

# President of India graces 18th convocation of MNIT Jaipur

**New Delhi, (KCN):** The President of India, Smt. Droupadi Murmu graced the 18th convocation of Malaviya National Institute of Technology (MNIT) at Jaipur, Rajasthan today (September 18, 2024). Speaking on the occasion, the President said that NITs were established to promote quality technical education and research in the country. They are playing a major role in providing skilled and capable human resources. Given the importance of NITs, they have been given the status of 'Institutions of National Importance'. The President said that

half the students in the NITs come from the home state while the other half come from other states based on the India ranking. Thus, while on the one hand, this system allows local talent to flourish, on the other hand, it also works to strengthen the country's 'spirit of unity in diversity'. The President said that technical institutes like NITs play an important role in making India a research and innovation hub. She was happy to note that the Innovation and Incubation Centre established in MNIT has organised many start-up programmes so far.



which have benefited a large number of participants. About 125 start-ups have been registered in the Incubation Centre of MNIT, which are also creating new employment opportunities.

The President said that in this era of the fourth industrial revolution, along with challenges, new opportunities are also coming. The role of our technical institutions is very important in taking advantage of these

opportunities and making India a leading nation in the field of technology. She stated that the establishment of the Department of Artificial Intelligence and Data Engineering in MNIT reflects its commitment

to adapt itself to the demands of the times. The President was happy to note that MNIT has secured a position in the top 50 institutes of the country in the 'Engineering category' of NIRF's India

Rankings 2024. She expressed confidence that the faculty, students and staff of MNIT will work harder and bring MNIT into the top 10 institutes of the country. The President said that greater participation of women in the field of R&D is important not only for the social and economic development of the country but also for improving the quality of life of our daughters. She noted that the enrollment of girls in STEM has increased in recent years. She was happy to note that, in this convocation, out of the 20 gold medals, 12 gold medals have been won by female students,

even though only about 29 per cent are girls among the total graduating students. She said that this proportion of girls among medal winners is evidence that if they are given equal opportunities, they can achieve greater excellence. The President told students that they are now entering a new phase of their life. They will face new challenges and opportunities. She expressed confidence that with the knowledge and skills acquired at MNIT, they will be able to face those challenges and take advantage of the emerging opportunities.

# Union Cabinet approves Kovind panel report on simultaneous polls

**New Delhi(KCN):** Union Cabinet Wednesday approved the proposal for 'one nation, one election' as recommended by the Kovind panel, Union Minister Ashwini Vaishnaw said Wednesday. The report of the high-level committee on 'one nation, one election' was placed before the Union Cabinet Wednesday. The panel headed by former president Ram Nath Kovind had submitted the report in March ahead of the announcement of Lok Sabha elections. Placing the report before the Cabinet was a part of the law ministry's 100-day agenda. The high-level committee had recommended simultaneous elections for the Lok Sabha and state



Assemblies as the first step followed by synchronised local body polls within 100 days. The panel had also proposed setting up of an 'Implementation Group' to look into the execution of the recommendations made by the committee. The panel also recommended the preparation of a common electoral roll and voter ID cards by the Election Commission of India (ECI) in consultation with state election

authorities. At present, the ECI is responsible for the Lok Sabha and Assembly polls, while the local body polls for municipalities and panchayats are managed by state election commissions. The panel recommended as many as 18 constitutional amendments, most of which will not need ratification by state Assemblies. However, these would require certain Constitution amendment Bills that

would need to be passed by Parliament. Some proposed changes regarding the single electoral roll and single voter ID card would need ratification by at least half of the states. Separately, the Law Commission is also likely to come up soon with its own report on simultaneous polls, of which Prime Minister Narendra Modi has been a strong votary. Sources said that the Law Commission is likely to recommend holding simultaneous polls for all three tiers of the government — the Lok Sabha, state Assemblies and local bodies like municipalities and panchayats — starting with 2029 and a provision for unity government in cases like hung house.

## Odisha CM visits flood-affected Balasore district, asks officials to expedite relief measures



deep depression over the Bay of Bengal. Majhi said around 2,000 people have so far been evacuated to safer places, and the process is continuing. "There has been no report of any human casualty thus far," he said.

Majhi said at least six blocks and about 8,000 hectares of agricultural field have been affected in the flood.

Meanwhile, sources in the water resources department said the water level of the Subarnarekha river at Rajghat remained at 11.60 metre against the danger mark of 10.36 metre.

**Balasure (KCN):** Odisha Chief Minister Mohan Charan Majhi Wednesday said the flood situation in Balasure district remained grim and asked the district administration to expedite rescue and relief operations. Majhi undertook an aerial survey of the flood-affected blocks of Baliapal, Jaleswar and

Bhograi earlier in the day. “One rescue team of NDRF, three teams of ODRAF and eight teams of fire service have been deployed in the rescue and relief operations in the affected areas,” Majhi told reporters. He also asked the district administration to speed up the rescue and

relief efforts, as people in several villages are still marooned. The Chief Minister said villagers in 35 gram panchayats were still affected and efforts are underway to assist them. The overflowing Subarnarekha, Budhabalanga and Jalak rivers led to flooding in the district, following heavy rainfall in the wake of a

## 59% turnout in first phase of Jammu and Kashmir Assembly polls, voting peaceful: CEO

**Jammu(KCN):** A turnout of about 59 per cent — the highest in the past seven elections — was recorded in the first phase of Assembly polls in Jammu and Kashmir Wednesday, Chief Electoral Officer PK Pole said, adding polling passed off peacefully. However, he said the figures are tentative and there might be a fractional increase after the final reports are received from the remote pockets and postal ballots. Briefing media persons here after polling ended at 6pm, Pole said the



elections ended peacefully without any untoward incident. There are reports of some minor incidents of scuffle or argument from a few polling stations but “no serious

incident” occurred that could have forced a repoll, he said. “The polling percentage of 59 per cent is highest in the past seven elections — four Lok Sabha polls and three

assembly elections,” he said, attributing the increase in the voter turnout to various factors including improved security situation, active participation of political parties and candidates and a campaign by the department. He said Kishtwar district recorder the highest 77 per cent turnout, while Pulwama district witnessed the lowest 46 per cent. Pole expressed hope that the remaining two phases September 25 and October 1 will also see high polling percentage.

## LG proposes Sep 21 for CM-designate Atishi's oath; Kejriwal to give up security cover, says AAP

**New Delhi(KCN):** Delhi Lt Governor VK Saxena Wednesday proposed September 21 for the swearing-in of Chief Minister-designate Atishi following the resignation of Arvind Kejriwal from the post. The ruling Aam Aadmi Party (AAP) said Kejriwal will also give up security and move out of the chief minister's residence in 15 days to live like a "commoner". The oath ceremony of the new chief minister is likely to be held at Raj Niwas and expected to be a "low-key affair" in view of the circumstances of Kejriwal's resignation. According to an AAP functionary, Atishi herself has said it was an extremely sad moment and urged party leaders and workers not to congratulate her. A source in the LG Secretariat said that Saxena in a communication to President Droupadi Murmu proposed



September 21 as the date for the swearing-in of CM-designate Atishi. The source said outgoing chief minister Kejriwal's resignation letter has also been moved to Murmu. The development takes place a day after Atishi in a meeting with the LG staked claim to form the new government in the national capital after Kejriwal resigned from the CM's post. As Atishi is set to become the next chief minister of Delhi, the buzz over the new members of her council of ministers has intensified. AAP sources said party leaders Gopal Rai, Kailash

Gehlot, Saurabh Bharadwaj and Imran Hussain, who were ministers in the previous Kejriwal government, will be retained and two party MLAs will also be inducted in the new Cabinet.

“Since the Delhi Assembly polls are approaching, not much experiment is expected in the selection of members of council of ministers and old faces will most certainly be retained while two new ministers could join in,” said a party leader.

The new chief minister will prove majority of her government in the Delhi Assembly and its session

has been called by the ruling AAP dispensation on September 26-27. The assembly's term ends on February 23 next year and elections are expected to be held sometime in early February. Karol Bagh MLA Vishesh Ravi or Kuldeep Kumar from Kondli constituency could be inducted in the Cabinet to fill the vacancy created by resignation of then Social Welfare minister Raaj Kumar Anand, the AAP sources claimed. Anand resigned from the Kejriwal government and quit AAP in April this year. Meanwhile, AAP said Kejriwal will give up all government facilities, including security, and move out of his official residence in 15 days to live like a commoner. The first thing Kejriwal talked about after submitting his resignation was his decision to leave the official residence, AAP Rajya Sabha MP Sanjay Singh said at a press conference here.

## Cabinet approves continuation of schemes of Pradhan Mantri Annadata Aay SanraksHan Abhiyan (PM-AASHA)

**New Delhi(KCN):** The Union Cabinet chaired by the Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi has approved the continuation of schemes of Pradhan Mantri Annadata Aay Sanraksh Han Abhiyan (PM-AASHA) to provide remunerative prices to farmers and to control price volatility of essential commodities for consumers. The total financial outgo will be Rs. 35,000 crore during 15th Finance Commission

Cycle upto 2025-26. The Government has converged the Price Support Scheme (PSS) & Price Stabilization Fund (PSF) schemes in PM AASHA to serve the farmers and consumers more efficiently. The Integrated scheme of PM-AASHA will bring-in more effectiveness in the implementation which would not only help in providing remunerative prices to the farmers for their produce but also

control the price volatility of essential commodities by ensuring their availability at affordable prices to consumers. PM-AASHA will now have the components of Price Support scheme (PSS) ,Price Stabilization Fund (PSF) , Price Deficit Payment Scheme (POPS) and Market Intervention Scheme (MIS).The procurement of notified pulses, oilseeds & copra at MSP under Price Support Scheme will be on 25% of national Production

of these notified crops from 2024-25 season onwards which would enable State to procure more of these crops at MSP from farmers for ensuring remunerative prices and preventing distress sale. However, this ceiling will not be applicable in case of Tur, Urad & Masur for 2024-25 season as there will be a 100 % procurement of Tur, Urad & Masur during in 2024-25 season as decided earlier.



## FOR THE FALLEN ONES

**PREETIPADMA MOHARANA**

Ohmotherland,thelandofourbirth,  
Wherethetearsofbloodflowdowntoearth,  
NIRBHAYA,ABHAYA,theirnameswemourn,  
Innocentsoulsbrutallytorn.  
Fromthehandsofdemons,theymettheirend,  
Theirbodiesbroken,theirspiritusbend,  
Whatchrimesdidtheycommit,whatsin,  
Tosuffersuchhorrors,tobesoskin.  
Isthisalandwheredemonsroamfree,  
Tofeastoninnocence,toquenchtheirthirst?  
Whereanewbornbabyandahealerofwounds,  
Aretornapart,theirhopesdispersed.  
Astudent,mereteenage,yettoknowtheworld,  
Anelderly,withasmiling,loving&caringheart,  
Bothconsumedbyevil,stuffedoutinfear,  
Theirlivescutshort,tornapart.  
Afriendlooks on, helpless and afraid,  
Ashercompanion's'lifefisebrutallytaken,  
Torturedtothecore,hersoulrippedapart,  
Inaworldwhereevilisleftunshaken.  
Isthisthesocietywestrivetolivein,  
Wheresafetyisaluxury,adistantdream?  
Ifearforthe future,fortheinnocentones,  
Forthemothersofdaughters,whoselentilscream.  
Ishuddertothinkofthepainttheyendured,

Thisufferingtheyfacedatthehands ofthevile,  
 Theirbodiesbroken,theirspiritstorn,  
 Inaworldsodark,wheremonstersdefile.  
 WillIeverbesafeinthisland?  
 CanIdreamofholdingmydaughter'shand?  
 Orwillshetoofallvictimtothebeast,  
 Andbedevoured by a society that hates the least?No,Ican  
 not barto think of suchafate,  
 Irefusetoaacceptthiscruel,twistedstate,  
 Iwillfightforjustice,forequality,  
 Iwillnotrestuntilourdaughtersarefree.  
 But still, we stand strong, united in grief,  
 Determined to fight for justice and peace,  
 Tohonourtheirmemory,toneverforget,  
 Thedaughterswelost,thesoulsthatceased.  
 Let ourvoicesrise,inachorus ofpain,  
 Forthefallen,thelost,theinnocentones,  
 Untiltodaycomes, when our motherland is free,  
 Fromtheshacklesofevil,fromthedarkness thatshuns.  
 Andmayweneverforget,thepricetheypaid,  
 Thesacrificesmade,inthename ofhope,  
 Forafuturewheredaughterscanthriveandgrow,  
 Inaworldwhereevilwillnevertakeitsscope.  
 Ourmotherland,sheweepsinagony,  
 Butwe,herchildren,willstandstrongandtrue,  
 Intheface ofdarkness,we willshinealight,  
 Forthedaughterswelost,forthejusticethey aredue.  
 (ARCHITECT), Mob. No. 7377742606

## Quotation of the Day

**"As society sees what women can do, as women see what women can do, there will be more women out there doing things, and we'll all be better off for it."**

—SANDRA DAY O'CONNOR

RD

**With love  
from Canada**

**Saikat Kumar Basu**

In the stillness of the evening's glow,  
When the stars adorn the sky,  
My heart beats for you alone,  
With a love that cannot die.

Your laughter is the sweetest song,  
A melody that fills the air,  
Your touch, a gentle, warm embrace,  
With you, there's no despair.

Your eyes, they hold the universe,  
A depth I cannot measure,  
In their gaze, I find my home,  
My endless, priceless treasure.

Together we shall write our tale,  
With dreams and hopes entwined,  
In every moment, every breath,  
Our souls forever bind.

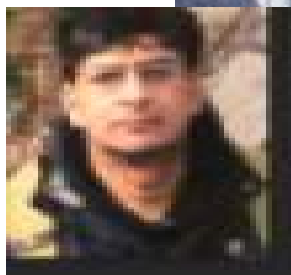
So take my hand, my dearest love,  
And dance beneath the moon,  
For in your arms, I've found my place,  
My heart, a perfect tune.

**Apt 6--,409**

43 Street South, Lethbridge, Alberta, Canada,  
T1J4B3

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**The Author is a Canada based indian Agro Scientists**



# Faith in God

## Anupama Bhuvan

You have no faith in God.  
No harm, just run speedily  
With faith in yourself.  
You will reach your goal.  
I have faith in God.  
Although I went slowly  
With my faith in God,  
I have already reached my Goal.

**“Sai Bithi”, 7D/1354, Sector-9,  
CDA, Cuttack, .**

**E-mail : anupama123bhuyan@gmail.com**



# Depression

**Dr. Samrat Kar**

A wild depression  
Has stolen away the hope  
Which he claimed as his only friend  
Here on earth.  
Alas who will now flash  
A rainbow of hope  
Across his heart  
Sunk deep?

**Psychiatrist, The Brain Foundation,  
Purighat Road, Cuttack,  
Mob. : 9132433333**



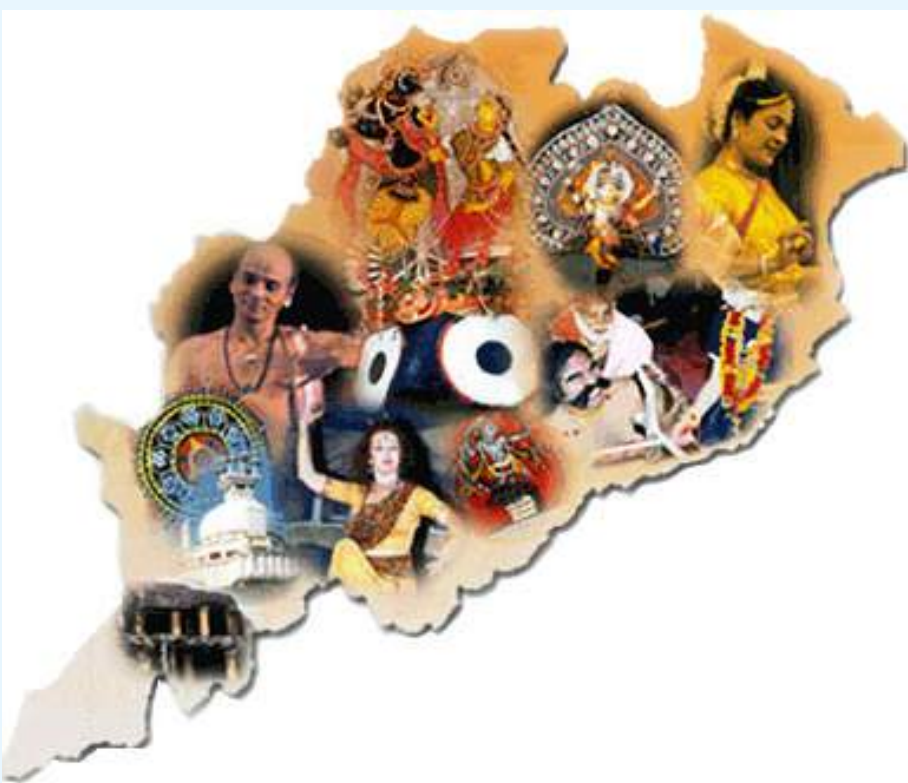
# Arts Culture of Odisha

The arts and culture of Odisha are a vibrant tapestry that reflects the rich heritage and traditions of this eastern Indian state. The cultural landscape of Odisha encompasses a diverse array of art forms, traditional practices, and festivals, making it a treasure trove for enthusiasts and scholars alike.

One of the pillars of Odisha's cultural heritage is its distinctive dance form, Odissi. Renowned for its graceful movements and intricate expressions, Odissi dance has deep roots in the religious traditions of the state.

Performances often depict mythological stories, and the dance is characterized by fluid movements and elaborate costumes that add to its aesthetic appeal.

Pattachitra, a traditional form of scroll painting, is another jewel in Odisha's artistic crown. This intricate art form often narrates stories from Hindu mythology and is characterized by vibrant colors and meticulous detailing. The skillful artisans of Odisha continue to keep this tradition alive, producing exquisite Pattachitra artworks that are admired both locally and internationally.



The Jagannath Temple in Puri is a significant religious and cultural landmark in Odisha. The annual Ratha Yatra, or chariot festival, attracts millions of

devotees and tourists alike. The temple is a symbol of Odisha's deep-rooted spiritual culture and serves as a focal point for religious and cultural celebrations.

The state's culinary heritage, Odia Cuisine, is a delightful journey for the taste buds. From the aromatic Dalma (a lentil and vegetable dish) to the

delectable Rasagulla (a sweet delicacy), Odisha's cuisine is a reflection of its diverse cultural influences. Tribal communities play a vital role in shaping the cultural mosaic of Odisha. The tribal culture of Odisha is characterized by unique art, music, dance, and rituals that distinguish each community. The Bhitarkanika National Park provides a glimpse into the traditional lifestyle of these tribal communities and their harmonious coexistence with nature. Sambalpuri Saree, with its vibrant colors

and ikat patterns, is a celebrated traditional attire of Odisha. The craftsmanship involved in making these sarees has been passed down through generations, contributing to the rich textile heritage of the state. In the realm of music, Odisha boasts a diverse range of folk and classical genres. Odissi music, accompanied by traditional instruments, captivates audiences with its melodic tunes. Additionally, Chhau Dance, a traditional martial dance, adds a dynamic and energetic dimension to Odisha's cultural

repertoire. The state's festivals, including the grand celebration of Utkala Dibasa (Odisha Day), showcase the resilience and spirit of its people. Cuttack Silver Filigree, an ancient craft, reflects the fine metalwork skills of Odisha's artisans, creating intricate jewelry and artifacts. Odisha's commitment to preserving its cultural heritage is also evident in its historical sites, such as the Konark Sun Temple and the Marine Drive in Puri, which provide a glimpse into the architectural brilliance of ancient times.



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## Stree 2 beats Animal at domestic box office in 33 days, now only behind Jawan

Stree 2 is now the second highest-grossing Bollywood film of all time at the domestic box office. The horror-comedy is only behind Jawan to become the biggest Bollywood entertainer in the history of Hindi cinema. Stree 2 has created a rampge at the box office in India. The horror-comedy is now only one spot away from becoming the top Bollywood film of all time at the domestic box office. After its 33-day run, the film surpassed the lifetime collection of Animal and emerged as the second highest-grossing Bollywood film of all time in India. The Amar Kaushik-directorial achieved the gigantic feat on its fifth



Monday. While the Ranbir Kapoor-starrer ended its overall run at Rs 553.87 crore nett, Stree 2 stands at Rs 557.85 crore nett after 33 days, reported the trade website Sacnilk. The film's next target is to beat Jawan, which earned Rs 640.25 crore nett in India. Starring Rajkummar Rao and Shraddha Kapoor in the lead, the film is

performing fabulously even in its fifth week at the ticket window. It has so far collected around Rs 18.5 crore nett in four days, and with no other big Hindi release up for competition, the coming weekend is going to be equally solid. Stree 2 will be sharing screens with Yudhra this weekend. The Siddhanth Chaturvedi and Malavika Mohanan-starrer is an

action drama, and it will need excellent word-of-mouth to deter the smooth run of Stree 2 at the box office. The rest of the re-releases, namely Tumbbad and Veer-Zaara, will continue to perform at their own pace without hampering the film. The sky was the limit for Stree 2, and it now seems to be raising that benchmark as well.

## Salman Khan warns fans against fake US concerts announcements



Superstar Salman Khan has issued a statement warning fans against a fake announcement of his concerts and appearances in the US. On Tuesday night, the 58-year-old posted an official notice on his official Instagram page regarding the claims. "This is to inform that neither Mr Salman Khan nor any of his affiliated companies or teams are organizing any upcoming concerts, appearances in the USA in 2024. Any claims suggesting that Mr Khan will be performing are completely false," the statement read. "Please do not trust any emails, messages, or advertisements promoting such events. Legal action will be taken against anyone found falsely using Mr Salman Khan's name for fraudulent purposes," it added.

## Barkha Singh Reflects On Her Iconic Role As Ayesha In 'Masaba Masaba' As Season 2 Completes Two Years

As the show completes two years since its second season was released, Singh expressed her fond memories of working on the project and the overwhelming response she received for her portrayal. Singh, known for her versatility as an actress, talked, "Being part of Masaba Masaba will always be special for me for many reasons - getting to work with Sonam Nair whose work I had loved before I even auditioned for this, sharing the screen with a great cast and of course, working with Netflix and even Panchami again! It was a widely loved show and the kind of responses I got for my character, Ayesha was stellar! Beyond what I had expected - both from within and outside the



industry." She revealed that playing Ayesha was a departure from her usual typecast roles and a welcome challenge. "My character Ayesha is very icy, which is very different from the kind of person I am and more importantly very different from the kind of roles I have done in the past, so I was almost relieved that it was so well received," she said. The actress also praised

the show's creator, Sonam Nair, and the talented cast, including Neena Gupta, with whom she shared the screen. "The cherry on top was that I got to meet Neena Ji who is such a vivacious person!" Singh's performance in Masaba Masaba not only showcased her range as an actress but also added depth to the narrative, contributing significantly

to the series' success. As she looks back on her experience, Singh hopes to reprise her role as Ayesha in future seasons, saying "If I had it my way Ayesha would come back for the next season!" With her remarkable performance in Masaba Masaba, Barkha Singh has solidified her position as one of India's most talented and versatile digital stars.

## Global Star Priyanka Chopra Starts Shooting For Her Next 'The Bluff'

Actor Priyanka Chopra is in Australia for the shoot of her new project 'The Bluff'. On Friday, Priyanka took to Instagram, shared a picture of her script and expressed excitement about the shoot. "It begins...", she captioned the post. One can also see "Om" written on the script. 'The Bluff' is being directed by Frank E Flowers. Recently, Priyanka dropped a video with her daughter Malti Marie. The video began with Priyanka's flight landing in Australia. It then gave a glimpse of her daughter looking outside the airport. Set in the 19th century Caribbean, The Bluff follows a former female pirate (Priyanka) who must protect her family when the mysterious sins of her past catch up to her, as per Deadline. The movie is produced by Russo Brothers' banner AGBO Studios and Amazon MGM Studios. Priyanka also serves as a producer on the film. This will be Priyanka's second project with The Russo Brothers after she starred in their Amazon Original series Citadel.



## Ali Abbas Zafar says why he retained 'Bade Miyan Chote Miyan' title for his next

Ali Abbas Zafar recently talked about why he chose to retain the iconic title 'Bade Miyan Chote Miyan' for his upcoming film, much to the curiosity of fans and critics alike. The director, who is known for delivering blockbuster hits, has recently stirred up excitement among Bollywood enthusiasts for his upcoming action thriller, starring Akshay Kumar, Tiger Shroff and Prithviraj Sukumaran. In a recent interview, Zafar shed light on the reason behind his decision to retain this classic title for his action-packed spectacle. The title 'Bade Miyan Chote Miyan,' was originally associated with the 1998 comedy film starring Amitabh Bachchan and Govinda. Speaking about the same, Ali told



IndiaToday.in, "Well there is a connection which will be revealed in the film. So when you come and watch the film you will know why it is called 'Bade Miyan Chote Miyan.' I would say that this film had a certain vision and the way the producers of this film, Jacky Bhagnani, Vashu Bhagnani, and

Himanshu, all supported this film, it wouldn't have been possible if you didn't have producers like that backing in this version." Further speaking about the film he said, "Jacky called me one day I was shooting in Abu Dhabi, and he said that I have something to offer you.



He and I have been jamming to do something together. And one day he used this line, 'I will make you an offer that you will not be able to refuse' from the 'Godfather'. So I said ok, tell me what is that? He said, do you like making action films? I said yes. I like making action films. So just imagine if, in an action

film, I get you Akshay Kumar and Tiger Shroff together." He continued, "Now for any action film lover, forget the maker, it is a dream combination to have two action stars in the same film and quintessential action stars who do their own stunts, and are known for their action. At the

same time, it's so bizarre that I was working on a two-hero film with a crazy mad villain. I always call him an anti-hero more than a villain. Then, somewhere or another, that conversation stayed with me." He adds, "Then he called me again a week later and by that time I really thought it through that how we can do this thing with Akshay and Tiger. And then he said that it's my father's dream to call this film 'Bade Miyan Chote Miyan'. So I said, you've got such a great offer served on a platter to me. I would respect that. Later we made changes to the script. So when you watch the film you will understand why it is called BMCM, but it is very special how it comes in the film."



# Razia Sultan to Atishi- The saga of women rulers of Delhi



Vivek Shukla

There is a certain similarity between the quiet of a narrow alley in Bulbuli Khana, just a short distance from the crowded Turkman Gate, and the hustle and bustle in the residence of Delhi's former Chief Minister Arvind Kejriwal in Civil Lines. The distance between these two places is no more than six to seven kilometers. In Kejriwal's official residence, the Aam Aadmi Party unanimously chose its leader Atishi as the new Chief Minister of Delhi. On the other hand, in the small, enclosed complex of Bulbuli Khana, Razia Sultan lies in eternal sleep. The condition of the place suggests that hardly anyone comes to pay respects at the tomb of Razia Sultan, who ruled Delhi between 1236-1240. She was the first female Muslim ruler of the subcontinent. A stone plaque here

states that Razia Sultan was the daughter of Iltutmish, the prominent ruler of the Slave Dynasty in the Delhi Sultanate. Iltutmish had appointed her as his successor before his death. He did not see the strength to rule Delhi in any of his sons. "Except for some research scholars, I have hardly seen anyone visiting the grave of Razia Sultan. It is so sad. She was such a great ruler of Delhi, yet nobody talks about her," says Maqsood Ahmad, social worker and a school teacher of Anglo Arabic School, Ajmerji Gate. As you leave the compound where Razia Sultan is buried, you bound to think who is there in his/her eternal sleep in a grave next to her. None would enlighten you. Meanwhile, there has always been a dispute among historians about Razia Sultan's grave. Historian R.V. Smith argues that there was no place called Shahjahanabad during Razia Sultan's time. Why was she buried at Turkman Gate then? The question is valid

because her capital was in the Mahrauli area. Some claim that Razia Sultan's grave is in the city of Kaithal in Haryana. The British Viceroy Lord Linlithgow even visited the place in 1938. There is also a claim that Razia Sultan lies in eternal sleep in the city of Tonk in Rajasthan. Even though the debate surrounding her real tomb continues, Delhi gets another woman ruler. However, more than seven hundred years after the reign of Razia Sultan, Sheila Dikshit became the Chief Minister of Delhi in 1998. She ruled Delhi for 15 consecutive years. It is rare for any ruler to have ruled Delhi for such a long period. If Sheila Dikshit's tenure as Chief Minister was the longest, Sushma Swaraj's tenure was not even two months. She was the Chief Minister of Delhi from 12 October 1998 to 3 December 1998. Obviously, in such a short tenure, she could not take any significant steps for the benefit of the people. The BJP high command wanted



someone else to be Chief Minister instead of Sahib Singh Verma, and Sushma Swaraj's name was unanimously agreed upon. If you delve into the past pages of Delhi's politics, you will find that Dr. Sushila Nayyar was kept away from the Chief Minister's chair for unknown reasons. The Delhi Legislative Assembly elections were held in 1952, along with the first Lok Sabha elections in the country. The Congress won an unprecedented victory. Based on her work in politics and public life, Dr. Sushila Nayyar was expected to be the Chief Minister. However, Chaudhary Brahm Prakash, the MLA from Nangloi, was made the first Chief Minister of

Delhi. He appointed Dr. Sushila Nayyar as his Health Minister. At that time, many were surprised why Dr. Sushila Nayyar was not made the Chief Minister. She had been elected to the Legislative Assembly from Dev Nagar. Dr. Sushila Nayyar was a disciple of Gandhiji and his personal physician. She was the younger sister of Pyare Nayyar, Gandhiji's personal secretary. When Gandhiji went on a fast from 12 to 18 January 1948, Dr. Sushila Nayyar was keeping an eye on his health. She established a tuberculosis sanatorium in Faridabad. She encouraged doctors across the country to go to rural areas. Her personality was very

impressive. She never complained to anyone about not being made the Chief Minister. Same way, nobody can say that Delhi has not given fair deal to women as many accomplished women have ruled the historic city. Anyway, Atishi will be the Chief Minister until the next Legislative Assembly elections in Delhi. Let's see how memorable her journey is as Chief Minister. Her capabilities are undeniable. After she was made the Chief Minister, everyone is talking about her St. Stephens College and Oxford University. But, it is beyond comprehension why her Springdales School, Pusa Road, and its founder

principal, Rajni Kuma, are being ignored. Rajni Kumar, originally a British citizen, established her school on the basis of secularism and universal brotherhood. Many excellent schools have opened in the capital, but Springdales School set a new standard of excellence. Rajni Kumar and her husband Yudhishthira Kumar were influenced by leftist ideologies. Now you can understand that while living under the shadow of Rajni Kumar, Atishi must have dreamt of building a better society. Joyce Margaret Jones became Rajni Kumar in 1948 when she married Dr. Yudhishthira Kumar. Their wedding took place on the day Mahatma Gandhi was assassinated – January 30, 1948. They both studied together at the London School of Economics. After getting married, they came to Delhi and settled in East Patel Nagar. After a few years, Rajni Kumar, with the support of her husband and father-in-

law, opened a school in their house in East Patel Nagar. They named it Springdales School. Rajni Kumar went door-to-door in Karol Bagh, Patel Nagar, Rajendra Nagar, Pusa Road, Ramjas Road, etc., asking people to send their children to her school. She was deeply saddened by the destruction caused in Asia and Africa during the Second World War. Therefore, they always raised their voices against war. Rajni Kumar passed away two years ago at the age of 99. She remained active until the last years of her life. She kept an eye on every child of Springdales School. Atishi must have also been inspired by Rajni Kumar to walk the path of truth and morality. Clearly, Atishi must be remembering her Rajni Madam while striving to improve Delhi's government schools.

Columnist and Author of Gandhi's Delhi 9818155246

## Farmers' Voice: Will It Remain Unheard forever?



Jag Mohan Thaken

Farmers of the country, especially of Punjab and Haryana, are struggling for legal guarantee of MSP from 2020. The combined farmers' unions protested at Delhi border for more than 13 months during 2020-21 to get repealed the three anti-farmer agricultural bills, wherein more than 700 farmers had to lose their lives. Still the farmers of these two states are on a sit-in at Shambhu and Khanauri borders for the last seven months, as per media reports. The organisers of this protest have declared their further course of action to hold a Maha Panchayat at Pipali in Kurukshetra, Haryana on September 22, 2024. Both the major parties of India- BJP as well Congress slam each other and claim itself the only well-wisher and the real protector of the farmers, but who is the real one, is the question that requires answer and analysis.

decision to increase the import duty on edible oils from 0% to 20% and on adding other components, the total effective duty will be 27.5%. On September 14, 2024, while addressing a Haryana assembly election rally in Kurukshetra, a stronghold of farmers' movement, the Prime Minister Narendra Modi, attacking the congress, alleged that it did not care for farmers, and 'extended false promises' and spread 'anarchy'. Reporting the version of PM Modi in Kurukshetra rally, 'The Hindu', an esteemed English daily posted on its web portal, "The Congress has never been bothered about the problems of the people. There is no other party in the country that is more dishonest and deceitful than the Congress. The Congress talks big for farmers, shows them big dreams. It's nothing but a lie. These people make so much noise about minimum support price (MSP), whereas it is in Haryana, where the BJP is in power, that 24 crops are purchased at MSP. I challenge, if Congress has the guts, why doesn't it implement its farmer schemes in Karnataka and Telangana, where the Congress is in power? How many crops do they buy at MSP in Karnataka and Telangana? All development work in Karnataka and Telangana has come to a standstill. Congress is a dishonest party." While giving the details of Union Cabinet decision about the approval in the increase in the Minimum Support Prices (MSP) for all mandated Kharif Crops

for Marketing Season 2024-25, which was chaired by Prime Minister Narendra Modi, a PIB release dated June 19, 2024, divulged that during the period 2003-04 to 2013-14 for 14 crops covered under Kharif Marketing Season, the minimum absolute increase in MSP was Rs.745/- per quintal for Bajra and maximum absolute increase was Rs.3,130/- per quintal for Moong while during the period 2013-14 to 2023-24, the minimum absolute increase in MSP was Rs.780/- per quintal for Maize and maximum absolute increase was Rs.4,234/- per quintal for Nigarseed. The release further claimed that the increase in MSP for Kharif Crops for Marketing Season 2024-25 is in line with the Union Budget 2018-19 announcement of fixing the MSP at a level of at least 1.5 times of the All-India weighted average cost of production. The expected margin to farmers over their cost of production are estimated to be highest in case of bajra (77%) followed by tur (59%), maize (54%) and urad (52%). For the rest of the crops, margin to farmers over their cost of production is estimated to be at 50%. On the other hand, stating the claims of BJP as hollow claims about MSP, the General Secretary of the All-India Congress Committee, former Union Minister, and MP from Sirsa, Kumari Selja alleged that the Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) governments at the centre have not been able to raise the Minimum Support Price (MSP) of crops even once compared

to Congress. Neither the Vajpayee government nor the Modi government, which has been in power for the past ten years, has paid any attention to farmers. Even the BJP government in Haryana has never advocated for increasing the MSP. Whereas, the Manmohan Singh-led Congress government demonstrated its pro-farmer stance by raising the MSP of crops every year. In a statement released to the media, Kumari Selja said that from 1999 to 2004, the BJP-led government only increased the price of paddy by 14%, which amounted to an annual increase of just 2.3%. In contrast, under the Manmohan Singh government, the MSP of paddy was increased by a total of 143%, or 14.3% annually. Since 2014, the Modi government has only raised paddy prices by 54.1%, equating to an annual increase of 6%. The former Union Minister said that between 1999 and 2004, the BJP Alliance government increased the MSP of wheat by just 10.3%, with an annual increase of 1.7%. However, during the Congress-led Manmohan Singh government, the MSP of wheat saw a 126% increase, or 12.7% annually. In comparison, the Modi government has increased it by only 39.3% in ten years, compared to the Congress's 126%. Kumari Selja further said that the Manmohan Singh government not only increased the MSP of rice and wheat but also raised the prices of all crops by 150-200%, or two and a half to three times.

In contrast, the Modi government has barely increased MSP by 50%, while the cost of farming has increased several times during this period. Taxes have been imposed on farming-related goods and equipment. The former minister pointed out that the Congress government never imposed taxes on agriculture, while the Modi government reduced the weight of fertilizer bags from 50 kg to 40 kg and decreased the nitrogen content, leading to increased usage and expenses for farmers. Electricity prices for farmers have risen, and despite cheaper crude oil, diesel prices have not been reduced, further increasing the cost of farming. This shows that the BJP government has consistently conspired to empty the pockets of farmers, said Kumari Selja. **Why the Farmers not satisfied with the Government's MSP?** The central government claims that while calculating the MSP, it considers all expenditures and includes all paid out costs such as those incurred on account of hired human labour, bullock labour/machine labour, rent paid for leased in land, expenses incurred on use of material inputs like seeds, fertilizers, manures, irrigation charges, depreciation on implements and farm buildings, interest on working capital, diesel/ electricity for operation of pump sets etc., miscellaneous expenses and imputed value of family labour. Farmers say that the government sets MSP at

1.5 times the Cost of Production (CoP), where Cop is A2+FL. The Swaminathan Commission, however, suggests that CoP should be based on C2, proposing the 'C2+50 per cent' formula for setting MSP. The commission recommended that the MSP should be 1.5 times the farmers' input costs. For the calculation of input costs, however, the Swaminathan Commission laid down a different formula. Along with the paid-out cost (A2) and the imputed value of family labour (FL), also included the interest on the value of owned capital assets, rent paid for leased-in land, or the rental value of owned land (C2). Samyukta Kisan Morcha (SKM), an umbrella body of farmers' unions says that the Haryana Chief Minister had attempted to misguide the farmers by falsely claiming MSP for 24 crops consciously hiding the fact that the procurement rate is not based on C2+50% but on the current rate of A2+FL+50%. How does a loss occur to the farmers due to A2+FL+50%? The SKM calculates that the C2+50% rate of paddy, one of the major crops of Haryana, is Rs.3012/qntl while the current rate (as per A2+FL+50%) is Rs. 2300/qntl, means less by Rs.712/qntl. Paddy farmers alone in Haryana had a loss of Rs.3851.90 crore in the year 2023-24. If we rely on the calculations by SKM as per C2+50% formula, we can assess how a huge loss is being burdened on the farmers. Now question arises—if

the BJP government is so anxious about the farmers' interests and the claim of the Union Minister of Agriculture and Farmers Welfare and Rural Development Shivraj Singh Chouhan, that "The Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi is farmer friendly and agriculture and farmers welfare is his top priority, has some truth, then why despite unprecedented repression resorting to on farmers during the 13 months agitation in which 750 agitating farmers reportedly lost their lives, MSP guarantee is not being legalised as per farmers' demand? **And why are the farmers opposing the BJP party in Haryana assembly elections?** It is pertinent to mention here that the Haryana Samyukta Kisan Morcha has decided to expose the anti-farmer and anti-people BJP rule during the forthcoming state assembly elections. In a meeting of the Morcha a review of the announcements about MSP made recently by Haryana Chief minister was undertaken and found that these were just election gimmicks to overcome the anger of farmers and other sections. The question still stands, "Have the farmers forgotten the repression resorting to on farmers during the 13 months agitation in which hundreds of agitating farmers lost their lives, as stated by SKM?" Answer comes in 'No'. Haryana and Punjab farmers are still on agitation and a Maha

panchayat at new grain market in Jind's Uchana Kalan, on September 15, 2024, held under the banner of Sanyukt Kisan Morcha (non-political) pressing for their demands of a legal guarantee for minimum support price (MSP) on all crops. While addressing the congregation, farmer leader Jagjit Singh Dallewal, as reported by Hindustan Times website, reminded, "As many as 833 farmers had sacrificed their lives in the farmers' protest in 2020-21 and 33 farmers died in the ongoing agitation. Our struggle is not to make MPs or MLAs but to protect the future of farmers and labourers. We ask you to vote against the party which has used batons on us," he added. Will someone listen to the screaming voice of the farmers? Or the painful voice, of the food giver to the country, will remain ignored and suppressed by political tricks and sticks? Why is the ruling party not heeding towards the resentment of the farmers? Is it not caring for the vote bank of this aggrieved strata? However, it is crystal clear that presently the winds blowing over the Haryana ground do not seem favourable for the BJP. Let us see which way the wind blows in the coming days. Senior Journalist, Columnist & Political Analyst

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# Cyprus and Greece can be EU gateways for Indian investors: Eurobank CEO Fokion Karavias

**Kolkata ( PARTHA ROY ):**Indian Chamber of Commerce (ICC) President Shri Ameya Prabhu welcomed the initiative of signing MOU agreement that will facilitate to promote India - Greece -Cyprus Trade . Eurobank and Indian Chamber of Commerce (ICC) this week signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) at Indian Embassy in Athens. The agreement, signed on September 16, aims to establish India-Greece-Cyprus Business Council (IGC), marking a significant step towards strengthening tri-lateral business ties. The MoU was signed in the presence of Ambassador of India, Shri Rudrendra Tandon.

Notably, Eurobank CEO Fokion Karavias welcomed the move, stressing the “strategic role Greece and Cyprus can play as entry points into European Union ( EU ) for Indian businesses and investors”. Furthermore, he elaborated on Cyprus’ “unique advantages as a dynamic technology and research hub and investment gateway to the European Union.” Fokion Karavias highlighted Greece’s diversified economy, saying that it offers a wide range of opportunities for Indian investors. Additionally, he emphasised that this collaboration is just “one of the many initiatives undertaken by Eurobank Group to strengthen

economic and investment cooperation between India, Greece, and Cyprus”. Eurobank also announced plans to open a Representative Office in Mumbai, pending regulatory approval. According to ICC Chairman Shri Ameya Prabhu, the IGC Business Council “will be the first initiative of its kind, laying the foundation for stronger bilateral business links and partnerships.” Moreover, Shri Prabhu further emphasised ICC’s commitment to Greece, highlighting the appointment of Shri Antoniou Fiorakis as ICC Head of Greece as a clear signal of its deep engagement in the country. Addressing on the occasion, Indian



Eurobank CEO Fokion Karavias (right) & ICC President Ameya Prabhu (left) at the signing of the MoU

ambassador Shri Rudrendra Tandon said that “the MoU also includes potential synergies with the India-Middle East-Europe Economic Corridor (IMEC).” Indian Ambassador added that “the resolution for this corridor was adopted during the G20 meeting in India and later endorsed at the recent G7 summit in Italy”. According to the announcement, with Greece and Cyprus positioned as strategic sea gateways to Europe and the Gulf, their geographical advantages

offer India enhanced access to these regions. Additionally, these nations offer ample opportunities for cooperation across various sectors, including energy. Notably, Cyprus ranks among the top 10 investors in India, having made cumulative

investments exceeding US \$12.64 billion between April 2000 and March 2023, particularly in services, IT, real estate, and pharmaceuticals. Trade between Greece and India has also surged in recent years, growing from approximately US \$690 million in 2021 to US \$1.95 billion in 2023. Moreover, current estimates suggest it could reach US \$5 billion by 2030. India’s exports to Greece have largely comprised of aluminium, organic chemicals, electrical machinery, iron and steel, garments, plastic products, and spices. Meanwhile, Greece has exported fossil fuels, aluminium, iron and steel, and fruits to India. Going forward, the three nations remain committed to expanding

strategic partnerships in key areas such as shipping, culture, tourism, security, and trade, with the goal of doubling trade by 2030. Further opportunities are also being explored in fields such as energy, infrastructure, pharmaceuticals, agriculture, and innovation, with the ultimate aim of creating new avenues for trade, investment, and economic growth. [Story Courtesy: Ms Souzana Psara, Cyprus Mail, (estd. 1945). Ms Souzana Psara is part of the Cyprus Mail’s business section, covering local business news, startups, and tech. Off the clock, she stays up to date with the latest industry trends and innovations.]

## Indonesia -India historical relationship revisited



**Kolkata (PARTHA ROY):**An International Conference titled “Echoes across the Waves: Revisiting the Intersections of India and Indonesia’s Shared Cultural Heritage” took place on the 14th and 15th of September 2024 in Bali organized by Consulate General of India in Bali, Maulana Abul Kalam Azad Institute of Asian Studies (MAKAIAS), Ministry of Culture of Government of India, and Institute of Social and Cultural Studies

(ISCS), a prominent Indian think tank. As India and Indonesia celebrate 75 years of diplomatic relations, this conference highlighted rich cultural connections that have developed between the two nations over many , many centuries. On the morning of the 14th September ,Indian- Indonesian delegation attending the conference visited Munduk in North Bali, where Rabindranath Tagore resided at the local Pesangrahan, or Dak Bungalow, on

September 5, 1927. On this occasion, Consul General of India in Bali unveiled a plaque, which was inaugurated by His Excellency Ambassador Sandeep Chakravorty, Ambassador of India to Indonesia. This initiative aims to educate the current generation about Tagore’s time in Indonesia and his contributions to the literary landscape, which significantly symbolize the relationship between India and Indonesia. It is noteworthy that the Dak Bungalow has since been transformed into a resort.

## MLA Bandana Kumari visited the area with officials of various departments.

**New Delhi (Ahsan Ansari):** MLA of Shalimar Bagh Assembly AAP Party Bandana Kumari on Wednesday visited RU Block Pitampura jointly with officials of various departments. RWA officials were also present there. In the block, MLA Bandana Kumari heard many problems of the residents of the area and also instructed the officials to solve those problems immediately. Due to the construction work being done during the Delhi Metro tour, the drains of RU Block get badly blocked, due to which the residents of the surrounding area were facing many problems. The MLA asked the Delhi Metro officials to take appropriate action immediately.



## On the occasion of Eid Miladunnabi, social worker Dr. Javed Farooqui gave gifts to the children of the madrasa and taught them the truth of humanity.



**New Delhi (KCN):** Eid Miladunnabi was celebrated with great pomp on Monday. In Delhi too, on the occasion of Eid Miladunnabi, many people of the Muslim community gave the message of mutual love and brotherhood. On the occasion of Eid Miladunnabi, famous social worker of Malviya Nagar, Dr. Javed Farooqui reached

Madrasa Gulsane Islam Savitri Nagar and celebrated the festival by giving bags to the small children getting education. He taught the children to follow the footsteps of Prophet Mohammad Saheb. Always do good deeds and help the poor and the helpless, respect and love everyone. This Mubarak Din is the moment to walk on the path shown by him. For

which he spent his life. We wish that the message of peace, love and humanity of Prophet Mohammad Saheb should guide all of us in our lives. On this auspicious occasion, an appeal is made to all the brothers and sisters to pray for the prosperity and progress of the country and implement the teachings of Prophet Muhammad in their lives.

# Punjab Congress Burns effigies of BJP Govt

**Chandigarh (JAG MOHAN THAKEN), September 18:** Punjab State congress on Wednesday organized a massive protest across the state and burnt the effigies of BJP government. In a powerful display of solidarity with Rahul Gandhi, the Leader of the Opposition in the Lok Sabha, Congress organized massive protests across the nation, condemning the continued hate mongering by the BJP. Led by Amarinder Singh Raja Warring, President of the Punjab Pradesh Congress Committee and Member of Parliament from Ludhiana, Punjab Congress workers gathered in large numbers at multiple locations across the state, raising their voices against the reported derogatory and defamatory remarks aimed at Rahul Gandhi by BJP leaders. Effigies of the BJP government were burned as a symbol of the party’s strong



rejection of such hateful tactics. Amarinder Singh Raja Warring lambasted the BJP for their orchestrated campaign of hate against Rahul Gandhi, saying, “The BJP is now clearly terrified of Rahul Gandhi Ji and the support he is receiving from across the nation. It is evident that their fear has resulted in them resorting to cheap tactics, spreading lies and venom in an attempt to tarnish his image.” Warring further highlighted how this smear campaign had

begun when BJP MP Kangana Ranaut spread hate via defamatory remarks against Shri Rahul Gandhi Ji. “They have stooped so low that they even dared to use Kangana Ranaut to question the integrity of such an esteemed leader, insinuating falsehoods about him being intoxicated, merely because he spoke truth and exposed the BJP’s hypocrisy,” Warring said. Particularly targeting the comments made by former Congress leader Ravneet Bittu, who recently joined the BJP

and referred to Rahul Gandhi in derogatory terms, Warring expressed his deep disappointment. “It is a matter of utter shame that Ravneet Bittu, a man whose entire political career was built by the Congress Party and who has been repeatedly supported by Rahul Gandhi Ji before, is now attacking the very person who stood by him. His betrayal of both the Congress and the people of Punjab by aligning with the BJP has exposed his true colours,” Warring added.

The Congress party release claims that the protests, which saw a massive turnout, were marked by the burning of effigies against the BJP and Ravneet Bittu and PM Modi. This act symbolized the Punjab Congress’s firm stand against any form of disrespect or hate speech directed toward their leadership and the democracy of the nation. Protesters raised slogans, demanding an end to the continued defamatory rhetoric and calling for accountability from the BJP for allowing such hate to spread. Amarinder Singh Raja Warring concluded by reiterating the Congress Party’s determination to protect its leadership and democracy, vowing to continue standing up against the BJP’s divisive politics. “Our fight is not just for Rahul Gandhi Ji, it is for the soul of this nation. We will not let the politics of hate prevail,” he declared.

## Lions in service of victims of natural calamities



**Mahabubabad, Sept 18 (KCN):** “Lions Club has always been in the forefront in rendering service to the people in need, particularly in the times of natural calamities,” said Lions 320F District Governor Kunduru Venkat Reddy. Participating in a programme organized by the Lions Clubs International Foundation, Lion Kunduru Venkat Reddy handed over special kits worth Rs.9 lakh that included grocery items and clothes to more than 500 flood victims in Ravirala, Balini D h a r m a r a m , D u b b a t a n d a , M a h b u b a b a d ,

Mattigadda Tanda areas of Mahabubabad district on Wednesday. Kunduru Venkat Reddy recalled that LCIF had been contributing a lot to the flood victims for the last four years and added that they had conducted special camps for the treatment of eye diseases and distribution of food items during Corona. Stating that 50 bicycles and 50 sewing kits were given to the girls of government schools last month, Venkat Reddy exhorted the people to render social service. Deputy District Governors Dr. Chandrasekhar Arya, Narahari Sudhakar

Reddy, former Lions Governors Lakshmi Narasimha Rao, Revuri Ramana Reddy, Tummeti Venkat Reddy, Putta Harikishan Reddy, Sharada, Subhash, Region Chairman Ramasahayam Venkat Reddy, Peddi Revathi, Zone Chairman Ravichander Reddy, Presidents of Sridevi’s various clubs, Vanishree, Jayashree, Vani, Murali, Naveen, Cabinet leaders A n u m a d l a V e n k a t e s w a r l u , Yarramreddy Ranga Reddy, Keshav Rao, Prasad, Nagavani, Shailaja and others participated in the event, according to Lions district PRO Katanguru Ramgopal Re



# Subarnarekha flood situation grim



**Bhograi / Jaleswar (KCN):** Incessant rain in upstream of Subarnarekha river in Jharkhand has resulted in flood in four blocks of Balasore district, a report said Tuesday. Lakhs of people in Bhograi, Baliapal, Basta and Jaleswar blocks have

been marooned. At Rajghat, where the danger mark is 10.36 metre, water was flowing at 10.98 metre by 6pm Tuesday. While there is no imminent threat of flood in the other districts, the administration has been directed to remain on alert to meet any kind of

eventuality. The floodwater of Subarnarekha crossed both its banks and entered into Bhograi, Baliapal, Basta and Jaleswar blocks as well as into some panchayats of neighbouring Mayurbhanj district. Moreover, the

backwaters from East and West Midnapore districts also entered the low-lying areas of Bhograi and Jaleswar. Due to incessant rain from September 14 to 16, this region in Balasore district experienced 250 mm of rainfall in just three days, resulting in

flooding in northern Balasore due to water runoff from West Bengal. As per the Collector's instructions, various departments have provided preliminary reports on rain and flood-related issues, Tuesday.

District agriculture officer Pradeep Kumar Mohanty has provided specific data that says in Jaleswar, 2,050-hectare paddy fields in 105 villages across 35 panchayats are submerged. Similarly, in Bhograi, 7,400 hectares of agricultural land in 237 villages across 50 panchayats are flooded. In Baliapal block, 70 hectares of farmland in two villages of a single panchayat are inundated.

## Sundargarh Collector leads cleanliness drive



**Rourkela (KCN):** A cleanliness drive led by Sundargarh Collector Manoj Satyaban Mahajan was undertaken on the Main Road near Telephone Bhawan under Ward No-1, Rani Bagicha, here as part of "Swachhta Hi Seva" campaign, Tuesday. Several other top officials of the district administration also participated in the cleanliness drive. The

Collector was accompanied by two additional district magistrates posted at the district headquarters, executive officer of Sundargarh Municipality, DIPRO and the Rourkela Municipality chairman. The place near Rani Bagicha was wearing a dirty look always with garbage littering all across. The Collector rose to the occasion and began the cleanliness drive. Collector

Mahajan said, "One sets an example for others, by taking an initiative on his/her own. I thought the best way to clean the entire town is to create awareness through such programmes and the message has gone well across the town." The Collector and other officials were found to be lifting all the garbage and sweeping the street of the dirt and making the entire area clean.

# Panic as Joda flyover sinks



**Joda (KCN):** Barely six months after the inauguration of the flyover running through this town in Keonjhar district, a portion of it sank leaving the commuters panicked, according to a report. While a crater has formed on the flyover, cracks have also appeared on the retaining walls of the bridge. The left portion of the approach road to the flyover has sunk leading to formation of a crater.

The newly-inaugurated bridge developing such problems has raised questions about the durability of the crucial infrastructure. On being informed, Collector Vishal Singh directed a technical team and Odisha Bridge Construction Corporation Ltd (OBCCCL) engineer to inspect the damage and

take necessary steps for its repair, Monday. It's not just the cracks that are bothering the users. Earlier, concrete slabs were seen loosely hanging at various places while at other places iron rods were found protruding out putting the lives of the commuters at risk. Someone can seriously get injured due to the rods, they opined. Reports said that the flyover was constructed at a plan outlay of Rs 250 crore from the funds available from the district mineral foundation (DMF). Sources said the 3-km long flyover was inaugurated by the former Chief Minister Naveen Patnaik on virtual mode March 11, 2024. Hence, the appearance of cracks in less than six months of its inauguration has created serious

apprehensions amongst the commuters. The bridge was built by Gujarat-based Chevrox Constructions Private Ltd which had then claimed that the bridge has been built using the latest technology. Chevrox head Bipul Barat, its chairman Kishore Birangama, OBBC general manager Narsingh Mohanta who were present at the time of inauguration had claimed that the flyover will last more than 100 years. Mohanata had also claimed that it can endure the movements of heavy to very heavy vehicles. Now, it seems that the tall claims have fallen flat. Such is the condition of the flyover that it shakes violently when a couple of heavy vehicles pass over it simultaneously. Pictures of the shaking bridge have gone viral on social media recently.

Locals had alleged that the previous state government inaugurated the flyover hastily without conducting proper examination of the bridge as Lok Sabha and Assembly elections were nearing. They wanted to take credit for construction of the bridge but safety concerns have now cropped up. This correspondent tried to meet Chevrox Constructions Private Ltd GM Sudip Mukherjee for his comment but he was conspicuously absent. An engineer of OBCCCL, requesting anonymity, confirmed the cracks on the retaining wall but ruled out any immediate threat to the commuters. The senior officials are aware of the issue and the damaged portion will be repaired soon, he said. He also informed that Keonjhar Collector has been apprised of the development.

## Vishwakarma Pooja performed at NTPC Ramagundam



**Peddapalli, Sept 18 (KCN):** "It is an occasion for all of us to honor Lord

Vishwakarma, seek his blessings, and find peace," said Executive Director (R&T) of

NTPC Ramagundam and Telangana Kedar Ranjan Pandu. Participating in the

hawan and pooja along with GM (O&M) A.K. Tripathi, and GM (O&M) S.K. Saha, Telangana performed as part of Vishwakarma Pooja at TG Hall on Tuesday, Ranjan Pandu highlighted the significance of the festival and wished everyone growth and prosperity. To mark the occasion, a bhandara was organized for all employees and contract workers fostering a spirit of togetherness. The event was graced by Central NBC Member, HOHR Babar Salim Pasha and all General Managers and several senior officers and 300 people.



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## Capri Global Appoints Coaching Beyond as Consultant for UAE ILT20 League

**Mumbai:** Capri Global has announced an association with Coaching Beyond, a premier cricket coaching institute, as a consultant for the franchise team of the UAE ILT20 League. The institution will assist Capri Global in appointment of coaching staff and matters related to cricket operations. R Sridhar, former fielding coach of the Indian Cricket Team and one of the founding members of Coaching Beyond, will be the Director of Cricket for Capri Global during the UAE ILT20 League. Capri Global intends to strengthen the cricket ecosystem on the global platform by engaging the right sporting talent and nurturing them. The company aims to play a vital role as an enabler by empowering deserving talent to showcase their sporting strength to the globe. Speaking on the association, Mr. Rajesh Sharma, Director, Capri Global, said, "Capri Global aims to reinforce the visibility and

popularity of sports nationally and globally and popularize homegrown sports to create opportunities for aspiring talent. We are pleased to associate with Coaching Beyond, a brainchild of sports stalwarts who will assist us in evaluating the deserving talent and offer state-of-the-art sports training infrastructure, world-class technology, and training to sportspeople. Mr. Sridhar's experience as a player and coach is almost unrivaled and his strategic insights, coaching approach, and collaborative style will be invaluable for our franchise team. We see great synergy coming through this alliance, including a host of exciting moments that are set to elevate the cricketing experience for the Indian audience on the global platform." Coaching Beyond is a premier cricket coaching institute in India that provides performance-driven cricket coaching,

training, and education to individuals, teams, and coaches from the grassroots to various experience levels. It has recently launched its first high-performance cricket academy in Hyderabad and is on track to launch its second project in Chennai by August. R Sridhar, Co-Founder of Coaching Beyond, said, "We are delighted to announce our partnership with Capri Global for the upcoming UAE ILT20 League. It is an exciting opportunity to work and do justice to the enormous cricketing talent and add value to the international platform. With a focused team effort, inclusive vision, and holistic approach, we can achieve consistent success during the tournament. We are confident that the League will be a grand success and are looking forward to a successful season".

## SWACHHTA PAKHWADA ON A MASSIVE SCALE BY ECoR:



**Bhubaneswar, (KCN):** Indian Railways have planned to observe Swachhta Hi Sewa Pakhwada all over the country from 14th September to 1st October 2024 with the theme of 'Swabhav Swachhata - Sanskaar Swachhata' with Swachh Bharat Diwas celebration on 2nd October. In view of the above, East Coast Railway has started the Swachhata Pakhwada in a big way giving special

focus on cleanliness at Railway Station premises, Trains, offices, workshops, maintenance depots, Railway Hospitals and Railway residential areas. Launching the campaign at New Delhi, Chief Executive Officer and Chairman of the Railway Board Satish Kumar said that this campaign aims to inspire collective action and widespread citizen involvement in cleanliness efforts. This initiative invites all

citizens, stakeholders and partners to actively engage in making a cleaner, greener India. Additional General Manager, East Coast Railway Shri Mohes Kumar Behera administered oath on Swachhata to the employees at its headquarters at Rail Sadan, Bhubaneswar to devote 100 hours every year for cleanliness, neither litter or allow anyone to do so, begin cleanliness with oneself,

one's family, one's own area & workplace and to convince 100 people to devote 100 hours every year for cleanliness to fulfill the dream of Mahatma Gandhi for a neat & clean Nation. East Coast Railway has taken massive awareness programme during the Swachhata Pakhwada by involving passengers, rail users & stake holders, etc. Paintings & Drawing competitions on the theme of Cleanliness, Anti-littering awareness, on-board

cleanliness, cleanliness at Washing lines, Railway yards, tracks; cleanliness at work places, feedback of passengers on the quality of the food served, cleanliness at water installations including sources of water supply, water taps for drinking water at Stations and availability of water; Cleanliness at all toilet blocks at Railway Stations, Coaching Depots, Trains & surrounding areas will also be conducted during the Swachhata Pakhwada.

## Union Bank of India signs MOU with SIDBI for Co-Financing arrangement of MSMEs

**Mumbai :** Union Bank of India today signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with Small Industries Development Bank of India (SIDBI) for a Co-Financing arrangement for MSMEs. The MoU was signed by Shri Lal Singh, Chief General Manager, Union Bank of India and Shri Vivek Kumar Malhotra, Chief General Manager, SIDBI. SIDBI is country's principal financial institution

engaged in the Promotion, Financing and Development of Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises (MSME). Under the MoU, Union Bank of India would consider Joint financing/ Co-Financing with SIDBI to Projects/Units in the MSME. This MoU would help the Banks to increase their customer base, while helping the MSMEs to meet their funding requirements. The key highlights of the arrangement include joint

identification of viable projects and term loan and working capital financing to MSMEs. Initially the arrangement would be at specific centers and once the arrangement stabilizes at these centers, more locations would be covered. Speaking on the occasion, Shri Lal Singh, CGM (MSME), Union Bank of India, said "MSME is one of the key sectors of our Indian Economy contributing to GDP,

Exports, Manufacturing Output, Employment, Women Empowerment etc. MSME is one of the focused areas of the Bank and at Union Bank of India, we aim to become Bank of 1st choice for MSMEs. This tie-up with SIDBI aids in realizing the Bank's vision to have increased credit flow to the MSME sector and extend operational convenience to the MSME clientele. Under partnership, Union Bank of India through its Pan

India branch network can provide general Banking products like Current Accounts, Savings Accounts, Working Capital facilities and other related services to the MSME Customers of SIDBI." Also, speaking on the tie-up arrangement, Shri Vivek Kumar Malhotra, CGM, SIDBI reiterated SIDBI's commitment towards timely financing for MSMEs across all sectors.

## Unacademy produces 178 Rankers for UPSC CSE

**Bhubaneswar:** Unacademy, India's largest learning platform\*, today announced that 178 out of 685 rank holders of UPSC CSE 2021 are Unacademy Learners. Among the top rankers from the Unacademy platform are Gamini Singla (AIR - 3), Aishwarya Verma (AIR - 4), Utkarsh Dwivedi (AIR - 5) and Yaksh Chaudhary (AIR - 6). 3 Learners have secured ranks from 1-5, 32 have secured ranks from 6-100 and 143 have secured AIRs from 101-685.

From the 178 Rankers, 45 Learners were Unacademy's Plus/ Iconic subscribers guided by India's Top Educators. The other rankers were guided by Unacademy's Last Mile Programme for UPSC CSE 2021 Interview. Last Mile Programme is an interview guidance program for the last stage of the UPSC CSE exam that helps Learners who have qualified the Mains exam to crack the Personal Interview stage. The questions are asked by retired bureaucrats, former UPSC members and Top Educators in a mock set-up. In last year's Unacademy's Interview Guidance Program 170+ Rankers qualified the Interview stage by securing AIR 2.

New Delhi,: India faces the twin dilemma of co-existence of shortage and abundance in several parts of its energy system. While the provision of electricity has increased significantly over the years, weak institutions and utility governance hamper the power sector's financial performance with issues of accountability, operational efficiency, customer service, and transmission to state-level transmission institutions. The sector takes a huge and grossly unacceptable hit due to extensive losses, leakages and pilferages, and the cost recovery

from tariffs. These are some major findings of a report titled Power Sector in India: New Emerging Opportunities and Challenges released by Infomerics Valuation and Rating Pvt Ltd., the well-known SEBI-registered and RBI-accredited financial services credit rating company. The report explores the opportunities and challenges ahead for India as it seeks to ensure reliable, affordable and sustainable energy for a growing population. During FY20 and FY19, the growth of electricity generation was lower than in the previous financial years because

of the impact of COVID-19. The report quotes the International Energy Agency (IEA) stating that during FY21 recovery in electricity demand from the COVID-19 pandemic was faster and stronger in India than in EU countries. India is the third-largest producer and the third-largest consumer of electricity in the world. With the increasing population, electricity demand is rising at a fast clip and India has improved its power generation capacity over the years. India has added more than 500 billion units until FY22 from FY10.

## Blue Dart signs the UNFCCC Climate Neutral Now Pledge

**Bhubaneswar:** Blue Dart, South Asia's premier express air and integrated transportation & distribution company and a part of the Deutsche Post DHL (DPDHL) Group has signed the 'Climate Neutral Now' (CNN) pledge by the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC). The pledge highlights the organisation's commitment

to ambitious CO2 reduction targets. Deutsche Post DHL Group has adopted a package of measures worth up to 7 billion to reduce its greenhouse gas emissions by 2030 in line with the Paris Climate Agreement, primarily to expand the use of sustainable technologies and fuels in its fleets and buildings. Its long term goal is to reduce GHG emissions to net zero by

2050. The Climate Neutral Now Initiative encourages and supports interested stakeholders to act now in order to achieve a climate neutral world by 2050 as enshrined in the Paris Agreement. The initiative is a tool to promote voluntary action on climate change. Blue Dart has already invested extensively in remaining a Sustainable Provider of Choice by being the first

in the industry to set quantified carbon-reduction targets. The organisation, as a part of the Deutsche Post DHL Group aimed to increase their CO2 efficiency by 10% by the year 2012 and 30% by the year 2020. Against the 30% target, Blue Dart achieved a 34% CO2 efficiency in 2021. Pablo Ciano, EVP Corporate Development, DPDHL Group says, "As a Group, we have

developed a Sustainability Roadmap that supports the UN's Sustainable Development Goals. We are constantly working towards introducing innovative green logistics solutions that improve our carbon footprint. I am delighted to share that representing the DHL eCommerce Solutions Division in India, Blue Dart has been delivering high on its sustainability initiatives.

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