

Narendra Worked Hard So Bhupendra Could Break Record: PM On Gujarat Win

New Delhi: Prime Minister Narendra Modi thanked Gujarat today for the massive, record-breaking mandate in the assembly elections, saying he was "humbled by your trust and faith in us". Speaking at the party headquarters in Delhi, PM Modi -- whose personal popularity and contribution to the victory is seen as the largest -- made light of his role.

"I had said during the campaign in Gujarat that this time that Narendra Modi's record (of 127 seats in 2002) has to be broken... that Bhupendra (Chief Minister Bhupendra Patel) will break Narendra's record, and for that Narendra will work relentlessly and with all his heart and mind," he said. That, he added, "resonated with the people".

There was a word



about the Chief Minister's personal achievement as well. "Today, Bhupendra-bhai Patel won his seat by over 2 lakh votes - that is phenomenal - to win an Assembly seat by 2 lakh votes is something that does not even happen to most in Lok Sabha seats," the Prime Minister said.

Mr Patel will continue as the Chief Minister of the state. He will take oath on Monday.

Speaking after party chief JP Nadda, who launched a no-holds-barred attack on Arvind

Kejriwal's Aam Aadmi Party, PM Modi's approach was milder. There was an arch reference to "exploiting the fault lines".

"Those political parties today that try to exploit the fault lines and pose new challenges to India from within just to make some political gains, those parties are being watch and understood by the people of the nation," PM Modi said. "They might find a lot of things to exploit and divide the people, but there is one thing that unites us all - our motherland. And we in BJP work only for the benefit of the motherland. Today, BJP is the first choice of most people in India," he added.

Without naming anyone, he also warned

the party workers against "fake news and lies".

"I will be targeted and you all will also be targeted... So be prepared. And how will you do that? By being patient and increase your sehn-shakti (forbearance)," he added. In this context, he even cited the post-Godhra riots of 2002. "After 2002, there has not been any aspect of my life that has not been shredded," he said. The BJP has raced to a 150-plus score within the first few hours of counting of votes today and firmly stayed there, keeping the Congress and Arvind Kejriwal's Aam Aadmi Party to a combined score of less than 25. The party is currently leading on 156 seats - 57 more than 2017. The Congress is hoping to scrape up 17 seats and AAP has made its debut with five.

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Padampur (KCN): The Governing BJD won the Padampur Assembly by-poll with a huge margin of over 42,679 votes defeating nearest rival BJP.

BJD's Barsha Singh Bariha got 1,20,807 votes while BJP's Pradeep Purohit bagged 78,128 votes. Congress' debacle show put the party candidate Satya Bhusan Sahu in third position with only 3210 votes.

In 2019 general elections, BJD had got 83,299 votes while BJP's Mr. Purohit had polled 77,565 votes and Congress' nominee Mr. Sahu had bagged 32,787.

It shows that the BJP candidate was able to protect his votes while BJD gained the entire votes of the Congress. The Congress' entire vote went to BJD's kitty in the by-poll, feel Political Observers.

Both BJD and BJP have utilised their

entire forces in the by-poll. This by-election was crucial for the Governing party as it lost the recently concluded Dhamnagar by-poll to BJP.



The BJD had some reason to be nervous: The BJP's Suryabanshi Suraj had won the Dhamnagar by-election in November, polling 49 per cent of the votes. Suraj was the son of the late BJP MLA Bishnu Sethi, after whose death the seat had fallen vacant.

Dhamnagar, notably, was the BJD's first bypoll loss since 2009. While Naveen Patnaik

said he had always "expected" that the BJP would keep the seat due to the late MLA's popularity, Union Minister Dharmendra Pradhan -- who is from Odisha and played a key role in the BJP campaign -- claimed it reflected people's trust in Prime Minister Narendra Modi.

Following the defeat, the BJD changed its strategy and all the major leaders were camped in the Assembly segment and ensured victory for the party.

With the win, the BJD has demonstrated that its graph in Odisha isn't sliding even though it has been in power for five consecutive terms. So crucial was this fight for the BJD that Chief Minister Naveen Patnaik himself hit the campaign trail -- something he has not done physically since the Covid pandemic struck.

Congress Win in Himachal Pradesh

New Delhi: As per the trends in Himachal Pradesh Assembly elections, Congress is all set to sweep the state. To celebrate the occasion, Congress leader Rahul Gandhi, on Thursday, extended heartfelt thanks to the people of Himachal Pradesh in a tweet that read, "Heartfelt thanks to the people of Himachal Pradesh for this decisive victory. Hearty congratulations to all Congress workers and leaders. Your hard work and dedication are the real deservers of this victory. I assure you again,



every promise made to the public will be fulfilled at the earliest."

The trends suggest that in Himachal Pradesh, Congress will win 39 of 68 seats, having won 26 and leading on 13. The BJP, meanwhile, has won 14 seats and is leading on 12. Independents have won three seats and AAP failed to open its account in the state. In a subsequent tweet, the Former Congress President also

"humbly" accepted the mandate of Gujarat saying that the party would work on reorganising the party. "We humbly accept the mandate of the people of Gujarat. We will reorganize, work hard and continue fighting for the ideals of the country and the rights of the people of the state," he said in a subsequent tweet.

As per the latest inputs from the Election Commission, the Congress will witness its worst electoral defeat in Gujarat, having won seven seats and leading on nine.

Bhubaneswar (KCN): Chief Minister Naveen Patnaik today thanked the people of Padampur for electing Biju Janata Dal (BJD) nominee Barsha Singh Bariha in the December 5 by-election.

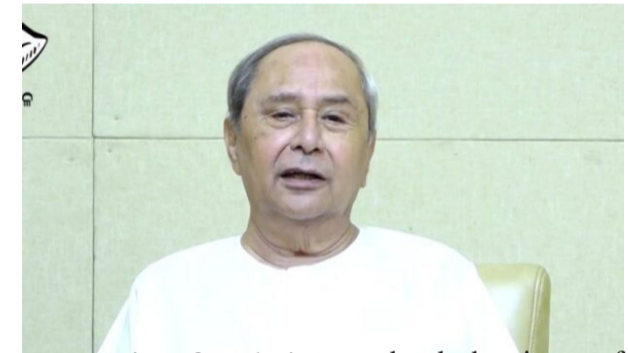
"This victory belongs to the people of Padampur. I am indebted to the people of Padampur. I will keep all my promises to you. I will soon visit Padampur and take the blessings of you all," said the Chief Minister in a video message.

The Chief Minister also thanked the BJD workers who worked

hard to ensure the regional party's victory in the by-election.

"You all have worked in a systematic manner to make the people aware of the developmental schemes of the state government. You have also exposed the lies of the Opposition parties," said the Chief Minister while thanking the BJD workers.

The Chief Minister claimed that he had decided to visit Padampur and seek votes for BJD nominee Barsha as some BJP leaders showed disrespect to her while



canvassing for their party candidate in the by-election.

"Some people are asking me as to why I had decided to visit Padampur after skipping the electioneering during the three-tier panchayat polls and a few bypolls in Odisha. I want to tell them that I was pained

at the behaviour of some BJP leaders towards the BJD nominee, a young and educated woman who had lost her father a few days ago. That is why I decided to visit Padampur and stand with our candidate like a father, a brother and a friend. Victory and defeat are part of

electoral politics. But, showing disrespect to a woman is always condemnable," said the Chief Minister.

The Chief Minister further said that the people of Odisha will not support anyone who shows disrespect to women in the electoral politics.

The Chief Minister claimed that a few Union Ministers tried to hoodwink the people of Padampur as well as Odisha on various issues including GST on Kendu leaves, crop insurance scheme, paddy MSP and railway connectivity.

National Day of Thailand Celebrated

Kolkata (Partha Roy): Consul General of Thailand in Kolkata Ms. Acharapan Yavaprasan celebrated Thai National Day, the 95th Birthday Anniversary of His Majesty King Bhumibol Adulyadej the Great and Thailand's Father's Day which was on 5 December 2022. Thai National Day reception in-person held for the first time in 3 years due the

COVID-19 pandemic. Since his passing in 2016, His Majesty King Bhumibol or King Rama IX has lived on in the hearts of Thai people and remains the soul of Thai nation. King Rama X decided to continue his father's legacies while succeeding his father King Rama IX including one of the most impactful legacy "Sufficiency Economy Philosophy" dealing with moderation, reasonableness and resiliency as values for

way of life. In 2013, United Nations General Assembly and UN Food and Agricultural Organisation designated the 5th December which is King Rama IX's birthday as "World Soil Day" for his outstanding contribution in support of United Nations Sustainable Development Goals. King Rama IX's legacies serve as a foundation for Royal Thai Government's



policy to promote the Bio-Circular-Green (BCG) Economy Model which resonates United Nation's SDG.

In November 2022, leaders of Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation (APEC) met in Bangkok and adopted

the "Bangkok Goals on BCG Economy Model" which will serve as a roadmap for sustainable and inclusive development for all member states. Thailand-India Bilateral relationship is moving to new heights with further enhancement of mutual cooperation to boost the post pandemic socio-economic recovery.

This year marks the 75th Anniversary of the Establishment of Diplomatic Relations between Thailand and

India" on political front.

Thailand and India trade has reached a new high in 2021 with total trade volume over US\$ 14 billion and expected to grow by 33 percent in 2022. Around 38 Thai companies are investing in India in infrastructure, agro-processing and automotive parts.

A 5 year Cultural Exchange Programme agreement will be signed soon between Thailand and India which will promote

exchange of scholars, performing artists and hosting of cultural festivals.

India and Thailand have revoked public health requirements for travellers and restrictions which were imposed due the COVID-19 pandemic to boost tourism between two countries. Thailand's national carrier Thai Airways will resume its daily direct flights between Bangkok and Kolkata from 1st January 2023.

AI Boosts e-Governance

Bhubaneswar(KCN): Artificial Intelligence is the simulation of human cognitive processes by machines. It automates processes & aims to ape Human Intelligence by applying Cognitive Computing to IT Systems. Inaugurating the Bootcamp, Arabinda Kumar Padhee, Principal Secretary, Department of Agriculture & farmers' Empowerment, informed that AI can be used to search for patterns, discover new insights, extract mean-

age & Video Analytics, Speech Synthesis & Recognition, and Natural Language Processing.

In the beginning, Ashok Kumar Hota, Deputy Director General (Training), welcoming all informed that NIC has established the Centre of Excellence(CoE) in Artificial Intelligence in 2019 to explore more opportunities for AI applications in governance. The guests joined to release the AI Brochure



ing from raw data, make predictions, and interact with people, machines and the physical environment.

Dr. Padhee highlighted how AI can be used in agriculture for field harvesting, health monitoring, weed and pest control, detection of nutrient deficiencies in soil, and other tasks. Guest of Honour Dasarathy Satpathy, Secretary, Odisha Legislative Assembly, informed that AI involves programming for Knowledge, Reasoning, Problem Solving, Perception, Learning, Planning & Automating Processes. Mr. Satpathy highlighted how AI can be used for Assistance services to Members of Legislative Assembly such as chatbot based on conversational interface technology as well as Natural Language Processing, to automate Legislative drafting, making assembly videos searchable using the latest speech recognition techniques.

Participating in the Bootcamp as Guest of Honour, Sharmistha Dasgupta, DDG & Head, Artificial Intelligence Resource Division, New Delhi highlighted initiatives of the division on Model building in the fields of Im-

on the occasion. The workshop was coordinated by Sarita Sahoo, Senior Technical Director in which Choudhury Bijoya Kumar Das, DDG & State Coordinator (Odisha), NIC, New Delhi joining virtually offered Vote of thanks.

More than 60 officers from various departments participated in this workshop, interacted with the experts. The brainstorming session was organized to identify various domains where Artificial Intelligence can be integrated.

Participants were from Agriculture, Higher Education, Forest, Home, Industry, Health, BSNL etc. Experts from NIC New Delhi presented various solutions available like Swachhata-AI Mobile App, Sangyatmak Sahayak API for assisting Lower Judiciary with Motor Accident Claim Precedents, Face Verification Services for Contactless Attendance, Life Certificate Mobile App based Verification, Fuzzy logic based Phonetic & Text Search for Farmer Name across Soil Health, PM Kisan & Land Records etc

SUMUM conducts innovative surgery

Bhubaneswar(KCN): Surgeons at Sum Ultimate Medicare (SUMUM) here adopting innovative method successfully removed a chicken bone that was stuck in a person's food pipe for seven days, hospital sources said on Thursday.

Dr. Satyaprakash Ray Choudhury, Consultant, Surgical Gastroenterology, who led the surgical team, said it was a very unique and challenging procedure for the team as the bone was stuck in the patient's esophagus deep in the chest region and could not be retrieved by endoscopy.



"Foreign body impaction is a condition where a solid and hard object (in this case a chicken bone) gets stuck in the food pipe. These may be removed by endoscopy but when such attempts fail, it requires surgical intervention," Dr. Ray Choudhury said.

"Surgical intervention in such a case of chicken bone impaction was quite innovative yet challenging as the location of impaction was at the middle of the chest region below the trachea (wind pipe)," he said.

Dr. Ray Choudhury was assisted by Dr. Sumit S. Mohanty while the intraoperative endoscopy was performed by Dr. Ayaskanta Singh, Consultant, Gastroenterology. The anesthe-

sia team was led by Senior Consultant, Anesthesiology, Dr. Dipankar Parihari.

"An intra operative endoscopy was done after the chicken bone was surgically removed from the patient's food pipe. This was done to access the perforation that the chicken bone had caused in the esophagus and to put a NG tube to facilitate faster wound healing," Dr. Ayaskanta Singh said.

"It is a very challenging procedure as doing endoscopy in an already perforated esophagus requires utmost care. In this case the nasal route was chosen for the procedure instead of the usual oral route," Dr. Singh said.

The spouse of the patient who seemed to be relieved after the surgery said her husband had accidentally swallowed the bone. He experienced severe chest pain and treatment could not be possible at several hospitals in Bhubaneswar and Cuttack as the surgical process was considered complicated and risky.

"My husband was in severe pain and as we did not know where to go, a relative of ours recommended that we should approach SUMUM for his treatment," she added.

"By the time the patient reached SUMUM, the chicken bone had already caused perforation of the esophagus, following which he was immediately planned for surgery," Dr. Ray Choudhury said.

"The chicken bone was retrieved and the esophagus of the patient was successfully repaired during the surgery. The patient was in good health after the procedure and his recovery was uneventful. He was ready to be discharged from the hospital," he said.

Number of Recycling Units for E-waste in West Bengal

Kolkata(KCN):In an answer to the question raised by Rajya Sabha MP Shanta Chhetri from Darjeeling, on whether the Government will set up any e-waste processing and recycling units in Darjeeling and Kalimpong district, the Union Minister of State for Environment, Forest and Climate Change, Shri Ashwini Kumar Choubey stated in the Rajya Sabha today that Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change (MoEF&CC) is not proposing to set up any e-waste processing and recycling,

units in Darjeeling and Kalimpong district. Under the E-Waste (Management) Rules, 2016, MoEF&CC is not required to itself set up any e-waste processing and recycling unit. E-waste processing and recycling units are set-up by individuals after obtaining necessary permissions i.e. Consent to Establish (CTE), Consent to Operate (CTO) under the Air (Prevention and Control of Pollution) Act, 1981; the Water (Prevention and Control of Pollution) Act, 1974 and authorisation under the E-Waste (Man-

agement) Rules, 2016 from the concerned State Pollution Control Boards (SPCBs)/ Pollution Control Committees (PCCs). He also said, as per the information provided by Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology (MeitY), they have amended the existing Scheme for Promotion of Manufacturing of Electronic Components and Semiconductors (SPECS) to provide support for setting up of state-of-art e-waste recycling facilities for extraction of precious metals from e-waste

components. The scheme envisioned for the financial incentive of 25% on capital expenditure. The Minister also stated that as per the information available with Central Pollution Board (CPCB), there are four authorised dismantling/recycling units in the state of West Bengal with total e-waste processing capacity of 1950 MT per annum. The Annual Report 2020-21 of West Bengal Pollution Control Board revealed that, total 416.891 MT of e-waste has been processed by four units against the installed capacity of 1950 MT.

Women stoned death by husband



Barbil(KCN): Ratani Munda, a married woman of Langalota hutting under Joda police station of Keonjhar district in Odisha limits was allegedly stoned to death on suspicion by her husband Mutu Munda

The matter came to light on Thursday morning after people found profusely bleeding shed in her house. A team of police from Joda rushed to the spot to investigate the matter.

After a two-day

search, the police recovered the body of the woman from an abandoned bush near the Langalota playground. Her husband, Mutu Munda, lived in Barbil and worked there. Suspecting his wife, the police have

detained the woman's husband, Mutu Munda, on suspicion of involvement in the murder. The police have found out from the preliminary investigation that the woman was hacked to death with a brick stone.

The Barbil Lawyers Association intensify demand for permanent Sub-Judge Court



Barbil.(KCN): Barbil Lawyers Association is an association of lawyers of Civil Judge (Junior Division) cum Judicial Magistrate First Class of Barbil in Keonjhar district of Odisha. On 6th December the Odisha State Bar Council approved the affiliation of the Barbil Lawyers Association. In this regard, Shri J K Samantasinghar, Secretary, Odisha State Bar Council, issued the acceptance letter through letter No. OSBisi/4196/22. According to information, an application for affiliation was made to the council on July 14th by Barbil Lawyers Association. The application was considered and approved by

the Special Committee of the Council in a meeting held at Cuttack. The affiliation letter is received by Association president Mamata Das and secretary Ranjit Kumar Barik along with other members Jyoti Ranjan Mohanty, Shubhendu Kumar Giri and Pradipta Dhal .Being the court jurisdiction covers two municipal area Joda and Barbil under Barbil Tehsil along with SDPO head quarter, the lawyer association raise and intensify it's demand for establishment of permanent Sub Judge Court and ADJ Camp Court for at least six days in a month said Ranjit Kumar Barik, secretary of the association.

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Deepika Padukone to join Rohit Shetty's cop universe with 'Singham Again'

MUMBAI: Bollywood star Deepika Padukone will be boarding Rohit Shetty's cop universe with his upcoming directorial

the cop universe, and we're going to start working together on it next year," the filmmaker told reporters here.

"Ram-Leela", "Bajirao Mastani" and "Padmaavat", said they believe in being professional on sets.



"Singham Again", the filmmaker confirmed on Thursday.

The actor-director duo have previously worked on 2019's action comedy "Chennai Express" and recently collaborated for the song "Current laga" from Shetty's upcoming venture "Cirkus", led by Ranveer Singh.

The filmmaker announced Padukone's casting during the launch event of the special track, which features her alongside husband Singh.

"Everybody keeps asking me when I'll introduce 'Lady Singham'. So, here it is. Deepika Padukone will be the Lady Singham in 'Singham Again'. She is my lady bomb from

"Singham Again" is the third film in the "Singham" series, fronted by Ajay Devgn.

Singh, who is also part of the cop universe as "Simmba", said working with his real-life partner and frequent co-star Padukone is a lot of fun.

"When we come together on set, I have a lot of fun. You have to cherish those moments when you have a co-actor that you can trust. The one, who you know is not going to play one-upmanship, and it becomes a collaborative effort. There is a give and take. Trust is indeed a foundation of good chemistry between co-actors," Singh said.

Padukone, who has starred with Singh in

"On set we don't think that we're husband and wife. As actors, the minute the camera comes on, we're thinking of our characters," she added.

"Cirkus" is based on William Shakespeare's classic play "The Comedy of Errors".

The film revolves around two sets of identical twins, who were accidentally separated at birth.

The movie, presented by Bhushan Kumar led T-Series, also features Varun Sharma, Pooja Hegde, Jacqueline Fernandez, Siddhartha Jadhav, Johnny Lever, Sanjay Mishra and Vrajesh Hirjee, among others. It is scheduled to be released on December 23.

Fans support Akshay Kumar's film on Chhatrapati Shivaji Maharaj amid social media criticism

NEW DELHI: As superstar Akshay Kumar unveiled his look as Chhatrapati Shivaji Maharaj from Mahesh Manjrekar's up-

fans and colleague Ajay Devgn.

Akshay shared on Tuesday that he has commenced filming for his Marathi debut film "Vedat

video which appeared to have been illuminated by bulbs.

"Did Shree Chhatrapati Shivaji have bulbs in his

wrote: "Uss time jhumar mein Bulb lagate the kya?" With over 16,000 tweets, Akshay's name continued to trend on Twitter

express his excitement about the film.

"Dear @akshaykumar, looking forward to seeing you essay the role of Chhatrapati Shivaji Maharaj in the Marathi film - 'Vedat Marathe Veer Daudle Saat'. He is my favourite Maratha hero and I'm happy yet another film is being made saluting this great warrior," wrote Ajay on Twitter.

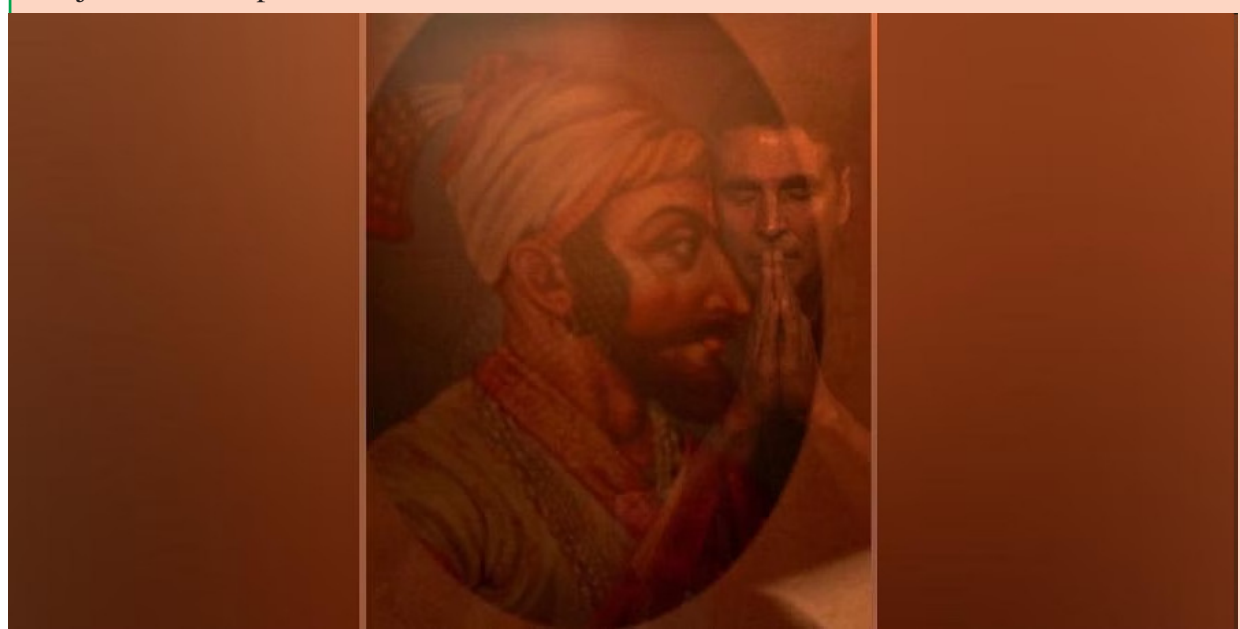
Akshay, who hasn't yet reacted to the criticism, replied to Ajay: "Thanks bhai." A fan page of the National Award winner shared a tweet: "Our love, respect and blessings always (sic) with you sir. Best of luck @akshaykumar paaji."

"All the best sir, please play this role with full dedication. A lot of people's emotions are attached to this

great personality," said another fan on Twitter. There were also those who pitched actor Sharad Kelkar's name to play Shivaji.

Kelkar had famously essayed the role of the Maratha chieftain in the 2020 film "Tanhaji: The Unsung Warrior", fronted by Ajay.

"Which one you prefer? Like for Akshay Kumar. RT for Sharad Kelkar. #AkshayKumar #sharadkelkar (sic)" posted a social media user. "Only Marathi actors can portray the character of Shivaji Maharaj. I don't think any Bollywood actor will suit for this (sic)," another said. "Vedat Marathe Veer Daudle Saat", produced by Vaseem Qureshi, is set to be released in cinemas on Diwali 2023 in Marathi, Hindi, Tamil, and Telugu.



coming film on the great Maratha warrior, social media users gave a mixed response to the actor's efforts.

Some asked if there were electric bulbs in the 17th century, while others pleaded him to not "ruin" another historical character.

The Bollywood actor also found support in his ardent

Marathe Veer Daudle Saat", and hours later posted a clip of his first look as Shivaji Maharaj on Instagram.

Soon, social media users started analysing the look and the production design of the film. Some eagle-eyed netizens shared screenshots of the chandelier in the

kingdom? In 1674? do some research man! (sic)" commented a user on Akshay's Instagram post. Born in 1630, Shivaji is acknowledged for his valour, military genius and leadership. He died in 1680. Highlighting that the light bulb was not invented until 1879, another

even on Wednesday afternoon.

In an apparent reference to the box office and critical debacle of Akshay's "Samrat Prithviraj", a big-budget period action film on legendary warrior king Prithviraj Chauhan, an Instagram user urged the actor to not "ruin this one". His colleague Ajay took to Twitter to

Loss of city based wildlife population: Reflections, Perspectives and Introspection



Saikat Kumar Basu

Our cities, towns and municipalities are rapidly losing the previously existing urban wildlife at an alarming rate. The migration of rural populations toward the cities for economic purposes around the planet has been overcrowding the urban areas much beyond their carrying capacities. As a consequence real estate business has boomed considerably in and around the cities, towns, municipalities. More and more acres of forested areas are being cleared for industry and agriculture to support the rising human populations. As a consequence, the wildlife populations are vanishing rapidly from our cities. Lack of open space, parks, gardens, social forestry projects and vanishing wetlands to make way for the highly aggressive and politically influential real estate business has been the causal factor behind the rapid degradation of urban environment and ecosystem across all the developing and under developed countries of Asia, Africa, Latin America, Eastern Europe, and island nations across Oceania.

Mongoose as a resilient species have survived the onslaught on local wildlife as they are highly adoptable and intelligent; but, all the other local wild species of different mammals (like foxes,

civet cats, jungle cats, fishing cats, leopard cats, bats), passerine birds (including colourful species and song birds), aquatic birds, vultures, reptiles (tortoise, turtles, lizards, snakes and frogs), insect pollinators (like bees, moths, butterflies, wasps, hornets, ants, beetles, numerous dipterans), snails and slugs, fishes are now endangered due to extreme levels of pollution, habitat destruction and habitat fragmentation, indiscriminate poaching and illegal trafficking, poisoning as well as destabilization of local ecosystems as a result of various related natural and predominantly anthropogenic factors. Species that has thrived in cities are domestic pets and farm animals (dogs, cats, ferrets, rabbits, guinea pigs, hamsters, cage birds, aquarium fishes, livestock, farm animals, poultry species etc), squirrels, pigeons and doves various starlings, parakeets, crows, black kites, sparrows (a resurrected species), koels, kingfishers, woodpeckers, rats and mice, feral dogs, cats, pigs, cattle to mention a few. These animals are having negative impacts on the local ecosystems of our cities, towns and municipalities.

One of the resilient species that I would like to highlight is the common India crow is an extremely intelligent and successful urban bird species that unfortunately escape our serious attention; as we see them so closely tied to the human settlements around us.

Crows are intelligent, opportunistic species that has invaded our urban space with great success.

With continuous food supply round the year, they have been foraging, nesting and breeding successfully within the urban ecosystem for successive generations. An outstandingly resourceful, industrious and meticulous avian species; crows has established themselves as a dominant species in the urban environment around the globe. They have strong bondage between partners and usually partner for life; and are reported to be trusted partners and extremely devoted parents raising their chicks with great care. They are territorial and defend their niche from other members of the same and related or unrelated species. They can be extremely aggressive to defend predators like cats, dogs, civets, mongoose, snakes, rats, kites, owls, owlets and eagles and even humans which they consider as immediate threats to their nests, eggs and growing chicks. They are known to be revengeful and identify individuals based on facial features. There are reports on single crow or crows in group attacking and harassing their predators or abusers. They have been studied in western world for their intelligence, superior learning abilities and in repeating complex tasks once taught and assigned to them. We need to explore this species to know them even better.

Freshwater dolphins are an epic species from the Indian subcontinent. The



Indus dolphins from Pakistan, Gangetic and Irrawaddy dolphins from India, Bangladesh and Myanmar are all showing alarming signs of decline. But the worst performers are Indus and Gangetic dolphins; due to indiscriminate overfishing, rampant poaching, collision with motorized aquatic vehicles, water pollution, unfortunate entanglement in the fishing nets to mention a handful factors responsible for depletion of the species. Yet both confirmed and unconfirmed reports from Pakistan and Bangladesh suggest the survival of these two resilient species who defied all odds to survive in their over exploited and highly polluted freshwater aquatic environment. I myself have seen Gangetic dolphins on several occasions while traveling on the Hooghly River in West Bengal very close to the shoreline; but was unable to photo document them due to their transient appearance on the

surface of the water following complete disappearance.

Stunning performances are a regular show event by trained dolphins in several amusement parks in USA, Canada and Australia. Dolphins are a group of highly intelligent marine mammals, that has shown their keen interest in interacting with humans as well as their outstanding learning and application skills. Such marine parks make significant profit annually from the sale of tickets to millions of visitors and tourists who visit these facilities. A portion of the profit is donated for conservation purposes and is used in reuse, treatments, rehabilitation and reintroduction of species into their original wild habitats. Such initiatives with strong conservation focus needs to be introduced in India too. They not only are a source of revenue generation and employments for the local administration; but, also an important

medium of building education and awareness among the public.

Angling or in other words recreational fishery or sports fishery is a highly established multimillion dollar industry in western countries. Although indigenous recreational fishing is not unheard in India; but, it lacks the focus of an organized industry. Millions of rich western tourists visit India annually and many of them are sports and wildlife enthusiasts or are passionate about angling, adventure tourism and ecotourism. A section of such rich tourists can be provided with recreational fishing facilities in restricted fishing tanks or reservoirs designed in natural environments. Although recreational fishing is commonly practised into wilderness sites in western countries; but, such a model is not acceptable for India due to possibility of destruction of natural habitats as well as introduction of accidental predatory species and poaching. But within restricted wilderness tanks one could look into setting highly organized angling facilities within resorts or extended averages associated with high class hotels, restaurant plazas well as recreation centres.

Such artificial or natural ponds could be loaded with big carp fishes and other ornamental recreational as well as edible fish species that are attractive to the anglers and tourists. One could catch fishes in such restricted

ponds, even cook them or may ask the hotel staff to cook it for them according to their preferences in exchange of a fair price. This could not only boom tourist flow; but also provide economic sustainability for the local tourism and hotel industry, provide employment to main and accessory industries for economic employment. Such economic development and opportunities could also be used as enters of public education and awareness regarding our fragile environment and ecosystem and the importance of wildlife conservation, need for protecting our endangered species of flora and fauna and different conservation strategies and approaches. During the off season such ponds could be used under local fishermen cooperative for commercial fishery to boost additional income generation. Fishing and tourist guides, wildlife and birding tour operators could be encouraged towards building responsible ecotourism circuits and opportunities to allow ecology and economy to walk hand in hand.

There is need for establishing urban wildlife rescue and rehabilitation centres in our cities and towns to help in the reintroduction process of several of our lost wildlife species. They could also serve as environmental and educational cum awareness center for our urban populations; particularly the young children who are our

future citizens. All major global religions practise teaches us to be peaceful, forgiving, benevolent, happy and compassionate not just to fellow human beings; but also towards nature, environment, wildlife and even towards non-life matters. Currently we are sitting at the crossroads of environmental pollution, ecological degradation, Climate Change, Global Warming, catastrophic tsunamis, cyclones, earthquakes, volcanic eruptions, flood, draught, famine, over exploitation of our limited natural resources, encroachment and destruction of natural forests, poaching and trafficking of endangered wildlife as well as major and minor forest resources to mention only a few of the multitude of problems impacting our lives and livelihoods. At this juncture, it important for us to learn to live synergistically with our other co inhabitants of this planet such as wildlife, forests and our nature. Unless we learn to practice simple sustainable lifestyle and in using our resources judiciously we are doomed and answerable to our future generations for the damage add destruction we have inflicted on this planet. Let us join our hands and walk towards the sustainable life style and practices to prevent bringing further cataclysmic changes and destructions to our lives and livelihoods.

Kolkata, West Bengal
India

Ways to Get Rid of Redness on Face



Shahnaz Husain

Winter weather can take a serious toll on our skin. The sudden influx of dry air and fierce, bitter winds can cause a number of issues like redness and bumps on the skin during the cold and blustery weather. Dry, cold air can set off redness in the cheeks,

nose, chin and forehead, similar to facial flushing. Even when you moisturize, you can still get dry, itchy, red skin. This persistent, inflammatory skin condition could get worse over time causing small yet painful papules and pustules on the face. The symptoms can get progressively worse, if left untreated. Fortunately, there are several efficient natural remedies you can use at home to reduce facial redness. On your road to recovery, these remedies work well in

addition to your skincare regimen. Try these natural ways to reduce facial redness. **Coconut Oil** Coconut oil is an extremely well-liked natural skincare product. It possesses anti-inflammatory, antioxidant, and hydrating qualities—the perfect properties for your skin. All you need for this natural cure is a tiny bit of quality coconut oil. Apply directly to the area of redness. Coconut oil can be stored for a very long period in a jar. **Green Tea** Green tea is renowned for its ability to

reduce inflammation. Get free of the redness on your face, and apply it topically. Prepare a cup of green tea for yourself. Put it in the refrigerator to finish cooling for about 45 minutes. After that, rub the affected regions with a piece of cloth that has been soaked in the tea. Use this home treatment frequently for better effects. **Aloe Vera** Aloe vera is often considered one of the best cures for skin problems due to its healing properties. Skincare products made with this succulent plant can be

soothing and moisturizing. It is a commonly found ingredient in skin and hair care products. These aloe vera products are great options to get rid of redness on the face, using them alongside your skin rejuvenation treatments. **Honey** Honey helps in moisturizing the skin since it is a rich source of humectants. Adding moisture can help manage symptoms of rosacea since skin dryness is believed to make the condition worse. One of the best

methods to get free of face redness on the nose, face, and skin is raw honey. Your face should be covered in a modest amount of honey before drying. Before rinsing it off with lukewarm water, wait for 30 minutes. **Avoid Hot Drinks --** People are more likely to sip on warm soups, waters and drinks during the winter. However, a hot drink can trigger a flush in your face and a flare-up of your rosacea. If it's hot enough to make you feel overheated, then it is too warm and may cause a

flare. Warm temperatures aggravate the skin to increase blood flow, triggering facial flushing. Drink it at a lukewarm temperature so you don't overheat. Wear protective gear: Try to keep your face covered as much as possible to keep the wind from irritating the blood vessels on your face. Make sure to have a warm scarf that covers the bottom of your face to block the wind when you go out of your house. If your hands suffer from dry skin due to excessive washing,

consider wearing gloves when washing dishes or going out especially in winter. Covering up the face when outdoors and replenishing the skin's moisture barrier is a good first step to reduce any pain and swelling, but you may need a deeper treatment to help your skin recover properly. Winter is already a burden on your skin. Take precautions to ensure smooth sailing and smooth skin

The author is an international fame beauty expert and is called the herbal queen of India

Misery in Zimbabwe over 19-hour power cuts

HARARE: When midnight strikes, most Zimbabweans jump out of bed to make stews, iron their clothes or collect water -- capital-

Life has become a daily grind for most Zimbabweans as the shrinking levels of water in one of the world's largest reservoirs inflict pro-

there are no customers at night. "My clients can only come during the day," Svidzi explained. He is now instead offering a phone-charging



using on a few hours of electricity as the country reels from crippling power cuts. The southern African country has long battled with outages but the problem has sharply worsened since its main generator, a hydro plant at the giant Kariba Dam, began to struggle with low water levels caused by recurring droughts. Since last week, the authorities have been imposing up to 19 hours of cuts each day, usually turning on power between midnight and 5 am. "The situation is now painful," said Irvine Magede, a fruit vendor in front of a block of apartments in Harare's oldest township of Mbare. "We simply wake up during (the) time they switch on local grids to charge our phones and iron our clothes," said Magede, who is in his 30s.

longed blackouts and devastate livelihoods. University students this week had to do their exams in a half-lit hall, and hospitals are sometimes left without water because pumps are inoperative. The latest wrench in Zimbabwe's power crisis began at the end of November, when the hydro plant in the Kariba Dam had to be switched off for lack of volume passing through its turbines, according to the Zambezi River Authority which manages the water supply. The blackouts have wreaked havoc on small businesses, already battered by a nearly two-decade-old economic downturn. Charles Svidzi, a 59-year-old barber, said he had had to close his shop as he depends on electric hair clippers and

service for clients, using a small solar-powered battery. Rotten meat The welder he shares his business unit with has started sleeping on the workshop floor. He now works at night, making use of the available power supply to weld metal frames for windows and doors. Most families have stopped buying perishables in bulk, especially meat, and instead ration grocery purchases daily to avoid the produce going off. But butchers are also badly hit by the outages. Prince Muza, 28, owns a butchery and says he has had to throw out meat that was starting to decay. "At times there will be no money to buy diesel for the generators, and the meat goes bad. In such cases we throw away or sell the meat at a giveaway price," he

said. The government has admitted the crisis is disrupting daily life. "The power cuts are causing distress, inconvenience and cost to the citizenry and business. This is regrettable," government spokesman Nick Mangwana said in a tweet this week. Senior government official Gloria Magombo said on Tuesday that the country was importing electricity from neighbouring South Africa -- which is also suffering recurring power shortages due to old and poorly-maintained plants. It is also supplementing supplies with imports from Mozambique and Zambia. But Zambia, which shares the Kariba reservoir, has said it too will start its own six-hour daily power outages from mid-December. Zimbabwe also generates power from Hwange -- its largest coal-fired power station -- but the plant is currently operating at less than half its capacity due to poor maintenance. "This is a crisis situation," Energy Minister Soda Zhemu told a news conference last week, adding that the Kariba plant will be shut down completely during the Christmas period until the water situation improves.

UP: Dimple Yadav takes over Mulayam's legacy with thumping victory in Mainpuri bypoll

LUCKNOW: Samajwadi Party candidate Dimple Yadav on Thursday won the Mainpuri parliamentary bypoll defeating her nearest rival Raghuraj Singh Shakya of BJP by a margin of 2,88,461 votes. Considered SP's bastion, the seat was held by party patriarch Mulayam Singh Yadav and it got vacated after his death on October 10. Accompanied by her husband and party chief

Mainpuri by-election to gain big momentum. The saffron party had fielded Raghuraj Shakya, once considered close to Shivpal Yadav, hoping the PSPL chief's backing in view of his distance with Akhilesh Yadav. But, Shivpal Yadav's reunion with the SP chief and his campaigning for Dimple Yadav poured cold water on the ruling party's game plan. Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath in his elec-



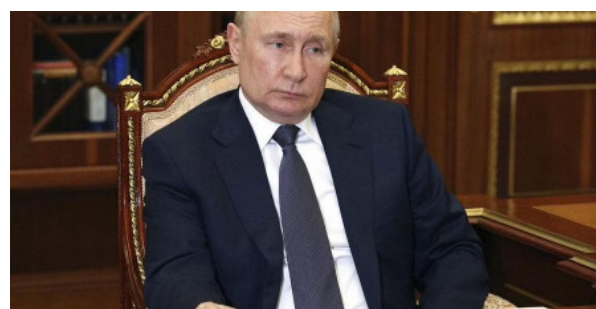
Akhilesh Yadav, Dimple received her certificate from returning officer here. In the 2019 Lok Sabha polls, Mulayam Singh Yadav won the Mainpuri seat by defeating BJP candidate Prem Singh Shakya with a margin of over 94,000 votes. The SP had contested the 2019 elections with the BSP. Dimple Yadav's margin of victory is more than that of her father-in-law showcasing Mainpuri constituents' faith in 'Netaji' (Mulayam) and the development work carried out by him. BJP candidate Shakya even lost in his Daulpur booth by 187 votes. While Dimple Yadav secured 6,18,120 votes (64.08 per cent), Shakya received 3,29,659 votes (34.18 per cent). Taking a lesson from SP's defeat in Azamgarh and Rampur Lok Sabha bypolls in June this year in which the SP chief had not campaigned, Akhilesh Yadav stayed put in Mainpuri crisscrossing the constituency to mobilise support for his wife. He moved out of Mainpuri only once during the campaign period to address a rally with Azam Khan in Rampur. In pursuance of its claim of winning all the 80 Lok Sabha seats in UP in the 2024 general elections, the BJP was eyeing to win the

tion meeting had made a scathing attack on Shivpal Yadav, likening him to a pendulum and football. Shivpal Yadav and Akhilesh Yadav had retorted to the attack. Mulayam Singh Yadav still holds the record for winning the election from the Mainpuri Lok Sabha seat by the maximum number of votes. In the 2014 elections, the SP founder defeated his nearest rival Shatrughan Singh Chauhan of the BJP by a margin of 3,64,666 votes. Before this, Mulayam Singh had won the Lok Sabha elections in 2004 by more than 3 lakh votes when he defeated his nearest rival Ashok Shakya of the BJP. In 2014, Mulayam Singh had won the Lok Sabha elections from both Mainpuri and Azamgarh seats. He later vacated the Mainpuri seat, which was won by his grandson Tej Pratap Singh Yadav by more than three lakh votes in the by-election. The Mainpuri Lok Sabha seat comprises Karhal and Jaswantnagar assembly seats represented by Akhilesh Yadav and Shivpal Yadav, respectively.

Putin says war with Ukraine is taking longer than expected

KYIV: Russian President Vladimir Putin acknowledged Wednesday that his "special military operation" in Ukraine is taking longer than expected but said it has succeeded in seizing new territory and added that his country's nuclear weapons are deterring escalation of the conflict. "Of course, it could be a lengthy process," Putin said of the more than 9-month-old war that began with Russia's invasion Feb. 24 and has displaced millions from their homes, and killed and wounded tens of thousands. Despite its length, he showed no signs of letting up, vowing to "consistently fight for our interests" and to "protect ourselves using all means available." He reiterated his claim that he had no choice but to send in troops, saying that for years, the West responded to Russia's security demands with "only spit in the face." After failing to take Kyiv due to fierce Ukrainian resistance, Russia seized broad swaths of southern Ukraine at the start of the invasion and captured the key Sea of Azov port of Mariupol in May after a nearly three-month siege. In September, Putin illegally annexed four Ukrainian regions even though his forces didn't completely control them: Kherson and Zaporizhzhia in the south, and Donetsk and Luhansk in the east. In 2014, he had illegally annexed Ukraine's Crimean Peninsula. In response to an increasing influx of advanced Western weapons, economic, political and humanitarian aid to Kyiv and what he saw as Western leaders' inflammatory statements, Putin has periodically hinted at his potential use of nuclear weapons. When a member of the Human Rights Council asked him Wednesday to pledge that Russia would not be the first to use such weapons, Putin demurred. He said Russia would not be able to use nuclear weapons at all if it agreed not to use them first and

then came under a nuclear strike. "If it doesn't use it first under any circumstances, it means that it won't be the second to use it either, because the possibility of using it in case of a nuclear strike on our territory will be sharply limited," he said. Putin rejected Western criticism that his previous nuclear weapons comments amounted to saber-rattling, claiming they were "not a factor provoking an escalation of conflicts, but a factor of deterrence." "We haven't gone mad. We are fully aware of what nuclear weapons are," Putin said. He added, without elaborating: "We have them, and they are more advanced and state-of-the-art than what any other nuclear power has." In his televised remarks, the Russian leader didn't address Russia's battlefield setbacks or its attempts to cement control over the seized regions but acknowledged problems with supplies, treatment of wounded soldiers and limited desertions. Russian troops have withdrawn not only from the Kyiv area and around the country's largest city, Kharkiv, but from a large part of the Kherson region. Another problem for Putin are attacks this week against air force bases deep inside Russia. He put much of the country, especially border areas, on security alert recently, and fresh signs emerged Wednesday that Russian officials are strengthening border defensive positions. In the Kursk region bordering Ukraine, the governor posted photos of new concrete anti-tank barriers -- known as "dragon's teeth" -- in open fields.



On Tuesday, the governor had said a fire broke out at an airport in the region after a drone strike. In neighboring Belgorod, workers were expanding anti-tank barriers and officials were organizing "self-defense units." Belgorod has seen numerous fires and explosions, apparently from cross-border attacks, and its governor reported Wednesday that Russia's air defenses have shot down incoming rockets. In brazen drone attacks, two strategic Russian air bases more than 500 kilometers (300 miles) from the Ukraine border were struck Monday. Moscow blamed Ukraine, which didn't claim responsibility. Moscow responded with strikes by artillery, multiple rocket launchers, missiles, tanks and mortars at residential buildings and civilian infrastructure, worsening damage to the power grid. Private Ukrainian power utility Ukrenergo said temperatures in eastern areas where it was making repairs had dropped to as low as minus 17 degrees Celsius (near zero Fahrenheit). At his meeting, Putin discussed the mobilization of 300,000 reservists that he ordered in September to bolster forces in Ukraine. He said only about 150,000 have been deployed so far to combat zones and the rest are still undergoing training. Addressing speculation that the Kremlin could be preparing another mobilization, Putin said: "There is no need for the Defense Ministry and the country to do that." In other developments: — Ukraine's presidential office said Russian forces

overnight struck nine regions in the east and south, and resumed using Iranian-made Shahed drones after supply difficulties. First appearing in Ukraine in late August, the Shahed drones were Moscow's weapon of choice to cause power blackouts. Britain's Ministry of Defense said last month Russia was running out of the drones but would probably seek replacements. — The U.N.'s human rights office documented 441 killings by Russian forces in three regions, including the town of Bucha, early in the war. The head of the U.N.'s monitoring mission in Ukraine, Matilda Bogner, said it has no information that Russia has been investigating or prosecuting alleged crimes in Ukraine, while Ukrainian authorities are struggling to do so because of the "sheer volume of allegations and forensic challenges." — NATO Secretary-General Jens Stoltenberg said Russia appears to be slowing its military activities in Ukraine for the winter to regroup and launch a new offensive when the weather warms. Stoltenberg said at a Financial Times event it's important for NATO and its partners to continue supporting Ukraine, especially with no sign of peace talks. — An Orthodox priest from eastern Ukraine has been sentenced to 12 years in prison for passing military information to Russian forces, Ukraine's prosecutor general reported. Authorities have been searching sites tied to the Russian-backed wing of the Ukrainian Orthodox Church. — Ukraine's top diplomat said its diplomatic missions have faced attacks in the past week, with more than 30 suspect packages, including some containing animal parts, sent to embassies and consulates in 15 countries. Foreign Minister Dmytro Kuleba said the deliveries have occurred in Italy, Poland, Portugal, Romania and Denmark, as well as a consulate in the Polish city of Gdansk.

Padampur bypoll: Confidence in BJD camp as Naveen meets leaders

BHUBANESWAR: With only few hours left for counting of votes in Padampur by-election, Chief

of the result, stakes are high for the ruling BJD and the BJP. A win for the regional party will demon-

strating lead in all three blocks and Padampur NAC under the constituency, Dhenkanal MLA

minister was happy when all the observers told him that the party will win with massive votes,"



Minister and BJD supreme Naveen Patnaik's meeting with party leaders in charge of election management has sparked curiosity in political circles. The chief minister took block-wise review of Padampur, Paikamal and Jharbandh under the Assembly segment. The exercise on the eve of the vote counting assumed significance as the outcome of the bypoll will set the tone for the simultaneous elections to Assembly and Lok Sabha in 2024. With Congress accepting defeat before announcement

strate that the popularity of Naveen is very much intact while a back-to-back defeat after its debacle in Dhamnagar bypoll will change the perception that the regional satrap is no more invincible. An initially nervous BJD, however, appears confident of winning with bigger margin than expected. It was evident when leaders emerging from the meeting said that the entire game of the BJP changed after the visit of the chief minister to Padampur where he held three election rallies. Exuding confidence of the ruling party

Sudhir Kumar Samal and one of the party observers told the media that the people will come to know within 24 hours how the 'Vikash Rath' of the chief minister has entered Padampur. He said the people have showered their love to BJD and the development works been done there by Naveen Patnaik. Demoralised by the huge support, the BJP resorted to all kinds of dirty politics which all are aware of, Samal added. "We apprised the chief minister about the field situation before the election and the strategy adopted by the party. The chief

Samal said. BJD MLA from Rourkela Sarada Nayak said that the CM asked all the leaders to submit reports indicating specific requirements of the people of different constituencies to enable the government to take prompt measures for rapid development of those areas. On the other hand, Odisha Pradesh Congress Committee president Sarat Pattanayak, admitted defeat of the party. He said there was no level playing field after massive distribution of cash by BJD and BJP.

Initiative to help poor and needy in cremation rituals in Bhubaneswar



BHUBANESWAR: Jai Odisha, a leading voluntary organisation of Bhubaneswar, has launched an initiative to help the poor and the needy people in cremating the dead bodies of their relatives. Amalgam Steel has provided a vehicle to Jai Odisha to carry the dead

bodies from different places in the city to Satya Nagar crematorium. The vehicle is called 'Sesha Saathii' and Jai Odisha will carry the dead bodies till the crematorium free of cost. The families which are not able to undertake the expenses of cremation can avail the

facility. To avail the service, needy citizens can contact Jai Odisha on 9853220023. The initiative was launched on Wednesday in the presence of Bhubaneswar-Cuttack Police Commissioner Saumyendra Kumar Priyadarshi.

Jai Odisha president Rudra Samantary said this initiative was a small effort for the last journey of the departed souls. "We consider Odisha as one family and serving a member of our family during his/her last journey is our responsibility," said Samantary.

Fate of candidates in Padampur bypoll to be decided on Thursday



BHUBANESWAR: Counting of votes in Padampur that will decide the fate of 10 candidates including BJP's Pradip Purohit, BJD's Barsha Singh Bariha and Congress's Satya Bhusan Sahu, will begin on Thursday morning.

Chief electoral officer (CEO) Sushil Kumar Lohani said postal ballots will be counted first after which counting of votes polled in 319 booths will take place. The counting will be done in 23 rounds with 14 tables in each round. Each table will have three persons, one counting supervisor, one counting assistant and a micro observer belonging to the Central government. They will be assisted by adequately trained reserve personnel. RMC godown at Padampur has been declared the counting centre for the bypoll. Polled EVMs stored in the strong room close to the counting centre will be opened in the morning amid tight security. Postal ballots received from 24 service voters and 272 absentee voters will be counted first after which votes

polled in the EVMs will be counted. To handle any technical issue during counting, two ECIL engineers will be available at the counting centre.

"After completion of EVM counting, VVPAT slips of five booths selected randomly will be taken up for counting to cross verify the EVM figures," the CEO said. He said each candidate will be allowed to appoint one agent for each table. The candidate or his/her election agent can also remain present in the counting hall. Lohani said adequate security arrangements have been made in and around the counting centres. Except the returning officer and general observer, nobody is allowed to carry mobile phones inside the counting hall. Besides, the entire 100 mtr zone will be declared as pedestrian zone. There will be three-tier security consisting of central armed police force, state armed police and local police.

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Preparation and packaging of fish pickle

Bhubaneswar (KCN): Value addition of food is gaining importance because of the rapid urbanisation. Ready to eat products are fast gaining popularity because of the ever increasing number of working women,

fish pickle has been developed and standardized according to the consumers' perception.

Tanuja S., A.K.Panda, Lipi Das., B. Sahoo and Bigyan Mihir Rout



Ingredients

- 1) Fish meat- 1kg, 2) Ginger- 100g, 3) Garlic- 50 g, 4) Green chilly- 80 g (Half slit half ground), 5) Methi seeds- 2g, 6) Hing- a pinch, 7) Kashmiri Chilly powder- 60g, 8) Feenel

- seed (Saunf)- 5g, 9) Cloves-1g, 10) Cinnamon-1g, 11) Pepper-5g, 12) Dates 200g, 13) Onion-600g, 14) Oil- to fry fish and masala and to pour over the pickle, 15) Vinegar- 200ml, 16) Curry leaves- 3 sprigs, 17) Mustard seeds- 2gms

Method of preparation

Wash the fish with potable water. If big fish like tuna is used, it has to be cut into small pieces and fried. If small fishes are used, it can be used as such for frying after removing the intestine. The intestines need to be removed to prevent the pickle from becoming bitter. Before frying, the fish needs to be marinated in salt, chilly powder and turmeric for one hour. The dates should be soaked and ground. The ginger and garlic need to be ground to a paste. Splutter the mustard seeds in oil. Cut the onions into small pieces and sauté onion and curry leaves in it in oil till onion turns translucent. Add the ginger garlic paste and sauté till the raw smell goes away. Add the methi seeds, green chilly (both slit and ground), kashmiri chilli powder and sauté for 1 minute. Add the ground dates and mix well. Grind the masala (8,9,10 & 11) and add to the mixture. Add vinegar and let it boil. Switch off the gas and let the pickle cool. Add oil till a layer of oil forms in the top. Fill in packets or plastic containers and seal

Nutrient Composition of fish pickle made

Packaging of fish pickles

Parameters	Concentration
Crude protein (%)	20.91
Phosphorus (%)	0.172
Potassium (%)	0.159
Calcium (ppm)	774
Magnesium (ppm)	287
Iron (ppm)	120
Copper (ppm)	3.9
Manganese (ppm)	140.5
Zinc (ppm)	25.5

Packaging maintains quality, offers protection, and facilitates movement of goods and handling. Packaging of a product should provide information on product identity & origin, shelflife, how to use and store and nutritional information. Good packaging should keep the food product safe and also catch the customer's eye. Fish Pickle is an oily, semi-solid product with spices and acidic taste. Conventionally, glass bottles are used as containers, which offer properties like inertness, non-toxicity, durability, non-permeability to gases, moisture etc. But it also has the disadvantages like high cost, fragile and voluminous. Now new flexible packaging materials like Plain polyester laminated with LDPE-HDPE co-extruded film or Nylon/Surlyn are commonly used. These are inert to the product, can be attractively fabricated as stand up packs and printed on reverse side of the polyester film.

limitation in space and time etc. Value addition to any product depends upon the market and consumer demand. Value addition of fish and shell fish is a potential livelihood option for rural women taking into account the increasing demand. One such value added product is fish pickle. Pickles are a favourite side dish for Indian population. Besides dry fish it is the best form of preservation of fish. It has the added advantage of longer shelf of six months or more because of the low pH of the product. Enterprise on value added fish products with longer shelf life and lower cost of production can easily be adopted by rural women for their income enhancement. Under the Institute project on "Development of women entrepreneurship in livestock and fisheries sector for promoting gender equity and strengthening livelihood", the recipe of

Swiggy may lay off over 250 employees, firm says 'exits based on performance'

NEW DELHI: After Zomato, Swiggy may lay off more than 250 employees or up

performance," a Swiggy spokesperson said in a statement.

gross value of Swiggy's food delivery business was USD 1.3 billion

FY21.

The food aggregator posted a loss of Rs 1,616.9 crore in FY21 compared to Rs 3,920.4 crore loss in FY20. Its total revenue, however, declined to Rs 2,675.9 crore in FY21 from Rs 3,727.7 crore in FY20.

Delivery pangs: Swiggy strike hits hard

In May this year, Swiggy acquired Dineout, a dining out and restaurant tech platform, for an undisclosed sum. According to sources, the acquisition size was around USD 200 million.

Earlier this year, the food delivery platform raised \$700 million led by Invesco at a \$10.7 billion valuation. Swiggy may lay off over 250 employees, firm says 'exits based on performance'



to 5 per cent of its workforce starting this month.

The online food delivery platform said on Thursday that however, no employee has been laid off as of now, and did not comment on the lay off figure.

"There have been no layoffs at Swiggy. We concluded our performance cycle in October and have announced ratings and promotions at all levels. As with every cycle, we expect exits based on

The Economic Times was first to report on Swiggy layoffs. The upcoming layoffs will also impact Swiggy's quick commerce delivery service Instamart to reduce cash burn.

Last month, global brokerage firm Jefferies said that Swiggy was fast losing market share to its rival Zomato despite offering heavy discounts.

Citing Swiggy investor Prosus' financial report, Jefferies said that the

in the January-June period this year. Zomato in the same period logged gross order volume of USD 1.6 billion.

ALSO READ | Food delivery platform Swiggy shuts cloud kitchen brand in Delhi-NCR

Zomato last month said it is planning to lay off nearly 3 per cent of its workforce on account of cost-cutting efforts and to turn profitable. Swiggy narrowed its consolidated loss by 58.7 per cent in

Elon Musk briefly loses top spot on Forbes billionaire list to Bernard Arnault

PARIS: Tesla owner Elon Musk briefly lost the top spot on Forbes' billionaire list Wednesday to Bernard Arnault, whose family owns the world's leading luxury group, LVMH.

With US tech stocks sliding as interest rates and recession fears rise, Musk's fortune briefly fell below that of the Arnault family. But around 1730 GMT Musk was back on top at \$184.9 billion, followed by Arnault and his family at \$184.7 billion.

Indian businessman Gautam Adani was in third place at \$134.8 billion, with Amazon founder Jeff Bezos fourth at \$111.3 billion.

Arnault also topped the Forbes list for several hours in 2021. His LVMH group, with

Musk's fortune is primarily tied to the share price of Tesla, and the entrepreneur

Musk and Arnault running nearly neck-and-neck. According to



includes dozens of brands including Louis Vuitton, Givenchy, and Kenzo, has continued to post strong revenue and profit growth despite the latest global economic headwinds.

has been at the centre of controversy after having taken over Twitter in late October. The other major wealth ranking compiled by financial data provider Bloomberg also has

Bloomberg's ranking, calculated after US markets closed on Tuesday, had Musk in the lead at \$178.9 billion, followed by Arnault at \$165.1 billion.

Rupee gains 3 paise to close at 82.44 against US dollar

MUMBAI: The rupee consolidated in a narrow range and settled 3 paise higher at 82.44 (provisional) against the US dollar on Thursday, supported by positive domestic equities.

At the interbank foreign exchange market, the local unit opened at 82.34 and touched an intra-day high of 82.26 and a low of 82.47 against the greenback. It finally settled at 82.44, registering a rise of 3 paise over its previous close of 82.47. "Rupee consolidated in a narrow range even after the RBI raised rates by another 35 bps. It lowered its FY23 GDP forecast to 6.8 per cent from 7 per cent," said Gaurang Somaiya, Forex & Bullion Analyst, Motilal Oswal Financial Services.

and quote in the range of 82.20 and 82.80," he added. Meanwhile, the dollar index, which gauges the greenback's strength against a basket of six currencies, advanced 0.29 per cent to 105.40. Global oil benchmark Brent crude futures rose 0.63 per cent to USD 77.66 per barrel.

On the domestic equity market front, the 30-share BSE Sensex advanced 160.00 points or 0.26 per cent to end at 62,570.68, while the broader NSE Nifty gained 48.85 points or 0.26 per cent to 18,609.35. Foreign Institutional Investors (FIIs) were net sellers in the capital markets on Wednesday as they offloaded shares worth Rs 1,241.87 crore, according to exchange data.

5000 patents filed in AI from India alone, says IBM India MD

BENGALURU: In 2023, emerging technologies such as Automation, Artificial Intelligence (AI), 5G/6G, Augmented/Virtual Reality and Robotics will be a game changer and many enterprises are now focusing on these technologies. India can become a considerable force in AI, said experts.

Sandip Patel, Managing Director, IBM India and South Asia said, "If you look at patents, 5,000 patents have been filed in AI from India in the last decade. India is at a point where it can become a considerable force in the area of AI innovation." Speaking at the AI Day event, organised by IBM on Thursday, Patel said that IT buyers are expecting the share of emerging tech to grow by three times

from the present 10% to 30% in the next four to six years, driven by higher efficiency that they are looking for from these technologies.

Recently, Nasscom and BCG released a report that identified 12 emerging technologies such as AR&VR, Autonomous Driving, Autonomous analytics, Space Tech, Smart Robots and 5G/6G, among others. "India can be a superpower in the domain,"



Patel said, stressing on 3As - AI, Analytics and Automation.

Viswanath Ramaswamy, VP, Technology, IBM India and South Asia said a robust ecosystem for AI is being built in India.

"When deployed appropriately, AI and Automation can transform government services, education, healthcare, and business interactions with customers in the upcoming

techade," he said, adding, if data is the oil then AI is the new electricity. Experts also spoke about synthetic data that are computer generated ones that can improve accuracy and mitigate bias and security weaknesses.

About 57% of IT professionals in India report that their organisation has actively deployed AI in their business, and 27% indicate that their organisation is exploring the use of AI, according to IBM's Global AI Adoption Index 2022.

Skilled AI systems can flag anomalous activity that can indicate new threats, and AI will also improve its knowledge over time to better understand cybersecurity threats and cyber risk by consuming billions of data artifacts, they said.

Injured Rohit to consult expert in Mumbai ahead of Tests

New Delhi: Indian skipper Rohit Sharma will fly to Mumbai in order to consult an expert after injuring his thumb in the second ODI against Bangladesh, head coach Rahul Dravid has said.

Rohit left the field as early as the second over after injuring his thumb and didn't return to the field during the Bangladesh innings. The 35-year-old didn't come out to open the innings as well, with Virat Kohli replacing him Shikhar Dhawan's partner at the top. Rohit was sent to a hospital and the subsequent X-ray reports confirmed no fracture, the India captain said about his injury at the post-match presentation. Rohit, with stitches on his thumb, came out to bat right at the end of the Indian innings and almost won the contest for the visitors. Now Rohit's departure to

India for medical consultation has put in doubt his participation in the two Test matches.

"Rohit will certainly miss the next game, fly back to Bombay, consult with an expert and see how it is and whether he can come back for the Test matches or not," Dravid said. "I'm not sure. It's too soon to say that (he'll be fit for the Tests or not).

"I think for him to show that level of courage, he had a serious dislocation, he had to go to hospital to get that set right, stitches in his hand, a couple of injections to go out and bat," Dravid further added on Rohit's unbeaten 51 that came off just 28 balls batting at No.9. "Credit to him, he was really determined to go out and have a go and take a chance and it's amazing how close he got us with that innings, it was an absolutely phenomenal innings by



the skipper. Great courage to be able to go out there and give us a chance. Unfortunately, in the end we couldn't get over the line."

While also confirming that Kuldeep Sen and

Deepak Chahar are out of contention to play the final ODI with injuries, Dravid brushed aside concerns surrounding India's form in ODI cricket following back-to-back series defeats.

"It's a really exciting format," he said. "As you saw in these games it's a terrific format to play. When there's a lot of cricket, you have to prioritise certain formats. For the last couple of

years we've certainly prioritized the T20 format with two World Cups so a lot of our boys haven't played a lot of one-day cricket. Over the next 8-9 months we will be prioritizing one-day cricket a lot and hopefully we will get our full squad to be able to play from the home series in January.

"It's not easy juggling between the three formats but that's the way it is, that's the way we plan. We knew that we'd not be able to play our full squads either in NZ or here because of how tight they were and close they were, especially after coming back from a really hectic 3-4 months of cricket. But hopefully now the white-ball boys will get a little bit of a break while the Test players play the Test matches and we're hoping that once we get to India, we have nine matches in India before

the IPL, so god willing we don't have too many injuries and we can play a settled squad in those nine games."

Despite the erratic form, Dravid managed to find some positives and heaped praise on allrounder Washington Sundar. "Again he (Washington) is someone who has had a lot of injuries last year," Dravid noted. "It's really nice to see the way he's coming back, he's bowled well in both the games and he batted well in New Zealand as well. Here because we wanted to lengthen our batting a little bit and keep that left-right combination going, we promoted Washington. We think that he's a very capable batsman and he can bat really well.

"I think even in this series just to see the way Umran came in and bowled today (was pleasing). Unfortunately

for Kuldeep, he played one game and got injured. He's someone really exciting. There's some good positives in spite of losing the series, two close games in 2-0, we had our opportunities but there's some positives we can take from this series as well. Rahul's batting in the last game, Shreyas' batting in this game, some of the bowling... I thought Siraj was exceptional in the last game. Shardul has bowled particularly well in both the games and Washington as well. Axar's batting today. So there have been bits and pieces there we can take heart from. Of course we're disappointed with the result but there are some positives as we build into the next World Cup and there are a lot of matches to go. So nothing to be disheartened about, things to learn from and hopefully move forward."

MLC to adopt reformist approach to build new stadium in Washington DC

New Delhi: Major League Cricket (MLC) and George Mason University are all set to marry cricket and baseball with a path-breaking dual-purposed stadium in the latter's Fairfax campus about 25 miles from Washington DC. MLC and GMU have entered in an MOU to further study the feasibility of the proposed stadium. It is learnt that the facility will be based on a 15-acre land with a total project cost estimated to the tune of \$20 million. Projected to be operational by 2025, the stadium will play hosts to the Washington DC franchise of the MLC in the summer and the GMU baseball team during the spring. This union between cricket and baseball is a



brainchild of Sanjay Govil, an Indian American tech entrepreneur (Chairman of Infinite Computer Solutions and Zyter) and the owner of MLC's DC franchise. With obvious legal and bureaucratic blockades leading to procuring a cricket stadium with frugality in the cricketing backwaters of America, it took Govil 14 months and personal cash to the

tune of USD 500,000 to zero upon a site for a cricket stadium in DC metro.

"It was an exhaustive process. First of all, in a country like the US, you don't know where to start with for a cricket stadium. There's a lot of red tape. We examined a few state parks but found they have their own limitations. We worked with a host of sports consultants and

eventually found this piece of land right in the premises of one of the most vibrant universities on the east coast. We do have a challenge in terms of design and dimensions of the playing field, but we want to assure the fans that it will be an ICC standard playing field and stadium" said Govil to Cricbuzz.

Govil is not new to the business of sports. He owned the Delhi Acers in the Badminton Premier League. The MLC central equity pool boasts of many bigwigs from the Silicon Valley and it is understood that a vast majority of them vied for the ownership rights for the six franchises. It took Govil to pull a rabbit out of his hat to be bag with the ownership rights of the DC franchise.

Warner withdraws appeal against leadership ban

New Delhi: I am not prepared for my family to be the washing machine for cricket's dirty laundry'

David Warner, the Australian opener, has opted not to challenge Cricket Australia's lifetime ban from leadership position on him, stating that he was not willing to subject his family and his teammates to 'further trauma and disruption.'

Warner, who was banned from his leadership position - then as Australia's vice captain following the ball tampering incident in the Cape Town Test in 2018, announced on Tuesday that he will be retracting his appeal to end the ban. He expressed his disappointment over the manner in which the enquiry was being conducted to prove his position as a corrected



cricketer. "In his submissions, Counselling Assisting made offensive comments about me that absolutely no substantive purpose under the Code of Conduct," Warner wrote. "Regrettably, the Review Panel acted contrary to the submissions of Cricket Australia and my lawyer and appeared to adopt virtually the entire position of Counsel

Assisting. "In effect, Counsel Assisting, and, it appears, to some extent the Review Panel, want to conduct a public trial of me and what occurred during the Third Test at Newlands," Warner wrote. "They want to conduct a public spectacle to, in the Panel's words, have a 'cleansing'. I am not prepared for my family

to be the washing machine for cricket's dirty laundry." Counsel Assisting the Review Panel appeared to be determined to revisit the events of March 2018 and the Review Panel appears determined to expose me and my family to further humiliation and harm by conducting a media circus. "Regrettably, I have no practical alternative at this point in time but to withdraw my application. I am not prepared to subject my family or my teammates to further trauma and disruption by accepting a departure from the way in which my application should be dealt with pursuant to the Code of Conduct.



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