

Donald Trump Becomes First Republican To Win Popular Vote In 20 Years

New Delhi (KCN): Donald Trump has become the first Republican in two decades to secure the popular vote in the US presidential elections. The former president has reclaimed the White House, potentially becoming the first Republican to secure the popular vote since George W Bush in 2004. In the 2004 US Presidential elections, Bush won 62,040,610 votes and 286 electoral votes compared to Democratic nominee John Kerry who secured 59,028,444 votes and 251 electoral votes.

According to election

voter data of the past 20 years, Barack Obama achieved the largest popular vote victory with 69.5 million votes (52.9 percent) and a substantial 365 electoral votes in 2008. His second term in 2012, while still a decisive victory, saw a slight decline in popular vote percentage to 51.1 percent and in electoral votes to 332. Contrastingly, the 2016 election saw an unusual outcome with Donald Trump winning the presidency with 304 electoral votes but only 46.1 percent of the popular vote, while Hillary Clinton won 48.2

per cent of the popular vote - a 2.1 per cent margin higher than Trump's and yet insufficient for victory. In 2020, Joe Biden secured both a clear popular and electoral majority, winning 51.3 per cent of the popular vote and 306 electoral votes. In comparison, Trump won 74,223,975 votes and his electoral votes stood at 232.

Trump gained early leads

in crucial swing states,

including North Carolina

and Georgia. But the

biggest prize of all was

winning the crucial

battleground state of

Pennsylvania. With 19

electoral votes, Pennsylvania victory puts Trump closer to the White House. These wins, combined with his strong showing in traditionally Republican

strongholds like Texas and Florida, gave Trump a critical advantage in the electoral vote count. As results streamed in, Vice President Kamala Harris's campaign found itself scrambling to regain momentum. Despite strong performances in Democratic strongholds, her path to victory seemed to narrow significantly. Harris's

campaign headquarters in Washington, DC advised supporters that the clearest path to victory would now hinge on the so-called "Blue Wall" states: Michigan, Pennsylvania, and Wisconsin. With Pennsylvania now gone to Trump, all eyes are on the other two states. Election night saw dramatically different scenes in Washington DC and at Trump's Mar-a-Lago resort in Florida. At Howard University, a historically Black college in the nation's capital, excitement quickly waned as results began showing Trump's

mounting lead. Harris supporters, many of whom expected her to deliver a landmark victory as the first Black and South Asian woman in the White House, expressed concern and anxiety.

Trump supporters at a Palm Beach viewing party on the other hand celebrated early victories. If confirmed, Trump's victory would make him the oldest president at the time of inauguration. His return to the White House would also make him the second president ever to serve non-consecutive terms, a feat only previously accomplished by Grover Cleveland in the 19th century.



"Important step towards PM's dream of Viksit Bharat" : Dharmendra on Vidyalaxmi scheme

New Delhi, November 6 (KCN): The Union Cabinet's approval of the Pradhan Mantri Vidyalaxmi Yojana marks a pivotal development in making higher education more accessible for meritorious students across India.

Announcing the scheme, Union Education Minister Dharmendra Pradhan highlighted it as a cornerstone in fulfilling the Prime Minister's vision of a 'Viksit Bharat,' or developed India. The scheme, aimed at

providing education loans up to ₹10 lakh for students admitted to high-ranking institutions, will support around one lakh students annually.

A total of ₹3,600 crore has been allocated for the scheme, which promises collateral-free and guarantor-free loans for eligible students. To further ease the financial burden, students from families with an annual income up to ₹8 lakh will receive a 3% interest subsidy, with full interest subsidies for those from

families earning up to ₹4.5 lakh annually. Union Information Minister Ashwini Vaishnaw emphasized that no deserving student should miss out on higher education due to financial limitations.

The Vidyalaxmi Yojana includes support for students studying in the

top 100 National Institutional Ranking Framework (NIRF) institutes, the top 200 state and Union Territory government institutions, and other government-recognized institutions. Applications will be managed through the PM Vidyalaxmi portal, ensuring a streamlined and transparent process. Loans up to ₹7.5 lakh will also benefit from a 75% credit guarantee to cover defaults, adding an extra layer of financial security to the initiative.

Odisha: Former BJD MLA Sunanda Das joins BJP



Odisha earlier this year.

"We (ticket aspirants) were asked to meet officials for tickets. I had met two IPS officers and was assured of a party ticket. However, they denied me a ticket at the last moment," she had told a local TV channel.

Samal and other senior leaders.

While resigning from the party last week, Das had alleged that government officials had distributed BJD tickets during the simultaneous elections in



Silver ornaments worth Rs 10 lakh looted from Odisha's Tara Tarini temple



Purushottampur police station over the incident. Ganjam Superintendent of Police Suvendu Kumar Patra visited the spot.

"We have pressed into service a scientific team and dog squad for investigation. A manhunt has been launched to nab the accused," he said. The over 500-year-old temple was renovated in 2022 at a cost of around ₹117 crore. However, no CCTV camera was installed on the premises.

A member of the police investigation team admitted they would face difficulty in identifying the miscreants due to the lack of CCTV surveillance.

In 1994, unidentified persons had looted from the temple idols of the deities made of 'ashtadhatu' (eight metals). A fact-finding team of the BJD led by former Berhampur MP Chandra Sekhar Sahu visited the temple under the direction of party president Naveen Patnaik.

Other members of the team included former MLAs Ramesh Chandra Chhaya Patnaik, Bikram Panda and Suryamani Baidya.

"We will submit a report to the party president soon," Sahu said.

The miscreants entered the sanctum sanctorum of the temple, located around 780 feet above sea level, by breaking at least three locks, including that on the main entrance.

A watchman, deployed by the temple management committee, was allegedly sleeping when the incident took place.

The incident came to light early on Wednesday when two priests first noticed that some locks were broken and some ornaments were missing.

They informed some senior servitors and the police, said Bapuji Rana, one of the servitors.

He said the Tara Tarini Sevayat Sangh has lodged an FIR with

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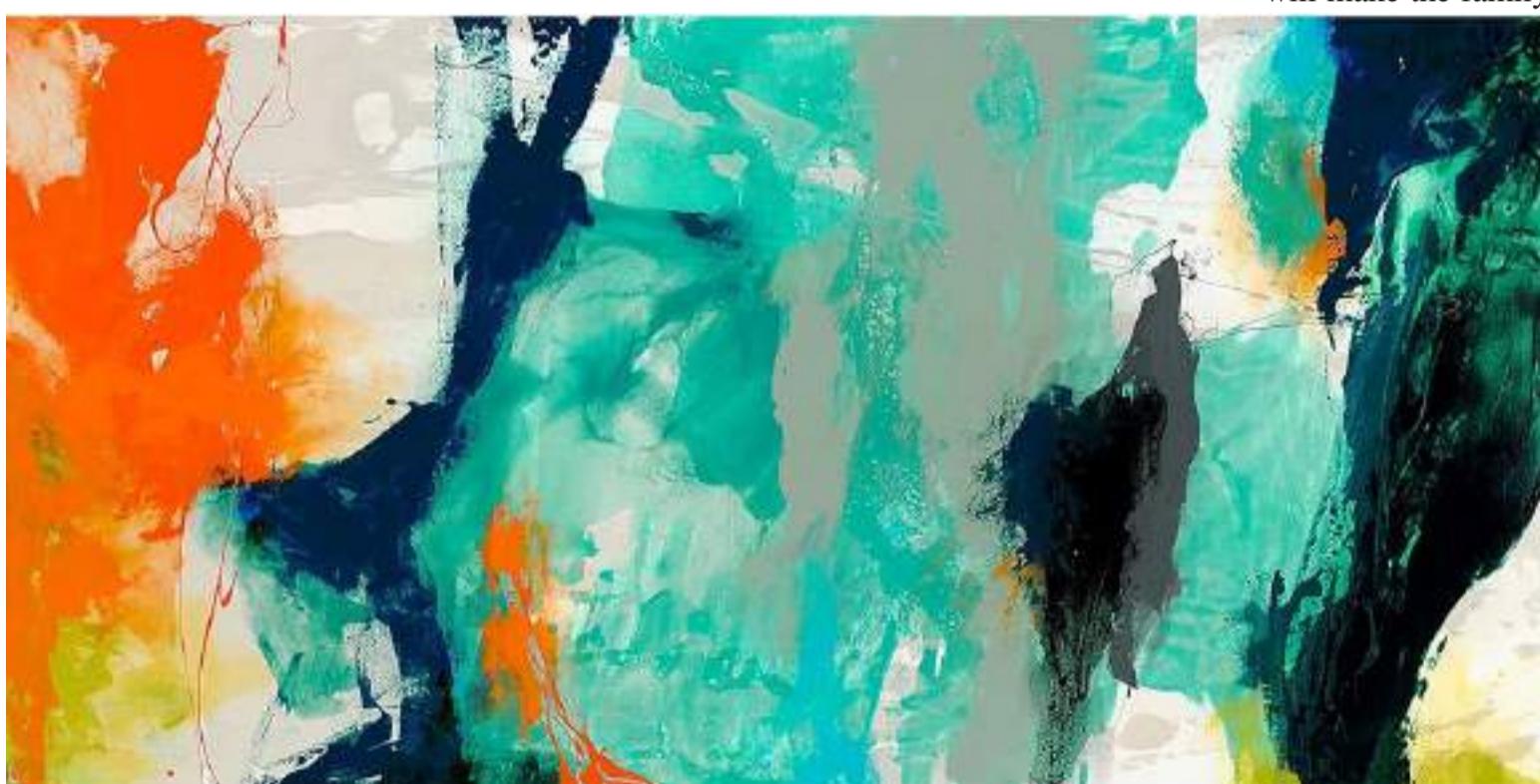


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Abstract home empire



When Alexander, The Great came to India to expand his empire, his mother said to him "Look, son! India is the land of scholars, sages and wise. If you go to India, bring with you some Vidwan Pandit from India with respect." This was a special advice



of mother to her son Alexander. Chhatrapati Shivali also conquered Golkonda and Bijapur only due to his mother's encouragement. Eminent scientist Jagdish Chandra Bose heard this science from his mother and was fortunate to become a scientist in the future. Mahatma Gandhi said in the book "My views of Education" that he cannot become a teacher unless he takes the role of a mother. His mother used to say the same thing to him when he was a child, "Look lad. If you ever do anything unprofessional in life, I will never tolerate it. I don't even want to put you on the throne. Rather, I wish the throne to remain vacant." This is a stern warning from his mother to the tired Ninth Luv. Friends! The purpose of presenting this topic here is that if the family is the center of human society and a small social organization, then the mother is the empress of that caring domestic empire. According to Ballard, the family is

the most ancient and influential institution from which our tender boys and girls learn good manners, discipline, responsibility, etc. The role of the family is very important for the development and progress of the child. The character, behavior and nature of the father, mother, grandfather, uncle, aunt living in a family influence the children very much. A child's life begins with this family. That is why Flank said, the family

Mira Beura

foot on the moon and are searching for water to live on Mars. However, there is a feeling that our families are becoming degraded day by day. Going through various problems and adversities, there are cracks in the relationship. We cannot live together under one roof today. Due to the lack of understanding, sometimes pride also gets in the way of our relationships. It is causing havoc

Today, young families are broken up and become single families. The child grows up lacking empathy, becoming violent, aggressive, selfish, uncooperative, restless, becoming inactive. Today, we do not prioritize children's opinions, so they suffer, become aggressive, apathetic, irritable and intolerant. In fact, we are the cause for the Degradation of society. Children spend more time with

woman is the presiding goddess of home heaven. The center of the family. Sometimes Jaya, sometimes Duhita, mother and takes care of the family in fragile form. If a woman wants, the family becomes heaven, the family laughs at her kindness, forgiveness, love, sacrifice, compassion, purity, and rewarded. She will nurture Anu and Parshiv in the same way, and her thoughts and consciousness will make the family

like earthquakes by damaging family relationships and poisoning beliefs of marriage. A bad decision like divorce after a few months can destroy our family life. When divorces have become common, then what will our next generation learn from us? To tell the truth, family is very important in making human life smooth, beautiful and healthy. The word Family comes from the Roman word Fammalus, which means servant. According to Summer and Keller A family is a small social organization consisting of at least two generations and consisting mainly of blood relations.

Today, we are proud of our family's culture even abroad. In our culture, the youths of a family is our greatest asset. Although due to urbanization, globalization and industrialization, our family has changed from a joint family to a nuclear family, but we are still connected at the psychological level. Today, we have set

their partners and nannies than with their parents. Home cooking is now lagging. Doctors and nurses are now working. Even so It is seen that father, mother, son and daughter are holding four mobile phones under one roof in one room.

They are sitting facing the four corners or no one is talking to each other. What can be more sad than this? No one is expressing anyone's feelings and emotions. Many sorrows are frozen like ice in the fruit. They are neither eating together nor worshiping together. We avoid all superstitions. Experts say, "If a child stays with his grandmother, sometimes with his father, then he becomes more intelligent." Eating, dressing, relinquishing self-interest, respecting one's elders, these qualities are learned by children from their families. That is why Bhakta Kabi Madhusudan Rao

wrote, "Vaikuntha is the same as that house where there is always love with each other." In our Indian culture,

understand. Where mother is respected, that family is heavenly. In a family where a woman respects her elders and uses good manners, the house and the family becomes a heaven. A woman is a symbol of love, compassion, kindness, sacrifice, etc

A p p l i c a t i o n Workshop of Tiksha. Women and children are living benefits to the family, society, nation and the world. Gives birth to saints, emperors, scientists, painters, sculptors, physicians. The house of intelligence is Yashasna O

Able to build a strong family, in the light of which the home empire shines. Husband, children and relatives are reformed by his loving gaze. Whoever gives birth to a male, wants to create a healthy, beautiful family and a helping member of society. There is no doubt that he will be a partner in the development of the nation.

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How

Kishore Panigrahi

If you don't have to say anything, nor was it ever
Then why the upbeat
wind blows here from all angles

And if you don't have to say anything
nor it was
Then why the flow of water
strikes my base, and hounds me
out of anger, disturbing me
My boat of breathe rushes
in search of origin of the river.

Kishore Panigrahi(1971) is one of the finest contemporary Odia young poets. His deep sense of introspection full of emotion binds the reader with new imageries. He is recipient of several awards for his contribution to the world of literature. This poem is from his third collection of poetry 'Chota'.

Translated from Odia by Manas Ranjan Mahapatra

I SEE YOU EVERYWHERE

Kalyani Dash

The Person I like the most is you
Yes, I see you everywhere, in everything
Not Every Minute neither every second
I can feel you my wholmoment of the day
I needn't your face to remember you
My every heartbeat knows you that's enough
Yes Ofcourse I see you everywhere, in everything
Not every minute neither every second.....

Berhampur Ganjam

5 Mysterious Spots in India that Defy Science

These places, scattered across the subcontinent, challenge our understanding of natural laws and scientific principles, creating an atmosphere where mystery thrives and questions outnumber answers. India, a land where ancient wisdom meets modern skepticism, harbors corners that continue to baffle even the most rational minds. These places, scattered across the subcontinent, challenge our understanding of natural laws and scientific principles, creating an atmosphere where mystery thrives and questions outnumber answers.

The Skeleton Lake's Silent Story



High in the Himalayas of Uttarakhand, at an altitude of 16,470 feet, lies Roopkund Lake, better known as Skeleton Lake. During summer months, when the ice melts, the lake reveals its macabre secret: hundreds of human skeletons, some with flesh still attached, dating back to around 850 CE. Recent DNA analysis revealed an even more perplexing discovery – the remains belong to diverse groups from different eras, including Mediterranean travelers. The question remains: what brought these people from various times and places to meet their end in this remote lake?

Magnetic Hill: Where Gravity Loses Its Pull
In Ladakh's barren landscape, a stretch of road presents a fascinating optical illusion – or perhaps something more. The Magnetic Hill appears to pull vehicles uphill when they're in neutral gear. While scientists attribute this to an optical illusion created by the surrounding landscape, local lore speaks of a pathway to heaven, strong enough to pull those worthy. Visitors regularly test this phenomenon, watching in amazement as their vehicles seem to defy gravity.

Bhargarh Fort
The Forbidden Fortress perhaps India's most notorious haunted location, Bhargarh Fort in Rajasthan carries such a reputation that the Archaeological Survey of India legally prohibits visitors after sunset. The sprawling ruins tell tales of a cursed kingdom, where a dark tantric's failed attempt at love led to the destruction of an entire city. While

skeptics dismiss the paranormal claims, the fort's perfectly preserved architecture raises questions about its sudden abandonment.

The Kongka La Pass
India's Roswell In the disputed territory between India and China lies Kongka La Pass, considered by UFO enthusiasts as one of the world's most active alien bases. Local tribes from both sides report strange lights and unexplained phenomena. The

area's restricted access and underground facilities fuel theories about extraterrestrial activities, making it India's answer to Area 51.

Aleya Ghost Lights of West Bengal

In the marshy swamps of West Bengal, fishermen tell tales of mysterious lights, known as Aleya Lights, that dance over the wetlands. These bioluminescent lights allegedly lure people to their doom, yet scientists struggle to fully explain their occurrence. Some attribute them to atmospheric gases, while others point to electrical phenomena. The lights continue to claim lives yearly, adding to their sinister reputation.

The Living Root Bridges of Meghalaya

While not traditionally "mysterious," these architectural marvels defy modern engineering principles. The Khasi tribe has spent generations training rubber tree roots to form living bridges that grow stronger with time, some supporting fifty people at once. The process, passing through oral tradition, represents a profound understanding of natural engineering that modern science is still trying to fully comprehend.

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Kareena, Ananya, Parineeti and more celebs shower birthday love on Athiya Shetty



As Athiya Shetty celebrates her 32nd birthday today, she is receiving an outpouring of love and well-wishes from friends and fellow celebrities.

Stars such as Kareena Kapoor Khan, Ananya Panday, and Parineeti Chopra took to social media to express their affection for the birthday girl. Bebo shared a heartfelt message accompanied by a charming photo of Athiya, writing, "Happy Birthday to the ever-so-lovely Athiya! Have a wonderful one @athiyashetty."

Ananya Panday, another close friend of Shetty, sent her greetings by sharing a stunning photo of the birthday girl. Alongside the image, Panday wrote, "Happy Birthday, gorgeous girl Athu!"

Parineeti Chopra also

joined in with a sweet shout-out to the actress. She shared a glamorous photo of Athiya on her Instagram Stories and wrote, "Happiest bday Athuuu!" along with pink heart emojis.

Athiya's family members, father Suniel Shetty and brother Ahan Shetty—posted rare childhood photos of the Hero actress alongside heartfelt messages. The proud father shared adorable, unseen photos of Athiya from her childhood, calling his daughter his "all-time favorite human" and "the greatest joy of his life."

Suniel captioned the photos, "Happy birthday to the best part of me... my all-time favorite human... my est friend... my confidante and the greatest joy of my life... love you beyond measure, Tiaaaaa."

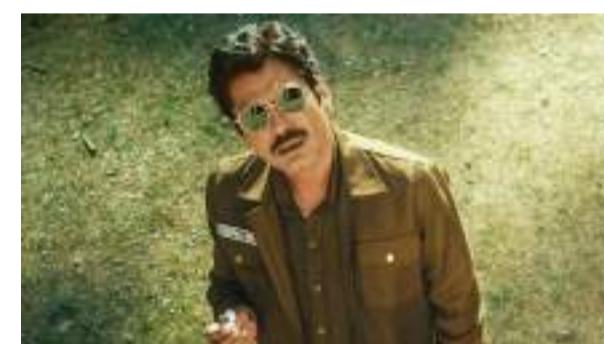
On the other hand, Ahan

Shetty shared their heartwarming photos with the caption, "I'm so grateful for you. Happy Birthday @athiyashetty."

In addition to her friends and family, Athiya's fans have been flooding social media with heartfelt messages.

On the work front, Athiya Shetty made her acting debut in 2015 with the romantic thriller Hero alongside Sooraj Pancholi. She has also appeared in other films such as Mubarakan with Anil Kapoor and Arjun Kapoor, and Motichoor Chaknachoor opposite Nawazuddin Siddiqui. On the personal front, Athiya is married to Indian cricketer KL Rahul. The couple tied the knot in an intimate ceremony January 23, 2023, after dating for several years.

'Rautu Ka Raaz' Review: Nawazuddin Siddiqui film has the right amount of thrill



Rautu Ka Raaz' Review: The film highlights Nawazuddin Siddiqui's role in a thrilling cop drama, set in a small Uttarakhand village.

Some films run on good storylines. Some, on star power. But when you see Nawazuddin Siddiqui headlining a project, and that too, a cop thriller, you can't help but take note. That's where Zee5's latest offering, 'Rautu Ka Raaz' comes in. Set in the small, picturesque village of Rautu Ki Beli, the film is about a lazy murder investigation with sharp twists and even sharper turns. Let's decode if the film is worth your time.

Rautu, a small town in Uttarakhand, has witnessed no murders in the last 15 years. As a result, policemen in the village are extremely laid-back. One fine

morning, a sleepy Nawazuddin Siddiqui (SHO Deepak Negi) gets a call from Rajesh Kumar (sub-inspector Dimri) about the murder of a warden at a boarding school for the visually impaired. What they initially took for a natural death, turned out to be a never-ending rabbit hole with suspects, murders, disturbing incidents, politics and power.

Nawazuddin Siddiqui leads the ship by playing the rowdy SHO Deepak Negi. By rowdy, we don't

mean the typical Bollywood masala film rowdy. He is intelligent, witty, knows when to say no, can get things done, disobeys seniors by standing firm on his grit and is unabashedly himself. He surely takes the bigger piece of the cake. Nawazuddin's comic timing, dialogue delivery, and demeanour have always taken him places. Thankfully, that continues in 'Rautu Ka Raaz' too.

The film shines, thanks to its stellar star cast.

Everyone is perfect in their respective parts. There's Rajesh Kumar as sub-inspector Dimri, carrying on the film's weight with his acting prowess and remarkable bro-code with Nawazuddin's character. This duo will make you believe in good cops.

Other supporting actors such as Atul Tiwari and Narayani Shastri (warden) do a decent job with their limited screen presence.

'Rautu Ka Raaz' has nothing that you have never seen. However, it is real. And it gets more wholesome as you near the second half. The film introduced real-life visually impaired characters, who make blink-and-miss appearances, maintaining credibility.

Suriya Gets Injured On Sets Of Kanguva, Film Shoot Halted



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

control during the shooting of 'Kanguva' and it fell on Suriya, thus leaving him injured.

The report further mentioned that the actor suffered injuries on his shoulder after which the shoot was halt. Fortunately, it was a minor mishap and no major injury was caused to Suriya. According to another report, the actor has

been advised by the doctor for a two-week bed rest.

Meanwhile, Suriya was expected to wrap up the film for his portions in 'Kanguva' this month and the entire filming was slated to be over by next month. However, with the latest development, there may be a slight delay in production. 'Kanguva' was announced in August

Anushka Sharma shares picture of hubby Virat and kids

Hindi film actress Anushka Sharma, who was last seen in Zero, has shared a picture of her husband, the Indian attacking batsman Virat Kohli, and their two children.

On Tuesday, the actress took to her Instagram to share the picture. The picture shows Virat holding their two kids, daughter Vamika and son Akaay. However, she concealed the faces of her kids with emojis.

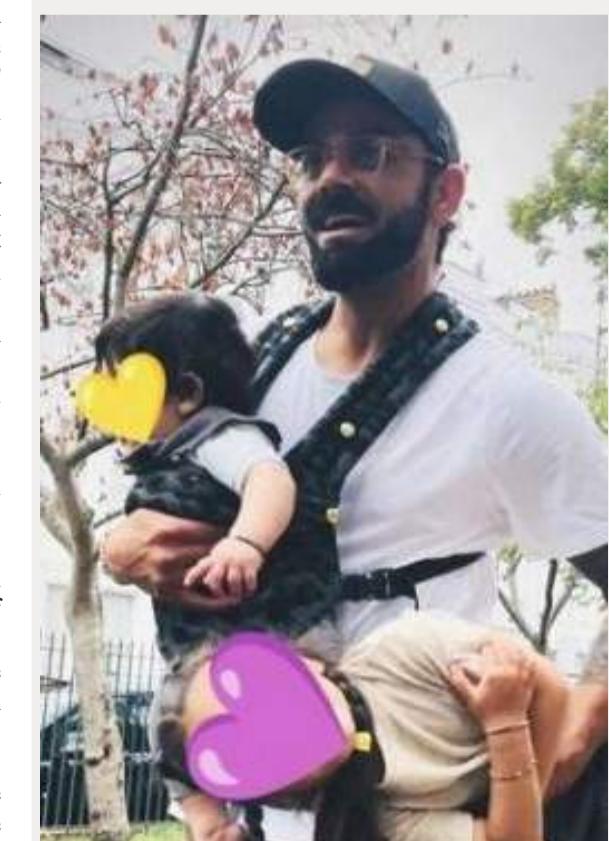
Virat and Anushka are known to be fiercely protective of their children, and have in the past have requested the media to not click the pictures of their kids. The couple welcomed their second child, a son Akaay in February earlier this year. This comes after the Indian cricket squad was battered by New Zealand in the recently concluded test series in India. The Indian team, which is currently being coached by Virat's 2011 Cricket World Cup teammate Gautam Gambhir, lost its footing with the very first match, and never recovered from the bowling attack of the New Zealand in the entire series.

This marks the first time in the history of the game for India that it has been white-washed on the home turf.

The embarrassing defeat has raised questions on the coaching abilities of Gautam Gambhir especially after India registered a solid victory in T20 Cricket World Cup in June this year.

India has been known to be one of the strongest teams on home turf but, looking at what unfolded in the recent series, serious doubts have crept in with regard to the team's performance in the upcoming Border-Gavaskar Trophy where the Indian cricket squad will lock horns with the Australian cricket team.

Meanwhile, Anushka, who took to her mom duties is yet to make her comeback on the screen. She was supposed to essay the Indian pacer Jhulan Goswami in the sports biopic Chakda 'Xpress'. The film is awaiting its release.



Haryana Congress: Will Rahul Dare to Kick Out the Black Sheep?



The Haryana Congress party, which was flying high after winning half the seats in the Lok Sabha elections, is stunned by the results of the Assembly elections held just six months after that were highly contrary to its expectations. The Congress was not even dreaming of getting anything less than a two-thirds majority. The supporters of a Haryana leader had started sleeping with the Chief Minister's seat in their lap. 'That leader' himself had also started speaking every word of his address in the manner of a Chief Minister. But the tables turned and the statement given by the then and BJP's declared future Chief Minister, Nayab Saini, -- 'We have made all the arrangements for the victory', shown a thumb to all the hopes and imaginations of the Congress by securing an absolute majority.

Now the situation is such that the Congress, which has been defeated by an unexpected seat margin, is not even able to decide the name of the Leader of Opposition (LoP) in the Assembly even after almost a month has passed. People have started jokingly saying that if God forbid it had got the majority, would

they have decided the name of the Chief Minister? The problem is not that it does not have the desired number of MLAs, but the problem is that to take this decision has become a noose around the neck of the weak high command. The repeated wrong decisions of the high command have axed the feet of the high command itself, paralyzing its decision-making and control power and has left it as a puppet in the hands of only one person in the state. Who is that person, in front of whose aura the light of the high command fades? What is the reason that the high command is not able to come out of the state of indecisiveness? Why has this person become so powerful?

To find the answer to all these questions, political analysts consider the initial step taken by the Congress high command, buoyed by the massive victory in the 2005 assembly elections, to hand over the Chief Minister's throne to Bhupinder Hooda, a Jat leader, by thrashing Bhajan Lal, the leader of non-Jats. In this election, which was fought under the leadership of former Chief Minister Chaudhary Bhajan Lal, the Congress had won 67 out of 90 seats. The high command, worried about the growing stature of Bhajan Lal, handed over the throne to a person, Bhupinder Hooda, who could be directed by the high command as per its desire, to cut Bhajan Lal's wings.

From the very beginning,

the Congress had been getting support from all castes and classes. Although the Brahmin community remained dominant there, the Dalit and backward classes also considered the Congress as their well-wisher. The Jats had accepted the farmer leader, who emerged in the form of Chaudhary Devi Lal, as their umbrella leader, taking advantage of which Bhajan Lal expanded his sphere of influence by starting Jat-non-Jat politics. As, the Jats had started moving away from the Congress, so to reunite them and to narrow down the growing circle of Bhajan Lal, the congress high command used Hooda, an alternative Jat leader, as a weapon. The Congress high command did not realize at that time that the weapon they were sharpening to cut Bhajan Lal would one day weaken the high command itself and force it to bow down.

And the results of this move started coming in the very next assembly elections. Though Bhajan Lal was ignored by the Congress party and forced to leave the party, his supporters were infuriated by this decision of the high command and the 2009 elections, which were fought under the leadership of Hooda, gave a glimpse of the result of this move by squeezing Congress to only 40 seats out of 90. Although Bhajan Lal's own separate party, Haryana Janhit Congress (HJC), won 7 seats and kept Congress below the majority mark, but a few

power-hungry MLAs, who are usually readily available all the time in Haryana, snubbed the Haryana Janhit Congress (HJC) and supported Congress to facilitate Hooda back to power. The move of the Congress high command to reinstate Hooda further angered the non-Jat community and in the 2014 assembly elections, which were again fought under Hooda's leadership, the Congress was restricted to 15 seats. The high command began to realize its mistake and re-induced Bhajan Lal's political heir Kuldeep Bishnoi in 2016 to bring the angry non-Jat community to its side. This also had an impact and in the 2019 assembly elections, the Congress's seats increased from 15 to a respectable 31, but the Congress's move to separate Dalit community leader Ashok Tanwar from the Congress under pressure from Hooda's strategy also alienated the Congress from a particular community. To attract this class again, Congress made Kumari Selja take charge of the state Congress, which Hooda did not like and he slowly started reducing Selja's stature too and finally, by preventing Selja from being sent to Rajya Sabha again, he got his own son Deepender Hooda nominated and by removing further Selja from the post of president, he got his own yes man Uday Bhan crowned and strengthened his hold on

the state party. Hooda's next target was former Chief Minister late Chaudhary Bansi Lal's daughter-in-law Kiran Chaudhary, he not only deprived her of the post of Congress Legislature Party leader and got himself seated on this chair, but also forced her to leave the Congress. Before this, Bhajan Lal's son Kuldeep Bishnoi was also forced to leave the party again. Now only Randeep Surjewala and Kumari Selja are left as the opposing voices of Hooda in the state party. To prevent Surjewala from being made a Rajya Sabha candidate from Haryana, Ajay Maken, who is close to the high command, was made the party's nominee, but the neglected Kuldeep Bishnoi and Kiran Chaudhary gave Hooda a hard blow and Hooda's candidate Maken had to face defeat despite having the sufficient number of MLAs. Later, the high command had to send Surjewala to Rajya Sabha from Rajasthan. In the recently held assembly elections, Hooda alone grabbed 72 out of 90 tickets to keep Kumari Selja and Surjewala away from claiming the Chief Minister's chair in the state. Neglected in ticket distribution, Selja sat in 'K o p b h a v a n' (dissociating from election campaign) for 10 days during the assembly election battle and showed her displeasure to the high command, but the high

command did not pay any attention to Selja's indifference for 10 days. And this indifference of Selja showed the Congress its true colours. Either the high command was unaware of this matter or was pretending to be unaware and not giving any attention to Selja, but the question here is whether the high command was so confident that it could see a huge victory in Haryana even without Selja or was the high command under someone's pressure and was forced to overlook Selja's indifference? In both the cases, the high command's weakness and powerlessness in decision making is clearly indicated. Why the name of the leader of the legislative party not being decided? The Congress high command felt that the slogan of 'Kisan Pehlwan- Agniveer' would give it a majority on the ground. Political thinkers believe that so much ruckus was created by the influential Jat community of Haryana that the high command felt that the Jat leader Hooda would conquer the stronghold. Hooda too, taking the slogan of the Jat voters as support for the Congress, was making arrangements to secure his seat as the Chief Minister and was engaged in a way to defeat his rival group instead of defeating BJP. It was appearing throughout the election as if the Congress party had turned into Hooda Congress, this election

was not being fought for the party but for the personal interests. As the Jat community getting more preference repeatedly, the OBC and the Dalit community turned away from the Congress due to Selja's indifference. On the other hand, seeing the factionalism in Congress, the Jat community also put aside their animosity towards BJP and gave 30% votes to the BJP. As a result, Congress was left helpless and BJP got win. Ground level political thinkers analyse that the Jats are always a divided house. While voting they never use their verdict unitedly in favour of a single candidate, rather they vote according to their village level politics, which never allows them to unite. BJP has understood this fact, whereas congress failed as its booth level roots have become defunct due to non-functioning of its organisational wings. The political analysts suggest that if the congress wants to regain its past glory in Haryana, it must have to woo its old-time core supporters such as OBC and SC categories voters by giving them a freehand representation as Leader of Opposition (LoP) and State Party President. Better they appoint a strong Ahirwal leader as state chief to get the strength in OBC, especially Yadav community and an SC leader as LoP. After the big blow in Haryana assembly elections, now the high command felt that the

local leaders of the party have ruined the party. Rahul Gandhi himself had to say – In Haryana, the leaders ignored the party's interest and gave importance to their own interest. But what's the use crying over the spilled milk. If Rahul Gandhi has recognised the Black Sheep, 'Will He Dare to Kick Them Out?' Now the high command is facing a situation of snake and shrew. They neither can shake Hooda off nor embrace him. On one hand, there is a fear of the spark of disintegration in the party and on the other hand, there is a fear of losing non-Jat votes. If Hooda is again made the leader of the legislative party, then there is a danger of the non-Jat community, especially the Dalit community, getting alienated and if Hooda or the person nominated by him is not made the leader of the legislative party, on the strength of the numbers of his supporting MLAs, Hooda may divorce the Congress and become the leader of the legislative party himself and as a result of this development in Haryana, the Congress may lose access to power in Maharashtra also. In this state of confusion, the Congress is keeping the name of the leader of the legislative party hanging. This is a very difficult situation for the Congress and the gains and losses of this decision are now reflecting not only in the state but also in the politics of the country. Let us see which way the wind blows!

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Jag Mohan Thaken

Water Soluble Fertilizers: The Key to Improving Environment Friendliness and Crop Productivity.

Policies and subsidies promoting the use of environmentally friendly and efficient fertilizers, such as water-soluble fertilizers, should be strengthened. Water-soluble fertilizers represent a sustainable and efficient alternative to conventional fertilizers in maize forage production. They improve fertilizer use efficiency, restore soil health, and ensure higher forage yields without compromising quality. Water-soluble fertilizers offer a balanced, environmentally friendly, and cost-effective approach that can help farmers maintain agricultural productivity while reducing environmental risks.

Dr. Satyawan Saurabh

While increasing biomass and crude protein in maize forage, nitrogen-heavy fertilizers can result in nitrate accumulation, which can harm livestock. Effective fertilizer use ensures balanced nutrient supply, improves crop response, and reduces environmental impacts. Indiscriminate fertilizer application can lead to poor crop yields, degradation of soil health, and pollution. Field trials reveal considerable variability in nutrient supply, nutrient use efficiency, and crop responses. Such inconsistencies in fields affect overall forage productivity. To combat these inefficiencies, precise nutrient and crop management tailored to specific field characteristics is essential. A knowledge-intensive approach to managing soil and fertilizer distribution can significantly improve results in forage production. Water-soluble fertilizers offer a promising solution by offering better nutrients to plants. These fertilizers are completely water-soluble and have a low salt index, making them easy to apply as a foliar spray or through irrigation. Available in various NPK formulations (e.g., 19-19-19), water-soluble fertilizers also contain secondary nutrients such as sulfur and zinc. They ensure that nutrients remain available to crops without being affected by environmental factors such as leaching, erosion, or evaporation. Water-soluble fertilizers improve nutrient use efficiency by preventing nutrient loss. For example, about 25-30% of the recommended fertilizer dose can be saved through water-soluble fertilizers, reducing input costs for farmers. These fertilizers do not contribute to salt accumulation in the soil, maintaining soil health in the long term. Water-soluble fertilizers can be used in a wide variety of field conditions and provide an efficient, balanced nutrient supply, leading to higher forage yields and improved forage nutritional quality. While water-soluble fertilizers provide many benefits, there is a risk of nutrient overload if they are overapplied or improperly diluted, which can result in phytotoxic injury (plant damage). This underscores the need for careful monitoring and management to ensure correct dosage and application techniques. A field trial conducted by Krishi Vigyan Kendra, Barnala, assessed the effectiveness of water-soluble fertilizers (NPK 19-19-19) in maize fodder production. The study compared three fertilizer management practices: Kisan (RDF) and foliar application of water-soluble fertilizers. Tests showed that foliar application of water-soluble fertilizers at 1% concentration, combined with 75% RDF, significantly increased plant growth (fresh and dry weight) and green fodder yield of maize. The nutritional quality of the forage also improved compared to conventional practices. Water-soluble fertilizers reduce leaching, runoff losses of key nutrients (N, P, K), and nitrogen volatilization, which translates into lower production costs and reduced environmental impact. Less nutrient wastage and better efficiency result in less financial burden for farmers, especially in terms of fertilizer costs. Israel, which is known for its water-efficient agricultural practices, has adopted, which integrates irrigation with fertilizer application. Water-soluble fertilizers are dissolved in irrigation water and delivered directly to the root zone through drip irrigation systems. Australian farmers combine the use of water-soluble fertilizers with organic and slow-release fertilizers to achieve a balanced nutritional profile. Japan has been at the forefront of developing controlled-release water-soluble fertilizers, which allow nutrients to be released slowly over long periods of time. In Europe, especially in countries such as the Netherlands, sustainable agriculture certification schemes encourage the use of water-soluble fertilizers in combination with environmentally friendly farming practices. Farmers need to be educated about the benefits of water-soluble fertilizers and proper application methods. Precision farming techniques like soil testing and nutrient mapping should be integrated with the use of water-soluble fertilizers. This ensures that nutrient management is tailored to specific field conditions, reducing wastage and improving crop responses. Ongoing research should focus on the development of new water-soluble fertilizers that cater to different crops and environmental conditions. Policies and subsidies promoting the use of environmentally friendly and efficient fertilizers, such as water-soluble fertilizers, should be strengthened. Water-soluble fertilizers offer a balanced, environmentally friendly, and cost-effective approach that can help farmers maintain agricultural productivity while reducing environmental risks.

Poet, freelance journalist and columnist, All India Radio and TV panelist, 333, Pari Vatika, Kaushalya Bhawan, Barwa (Siwani) Bhawan, Haryana - 127045, Mobile: 9466526148, 01255281381

Cairo, Egypt - A groundbreaking session

New Delhi, (KCN): Cairo, Egypt - A groundbreaking session at the World Urban Forum 12 (WUF12) on 5th November, 2024 highlighted the critical importance of integrating adolescent voices in urban planning and development. The session, "Cities for Adolescents - The NextGen Agenda," highlighted the transformative impact of giving adolescents a platform in urban planning. Adolescents bring unique perspectives that resonate with their generation's needs, challenges, and dreams, yet their voices often remain unheard in shaping the environments where they live, study, and socialize. The session showcased an innovative tool, a Public Space Assessment Framework that is for gathering insights from adolescents about the public spaces of cities. The Public Space Assessment Framework, developed by World Resources Institute (WRI) with



support from Foundation Botnar, has been successfully implemented in the Indian cities of Bhubaneswar and Jaipur. This comprehensive framework enables adolescents to actively participate in urban planning processes through systematic assessment of public spaces. Founder Chairperson, HumaraBachpan Trust Dharitri Patnaik was the panellist of the session spoke on how the Public Space Assessment Framework, developed by World Resources Institute (WRI) with

tools can be instrumental in empowering adolescent children, youth, local and national administrations, and global leaders alike. She underlined the versatility of the framework in assessing the inclusivity, safety, accessibility, and usability of public spaces, helping to identify specific gaps and areas for improvement. The framework serves multiple stakeholders:

- For adolescents: Provides a structured way to document their experiences and needs
- For local administrators: Offers data-driven insights for youth-centric urban planning
- For global leaders: Demonstrates a replicable model for inclusive city development

WRI has collaborated with HumaraBachpan Trust since 2022 to implement Healthy City for Adolescents (HCA-II) program in Bhubaneswar to transform the city into a safer, more inclusive, and engaging environment for its young residents. Around 800+

residents. Around 800+

HIGHLY MOTIVATIONAL ANTI ADDICTION CAMPAIGN NO.432 BY BOBBY CHAKRABORTY AT MP BIRLA FOUNDATION HS SCHOOL



Kolkata, (KCN): November 5th, saw the packed auditorium of MP Birla Foundation HS School, being a witness to yet another highly motivational anti-addiction campaign (AAC) by popular actor/activist/teacher of method acting Bobby Chakraborty. AAC no.432 and Bobby's 4th session in this school, overseen by the teacher-in-charge Ananya Sengupta, under the guidance of the Principal, Purnima Chatterji, garnered a massive feedback from the students as well as their parents.

The powerfully interactive session saw Bobby, opening the eyes of his 'soldiers' from the 8th-10th grade, making them equipped with easy yet effective tricks to fight against all sorts of

substance addiction, mobile phone addiction and abuse, along with all kinds of harmful social trends like use of abusive language, obscenity online to garner 'views' and 'followers', gambling through games etc. The magic formula of HCF (Health-career-family) and the mantra 'I AM THE KING OF MY MIND' inspired the students to build their lives on a positive ray of hope, away from the dark forces who are hellbent to destroy the youth, the pillars of our society.

The tremendous interactions, confessions, emotional and dramatic moments created within the session was captured by the official photographer Soldier Somdeb Das of Class 10, assisted by Soldier Sanket Saha of Class 8, who was also selected

We highly appreciate the enterprising school management along with the socially responsible Principal Purnima Chatterji, who have been strongly supporting Bobby's globally acclaimed, free of cost, preventive awareness program, since 2013.

4th November, 2024 at Chandi Ghat to conserve and restore them. The event was organized under NMCG project with a aim to increase the population of decreasing Mahseer in the Himalayan stretch of the Ganga river. Being the important fish of



SPECIAL SAILING EXPEDITION-2024 'BHARTIYA NADIYAAN, SANSKRITIYON KI JANNI'

Kolkata, (KCN): Special Sailing Expedition is being organised as the flagship event of RDC 2025 Under the aegis of HQ DNCC. The expedition is being organised in two tranches of riverine & coastal expedition, culminating in a Grand Ceremonial Flag - in by our Honourable Prime Minister on January 28, 2025.

Maj Gen Jagdeep Singh Cheema ADG Punjab, Haryana, Himachal Pradesh and Chandigarh (PHHP&C) Directorate flagged off the second leg of the riverine expedition from Prayagraj on 06 Nov, 2024. Maj Gen Rajesh Bhatt GOC Purva UP & MP Sub Area, Maj Gen Sunil Sheoran Sena Medal GOC 4 Div graced the occasion held at Boat Club Prayagraj. Maj Gen Cheema congratulated the NCC cadets of the three directorates, namely PHHP&C, Rajasthan and Uttar Pradesh. He appraised the NCC cadets participating in the expedition about the challenges of sailing in

River Ganga and cautioned them on safety aspects. He exhorted them to spread the importance of conservation of rivers and water resources. The cadets also presented a cultural programme to spread the message of the expedition. The SSE is being conducted from Kanpur to Kolkata and involves sailing along the entire stretch of river Ganges using wind for propulsion. It is going to sail to Varanasi, Buxar, Patna, Farakka and finally reach Kolkata on 20 Dec 20, 2024.

The second leg of the

expedition will end at Varanasi on November 11, 2024. Both male and female cadets will be participating in equal numbers. All 17 Directorates under HQDGNCC will participate in both the riverine as well as the coastal segment of SSE. From UP Directorate, 72 cadets are participating in sailing from Kanpur to Buxar comprising 144 cadets & staff of seven Directorates. The sailing cadets

NTPC Kaniha hosts successful Rural Volleyball Tournament



Kolkata, (KCN): NTPC Kaniha organized a Rural Volleyball Tournament in its township on 5th November as a part of its Corporate Social Responsibility Activity. The main objective of the event was to promote the culture of sports and fitness among the local rural youth, thereby playing a pivotal role in the "Khelo India" campaign of GOI. A total of 35 teams from the surrounding villages participated in the day long volleyball tournament.

The tournament was

formally inaugurated by

Shri A.K. Sehgal, Plant

Head, Talcher Kaniha

with Deep Prajyolan,

playing of NTPC Geet

and National Anthem. He

greeted all the players

and motivated them to

give their best in the field.

Shri Satya Ram Krishna,

General Manager

(O&M), Shri S S Rao,

General Manager

(Maintenance & ADM),

Officials from HR

department, representative members of Unions and Associations, members of the Sports Council of NTPC Kaniha and employee volunteers were also present on the occasion to cheer up the

teams.

The contesting teams had thrown upon good competition among themselves, exhibiting youthful vigour. Towards the end, the tournament turned out to be very exciting and exhilarating

Kolkata, (KCN): South Eastern Railway (SER) has loaded 122.14 million tonnes of originating freight in the first seven months (i.e. April-October) of the current financial year, 2024-25 which is 2.41% higher than the corresponding period of the previous financial year.

There has also been an increase of 4.6% in originating freight revenue in April-October, 2024 in comparison to the same period of last financial year. During April-October 2024, the revenue generation from originating freight loading was Rs 11144.72 crore as against Rs. 10656.93 crore during the same period of the previous year.

SER has loaded 31.95 million tonnes of coal during April-October, 2024 which is 7.87% more than the corresponding month of last fiscal. Other major commodities of freight loading were Iron Ore, Pig Iron & Finished Steel, Cement, Food grains, Fertilisers etc.

New Delhi, (KCN): The Congress has dissolved its state unit in Himachal Pradesh, one of only three states where it has its own chief minister.

In a statement on Wednesday, Congress General Secretary KC Venugopal said, "Honourable Congress President has approved the proposal to dissolve the entire state unit of the PCC, District Presidents and Block Congress Committees of Himachal Pradesh Congress

Committee, with immediate effect. A similar exercise was carried out in 2019 as well, when the Congress had dissolved its state unit, but retained the president, Kuldeep Singh Rathore, who had been appointed earlier that year. Pratibha Singh was appointed the head of the Congress' Himachal Pradesh unit in 2022 and was seen as one of the frontrunners for the chief minister's post after the Assembly elections that year.

Union cabinet minister Sri C R Patil, Minister of Jalsakti ranched endangered Mahaseer at Haridwar

Kolkata, (KCN): On the occasion of Ganga Utsav, ICAR-CIFRI, Barrackpore has released about 6,000 Mahseer fingerlings into the river Ganga in the august presence of Shri C.R. Patil, Hon'ble cabinet minister of Jal Shakti ministry, GOI. Fishes were released in a ranching program on

cold water, ICAR-CIFRI has been entrusted to conserve and enhance the fish for ecological and livelihood purposes. The program was attended by several dignitaries, including Shri Rajbhusan Chaudhary, Hon'ble MOS, GOI, Shrimati Rekha Arya, Hon'ble

minister of Uttarakhand, Shri Trivendra Singh Rawat, Hon'ble Ex-CM and MP, Haridwar, Shri Rajeev Kumar Mital, DG NMCG, Dr. Sandeep Behra Biodiversity Consultant NMCG, Dr. B.K. Das, Director ICAR-CIFRI Barrackpore and other religious leaders.

Illegal crusher units flourish on govt land

Jajpur(KCN): There has been a significant increase in the number of illegal crushers in Dharmasala tehsil of Jajpur district owing to the alleged apathy of the district administration in initiating action against these rogue units. Sources said that the crusher operators are encroaching on valuable land belonging to the Irrigation and Public Works department, Forest land, hill areas, and barren lands with impunity. One such instance is playing out in Paikarapur village under Dharmasala tehsil where Maruti Stone Products and Suppliers, a crusher unit, is operating on government land (plot number 1, under khata number 252) belongs to the

Irrigation Department. Some time ago, local residents had filed a complaint with the Chief Secretary, Manoj Ahuja, over the issue. Following this, Alok Kumar Kar, the Additional Secretary of the State Water Resources Department, directed the Superintendent Engineer of the Jajpur Irrigation Division to investigate the matter. The directive emphasised the need for urgent action. Maruti Stone Products and Suppliers, locals alleged in their letter to the Chief Secretary, has been carrying out business on government land under the Minor Irrigation Department in Paikarapur for the past ten years. Although an NOC was issued to the



crusher in 2018, it is alleged that the unit has extracted over a hundred truckloads of black stones from the hill near the Paikarapur Minor Irrigation Project. This has resulted in the

creation of a pond-like pool on the hill, preventing rainwater from reaching the irrigation project. As a result, farmers are deprived of getting the water required for their

irrigation needs. It is also alleged that several officials from the Minor Irrigation Department are receiving monthly bribes

from the crusher owners to turn a blind eye to the blatant violation. Illegal blasting and transportation have exacerbated pollution

issues in the area. This leaves one wonder how the State Pollution Control Board (SPCB) and the district administration granted an NOC to a crusher operating on government land.

Of late, the Minor Irrigation Department lodged a complaint with the local police, demanding the recovery of government land. Notably, in 2015, a notification was issued for strict action against illegal crushers in the Dharmasala and Danagadi tehsils of the district. Although the Industrial Infrastructure Development Corporation (IDCO) has completed the construction of these clusters, they are still to be operational. As a result, the crusher units continue to operate along national highways and residential roads, leading to significant pollution problems.

Dip in Hadagarh jumbo population worrisome



Hatadihi(KCN): Decline in elephant population in Hadagarh elephant sanctuary has sparked concern among nature lovers and environmentalists, a report said. Located in Hatadihi block of Keonjhar district, the Hadagarh elephant Sanctuary, spread over 91.89 sqkm, got official recognition in 1978. Forest department records show that approximately 4,898 people from 868 families reside in 12 villages – Ratnamara, Daliki, Pitanau, Sajanapal, Junapasi, Saramundi, Malipasi, Balipal, Mayura, Raighati, Bhanra, and Siadimalia – within the sanctuary limits, indicating human-animal conflict. Elephant census data reveals a gradual decline in their population over recent

years. In 2012, there were 26 elephants which reduced to 25 in 2015 and then 24 in 2024. However, three elephants died between June and September this year, reducing the current jumbo population to 21. Notably, eight elephants have died in the last six years with two in 2019-20, one in each of 2020-21, 2022-23, and 2023-24, and three in 2024-25. Death of 24 other wild animals has also been reported while human-wildlife conflicts have led to seven human fatalities. The conflicts also left 24 people injured and 21 cattle dead. This apart, 43 houses have been destroyed in attack by the wild animals. In the past six years, authorities registered 11 poaching cases, leading to the arrest of 23 poachers. Confiscated items

include ivory, animal carcasses, horns, meat, and animal hides. The Forest department has relocated 170 families from villages like Pitanau, Daliki, Ratnamara, and Sajanapal and rehabilitated them at Jhanjhana and Durgapur villages in efforts to reduce human-wildlife conflict. Local leaders, including former Soso sarpanch Bailochan Nayak and Anandapur Civil Society secretary Bhagaban Mallik, voiced concerns over the protection of elephants and the sanctuary's future. Noting the apparent lack of protective measures in the sanctuary, they raised doubts over effective utilisation of funds provided by the government for the purpose. Conservation efforts are being

BJP, BJD engage in war of words over cracks on Jagannath temple boundary wall



Bhubaneswar(KCN): The ruling BJP and opposition BJD engaged in a war of words over cracks appearing on 'Meghanad Pacheri' or outer boundary wall of Puri's Jagannath temple. The ruling BJP and the Odisha government claimed that the cracks appeared due to construction activities carried out during the heritage corridor project by the previous BJD regime.

"The damage to Meghanad Pacheri was stated to have been caused during the eviction undertaken for the 'Parikrama Prakalpa' (heritage corridor project)," Odisha's Law Minister Prithviraj Harichandan said Tuesday.

"Many people, including local

residents and priests are of the view that the cracks appeared during the eviction process. They believe that the huge structure suffered damage during the eviction work," he said. Harichandan said that as soon as the cracks were detected, the Archaeological Survey of India (ASI) started repair work. Odisha BJP spokesperson Anil

(BJD) have done the heritage corridor project for political gains," Samal said. Dismissing the BJP's allegation, BJD MLA Ganeswar Behera sought to know whether the saffron party leaders were technical experts to level such charges.

"Do the BJP leaders have technical expertise? The claim would have been acceptable had it been spoken by technical experts," Behera said and alleged that the BJP's allegations were politically-motivated. Meanwhile, Shree Jagannath Temple Administration (SJTA) chief administrator Arabinda Padhee said that repair work of the outer boundary wall was underway.

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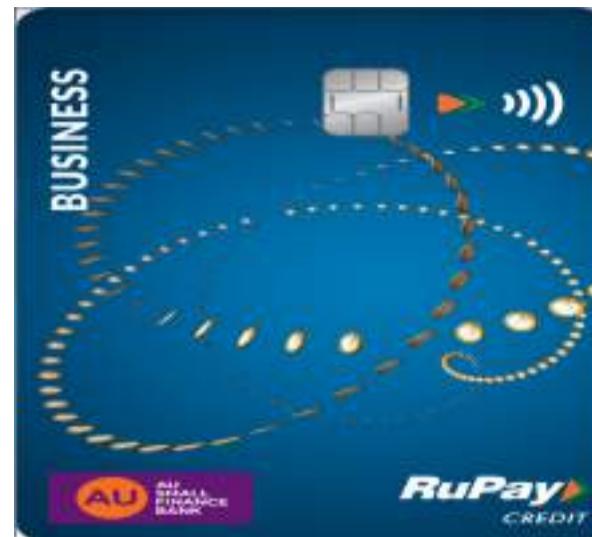
AU Small Finance Bank Launches Business Cashback RuPay Credit Card

Jaipur/ Bhubaneswar, May 8th, 2023: AU Small Finance Bank has partnered with RuPay to introduce the Business Cashback RuPay credit card, an innovative solution tailored to meet the financial requirements of self-employed customers. This latest offering is aimed at providing a diverse range of benefits to small businesses. The Credit Card was launched in the esteemed presence of Mr. Dilip Asbe, CEO of National Payments Corporation of India and Mr. Sanjay Agarwal, MD & CEO of AU Small Finance Bank.

AU Small Finance Bank's Business Cashback RuPay Credit Card simplifies financial

operations for businesses with benefits like upto 2% cashback, 48 days interest-free credit, and instant loans. It also offers fire insurance, burglary, and housebreaking coverage, making it a one-stop solution for businesses.

"At AU Small Finance Bank, we understand that the small and medium-sized enterprises (MSMEs) are the backbone of Indian economy and we have been serving this segment since the last 28 years. We are committed to providing innovative financial solutions that cater to the unique needs of this segment and Business Cashback RuPay credit card is a testament to our commitment to the



MSMEs. As the self-employed customer segment is at the heart of our bank, we are focused on adding value to these customers and promoting credit inclusion. Going forward, we shall work towards bringing

also offers cardholders up to 30% off at over 300 restaurants, 8 complimentary railway lounge access per annum, and 1%* fuel surcharge waiver.

"I am delighted to attend the launch event and witness the introduction of AU Small Finance Bank's Business Cashback RuPay Credit Card. National Payments Corporation of India is committed to promoting innovation in the banking sector, and this credit card is a clear example of that. AU Small Finance Bank has consistently demonstrated their dedication to excellence and innovation in the banking industry. This credit card is a fantastic solution that empowers

self-employed individuals and promotes financial inclusion. I'm confident that this credit card will be a great success and benefit numerous businesses. Congratulations to AU SFB, keep up the great work," said Mr. Dilip Asbe, CEO, National Payments Corporation of India.

AU Small Finance Bank is one of the leading providers of innovative and reliable financial solutions for self-employed individuals and businesses. With an unwavering commitment to excellence and credit inclusion, the bank continuously improves and deepens its services, offering a comprehensive range of benefits.

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-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 un 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' conceptualized 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.

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.

mobility over the next 5 years. Greater Noida, January 12, 2023: Taking a leap in the era of sustainability and green mobility, WardWizard, a leading manufacturer of electric two-wheeler Joy ebike, today launched its new high-speed electric scooter 'MIHOS' with Poly Dicyclopentadiene Material (PDCPD) to bring high standards of durability for the riders. Designed and developed by WardWizard's R&D team in Vadodara, MIHOS, is a retro-style electric scooter. It is equipped with advanced technology, and user-friendly features with a vehicle sound simulator for additional safety of the riders on the road. It also features a broad seat for enhanced riding comfort. The production will take place at the company's state-of-

the-art manufacturing facility in Vadodara, Gujarat and the deliveries will commence in a phased manner across the country. Speaking on the launch occasion and the company's prospects, Mr YatinGupte, Chairman & Managing Director, Wardwizard Innovations & Mobility Ltd, said, "As one of the first promoters of electric mobility in the country, we are committed to building a sustainable environment and greener planet for the generations of today and tomorrow. Our new product MIHOS is designed and developed keeping in mind the aspirations of the customers and market demand. The scooter will not only excite the customers with its retro look and advanced features but will also provide extra safety with its high standards of durability and comfort across various road conditions. The company is further investing in R&D for creating a holistic e-mobility ecosystem and developing India's first EV ancillary cluster to accelerate the adoption and growth of green mobility in the country. The year 2023 is going to be the establishing year of EV mobility in the country." Making another move in strengthening its product portfolio in the electric motorcycle category, the company also unveiled the concept of its city electric motorcycle 'Rockefeller' at the expo. The concept motorcycle is designed keeping in mind the need of the riders for daily riding. The company is planning to launch the motorcycle by the end of FY'24.

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IPL Auction to be held in Jeddah on November 24 and 25

New Delhi: The IPL 2025 Player Auction will be held overseas for the second successive year after Jeddah in Saudi Arabia was chosen as the venue for the event scheduled to be held on November 24 and 25. The BCCI confirmed the dates and the venue while also revealing that 1574 players have registered for the auction.

Of the registered players, 1165 are Indians with the other 409 making up the overseas players. These include 30 from Associate nations. South Africa and Australia lead the list with 91 and 76 registrations respectively.

The mega auction will clash with the opening



Test of India's tour of Australia for the Border Gavaskar Trophy. The Perth Test will kick off on November 22 and as a result, the auction will clash with Day 3 and 4 of the Test match. Following the retentions that were confirmed on October 31, a total of 204 slots (70 overseas) are available for the ten teams to fill during the

auction with each franchise allowed to have a maximum of 25 players in their squad. Having retained just two uncapped players, Punjab Kings will enter the auction with the biggest purse (110.5 Cr). Rajasthan Royals will have the smallest purse (41 Cr) after they opted to retain six players with five of them being capped.

David Warner appointed Sydney Thunder captain



Sydney: Close on the heels of his leadership ban being lifted, David Warner has been announced as the captain of Sydney Thunder for the upcoming edition of the Big Bash League. The veteran left-hander replaces Chris Green as the skipper, although the latter remains part of the team as a player. It has been less than two weeks since Warner became eligible for captaincy, with a three-member independent panel expressing satisfaction that he met all the criteria to have the ban lifted effective immediately. "Captaining the Thunder again this season means a lot to me. I was part of the team from the start, and now to be back with that 'C' next to my name feels fantastic. I'm looking forward to leading from the front and sharing my

experience with the young talent coming through," said Warner. "Leadership off the field is just as crucial. I want to create an environment where we can all take a break from the game, bond, and enjoy ourselves. Whether it's over a team meal, out on the golf course or engaging with our fans in Western Sydney, it's all about building camaraderie and staying grounded.

"I want to compliment the way Greeny (Chris Green) led from the front. He's an

exceptional talent with fantastic leadership qualities. Jason Sangha, too, before his injury. I gained great insight from both, and I know they're guys I can lean on this season," he added. Thunder will be hoping Warner's captaincy inspires them towards success, having finished at the bottom spot in the previous season. The BBL/14 gets underway on December 15. Thunder's first game will be against Adelaide Strikers in Canberra on December 17. The list has 1,224

Manchester United cannot play the way Sporting CP does: New boss Ruben Amorim

New Delhi: Ruben Amorim has claimed that he cannot transport one reality to another and said that Manchester United cannot play the way Sporting CP does. Sporting thrashed Manchester City 4-1 in the Champions League on November 5, Tuesday.

Amorim will take over at United from November 11.

Incoming boss Ruben Amorim has claimed that Manchester United cannot play the way his current side Sporting CP does after they thrashed Manchester City in the Champions League on November 5, Tuesday. Sporting secured a second-half comeback to beat City 4-1 at the José Alvalade Stadium, in what was his final home in charge of the Portuguese club. Victor Gyokeres scored a hat-trick to help Sporting humble City on the day. Amorim will be taking over as the new Manchester United



manager on November 11 and the incoming boss admitted that he cannot transport one reality to another and the Red Devils can't be as defensive as Sporting. "We cannot transport one reality to another," he said. "United cannot play the way we play, they cannot be so defensive. Of course it's good to beat City. But I'll be living in a different world, we'll have to start from

a different point." When asked if he couldn't have asked for a better send off, Amorim said he wasn't expecting that. The 39-year-old said he would keep his Sporting memories with him forever, "I thanked everyone for the win," he said. "If we hadn't won the match, the moment wouldn't be so nice. It was better with a win over City." The Sporting fans and players would give Amorim a great send off

after the game. The players would lift him up in the air and Amorim said he wasn't expecting that. The 39-year-old said he would keep his Sporting memories with him forever, "I thanked everyone for the win," he said. "If we hadn't won the match, the moment wouldn't be so nice. It was better with a win over City." "I wasn't expecting to be raised in the air, I

know what I did for them, and what they did for me. I will keep these memories with me forever. The most important moment for me was when we lost 5-0 to City [two years ago] and everyone applauded," said Amorim. Amorim's first match as the Manchester United boss will be against Ipswich Town on November 24.

1574 players register for IPL 2025 mega auction, South Africa top list: Explained

New Delhi: A total of 1574 players have registered for the Indian Premier League (IPL) 2025 auction to be held in Jeddah, Saudi Arabia on November 24 and 25. South Africa and Australia are on top of the list with 91 and 76 players respectively.

A total of 1574 players (1165 Indians and 409 overseas) have registered for the Indian Premier League (IPL) 2025 auction to be held in Jeddah, Saudi Arabia on November 24 and 25. The list has 1,224 uncapped players, 320 capped players and 30 cricketers from associate nations. 48 capped Indians are there on the list.

272 uncapped internationals, 152 uncapped Indians who have played in the IPL before, three uncapped international cricketers who have played in the IPL before, 965 uncapped Indians and 104 uncapped internationals have registered for the auction. From Australia, 76 cricketers have thrown

their hat in the ring for the upcoming auction. While Afghanistan and Sri Lanka have 29 players each. The list of players in the auction will be pruned as only 204 slots are up for grabs. Every squad will have a maximum of 25 players in the squad.

Earlier on October 31, the 10 teams named their retentions. Amongst the big names that will be in the upcoming auction are Rishabh Pant, KL Rahul and Shreyas Iyer. Last season, Shreyas helped Kolkata Knight Riders (KKR) end their 10-year-long wait to win an IPL title.

But instead of him, KKR preferred retaining Andre Russell, Sunil Narine, Rinku Singh, Ramandeep Singh, Varun Chakravarthy and Harshit Rana.

Ajaz Patel credits New Zealand's adaptability for historic success

New Delhi: New Zealand's historic 3-0 whitewash of India saw the side conquering different types of challenges. The major hurdle among them was the nature of the pitches, with varied conditions greeting the teams in Bengaluru, Pune and Mumbai.

The weather had a major role in the pitch for the first Test and New Zealand made the most of the pace friendly conditions to run through India in the first innings, which essentially sealed the game in their favour. The Pune wicket, although it assisted spin, was a slow one and needed recalibration from the slower bowlers. Again, the visiting side read the conditions better and their spinners, led by Mitchell Santner, set up New Zealand's maiden series win against India. Then came Mumbai and this time it was Ajaz Patel, bowling in familiar

climes, as he helped New Zealand overcome the Rishabh Pant challenge and become the first team to achieve a whitewash in India (minimum 3 Tests).

Speaking to the media in a Zoom conference, Ajaz highlighted the different conditions that New Zealand encountered and the preparations they had in place to rise up to the challenge. "It's been three different surfaces and three different games, and I guess we're well aware that one of the challenges of going to Asia is that the conditions are going to be a spinner it's about knowing how to get the most out of that, how to change your pace, how to go up and down while still having the ball shape," said Ajaz, who added that New Zealand had prepared well back home to counter the different pitches in the subcontinent.

"If I'm honest with you, we had a great winter

everything started happening. "So I guess when you come to the subcontinent it's about having that skill set and that range of being able to whether it be bowl in the high 90s or bowl in the low 80s and being able to be adaptable in those ranges I guess from the outset. It's also reading the surface quickly because the conditions like I say do change at a constant (rate). Sometimes the conditions in the morning can be very different to the conditions in that middle session and so as a spinner it's about knowing how to get the most out of that, how to change your pace, how to go up and down while still having the ball shape," said Ajaz, who added that New Zealand had prepared well back home to counter the different pitches in the subcontinent.

"If I'm honest with you, we had a great winter



back home where we prepared on turning wickets and we made sure we had different surfaces that we tried and practiced on so we were, I guess, conditioned to bowling on different surfaces as well. So yeah it's a lot to do with preparation but then it's also about backing your skills and kind of I guess you know going out there and doing it really," he said.

Before the Test series against India, New Zealand lost out on crucial preparation time with the Test match against Afghanistan in Greater Noida being abandoned without a single ball being bowled. In the subsequent two-match series against Sri Lanka, they were blanked 2-0 by the hosts, with New Zealand losing the toss in both games and having had to bat second. In India, however, they had the best of batting conditions and New Zealand ensured they capitalised on it. Speaking about how crucial the toss factor is in Asian conditions, Ajaz said: "I guess, from Sri Lanka to here, I don't think we were too much different, to be honest with you. I think we played some really good cricket in Sri Lanka, but unfortunately (we lost the series). When you come to the subcontinent, the toss is so important and bowling in the last innings in comparison to bowling in the third innings, especially on a turning wicket, can sometimes be the difference as spinners.

"While the results didn't go our way in Sri Lanka, I don't feel like we played too poorly or anything like that. Even from a batting department, we still put runs on the board. It was just a matter of, I guess, you know, having a bit of luck our way as well in the series." Ajaz credited spin consultant Rangana Herath for his contributions and strategic insights that helped the New Zealand spinners come out on top against the Indian batters. He also spoke about the importance of the straighter delivery for a spinner and how it makes life difficult for batters on turning tracks, and also how the New Zealand batters were well-prepared in that regard.

"Obviously he's got a wealth of experience in the subcontinent, and his record kind of speaks for itself, really, in terms of left-arm spin bowling. So

I mean, for me, it was great to have him because we're quite similar, I guess, in terms of the style of bowling that we both bowl. But I