

Law To Curb Malpractices

Bhubaneswar(KCN): The State Cabinet headed by Chief Minister Mohan Charan Majhi today decided to enact a new Law with provision of strong punishment for those who found involved in any type of unfair means in conduct of recruitment examinations and entrance tests.

The Odisha Public Examinations (Prevention of Unfair Means) Act, 2024 to be framed in order to prevent various forms of unfair means such as impersonation, cheating, and disrupting the examination process, leakage of information related to an exam before



the scheduled time, unauthorized entry into exam halls etc. and to maintain the integrity of public exams conducted by different, said Chief Secretary Manoj Ahuja. All offences under this Act, shall be cognizable, non-bailable and non-compoundable. Any

person or persons resorting to unfair means and offences, shall be punished with imprisonment ranging three to five years and with fine up to Rs 10 lakhs, he said. The service provider shall also be liable to be punished with imposition

of a fine up to Rs 1 crore and proportionate cost of examination shall also be recovered from such service provider, he informed.

Further, in case of default of payment of fine, an additional punishment of imprisonment shall be imposed, as per the provisions of the Bharatiya Nyaya Sanhita (BNS), 2023, Shri Ahuja said. The proposed law will be applicable for all public exams conducted by the Odisha Public Service Commission (OPSC), Odisha Staff Selection Commission, Odisha Subordinate Staff Selection Commission, Service Selection Board,

Odisha Police Selection Board, State Selection Board constituted under the Odisha Education (Selection Board for the State) Rules, 1992, Odisha Joint Entrance Examination, regulated by the Odisha Professional Educational Institution (Regulation of Admission and Fixation of Fee) Act, 2007, Departments of the State Government and their attached and subordinate offices for recruitment of staff, Selection agencies/committees engaged or constituted by the State Government, and all such other authority as may be notified by the State Government from time to time.

Odisha: Onion prices increase to Rs 70 per kg; NAFED asked to sell at Rs 30 per kg



Bhubaneswar: With onion prices reaching Rs 70 per kg in the market, the Odisha government Wednesday said it has asked the National Agricultural Cooperative Marketing Federation of India Limited (NAFED) to sell the vegetable at the rate of Rs 30 per kg in the state. State Food Supplies and Consumer Welfare Minister KC Patra attributed the price rise to the market situation at Nasik in Maharashtra from where the onions are procured.

"Onions are not produced in Odisha and hence, the state is dependent on other

states. Prices of onion and garlic are high outside the state and it has contributed to the price rise here. We have asked (NAFED) to sell onions at Rs 30 per kg in Odisha," the minister told reporters.

According to traders, Odisha imports onions from Nashik in Maharashtra and Kurnool in Andhra

Pradesh. The Kharif crop in both regions suffered due to the rains during September. While the price of good quality old onions brought from Nashik has soared to Rs 70 per kg, those from Kurnool (new but medium quality onions) are available at Rs 40-Rs 55, depending on the quality. The price of onions in the retail market

was Rs 50 a kg a week ago, traders said. The price of garlic has also increased to Rs 400 per kg in retail market in the state. Odisha Byabsayee Mahasangha General Secretary Sudhakar Panda said that the prices might come down in the next four to six days with the supply of new onions in the market. To a question, the minister said the new ration cards will be provided to the people in the New Year as the e-KYC verification process will be completed in November. He said at least 16 lakh ineligible beneficiaries have been identified.

Dakshata Padak

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.

The Odisha Police Selection Board, State Selection Board constituted under the Odisha Education (Selection Board for the State) Rules, 1992, Odisha Joint Entrance Examination, regulated by the Odisha Professional Educational Institution (Regulation of Admission and Fixation of Fee) Act, 2007, Departments of the State Government and their attached and subordinate offices for recruitment of staff, Selection agencies/committees engaged or constituted by the State Government, and all such other authority as may be notified by the State Government from time to time.

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



children on streets

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 a plea 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.

names of the private landowners will be entered in the revenue records of the lands replacing the names of Anil Agarwal Foundation.

On July 19, 2006, an MOU was signed with Vedanta Foundation for the establishment of a university in Puri by the company. The Vedanta Foundation also changed its decision thrice in selecting the name of the foundation during the process of land acquisition, a source said.

The company was first informed that the proposed university would be established under the Sterlite Foundation. It later changed the foundation to the Vedanta Foundation and then to the Anil Agarwal Foundation, the source added.

"In the first phase, the then government decided to

acquire land in 22 villages as well as provide some government plots for the establishment of the university.

The government awarded private land measuring 4138.84 acres for the university. Of this, the foundation was given the possession of 3342.53 acres of private land for the purpose. Later, the lease applied for government land measuring 692.02 acres while the then government immediately sanctioned the lease for 509.27 acres," added Pujari.

He noted that the foundation was given possession of land measuring 494.98 acres while a lease deed for 57.21 acres of government land was registered in the name of the foundation.

"Nine out of those

Three Odisha police officers awarded Kendriya Grihmantri Dakshata Padak

Berhampur: Three police officers from Odisha have been awarded the prestigious Kendriya Grihmantri Dakshata Padak-2024 for their outstanding work in crime investigation, an official said Wednesday. The awardees are Sabyasachi Malla, Inspector-in-Charge (IIC) of R Udayagiri police station in Gajapati district, Rajendra Narayan Pattanik, IIC of Aska police station in

Ganjam district, and Rigan Kindo, IIC of Malkangiri police station. "It is a matter of great pride that three police officers of Odisha have been awarded with the Kendriya Grihmantri Dakshata Padak-2024 for excellence in crime investigation", DGP YB Khurania posted on X. It is a matter of great pride that three police officers of Odisha have been awarded with the Kendriya Grihmantri

Dakshata Padak", 2024 for excellence in crime investigation. Pattanik received the award for his exceptional investigation of a double murder case in Kalinga Nagar, Jajpur district, in 2020. The case, which involved 19 accused, resulted in 17 people being sentenced to life imprisonment by the court. Malla was recognized for his work on a challenging case involving the murder of an unidentified woman in Ganjam district in 2021.

change Jharkhand's identity," the PM said at a rally in Deoghar. Promising to thwart such attempts, besides that of "weakening" SC, ST and OBC communities, Modi exuded confidence that the BJP-led NDA was going to form government in Jharkhand and he would come to attend the oath ceremony.

"The Congress has dangerous intentions. The Congress 'shehzada' is conspiring to scrap reservations for SCs, STs and OBCs. The prince's father had declared reservation as slavery, bonded labour but he was later defeated

in elections. His father had issued advertisements to remove reservations... We will thwart any such conspiracy," Modi said, referring to Congress leader Rahul Gandhi and his father and former PM Rajiv Gandhi without naming them. PM Modi claimed that infiltration was a major concern in Jharkhand due to which the "tribal population in Santhal Pargana has reduced to half and if the trend remains unchecked, it will change the identity of the state".

"The JMM-led coalition government in Jharkhand allowed infiltrators to become permanent citizens here... It is playing with the security of Jharkhand's 'beti, maati, roti' (daughter, mother, bread)," he alleged. Exuding confidence the BJP's win would be

spectacular in the assembly elections, the prime minister said that those making permutations and combinations sitting in air-conditioned rooms should see the massive crowd that has been attending rallies.

Modi said he would attend the oath ceremony of the BJP-led NDA government here. Addressing another rally at Godda, he alleged that infiltration has assumed an alarming proportion in Jharkhand and hit out at the ruling JMM-led coalition for "patronising" infiltrators. He also termed the ruling dispensation's 'Abua Awas' housing scheme in place of PM Awas Yojana as a 'farzi (fake)' scheme for 'cut money and commission'.

"The JMM-led coalition is patronising infiltrators. It is facilitating infiltrators to occupy land, forest and water of tribals, making their population decline," the PM alleged while addressing a rally at Godda.

He also alleged that the ruling alliance not only indulged in "mafia raj and question paper leak" but also stalled development and forced people to migrate, remain unemployed and suffer because they were devoid of connectivity. "I promise you that I will bring out the culprits who played with your children's future even if they are hiding in 'paatal'," the PM said. The JMM-led coalition applied salt to your wound by giving tickets to the wife of the jailed

Congress 'shehzada' conspiring to scrap reservations, alleges PM Modi



leader, the PM said without naming Alamgir Alam who is behind bars in a multi-crore money laundering case. The Congress has given 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 Dbara), 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

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.

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.

Quotation of the Day

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

– MICHELLE OBAMA

Two Great Authors and Nobel Award: The Irony of History

Prof manas mohapatra



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 Miller 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 performed better.

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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 Tanhai (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.

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)"



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."

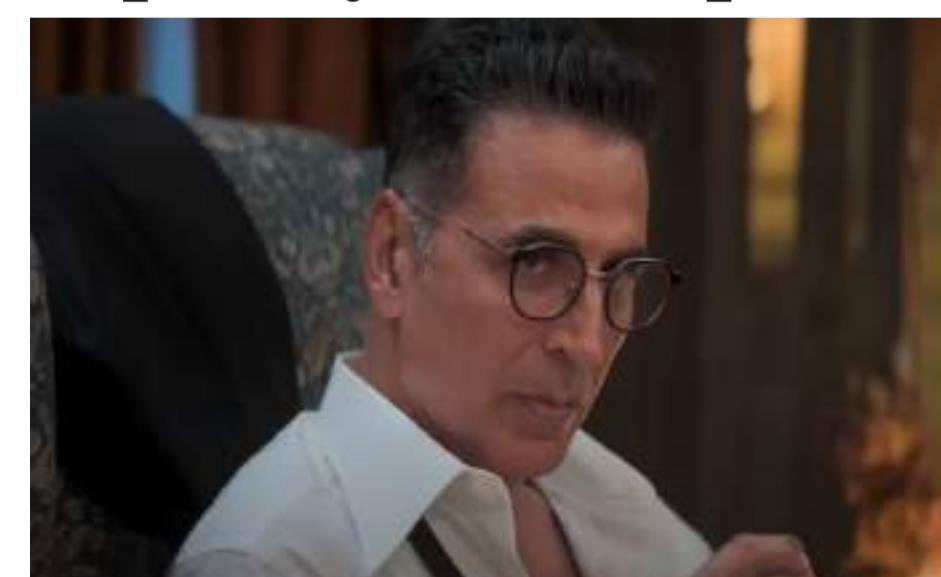
Coming to Spirit, the film is expected to be launched in a grand manner in December 2024. Sandeep Reddy Vanga has been involved in music sessions with Harshavardhan Rameshwar.

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.

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, 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.

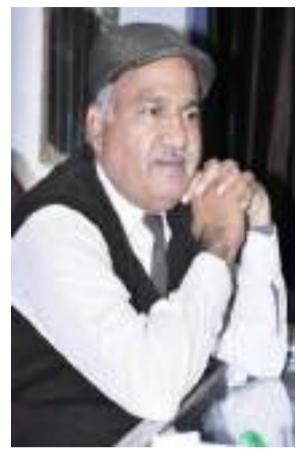
He is not someone to carelessly brush that aside. It may not determine his next choice but he pays careful attention to what's being said about him," Mudassar Aziz said.

He further added, "There is a very important phrase in cricket, 'Form is temporary, class is permanent'. Every time

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 Bhoosh Bangla, his comeback collaboration with Priyadarshan

Why multicultural education is necessary



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-

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

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**



Namo Drone Didi Yojana empowers women in agriculture

The Namo 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 Namo 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 Namo 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 Namo 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 Namo 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 Namo 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 Namo 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 Namo 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.

Research Scholar in Political Science, Poet, freelance journalist, and columnist, Ubba Bhawan, Aryanagar, Hisar (Haryana)-127045 (Mob.) 7015375570 (Talk + WhatsApp) Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/PriyankaSaurabh20/> twitter- https://twitter.com/pari_saurabh

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 EBIDTA 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.

"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, Ulema (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 2019 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 Raebareli, 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

PRIME MINISTER INAUGURATES PRADHAN MANTRI BHARTIYAJAN 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 PM AQI 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 PM AQI 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).

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



an attempt is being made to land the plane for the 21st time in Maharashtra. Soniaji, 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

Sambhajinagar.

Mumbaikar (KCN): 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

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



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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

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 Bholeshwar 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.

'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, 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).



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E-mail : maharishipublic13@yahoo.com



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



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 celebration, with the support of our distributors and employees, we are proud to collaborate 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, 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 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."

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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

employees—distributed thousands of nutrition kits across Gurugram, Thane, Panvel, Chennai, and Bhubaneswar, reaching over 10,000 individuals affected by the pandemic.

Raj Petro Specialities strengthens its leadership team with Prasad Vaze's appointment

Bhubaneswar : Mr. Prasad Vaze has been appointed as the Senior Director – Lubricants Business at Raj Petro Specialities Pvt Ltd., a Brenntag Group company. He will lead the comprehensive lubricants Business Units, including Speciality, Industrial and Automotive lubricant businesses.

Mr. Prasad Vaze is a result-oriented business leader with more than 25 years of extensive experience in customer-centric roles. Mr. Vaze has served in numerous senior leadership roles, including leading retail operations, profit centre management, developing business strategy and channel development & management.

Commenting on the appointment of a new member in the leadership team, Mr. Mehul Navanati, Managing Director, Raj Petro Specialities Pvt Ltd. stated, "We are thrilled to have a seasoned industry leader join our team. With Prasad onboard, we are confident that he will accelerate the growth momentum. His unique domain expertise will further help strengthen Raj Petro's market position and expand footprint across markets."

Ms. Archana Gharte - Head HR said, "We would like to extend a warm welcome to Mr. Prasad Vaze, our newest member to the LT team. He will be

taking on the important hat of managing Raj Petro's Lubricants Business, and we wish him all the best for his journey! With his knowledge and extensive experience, we are confident that Prasad will assist Raj Petro in reaching new heights."

On his appointment Mr. Prasad Vaze said, "I am very thrilled to take on this new role. My vision is to create a world class experience for our consumers and channel partners. Our aim is to leverage Kyros, Onwo and Zoomol brands, explore humongous potential that India and international markets offer and grow the Lubricant business profitability."

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ICC in a catch-22 situation amid PCB's steadfast stance on hosting Champions Trophy

New Delhi: During a recent television debate in Pakistan about the Champions Trophy controversy, a panellist argued that India should be replaced by Sri Lanka in the eight-team 50-over tournament. Another panellist countered, remarking, "You don't discard the player that holds both bat and ball. You don't eliminate India when world cricket depends on them, especially given the broadcaster is from the country."

This debate summed up the Catch-22 situation facing Pakistan, the Pakistan Cricket Board (PCB) and the International Cricket Council (ICC). Since last staging a global event in 1996, the PCB is eager to host the Champions Trophy at any cost, whether India participates or not. The

PCB aims to showcase that Pakistan, often targeted for security issues, is ready to change that 'unsafe image'. Hosting a major event like the Champions Trophy, nearly three decades later, would strengthen this perception.

The global reality is different. Without India's participation, the Champions Trophy - or any ICC event for that matter - would be a non-starter. Adding to the situation is PCB's firm stance against a hybrid model, which would have allowed Pakistan to host but move India's games, including a semifinal and the final, to a neutral venue, likely the UAE. But the PCB is not ready for this. With India and the Board of Control for Cricket in India (BCCI) making it clear that their team will

not travel to Pakistan, only a few options remain for stakeholders - the ICC and the PCB. Specifically, there are three potential scenarios: 1. The PCB agrees to the hybrid model and five of the 15 games are played in UAE. 2. The Champions Trophy is moved out of Pakistan, in which case the PCB might withdraw from the competition. 3. The Champions Trophy is indefinitely postponed. Each option has serious implications for both the tournament and the PCB's ambitions. The PCB risks facing ICC sanctions, including cuts to substantial ICC funding, if it withdraws. Additionally, moving or postponing the Champions Trophy would mean losing out on potentially USD 65 million as hosting fees, substantial money for the

PCB. This loss would rankle further considering that it made serious investments to upgrade infrastructure for the Champions Trophy at the three earmarked venues - Karachi, Rawalpindi, and Lahore. Reports from Pakistan indicate that the government has advised

the PCB against accepting a hybrid model. "It's off the table. The PCB will naturally follow government guidance," said a source familiar with the situation. Following extensive consultations, the PCB has written to the ICC seeking clarifications. In the ICC-PCB communication regarding India's stance, there appears to be no mention of security issues, and the PCB has raised numerous questions on that front. It also highlighted that over the past two years, New Zealand has toured Pakistan thrice, England twice, and Australia once.

"The PCB has responded to last week's ICC letter seeking clarifications for the BCCI's decision not to travel to Pakistan for the ICC Champions Trophy 2025," PCB spokesperson Sami-Ul-Hasan told Cricbuzz on Tuesday confirming the PCB is engaging with the ICC which, as reported by this website, called off a 100-day countdown event in Lahore, throwing the whole situation in a disarray. What is missed here is that the BCCI operates under the guidance of the Indian government and cannot make a decision without the official approval. Former India Sports Minister Anurag Thakur, while he was still in office, had long stated that India would not travel to Pakistan for the Champions Trophy. While this may not have been an official position of the BCCI at that time, anyone with a sane understanding of India-Pakistan dynamics would easily see through the situation. The ball is now well and truly in the ICC's court.

Virat Kohli criticism not a jibe, Gautam Gambhir a 'prickly character': Ponting

NEW DELHI: Ricky Ponting has clarified his recent comments about Virat Kohli and claimed that he wasn't trying to take a jibe at the Indian star batter. Ponting also said that Gautam Gambhir was a 'prickly character' and wasn't surprised to see him lash out at his Kohli remark. The Aussie legend said he wasn't surprised to see Gambhir lash out. Ponting expressed his willingness to shake the India coach's hand during the Test series. Ricky Ponting has claimed that he wasn't taking a dig at Virat Kohli and was just giving his honest opinion about the star batter's form recently. Ponting also said he was surprised with the reaction from India coach Gautam Gambhir's reaction to his comments on Kohli.



Ponting had recently caught the eye of the storm for saying that Kohli's form was a concern and someone with just 2 hundreds in 5 years wouldn't have been a top-order batter in international cricket. This would receive criticism from Gambhir, who told the former Aussie captain to focus on Australia cricket instead. The Australian

legend has now clarified his comments, saying he said that he and even Kohli would have been concerned about his current form and he wasn't taking shots at the Indian batter. Ponting hailed Kohli as a class player. "I said I would be concerned (about his form)," Ponting told 7NEWS. "But I think if you ask Virat, I'm sure

Virat would be a little bit concerned that he hasn't been able to make the same amount of hundreds as he has in previous years. "In no way was it a dig at him. I actually followed it up by saying he's played well in Australia and he'll be keen to bounce back over here. So, it's amazing how little things can get cut up, but he's

a class player and he's played well in Australia in the past." Speaking about the response he got from Gambhir, Ponting said the current India coach is quite a 'prickly' character and he wasn't surprised to see him come back at him. "I was surprised to read the reaction but knowing the coach, Gautam Gambhir ... he's quite a prickly character, so I'm not surprised it was him who said something back," said Ponting. Ponting expressed his willingness to shake the India coach's hand during the Test series, though he doesn't expect it to actually happen. Kohli has scored 1352 runs in 13 matches in Australia at an average of 54.08 down under.

New Delhi: Andre Russell will miss the remainder of the T20I series against England due to a left ankle sprain and has been replaced by Shamar Springer. Meanwhile, Alzarri Joseph returns from suspension and will rejoin the squad, replacing

Shamar Joseph. Alzarri received a two-match suspension after expressing frustration with the field placements set by captain Shai Hope during the third ODI against England, storming off the field in protest and leaving West Indies with only 10

Alzarri returns from suspension, Russell out with injury



On This Day: Rohit Sharma hits 264 vs Sri Lanka, highest ODI score in history

NEW DELHI: On November 13, 2014, at Eden Gardens in Kolkata, Rohit Sharma set a new benchmark in ODI cricket by scoring 264 runs against Sri Lanka, the highest individual score in the format till date. This remarkable innings featured 33 fours and 9 sixes.

In 2010, Sachin Tendulkar set a new standard in ODI cricket by becoming the first player to score a double century in a 50-over match, surpassing Saeed Anwar and Charles Coventry's record of 194. This achievement paved the way for others like Virender Sehwag and Rohit Sharma to reach this landmark. Among these milestones, Rohit Sharma's innings



on November 13, 2014, at Eden Gardens in Kolkata stands out as extraordinary. He redefined the concept of a 'daddy hundred' by scoring an unprecedented 264 against Sri Lanka—the highest individual score in ODI history, a record that still holds. It was not Rohit's first time breaching the 200-run mark; he had scored 209

against Australia the previous year, just short of Sehwag's then-record 219 against the West Indies in 2011. That fateful day in Kolkata, Rohit was given an early lifeline when he was dropped on 4 by Thisara Perera, a mistake that cost Sri Lanka dearly as Rohit went on to add 260 more runs. He reached his first hundred cautiously off 100 balls by the 32nd over, but from

there, his acceleration was remarkable. His second fifty came in just 25 balls as he took on bowlers like Angelo Mathews and Seekuge Prasanna with ease. Rohit brought up his double century in 151 balls, hitting a boundary in the 46th over to surpass 200. The last 22 balls of his innings turned into a brutal display of power as

he struck nine boundaries and three sixes, even being dropped once more after reaching his double hundred. Despite getting out on the final ball of the innings, he ended with a historic 264 off just 173 balls. His incredible knock featured 33 boundaries and 9 sixes, taking India's total to a formidable 404 for 5. The next-highest score was Virat Kohli's 66 off 64 balls, emphasizing Rohit's dominance. This was Rohit's second double century, making him the first player to achieve this feat twice in ODI cricket. He would go on to reach another double century—208 not out—against Sri Lanka in Mohali on December 13, 2017, solidifying his legacy as the only player to have scored three double centuries in ODI cricket.

NEW DELHI: World Cup-winning fast bowler Munaf Patel has joined Delhi Capitals' new support staff as the bowling coach, the franchise confirmed on Tuesday (November 12). Munaf will join a backroom staff headed by Venugopal Rao, the Director of Cricket, and Hemang Badani, the

head coach. Earlier in the year, the franchise parted ways with their long-serving head coach Ricky Ponting and the new coaching group of Rao and Badani were granted the responsibility of signing the rest of their support staff. Munaf will fill in to a role that was previously handled by James Hopes. Besides representing India in all the three formats, Munaf also has experience of playing 63 IPL games across stints with Rajasthan Royals, Mumbai Indians and Gujarat Lions, taking 74 wickets at an economy of 7.51. He played the last of his IPL games in 2017.