

Advantage BJP+ In Maharashtra, Close Fight In Jharkhand

New Delhi(KCN): Maharashtra -- the state where complication was a given in the assembly election -- has left pollsters befuddled, with three out of nine predicting a hung house, four leaning towards the ruling alliance and two hedging their bets. Jharkhand, where most expected a clear outcome, did not offer much clarity, with poll analysts being divided sharply down the middle. Three are of the opinion that the ruling alliance will retain the state, three others equally convinced that the NDA will wrest the state from the INDIA bloc. The aggregate of nine exit polls, though, indicates an NDA victory in Maharashtra. Data also

indicates a close fight in Jharkhand, where the end result could be a split verdict. Numbers say Maharashtra's Mahayuti -- ruling alliance of Eknath Shinde's Shiv Sena, Ajit Pawar's Nationalist Congress Party and the BJP -- could win 150 seats and the Maha Vikas Aghadi, the coalition of Uddhav Thackeray's faction of Shiv Sena, NCP Sharadchandra Pawar and the Congress, may get 125. The majority mark in the 288-member assembly stands at 145. In Jharkhand, currently ruled by the alliance of Jharkhand Mukti Morcha and the Congress, the NDA could marginally fall short of the magic figure

of 41, ending up with just 39 seats, show the aggregate of eight exit polls. The INDIA alliance, though, will be close behind with 38 seats.

Exit polls, however, can get it completely wrong as became amply clear in case of Haryana election, the results of which came out last month turning prediction on its head.

This time, the exit polls that predict an NDA victory include People's Pulse, Matriz, Chanakya Strategies, and Times Now JVC. The naysayers are Dainik Bhaskar, Lokshahi Marathi Rudra and Electoral Edge. There are also a couple of fence-sitters also who covered all bases with very disparate margins, Poll



Diary and P Marq - the former predicting that the ruling alliance may get anything between 122 and 186 seats and the MVA 69 to 121 seats. The political tumult of the last two years - a change of government sandwiched between splits in two parties, the Shiv Sena and the Nationalist Congress

Party - made for a particularly complicated election in Maharashtra at this time. While the results of the April-May Lok Sabha election indicated a clear public sympathy towards Uddhav Thackeray and Sharad Pawar, who faced rebellion, split and deprivation of power, party name and symbol,

the ruling alliance on the eve of election appeared to have covered much ground with its welfare schemes. Ground reports have indicated a possible change in the stance of women voters with schemes like "Ladli Behan" that put money in their purses in place

of Opposition assurances. Of the eight Opinion Polls for Jharkhand, three have predicted for a change of guard with NDA victory. Chanakya Strategies have given NDA 45-50 seats and People's Pulse 44-53 seats. Times Now-JVC also expects an NDA win in Jharkhand with 40-44 seats and 30-40 for the INDIA bloc. But Axis My India and Electoral Edge seem equally convinced about an INDIA Bloc victory. Dainik Bhaskar and PMarq have predicted a hung house.

In the 2019 assembly elections, the contest was close, with the JMM winning 30 seats and the BJP securing 25, down from 37 in 2014. The

JMM-Congress-RJD alliance won a comfortable majority with 47 seats. This time too, the INDIA bloc hopes to retain power, riding on its welfare schemes like the women-oriented Maiya Samman Yojana and the outrage among tribals over the arrest of Chief Minister Hemant Soren in a corruption case. In 2019 too, the tribals had voted overwhelmingly against the NDA. In the Lok Sabha election, the BJP won eight of the state's 14 seats, down from 11 in 2019. The NDA is hoping to make a comeback, with the allegations of non-performance and corruption against the Soren government.

Odisha to construct grand ring road connecting major commercial hubs across state: Minister

Bhubaneswar(KCN): Odisha Works minister Prithiviraj Harichandan Wednesday said the government will construct a six-lane grand ring road connecting all major commercial hubs of the state. This six-lane road will connect Mottu in Malkangiri district to Tiringin Mayurbhanj district. It will reduce travel time across Odisha to just 26 hours, linking all commercial hubs, Harichandan told media persons on the sideline of Odisha Infrastructure Conclave 2024. The All-Odisha Contractors Welfare Association (AOCWA) in association with the All-Odisha Contractors Association (AOCA) has organised the conclave here Wednesday. The minister alleged the previous BJD government had clubbed several infrastructure projects while inviting tenders, for which, the Odia



contractors were found ineligible to take part in the tender process. “Now, we have completely stopped it. However, there will be competition among contractors”, he said.



Harichandan said the state government is going to amend the Odisha public works department code to enhance the limit of B and C class contractors. He emphasised that contractors and engineers are essential members of the system and a vital part of the family, noting that no work can be accomplished without the involvement of contractors. The Odisha government is committed to execute major infrastructure projects to further boost development, the minister added.

Addressing the gathering, J Patra, president of AOCWA emphasised that the conclave is a transformative platform to bridge the gap between contractors and the government while promoting innovation and sustainability in infrastructure development.

CHSE Odisha announces Plus-II exams schedule

Bhubaneswar(KCN): The Council of Higher Secondary Education (CHSE), Odisha Wednesday announced the schedule for Plus-II examinations for all streams. The examinations are scheduled to start February 18, 2025 and continue till March 27, 2025. According to the official notification, the examination for regular and ex-regular candidates of the science stream will start February 18, 2025, while the examination for regular and ex-regular candidates of the arts and commerce stream will start February 19 of next year. For vocational studies, the examinations will start February 20, 2025, it stated. Internal assessment examination will be conducted from December 23 to 30 this year, while the practical examinations for regular and ex-regular candidates will be conducted from January 2 to 12 next year, the notification stated.

NCP(SP) worker assaulted, polling booth vandalised in Parli

Beed(KCN): A polling booth was vandalised and a worker of the Sharad Pawar-led NCP (SP) was assaulted Wednesday in Parli assembly constituency, from where minister Dhananjay Munde of the Ajit Pawar-led NCP is seeking re-election, an official said. Madhav Jadhav, a local leader of the Sharad Pawar-led party was assaulted in Bank Colony area of Parli town and the video of the assault went viral on social media, after which a polling booth at Ghatnandur in the constituency was vandalised, official said.

Support of Odia diaspora crucial to strengthening global outreach: Majhi

Bhubaneswar(KCN): Odisha Chief Minister Mohan Charan Majhi Wednesday emphasised that the support and engagement of the Odia diaspora are vital for enhancing the state's global outreach. Majhi was addressing an interactive session with over 400 members of the Odia diaspora in Singapore on the concluding day of his visit to the island nation. During the tour, the delegation led by the Chief Minister participated in high-level meetings, investment roadshows, and visits to major industrial and infrastructure hubs, paving the way for future collaborations in key sectors, according to an official statement. "Our visit to Singapore has been highly productive, allowing us to explore



new avenues and gain valuable insights for Odisha's growth journey. The support and engagement of the Odia diaspora here are crucial to strengthening our global outreach," Majhi said. He highlighted meaningful discussions with industry leaders from diverse sectors such as chemicals, petrochemicals, green energy, logistics, financial services, and port-based industrial infrastructure, which have opened doors for potential collaborations. Industries Minister Sampad Chandra Swain described the visit as a

significant step in showcasing Odisha's potential as a thriving investment destination. "We are committed to enhancing port-based industrial infrastructure and expanding skill development initiatives to create a highly capable workforce. Our focus remains on sustainable growth, leveraging global expertise to drive innovation and boost economic progress," Swain said. Later, in a post on X, Majhi wrote: "I had a discussion with Mr. Rene Pill Pedersen from AP Moller Maersk Group about establishing a ship recycling facility in Odisha. We also discussed enhancing port-based industrial infrastructure and logistics, including container terminals and the Multimodal Logistics Park (MMLP), which will significantly empower the state economy."

Central team to visit Odisha for assessment of damages caused by Cyclone 'Dana'

Bhubaneswar(KCN): A seven-member Inter-Ministerial Central Team (IMCT) is scheduled to reach Odisha November 24 for an on-the-spot assessment of the damage caused by Cyclone 'Dana', informed Revenue and Disaster Management Minister Suresh Pujari, Wednesday.

As per official sources, this visit aims to evaluate the ground realities and provide critical insights for relief and recovery measures.

Speaking to media persons in Bhubaneswar Wednesday, Pujari said that the Union Home Ministry through a letter has intimated that a seven-member Inter-Ministerial Central Team (IMCT), led by PK Rai, Joint Secretary, Ministry



of Home Affairs, will reach Odisha November 24. The team accompanied by officials of the Revenue Department will carry out an on-the-spot assessment of the damages caused by the cyclone and subsequent flooding in three coastal districts of the state between November 24 and 27. Pujari also stated that the collectors of the affected districts have been given instructions about the visit of the central team.

The team comprises representatives from multiple central ministries, ensuring a comprehensive evaluation of the disaster's impact in the affected districts. Pujari stated that the central team will also meet Chief Minister Mohan Charan Majhi. The Inter-Ministerial Central Team is scheduled to begin the field visits to the affected areas November 25. Following the

assessment through field visits in the three affected districts, the central team will return to Bhubaneswar and hold a briefing with the authorities of Revenue and other departments of the state government and collect reports related to the damages in the cyclone. He said that Odisha will receive compensation from the union government on the basis of the damage report prepared by the state government and the on-the-spot assessment by the central team. Notably, the Cyclone 'Dana' that hit the Odisha coast October 25 has caused damages to the tune of over Rs 600 crore, as per the assessment of the state government.

50% of Delhi govt employees to work from home as air quality moves to 'severe' category

New Delhi, (KCN): The Delhi government on Wednesday announced that all government offices functioning under the Delhi Government and Municipal Corporation of Delhi will operate with 50 per cent of the staff strength and the remaining 50 per cent of staff will work from home in view of the deteriorating air quality in the national capital. The national capital has been witnessing 'severe' levels of air quality for the past couple of days.

'In pursuance of Commission for Air Quality Management in NCR and Adjoining Areas (CAQM) Order dated 17.11.2024 and directions contained in the judgment dated 18.11.2024 of Hon'ble Supreme Court in W.P. (C) No. 13029/1985, all government offices functioning under Government of NCT of



Delhi and Municipal Corporation of Delhi shall operate with 50 per cent of the staff strength and the remaining 50% staff will work from home," the Delhi government stated in the notice. "All Administrative Secretaries and Heads of Departments of GNCTD shall attend their respective offices and call upon relevant officers/officials as per the requirement to ensure uninterrupted delivery of all essential and emergency public services," it added. The order further read that hospitals and other

public health-related establishments, fire services, prisons, public transport, electricity, water, sanitation and related Municipal services and other essential services are exempted from this order. "The order shall be implemented with immediate effect till Stage IV of the GRAP (Graded Response Action Plan) is in force. This issues with the approval of the Competent Authority," it added. The air quality in the national capital deteriorated back into the 'severe' category on Wednesday morning as a thin blanket of smog covered parts of

the city, reducing visibility and the quality of air touching a low level of air quality index (/topic/air-quality-index) (AQI). The air quality index had been reeling under the 'severe plus' category for the past two consecutive days. According to the Central Pollution Control Board (CPCB), the national capital recorded an Air Quality Index (AQI) at 424 today, placing it in the 'severe' category. Earlier on Tuesday, Gopal Rai wrote to Union Environment Minister Bhupendra Yadav requesting to immediately convene an emergency meeting with the Delhi Government, IIT Kanpur and all other central Government Departments like DGCA, Ministry of Home Affairs (MHA), Ministry of Defence etc. involved in issuing

In four days, four Dhams of the Mountains by helicopter



If protection of culture under nature can be called its culmination then it is present in India. Here trees, plants, air, water, sky, fire, earth, sun, mountains all are worshipped. In Kabir's words, "If you worship the stones and get green, then I worship the mountains, no one should worship the mill of the house, go and let the world grind." In Kabir's words, we find attachment towards the formless, yet the faith that is associated with the mountains takes us forward. And there too we find that original infinite. Faith is such an attitude which does not look at whom it is towards, it looks at how much dedication, how much determination power, how much faith. Determination power, faith and dedication are essential to keep life alive. There can be any symbol to get these. Now take the mountains only, many people are drawn towards the mountains.

Land of Hills
Devbhoomi Uttarakhand
Char Dham of Uttarakhand is a wonderful religious meeting place of different cultures of the country and abroad. They are also a symbol of the religious and cultural unity of North and South India. Along with the establishment of Joshimath, the northern seat of the Himalayas, in the eighth century, Shankaracharya also made arrangements to appoint a Namboodiri Brahmin from Kerala state of South India as Rawal for the worship of Badrinath with the aim of connecting the North and the South. It is a hill town located primarily on the slopes of the Himalayan mountain regions, having international borders with China (Tibet) in the north and Nepal in the east. The state is home to the four most important and revered Hindu temples: Yamunotri, Badrinath, Gangotri and Kedarnath. This is truly God's land (Dev Bhoomi). Uttarakhand is known as Devbhoomi or "Land of the Gods", as it is home to many Hindu holy sites. Moreover, Uttarakhand is known as Devbhoomi since ancient times, and

currently this state is known as Devbhoomi Uttarakhand in India. Devbhoomi Uttarakhand is also a part of the Himalayan region. The mountainous region and valleys of Devbhoomi Uttarakhand are also the home of gods and goddesses. India's longest and holiest river, Ganga, flows from the Gangotri Glacier in Uttarkashi district of Uttarakhand.

When did Char Dham Yatra start
Today lakhs of people reach Chardham Yatra. It is said that Adi Guru Shankaracharya discovered Badrinath in the 8th-9th century. It was he who rebuilt this place of religious importance. It is said that the idol of Lord Badrinath was in a cave near the Tapt Kund here and in the 16th century, a king of Garhwal placed it in the existing temple. While Kedarnath is one of the 12 Jyotirlingas of Lord Shiva. Local people used to visit the four Dhams with devotion, but in the 1950s, the movement here increased due to religious tourism. Due to the 1962 China war, when the transportation system in the area improved, the number of devotees coming on Chardham Yatra also started increasing.

Who established the four Dhams?
According to Skanda Purana, Garhwal has been called Kedarkhand. Kedarnath is also described in Mahabharata. After the Mahabharata war, there are reports of Pandavas worshipping here. It is believed that the present temple was built by Adi Guru Shankaracharya in the 8th-9th century. Description about Badrinath temple is also found in Skanda Purana and Vishnu Purana. There is mention in the Puranas about the existence of the Badrinath temple even in the Vedic period (1750-500 BC). According to some beliefs, there was a Buddhist temple here till the 8th century, which was later converted into a Hindu temple by Adi Guru Shankaracharya. According to the Puranas, the credit for bringing Ganga to earth goes to King Bhagiratha. The Gorkha people (Nepali) ruled Kumaon-Garhwal from 1790 to 1815, during which time the Gangotri temple was built by the Gorkha general Amar Singh Thapa. On the other hand, the original temple of Yamunotri was built by Maharani Guleria of Jaipur in the 19th century. However, some documents also indicate

that the old temple was built by Maharaja Pratap Shah of Tehri. The present temple has been constructed after the old temple broke down due to weather.

First day of travel
The journey starts from the helipad built at Sahasradhara in Dehradun. From here the helicopter takes the first flight and in about forty-five minutes reaches Kharsali from where Yamunotri is six km away. After reaching

springs near the temple; Surya Kund is the most important among them. Devotees boil rice and potatoes in the pond and consume it as Prasad of the Goddess. Legend has it that Goddess Yamuna is considered the daughter of Surya and twin sister of Yama (god of death). It is said that sage Asit Muni lived here and used to bathe in both Ganga and Yamuna. In old age, when he was unable to go to Gangotri, a stream

meditation. Enraged Kapila opened his flaming eyes causing all 60,000 sons to turn into ashes. Later, on the advice of Kapil, Anshuman (Sagar's grandson) started praying to Goddess Ganga, requesting her to come to earth to clean the ashes of his relatives and grant them salvation. Anshuman failed in his objective; It was his grandson Bhagiratha whose rigorous meditation brought

ability to survive for many centuries in such harsh terrain. Legend has it that the Pandavas were searching for Lord Shiva to get salvation from the sins committed on the battlefield of Mahabharata. Lord Shiva was in no mood to forgive him so easily, so he transformed himself into a bull and headed towards Garhwal in Uttarakhand. Discovered by the Pandavas, he dived into the ground. Different

goddesses, the Badrinath temple has a 1 meter high black stone statue of Lord Vishnu. The idol is considered to be one of the eight self-manifested spheres, the self-manifested idols. The Vishnu temple has a majestic gate painted in bright colours. A hot pool in the temple; There is also a hot spring, which is believed to have medicinal properties. Badrinath is considered one of the most sacred places in Hinduism. One of the 108 Divya Deshams, Badrinath Temple is part of both Char Dham and Chhota Char Dham. Adi Shankaracharya found the idol of Lord Badri in the Alaknanda River and installed it in a cave near Tapt Kund. In the 16th century, a Garhwal king built the temple, which has been renovated several times as a result of natural disasters. Situated between the Nar and Narayan peaks, the beauty of Badrinath Dham is further enhanced by the spectacular backdrop of the Neelkanth peak. According to a legend, Lord Vishnu's indulgent lifestyle was criticized by a sage, after which Vishnu went here to meditate for penance. Goddess Lakshmi (his wife) turned into a plum tree to protect him from the sun and other harsh elements of nature. In another divine story it is said that Badrinath used to be the kingdom of Shiva. Vishnu cheated Shiva and left this place and established himself in its place.

Other places to visit around Badrinath
Vasudhara Waterfall: Vasudhara Waterfall is located 9 km from Badrinath. The height of this waterfall is about 400 feet and it joins the Alaknanda River. Vasundhara is popular among hiking enthusiasts due to its serene beauty. Tourists can trek 6 km from Mana village to reach this remote place. It is widely believed that only those who are devoid of any guilt or malice can enjoy the beauty of the waterfall.

Panch Dhara: Panch Dhara refers to the group of five streams that originate from Badrinath. Prahlad Dhara, Urvashi Dhara, Kurma Dhara and Indira Dhara form the Panch Dhara. The Bhrgu stream passes through many caves, while the Prahlad stream has hot water. The place where they meet is considered auspicious by Hindus.

Vyas Cave: Vyas Cave, located in Chamoli, a few kilometers from Badrinath, is an ancient cave. It is believed that the Hindu epic

Mahabharata was composed by sage Vyas in this cave with the help of Lord Ganesha.

Neelkanth Peak: Popular among mountaineers, Neelkanth is a prominent peak in the Garhwal division, a part of the Himalayas. This snow covered mountain, known as the Queen of Garhwal, is situated 11398 feet above Badrinath.

Pandukeshwar: Located 18 kilometers away from Joshimath, Pandukeshwar is considered a holy place associated with the Mahabharata period. It is believed that King Pandu (father of Pandavas) worshiped Lord Shiva here. Today, there are two famous temples here, the Yoga Dhyana Badri Temple (which is dedicated to Utsava-murti) and the Lord Vasudeva Temple, which is generally believed to have been built by the Pandavas.

Mana Village: Believed to be the last Indian village near the border between India and Tibet/China, Mana is located 3 km from Badrinath in Chamoli district. The Government of Uttarakhand has recognized Mana as a "Tourism Village". This beautiful village situated in the Himalayas is situated at an altitude of 3219 meters above sea level and is situated on the banks of the Saraswati River.

Pandavas ascended to heaven from here
Be it Adi Guru Shankaracharya or before him, the arrival of Pandavas for atonement and ascension to heaven, Nagadhiraj, the pilgrimage of Uttarakhand situated amidst the high peaks of the Himalayas and its divine structure has been a source of inspiration for the human beings who have been pious and in search of spiritual peace for ages. Have been attracting and this trend is still continuing. It is believed that after the Mahabharata war, Pandavas had reached Uttarakhand to worship Lord Shiva to get rid of the sin of killing the Gotra. At Kedarnath he finally saw Shiva in the form of Nandi. Even today the stone temple built by the Pandavas is still present there. After this, Pandavas ascended to heaven from Satopanth Glacier on the side of Badrinath, passing along the banks of Alaknanda, the main stream of Ganga.

(The author is a trainer of yoga, meditation and spirituality)



Kharsali, one can travel up the hill by foot, horse, doli etc. after resting in a normal hotel. When the helicopter lands amidst the mountains, it feels as if you are in the lap of nature. On the way, real views of the giant Himalayas are visible. At some places in the distance, snow covered mountain peaks, small hill farms, villages and towns were visible. At some places the high speed of the wind creates wrinkles and at some places we flaunt like birds in the distant sky. There are small shops all along the way where snacks and tea are available and the biggest thing is that the climb here is a bit steep and one has to stop at many places to rest. As we go higher the coldness increases. The melting snow from the mountains makes us yearn and the sun in the distant sky also becomes dim. Yamunotri is the place where India's second most sacred river Yamuna originates. Yamunotri Dham, located in Uttarkashi district of Uttarakhand, is the first stop of the pilgrimage. It is believed that bathing in its waters washes away all sins and protects from untimely and painful death. It is believed that Yamunotri temple was built in 1839 by King Naresh Sudarshan Shah of Tehri. Apart from Yamuna Devi (Goddess), the idol of Ganga Devi is also installed in the iconic temple. There are several hot water

of Ganga started flowing across the river Yamuna.

Second day of the trip
The helicopter takes off from Kharsali on the next day and takes about half an hour to reach Harsil village from where Gangotri is about twenty-five km away. After your stay at the hotel, a four-wheeler comes to pick you up and takes you towards Gangotri. The train moves forward through the mountains, through uphill roads and heavy traffic, and takes one and a half hours to Gangotri. After walking about 200 meters further you reach the temple. And nearby the river Ganga is flowing like a young woman. Taking a bath requires special courage because the water is so cold that teeth start ringing. Gangotri Dham is dedicated to Goddess Ganga, who is said to have descended on earth to wash away the sins of mankind. This river originates from Gangotri Glacier at Gomukh which is about 18 km from Gangotri town. The original temple of Gangotri, located in the Uttarkashi district of Uttarakhand, was built by Amar Singh Thapa, a Gorkha general, in the early 19th century. Legend has it that King Sagar performed Ashwamedha Yagya and sent his 60,000 sons along with the horse. The horse was lost; Tracing the horse to sage Kapil's ashram, 60,000 sons raided the ashram and harassed the sage engrossed in deep

Ganga down to earth. Lord Shiva dammed Ganga and distributed its waters into many streams to protect the earth with its mighty power.

Third day of the trip
After taking off from Harshil, helicopters drop you for stay in Guptkashi, Fata or Sirsi. From here you are taken to Kedarnath and brought back. From Sirsi we flew to Kedarnath, passing through the mountains, the helicopter lands on the helipad in front of this amazing place Kedarnath. Kedarnath temple is visible in front. The temple amidst snow covered mountains all around and one spontaneously remembers 2013 when heavy rains brought devastation here. If we move ahead, there is a queue arrangement for darshan in the temple and also for VIP darshan. Apart from the memorial in the memory of Adi Shankar behind the temple, a rock is also visible behind the temple which is called Bhima Shila and it is believed that this rock magically saved the temple from that accident.

Kedarnath, located in Rudraprayag district of Uttarakhand, is the most inaccessible pilgrimage site. It is believed that Kedarnath temple was originally built by the Pandavas. And Adi Shankaracharya built the present structure near the old temple site in the 8th century. This brown stone structure is an architectural marvel due to its grand design and

parts of the Lord emerged at different places - the hump at Kedarnath, the arms at Tunganath, the navel at Madhya-Maheshwar, the face at Rudranath and the hair at Kalpeshwar. These five places together are known as Panch-Kedar. Pandavas built temples at all five places.

There is a legend that the history of this abode of Lord Shiva is connected with the incarnation of Lord Vishnu, Nar-Narayan, Pandavas and Adi Guru Shankaracharya. This temple is in the Himalayan region, due to this it remains closed for about 6 months during winter season and is opened for devotees during summer season. Many beliefs related to Kedarnath Dham are prevalent. It is written in the Kotirudra Samhita of Shiyupuran that in ancient times, Nar-Narayan, the incarnation of Lord Vishnu, used to worship Lord Shiva daily by making a mortal Shivalinga in Badrivan.

Fourth day of the journey
On the fourth day, the helicopter lands at the helipad of Badrinath which is located at a distance of five hundred meters from the temple and after the hotel stay, we go for darshan. Situated at an altitude of 10,279 feet in the Garhwal hills near the Alaknanda River, this temple offers beautiful views of the snow-covered Himalayas and the picturesque surroundings. Apart from various idols of gods and

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Diljit Dosanjh pauses live concert in Ahmedabad after spotting fans watching from it hotel balcony

Punjabi superstar Diljit Dosanjh, who recently performed in Ahmedabad, paused his performance after he spotted the fans watching the show from the balcony of the hotel. A video which is going viral on the Internet shows Diljit questioning those fans watching his show from a hotel balcony without tickets. He then asked his team to stop playing the music. He then pointed in the front, and said, "Yeh jo hotel ki balcony mein baithe hai, aap ka toh bada accha bhi hoya. Yeh hotel waale game kar gaye (Those who are sitting in the hotel balcony this is good for you. The hotel outsmarted us). Without tickets, huh?" The singer then resumed his performance but gestured towards those watching from the balcony that they were having fun without tickets. Of late, Diljit's concerts have been gaining massive national attention owing to his performance and the content coming out of them. Recently, the Punjabi

superstar pointed his guns at the Telangana government which issued a notice to him over performing songs referencing alcohol. A nationwide ban on



Diljit took a bold stand, and played a Uno reverse as he challenged all state governments across the country, and proposed a ban on alcohol consumption. He said that if alcohol consumption is banned across India, he would permanently stop singing songs that use alcohol as reference. He said that he recently

released two devotional songs as well, and has very few songs related to alcohol as he himself is a teetotaler.

A nationwide ban on

alcohol would prove detrimental to the economy as licensed alcohol forms a huge part of the GDP and tax collections across the states. Earlier, Diljit also slammed netizens who made fun of a girl who was seen getting welling up and getting emotional during one of his shows.

Filmmaker Nikhil Dwivedi on re-releases: Will help us understand where we are lacking

In a recent interview, filmmaker Nikhil Dwivedi spoke about the resurgence of film re-releases in India. He emphasized the positive impact this trend has on both audiences and the film industry. Dwivedi believes re-releases highlight the quality of past films. As re-releases of films continue to gain popularity, producer and actor Nikhil Dwivedi has shared his thoughts on the growing trend. In an exclusive chat with India Today Digital, he highlighted the positive impact of re-releasing films, stressing the value it adds to the industry. The year 2024 has witnessed a surge in re-releases, often coinciding with anniversaries or special occasions, drawing fans back to cinemas. For audiences, re-releases serve as a way to enjoy beloved classics or underrated gems on the big screen. Sharing his on the recent re-releases, Nikhil Dwivedi called it a good trend. He said, "There used to be re-releases in single screens, but when multiplexes came, the



concept of re-releases stopped. Single screens would re-release films so much. Sholay has made more money in re-releases than it did in its first run when it was released in 1975. So re-releases were the order of the day back then. I am all for it because, firstly, the new generations are getting the same experience on a large screen. I think there are many times when you see a film that came before its time or maybe a film didn't get its due recognition because of certain external factors and circumstances. Now, at least, that would be taken

care of." He further added, "There is no harm in re-releasing films. Also, I think the current lot of producers and directors, like us, will know where we are lacking when good cinema of the past is released. If we don't make good films today, old films will keep running." When asked which film he would like to see re-released, he replied, "I saw most of the films during an Amitabh Bachchan film festival — I watched Don and Deewar. So now, I would like Shyam Benegal's Kalyug (1981) to be re-released."

Rohit Shetty adds 'demon' twist to Singham Again climax two months before release

Director Rohit Shetty is putting his best efforts into making the climax of Singham Again grander. He is currently shooting for these new scenes in Mumbai as the post-production work is underway. Director Rohit Shetty is reportedly completing the shoot of his upcoming film Singham Again. The filmmaker had a few thoughts about the climax in the film involving 'raakshas' (demons), and he decided to shoot two months before the film's release to make the scene look grander and more impressive. The film is led by Ajay Devgn and Kareena Kapoor, with special appearances by many actors, including Deepika Padukone,



Tiger Shroff, Akshay Kumar and Ranveer Singh. As per a report published in Mid-Day, Rohit has been shooting these extra scenes at the Golden Tobacco factory in Vile Parle in Mumbai.

The post-production work on the film is already underway and the director simply decided to add some more meat to it. The report mentioned that the filmmaker shot with a gathering of around

500 people because he needed a huge crowd in the scene. The source close to the production told the daily, "Rohit is shooting a grand play-like scene and has many characters dressed as

rakshasas (demons), thus adding a folk-based twist to the proceedings. The team has set up a large stage, where Rohit will film an elaborate performance that forms the centrepiece of the climax. In the next few

days, Ajay is expected to join the shoot." The report added, "The scene needed a huge crowd. So, the production team included the people gathered in the scene. Filming is expected to continue until September 11." The film is slated to hit the screens as the big Diwali release this year on November 1. It is facing a box office clash with Bhool Bhulaiyaa 3, which features Kartik Aaryan, Vidya Balan, Madhuri Dixit and Triptii Dimri, among others. There's enough buzz to attract audiences to theatres for both the films. However, it seems like Rohit is leaving no stone unturned in making sure that Singham Again reflects that X-factor on the big screen this Diwali.

'Blackout' trailer: Vikrant Massey's film is muddled with unhinged chaos

Vikrant Massey is set to venture into dark comedy genre with his new film 'Blackout', directed by Devang Bhavsar. The film's trailer, showcasing a chaotic plot, was unveiled on May 30. The trailer for 'Blackout' released on May 30. The film, featuring Vikrant Massey, Sunil Grover, Mouni Roy and others will release on June 7 on JioCinema. The film is directed by debutant Devang Bhavsar. The trailer depicts a chaotic story of one night amid crime and confusion. Vikrant's character gets involved in an accident where he recovers gold, possibly

related to some illegal or smuggling racket. Coincidentally, Sunil Grover enters the scene as his co-passenger who agrees to help him if he gets half of the share. Mouni Roy and many other unexpected characters also become part of the roller coaster ride leading to more confusion, chaos and a game of cat and mouse as everyone is determined to snatch the gold. The film has been co-produced by Jyoti Deshpande and Niraj Kothari. Blackout also features Jisshu Sengupta, Karan Sudhakar Sonawane, Saurabh Dilip Ghadge, Ruhani



Sharma, Anantvijay Joshi, Prasad Oak, Chhaya Raghunath Kadam, Sooraj Pops and Kelly Dorji in crucial roles. When asked about the film, Vikrant Massey

said, "I am thrilled that 'Blackout' is making its premiere on JioCinema. This film pushes the boundaries of storytelling, and I believe viewers will be captivated by its unique narrative."

Co-star Sunil Grover added, "Working on 'Blackout' was an extraordinary experience. The film offers a perfect blend of suspense and drama that will keep audiences

hooked from start to finish. I can't wait for the world to see it." Mouni Roy, expressing her enthusiasm for the film, stated, "Being a part of 'Blackout' has been an incredible journey. The film's unique storyline and captivating characters drew me in from the start. I'm excited for audiences to witness the suspense and excitement that the film has to offer." 'Blackout' will be streaming on JioCinema from June 7. Vikrant will next be seen in 'Yaar Jigri', 'Sector 36', 'Phir Aayi Haseen Dillruba' and 'The Sabarmati Report'.



Basics of Dawah

Aubaid Ahmad Akhoon

A few days ago, I read an article on digital dawah in one of the leading newspapers, written by a student pursuing a Master's in Islamic Studies at Kashmir University. The article beautifully described the modern evolution of dawah. While my intention is not to critique, I felt compelled to reflect on the topic from a broader perspective. This reflection inspired me to explore the foundational principles of dawah, which form the bedrock of any successful outreach effort. Aggressive Thinking: A Dangerous Weapon Aggressive thinking, especially when met with peace, often stems from a negative mindset. Whether individual or collective, it is a reflection of weakness. Islam has no place for such thinking. When we resort to aggression as the final response, it signifies a failure to engage in meaningful dialogue and understanding. If we lack the knowledge and skill to communicate thoughtfully, we may fall back on ignorance, misrepresentation, or verbal violence—none of which lead to positive change.

I once engaged in a conversation with a gentleman who claimed that Allah would destroy the disbelievers. I objected, pointing out that such a statement was made without wisdom or understanding. I reminded him that, just a few centuries ago, our ancestors were also disbelievers, and it was through the dawah of others that we became Muslims. If the early callers to Islam had viewed us as "infidels" and rejected us, how would we, as Muslims today, have ever found the truth? Allah, in His infinite wisdom, instructs Prophet Muhammad (PBUH) to invite others to the path of righteousness with patience, wisdom, and beautiful words: "Invite to the way of your Lord with wisdom and good advice, and argue with them in a way that is most beautiful. Verily, your Lord knows best who has strayed from His path and who is rightly guided" (Surah An-Nahl 16:125). The qualities of selfishness, narrow-mindedness, and hard-heartedness have no place in a society built on Islam's values of kindness and compassion. The Prophet (PBUH) said, "I have been sent to perfect good

manners." This teaching underscores that Islam is not about rigidly proving others wrong; it's about rising above the desire for personal victory and engaging with others in a manner that nurtures understanding, respect, and empathy. In the Qur'an, over 6,000 verses speak to the importance of moral conduct—both positive and negative values are addressed throughout. The ethics of the Prophets and the righteous are fundamental in guiding our behavior. To be truly moral is not to retaliate under negative influences but to act with wisdom and kindness, regardless of the other party's actions. The Legacy of Shah Hamdan: A Model of Dawah A powerful example of dawah in Kashmir is Mir Syed Ali Hamdani, also known as Shah Hamdani. He came to the subcontinent, particularly Kashmir, where he spread Islam for over seven centuries. Formerly the son of the King of Hamdan in Iran, he was known by the title of Amir Kabir. Among the famous mosques he built during his preaching is the renowned 'Khankahi Moula,' located on the banks of the Jhelum River, along with the Dargah Shah Hamdan in Srinagar. His personal character stood out in his preaching.

Shah Hamdani's teachings were not focused on a glowing exterior or aggressive tactics, but rather on his integration of dawah with practical life. He promoted the flourishing of industries in Kashmir, such as carpet making and pashmina weaving, alongside religious preaching. The industrialization that occurred was not the real goal, but rather a means to facilitate dawah. His methods were grounded in a deep understanding of the people's needs, making dawah relevant and embedded in their daily lives. This approach sharply contrasts with the modern tendency to view dawah as an academic or ideological contest, where the goal becomes proving others wrong. Such a mindset harms not only dawah but also the well-being of the nation. Dawah must transcend personal vendettas and negative thinking—it is about creating an atmosphere of peace, understanding, and acceptance. The core message of dawah is simple: we invite others to the path of truth not by condemning them, but by showing them the beauty and wisdom of Islam. As the poet says: "Mita de apni hasti ko

agar kuch martabah chahiye, ki danah khaak mai mil kar gulo gulzaar hota hai." Meaning: Erase your being if you want honor, for like a seed that mingles with the dust, it is through humility that the flower blooms. True honor and change come when we rise above ego and strive for the greater good. You Are the Best of Nations: A Reflection on Quran 3:110 "You are the best of nations produced for mankind: You enjoin what is right, forbid what is wrong, and believe in Allah." (Quran 3:110) This profound verse highlights the unique honor and responsibility bestowed upon the Muslim Ummah. It not only establishes the status of this nation but also defines its role as a moral and spiritual guide for humanity. The Muslim Ummah's excellence is not a privilege but a responsibility. This divine designation aligns with the principles of dawah, urging Muslims to embody the core values of faith, morality, and unity. The status of the Muslim Ummah is eternal, grounded in its collective commitment to enjoining good, forbidding evil, and maintaining unwavering

faith in Allah. This highlights the responsibility of Muslims to guide others with wisdom and righteousness, a key element of dawah. The Role of Digital Platforms in Dawah As we move into the digital age, technology has radically transformed how we approach dawah. Digital platforms have become indispensable tools for spreading the message of Islam. Social media platforms like Facebook, YouTube, Twitter, and Instagram offer Muslims an unprecedented opportunity to connect with a global audience, share knowledge, answer questions, and address misconceptions about Islam. These platforms have removed geographical barriers, allowing dawah to reach every corner of the world. However, with this power comes responsibility. Digital platforms can be powerful servants but dangerous masters. They can facilitate meaningful discussions, create awareness, and build understanding, but they also have the potential to spread misinformation, hatred, and divisiveness. It is crucial for us to use these platforms with caution and wisdom, ensuring that we uphold the values of Islam while

engaging with the digital community. The potential of digital dawah is vast, but we must remember that it is not the platform itself that carries the message; it is how we choose to use it. The real challenge lies in ensuring that the message remains true to the core values of Islam: wisdom, compassion, and respect. Digital tools should serve as bridges, not barriers. The Importance of Unity The unity of the Muslim Ummah holds a special place in Islam. Allah warns against straying from the collective path in the Quran: "Whoever opposes the Messenger after guidance has been made clear to him and follows a path other than that of the believers, We will turn him to what he has chosen and cast him into Hell." (Quran 4:115) Similarly, the Prophet (PBUH) emphasized: "Allah's mercy is with the congregation. Whoever separates from the group has gone astray." (Tirmidhi) This unity is foundational for the Ummah's role as a guide for humanity. Through collective adherence to the principles of dawah, we embody the Qur'anic verse: "You are the best of nations." Our unity as Muslims strengthens our

ability to enjoin good and forbid evil, fulfilling our divine responsibility. Tailpiece: In conclusion, while digital dawah is a valuable tool for spreading the message of Islam, it is important to remember that technology itself is neutral. It is up to us to use it responsibly. The principles of dawah—wisdom, kindness, and sincerity—must guide our actions, whether in personal interactions or online spaces. As we continue to navigate the digital age, let us remain mindful of the power we wield and use it to spread the message of Islam with the same compassion, understanding, and wisdom that the Prophet Muhammad (PBUH) exemplified. "To change the world, we need to combine Ancient Wisdom with new technologies." — Paulo Coelho Technology plays a climacteric role in our lives, making it pivotal for us to be aware of both its boons and banes.

Author is Columnist, Motivational Speaker, and Associate Editor of Weekly 'Education Quill' Presently Working as Sr. EDP Head at SKIE Classes Khanyar/ Soura branch. Instagram ID: Ubi9305 Email: akhoonaubaid@gmail.com 9205000010

Try these healthy and delicious millet recipes in winter

If you think that you will get bored of eating millet roti, then it is not so. You can make other dishes from millet that are delicious and will not be boring for you at all.

Priyanka Saurabh



Winter is finally here, and with it come the cold winds and harsh winters. But don't panic, because all your favorite warm-weather foods will be there to warm you up. While millets are a staple of many winter diets across India, it's worth noting that they not only give us warm, hearty meals but are also packed with valuable nutrients. But what's so good about millets? Let's explore the health benefits of millets in detail, check out some delicious recipes made with millets, and get answers to the most common question related to this super grain. Is millet good for weight loss? **Health benefits of millets** Pearl millet, also commonly known as bajra, is a powerfully nutritious whole grain rich in protein, carbohydrates, vitamins, and minerals. It provides a unique, pleasant taste and texture to foods such as porridge, breads, biscuits, cooked cereals, soups, and stews. Its

non-sticky nature makes it easy to digest, especially for those who are allergic to gluten or have celiac disease. It has a delicate flavor that is easy to cook. Millet is a great substitute for rice and can be used as a thickening agent for sauces, stews, soups, and gravies. The list of the abundant health benefits of millets is very long. **1. A good option for diabetics** Millets work perfectly with a diabetic diet. They contain carbohydrates that are digested slowly, keeping glucose levels stable for a long time. This makes them a healthy food option for diabetics. **2. Provides relief from acidity and other stomach problems** The acidity-regulating and soothing effects of millet are beneficial for people suffering from stomach ulcers, intestinal discomfort, and frequent bouts of vomiting. Millet is especially beneficial for patients suffering from chronic constipation due to its laxative properties. **3. Lowers blood pressure** Millet contains potassium, a mineral that helps lower blood pressure. This superfood is known as a natural medicine in many cultures because it has natural properties to aid

your body's functioning. Millet is rich in vitamins and minerals that we need on a daily basis—like iron and magnesium. Millet is a great option not only to lose excess weight but also to prevent weight gain. Since a roti

in a large bowl, mix the bajra flour and wheat flour with salt. Using 3/4 cup warm water, knead the dough into a soft dough. Divide the dough to make 8 rotis. Press the dough with your hands to make it

Green Moong Dal Nutritious, warm, and delicious—that is the best way to describe millet khichdi. Khichdi is a simple and hearty meal that is always filling. Millet Khichdi with Green Moong Dal



made from it contains only 97 calories, it makes you feel full and satisfied for a long time. It improves metabolism and is also rich in fiber, vitamins, minerals, and antioxidants, which make it beneficial for your health as well. ***Delicious Millet Recipes You Must Try.*** 1. Bajra Roti Let's start with the classic recipe first. Bajra roti is one of the easiest and tastiest recipes to make. Firstly,

soft. Using a rolling pin, roll the dough into a round roti shape. Heat a non-stick tawa on medium heat and carefully place your rolled roti. Cook it for a few seconds until the roti gets a nice color. Flip the roti and cook the other side in the same way. Once cooked, apply desi ghee on top. Bajra roti tastes best with Urad Chana Dal. Enjoy your nutritious meal. 2. Millet Khichdi with

is one such recipe that you must include in your lunch menu. First, soak the millet in water for 8 hours. After soaking well, strain it and wash it 2-3 times under running water. Add soaked millets, green moong dal, salt to taste, and 2 cups of water in a pressure cooker and let it cook for 4 whistles. Allow the steam to escape before opening the lid. Take a non-stick pan and add desi ghee,

cumin seeds, asafoetida, and turmeric powder to it. Fry it on medium flame for a few seconds. To this mixture, add cooked millet and green moong dal along with a pinch of salt. Mix well and cook on low flame for 2-3 minutes. Bajra Khichdi with Green Moong Dal is ready. Serve it hot and serve with curd. **3. Millet Dosa** Who doesn't love a golden crispy dosa? Imagine your favorite dosa can be healthy too. Bajra dosa is great for weight loss and is a perfect option for people with diabetes. Let's start cooking! To make dosa, soak 1 cup millet, 1/2 cup urad dal, and 1/4 cup poha for 6 hours. Next, soak a handful of fenugreek seeds separately for 4-6 hours. Once soaked, drain well and blend in a mixer, adding 3/4 cup water till smooth. Transfer the mixture to a large bowl and add the millet flour and salt. Add about 2 cups of water and mix well using a whisk. Cover the mixture with a lid and let it ferment overnight. The next day, stir the mixture well. It's time to make dosas! Heat a non-stick tawa, sprinkle some water on it, and wipe it with a thin muslin cloth. Pour a ladle of dosa batter on the hot pan in

a circular motion. Apply a tablespoon of Desi Ghee or oil on the edges till the dosa turns golden brown and crispy on both sides. Enjoy it with hot sambhar and cold chutney. **4. Millet Chakli** A festival favorite, a breakfast time snack, a midnight snack, a perfect tea time treat, the age-old spiral chakli holds a lot of significance for many. You can make it even more delicious with this easy millet recipe. Start by combining millet flour, wheat flour, garlic, nigella seeds, green chili paste, and salt in a large bowl. Mix them all well. Work the softened butter into the flour mixture using your fingers until the mixture resembles bread or cookie crumbs. Add 1 tablespoon curd and knead into a soft dough using some water. Pour the mixture into a chakli maker and press the dough spiral onto the aluminum foil. Let's start frying. Heat oil in a pan; gently pick up your precious chakli and drop them in the oil one by one. Deep fry a few chaklis one by one till they turn golden brown on both sides. Drain the millet chakli on a tissue paper, and they are ready to eat. **5. Millet chocolate pancakes** The best for last! Delicious millet pancakes served with warm

chocolate sauce taste amazing. You can have it as a dessert or breakfast. It's a win-win, right? Start by mixing half a cup of millet flour and equal amounts of jaggery. Sieve the millet flour, then add half a cup of melted jaggery, 1 tablespoon cocoa powder, and 1 more mashed banana to the flour. Mix all the ingredients with warm water to make a smooth batter. P.S. You can also use warm milk to make the batter. Heat a pan and apply some butter to it, then slowly pour a ladle of batter, flip it over to make a pancake, and serve hot with chocolate syrup or vanilla ice cream. Are you ready to include millet in your life and reap its countless benefits? Millet should be included in the regular diet, as it can prove to be beneficial for health. Millet is rich in nutrients and is also called a powerhouse of fiber. Regular consumption of millet also reduces the level of bad cholesterol. It controls glucose levels, keeping diabetes at bay.

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

Thousands of GS coach with 370 regular trains within three months : Director I&P, Railway Board

Sambalpur, (KCN): In view of the ever increasing interest and attraction of the general public towards rail travel, the Railways is speeding up the expansion of facilities accordingly. In this sequence, the Railways has added about six hundred new additional coaches of general category (GS) in various trains in the last three months. All these coaches have been added to regular trains. Not only this, by the end of the current month of November, more than one thousand such coaches of GS category will be added to about 370 regular trains. According to an estimate, about one lakh passengers will be benefited daily by the addition of these new GS coaches in the fleet of the Railways. Apart from these, work is going on at a fast pace to include a large number of non-AC class coaches in the railway fleet in the next two years. The Railway

Board has given detailed information about the new facilities for general class rail passengers here. Railway Board Executive Director (Information and Publicity) Dilip Kumar said that general class passengers are among the top priorities of the railways. The railways are working in various directions to provide maximum facilities to the passengers of this category. Under this, a total of 1000 new GS coaches of GS category will be added to the trains during the three months from July to October. Also, these newly built coaches have been added to 370 regular trains. Thousands of additional passengers are getting benefit from this every day. With the inclusion of these coaches, about one lakh additional passengers will be able to take advantage of the journey of rail travel every day. The Executive Director said that in view of the

facilities of general class passengers, the construction of new GS coaches is going on at a fast pace. He said that in the next two years, more than 10 thousand such non-AC general class GS coaches will be added to the railway fleet. More than six thousand of these will be GS coaches, while the rest of the coaches will be sleeper class. With the inclusion of such a large number of non AC coaches, about eight lakh additional passengers of general class will be able to travel by train every day. All these newly built GS class coaches will be of LHB. Apart from making the journey comfortable and convenient, it will also help in making it safe and fast. Compared to traditional ICF rail coaches, these new LHB coaches are relatively lighter and stronger. In case of an accident, the damage to these coaches will also be minimal

World Toilet Day Celebration, Sambalpur



Sambalpur, (KCN): The World Toilet Day 2024 campaign was launched at the DRDA, Conference Hall. November 19 is celebrated as World Toilet Day every year with the aim of promoting toilet use, creating awareness about safe/clean toilet availability and overall sanitation related aspects. The theme of the World Toilet Day campaign is "Our Toilet: Our Honor". The campaign will end on Human Rights Day i.e. December 10, 2024. In the said meeting, Zilla Parishad Chairperson Kumudini Nayak, Chief District Development Officer and Executive

Officer Shri Prasanna Kumar Patra, Additional Executive Officer (Technical) Shri Bibi Patnaik, Executive Engineer R.W.S.S. Suchitra Kumar Mohanty, District Sanitation Advisor Shri Vidyut Ranjan Nayak were prominent personalities present. Zilla Parishad Chairperson Kumudini Nayak said that awareness should be created about the use of toilets. She requested the junior engineers present in the meeting to create awareness about the use of toilets and their other neighbor residents by building good toilets. Chief Development

Officer and Executive Officer Shri Prasanna Kumar Patra said that the use of toilets and awareness about it is a joint effort. For this, behavioral change is needed. By making people aware and building the infrastructure i.e. healthy toilets, it will be easier to build a healthy society. Where there is a shortage of space, if community sanitary complexes are built, open defecation will be reduced. If we take steps in this direction, we will be able to achieve Sustainable Development Goals - 6, i.e. clean water and sanitation. At the end of the meeting, work orders for private toilets were issued to 15 people

Lotus set to bloom in Maharashtra and Jharkhand: Haryana CM

Chandigarh (JAG MOHAN THAKEN), November 20: Haryana Chief Minister Nayab Singh Saini claimed that the lotus is sure shot to bloom in Maharashtra and Jharkhand. He said that it is the first government under the leadership of Prime Minister Narendra Modi which is genuinely benefitting people at the grassroots level. Under his leadership, poor individuals have been connected to various government schemes. Over the past 10 years, the government has worked to simplify and strengthen the lives of ordinary citizens, resulting in widespread public support for Narendra Modi. He shared that during his recent campaign in Maharashtra, he received a positive

response from the people, who expressed their expectation for a second double-engine government under Modi's leadership with a strong mandate. In addition, he said that in Jharkhand, the people are weary of the Congress coalition government and are eager to escape the burdens of corruption. Consequently, a Bharatiya Janata Party government is being formed in Jharkhand too. The Chief Minister made these remarks while interacting with media persons in the Vidhan Sabha premises following the conclusion of the winter session of the Haryana Vidhan Sabha. He said that the Sankalp Patra of the State government

serves as a commitment letter for us, and we will fulfil every promise outlined in it. We have also fulfilled the promise made in the Sankalp Patras of 2014 and 2019. We are dedicated to supporting Prime Minister Narendra Modi's vision for Viksit Bharat by 2047, and alongside a Viksit Bharat, Haryana will also progress at an accelerated pace. Targeting the opposition, the Chief Minister said that the opposition parties tend to forget their manifesto just two years after forming their government, while our government consistently delivers on the promises outlined in the Sankalp Patra. In this context, the government has fulfilled two more commitments from its Sankalp Patra. It has

FAKIRNAMA: A SAGA OF ODIA IDENTITY'S ICONIC ARCHITECT

Bhubaneswar (KCN) : "Fakirnama": Saga of Odia Identity's Iconic Architect, a bilingual book on Fakir Mohan Senapati, written by her great granddaughter Monica Das, was released today at Bhubaneswar. The coffee table book celebrates the life and literature of Utkala's Vyasakabi, who pioneered the process of Odia literature acquiring a global identity. Co-authored by Prof Monica Das, the Chairperson of the Fakir Mohan Foundation and Rabindra Kumar Das, the book has many rare photographs. The book chronicles the life and times of the great litterateur, who was a saviour of Odia Language.



Monica Das, an academician based in Delhi, has a passion for rediscovering writers who have contributed immensely for awareness on girl child education and their socio-economic status in pre-independent India. She said that Fakir Mohan Senapati is among the sixteen most prominent

authors who have created an identity across the nation. Speaking on the occasion, A.B. Tripathy IPS (Retd) the State Convener of Intach said that Fakir Mohan was a sage and a renaissance man whose writings have a contemporary relevance even today. He said that

even though Fakir Mohan did not have a good formal education, he successfully used the folk speech in his writings and established a connect with the readers. His daring adoption of the scorned common speech as a literary medium was a pioneering literary adventure. Eminent painter Jatin Das

said that Odias need to team up and prove their identity as even till date people are undermining the Odias, despite the rich illustrious culture, art, tradition and literary legacies to boast of. He said that Fakir Mohan, through his writings, mobilised public opinion and gave Odias the confidence to unify their homeland and create a single province of Odisha. Eminent writer and translator and former Eastern Region head of Central Sahitya Akademi, Mihir Ranjan Sahoo, who is also the present Executive Director of the Fakir Mohan Foundation, and INTACH's Bhubaneswar Chapter Convener Anil Dhir too were present during the release of the book.

6th Evening of 35th PECUCS isumela

“Baby of the year” Competition and “Theatre Festival” was the main attraction

Bhubaneswar (KCN): The Ekamrahat Amphitheatre came alive as the youngest stars took center stage for the much-anticipated 'Baby of the Year' competition on November 19th. The event was brimming with excitement, featuring adorable toddlers participating in competitions such as 'Baby of the Year'. The esteemed panels of judges and guests for this enchanting day of performances were Dr. Puranima Pradhan, Doctor, Madhumita Das, Consultant WCD, & Dr. Sudhir Chandra Das, Doctor. Today was the 2nd evening of children theatre festival. Drama



staged was "Dipasikha" by the children of BJP Vidyamandir, Pahala and "Kie Kahara" by Children of Guidance Public School, Bhubaneswar. It was equally enjoyed by guests

and participants. The Guest of the evening were Niyati Pattnaik, OAS (SS), Director, SSEPD Dept, Govt. of Odisha Shri Debananda Nayak (Sony), Faculty Sangita Mahabidyalay,

Mr. Niranjan Sahoo, IAS (Retd.) Former Labour Commissioner, Ms. Chitrallekha Mohanty, Former Principal, Ekalabya School, Educationalist, Rotarian Arya Panigrahi, Rotary Club Bhubaneswar Unique & Manoranjan Das, CRS. Their heartfelt appreciation was extended to PECUC for its remarkable efforts in offering a platform that allows children to showcase their inherent talents. The organization's commitment to providing a nurturing and inclusive space was widely acknowledged and warmly embraced by all. The winners of the

Rhymes Competition received the prize on this occasion. Today's Children theatre festival was sponsored by Ministry of Culture, Govt. of India. In today's programme Mr. Ranjan Kumar Mohanty, Secretary PECUC, Mrs. Anuradha Mohanty, Executive Director, PECUC were also present. Mrs. Ratna Dash, Mr. Jyoti Sankar Mohanty, Dr. Sumitra Mohanty, Alpana Das, Upama Mohanty, Puja Panda, Panu Behera, Bamadev Jena, Bishnupriya Mohapatra, etc. of PECUC facilitated the programme. Today's programme was anchored by Arushi and Adyasha.

Chennai Company Treats 1,000 Employees To A Fully Paid Week-Long Trip To Spain

New Delhi, (KCN): Leading the way in employee appreciation, Chennai-based real estate company Casagrand has arranged a week-long, all-expenses-paid trip to Barcelona, Spain, for 1,000 employees. This exclusive bonus is part of the company's "profit-share bonanza" program and is designed to celebrate the

contributions of employees who played a key role in achieving the company's financial targets for the previous year. "This programme is to acknowledge the dedication, commitment and collaborative spirit of the people who have been instrumental in achieving the company's last financial year's sales target," the

company said in a statement. The selected employees span various designations and departments -from executives to senior leadership. The trip is to acknowledge the dedication, commitment and collaborative spirit of employees who have been instrumental in achieving the company's last financial year's sales target,

according to a release. The Spain trip will take employees to iconic landmarks like the Sagrada Familia and Park Guell, and scenic spots such as Montjuic Castle. They will also have the opportunity to explore the city's beaches and enjoy a range of cultural and leisure activities. "Bringing together employees from offices

across India and Dubai, the trip invites them to experience Spain's rich culture, historic landmarks, and scenic landscapes. From Barcelona's architectural icons like the Sagrada Familia and the colourful mosaics of Park Güell to the majesty of Montjuic Castle, every detail has been thoughtfully arranged.



granted ownership rights of land to lessees who were in place prior to the formation of Haryana. Along with this, on the lines of service security of contractual employees of HKNR and Outsource Part-1 and 2,

a law has been enacted to secure the services of contractual employees of remaining categories like Extension Lecturers, Guest Faculty of Engineering Colleges and Polytechnics etc. The Chief Minister, in

response to a question about the construction of Haryana's new assembly in Chandigarh, stated that Haryana has a rightful claim over Chandigarh, and leaders from all parties in the state are united on this issue. He said that following the new delimitation, Punjab will also require a larger assembly building, and they can acquire land to construct their own facility. However, he criticized Punjab leaders for their disrespectful attitude towards the construction of Haryana's new assembly. We all should sit in this holy temple and make decisions that benefit humanity. Saini urged Punjab Chief Minister Bhagwant Mann to focus on the welfare of

the people of Punjab and provide the Minimum Support Price (MSP) to farmers, similar to the benefits being given in Haryana. He pointed out that the Supreme Court has also admonished Punjab regarding stubble management, urging Mann to prioritize these pressing issues for the state. The Chief Minister said that a total of four sittings have taken place during the winter session of the Vidhan Sabha, which has been ongoing since 13th November. These sittings included approximately 27 hours of constructive discussions. A resolution was passed in honour of the 555th Prakash Parv of First Patshahi Shri Guru Nanak Dev Ji. In

addition, calling attention notices submitted by various MLAs were clubbed by subject matter, resulting in four proposals being discussed. The Chief Minister expressed his gratitude to the people of the state for enabling the Non-Stop Government in Haryana for a third consecutive term. He described this as a golden chapter in Haryana's history, adding that such a phenomenon has never occurred before in the past. He said that this historic mandate reflects the dynamic leadership of Prime Minister Narendra Modi, as well as a commitment to development, good governance, the welfare of the poor, and a spirit of patriotism.

Politics divides Bolangir royal family

Bolangir(KCN): The 2024 general and Assembly elections have ushered in a new era of political dynamics in Bolangir district. With the fall of the 24-year-old BJD government, the influence of the party's leaders is waning in this district. On the other hand, BJP leaders are slowly but surely taking centre stage. This shift has created a tense political atmosphere within Bolangir's royal family, igniting a quiet yet intense rivalry.

Key figures in this political drama include Deputy CM and senior BJP leader Kanak Vardhan Singh Deo and his cousin, Kalikesh Narayan Singh Deo who is BJD leader and MLA



of the Bolangir Assembly constituency. Their confrontations have become a hot topic of discussion. Despite publicly addressing each other respectfully during meetings, their speeches reveal underlying animosity between the BJP and BJD.

At a recent 'Bolangir Day' celebration held at Koshal Kala Mandal ground in the town, attended by Chief Minister Mohan Charan Majhi, Kalikesh and



Kanak Vardhan exchanged sharp jabs. Kalikesh advocated for projects such as establishing an agricultural university, rehabilitating the Deogaon sugar mill, reviving local reservoirs and construction of an auditorium at the Koshal Kala Mandal ground. However, Kanak Vardhan, taking the stage after Kalikesh, openly questioned why these issues were not addressed during BJD's

24 years in power. He further warned against underestimating his stance. "If I open my cards, they (BJD) won't be able to handle it," Kanak Vardhan stated. Kanak's fiery comments left the audience astounded, as he displayed an unusually aggressive demeanour. Observers noted that such a strong response from him was unprecedented, highlighting the escalating tension between the BJP and BJD factions within the royal family.

Adding to the mix, BJD representatives, including Rajya Sabha Member Niranjan Bishi, Zilla Parishad Chairperson Devaki

Sahu and Bolangir Municipality Chairperson Lika Sahu also raised various demands during the meeting. A couple of days later, BJP's Lok Sabha MP Sangeeta Kumari Singh Deo criticised the previous government's handling of local issues, further intensifying the political friction.

This ongoing rivalry reflects not only personal disputes but also the broader power struggle between the BJP and BJD in the region. As whispers of internal discord grow louder, the royal family's feud continues to draw public intrigue and political speculation.

Odisha CM extends Bali Jatra by one day, BJD demands national festival status

Bhubaneswar(KCN): In view of public demand, Odisha Chief Minister Mohan Charan Majhi Tuesday announced the extension of the historic Bali Jatra in Cuttack by one more day, while BJD demanded national festival status for the annual event. Majhi, who is on a business trip to Singapore, said in an X post that Bali Jatra will now end November 23 instead of November 22. He said there is massive enthusiasm among people over the event. The festival is organised on the banks of Mahanadi River every year to mark the time of the year when mariners from the state set sail to

Bali, Sumatra and Java in Indonesia, Borneo and Sri Lanka in ancient times for the expansion of trade and culture.

This year, the festival started November 15. The festival features numerous food stalls, amusement rides and cultural programmes. Meanwhile, the opposition BJD came down heavily on the state government for several irregularities in the festival, and the death of a young man due to electrocution.

"The serious shortcomings of the state government and the district administration in the preparations are coming to the fore,"

BJD spokesperson Lelin Mohanty alleged while speaking to reporters here.

Stating that Bali Jatra is the pride of the state, Mohanty alleged that Majhi was also annoyed when he found inadequate number of electric vehicles to ferry the foreign delegates on the inaugural day of the event.

"Bali Jatra is an Odia tradition. The double engine government must give it national recognition," Mohanty said.

The BJD demanded Rs 20 lakh compensation for the family of the man who died due to electrocution in Bali Jatra.

Wild boars damage paddy crops in Kendrapara district



Kendrapara(KCN): Farmers of Mahakalapada block in Kendrapara district, whose agricultural fields are located on the fringes of Bhitarkanika National Park, are spending sleepless nights as wild boars have started damaging ripe paddy crops.

According to sources, wild boar menace has assumed serious proportions this year in Lanjuda and Gogua

gram panchayats (GPs) under Sasanpeta Reserve Forest area of the Gahirmatha Wildlife Range.

Several hectares of paddy crops, ready for harvest, have been damaged, especially in these two GPs of Mahakalapada block.

The wild boars have wreaked havoc by sneaking out of their natural habitat within Bhitarkanika National Park and entering

agricultural fields. Pradosh Moharana, Ranger of Gahirmatha Marine Sanctuary and Wildlife Range, stated that they have received as many as 25 complaints regarding wild boars damaging paddy crops in the locality.

Locals allege that the absence of proper fencing along the park's boundaries has enabled the wild boars to trespass into their fields. The Forest Department has

recently erected a kilometre-long section of fencing from the World Bank shrimp farming area towards Jagatjora and has deployed personnel to drive away the wild boars with the help of locals.

"We have been guarding our agricultural fields during foggy winter nights, risking attacks by wild boars. Armed with lathis, beating tin drums, creating noise, and bursting crackers, we are doing our best to protect our crops," said affected farmers.

The state government has provisions for compensating farmers if wild animals destroy their crops. Moharana added that an inquiry is underway, and a report will be submitted to facilitate compensation for farmers whose crops have been damaged by the wild boars.

Cannabis plants on 14-acre forest land destroyed




Malkangiri(KCN): About 21,000 cannabis plants spread across 14 acres forest land near Ghagada Bandha village in Nuaguda panchayat under Chittrakonda police limits in Malkangiri district were destroyed Monday in a joint operation by Chittrakonda police and the Malkangiri

Excise department. The Excise department has registered a case in connection with the incident and initiated an investigation. The Revenue Department has been requested to verify the ownership of the land where cannabis was being cultivated and submit a report, based on

which the Excise and police departments will identify the cultivators and take appropriate legal action. During the raid, officials from the Excise department, including Excise Inspector Santosh Kumar Bal, Sub-Inspectors Ashesh Kumar Nayak, Amiya Kumar Khanja, and

Deepak Kumar Samal, as well as ASI Ramachandra Hantal, were present. Chittrakonda PS Inspector in-Charge C Mukund Melka, other police personnel, and members of the District Voluntary Force also participated in the operation.



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Amway Invests \$4M in Four Research & Development Labs Across India

Bhubaneswar (KCN): Advancing its focus on strengthening scientific capabilities to provide cutting-edge, next-generation support in health and wellbeing, Amway, a global company, today formally introduced its four state-of-the-art Research & Development (R&D) labs across India with an investment of \$4 million[1]. By harnessing advanced technology, contemporary science and thought leadership, these labs are poised to redefine industry standards by developing safe, effective, differentiated and high-quality health and wellbeing products with the aim to support people in India and around the world. India is the location of one of the four Amway R&D hubs,



worldwide. This strategic move is in line with Amway's efforts to cater to the evolving needs of consumers empowering millions to achieve optimal wellbeing and fostering a healthier future for all. Amway's four state-of-the-art R&D labs in Gurugram, Chennai, Bengaluru, and Dindigul collectively total 24,700 square feet, creating a powerhouse of scientific discovery and

breakthrough product development. Talking about the investment from Amway India's business perspective and describing the benefits to India, Rajneesh Chopra, Managing Director, Amway India, said "There is a need for a transformative approach to nutrition and wellness in India, as the health landscape here faces significant challenges related to nutrition, lifestyle and gut health. This investment accelerates Amway India's product development capabilities and positions Amway to better serve the unique and evolving needs of its consumers and businesses in India and around the world. India stands as one of our top priority markets globally and this investment underscores the confidence of Amway Global in the country's expertise and potential to drive groundbreaking innovation in the health and wellbeing space." "For over a quarter-century, Amway India has earned the trust of people by helping them lead a healthy way of life. Our commitment to a healthier nation envisions empowering our distributors to help

transform the lives of millions of Indians by prioritizing healthspan over lifespan. As we continue to drive innovation to offer need-based recommendations, we've found that the most crucial element in your health and wellbeing journey is a strong gut that is also linked to improved mental health and immunity. The R&D labs will further support driving scientifically backed initiatives like 'Morning Nutrition' – a holistic campaign to support a healthy lifestyle that helps individuals start their day with optimal nutrition to maintain a healthier lifestyle. We are poised to foster a healthier future for all in line with the Government of India's vision. This strategic investment

strengthens our confidence in achieving our goals while solidifying our position at the forefront of the health and wellbeing industry," Mr. Chopra concluded. Introducing the R&D labs in India, Dr Shyam Ramakrishnan, Director, Innovation and Science, India and Southeast Asia, Amway said, "In response to the rising awareness around health, wellbeing and nutrition worldwide, this investment in state-of-the-art R&D labs is well positioned to meet the evolving consumer needs across global markets. Importantly, it aligns with our global multi-year growth vision of consistently providing recommendations for overall wellbeing tailored to the evolving needs of various age groups.

Kapil Sharma and his team in Navratna Ayurvedic oil advertisement campaign



Kolkata: Navratna, the ayurvedic cool oil market leader from the house of Emami Ltd throws up a laughter challenge this summer as Kapil Sharma comes on board the brand along with his eccentric family members Kiku Sharda, Gaurav Gera and Sumona Chakravarti. In a series of new TV ads and digital content, Navratna Oil introduces a burst of cool comic relief with the irrepressible Kapil Sharma and his band of quirky accomplices. Together, they tackle the everyday chaos and challenges encountered by common man as they present Navratna Oil as "Thandak Ka Badshah, Raahat Ka Raja." A two-minute champi (head massage) with Navratna Oil offers relief and relaxation leaving one "thanda thanda cool cool". Commenting on this unique endorsement association, Mr. Harsha V. Agarwal, Vice Chairman and Managing Director, Emami Limited, said, "We are delighted to onboard Kapil Sharma and his quirky team for our brand Navratna Ayurvedic Oil. Humour is well known for being a stress buster and Kapil's brand of humour has been doing just that for over a decade across demographics. The pairing of Kapil Sharma and team with Navratna, which is India's number 1 cool oil that provides relief from daily stress to its millions of consumers, is one of the best fitments that a brand can envisage. To appeal to our evolving target audience, we strongly feel that this new approach of delivering the brand message will work effectively for us." Kapil Sharma, the comedian, actor, singer and anchor said on this occasion, "Navratna Ayurvedic Oil provides effective relief from headache and stress related issues arising from daily life challenges. My team and I also attempt to use humour as a powerful tool towards stress relief by offering a much-needed escape from life's trials and tribulations. There is a natural synergy in what both of us are trying to deliver, thereby offering a perfect fitment for our collaboration. I am pleased to be associated with World's No 1 Cool Oil Navratna. This summer, together we will make every Indian - Thanda Thanda Cool Cool !"

Tata Power leads EV charging space with a pan-India network; showcases wide-range of hi-tech EZ Charge solutions at Auto Expo

Bhubaneswar: Tata Power, one of India's largest and fastest growing EV Charging solutions provider showcased its wide-range of hi-tech EV charging solutions at the ongoing Auto Expo 2023 in Greater Noida. A first-hand experience of the technology that is driving Tata Power's widespread EV charging network - EZ (read easy) Charge was provided to the visitors, including the award-winning and one of the most downloaded mobile apps for EV charging - Tata Power EZ Charge, which ensures a seamless user experience through features that will help commuters find the nearest charging station, know the real-time availability of charging points, and receive updates on charging status, amongst many others.

Information about Tata Power's one of its kind Network Operations Center (NOC) located in Mumbai was also on display. This center aids in the effective operational management of charging stations across India. NOC is integrated with the online platform that supports Tata Power's EZ Charge services, has a real-time communication link with all on-board chargers, and aids in the early detection of tech-related issues. The NOC additionally supports quick problem solving, back-end system support, and proactive planning for charging infrastructure upkeep. Tata Power has also kicked off an ambitious nationwide plan of setting up approx. 25000 electric vehicle (EV) charging points across the country to support faster adoption of e-mobility over the next 5 years.

Muskaan Litfest for Child Authors showcases young literary talent

Bhubaneswar : Some of the leading social, cultural, corporate and literary organizations of the country came together for the first time to host a unique literature festival - 'Muskaan Litfest for Child Authors' - under the Muskaan initiative of Kolkata-based non-for-profit trusts, Prabha Khaitan Foundation and Education for All Trust. The three-day event was held at the Indira Gandhi National Centre for the Arts (IGNCA) premises in Delhi. Union Minister of State for Women and Child Development, Dr M u n j a p a r a M a h e n d r a b h a i

Kalubhai, interacted with 30 school-going young authors from all over the country. "Muskaan is a brilliant initiative of PKF to give a platform for the young talented writers to showcase their works and inspire future talents," the minister said. He also gave certificates to the young authors.

Ruskin Bond, the most popular, loved and revered author among the children, in a message lauded Prabha Khaitan Foundation for its commendable efforts to promote the habit of reading among children through the Muskaan initiative. The three-

day Litfest (Jan 10-12) was organized in collaboration with IGNCA and in association with India International Centre and Sahitya Akademi as the knowledge partner. Shree Cement supported the event as a part of its corporate social responsibility (CSR) initiative.

The festival was inaugurated in the presence of Priyank Kanoongo, Chairman, National Commission for Protection of Child Rights (NCPCR). Also present on the occasion were Sachchidanand Joshi, member secretary, the executive and academic head of IGNCA; K N Shrivastava, Director of

IIC, and K Sreenivasarao, Secretary, Sahitya Akademi. "Literature is the mirror of society. It is important to provide child authors the right environment and upbringing to promote literature," Kanoongo said. He asserted that instead of social media, the children should take more interest in writing and literature.

The evening was marked by a scintillating cultural programme 'Udaan' conceptualised by Shinjini Kulkarni, Ehsaas Woman of Prabha Khaitan Foundation. Huma Khalil Mirza, Ehsaas Woman of Delhi and Unnati Singh, Ehsaas

Woman of Indore, also chipped in and livened up the show. Teams of women achievers who work to create cultural capital and assets are a part of a Ehsaas Woman network in major cities of India under the aegis of Prabha Khaitan Foundation.

Dancer and choreographer Avirup Sengupta, who works with specially-abled children through Prayas Foundation, presented an enthralling performance. The Foundation had flown in children from Kolkata for the special performance. The latest issue of PKF newsletter Prabha, based on the theme of children's literature, was formally released.

Almonds Food for Fitness

Bhubaneswar : Engaging in exercise promotes a healthful lifestyle, but even when performed correctly, exercise causes fatigue and muscle damage. Recovery from exercise is important because it leads to muscle gain and improved fitness over time. A new study involving people who exercise occasionally (less than three times per week) demonstrated that snacking on almonds reduced feelings of fatigue and tension, increased leg and lower back strength during recovery, and decreased muscle damage during the first day of recovery. David C. Nieman, DrPH, FACSM, Professor and Principal Investigator, Human Performance Laboratory, Appalachian State University, led this novel research, supported with funding from the Almond Board of California. Dr. Nieman's team wanted to see if an almond snack compared to a high-carbohydrate cereal bar snack would improve inflammation and recovery in adults engaging in 90-minute exercise sessions. "What we found tells us definitively that almonds should be added to sports nutrition strategies to help people recover better from exercise," explained Dr. Nieman. "Almonds are food for fitness. Carbs get most of the attention when it comes to fueling for exercise, but almonds offer a nutrition package, including good unsaturated fats, the antioxidant vitamin E, and proanthocyanidins (class of polyphenols, which are protective compounds in plants) that help explain the beneficial outcomes in our study." One serving of almonds (28g) has 13 g of good unsaturated fat and only 1 g of saturated fat.



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