



PM takes metro ride, in Bengaluru

## Odisha CM Writes To Centre Over Pending NH Work, Cites Increasing Accidents And Public Agitation

**Bhubaneswar(KCN):**

Expressing concern over pro-long delay in construction of Cuttack-Angul-Sambalpur National Highway, Chief Minister Naveen Patnaik sought personal intervention of Union Road Transport and Highways Minister Nitin Gadkari for early completion of the project.

Writing a letter to Shri Gadkari, the Chief Minister pointed out that rehabilitation and up-gradation of Cuttack-Angul-Sambalpur Section of NH-55 from Km.0.400 to Km.265 to 4-lane carriageway is being carried out by National Highways Authority of India (NHAI) since 2017.

"It is a matter of great concern that even after more than 5 years, up-gradation work is yet to be completed," he noted.

Stating that the Cuttack-Sambalpur section of NH-55 serves as lifeline to millions of people of the Western Odisha, the CM said,



"H a p h a z a r d construction activities and miserable plight of the road causes frequent accidents leading to loss of human lives."

During the last two years, as many as 399 accidents have taken place causing 196 fatalities, Patnaik pointed out.

The Chief Minister said there is public agitation and discontentment among the people for inordinate delay in completion of the road work. It is worth mentioning that the concern of State Government on this count has also been communicated to the Ministry of Road Transport & Highways earlier,

Though progress of the instant project is being reviewed with the Regional Authorities of NHAI at regular intervals, no satisfactory outcome is visible, he added.

He urged Shri Gadkari to intervene in the matter for early completion of the project which will go a long way in redressing the pending demand of the people of the State.

According to official sources, the four laning work of the Sambalpur-Cuttack NH (265km) has been divided into three packages i.e., Cuttack - Angul (Package-I), Cuttack - Angul (Package-II) and Angul-Sambalpur (Package-III). The works were delayed mainly due to delay in forest clearance, delay in tree cutting in forest stretches, delay in disbursement of land acquisition compensation by CALAs, eviction of structures, removal of government/religious structures.

Besides, Covid-19 pandemic and poor financial management of the EPC contractor are also responsible for the delay. The original project cost of the entire Cuttack-Sambalpur NH stretch is around Rs 3,500 crore. Of which, the cost of Cuttack - Angul (Package-I) is Rs 999 crore, Cuttack - Angul (Package-II) is Rs 991 crore and Angul - Sambalpur (Package-III) is Rs 2491 crore.

## Odisha No.2 In TB Control

**Bhubaneswar(KCN):** Secretary Health and Family Welfare Shalini Pandit said in the just released India TB Report 2023, Odisha has been ranked No. 2 in the country. Odisha amongst major States has excelled for progress in elimination of TB, for the year 2022. She complimented and congratulated to all members of Team Health Odisha whose dedicated efforts made this possible. While Tripura has taken the lead, Odisha has taken effective steps in tackling TB and Telangana stood Third. TB Report 2023 was released here today. Mansukh Mandaviya, Union Minister of Health & Family Welfare said "We have seen the unwavering commitment of Hon. Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi to



end TB in India. We are ready to lead from the front and be voice of the Global South in the collaborative fight against TB." During his address to the 36th Board Meeting of the Stop TB Partnership, here today, Dr Mandaviya stated that "India has identified 3 important health priorities under the G20 Presidency. All of these are focused on universal health coverage and relevant to our response for TB elimination". He added that a lot of "exceptional work is being done at the ground level through innovation in case finding, mathematical modelling, digital interventions and surveillance". "India would be happy to share technical assistance with other countries to replicate such good practices", he stated.

## Tribunal Seeks LiDAR Data

**Bhubaneswar(KCN):** The Mahanadi Water Disputes Tribunal on Saturday directed the National Remote Sensing Centre (NRSC) to furnish LiDAR (Light Detection and Ranging) data for the remaining area of Mahanadi river within two weeks. The Tribunal comprises Chairman A M Khanwilkar and Members Ravi Ranjan and Indermeet Kaur Kochhar heard the

counsel of Odisha and Chhattisgarh on Saturday and passed an order.

During the hearing, on the request of Chhattisgarh, the Tribunal directed the NRSC to make available the LiDAR data. If it is not possible to do so, must provide specific reason(s) as to why such data cannot be made available so that the matter before the Tribunal can proceed on



that basis, the court said. Odisha, on the other hand, submitted that even in absence of further LiDAR data the assessors are free to formulate the delineation mechanism and proceed on the basis of conventional data and

submit a report to the Tribunal. "We appreciate the stand taken by the State parties. We cannot keep on waiting for further data indefinitely. Instead, we would direct the assessors to continue with the analysis of the information for the

purpose of delineation," the court ordered.

Both the States have assured to cooperate with the assessors to enable them to take follow up steps in the light of the observations made in the previous orders including the comments made in joint meeting held on March 22, 2023. The Tribunal and a technical team will make a field in two stretches commencing from the upper part of the basin in

Chhattisgarh and the second stretch from the lower part in Chhattisgarh.

The first stretch of visit will be conducted between April 18 and April 22, 2023 while the second stretch would commence from April 29 and conclude on May 3, 2023.

Further details of the agreed visit plan will be submitted to the Registrar within one week from today.

## "My Name Is Not Savarkar, Won't Apologise": Rahul Gandhi On Disqualification

**New Delhi:** A combative Rahul Gandhi tore into Prime Minister Narendra Modi a day after the top opposition leader was disqualified from parliament. Mr Gandhi claimed the Prime Minister is scared of his next speech and used a Veer Savarkar reference to answer why he didn't apologise over his remarks in London and during the defamation trial in which he was convicted. The BJP, meanwhile,

doubled down on its attack on Mr Gandhi, claiming the Congress was trying to project him as a victim for electoral gains.

"I have been disqualified as the Prime Minister is scared of my next speech. I have seen fear in his eyes. That's why they don't want me to speak in the Parliament," said the Congress leader. Responding on the BJP's calls for apology, he said, "My name is not Savarkar. I am a

Gandhi. I won't apologise." He also denied the BJP's charges that he had sought the intervention of international forces in the domestic affairs of the country. He said he had asked the Speaker to let him respond on the floor of the House to the allegations over his London remarks. "BJP leaders claimed that I am helping anti-India forces. I told the Speaker that it is my right to respond to these allegations. But



he didn't allow me," he said. "I have only one step and that's to fight for truth and to defend democratic nature of

this country. Disqualify me for life, jail me for life, I will continue going." "Do I look worried?"

"I'm excited," said an undeterred Mr Gandhi. In a prompt response, the BJP reiterated its claim that Mr Gandhi insulted Other Backward Communities (OBCs) with his remark on the Modi surname. "He is not the only one, 32 leaders have been disqualified across the country, including six from the BJP. The Congress is trying to project Rahul Gandhi as a victim for

electoral gains in Karnataka," said former Union minister Ravi Shankar Prasad. Mr Gandhi, the leading face of the Congress, was on Thursday convicted in a defamation case by a court in Gujarat, the home state of PM Modi. He was sentenced to two years in jail and consequently, he was disqualified as an MP the next day. He is yet to appeal the verdict in a higher court.

The case stemmed from Mr Gandhi's alleged remark at a 2019 election rally implying PM Modi is a criminal. "How come all thieves have Modi as the common surname," he had said in Karnataka's Kolar, leading to multiple defamation cases being filed against him in various states. The BJP had projected this remark as a smear campaign against those who share the Modi surname and the OBC community.

# Bhubaneswar TB Champions spread awareness through health checkup Camp supported by REACH in Coordination with USS

**Bhubaneswar, (KCN):** The REACH, Odisha has engaged a team of 11 people in 3 Tus (Capital hospital, Sahid Nagar and Patia) Bhubaneswar, who were cured of tuberculosis to spread awareness about its treatment and to get rid of the stigma associated with the disease.

Called "TB Champions" each of them has been appointed by REACH and working in close coordination with District TB Cell, to encourage TB Patients

to complete the treatment for complete recovery from the disease. "Despite our efforts", it was seen that several patients do not complete the six-month course of treatment, which puts both the patient and others around them at risk, Dr Suman Sundarray, District Tuberculosis Officer discussed and said to carry on the health camp which is mobilized for Patharabandha slum near VSS Nagar, Bhubaneswar in a sample basis here to



observe World Tuberculosis Day on Saturday 25th March 2023. With this campaign a health team of 8 people from Utkal Sevak Samaj has joined with the REACH team

and provide the treatment to 60 community people where they send 13 sputum sample for the test. With support of Kalinga TB survivors Network leader S Pooja

and the REACH team Bhubaneswar, all MAS member, SHG group and ASHA of the same community mobilize the needy peoples for a free health check up campaign. With the

effort Dr Reeta Sahoo, REACH and of Director USS Mr. Anwoya Avinab, Dr. Ramakant Barik, Optometrist Debendra Sethy, LT Manoj Mangaraj, Pharmacist

Binayak Behera are the members of health team controlled the situation and provide free health check up are free Doctors consultation, Diabetes and Blood Pressure

Check up, Vision Testing, Sputum Collection and free medicine distribution to those registered by Kalinga TB Survivors Network in their community.

## The Cultural Committee of Rajdhani College, University of Delhi, organizes its 2-day Annual Cultural Fest - "Thunderstruck 2023"



**New Delhi (KCN) :** 23 and 24 March 2023, the Annual Cultural Fest of the College organizes every year its Annual Cultural Fest - "Thunderstruck" that provides a platform to the students to compete and participate in various Inter-college Competitions in Music, Dance, Theatre, Fine Arts and Fashion. Students from various constituent colleges of the University of Delhi and other premier educational institutes of Delhi-NCR participate enthusiastically in these competitions.



The entire program was based upon the theme of connecting the cultural roots of India with the youths. The inaugural session was held on day-1 followed by various competitions. Over 35 teams from various colleges participated in the events, viz. "Noor" the Folk Dance Competition, "Adamyra" the Western Dance Competition, "Sargam" Solo Singing Competition, "Battles of the bands" was the inter college competition for the students music bands from various colleges. Day -1 program ended

with electronic dance music session where the students moved enthusiastically to the beats of music. On the second day of the fest, 'Panache,' the fashion society of the college presented the fashion show that proved a remarkable program for the students. Fourteen teams participated in the fashion show. The event was based on social theme 'save tradition-save girl child'. Parallel to this

program, "Kolahal" - the Nukkad Natak Competition, was also organized that marked the presence of 15 teams. The painting competition named "Ridge": Brush the Fabric" was also organized by the students. The Tasveer Society of the college presented "Pixel Prize" that showcase the art of clicking impactful and theme based photography. At the end of the day, Star Night was organized. During the event, Sukh-E, the star singer, was the central attraction. His team entertained students over 1 hour. More than 15000 students gathered in college ground and witnessed the memorable event. Professor Rajesh Giri, Principal of the college, thanked the student for successful and smooth conduct of program and wider participation. It was concluded with vote of thanks by the Cultural Committee convener Shafiqul Alam.

## Glowing Tribute Paid to Prof. Sarat Kumar Nayak

**Cuttack/Bhubaneswar, (KCN):** Glowing tribute was paid to Late Prof. Sarat Kumar Nayak, former Head of the Department and Professor of Economics in Ravenshaw University. Participating in a condolence meeting held at Cuttack Club, hundreds of Prof. Nayak's students, colleagues, family members, relatives and well wishers expressed deep sorrows over his sad demise and recounted their sweet memories with him. They threw light on Prof. Nayak's tangible contribution in improving education system of Odisha. They prayed almighty to rest his immortal soul in permanent peace and provide strength to family members to bear this tragic and colossal loss. Prof. Nayak expired on the holy day of Holi Purnima on 8th March 2023. He was actively associated with the programmes and activities of several socio cultural institutions till his death. He was the Secretary of Ravenshaw - 70 alumni Association. Widely acknowledged as a top ranking economist, Prof. Nayak's analytical observations on central and State budgets used to be



covered in headlines of Newspapers. Galaxy of Distinguished Dignitaries present and paid their profound homage during memorial prayer include State Food, Civil Supplies & Co - operative Minister Atanu Sabyasachi Nayak, retired Justice Bimal Prasad Das Editor, Sambad, Soumya Ranjan Patnaik, Former Vice - Chancellor Harekrishna Satpathy, Literateurs Dr Gobind Bhuyan, Dr Nabaghan Parida, Natabar Khuntia, Dr Natabar Satpathy, CEO of Shushruta Hospital Chidatmika Khatua, Convenor Bhasha Andolan Pabitra Maharatha, Jahabananda Kumar Das, Sushant Kumar

Das, Nishikant Mishra, Senior Bureaucrats Kulamani Rout, Subash Chandra Swain, Dr Malay Kumar Mohanty and Dr Jayant Kumar Panda. A Souvenir entitled 'Smrutire Sarat' was released during the occasion by the Invited Guests. Noted Singer Anindita Das enthralled the audiences with her soul soothing devotional songs. Prof. Dr. Sanjay Kumar Samantray conducted the proceedings of the meeting smoothly. Prominent personalities condoled the death of Prof. Nayak include World Odisha Society's Chairman Kishore Dwibedi, IIPM's Director Dr. Arundhati Debi Odisha Society U.K.'s General Secretary Siba

Ranjan Biswal, Founder of Mahakankhya Foundation Pushpanjali Barik, President of Vijayani Foundation Reeta Patra. Family Members, who co-ordinated and managed the entire arrangements starting from cremation at Swargadwara, religious rituals and memorial functions include Late Prof. Nayak's wife Bharati Nayak, two Daughters Banojini and Tapaswini, Son - in - Laws Captain Chiranjeev Swain and Ansuman Khuntia, Brothers Pravakar Nayak and Antarjyami Nayak Nephews Dr Amarendra Nayak, Dr Bikash Chandra Nayak, Salil Bhadra, Sagar Bhadra and Grand daughter Ayesha Swain.

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## Karan Johar reviews 'The Romantics', asks Aditya Chopra if he can share their personal pictures clicked over the decades

The 'Romantics', which released on OTT on the occasion of Valentine's Day, has received an emotional review from Karan Johar. He confessed to binge-watching the four episode long docu series, which got him thinking about old school filmmaking.

"I realised the purity, the innocence and the conviction we all collectively had...is so lost today for most of us.... Yash Chopra is not

just a legend of romance ... a connoisseur of chiffton, music and beauty... a maestro of musicals... he was also a pillar of belief and conviction... is there any conviction left today? We are burdened by media commentary... box office opening analytics, research engines ( all probably relevant to the technology and times) but where did good old fashioned conviction vanish," shared Karan Johar.



He went on to state how the series made him reflect on his own journey and added, "The rom doc reminds us of the past that seemed so organic and



heartfelt.... Makes me want to go back to that zone of filmmaking .... I am so deeply inspired by the YRF story... it's

origin and it's journey.... Having learnt everything I know from the corridors of the studio I stand blessed and watching The Romantics made me so self aware ... of my strengths and my failings.... Thank you @smritimundhra for weaving a narrative out of the archives and actually making an audience go through the many emotional beats through the 4 episodes...just brilliant!"

Paying an ode to

Chopra scions, Aditya and Uday, KJo added, "And finally my Best friend has a face and how beautifully articulate was he!!! Adi does that mean I can post all the images we have shared over decades that you have threatened to never speak to me if I put out ??? #justasking #loveyouAdi congratulations to my dearest friend @udayc for being such a force behind this."

## 'Gully Boy' to 'Darlings'- Vijay Varma has come a long way

Gully Boy, India's official entry to the Oscars celebrates 4 years today, and while the film was highly celebrated for its impactful performances, it was dark horse Vijay Varma who stood for the sheer potential he showed and for holding his own despite the strong and established cast.

The actor was praised for his performance as Moeen Arif, and his portrayal instantly caught the attention of audiences and critics alike. From thereon, Vijay continued to impress with web series' like A Suitable Boy, She and Mirzapur 2 and Ok Computer, all of which he won rave reviews for. But it was finally with Darlings, that Vijay



Varma cemented his position as the 'King of Grey' as his character 'Hamza' was yet another example of Vijay's incredible prowess as a performer who constantly raises the bar with every project he takes on. Critics spoke about how Vijay 'nailed

the character', 'was like a chameleon', 'terrific and absolutely scintillating' making audiences feel the dread that Badru (Alia Bhatt) felt everytime his character Hamza came home. From being a supporting cast

alongside Alia Bhatt in Gully Boy to being a parallel lead opposite her in her production Darlings, the actor has come a long way in the last 4 years and his journey has been nothing short of inspiring.

It's no surprise then that after his phenomenal performance in the film, he is now part of some of the most exciting theatrical and OTT content including Sujoy Ghosh's untitled next alongside Kareena Kapoor Khan, Reema Kagi's Fallen and Sumit Saxena's untitled project that took almost 100 days of immersive, relentless work. Each of these are versatile and challenging but nothing that the actor can't pull off!

## Samantha Ruth Prabhu Climbs 600 Steps Barefoot, Prays to Palani Murugan



Samantha Ruth Prabhu climbed 600 steps of the Palani Murugan temple in Tamil Nadu on February 13 draped in an all-white churidar-kurta and offered prayers at the temple.

She also lit a camphor diya and tweeted on the same. She was



accompanied by her 'Jaanu' movie director C. Premkumar and other friends. The actor, who suffers from Myositis, an autoimmune disease condition that causes acute muscular pain, has started shooting for the web series 'Citadel' in which she shares screen space with Bollywood

actor Varun Dhawan. 'Citadel' is the Indian version of the international sci-fi action web series of the same name created by the Russo Brothers. In the international series, Priyanka Chopra plays the lead.

The Indian web series is directed by the

director duo Raj and DK, who had helmed the popular web series, 'The Family Man', in which Samantha played the role of Raji, a Sri Lankan Tamil militant.

She had recently tweeted: "I am thrilled to be part of this brilliant universe conceptualised by the Russo Brothers AGBO. I am also looking forward to working with Varun for the first time. He is someone who is full of life and cheer when you are around him." Samantha is awaiting the release of her Telugu mythological movie 'Shakunthalam' in which she shares the screen with Prakash Raj and Dev Mohan. The movie is to be released on April 14.

## Success of Shah Rukh Khan's Pathaan is the victory of the age-old, exploitative, nepotistic top-heavy system, says Vivek Agnihotri



The Kashmir Files director Vivek Agnihotri, who had previously criticised Pathaan amid the controversy over the Besharam Rang song, recently credited Shah Rukh Khan for the success of the Siddharth Anand directorial. However, he said in the podcast, "They will go back to their fundamental beliefs that audience is an idiot and you just need star power and lot of marketing hype to make a film successful."

"After Pathaan, I have a feeling that everybody will fall back to the same old system because Pathaan's success is the success or in today's environment I would choose the word victory. It's the victory of the age-old, exploitative, nepotistic top-heavy system," he added.

The filmmaker further said that Pathaan's success should also be credited to those who threatened to boycott the film and made 'stupid statements' against it. He said that the film's promotions had turned into a political campaign, adding that Pathaan worked purely because of SRK's charisma and his fan following.

"The way he marketed it, the way he took it on his shoulders 'that, okay it's my film and I am responsible for it' which is pretty good. I also think that some credit should also go to people who were making stupid statements against the film and people who were unnecessarily protesting and asking for boycott and these are different people from regular 'Boycott Bollywood' gang," he said.

Pathaan has now become the highest grossing film in the history of Hindi cinema. The movie has grossed Rs 901 crore worldwide. While it has grossed Rs 558 crore in India, it has raked in Rs 343 crore in the overseas market.

The movie also features Deepika Padukone, John Abraham in the lead, followed by Dimple Kapadia, Ashutosh Rana and others in pivotal roles.

Speaking about the immense success of 'Pathaan', Shah Rukh Khan had shared "The four years that I had... Covid had good and bad parts. I didn't work. I was with my children. I saw them grow up. My last film had not worked and people had said my movies now won't work. So, I thought of an alternate career: cooking Italian. In these four days, I've forgotten my last four years."

## Ricky Kej Enjoys Indian Meal in Los Angeles as he Celebrates Grammy win With 'Guru' Stewart Copeland

Bengaluru-based Indian music composer and producer Ricky Kej, who recently won his career's third Grammy award, has shared how he celebrated his win with his "guru, older brother and dear friend" Stewart Copeland. Taking to Twitter, he posted a picture of him and Copeland eating an Indian meal. Along with the picture, he wrote,

"This is how my guru, older brother and dear friend Stewart Copeland and I celebrated our win :-). An Indian meal in Los Angeles.. just the two of us. So grateful for him in my life." Kej won the Grammy on Monday for his 'Divine Tides' album, which was nominated in the Best Immersive Audio Album category. He won the trophy alongside



Copeland, who is a rock legend. The result was announced at the live ceremony held at the Crypto.com arena in Los Angeles, USA. This song was Kej's collaborative project with Copeland and they bagged another Grammy for Best New Age Album in 2022. The composer also won for his 2015 album, 'Winds of Samsara.'

## Referring Questions of Law to Larger Benches is in Ignorance of the Doctrine of Stare Decisis



It is said that even Homer nods at times, meaning that sometimes even very eminent and scholarly men err, for, to err is human. Lord Halsbury, known for his monumental work titled "Halsbury's Laws of England", in London Street Tramways Co. v. London County Council [1898] AC 375 (HL), had held that House of Lords is bound by its own decisions. That was a great deviation from the view hitherto then in force that no precedent is absolutely binding, but is only a guidance. Justinian, known for his great work called "Corpus Juris Civilis", so too Chief Justice Edward Coke and Blackstone known for their works "Institutes of the Laws of England" and "Commentaries on the Laws of England", respectively, only contemplated that not the judgment, but the principle evolved in a judgment, the ratio decidendi, will be applicable to future cases as a precedent, the principle being stare decisis et non quieta movere: "to stand by decisions and not disturb the undisturbed." In a legal context, this is understood to mean that courts should generally abide by precedents and not disturb settled matters.

2. When Halsbury delivered the judgment in the case of London Street Tramways Co., no judgment was treated as a legislation or in substitution of a legislation. What was the precedent is the principle, if any, which a Court has evolved for the first time for resolution of the controversy before it for which no principle was available. Halsbury was such a tall figure that his decision that the House of Lords shall be bound by its own decisions was not questioned by anyone; there was no occasion for it as his view did not create any difficulty because what was a precedent was the reason for the decision and nothing else.

3. In the Government of India Act of 1935, it was expressly provided that the ratio decidendi of the judgment of the Federal Court and Privy Council shall be binding on all Courts and Tribunals within the territory of British India. The Constituent Assembly incorporated Section 212 of the Government of India Act in the Constitution of India, though it was worded differently. Article 141 of the Constitution reads thus: "141. Law declared by Supreme Court to be binding on all courts- The law declared by the Supreme Court shall be binding on all courts within the territory of India."

But for Article 141, the law would have been simple, offering no difficulty even for a common man to comprehend. Chief Justice Edward Coke said that law is reason. The concept of precedent also is nothing but

reason, namely, the 'reason' for a decision which a superior Court has adopted to be binding on coordinate Courts and subordinate Courts. However, we understood and interpreted Article 141 differently from what it ought to be in jurisprudence. In actual practice, we forgot the concept that what is a precedent is the 'reason' for the decision, namely, the principle, if any, which the superior Court has evolved for resolution of a dispute before it, and the 'reason' for the decision when repeatedly applied by superior Courts become settled principles. Our Judges misunderstood Article 141 as the power to legislate, and each sentence and word of a judgment became the law of the land. The concept of the 'reason' for the decision being repeatedly applied and thus assuming great authenticity was forgotten and our lawyers and Judges treated the latest decision on a subject as the binding one.

4. When Judges started legislating, completely misunderstanding the scope of Articles 141 and 142, a new era of large number of judgments, which cannot stand together, conflicting with each other, became the order of the day. The new practice of referring cases to larger Benches, because two judgments are in conflict, both involving no particular legal principle, became very common.

5. What is stated above could be said as the preface to the scenario leading to the constitution of a Five-Judge Bench to

### Mathews J. Nedumpara

authoritatively decide which of the interpretation given by two different Three-Judge Benches of the Supreme Court about Section 24(2) of the Land Acquisition Act is the correct one. In Pune Municipal Corporation case, 2014, a Three-Judge Bench headed by Justice R M Lodha took the view that merely because the Government has deposited with the court the compensation amount to be paid to the land holders whose property was acquired, their right is not lost if the property is not utilized for the purpose for which it is acquired, but only if they have accepted the compensation. In 2018, another Three-Judge Bench headed by Shri Justice Arun Mishra in Indore Development Authority took a contrary view holding that the judgment rendered by the earlier Three-Judge Bench is per incuriam. A Bench headed by Justice Lokur wrongly faulted Shri Justice Arun Mishra for taking the said view observing that he was bound by the earlier decision in the Pune case. Justice Arun Mishra was unfairly accused of judicial impropriety. On the very next day, Justice Mishra, taking note of the observation of Justice Lokur, requested the Chief Justice of India to refer the issue for consideration of a larger Bench. The Hon'ble CJI accordingly constituted a Five-Judge Bench headed by Justice Arun Mishra. When the said Bench assembled to hear the question, which was referred to it, some associations of farmers sought recusal by Shri Justice Mishra on the

premise that His Lordship has already taken a view on the subject and, therefore, it is inappropriate for him to head the Bench, a proposition which has no foundation in jurisprudence.

6. I am afraid to say that the entire controversy has its root in the failure to be kept abreast of the first principles of jurisprudence. We forget very simple things; we are not often thorough enough about the concepts like res judicata, stare decisis, res inter alios, nullity, etc. The practice of referring a case to a larger Bench for decision on important questions of law is in ignorance of the first principles. As I said at the outset, law is reason, not numbers, at least when it comes to stare decisis. The number has relevance only when a Bench of three or more Judges decides a case and the judgment constitutes to be res judicata. If a Bench of three Judges is to decide a case between A and B, what matters is not the validity of the reason offered by the Judges, but who are in majority. The majority decision as res judicata will prevail, no matter right or wrong. This principle which is only applicable to res judicata, we have been applying erroneously to the doctrine of stare decisis. We did not accept the minority view in A K Gopalan's case as stare decisis because we got confused with the distinct concepts of res

judicata and stare decisis. To repeat, so far as res judicata is concerned, all that matters is the majority view. On the contrary, so far as the doctrine of stare decisis is concerned, it is not the majority view which ought to matter, but the 'reason' for the decision. If reason for the decision is understood as the meaning of Article 141 and is followed in actual practice, we will be freed from the slavery and absurdity of needing to search for the law applicable from the thousands and thousands of judgments, reported and unreported and groping in darkness, not knowing what the law is. The majority view if rendered per incuriam will bind none, not even its authors and the minority if not per incuriam is binding as a precedent. The doctrine of res judicata often would mean injustice because unless we accept an erroneous decision of a court, acting within its jurisdiction, in conformity with the principles of natural justice and not involving any violation of the express statutory provisions as final, authoritative and binding, there can be no end to litigation - interest reipublicae ut sit finis litium (it is to the interest of the state that there be a limit to litigation). The doctrine of res judicata is a necessary evil. If we misunderstand stare decisis for res judicata, which is what we are doing when we advocate that judgments of a larger bench on a reference, like the instant case, be followed would

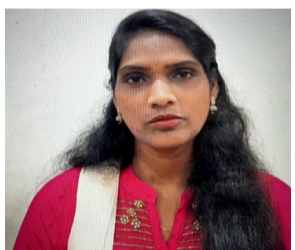
mean that persons who were not parties to a case too ought to suffer the irrational judgements of larger benches. We have suffered enough, for instance the Judges-2 case by which the Collegium system was established, because of Kesavananda Bharathi, PILs are filed claiming no fundamental right being violated but violation of the basic structure. The government could not establish a National Tax Tribunal because some lawyers could get it quashed alleging violation of basic structure. The worst instance in my mind is the quashing of the NJAC because certain "eminent" lawyers pleaded that it is in conflict with the Judges-2 case, which was nothing but the re-writing of the Constitution without the authority of the Parliament. The earlier we realize that, saying law is not reason but brutal majority would be insanity, the better.

7. A strict adherence to the concept of ratio decidendi would mean the principle employed in arriving at a decision and nothing else. Lawyers practising in subordinate Courts understand this principle better than those practising in the Supreme Court, for, when judgments of the Supreme Court, which are contrary to each other, are placed before a Munsiff, he has no option to refer the issue to a larger Bench but to decide it relying upon the various judgments placed before him, which carry the appropriate principle to be applied.

8. Those who agree with me will concede that the concept of stare decisis, which is embodied in Article 141, would mean that the principle which the superior Court has evolved and applied in resolving an issue before it is what is applicable to the coordinate Bench or subordinate Courts as a precedent and that the strength of the Bench does not matter at all, only the principle employed. I am sure that vast majority of my brothers and sisters would agree with me that legal principles are not discovered every day and every moment like new planets and moons orbiting the other galaxies forming part of the Milky Way. I am unable to think of even a single principle which the Supreme Court has evolved for the first time during its existence for the last 70 years which never ever existed for resolution of an issue before it which could act as a precedent, except the much hallowed doctrine of basic structure, which is founded on sand, being in conflict with the first principle of jurisprudence, ubi jus, ibi remedium - where there is a right there is a remedy - right, remedy and forum. Constituting Constitutional Benches of five or seven Judges is extremely counter-productive, for, it will cement the erroneous concept that precedent means numbers and not the reason for the decision or the principle employed. The earlier we repeal Article 141, the better for our legal system.

Senior Advocate

## Cured me – it will cure you too!



Like other chronic illnesses, TB has a diversity of effects on a person. In addition to its clinical symptoms, TB can affect a person's capacity to earn a living. In many instances, stigma may result in TB patients being shunned by their relatives or co-workers. People of all genders experience major barriers to accessing and receiving healthcare in both the public and the private sectors due to gender differences and inequality. TB patients experience stigma regardless of their gender or social standing. However, women are frequently compelled to receive treatment in secret and constantly live in fear of others learning about their illnesses. In addition, women experience humiliation and exclusion from their own families, friends, and in-laws.

In India tuberculosis is a serious public health concern. The WHO TB statistics for India for 2021 give an estimated incidence figure of

2,590,000 million cases. This is a rate of 188 per 100,000 population. Revised National TB Control Program was renamed NTEP in the year 2020 with the aim of eliminating TB by 2025. In line with the goal of ending TB by 2025, the government of India has rolled out National Strategic Plan for TB elimination.

Laxmi," Maine TB ko 3 baar feel kiya hai, vo bahut dangerous hai, parr ye hai ek curable disease hai bass dawai theek se khaiye, cough hygiene rakhie, discrimination matt rakhie aur ukse sath nutritional support bahut zaroori hai"

This story is about 38-year-old Laxmi Maharana who survived TB thrice in her life and is now working as a TB champion with REACH. Laxmi belongs to low socio-economic strata residing in a non-registered slum in Bhubaneswar of Bhubaneswar in a house of two rooms with her mother, father, younger sister, elder brother, and sister-in-law. The set-up of these non-registered slums comprises small housing conditions with no or little space for ventilation in the houses, common toilets shared

by many people, and open defecation, with no essential healthcare services or frontline workers in a punctilious manner which makes the population of such areas to be more vulnerable and exposed to diseases like TB with little knowledge about the signs, symptoms, and treatment of the diseases and people are even unaware of the Government schemes or programs that are functional to address the diseases like TB.

Belonging to a low economic family she was an active bread earner with jobs in a call centre, and service receptionist before she contracted TB.

Laxmi first contracted TB in 2018 and was diagnosed with Type 1 diabetes in the same year, she described her symptoms as a dry cough persisting for more than 15 days, consistent weight loss and chest pain. Unaware of the disease symptoms she took many medications including cough syrups to treat the cough but nothing was effective, then she was advised by her younger sister to take a consultation at the AIIMS Hospital,



Bhubaneswar where she described her symptoms and was advised for Chest X-Ray and CBNAAT which confirmed that she was a pulmonary TB patient and then was advised to contact with one of the TB health activists who aided her with the TB treatment at the nearest Bharatpur PHC dispensary.

Laxmi," Mujhe itna chest pain ho raha tha ki mujhe laga ki mai marr jaungi, bahut depression hota hai."

When Laxmi learned about her disease, she did not tell anyone including her family about it except her younger sister, as she had this self-stigma that if anyone knows about it, they will treat her differently and explicitly her elder brother will be very furious, so she underwent the treatment secretly for 6 months so no one knows about it.

Laxmi," Hum joint family may rehte hai toh maine kisi ko nahi bataya, mujhe sbse zyada apne bhaiya se darr lag raha tha kyunki agar usko pata chalta ki mujhe TB hai toh mujhe gaali deta ki mai ye beemari apne job se ghum ghum ke lekar aayi hu aur mujhe firr job nahi karne deta. Mai isliye dawai bhi DOTS center se chup chup kar laati thi jisse kisi ko pata nahi chale meri TB ka."

As no one knew about her disease she had to do the daily household chores including cooking, and cleaning which she used to do by covering her nose and mouth as a precaution.

Laxmi," Mai jb soo rhi thi, humare pass zyada room nahi hai bss 2 room hai toh mai apna nose and mouth dhak kr

soo rhi thi aur jo sputum aa rha tha use ek dibbe mai store kr rhi thi jisse koi aur infect nahi ho jaae aur apna khana alag se khati thi aur apna bartan garam paani mao dhul kr rkhti thi."

Laxmi was also fearful of haemoptysis (blood in cough) when she learnt that she was suffering from TB due to some experience of her relative suffering from the same condition who eventually died of it.

tested positive for the disease and was allocated to same the treatment supporter as the first time. The disease's relapse was due to earlier irregular consumption of the medications.

This time she was prescribed injectable medications for fifteen to twenty days followed by oral tablets. As she was diabetic and a TB patient, she underwent persistent

weight loss and did not have any nutritional support due to the financial crisis.

After six months of her treatment, Laxmi's father contracted TB, it was then that AIIMS hospital called and asked every member of the family to take the Montoux test. But her brother and sister-in-law refused to take the test.

Laxmi," Mere bhaiya bhabhi test nahi karwae bole ki humare pass time nahi jab TB hoga tab dekha jayega"

After 2-3 months of her father's treatment completion of the disease, Laxmi contracted TB from him in July 2021 with symptoms including persistent fever for more than one month, diarrhoea and severe weight loss (10-12kgs).

The third time she took proper precautions like living in a different room, covering her mouth and nose with a mask, Laxmi "Mai alag kamre mai rehti thi, meri mummy khana bana kr laati thi aur mai pooram samay apna face mask laga kr rakhti thi."

Laxmi is working with REACH since 2019 on the SINI project. She is now working as a TB champion with KTSN and CAAP, educating the patients and creating

community awareness regarding the signs, symptoms, and treatment of the disease, supporting them not only with treatment but also psychologically so that they can surpass the disease without any fear and stigma and giving TB patients livelihood training so that they can earn their bread while combating the disease.

Laxmi," Mujhe jab TB hua tha mujhe kuch emotional support nahi mila tha koi visit nahi kia tha jaise ki health visitor ya TB survivor ya TB champion, lekin jab ma baaki patients ko ye emotional support deti hu, unki family ko counsel karti h mujhe bht accha lagta hai, main ahi chahuti ki koi aur wo suffer kare jo maine kia hai"

The stigma associated with TB and the false beliefs about TB affects the patient's mental health. People have occasionally committed suicide as a result of crippling depression. Giving counselling and social assistance to someone who has TB is crucial. A person with TB needs support from family, friends, and neighbours during treatment. A strong support network helps save someone with TB from succumbing to depression and abandoning their therapy.

# Delhi Akali chief condemns AAP government's high-handedness against Sikhs in Punjab

**NEW Delhi (KCN):** Akali chief Paramjit Singh Sarna has strongly denounced the Punjab government of Aam Aadmi Party for with-hunting practising Sikhs and initiated Sikhs, harassing them, searching them and targetting Akali supporters in the name of a police crackdown on Bhai Amritpal Singh and his supporters. This is a clear case of gross human rights violation and high-handedness towards the Sikhs," Sarna said. Such repressive measures by



the government, he cautioned, will only lead to resentment among the Sikh community and will further fuel the communal divide and social unrest in Punjab.

The Punjab government must immediately stop its oppressive tactics and respect the rights of the Sikh community. I urge the Punjab government to take into consideration the sentiments of the Sikh community and refrain from using coercive tactics to suppress their voices. Sarna condemned the Punjab government for targeting Akali supporters in their crackdown on Bhai Amritpal Singh and his supporters. The government, he said, should not be allowed

to infringe upon the constitutional rights and fundamental freedoms of the people. The Punjab government must take into consideration the feelings of the Sikhs and respect their rights and freedom," Sarna remarked. The Sikh community has always been an integral part of India and has contributed immensely to the country's progress. The Punjab government must respect this and not take any steps that can lead to social unrest and communal disharmony, Sarna said.

# 25 Years of Driving Force behind Neighbourhood Cooperation Conference in Kolkata



**Kolkata, (Partha Roy):** Two days 2nd ISCS BIMSTEC Conference is being organised in Kolkata on 25th & 26th March 2023 to deliberate on various policy issues that can promote multilateral cooperation among BIMSTEC nations. Bangladesh, Bhutan, India, Myanmar, Nepal, Sri Lanka, and Thailand comprise the Bay of Bengal Initiative for Multi-Sectoral Technical and Economic Cooperation (BIMSTEC). The Conference was opened by Shri Rajkumar Ranjan Singh Minister of State, Ministry of External Affairs, Government of India in presence of Mr. Tenzin Lekphell Secretary General BIMSTEC Secretariat Dhaka, Bangladesh and Shri Arindam Mukherjee

Director, ISCS (Institute of Social And Cultural Studies), India. Two days meet is holding sessions on Transport Connectivity, Food Security, Climate Change, Educational Cooperation, Cultural Exchanges and Civilizational Linkages, People to People to connect. Ambassador of Myanmar Mr. Moe Kyaw Aung, Dr. Rajdeep Roy Member of Parliament, Lok Sabha India, Mr. Thiam Hee Ng Asian Development Bank representative, Additional Secretary of MEA, Shri N. G. Khaitan President of Bharat Chamber of Commerce, Consul General of Thailand, Ms. Minakshi Misra Zonal Director ICCR Kolkata, diplomatic representatives and large

no. of top policy Researchers from different BIMSTEC nations are attending the Conference. Shri Arindam Mukherjee, Director ISCS stressed MEA decision to host this BIMSTEC nations meet in Kolkata is laudable as Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi is promoting "ACT EAST" policy as a part of Indian foreign policy. Shri Arindam Mukherjee also highlighted that session on Food Security is being organised as a part of BIMSTEC nations policy cooperation and collaboration deliberation as India can play major role in ensuring food security for BIMSTEC nations in evolving food security challenges due to changing global climate, political & economic scenes.

# "Karnataka Has Decided To Bring Back Double Engine Government": PM Modi

**Devanagere:** Amid attempts by Opposition leaders to rally in support of Congress leader Rahul Gandhi following his disqualification as a member of the Lok Sabha on Friday, Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Saturday said the BJP has transformed the 'Politics of Perception' in the country into the 'Politics of Performance', adding that the country had been mired in "dirty politics" for years. Rahul Gandhi's was disqualified from the Lower House followed his conviction in a 2019 criminal defamation case. Addressing the Vijaya Sankalp Yatre Maha Sangama at Devanagere in poll-bound Karnataka on Saturday, PM Modi said, "Our country had been mired in dirty politics for years. What prevailed in the country then was the



politics of allegation and blame game. But since coming to power, the BJP has transformed the 'Politics of Perception' in the country into the 'Politics of Performance'." Taking the attack to the Opposition in the southern state, which the BJP considers as its gateway to the South, PM Modi said, "Karnataka saw and suffered opportunistic and selfish governments for a long time, which affected its

progress. That is why a stable government of the BJP is the need of the hour, in the interest of the state's development." "Karnataka has made up its mind to bring back the double-engine government in the state. The BJP has put development on fast-track. Therefore, the need of the hour is for the BJP to return to power in the interest of taking Karnataka to development and prosperity," he added. Launching a scathing

attack on the Congress, he said, "BJP wants to make Karnataka the driving force for a developed India. However, the Congress sees Karnataka as merely a means to fill the pockets of some of its leaders." "Congress says 'Modi Teri Qabr Khudegi' but they don't know that the people of Karnataka have a dream, which is 'Modi Tera Kamal Khilega,'" the PM Modi added. He said, "Our (Karnataka)

government has been empowering the Dalits, poor, women and the oppressed sections. Ours has been a pro-poor government." Before the rally, PM Modi held a mega road show during which a huge crowd lined the streets chanting his name and showering him with petals. The term of the existing Karnataka Assembly is due to expire on May 24. An official announcement of the poll schedule by the Election Commission is expected soon. The ruling BJP and the Opposition Janata Dal (Secular) have already intensified their poll campaigns in the southern state. The polls are being seen as an acid test for the beleaguered Congress, which is desperate to turn around its electoral fortune ahead of next year's Lok Sabha polls.

# Finance Minister Asks Indian Banks To Assess Risks Amid Global Financial Crisis

**New Delhi:** Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman has asked state-run banks to assess various financial health parameters amid turbulence across the global banking sector. After a meeting with chiefs of state-run banks in New Delhi on Saturday, the finance ministry said in a statement that lenders have been asked to identify stress points,

including "concentration risks and adverse exposures". Ahead of the meeting, the government had sought details of the bond portfolios of these banks, Reuters reported. Banks should safeguard themselves from any potential financial shock, the finance minister told bankers according to the statement. "All the major financial parameters indicate stable and resilient

public sector banks," the statement added. Indian lenders are capable of enduring any potential contagion effects emanating from the US banking turmoil, S&P Global Ratings said this week. "Strong funding profiles, a high savings rate, and government support are among the factors that bolster the financial institutions we rate," the rating agency said.

# Train Line To Kashmir For The 1st Time By December: Rail Minister



**Srinagar:** Kashmir valley will finally be connected with the rest of country through train service by the end of this year or early next year. The Railway Ministry is also making a special Vande Bharat train compatible with the weather and cold conditions in the region. "By December this year or January-February next year, the

train will chug," Railway Minister Ashwani Vaishnav said. He is in Kashmir valley to review work on the Udampur-Baramulla rail link project, which includes India's highest railway bridge along the Chenab river. An engineering marvel, the Chenab rail bridge is 359 metres above the river bed, which is 35 meters higher than the Eiffel Tower.

The single arch railway bridge is already completed and trial run on this was carried out a few days ago. The Railway Minister said they will make special Vande Bharat trains that can run in extreme cold and snowy conditions in Kashmir valley. "For Jammu and Kashmir, a special design Vande Bharat train is being made. We have factored in temperature and snowfall here. The train is being manufactured accordingly. It will have heating systems and other facilities. By mid of next year this train will be here in Kashmir valley," Mr Vaishnav said.



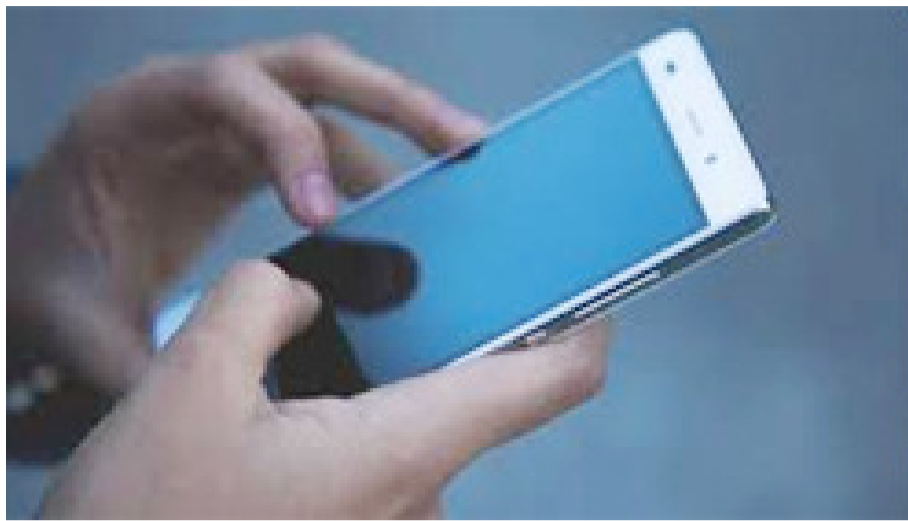
The Union Minister for Home Affairs and Cooperation, Shri Amit Shah accorded a guard of honour on his visit to Jagdalpur, in Chhattisgarh

# No Mobile In 5770 Villages

**New Delhi:** The Government of India is campaigning for Digital India and started rolling out 5G services in big cities. However, 5770 villages in Odisha yet to get basic mobile network connectivity. As per information given by Union IT and Electronics & Communication Minister Ashwini Vaishnaw in Rajya Sabha on Friday, out of 51,176 villages in Odisha, 45,406 villages have mobile

network connectivity. Which means, 5770 villages in the State are deprived of mobile connectivity. Most of the unconnected villages are located in districts like Gajapati, Kalahandi, Kandhamal, Koraput and Rayagada.

While replying to a question of BJD MP Sulata Deo, the IT Minister said Government and Telecom Service Providers (TSPs) provide



telecommunication connectivity in the country in a phased manner. Government through funding from Universal Service Obligation Fund (USOF) is

implementing various schemes for providing mobile network coverage in all uncovered villages of the country including Odisha, he said.

The USOF 4G Saturation Scheme to cover 24,680 uncovered villages with 4G and 6,279 villages having 2G/3G connectivity are to be upgraded to 4G

with an estimated cost of Rs. 26,316 crore, Shri Vaishnaw said.

Similarly, he said, provision of 4G mobile connectivity has been made for 7,287 villages in Aspirational Districts of Andhra Pradesh, Chhattisgarh, Jharkhand, Maharashtra and Odisha.

The estimated cost for projects is Rs. 6466 crore.

Under the LWE Phase-I scheme, 2,343 mobile towers

have been installed in LWE areas including Odisha. Provision for upgradation of LWE Phase-I from 2G to 4G has also been made with an estimated cost of Rs. 3567 crore.

Similarly, Under LWE Phase-II scheme, 2,542 mobile towers at identified locations are approved across the LWE States for provision of 4G mobile services by the Ministry of Home Affairs (MHA). The Centre will spend around Rs. 2211 crore

towards this project, he said.

Moreover, different schemes have been made to provide mobile connectivity in other states, the Minister said.

BharatNet project was launched to create a network to connect all the Gram Panchayats and villages with broadband infrastructure. The total funding of the BharatNet (Phase-I and Phase-II), approved by the Cabinet, is Rs 42,068 crores.

## Odisha Signs Another MoU With PMSRF For Free Medical Treatment To Cardiac Patients



**Bhubaneswar(KCN):** Odisha Government has signed an MoU with Prashanti Medical Services & Research Foundation (PMSRF) for providing world class medical treatment free of cost to patients suffering from cardiac ailments.

The MoU has been inked for two years from 21.2.2023 to 20.2.2025 for the third term, a release stated today.

As per the agreement, the PMSRF shall organise free screening camp for children at district hospitals/medical colleges or at any other suitable venue

to examine, confirm and categorise the suspected paediatric cardiac cases and provide feasible diagnostic facilities at the screening site (including Echo) free of cost.

The PMSRF shall provide treatment to the identified patients being referred by the Health and Family welfare Department, Government of Odisha, for congenital cardiac defects at its hospitals at free of cost. Annually, around 500 children and 500 Adults referred by Odisha Government shall be provided free surgery by PMSRF.

The children between

age group of 3 months to 18 years will be treated at Sri Sathya Sai Heart Hospital in Ahmedabad. The Adults in 19-65 years age group will be treated at Sri Sathya Sai Heart Hospital in Rajkot. The patient as well as the care taker or escort of the patients shall not be liable to make any payment to PMSRF for the treatment/surgery of the patient, which includes accommodation, in PMSRF hospital.

The transportation charges of patient, to and from the Hospital in Ahmedabad &

Rajkot will be met by Govt. of Odisha, the release read.

The PMSRF has agreed to extend free treatment to the patients from Odisha (identified in the screening camps or referred by the State) which shall include all pre and post medical diagnosis and investigations at hospital, cost of surgery/ surgeries, all pre and post-operative care at hospital required medications during hospitalization ICU charges, consumables and implants, stents, coils and grafts, etc.

Earlier, the state government had signed MoUs with the PMSRF for the period from 2018 to 2022 during which 940 paediatric cardiac patients and 256 adult cardiac patients have been successfully operated at Sri Sathya Sai Heart Hospital, Ahmedabad and Sri Sathya Sai Heart Hospital, Rajkot respectively.

## Procurement of rice hit due to FCI space crunch

**JEYPORE:** The newly-introduced space reservation policy by the Food Corporation of India (FCI) has reportedly slowed down the procurement process of rice in the Koraput district.

Sources said as per the order issued by the state government, the FCI was




supposed to take around 3 lakh quintal rice from millers of the district, the stock of which was meant to be stored at the FCI godown in Jeypore. The rice quota of the

FCI was to be supplied by 95 millers in which each miller was supposed to provide 1,740 quintal rice (six lot).


Though the FCI earmarked space for each miller, what led to the slow procurement process was the company allowed

millers to supply the rice only after completion of one stacking space (six lot) meant for each miller. As a result, while the millers were unable to supply the entire quota at a time, others had to wait to supply their rice till the previous quotas of other millers were filled.



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## World Water Day: Vedanta Aluminium Conducts Awareness Programmes In Jharsuguda

**Jharsuguda:** Vedanta Aluminium, India's largest producer of aluminium, observed World Water Day 2023

company also conducted the ground-breaking ceremony for a new sewage treatment plant (STP) at its operations.

Encouraging community members to work towards water conservation in their individual capacities, the

company arranged a birdwatching and nature photography session for employees and their family members at

sustainability and that a sustainable future depends on responsible water management. Our aim is to increase water



by undertaking water conservation and awareness initiatives in Jharsuguda, Odisha. The company also undertook pond restoration and cleaning activities in Baghiamal pond, Jharsuguda with the active participation of employee volunteers and professional experts. On the occasion, the

With a processing capacity of 440 kilo litres per day (KLD), the STP will reduce freshwater consumption of the plant by around 15 crore litres per year, taking a significant step towards becoming Net Water Positive by leveraging advanced technologies for efficient water utilisation.

company organized Nukkad Natak- street play sessions at local educational institutions and Maa Samleshwari Nagar, reaching out to more than 800 students and community members. Further, to create awareness on the importance of freshwater and biodiversity conservation, the

Singhabaga, the wetlands of Jharsuguda. Speaking on the company's commitment towards water conservation, Sunil Gupta, CEO - Vedanta Jharsuguda, said, "At Vedanta Aluminium, we firmly believe that our business growth must go hand in hand with environmental

reutilization, reduce freshwater consumption, and strengthen community water infrastructure. As we celebrate World Water Day, we recommit to our mission of becoming net water positive and making more water available for local communities and biodiversity, ensuring positive ecological footprint and excellence in ESG."

## Fifty glorious years of Sangit Kala Kendra: A stage like no other

**Mumbai :** The Sangit Kala Kendra's 50th anniversary celebrations, conducted under the leadership of Mrs. Rajashree Birla, President of the Sangit Kala Kendra (SKK), were truly magnificent and spectacular in every way. Padmashri Anupam Kher, in his inimitable witty style, hosted the journey of Sangit Kala Kendra for a packed and highly enthusiastic audience at the Dome, NSCI Complex, Worli. Everyone was captivated by this opening segment, aptly titled "Kaleidoscope."

mental make-up, of his richly textured life. He essayed a variety of characters. He had a fascination for the stage, as to him it was full of joie de vivre. In a concatenation of the roles, he played, nothing was more endearing than as the actor, the performer and the singer. And because he could feel it running through his veins, he began dreaming of setting up an institution, that would showcase talent of various hues among different genres. His vision saw its fruition, in the formation of the Sangit Kala Kendra. We have come a long, long way from the early 1970s to date, on the robust foundation envisaged by Adityaji. We owe him big time."

Mukesh were among those honoured on this momentous occasion. The event was also graced by the presence of Vishwas Nangare Patil, Additional Director General of Police, Maharashtra. Neerja Birla's interaction with Ranbir Kapoor was engrossing and riveting. It gave ample insights into Ranbir's personal and professional life and was extremely inspiring. A high-voltage musical performance by Padmashri Sonu Nigam and his troupe was also a highlight of the evening. Padmabhushan Kumar Mangalam Birla, Ananya Birla, Aryaman Birla and the entire extended Birla family were present in full strength on this auspicious occasion that also saw the presence of the crème de la crème from the art world. Mrs. Rajashree Birla,

President of the Sangit Kala Kendra (SKK), stated, "Today, at this august function, we poetize our memories of the Sangit Kala Kendra through these five decades. This institution has won the admiration and affection of all performing art lovers. And this is largely because we have been privileged to have maestros and amazing emerging talent perform on its stage. And many a performer has jumpstarted his or her life as an artist and an actor here. All of its work is impactful and at times cathartic for the audience through the poignant pieces put up, through the rejoicement of dance and song, and the multitude of festivals dotting our country. Every decade, SKK added a newness to it. We became bolder and stronger, and getting on SKK's platform became aspirational."

She further opined, "We are beholden to our legendary maestros - artists and actors who have performed on our man and have added to SKK's aura. Far too many to name. As you know, 29 of these virtuosos have been honoured with the Aditya Birla Kalashikhar Awards. Many of these stalwarts have mentored budding artists from a cohort of 57 youngsters upon whom the Aditya Birla Kalakiran Awards were conferred. The institution of these awards in memory of Adityaji, have truly been a high point. SKK is one big family, and you are all a part of it, reflecting your admiration and affection for your Founder President, Aditya Vikram Birla." It was indeed a memorable musical evening with a generous dose of ribtickling humour and great entertainment.

Welcoming the guests, Mrs. Rajashree Birla, President of the Sangit Kala Kendra observed, "Adityaji had a heady zest about him. From the start besides business, he gravitated towards the performing arts. It became part of the

## Vedanta Aluminium bolsters efforts towards conserving biodiversity

**New Delhi :** On International Day of Biological Diversity, Vedanta Aluminium, India's largest producer of aluminium, announces that it is intensifying efforts towards nurturing biodiversity in the areas of its operations in Odisha & Chhattisgarh, as part of its sustainable development agenda. The company has embarked on conservation projects for indigenous bird species that include

constructing birdhouses, artificial nests, and bird baths at multiple locations inside its plants and townships. Supplementing this effort, its Business Units are developing fruit orchards and gardens with medicinal plants, reviving butterfly parks, and undertaking a slew of other initiatives. The day also saw Vedanta Aluminium's employees kick-off of the annual cleaning of local water bodies and community

ponds, by volunteering for the activity. Vedanta Aluminium's operation at Lanjigarh, in Kalahandi district of Odisha, is located in a richly biodiverse region. More than 380 faunal and 940 floral species have been recorded in the core (inside plant area) and buffer (upto 10 kilometres from the plant) zones, including native and migratory birds, reptiles, mammals, amphibians, macrophytes (large aquatic plants), medicinal

plants, and more. The region also supports 26 floral and faunal species of conservation interest, identified by the International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN). Similarly, Vedanta Aluminium's operations in Jharsuguda (Odisha) are home to nearly 30 native species of trees and plants, while some Schedule I fauna species like Elephant, Sloth Bear, Indian Rock Python, Common Indian Monitor and Pea Fowl

also inhabit the region. BALCO, Vedanta's subsidiary based in Korba (Chhattisgarh), is also surrounded with rich flora and fauna, recording over 20 species of flora, 30 species of butterflies, 11 species of invertebrates, 72 species of birds and 18 species of mammals. Nurturing biodiversity is a critical pillar of Vedanta Aluminium's approach to ESG (Environment, Social and Governance) excellence for sustainable development.

## World TB Day Observed at AIIMS Bhubaneswar



**Bhubaneswar, (KCN):** Post-COVID normalization of the health care system has accelerated newly diagnosed TB cases. At AIIMS Bhubaneswar 674 new TB cases have been detected in the year 2022 in comparison with 521 cases in preceding year. On an average 60 new TB cases are getting detected per month at AIIMS Bhubaneswar, informed experts on occasion of World TB Day observation yesterday in the national institute.

Early detection and proper treatment can reduce the burden of TB. As per Pradhan Mantri TB Mukh Bharat Abhiyaan nutritional support for TB patients has been provided at AIIMS Bhubaneswar, said Executive Director of the institute Dr. Ashutosh Biswas. Similarly, as per Nikshay Poshan Yojana TB patients are getting Rs. 500/- per month till treatment continues. MDR (Multi Drug Resistance) TB is a challenge in combating the fight for eliminating TB. Last year, for the first time in nearly two decades, WHO reported an increase in the number of people falling ill with TB and drug

resistant TB, alongside an increase in deaths, added Dr. Biswas. He also emphasized on managing the extra-pulmonary TB which is also a substantial burden of the disease. Moderating the programme Pulmonary Medicine Department Head and DEAN AIIMS Bhubaneswar Dr. PR Mohapatra said that Tuberculosis remains one of the world's top infectious killers, causing 1.6 million deaths each year and affecting millions more, with enormous impacts on families and communities. The COVID-19 pandemic coupled with ongoing crises such as armed conflict, food insecurity, climate change, political and economic instability, has reversed years of progress made in the fight against TB.

Microbiology Department Head Dr. Baijayantimala Mishra informed about the free of cost DNA test i.e. CBNAAT and True-NAT at AIIMS Bhubaneswar. Among others Registrar B B Mishra along with senior faculties, students and employees attended the programme. Medical Officer DOTS Centre Dr.

Sarada Prasanna Mishra, TBHV DOTS Centre Arpan Mishra coordinated the event. Reaching out to the community Department of Community Medicine and Family Medicine, AIIMS Bhubaneswar also organized an awareness programme at Behera Basti (Ward No-25), Nayapalli to eliminate TB. Dr. Binod Kumar Behera Dr. Prajna Paramita Giri delivered health education on TB symptoms and related stigma to TB and discussed treatment and diagnosis of Tuberculosis with the help of visual charts. Local Corporator Manasi Rani Sundaray and ASHA worker Rasmita Prusty were felicitated on the occasion. Members from Maa Mangala and Omm Shanti Mahila Arogya Samiti, local residents of the urban slum participated in the programme. The observation ended with the real life story of a TB Champion Pramod Nayak. The TB champion explained various social stigmas he faced during his treatment period. After successfully completing treatment for TB, the Champion is living a normal life.

## Representatives of 14 Arctic and Far East Regions Attend International Traditional Reindeer Herding Championship in Yakutia

**New Delhi:** The first International Traditional Reindeer Herding Championship was held in the Republic of Sakha (Yakutia) city of Neryungri and the village of Iyengra on 15-19 March. The event was attended by representatives of 14 regions of the Arctic and the Far East, China, Mongolia, Iceland, and Greenland, as well as the Russian Association of Indigenous Peoples of the North, the legislative authorities, and business, and members of the Association of World Reindeer Herders. The championship was held as part of the plan of events of Russia's chairmanship of the Arctic Council in 2021-2023, which are managed by the Roscongress Foundation. "Reindeer herding is a

major factor in preserving the way of life and culture of Indigenous peoples, as well as a link for many generations of residents of the Arctic regions. In addition, this craft is of great economic importance for local producers and allows them to remain in demand as suppliers on local food markets. In Russia, almost all Indigenous Peoples of the North, Siberia, and the Far East herd reindeer. There are more than 52,000 families of Indigenous peoples, many of whom lead a nomadic lifestyle," said Nikolay Korchunov, Chair of the Senior Arctic Officials and Ambassador-at-Large for Arctic Cooperation of the Russian Ministry of Foreign Affairs. The championship contestants competed in

various types of competitions, including sled jumping, roping among men and women, a combined relay race, catching reindeer, as well as racing on reindeer sleds. In addition, competitions were held in professional Arctic skills, such as building a fire in winter, cooking fish soup on a fire, and dressing skins. The team of the Khanty-Mansi Autonomous District won the team event, while representatives of the Yamal-Nenets Autonomous District took second place, and the Republic of Sakha (Yakutia) finished third. The International Conference 'Sustainable Development of Reindeer Herding amidst Global Changes in the Arctic' was also held as part of the championship.

# Adair expects better show from Ireland in the T20Is

**New Delhi:** Ross Adair said on Saturday (March 25) that Ireland took too long to adapt to the rhythms of ODI cricket in Bangladesh but insisted that the T20Is coming up would be a different ball game. Bangladesh clinched the ODI series 2-0 with another game washed out at Sylhet International Cricket Stadium. They will be expected to call the shots once more in the abridged format but Adair believes Ireland can bounce back at Zahur Ahmed Chowdhury Stadium in Chattogram, scheduled to host the three T20Is respectively on March 27, 29 and 31. "Maybe we took too long to adapt to conditions. We should have done that sooner. Few of the guys got stuck in the crease a little bit. The ODIs are finished. We are looking forward to



the T20s," Adair said. "Obviously the guys were disappointed but this is a fresh start, a new format. We are looking to bounce back and be as positive as we can. We know how good Bangladesh are. We have taken it as an opportunity to move on to a new format.

"We are just trying to stick to our values. We want to be aggressive.

We want to be disciplined in the field and with the bat. We want to play our shots, and the way we set the fields. We might get a big win if we can take Bangladesh on. Ireland are a proud nation. We always look for a scrap whenever we can. Maybe it looked like we didn't fight that much in the ODIs, but we definitely were. The boys

were upset and disappointed with the ODIs. Hopefully we can put that right in the T20s," he said. The Irish all-rounder said his team was aware what to expect at Chattogram having observed the contest between Bangladesh and England here recently. Adair also added that Ireland's promising T20 World Cup in Australia last year,

where they recorded wins over West Indies and eventual winners England, will hold them in good stead going into the contest.

"It [The pitch] will be slow and it will potentially have a bit of turn. I think we saw how the wicket played in the England series. We will just take a few pointers from there," Adair said. "I personally love T20s. I feel the games can go either way. Ireland had a very good World Cup. They had couple of big wins. We are looking to build on that. Zimbabwe beat us 2-1 in January, but we are looking to progress from that. "We just want to keep doing what we are good at. We feel that we will be aggressive with the bat and the ball, and in the field. If we can do that, you never know what can happen," he concluded.

# Swiss Open 2023: Defending Champion PV Sindhu Crashes Out In Second Round

**New Delhi:** PV Sindhu, a double Olympic medallist, failed to defend her Swiss Open Super 300 badminton title as she was defeated by unseeded Putri Kusuma Wardani of Indonesia in a thrilling three-game women's singles second-round match. Despite being seeded fourth and ranked ninth in the world, Sindhu was stunned 15-21 21-12 18-21 by the 38th ranked Wardani in their first-ever face-off at the international level on Thursday night. However, the second-seeded men's pairing of Satwiksairaj Rankireddy and Chirag Shetty kept India's hopes

alive by entering the quarterfinals with a hard-fought 12-21 21-17 28-26 win over the Taiwanese pair of Fang-Chih Lee and Fang-Jen Lee. The world No. 6 Indian duo will face the Danish pair of Jeppe Bay and Lasse Molhede later on Friday. Meanwhile, world No. 9 and fifth seed H S Prannoy suffered a shock second-round exit after losing in straight games against unseeded Christo Popov of France. Despite being the favourite, Prannoy failed to give any fight and lost 8-21 8-21 to bow out of the men's singles event. Kidambi Srikanth was also knocked out on

Thursday, losing to Hong Kong's Cheuk Yiu Lee in a hard-fought match. Although Srikanth is ranked 20th in the world, only one position behind his opponent, Lee kept his composure and emerged as a 22-20 21-17 winner in the singles pre-quarterfinal contest. National champion Mithun Manjunath also bowed out in the second round, losing 19-21 10-21 to Chia Hao Lee of Chinese Taipei. While the Indian players faced disappointment in some matches, the performance of Rankireddy and Shetty offers some hope for the country in the tournament.

# Cloud of doubt hangs over Mukesh, Mohsin participation in IPL 2023

**New Delhi:** Cursed coincidence, as someone put it, for the misfortune of two rookie left-arm pacers, who punched above their weight in the Indian Premier League last year. Mukesh Choudhary (26) and Moshin Khan (24), having debuted for Chennai Super Kings and Lucknow Super Giants respectively in the 2022 season, are nursing injuries and face a wretched prospect of missing the upcoming season. Both Choudhary and Moshin managed to impress critics and pundits alike with their pace, penetration and fighting qualities last year and one of them was even in the fray for the season's best award. Coincidentally enough, they were bought for the base prices of Rs 20 lakhs each. Chennai Super Kings' Kasi Viswanathan confirmed that they do not have much hope on Choudhary, who had claimed 16 wickets in 13 games. "We are waiting on Mukesh but we do not have much hope. He was one of our bowling



mainstays last year. It will be unfortunate if he misses out," the franchise CEO told Cricbuzz. Choudhary is currently at the National Cricket Academy (NCA) in Bengaluru, undergoing rehab for his back injury. He has been around in the domestic circuit for about seven years but has played only 13 first-class games as he is largely considered for the white ball matches. "I'm good and hope to get well soon," Mukesh said when contacted. After an impressive IPL season, he played a few List A games for home state Maharashtra but has been out of action since December. Moshin (24), a speedster from Uttar Pradesh, played nine IPL games last season in which he

claimed 14 wickets with a highly impressive economy rate of less than six (5.97). He was one of the star performers for the Super Giants who managed to make the play-offs in their debut season. His timely strikes in consecutive matches, against Punjab Kings (3/24) and Delhi Capitals (4/16), in the mid-league stage, strengthened LSG's position in the points table with the performance in the Delhi game earning him the MoM award. Moshin is currently practising with the franchise in Lucknow with the hope to be part of the season at some stage but LSG officials were not willing to make a prediction about whether or not he will be in a position to take the field. The IPL starts on March 31.



A National level Referee seminar was organized by Uttarakhand Taekwondo Association for referees across India in which referees from different States/UT's participated. The seminar was held under Master Sarbjeet Singh (WT International Referee/ 5th Dan Black Belt) at Zhen Sports Academy from 11-12 March, 2023. The referees have had a great exposure from the said seminar as Master Sarbjeet has a great exposure of official International Championships. It's pertinent to mention here that he was the first referee official from India to officiate in the World Grand Prix Taekwondo Championship held at Moscow Russia in 2018 and was also selected under top 50 referee officials around the world for Tokyo Paralympics 2020.

# Sania Mirza Divorce Rumours: Tennis Star Posts Cryptic Message on Social Media Amid Talks of Separation With Husband Shoab Malik

**New Delhi:** Indian tennis legend Sania Mirza played her final Grand Slam match last month, reaching the Australian Open 2023 mixed doubles final with partner Rohan Bopanna. On Tuesday (February 7), Sania began the final leg of her illustrious career in Abu Dhabi amid rumours of a divorce with husband and former Pakistan captain Shoab Malik. Sania has posted multiple cryptic messages on social media, which have added fuel to the fire. On Tuesday, Sania

once again fuelled separation rumours with her latest Instagram post. Posting a photo of herself, Sania wrote, "This is not the time to lose faith, this is the time to hold onto it". Meanwhile, Sania Mirza and her American partner Bethanie Mattek-Sands suffered a straight-set defeat against the pair of Kirsten Flipkens and Laura Siegemund in the first round of the Abu Dhabi Open. The Sania-Bethanie duo lost 3-6, 4-6 to their Belgian-German



opponents in the match and 13 minutes an early exit from the tournament. Sania, a six-time Grand Slam winner, is

set to retire from professional tennis after playing in the Dubai Tennis Championships beginning February 19. Last month, Sania and Rohan Bopanna had finished runners-up in the mixed doubles in the Australian Open in Melbourne as they lost to Brazilians Luisa Stefani and Rafael Matos in the final. Interestingly, Sania claimed her first major in 2009 at Melbourne Park, when she paired up with Mahesh Bhupathi. And she ended her illustrious

Grand Slam career at the same venue. From 2009 to 2016, Sania Mirza won six Grand Slam doubles titles - three each in the women's doubles and mixed doubles. In 2015, she even became the world's No. 1 in women's doubles ranking. "The journey of my professional career started in Melbourne in 2005 when I played Serena Williams in the third round as an 18-year-old," a teary-eyed Sania said after the Australian Open mixed doubles final.