

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

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 Nipunja 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-woman 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.

Shubaneswar (KCN): In the wake of pre-poll violence at Khaliikote in Odisha's Ganjam district recently that resulted in death of a BJP worker, the police are on their toes to contain any untoward incident during the fifth phase of polling which will be held in five Parliamentary constituencies — Bargarh, Sundargarh, Bolangir, Kandhamal, Aska — and 35 Assembly seats of the state May 20. Speaking at a press conference here, Director General of Police, Arun Kumar Sarangi said: "I have strongly warned all the district Superintendents of Police during a virtual meeting that we will not tolerate any incidents of violence as we have a zero-tolerance policy towards poll-related 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. 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. Besides, the Odisha police also deployed 655 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

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. Kharage 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.

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 vehemently opposes

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



ra of fratricidal bloodshed and state repression through the use of sponsored political rowdiness, 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 religious and cultural identity of the state. The manifesto is steeped in the traditional Akali, Panthic and Punjabi idiom and recalls the party's glorious heritage

of struggle and sacrifices by selfless warriors and generals who repeatedly spurned offers of power and quit cabinet berths to stand by the people on issues of high principle. In its manifesto, which the party described as its "Ailaan-Nama" for the Lok Sabha poll scheduled for June 1, the party said that a vicious conspiracy was at work to destroy peace and communal harmony in the state to justify a return to police repression, midnight knocks and killing of Sikh youth in fake encounters. "An atmosphere is being created with the help of provocative slogans through some stooges and paid pipers," said the SAD president Sardar Sukhbir Singh Badal, while releasing the Ailaan-Nama, and emphasized that there is a desperately need to preserve peace and communal harmony in the state to ensure the glory of Panth and Punjab." Giving a twin call for "Panthic Principles above Politics" and "Punjab for Punjabis, the SAD Ailaan-Nama declared that on

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

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, Christian, Bodhis, Jains.” 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 Ravidas ji Mandir in Tughlakabad, New Delhi.”

JAIN HERITAGE OF ODISHA

Bhubaneswar (KCN): On the occasion of the International Museum Day, a celebration was held at the Jain Heritage Museum in Pratap Nagari near Cuttack. This museum was set up by the State Archaeology Department with the funding the Central Government and the Jain Mahasabha a few years back. The museum has on display nearly two dozen rare Jain images which were earlier lying scattered in various villages of the vicinity. These were found during the excavation of the Puri Main Canal. Many of these early era images date from a period of 8th to 10th Century C.E. While many of the black and green chlorite stone images are damaged and broken, the exquisite craftsmanship of the sculptors is still discernible. The large Parasvanath kept at the entrance is a unique Jain

image. The origin of Jainism in Odisha is shrouded in obscurity, but traditional accounts Jain sacred literature and epigraphic evidences suggest that it had a footing from the earliest times. However, it is established that Jainism was the state religion of Odisha in the 4th /5th Century BCE. The earliest Jain epigraphical record is the Hati-Gumpha inscription of Kharavela dating back to the 1st century BCE, which confirms that Jainism was the state religion of Kalinga during the 3rd/4th Centuries BCE. In his eighth regnal year, Kharavela had led an expedition to Mathura to protect the age old stronghold of Jainism from the hands of the invading Yavanas. He had also commissioned several rock-cut caves for dwelling of Jain ascetics at Udayagiri and



Khandagiri hills. According to Dr. Suchitra Das, Co-ordinator of the Jain Chair at the Utkal University of Culture, Jain vestiges in the form of detached sculptures both of stone and bronze, chaumukhas, viharas, chaityas, caves and votive tablets are found throughout the length and breadth of Odisha. The

sites include Khiching, Kuntapal Naktipat, Badasahi and Koisali in Mayurbhanj; Ayodhya, Ada, Avana and Kupari in Balasore; Charampa in Bhadrak; Hatadiha, K u a n s a , Tarangasagarpur, Bansabadi, Kartara, Naguan, Nayagarh, Permanandapur in Jajpur district; Baula and Podasingidi in Keonjhar;

Choudwar, Athagarh, Banki, Pratapanagari in Cuttack; Udayagiri and

Khandagiri caves in Khordha, Prachi valley, Achutrajjpur, Barala in Puri and Kamta, Charmula, Chatua, Bhairava Singpur, Jamunda, Subei and Jeypore in Koraput district. Jain images are found in different places of the state either individually or with the sculptures of Buddhist and Brahmanical pantheons. Anil Dhir, Intach's Bhubaneswar Chapter Convener, is of the opinion that Jainism suffered an eclipse with the subsequent rise of Buddhism and Saivism in Odisha. The period of

Jain ascendancy was over towards the beginning of Christian era, but it continued to co-exist along with other religious sects. Jainism has all along shown a remarkable non-antagonistic attitude towards Hinduism, which according to historians, is one of the causes of its survival. Jainism continued to co-exist as a minor religion along with other religions and played an illustrious role on the cultural life of people and continues as one of the religion up to the modern times. Dhir further said that the Museum should have

proper security against theft as it houses valuable images. The small museum at Pratap Nagari has very valuable and important Jain vestiges. It is being managed by the Sri B h a r a t v a r s h i y a Digamber Jain Mahasabha and Nirganth Centre of Archaeology, Bilaspur. The event was attended by students and faculty of the Culture University. Dr. Mahendra Singh, Resource Person of the Jain Chair and Dr. Pramod Kumar Pati, Chairman, Kalabhoomi were present on the occasion.

25 crore lifted out of poverty by Modi govt: Rajnath Singh in Odisha rally

Sambalpur (KCN): Defence Minister Rajnath Singh Sunday claimed that as many as 25 crore people have been pulled out from poverty under the leadership of Prime Minister Narendra Modi. Singh said this while addressing an election rally at Rairakhole under the Sambalpur Lok Sabha seat. Union Education Minister Dharmendra Pradhan is the BJP candidate in the Sambalpur constituency. "Beginning from Jawahar Lal Nehru to Indira Gandhi, Rajiv Gandhi and Manmohan Singh, all have failed to eradicate poverty from the country. However, Modi is the first prime minister who could reduce the miseries of the poor people in this country," Singh said. The Defence minister said PM Modi has provided pucca ghar, piped water to households, free of cost cooking gas, free foodgrains, toilets and many other things to the poor people of India during the last 10 years. He said the BJP as promised has ensured the building of the Sri Ram Temple in Ayodhya which silenced the critics. "As Ram Lala has come to his temple, now Ram Rajya will be established in



India," he said. Singh came down heavily on Odisha's BJD government for not implementing the Ayushman Bharat scheme which provides free health service to the people. "If voted to power, the BJP government will issue Ayushman Bharat cards to the people of Odisha," Singh said. While calling upon the gathering to vote for the Lotus symbol to further the welfare schemes for the poor by the Modi government, Singh asked whether Modi's welfare schemes are reaching the people in Odisha. The senior BJP leader said the people will get pucca ghar, piped water, Ayushman Bharat card and other facilities as soon as the BJP government is formed in Odisha. Singh blamed both the Congress and BJD for the sorry state of affairs of Odisha. The Congress has ruled the

state for 50 years and BJD for 25 years. He claimed that India is the only country which provided free two doses of COVID-19 vaccines to all the citizens of the country. He said Modi also provided an additional 5 kg of foodgrains to the poor people during the pandemic period. "This is Modi's sensitivity towards the requirement of the poor people," Singh said. Claiming that Modi has enhanced the image of India globally, Singh said: "Our PM talked to authorities of both Russia and Ukraine and stopped the war between the two countries for four and half an hour during which over 22,000 Indian students were rescued from the war zone. He further said that Modi also highlighted Odisha's pride and culture during the G20 summit. "There is no international leader who has not taken a

picture during the G20 summit with Konark wheel in the background," he said and attacked the state's BJD for spoiling Odisha's literature, art, culture and tradition. The Defence minister also raised the issue of Ratna Bhandar (Lord Jagannath's treasury) and blamed Odisha's BJD government for the missing keys. "The BJP will open Lord Jagannath's Ratna Bhandar in Puri temple after it forms government in Odisha," he said. Referring to Pakistan Occupied Kashmir (PoK), the Defence minister said that things are fast changing in Kashmir after the abolition of Article 370 from Jammu and Kashmir. Stating that PoK is also an integral part of India, Singh said the people of the PoK have now started revolting against Pakistani authorities. "We need not go to a war to get PoK. The people of the PoK will automatically prefer India as their country," Singh said. Claiming that Modi also ended the 'triple talaq', Singh said the BJP does not do politics for votes, but for building the nation.

Rayagada staring at acute water crisis

Rayagada (KCN): Residents in this district stare at a major water crisis shortly with the sharp decline in groundwater level, sources said Friday. The establishment of many industries and a rise in population are two of the main reasons for the alarming decrease in groundwater level, they pointed out. Rampant digging up of bore wells is another reason for the shrinking groundwater level, sources added.

Environmentalists apprehend that a major crisis is in store in future as no steps have been taken for the conservation of water. They added that unless the digging up of bore wells is curtailed, the water crisis cannot be controlled. It should be added that district administration officials are clueless about the bore well issue. They do not even know how many bore wells have been set up in the district.

Residents pointed out that the administration is not taking any concrete steps to preserve water below the soil. Sources said that there is a groundwater division (GWD) office in the district but it remains non-functional due to a lack of an adequate number of employees. People in the know of things informed that groundwater level started decreasing in 2019 and now the pinch is already being felt. This district has 11 blocks and

78 points for checking groundwater levels. In most of the blocks the water level has decreased substantially, sources pointed out. The groundwater level is satisfactory at Padmapur block while it is the worst in Rayagada block. Reports available from the Rayagada Groundwater Development Department said that water was earlier available at 4.96 metres below soil in Bissam Cuttack block.



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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 Dama 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 per cent of the films stereotyped 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 India Today.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 Chaahe', 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 Awadhi 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 padhega... (They used to fight among themselves who would read the newspaper first)," Oldenburg told India Today.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.

There are shots of Rekha writing poetry and her ustaad sitting next to her, correcting her. She is discussing language. So it seemed realistic that they were artists who were involved in their art," said Manjari Chaturvedi. The imagery of Madhubala as Anarkali in Mughal-E-Azam is so deeply ingrained in our memory that we often overlook the fact that films based on the same storyline, originating from a 1922 play called Anarkali by Imdad Ali Taj, had been produced three times before Mughal-E-Azam. Sulochana, a star of the silent era, portrayed Anarkali twice (in 1928 and 1935), while in the 1953 adaptation, Bina Rai took on the role of the captivating courtesan. All the adaptations were a hit among the audience. 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).

Sara Ali Khan Performs Puja Rituals, Loses Herself In Bhajan At Mahakaleshwar Temple

ravel enthusiast Sara Ali Khan recently took time out of her busy schedule and jetted off to Madhya Pradesh where she offered her prayers at the Kal Bhairav Temple, Mahakaleshwar Temple in Ujjain, and Khajrana Ganesh Temple in Indore to seek blessings. The actor has been basking in the success of her latest release 'Zara Hatke Zara Bachke'.

Sara took to Instagram and shared a bunch of photos from her visit to the temples in Madhya Pradesh on Instagram story. She opted for a pink printed saree for her visit to the Mahakaleshwar temple. A video shows her sitting on the floor and lost in the prayers at the temple. Sara was seen offering prayers with her hands folded. She also performed a few rituals and interacted with fans. She captioned the post writing, "Peaceful in the day" and "Mesmerising at night... a day well spent."



Sara also took to her Instagram Stories and shared pictures of offering prayers at the Khajrana Ganesh temple. On Saturday, she posted a photo of herself along with several other people and wrote, "Somya ki ghar vapsi (Somya returns) in Indore."

For the visit, Sara opted for a white suit. The actor's sacred visit comes at a time when their film 'Zara Hatke Zara Bachke' is performing well at the box office. The film also starred Vicky Kaushal alongside Sara. She had also visited Mumbai's famous Siddhivinayak Temple, earlier. Sara is a frequent visitor to the Mahakal temple in Ujjain. During her last visit to Ujjain's Mahakaleshwar Temple, Sara was brutally trolled by a section of people online. A while ago, during a promotional event for her film 'Zara Hatke Zara Bachke', Sara gave a hard-hitting reply on her being trolled for visiting the temple. She said, "I take my work very seriously. I work for people, for you. I will go to Ajmer Sharif with the same devotion with which I will go to Bangla Sahib or Mahakal. I will continue visiting. People can say whatever they want, I have no problem. You should like the energy of a place. I believe in energy." On the work front, Sara has Anurag Basu's 'Metro In Dino'. Billed as an anthology, the film also features Aditya Roy Kapur, Konkona Sen Sharma, Pankaj Tripathi, Fatima Sana Shaikh, Anupam Kher, Ali Fazal and Neena Gupta in the lead roles. She also has Ae Watan Mere Watan in the pipeline. Directed by Kannan Iyer and written jointly by Darab Farooqui and Kannan, the film will be available on Prime Videos.

'Jhoothi' Shraddha Kapoor Interacts With Fans on Instagram as They Catch her Lying

Shraddha Kapoor aka Jhoothi is currently busy with the promotions of her upcoming film with Ranbir Kapoor, 'Tu Jhoothi Main Makkaar'.

The star has served some incredible moments for her fans; ever since the promotional events kickstarted from recreating hilarious video of 'Tere Pyaar Main' eating pani puri to having grabbed all the attention with her hot looks in the 'Tere Pyaar Mein' song from 'Tu Jhoothi Main

Makkaar', Shraddha Kapoor seems to be fully drenched in her character of Jhoothi from the film.

While everyone just can't resist their excitement to watch her playing a Jhoothi in the film, this Sunday morning Shraddha treated her fans with a pretty picture and was seen interacting with the fans while she made them engage with her character of Jhoothi in a fun manner in the comment.

Taking to her social media, on Sunday,

Shraddha Kapoor posted pictures from her latest photoshoot on Instagram with a caption that confused many of her followers, she wrote jokingly, "It's Monday! Let's slay today."

After Shraddha dropped the post, The fun and witty conversation between Shraddha being a Jhoothi and her fans was seen in the comment section. While Shraddha can be seen fully in her character with her comments, it led to a fun conversation with her fans, many of her

followers flooded the comments with compliments. One user wrote, "Uff ye Adaa." Another commented, "Cuteness overload." Some even dropped heart and fire emoticons. Tu Jhoothi Main Makkaar is directed by Luv Ranjan, produced by Luv Films' Luv Ranjan and Ankur Garg, and presented by T-Series' Gulshan Kumar and Bhushan Kumar. It is all set to have a festive release worldwide in cinemas on Holi, 8th March 2023.



Kareena Kapoor Khan Wants To Work With Yash, Calls Herself A KGF Girl

Over the years Yash has become a formidable force, captivating audiences not only in India but across the globe. His journey from regional acclaim to pan India superstardom is a reflection of his extraordinary talent and unique charisma that resonates universally. During the latest episode of the renowned talk show, Koffee With Karan, the spotlight turned to Yash's global appeal. During the rapid fire round when Kareena

Kapoor Khan was asked, "Which south actor would you like to be paired up with? Prabhas, Ram Charan, Vijay Deverakonda, Allu Arjun and Yash" she expressed her desire to collaborate with the southern sensation and she promptly responded with "Yash," proudly declaring herself a 'KGF girl'.

Yash's presence on the international stage has transcended geographical boundaries, making him a sought-after



figure in the film industry. His meteoric rise, coupled with endorsements from industry peers like Kareena Kapoor Khan, reinforces his status as a true global icon. Yash has etched his name as a formidable talent with global appeal. He is not just a superstar; he is an icon who has united audiences from diverse backgrounds and cultures, proving that talent and authenticity are universal languages that transcend boundaries and create lasting legacies.

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Narayan Jain



(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 Commissioner (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-ARCIL 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- Andriew 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 Paliwal 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, Hubballi [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), 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

256 ITR 698 (Gau.); Debasish Moulik v. DCIT 231 ITR 737(Cal.), Society of the Franciscan (Hospitalier) 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

suitable security to safeguard the interest of the Revenue. The Assessing Officer can also require the assessee to pay towards the disputed tax a reasonable amount in lump sum or in instalments. In fact directing an assessee to deposit the entire amount as a condition for granting stay is incongruous in as much as if the entire amount is recovered, there is no purpose in granting stay. As such no recovery proceedings can be initiated without disposing of stay application judiciously - MD Infra Developers v. DCIT, 385 ITR 0082; Khandelwal Laboratories (P.) Ltd. v. Dy CIT 6(3)(2), Mumbai [2016] 68 taxmann.com 171 (Bom.).

13. In response to the assessee's stay petition, AO granted stay subject to 20% payment of tax, to which assessee requested to adjust its refund due of prior year (which exceeded the amount of 20% of tax) against the 20% of the tax. It has been held that AO must dispose off the request of assessee relating to adjustment of refund of earlier year with the 20% tax payable by assessee before attaching the bank account failing with the attachment was held invalid - Pirna Urban

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 Bajinath 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.

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 recycling of waste,

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 minimise the problem of increasing waste.

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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 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 Fourm 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 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 Biryani which

is currently known as Kolkata style Biryani. 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 of 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 Fourm introduced the speaker Mr. Shahanshah Mirza.

Mrs. Sujata Sett Co-Chairperson of Bharat Chamber of Commerce Ladies Fourm 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,

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 appeals made from the stage failed to have any effect on the crowd. Then Gandhi and Yadav discussed something for a few minutes before they left the stage while being surrounded by their security staff.

The joint rally was organised in favour of Amarnath Maurya who is contesting on a SP

ticket from the Phulpur Lok Sabha seat.

Samajwadi Party sources said that Yadav and Gandhi decided not to address the rally following the ruckus on the advice of security officials.

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

orderly manner. The movement of vehicles is also happening in an orderly manner.

According to the information received from the Uttarkashi District Administration, till 2 pm today, 1100 vehicles and 9900 pilgrims were present at Gangotri Dham. Similarly, about 8500 pilgrims were also present at Yamunotri Dham and its walking route in the afternoon. There are about 500 vehicles and 4500 devotees at Yamunotri's last stop, Janki Chatti-Kharsali.

After assessing the possibility of a record number of pilgrims coming to both the Dhams, the administration has alerted all the officers and employees associated with the travel arrangements and issued instructions to remain constantly deployed at the travel routes and Dhams.

M Kharage'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 support it from outside, and Mr Chowdhury's remark that she cannot be trusted and that she might go with the BJP.

"Mamata Banerjee is with the alliance. She has recently said that she will join the government. Adhir Ranjan Chowdhury will not take the decision. The decision will be taken by

me and the high command and those who don't agree will go out," Mr Kharge had said.

He had also asserted that Mr Chowdhury is no one to decide on whether Ms Banerjee would be part of the INDIA bloc in the event of the anti-BJP alliance coming to power after the Lok Sabha polls. Mr Chowdhury, while

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

Jaipur (KCN): Former Rajasthan Minister and a member of the royal family of Bharatpur, Vishwendra Singh has sought maintenance from his wife and son and alleged that they beat him, do not give him sufficient food and also do not allow him to meet people.

His wife and son have, however, refuted the allegations and said that they are the real victims in the whole case. "It is nothing but pressurising tactics on the SDM. My mother and I have the highest faith in the SDM Court and on the Hon'ble Judge to handle the matter with alacrity and fairness. The matter is not new. It has been going on since 6 March 2024," posted his son Anirudh Singh on social media.



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 have been confined to one room. When I come to

Bharatpur, I am not even allowed to enter the house. It is no longer possible to live with my wife and son at home."

In the application given to the court, Vishwendra Singh has accused his wife and son of conspiring to kill him. "Their intention is to end my life. After which they can grab all the property. 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

water. He told the court that his wife and son should also be stopped from defaming him through social media," he said.

Singh has demanded that the properties of Moti Mahal Palace be returned to him in the application given to the SDM. This includes Moti Mahal, Kothi Darbar, Golbagh Complex, and Suraj Mahal located in the Mathura Gate police station area.

However, his son, Anirudh Singh has termed the allegations false. Anirudh Singh said on Sunday that allegations of beating and not giving food are completely false. "If needed, evidence of financial fraud and the wrong sale of property against my father will be presented in the SDM court," he said.

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. They were found waiting at Rayagada railway

station to board a train for Vizianagaram where they will again board a train to Chalakudi in Kerala. Many inhabitants from Talajhiri, Banteji, Sarambai, Mandijhola, Routghati, Badamagur, Taladeska, Keshkeri, Chandagiri, Sindurghati, Chiliguda, Kantamal, Adatakiri, Baharduluki, Bhitarduluki, Padamajhi, Bariguda, Bhramarjhari, Siadimala and other villages under Kashipur block are now working as migrant labourers in Karnataka and Kerala. Similarly, several residents of Belamguda, Jarpa, Bandiri, Katisur, Gendabaju, Khilundi,

Raibiji, Guchhujaba in Chandrapur block and Polama, Siripur, Bhalumaska, 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 Pradhani, 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 Nandapur 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 Vasana, 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



Rourkela(KCN): At a tender age of 12 he is competing with people much older than him in an arduous game like mountain terrain biking, and winning too. Meet Tanush Kohli, 12, a Standard VI student of Delhi Public School (DPS) in Rourkela, who made the sport a passion ever since he turned eight when he first rode a cycle. "It just happened accidentally. We bought a small learner's cycle for him with stays on either side like every family does for their children of that age. Little did we know that it was the beginning of his tryst with cycling before he graduated to much tougher Mountain Terrain Bikes (MTBs)," said Tanush's father Akhil Kohli, an industrialist. Tanush, who is at present in New Delhi, recently participated in



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

takes at least three laps on the Ring Road in Rourkela," Akhil said of Tanush's daily practice regime. The outer Ring Road spans a distance of 21 km. He is also guided by famous cyclist Sushil Das of RSP who is presently a coach. "He gets regular coaching from Sushil sir who keeps a close eye on him," said Akhil. Sushil said, "I must say Tanush is one of the brightest promises in long-distance cycling in the country. I am associated with him, and I am really surprised at his dedication and diligence." Tanush is also good at his studies. "His studies are not affected by cycling. He manages to do well in his exams and secures more than 80 per cent marks", informed Akhil.

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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)

and Geographical Indication (GI) tags, remains a key priority for CII. Mr. Banerjee identified expanding education and healthcare services to underserved rural areas as promising avenues for CII's future endeavours. Additionally, he stressed the importance of upskilling, capacity building, and the development of logistics infrastructure in the Northeast. The Director General also highlighted CII's focus on boosting tourism in the eastern part of India. 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

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".

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

Bhubaneswar : Nuvoco Vistas 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), plastic waste, municipal waste, biomass, tyre chips and other hazardous waste

sources. By incorporating these alternative fuels into its manufacturing process, Nuvoco is taking significant strides towards achieving its sustainability goals. Nuvoco has introduced AFR feeding into the Pyro-process system for enabling uniform feeding and incorporating all necessary safety interlocks throughout. This system allows us to consume alternate fuels in an efficient and effective way without impacting the environmental standards prescribed and approved by the Pollution Control Board of India. Although this project is primarily focused on environmental sustainability, it also has several other benefits for clinker production and can offer significant cost savings through its alternative fuels program.

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

towards fulfilling our commitment to sustainable cement manufacturing and reducing the environmental impacts. The successful completion of this project demonstrates our commitment to reducing carbon emissions, maximizing waste consumption, and demonstrating responsible resource management practices." Additionally, he stated, "The adoption of alternative fuels also aids in resolving issues associated with landfills and unhygienic waste accumulation. For instance, in its cement manufacturing process, Nuvoco uses plastic 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."

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, Bhubaneshwar 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."

Blenders Pride Fashion Nights arrives in Bhubaneswar

Bhubaneswar : Blenders Pride Fashion Nights, a unique travelling experiential property, arrived in the City of Temples – Bhubaneswar – celebrating the authentic spirit of the city through fashion and style. A spirit that echoes with Pride and inspires the creators of today to become icons of tomorrow. Bhubaneswar's 'Made of Artistic Flair' edition for Blenders Pride Fashion Nights, brought together an eclectic evening that blended fashion, culture and dance, celebrating a symbolic amalgamation of homegrown artistry and the unwavering spirit of local talent.

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.

"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.

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.

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."

Students across India will benefit from this program as it does not restrict to just an area of the population. The program will be conducted for 1 hour and mainly educate the students on demystifying the jargons, 3I's – types of Income; Inflation and its impact, types of Investment; 3S – Start early- Power of Compounding, Spread wide, Stay long etc.

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,

SCTE&VT, Shri Reghu G (IAS) and Unit Head, Jindal Stainless Limited (JSL), Shri Deepak Agrawal. Dignitaries present at the ceremony included Chairman, SCTE&VT and Principal Secretary to Government, Skill Development and Technical Education (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.

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

Commenting the development, Chairman, SCTE&VT 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.

