers, ambulances and mobile health units will also be deployed," he said, adding that an air ambulance will be kept on standby at Bolangir for exigencies. For any security-related emergency, one Indian Air Force helicopter will also be kept on standby, Dhal said.

## Rahul, Kharge likely to visit Odisha next week to campaign for Congress candidates



**Bhubaneswar(KCN):**

Congress president Mallikarjun Kharge and party's senior leader Rahul Gandhi are likely to visit Odisha next week for campaigning in simultaneous Lok Sabha and assembly elections in the state, a senior party leader said Sunday.

Speaking to reporters here, AICC in-charge of Odisha, Ajoy Kumar said Gandhi and Kharge are expected to visit the state between May 26 and 28. The details of their visit would be finalised in two days, he said.

"We have requested Priyanka Gandhi ji to come to Odisha for campaigning on May 25. However, she has a prescheduled public meeting in Uttar Pradesh on that day and then she

will visit Himachal Pradesh. We have now requested her to visit Odisha on May 26," Kumar said.

Rahul Gandhi had held an election rally in Cuttack on April 28 and Balangir on May 15.

Kharge had, on May 16, held a meeting in Kandhamal district and a press conference in Bhubaneswar.

On Prime Minister Narendra Modi's visit to Odisha for election

campaigning, the Congress leader said, "Modi ji is coming here to spread lies. He had promised to provide 2 crore jobs each year. Forget about giving jobs, crores of people have lost their jobs and unemployment is at its peak in India."

PM Modi is coming for campaigning but it will have "a negative impact on the election results for BJP candidates" in the state, Kumar claimed.

## SAD releases manifesto, seeks land swap with Pak to include Kartarpur in east Punjab on Hussainiwala pattern



**Chandigarh (JAG MOHAN THAKEN), May 19:**

On Saturday, Shiromani Akali Dal (SAD) president Sardar Sukhbir Singh Badal, while releasing its manifesto, which has been named as 'Ailaan-Nama', claimed that the SAD will seek land swap with Pak to include Kartarpur in east Punjab on Hussainiwala pattern.

The Ailaan-Nama says that the party will use its mandate to seek transfer of Kartarpur Sahib from Pakistan to India through mutual land exchange between the two countries as was done in Hussainiwala as well as on the Bangladesh border. "The party also promises to work through the Government of India seeking that the requirement for passport for pilgrims to Kartarpur Sahib be dropped and be replaced with a simple permit system".

The Ailaan-Nama

attempts and conspiracies of governments to usurp control of sacred shrines and religious institutions of the Khalsa Panth. The party will seek to put an end to the dangerous interference into Sikh religious affairs by non-Sikh forces who have been using some disgruntled Sikh elements as "cosmetic front for their nefarious designs to weaken the Panth from within."

The manifesto demanded the opening of Attari and Hussainiwala borders with Pakistan for trade and tourism to usher in economic prosperity. It also promised to secure Special Economic Zones (SEZ) status for the entire border. "We will engage with the centre to bring small, medium and MSME industrial units in the border districts". It also emphasized the need industry-focused skill education institutes in this belt.

The party manifesto also

declared that, with people's

mandate, it will move to cancel all decisions and settlements on river waters that have been made without Punjab's concurrence and in violation of the nationally accepted Riparian Principle. Mr Badal also declared that party will seek royalty on its river water given to non-Riparian states and will take all political or legal steps necessary for this.

The manifesto makes a commitment to renew the fight for the inclusion of Chandigarh and other Punjabis speaking areas left out of the state. "Chandigarh was categorically declared to belong to Punjab and was to remain a UT only for five years. We will fight the centre's betrayal of Punjab on this with renewed force." Warning the people of Punjab against a deep rooted conspiracy to push Punjab back into the dark

era of fratricidal bloodshed and state repression through the use of sponsored political rowdyism, the Shiromani Akali Dal (SAD) Saturday claimed to have made a strongly positive Panthic and pro-Punjab pitch with emphasis on a genuinely democratic and federal structure with genuine political and fiscal autonomy for the state and preserving the religio-cultural identity of the state. The manifesto is steeped in the traditional Akali, Panthic and Punjabi idiom and recalls the party's glorious heritage

getting people's mandate, it will introduce a law to ensure that jobs in Punjab would be reserved for Punjabi youth only. "At present, not only jobs but even our Rajya Sabha seats are being gifted to outsiders and known Punjab haters. Punjab at the moment is being treated as a slave colony for resource exploitation. It is being governed from Delhi and for Delhi." Mr Badal pointed out that some other states already have such provisions.

The party manifesto talks strongly about the need to safeguard the secular, democratic and federal character of the Constitution, with emphasis on preserving the guarantees given to the poor, the backward and other exploited segments, including the scheduled castes and tribes and the minorities. "Secular and democratic values have come under a

stress in recent years. Minorities and other exploited sections are being systematically targeted on communal grounds. This needs to stop and SAD will treat this as a priority."

The manifesto says that apart from discriminating and playing games against the Sikhs, the Centre is "discriminating against and terrorizing other minorities too, including the Muslims, Christians, Bodhis, Jainis. SAD will champion their cause in every sphere." It also announced to oppose any move at enforcing Uniform Civil Code.

The manifesto sought Special SC Status for Punjab as the state had the highest percentage of SC population in the country. "SAD will seek Special Allocation for the welfare of SC sections in Punjab. The party will secure clearance of backlog in PMS for SC students. It will also ensure immediate restoration of Guru Ravidasji Mandir in Tughlakabad, New Delhi."



## CLASSIFIED

## CAUTION

Readers are advised to make appropriate enquiries while responding to advertisements in these columns. The Kalinga Chronicle publication does not vouch for any claims made by the Advertisers. The Printer, Publisher, Editor and Owner of The Kalinga Chronicle Publication shall not be held responsible/ liable for any consequences, in case such claims are found to be false.



## AUTOMOBILE



## REAL ESTATE

## SALE

**Gawasik Bajaj** in tiptop condition for sale. Contact: 2555326

## PURCHASE

Required a Marshal/Commander / Boleip in good condition. Contact: 2555763

## CLASSIFIED ADVERTISEMENT TARIFF

Classified advertisements are released daily. The normal classified advertisement is charged @ Rs. 5/- per word up to maximum number of 50 words. Any extra word will be Rs. 8/- per word. The minimum charges for any classified advertisement is Rs. 100/- The options for bold lettering and outlining are also available and are charged @ 7/- and 10/- per word respectively. Extra charges for photographs Rs. 100/- For Box No. Rs. 100/-

## HIRE

For hiring of Car / Jeep / Bus on monthly basis. Contact: 2555763



## BUSINESS

Saving 10,000/- for high return, extra sam and foreign trip opportunity. 238904001. independent business work from home, training in Singapore, 038014287.



## MATRIMONIAL

**BRIDE WANTED**

Wanted bride for Chandayat Boy, 37plus, caste no bar, 0674-555763

## GROOMWANTED

Wanted Groom any service/business family or a Brahmin Girl. Contact 2555226

Gohira Chhak in front of CV Raman Engineering College beside NH-5, near Tamando. Contact: 923891168

## PURCHASE

Simplex / Duplex building at BBSR contact: 9437002509

Required Single / Double / Triple Storied North/East facing building at Puri. Contact: 9437-143493



We provide luxury coach buses (16,25,32,41,52 seater) for Picnic, Excursion, Marriage, Maa Santoshi Travels, Contact: 9861079437 For Luxury Passenger vehicle, Contact: Sagarika Tours & Travels, Acharya Vihar, Bhubaneswar, Ph. 2540219

## WANTED

**Required Driver/Peon/ Attendant/ Aya**

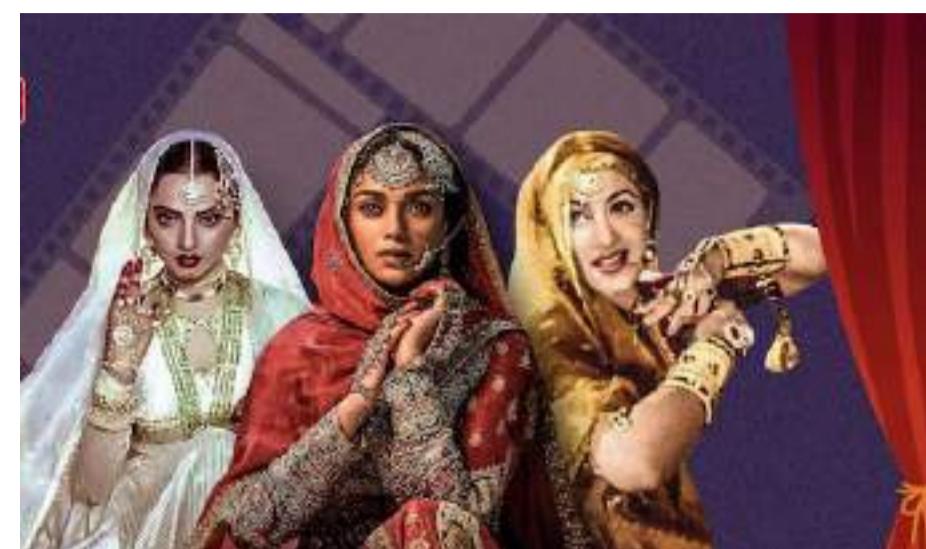
Please Contact-8984600400

**ACCOMMODATION WANTED**

Required double/Single/ Multi storied Bungalow type North or East Facing Independent building At-Nayapalli, Jayadev Vihar, V.S.S. Nagar, Mancheswar, Rasulgarh, Sallashree Vihar, Niladri Vihar.

Please Contact- 8338870595

## Tawaifs in Bollywood's twisted tale, from Pakeezah to Heeramandi



When we think of tawaifs (courtesans), we think of women in flowing, ornate dresses giving elaborate dance performances or wooing men with sexual favours. We think of polished dance performances akin to Rekha's on 'Dil Cheez Kya Hai', and an alluring Madhubala dancing to 'Jab Pyar Kiya To Darna Kya'. Or, most recently, we think of the stunning Aditi Rao Hydari's popular Gaja Gamini walk in Heeramandi.

But Hindi cinema's portrayal of courtesans of India isn't even half of what they were. And this depiction of tawaifs in Hindi cinema hasn't gotten any better since the early 19th century. "Ninety-eight percent of the films stereotype courtesans. You show whatever you want to show because tawaifs (courtesans) are dead and there is nobody to question you," Manjari Chaturvedi, Director and Choreographer, and Restorer of the Dance of Courtesans told IndiaToday.in.

The movies based on the lives of courtesans or with characters of tawaif vastly under-represent them and portray them as inferiors in society.

In movies like Mughal-e-Azam (1960) by K Asif, Pakeezah (1971) by Kamal Arohi, Khilona (1970) by Chandan Bohra, or Tawaif by BR Chopra (1985), you often see a mujra sequence and a woman who has a heart of gold and is willing to give up everything for the man she loves

Madhubala in a still from

Mughal-E-Azam by K Asif. "In the films, whenever they wanted a titillating dance, or they wanted something like an item number, they brought in a tawaif. If they wanted a negative character, they introduced the character of a tawaif. If they wanted to show a hero with a broken heart, he would go to a tawaif. All these ended up stereotyping the image of a tawaif," Chaturvedi said. Think of Bunty Aur Babli's 'Kajra Re', Ram Leela's 'Ram Chaahe Leela Chahe', Yeh Jawani Hai Deewani's 'Ghagra', or Agent Vinod's 'Dil Mera Muft Ka', and how they showed the over-the-top, sexualised and raunchy performances by courtesans, and one would understand what Chaturvedi is referring to. Historically, courtesans were women who were well-read and immensely talented. They used to learn and write poetry under the watch of their ustaads (teachers). As per Awadhī mythology, courtesans were skilled individuals, who taught men to enjoy music, dance, etiquette, and

refined their tastes. When Veena Talwar Oldenburg, Professor of History at Baruch College and The Graduate Center of the City University of New York, met the courtesans of Lucknow, she learnt that they loved reading newspapers. "They were used to reading newspapers, they were literate women. Jhagde ho jaate the kaun pehle padhga... (They used to fight among themselves who would read the newspaper first)," Oldenberg told IndiaToday.in. This aspect of their lives is correctly represented in Muzaffar Ali's 'Umrao Jaan'. In the film, Rekha performed Kathak with the utmost grace and perfection on 'In Ankhon Ki Masti Mein' and 'Dil Cheez Kya Hai'.

"Umrao Jaan, to a large extent, is very true to history because it is based on a 1905 Urdu novel 'Umrao Jaan Ada' by Mirza Hadi Ruswa. It was a straight story of the life of a tawaif. In that story, Rekha and other dancers are learning Kathak from ustaads.

Chaturvedi says Umrao Jaan and Mughal-E-Azam became cultural touchstones, paving the way for the inclusion of tawaif characters in the sub-plots of film, for instance, Muqaddar Ka Sikandar (1978), Do Anjaane (1976), The Burning Train (1980), and Ram Teri Ganga Maili (1985). Chaturvedi says Umrao Jaan and Mughal-E-Azam became cultural touchstones, paving the way for the inclusion of tawaif characters in the sub-plots of film, for instance, Muqaddar Ka Sikandar (1978), Do Anjaane (1976), The Burning Train (1980), and Ram Teri Ganga Maili (1985). Chaturvedi says Umrao Jaan and Mughal-E-Azam became cultural touchstones, paving the way for the inclusion of tawaif characters in the sub-plots of film, for instance, Muqaddar Ka Sikandar (1978), Do Anjaane (1976), The Burning Train (1980), and Ram Teri Ganga Maili (1985). Chaturvedi says Umrao Jaan and Mughal-E-Azam became cultural touchstones, paving the way for the inclusion of tawaif characters in the sub-plots of film, for instance, Muqaddar Ka Sikandar (1978), Do Anjaane (1976), The Burning Train (1980), and Ram Teri Ganga Maili (1985). Chaturvedi says Umrao Jaan and Mughal-E-Azam became cultural touchstones, paving the way for the inclusion of tawaif characters in the sub-plots of film, for instance, Muqaddar Ka Sikandar (1978), Do Anjaane (1976), The Burning Train (1980), and Ram Teri Ganga Maili (1985). Chaturvedi says Umrao Jaan and Mughal-E-Azam became cultural touchstones, paving the way for the inclusion of tawaif characters in the sub-plots of film, for instance, Muqaddar Ka Sikandar (1978), Do Anjaane (1976), The Burning Train (1980), and Ram Teri Ganga Maili (1985). Chaturvedi says Umrao Jaan and Mughal-E-Azam became cultural touchstones, paving the way for the inclusion of tawaif characters in the sub-plots of film, for instance, Muqaddar Ka Sikandar (1978), Do Anjaane (1976), The Burning Train (1980), and Ram Teri Ganga Maili (1985). Chaturvedi says Umrao Jaan and Mughal-E-Azam became cultural touchstones, paving the way for the inclusion of tawaif characters in the sub-plots of film, for instance, Muqaddar Ka Sikandar (1978), Do Anjaane (1976), The Burning Train (1980), and Ram Teri Ganga Maili (1985). Chaturvedi says Umrao Jaan and Mughal-E-Azam became cultural touchstones, paving the way for the inclusion of tawaif characters in the sub-plots of film, for instance, Muqaddar Ka Sikandar (1978), Do Anjaane (1976), The Burning Train (1980), and Ram Teri Ganga Maili (1985). Chaturvedi says Umrao Jaan and Mughal-E-Azam became cultural touchstones, paving the way for the inclusion of tawaif characters in the sub-plots of film, for instance, Muqaddar Ka Sikandar (1978), Do Anjaane (1976), The Burning Train (1980), and Ram Teri Ganga Maili (1985). Chaturvedi says Umrao Jaan and Mughal-E-Azam became cultural touchstones, paving the way for the inclusion of tawaif characters in the sub-plots of film, for instance, Muqaddar Ka Sikandar (1978), Do Anjaane (1976), The Burning Train (1980), and Ram Teri Ganga Maili (1985). Chaturvedi says Umrao Jaan and Mughal-E-Azam became cultural touchstones, paving the way for the inclusion of tawaif characters in the sub-plots of film, for instance, Muqaddar Ka Sikandar (1978), Do Anjaane (1976), The Burning Train (1980), and Ram Teri Ganga Maili (1985). Chaturvedi says Umrao Jaan and Mughal-E-Azam became cultural touchstones, paving the way for the inclusion of tawaif characters in the sub-plots of film, for instance, Muqaddar Ka Sikandar (1978), Do Anjaane (1976), The Burning Train (1980), and Ram Teri Ganga Maili (1985). Chaturvedi says Umrao Jaan and Mughal-E-Azam became cultural touchstones, paving the way for the inclusion of tawaif characters in the sub-plots of film, for instance, Muqaddar Ka Sikandar (1978), Do Anjaane (1976), The Burning Train (1980), and Ram Teri Ganga Maili (1985). Chaturvedi says Umrao Jaan and Mughal-E-Azam became cultural touchstones, paving the way for the inclusion of tawaif characters in the sub-plots of film, for instance, Muqaddar Ka Sikandar (1978), Do Anjaane (1976), The Burning Train (1980), and Ram Teri Ganga Maili (1985). Chaturvedi says Umrao Jaan and Mughal-E-Azam became cultural touchstones, paving the way for the inclusion of tawaif characters in the sub-plots of film, for instance, Muqaddar Ka Sikandar (1978), Do Anjaane (1976), The Burning Train (1980), and Ram Teri Ganga Maili (1985). Chaturvedi says Umrao Jaan and Mughal-E-Azam became cultural touchstones, paving the way for the inclusion of tawaif characters in the sub-plots of film, for instance, Muqaddar Ka Sikandar (1978), Do Anjaane (1976), The Burning Train (1980), and Ram Teri Ganga Maili (1985). Chaturvedi says Umrao Jaan and Mughal-E-Azam became cultural touchstones, paving the way for the inclusion of tawaif characters in the sub-plots of film, for instance, Muqaddar Ka Sikandar (1978), Do Anjaane (1976), The Burning Train (1980), and Ram Teri Ganga Maili (1985). Chaturvedi says Umrao Jaan and Mughal-E-Azam became cultural touchstones, paving the way for the inclusion of tawaif characters in the sub-plots of film, for instance, Muqaddar Ka Sikandar (1978), Do Anjaane (1976), The Burning Train (1980), and Ram Teri Ganga Maili (1985). Chaturvedi says Umrao Jaan and Mughal-E-Azam became cultural touchstones, paving the way for the inclusion of tawaif characters in the sub-plots of film, for instance, Muqaddar Ka Sikandar (1978), Do Anjaane (1976), The Burning Train (1980), and Ram Teri Ganga Maili (1985). Chaturvedi says Umrao Jaan and Mughal-E-Azam became cultural touchstones, paving the way for the inclusion of tawaif characters in the sub-plots of film, for instance, Muqaddar Ka Sikandar (1978), Do Anjaane (1976), The Burning Train (1980), and Ram Teri Ganga Maili (1985). Chaturvedi says Umrao Jaan and Mughal-E-Azam became cultural touchstones, paving the way for the inclusion of tawaif characters in the sub-plots of film, for instance, Muqaddar Ka Sikandar (1978), Do Anjaane (1976), The Burning Train (1980), and Ram Teri Ganga Maili (1985). Chaturvedi says Umrao Jaan and Mughal-E-Azam became cultural touchstones, paving the way for the inclusion of tawaif characters in the sub-plots of film, for instance, Muqaddar Ka Sikandar (1978), Do Anjaane (1976), The Burning Train (1980), and Ram Teri Ganga Maili (1985). Chaturvedi says Umrao Jaan and Mughal-E-Azam became cultural touchstones, paving the way for the inclusion of tawaif characters in the sub-plots of film, for instance, Muqaddar Ka Sikandar (1978), Do Anjaane (1976), The Burning Train (1980), and Ram Teri Ganga Maili (1985). Chaturvedi says Umrao Jaan and Mughal-E-Azam became cultural touchstones, paving the way for the inclusion of tawaif characters in the sub-plots of film, for instance, Muqaddar Ka Sikandar (1978), Do Anjaane (1976), The Burning Train (1980), and Ram Teri Ganga Maili (1985). Chaturvedi says Umrao Jaan and Mughal-E-Azam became cultural touchstones, paving the way for the inclusion of tawaif characters in the sub-plots of film, for instance, Muqaddar Ka Sikandar (1978), Do Anjaane (1976), The Burning Train (1980), and Ram Teri Ganga Maili (1985). Chaturvedi says Umrao Jaan and Mughal-E-Azam became cultural touchstones, paving the way for the inclusion of tawaif characters in the sub-plots of film, for instance, Muqaddar Ka Sikandar (1978), Do Anjaane (1976), The Burning Train (1980), and Ram Teri Ganga Maili (1985). Chaturvedi says Umrao Jaan and Mughal-E-Azam became cultural touchstones, paving the way for the inclusion of tawaif characters in the sub-plots of film, for instance, Muqaddar Ka Sikandar (1978), Do Anjaane (1976), The Burning Train (1980), and Ram Teri Ganga Maili (1985). Chaturvedi says Umrao Jaan and Mughal-E-Azam became cultural touchstones, paving the way for the inclusion of tawaif characters in the sub-plots of film, for instance, Muqaddar Ka Sikandar (1978), Do Anjaane (1976), The Burning Train (1980), and Ram Teri Ganga Maili (1985). Chaturvedi says Umrao Jaan and Mughal-E-Azam became cultural touchstones, paving the way for the inclusion of tawaif characters in the sub-plots of film, for instance, Muqaddar Ka Sikandar (1978), Do Anjaane (1976), The Burning Train (1980), and Ram Teri Ganga Maili (1985). Chaturvedi says Umrao Jaan and Mughal-E-Azam became cultural touchstones, paving the way for the inclusion of tawaif characters in the sub-plots of film, for instance, Muqaddar Ka Sikandar (1978), Do Anjaane (1976), The Burning Train (1980), and Ram Teri Ganga Maili (1985). Chaturvedi says Umrao Jaan and Mughal-E-Azam became cultural touchstones, paving the way for the inclusion of tawaif characters in the sub-plots of film, for instance, Muqaddar Ka Sikandar (1978), Do Anjaane (1976), The Burning Train (1980), and Ram Teri Ganga Maili (1985). Chaturvedi says Umrao Jaan and Mughal-E-Azam became cultural touchstones, paving the way for the inclusion of tawaif characters in the sub-plots of film, for instance, Muqaddar Ka Sikandar (1978), Do Anjaane (1976), The Burning Train (1980), and Ram Teri Ganga Maili (1985). Chaturvedi says Umrao Jaan and Mughal-E-Azam became cultural touchstones, paving the way for the inclusion of tawaif characters in the sub-plots of film, for instance, Muqaddar Ka Sikandar (1978), Do Anjaane (1976), The Burning Train (1980), and Ram Teri Ganga Maili (1985). Chaturvedi says Umrao Jaan and Mughal-E-Azam became cultural touchstones, paving the way for the inclusion of tawaif characters in the sub-plots of film, for instance, Muqaddar Ka Sikandar (1978), Do Anjaane (1976), The Burning Train (1980), and Ram Teri Ganga Maili (1985). Chaturvedi says Umrao Jaan and Mughal-E-Azam became cultural touchstones, paving the way for the inclusion of tawaif characters in the sub-plots of film, for instance, Muqaddar Ka Sikandar (1978), Do Anjaane (1976), The Burning Train (1980), and Ram Teri Ganga Maili (1985). Chaturvedi says Umrao Jaan and Mughal-E-Azam became cultural touchstones, paving the way for the inclusion of tawaif characters in the sub-plots of film, for instance, Muqaddar Ka Sikandar (1978), Do Anjaane (1976), The Burning Train (1980), and Ram Teri Ganga Maili (1985). Chaturvedi says Umrao Jaan and Mughal-E-Azam became cultural touchstones, paving the way for the inclusion of tawaif characters in the sub-plots of film, for instance, Muqaddar Ka Sikandar (1978), Do Anjaane (1976), The Burning Train (1980), and Ram Teri Ganga Maili (1985). Chaturvedi says Umrao Jaan and Mughal-E-Azam became cultural touchstones, paving the way for the inclusion of tawaif characters in the sub-plots of film, for instance, Muqaddar Ka Sikandar (1978), Do Anjaane (1976), The Burning Train (1980), and Ram Teri Ganga Maili (1985). Chaturvedi says Umrao Jaan and Mughal-E-Azam became cultural touchstones, paving the way for the inclusion of tawaif characters in the sub-plots of film, for instance, Muqaddar Ka Sikandar (1978), Do Anjaane (1976), The Burning Train (1980), and Ram Teri Ganga Maili (1985). Chaturvedi says Umrao Jaan and Mughal-E-Azam became cultural touchstones, paving the way for the inclusion of tawaif characters in the sub-plots of film, for instance, Muqaddar Ka Sikandar (1978), Do Anjaane (1976), The Burning Train (1980), and Ram Teri Ganga Maili (1985). Chaturvedi says Umrao Jaan and Mughal-E-Azam became cultural touchstones, paving the way for the inclusion of tawaif characters in the sub-plots of film, for instance, Muqaddar Ka Sikandar (1978), Do Anjaane (1976), The Burning Train (1980), and Ram Teri Ganga Maili (1985). Chaturvedi says Umrao Jaan and Mughal-E-Azam became cultural touchstones, paving the way for the inclusion of tawaif characters in the sub-plots of film, for instance, Muqaddar Ka Sikandar (1978), Do Anjaane (1976), The Burning Train (1980), and Ram Teri Ganga Maili (1985). Chaturvedi says Umrao Jaan and Mughal-E-Azam became cultural touchstones, paving the way for the inclusion of tawaif characters in the sub-plots of film, for instance, Muqaddar Ka Sikandar (1978), Do Anjaane (1976), The Burning Train (1980), and Ram Teri Ganga Maili (1985). Chaturvedi says Umrao Jaan and Mughal-E-Azam became cultural touchstones, paving the way for the inclusion of tawaif characters in the sub-plots of film, for instance, Muqaddar Ka Sikandar (1978), Do Anjaane (1976), The Burning Train (1980), and Ram Teri Ganga Maili (1985). Chaturvedi says Umrao Jaan and Mughal-E-Azam became cultural touchstones, paving the way for the inclusion of tawaif characters in the sub-plots of film, for instance, Muqaddar Ka Sikandar (1978), Do Anjaane (1976), The Burning Train (1980), and Ram Teri Ganga Maili (1985). Chaturvedi says Umrao Jaan and Mughal-E-Azam became cultural touchstones, paving the way for the inclusion of tawaif characters in the sub-plots of film, for instance, Muqaddar Ka Sikandar (1978), Do Anjaane (1976), The Burning Train (1980), and Ram Teri Ganga Maili (1985). Chaturvedi says Umrao Jaan and Mughal-E-Azam became cultural touchstones, paving the way for the inclusion of tawaif characters in the sub-plots of film, for instance, Muqaddar Ka Sikandar (1978), Do Anjaane (1976), The Burning Train (1980), and Ram Teri Ganga Maili (1985). Chaturvedi says Umrao Jaan and Mughal-E-Azam became cultural touchstones, paving the way for the inclusion of tawaif characters in the sub-plots of film, for instance, Muqaddar Ka Sikandar (1978), Do Anjaane (1976), The Burning Train (1980), and Ram Teri Ganga Maili (1985). Chaturvedi says Umrao Jaan and Mughal-E-Azam became cultural touchstones, paving the way for the inclusion of tawaif characters in the

# Stay of Income Tax demand u/s 220(6) Part 2



(Contd from 13th May 2024)

7. Where CIT(A) or any other appellate authority has deleted a similar addition in case of other assessee, can AO ask the assessee to pay 20% of the demand for granting stay of balance demand: It has been held that where ground on which Assessing Officer had made additions in order of assessment giving rise to tax demand, was already decided in favour of some other assessee by Commisioner (Appeals) in other proceedings, unconditional stay was to be granted against recovery of tax demand raised on assessee pending consideration of appeal before CIT (Appeals). In such a case stay should be granted without requiring payment of 20% of demand - ARCL Retail Loan Portfolio 001D Trust v. PCIT [2019] 104 taxmann.com 355 (Bom) [2019] 264 Taxman 61 (Bom).

8. Where interest of revenue is adequately safeguarded on the basis

of bank guarantee and part payment of demand, can revenue press for payment of further demand for extending stay: Where the interest of the revenue stands adequately safeguarded, there is no justification for bringing about a new state of affairs for extension of stay unless the delay in deciding the appeal is attributable to the assessee-company - CIT-III v. Google India (P.) Ltd. [2018] 92 taxmann.com 38 (Karnataka).

9. Whether demand can be stayed by adjusting refund of earlier year to the extent of 20% with the demand to be stayed: Stay of recovery of demand could be granted to assessee subject to payment of 20 per cent of amount demanded after adjusting it from refund of previous year - Andhra Telecommunications India Private Limited v. Pr. CIT [2017] 77 taxmann.com 312 (Bom).

10. Whether A.O. is required to give an opportunity of being heard to the assessee before rejecting a stay petition u/s 220(6): As the exercise of discretion by the A.O. u/s 220(6) is quasi-judicial function and he has to exercise his power fairly and reasonably and not arbitrarily or capriciously, the A.O. should give reasons for

dismissing an application made by an assessee for involving his discretion and should also hear the assessee. Refer- UTI Mutual Fund v. ITO [2012] 19 taxmann.com 250 (Bombay) [2012] 206 Taxman 341 (Bombay) [2012] 345 ITR 71 (Bombay), Cf. Seth Gopaldas Palival v. WTO [1983] 139 ITR 900 (MP). Moreover, the order should be a speaking order - Teletube Electronics Ltd. v. CIT [1998] 230 ITR 705, 707 (Del); Chesebrough Pond's Inc v. A.A.C. (C.T.), [1973] 32 STC 464 (Mad); World Vision India v. CIT (Exemptions), Chennai [2018] 89 taxmann.com 193 (Madras), Queen Agencies v. Assistant CIT (Circle-1) [2021] 128 taxmann.com 107 (Madras), Hubli Advocates Urban Co-op. Credit Society v. Principal Commissioner of Income Tax, Hubbali [2021] 128 taxmann.com 66 (Karnataka).

11. Whether demand remains stayed till the disposal of the application for stay of demand u/s 220(6) is rejected: Where an application for stay of demand is pending for disposal u/s 220(6), the demand should be stayed until the application is considered and an order is passed - Sat Pal v. ITAT 217 ITR 317 (P&H); Bongaigaon Refinery and Petro Chemicals Ltd. v. CIT

**Narayan Jain**

256 ITR 698 (Gau.); Debasish Moulik v. DCIT 231 ITR 737 (Cal.), Society of the Franciscan (Hospitaller) Sisters v. DDIT [2013] 351 ITR 302 (Bom); UTI Mutual Fund v. ITO 19 taxmann.com 250 (Bombay) [2012] 345 ITR 71 (Bom.).

12. Can A.O. attach assessee's bank account without disposing the assessee's petition for stay of demand: Section 220 of the Income-tax Act, 1961, bears the heading "When tax payable and when assessee deemed in default". On a conjoint reading of sub-sections (3) and (6) of section 220 of the Act, it is clear that while sub-section (3) thereof stipulates the period within which an application under such provision is required to be made, i.e., before the expiry of the due date under section 220(1) of the Act, sub-section (6) thereof does not provide for any period of limitation. Clause (v) provides that while considering an application under section 220(6), the Assessing Officer should consider all relevant factors having a bearing on the demand raised and communicate his decision in the form of a speaking order - World Vision India v. CIT (Exemptions), Chennai [2018] 89 taxmann.com 193 (Madras)]. Paragraph

2(A)(i)(d) of Instruction No. 1914 dated February 2, 1993 of the Board provides that it shall be the responsibility of the Assessing Officers and the Tax Recovery Officer to collect every demand that has been raised, except a demand stayed in accordance with paragraphs B and C below. Paragraph B provides for stay petitions and states that stay petitions filed with the Assessing Officers must be disposed of within two weeks of the filing of petition by the taxpayer and the assessee must be intimated of the decision without delay. If for any reason, the Assessing Officer is not entertaining the application, even then, within a period of two weeks of the filing of the stay application, he should intimate the assessee about such decision. It is incumbent on the Assessing Officer to take a decision on the application under section 220(6) of the Act one way or the other, and it is not permissible for him to sit over the application and proceed further to make coercive recoveries without informing the assessee about the outcome of his application. Even according to the Instructions, the Assessing Officer has discretion to grant stay by requiring the assessee to offer

Co-operative Credit Society Ltd. v. ITO [2020] 116 taxmann.com 124 (Bom).

14. Where assessee requests for personal hearing in faceless assessment but assessment order is passed without personal hearing raising a demand: Where a personal hearing was sought by petitioner but same was not granted by Assessing Officer, assessee has a prima facie case in its favour. It has been held that assessee should be granted stay and no recovery proceeding should be initiated - DJ Surfactants v. National E-Assessment Centre, Income Tax Department, New Delhi [2021] 127 taxmann.com 370 (Delhi).

15. Where addition is made on the basis of deposition of third party but third party had retracted his/her statement: It has been held that where Assessing Officer made an addition to income of assessee primarily on basis of statement of a person and raised tax demand, if the person retracts its statement the assessee should be granted stay - Dilipkumar P. Chheda v. ITO, 4(1), Thane [2021] 125 taxmann.com 187 (Bom.).

16. Where AO is not recovering demand, whether Tribunal can

ask assessee to pay 20% of demand: Once an Assessing Officer had himself decided not to recover disputed demands, it is not open to anyone else including ITAT to direct him to exercise powers of recovery - Grasim Industries Ltd. v. Dy CIT, Central Circle 1(4), Mumbai [2020] 122 taxmann.com 249 (Mumbai - Trib.).

17. Where assessee has paid disputed demand in the earlier year which is more than 20% of the aggregate disputed demand of earlier year and current year. Whether AO can initiate recovery proceeding for current year: Where revenue already had amount earlier deposited by assessee in relation to earlier assessment year which corresponded to more than 20 per cent of demand amount for relevant assessment year, issuance of impugned notice to assessee's bank to recover demand amount was not justified - Siolim Urban Co-op. Credit Society Ltd. v. CIT (Appeal) Goa [2021] 127 taxmann.com 812 (Bom.).

(to be contd.)

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

## Four 'R's to get rid of GARBAGE Global Issue

Minimal production of waste can help in getting rid of waste. For this, experts talk about adopting the principle of four R's. Refuse, Reduce, Reuse and Recycle means recycling old materials and reusing them. By following these small things, we can control waste related problems to a great extent.



**Amit Baijnath Garg**  
India is the largest waste producing country in the world, where more than 300 million tonnes of solid waste is generated every year. But we are able to dispose of only 60 percent of it. The rest is scattered in different places and affects the environment. This waste is causing water, air and soil pollution. More than 75 percent of the garbage in the country is dumped in the open. The World Bank Report shows that the highest amount of garbage is generated in the national capital Delhi. Delhi has left cities like Mumbai, Bengaluru and Hyderabad far behind in garbage production. Even there is no adequate arrangement for separating and properly recycling waste like electronics and plastic in these cities. Landfill sites here are full. Plastic or waste is burnt in many places. People oppose new landfill sites because it causes pollution.

At present, more

than 201 crore tonnes of solid waste is being generated every year in the world. One third of it is being thrown into the environment in a very unsafe manner, which can prove to be a big challenge for the environment in the future. It is estimated that by the year 2050, the total production of solid waste may increase to 340 crore tonnes, which may emerge as a big problem for the world. However, environmental experts are of the opinion that the same waste can take the place of a newly developed industry if arrangements are made for proper disposal of this solid waste. And this can prove to be a big opportunity for providing employment. They say that per capita solid waste production depends most on the economic level. People in the poorer class produce less waste, whereas people in developed economies produce more waste per capita. This quantity varies from 0.74 kg per person per day to 4.54 kg per person per day.

In 2009, Indian cities were producing 80,000 metric tons of waste per day. It is estimated that by the year 2047, India will produce 260 million

tonnes of waste a year, which will require a landfill area of about 1,400 square meters to dispose of. This area will be equal to the area formed by combining Hyderabad, Mumbai and Chennai. It is also a fact that despite the rules, landfill sites have been promoted in India. At present, in the contracts given by municipal corporations to private contractors for waste management, the contract takers are encouraged to bring as much waste as possible. In the contract, fees are paid according to the movement of vehicles carrying garbage. The more garbage you bring, the more you will be charged.

No consideration is given to the cost of land and its availability.

In many countries the previous system for waste disposal has been changed. There the fee related to waste is not paid for its collection or transportation, but for the disposal of the waste. In Sweden and the United States, heavy entry fees are charged for dumping garbage in landfills. Sweden also imposes a landfill tax. Heavy entry fees discourage municipal corporations from dumping garbage in landfills. In 2013, an

average of \$212 per ton was charged for garbage disposal in Sweden, compared to \$150 per ton in the US. It is noteworthy that Swachh Sarvekshan ranking is given to cities in India on the basis of cleanliness. In this annual ranking, cities with the worst waste management are ranked at the top, while cities that manage waste disposal properly are ranked at the bottom. Indore has remained the cleanest city in the country in the ranking for many years.

Recycling, the best way

Experts say that failure to properly manage or dispose of solid waste can lead to pollution. Solid waste is considered unsightly and throwing it on the roadside causes foul smell. Improper disposal of solid waste can lead to many problems, such as environmental pollution, outbreak of bacterial diseases, emission of harmful greenhouse gases, pollution of groundwater, noise and fine dust during transportation. Increasing population, urbanization and increasing technology are some of the causes of solid waste pollution. Recycling of solid waste

is the best way to deal with these problems associated with solid waste. Recycling means turning waste into a new or useful product. Whereas separating waste into dry and wet waste, door-to-door collection of garbage and sending it for processing after sorting are the major components of solid waste management.

To limit waste, the Central Government had implemented Solid Waste Management Rules in the year 2016. It is accepted that the landfill area will be used only for such waste which is non-reusable, non-renewable, non-biodegradable, non-flammable and non-chemically reactive. The rules also state that efforts will be made to reuse or recycle the waste to achieve the objective of eliminating waste from the landfill. This is an important step towards removing the old policy of insisting on the need for landfill. To minimize the use of landfills, impose landfill tax, create clean landfills for disposal of waste, so that pollution is reduced. The newly created waste management system should aim to ensure garbage free landfills.

In fact, waste disposal remains a matter of serious concern for the entire world. The amount of waste has continuously increased due to an increase in population. Solid waste management is also in the news because almost all countries are facing the challenge of efficiently disposing of the increasing waste. Actually, there is no proper system for disposal of solid waste. The main objective of an efficient solid waste management system run by the government is to extract maximum number of useful resources and produce energy from garbage, so that minimum amount of waste material has to be thrown in the landfill area. The reason behind this is that the garbage thrown in landfills is facing huge consequences. Firstly, it requires a lot of land, which is continuously decreasing and secondly, garbage is also a probable cause of air, soil and water pollution. Throwing solid waste spoils the land, while burning it increases air pollution. Also, many diseases affect public health.

If we talk about

Germany is doing the best, recycling 56 percent of its waste. Austria recycles 53 percent, South Korea 53 percent, Wales 52 percent and Switzerland 49 percent. Sweden, Norway and Singapore are also doing good in recycling the waste. Even in India, recycling is gradually taking the form of an industry. Many small cities in the country are doing excellent efforts in terms of recycling. Ahmedabad and Trivandrum are recycling a major part of their total waste. However, better technical and financial support is needed to make this sector a sustainable industry. At present, people do not prefer to purchase the products made after recycling. The possibility of toxins deters people from purchasing recycled products. If such problems can be solved with better technology, recycling can become a big opportunity.

According to an estimate, huge waste is generated in the building construction sector. The material released after demolition of old buildings has become a big problem. However, today companies are recycling more than 75 percent of this waste. Bricks, plastic and many other solid materials are being made from this waste. Plastic waste is a big problem in garbage generation. Minimal production of this waste can help in freeing the world from waste. In this context, experts talk about adopting the principle of four R's. The first R means refuse i.e. refusing to use plastic materials, the second R means reduce i.e. minimize use of plastic materials, the third R means reuse i.e. use old plastic materials instead of new ones and finally recycle i.e. Recycling old plastic materials means recycling and reusing them. Overall, it can be said that if we keep these few points in mind, we can control and minimize the problem of increasing waste.

**Senior Journalist-Writer**  
**International and National Awardee Journalist-Writer**  
**Raj Aangan, A-9, Shri Rani Nagar, Near 30 No. Tempo Stand Paldi Meena, Agra Road, Jaipur, Rajasthan, India. Pin Code : 302031 Mobile : +91 78770 70861**

## Rich Legacy of Awadhi Culture in Kolkata fondly remembered on eve of International Museum Day celebrating Heritage

**Kolkata (PARTHA ROY):** One of the finest ruler of Awadh, Nawab Wajid Ali Shah was fondly remembered by his great great grandson Mr. Shahanshah Mirza and elite Kolkata gentry on the eve of International Museum Day on May 18, with theme "Museums for Education and Research".

Bharat Chamber of Commerce and Bharat Chamber of Commerce Ladies Forum organised a talk session titled "A Talk on The Awadhi Influence on West Bengal" by Mr. Shahanshah Mirza on 17th May 2024 in Kolkata. Nawab Wajid Ali Shah was one of the finest, erudite ruler of his time before British annexation of Awadh.

After loosing his throne and power of ruler to the British, Nawab Wajid Ali Shah decided to settle down in Metiaburz area of Kolkata with his family and large no. followers where he recreated part of Awadhi Culture with close associates including poets, musicians, artisans and others who came down to Kolkata.



Shahanshah Mirza IRS, great great grandson of Nawab Wajid Ali Shah presented brief overview on establishment of Awadh kingdom, creation of a settlement in Metiaburz area of Kolkata, influence of Awadhi

culinary culture and practices, clothing style, in ever evolving dynamic socio-cultural-economic scene of Kolkata over last two centuries. Nawab Wajid Ali Shah played most important role in introduction of potato in Biriyani which

is currently known as Kolkata style Biriyani. Potato was exotic and expensive vegetable during his time.

As erudite and art and cultural aficionado, Nawab Wajid Ali Shah patronised dance form like Kathak, ghazals, musihara as well as other creative activities.

Wajid Ali Shah also introduced & patronised kite flying, pigeon flying competition in Kolkata.

As animal lover, Nawab Wajid Ali Shah established private zoo in Kolkata.

As Shahanshah Mirza mentioned, today, Metiaburz area still carries on with rich cultural traditions, practices and heritage of Awadhi Culture in every day life despite many changes.

Wajid Ali Shah landed in Kolkata at age of 34. He spent the remaining 26 years of his life here and is buried at Metiaburz, a locality that is referred to as Kolkata's mini-Lucknow.

Shahi Imambara and beautiful Umdah

Imambara in Metiaburz area carry forward rich Islamic cultural heritage. Metiaburz area has evolved as economic hub. It is the place where largest no. of Kites are manufactured by women in India. Nearly 3000 families especially women in the family are involved in kite manufacturing which are sold across India. It is also hub for high quality tailoring for high end tailored clothes in India having turnover over ₹ 15000 crores approximately per year. Attire Gharara is product Awadhi Influence. Urdu language widely spoken in Kolkata due to Awadhi Influence.

Shri N G Khaitan President of Bharat Chamber of Commerce welcomed the guest.

Smt. Renuka Shah Chairperson Bharat Chamber of Commerce Ladies Forum introduced the speaker Mr. Shahanshah Mirza.

Mrs. Sujata Sett Co-Chairperson of Bharat Chamber of Commerce Ladies Forum delivered the vote of thanks.

## UP: Rahul, Akhilesh leave stage without addressing rally amid 'stampede-like' situation



**Prayagraj (KCN):** Congress leader Rahul Gandhi and Samajwadi Party president Akhilesh Yadav

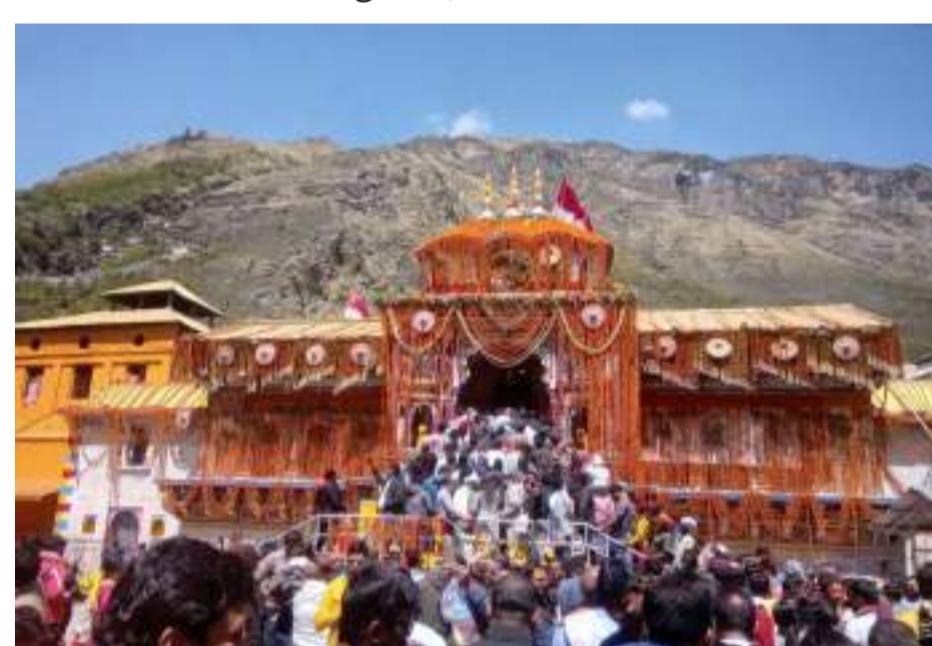
Sunday abandoned a joint poll meeting in Phulpur area here without delivering speech as their supporters broke through barricades trying to reach the dais.

According to police sources, scores of Congress and SP supporters had reached the venue to attend the rally. When Yadav arrived at the venue, the crowd standing in front of the stage broke through the barricades to reach it, the vote of thanks.

creating a "stampede-like" situation, they said. In a video clip shared on the official social media handle of both the SP and the Congress, people on the stage can be heard asking the supporters to move back.

The duo later attended another poll rally in Prayagraj. Neither the SP nor the Congress has issued any statement about the rally. When contacted, Congress state president Ajay Rai told PTI, "I am in Varanasi and don't have any information about the rally in Phulpur."

## Char Dham Yatra 2024: Huge Rush Of Devotees At Gangotri, Yamunotri Dhams



**Uttarkashi (Uttarakhand) (KCN):** A huge number of devotees thronged Gangotri and Yamunotri Dhams for darshan on Sunday.

According to information received, till 2 pm on Sunday, around 10,000 devotees had had darshan at Gangotri Dham and about 28,000 pilgrims from various places were moving towards Gangotri Dham.

At Yamunotri Dham also, till 2 pm on Sunday, 8,500 people had had darshan and about 20,000 people were moving forward on the Yamunotri route from various stops.

Gangotri and Yamunotri Dhams are located in Uttarkashi, Uttarakhand. The Char Dham Yatra started on May 10 this year. The Hindu pilgrimage Char Dham circuit consists of four sites: Yamunotri, Gangotri, Kedarnath, and

Badrinath. The River Yamuna originates from the Yamunotri Glacier in Uttarakhand. Pilgrimage season peaks in Uttarakhand for the Char Dham Yatra annually during the summers.

In view of the arrival of a large number of pilgrims, the Uttarkashi district administration has increased vigilance and alertness and has deployed all the officials associated with the travel arrangements at the Dhams and the travel routes.

Given the large crowd, passenger facilities are being increased on the travel routes and stops and all precautionary measures are being taken to keep the security system and traffic movement under control. Despite the arrival of a record number of pilgrims, the journey is being conducted smoothly and in an

## M Kharge's Posters Defaced In Bengal Day After His Snub To Adhir Chowdhury

**Kolkata (KCN):** A day after he snubbed West Bengal Congress chief Adhir Ranjan Chowdhury for questioning Trinamool supremo Mamata Banerjee's loyalty to the INDIA bloc, several posters and hoardings of Congress president Mallikarjun Kharge were defaced with ink in front of the party's state headquarters on Sunday.

Unidentified persons also wrote 'agent of Trinamool Congress' on Mr Kharge's posters and hoardings. Sources in the Congress said that Mr Chowdhury, who is in his hometown

Baharampur, expressed displeasure over the incident and asked party workers to lodge a police complaint, which was registered, and the defaced posters were also removed.

"The incident might have happened on Saturday night. This is the handiwork of the TMC

which wants to create differences between senior Congress leaders and Adhir Ranjan Chowdhury," a party leader alleged.

Mr Kharge had on Saturday snubbed Mr Chowdhury while responding to a query on Mamata Banerjee's

comment that if the INDIA bloc forms the



government, she would

reacting to Mr Kharge's comments, had said, referring to the TMC supremo, "I cannot speak in favour of someone who wants to finish me and our party in Bengal politically. This is a battle for every Congress worker. I have spoken on their behalf. I don't want the state Congress to be used for her (Banerjee's) personal agenda and then finish the organisation."

"If Kharge ji speaks against my views, I will continue to speak for Congressmen at the grassroots in the state," he added.

The TMC is contesting the Lok Sabha elections alone in the state, while the Congress and the Left are jointly fighting the polls.

## Rajasthan Ex Minister Vishwendra Singh Alleges Torture By Wife, Demands Maintenance



Vishwendra Singh had earlier given an application in the Subdivision Officer Tribunal against his wife Divya Singh, a former MP, and son Anirudh Singh. In his application, he said: "I have been forced to leave my house (Moti Mahal). I am living a nomad's life. Sometimes I have to stay in a government house and sometimes in a hotel. I was hoping that maybe their behaviour would improve in the future, but it did not happen. My

wife and son even locked one of my rooms and forcibly threw me out of the house, so I had to leave the house. I brought whatever clothes I had while leaving the house. I have been living like this since then."

Singh has written that he is a heart patient. "I cannot bear tension due to two stents inserted during treatment. Tension is fatal for my life. I got Corona twice in the years 2021 and 2022, but my son and wife did not provide any physical, mental or financial help."

"I own the properties inherited from my father through a will. My wife and son threw my clothes in the well. They tore up papers, records etc., and threw out the stuff from the rooms. They have stopped providing tea and

# Elections end, migration resumes in Rayagada district

**Rayagada (KCN):** There seems to be no let-up in migration from Rayagada as labourers from the district have again started migrating to their work places in other states to earn a livelihood after the first phase polling in the district ended, May 13.

According to reports, Rayagada district has turned into a hub for trafficking of thousands of labourers due to lack of work opportunities in the district.

Poverty is stated to be the main reason behind their migration. Middlemen taking advantage of their helplessness lure them with work and help them move to other states. However, these migrant workers are often subjected to harassment, violence, and discrimination during their stay at their

destinations which force them to return home impoverished.

And also, once they reached their workplace, it becomes difficult for them to keep contact with their families while many go missing or die an untimely death during work due to lack of food or disease. This pushes them into uncertainties as they do not know when they will get an opportunity to return home.

The migrant labourers had come to their respective villages to cast their votes in on-going the elections. However, they have again started leaving for their work places after culmination of the polls. People from various areas in the district were seen assembling at bus stands and railway stations for the last three days to board a bus or train to travel outside the state.

While some of them were seen getting into buses for Vizianagaram or Vishakhapatnam in Andhra Pradesh, some others were found boarding trains to Tamil Nadu. Some others were seen catching trains for Gujarat, Kerala, Karnataka, or some other states.

People are migrating to other states for work despite the presence of over 3,000 small, medium and large scale industries operating in the state. Absence of work opportunities in these industries is stated to be another reason behind the large scale migration. Sources said that these migrant labourers had come home before the election and casted votes to the candidates in the election held, May 13. However, in between all these brouhaha, none of the political parties or candidates spared a

thought to stop their migration or promised to provide employment opportunities to these poor labourers. As a result, the migrant labourers, including minors, have again started packing back for their work places in distant lands after elections.

Reports said that out of the 11 blocks in the district, Kalyansinghpur, Kashipur, Chandrapur

and Gudari are account for the maximum migrations in the district. The migrant labourers belong to all age-groups including adult, minor boys and minor girls too. Sources said that eight

youths from Kantamal and Surugunja villages under Kashipur block left for work to Chalakudi town in Kerala. Similarly, several residents of Belamguda, Jarpa, Bandiri, Katisur, Gendabaju, Khilundi,

Raibiji, Guchhujaba in Chandrapur block and Polama, Siripur, Bhalumasa, Serigumma, Phulaguda, Lakshmi Nagar, Talasaja, Bijaynagar villages in Kalyansinghpur block are now working in Gujarat, Tamil Nadu, Karnataka, Telangana and Andhra Pradesh.

When contacted, District Labour Officer Jasmine Sahu said that the Panchayatiraj department has been asked to keep details of the migrant labourers. "Funds have been allocated for this purpose, but there is no rule to stop people from migrating," she added.

## Missing man's body fished out of reservoir



**Koraput (KCN):** The body of Suku Pradhan, a 35-year-old man who was missing since Thursday in a boat capsized incident at Jabagad river ghat under Bilaput panchayat and Nandapur block in Koraput district, was fished out by a team of Odisha Disaster Rapid Action Force (ODRAF), Saturday, informed

Nandapur Tahasildar, Anadi Charan Sahu. According to reports, the fire brigade team from Koraput could not trace the body of the missing person even after two days of search. Following this, as per the order of the district Collector V Kreethi Vasan, an ODRAF team from Koraput was given the task of the operation.

The ODRAF team consisting of 10 members of 3rd battalion from Koraput, led by Habildar Mojesh Khara, reached the spot Saturday morning and fished out the body of the missing youth Suku from the reservoir, informed the District Emergency department. A pall of gloom descended on Jabagad village and nearby areas

after the news spread. The block administration has provided assistance of Rs2,000 under Harischandra Sahayata Yagna to the deceased's family and the district administration has recommended providing another Rs4 lakh from the State Disaster Management Fund, informed an official from the District Emergency section, Koraput.

## At 12, this cycling prodigy completed Firefox MTB Shimla



one of the most challenging MTB cycling competitions of the country, Firefox MTB Shimla. "It consists of a 120 km stretch ride passing through the treacherous terrains of Himalayas. Tanush completed the path in two days time," said Akhil. The participants, who aged between 10 and 50 years, had to complete 70 km on the first day, while the remaining 50 km was to be covered on the second day, he said. "But many seasoned and older cyclists left the race halfway through as the ride is very taxing. However, my son

remained struck and completed the race without any problem. He was tired, but enjoyed the challenge," Akhil said. And on completing the race, Tanush received the 'finisher medal' from the organisers, he said. Prior to that, Tanush had participated in various cycling events and competitions in Odisha and Bengaluru. "He won several prizes in Bengaluru. He is also participating in the 50 km category in Odisha," informed the boy's father. Usually, Tanush begins his day at 4:30am, "We follow him in a car as he



and Gudari are account for the maximum migrations in the district. The migrant labourers belong to all age-groups including adult, minor boys and minor girls too. Sources said that eight

2024-2025



## ADMISSION OPEN

Maharishi Public School, Baripada



## STD-NURSERY TO VIII

ENROLL YOUR CHILD TODAY

(Special discount for new admission before 15.03.2023)

### Find the Difference

- Small Classes
- Experienced, trained & loving teachers.
- Individual attention to each child.
- Regular meditation and yoga.
- Unique exam system, evaluation & Principles etc.

25% reservation as per RTE Act (2009)

MAHARISHI PUBLIC SCHOOL

Baghra Road, Baripada

For details

Contact :

Call-9438102188, 06792-255227

Time : 8.00 A.M. to 12.00 noon

E-mail- mps.bpd@gmail.com



Find us on  
Facebook.com/Mps, Baripada

## Kolkata Hosts Conference on Future-Ready MSMEs, Spearheaded by CII Leaders

**Kolkata (ABHIJIT SETH):** "Ensuring the Global Presence of the Country: MSMEs Must Be Future Ready," Stresses Mr. R. Dinesh, President of CII. During the inaugural session of the "Conference on Future Ready to be Future Proof" held recently in Kolkata, Shri Narayan Swaroop Nigam, IAS, Principal Secretary of the Department of Health and Family Welfare, Government of West Bengal, shed light on the substantial technological advancements witnessed in the country over the past two decades. In this dynamic environment, he emphasized the critical role of adaptation across all sectors and the need for corporations to foster a culture of innovation. To navigate today's dynamic landscape successfully, Mr. Nigam identified key focus areas, including talent development, a



customer-centric approach, robust risk management strategies, and the integration of data analysis skills into decision-making processes.

In a fireside chat, Mr. R. Dinesh, President of CII and Executive Vice Chairman of TVS Supply Chain Solutions Ltd, highlighted the imperative to streamline the ease of doing business in a region, emphasizing continuous digitalization efforts as crucial. Furthermore, he underscored the

importance of nurturing the development of the Micro, Small, and Medium Enterprises (MSME) sector in the country.

Mr. Chandrajit Banerjee, Director General of CII, elaborated on CII's initiatives to foster dialogue within the green mobility supply chain, emphasizing the integration of Indian companies into Global Value Chains (GVCs) to enhance their international presence. Market facilitation, along with a recent focus on Intellectual Property (IP)

regions in economic growth. In the era of digital transformation, he urged industries to carefully consider the optimal balance between local and global supply chains to maximize the region's potential.

Mr. Suvendra Kumar Behera, Deputy Chairman of CII Eastern Region and Vice Chairman & Managing Director of RSB Transmissions (I) Ltd, emphasized the significant impact of the B20, noting that 70 percent of its recommendations are typically incorporated into the G20's final outcome report. He also advocated for establishing "land banks" in each state to facilitate further development, leveraging the eastern region's advantage of minimal production costs. The conference featured sessions on various crucial topics, including "Business Beyond Borders, towards a multipolar world," "Future Technology for Future Business: The Next Big Leap from Industry 4.0 to Industry 5.0," "Building the new Energy Infrastructure," and "Redefining Business for New Age Consumer".

Mr. Shiv Siddhant Narayan Kaul, Chairman of CII Eastern Region and Managing Director of Nicco Engineering Services Ltd, acknowledged the eastern region's impressive annual growth rate of 8.3 percent, outpacing other

### Experience the best-in-class customer services at 11 new Alpha Service Centers across India

Bhubaneswar : Sony India is expanding its Alpha Service Network across 11 cities in India including Mumbai, Coimbatore, Jaipur, Pune, Hyderabad, Ahmedabad, Trivandrum, Chennai, Indore, Bhubaneswar and Guwahati. This is expansion for Alpha Camera body and lens repairs facilities is a testament to the brand's continued dedication to customer satisfaction. Sony now has the widest service network of after sales support for Digital Imaging products with 8 service centers for lens repairs, 18 service centers for Alpha Camera Body repair, 40+ service centers which can offer basic services like CCD

Imager cleaning and firmware updates and 220+ collection centers pan India.

The service centers are equipped with necessary jigs and tools to deliver best quality repair of Alpha camera body, Camera Lens, Professional Cameras and other digital imaging products like Digital Still Cameras and Camcorders. Customers can also avail instant services for basic supports like CCD Imager cleaning and getting the latest firmware update to enjoy best performance from their products. The friendly customer care staff at these service centers will help customers to register

their in-warranty products on Sony Alpha Community portal to enable them avail free of cost additional one year warranty on applicable products.

Speaking on the occasion, Mr. Mukesh Srivastava, Head of Digital Imaging Business at Sony India, said, "By supporting and assisting partners in local markets, Sony aims to ensure customers receive exceptional service and satisfaction along with quicker and faster turnaround at all outlets across the country. The new service centers will offer customers a seamless experience across multiple touch-points to provide a consistent brand experience that surpasses expectations."

### ATLAS OF AFFLUENCE - INDIA'S FIRST EVER WHITE PAPER ON LUXURY LAUNCHED AS A YEARLY

#### FEATURE

Mumbai: Amidst leading luminaries of industries spanning across the business of luxury, the Atlas of Affluence (AOA) 2022 has been launched in Mumbai. Created by The Voice of Fashion (TVOF), a division of Reliance Brands Limited, the daily digital magazine that tracks and leads conversations on Indian

fashion, design, crafts and retail, AOA 2022, is the first such wide and deep white paper from India that dissects consumer behaviour studied through the prism of luxury.

A collective reflection on what affluence means in India spiked during the two years of the pandemic. Charting the post-pandemic market and the clearly altered consumer mindset

through a specially commissioned study across six cities and markets of India, AOA 2022 has been published as a book with exclusively commissioned artworks. This study uses the time graph of "pre-pandemic" and "post-pandemic" months to specify a comparative matrix. It also helps debunk long-held ideas about what affluence and luxury have meant to Indians.

Exemplifying the region's signature weave through a curated evening at the majestic Vivanta, Bhubaneswar, DC Square was Odia designer Sabyasachi Satpathy, whose intricately crafted ensembles drew inspiration from the multicultural city and its colourful history. In a true celebration of Odisha's distinct and masterful craftsmanship, the show was elevated with a captivating performance by the Prince Dance Group - from the small Odisha town of Berhampur - widely lauded for their artistry.

The show drew to a finale with none other than actor Diana Penty, who captivated the audience in a beautiful ensemble by the designer. The "Made of Artistic Flair" edition of Blenders Pride Fashion Nights was a beautiful embodiment of the rich craft and cultural heritage of the city in a modern and contemporary setting.

Taking us on a 'Jatra' - The Journey of a Young Woman - the show encapsulated the journey of a woman from post adolescence to her nuptials, navigating the various challenges, trials and significant moments that come her way. The enigmatic journey was captured through the array of colours and textiles that Odisha Bandha/Ikkat offers.

### NSDL launches "Market ka Eklavya- Express" in 75 cities to mark 75 years of Independence

Mumbai: India's largest depository, National Securities Depository Limited (NSDL) launched 'Market ka Eklavya- Express', an online investment awareness program for students that will be conducted in 8 different languages including Hindi. The program would serve as a beginner's guide for investing for the youth.

To mark the significance of Azadi Ka Amrit Mahotsav, an

initiative of Government of India to celebrate 75 years of independence and the glorious history of our people, culture and achievements, NSDL has launched a new initiative towards investor awareness 'Market Ka Eklavya - Express' across 75 cities, especially aimed at the college students who would very soon be entering the phase where they would start earning and naturally,

look for avenues of investment.

Earlier this month, Market ka Eklavya (5-hours program) was launched by the hon'ble Finance Minister of India, Smt. Nirmala Sitharaman at the silver jubilee event of NSDL.

On the launch of the initiative Ms. Padmaja Chunduru, MD & CEO, NSDL said, "Azadi Ka Amrit Mahotsav is a special initiative launched by our Prime Minister to

celebrate and commemorate 75 years of India's Independence.

Our program has been particularly aimed to create awareness about the financial markets to the young minds who will be the future of our country. In this Amrit Kaal, our digital education initiative focuses on building a path towards Financial Freedom for our youth, symbolizing the spirit of Atmanirbhar Bharat."

### Nuvoco successfully completes AFR Project at its RISDA Cement Plant, Chhattisgarh and Nimbol Cement Plant, Rajasthan

Bhubaneswar : Nuvoco Vista Corp. Ltd., India's fifth-largest cement group in terms of capacity and among the leading players in East India, successfully announced the completion of its Alternative Fuel Resource (AFR) project at RISDA Cement Plant (RCP), Chhattisgarh and Nimbol Cement Plant (NCP), Rajasthan. This milestone achievement illustrates Nuvoco's commitment to reducing dependency on fossil fuels and promoting sustainable practices within the cement industry. With the use of alternative fuels, the company strives to reduce the usage of fossil fuels and minimize its environmental impact.

Alternative fuels are a crucial step towards reducing carbon emissions and mitigating the adverse effects of climate change. Nuvoco has dedicatedly installed a system that is capable of utilizing agricultural waste, RDF (Refused Derived Fuel), and municipal waste that is harmful to cattle and other wildlife due to its carcinogenic qualities as an alternative fuel. This along with other themes under PROTECT OUR PLANET agenda are enabling Nuvoco to build robust partnerships with several stakeholders and contribute to society at large.

Mr. Jayakumar Krishnaswamy, Managing Director, Nuvoco stated. "As part of our PROTECT OUR PLANET agenda, we view the AFR project as an important step

### "Choose Bold. Choose Water." Royal Challenge Packaged Drinking Water promotes hydration for better celebrations.

Bhubaneswar : Did you know, it takes about an hour to process a standard unit of alcohol, which is generally 10 grams? As part of its ongoing commitment to promote responsible consumption, and drinking better, not more, Royal Challenge Packaged Drinking Water has launched its latest campaign, "Choose Bold. Choose Water", which emphasizes on the importance of staying hydrated when consuming alcohol. Through this campaign, the company aims to promote responsible drinking with a simple yet compelling narrative: Often, choosing water is the bold choice.

Harking back to the

Diageo motto of "Drink better, not more", Royal Challenge Packaged Drinking Water through this campaign and its social engagement is playing an active role in the prevention and reduction of harmful

use of alcohol, while also driving awareness on mindful consumption and encouraging individuals to stay hydrated during social occasions. The latest campaign film shares the importance of timely water breaks during moments of alcohol consumption to take care of one's body. Talking about this campaign, Ruchira Jaitly, Vice-President, Marketing & Portfolio head, Diageo India said, "At Diageo, we believe in drinking better, not more. A good way to do this is by ensuring hydration during drinking occasions. Royal Challenge Packaged Drinking Water wants to drive

recognition for this important and yet often ignored message with the Choose Bold, Choose Water campaign. By focusing the conversation on hydration and building the recognition for taking a break for the same, we want to foster a culture where our consumers celebrate life responsibly, and we are proud to be able to lead this conversation."

As one of the prominent packaged drinking water brands, Royal Challenge aims to set a positive example for consumers and to shape behaviour by promoting responsible drinking by choosing hydration for moderation.

Royal Challenge Packaged Drinking Water wants to drive

Jindal Stainless signs MoU with SCTEVT, Odisha to train future-ready stainless steel professionals

Bhubaneswar: Odisha's State Council for Technical Education & Vocational Training (SCTEVT) today signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with Jindal Stainless to promote technical education in the field of stainless steel and its various applications. Under this MoU, stainless steel courses will be introduced in all the Polytechnic colleges in Odisha from June 2022. The MoU was signed by Vice Chairman, JSL, Mr SS

Upadhyay, and General Manager, Sales & Distribution, Mr Ranit Rana.

Commending the development, Chairman, SCTEVT and Principal Secretary to Government, SDTE and Industries Departments, Shri Hemant Sharma (IAS) said, "This collaboration with Jindal Stainless will enhance the learning experience for students and faculty both, as it will give them insights about and practical exposure to the stainless steel industry."



# RCB embrace the maths and the moments in a win for the ages

**New Delhi:** Eventually, sport distills down to mathematics and moments. Ask MS Dhoni. He, with all those wins and cups for club and country, is also a man for the moments. He was part of another one, deep into the final hour of Saturday (May 18). But the moment itself was as much about him as it wasn't.

Dhoni was leading the CSK beeline out to shake the hands of those that had incredibly pipped his team to the final playoff berth. The victors, RCB, however, weren't quickly available. They actually didn't really know what to do after the final ball. Some leapt up and then sank to the grass, two of them sprinted away in one direction, only to realise the rest of their brethren were headed in the other. Some teared up, some clutched their heads. Some clutched other people's heads. Dhoni waited for a bit and turned around back to the dressing room.

leaving the formalities to Ruturaj Gaikwad and Co. He wasn't spotted on the playing field in the yellow thereafter. It is unknown if he would ever be. There are times when T20 cricket can feel like an overblown thing, aminated up on its own self-importance in modern cricket, with data and match-ups and entry points that almost speak to itself. In some ways, it would seem to be stretching cricket thin, stacking all its wealth at one end and transforming the sport into something generated straight out of an AI engine. But then it also gives us this: a concoction of numbers and narrative with margins so fine and patterns so beautifully wrought. All through the night, RCB were chasing a strange number - Net Run Rate - but ended up with indelible moments in that pursuit.

This was one of those instances where the show gets a huge billing, faces threats of cancellation

from the elements and eventually ends up becoming more than a show. As it turned out, the two sets of protagonists, egged on by an incredible energy from beyond the ropes, came together to produce a deeply moving performance out of shared, but separate efforts as well as the coming together of their individual backstories, their will to put all their practice into play, to read one another's movements and to refuse to give in. Everybody knew of Dhoni's backstory when Ravindra Jadeja pulled the last ball of the game's penultimate over for six. And Dhoni rarely lets these big occasions pass him by. Curiously enough, like his silent exit, the theatre around his entry as early as the 15th over was somewhat drowned out by the crowd still audibly guffawing at slow-mo replays of Faf du Plessis' athletic brilliance. But in the company of Jadeja, his trusted lieutenant for years, Dhoni whittled

down the qualification target from 72 off 30 to 17 off the final over. Waiting for him in the final over at the other end was Yash Dayal with a very different, human backstory. A year ago, he was left scarred and even took ill after consuming the vitriol that social media had spewed at him for being unable to defend 29 in a last over. He'd fought back incredibly well from the setback to become a linchpin in RCB's resurrection story up to

this point, but one ball in, all those parked-away feelings admittedly crept back as he saw Dhoni dispatch a friendly full-toss, 110 metres away and outside the stadium. Dayal wasn't even the original choice to bowl the last over. The plan was to have him bowl the 19th but a discussion between Dinesh Karthik and du Plessis elicited a late change of plans. In that moment, after conceding that six, Dayal said he redoubled his efforts to

not look at the scoreboard and try instead to channel all those hours of practice into executing the next ball. Dayal was not supposed to be here. He was meant to become another note in IPL's forgotten list. Malolan Rangarajan, RCB's assistant coach and head of talent scouting, revealed on the eve of the match how he and his team had invested their energies in understanding player personalities. "Because

we genuinely believe the weight of playing for RCB is slightly different," he said. "Because you come into a dressing room with big, big stars in it, a dressing room with a lot of expectations until you win your first tournament. These are things that may be very nice to say: 'don't worry about it.' But you come into a dressing room which I think has one of the most loyal and vocal fanbases, which works both ways. You learn to cope with it. A few people learn, a few people might get affected by it."

That Dayal was bowling the final over in a game of such significance was evidence that he belonged to the former group. But T20 is unforgivingly chaotic. For a bowler, bowling a last over to Dhoni in a heaving, hoping stadium, even more so. There is hardly ever time to recover, to think, to plan. Sometimes, in matches that don't have a lot riding on them, you can bowl all variations or even nail a sequence of



## Mark Boucher defends Hardik Pandya's leadership after catastrophic season

**Mumbai:** Mark Boucher has said that Hardik Pandya would be disappointed with his own performance as a captain and as a player this IPL but also maintained that the all-rounder had the full support of the Mumbai Indians dressing room. "I think if he was here, he'd also be disappointed in his performance," the Mumbai Indians head coach said after the team lost to Lucknow Super Giants at the Wankhede on Friday night.

"From a captain's perspective, I thought he had some good games. There's a lot of stuff going on around him that may have clouded his thoughts which is tough on him as a leader as well. He certainly had a lot of support within our dressing room and guys were trying to help him out," the South African said.

"It's a tough thing to go through as a player and there was a lot of sympathy for what he was going through. A lot of stuff that he was going through personally. I think it may be a little



uncalled for and you know, it is what it is. It'll certainly be a learning curve for Hardik in his growth in leadership." Pandya's appointment as captain of Mumbai Indians before the start of the season was a saga of controversy. There was opposition from the fans and there were also constant reports about dressing room disquiet. As a batsman, he managed an underwhelming 216 runs in 14 games at a lowly average of 18 and took 11 wickets at a none-too-impressive economy rate

of 10.75. "I think a couple of things will pass and they'll make him a tougher leader and he'll certainly grow in the role as well. So I still think there's some fantastic things coming for Hardik Pandya as a leader. The cricketing side of things, you guys will know the stats," Boucher noted. He also addressed the issue of boozing that Pandya received from the stands wherever he went. "Yes, it wasn't great hearing all the boos. I felt sorry for Hardik. It's never nice to have to go through something like

that. Yeah, there's certain things that we need to address and as I said, we are going to address them. But now is not probably the right time. Everyone's very disappointed and emotional, so no good decision will get made." The coach felt the same about Rohit Sharma, who has had an average season as a batsman, scoring 417 runs at an average of 32.06 with a strike rate of exactly 150. He had a brilliant century against Chennai Super Kings but besides that he had a score of only one

half century. "It's sort of almost a season of two halves. He started off the season really well, was hitting the ball sweetly in the nets, got a great hundred against CSK as well. "So we honestly thought that he was on a great path for us to go out there and get some good runs for us. Unfortunately, you know, it's just the nature of T20 as well. He went out there trying to be aggressive, which is the new sort of way of playing as an opening batter, and he got a couple of low scores, which unfortunately didn't help us in that particular situation as well."

Boucher also conceded that his own future as the coach of the franchise is uncertain. "I'm not too sure where I'm going, to be honest with you. As I said, it's quite early days at the moment. A lot of people are emotional. There's probably going to be discussions about all of us. I don't think there's only one person. We're in a high performance zone."

**New Delhi:** Lucknow Super Giants head coach Justin Langer dead-batted questions thrown at him about becoming India's next men's team head coach after reports emerged that he could throw his hat in the ring. With Rahul Dravid's tenure ending in June after the T20 World Cup, BCCI invited fresh applications for the post. "It would almost be the biggest job in cricket - being the head coach of the Indian cricket team," Langer said after LSG's final game of the season against MI on Friday (May 17). "One, because of the huge volume of cricket, the huge expectation. It would be a great challenge. It would be great fun and it would be a wonderful opportunity to win ICC titles."

Langer took on another such big job - of coaching Australia, under tough circumstances as he succeeded Darren Lehmann in the aftermath of the ball-tampering scandal of

2018. He oversaw home series defeat in Tests to India but his team bounced back to win an ODI series in India before reaching the semifinal of the ODI World Cup in 2019 and retaining the Ashes. Langer spoke about that stint and reckoned the 'timing' had to be right for a high-pressure job like coaching the Indian team. "But with all these things, the timing has got to be right. I did four or so years with the Australian cricket team. It is all encompassing. It is exhausting. Rahul Dravid will probably tell you the same thing and Ravi Shastri will probably tell you the same thing. The pressure on winning for the Indian team is massive," Langer said. Without saying it in as many words however, Langer all but ruled himself out of the reckoning for the position. "I'm sure the next person who gets the job will be really looking forward to the project."

## MS Dhoni will come back roaring in IPL 2025, we haven't seen last of him: Robin Uthappa

**New Delhi:** Former India batter Robin Uthappa said on Saturday that MS Dhoni will return to play the Indian Premier League (IPL) in 2025, adding that the former captain is not someone who takes heartbreaks and setbacks lightly. Dhoni ended the 2024 season on a heart-breaking note as he failed to deliver when CSK needed 17 runs in the last over in their last league game against

RCB in Bengaluru to qualify for the playoffs. MS Dhoni hit the first delivery of the final over bowled by Yash Dayal for a 110m-six. However, he was dismissed in the very next delivery while trying to hit another one into the stands. After Dhoni's dismissal, Shardul Thakur and Ravindra Jadeja were not able to take the team past the finish line as Dayal held his nerves

and defended 11 runs in the last four deliveries, much to the delight of RCB fans at the M Chinnaswamy Stadium in Bengaluru. "I don't think we have seen the last of MS. He is not someone who takes these things lightly. He will come back roaring for sure," Robin Uthappa told JioCinema. Dhoni hit 25 off 13 in a 61-run partnership with Ravindra Jadeja that

revived CSK's hopes of qualifying for the playoffs. CSK were reeling at 129 for 6 in their chase of 219 after which the goalpost shifted to 201 - the mark that was required for qualification. However, RCB's disciplined bowling effort ensured CSK finished on the losing side in a thriller. Meanwhile, Uthappa also highlighted that Dhoni was managing a niggle throughout the

season, hinting that there is more to come from a fitter version next year.

"Even with the narrative, I have seen him bat only in the last 4 or 5 overs, there is a reason for it. He had a calf injury which they initially thought perhaps was a niggle, but it was a little more grave than that. Because of that, he had to manage himself and often has

he does, in international cricket and for CSK, he figured out a way to be useful and contribute to CSK," Uthappa said. Dhoni finished with 161 runs in 14 matches at a strike rate of 220.55 in the 2024 season. Dhoni limited himself to playing cameos, but excelled as a finisher. Dhoni's keeping was spotless as the 42-year-old was as sharp as he has ever been behind the wickets. "He batted beautifully

again. There is no doubt that he can fulfil a very important role for CSK, even if it's coming in and facing 13-15 balls each game and doing this. He played incredibly well. "If he had hit the ball that he got out to a fraction later, that would have gone into the stands as well and the game would have been a very different result. He batted beautifully, and kept very well as well. "Fingers crossed, MSD