

‘Totally unconstitutional’: SC comes down hard on ‘bulldozer justice’, lays down demolition guidelines

unauthorised construction on public land or an order of demolition by a court of law. It said accused and convicts have certain rights and safeguards in light of the Constitution and the criminal law. The top court delivered its verdict on pleas seeking framing of guidelines on demolition of properties in the country.

Odisha govt begins process for return of land acquired for Vedanta university: Minister

High Court on the issue. Questions were also raised in the high court over the repeated change of foundation name and the experience of the foundation regarding the establishment of such a world-class university. The litigants had also challenged the overall process of land acquisition in the high court,” stated the revenue minister. He alleged that the process of acquisition of land by the then-BJD government was flawed and immature. In 2023, the court dismissed the acquisition process and ordered the return of the acquired land of all the displaced persons. It also directed that the government land leased out to Anil Agarwal Foundation would be returned as well. The Anil Agarwal Foundation appealed against the order in the Supreme Court that upheld the high court decision and dismissed the plea of the foundation, the source said.

Those who had received compensation in lieu of the land would return the amount and the revenue department would make the rectification in their land pattas.

After her body was found in a forest area, Malla's team identified the woman after 10 days, using DNA profiling. The accused was later arrested and sentenced to life imprisonment.

Kindo was awarded for solving an unknown murder case in Malkangiri in 2022. His investigation led to the arrest of two persons, both of whom were sentenced to life imprisonment by the local court.

leader, the PM said without naming Alamgiri Alam who is behind bars in a multi-crore money laundering case. The Congress has given a ticket to Alam's wife Nishat Alam from Pakur, a constituency represented by him. Alam, the former Parliamentary Affairs Minister was taken to custody by the ED May 15 in an alleged money laundering case and is under investigation for alleged irregularities and bribery in the state rural development department. The ED had recovered over Rs 32 crore in cash from Alam's domestic help.

Road:-

(Shibangi Dhara), Bandana Sahoo
Likes the bells of the temple
the holy peace of the earth
Everything seems to be despised before it

I may be internally
Before him.

I understands,
Searches,
and look at his in harmony
what a houchist !!

In some variations
I am a non - resident
traveller on his lost
and unsettled lane.

The feet Move slowly
in silence
by the fireplace.

He is not unknown
he is not the last road
still talking about that last road
and the road of the unknown
places.

Jajpur



Quotation of the Day

THERE IS NO LIMIT TO
WHAT WE, AS WOMEN,
CAN ACCOMPLISH.

- MICHELLE OBAMA

Odisha: Top 5 Places to Visit in Winter

As winter's gentle embrace settles over the eastern state of Odisha, a world of hidden wonders awaits the intrepid traveler. Beyond the well-trodden paths of Puri and Konark lie secrets that few have discovered. This winter, embark on a journey to uncover Odisha's five most captivating yet unexplored destinations that promise adventure, tranquility, and memories to last a lifetime.

1. Daringbadi: Odisha's 'Kashmir' Beckons

Nestled in the Kandhamal district, Daringbadi is a hill station that has earned the moniker "Kashmir of Odisha" for its stunning winter landscape. As you ascend into the Eastern Ghats, the air grows crisp, and a blanket of mist shrouds the rolling hills. Local guide Pratap Mohanty shares, "Winter transforms Daringbadi into a magical realm. Sometimes, we're lucky enough to see frost coating the coffee plantations and pine forests. It's a sight that leaves visitors spellbound." What sets Daringbadi apart is not just its natural beauty but also the rich tribal culture of the region. Winter is the perfect time to explore the surrounding Kutia Kondh villages, where ancient traditions still thrive. Adventure enthusiasts can trek through the dense forests, while nature lovers can bask in the serenity of Midubanda Waterfall, its waters crystalline in the winter chill. Don't miss the opportunity to camp under the stars, where the lack of light pollution offers a celestial spectacle rarely seen in more populated areas.

2. Udayagiri and Khandagiri Caves: A Journey Through Time

While the caves themselves are not unknown, their true

beauty and historical significance often go unappreciated. Winter provides the ideal climate to explore these ancient Jain monuments without the oppressive heat that typically deters deeper exploration. Dr. Ananya Das, a historian specializing in Odishan art, explains, "The Udayagiri and Khandagiri Caves are a treasure trove of early Indian art. The winter light accentuates the intricate carvings, revealing details that are often missed. It's like reading a 2000-year-old picture book carved in stone." The caves, dating back to the 1st century BCE, offer a unique blend of natural beauty and historical intrigue. As you climb the hill, each cave reveals a new facet of ancient Jain life and philosophy. The panoramic view of Bhubaneswar from the summit is particularly breathtaking on clear winter days. For a truly immersive experience, time your visit with the Udayagiri Festival of Archery, typically held in late winter. This event showcases traditional archery skills passed down through generations, set against the backdrop of these ancient caves.

3. Satkosia Gorge: A Wildlife Haven in Winter

Satkosia Gorge, where the Mahanadi River cuts through the Eastern Ghats, is a biodiversity hotspot that comes alive

in winter. The Satkosia Tiger Reserve, encompassing this region, offers a unique ecosystem that's best explored during the cooler months. Wildlife biologist Ravi Kumar notes, "Winter in Satkosia is spectacular. The reduced water levels in the gorge expose sandy beaches where gharials bask. The deciduous forests, having shed their leaves, make wildlife spotting much easier." Take a boat ride through the gorge, where the mist rising off the water in the early morning creates an almost ethereal atmosphere. Lucky visitors might spot the elusive Indian pangolin or even catch a glimpse of the reserve's famous tigers. For the adventurous, winter camping along the riverbank offers an unparalleled experience. Fall asleep to the sounds of the forest and wake to a chorus of birdsong, with over 300 species of birds calling Satkosia home.

4. Duduma Waterfall: The Roaring Beauty of Koraput

Hidden in the remote Koraput district, Duduma Waterfall is a natural wonder that few outsiders have witnessed. Also known as Matsya Tirtha Falls, this 175-meter cascade is particularly impressive in winter, when the reduced flow allows for closer exploration. Local tribal leader Manisha Sabara shares, "Our people have revered Duduma for

generations. In winter, when the mist rises from the falls, we believe the spirits of the forest are dancing. It's a sacred and beautiful sight." The journey to Duduma is an adventure in itself, with winding roads cutting through lush forests and tribal villages. Winter offers clear skies and comfortable temperatures, ideal for trekking in the surrounding hills or picnicking by the falls. Photography enthusiasts will find endless inspiration, from the play of light on the water to the diverse flora and fauna of the Eastern Ghats. Don't miss the nearby Machhkund hydroelectric project, an impressive feat of engineering set against a backdrop of natural beauty.

5. Chandipur Beach: The Disappearing Sea

Rounding off our list is the mysterious Chandipur Beach, where the sea plays a daily game of hide and seek. While beaches might not be the first thing that comes to mind for winter travel, Chandipur offers a unique experience that's best enjoyed in the cooler months. Marine biologist Dr. Sujata Mishra explains the phenomenon: "Chandipur experiences one of the most extreme tides in the world. During low tide, the sea recedes up to 5 kilometers, revealing a vast expanse of seabed. Winter's clear skies and gentle winds make it the perfect time to explore this temporary

land." As the tide retreats, visitors can walk for kilometers on the seabed, discovering a world usually hidden beneath the waves. Collect seashells, observe tiny red crabs scuttling about, or simply marvel at this natural wonder. The winter months also bring migratory birds to the region, turning the beach into a birdwatcher's paradise. For a truly magical experience, camp on the beach and witness both sunset and sunrise over the Bay of Bengal. Odisha's Hidden Winter Charms These five destinations offer just a glimpse into the unexplored wonders of Odisha in winter. Each place promises not just natural beauty, but a chance to connect with the heart and soul of this diverse state. Odisha Tourism official Deepak Panda concludes, "Odisha in winter is a revelation. These lesser-known destinations showcase our state's incredible diversity. From misty hills to mysterious beaches, ancient caves to roaring waterfalls, there's a hidden gem for every type of traveler." As you plan your winter getaway, consider veering off the beaten path to discover these unexplored treasures of Odisha. Pack your sense of adventure, an open mind, and a warm jacket – Odisha's hidden winter wonderland awaits, ready to surprise and delight at every turn.



The world was stunned when Sartre refused to accept Nobel. And, it was a stunning experience for lovers of literature when Bob Dylan got a Nobel. Let's discuss about two deserving authors who didn't get Nobel Award. In 1900, two of Russia's most prominent literary figures, Leo Tolstoy and Maxim Gorky, were photographed together at Tolstoy's estate, Yasnaya Polyana. The photograph, taken by Tolstoy's wife, Sophia Andreevna Tolstaya, captures a significant moment in Russian literary history. Sophia was not only a devoted partner but also a keen photographer, often documenting her husband's life and interactions with key figures. By 1900, Tolstoy, the celebrated author of War and Peace and Anna Karenina, was already a towering figure in world literature, known for his profound philosophical inquiries and moral writings. Gorky, on the other hand, was a rising star in Russian literature, renowned for his works depicting the struggles of the working class and his involvement in revolutionary movements. At the time of their meeting, Gorky was deeply influenced by Tolstoy's ideas, particularly his humanistic views, and saw him as a moral authority. Yasnaya Polyana, located in Tula Province, was more than just Tolstoy's residence; it served as his intellectual haven and a place where many significant conversations and philosophical debates took place. The meeting between the two writers at this retreat marked an important

moment of literary exchange, symbolizing the passing of the literary torch from the established Tolstoy to the younger, more revolutionary Gorky. The photo not only documents their personal connection but also reflects the intellectual and cultural landscape of Russia at the turn of the 20th century. But, Leo Tolstoy didn't get a Nobel. That's the saddest part of History. In 1926, Agatha Christie was on the brink of despair. At thirty-five, she was grappling with the profound grief of losing her beloved mother, an emotional blow that was soon compounded by the shattering revelation that her husband, Archie Christie, was in love with another woman and sought a divorce. The double shock plunged Agatha into a deep depression, leaving her feeling as if the best of life had slipped away. The only thing that kept her from succumbing to her darkest thoughts was her seven-year-old daughter, Rosalind, whose presence was a beacon of hope. Agatha Miller had been a prodigious talent from an early age. Born into an affluent English family in 1890, she taught herself to read by the age of four, a sign of the extraordinary future that awaited her. At twenty-two, she met and married Archie Christie, a dashing pilot, on Christmas Eve 1914. Their marriage endured the trials of World War I, and they eventually settled in London, where their daughter Rosalind was born in 1919. By the time her marriage began to unravel, Agatha had already made a name for herself with five successful detective novels, though she could hardly have predicted the immense acclaim that lay ahead. As she slowly emerged from the shadow of her failed marriage, Agatha found solace in her writing and sought new

experiences to rekindle her spirit. A trip on the Orient Express lifted her mood, but it was an invitation to an archaeological dig in Iraq in 1930 that would alter her life forever. There, she met Max Mallowan, a distinguished archaeologist thirteen years her junior. Their love blossomed, and they married later that year. This new chapter marked the beginning of a joyous and enduring partnership that lasted until Agatha's passing. The year 1926, which once seemed like the end of Agatha Christie's world, proved to be just the beginning. In the decades that followed, she would go on to achieve unprecedented success. Her novels captivated readers worldwide, making her the best-loved author on earth with over 70 best-sellers and the creator of the longest-running play in history. Her second marriage to Max Mallowan was a source of great happiness, and both received honors for their contributions to their respective fields—Max was knighted in 1968, and Agatha was made a Dame of the British Empire in 1971. Agatha Mary Clarissa Christie Mallowan passed away on January 12, 1976, at the age of 85. With more than two billion copies sold, she stands as the best-selling novelist in history, her legacy a testament to a life redefined by resilience and literary brilliance. She also didn't get a Nobel! But, a person like Winston Churchill got it. Visiting Professor of Development Communication Former Director, I & PR and Culture, North Eastern Council Ministry of DoNER, Govt. of India Former Director, Book Publishing Courses & Editor, NCCL National Book Trust, Ministry of HRD, Govt. of India

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Singham Again box office Day 12: Ajay Devgn film declines as Bhool Bhulaiyaa 3 grows

Singham Again box office collection: The Rohit Shetty film saw a dip in box office collections in its second week, earning Rs 3.50 crore on Tuesday. Meanwhile, Bhool Bhulaiyaa 3 performed better. Ajay Devgn's fourth Rs 300 crore film, needs steady weekdays. In its second week, Rohit Shetty's Singham Again is experiencing a decline in box office earnings. After a significant drop of over 68 per cent on its second Monday, the film saw a further dip on Tuesday, November 12. According to industry tracker Sacnilk, the cop-drama earned Rs 3.50

crore on Tuesday, bringing its total domestic nett collection to Rs 214.50 crore. The film recorded a 13.06 per cent Hindi occupancy, with the highest footfall during the night shows. Meanwhile, Bhool Bhulaiyaa 3, which released on the same day as Singham Again, performed slightly better on its second Tuesday. The film earned Rs 4.25 crore, pushing its total earnings to Rs 208.25 crore. Despite a slow start, Bhool Bhulaiyaa 3 has managed to catch up with Singham Again in terms of earnings. Check out the day-wise box office breakup of Singham Again after 12



days - nett collection (source: sacnilk)
Week 1: Rs 173 crore
Friday: Rs 8 crore
Saturday: Rs 12.25 crore
Sunday: Rs 13.5 crore
Monday: Rs 4.25 crore
Tuesday: Rs 3.50 crore

Total: Rs 214.50 crore
The Ajay Devgn-led Singham Again has already crossed the Rs 300 crore mark in worldwide collections. In India, it earned Rs 186.60 crore in its first week and added

another Rs 38.70 crore in its second week. The film faces no major competition in the near future, with The Sabarmati Report being the only major Bollywood release this Friday, November 15.

For Ajay, Singham Again marks his fourth Rs 300 crore grosser, following Tanhaji (Rs 361 crore), Drishyam 2 (Rs 342.31 crore), and Golmaal Again (Rs 308.62 crore). However, the cop-drama needs to maintain a steady performance during weekdays in domestic markets to close its theatrical run on a high note. Besides Ajay Devgn, Singham Again stars Kareena Kapoor Khan, Akshay Kumar, Ranveer Singh, Tiger Shroff, Shweta Tiwari, Dayanand Shetty, and Salman Khan in a cameo as Chulbul Pandey from Dabangg.

Prabhas's Spirit to release in 2026, producer shares update on Ranbir's Animal Park

Prabhas and director Sandeep Reddy Vanga's Spirit is expected to go on floors later this year. Producer Bhushan Kumar shared an update about Spirit's release and Ranbir Kapoor's Animal Park. Prabhas and director Sandeep Reddy Vanga's Spirit will begin in December 2024. Producer Bhushan Kumar, in a recent interview with Connect Media, shared updates on the release of Spirit and Ranbir Kapoor's much-awaited sequel, Animal Park. Spirit marks Prabhas's 25th film in his career and fans are eagerly waiting to see his collaboration with director Sandeep Reddy Vanga of Arjun Reddy and Animal fame. In an interview, producer Bhushan Kumar said, "Spirit is a



dream combination of Prabhas and Sandeep Reddy Vanga. This combination will explode like anything. Prabhas is super excited about Sandeep." When asked about Animal Park, the producer explained, "We will finish Spirit and release it in mid 2026. After Spirit, [Sandeep will spend] six months on writing. He has the idea in mind, and we will

start filming in early 2027. That's for sure and even the actor [Ranbir Kapoor] is locked." Coming to Spirit, the film is expected to be launched in a grand manner in December 2024. Sandeep Reddy Vanga has been involved in music sessions with Harshavardhan Rameshwar. As reported earlier,

Prabhas will play the role of a cop in Spirit. Director Sandeep Reddy Vanga had mentioned previously that the film will be made on a massive budget of Rs 300 crore. He confidently added that it will rake in Rs 150 crore on its opening day. The pre-production work for Spirit is underway. Soon, the makers will announce the cast and crew of Spirit.

No Hera Pheri: Suniel Shetty, Paresh Rawal, Akshay Kumar reunite for Kudo event

Actors Akshay Kumar, Paresh Rawal and Suniel Shetty recently attended a Kudo Tournament. Sharing posts from the event, the actors clarified that their reunion was not related to the next Hera Pheri installment. After they shared pictures from the event, rumours were dispelled about Hera Pheri 3. Actors Akshay Kumar, Paresh Rawal and Suniel Shetty recently attended the 16th Akshay Kumar International Kudo Tournament 2024 held in Surat, Gujarat. Sharing pictures from the event, Akshay and Suniel dispelled rumours that their reunion has any connection with the third installment of their popular franchise, Hera Pheri. Sharing a video from the tournament on November 12, Akshay Kumar wrote, "At the 16th Akshay Kumar International Kudo Tournament 2024, two Guinness World Records were shattered, making it a truly memorable day—no "Hera Pheri" involved! (sic)"



Khel Khel Mein director on Akshay Kumar's low phase: Form is temporary, class is permanent

Mudassar Aziz, director of Khel Khel Mein, discussed Akshay Kumar's recent career challenges, comparing them to a cricketer's temporary dip in form while affirming his enduring talent. The filmmaker compared the actor's low phase to a cricketer who is out of form. A lot has been said about Akshay Kumar's career graph in the last two years. The superstar saw a string of flops at the box office, leading many to believe he had lost his charm. However, in a chat with India Today.in, Mudassar Aziz, director of his film Khel Khel Mein compared the actor's low phase to a cricketer who is out of form, emphasising that even during such times, their class remains intact. Aziz discussed his

experience working with him and what Akshay felt about the negative online chatter surrounding him. He shared that he has been interacting with him for the last three years, from the time he conceived the film. Aziz also mentioned that his relationship with Akshay extends over 30 years. The filmmaker further revealed that the superstar pays close attention to what is being said about him. "It all started when I as a little boy went to see Garam Masala in a theatre and laughed my lungs out. From then to coming to know him personally and now working with him, it has been such a wonderful ride. Also, he is an extremely perceptive, intelligent and aware person. It's not that a lot of this chatter does not land on his ears, it does.



He is not someone to carelessly brush that aside. It may not determine his next choice but he pays careful attention to what's being said about him," Mudassar Aziz said. He further added, "There is a very important phrase in cricket, 'Form is temporary, class is permanent'. Every time

a cricketer is having a bad run, the whole nation unites to tell them what they should do, or shouldn't do. But you cannot take away their talent and the class reveal itself soon. There was no doubt in our minds about Akshay, and now with Khel Khel Mein, he's returned to comedy, batting on the wicket where he's scored many

centuries. He is back to entertaining his audiences the way they like it." Mudassar Aziz also shared what he has learned from Akshay Kumar - a trait he feels everyone should adopt. "He treats success and failure as part of the same process. He doesn't process them differently, and that is commendable," he said.

The director also revealed how it's not just with Akshay but the entire Khel Khel Mein cast fell in love with each other while shooting. "We did not have to ask them to be friends as that camaraderie was very much already there by the time we started shoot. We have a WhatsApp group and we keep sharing reviews, posts, and even memes on it and laugh about it. The entire experience has been so satisfying. Also, none of us have the cockiness to claim we made a good film because we had trust and pride in our product." After Khel Khel Mein and Stree 2, Akshay Kumar announced his next comedy project Bhooth Bangla, his comeback collaboration with Priyadarshan

Why multicultural education is necessary

Vijay GarG



We tend to assume that, by virtue of being born or raised in a multicultural and multilingual country like India, we are automatically multicultural educators; whether in school or in higher education. While the corporate sector or students at business schools go through diversity training, we assume that the training is needed for them only to interact with “international” customers. The call for inclusive education cannot be divorced from the call for inclusive multicultural education. The culture of the class is made up of diverse groups such

as races, socio-economic classes, genders, regions, languages, religions, castes, abilities, and affective dimensions. When an educator meets their learners for the first time, do they notice a learner beyond their physical appearance (not to mention one’s personal judgements and labels)? Do the personal judgements about the student’s appearance get unconsciously carried over to classroom transactions and assessments? The unconscious bias and socialisation received from family, education, media, and the like, make several educators products of condition rather than thought and action. Like there are only a few born teachers, and most are trained, educators also need to be trained or prepared to become culturally responsive. They must reflect upon the kinds of learners they facilitate, validate, and empower; with whom they are patient and

persistent; with what kinds of learners, they are impatient and intolerant, whom they dictate, and control; and, what kinds of learners they easily like, find hard to like, feel sorry for, feel threatened by, identify with, gravitate toward, feel inadequate around, and don’t even notice. This can apply to educators at all levels. Blurring lines While most of us like to think that we believe in the maxim, vasudhaiva kutumbakam, we must indeed pause to think whether we practise this. Our personal beliefs can sneak into the professional sphere, our workspaces and classrooms. For example, each student in the class — despite their socio-economic level — needs to be included in learning. Some educators may possess subtle preferences towards parents and students from the upper socio-economic classes or hold unconscious biases in favour of fair-

skinned persons, whether Indians or foreigners. Also, educators need more than being sensitised

the spoken language, can keep several marginalised groups uncomfortable in the classroom. In certain

of persons or learners in one’s native language can be noticed. With exclusive schools for learners with special

concern. Yet, how many educators hold traditional views on “mental health?” To this list of biases, we can

topic for discussion. This is not confined to the teaching of literature or history. The discussion spans the Sciences and Maths too, begging for the inclusion of indigenous knowledge systems, alongside Western Science. The subject matter of multicultural education extends to pedagogical and assessment strategies that will create inclusion for several diverse groups in the classroom. Until we deliberately teach multicultural education, we cannot have truly inclusive classes, teaching for equity. Educators must be transformed to become culturally responsive through professional development workshops and teacher education programmes on diversity, equity, and inclusion

**Retired Principal
Educational
columnist
malout, Punjab**



about the genders. Often girls are asked to choose “caring” and serving courses and occupations, even though their interests lie elsewhere. The “standard” native language used in PK-12 textbooks, different from

higher educational institutions, where students come from all over India, seating preferences tend to be regional. In professional settings, when people from various languages are present, communicating with a set

needs still around and special education resource rooms still existing, inclusive education is still elusive. The effects of the pandemic on the emotional well-being of Generation Z and Generation Alpha is of

add ageism as well. The “inclusive” knowledge part of the curriculum is worth examining. Who is represented in the textbooks and who is not, and how one is represented in the textbooks is another

Namo Drone Didi Yojana empowers women in agriculture

The Namu Drone Didi Yojana is a pioneering effort to empower rural women in traditionally male-dominated areas. The initiative provides training to women, enabling them to operate drones and provide essential agricultural services to local farmers. By combining women's empowerment with agricultural modernization, the scheme promotes both social progress and economic growth. Women participating in the scheme are organized into self-help groups where they acquire skills in drone operations, including aerial surveys, precision agriculture techniques, and pesticide spraying. These operations not only improve crop yields but also provide women with a sustainable income, promote gender equality, and enhance their financial autonomy. As these women adopt drone technology, they become active contributors to the growing agri-tech sector.

Priyanka Saurabh



Namo Drone Didi can contribute to precision agriculture and resource optimization. India’s agriculture sector is on the cusp of transformation with the integration of technology-based solutions. Schemes like Namu Drone Didi that focus on drone technology offer the potential to modernize farming through precision agriculture and resource optimization, addressing key challenges in agriculture. Drones enable precise application of fertilizers and pesticides, reducing wastage and ensuring uniform distribution. Drones under the Namu Drone Didi scheme ensure a reduction in chemical use by up to 30%. Drones allow real-time monitoring of crops, providing data on crop health, soil conditions, and early disease detection for timely intervention. In Andhra Pradesh, drones helped reduce crop losses by 20% due to timely

detection of pest attacks. Drones provide accurate data on crop growth patterns, soil health, and yield estimates, improving farm management and decision-making. Globally, drone technology has revolutionized many industries, including agriculture. In India, drones have immense potential: they can survey large areas, monitor crops, detect diseases or pests in advance, and facilitate precise application of pesticides and fertilizers. This precision farming approach increases crop yields while reducing costs and waste associated with traditional farming methods. However, the adoption of drones in Indian agriculture has been slow. High costs, limited awareness, and inadequate technical infrastructure in rural areas have hindered widespread implementation. To address these challenges, the Namu Drone Didi Yojana not only promotes drone technology but also empowers rural women. Drones deployed in Maharashtra enabled farmers to better estimate yields and increase productivity. Drones allow variable-rate application of inputs such as

nutrients, adjusting according to specific field needs, maximizing input efficiency. In Uttar Pradesh, drone-assisted farming enabled farmers to precisely apply fertilizers based on soil fertility variations, thereby increasing nutrient use efficiency. Automation in drone technology reduces human error in tasks such as spraying pesticides or fertilizers, leading to more effective operations. A pilot project in Madhya Pradesh showed fewer errors in pesticide spraying, leading to a 15% improvement in crop yield. Drones help assess moisture levels in the soil, allowing for precise irrigation, thereby conserving water and ensuring that only the required areas receive water. Drone-assisted irrigation reduced water use by up to 15% in water-scarce areas of Gujarat. Input cost reduction: With precise use of inputs such as fertilizers and pesticides, farmers save costs, thereby contributing to better resource management. Self-help groups in Punjab reported 20% cost savings on inputs by using drones under the Namu Drone Didi scheme. Drones reduce the need for manual labor in tasks such

as spraying pesticides and fertilizers, helping farmers cut down labor costs and improve operational efficiency. Farmers in Haryana experienced up to a 25% reduction in labor expenditure after adopting drone services under Namu Drone Didi. Drone technology significantly reduces the time required for tasks such as spraying and monitoring large farms, thereby improving overall agricultural productivity. In Rajasthan, drone-assisted pesticide spraying reduced the time taken for operations from 7 days to 2 days, significantly increasing productivity. Drones help in precision pest management, reducing excessive use of pesticides, thereby improving long-term soil and ecosystem health. Farmers in Tamil Nadu reported a 10% improvement in crop quality by using drone-assisted pest management systems. The Namu Drone Didi Yojana demonstrates the immense potential of technology-based agriculture in modernizing farming, enhancing precision agriculture, and ensuring optimal resource utilization. With proper implementation and support, such initiatives can lead India’s agriculture

sector towards sustainability and increased productivity. Although India is not the first country to integrate drones into agriculture, its focus on empowering women through technology is unique. With continued government support, improved infrastructure, and increased awareness among farmers, the Namu Drone Didi Yojana has the potential to modernize farming, increase food security, and economically empower women. By addressing these challenges, this initiative can serve as a model for other developing countries seeking to boost agricultural productivity while promoting gender equality and rural technological advancement.

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India Moving Towards Self-Reliance and Becoming a Developed Nation Through the Swadeshi Mantra

Dr. Manmohan Prakash



The Swadeshi movement in India began on August 7, 1905. At that time, its aim was to boycott foreign goods as a form of protest against the British colonial rule, causing economic and political damage to them. In today’s context, the movement’s goal is to transform India from being a market for global products into a nation where Indian products find a place in global markets, reducing dependency on foreign goods. In the current context, Swadeshi refers to products that are made in India, crafted by Indian artisans, using Indian skills, and carrying the essence of the country’s soil. Today, the Swadeshi campaign is giving India the opportunity to become self-reliant. This movement is supported by the government’s commitment, political will, India’s advanced technology, the hard work, skills, innovation, and research of Indians, and the motto of “Vocal for Local.” There is also pride in indigenous products, determination to build a developed India, and the support of initiatives like ‘Vocal for Local.’ About a decade ago, under the leadership of Prime Minister Narendra Modi, the central government took a pledge for a self-reliant India. Both the

central and state governments have worked tirelessly to realize this goal, and today, positive results are becoming visible. The demand for indigenous products is rising, providing new opportunities for artisans and improving their living standards, with about 25 Cr people having risen above the poverty line. The Indian market is positively impacted, and Indian products are receiving good responses abroad. From daily necessities to defense equipment, India is now producing these with indigenous products and technology. We all know that in 2014, when the Modi government came to power with a full majority, the initiative of ‘Vocal for Local’ began, aiming to make India self-reliant, develop the nation, give Indian products global recognition, strengthen the economy, position India among leading countries, and increase employment opportunities for Indians. It seems that these goals are now starting to materialize. India has become self-reliant in several sectors and is preparing to do so in many others. India’s participation in the global economy is increasing, especially through exports. This success is the result of the efforts of India’s youth, scientists, skilled craftsmen, and technicians, supported by political and administrative willpower, research, educational institutions, and industrial bodies. Today, India produces a wide range of products domestically, from needles to defense equipment, two-wheelers to four-wheelers, mobile phones to supercomputers, and agricultural tools to processed foods. Over the last few years, defense

production in India has increased by 60%, and 12,000 out of 36,000 defense items have been indigenized. Government initiatives like the Production Linked Incentive (PLI) scheme, ease of doing business, labor reforms, quality control, and the ‘One District One Product’ policy are all contributing to the rise of an ‘Atmanirbhar Bharat’ (self-reliant India) and a ‘Viksit Bharat’ (developed India). Due to the Swadeshi mantra, India now ranks among the top three countries in the Asia Power Index, is the fifth-largest economy in terms of GDP, and ranks fourth globally in renewable energy promotion. India has also become the world’s second-largest fish producer and mobile phone manufacturer, with significant reductions in imports of mobile phones, telecom gear, electronics, biochemicals, and fertilizers. India is contributing 60% to global vaccine production. Indian products are gaining recognition for their affordability, reliability, world-class quality, and innovative packaging and branding, driven by a focus on research and innovation. Since 2014, there has been a 17-fold increase in patents granted to Indians. India is currently growing at a rate of around 7%, with stronger banks and increased lending capacity. Over the past decade, a new startup has been launched every hour, a sign that India is heading towards becoming a developed and self-reliant nation.

Independent Journalist

Hindustan Copper Q2 Results soar by 100%

Kolkata, (KCN):The Board of Hindustan Copper Limited in its meeting held in Kolkata today has approved the Financial Results for the second quarter ending September 2024 of the current fiscal year 2024-25. During the quarter the financial performance of the Company has improved substantially. The Profit before Tax on standalone basis during the half year ending September 2024 has

been Rs 289.46 crore as against Rs 144.96 crore in the corresponding period of the last year, a whopping increase of around 100 %. Even the Profit before Tax for the quarter ending September 2024 has been at Rs 135.33 crore as against Rs 82.75 crore in the corresponding period of the last year, an increase of around 64 %. The Total Income of the company for half year ending September 2024

has been achieved at Rs. 1050.49 crore which is higher by around 35 % compared to corresponding period of the last year. The EBITDA margin achieved has been a robust 38%. HCL has also recently entered into an agreement with both M/s Kutch Copper Limited and M/s Hindalco for sale of its principal product, i.e. Copper Concentrate.

FULL SCALE JOINT DISASTER MANAGEMENT EXERCISE BY SAMBALPUR DIVISION AT BALANGIR STATION



Sambalpur, (KCN): East Coast Railway, Sambalpur Division organized a Full Scale Joint Disaster Management Exercise (FSJDME) at Balangir Railway Station on 13th November-2024. In the exercise National Disaster Response Force (NDRF), Munduli, Odisha Disaster Rapid Action Force (ODRAF), Local Administration, State Fire service, State health service, Railway

Scouts & Guide, Local NGOs and all departments of Railway participated. The exercise was conducted using modern equipments like cutting of Rail coach body, fire fighting and quick medical evacuation. Additional Divisional Railway Manager, Sambalpur, Shri Anand Singh visited the site and interacted with all the participants. Shri Singh Said "the exercise

will help Railways and all participating agencies to tackle any unforeseen situation in a coordinated manner thus minimizing the hardship to the victims and will also help in minimizing the response time for all the agencies. Shri S.S Nayak, Sr. Divisional Safety Officer thanked all the participating agencies and volunteers for their whole hearted participation in the Exercise.

PRIME MINISTER INAUGURATES PRADHAN MANTRI BHARTIYA JAN AUSHADHI KENDRA AT NETAJI METRO STATION

Kolkata, (KCN):Prime Minister, Shri Narendra Modi inaugurated a Pradhan Mantri Bhartiya Jan Aushadhi Kendra at Netaji Metro station today through video conferencing from Darbhanga, Bihar. Shri Modi inaugurated 18 such Jan Aushadhi Kendras at different stations of Indian Railways today from that event in order to re-establish the concept of 'Swastha Bharat, Vikshit Bharat' campaign run by the Centre.



The newly inaugurated Pradhan Mantri Bhartiya Jan Aushadhi Kendra at Netaji Metro station is the second such Jan Aushadhi Kendra in West Bengal, the first one was inaugurated in Malda a few days earlier. From this function, the Prime Minister also laid the foundation stone and dedicated to the nation

new lines and gauge conversion work of the rail section as well as flagged off two pairs of MEMU train services. All these projects are worth Rs 12,000 crore. In his address, elaborating the benefits of these projects, Shri Modi said, all these projects will pave the way for the development of Eastern

India. This Pradhan Mantri Bhartiya Jan Aushadhi Kendra will help people to get medicines at a cheaper rate and save money, he reiterated. Shri P Uday Kumar Reddy, General Manager and all senior officers of Metro Railway, staff and commuters were

present in this function held at Netaji Metro station today where Prime Minister inaugurated this Jan Aushadhi Kendra through video conferencing. In his address, Shri Reddy has said that the Jan Aushadhi Kendra at Netaji Metro station will be offering generic

medicines at affordable cost for addressing essential health care services. Here medicines will be available at 50% to 90% less prices than the branded medicines being sold in the open market. He urged all to purchase medicines from this outlet and popularise this Jan Aushadhi Kendra as envisioned by the Prime Minister. After the inauguration, the General Manager also visited the shop and encouraged all to purchase medicines from there. Metro commuters and local residents of Kudghat area appreciated the beginning of the journey of this Jan Aushadhi Kendra which is going to serve them purchase different life saving drugs at a cheaper rate. Immediately after the inauguration, a huge rush of buyers was seen at this shop.

'Severe' Air Quality In Delhi Today An "Episodic Event": Pollution Body

New Delhi (KCN): Residents in Delhi and its adjoining areas saw a thick layer of smog covering the region, significantly dropping the air quality to the 'Severe' category after the Air Quality Index crossed the 400 mark and disrupted flight operations due to low visibility. The Commission for Air Quality Management (CAQM) has called the early-morning dense smog an "episodic event". Thick smog caused zero-metre visibility at the Indira Gandhi

International Airport at 8.30 am with the Runway Visual Range varying between 125 and 500 metres at different locations, the India Meteorological Department (IMD) said. Since October, the Delhi-NCR region has seen air quality dropping to dangerous levels, with many contributing factors like vehicular pollution in the capital and stubble burning in Punjab and Haryana. Pollution board CAQM said, "Today, Delhi's daily average AQI clocked 418 as per the 4 PMAQI

Bulletin by CPCB. The CAQM Sub-Committee on GRAP accordingly took stock of the air quality scenario and the AQI forecast, including for the meteorological conditions as made by IMD/ IITM." Today, Delhi's daily average AQI clocked 418 as per the 4 PMAQI Bulletin by CPCB. The CAQM Sub-Committee on GRAP accordingly took stock of the air quality scenario and the AQI forecast, including for the meteorological conditions as made by IMD/ IITM.

The board said they expect the situation to improve by tomorrow morning, "owing to stronger winds" and the "AQI, is expected to start showing a declining trend tomorrow onwards." They said the air quality is likely to move back to the 'Very Poor' category tomorrow. On enforcing stage III of pollution measures, the panel said, "Comprehensively reviewing this scenario accordingly, it was decided by the Sub-Committee to keep a close watch on the

situation, before invoking the stringent/ restrictive measures under Stage-III of GRAP and to review the status tomorrow." In October, the panel implemented stage II of the anti-pollution plan in the city after the AQI crossed the 300 mark and has hovered mostly between 200-300 since then. Under stage two of the GRAP or the Graded Response Action Plan, there will be restrictions on the use of coal and firewood as well as diesel generator sets in the Delhi-National Capital Region (NCR).

"Even If Indira Gandhi Returns From Heaven...": Amit Shah On Article 370

Parbhani/Jalgaon/Dhule (KCN): Union Home Minister Amit Shah on Wednesday asserted that Article 370, which granted special status to Jammu and Kashmir, will not be restored even if Congress stalwart and late PM Indira Gandhi comes down from heaven. The BJP's star campaigner sought to corner the Congress over Muslim reservation and accused the main opposition party of deliberately stalling construction of a Ram temple at Ayodhya for years. With just a week left for the high-stakes assembly polls in Maharashtra, Shah stepped up his campaigning for the ruling Mahayuti front, of which the BJP is a member, and addressed three rallies in a day where he attacked the Congress and its Maha Vikas Aghadi (MVA) ally Shiv Sena (UBT). Addressing a rally at Dhule in North Maharashtra, Shah said Congress leader Rahul Gandhi should remember that even if his "fourth generation was to come", Muslims won't get reservations meant for Dalits, tribals and other backward castes. "A few days ago, Ulemas (Muslim scholars) met the president of Congress party and said Muslims should be given

reservation (in jobs and education). If reservation has to be given to Muslims, then reservations for SCs/ STs/OBCs will have to be cut. Rahul Baba, not only you but even if your four generations were to come, they cannot cut the quota meant for SCs/STs/OBCs and give it to Muslims," Shah insisted. The Union minister made it clear that Article 370, scrapped in 1919 by the BJP-led central government, won't be restored under any circumstances. "Even if Indira Gandhi were to return from heaven, Article 370 won't be restored," the BJP stalwart told the gathering. Describing the opposition MVA grouping as an "Aurangzeb Fan Club", Shah noted the BJP-led Mahayuti alliance abides by the ideals of Maratha warrior king Chhatrapati Shivaji Maharaj and freedom fighter Veer Savarkar. At another election meeting in Jalgaon, also in North Maharashtra, the former BJP president averred that if the MVA wins the November 20 assembly polls, the state will turn into an ATM (automated teller machine) for the Congress. "They (MVA) will withdraw funds from Maharashtra by using the state's resources and send the money to Delhi. In



contrast, if the BJP-led Mahayuti forms a government, the Modi administration will ensure greater development for Maharashtra," Shah said at the meeting in Chalisgaon town. Targeting Gandhi, the Lok Sabha MP from Raebareilly, he accused his party of making false promises and misleading people. "Recently, Rahul Gandhi was seen waving a copy of Babasaheb Ambedkar's Constitution. He used the same copy while taking the oath in Parliament. When some journalists got their hands on the very copy, it had blank pages. By showing a fake Constitution, Rahul broke the trust of people and insulted Babasaheb. Apparently, you have never read the Constitution, Rahul baba," Shah said. The "Sonia-Manmohan regime" didn't act against Naxalism and terrorism

for 10 years (2004-14) due to vote bank politics, the home minister opined. "The entire Congress politics runs on deception. They are saying that after the formation of the Mahayuti government (in June 2022), investment in Maharashtra has reduced. The truth is after the formation of the government of (CM) Eknath Shinde and (deputy CM) Devendra Fadnis, our Maharashtra is No.1 state in FDI inflows in India," he said. A Mahayuti government post-polls will work more for the welfare of women, farmers and other sections of society, Shah maintained. "Your one vote will not only form a Mahayuti government but your one vote will also deposit ? 2,100 in the account of Maharashtra's beloved sisters. Your one vote will result in depositing ? 15,000 instead of ? 12,000

annually in farmers' account," he said. The BJP leader said Prime Minister Narendra Modi's guarantee is like 'patthar ki lakeer' (carved in stone), whereas the Congress reneged on pre-poll promises in Telangana, Karnataka and Himachal Pradesh after coming to power in these states. Targeting NCP (SP) president Sharad Pawar, Shah said the senior politician served as Maharashtra CM and also as a Union minister for many years, but did not do anything to give classical language status to Marathi. At his third rally at Jintur in Parbhani district in the Marathwada region, Shah averred that Congress MP Gandhi, who has been campaigning for the MVA in Maharashtra, will fail once again. "Sonia ji tried to land the plane named Rahul Baba 20 times and 20 times the plane crashed. Now again,

an attempt is being made to land the plane for the 21st time in Maharashtra. Sonia ji, your "Rahul plane" is going to crash for the 21st time," the BJP leader opined. Shah accused the Congress of deliberately stalling construction of a Ram temple at Ayodhya for years. "PM Modi built the Ram temple and also constructed the Kashi Vishwanath corridor (in Varanasi) which was demolished by (Mughal emperor) Aurangzeb. Now, you should be ready to visit Gujarat as the Somnath temple is also being made of gold," he told the gathering. Modi has made the country safe and prosperous, Shah said. "I have visited all the places like Vidarbha, North Maharashtra, West Maharashtra, Konkan, Mumbai, Marathwada. Do you want to know the result of assembly polls? Listen to me, on November 23 (result day), the Maha Vikas Aghadi is going to be wiped out from Maharashtra," he declared. Shah said Shiv Sena (UBT) chief Uddhav Thackeray, a former BJP ally, is now in alliance with those who opposed renaming Aurangabad as Chhatrapati Sambhajnagar.

"Step-Brothers": Eknath Shinde Slams Congress Scheme For Women



M u m b a i (K C N) : Maharashtra Chief Minister Eknath Shinde says he is confident that the people will push the ruling alliance Mahayuti to victory with a "thumping" majority in approval of their work over the last two-and-a-half years. The Congress's promises - the upgraded versions or the old, has convinced no one, he said. "Who would trust them? They once promised free electricity but the power bills were back once the election was over. We have given people zero bill," he said in an exclusive interview with NDTV. The Opposition alliance, he said, has nothing. Whatever they are promising is "false". "They have betrayed the people. Promised them money and then reneged, and said the Centre will pay. Their chief said they will pay khat khata khat, but didn't. We paid. We paid

for five straight weeks for the Ladli Behen scheme. Because the model code would have been put in place in November, we even made an advance payment. That's why they are so against it. They know the Ladli Behen scheme would send them packing," he said. The BJP is banking massively on its welfare schemes - spearheaded by Ladli Behen - in this election. "Our dear sisters are very excited. They are already angry with the step-brothers as they have done wrong. They have gone to court, complained about the scheme and tried to stop it. So the sisters are very upset," Mr Shinde said. But altogether, scenario looks better for the NDA because "We have something for everyone, be it the women, the youth, senior citizens or farmers," Mr Shinde said.

State-Level Children's Fest 'Suravi' Inaugurated

Bhubaneswar, (KCN): The much-awaited Sishu Mahotsav 2024- 'Suravi' has been inaugurated. Shri Nityananda Gond, Minister, S&ME participated as chief guest in the opening ceremony and wished the success of the Suravi program by encouraging the students. Smt. Sulochana Das, Mayor, Bhubaneswar joined the program as the guest of honour while Smt. Shalini Pandit, Commissioner-cum-secretary, Smt. Ananya Das, SPD, OSEPA, Shri Sangram Keshari Mohapatra, Director, TE&SCERT were present. Every student has some



special talent. Let them recognize the talent or potential within themselves. Learn new things, ask questions and always try to embrace

innovation. In addition, the Hon'ble minister advised the students to work hard towards fulfilling their dreams. Inaugurating the three-day state-level

children's festival organized by the Department of School and Mass Education at Capital High School premises, Shri Gond said,

"Viksit Odisha, Viksit Bharat needs to be improved at the grassroots level". He also said, if art survives, the country will survive. The

state government has emphasized this. He said that the state government has made many plans for the preservation and propagation of folk art of

Odisha and this festival is an important step in this direction. Smt. Sulochana Das, Mayor, Bhubaneswar

addressed the students and said that a medium is needed to develop the talent of the students and a big medium like 'Suravi' will help in developing their talent. On this occasion, Commissioner-cum-Secretary Smt. Shalini Pandit said, today's child is the best guide to the future. In this direction, the state government and our department are making great efforts. Survi is a beautiful attempt to reveal the qualities of children.

Smt. Ananya Das, SPD, OSEPA gave welcome address while Shri Sangram Keshari Mohapatra, Director, TE&SCERT gave vote of thanks.

Utkal Keshari Dr. Harekrushna Mahatab Art Camp held at Kalinga Art Gallery



Bhubaneswar (KCN): As part of the 125th birth anniversary celebration of Dr. Harekrushna Mahatab, a series of events are set to take place from November 21 to 23. The state government has announced year-long activities to honour Mahatab's legacy. In line with these celebrations, a special art camp dedicated to the life of Dr. Harekrushna Mahatab was held at the Kalinga Art Gallery, Bhubaneswar. The art camp took place from November 10 to 12 and featured 30

distinguished artists from different districts of Odisha. Their artworks, based on the life and contributions of Dr. Mahatab, will be featured in upcoming exhibitions. In today's closing ceremony, the chief guest, Shri Bishnupada Sethi, Principal Secretary of the Odia Language, Literature and Culture Department, highlighted Dr. Mahatab's inspirational legacy. He emphasized the importance of drawing inspiration from Mahatab's work and shared that the exhibitions aim to

familiarize the youth with Mahatab's life, dedication and his enduring contributions to Odisha. Artists have beautifully illustrated Mahatab's life through their paintings, which will be displayed in various exhibitions. This initiative, taken by the Department of Odia Language, Literature & Culture, seeks to inform the youth about Mahatab's achievements and values, encouraging them to draw inspiration from his life and work. At the closing ceremony, all the artists were felicitated by the

Chief Guest Shri Bishnupada Sethi. Director of Culture Department Shri Bijay Ketan Upadhyay, Principal of Bibhuti Kanungo College of Arts & Crafts, Shri Subrat Mallik and other senior officials of culture department were present in the event. The efforts of the Culture department to honour Mahatab's legacy and to inspire the youth were welcomed by the intellectual community, who expressed admiration for this homage to one of Odisha's great sons.


Scam, delays mar Rengali left canal work

Jajpur (KCN): Substandard work, delays and wrong recommendations in land acquisition, and irregularities in compensation payments have marred the progress of the left canal work under Rengali multipurpose irrigation project on Brahmani river, leaving the local farmers in dire straits. According to Water Resources department reports, as of August, about Rs 1,260 crore had been spent on the canal works. However, soil work is pegged at 56.28 per cent, concrete work 74.61 per cent, canal lining work 45.75 per cent, and packing work 66.40 per cent, while the remaining work has been pending. The delays have left local farmers worried. The left canal was originally intended to cover 39,416 hectares of land across

71,313 km to 123,550 km, but departmental reports said only about 900 hectares have been irrigated so far. Furthermore, structural flaws, substandard work and improper management of work along certain stretches of the canal have led to water seepage issues, triggering discontent among the farming community. Conceived in 1980s with funding from Japan International Cooperation Agency (JICA), Rengali project aimed at addressing flood control, generation of hydropower, and irrigation, with a budget of Rs 2,255.30 crore, of which JICA contributed Rs 1,787.30 crore. The project was scheduled to be completed within eight years – from 2015-16 to 2022-23 – but current progress suggests otherwise. The department

had previously set the target of completing the project by July 2024, but land acquisition issues and disputes over forest land acquisition are proving to be significant bottlenecks on its path. The construction of the left canal spanning over 141km has been taken up by consultancy firms like Biraja Constructions, DD Builders, GVV Constructions and Durga Constructions. It is alleged that necessary construction materials are not being utilised as per project estimates. Meanwhile, the department has clarified that seepage of water is taking place as the canal construction has been taken up in areas having deposits of laterite stones. In a separate investigation by the Water Resources department, three land

acquisition officials and a staffer were found to have misappropriated Rs 1.22 crore meant for farmers' compensation. These officials, including the land acquisition officer and a staff member – Dambarudhar Pradhan, Girija Bhushan Pradhan, Prafulla Kumar Mohapatra, and Bholeswar Sahu – have since been suspended by the additional secretary of the department. Further disciplinary action has been directed against them. Rengali dam Chief Engineer SJ Jali said about 155 acres of private land are yet to be acquired due to a lack of land acquisition officers, and the government has been informed, asserting that no negligence is involved in executing the project.



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‘UnserHaus’ by BSH Home Appliances - Kolkata’s new luxury address

Bhubaneswar: BSH Home Appliances Group, one of the world’s leading home appliances companies today launched its first ‘UnserHaus’ in Kolkata. This is BSH’s only experience center in India to house all its three brands—Bosch, Siemens and Gaggenau under one roof. Located at Salt Lake city’s Adventz Infinity @ 5, this new experience center is all set to welcome customers as well as Kolkata’s strong architecture & design community. The company already has two other stores in Kolkata—a multi-channel Bosch & Siemens Brand Store in Dhakuria and a Bosch Studio in Shakespeare Sarani. UnserHaus is the German name for “Our House”. It is a place where comfort, look for offline

convenience, inspiration, and memories reside in every corner. The philosophy and core ethos of BSH’s UnserHaus are focused on building long-lasting trust with all customers & business partners. Keeping this in mind, the space is designed to ensure that all visitors feel at home when they visit, helping them experience the products as if they were in their own house.

Commenting on the launch of UnserHaus, Kolkata, Neeraj Bahl, MD & CEO, BSH Home Appliances (India & SAARC) said, “Kolkata is one of our high performing markets and we’re thrilled to further expand our presence here by opening doors to our 101st retail space*. The new-age Indian consumer continues to look for offline

experiences especially in the home and cooking category and we’re glad to offer this state-of-the-art, practical space where buyers can get a first-hand experience of our innovation-fueled appliances across all three brands Bosch, Siemens and Gaggenau. This is our sixth experience center in India and the only one to house all our three brands. We look forward to continued growth momentum in the city and we’re confident that this space will also boost our presence in key neighboring cities as well.”

*The company now has six experience centers across Mumbai, Delhi, Bangalore, Chennai and Kolkata, and an India-wide retail network of 95 brand shops (80 brand stores for Bosch and 15 brand stores for Siemens).

Amway India Joins Hands with The Akshaya Patra Foundation to provide meals to school children

Bhubaneswar (KCN): Amway India, one of the leading companies supporting health and wellbeing needs, is addressing the critical issue of childhood malnutrition through a transformative initiative to support a healthier future for India’s underprivileged children. According to the Ministry of Women and Child Development, 7.7% of children (around 43 lakh) in India are malnourished, highlighting a critical issue that the government is prioritizing with efforts to improve nutritional outcomes. Committed to the cause of childhood malnutrition, as part of Nutrilite’s 90th-anniversary celebration, Amway, supported by its distributors and employees, has collaborated with The Akshaya Patra Foundation to sponsor over 90,000 nutritious meals for children in government schools.

In the spirit of Children’s Day, the initiative extended further with educational sessions to empower students with knowledge about nutrition, hygiene, mental health, and balanced diets. Amway volunteers actively participated by serving nutritious meals to the children. This impactful initiative spanned eight key locations: Delhi, Jaipur, Bhubaneswar, Guwahati, Pune, Ahmedabad, Bangalore, and Chennai, aiming to spark meaningful change for a brighter future. Commenting on the Children’s Day initiative,



Mr Rajneesh Chopra, Managing Director, Amway India, said, “For nine decades our flagship nutrition brand, Nutrilite, has been inspiring people to live a healthy life by promoting optimal health and wellbeing. As part of Nutrilite’s 90th-anniversary celebrations, with the support of our distributors and employees, we are proud to collaborate with The Akshaya Patra Foundation to provide over 90,000 nutritious meals to children in government schools alongside imparting essential nutrition education. Through this initiative, students gain valuable knowledge on making healthier choices—covering balanced diets, mental health, and hygiene practices—empowering them to lead brighter, healthier lives. We firmly believe that proper

nutrition is the foundation for the growth and success of young minds. In a country where India contributes a third of the global burden of malnutrition, nurturing children through adequate nutrition is not just important—it is essential. To this end, we’re steadfast in our commitment to building a healthier nation for a better tomorrow.” Commenting on the occasion, Mr Shridhar Venkat, CEO of the Akshaya Patra Foundation said, “We are happy to collaborate with Amway India once again. With their generous support, we can provide over 90,000 nutritious meals to government school children through our 72 kitchens nationwide. This partnership goes beyond just feeding children; it helps to ensure a healthier future for the

next generation. We sincerely thank the Ministry of Education, Government of India, and the state governments for their unwavering support, which enables us to continue nourishing children across the country.”

Amway India’s efforts and initiatives are aligned with its health and wellbeing vision that resonates with the Government of India’s aim of building a healthier nation. In addition to partnering with Akshaya Patra to promote good nutrition, this Children’s Day Amway also organized awareness initiatives under the theme “Feed with Kindness – Preparation and Distribution of Nutritious Food” in association with its Power of 5 program partner ChildFund India across its program locations in Mumbai,

Kolkata and Lucknow, as well as its Village Health Program partner, S R Trust (Meenakshi Mission Hospital & Research Center) in Dindigul district, promoting the importance of nutrition and community support.

Amway has a long-standing association with the Akshaya Patra Foundation to promote the importance of nutrition. This includes sponsoring mid-day meals for 1,600 students and conducting nutrition education sessions for underprivileged children in 2022. In 2021, as part of its COVID relief efforts, Amway—supported by its distributors and employees—distributed thousands of nutrition kits across Gurugram, Thane, Panvel, Chennai, and Bhubaneswar, reaching over 10,000 individuals affected by the pandemic.

Annual General Meeting of Vitesco Technologies

Regensburg: Vitesco Technologies, a leading international developer and manufacturer of cutting-edge drive systems for sustainable mobility, held its first Annual General Meeting (AGM) today. The AGM was held virtually due to the continuing COVID-19 pandemic.

In separate votes, the shareholders formally approved the actions of all the Executive Board members during their term of office in the 2021 financial year. The actions of all members of the Supervisory Board in office in 2021 were also approved for their respective terms. “We are delighted to have received this vote of confidence from the Annual General Meeting.

We regard this outcome as a clear mandate to continue the successful collaboration and positioning of Vitesco Technologies as a supplier of sustainable drive solutions with a clear goal,” said CEO Andreas Wolf.

All current members of the Supervisory Board representing the shareholders who were up for election were re-elected to office. The members of the Supervisory Board who represent the employees will be elected separately. A complete list of all Supervisory Board members and the results of the voting at the AGM are available on the Vitesco Technologies website under ‘Annual General Meeting’.

LV Prasad Eye Institute Organizes a Retinoblastoma Awareness Walk

Bhubaneswar: L V Prasad Eye Institute’s Mithu Tuls Chanrai Campus in Bhubaneswar organized a Retinoblastoma Awareness Walk on 8th May 2022. This walk is part of the ‘Whitathon’ event organized by LV Prasad Eye Institute across its campuses in Bhubaneswar, Hyderabad, Visakhapatnam and

Vijayawada. Celebrity actor, Mr Sabyasachi Mishra, will be flagging off the walk.

Whitathon is L V Prasad Eye Institute’s annual cause-related event focusing on raising awareness and funds for early diagnosis and treatment of Retinoblastoma – a Life and Vision-threatening Eye Cancer in Children. One of the most common

symptoms of Retinoblastoma is White Reflex (white glow) in a child’s eye. Through this walk, LVPEI aims to raise awareness among the public that if they spot a ‘White Reflex’ in a child’s eye, it could be a sign of eye cancer that needs immediate medical intervention. Hence, the event is named ‘Whitathon’.

Dr Devjyoti Tripathy,

Ocular Oncologist, Mithu Tuls Chanrai Campus, Bhubaneswar, L V Prasad Eye Institute said, “Our aim is to raise awareness about early detection and treatment of retinoblastoma eye cancer in children. No child should die of eye cancer because of lack of awareness and treatment. We extend our sincere thanks to Mr Sabyasachi Mishra for joining us for

the Retinoblastoma Awareness Walk and spreading awareness about Retinoblastoma. We also acknowledge the support received from Aroh – Giving Hope, an NGO working for children with Cancer and their families.”

Dr Tripathy further added that it is time to make detailed eye check-ups a part of mandatory paediatric examinations.



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