

# Campaigning ends for 6th phase of Lok Sabha polls in 58 seats

just because of the vote bank.” In Delhi, the BJP’s poll campaign saw Modi addressing two rallies besides canvassing by Union ministers Amit Shah, Rajnath Singh, Nitin Gadkari, Smriti Irani and Piyush Goyal and chief ministers of BJP-ruled states, including Yogendra Adityanath (Uttar Pradesh), Pushkar Singh Dhami (Uttarakhand) and Pramod Sawant (Goa). The Congress’s poll campaign was led by its chief Mallikarjun Kharge, senior leader

Rahul Gandhi and Sachin Pilot among others. Delhi Chief Minister Arvind Kejriwal, who was released on interim bail till June 1, held roadshows in support of Congress's candidates while Pilot campaigned for AAP's South Delhi candidate Sahi Ram Pahalwan. AAP's poll campaign got a shot in the arm with the release of Kejriwal from Tihar. While Kejriwal was in jail, his wife Sunita Kejriwal held roadshows for party candidates and senior party leaders Atishi, Saurabh Bharadwaj, Sanjay Singh Gopal Rai held various jansabha and outreach activities under the party's 'Jail Ka Jawaab Vote Se' campaign. Following his release, Kejriwal and Bhagwan Mann led roadshows in some constituencies while Sunita also joined her husband for poll meetings.

election. The electoral battle in Sambalpur is more than just a fight for a parliamentary seat; it is a microcosm of the larger political dynamics at play in Odisha. The outcome will not only shape the future of the Sambalpur constituency but also reflect the shifting allegiances and emerging power structures within the state. With Dharmendra Pradhan and Pranab Prakash Dash locked in a fierce contest and Nagendra Pradhan poised to play a critical role, the Sambalpur constituency is set to witness one of the most keenly contested elections in recent memory.



# Tracking the journey of Merlène: A whimbrel’s incredible migration across continents

**Bhubaneswar(KCN):** In a remarkable turn of events, birdwatchers in Odisha have successfully located a whimbrel, named Merlène, which was satellite-tagged on Réunion Island in the southern Indian Ocean. This discovery is part of an international effort to track and understand the migratory patterns of these extraordinary birds. Merlène’s journey began March 7, when she was equipped with a GPS tag at Réunion Island, her wintering site. After

spending a month in Mauritius, she embarked on her northward pre-breeding migration, making significant stopovers in Socotra and the Indus River delta in Pakistan. C h h a t t i s g a r h birdwatchers reported the sighting first May 20, generating excitement among ornithologists and bird enthusiasts worldwide. Merlène was taking a stopover at a small pond north of Bhilai, enduring the extreme daytime

temperatures of 48°C. Now, the bird has crossed over to Odisha and has been seen at the mouth of Rushikulya by local conservationist Rabindra Nath Sahu. The operation was coordinated by Bhubaneswar-based birdwatcher Panchami Manoo Ukil. Merlène’s migration is part of the French Office for Biodiversity’s LIMOIO project, aimed at studying the ecology and conservation of migrating waders in the western Indian Ocean.



This project provides valuable insights into the habitats and migration routes of these birds. “Tracking Merlène’s journey is truly

fascinating,” said Mathieu, the lead researcher on the project. “We are thrilled to share this incredible story and hope it raises

awareness about the importance of migratory bird conservation.” Birdwatchers and enthusiasts across India are encouraged to keep an eye out for Merlène

and other colour-flagged whimbrels. Merlène has a yellow tag with the code ‘AM’ on her right leg and a green ring on her left leg. This discovery not only highlights the arduous journeys these birds undertake but also emphasises the importance of international cooperation in wildlife conservation. Merlène’s journey is far from over, as she is expected to continue her migration to her breeding grounds in northern Siberia.

Scientists and bird watchers are excitedly sharing predictions on what Merlène will do next. Will it fly north crossing the Himalayas or will it stay in rich habitats of Odisha for some more time! Impending climatic disturbances in the Bay of Bengal might also make the bird stay for a longer duration on our coasts. Initiatives like this have proven effective in the past, creating excitement and interest in migratory birds.

## RUMA HALDER IS AT HER INHABITABLE TRANSPARENCY FOR SUPREME ELEVATION

Dr. Rudrarup Gupta



Ruma Halder, a renowned consequential planner for needful “Human Elevation” who firmly realizes about the scenario of this globe which is truly versatile right now. She firmly believes that the equality of education is absolutely imperative to bring out the parity of “Significant Occupational Acceleration” at each stage of life without any second thought. In this regard, active participation is very essential for best communal harmony and that is the reason why, all the veteran leaders are trying to incorporate our aspired performers in this most spectacular virtuoso to hold this prestigious occupational standing in a very conforming manner. She has deciphered some of the practical paradigms indeed. The prime causes are as follows:

1. All the performers do need to establish their most precious life with a ton of positivity and the combative attainments indeed. So that they shall be really independent and they will be able to enable their exemplary tolerance in enriching our gracious societal glory.

2. In the same light, she said about the concept of “Fundamental Education”. It is very demanding according to the present day scenario which shall be satisfying to flourish their undeniable participations and invariable involvements respectively. In this regard, each family will definitely be in a very sound position to empower their sincere aspirants in regulating their combative management and they shall be able to extract their best performances just within a very short while. The society will be reshaped with a ton of prospective hopes not only to overcome the uneven situational resilience but to penetrate their communal

qualitative measures for constructing the noticeable cultural synthesis.

3. Practical education may ensure the skillful root of culture where all the learners will definitely be educated and they shall be able to reform the most productive cultural harmony. Each of them will be really reinforced to implement his/her encyclopedic thoughts and imperishable cognitions upon their assigned tasks. Most importantly, they shall be refining their skillful assignments very smartly and their contributions will be the illustrious asset for emerging the record breaking societal supremacy.

4. “Women Empowerment” can inculcate a lot of information and they will be able to properly distinguish them if they are invariably educated. It is going to boost them according to their needs and they shall be stimulating the entire society and creating an exemplary instance in the end. That is how; they shall instigate the concept of “Women Leadership” in all over the globe with their indomitable spirits and collective desires to make it really possible.

5. Each one of us shall be undoubtedly very informative and constructive in nature and that valuable information might be incorporated right from education to profession. In this respect, they will be successful strategy makers and that shall be truly very conducive for them not only to be united but to work hard for the sustainable development in both national and international stature.

6. Education may generate the extraordinary confidence and that is the reason why, we are really trying to impart the most pertinent consequential involvements from the beginning. Because, it is undoubtedly essential to fight against the societal violence in a very commendable dimension for successful tomorrow. That is why, they shall have to have the similar frame of mind and they

must have the voice to rise upon in connection with the peaceful globe with flourishing diversity.

7. Mutual learning may help for plenty of avenues beyond knowledge. According to our modern scenario “Skillful Humans” are going to be involved with education for earning the praiseworthy stand of learning and it is really an absolute blessing to come out from mental illness indeed. That is the reason why, common mass have to plan from each individual class and



it is desirable to participate in overwhelming splendor of education without any second thought.

8. Education is one of the prime mediums for avoiding any societal hazard in our combative lives. Therefore, we have to be calm and quite to drive ourselves very confidently irrespective of all the odds to protest against the uneven societal provocations according to the requirements indeed.

9. Successful planners are the prime mentors in preserving their forthcoming generations and thereby, they are more concerned about to take proper education to promote them in a befitting manner. This is how; the traditional glamour of education will definitely be flourished in all over the globe for our individual occupational identity along with the great

societal prestige.

10. Promising leaders shall have to plan and perceive for collective compassion. That is why, they are unquestionably inquisitive not only to learn but prepared to accept the brand new challenges to face and confront with the higher rate of attainments in the end. It signifies their exclusive loyalty upon the hard work and they will be the priceless consequential future for our children and the society at large because of their flowery adjustments and eye-catching devotion of

sustainability.

**S O C I E T A L LIMITATIONS:** Ruma Halder is one of the most costly resources of our very conservative society but according to her most cognitive and pivotal research some of the unavoidable limitations have already been brought out in notice which are as follows:

1. **L i t e r a c y :** Common people opt to be literate but they cannot move due to their various family restrictions and different societal politics at all. So they are automatically in back foot and as a result they are not in a prior position to fulfill their inhabitable dreams in their precious lives.

2. **E d u c a t i o n :** Aspired women are often deprived to participate in education for the lack of family consent after marriage and the massive expenditure. As a result they do lose their spirits and the positive mental

standing as well. It is a massive deficit for them to survive in this competitive globe with high-end satisfaction.

3. **G e n d e r Violence:** It is indeed very strenuous for women. As a result they cannot move for their strengthen educational prominence and they are really unable to ensure their societal participation for communal victory at all.

4. **Health:** It is quite evident that women are advised to go for miles for their most precious earnings. In this regard, most of them cannot effort the same and they are simply defeated from the perspective of their lives and choices respectively.

5. **S o c i e t a l Discrimination:** It is one of the unavoidable causes. As a matter of the fact is women are discriminated in comparing to other provinces and they cannot compete with them due to some various cultural hazards. That is why, this limitation is remained same till today.

6. **N e g a t i v e Influence:** It is one of the regular occurrences. That is the reason why, we are unable to move and they cannot perform well from the perspective of education and grow for the better consequential stand.

7. **Lack of Inspiration:** No one inspires us in enriching our great successive desires and ardent interests of learning. As a result we cannot grow and express the multi-versatile qualitative measures indeed. It is an invariable lacuna as well to bring out the needful parity indeed.

8. **Lack of Fund:** Women cannot have the substantial roots for healthy investment. In this regard, we do lose our opportunities and do start suffering from massive societal deprivations accordingly.

Respected Ruma Halder perceives that, “SOCIETY IS BASED UPON THE UNITED VOICE FOR GLOBAL SUPERNOVA”.....

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## Nimrit Kaur Ahluwalia on why she rejected 'LSD 2': Maybe it wasn't meant for me

Nimrit Kaur Ahluwalia exclusively spoke to IndiaToday.in on why she rejected Ekta Kapoor's 'Love, Sex Aur Dhokha 2'. The film has been directed by Dibakar Banerjee.

Actor Nimrit Kaur Ahluwalia, who was to play a lead part in 'Love, Sex Aur Dhokha 2', finally shared why she backed out of the film. For the unaware, Nimrit had even started her reading session with the team after 'Bigg Boss 16'. However, when the first look came out, fans were in for a shock to not see the actor anywhere.

Later, it was revealed that she backed out of the film owing to its bold content. While earlier, Dibakar Banerjee shared his side of the story with IndiaToday.in, Nimrit told us what went

wrong on the sidelines of 'Khatron Ke Khiladi 14' promotions.

Without opening up much about the deal falling flat, the 'Choti Sarrdaarni' actor mentioned how she believes in destiny and maybe 'LSD 2' was not meant for her. "There's nothing more to say. I have immense respect for Ekta ma'am, and I will forever be grateful to her for offering me the film," Nimrit told IndiaToday.in.

When asked about her discussion with Ekta Kapoor and why her decision to move out was so discreet, the actor said, "It's not that I don't want to talk about it. I just don't believe in dwelling in the past. Also, I genuinely believe in destiny. Maybe this film wasn't meant for me. I didn't even want to do



'Bigg Boss', but everything conspired for me to be a part of it. I respect her [Ekta Kapoor], and Dibakar sir. Maybe we will collaborate again soon, I am here only."

Talking about taking up 'Khatron Ke Khiladi

14', Nimrit Kaur Ahluwalia shared that the opportunity came last year, but she believes in keeping things fresh. She decided to take a break after 'Bigg Boss 16', to revamp herself, and now is excited to get on this adventurous ride.

always been thin, people just forgot about it. Post 'Bigg Boss', I had so much water weight because of my hormonal issues, which I lost. I have always worked out and maintained my fitness." "However, people are often so judgemental about your shape and size. But I was conscious, I would have never done 'Bigg Boss' when I was that size. I am proud of my body and my weighing scale will never define me or state my self-worth. I just inculcated better eating habits and started taking care of myself, which I think everyone should do irrespective of which profession we are in," she added. The shoot of 'Khatron Ke Khiladi 14' will begin next week. It is expected to go on air by the end of July.

## Sara Ali Khan's Christmas Album From London Features Mom Amrita Singh And Dad Saif

It was indeed a merry Christmas for Sara Ali Khan, who celebrated with her mom Amrita Singh and dad Saif Ali Khan in London (separately). Amrita Singh is in London, accompanying daughter Sara, while Saif is holidaying there with wife Kareena Kapoor and sons Taimur and Jeh. Sara posted pictures from her festivities in London and she wrote, "Missed my baby brother (or not so baby). Thank you Santa for this Merry Christmas. Ibrahim Ali Khan, I wish you was here. To have pecan pie and celebrate and spread Christmas joy and cheer...And then eat black cod individually with the OG two who to us are extremely dear but for now these pics I shear



(share)."

Sara Ali Khan, who was missing brother Ibrahim big time, shared a picture collage comprising photos of Saif and Amrita. No caption needed. In another Instagram story, the actress wrote, "That's a wrap," adding, "Missing brother Jaan."

Sara Ali Khan has a super busy schedule ahead. She will next be seen in Ae Watan Mere Watan. Her line-up of films also includes Metro... In Dino and Murder Mubarak. Her last project was Zara Hatke Zara Bachke. Sara Ali Khan also had a cameo appearance in

Rocky Aur Rani Kii Prem Kahaani song Heart Throb. She has featured in films such as Kedarnath (her debut movie), Simmba, Love Aaj Kal. She also featured in the Coolie No 1 remake. Sara was also seen in Atrangi Re.

## Suriya Gets Injured On Sets Of Kanguva, Film Shoot Halted



Actor Suriya has been busy with the shooting of his upcoming film 'Kanguva', a Tamil period-drama. The film is directed by Siruthai Siva and the shooting has been taking place at a film city in Chennai. According to TOI report, a grand set has been erected by the makers for the shoot of film.

The latest report stated that a rope camera lost

control during the shooting of 'Kanguva' and it fell on Suriya, thus leaving him injured. The report further mentioned that the actor suffered injuries on his shoulder after which the shoot was halt.

Fortunately, it was a minor mishap and no major injury was caused to Suriya. According to another report, the actor has

been advised by the doctor for a two-week bed rest. Meanwhile, Suriya was expected to wrap up the film for his portions in 'Kanguva' this month and the entire filming was slated to be over by next month. However, with the latest development, there may be a slight delay in production.

'Kanguva' was announced in August

2022 with the tentative title 'Suriya 42' as it became Suriya's 42nd film in a leading role. The shooting of the film has taken place in Goa, Kerala, Kodaikanal, and Rajahmundry. The official title 'Kanguva' was announced in April 2023.

'Kanguva' stars Suriya in six roles, leading an ensemble cast that includes Disha Patani and Bobby Deol, alongside Natarajan S u b r a m a n i a m, Jagapathi Babu, Yogi Babu, Redin Kingsley, Kovai Sarala, Anandaraj, Ravi Raghavendra, K. S. Ravikumar, and B. S. Avinash. The film will mark the Tamil debut of Disha and Bobby.

It is scheduled to be released theatrically in early 2024 in standard, 3D and IMAX formats. The official release date of the film is yet to be announced.

## 'Amar Singh Chamkila' not a work of fiction, it's true, authentic: Imtiaz Ali

Filmmaker Imtiaz Ali, speaking exclusively to IndiaToday.in, revealed that his upcoming film, 'Amar Singh Chamkila' is not a work of fiction. The film, which features Diljit Doosanji and Parineeti Chopra, is a biopic on the life of legendary Punjabi singer, Amar Singh Chamkila. He also opened up about the reason behind doing this biographical drama.

In his interview, Imtiaz explained that he stayed authentic and true to the story and how much of the film is based on the fiction. He said, "As far as I know, it's completely authentic and true. I have not taken any shortcuts. I have not made any scenes out of my imagination. I have tried to be very authentic for my own sake because I feel that I always make films by imagination, but how would this film be different from the others for me? Also, as a filmmaker, when you go out looking for the truth, you end up knowing more dramatic things."

The 'Jab We Met' director also revealed that he never thought of making a biopic. Explaining further, he



said, "I have never made a biopic before. But I would often hear about Amar Singh Chamkila through my friends, especially from my production head Rajesh Sharma. He would always say that I should make a film on the singer. In fact, he was the first person who told me about Chamkila."

He continued, "Then, I started listening to his music and found many things interesting about him. Finally, six years back, around the release of 'Love Aaj Kal 2', a gentleman called Harpreet, had the rights to the film Chamkila, which was very difficult to get. For some reason, he felt that he should approach me to direct this film."

"I did ask him 'why did you come to me to make this film?'. I am not even from Punjab, and he said 'Aap ki film mein Punjab bahut hi khoobsurati se dekha ya jata hain' (In your films, Punjab is portrayed beautifully). It took five years because I did not have much knowledge about Chamkila. Then, Covid happened, and I was visiting Punjab with Chamkila at back of my mind. I started listening to the stories of the singer and it got interesting. I had my own view and story to tell through Chamkila and that's when I decided to make the film," he added.

Amar Singh Chamkila, with his raw and unabashed lyrics, challenged societal norms and became a voice for the marginalised. His music transcended geographical boundaries and resonated with audiences across generations. His songs, often addressing taboo subjects with unfiltered honesty, remain relevant even today. By immortalising Chamkila's legacy on celluloid, Imtiaz Ali aims to introduce his artistry to a wider audience and pay homage to his contribution to Punjabi music.

'Amar Singh Chamkila' will premiere on Netflix on April 12.



# Will ‘Kisan- Jawan- Pahalwan’ Barricade BJP’s Win Path?



Has PM Modi smelt the essence of the ground? Are Ram Mandir, Dhara 370 and Hindu-Muslim slogans not working in the desired direction? Political thinkers analyze that the Ram Mandir, Dhara 370 and Hindu-Muslim slogans do not seem to be giving much positive results for the party and issues of ‘Kisan-Jawan Pahlwan’ (Farmers- Soldiers and Wrestlers) have eroded these ‘Ram Baan’ (Medication for every disease) slogans of BJP. And PM Modi has got this point. That is why, now he is focusing more on ‘Farmers- Soldiers and Wrestlers’ and denying any discrimination with the Muslim community. "The day I start talking about Hindu-Muslim (in politics) will be the day I lose my ability to lead a public life," Modi said, speaking in Hindi. "I will not do Hindu-Muslim. That is my resolve." PM Narendra Modi made these remarks in an interview with CNN-News18. Why Modi had to clarify his stand? What he had said? If he had said nothing provocative and

hatred spreading, then why did the Samyukta Kisan Morcha had to demand the removal and prosecution of Prime Minister Narendra Modi? Samyukta Kisan Morcha (SKM), an umbrella body of farmers’ unions in India, in a press release on April 23, 2024, had demanded removal from the PM post and prosecution of the Prime Minister Narendra Modi for his alleged highly poisonous hate speech at Banswara in Rajasthan on 20th April 2024. SKM had alleged that the Prime Minister had accused all members of the main minority group of the country as ‘intruders’ without any substance is nothing but insanity that violates the secular constitution that ensures separation of state and religion in governance. Whether PM Modi is really following his words expressed in the News-18 interview? Has he softened his words and not voicing in the manner in which he expressed himself in Rajasthan? Yes, some changes seem there. Now he is not directly bursting against any community, as was alleged earlier, but using the words -- those doing ‘vote-jihad’. On May 18, addressing a rally in Haryana, PM Modi alleged that Congress is solely focused on appeasement politics. The manifesto crafted by Congress resembles the entire Muslim League manifesto. Congress

claims that they will conduct an X-ray of the public's assets and then distribute those assets to those doing ‘vote-jihad’. For wooing ‘Farmers- Soldiers and Wrestlers’, PM Modi has started to preach the steps taken by the BJP government for the benefit of these segments, who are annoyed with the party due to barbaric behavior of BJP government during farmers’ movement and dragging the wrestlers on Delhi roads. PM Narendra Modi, while addressing public meetings in Ambala and Sonapat, Haryana on May 18, criticized the previous Congress government and highlighted various beneficial schemes for farmers in Haryana, initiated by the BJP government. Modi highlighted that before 2014, the Congress-led government had purchased grains from farmers at MSP worth only ₹7.5 lakh crore. In contrast, during the 10 years of the Modi government, agricultural produce worth ₹20 lakh crore has been procured from farmers at MSP. Previously, farmers often faced delays in receiving payments, but now the funds are directly deposited into their bank accounts. Congress has only betrayed sugarcane farmers. Presently, the FRP for sugarcane stands at nearly ₹350 per quintal, while the Congress government used to offer around ₹210 per quintal. Modi divulged that in

JAG MOHAN THAKEN

2014, when the BJP took office, the pending dues for sugarcane were approximately ₹60,000 crore. Contrastingly, this year, the government has cleared payments amounting to ₹1 lakh 14 thousand crore. Over ₹650 crore have been directly transferred to the accounts of farmers in Ambala, Karnal and Kurukshetra under the PM Kisan Samman Nidhi. To show his government’s affinity towards sports and sportspersons, PM Modi claimed that after forming the government in 2014, the BJP government increased the sports budget threefold, encouraging the youth to play more and win more medals. Whether it's building top-notch training centers in India or sending athletes abroad for training, the Modi government spares no expense in supporting athletes. Currently, thousands of athletes receive over ₹50,000 monthly under the Target Olympic Podium Scheme (TOPS) from the government. It is because of such initiatives, India has won the most Olympic medals to date, enhanced its reputation in the Asian Games and set records in university games. India is now striving to host the 2036 Olympics and soon, the nation will witness the first Olympics in India, with Haryana and Sonapat yearly winning gold medals.

To fetch the votes of ex-servicemen from congress basket, PM Modi alleged that Congress betrayed our ex-servicemen. For fourteen years, they made empty promises about "One Rank One Pension," and when they realized that Modi posed to be a significant challenge in 2013, Rahul Gandhi allocated a budget of ₹500 crores for it and held meetings with ex-servicemen in Haryana, Punjab, and Himachal Pradesh, spreading confusion. “But we implemented ‘One Rank One Pension’. Their habit of lying is deeply ingrained. Our government fulfilled the promise of ‘One Rank One Pension’ with flying colors when given the opportunity to serve by the people. Everyone should know how Congress lies. Congress allocated ₹500 crores for OROP, but when the BJP government implemented it, more than ₹1 lakh 20 were allocated.” But has the people forgotten the death of more than 700 farmers, stating the farmers as terrorists, dragging the wrestlers on Delhi roads and dashing the hope of unemployed youths, who were preparing themselves for joining the Indian forces, by implementing Agni Veer scheme? Dr. Underjeet Singh National Vice-President of All India Kisan Sabha (AIKS) says, “BJP election rallies being addressed by Modi and

Amit Shah are hardly making any significant impact in the given isolation of BJP from the electorate in general and peasantry in particular. There are reports that Modi’s moderately attended rally in Gohana two days ago failed even to boost the BJP workers morale let alone woo the farmers. It was only a gathering of people mobilized with the misuse of power with the help of private school buses. In the backdrop of excesses done during farmers movement and the women wrestlers as well as other sections including police repression meted out to Sarpanches, scheme workers etc. in the recent past have not faded from the memories of people. Visit of Modi-Shah and other BJP leaders is not cutting ice and deter the electorate suffering from unemployment and acute price rise from punishing BJP cutting across caste / community considerations.” R. C Punia, an RTI activist, carrier counselor and a former Gramin Bank Manager, who himself belongs to a farmer family, expresses, “As much as I have been able to know and have heard and talked to the farmers, based on their anger it can be said that most of the farmers in Haryana are now anti-BJP. In Bhiwani and Dadri, all the farmer organizations are campaigning against BJP in their own way. They

are protesting vocally in Sirsa and Fatehabad. Protest is also going on in Bhiwani-Dadri. Ex-servicemen have also come together and announced their support to the Congress. The employees are separately causing harm to BJP. Thus, I do not think that the Modi-Shah duo will be able to do any magic. Everyone has made up their mind for change. The real situation will be known on June 4.” Will ‘Kisan- Jawan- Pahalwan’ resentment darken the BJP’s fate? To provoke the farmers against Congress Party and get sympathy of farmers, especially the ‘Jats’, Union Home Minister, Amit Shah during his visit to Haryana on 20th May, raised the issue of Vice-President Jagdeep Dhankhar. “Congress worked to insult the Vice President and son of a Jat farmer Shri Jagdeep Dhankhar who holds a constitutional post.” Shah stated that the Congress only talks about the poor but does nothing for their welfare. Congress leader Rahul Gandhi talks about farmers but insulted Shri Jagdeep Dankar, a farmer's son who is a representative leader for the Jat farmers. But, whatever PM Modi or Amit Shah claim, the ground reality seems anti-BJP and the political observers conclude that

the ‘Kisan- Jawan- Pahalwan’ issue is playing its major role to abstain the BJP from returning to power a third time. During farmers’ agitation death of more than 700 farmers, women wrestlers’ insult and curbing the employment chances for farmers’, especially the ex-servicemen’s, (as most of them prefer to send their wards in the Indian forces), next generation, the most affected areas of adjoining Rajasthan, Haryana and Punjab are giving a bigger jolt to the BJP. People who watch political games eagerly state that Rajasthan, which gave 25 out of 25 Lok Sabha seats to BJP in 2019 elections, presently seems to be snatching 8 to 10 seats from BJP. Haryana, where BJP won all the 10 seats in 2019, now indicates a reverse trend. In Punjab, where BJP got only 2 seats out of 13 Lok Sabha seats in 2019, now may dash to ground without any share of seats. This is the picture of today, political situations change day to day, what shall be the final figure will come out on June 4. Let us wait for the day! Senior Journalist, Columnist & Political Analyst

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# Salvation is possible Through Buddha's teachings

Dr Lokendra Singh Kot



All the saints who have been there have only one ideology that works for the welfare of mankind. Buddha is one of them. Buddha inspired us to implement knowledge in life with such simplicity and ease that his predecessors had hardly done so. Buddha has been extracting knowledge from life and inspiring us to apply it there ourselves. To understand Buddha, even basic education is not required and his knowledge is so contemporary that it has remained relevant for centuries. Despite being the son of King Siddhodana, his attraction towards spirituality inspired Gautama to become Buddha and he then became a center of inspiration for the world. His quest culminated while meditating under the Bodhi tree, where he ultimately attained

enlightenment. He realized how to be free from suffering and thus attain salvation. **Buddha's teachings** The principles or teachings of the Buddha are solely aimed at liberating humans from suffering and are collectively called the Dharma or Dhamma. It reveals the truth taught by the Buddha and encourages people to follow the Noble Eightfold Path, which will lead them to attain enlightenment. The Buddha valued the virtues: wisdom, kindness, patience, generosity and compassion. The core of Buddhism is made up of the teachings of Buddha which are: · Three Universal Truths; · Four Noble Truths; And Eightfold Path Three universal truths As the Buddha preached, there are three universal truths: · Nothing is lost in the universe: All things in the universe exist in a cycle. Matter is converted into energy, which is converted back into matter. A plant grows from soil. A dead leaf decomposes in the soil. Man is born from man, from whom man is born

again. Thus, nothing is lost, and the universe returns whatever has been taken. · Everything changes: Nothing is permanent in this world. Life is always changing, continuously flowing like a river. Life never ends; It evolves, just as humans evolved from their predecessors. Our ideal form keeps changing. Law of cause and effect: Buddha believed in karma based on the law of cause and effect. He thought that whatever a man sows, he reaps. Man's position in this life and the next depends on his deeds and he has to suffer the consequences of his deeds. Neither sacrifice nor any prayer to God can change a person's destiny. Good deeds give good results; Bad deeds have bad consequences. Four noble truths Buddha preached the Four Noble Truths: · The truth of suffering (dukkha): All human beings suffer in some way or the other in life. At the time of birth, we suffer, similarly we also suffer in old age, illness and death. Being separated from a loved one is suffering; Failure and struggle lead to conflict. Suffering is inevitable in this life. · The Truth about the

Cause of Suffering (Samudaya): The Buddha links the cause of suffering to desires and attachments. The illusion of worldly passion and craving for sensual pleasures leads to suffering. · The truth of the end of suffering (nirodha): It is possible to stop suffering and attain enlightenment. To end suffering, the mind must overcome the desire that lies at the root of all worldly illusions to achieve complete liberation and detachment. · The truth of the path that frees us from suffering (magga): The Buddha described the Noble Eightfold Path as steps to attain enlightenment. Eightfold noble path Buddha emphasized the development of wisdom, moral character and concentration. After his enlightenment, the Buddha, in his first sermon, established the Eightfold Noble Path to liberate the individual from suffering. they are: · Right Understanding/ Samma Dithi: This refers to the true perception of the Four Noble Truths. · Right Thought/ Samma Sankappa: One must be able to distinguish

between right and wrong intentions. Clarity in thinking helps in building good character. · Right Speech/ Samma Vacha: One should always speak kindly and consciously, respecting and trusting others. · Right Action/ Samma Kammantha: This includes refraining from hurting others, criticizing others and behaving well. One's actions should not hurt or cause distress to others in any way. · Right Livelihood/ Samma Ajiva: The Buddha advised not to earn one's livelihood by causing harm to others or seek happiness by making others unhappy. One's way of earning one's livelihood should not become a cause of suffering for others. · Right Effort/ Samma Vayama: This means cultivating good habits for oneself. Bad habits should be abandoned and good habits should be adopted and practiced. · Right Mindfulness/ Samma Sati: This refers to one's attention to self, body, attitude and emotions. Self-awareness is needed to eliminate hatred, craving and ignorance. · Right Concentration/ Sama Samadhi: To achieve higher levels of

consciousness, true concentration is required to develop an understanding of impermanence and impermanence. If one follows the Eightfold Noble Path, one can attain Nirvana, the state of omniscient clear awareness, free from desire and suffering, liberation from the cycle of birth and rebirth, in which there is only peace and bliss. Five precepts The Buddha also gave five recommendations for examining one's behavior (The 5 Teachings of the Buddha). These recommendations, collectively called the Pancha Shilas, · Stay away from taking life or any kind of violence. Non-violence or non-violence should be the main principle of morality. · One should avoid taking what is not given; do not steal. · Restrain yourself from abusing the senses, do not indulge in sensual pleasures. · Do not lie about others or use foul language. · Avoid consumption of any intoxicating drinks and drugs, as it overpowers the mind and prevents the person from

thinking clearly and seeing reality. Belief in knowledge gained from life experience Buddha always used to extract knowledge from his daily life and present it to everyone. Once Mahatma Buddha was visiting a village with some of his disciples. There were no vehicles in those days, so people used to travel miles on foot. It was quite late wandering around the village like this. Buddha ji was very thirsty. He ordered one of his disciples to bring water from the village. When the disciple went inside the village, he saw that there was a river where many people were washing clothes, some people were taking bath due to which the water of the river looked quite dirty. The disciple felt that it would not be right for Guru ji to carry such dirty water. Thinking this he came back. Mahatma Buddha was very thirsty. So he again sent another disciple to bring water. After some time the disciple returned and brought water. Mahatma Buddha asked the disciple that the river water was dirty then how did you bring clean water.

The disciple said, Lord, the river water there was really dirty but after the people left, I waited for some time and after some time the mud settled down and clean water came up. Buddha was very happy to hear this and taught the rest of the disciples also that this life of ours is like water. As long as our deeds are good, everything is pure, but sometimes sorrows and problems also come in life due to which the water of life seems dirty. Some people, like the first disciple, get scared after seeing evil and turn back after seeing trouble. They are never able to move ahead in life, on the other hand, some people who are patient do not get disturbed and after some time, problems like dirt and sorrows disappear on their own. The moral of this story is that problems and evil can only muddy the waters of life for some time but if you exercise patience then the evil itself will leave you after some time.

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## BJP's Suwendu Adhikari Accuses Trinamool MP Of Taking Costly Gifts. He Denies

**Kolkata(KCN):** BJP leader Suwendu Adhikari on Thursday accused Dev, the sitting Ghatal MP who is seeking re-election, of taking money from a relative of a cattle smuggling accused and accepting expensive gifts such as a mobile phone and a watch.

Dev, however, denied these allegations, stating that he had only taken a loan from a firm for his film production in 2022, which he has since repaid, and denied receiving any gifts from third parties.

Under the headline 'Dever Kirti' (deeds of Dada), Mr Adhikari posted on X purported images of a diary page with jottings where the word 'Dev' appeared alongside notations for a mobile phone and a watch, with prices quoted. Another image purportedly showed ₹50 lakh being paid in two installments of ₹25 lakh each by a private firm to a production house on March 31, 2022.

Dev refuted the accusations and told reporters, "As a



producer and actor, whatever money I had taken from anyone has been returned. I have handed over all relevant documents to the Enforcement Directorate (ED), which interrogated me for over seven hours on two occasions and found no irregularities." Dev also shared images on social media showing his production company returning the ₹50 lakh loan taken for making a film.

The Tollywood superstar-turned-three-time MP addressed Mr Adhikari on social media, saying, "Suwendu da, we understand you are dreaming of becoming the CM one day. But such cheap allegations will reduce you to the level of a

councillor from a leader of opposition stature." Dev questioned whether Hiran Chatterjee, the BJP candidate and his industry colleague, had also received money from the same person Adhikari mentioned in his social media posts. "If Suwendu Adhikari has obtained any copy of my legal transactions, how did he get that? I had handed over all my documents to the ED during questioning, and they found no illegalities. This implies that a BJP leader has been given confidential documents by the central agencies," he added.

Dev remarked that 95 per cent of members of the Bengali film industry have had financial

transactions with such financiers for ages, but the ED could not find any illegalities in his case.

On his X handle, he shared images of an event financed by the same person, where Hiran, along with several other Bengali film personalities, was slated to be present.

"Is he (Hiran) linked with any cattle smuggling accused in that case? My best wishes for both of them (Adhikari and Hiran) for everything. But please don't consider my politeness as my weakness," he said in another post in Bengali on X.

Hiran Chatterjee responded, saying, "Dev himself is now admitting he received the amount from one cattle smuggling-tainted person. He had earlier claimed he did not, and if there is any shred of evidence that he took money from anyone, he would quit the film industry. Will he do that now?"

## AAP Won't Be Finished Even If I Am Hanged: Arvind Kejriwal

**New Delhi(KCN):** Delhi Chief Minister Arvind Kejriwal, whose interim bail ends on June 1, said he felt no "tension or anxiety" over going back to Tihar Jail and that he considered incarceration a part of his "struggle" to save the country.

Mr Kejriwal, arrested by the Enforcement Directorate (ED) in a money laundering case linked to the alleged excise policy scam, was granted interim bail by the Supreme Court on May 10 to campaign for the ongoing Lok Sabha polls.

Speaking to the news agency PTI, the Delhi Chief Minister said he read the Gita twice in Tihar jail during his one-month stay there before getting the bail, and claimed it changed his outlook.

He said what gave him the strength to tolerate his stay at Tihar was the tales of freedom fighters who spent years of incarceration without any hope and he consoled himself by thinking he would be out in a few months.

"I have no tension or anxiety. I will go back if I have to... I consider it a part of my struggle to save the country," he said when



asked about being sent back to Tihar.

Recalling his previous stay in jail, Mr Kejriwal said he read three to four books, including the Gita, the 'Ramayana', and books about India's political history.

He also alleged that in Tihar, he was under round-the-clock surveillance through CCTV cameras in his cell monitored by 13 jail officials and the PMO.

"Just imagine every movement of yours being watched 24 hours. It will make life difficult. There was no moment for me to be relaxed," he said.

He further claimed that the prison guards told him that officials asked him if he was weeping or depressed.

On electoral bonds, the AAP convenor said that if the INDIA bloc comes to power, a probe will be

ordered into the "biggest scam" of the independent India.

"It's a bundle of thousands of scams. Almost every donation the BJP received is in return for some favour. It's quid pro quo - the donors got some tender or work. It's also alleged that donors got bail," he charged.

The AAP chief, whose party faced flak from the BJP which accused it of not being able to check the Khalistani elements in Punjab and receiving foreign funds, said the charges were "laughable".

"The Prime Minister, three days before the Punjab Assembly polls in February 2022, at a rally in Abohar said that Kejriwal wants to break the country to form Khalistan and become its Prime Minister. Is it believable?" he

questioned.

He said that the alleged liquor scam was like the Khalistan charge. "I laughed at all these." He asserted that AAP will not be finished even if he was hanged.

"I say hang Kejriwal if you think the Aam Aadmi Party will be finished by hanging (me). AAP is not a party, it's a thought. One Kejriwal dies, hundreds more will be born," he said. On the question of AAP being named as an accused in the excise policy scam being probed by the ED, Mr Kejriwal claimed all other opposition parties will be named as accused in different cases soon and their accounts will be frozen.

"All will have to come together to save the country. Party is not important, the country has to be saved," he said on the survival of AAP after he is sent back to jail.

Replying to a question on AAP's alliance with the Congress for the Lok Sabha polls in Delhi, he said that his party will do anything to save the country.

## 136th ANNIVERSARY OF THE SHIPWRECK WHICH GOT THE RAILWAYS TO ODISHA INTACH APPEALS FOR SUITABLE MEMORIAL AT CHANDBALI PORT FOR THE 762 DEAD

**Bhubaneswar (Anil Dhir) :** Pilgrimage to Puri had started from the 13th century onwards. The Jagannath temple attracted high caste pilgrims from North India and Bengal; they trickled in small numbers after a long and arduous journey. It was only from the 16th century onwards that the flow of pilgrims increased. Many affluent peasants, mostly from Bengal, came in large numbers. However, organised and regular mass pilgrimage was only seen after the British annexation of coastal Odisha in 1803 C.E. The annual Rath Yatra, when the trinity came out of the temple, attracted pilgrims from the lower castes, who could otherwise not have darshan of the gods as they were not allowed to enter the temple.

In the early 19th century, English Christian missionaries spread misleading rumours about pilgrims who threw themselves under the massive wheels of the chariots. The cult of Jagannath was painted in dark colours with reports of self-immolations, human sacrifice and other barbaric practices. Numerous travel accounts of extreme practices were published and the word "Juggernaut" was coined to denote a destructive force and sheer barbarity. The word soon acquired a general meaning of an unrelenting force of destruction, a Moloch. The reconstruction of the old road from Kolkata to Puri commenced in 1809 after a rich Bengali

Zamindar had made a very substantial donation to the Bengal government. The Jagannath Sadak provided the British not merely with a comparatively cheap line of communication between Kolkata and their administrative headquarters in Odisha, but also fetched good revenues from the taxation of pilgrims.

The British administrators considered the Jagannath pilgrimage to be among the most dangerous destinations of travel in India. The Rath Yatra coincided with the onset of the monsoons, the rains, slush and insanitary conditions resulted in epidemics. Odisha acquired the reputation of being the 'home of cholera' with the maximum incidence of the dreaded disease occurring in the temple town of Puri. There were innumerable reports of large numbers of people dying from cholera, dysentery and general exhaustion on the 'Jagannath Sadak', the main pilgrim route from Bengal. In 1882, W.W.Hunter estimated that the annual death toll of the Jagannath pilgrimage was more than ten thousand. The pilgrimage to Puri epitomized India's lack of civilization in the eyes of her British rulers on various counts.

Plans about the construction of a railway network in Odisha were mooted as early as the 1860's when two early British

promoters of railway construction in India, Marshman and Stephenson, had taken the assurance of the Dharma Sabha of Calcutta that a pilgrim might ride in a train without losing his caste and the merit of his pilgrimage.

In 1866, the colonial administration had disregarded a 'Petition of the Inhabitants of Cuttack' for the construction of a light railway line between Howrah and Puri for the benefit of Jagannath pilgrims. The Famine Commission recommendations harped on the lack of adequate communications and laying of railway was mentioned. Further appeals were made in 1874 and 1878 which too had been turned down. In 1881, Baikuntha Nath De, an influential Zamindar, founded the 'Balasore Railway Committee', which sent a carefully prepared memorandum to the government of Bengal asking for the construction of a direct rail link between Calcutta and Madras through the Orissa coastal plains and of a branch line to Puri.

This railway, they argued, would not only provide a faster and safer means of transport for the Jagannath pilgrims, but would also reduce the incidence of cholera epidemics by improving the pilgrims' lot and could, furthermore, serve as a famine protection line. The large number of pilgrims travelling to Puri,



which they estimated to be between five and six hundred thousand annually, would guarantee handsome profits to investors. These appeals were repeated time and again in Oriya and Bengali newspapers from the 1880 onwards.

A few foreign companies took advantage of the growing demand and started steamer services between Kolkata and Chandbali. Steamships which could take on a thousand pilgrims were operated and the services advertised in the papers. The passage fare was expensive and mostly the rich took the steamers. They would send the children and womenfolk on the steamers and they themselves took the Jagannath Sadak. The five to six day sea journey would bring the pilgrims to Chandbali from where they would make their way to Cuttack by palanquins or bullock carts. McLinn and Company ran a regular service on

their steamship 'Sir John Lawrence' from Calcutta to Chandbali. On the 25th of May 1887, the ship sailed from Kolkata for Chandbali with 732 passengers, mostly women and a crew of 30 comprising of 6 Englishmen. Nothing was known of the ship for two days, until another ship reported wreckage and dead bodies floating off the coast. The ship had sunk with its entire passengers just a few hours after it had steamed off. The Times of India of June 4 1887 furnishes the following reports regarding an extraordinarily disastrous cyclone which passed over the Bay of Bengal at the end of May 1887- "The cyclone in the Bay of Bengal seems to have been of much greater severity than was realised on this side, several of the lightships in the Hooghly are missing. The Sir John Lawrence, with 762 souls on board, is supposed to have become a total loss. Luggage bearing her captain's name has been washed ashore, and the bodies of many women

have been noticed. The bulk of her passengers were women on pilgrimage to Pooree, and the wreck of the Sir John Lawrence, so far as loss of life goes, is one of the most terrible wrecks on record. It will be some time before full details of the cyclone come to hand, though several reports have already been received." Most of the women who perished were from well-to-do Kolkata bhadralok families. The few Englishwomen who drowned were wives of high officials. The Report of the Marine Court of Inquiry to the Government of Bengal found that the Sir John Lawrence carrying more than her proper complement of passengers and that the tragedy occurred due to the shipmaster's irresponsible navigation. This led to an uproar and the demand for the railways to Puri became more strident.

The widely distributed Bengali newspapers took the lead in the campaign and that the

tone became more insistent. The Bangabasi wrote: 'Railway lines have been constructed in all directions for the benefit of Europeans and of their trade. The interests of natives of India have been sacrificed to the interests of Europeans. A railway line to Puri will be hailed with delight by 16 crores of Hindus, for it will lessen the dangers and difficulties, and put an end to their sorrows and fears.'

The Dainik too argued on similar lines: 'It is the fault of Government that a railway to Puri has not yet been opened. The Darjeeling Railway has been constructed for the convenience of hill-going Europeans; railways have been constructed in Assam for the benefit of tea-planters; and arrangements are in progress for constructing railways to the different sanatoriums of the different Governments. But no railway has yet been constructed for the safety of the hundreds of thousands of Hindu pilgrims to Puri. In vain have the people of Orissa and the whole Hindu Community of 16 crores of people repeatedly prayed for a railway to Puri'.

The public pressure had its effect and the survey for the 'East Coast Railway' from Calcutta to Cuttack, with a branch line to Puri, was finally sanctioned. The Line opened in 1899, but the full journey was possible only from 1900

when the bridges over the major rivers of Odisha had been completed.

The only testimonial of this shipwreck is a small marble plaque put up by a group of English women in the Chotulal Ghat at Kolkata in memory of the unfortunate pilgrims who lost their lives at sea. The marble tablet on which is faintly written: "This stone is dedicated by a few English-women to the memory of those pilgrims, mostly women, who perished with 'Sir John Lawrence' in the cyclone of 25th May 1887." There is another plaque is in Bengali, which is personal in nature and is dedicated to one Shyamcharan Dutta Chowdhury and his wife Nagendra Nandani, who had died in the ill-fated ship. The plaque was set up by their son on the walls of their residence on the day of their shradha. The almost obliterated plaque can be seen to this day on the western end of the Dutta Para Lane in Nimtala area. Although it is believed that no one survived the shipwreck, there are reports that a few made it ashore. Intach had earlier written to the Government of Odisha to erect a plaque or memorial at Chandbali for the victims of this shipwreck. It was certainly one of the most tragic shipwrecks with the greatest loss of lives off the Odisha coast. Unfortunately very little is known or has been written about this tragedy.



# Tuberose farmers lament lack of marketing facilities

**Berhampur(KCN):** Cultivation of tuberose (Rajanigandha) flowers is a lucrative business. If marketed properly, it is a source of substantial earnings for farmers. However, lack of marketing facilities is hurting tuberose farmers in Ganjam district, locals informed Wednesday. The effort and energy spent in producing tuberose flowers pales in comparison to the meagre amounts earned, they added. Rajanigandha flowers are mainly cultivated in Digapahandi and Hinjilicut blocks of Ganjam district. More than 100 acres of land are used for the production of Rajanigandha flowers,

officials of the district Horticulture department informed. Farmers, however, alleged that as the state government has not put up a proper marketing system in place, they have to incur heavy losses. Ralabha village under Hinjilicut block is famous for its Rajanigandha cultivation. In fact, the place has been nicknamed 'Rajanigandha village'. Rajanigandha cultivation in the village started after the 1999 Super Cyclone. A resident of the village Jhumar Dalai, along with some young farmers started tuberose cultivation. Now more than 107 families of the village are engaged in the cultivation of Rajanigandha. Each of the



families cultivates tuberose on lands measuring 0.4 acre to one acre. The daily production

ranges from 300-400kgs. Flowers are supplied to florists in this city, Aska, Sorada, Bhanjanagar, Bhubaneswar,

Bhawanipatna, Puri and Nabarangpur. "Tuberose

flowers grown in Ralabha are in great demand in various parts of the state. The total income for all the families can be well over rupees one crore annually if the product is marketed properly," Kalu Charan Dalai, a young farmer informed. The 'Krishi Vigyan Kendra' here is encouraging farmers of Ralabha village to take up cultivation of the 'Prajwal' variety of tuberose. It is a better product, officials said. "The new variety has two petals and hence weighs more. It is a better product for making garlands," opined chief and senior scientist of 'Krishi Vigyan Kendra', Dr Sujit Kumar Nath.

Scientists are also training the Rajanigandha farmers of Ralabha village by regularly organising discussion sessions. Farmers are attending workshops on soil testing, use of organic manures, benefits of using bio-fertilisers and phospho bacteria on their farmlands for better yields. Farmers have also welcomed this move, officials informed. Rajanigandha farmers meanwhile informed that they get an annual financial assistance of Rs 6,000 for cultivation of tuberose on 1.5 acres of land. They use the money to buy shoots and fertilisers, farmers said.

However, they reiterated that the absence of a proper marketing system is hurting them badly. They also lamented the lack of storage facilities. Farmers added that the government should address these issues. When contacted, assistant director Subhash Chandra Panda of the district Horticulture department informed that recently the state government has fixed the selling price at Rs 50 per kilogram for Rajanigandha farmers. He said that the collector of Ganjam has welcomed the move and will soon implement the rate in the district.

## Elephant census begins in Nayagarh, Boudh

**Boudh(KCN):** Elephant census started Wednesday across all ranges under the Nayagarh Mahanadi Wildlife and Boudh forest divisions. Officials are using different types of equipment including camera traps in all the elephant corridors in these two divisions for the census. According to available information, 36 platforms (machans) have been constructed in the four ranges under the Nayagarh Mahanadi Wildlife Division. The ranges are Kushang, Chhamundia, Banigochha (East), and Banigochha (West). Twenty-two platforms have been constructed in



Kushang and Chhamundia ranges while 14 each have come up in Banigochha east and west ranges. Three Forest department personnel have been deployed in each of the platforms, Mahanadi division range officer

Sansar Borgia informed. Similarly, 45 platforms have been constructed across two ranges under the Boudh forest division. These include 18 platforms in Madhapur range and 27 in Purunakatak range. A total of 145 Forest

department staff has been tasked to carry out the census. Officials said that most of the platforms have been constructed close to water bodies as the animals usually visit those regularly and it will be easy to do the headcount.

## Illegal parking turns into nightmare for commuters



**Joda(KCN):** Illegal parking of trucks and other heavy vehicles on Rimuli bypass on National Highway-520 in Keonjhar district has turned into a nightmare for other commuters. It has led to a spate of road mishaps in the recent past. Vehicles are parked illegally on a 30-kilometre stretch from Rimuli to Rugudi leaving very little space for smaller vehicles to move. However, the district administration or the NHAI is yet to take any preventive measures, locals alleged. The gruesome death of six

persons including five members of a family in a road mishap on Rimuli bypass May 15 is a case in this point. The mishap occurred after the car they were travelling in got sandwiched between two trucks on NH-520. Locals alleged that illegal parking of trucks was the main reason behind the accident. They pointed out that their lives are in danger because of this malady. They also stated that the deplorable road conditions are another primary reason behind the frequent mishaps. Despite the construction of a new parking bay at

Angulia on the highway, illegal parking continues unabated. The parking bay was completed more than two years back, but since then has remained non-operational. Had it opened for public use, parking issues would have been solved to a great extent, locals said. The absence of street lights, CCTV cameras and speed-breakers are other reasons why the stretch has turned into a death trap, observed resident Prasanna Kumar Behera. Others including Tankadhar Patra and Madhav Chandra

Behera pointed out that the apathy of the NHAI in solving the issues is creating confusion. The three alleged that NHAI collects tolls from commuters who travel from Keonjhar to Barbil at two counters but does nothing to improve the condition of the road or prevent illegal parking. They along with a few others threatened long-term agitation if the NHAI does not take preventive measures to stop illegal parking and improve the deplorable road conditions found at various stretches of NH-520.



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# AMRI is now Manipal Hospitals Transitionsto Manipal Identity in Bhubaneswar



**Bhubaneswar:**Manipal Hospitals, the second-largest hospital chain in India, announces the successful brand integration of 400 bedded AMRI unit in Bhubaneswar, which was acquired in September 2023. Starting from the 22nd of May, the service excellence at these facilities will be aligned with Manipal

Hospitals’ standards, marking a significant milestone in healthcare transformation in East India. Mr. Partha Das, Chief People Officer of Manipal Hospitals, expressed enthusiasm for this strategic integration, stating, “This integration represents a pivotal stride toward our

objective to enhance healthcare delivery across East India. By seamlessly blending the expertise of Manipal Hospitals with the rich legacy of AMRI, we are not only committed to providing exceptional care to our patients but also fostering a culture of collaboration and excellence among our employees. This integration also signifies

the harmonization of employee policies, ensuring a unified and supportive environment across all facilities. We are proud to extend our commitment to quality care and employee well-being throughout theregion.” Dr Sudhakar Kantipudi, Cluster Director, Bhubaneswar & Vijayawada, said “I am delighted to witness the integration of AMRI unit into Manipal Hospitals, heralding a new era of healthcare excellence in Bhubaneswar. This strategic move underscores our unwavering commitment to revolutionize the healthcare landscape in

Odisha, ensuring that our patients receive world-class treatment without the need to travel far.” Dr. S a k t i m a y a Mohapatra, Hospital Director, Bhubaneswar, emphasized the significance of this move, saying, “The integration of AMRI with Manipal Hospitals underscores our commitment to expanding access to high-quality healthcare across the country. With Manipal's renowned service excellence now at the forefront, we are poised to set new benchmarks in patient care and satisfaction, furthering our mission of delivering compassionate and advanced healthcare solutions to the communities we serve.” Following last week's successful mega brand integration launch event in Kolkata, the transition in Bhubaneswar mirrors the seamless shift of all three AMRI units (Dhakuria, Salt Lake, and Mukundapur) to Manipal Hospitals. This transition reinforces Manipal's steadfast dedication to excellence throughout the eastern region.

# Nuvoco successfully completes AFR Project at itsRisda 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, 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. Commending 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.



**New Delhi:** In the parlance of chess, an exchange refers to a move that trades one piece for another, with 'winning the exchange' specifically meaning trading a Rook for a minor piece, normally a Knight or a Bishop. Last year, there was a trade between Lucknow Super Giants and Rajasthan Royals involving Devdutt Padikkal and Avesh Khan and a chess analogy and its compulsively metaphorical parallels are temptingly inescapable here. Padikkal scored 38 runs in seven games, while Avesh Khan scalped 16 batters in 15 matches, including bowling a couple of memorable final overs. It is up to one's individual choice to decide who represents the Rook and who stands for the Bishop or Knight. There, however, is no doubt about who has won this representational

exchange: the Lucknow Super Giants have been eliminated, while the Rajasthan Royals are still in the race for the IPL trophy.

"The trade was not in my control but I have benefited from it. Since last year, there have been a few technical changes to my action. I have worked with my coaches and then played the Deodhar and Duleep Trophy. I could even make a comeback into the Indian team. I then realised how to keep the body fresh, when to put in effort and how much effort can be put in," Avesh said after a splendid bowling performance against Royal Challengers Bengaluru in the IPL Eliminator on Wednesday (May 22) night.

Avesh (27) has transformed as a bowler since the trade. He has also simplified his approach to the game -

just eat, sleep and bowl. While he could manage only eight wickets in nine games last year, this year he could double his returns. And what's more, he is not done yet. "Last year when I played for LSG, I had come into the IPL from playing 10 Ranji Trophy games in which I bowled about 320 overs. The body was not responding properly. I was putting in effort but it was not working. As a bowler, you realise this. The IPL demands a lot of effort even though it is a four-over or a 20-over contest. Mental and physical fatigue will be strikingly visible," he said. He did not play Ranji Trophy this season. Since last year, Avesh has added a few yards to his pace and developed variations. He has what is generally called a delayed action, where there is a lag. The body gets slightly ahead of the release point, which aids



certain types of deliveries, particularly yorkers. He has also developed a good slow bouncer. "This makes him a good package to bowl at the death," says a bowling expert who has worked with him since he joined the Royals. "It's the bowling upfront as well as middle that he struggles with because of the angle

from which he bowls which is very wide of the crease. This restricts him from bowling a good line (and length) in a very narrow corridor. "The six that Rajat Patidar hit him (in Wednesday's game) over fine leg is an example -- it either becomes a free hit down leg side for the right hander or he

compensates and gives room outside off, because of the angle from which he delivers it. This is only while trying to bowl a normal line and length. This is why it's safer for him to go fuller (or slower bouncer), and hence, by default he is a better bowler at the death," says the Royals' technical expert, deconstructing Avesh's bowling. Avesh used to be a sitting duck in the death overs. KS Bharat once famously smashed him for a last ball six to guide RCB to a thrilling win in the 2021 season against Delhi Capitals. He has come a long way since. In the season's first game, against LSG, Avesh conceded only six runs in the last over, when the Lucknow side were chasing 27. He was bowling to Nicholas Pooran and Krunal Pandya, both hard-hitting batters. In the Royals' second game of the

season, against DC, he defended 16 runs conceding just four singles, to Tristan Stubbs and Axar Patel, again two hard-hitting batters, in the final over. In the high-scoring game against Kolkata Knight Riders, which the Royals won chasing 224, he returned figures of two for 35. "I try to give my 100 per cent, stay relaxed and bowl the delivery that I would have thought about at the top of my mark. In the death overs, I always try to bowl a wide yorker/ yorker or a slow bouncer. I have got good results from these deliveries and I don't change much," Avesh said of his approach in the death overs.

At the Narendra Modi Stadium on Wednesday night, he was very effective in his later overs. He claimed a wicket and conceded only three runs after being hit for a six off the first ball

of the 15th over. In the team's 19th over, he picked two wickets and gave away only five runs. In the end, that may have seriously tilted the match in the Royals' favour as RCB ended up with an under-par total of 172 for eight. Ten or 15 runs more and Royals, who won a thrilling finish, might have struggled in their chase. "We talk about small things in the team meetings. We bowled well in the final two overs (he conceded only five runs in the 19th over and Sandeep Sharma gave 13 runs) and it made a huge difference. Our target was that much smaller and they realised that their total (172 for eight) was under par. They could have easily raced away to 180-185. We discuss these points. We try to use the dimensions of the ground and exploit the weaknesses of the batsmen," Avesh said of their strategies.

# Dassanayake ousted as Canada coach on eve of World Cup



**New Delhi:** Just days before Canada are due to begin their T20 World Cup campaign, head coach Pubudu Dassanayake has been dismissed from his role as head coach, which he had held for the past two years. A former Sri Lanka and Canada international, Dassanayake returned for a second stint as coach of Canada in July of 2022, having previously coached Nepal (twice), and the United States. Since taking on the role again, Dassanayake successfully took Canada through the Americas T20 Regional Final to qualify for this coming T20 World Cup,

as well as seeing them reclaim ODI status at the 2023 World Cup Qualifier Playoff. Canada also gained promotion from the CWC Challenge League to CWC League 2, where they currently sit unbeaten at the top of the table. Yet rumours of unrest in the Canadian camp had been swirling for some time, accompanied by some surprising selection decisions being made after a new three-member selection panel, excluding the head coach, was appointed last month following fractious Cricket Canada board elections. The subsequent omission of Nikhil Dutta especially raised eyebrows, as did

the decision to drop Jeremy Gordon. Dassanayeke was verbally informed on Wednesday morning (May 22) by newly-elected Cricket Canada vice president Gurdeep Klair that his services would no longer be required following the completion of the ongoing preparatory matches in St Kitts, the last of which was played today. Cricbuzz understands that a letter expressing dissatisfaction with Dassanayeke had been circulated amongst the players, and though several of the squad declined to put their names to it, Cricket Canada has seemingly held there to be sufficient grounds for dismissal. While a board meeting is expected to be held this evening where the question will likely be raised, there is little expectation of a reversal. No replacement for Dassanayeke has yet been named. Canada are set to play the opening match of the T20 World Cup against hosts the USA at Dallas on June 1.

# Resilient Gurbaz juggles duties amidst difficult time



**New Delhi:** Rahmanullah Gurbaz had a family emergency and had to rush back home from the IPL duties. He is back, after attending to his ailing mother. He now says Kolkata Knight Riders also is a family and he wants to win the trophy for the franchise. "My mother is still recovering in the hospital (back home). I speak to her every day. But I knew my KKR family needed me here. So, I came back from Afghanistan and I am happy to be here. My mother is happy for me, too," the Afghanistan opener said after the Knight Riders beat SunRisers Hyderabad in the Qualifier 1 on Tuesday. Motera on Tuesday night.

Gurbaz (22) returned to India after it was known that KKR's regular opener, Phil Salt, had to go home for international duties. Tuesday's game was his first of the season although he would

have featured in the Guwahati game on May 19, against Rajasthan Royals, if the match had not been washed out. "If you have a management like the KKR family, you really don't need to worry about anything. Because GG (Gautam Gambhir) Sir is there, Shah Rukh (Khan) Sir is there, the head coach (Chandrakant Pandit) is there. It's like a family

I didn't play for a long time, but I came and featured in the semifinal (playoff match), so there was bound to be a lot of pressure, but they took away all the pressure from me and asked me to just go out there and enjoy," Gurbaz said.

He recalled the turn of events when he got an SoS from the KKR management. "My mom is still sick. I went there and then got a call from

here once Phil Salt was leaving. They (the KKR management) called me and they messaged me saying 'Gurubaz, we need you and what is your feedback for us? I said yes, I will come.' My mom is still in the hospital and I'm always talking to her. But yeah, I think this is also my family. I should manage both mom and my KKR family."

"For the last six, seven years Afghanistan has been doing great. I think everyone knows that. So that is the mindset. Our mindset is not to play league cricket. Our mindset is always to do something better for our country and the offers from the leagues will come to you."

## Can RCB be really proud of their IPL 2024 magical run after another playoff heartbreak?

**New Delhi:** It was a heartbreaking end to RCB's miraculous run in the IPL 2024 season. The team that seemed dead and buried at one point in the season after 8 games came back to secure a spot in the IPL 2024 playoffs with a thrilling win over CSK in their final league game in Bengaluru to set up an Eliminator game against RR. The odds were certainly in favour of RCB as RR were seemingly out of form, and they didn't have Jos Buttler, who had given the Bengaluru franchise some sleepless

nights in the past. But the Royals were better than RCB with the ball on the day and edged past them with the bat to secure a 4-wicket win to set up a clash with SRH in Qualifier 2. While defeat is never something sweet, RCB fans would have been proud of their accomplishments this season.

But can the team and the management be really happy with the performance in IPL 2024? Was this run really magical in the end? Let's have a look at some of the reasons why RCB would rue this season in

the end.  
The failure in auction  
The tone for a season is  
always set in the auction.  
KKR went all out to get  
Mitchell Starc, who  
finally repaid the faith  
they put in him during  
Qualifier 1. Pat  
Cummins, someone RCB  
went all out for, has been  
leading SRH from the  
front this season and has  
given them a new identity  
of being entertainers in  
T20 cricket.  
When it came to RCB,  
the route they took was  
surprising. The big-  
money signing, Alzarri  
Joseph, ended up playing  
just 3 games for just 1



wicket while conceding 115 runs. The West Indies vice-captain wasn't backed after that and didn't play at all. It was surprising that RCB didn't go for a top spinner in the auction. It also cost them dearly as it was a department that sent them on a downward

spiral in the first place. This would be something that RCB cannot afford to have next time around. The wicket of Glenn Maxwell against RR summed up his season. The Aussie all-rounder got out for a duck and scored 52 runs in 10

matches at an average of 5.78. He was supposed to be a trusted spinner this season, given they didn't have a big name in the department. He got 6 wickets in 10 matches with an impressive average and economy rate, but more was expected from him. It remains to be seen if he will be one of the names that will be on the chopping block ahead of the mega auction, as his place seems to be taken by Will Jacks and Cameron Green. When you look at the most successful team this season, KKR, you can

see why they made it to the final. The chopping and changing from the side was minimal as they had their combinations sorted. When Nitish Rana went out, they brought in Angkrish Raghuvanshi. An in-form Phil Salt had a Rahmanullah Gurbaz waiting in the wings to replace him. When it came to RCB, changes were constantly made. Mayank Dagar started off as the main spinner and then, despite his good form, was shown the door. Vijaykumar Vyshak was their best bowler in a KKR hammering, but

they decided to drop him the next game. They had two experienced spinners in Karn Sharma and Swapnil Singh in their mix, but they failed to back them.

Green, someone who has been destructive in T20 cricket, coming at No.3, was constantly floated around and came in at No.5 at times. This would hurt RCB when you look at it from the big picture. For more than 10 years, Virat Kohli has been the captain of the RCB ship. Through tricky waves, he was the one guiding the ship to shore with his batting.