



PM attends the commemoration ceremony of 90 years of the Reserve Bank of India at Mumbai, in Maharashtra

SHRIM K BEHERA ASSUMES CHARGE AS GENERAL MANAGER (I/C) OF EAST COAST RAILWAY



Bhubanewswar,(KCN): Shri Mohes Kumar Behera, an officer of the Indian Railway Service of Engineers (IRSE), has taken over the charge of General Manager (I/C) of East Coast Railway (ECR). A graduate from the University College of Engineering, Burla in Civil Engineering and M.Tech in Ocean Engineering from IIT, Madras, Shri Behera's extensive academic background complements his rich experience spanning over

three decades in Railway working. Throughout his career, Shri Behera has held key positions such as Chief Bridge Engineer and Chief Engineer (Bridge Rehabilitation) in ECR. Noteworthy roles

include his tenure as Group General Manager at Rites, Bhubanewswar, and Chief Engineer (Construction) overseeing the Ganga Bridge project under East Central Railway at Patna & Munger. He worked in critical posts such as Sr. Divisional Engineer (Co-ordination) in Sambalpur, Dy. Chief Vigilance Officer in ECR, and Dy. Chief Engineer (Con) in NF Railway.

"Warm greetings to people on Odisha Day! Odisha is known for its vast natural wealth and rich cultural heritage. The resilient people of this state have made great contribution in the development of Odisha and the country. "Odisha has produced many icons over the centuries, including several makers of

modern India. May Lord Jagannath bless the state and its people with greater success and prosperity!" Murmu said in a post on X. The prime minister in a post on X in Odia language said: "Wishing everyone a very Happy Utkala Dibasa! This day reminds us of the rich culture and heritage of Odisha and its dynamic people. The state has made a rich contribution to national progress. I pray for the success and prosperity of the people of Odisha."

Greetings pour in on 'Utkal Dibasa'



Odisha Governor Raghubar Das also greeted the people of the state.

"My greetings to the people of Odisha on this auspicious occasion of Odisha Dibasa. I call upon all to be committed to transform Odisha into a prosperous and developed Odisha," the governor said in a post on X. Chief Minister Naveen Patnaik in a post on X said "Odisha is writing a glorious history in all fields. Odisha has become prosperous due to the commitment of

are likely over some parts of the western Himalayan region and the northeastern states in April, the IMD said. Above-normal heatwave days are likely over many areas in central India and the adjoining areas of the northern plains and south India in April, the weather office said.

Two to eight days of heat wave are expected in these regions against a normal of one to three days, according to Mohapatra. Gujarat, Maharashtra, north Karnataka, Odisha, west Madhya Pradesh and Andhra Pradesh are predicted to experience the worst impact of heat waves in April. Lok Sabha polls in India will take place in seven phases between April 19 and June 1.

Anganwadi centres in Odisha to have morning classes from Tuesday



Bhubanewswar,(KCN): The Odisha government announced that all Anganwadi centres in the state will have morning classes from April 2 due to heatwave conditions. All Anganwadi centres in the state will operate from 7 am to 11.30 am from April 2. The time was revised considering the prevalent heatwave condition in the state, the Information and Public Relations department said in a press statement Monday.

The state Women and Child Development department has issued guidelines to the collectors in this regard, it said.

The Anganwadi centres have also been directed to make arrangements for adequate supply of drinking water and ORS for children and their staff during working hours.

The government had already directed all schools to hold morning classes from 7 am to 11.30 am for students up to Class 12 from April 2 for the heatwave in the state.

The day temperature has already touched 40 degrees Celsius in the state during this summer season.

The IMD said the day temperature would rise by 3 to 4 degrees Celsius in many parts of the state in the next two days.

BJP approaches EC against Rahul Gandhi's 'match-fixing' remark at PM Modi



Ramlila ground March 31 to gather support for Arvind Kejriwal, launched a frontal attack on Prime Minister Narendra Modi and said that the latter was doing match-fixing to 'fix' the elections.

Claiming that the nation's biggest 3-4 industrialists are party to match-fixing, Rahul said that the BJP will finish the Constitution if it's voted to power and also alleged that '400 paar' mark can't be realised without 'fixing the EVMs'. "Rahul's inflammatory remarks were aimed at sowing seeds of doubt and distrust and minds of the populace regarding electoral populace," the BJP said in a six-page complaint to EC.

The party also said that Rahul's statement at the

Delhi CM Arvind Kejriwal taken to Tihar jail after court sends him to judicial custody

New Delhi(KCN): Delhi Chief Minister Arvind Kejriwal was brought to Tihar Jail here Monday after a court sent him to judicial custody till April 15, officials said.

Kejriwal was arrested March 21 by the

Enforcement Directorate in connection with an excise policy-linked money laundering case. "He was brought to Tihar jail and will be lodged in Jail number 2. He was taken for a medical examination. He will be kept in a separate cell," a jail official said.

AAP leader Sanjay Singh, who was arrested in October last year in the same case, was earlier lodged in jail number 2 but was shifted to Jail number 5 recently.

"His utter lies completely violate the laws of land and model code of conduct," the party said in its plaint.

Rahul, addressing the

INDIA

bloc rally at the

Ramlila

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Odisha: War of words erupts between BJD, BJP over delay in announcing candidates

Bhubaneswar(KCN):

A war of words ensued between the ruling Biju Janata Dal (BJD) and the main opposition Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) in Odisha over the delay in announcement of candidates for the upcoming Lok Sabha elections.

Leaders from both parties Monday again targeted each other for not declaring the complete list of candidates.

"They (BJP) had claimed about going to form the government in 2024 by winning 80 assembly seats in the state. However, the reality is that Bharatiya Janata Party's Odisha unit

doesn't have leaders to contest 80 assembly seats, let alone 147. For this reason, they are not able to announce the candidate name even for a single assembly seat," said BJD Spokesperson, Swayam Parkash Mohapatra.

Mohapatra alleged that the state BJP unit is making those leaders who were expelled or left other political parties and those with criminal backgrounds as candidates.

Taking a jibe at the BJP, Mohapatra said leaders of the BJP are wandering here and there searching for eligible persons to make



BJD's Lok Sabha MP Anubhav Mohanty joins BJP

Bhubaneswar,(KCN):

Actor turned politician and Lok Sabha MP from Odisha's Kendrapara, Anubhav Mohanty — who resigned from the primary membership of BJD Saturday — joined the BJP Monday.

Anubhav, who was elected to Rajya Sabha from Odisha as a BJD candidate in 2014 and also elected to Lok Sabha from Kendrapara Lok Sabha seat in 2019, joined the BJP at the party's headquarters in Delhi. In another



development in the BJD, Senior leader and former Chairperson of the Odisha State Commission for Protection of Child Rights (OSPCR), Sandhyabati Pradhan, also resigned

Mahatab, resigned from the primary membership of the party and joined the BJP. Anubhav has campaigned for BJD during both the 2014 and 2019 general elections in the state.

In his resignation letter to Party President Naveen Patnaik, Anubhav stated, "Despite my unwavering loyalty and deep admiration for you sir, whom I have regarded as a fatherly figure, I've been grappling with undisclosed concerns that have made me feel suffocated over the past four years."

Under-trial prisoner escapes from Odisha hospital



Rourkela(KCN): An under-trial prisoner escaped from police custody while he was undergoing treatment at a government-run hospital in Odisha's Sundargarh district, police said Monday. The under-trial prisoner, identified as 36-year-old Arjun Munda, was admitted to the Bhawani

Shankar Hospital for hydrocele surgery, which was conducted March 30 and he was recovering.

Early Monday, around 2 am, he managed to escape from the hospital, a police officer said Monday.

Sundargarh Sub-divisional Police Officer (SDPO)

Himansu Behera said that Munda was booked for the murder of his wife.

"He had allegedly murdered his wife December 19 last year and was undergoing a trial for it," Behera said.

He said that one havildar and four constables were

deployed to guard him in the hospital round the clock.

When asked how the under-trial prisoner could manage to escape despite the deployment of policemen, he said, "We are scrutinising the CCTV cameras. We can tell how he managed to escape from police custody only after examining those."

Odisha records 10.73% growth in gross GST collection in FY 2023-24

Bhubaneswar(KCN): Odisha has recorded a growth of 10.73 per cent in gross GST collection in the 2023-24 fiscal, a statement said Monday.

The state has collected Rs 54,747.97 crore in gross GST from April 2023 to March 2024.

The highest-ever monthly collection of gross GST of Rs 5,135.81 crore was recorded in February, said the statement issued by the Commissionerate of CT & GST, Odisha.

The highest and second-highest ever monthly collection of state GST (OGST+IGST settlement) were recorded in November (Rs 2,700.85 crore) and December (Rs 2,528.41 crore).

Similarly, the progressive collection of state GST (OGST+IGST settlement) up to the month of March 2024 was Rs 24,051.45 crore against the collection of Rs 18,600.52 crore up to March 2023, registering a growth of 29.31 per cent.

them candidates for the 147 assembly seats.

Senior BJP leader Golak Mohapatra on the other hand accused the ruling BJD is a party of criminals.

"BJD is terming everyone a criminal after any leader is leaving their party. Instead of offering us advice, let BJD first announce the names of candidates for the rest of the assembly seats if it has the courage," said the BJP leader.

BJD has so far declared the candidates for 72 Assembly and 15 Lok Sabha seats out of the 147 and 21 Assembly and Lok Sabha seats respectively in the state.

The BJP has declared the candidates for all the 21 parliamentary constituencies.

Meanwhile, the Congress is yet to announce the candidates list for both the assembly and Lok Sabha constituencies of the state for the upcoming elections.

Veteran Congress leader Tara Prasad Bahinipati Monday indicated that the party may announce the candidates list within a day or two.



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India is the third most polluted country in the world

- Delhi has become the capital with the worst air quality. In 2023, Delhi's PM 2.5 level is set to worsen further to 92.7 micrograms per cubic metre. In the year 2022 it was 89.1 micrograms per cubic meter. This is the fourth consecutive time that Delhi has emerged as the most polluted capital of the world.



Amit Baijnath Garg

India has become the third most polluted country in the world. One out of every nine deaths in the world occurs due to pollution. It is becoming the biggest environmental threat to human health. According to WHO, every year around 7 million people in the world die prematurely. Experts say that exposure to fine particles due to air pollution can stunt the growth of children, lead to mental problems and many complex diseases including diabetes. The Center for Disease Control and Prevention says there is a need to be more careful in

polluted areas, especially children, women and the elderly.

According to the World Air Quality Report 2023 recently released by Swiss organization IQAir, Begusarai in Bihar has emerged as the world's most polluted urban area, while Delhi has been the capital city with the worst air quality. With an average annual PM 2.5 concentration of 54.4 micrograms per cubic meter, India has the third worst air quality among 134 countries in 2023, after Bangladesh (79.9 micrograms per cubic meter) and Pakistan (73.7 micrograms per cubic meter). According to the report, pollution is continuously increasing in India. It has become the third most polluted country in the world. Delhi has again become the most polluted capital of the world in terms of air quality. This is the fourth

consecutive time that Delhi has emerged as the most polluted capital of the world. About 1.36 billion Indian citizens are exposed to PM 2.5 concentrations above the recommended levels marked by the World Health Organization (WHO). WHO has set the annual guideline level at 5 micrograms per cubic meter, the report said.

About 96 percent of the Indian population, or about 1.33 billion people, are exposed to seven times the recommended level of PM 2.5. More than 66 percent of Indian cities have recorded an annual average of air pollution of more than 35 micrograms per cubic meter. Data used to create this IQAir report was collected from a global distribution of low-

cost air quality-sensors operated by more than 30,000 regulated air quality monitoring stations and research institutes, government bodies, universities and educational facilities, non-profits and nongovernmental organizations.

Earlier, the World Air Quality Report for the year 2022 included data from 7,323 locations in 131 countries and territories. In the year 2023, this number increased to 7,812 locations in 134 countries and territories. According to WHO, every year around 7 million people around the world die prematurely due to air pollution. Exposure to PM 2.5 air pollution causes and worsens many health conditions, including asthma, cancer, stroke, and lung disease. But it is not limited to this. Experts

say that exposure to fine particles due to air pollution can stunt the growth of children, lead to mental problems and many complex diseases including diabetes.

A 2010 study suggested that exposure to PM 2.5 over a period of a few hours to weeks could increase mortality from heart and lung disease. According to health experts, PM 2.5 refers to a category of pollutant particles whose size is around 2.5 microns. Its levels increase mainly due to forest fires, power plants and industrial processes. Due to the increase in PM 2.5, the risk of many serious diseases also increases along with smog and poor visibility. These particles can easily enter the body through breath and cause sore throat, irritation and serious damage to the lungs.

One out of every nine

deaths in the world occurs due to pollution. It is becoming the biggest environmental threat to human health. PM 2.5 air pollution can cause many diseases including asthma, cancer, stroke and lung disease. Burning sensation in eyes and skin is a common problem. Many people suffer from burning sensation in the eyes, watery eyes, difficulty in breathing and cough due to excessive exposure to pollution. Apart from this, the problem of pneumonia increases in small children. Along with this, there is a risk of heart and lung related diseases, stroke, chronic obstructive pulmonary disease, bronchitis and lung cancer, severe asthma and lower respiratory infections.

According to the Center for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), there is a need to be more careful in polluted areas, especially

children, women and the elderly. He says that the elderly and small children face the most problems due to pollution. To avoid this, one should stay away from polluted places. Apart from this, if necessary, one should go out wearing a mask or covering the nose and mouth with a cloth. Wearing glasses prevents eye irritation. Washing the face and eyes with clean water reduces the effect of pollution. By taking every possible precaution, the ill effects of air pollution can be avoided to a great extent.

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baby blues

Dr. Subhashree Mishra



Postpartum period is the period that is associated with intense physical and emotional changes leading to anxiety and mood disturbances. There are three degrees of postpartum mood disorders, i.e., "baby blues", postpartum depression (PPD), and

postpartum psychosis. Postpartum blues (PPB), otherwise "baby blues," are comparatively milder in nature and are the most common one. It generally begins 1 to 3 days after parturition and is distinguished by sudden mood swings, unexplained weeping, irritability and impatience, lack of sleep, crying spells, anxiety, loneliness, and a feeling of vulnerability. About 60-80% of all new mothers suffer from the PPB which rarely requires medication and normally subsides with support and education. It is significant to carry out the following:

Many women

tend to hide the postpartum stress and bear it in silence due to the social stigma associated with this disorder. There is 2- to 3-fold higher occurrence of the depressive symptoms among mothers within 5 weeks after delivery. Depression in new mothers Having a baby is stressful—no matter how much you've looked forward to it or how much you love your child. Considering the sleep deprivation, new responsibilities, and lack of time for yourself, it's no surprise that a lot of new moms feel like they're on an emotional rollercoaster. In fact, mild depression and mood swings are so common in new mothers

that it has its own name: the baby blues.

The majority of women experience at least some symptoms of the baby blues immediately after childbirth. It's caused by the sudden change in hormones after delivery, combined with stress, isolation, sleep deprivation, and fatigue. You might feel more tearful, overwhelmed, and emotionally fragile. Generally, this will start within the first couple of days after delivery, peak around one week, and taper off by the end of the second week postpartum. In the beginning, postpartum depression can look like the normal baby blues. In fact, postpartum depression and the baby blues share many symptoms, including mood swings, crying jags, sadness, insomnia, and irritability. The difference is that with postpartum depression, the symptoms are more severe (such as suicidal thoughts or an inability to care for your newborn) and longer lasting. Postpartum mood disturbances are the outcome of several sociocultural pressures faced by the women. Hence, these can be used as the indicators for early diagnosis of PPB and to initiate preventive measures.

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Letter to Editor

Dear sir,

Subsidise RWH

The acute drinking water crisis in Bengaluru, highlighted by a shortage of about 2000 million litres per day, underscores the urgency of adopting sustainable water management practices like rainwater harvesting (RWH). Despite mandates like the BWSSB Amendment Bill 2021, RWH adoption remains low. Offering tax incentives for RWH systems could incentivize citizens, aligning with calls for greater awareness of RWH's long-term benefits. Emulating Odisha's subsidy model could further bolster adoption rates statewide, conserving groundwater and enhancing environmental sustainability. With concerted efforts, Bengaluru can mitigate its water crisis by RWH and contribute to sustainable water management, ensuring a more resilient future.

**Dr. Vijaykumar H K
Raichur, Karnataka**

Sir

The leaders of the Indian National Developmental Inclusive Alliance (INDIA) under the banner of "Loktantra Bachao" or "Save Democracy", united together hand in hand at Ramlila Maidan raising their voice for Delhi Chief Minister Arvind Kejriwal and former Jharkhand Chief Minister Hemant Soren, both of them arrested in separate cases by the Enforcement Directorate. It was an opportunity for the opposition to show their solidarity to fight united to save the constitution. Though unity was seen on the stage an underlying absurdity in their solidarity raises questions. If for the INDIA alliance bloc BJP and its allies are the main opponents why do they have to contest the election pitching against their own alliance members in some regions? For example, in Wayanad Rahul Gandhi is pitched against Annie Raja of the CPI. The main opposition for the Congress are the left alliance in Kerala. If they swear that they are fighting against the BJP then why not pitch it together? Is this solidarity on stage shown just to woo the voters and reap the maximum benefits? Will this bond be seen post election as parties, with ideologies that are poles apart from one another are united now for one cause- to save the constitution. The answer lies in the opinion of the citizens and that opinion decides the destiny of the nation.

**M PRADYU
KANNUR
Geeth Thalikavu Kannur 670001.**

Narcolepsy : sleep disorder

Dr. Samrat Kar



Narcolepsy is a long-term neurological condition that causes fragmented sleep, daytime sleepiness, brain fog, and other symptoms. It likely stems from the lack of hypocretin, a neurotransmitter. Lifestyle tips and some drugs may help manage it. Narcolepsy is a sleep disorder that features excessive daytime sleepiness.

In a typical sleep cycle, a person will first enter the early

stage of sleep, then the deeper sleep stages. This is when REM sleep occurs. It takes around 60-90 minutes to reach the stage of REM sleep. For people with narcolepsy, however, REM sleep occurs within 15 minutes in the sleep cycle and intermittently during the waking hours. It is during REM sleep that vivid dreams and muscle paralysis occur.

Narcolepsy is often caused by a lack of the brain chemical hypocretin, which regulates wakefulness. The lack of hypocretin is thought to be caused by the immune system mistakenly attacking the cells that produce it or the receptors that allow it to work. Narcolepsy can

greatly affect your daily life and may be dangerous, as it can make you fall asleep without warning during routine activities, such as eating, working, or driving. There is no cure for narcolepsy, but medicines and healthy lifestyle changes can help you manage the condition.

There are two main types of narcolepsy: type 1 and type 2. Type 1 involves sleepiness and cataplexy. Tests will show that the person is almost entirely missing a neurotransmitter known as hypocretin. This may occur after an infection triggers an autoimmune condition. Type 2 mainly involves excessive daytime sleepiness, but there is usually no sudden

weakness. Secondary narcolepsy can result when trauma or a tumor results in damage to the hypothalamus. This is a part of the brain involved in sleep.

Narcolepsy is a chronic neurological disorder caused by the brain's inability to regulate sleep-wake cycles normally. At various times throughout the day, people with narcolepsy experience fleeting urges to sleep. The primary symptom of narcolepsy is excessive daytime sleepiness, but it may also involve cataplexy, hypnagogic hallucinations, and sleep paralysis. It can also disrupt nighttime sleep patterns. Overall, however, a person with

methylphenidate. Modafinil and armodafinil are usually the first choices. The other drugs are older and more likely to be habit-forming. They can also lead to irritability, anxiety, changes in heart rhythm, and other side effects.

There is currently no cure for narcolepsy, but medical treatment and lifestyle tips may help. The following sections will look at these in more detail.

For sleepiness : One way to manage narcolepsy is through behavior modification. A person may need naps of 15-20 minutes throughout the day. A doctor may also prescribe a central nervous system stimulant to prevent sleepiness, though no drugs are likely to be completely effective. Options include: modafinil, armodafinil, dexamphetamine,

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Public-Private Partnership (PPP) Model in Higher Education in India

Prof (Dr.) S N Tripathy



Public-Private Partnerships (PPPs) in education are pursued to leverage the strengths of both public and private sectors in resolving various challenges and enhancing the quality and accessibility of education. The private sector brings additional financial resources, expertise, and innovative approaches to complement public investment in education infrastructure and services. Private sector involvement often increases efficiency, innovation, and responsiveness to changing demands, improving service delivery and better outcomes. PPPs can help expand access to education by leveraging private sector networks, technologies, and resources to reach underserved or remote areas where public infrastructure may be lacking. Collaboration between public and private entities can diversify the range of educational programs and services available, catering to a broader spectrum of needs and preferences among learners. Private sector involvement can bring innovative teaching methods, curriculum development, and technology integration, enriching the educational experience and preparing students for future challenges. PPPs can be tailored to resolve specific skill gaps identified by industries, ensuring that academic programs are aligned with workforce needs and enhancing graduates' employability.

The genesis of the Public-Private Partnership (PPP) mode in education in India can be traced back to influential reports such as the Ambani-Birla Report and the Narayan Murthy Commission (NMC) Report. These reports highlighted the challenges facing the Indian higher education system, including limited public resources, faculty shortages, infrastructure deficiencies, and funding gaps. The Ambani-Birla Report advocated for the user-pay principle in higher education, emphasizing the role of private investment in establishing universities across the nation. This approach aimed to

alleviate the burden on government resources while expanding access to education.

Similarly, the NMC Report emphasized the need for innovative funding avenues to meet the growing demand for higher education. It proposed measures such as establishing world-class universities focused on critical sectors like urban development and technology and creating the Council for Industry and Higher Education

higher education system that meets the needs of a rapidly growing economy like India's. By combining public and private resources and expertise, PPP initiatives can drive transformative change and contribute to the overall development of the education sector. Key recommendations include in-company upskilling, collaborative sandwich degree programs, and fostering entrepreneurship with industry support. The CIHE would develop

Philanthropic endeavours can be seen as a means for these elites to advocate for reduced state intervention in welfare, thereby justifying the erosion of fundamental rights under the guise of private sector benevolence. In the neo-philanthropic era, philanthropy intertwines with market activities, legitimizing the withdrawal of the state from welfare responsibilities. This perpetuates social

wealthy consumer students who can afford choice across providers. Self-financing courses dictate fee structures, often laden with unjustified costs and capitation fees, hindering access despite reservation policies. Granting autonomy over fees risks transforming education into a profit-driven enterprise, conflicting with its societal objectives. The private sector's arguments against



(CIHE) to foster collaboration between industry and academia. Traditionally, education has been a state monopoly, deemed a public good with vast externalities and social merit. It fosters equity and national cohesion, justified by market imperfections and information gaps. Education is non-profit, non-business, enshrined in state legislation globally. However, profit-driven private education burgeons, challenging this ethos. Such privatization undermines the essence of education, especially when devoid of philanthropic motives or public-private partnerships. The gravest concern lies in surrendering education to profit-driven entities, jeopardizing its fundamental purpose and societal integrity.

The rationale behind promoting PPP in education lies in resolving these challenges effectively. By leveraging private sector resources and expertise, PPP initiatives can help bridge the funding gap, improve infrastructure, and enhance the quality of education. Moreover, collaboration between industry and academia through initiatives like the CIHE can ensure educational programs align with market demands, promoting employability and innovation. Overall, the PPP mode in education aims to create a sustainable and inclusive

sector-specific strategies to encourage corporate participation. Skill development, especially at post-graduate and doctoral levels, would be emphasized through high-level apprenticeships and research on advanced technologies. The report also advocates building 20 national knowledge clusters via public-private partnerships in selected cities financed by governments and the corporate sector. However, concerns arise regarding social equity and the potential for profit-driven motives in private higher education. Critics argue for stronger state regulation to ensure democratic and equitable education systems, emphasizing rights-based development over market-based approaches favoured by bourgeois states.

The emergence of "philanthropic consultants" and the proliferation of volunteerism practices align with capitalist principles, facilitating the gifting of time and money within a market framework. These endeavours often humanize the capitalist system, masking its inherent inequalities. Critics argue that governments often disguise themselves as democratic regimes, with bureaucratic machinery controlled by elite classes and their representatives, including business magnates and wealthy

inequality, as the maintenance of wealth ensures the continuation of charitable enterprises. "Philanthropic advisors" commodify altruism, persuading individuals to donate under the guise of societal good, ultimately enriching themselves. Privatizing higher education exacerbates uneven development, privileging technology-oriented courses favoured by market demands over social justice and human rights disciplines. This shift undermines the democratic mission of teaching, transforming it into an investment good rather than a societal asset. As universities succumb to market pressures, departments, and courses vital for a well-rounded education face closure, further deepening educational disparities.

Markets inherently breed inequality despite claims of neutrality and equal opportunity. In practice, disparities in "market capacities" emerge, stemming from differences in informational resources, social and cultural capital, and other factors. Those lacking market access become marginalized, a particularly acute issue in education, and are now more of an investment than a consumption good. Poor access to quality schooling limits social mobility, disproportionately affecting subaltern castes. Privatization exacerbates these disparities as education costs rise, and merit is sidelined by

Former Professor of Economics, Gokhale Institute of Politics and Economics, Pune, currently at Berhampur, Odisha

Letter to the Honourable Prime Minister

To
Honourable Sri Narendra Modi
The Honourable Prime Minister
Government of India

Dear Sir

With humble submission and due regards, I beg to offer you some suggestions and feedback for the betterment of the nation to your Honourable office at the time of the next Lok Sabha election. I want to extend my sincere gratitude and unconditional respect for the visionary leadership you have provided to the nation. I pray for your long, prosperous and healthy life for continuing to provide your visionary guidance and monumental leadership to guide India to further future success. I am pained to see that none of the political parties across India has any focused mandate regarding any ecological and/or environmental issues or national security issues of the nation that needs immediate attention. My humble suggestions are provided below for your kind perusal:

1. The 1600 kms plus international border between India and Myanmar in the NE India is according to my mind the soft belly of India. It is vulnerable to future planned military attacks by China or to China sponsored anti-India infiltration or insurgency in the highly sensitive region. It is one of the highest points of human trafficking, wildlife and wildlife body parts trafficking, illegal arms and ammunition and drug trafficking, hotbed of insurgency, rampant illegal immigration and infiltration to and from India. The sensitive Indo-Myanmar border areas are simply unguarded and unprotected; and

susceptible to antisocial The Government of India urgent measures to increase monitoring and levels to ensure security the rule of the law. It is increase the ground immigration departments highly coordinated improve and enhance the



(GOI) needs to take protect the border, surveillance at multiple and safety and establish extremely important to activity of customs and here; as well as increase intelligence network to security of the region.

2. Three illegal wildlife trafficking corridors are operating in India and needs immediate attention of the GOI, namely the Siliguri corridor (West Bengal), the Indo-Myanmar illegal border cross points (Arunachal Pradesh, Nagaland, Manipur and Mizoram) and the Indo-Bangladesh illegal border cross points (West Bengal, Assam, Tripura and Mizoram). The other important wildlife trafficking area is the numerous creeks and channels of the Sunderban mangrove forest areas between India (West Bengal) and neighbouring Bangladesh. All these above flash point areas are also vulnerable to extensive smuggling of contraband commodities, drugs, weapons, fake currencies and rampant human trafficking particularly women and children. The GOI needs to take numerous bold steps to secure these fringe areas both for forest and biodiversity conservation as well as for the purpose of national security.

3. Honey bees, wild bees and other biological (natural) pollinators are showing alarming decline around the planet, India is not immune to these challenges. It is therefore important to establish numerous small, medium and large Pollinator Sanctuaries and Bee Gardens across the nation in both agricultural areas and non-agronomically suitable areas, forests, fringe forest areas, unused spaces in rural and urban localities, social forest areas, along and adjacent to different water bodies (irrigation canals, ponds, swamps, ditches, pools, lakes, bogs, streams, waterfalls, rivers, rivulets, tributaries and distributaries).

4. Establishing a modern para military Forest Protection Force in the line of CISF for the purpose of protection of the vast unprotected areas of Indian forests from hunters and poachers, infiltrators, land sharks, illegal immigrants and refugees, insurgents, terrorists and anti-social elements taking refuge in our forests with special emphasis to sensitive inter-state boundaries and international borders. It will contribute both to successful biodiversity conservation and our national security. Better salary and insurance packages for forest guards.

5. Need for various national agencies to work together on a common platform for collecting ground data, collecting specimens and samples, conducting joint surveys, preparing resource and political maps, sharing and gathering intelligence, inputs, suggestions and feedbacks from one another. These include State and Central security and intelligence agencies, Forest, Environment, Health and Rural Development departments, Zoological Survey of India, Botanical Survey of India, Geological Survey of India, Anthropological Survey of India, Archaeological Survey of India etc for better, high quality and comprehensive data, various maps, specimens, samples, photo and video documentations as well as creation of national databases on our current available natural bioresources. There is need for coordination, cooperation, collaboration and communication (4Cs) between these important organizations.

6. Need for documenting money frauds and various financial scams happening across the country and book those involved under the law and punish them for their economic crimes.

7. Strengthening the existing environmental legislations of the country by amending them according to the present circumstantial needs.

8. Continue working and investing on the infrastructure of the nation for future economic growth.

9. Establishing Universal Health Care for the entire nation across all States and Union Territories.

10. Continuing the work on education, awareness and sensitivity about local, regional and global ecological and environmental issues among students belonging to primary, secondary and tertiary levels of education as well as for the general public.

11. Opportunity of school education for all.

12. Funding and developing shelters, accommodation and residence for homeless and landless people, marginal labourers, rural and urban poor (below poverty levels), legal immigrants and refugees, destitute, beggars, bats and other underprivileged section of our society.

13. Strict rules and penalty for railway drivers traveling above the prescribed speed limits in forested areas and responsible for animal deaths due to railway collisions.

14. Work towards reducing human-animal conflicts in vulnerable areas through application of 4C principals between Central and State agencies, Inter- and Intra-State agencies and governments as well as between Indian and neighbouring country governments for joint monitoring and surveillance of forest areas along international borders.

15. Establishing Joint Forest Management, Security, Conservation and Protection between India, Pakistan, China, Tibet, Nepal, Bhutan, Bangladesh, Myanmar, Sri Lanka and Maldives where applicable.

Thanking you

Sincerely yours

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The BJP has made ED a weapon to eliminate the opposition: Kumari Selja

Chandigarh (JAG MOHAN THAKEN), 1st April: The General Secretary of the All-India Congress Committee and former Union Minister, Kumari Selja said on Monday that the BJP-led central government has weaponized the Enforcement Directorate (ED) against the opposition and its leaders. The ED targets only non-BJP leaders and Chief Ministers. Those who join the BJP out of fear of the ED have all their cases forgiven. The crowd gathered at the rally organized in Delhi's Ramlila Maidan has proven that the public is ready to remove the BJP from power.

In a statement released to the media on Monday, Kumari Selja said that the ED is now working as the Election Management Department for the BJP. First, cases are filed against opposition leaders, and then, by threatening them with

government agencies, they are made to join the BJP. The very next day, they are cleared of all the charges. There are numerous examples of this. These leaders have been openly declared corrupt by Modi and Shah themselves.

The former Union Minister said that the BJP has a washing machine that cleanses the alleged corrupt leaders as soon as they are inducted into the BJP, and there is a rush to declare them clean. Whenever elections are around, the BJP-led central government assigns the ED, CBI, and Income Tax Department tasks against opposition leaders. They are targeted to weaken them financially, politically, and socially tarnish their reputation.

Kumari Selja said that the unity shown by the leaders of the INDIA Alliance at the rally in Delhi has sent a clear

message to the central government that no matter how much they misuse the ED, CBI, and Income Tax, they are not afraid. They will not accept defeat under any circumstances and will not stop raising the voice of the people out of fear.

The former Union Minister Kumari Selja said that the BJP also plots to overthrow non-BJP state governments. The public is becoming aware of their tactics of buying and selling legislators. None of their misdeeds are hidden from the public anymore. That's why millions of people attended the rally in Delhi and pledged to uproot the BJP-led central and state governments, which are in power through lies, slogans, and the use of government agencies.

While talking to journalists at Sirsa on Saturday, Former Union Minister Kumari Selja had also alleged that the BJP is misusing the

government agencies everywhere. She said that the bugle for the Lok Sabha elections has already been sounded in the country, and the situation of the country has become very critical. Democracy is in danger due to the government's dictatorship and policies. The public understands and sees everything. Times are changing, and the future will also be filled with change. In the Lok Sabha elections, the public will work to clear BJP's account. She said that the media keeps an eye on every situation of the country and society, but today this government has also tried to eliminate it. By



buying big media houses, slogans. For the past 10 years, these people have been deceiving the people of the country.

Kumari Selja said that the people of the country understand this well. Everyone has the right to express their opinion in democracy, but whoever dared to speak against this government, whether it be the media, opposition parties, or anyone else, the government did not spare anyone and silenced everyone's voice by showing the fear of ED and CBI. The government has misused government agencies everywhere. Selja said that the tainted leaders in other parties become pure as soon as they join BJP, this we all have seen. She said that before coming into power, the Prime Minister had made many promises, from depositing 15 lakh rupees in the bank accounts of every citizen to providing 2 crore jobs annually and controlling inflation, but all turned out to be just

slogans. For the past 10 years, these people have been deceiving the people of the country.

In response to the questions asked about the Lok Sabha elections, Kumari Selja said that the Congress party will win all the 10 seats in Haryana by a large margin. On the question of sealing the bank accounts of the Congress party, Selja said that this government, by presenting another example of its dictatorship, forcibly withdrew money from accounts through the income tax department, so that the party could become economically weaker.

Selja said that the Congress party has always fought elections with the people, and this time too, the people are with the party wholeheartedly. On the question of fighting elections, Selja said that the high command will decide the distribution of tickets, and they will fight the elections according to the orders they receive.

Literature is strengthening Bharat - Romania cultural relationship



Kolkata (PARTHA ROY): Literature is playing an important role in powering India - Romania cultural relationship to move forward.

At a talk titled "Didi (Amita Bhose) India and Romania: Bengali-Romanian Relations" was organized by Calcutta University's Department of South and Southeast Asian Studies in collaboration with Indian Association for Asian and Pacific Studies on 28th March 2024 in Kolkata.

Internationally renowned Romanian scholar Ms. Carmen Musat-Coman spoke on the life of Dr. Amita Bhose, who was popularly known as Didi

to her students. Prof. Sarbani Gooptu chaired the talk session in coordination with Dr. Madhurima Chowdhury. Prof. Lipi Ghosh, President of IAAPS spoke on the nuances of India-Romania Relationship including on MOU signed between Calcutta University and Babes-Bolyai University of Romania in 2022.

Ms. Minakshi Misra, Head and Zonal Director of ICCR Kolkata was present at the program.

Carmen highlighted the works of Amita Bhose who is a pioneer of Bengali (Indian) - Romanian relations through literature and translations. Carmen

discussed the impact of Amita Bhose's work, her legacy and about crossing the boundary of language and territories. Amita Bhose was instrumental in building the cultural bridge between India and Romania since the 1960s. Talk charted her work from the 1960s to the 1990s.

The talk paid homage to Bhose's work, discussing her flawless translations of Indian and Sanskrit works ranging from Tagore to the Natyashastra to Romanian; but Bhose's notable impact lies in the translations of Romanian writers like Mihai Eminescu, the national poet of Romania.

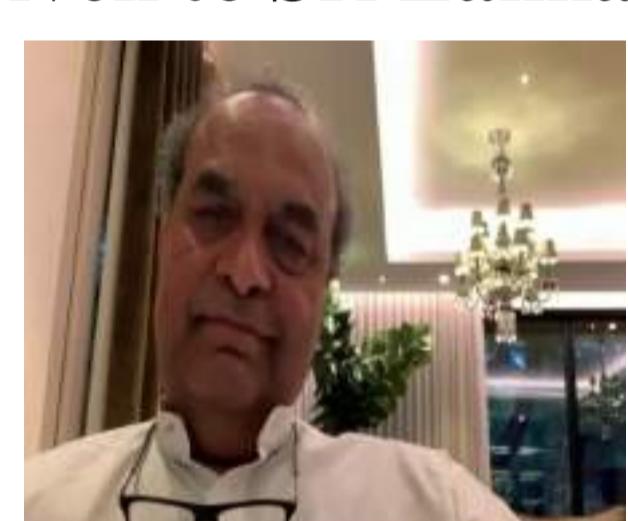
New Delhi (KCN): Senior advocate Mukul Rohatgi, amid the huge row about Lankan island Katchatheevu, has said what makes the case of different is that there was no give and take, which is the normal practice when territory is involved. India had given away the island to Sri Lanka, without getting anything in return, he underscored in an exclusive interview with NDTV today.

The tiny island near Rameswaram has become a political talking point over the weekend, with Prime Minister Narendra Modi flagging the issue at a rally in Meerut and also on social media, hitting out at the Congress.

Katchatheevu -- a disputed area since the British period -- was given to Sri Lanka by former Prime Minister Indira Gandhi in 1974 under an agreement with the island nation.

It had upset Tamil sentiments and resurfaced on the eve of the general elections. Amid BJP efforts to gain political traction in Tamil Nadu, state BJP chief K Annamalai had filed an RTI query. In 2014, Mr. Rohatgi, who was then the Attorney General, had told the Supreme Court that to retrieve Katchatheevu, "we have to go to war". Asked about that statement today, he gave a background.

"Normally we have



territorial exchanges. We had exchanges with Pakistan in the past... in 1958-1960 we had some exchanges with Pakistan. Because that was an aftermath of Independence and it was understandable," Mr. Rohatgi told NDTV. "I remember some years ago, the current government also had some exchanges with Bangladesh. It was some enclaves. Some give and take of territory can happen but in this case it was only give... The island was handed over to Sri Lanka. Why the island was handed over, what did

we get in return, these are questions the Congress should answer," he added. His remarks also address Opposition questions on why the government has not taken action on the issue since coming to power in 2014.

Yesterday, Tamil Nadu's ruling DMK commented that if PM Modi was keen on Katchatheevu, he could have reclaimed that island during his 10 years in office. "Why did not he take up the Katchatheevu issue?" senior party leader RS Bharathi has said.

Congress chief Mallikarjun Kharge had pointed out that the BJP-led government had made a similar "friendly gesture" to Bangladesh regarding the exchange of border enclaves.

Premier Probe Agencies "Spread Too Thin", Cautions Chief Justice DY Chandrachud



New Delhi (KCN): The premier investigative agencies of the country have been spread too thin and they must only focus on cases that involve national security and crimes against the nation, Chief Justice of India DY Chandrachud said today. Delivering the 20th DP Kohli Memorial Lecture on CBI Raising Day, Chief Justice Chandrachud also flagged how technology has changed the crime terrain and the agency is now facing a complex challenge.

"The CBI is being increasingly asked to delve into diverse array

of criminal cases beyond its role as anti-corruption investigation agency. This places a huge responsibility on CBI to live up to its motto," Chief Justice Chandrachud said. "I think we have

spread out the premier investigative agencies too thin. They must only focus on those that concern national security and crimes of economic offences against the nation," the Chief Justice added, pointing out that the force consists largely of officers on deputation.

Given the huge number of cases, technology needs to be leveraged to reduce delays.

"All arms of the criminal justice administration and all stakeholders including the FSLs must collaborate by holding workshops to help. The other changes should include upgrading the probe agency by making structural reforms.

Also, artificial intelligence must be harnessed for the best outcome. Calling it a "game changer" that can revolutionize criminal justice, he said it can be used to mine potential leads and data "with unprecedented accuracy".

NTPC achieves 422 BU annual generation in FY 24

New Delhi, (KCN): NTPC Ltd, India's largest integrated power utility, recorded its highest ever yearly generation of 422 Billion Units (BU) in FY 2023-24, at a growth of nearly 6% over FY 2022-23.

During the financial year 2023-24, NTPC Coal stations recorded a plant load factor (PLF) of 77%.

Earlier during the year,

the Company recorded highest ever single day generation of 1428 Million Units (MU) on 1st September 2023. The stellar performance of NTPC is a testimony to the expertise of NTPC engineers, Operation & Maintenance practices and robust systems. NTPC Ltd. is India's largest integrated power utility, contributing 1/4th of the power

Tug of war over Gajapati village

Paralakhemundi(KCN):

Two districts of Odisha and the Andhra Pradesh government are engaged in a tug-of-war over a remote village, which as per records, lies in Gajapati district. The residents of 'Gudikhudi' village still are not aware of the district and state the hamlet belongs to. As per location, Gudikhudi village lies under Gangabada panchayat in Rayagad block of Gajapati district with about 50 families residing in it.

However, the village located along the borders of Andhra and Ganjam with Gajapati district, has become a bone of contention. In fact, the Ganjam district administration calls it

'Abandia' village while Andhra officials have named it 'Gudikhola'. And as it has done in the past, the Andhra Pradesh government is trying its best to woo the residents of the village to come under its wings. In the ensuing tug of war, the villagers are at a loss as to whom will they approach in case of any official necessity.

Sources pointed out that the apathetic attitude of the officials of Gajapati district has led to such a situation. They also pointed out that officials of the Andhra Pradesh government visit the 'Gudikhudi' village regularly to inquire about the welfare of the people, something that their



counterparts of Gajapati district rarely do.

The Andhra Pradesh government has introduced a number of welfare programmes in

the village so that in future it can include the village within its boundaries. In fact houses built under the Pradhan Mantri Awas Yojana (PMAY) also

create a lot of confusion. The house built for Sabita Sabar has plaque claiming that it is in 'Abandia' village of

Ganjam district. Similarly, several other houses depict they belong to Andhra Pradesh and that they have been built by

the neighbouring state. However, the address mentioned at the Anganwadi centre in the village shows that it is located in Gajapati district.

Locals have alleged that unless the Gajapati district administration acts fast, then in the near future, Andhra will grab the village.

Such is the situation that many residents of the village possess two Aadhaar cards, the same number of ration and voter identity cards, one each from Odisha and Andhra Pradesh. They are deriving benefits from both the state governments like drawing rations twice

Rushikulya going dry sparks concern

Dharakote(KCN):

Even before summer is yet to fully set in, the Rushikulya river which is known as the lifeline of Ganjam district, is drying up rapidly. This has sparked concern in the district with people involved in farming wondering what the future holds in store for them. Scanty rainfall in the last few months and the rapidly increasing temperatures are the reasons behind the river drying up.

The issue assumes significance with the 'Baruni Snan' ceremony scheduled for April 6. Residents of Aska, Purusottampur and Pratappur and even people from outside the district come in large numbers to take a dip in the river on the auspicious occasion. However, people are wondering how will they take a dip when even the



knees are not getting fully submerged in the river. However, with the river going dry, it will not just be the festival which will be affected. Already the riparian villages are facing a drinking water crisis. The problem will increase if some measures are not taken for supply of water to the river, locals said.

The river is considered holy and is intrinsically linked to the religion and spirituality of the people. People use its water for

drinking and also for irrigating their farmlands. The river water is used in various religious ceremonies like temple consecration, 'Baruni Snan', 'Sankranti Snan' and 'fire rituals'. The river originates from the Rushimal hill in Kandhamal district and flows through Ganjam district before merging with Bay of Bengal. An anicut built by the British in 1891 at Janbil near this town is the main source of water for

hundreds of hectares of farmlands in the district. Lakhs of residents residing in Berhampur town and adjoining areas depend on the river for drinking water. Moreover, scores of industrial firms use the river water to run their plants.

With the water crisis escalating, the residents of this district have asked the authorities to intervene and take urgent steps to mitigate the situation.

Liveable habitat under Biju Adarsh Colony in Balasore 'still remains a distant dream' for slum dwellers



NEWDELHI,(KCN):The Odisha government claimed to have brought a massive transformation in the lives of slum dwellers through 'Biju Adarsh Colony'. However, the beneficiaries have exposed the grim reality and the problems faced by them in various parts of Balasore district. The state government had identified 20 slums as Biju Adarsh Colonies out of the total 41 slums in the first phase.

Though three years have now passed, the

beneficiaries are allegedly yet to reap the benefits even though land pattas have been provided to them. In several places, the construction work of houses is allegedly still incomplete.

The slum dwellers of Bikash Nagar under ward no 10 alleged that the contractor is now 'missing' after undertaking construction work, which remains incomplete.

"We have received 16

pattas while the contractor is not coming to execute the construction work," alleged Sabitri Mohanty, president of the slum. Rashmita, another resident alleged, "We told officials that we do not have money to undertake construction work. Later, they engaged a contractor who took money, but did not complete the roof work. Such a situation has prevailed for the last one and half years."

The bulk of the

construction work for

the Biju Adarsh Colony at ward no 8 is complete. However, the condition of the entrance road to the colony is in deplorable condition. A beneficiary under this ward is also forced to live under a polythene sheet as the construction work is yet to be completed.

"We are yet to get pattas for 5 houses and construction work is incomplete. There is waterlogging in the area following the road construction work," said Kabit Pradhan, a resident of Bikash Nagar slum.

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CarDekho's launches 2nd Mega Refurbishment Centre for Used Cars

New Delhi : CarDekho, India's leading auto-tech company, has opened its mega refurbishment centre in Mumbai for Used Cars. This is the company's second mega refurbishment centre in the country after NCR. The Mumbai centre will take full control of the refurb process and set quality benchmark through advanced state-of-the-art infrastructure while optimising cost through scale of operations. The company plans to open 20 such refurbishment centres across India in near future.

With 1000 cars monthly refurbishment capacity, the centre will employ 100+ employees once fully operational. As a result of having best-in-class inhouse refurbishment centers, CarDekho ensures that all vehicles sold on its platform are of the

highest quality.

CarDekho offers a 7 days 'No Questions Asked' money-back guarantee on all cars where customers can test-own the car and return it if not satisfied. Also included are 6 months of warranty, and complementary Pan-India roadside assistance (RSA) for all car buyers. A free insurance package and RC transfer are also included with the car.

Sharad Saxena, CEO - Used Car Business, CarDekho Group, said, "The opening of our mega refurbishment centre in Mumbai marks another milestone for the company in its quest to provide the best pre-owned vehicles to its customers. The cars refurbished at this centre will carry CarDekho's trust that offers reliability, affordability and unmatched satisfaction.

Flipkart clocks over 200 Million Fashion products in the Spring-Summer

Bhubaneswar: As the Spring Summer season 2022 draws to a close, Flipkart, India's homegrown e-commerce marketplace, has recorded a sale of over 200 million fashion products across close to 19,200 pin codes. The Spring Summer Season also played a key role for customers and sellers and saw close to 175,000 fashion sellers participating. These sellers came from not just metros but from tier 2 and tier 3 towns as well. Customers shopped for fashion and lifestyle products including sarees, men's t-shirts, watches, sunglasses, women's kurtis and footwear, from national, international and homegrown fashion brands.

The season saw customers shopping for fashion products from across the country including metros and a majority of these customers also from tier 3, 4 and 5 cities shop for fashion products from cities like Ranchi, Ernakulam, Kanpur, Medinipur, Cuttack to

IIT Delhi Student Wins Coveted TCS CodeVita Season 10

MUMBAI: Tata Consultancy Services (TCS) (BSE: 532540, NSE: TCS), announced the winners of Season 10 of its flagship global coding contest, TCS CodeVita, at a virtual grand finale. CodeVita, holder of the Guinness World Records™ title as the world's largest computer programming competition, has been inspiring students across the world to build and test their coding expertise for the past 10 years. The contest promotes programming as a sport and encourages participants to pit their skills against each other and solve intriguing real-

name a few; and a substantial number of the overall customer base were first-time fashion shoppers.

Sandeep Karwa, Vice President, Flipkart Fashion, said, "We are extremely delighted with this overwhelming response from the customers, who consistently choose Flipkart for all their fashion and lifestyle needs. This year's spring-summer season saw a resurgence in consumption on the back of renewed economic recovery post-pandemic and we are pleased that lakhs of sellers saw a phenomenal response during this season. It is also a testament to our efforts to bring unparalleled value in fashion shopping to our customers. With a range of technology-led innovations that are making shopping experiences personalised and seamless for our customers, we are bringing India and Bharat closer ushering in considerable growth opportunities for lakhs of

Harish Dadwani, a Flipkart Fashion seller partner from Agra, Uttar Pradesh, said, "It has been 4 years since I joined ecommerce and through the Flipkart platform have seen a growth of over 10X since then.

I had launched several new products in the spring-summer collection which has seen a 50X growth spike. I am very positive to set new milestones and garner new opportunities in the coming years and feel that I can achieve much more through ecommerce, technology and Flipkart."

for coding among the youth. We were thrilled to see how the four finalists solved all the 10 problems, which has never happened before. I am happy to see CodeVita is encouraging youngsters to write good code and apply it to solve challenging problems," said K Ananth Krishnan, Chief Technology Officer, TCS. Winner Kalash Guptasaid, "Thank you so much. It's unbelievable! When I started with the contest, I never thought I would even be in the top 3 but this is a very humbling experience. I'm very excited about the

Odisha records 20x growth in job applications in the last 90 days

Bhubaneswar: As one of the fastest-growing states in terms of economy in India, Odisha has been witnessing a steady growth in job opportunities across sectors and industries and has emerged as a popular destination for job seekers. apna.co - India's largest jobs and professional networking platform - recorded 20x quarter on quarter growth in job postings in the state's capital, Bhubaneswar in the previous quarter. The platform has also noted increased job openings for multiple roles in the last three 90 days.

After recording an economic rating higher than India's GDP, Odisha has become a promising destination for employers to invest in, strengthening the state's economy and creating more job opportunities. apna has become a trusted partner for various popular companies such as Zomato, Bharti AXA, Burger King, TeamLease, Byjus, and Delhivery amongst others in the state to fulfill their hiring requirement. In the last quarter, there has been an increased hiring momentum for roles such as telecallers/BPO, sales, computer/data entry operator, delivery persons, and business development executives amongst others. The capital city continues to be one of the top commercial hubs in Eastern India.

With more than 25 percent female users from Bhubaneswar, apna has become a default partner for women to build their professional networks and participate in helping India unlock its economic potential. According to the platform, there has been a quarter-on-quarter increase in women joining the workforce from the state and participating in uplifting Odisha's economy. Telecalling and business development have consistently been the most popular role amongst women in Bhubaneswar followed by data entry operators. Interestingly, women also opted to get on the field by joining the sales workforce for various organizations after COVID cases dropped drastically.

Commenting on the growth, Manas Singh, Chief Business Officer, apna.co said, "Odisha is witnessing tremendous growth in the past quarter, emerging as one of the key markets with a rise in both workers and employers on apna. We will continue creating more hyperlocal opportunities to help accelerate the economic growth of Bhubaneswar."

FURO Sports Shoes welcomes Shahid Kapoor as its Brand Ambassador

Bhubaneswar: FURO Sports Shoes, (from the house of Red Chief Shoes), is thrilled to announce its much-coveted collaboration with the Bollywood Superstar, Shahid Kapoor. Shahid's youthful and sporty personality of an affable boy gel with the aspiring core values and ethos of FURO Sports Shoes. Shahid appeals to a wider audience across all age groups. While his exceptional fitness lifestyle, dancing prowess, and romantic-action-oriented movies attract the youth, his responsible family guy persona connects with relatively mature age groups as well. Mr. Manoj Gyanchandani (Managing Director) expressing his views on the collaboration, shares, "We are extremely honored to welcome Shahid Kapoor as the newest FURO family member. We couldn't have asked for a better partner in 2022 who comes with such high credible energy which is much needed in such dynamic times to inspire the youth towards athleisure lifestyle. We look forward to a successful partnership with him and hope to have a mutually beneficial long-term relationship."

Mr. Rahul Sharma, (Marketing Head) further shared "To continue leveraging our association both in mass media & digital platforms - Shahid would be part of our forthcoming Brand campaigns, which are back to back lined up starting few weeks from now."

BOB Financial crosses the 1 Million Credit Cards mark

Mumbai: BOB Financial Solutions Limited (BFSL), a wholly-owned subsidiary of Bank of Baroda (Bank) that issues and manages Bank of Baroda Credit Cards, has crossed the 1 Million Credit Cards mark.

As per Reserve Bank of India (RBI) data, Bank of Baroda Credit Cards have grown 9X over the last four years - from 0.12 million cards in March 2018 to over 1.1 million cards in March 2022. Further, the monthly spends on credit cards have grown 10X over the same period - from Rs.80 crore in March 2018 to Rs.830 crore in March 2022.

In CY2022, cobranding with IRCTC, HPCL, Defence Services, and partnerships with fintechs have been some of the key initiatives in the ongoing transformation journey.

Speaking on the occasion, Mr. Shailendra Singh, MD & CEO, BFSL said, "In 2017, we started on a journey of transforming BOB Financial into a leading credit card issuer in India. Crossing the 1 million credit cards mark is an important milestone. However, while we celebrate this achievement, our ultimate aspiration is to become one of the largest Credit Card issuers in the country, serving customers of every demographic and socio-economic classification."

BFSL has been focusing on investing in people, processes and technology to enhance customer experience.

OKAYA EV Unveils Exclusive Dealership Center in Sambalpur



Sambalpur, : Okaya

EV, a leading electric vehicle manufacturer announced the grand opening of its state-of-the-art Exclusive Center in Sambalpur. This innovative space promises to revolutionize the way consumers interact with electric vehicles, showcasing Okaya EV's scooter portfolio including high-speed and low-speed models such as the Faast F4, Faast F3, F2B, and F2T in the Faast series product line. While Classiq+ and Freedum models are part of the low-speed segment.

Notably, Okaya EV's product lineup

Ambuja Cements introduces Cool Walls, a special product that keep homes cool in summers and hot in winters

Mumbai : Ambuja Cements Ltd, one of India's most sustainable cement manufacturers, is now offering an innovative green solution for constructing strong walls. Ambuja Cool Walls is a unique wall solutions

that keeps the house cool during summer and retains inside temperature to make the house warmer in winter. Ambuja Cements is among the first Indian cement companies to offer this unique block and mortar solution to individual house builders.

Ambuja Cool Walls is a sustainable product made with an innovative heat-barrier technology that is far superior to any other products available in the market. The 'heat barrier technology' of this product helps to maintain inside temperature of any house lesser by 5°Celsius as compared to external temperature. These innovative heat barrier technology, consistent

This Diwali, brighten up your health by adopting these 5 habits

Bhubaneswar : Consider

presenting them with assortments of nutrient-rich almonds that not only reflect your affection but also promote their well-being during this festive season. Almonds make for a perfect, healthy gift option, especially during festive seasons like Diwali. Moreover, their versatility allows for various creative gifting options, from beautifully packaged almond assortments to homemade almond-based treats. While traditional sweets hold a special place in our hearts during this festive season, gifting a pack of nutrient-dense almonds can be a thoughtful gesture that not only aligns with the spirit of giving but also promotes a healthier

lifestyle. Almonds, known for their rich reserves of essential nutrients such as vitamin E, magnesium, and healthy fats, offer a convenient and delectable way to boost one's overall well-being. By making the conscious switch to include almonds in your fitness routine you can get a quick energy boost before a workout or as a replenishing source of nutrients afterward, almonds offer sustained energy and aid in muscle recovery, helping you achieve your fitness goals more effectively. Almonds serve as an excellent pre- or post-workout snack, you can have them in between meals as well without compromising on your taste and nutrition.

Attributable to Ritika Samaddar, Regional Head - Dietetics, Max Healthcare, Delhi. Amidst the hustle and bustle of the festive fervor, it's crucial to carve out time for physical activity. Whether it's a brisk walk in the morning, a quick yoga



'Taking the game deep and keeping wickets in hand helped' - Sai Sudharsan

New Delhi: Pacing the innings and taking the game deep on a slowish Ahmedabad wicket was the key to Gujarat Titans' success against Sunrisers Hyderabad, pointed out Sai Sudharsan who also added that targeting spinner Mayank Markande in the 16th over of the chase was a key moment in the match. Chasing 163 for victory, the Titans were 78/2 at the halfway stage of the innings. Sudharsan and David Miller then put on a 64-run partnership that kept GT on track, with 24 of those runs coming in the 16th over bowled by the legspinner. The equation, which was 49 off 30, became a lot easier for GT after that

over and they went on to win with five deliveries to spare. "Definitely it was a difficult wicket to bat on, not so easy where you can go after every bowler in every over. It's about choosing the right bowler, getting the maximum out of it and taking the game deep with wickets in hand," said Sudharsan. "It's all about the situation, when the team needs more run rate, obviously we need to step up. But today, it was a different scenario, it was a different wicket. I felt taking the game deep and keeping wickets in hand helped us today. "The wicket got a lot bit easier under the lights. And we also changed the momentum because the run-rate was going up as well. Playing against spinners got a bit easier and that helped us target the spinners as well. We were waiting for that one spin over, it was a conscious decision of taking down the spinner and it went our way, so grateful for that," he said. Muttiah Muralitharan, the spin bowling coach of SRH, also admitted that the 16th over made the difference. "The wicket was a little slow and low, and there was a little spin. We thought of getting close to 180-170, we missed out by 10-15 runs. They bowled really well and we couldn't capitalise. Even 160 is a manageable total. We were in the game till the 15th over. The 16th over

we had to take a gamble - because they had lost only three wickets and then we took a gamble bowling Mayank against two left handers. We knew they would go hard in that over and they might mis-time and we can get a wicket. It didn't work."

Sudharsan also praised the GT bowlers for being able to restrict the

ominous form. But the key wickets of Klaasen and Aiden Markram set SRH back and GT came up with a good bowling performance in the death, led by Mohit Sharma's excellent figures of 3 for 25, to keep SRH below 170.

"They were going with very good momentum, they were getting a lot of boundaries in the powerplay. So everybody felt it might go to 170-180 but we took wickets at the right time and at the end the last five overs were extraordinary from our bowlers. We had a conversation in the timeout, on pulling the team back, because they were maybe 10-12 runs ahead of what we thought," Sudharsan said.

Rishabh Pant fined Rs 12 lakh for slow over rate in DC vs CSK

New Delhi: Delhi skipper Rishabh Pant has been fined Rs 12 lakh for slow over rate during the Indian Premier League (IPL) 2024 match against Chennai on Sunday, March 31 at the Dr. Y.S. Rajasekhara Reddy ACA-VDCA Cricket Stadium in Visakhapatnam. Pant became the second skipper after Gujarat's Shubman Gill to be fined for slow over rate.

Interestingly, Gill was also fined during a match against CSK at the MA Chidambaram Stadium in Chennai. As far as Pant is concerned, he needs to be careful as 2 more offences will lead to his suspension from one match. Since it was Pant's first offence, his DC teammates weren't fined.

"Rishabh Pant, the Delhi Capitals captain, has been fined after his team maintained a slow over rate during their TATA Indian Premier League (IPL) 2024 match against Chennai Super Kings at the Dr YS Rajasekhara Reddy ACA-VDCA Cricket Stadium,



Visakhapatnam on March 31," an IPL press release read.

"As it was his team's first offence of the season under the IPL's Code of Conduct relating to minimum over rate offences, Pant was fined Rs 12 lakhs," the release added. In case of a second offence, the captain of a team is fined Rs 24 lakh while the other members, including the Impact Sub, are fined either Rs 6 lakhs or 25 percent of their match fees, whichever is lesser. In case of a third offence, the captain of the bowling team is handed a fine of INR 30 lakh and a one match

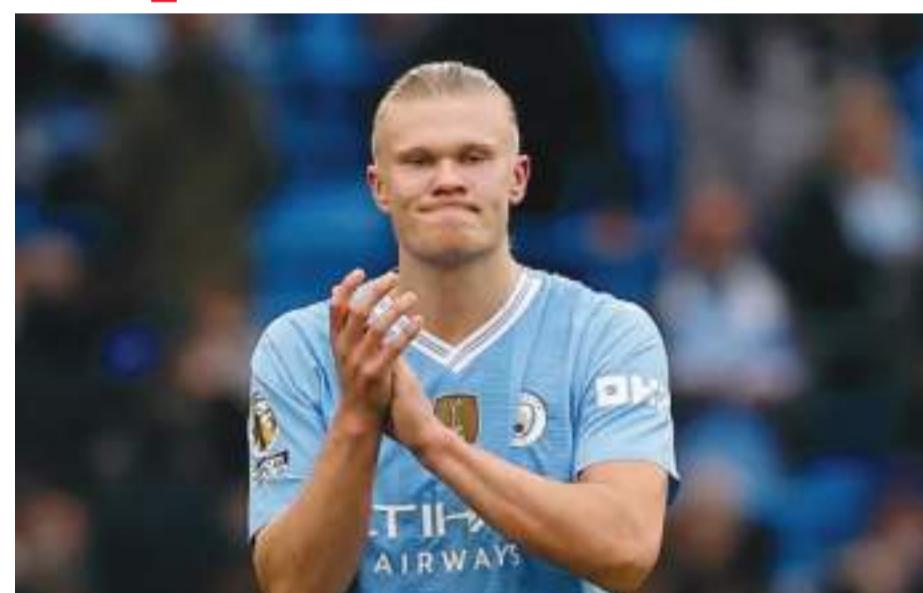
ban. The other players in the team are fined 50 percent of their match fees or Rs 12 lakh each, whichever is lesser. Rishabh Pant plays a blinder. Pant had a decent outing with the bat as he helped DC cease their 2-match losing streak after beating Chennai by 20 runs. After losing to Rajasthan and Punjab, Pant eventually tasted success as captain. The southpaw was on top of his game as he scored 51 runs off 32 balls with 4 fours and 3 sixes. On the back of his knock, Delhi scored 191 for 5 in 20 overs. Thereafter, the home team restricted their opponent to 171 for 6.

PL: Man City and Arsenal draw 0-0 to hand Liverpool title-race advantage

New Delhi: Arsenal nullified reigning champions Manchester City in a 0-0 draw at the Etihad Stadium on Sunday, allowing Liverpool to take top spot on a pivotal day in the Premier League's three-way title race.

Mikel Arteta's Arsenal, in the hunt for their first league title in 20 years, are second in the table on 65 points with nine games remaining, while City are third with 64. Liverpool, on 67 points, claimed the lead with their 2-1 comeback victory over Brighton & Hove Albion earlier on Sunday.

"No way can you be really happy (with just a point)," Arteta told Sky Sports. "Listen, I think we have made a big step today. Coming to these big places not a lot of teams have done what we have done today, especially when there is a lot at stake and the pressure elevates. To respond to it is another step." The match failed to live up to its billing as a battle of titans. City dominated possession



with 72.2% and came at Arsenal in waves. But the visitors frustrated Pep Guardiola's men - including league-leading scorer Erling Haaland - with a textbook defensive display to extend their unbeaten league run to nine games and end their streak of eight losses at the Etihad.

"Tough game ... take the point and onto the next," Guardiola told the BBC. "They make a really good pressing. They are a master of that. It is what it is. In the end we tried. They have really

top players in defence, defending perfectly compact. Low block. We tried." Usually prolific Man City were restricted to just one shot on goal and it was the first time in 58 games across all competitions that they have not scored at home.

"We want all the three points obviously, and we tried our best to get the win ... but we'll take the point and move on," Arsenal skipper Martin Odegaard said.

"We had to defend a lot, a bit more deep than we

would have liked. It was

final tense few minutes but the visitors held strong. The normally reliable Haaland failed to make contact with the ball when he seemed to have a simple finish from Josko Gvardiol's header late in the game, holding his head in frustration while the City fans groaned.

While Arsenal lacked the firepower of recent weeks - they had scored an astounding 33 goals in eight successive league victories - shutting down City was mission accomplished for the Gunners, who were clobbered 4-1 at the Etihad last season before City ran away with the title.

"We can't be satisfied when we draw," said Arsenal defender William Saliba. "We leave with one point, but we are not satisfied. We know they are the best team in the world, so we have to be focused. "We didn't score but we didn't concede, so we are happy. We defended well. We have to keep going like that."

The game marked the final clash between two of the top three teams this season.

Familiar soundtrack to this Rishabh Pant special

New Delhi: Khaleel Ahmed said it best. That CSK effectively play all their matches at home, such is the support for them everywhere they go.

It was no different in Visakhapatnam on Sunday, when the crowd that was supposed to be behind Delhi Capitals at their "home" venue was dyed in yellow. Chants of "Dhoni! Dhoni!" rang through the stadium every now and then, and sometimes even when MS Dhoni, the main man behind CSK's cult-like pan-India following, was nowhere in sight. Those chants, as

must have been familiar decibels for Rishabh Pant. For, he has spent a significant part of his short career listening to them.

Be it at his homeground in Delhi in 2019, when he messed up DRS reviews, or in Rajkot, when he botched up Litton Das's stumping, familiar chants of "Dhoni! Dhoni!" had broken in the stands and reminded Pant of the enormity of the shoe size he set out to fill. They didn't stop in Thiruvananthapuram when he dropped Evin Lewis and were perhaps the loudest in Mohali, when he fluffed up not one but two stumpings.

It was so bad at the time that Rohit Sharma wanted fans to "keep their eyes away" from Pant while Virat Kohli wanted him to be "left alone" and not be "disrespected" with chants and boos. "I missed a stumping in Mohali and the crowd started to chant 'Dhoni Dhoni!', " Pant recently reminisced while speaking to Star Sports about his comeback from the car crash. "I used to really feel very bad. I used to go back to my room and cry at 20-21 years of age. Under stress, I couldn't breathe. So much pressure and I

didn't know what to do." So five years on, when Pant turned up for the toss in Visakhapatnam as captain of the Delhi Capitals, he knew the gigantic task at hand. He spoke to Ian Bishop

about putting on a really good performance to "turn the crowd around." and fortunately did come up with one himself, batting his way to a welcome half-century that was scored to the soundtrack of Dhoni chants.

That Pant did what he did while walking in at No.3 made it even more special but in no way was it an easy initiation to the batting position. He was 23 off 23 deliveries at one point, struggling to time the ball as well as the world is used to seeing him do. At the time, he only had three overs left in the innings to catch up and needed to do so against the likes of fail-

safe Mustafizur Rahman and the promising Matheesha Pathirana, the latter having just bowled two 150 kph yorkers that were too good even for Mitchell Marsh and Tristan Stubbs.

But Pant made the challenge look so simple, sometimes without even using both his hands. Like the six he hit against Mustafizur's slower delivery, a ball which cut back in sharply and had Pant falling over to the off-side while meeting it. But the feet stayed put, the hips pivoted, the hands swung as one came off the bat handle and the other carried through with the shot. And a shot it was.

"I took my time initially because I haven't played much cricket in the last one and a half years, so I thought I've given myself enough time," Pant said after the game, "but at the same time I kept believing that I could change the match. "I love to be on the field and this is something I have depended my life on... [but] 1.5 years was [a long wait]. But you gotta keep doing what you can as a cricketer and keep learning from it. I had a self belief that whatever happens, I need to come back on the ground. Apart from that thought process, I didn't think much."

