

# BJP's historic Haryana hat-trick, National Conference wins Jammu and Kashmir

NEWDELHI, (KCN)

The BJP came back from behind on Tuesday to stop Congress's celebrations on its tracks and snatch an incredible win for a historic third term in Haryana, defying exit polls' predictions. Jammu and Kashmir, too, turned all projections on its head as the state handed a big win to the National Conference-Congress alliance; Farooq Abdullah tapped his son, Omar Abdullah, as the next Chief Minister. The BJP won 48 of 90 seats in Haryana; the majority mark stands at 46. The Congress won 37 seats.

No party has won a third consecutive term in Haryana since its inception in 1966. Om Prakash Chautala's Indian National Lok Dal (INLD), once a powerhouse in Haryana, won two seats, while the Dushyant Chautala-led Jannayak Janta Party (JJP), which aligned with the BJP in 2019, failed to

open its account. Catch Live Updates: Haryana, Jammu & Kashmir Assembly election results

In Jammu and Kashmir, where elections to the 90-member Assembly were held for the first time in a decade, the Congress-NC combine won 48 seats, while the BJP secured 29 seats.

Mehbooba Mufti's Peoples Democratic Party (PDP) bagged three seats. In something of a surprise, AAP's Mehraj Malik won in Doda.

NC leader Omar Abdullah, who won in Budgam and Ganderbal constituencies, took a jab at the BJP, saying "those who sought to destroy us were decimated instead". Asked about government formation, he said to wait till results were fully declared.

The possibility of a hung assembly in the Union Territory has opposition parties apprehensive that the five Lieutenant



Governor-nominated MLAs could play a decisive role in government formation. In Haryana, where exit polls predicted a clean sweep for the Congress, the party's missteps like banking heavily on Jat stalwart Bhupinder Singh Hooda and the sidelining of Dalit leader Kumari Selja may have cost it the election. The consolidation of non-Jat votes by the BJP hurt the Congress further. The grand old party focused its efforts on

wooing the Jat community and neglected the politically consequential Ahirwal belt, which comprises urban and industrial centres Gurugram, Faridabad, Rewari and Mahendragarh. The BJP appears set to improve on its 2019 performance, when it won 40 seats and had to partner with the JJP. A key factor that could have contributed to this success is the party's strategy of fielding fresh candidates and

expanding outreach to Other Backward Class (OBC) and Scheduled Caste (SC) communities. Nayab Singh Saini is being credited as the key architect behind the BJP's success in Haryana. After replacing Manohar Lal Khattar as Chief Minister, Saini, an OBC, became the face of the BJP's poll campaign. His leadership is seen as instrumental in overcoming anti-incumbency and securing the party's third consecutive term in the state.

the Kashmir Valley. Despite the central government's five-year push to transform the region into a 'Naya Kashmir' with a focus on peace, development, and prosperity, the promised change did not convert into votes for the saffron party in the region.

Congress candidate and wrestler Vinesh Phogat won in Julana on her poll debut. The Olympian secured 64,548 votes and beat her nearest rival,

ECI website. Is the BJP trying to build pressure on the administration by sharing outdated and misleading trends?" tweeted Congress leader Jairam Ramesh.

The Election Commission dismissed the Congress's charge as unsubstantiated. In a strongly-worded statement, the EC said it "unequivocally rejects" the party's attempt to "surreptitiously give credence to irresponsible, unfounded and uncorroborated malafide narratives".

In a setback for the Aam Aadmi Party (AAP), the party failed to win any seats in Haryana, the home state of its leader Arvind Kejriwal.

Staring at defeat in Haryana, the Congress lodged a complaint with the Election Commission alleging "inordinate and unacceptable delay in updating trends" on its website.

"Like the Lok Sabha elections, in Haryana we are again witnessing slowing down of uploading up-to-date trends on the

## Odisha appoints 282 officers and staff cross various depts, CM calls them 'pilots of progress'

Bhubaneswar (KCN): Odisha government Tuesday appointed 282 officers and staff across various departments as part of its ongoing recruitment drives.

Chief Minister Mohan Charan Majhi handed over appointment letters to the new recruits during a special event called 'Nijukti Samaroh,' attended by deputy Chief Ministers KV Singh Deo and Pravati Parida.

Among the new appointments, 79 were in the Department of Energy, 104 in the Department of Health & Family Welfare and 99 in the Odisha Mining Corporation.



Addressing the new officials, Majhi described them as the "pilots of the progress" for the state's growth engine. He urged them to work diligently for the successful implementation of government schemes aimed at public welfare. Stressing his

golden opportunity to work directly with the public. "Be committed to the religion of humanity. Strive to improve yourself and engage in nation-building," he advised.

The Chief Minister also highlighted ongoing reforms in the power sector, mentioning three key initiatives – the 'Mukhyamandhi Shakti Vikas' scheme, the 'Odisha Distribution System Improvement' scheme, and the 'Odisha Power Transmission System Improvement' scheme, with a total budget of Rs 2,366 crore allocated for the year. Furthermore, he announced that the state

government is expanding health services and is committed to providing quality healthcare to all, from rural to urban areas. The Ayushman Bharat Pradhan Mantri Jan Karya Yojana and Gopbandhu Jan Karya Yojana will soon be implemented statewide, he added. Majhi also remarked on the significant role of the Odisha Mining Corporation in the state's economic progress, stating that the state is poised to become the preferred choice for investors in the industrial sector. He concluded by announcing the BJP government's plan to fill 1.5 lakh positions over the next five years.

## President of India Presents 70th National Film Awards

### Coneers Dadasaheb Phalke Lifetime Achievement Award on Shri Mithun Chakraborty

New Delhi, (KCN): The President of India, Smt Droupadi Murmu presented the 70th National Film Awards in various categories in New Delhi today (October 8, 2024). She also conferred the Dadasaheb Phalke Lifetime Achievement Award for the year 2022 on Shri Mithun Chakraborty.

Speaking on the occasion, the President said that our films reflect the artistic sense of our society. Life is changing. The standards of art are changing. New aspirations are arising. New problems are emerging. New awareness is rising. Amidst all these changes, the unchanging values ??of love, compassion, and service are still making our individual and collective lives



meaningful. We can see all these values portrayed in the films awarded today.

The President said that Indian cinema is the largest film industry in the world, with films being produced in multiple languages ??and in all regions of the country. It is also the most diverse art form. She congratulated the all award winners and appreciated the people associated with the film industry.

The President congratulated Shri Mithun Chakraborty for receiving the Dadasaheb Phalke Lifetime Achievement Award. She said that in his artistic

journey of almost five decades, Mithun ji has not only portrayed serious characters on screen but has also portrayed with success many ordinary stories with his unique energy.

The President said that though the languages ??and backgrounds of award-winning films may be different, they all are reflections of India. These films are a treasure trove of experiences of Indian society. Indian traditions and their diversity come alive in these films.

The President pointed out that meaningful films often do not find an audience. She urged aware citizens, social organizations, and governments to work together to increase the reach of meaningful cinema to the audience.

## BJP win in Haryana victory of politics of development, good governance: PM Modi



New Delhi, (KCN): Prime Minister Narendra Modi Tuesday hailed the BJP's win in the Haryana Assembly polls as a victory of its politics of development and good governance, assuring people that the party will leave no stone unturned to fulfil people's aspirations.

In a series of posts on X, Modi also complimented the National Conference for its "commendable" performance in the Assembly polls in Jammu

and Kashmir.

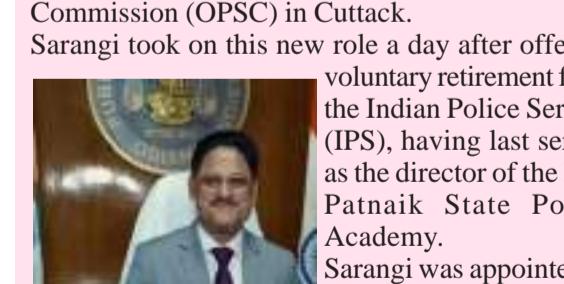
These elections in Jammu and Kashmir were very special, he said, noting that they were held for the first time after the removal of Articles 370 and 35(A) and witnessed a high turnout, showing people's belief in democracy. He offered compliments to "each and every person" of the Union Territory for this. Expressing heartfelt thanks to the people of Haryana, he conveyed his gratefulness to them

## Arun Sarangi assumes office as OPSC chairman

Bhubaneswar (KCN): Former Odisha DGP Arun Kumar Sarangi Tuesday assumed charge as the chairperson of the Odisha Public Service Commission (OPSC) in Cuttack.

Sarangi took on this new role a day after offering voluntary retirement from the Indian Police Service (IPS), having last served as the director of the Biju Patnaik State Police Academy.

Sarangi was appointed as the OPSC chairperson by the state government in September. "My priority will be maintaining transparency in the conduct of examinations for recruitment to various government jobs. I will miss the uniform a lot," the 1990-batch IPS officer told reporters. He will serve as the OPSC chairperson for six years from October 8, 2024, or until he reaches the age of 62, whichever comes first, according to a notification issued by the General Administration Department. Upon taking charge, Sarangi advised aspirants to remain vigilant against individuals who promise government jobs in exchange for money. Highlighting the OPSC's rich legacy of 75 years, Sarangi emphasised his commitment to transparency in the selection process and to enhancing training initiatives.



# Villagers gherao Collectorate over Samakoi-Chakdar project

**Keonjhar (KCN):** Thousands of villagers from Telkoi block of Keonjhar district took out a huge rally in this district headquarters town and staged a demonstration in front of the district Collectorate protesting the proposed Samakoi-Chakdar Irrigation Project. The protest organised by the Samakoi-Chakdar Project Coordination Committee was led by the outfit's president Kailas Chandra Pradhan and co-ordinator Laxmidhar Pradhan. Thousands of Telkoi area residents marched to the district headquarters town located at about 60km distance and staged a rally holding placards and shouting slogans against the government.



## Odisha: 20-year-old woman dies after 'setting herself on fire'

**Berhampur (KCN):** A 20-year-old woman, who allegedly set herself on fire because of torture by her father and stepmother, died during treatment at a hospital in Odisha's Ganjam district Tuesday, police said.

Rani Pradhan, a final year undergraduate student from

Kukudakhandi village in Berhampur Sadar police station area, set herself on fire by pouring petrol near the Panchayat Samity office on Monday afternoon, they said.

SP Sarvana Vivek M said she suffered 90 per cent burn injuries and was undergoing

treatment at the MKCG Medical College and Hospital where she died. Initial inquiry has revealed that she took the step as her father and stepmother allegedly tortured her, police said.

Her mother died when she was just three years old, following which her

father married another woman and they have a son. "We have detained her father for interrogation. The exact cause will be known only after the integration of her father and other relatives," said the SP. A case of unnatural death was registered, police said.

## Odisha to frame SOP on appropriate behaviour with defence personnel at police stations

**Cuttack (KCN):** Odisha government Tuesday informed the high court that the state home department will soon frame a standard operating procedure (SOP) on appropriate behaviour with defence personnel at police stations.

This was conveyed through an affidavit by senior IPS officer Dayal Gangwar, who was previously instructed by the Orissa High Court to submit a report following a recent incident at

Bharatpur Police Station in Bhubaneswar.

In early September, there was widespread outrage after an army officer and his female friend were allegedly assaulted by police officers inside Bharatpur Police Station when they went to lodge a complaint about a road rage incident.

During a hearing related to this matter, the HC expressed concern over the violation of Supreme Court guidelines regarding installation of CCTV cameras at police

stations.

In response, Gangwar appeared before the court and said measures were being taken to install CCTV cameras in all police stations statewide, with completion expected within 15 days. He also mentioned that the state government is working on two new Video Management Systems (VMS) that would allow the DGP and all 32 district police chiefs to monitor CCTV footage at police personnel involved in the case.

The High Court expressed satisfaction with the steps taken by the state government in relation to the incident involving the army officer and adjourned the matter to be heard again next month.

Meanwhile, the state government has instituted a Judicial Commission of Inquiry into the incident, transferred the police investigation to the Crime Branch, and suspended at least five police personnel involved in the case.

## East Coast Railway Organizes State Level Rovers & Rangers Meet at Bhubaneswar



**Bhubaneswar (KCN):** The East Coast Railway Bharat Scouts & Guides is hosting a State Level Rovers & Rangers Meet at its State Headquarters in Bhubaneswar. This event has brought together enthusiastic volunteers from all corners of the East Coast Railway, including participants from the Khurda Road, Sambalpur, and Waltair Divisions, as well as teams from the Headquarters, Mancheswar Carriage Repair Workshop, and Puri Unit.

A key highlight of the

Nukkad Natak performances by the volunteers, aimed at raising public awareness on two crucial issues: Cleanliness and the Fight Against Corruption. Through their engaging street plays, the volunteers successfully conveyed important messages to the public, emphasizing the need to maintain cleanliness in daily life and to actively stand against corruption in all forms. The event was graced by East Coast Railway General Manager, Shri Parmeshwar Funkwal, who praised the efforts of the volunteers and their dedication to social

causes. In his address, Shri Funkwal encouraged the Rovers and Rangers to continue their commendable work and assured them of East Coast Railway's ongoing support for future initiatives. He highlighted the importance of youth involvement in nation-building and advised them to take more proactive steps in contributing towards a cleaner and more transparent society. The Rovers and Rangers, through their dedicated service and community-oriented initiatives, continue to play a pivotal role in

never allow let it happen. They threatened that if required they will go for mass self-immolation. Police registering cases against 60 persons among the protesters will never deter them in carrying out their protest, they said. They also challenged Chief Minister Mohan Charan Majhi to carry on with the project work. This project is being built to appease the residents of Angul district, they alleged adding that previous governments of Congress and BJD stopped the project in the interest of the people. The leaders asked the CM to answer as to why his state government approved the anti-people project. Among others,

former PCC presidents Niranjan Patnaik and Jaydev Jena, BJD Zilla Parishad member Ashish Chakraborty, PCC general secretary Aloy Mishra, secretary Sangram Das, leader Nirmal Nayak, former MLA Subarna Nayak and Dhanurjay Sidhu, senior leaders Krushna Chandra Mohanty, former MP Yashwant Laguri, engineer Binod Nayak and others addressed the gatherings. Sources said the Samakoi Chakdar irrigation project, when completed, will provide irrigation to 24,194 hectares of land in both Keonjhar and Angul districts. However, locals fear the submergence of their lands as the reservoir

of the dam will be in Telkoi block. On the other hand, the people of Pallahara block of Angul district will benefit more from the project. This has been spreading discontent among the people of Telkoi block. The project was conceived about 20 years back but was put on ice due to protests. Keonjhar Sub-Collector Umashankar Dalei said, "We told the Water Resources department to prepare a report about the facts of the project including its social and other impacts. Villagers do not want any more projects. We have already intimated the government about the villagers' demands and are waiting for a report about the project."



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## Karan Johar's Dharma Productions stops pre-release screenings. Here's why



Dharma Productions, led by Karan Johar, has decided to halt pre-release screenings of their films, citing the need to adapt and maintain the excitement of the cinematic experience. However, they will still host press screenings on the release day to ensure timely reviews. Filmmaker-producer Karan Johar's Dharma Productions will not host pre-release screenings for their upcoming films. Addressed to the media, the production house, under the signatures of Dharma co-founders KJo and Apoorva Mehta, issued a statement citing the reason behind their decision. The letter addressed "dear members of the

media", and stated, "For years, rather decades, you have firmly stood by us at Dharma Productions, supporting our films, sharing our dreams, and celebrating our victories. Your faith in us has been a driving force throughout our journey, and we'd like to take this moment to extend our deepest and heartfelt gratitude to you all. Each coverage, review, and feedback has been invaluable to us, and they have undeniably helped us make our films reach audiences far and wide (sic)."

The note further read, "As we continue to evolve, we find ourselves at a juncture where we must adapt and innovate our

approach. After much deliberation, we've unanimously decided to forgo pre-release screenings for our upcoming films. This decision has been difficult to make, however, we believe it's a necessary step in ensuring that every

viewer, including our friends in the media, witness our stories as they were meant to be experienced. We believe it will help in maintaining the excitement of the cinematic experience for all (sic)." The production house clarified that though

of our films. Therefore, we are pleased to announce that we will be hosting press screenings in the first half of the release day for each of our movies. We warmly welcome all media personnel to join us at these screenings, where you will be the first to witness our latest offerings (sic)," the note said.

The makers concluded the note with, "We value the relationship built with each one of you over the years and look forward to your continued cooperation. Thank you again for your consistent support! (sic)." Dharma Productions' upcoming release includes Alia Bhatt's Jigra.

## Boney Kapoor confirms 'No Entry 2', shares Anil Kapoor is 'angry, not talking'



Producer Boney Kapoor recently confirmed the sequel of the 2005 multi-starrer comedy 'No Entry' is ready to roll. In a new interview, Boney spilled that Varun Dhawan, Diljit Dosanjh and Arjun Kapoor are set to headline the second part.

The film, which will complete 20 years in 2025, originally starred Salman Khan, Fardeen Khan and Anil Kapoor in the lead. Directed by Anees Bazmee, the film also featured Bipasha Basu, Esha Deol, Lara Dutta and Celina Jaitley in key roles. Now, in an

interview with Indian Express, Boney Kapoor confirmed 'No Entry 2' and said, "The film is on cards, and we are set for it. It is a big one and we

will probably start rolling by December this year. We have got Varun, Arjun and Diljit. There will be a lot of actresses as well."

The producer further mentioned that they are tight-lipped about the concept of the sequel as he fears it getting plagiarized. "Earlier, the concept had spilled over and some films had copied it, or rather 'adapted' it. I don't want to name the film, so it is better not to speak about it. I used to brag about the unusual concept we had but then I found out there was another film that was made with the same concept," he added. In another interview with Zoom, Boney revealed that his brother Anil Kapoor, who was a part of the first installment, is angry with him. It is because the actor wanted to be a part of the film, however, Boney said that there was 'no space'. "I know he wanted to be a part of the No Entry sequel, but there was no space. I wanted to explain why I did what I did," he said. The producer mentioned that his brother is still not talking properly with him. Meanwhile, Varun Dhawan is currently shooting for his next film with Shashank Khaitan and David Dhawan. Arjun Kapoor, on the other hand, is busy with Rohit Shetty's 'Singham Again'

## Rohit Shetty wraps Singham Again, reflects on his relationship with Ajay Devgn



Acclaimed director Rohit Shetty recently shared a post after wrapping 'Singham Again,' which marks his 13th collaboration with Ajay Devgn. Filmmaker Rohit Shetty on Monday shared a video post on his Instagram handle after wrapping the upcoming release, Singham Again, with Bollywood star Ajay Devgn. In the heartfelt post, Shetty also wrote about his 33-year collaboration with the actor. Shetty wrote, "Today we complete 13 years of Singham and look at the magic of destiny. Today we also wrap Singham Again with Ajay sir. This is my 13th film with him as a director but the journey began back in the 90s when I was working under him. 33 years later and we are still going strong. See you at the cinemas this Diwali." Rohit captioned the post, "13 years of 'Singham', 33 years of brotherhood @ajaydevgn #SinghamAgain (sic)." Rohit previously directed Singham and Singham Returns. Later, Shetty launched a cop universe, which also features artistes such as Akshay Kumar, Deepika Padukone, Sidharth Malhotra and Ranveer Singh. Also starring Arjun Kapoor, Deepika Padukone and Kareena Kapoor among others, Singham Again will arrive in cinemas this November.

## 'Kanguva': A Film Showcases The Remarkable Originality Of South Indian Cinema Delighting Audiences With Its Ability To Constantly Surprise



In the contemporary, rapid-paced society, action-packed movies with catchy tunes and heroics are remembered by viewers for their unique storytelling and unique material. The South Indian film industry, which has now developed into the Pan-Indian film industry, is an ideal fit. They never concentrate on adaptations; rather, they always offer audiences something fresh that is both commercially successful and sets benchmarks for content.

Cinematic works such as the Baahubali series, KGF franchise, Pushpa, RRR, Kantara, Avane Sriman Narayana, Brahmayugam, and the recently released 'The Goat Life' are noteworthy examples of this. South Indian films have created a benchmark for being full of entertainment and their forthcoming big screen film 'Kanguva' starring superstar Suriya, Bobby Deol, and Disha Patani and directed by Siruthai Siva, produced by Studio Green is another film that is gearing up to offer the audiences a fresh story of the periodic drama that travels across different periods. South Indian cinema focuses on

regional films and the makers have interwoven them effectively in Kanguva. While Pushpa, RRR, and Baahubali's historic success has demonstrated the enormous potential and quality of regional cinema, so too has its film industry. These movies have broken records at the box office and won praise from critics both locally and abroad. The recently released glimpse of the film Kanguva has demonstrated that it will continue the history of regional cinema on a worldwide scale. With 'Kanguva' ready for release from the South Indian cinema, the hype and the buzz among the audiences is real and the film presents a culture-rooted original story to the

audiences. This originality factor plays a pivotal role in the increasing demand for content from regional languages across the globe. More and more people are acknowledging the tenacity, inventiveness, and artistic brilliance of South Indian films. Their films have made a lasting impression on the world stage, from their modest beginnings in the early 20th century to their current position as one of India's leading cinematic industries. The industry is characterized by a rich cultural past, a varied range of storytelling, and extraordinary talent that propels it forward and captivates audiences, leaving an enduring legacy that will benefit future generations.

# Future of Postal Services in the Digital Era



On 9th October 2024, the global community will mark a remarkable milestone—the 150th anniversary of the Universal Postal Union (UPU). Since its founding in 1874, the UPU has played a crucial role in fostering international postal cooperation and ensuring seamless communication between nations. As the world advances into the digital age, the role of traditional postal services has evolved significantly, transforming from a primary means of communication into a multifaceted service provider.

The statement of the Director General of the UPU International Bureau on this occasion is as follows:

"As we celebrate 150 years of the Universal Postal Union (UPU), we recognize its importance as one of the earliest examples of multilateralism. Founded with the goal of creating a unified postal system, the UPU has brought together countries to support global communication, cultural exchange, and access to essential services. What started with 22 nations now includes 192 member countries, showing the strength of international cooperation. Over the years, the UPU has adapted to challenges

like wars, crises, and rapid technological changes. It has remained a strong symbol of global unity; ensuring communication is accessible to everyone, especially the most vulnerable. Today, the UPU leads efforts to modernize and improve postal services. It provides a space for countries to share knowledge, find new solutions, and address modern challenges. The UPU's spirit of cooperation helps turn obstacles into opportunities, making sure postal services evolve with the changing world. Where once we viewed the rise of digital communication and the decline in traditional mail volumes as a threat, we now see a wealth of possibilities. The UPU's extensive network has adapted to support a broader range of services—including e-commerce, financial, social and digital services—ensuring inclusive access for people worldwide, including in the most remote areas in order to leave no-one behind. Instead of viewing competition as a challenge, the UPU welcomes partnerships with a wide range of stakeholders. This inclusive approach strengthens our ability to address global challenges, like climate change, which requires cooperation across borders. As we look to the future, the UPU's mission remains clear: to connect and empower people around the world. By staying committed to multilateralism, innovation, and inclusivity, the UPU will continue to support global

communication and serve future generations for the next 150 years."

Historically, postal services were indispensable for connecting people, businesses, and governments across vast distances. Letters, parcels, and official documents flowed between countries through elaborate postal systems, which functioned as the lifeblood of communication. However, the advent of the digital revolution in recent decades has presented a profound challenge to these traditional services.

With the rise of email, social media, and other digital communication platforms, the volume of conventional mail has declined dramatically. Postal networks have had to rethink their roles and reinvent themselves to survive in this new digital environment.

In response to these changes, postal services around the world have adopted various strategies to maintain their relevance. One of the most prominent areas where postal networks have found a new lease of life is in the realm of e-commerce. With the exponential growth of online shopping, postal services have become critical players in the last-mile delivery process. Many national postal systems have formed partnerships with e-commerce giants, offering reliable and affordable delivery services, especially in areas that private courier companies find hard to reach. The United States Postal Service (USPS) has capitalized on this trend by establishing delivery contracts with major

## Bruhaspati Samal

online retailers like Amazon. Similarly, Japan Post has enhanced its logistics capabilities to cater to both domestic and international markets, providing seamless delivery services to meet the growing demand from online shoppers. Other countries, such as Australia, have introduced innovative solutions like parcel lockers, enabling customers to pick up packages at their convenience without waiting for home deliveries.

In addition to their e-commerce partnerships, many postal networks have ventured into the digital financial services sector. Postal operators in countries like Brazil, Kenya, and India have embraced the role of financial service providers, extending banking services to underserved populations. These efforts have been particularly impactful in regions where traditional banking infrastructure is limited or inaccessible. Kenya's Posta Kenya, for example, offers mobile money services, providing a popular alternative to conventional banking and helping bridge the financial inclusion gap. Brazil's national postal service, Correios, has partnered with fintech companies to offer digital banking services across its widespread network of post offices. By doing so, Correios has helped millions of Brazilians gain access to essential financial services, from savings accounts to insurance

products. These digital financial services allow postal networks to remain a vital part of daily life, especially for those in remote areas who rely on post offices as their primary connection to the modern economy.

Another significant transformation in the postal sector is the development of digital hubs, where traditional post offices are expanding their services to include e-government applications, digital identity verification, and other online services. Canada Post, for example, has built a digital platform that enables citizens to access government services, renew licenses, and manage their digital identities securely. This expanded role as a digital service provider allows postal networks to continue serving the public while aligning with the changing technological landscape. Amid these advancements, environmental sustainability has also emerged as a key focus for many postal networks. In response to growing concerns over climate change and the environmental impact of their operations, postal services have begun implementing green initiatives. Some, like Deutsche Post DHL, are investing in electric delivery vehicles and setting ambitious targets for reducing carbon emissions. Royal Mail in the UK has announced plans to transition to an all-electric fleet for urban deliveries by 2035, highlighting its commitment to reducing its environmental footprint. These

sustainability efforts reflect a broader shift in the industry towards greener, more eco-friendly practices.

India Post, the world's largest postal network, is a prime example of how a traditional postal service can evolve in the digital era while staying true to its roots. With a network of 1.65 lakh post offices, many located in rural and remote areas, India Post has long been a crucial link connecting millions of people across the country. However, like other postal services, India Post has faced challenges due to the decline in traditional mail volumes and the rise of digital communication. To address these challenges, India Post has embraced e-commerce as a key growth area. The India Post e-commerce portal allows businesses, particularly small and medium enterprises, to register and use the postal network for shipping their products nationwide. This has been particularly beneficial for businesses in remote areas, which previously had limited access to reliable courier services. By leveraging its vast network, India Post has positioned itself as a vital partner for e-commerce platforms, offering affordable shipping solutions and expanding its role in the country's booming online retail sector. India Post's efforts to modernize extend beyond e-commerce. The launch of India Post Payments Bank (IPPB) in 2018 marked a significant milestone in its transformation. IPPB has been instrumental in bringing digital banking services to millions of

unbanked and underbanked Indians, particularly in rural areas where access to formal banking institutions is limited. Through its vast network of post offices, IPPB offers customers a range of financial services, including savings accounts, money transfers, and bill payments. Additionally, the bank's doorstep banking service, which allows postal workers equipped with mobile devices to facilitate transactions, has further enhanced financial inclusion across the country.

India Post has also become a key player in providing digital government services. Many post offices now act as Common Service Centers (CSCs), offering citizens' access to a variety of government services, including Aadhaar enrolment and updating facilities. Postal Life Insurance (PLI) and Rural Postal Life Insurance (RPLI) have also transitioned to digital platforms, allowing policyholders to manage their accounts and pay premiums online. These initiatives reflect India Post's commitment to becoming a comprehensive service provider in the digital age. Sustainability is another area where India Post has made significant strides. Several post offices have adopted solar energy, reducing their reliance on conventional power sources. In urban areas, electric vehicles are being introduced for deliveries, contributing to India's broader climate goals. These green initiatives are part of the National Postal Policy,

which seeks to make the postal network more energy-efficient and environmentally friendly. As postal services worldwide continue to evolve, they face both challenges and opportunities. The rise of digital communication and the decline in traditional mail services present an existential challenge to postal networks. However, the growing demand for e-commerce logistics, digital financial services, and environmentally sustainable delivery solutions offer postal services new opportunities for growth and relevance in the 21st century.

As we celebrate the 150th anniversary of the Universal Postal Union, it is clear that postal services are not relics of the past but vital institutions that are constantly adapting to meet the needs of the modern world. India Post, with its rich legacy and innovative approaches, exemplifies how a traditional postal service can embrace the digital age while continuing to serve as a cornerstone of communication and commerce. In the years to come, postal services will remain an essential part of the global economy, connecting people, facilitating trade, and supporting digital transformation.

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# Poverty eradication in India

*- Rapid growth in population puts pressure on available resources and makes it challenging to achieve sustainable development. As a result, high levels of unemployment and limited access to essential services contribute to high poverty rates.*



report of NITI Aayog, about 24.82 crore Indians have come out of multidimensional poverty in the last nine years. Uttar Pradesh, Bihar, Madhya Pradesh and Rajasthan recorded the largest decline in multidimensional poverty, claiming to lift about 13.88 crore people out of poverty. The report points to a 17.89 per cent decline in multidimensional poverty over the last nine years, as the number of people living in this condition rose from 29.17 per cent in 2013-14 to 11.28 per cent (about 15.5 crore Indians) in 2022-23. The global Multidimensional Poverty Index (MPI) uses three broad dimensions: health, education and standard of living to measure the level and intensity of poverty. The United Nations Development Programme has used this methodology to determine poverty levels in more than 100 developing countries.

According to research by the State Bank of India released in February 2024, the poverty rate in the country fell to 4.5-5 percent in 2022-23. Based on data from the Household research has attributed this decline to government programs launched for the bottom of the pyramid. Data from the Household Consumption Expenditure Survey shows that rural poverty has declined from 25.7 percent in 2011-12 to 7.2 percent and urban poverty has come down by 4.6 percent from a

## Amit Baijnath Garg

decade ago. According to SBI researchers, the new poverty lines were Rs 1,622 and Rs 1,929 for rural and urban areas, respectively. These figures were calculated based on the recommendations of a group of experts headed by Suresh Tendulkar, who had set the poverty line in 2011-12.

The Multidimensional Poverty Index 2023 report says that more than a third of all poor people in the world live in South Asia, which is about 389 million people. India contributes significantly to this number, accounting for about 70 percent of the increase in extreme poverty. The World Bank defines poverty based on the international poverty line, according to which extreme poverty is set at \$2.15 per person per day, while \$3.65 falls in the lower-middle income category and \$6.85 is classified in the upper-middle income category. Considering the poverty line set at \$3.65, India's contribution is equivalent to 40 per cent with a marginal increase in the global poverty rate from

23.6 per cent to 24.1 per cent.

If we talk on the basis of historical facts, the British economic policy in India had a profound negative impact on the Indian economy, which was one of the major reasons behind the high rate of poverty in India. Many scholars have discussed the economic exploitation or plunder of India during the British colonial rule. They point to various mechanisms through which India's wealth was extracted, including heavy taxation, discriminatory trade policies, and extraction of resources. Dadabhai Naoroji, a strong critic of British economic policy in India, explained the financial exploitation of India under British colonial rule through the Drain Theory. According to Naoroji, the economic surplus generated in India was sent to Britain, impoverishing the Indian economy. This drain took various forms, including remittance of profits to Britain, high salaries for British officials in India, and payments for goods and services imported from Britain.

Many renowned economists and leaders have elaborated on the root causes of the high poverty rate in the country. Nobel Prize-winning economist Amartya Sen has stressed the importance of eliminating social inequalities and investing in education and healthcare to tackle poverty and sustain economic growth in India. Experts believe that the Indian economy is heavily dependent on the export of primary commodities, which is a legacy of the colonial economic structure. This makes the economy vulnerable to external market fluctuations. At the same time, social inequalities, which are often exacerbated by historical factors such as the caste system or ethnic divisions, cause persistent poverty in India. Discrimination limits access to education, employment and other opportunities for marginalized groups.

Rapid growth in population puts pressure on available resources and makes it challenging to achieve sustainable development. This results

in high levels of unemployment and limited access to essential services, which contribute to high poverty rates in India. It is worth mentioning that like China, India is also one of the most populous countries in the world. Some experts also believe that the reasons for increasing poverty in India also include global economic dynamics including trade imbalance and debt burden. Unfavourable terms of trade and economic policies implemented by powerful countries hinder local development efforts. This affects the country's economic system, which proves helpful in increasing poverty. The causes of poverty in India also include high population density, low literacy rate, inadequate infrastructure, ineffective governance and limited industrial development.

The government has assessed the improvement in poverty on the basis of criteria such as better education, health and lifestyle. This also includes factors like child nutrition, mortality rate, maternal

health, schooling, school attendance, cooking fuel, sanitation, drinking water, electricity, house, property and bank account. Certainly, work has been done to remove poverty in every government. Whether it is Manmohan Singh's government or Narendra Modi's, the country has played an important role in removing people from poverty and improving their standard of living. However, these efforts cannot be called completely successful, because efforts are still needed on a very large scale. For this, along with the government, social organizations, NGOs and even the common man need to work towards poverty eradication at their own level. Only with the continuous efforts of everyone will we be able to eradicate poverty from the country and achieve the goal of a developed India.

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## Grandeur of Murshidabad live through immersive 3D hologram technology at Maitri Sangha Durgotsav, South Kolkata.

Kolkata, (PARTHA ROY): Murshidabad Heritage Development Society (MHDS) is presenting an immersive 3D Hologram Holo Tour of Murshidabad at Maitri Sangha Durgotsav, at Motilal Nehru Road, South Kolkata in collaboration & partnership with Bengaluru based OpEzee a pioneer in creative 3D holographic solutions. This collaboration brings the heritage of Murshidabad to life, offering visitors an innovative experience that showcases the historical and cultural grandeur of the region in West Bengal which was former capital of Bengal a few centuries ago.

"We are thrilled to be a part of this cultural celebration," said Mayank Manish, Founder of OpEzee. "Our immersive holographic walkthrough of Murshidabad allows people to witness the rich heritage of this historic region, emphasizing the



efforts that have been made towards preservation."

OpEzee has introduced world-class 3D holographic technology, offering high-quality, indigenized, and

customized experiences. This is the first time visitors can explore Murshidabad's history and cultural splendour through a 3D, 360-degree holographic tour, providing an unforgettable

experience. This holographic tour is a part of initiatives by the Museum of Art and Photography (MAP), Bengaluru, aimed at offering immersive digital experiences to viewers.

OpEzee's technology allows the capture of any real space—be it properties, campuses, or heritage sites—in stunning 3D and 360-degree detail, offering one-of-a-kind walkthroughs that enhance storytelling and audience engagement. OpEzee's solutions cater to various sectors, including experience centers, tourism, museums, education, events, entertainment, industry, government, real estate, and the Metaverse.

"Our goal is to inspire people to explore and appreciate the hidden cultural treasures around them. The use of cutting-edge holographic technology adds a unique, immersive layer to this experience," said Pradip Kumar Chopra, President of MHDS.

Visit the Maitri Sangha Durgotsav, at Motilal Nehru Road Pandal South Kolkata to witness the fusion of culture and technology and join us in celebrating the heritage of Murshidabad.

## "BJP Single-Largest Party In J&K In Terms Of Vote Share": PM

New Delhi (KCN): The National Conference-Congress alliance may have won more seats in Jammu and Kashmir but the BJP has emerged as the single-largest party in terms of vote share, Prime Minister Narendra Modi said on Tuesday.

In his customary evening address after election results, PM Modi pointed out that the BJP had set a record by winning in Haryana for the third straight time and thanked voters for the verdict.

Shifting focus to Jammu and Kashmir, he said elections have taken place in a peaceful manner in the erstwhile state after decades.

"Peaceful voting was held, results were declared. This is a victory for the Constitution, for democracy. The people of Jammu and Kashmir have given more seats to the National Conference and its allies. I send them my best wishes as well.

In terms of vote share, the BJP has emerged as the single largest party in



Jammu and Kashmir," he said in Hindi.

The National Conference-Congress-CPM alliance won 49 of the Union Territory's 90 Assembly seats for which elections were held. The National Conference contributed 42 of these, with the Congress winning six and the CPM one.

The BJP achieved victory in 29 seats, four more than it had in 2014. Its vote share, however, stood at 25.64% while the National Conference polled 23.43%. The Congress' vote share was only 11.97%.

National Conference chief Farooq Abdullah has said his son and party Vice President Omar Abdullah will be the next chief minister of Jammu and Kashmir. Omar Abdullah, however, insisted that the chief minister will be decided by the MLAs of the party and the alliance.

Terming the election result a rejection of the removal of Article 370, Mr Abdullah also said he hoped that the PM would fulfil his promise and restore statehood to Jammu and Kashmir at the earliest.

## BJP Defies Anti-Incumbency In Haryana Polls, But 8 Ministers Fall Short



New Delhi (KCN): The BJP may have defied exit poll predictions to pull off a surprise victory in the Haryana election, but eight ministers in the incumbent Nayab Singh Saini government and Assembly Speaker Gian Chand Gupta suffered defeat.

Among the ministers who lost this election is Ranjit Singh, who served as Haryana's power minister from 2019-2024. The former MP finished third in Haryana's Rania seat, which was won by Indian National Lok Dal's Arjun Chautala.

Kanwar Pal Gujjar, who handled multiple portfolios in the incumbent government and also served as Haryana Assembly Speaker from 2014-2019, lost in Jagadhri today. He was defeated by the Congress's Akram Khan by a margin of nearly 7,000 votes.

The other ministers who

suffered defeats amid the BJP's surprise victory in this election are Subhash Sudha in Thanesar seat, Jai Parkash Dalal from Loharu, Abhe Singh Yadav in Nangal, Sanjay Singh in Nuh, Kamal Gupta in Hisar and Aseem Goel in Ambala City. Of these, Sanjay Singh and Kamal Gupta finished third.

Haryana Assembly Speaker Gian Chand Gupta, who won the Panchkula Assembly seat in 2014 and 2019, has lost it this time to the Congress's Chander Mohan, son of former Chief Minister Bhajan Lal.

Defying exit poll predictions and anti-incumbency theories, the BJP scored its best poll show in Haryana today, winning 48 out of 90 seats and comfortably defeating the main Opposition Congress, which was widely seen as the favourite in this poll contest.

The Congress was

leading in early trends and party supporters responded by celebrating before the trends stabilised. As the counting entered later rounds, the BJP first clawed back and then left Congress far behind -- at 37 seats.

## "Stunning, Surprising": Bhupinder Hooda On Haryana Election Results

Chandigarh (KCN): Senior Congress leader Bhupinder Singh Hooda on Tuesday said the outcome in Haryana was opposite to the atmosphere was in the state.

He also said the results came as a surprise to the party.

The BJP emerged victorious in 48 seats while the Congress won 26 seats and was leading in one seat, according to the Election Commission. The BJP is set to form the government for a third straight time, bucking anti-incumbency and overcoming the setback in Lok Sabha polls when its tally dropped from 10 in 2019 to five seats.

Replies to a question on the results, Mr Hooda told reporters, "The results have left us 'achambhit' (stunned) and the BJP must also be 'achambhit'.

These results are opposite to what the atmosphere was in the state." "What is the role of 'tantra' (system), we will probe. We lost many seats with low margins," he further said.

"We received complaints from many places as well. The way the delay took place. Anyhow, the AICC will meet the ECI.

There is no doubt that these (results) have left us 'ascharyachakit'

(surprised)," Mr Hooda said.

Earlier in the day, the Congress raised with the Election Commission the issue of an "unexplained slowdown" in updating of results of Haryana elections on the poll

watchdog's website and urged it to direct officials to update accurate figures so that "false news and malicious narratives" can be countered immediately.

Dismissing talk of any factionalism in the party, Mr Hooda said the Congress was united in the elections.

"In a democratic party, anybody may have differences but there cannot be 'manbhed', he said.

On Congress leader Kumari Selja blaming coordination in the party, Mr Hooda asked who was responsible for proper coordination. He

then said it was everyone's job. Replying to a question on the Congress raising the issues pertaining to EVMS, he said, "There must be something. We received complaints from candidates." To a query on the consolidation of non-Jat votes in favour of the BJP, he said there was nothing like that.

Asked about his next course of action, Mr Hooda said in a democracy "whatever is the people's decision, we will accept it".

On party leader Jairam Ramesh raising doubts over the results, Mr Hooda said, "We will accept it under protest."

Asked again about the reason behind the defeat, he said the situation at the ground was completely in favour of change. "That is why I am saying, these (results) are surprising."

## UP bypolls: BJP shortlists 27 names as possible candidates for nine seats



New Delhi (KCN): The BJP has chalked out a list of three contenders each to be made candidates for nine of the 10 seats it is planning to contest in the Uttar Pradesh by-election, sources said. A meeting of the BJP Core Committee was held on Monday under the chairmanship of Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath in Lucknow. Three names each were decided for the nine seats in this meeting. It was also attended by Deputy Chief Ministers Keshav Prasad Maurya and

Brijesh Pathak, UP BJP chief Bhupendra Chaudhary and Organisation General Secretary Dharampal Singh, among other senior party leaders. The 27 shortlisted names will now be sent to the BJP's central leadership, which will pick the final nine names as candidates for the nine seats.

Nine of the 10 seats in Uttar Pradesh that fell vacant after their MLAs were elected as MPs in the 2024 Lok Sabha polls are Milkpur, Katehari, Majhwan, Phulpur, Khair, Kundarki, Meerapur, Karhal and Ghaziabad seats.

Bypolls to the Sishamau seat were necessitated after the disqualification of Samajwadi party legislator Irfan Solanki, who was convicted in a criminal case.

According to sources,

Jayant Chaudhary's Rashtriya Lok Dal (RLD) could be given the opportunity to contest the Meerapur seat. Meanwhile, the Nishad Party, led by UP Fisheries Minister Sanjay Nishad, is claiming two seats, but no decision has been taken on it.

On the other hand, former Chief Minister Akhilesh Yadav has been holding meetings with every Lok Sabha and district-wise party officials and workers of the Samajwadi Party.

Along with the by-elections, the

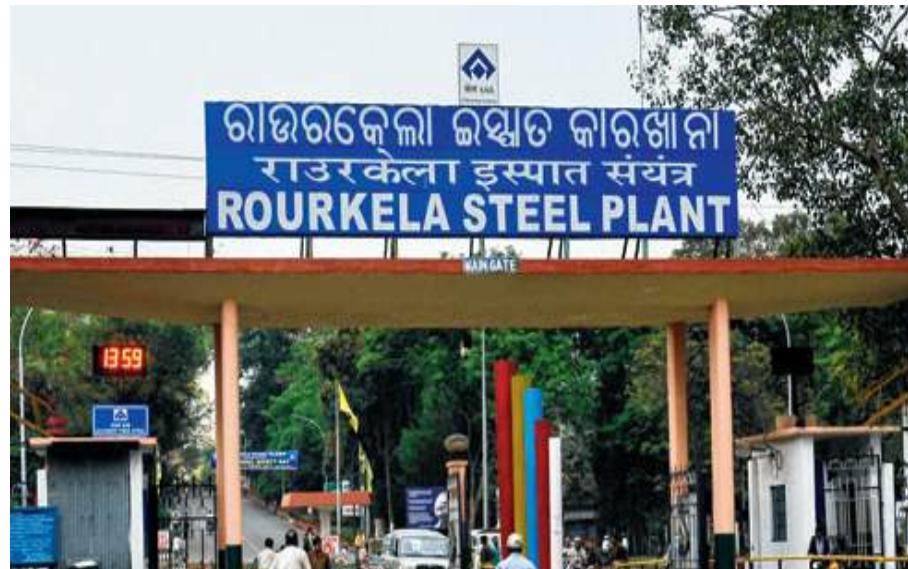
preparations for the 2027 Assembly elections were also reviewed during Akhilesh Yadav's meeting with the officials of Lalganj Lok Sabha on Monday.

The Election Commission may soon announce dates for the by-elections to the 10 Assembly seats of Uttar Pradesh. It is expected that by-elections may be held in November, because according to the rules, the poll panel has to hold by-polls within six months after the seats fall vacant.

# RSP signs contract to establish new Stamp Charge Coke Ovens battery

**Rourkela(KCN):** The Rourkela Steel Plant (RSP) has signed three contracts for the construction of a new Stamp Charge Coke Ovens battery, to meet the coke requirements of the plant apart from reducing the cost of production. RSP has six top-charge Coke Oven Batteries (COB). Out of them, five COBs are small in size while the COB6 which is taller was built during the last phase of expansion.

The planned Coke Ovens battery will be the first stamp charge battery of SAIL. The new battery with a capacity of 1 Million Tonnes per annum of coal throughput



will be set up along with new By-product and Coke Dry Cooling Plant (CDCP) facilities. The COB will reduce the input cost of the blend and will

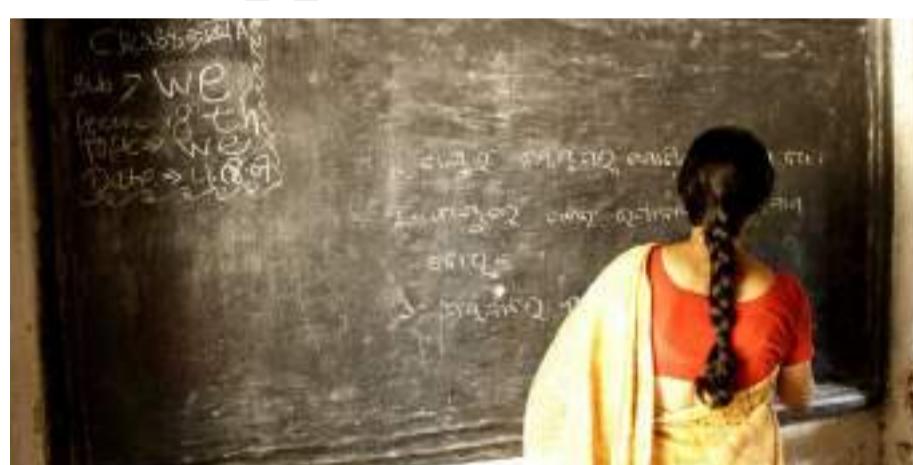
produce better quality coke along with improved Techno-Economic Parameters. RSP sources said global open tenders were invited for

three major project packages and the bids were successfully finalised for award of work to the respective winning bidders.

## 195 teachers fail to report for duty due to locals' opposition

**Nabarangpur(KCN):** As many as 195 newly appointed junior teachers failed to report for duty after villagers and members of a joint action committee locked up the concerned schools in various villages in this district, Monday.

The protesters warned the headmasters of respective schools to intensify their protest if teachers hailing from other districts came to join for duty in the schools of their postings. As a result, 195 teachers failed to report for duty where they have been



given postings. The appointed junior teachers arriving to join their respective schools were opposed by the villagers in Dangara, Biriguda,

Laharakani and Gopiguda villages at Jatabal panchayat under Papdahandi block while similar scenes were witnessed in Jhargaoon

block where 44 teachers were debarred from joining their duty. Around 29 teachers were stopped from joining duty in Dabugaon block.

## 3 hurt in clash between VIMSAR student groups



**Sambalpur(KCN):** Three postgraduate students were injured late Sunday night in a violent clash between two groups of students at the Veer Surendra Sai Institute of Medical Science and Research (VIMSAR) in Burla, sources said Monday. The injured individuals are former UG students' union president Dr Prabhat Kumar Jena, former general secretary Dr N Biswaranjan, and Dr Amit Shubham. According to sources, the incident occurred late Sunday night during the ongoing 'Prisms2024' event at

the newly constructed auditorium at VIMSAR. While the event was progressing late into the night, a sudden argument erupted between the two groups, which quickly escalated into a fullblown clash. The exact cause of the altercation is still unknown. However, following the incident the house surgeons called for a strike, demanding better security arrangements and addressing other grievances. Following a discussion between VIMSAR authorities and both student

groups, the house surgeons withdrew from their protest. The injured students received primary medical treatment and have been discharged. Both student groups have refrained from making any public statements regarding the incident. It is believed that the clash occurred due to a minor issue between the groups. The misunderstanding has since been resolved, and the house surgeons have resumed their duties, as stated by VIMSAR Director Dr Bhabagri Rath. He mentioned that after

## Maintenance issues plague Mo Bus service in Rourkela

**Rourkela(KCN):** Lack of maintenance has hit 'Mo Bus' service in the Steel City hard. Commuters are at the receiving end of the situation as breakdowns and cancellations of these public transport buses have become a regular affair of late, and there seems to be no immediate respite to their woes in sight. "I frequently travel to Bonai by 'Mo Bus' for my official engagements, and therefore, bought the monthly pass. Last month, the 8am bus broke down on three occasions and arrived late a few more times," said Rourkela resident Susant Biswal. Similar complaints are also surfacing from different

routes frequently. The Capital Region Urban Transport (CRUT)-managed 'Mo Bus' touches different destinations in and around Steel City and is a hit among commuters who completely depend on it for their daily travel. "I prefer 'Mo Bus' for daily commute to college as it is both comfortable and quite punctual. However, nowadays the frequency of cancellations has gone up. What I hear from the bus staff the next day is that the vehicle broke down due to poor maintenance," said a college-going girl from Nuagaon, which is nearly 12 km away from Rourkela. "First the new government changed the colour of the vehicles and



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## TPSODL Joins hands with Odisha Millet Mission to Promote Sustainable Agriculture and Nutrition

Berhampur, (KCN): TPSODL, a dedicated advocate for women and communities in Southern Odisha, is championing Income Generation Activities (IGAs) through its livelihood enhancement program. Collaborating with Mission Shakti, Odisha Livelihood Mission, and NGO partner, TPSODL is identifying and supporting potential Women Self-Help Groups (WSHG) and farmers through various initiatives.

One of the noteworthy



endeavours of TPSODL is its commitment to the promotion of millet cultivation. To this end, the organization has mobilized approximately 500 WSHGs and farmers, providing them with essential resources.

TPSODL offers capacity-building programs, training sessions, and input support including seeds and on-ground guidance. The goal is not only to

empower these individuals but also to promote the numerous nutritional and health benefits of millet. Millet, known for its resilience in challenging environmental conditions with minimal water and fertilizer requirements, also aids in mitigating the effects of climate change due to its low carbon footprint.

During the kharif season, more than 500 acres of land have been cultivated across 8 districts of TPSODL operational areas. In

total, 70 Gram panchayats were involved impacting a total of 500 farmers and WSHGs. Which includes 24 GPs of Ganjam, 8 GPs of Gajapati, 8 GPs of Koraput, 8 GPs of Nabarangpur, 8 GPs of Malkangiri, 9 GPs of Boudh, and 5 GPs of Kandhamal. Looking ahead to the upcoming Rabi season, coinciding with the International Year of Millets, TPSODL aims to extend its support to 1000 acres of land and farmers.

## Inaugural of 9th Conference on Transportation Systems Engineering and Management

Warangal (KCN): The inaugural of 9th Conference on Transportation Systems Engineering and Management (CTSEM 2023) was held today morning in Chandrasekhar Hall of Seminar Halls Complex. The programme is organised by the Transportation Division, Department of Civil Engineering, National Institute of Technology, Warangal, Telangana. Prof. C.S.R.K. Prasad, Chairman of the conference inaugurated the conference. The objective of this



conference is to bring together postgraduate students and researcher scholars to present their ongoing research works. Experts in the field of Transportation Engineering from academic institutions,

industries, and research organizations were also invited to share their knowledge, expertise, and experience with the young participants and to provide an overview on the latest trends and potential research

areas in Pavement Engineering, Traffic Engineering, and Transportation Planning.

The keynote speeches will be delivered by the eminent personalities at national and international level. On day one, Prof. J. Murali Krishnan from IIT Madras and Prof. K. Sudhakar Reddy from IIT Kharagpur shared their experiences and the major research works that are being executed by them in Pavement Engineering.

The programme is sponsored by LEA Associates South Asia Pvt. Ltd., Coact

Solutions Pvt. Ltd., Avijeet Agencies Pvt. Ltd., and Parameshwari Projects. About 150 Postgraduate students and research scholars will be presenting their papers and receive valuable suggestions from the experts. The coordinators of this conference are Dr. K.V.R. Ravi Shankar, Dr. S. Shankar, and Dr. Arpan Mehar and the co-coordinators are Dr. B. Raghuram Kadali, and Dr. Vishnu R. The Chairman of the conference is Prof. C.S.R.K. Prasad, and the Convenor is Prof. Venkaiah Chowdary.

## Business icons confer with Utkal Tycoons Awards

**Bhubaneswar:** Noted business icons of Odisha conferred with Utkal Tycoons Award in an exotic platform organized by Utkal Updates and Addiction Fashion Management today at WelcomHotel by ITC Hotels, Bhubaneswar. As part of Epari Sadashiv Jewelry presents Odisha's unique award show and fashion fest 'Utkal Tycoons Awards' with Bhubaneswar Runway Week Season-6, numbers of well known and successful face of Odisha business fraternity got thumping applause for their wonderful contribution to the economy of Odisha.

Their contributions were recognized and awarded. Program starts with lighting of lamp by organizer Sushree Sangeeta Sahu, John Ajay, Gaurav, Sridhar Epari and Sunil Murarka. Surya Narayan Patra, Speaker, Odisha Assembly attended as chief guest and Sulochana Das, Mayor, Bhubaneswar as guest of honour. Today, Utkal Tycoons Awards conferred to Rashmi Sahoo, Director, Froxit; Nirupama Biswal, Director, Gayatri Devi Group; Kabir Taneja, Director, Espirit Toyota; Ratnamala Swain, real estate player; Sukirti Pattnaik, MD, Indulge the

designs. Ollywood celebrities like Elina Samantray and Bhoomika graced the occasion as guest designers and brands like Priya's (Priya Mohapatra), Tasa Wings (Sipra Das), TP Garments (Savitri Panigrahi), AJ Fashion Realm (Selina Dashan) and Reemly Design Studio (Reemly Studio) participated and showcase their designs. Priya's By Priya Mohapatra showcases handloom collection 'EKATRA' which is amalgamation of sambalpuri handloom fabric and pipli applique work. AJ Fashion Realm by Selina Doson

has showcased summer collection which is inspired by gorgeous butterfly hamadryas. Sipra Das's Tasa Wing has brought collection 'Fusion' which is inspired from 'the galaxy' fit for festive season, evening party and wedding season. Reemly's Design studio is showcasing the Bridal Collection 'Rooh' at Bhubaneswar Runway Week 2022 (season 6). TP Garments are here with some of our evening gowns collection, rich in colours, unique designs, patterns, and Using shades nude, grey, navy blue, teal blue.

## Bandhan Bank registers strong business growth in Q4FY



During the fourth quarter of the current financial year, the Bank's deposit book grew 24% over the corresponding quarter of the previous year. The total deposits now stand at Rs. 96,331 crore. In this period, the Bank's retail deposit book showed a substantial

growth and grew 21% year-on-year to Rs. 74,441 crore. The current account and savings account (CASA) book grew by 18% year-on-year, and the CASA ratio now stands at 41.6% of the overall deposit book. With respect to advances, the bank saw 16% growth over the

corresponding quarter of the previous year. The total advances are now at Rs. 99,338 crore. Capital Adequacy Ratio (CAR), an indication of the stability of the Bank, is at 20.1, much higher than the regulatory requirement. To cater to its

customers across the

country, Bandhan Bank is focussed on diversifying its presence across India and also growing its product portfolio in areas like SME Loans, Gold Loans, Personal Loans and Auto Loans.

Speaking on the results, Chandra Shekhar Ghosh, MD & CEO, said, "The Bank has yet again proved its resilience with a strong performance in Q4 of FY22. Our belief in our business model has been further strengthened. We thank our customers for their continued trust and support, which has made Bandhan Bank a preferred banking partner for millions of Indians."

## Mahindra Promises, "Get Highest Productivity Per Liter of Fuel"

Pune : Mahindra's Construction Equipment Division (MCE), a part of the Mahindra Group, today announced their unique and disruptive customer value proposition "Get Highest Productivity Per Liter of Fuel or Give Machine Back" Guarantee for their BS4 range of Backhoe Loaders - Mahindra EarthMaster.

It is mining, trenching, crushers, building construction or any other work in construction industry. Mahindra BS4 Backhoe Loader - EarthMaster, with this competitive advantage will provide them an edge, complete peace of mind and scale up their CE business, delivering higher prosperity.

The new range features the proven and reliable 74 HP CRi Mahindra Engine and many other technological advancements, besides the cutting-edge iMAXX Telematics solution, all of which together, ensure guaranteed better fuel efficiency. Given the fact that fuel is one of the major element of the operating cost (nearly 50%), with unique features as Banana Boom, joystick lever, robust design, and bigger buckets, EarthMaster range is well suited for all types of backhoe applications,

advanced, class-leading products and set higher standards for the Indian CE industry. The Service Uptime Guarantee further reinforce our commitment to our customers and our confidence in our products and after-sales capabilities."

Jalaj Gupta further added, "Our new BS4 machines have delivered higher fuel efficiency, which is the outcome of Mahindra's superior technological prowess rooted into a deep understanding of the Indian customer. Additionally, MCE is offering Service guarantee to ensure higher uptime for our customers through guaranteed speedier turnaround of the machine. The state-of-the-art iMAXX Telematics technology is further helping lower the Cost of Ownership by providing a firm control to the owners over their machines, remotely."

## ICICI Lombard launches Professional Indemnity Insurance for Doctors

**Mumbai:** ICICI Lombard, one of the leading private general insurance companies has launched Professional Indemnity Insurance for doctors. This new offering covers all specializations, provides instant policy issuance, and comes equipped with transparent and competitive pricing, a hassle-free claim process, and legal counsel services support in case of claims.

at times unintentional negligence are a part and parcel of their professional life. Any aggrieved person possesses the right to claim damages for medical negligence against them. In such cases, our Professional Indemnity insurance safeguards doctors against all professional risks such as legal defense costs, compensation claims, injury among others, as well as against invalid claims.

As professionals, doctors are vulnerable to human errors where they can be held liable by the kin of the patients. As a solution to situations of such nature, this policy has been curated to provide support to medical practitioners against the scope of various human errors that can happen while rendering professional services to patients.

Speaking on the same, Mr. Sanjeev Mantri, Executive Director, ICICI Lombard said "Doctors and healthcare professionals are prone to uncertainties and risks while they are in the forefront to save lives. Error, omission, or

negligence. It will also provide coverage against invalid claims where there is no fault of the practitioner by covering the legal fees and settlement compensation to be paid against the claims awarded by the court, or in cases of medical malpractices allegations and legal suit due to breach of confidentiality allegations.

ICICI Lombard, among other companies, delivers end-to-end wellness solutions to its valued consumers through its insurance products. Doctors are focused on giving their best when it comes to saving lives. However there are uncertainties which can put their job at stake. The professional indemnity insurance for doctors under the SME category is an innovative offering from this leading general insurance company and goes on to show their focus on delivering a stellar experience to their customers. The product is available with our traditional distribution partners as well as on our website www.icicilombard.com

## Budget reaction on Education Sector from CEO, Heritage Group of Institutions

**Kolkata, (KCN):** This year's budget allocation in the Education & Skill development sectors have increased by 6.8% to the tune of Rs. 1.48 lakh crores in totality which will pave a bright future for the students pursuing higher studies and skill development programmes. Moreover the financial support through education loans

up to Rs. 10 lakhs at 3% interest rate for pursuing higher education have added value to the dreams of one crore youth who aspire to pursue higher education. Paid internships at 500 top companies with a stipend of Rs. 5000 will definitely make the youth employable as per the industry standards. It will also add to the CSR funds created by the Corporates and will strengthen the Industry-Academia linkage for the educational institutions across India.



# Shakib's farewell Test in Bangladesh could be more than a dream

**New Delhi:** Life has come full circle for Bangladesh's veteran all-rounder Shakib Al Hasan as his dream of playing his final Test at home could become reality. Shakib received strong support from the Youth and Sports Advisor, Asif Mahmud Shojib Bhuyian, who has expressed his personal wish was for the premier all-rounder to play his final Test match in Bangladesh. "He (Shakib) is a player who has contributed a lot to the country. Since he wishes to play his final Test match in Bangladesh, I personally hope he gets that opportunity," Bhuyian told reporters while attending the Women's T20 World Cup match between Bangladesh and

Scotland on October 3. "We will absolutely provide the highest level of security for our players. If there are any allegations against anyone, that is a different issue. I cannot comment on that, as it falls under the jurisdiction of the Ministry of Law. However, we have already committed to ensuring Shakib Al Hasan's security, and we will honour that commitment," he said. The announcement by Bhuyian came a few days after he had insisted that Shakib needed to clear his political stance to ask for security. The change of mind from top government officials indicates that the possibility of playing his last Test at Mirpur is just not a dream anymore for

Shakib

the poster-boy of Bangladesh cricket, currently paying the price of joining politics.

Ex-lawmaker Shakib, who was accused of being involved in a murder case last month, expressed concerns about his safety during the second Test against India in a press conference in Kanpur.

A top Bangladesh Cricket Board (BCB) official told Cricbuzz that they are trying their best to bring Shakib back for the two-match Test series against South Africa. He also added that the short duration of his political career came as blessing in disguise for the all-rounder.

"You cannot put fingers at politician

Shakib

considering he just won the election but it lasted not even for more than six months so, how could he be punished on corruption. It's true that he is paying the price of joining a certain political party but at the same time you need to understand that he didn't do much as a politician since winning in the general election.

"He (Shakib) is expected to let us know in a couple

of days whether he will play in the two-match Test series or not," he said.

Another official insisted that the biggest problem for Shakib is how he can leave the country after

arriving to play his last Test series. The Test series against South Africa is slated to end on November 2 while Bangladesh are expected to fly out to UAE to play a three-match ODI series against Afghanistan a day later.

"As Shakib is part of the ODI set-up he can very well be in the team hotel and later leave the country to take part in the ODI series against Afghanistan," he said.

BCB president Faruque Ahmed who had earlier said that they cannot provide any kind of security has now reversed his stance, insisting that they are ready to give security to Shakib in and around the stadium while he is playing or practicing and I think we can take that responsibility," he added.

## Stirling, Tector and bowlers star in Ireland's consolation win



**New Delhi:** Although they had lost the ODI series to South Africa, Ireland came up with a spirited performance to end the series on a high as they secured a comfortable 69-run victory in the third game in Abu Dhabi. Paul Stirling's 88 and Harry Tector's 60, combined with useful contributions from the rest of the top five, helped Ireland post a competitive 284/9. Graham Hume and Craig Young then bagged three wicket hauls as South Africa were bowled out for 215 despite Jason Smith's fighting 91.

Opting to bat, Ireland got

only 37 runs in the first powerplay despite Stirling striking a couple of sixes inside the first 10 overs. Stirling had gotten off to a steady start, scoring 25 of his first 27 balls but Andrew Balbirnie was watchful at

the other end, with only 12 off 33. But they covered good ground soon after, with Balbirnie striking regular boundaries along with a six off Lungi Ngidi. Stirling went past 50 and the opening pair extended the partnership past 100 before Lizaad Williams dismissed Balbirnie to end the stand.

Curtis Campher came out

with a positive intent, scoring quick runs in a half-century stand with Stirling before being dismissed for 34 by Ottneil Baartman. Stirling, meanwhile, was looking

good for a three figure score as he extended his tally of 4s and 6s to 8 and 3. But he fell 12 short of the 100 mark as he was bowled by Baartman. Lorcan Tucker and Tector then shared a 54-run stand, putting Ireland in a good position to finish with a big total.

Tucker, however, fell to Andile Phehlukwayo and George Dockrell followed soon after as South Africa did well in the death overs to contain Ireland. Tector, though, struck a six and a four off Ngidi in the 48th over to bring up a 42-ball

50. But South Africa did a good job on the last two overs as Lizaad Williams picked up three wickets in the 49th over while Phehlukwayo kept it tight in the last over to ensure Ireland didn't cross 300. The chase began in a disastrous fashion for South Africa as they were reduced to 10/3 in the first five overs. Ryan Rickleton was the first to go, handing a catch to first slip off Mark Adair, while fellow opener Reeza Hendricks found second slip off Graham Hume's bowling. Stand-in skipper Rassie van der Dussen was trapped in front by Adair, who also bowled a wicket-maiden. Kyle Verreyne then struck a few boundaries as he helped South Africa to 48/3 at the end of the first powerplay. Verreyne struck six four in his knock of 38 before Craig Young got him out lbw in the 13th over. The in-form Tristan Stubbs

found it difficult to get a move on and was eventually caught-behind off Young for a 45-ball 20 as South Africa slipped to 79/5 in 20 overs. Smith, meanwhile, batted confidently and received support from Phehlukwayo in a 47-run sixth wicket stand as they began the recovery process for South Africa. But Fionn Hand got Phehlukwayo to mis-time a pull to end the partnership. Smith tried to keep South Africa in the game and batted well around the lower-order batters as he went past 50. But Ireland were chipping away at the other end. Smith struck nine fours and four sixes as he entered the 90s but with 76 needed off 36 balls, there was a lot of pressure on the 29-year old who was playing only his second game.

## Sarfaraz Khan celebrates Irani Trophy win with father, injured brother

**New Delhi:** India and Mumbai batter Sarfaraz Khan celebrated the Irani Trophy win with his father and injured brother. Sarfaraz's brother Musheer was ruled out of the Irani Trophy due to a road accident. India Test batter Sarfaraz Khan celebrated his Irani Trophy win with his father and brother on Monday, October 7. Sarfaraz, who was let go from India's squad vs Bangladesh, scored a thundering double-century against the Rest of India in the Irani Trophy, setting the foundations of Mumbai's win.

Sarfaraz's brother Musheer was not able to play in the Irani Trophy, his brother Sarfaraz scored a thundering double-hundred in the first innings for Mumbai. After being awarded the player of the match, Sarfaraz, dedicated the win to his brother. "This trophy is the team's, but I promised at home that I would make a hundred for Musheer. This one is for him," Sarfaraz told the

## The No 3 woes come hurting, this time for Africa



**New Delhi:** Heather Knight had forewarned her teammates of this. Teammates, who'd gotten used to commanding bigger audiences everywhere they go of late. When the Women's T20 World Cup had to be taken out of Bangladesh - a cricket-crazy community that throngs the stadiums irrespective of their teams' footing - to the scorching UAE heat, Knight was pragmatic about the prospect of playing in near-empty stadiums. It is, perhaps, why the families of teammates travelled for support, including a pregnant Katherine Sciver-Brunt. That English contingent of roughly 200-odd, interspersed with a few family members of the Africans though, wouldn't let any opportunity slip of making their support for the team evident. A neutral band, meanwhile, kept the sparse crowd at the Sharjah Cricket

Stadium entertained with 90s Bollywood bangers. It was as if to even out the decibel levels that the venue DJ decided to switch allegiance to South Africa, blaring Shakira's 'This Time for Africa' to celebrate each of their successes, which weren't a lot on Monday. Amongst the fair few times he refrained from cueing in the Waka Waka was when South Africa lost its first wicket in the powerplay - the one time where it perhaps fitted the most. It was time for yet another new reveal at no. 3 - this time from Africa. Despite posting the best first-innings total among any of the four who had previously batted on Sharjah's two-paced track, South Africa's 124 felt short. By at least 10 to 20 runs in their own captain's assessment. And, as much as it was for the lack of trying in the middle-overs, it was also perhaps an unnecessary experimentation that

shackled South Africa. After the openers had provided a solid platform to build on, Anneke Bosch's struggles in the middle stalled the team's scoring rate in what was boundary-less seven successive overs of the nine in the middle-overs phase, leaving the backend finishers playing catch-up. Now, South Africa's usual no. 3 is Marizanne Kapp. She has been for a while, ever since a near-similar call to overhaul the approach at one-drop position was taken at the 2018 World Cup in West Indies, in conditions not too dissimilar. In 36 innings since, Kapp had accumulated 856 runs in that role for South Africa, including her career-best 75, making that position her own. With openers Laura Wolvaardt and Tazmin Brits polishing off the modest sub-120 chase all by themselves against West Indies in their tournament opener, South Africa never revealed who their no. 3 was. It shouldn't have had that element of intrigue attached to it in the first place. Bosch's promotion at one-drop came only in the three-match series in Pakistan, and in her first game she scored a duck. However, with the Africans resting Kapp for the remaining two games, Bosch managed to not only retain her place at no. 3 and but also gained confidence in the role with scores of 24, followed by a 46 not out in the series decider that her

team won. In challenging conditions in Sharjah though, it became difficult for Bosch to emulate that success. England operated primarily with spin - they had only bowled two overs of medium-pace from Nat Sciver-Brunt until the 15th, and were tracking seven minutes ahead of time at one point. On a two-paced track, Bosch found the four-pronged spin attack difficult to put away with Sophie Ecclestone, especially, creating two chances off

legside fence to make it a 12-run final over of PowerPlay, before also launching one over mid-off. Tryon's two-over spell cost 19, and she was promptly taken off the attack. A well-set Danni Wyatt-Hodge finally began to free her arms too eventually, and had the assured company of Nat Sciver-Brunt to see through the chase, but England had Capsey's handy 16-ball 19 to thank for helping them catch-up on the asking rate before they fell too far behind the eight ball. Only once had South Africa defended a total successfully against England in WT20Is, which happened to be the 2023 World Cup semifinal in Cape Town, and Capsey, in a way, ensured the record would stay like that for now at least.

India are already under scrutiny for cheekily announcing a sixth new batter in this World Cup cycle as their new no. 3 on the eve of their tournament opener, which they lost by 58 runs and then quickly rejigged again. Pakistan, too, have been guilty of not showcasing a stable batting order, with Aliya Riaz getting demoted in the home series against South Africa last month but again climbing up the order despite skipper Fatima Sana's impressive numbers in a middle-order role. The bright side of things though is that, as Wolvaardt admitted, South Africa are open to changes the team management may deem fit. "She's traditionally batted three for us in the past but Anneke was striking it really well leading up to this and Marizanne, obviously, has quite a hectic workload as a seaming all-rounder. But yeah I think that's something that our batting coach Baakier [Abrahams] has been thinking about for many hours in his room, and I'm sure he has a reason behind the lineup as it is.