

Over 60% voting recorded in phase one of 2024 Lok Sabha polls



New Delhi(KCN): An aggregate 60.03 per cent voter turnout was recorded in phase one of the Lok Sabha polls Friday, the Election Commission (EC) said. While the figures were issued after the conclusion of polls, the commission said people who were in the queue

when voting ended at 6 pm were allowed to exercise their franchise. "The voting percentage is likely to go upwards when reports from all polling stations are obtained as polling is scheduled till 6 PM in many constituencies. Final figures will be known on Saturday after the scrutiny

of form 17A," the EC said. Polling took place in 102 constituencies across 21 states and Union Territories in the first of the seven-phase elections.

The commission described the turnout as "high", noting that voting remained "largely

peaceful". In the first phase of the 2019 Lok Sabha elections, the voter turnout was recorded at 69.43 per cent. Some of the constituencies were different then and the total number of seats which went to polls were 91. States, including Uttarakhand, Arunachal

and Pradesh, Sikkim, Meghalaya, Nagaland, Mizoram, Tamil Nadu and the Union Territories of Puducherry, Andaman and Nicobar Islands and Lakshadweep completed their voting process on Friday in single-phase election.

For the first time, people in 56 villages in Bastar in Chhattisgarh cast their vote in polling booths set up in their own villages.

The poll authority pointed out that in Andaman and Nicobar Islands, voters belonging to the tribal communities came out in large numbers. The Shompen tribe of Great Nicobar made history by casting vote for the first time.

Voters braved the heat in most parts of the country while, at others, they waited patiently in pouring rain.

Odisha Govt Warns

Against Fake News

On 'School Closure

Till June 15'

Bhubaneswar(KCN):

The Information and Public Relations Department (I&PR) of the Odisha Government on Friday warned the public about the circulation of fake news on social media.

A piece of false information is circulating on social media that claims, due to the summer heat wave, all government and private schools in the state will remain closed until June 15, 2024, on Government order.

The misleading post also stated that despite the alleged school closure, teachers would be required to report to school to carry out their duties due to the upcoming general elections.

The I&PR department has categorically denied these claims through a post on its official social media handle. It has clarified that the news is not only false but also a punishable offence.

complaint.

"It is deeply troubling that despite our earlier complaint regarding the use of children in a rally in Khurda, Sarangi has continued to use children in her election campaigns. This time, she has used an infant with a BJP 'uttariya' for her election campaigning along with the

BJP's Bhubaneswar Ekamra MLA candidate Babu Singh in an election campaigning in Bhubaneswar," the BJD alleged.

The party urged the

CEO to take

immediate and strict

action against Sarangi

to ensure that she does

not use children or

infants in any form in

her political rallies or

events.

BJD Moves CEO Against Aparajita Sarangi For 'Using' Children In Election Campaign



Bhubaneswar(KCN): The Biju Janata Dal (BJD) today moved the State Election Commission alleging use of children in poll campaigns by BJP's Bhubaneswar MP candidate Aparajita Sarangi. A delegation of the regional party met the Chief Electoral Officer (CEO) and filed a complaint demanding

action against Sarangi. The BJD team also presented photo evidence to support their claims.

"We are writing to bring to your attention a serious concern regarding the misuse of children in election rallies by Aparajita Sarangi, the BJP MP candidate from Bhubaneswar. It has come to our notice that

Sarangi has been using small children in BJP election meetings and rallies for political gains. This is a clear violation of ethical norms and the rights of children, who should not be exploited for the mere political interests of any party," the BJD delegation said in the

anti-money agency over its claim that the AAP national convenor was eating food laden with sugar so he can fall ill and seek bail on medical grounds.

"ED claimed that I want to increase my blood sugar levels to get bail. Am I going to risk paralysis to get bail? Whatever food I have is as per the diet chart prepared by my doctor prior to arrest," Senior Advocate Abhishek Singhvi told the court.

Kejriwal has been allowed to have food cooked at home in jail. "I only use sugar free (an artificial sugar brand) in my tea. How petty, political and ridiculous ED can be? Their statements

"The allegation is that I have been consuming mangoes... Out of 48 meals sent from home, only three times mangoes were there. No mangoes have been sent after April 8. Mangoes have been made to look like sugar bullets. Their sugar level (glycemic index) is much less than brown rice or white rice," Singhvi told the court.

Kejriwal has been allowed to have food cooked at home in jail. "I only use sugar free (an artificial sugar brand) in my tea. How petty, political and ridiculous ED can be? Their statements

are completely false and malicious. Just because you have a lot of influence in the media you are able to publish that I am having aloo puri even though this meal was sent only once during pooja," he told the court.

Kejriwal, who had Thursday withdrawn a petition for consulting his



Odisha reports first sunstroke death; mercury level crosses 44 degC

Bhubaneswar(KCN):

With Odisha reeling under intense heatwave conditions over the last few days, the state has reported the season's first sunstroke death, officials said Friday.

Sixty-two-year-old Laxmikanta Sahu of Maheshpur in Balasore district died due to sunstroke April 15. This was the first sunstroke death this summer, an official at the Special Relief Commissioner's office said.

Public Health Director Nirjanan Mishra said that 71 people have admitted to different hospitals in the state after falling ill due to heatwave. Of them, 35 were from Sundargarh, and seven each from Mayurbhanj and Angul.

As many as 32 places recorded maximum temperature at or above 40 degrees Celsius. Boudh town in western Odisha was the hottest place in the state at 44.3 degrees Celsius, followed by 44.2 degrees Celsius

in the northern Odisha town of Baripada.

Ten other stations registered maximum temperature at or above 43 degrees Celsius, including Jharsuguda (43.8), Angul (43.7), Titlagarh (43.5), Bolangir, Bhawanipatna, Malkangiri and Nayagarh (43).

As many as 32 places recorded maximum temperature at or above 40 degrees Celsius. Boudh town in western Odisha was the hottest place in the state at 44.3 degrees Celsius, followed by 44.2 degrees Celsius

in neighbouring Cuttack city.

The IMD has forecast that heatwave conditions will prevail in Odisha till April 21.

"The maximum temperature is very likely to be 40 degrees Celsius or above at most places and above normal by 3 to 5 degrees Celsius in some districts over the next two days," the IMD said in a bulletin.

The IMD also said the state may expect some relief from the heatwave conditions due to thunderstorms from Saturday.

Two killed, seven missing as boat capsizes in Odisha's Mahanadi River



Jharsuguda(KCN): At least two persons were killed and seven others were missing as a boat they were travelling in capsized in Mahanadi River in Odisha's Jharsuguda district Friday, police said.

The incident took place when the boat carrying around 50 passengers was going from Patharseni Kuda to Banjipalli in Bargarh district. The boat capsized as it was about to reach Sarada Ghat under Rengali police limits in Jharsuguda district, a police officer said.

Local fishermen have rescued 35 passengers and brought them to the

bank, he said. Later, police and fire

services personnel rescued seven more passengers, he said.

Seven other passengers are still missing and a search operation has been launched, the police officer said.

Chief Minister Naveen Patnaik has announced an ex-gratia amount of Rs 4 lakh for the next of kin of the deceased and five divers were sent for the rescue operation.

Arvind Kejriwal accuses ED of being 'petty', 'politicising' his food before court

New Delhi(KCN): Accusing the Enforcement Directorate of being "petty" and "politicising" what he ate in jail, Delhi Chief Minister Arvind Kejriwal Friday asserted before a court that the food he consumed was in conformity with the diet chart prepared by his doctor. The ED had Thursday claimed before the court that Kejriwal was eating food high in sugar like mangoes and sweets every day, despite having type 2 diabetes, to create grounds for medical bail. Kejriwal's counsel launched a spirited assault on the federal

anti-money agency over its claim that the AAP national convenor was eating food laden with sugar so he can fall ill and seek bail on medical grounds.

"ED claimed that I want to increase my blood sugar levels to get bail. Am I going to risk paralysis to get bail? Whatever food I have is as per the diet chart prepared by my doctor prior to arrest," Senior Advocate Abhishek Singhvi told the court.



Kejriwal, who had Thursday withdrawn a petition for consulting his

every day.

"Just because I am a prisoner do I have no right to a dignified life and good health? Am I a gangster that I cannot even be allowed to have 15 minutes VC (video conference) consultation with my doctor? We have had democracy for 75 years but I am seeing such an approach for the first time. Never seen such kind of pettiness," Singhvi said, reproachfully.

The ED opposed Singhvi's submissions, claiming the food Kejriwal was eating did not match the diet chart prescribed by his doctor. It said Tihar jail had sufficient medical facilities to take care of

Kejriwal's diabetes. The ED's contentions were opposed by senior advocate Ramesh Gupta, who also appeared for Kejriwal.

"What has ED got to do with this hearing? He (ED) is not a party. It is between me and jail and court? They are having a media trial and press is publishing anything it wants," the counsel told the court.

The court reserved its order on Kejriwal's application seeking daily consultation with his doctor for Monday and directed Tihar jail authorities to file a reply, if required, by Saturday.

Patient Awareness and Interaction Programme Marks World Liver Day at AIIMS Bhubaneswar

- Monthly around 1500 liver patients coming to Gastroenterology Department for consultation
- More than 90% of liver disease is preventable

Bhubaneswar, (KCN): Today, in observance of World Liver Day, the Gastroenterology Department at AIIMS Bhubaneswar conducted a patient awareness and interaction programme aimed at spreading awareness about liver diseases and the significance of adopting a healthy lifestyle. The event witnessed the participation of over 200 patients and their relatives at the OPD area of the Gastroenterology Department.



alcohol, processed & junk foods, undergoing screening, receiving hepatitis B vaccination, and engaging in regular exercise.

Speaking on the occasion, Dr. Ashutosh Biswas, Executive Director, AIIMS Bhubaneswar, emphasized the crucial

role of lifestyle choices in preventing liver diseases. Dr. Biswas cautioned against the indiscriminate use of over-the-counter medications or complementary and alternative medicines for liver ailments, urging patients to seek proper medical advice from physicians. Dr. Subash Chandra Samal, Head of the Department, along with faculty members, senior residents, and staff, actively participated in the event, underscoring the department's commitment to promoting liver health and disease prevention. This year's World Liver Day theme, "Keep your liver healthy and disease-free," resonates with the department's ongoing efforts to raise awareness and provide specialized care to patients. As part of its continuous commitment, the department conducts a dedicated Liver OPD every Wednesday for old referred patients.

CUO inaugurates two-day International Conference on "Recent Advances of Biodiversity and Agriculture for a Sustainable Future"



Koraput, (KCN): A two-day International Conference on "Recent Advances of Biodiversity and Agriculture for a Sustainable Future" was inaugurated on 19 April 2024 in the main campus of the University, organised by the Department of Biodiversity & Conservation of Natural Resources, CUO. Hon'ble Vice-Chancellor of the University and Chief Patron of the International Conference Prof. Chakradhar Tripathi inaugurated the Conference. Others present on the dais were Dr. Sarat Kumar Pradhan, Additional Director General, Crop Science, ICAR (Indian Council of Agricultural Research), New Delhi as the Chief Guest; Prof. Saroj Kant Barik, Former Director, NBRI (National Botanical Research Institute), Lucknow, and Professor of Botany, NEHU, Shillong; Prof. S.P. Adhikary, Former Vice-Chancellor of F.M. University and reputed Plant Scientist; Prof. Amarendra Narain Mishra, Former Vice-Chancellor of Khallikote University, Berhampur as the Guests of Honour. Prof. N.C. Panda, In-charge Registrar and Finance Officer of the University, Prof. Sharat Kumar Palita, Dean, School of Biodiversity & Conservation of Natural Resources and Chairman of the Conference, Dr. Debabrata Panda, Convener-cum-Organising Secretary of

the Conference and Dr. Kakoli Banerjee, Co-convenor.

Speaking on the occasion Vice-Chancellor Prof. Chakradhar Tripathi said that India and Biodiversity are interrelated to each other since the Vedic Period. In ancient times we used to conserve our biodiversity system very systematically. The world health system is deteriorating and the cause is we are not following our traditional practices. Our society always is a mixture of culture and ecology. Our perception towards ecosystem was superb, now it's time to revive our tradition. We have to revive the traditional pattern of conserving ecosystem and biodiversity and should follow the old principle of 'Live and let Live', he urged. Prof. Sharat Kumar Palita delivered the welcome address and explained the purpose of the Conference. This area is best suited to the study of biodiversity that's why this Conference is meaningful, he said. He hoped that the emergence of four new departments like Agricultural Sciences, Dairying and Animal Husbandry, Forestry Management and Supply & Chain Management will enhance the development of agriculture and allied sector in Koraput.

The Chief Guest Prof. Sarat Kumar Pradhan said that unless there is no diversity and deviation, development is not possible. So the role of conservation and diversity is important for the society. If we want to reach the Vikshit Bharat @2047, we must conserve our biodiversity, he said. India is advancing in food grain production and other allied production, but we have to utilise more resources for more production, he said. Prof. S. K. Barik delivered the Key note address on the topic "Biodiversity and Agricultural Research in India for Sustainable Development Advances and Future Agenda". In his address he described the rich agricultural heritage of India since 11 thousand years. Prof. A.N. Mishra hailed the University for organising such a befitting Conference. He hoped that this Conference Proceedings will bring fruitful results, he hoped. Prof. Adhikari told that Koraput is the best place for biodiversity research. The subject of biodiversity subject is studied nowhere in the Indian Universities. Prof. N.C. Panda said that Indian traditional system is best system in the world so far as a agricultural development is concerned. He cited the example of Krishi Parashar of our ancient purana where it is mentioned about agriculture. Since then, we practise agriculture. Prof. Debabrata Panda, Convener of the Conference welcomed

all the members and gave the introductory note. Dr. Kakoli Banerjee delivered the Vote of Thanks and coordinated the Inaugural programme. Others present on the occasion was Prof. V.C. Jha, Consultant Academics of CUO, Prof. M.K. Satapathy, Dr. Bologun Shamsudeen Tamiwa from Nigeria, Prof. M. Vetriventhan and other dignitaries, faculty members, students and research scholars.

On the occasion, two eminent people from Koraput were felicitated for their contribution to biodiversity conservation and agriculture in the locality.

They are Shri Netrana Lenka, a reputed agriculturist-cum-conservationist of Patraput Village, and Smt. Raimati Ghiuria for her contribution to millet conservation.

The two-day Conference will consist of five technical sessions where Professors and Scientists from Universities and research institutions within the country and outside will present papers.

Faculties and research scholars of different institutions will also present their research findings through poster presentations.

To highlight the importance of the Koraput region for its rich biodiversity and agricultural heritage, a Millet Exhibition was also organised with the participation of various NGOs of Koraput.



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Indian women to study in the US is a positive indicator of changing global educational dynamics

Vijay GarG



academic excellence, professional advancement, and personal growth.

Key Findings and Stats

The survey's revelations are striking, with a significant 65% of Indian women respondents indicating a strong inclination towards American universities for their higher education goals. This marks a considerable increase from previous years, suggesting a rising confidence and determination among Indian women to venture abroad for academic pursuits.

The allure of STEM fields remains undiminished, with over 40% of respondents aspiring to these disciplines, underscoring the breaking of traditional gender roles in education and career choices. Business and Humanities follow closely, reflecting a broad spectrum of interests among Indian women. Prestigious institutions like



Stanford University, the Massachusetts Institute of Technology (MIT), and Harvard University top their list of preferred universities, highlighting the importance of academic prestige in their decision-making process.

Factors Behind the Surge in Interest
Digging deeper into the motivations driving this trend, several key factors emerge:

Quality of Education: The US is renowned for its rigorous academic standards, innovative research opportunities, and a holistic approach to learning. Indian

women are increasingly drawn to this educational model, which contrasts with the more exam-centric system prevalent in India.

Career Opportunities: The prospect of thriving in the global job market, especially in fields traditionally dominated by men, is a significant draw. The US, with its diverse and inclusive work culture, offers myriad opportunities for women to excel and lead.

Cultural Experiences: The chance to immerse oneself in a new cultural setting, to interact with people

from various backgrounds, and to develop a global perspective is highly valued. For many Indian women, studying in the US is as much about personal growth as it is about academic achievement. Personal testimonials from the survey add depth to these findings. One respondent noted, "The US not only offers unparalleled academic resources but also a culture of innovation, diversity, and freedom. "As a woman in STEM, the opportunities in the US, both in academia and industry, seem boundless. It's not

just about getting a degree; it's about making a mark."

Challenges and Support Systems

The journey to studying abroad is fraught with challenges, from navigating the complex admissions process to securing financial aid. Yet, the survey highlights a robust network of support, from family encouragement to institutional scholarships and mentorship programs, underscoring the community's role in empowering these women.

The survey's findings paint a picture of a dynamic shift in the

landscape of global education, with Indian women at the forefront of this change. Their pursuit of higher education in the US is a testament to their aspirations for academic excellence, professional success, and personal development.

This trend is not merely about numbers; it's about the stories of countless Indian women who are breaking barriers, challenging stereotypes, and paving the way for future generations.

Their journey is a source of inspiration for women everywhere, highlighting the transformative power of education and the importance of pursuing one's dreams, regardless of the challenges. As we reflect on the significance of this movement, it's clear that the empowerment of Indian women through education is a crucial step towards a

more inclusive, equitable, and diverse global society. The encouragement for Indian women considering this path is unequivocal: the benefits of pursuing higher education in the US, both personal and professional, are immense. It's a journey worth embarking on, a challenge worth accepting, and a dream worth pursuing.

In conclusion, the surge in interest among Indian women to study in the US is a positive indicator of changing global educational dynamics and the role of women in shaping the future of international academia. As these women embark on their educational journeys, they not only contribute to the rich tapestry of global education but also pave the way for a more empowered, educated, and inclusive world.

Retired Principal Educational columnist malout, PUNJAB

Biju Babu : The Architect of Modern Odisha

Alekh Chandra Samal, OFS-1 (S.B.)



life-time and even after his death, enjoys an iconic status in Odisha and is widely admired across India for his courage, idealism, statesmanship and dedication to the cause of the common man. People of Odisha lovingly call him the "Hero of Kalinga" and the "Kharavela of Kalinga". He was a man who created history, changed history and shaped history.

Biju Patnaik was born in Cuttack on 5 March 1916 to Lakshminarayan and Ashalata Patnaik. He completed his early education at the Mission Primary School and Mission Christ Collegiate of Cuttack. In 1932, he got admitted into the intermediate science class of the famous Ravenshaw College, where he was a talented sportsman and headed

the football, hockey, athletics and cricket team of the University. He was the sports champion for continuously three years. He studied Aeronautics at the Aeronautical Training Institute of India. Biju Babu was closely associated with two architects of modern Odisha — Utkal Gourav Madhusudan Das and Utkalmani Gopabandhu Das. Inspired by them and by Mahatma Gandhi, Biju Babu dedicated himself to the Indian Freedom Movement.

In 1942, Biju decided to join the Quit India Movement under the guidance of the Father of the Nation to make India free. In 1943, he was sent to prison for about two years for participating in the Quit India Movement. Aruna Asaf Ali, recalling Biju Babu's

Under his leadership, the Congress Party won 82 of 140 seats and

established contact with his old friend Jayaprakash Narayan and plunged into the JP movement as it picked up momentum in 1974. When the Emergency was declared in 1975, Biju Patnaik was one of the first to be arrested along with other opposition leaders. In 1977, he was released and elected to the Lok Sabha from Kendrapara and till 1979 under the government of Morarji Desai and Choudhary Charan Singh, he was the Union Minister for Steel and Mines.

In 1980, Biju was elected to the Lok Sabha and then again in 1996, he was re-elected to the Lok Sabha. In the 1990 state Assembly election, Janata Dal won and Biju Patnaik again served as the Chief Minister of Odisha till 1995. Biju strongly

advocated for equal resources to all Indian states that needed such, in the true spirit of federalism.

Biju Patnaik started his own airline, the Kalinga Airlines, and in 1947 carried soldiers into Kashmir, when it was threatened from across the newly created border sky. At great risk, he landed the first platoon of troops in Srinagar. Biju Babu is considered a pioneer of the industrial growth of Orissa and established a string of industries in mission. He set up the Kalinga Tubes, the first modern Textiles Mills at Choudwar, Orissa, the first refrigerator factory at Jobra, Cuttack, and a low shaft furnace at Barbil. In 1951, he established the Kalinga Prize for the Popularization of Science and entrusted the responsibility to the UNESCO.

Even at the age of 35, he had the foresight to foresee the importance of science and technology and to establish this prize considered a prestigious award by the international scientific community. Biju Babu died in New Delhi on 17 April 1997. In 1992, he left this quote for the people of Odisha: "In my dream of the 21st century for the state, I would have young men and women who put the interest of the state before them. They will have pride in themselves, confidence in themselves. They will not be at anybody's mercy, except their own selves. By their brains, intelligence and capacity, they will recapture the history of Kalinga."

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As Odisha celebrating state's formation day, it is worthwhile to recall how Bijayananda (Biju) Patnaik, a true statesman, freedom fighter and an illustrious son of India, was the architect of modern Odisha and the tallest leader of post-independence Odisha. On 24 February 2016, Odisha Chief Minister Naveen Patnaik unveiled a logo for the year-long celebration of Biju Patnaik's birth centenary beginning from 5 March, Biju Patnaik's birth anniversary. Biju Patnaik, Biju Babu for millions of his admirers, both in his

OPEN ACCESS INCREASES THE REACH OF RESEARCH



Open-access (OA) publishing is going mainstream. This is sometimes a requirement, but it is also perceived as complex. That's understandable, considering that OA comes in so many definitions and shades; gold, green, platinum and diamond journals and more shape a moving landscape where different stakeholders push their own agenda. The shift towards open-access publishing can leave students and researchers confused. For researchers, navigating this landscape requires consideration of costs, funding, licences and copyright issues. All these aspects are relatively new compared with the traditional subscription-based system, where researchers would not worry about subscription costs any more than libraries would care about the details of the reviewing process. Redistribution of tasks along the

publishing process forces universities and institutions to reorganise their support system. Who can and who should help? And how to do so? At the Dr. B. R. Ambedkar University of Social Sciences (BRAUSS), Dr. Ambedkar Nagar (MHOW), Madhya Pradesh, this task lies primarily with library and research support staff members. The open access contact points provide advice, respond to emails, organise workflows and prepare interactive workshops on the matter. Still, the gap between the rapidly moving field and daily research practices remains often significant. We should not forget that the speed of publishing is increasing exponentially, but we cannot hit "pause" on the publication workflow while we figure out how to deal with open access. Researchers need to publish. Looking at all the aspects, at BRAUSS, Prof. Sunil Goyal, Dean, School of Social Sciences and Management Studies & School of Agriculture and Rural Development, under the guidance and directions of Dr.

Ramdas G. Atram, Vice Chancellor, has taken initiative to address the various queries of faculties, research scholars, and students about the misconception of OA publishing. Some researchers, and writers say that they don't care about the general public – publications are meant for their peers and they have access to my papers. Actually, the requirements for open access are rooted in the idea that publicly funded research should be made open unconditionally to the general public. The debate is polarised. On one side, research tradition dominates; many argue that journal reputation is of the utmost importance, stressing its role in prestige and career progression, with open access being a secondary consideration. On the other hand, the ethical consideration is at the forefront. But honestly, it is difficult to argue that publicly funded research should be appropriated by private interests, isn't it? Some researchers, and writers are of opinion that they have uploaded their papers, data etc onto their web page or

favourite social network, and that's good enough. It is certainly good to have papers and other resources available out there for download, and some social networks have been pushing in that direction, but it's better if they can be found and used, and if one can track what use is made of your production. Maybe writer's social network organises and allows it, maybe it doesn't. Certainly, writer have read the terms of service in detail. There is a confusion in some researchers, and writers mind that if they want to publish open access, they have to pay for it. Open access and "pay to publish" are two different things, but many see them as equivalent, largely because many publishers have adopted this vocabulary in shifts in their business model. Other open access modalities exist, ranging from green self-archiving with retention rights to "diamond" journals that allow you to comply with an open access mandate without paying fees. They may not be in the spotlight and are often ignored. The underlying questions here are: who should pay and how to

pay for the costs of scientific publishing? There are different answers and models out there, and as it is so often the case, diversity is beautiful. Some researchers, and writers have doubt that they cannot publish open access because of potential patents and/or commercial profit. There's a simple and pretty ubiquitous principle that says: "As open as possible, as closed as necessary". It applies to many situations, including research involving personal data protection and relations with other forms of intellectual property. So, there is no incompatibility, but there must be a plan! It is also the purpose of a licence to allow reuse for commercial purposes or not.

Researchers, and writers

think that open access means anyone can take my work and turn it into any kind of stuff for their own benefit. This is a legitimate concern, and it is good practice to care about how your research outputs are used; that is precisely what copyright agreements and licensing are for. The open access movement is also pushing authors to retain the rights to their work and allow distribution and uses under their own

terms. Arguably, it takes a bit of time at the beginning, but will quickly become a habit. Some researchers, and writers say that they were told that they could not reuse their own graph for a subsequent publication – how is that possible? Yes, self-plagiarism is a thing. Could it be that you inadvertently signed a copyright agreement that posed restrictions on reusing your own work? A key here is to check how your production was distributed at its different stages (preprint, accepted manuscript, published version). The push towards open access is also a push towards a clean reuse of content.

Those problems

described can be tackled in large part by libraries and publishers working to create an environment in which it is straightforward, cost effective (seemingly free to the author) and ultimately the default to make research findings and data OA. However, practical steps we can take to make true OA normative include creating communities of practice, educating ourselves and supporting others navigating new open research practices. Additionally, institutions, funders and journals

should incentivise open research best practices so that it pays for researchers to engage with it. More practically, if in doubt about OA, have a backstop. Rights retention is a great backstop. It's a way that an author, as the rights holder, can assert their right to assign a licence to other versions of their work and share that openly regardless of how it will be published once accepted by the publisher. Case in point, authors have applied a CC BY licence to the submitted version of this article.

As someone dedicated

to understanding and managing the distinctions among publishing models, it can be

recognised that researchers should not be burdened with excessive considerations in this regard. Instead, peers should advocate for

fostering a stronger sense of community through

enhanced collaboration and communication between research-enabling and research-performing members of organisations. This approach will empower each individual to

become an expert in their

respective areas and focus on unlocking the full potential of their research outputs. To help achieve

this goal, we must discard

unhelpful jargon and OA brands and move towards a more constructive and unified approach. For the purpose of open access, a Creative Commons attribution (CC BY) licence has been applied to the submitted version of this manuscript. We see that the learning curve is still steep. Open access needs resources to build the know-how, policy and strategy, and subsequent action plan. More training given by researchers to researchers is effective in doctoral schools, in group meetings, and other settings. Off-putting technicalities of licensing and copyright can be much better addressed when a researcher starts with the bigger picture: necessary progress towards efficient distribution and reuse of publications and other research outputs, with proper credit.

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A DECADE OF CHANGE AND POLITICS OF PERFORMANCE

M.R.LALU



While releasing the Sankalp Patra of his party in its headquarters, the Prime Minister asserted a significant point. He indicated the present tumultuous situation emerging globally and for India, he insisted on the need of a stable government – a government that will be capable of fulfilling the aspirations of its people and play a supportive role by helping the world recuperate. Similar was the situation that the Covid pandemic brought all over the world. While the developed world in the west sarcastically registered its skepticism on India's ability to help its population, which the west thought would face the worst level of calamity with the epidemic claiming lives; India had its leadership in Narendra Modi, who confidently with humility refused to import vaccines but under his leadership its

efforts made it globe's most successful manufacturer of vaccines. While his regime decided to manufacture vaccines for India's humongous population, his move was in practice, a bold initiative that satisfied his party's ideological stance of Swadeshi. His government firmly moved with its 'Vocal for Local' slogan. India's manufacturing sector received a fresh vigor and the boom was so tremendous that the defense sector also received an unprecedented reception from across the globe. During the pandemic, the government's Make in India movement was deeply impactful that the Indian subcontinent was vaccinated almost twice with the death rate being reduced noticeably. But the western world including the USA was seen literally limping and collapsing critically with millions dying. India's vaccine Maitri was received with great jubilation as it helped the needy countries with vaccines. And the value in focus was purely humanitarian. India's diplomatic

exchequer received a fresh impetus and it came out of the perilous impact of the disease. While unveiling the Sankalp Patra his words have resonated for the need of stability. In a democracy a government without a clear majority would be a disaster. As he entered the national arena in 2014, there was unwavering doubt that had been lingering for long on the democratic efficiency of a multiparty polity. That the world thought it would be a lost case for India. Its democracy would fail to bless a single party with a majority. Probably this approach on the Indian scenario gave pundits across the world a giggle of satisfaction. Modi's entry changed everything. India missed a hardworking leader with a vision and mission for decades. Those who came to hold the helm of affairs were confusingly held tighter by their coalition partners. The UPA regimes were surrounded by the party dynasty which confusingly pestered and disrupted the government under

Manmohan Singh with its family hegemony. Modi had a variety of manipulative issues to deal with. And the most prominent one was to alter the image that the global media had awarded him; the image of a scoundrel, the one they villainously accused him for the Godhra riots. The US banned him and other countries had furrowed their brows as he took over. But he began his stint with a monumental mobilization for transformation, which the political pundits could not credibly predict. His decisions were historical and unprecedented. Starting from demonetization and stretching further by establishing a new GST regime, he remained in critics' eye for long. Though these revolutionary initiatives invited voluminous criticism, the country was amazingly given a jolt as he succeeded in opening almost 50 crore new bank accounts, the segment of population that was left frozen from banking even after India's six decades of independence. Construction of about

12 crore toilets across the country had phenomenally helped a huge segment of the country's population, especially women. With his government's herculean distribution of cooking gas connection to 11 crore families, the scenario turned vivid safeguarded by transparency. This was the period he established a special clan of electorate that he fondly calls his labh arthi (beneficiaries). Slashing intermediaries from almost everywhere, his first regime began a transparent system that a person could easily step into, if he was eligible. Imagine how critical his decisions were! Never an ideologically sound BJP was perceived to have had the audacity to stitch an alliance with Mehbooba Mufti in Jammu and Kashmir. But the subsequent development in the most volatile Indian state proved his move in this regard was a well studied attempt to bring the situation of the state under control. Rest is history. From

the abrogation of Article 370 to the bifurcation of the state for administrative ease to the peace that the region is now known for, the whole Jammu and Kashmir episode has surely become historic. The decade of his administration will be known to have boldly handled India's unreliable neighbors China and Pakistan. Along the borders, our neighbors witnessed a strong India retaliate their belligerence. Strongly defending our interests, his government strategized a massive offensive in the Doklam sector along the China border. Our soldiers bravely defended our area and China had to ultimately retreat. With Pakistan, India's air raid and the surgical strike across the border were evident enough to prove the government's interest that held the safety of the country supreme. Same was the case with separatist elements in the North East and the Communist hotspots in India. There was rarely a chance for anxiety. The government moved with great conviction

and actions were taken with firm determination. Imagine the level of India's commitment for global peace. Narendra Modi did not hesitate to tactfully warn a warmongering Putin telling him the time was not of war. World appreciated his note which indeed India was eligible to make and it did without vacillating. India's attempt to stitch a peaceful framework of unity for the global community through its G20 Presidency was another instance. Its efforts outlined a strong and solid bond among nations that in future will consolidate ideal principles of peaceful coexistence, calculatingly pulling a world from more bloodshed and chaos. More importantly, the Ram temple at Ayodhya seems to hold an impact countless in magnitude, an impression that would go into history. With millions of believers eagerly waiting for a grand structure housing the divine representation of their Lord, Ayodhya temple and its consecration exposed his image beyond politics. By surrendering his conveniences to undergo a strict penance for eleven days for maintaining the

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Bharat Sevashram Sangha celebrated its working President Swami Purnatmanandaji's stepping into 100th year

Kolkata (PARTHA ROY):Bharat Sevashram Sangha alongwith its followers celebrated 100th Birthday of Swami Purnatmanandaji Maharaj. Working President, of Bharat Sevashram Sangha a living legend of our time on 13th April 2024 at Bharat Sevashram Sangha (BSS) Garia branch in Kolkata.

The program was attended by Swami Purnatmanandaji Maharaj himself ; Swami Girishanandaji Maharaj (in charge of Garia Branch of BSS); Dr. Sukumar Mukherjee renowned doctor alongwith disciples, devotees, supporters of Bharat Sevashram Sangha. The program honoured and celebrated a remarkable individual and

his a lifetime dedication to service of humanity and spirituality. Born in the village of Bangaon, West Bengal, Swami Purnatmanandaji Maharaj's spiritual journey began under the guidance of Swami Satchidanandaji Maharaj. His early encounters with spirituality laid the foundation for a lifetime commitment to service. Bharat Sevashram Sangha, a religious and spiritual organisation focused on humanitarian work, was founded in 1917 by the iconic patriot saint Acharya Srimat Swami Pranavanandaji Maharaj, Swami Purnatmanandaji Maharaj's unwavering devotion has been instrumental in the establishment and flourishing of Bharat Sevashram Sangha centers worldwide. These Sangha centers and its associate bodies



hundred branches in India and overseas. Under the divine blessings of Sangha Guru Swami Pranavanandaji Maharaj, Swami Purnatmanandaji Maharaj's commitment to the Sangha's sacred mission remains resolute even when nearing the age of 100. With tireless efforts, Swami Purnatmanandaji

continues to oversee every branch, both in India and abroad, with profound diligence and unwavering dedication. Today, under visionary leadership of Swami Purnatmanandaji, Bharat Sevashram Sangha is involved in youth and women empowerment, skill development, welfare & development of tribal communities, social reformation, Hindu

cultural heritage preservation, in fact, a wide range of welfare activities across the societies alongwith relief and rehabilitation missions during & post natural disasters. Swami Purnatmanandaji Maharaj thanked every one across all Branches of Bharat Sevashram Sangha around the world for extending support to serve and spread the teachings of Srimat Swami Pranavanandaji Maharaj globally as well as to take forward humanitarian missions and work of Bharat Sevashram Sangha.

Dr. Sukumar Mukherjee inaugurated a biography chronicling Swami Purnatmanandaji Maharaj's life journey. Mukherjee stated, "Swami Purnatmanandaji Maharaj's life unfolds vividly in 'As I Saw, As I Heard ... Life of my

Guruji,' authored by one of his disciples, Smt. Dola Dasgupta Lahiri, based in Dubai, UAE. The biography presents the essence of Swami Purnatmanandaji Maharaj's spiritual odyssey, offering profound insights into his teachings, trials and transformative experiences. His contributions to society through the Bharat Sevashram Sangha have left an indelible mark on countless lives."

As his disciples and devotees celebrate the birth centenary of Swami Purnatmanandaji Maharaj, his exemplary leadership and steadfast devotion serve as a guiding light for generations to come, inspiring individuals worldwide to embrace the values of service, compassion and spiritual enlightenment.

IT Employees Celebrate 133rd Birth Anniversary of Bharat Ratna Dr B R Ambedkar



Kolkata, (KCN):The employees of Income Tax office (Aayakar Bhawan) at the city celebrated the 133rd birth anniversary of Bharat Ratna Dr Baba Saheb Ambedkar on Thursday (April 19, 2024) with dignity and honour. The Chief Guest of the

function was Shri K M. Dixit, the Principal Chief Commissioner of Income Tax, West Bengal & Sikkim. The other dignitaries present on the occasion included Dr Debi Chatterjee, Dr Mrinmoy pramanick and Dr Subodh Hansda.

A village school of Kultali, South 24 parganas, Old Deshbandhu K G & Nursery School was donated a subsidy of Rs 1 lakh this year for peripheral and structural enhancement.

Bhartiya Krishak Samaj holds maiden meet in Srinagar



Srinagar, (Aasif Malik) :The Bhartiya Krishak Samaj on Friday held its maiden meet in Srinagar. Vice President, Bhartiya Krishak Samaj, M Y Zargar said that the forum has been made with an aim to highlight the problems and issues of farmer community. He said that the forum demands uniform charges in cold storage houses and other issues. He also said that forum will approach the

agricultural experts from SKUAST and other places to consult them in spray schedule. "The forum will have meeting in all districts to discuss the issues that our farmer community is facing. We are committed for the upliftment of agriculture sector", he added. Besides vice president, the meeting was attended by district president Shopian Sayar Ahmad Dar, district

president Baramulla, Mohammad Yousuf Dar, district president Budgam: Bashir Ahmad Mir, District president Anantnag, Ghulam Hassan Bhat, District President Kulgam, Mohamad Maqbol Naik, district president Ganderbal, Sheikh Abdul Waheed, district president Srinagar Muneer Ahmad Rather and district president Kupwara Khurshed Ahmad Malik.(KNS)

East Coast Railway commemorated World Heritage Day

Bhubaneswar, (KCN):East Coast Railway celebrated World Heritage Day with fervor and enthusiasm, underscoring the significance of preserving and honoring rich railway heritage. The event, graced by Shri Mohes Kumar Behera, General Manager (I/C), East Coast Railway, witnessed a blend of insightful discussions, artistic expressions, and a shared commitment to safeguarding our cultural legacy. The highlight of the commemoration was the engaging discourse by Shri Dillip Kumar

Samantray, Managing Director of Angul Sukinda Railway Limited, who eloquently shared his perspectives on the essence and importance of railway heritage and its preservation. Chief Guest Shri Behera in his speech, reiterated the paramount importance of safeguarding railway heritage, encapsulating

the collective sentiment of the event. Adding a vibrant touch to the occasion, prizes were awarded to the winners of an art competition held on the occasion. Shri Mohes Kumar Behera, GM (I/C) and Smt. Sharmila Behera, President of ECoRWWO distributed Prizes to the winners of the Art competition.

The function was organized at Rail museum. Sri K.K. Khadanga, DGM (G) / ECoR conducted the function and it was attended by Senior Railway officials and staff.

INTACH UNVEILS ITS PASSION PROJECT ON THE REVIVAL OF THE KERANG FABRICS OF THE GADABAS OF KORAPUT

Bhubaneswar (KCN):On the occasion of the World Heritage Day, the Indian National Trust for Art and Cultural Heritage (INTACH), unveiled its Passion Project on the Kerang Fabric of the Gadabas of Koraput. In an event held at Bhubaneswar, Gadaba tribeswomen, attired in Kerang sarees, showcased the revival of the age old heritage. The use of hand woven clothes made out of Kerang fiber by the Gadaba and Bonda tribes has a long history and has occupied an important place in their culture and mythology. The women of these two tribes wear clothes made out of the bark of the Kerang plant which grows wild. Tribal men and women collect the bark of the tree and

after soaking it in waters of the nearby hill streams, sun dry it and extract the fiber out of the bark. They use different vegetable colours before weaving it in a set pattern that has been followed for centuries. While the Gadaba women wear full length cloth or saree with colorful stripes which covers the entire body, the Bonda women wear a small piece of cloth called Ringa which wraps the lower part of the body in a certain customary

manner. These colorful fabric lasts for several generations and has a usable life of a century. The weaving of the Kerang fabric is a rite of passage for every Gadaba girl, she wears it during her marriage and is also draped in it when she dies. This ancient tradition of weaving the Kerang fabric was on the wane. During Intach's study in 2020, it was found that there were hardly any villages which had existing

looms and none of the Gadabas were engaged in making the Kerang fabric. Intach undertook a Passion project to revive the dying tradition. Four villages were selected in Lamptaput Block and looms and assistance were provided to the villagers. The Project was initiated by the State Convenor Shri A.B. Tripathy (IPS) Retd and a proposal sent to Intach's Head office at Delhi. After approval of the project, it was headed



Indian Railways operates Record Number of additional Trains in Summer Season 2024

Bhubaneswar, (KCN):To ensure the convenience of passengers and manage the anticipated surge in travel demand during summers, Indian Railways is operating a record-breaking 9111 trips during summer season. This marks a substantial rise compared to the

summer of 2023, where a total of 6369 trips were offered. This translates to an increase of 2742 trips, demonstrating Indian Railways' commitment to meeting passenger demands effectively. The additional trains have been meticulously planned to connect key destinations across the country,

ensuring seamless travel on major railway routes. All zonal railways spread across India have geared up to operate these additional trips, catering to the summer travel rush from states like Tamil Nadu, Maharashtra, Gujarat, Odisha, West Bengal, Bihar, Uttar Pradesh, Karnataka,

Andhra Pradesh, Telangana, Jharkhand, Madhya Pradesh, Rajasthan and Delhi. Planning and running of additional trains is a continuous process for which inputs are taken from all the communication channels 24x7 like media reports, Social media platforms, Railway

Integrated helpline number 139, apart from details of waitlist passengers in PRS system, to assess demand of trains on a particular route. Based on this requirement, number of trains and number of trips are augmented. Neither the number of trains nor the number of trips run by additional train(s) is static

for the entire season. During the summer season, Zonal Railways have been instructed to ensure availability of drinking water at Railway stations. Elaborate crowd control arrangements are made at all major and important railway stations. Senior officers are stationed at these stations to monitor all

the activities to regulate the crowd in a systematic manner. RPF personnel have been deputed at originating stations to ensure Queue system for entry in General Class coaches. Skilled RPF staffs are deployed in CCTV Control Room to keep a close watch on the crowded areas and render

real time assistance to passengers. Government Railway Police (GRP) & Railway Protection Force (RPF) staffs are deployed at foot-over bridges to regulate crowd smoothly in order to avoid stampede like situation during the heavy rush period.

Artist turns Jajpur home into gallery

Bhubaneswar(KCN): Noted writer and painter Prafulla Mohanti, who is a British citizen of Indian origin, recently converted his two-storey house in Nanpur village of Jajpur district into an art gallery, which was recently opened on his 90th birthday. The gallery titled 'The Creative Hands' houses hundreds of paintings made by Mohanti and other artists. The artist reportedly said that the conversion of his house into a gallery was prompted by his desire to teach art, painting, dance, song and other cultural activities to children in his hometown in an

institutional way. Born in Nanpur in 1936, Mohanti completed his graduation from Bombay University and then received a diploma in Town Planning from Leeds University in the UK, where he also had his first solo exhibition of paintings in the '60s. The influence of his birthplace and childhood experiences can be seen clearly in his art. It was the repeated practice of making circles with mud chalk on the ground that has helped refine his skills. He not only drew good pictures but also perfected his handwriting for both Odia and English scripts. The vermilion



spot on his mother's forehead was mirrored in his rising and setting sun, defusing crimson colour in the sky, and the circle turned into the cosmos or Brahmanda. The abstract renditions of his art include the Bindu or dot, signifying Shunya, floating blue clouds and the blue ocean. The artist has had several exhibitions in many parts of the world including Europe, America, Japan and India. His paintings have been part of several international travelling exhibitions organised by the National Gallery of Modern Art, New Delhi. His works are in the collection of The British Museum in London,

Leeds City Art Gallery, Wakefield City Art Gallery, Brighton Art Gallery, University of Leeds, University of Sussex, University of Kent, Museum of Modern Art at Berkeley, Academy of Fine Arts at Kolkata, Air India, First National City Bank at Manila, Indian Council for Cultural Relations, the National Gallery of Modern Art and Lalit Kala Academy, all three in New Delhi and many other public and private collections. The artist has also authored a couple of books and runs an NGO in the state. He lives mostly in London and works from his studio at home.

99% Man Made Fire: PCCF

Bhubaneswar(KCN): The forest fire in the state is not in a concern stage as there number of forest fire points is much less than last year's figure. About 99 per cent of the total forest fire points are man made, said PCCF Debidutta Biswal.

Compared to last year, forest fires reported at very few points this year. By April 17 last year, there were 31, 210 forest fire points, while this year, forest fire reported from only 11, 367 points, he said.

"We are taking all measures to douse the forest fire. As many as 370 forest fire squads have been deployed to extinguish the fire in the state. For which, 330 vehicles have also been



arranged. Adequate gloves, safety kits are provided for the squads," the PCCF said. A total of 2400 safety kit friends have been given 4800 gloves. With the help of technology, about 10,000 employees' mobiles up to the guard

label have been registered on the OMFS portal, he said. Wherever there is a fire, the information of the point where the fire started is immediately available from the satellite. Compared to last year, the area affected by fire has decreased. Earlier, after the fire, the affected area was at point 5, but now it is at point 25, he added. The PCCF further informed that "Whenever we get information that people are behind the fire, immediate action is taken against such people. In the forest, people are setting fire for cultivation, kendu leaves, puja. About 100 cases are booked against people every year. Man-made forest fires are more common in districts like Nabarangapur, Malkangiri, Koraput, Rayagada, Jajpur in the State, Shri Biswal said, adding, "As we are making people aware, a special advisory has also been issued."

Barsha Joins BJD



Bhubaneswar(KCN): Renowned Odia film actress and ex-wife of Kendrapara MP Anubhav Mohanty, Barsha Priyadarshini today joined the ruling Biju Janata Dal (BJD) here.

After Anubhav resigned

from BJD and joined

BJP, his former wife Barsha joined the BJD at a programme held at Sankha Bhawan, in the presence of leaders including Sasmit Patra. "Since the day I knew Naveen Patnaik, I have become his fan. The big thing about him is that he is a very simple man who

talks less and works more," the actress-turned politician said. On the other hand, former BJD MLA Sipra Mallick today joined the Congress party here at Congress Bhawan, Bhubaneswar in the presence of senior leaders Prasad

Odisha court sentences man to life in jail for raping minor girl

Keonjhar(KCN): A court in Odisha's Keonjhar district Thursday sentenced a 29-year-old man to life in jail for raping and impregnating a minor girl, who tragically died after delivering a stillborn.

Keonjhar POCSO court judge Bijay Kumar Mishra pronounced the verdict against convict Ansuman Mohapatra

after hearing the testimony of 16 witnesses and reviewing medical reports, the public prosecutor (PP) said. The prosecution said after the victim's mother passed away, her father

remarried, and the convict's wife took the minor girl to their home. However, instead of facilitating her education, she employed the victim as domestic help, the PP added. Upon intervention by local social activists, the victim was relocated to a shelter home, where it was found that she was pregnant.

The victim disclosed that

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Credit Plea For Coal



New Delhi(KCN): Amrit Lal Meena, Secretary Coal, has urged banks and non-banking financial companies to find appropriate solutions while working on the proposals placed before them regarding credit availability for commercial coal mines. He reiterated that coal mining is a good and profitable long-term business with assured returns starting from 3-4 years of the allocation of the coal mines.

REC Limited, has organised a workshop on 'Customised Debt-Financing for Commercial Mining & MDOs' recently in New Delhi. The workshop witnessed

participation by Amrit Lal Meena, Secretary, Ministry of Coal, M Nagaraju, Additional Secretary and Nominated Authority, Ministry of Coal, and Vivek Kumar Dewangan, Chairman and Managing Director, REC Ltd. along with other senior functionaries from the coal industry and government.

Shri Meena appreciated the initiative of REC and its commitment to strike a balance between sustainable development and financial viability of the mining sector in compliance with the ESG norms and willingness to be a partner in the growth journey of the mining industry.

He also highlighted the necessity of efficiently closing coal mines once they reach the end of their operational life and rejuvenate such exhausted mines for sustainable endeavours like Pumped Storage facilities, Solar Parks etc.

The Secretary reassured the commitment to sustainable methods of mining and informed that Coal Ministry is taking various steps to increase production from the Under Ground mines. He emphasised that the coal sector is in the growth phase and collective efforts should be made to reduce coal import by increasing production to meet growing domestic demand.

Workshop on causes and Diagnosis of Bleeding



Bhubaneswar: Apollo Hospital Hematology Department is organizing one workshop on diagnosis and management of Thrombotic disorders under the aegis of the hospital. On 2nd Nov,

2023. The Diagnosis of these disorders is very important which affects people of all ages. Making proper diagnosis and giving appropriate treatment will save many lives particularly the young. All the laboratory

Texmaco-SSFMPL JV Secures for Arun-3 Hydroelectric Power Plant Project in Nepal

Kolkata: Texmaco-SSFMPL JV, a collaborative effort led by Texmaco, has recently secured a contract with Sutluj Jal Vidyut Nigam (SJVN) Arun-3 Power Development Company Limited (SAPDC) for the construction of the Arun-3 hydroelectric power plant, a 900MW run-of-the-river hydropower project presently under development in Nepal. The Texmaco-SSFMPL JV, entrusted with an order valued at Rs 179.89 crore from SJVN Arun-3 Power Development Company Limited, is poised to play a pivotal role in advancing this crucial project. The scope of work encompasses an array of responsibilities, including procurement, fabrication, shop assembly, painting, testing, transportation, supply, erection, site testing, and commissioning of the Pressure Shaft Steel Liner. This significant task involves the installation of two lanes of Pressure Shaft Steel

Liner with a substantial diameter of 5500mm, two bifurcations, four branches with a diameter of 4000mm each, along with all necessary accessories. The total estimated tonnage for this undertaking stands at a formidable 4700 metric tonnes.

The Arun-3 hydroelectric power plant, administered under the build, own, operate, and transfer (BOOT) model, is a collaborative endeavour between India's SJVN and the Government of Nepal. SAPDC, a wholly owned subsidiary of SJVN, will oversee the plant's operation for a period of 25 years, which excludes the initial five-year construction phase. Following this operational phase, ownership of the power plant will be transferred to the Nepal government.

One of the most salient features of this agreement is the substantial benefit it bestows upon Nepal. Over the initial 25 years of commercial

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 gels 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.

LIC Mutual Fund Announces Completion of IDBI MF Schemes Merger

Mumbai : LIC Mutual Fund (LIC MF), one of the reputed fund houses in the Indian asset management industry, has announced the successful completion of the takeover of schemes of IDBI Mutual Fund (IDBI MF).

Commenting on the effective date of merger

has July 29, 2023. The move is in line with LIC MF's mission to strengthen and diversify its product offerings, expand its footprint and grow its assets under management (AUM) to emerge as a leading MF house in the country. LIC MF had an AUM of Rs 18,400 Crores and IDBI MF had Rs 3,650 Crores as of June 30, 2023.

After completion of the merger, out of 20 schemes of IDBI MF, 10 schemes will be merged with similar schemes of LIC MF and the remaining 10 will be taken over by LIC MF on standalone basis, which will take its total scheme count to 38. With this

combined strength will help us capture emerging opportunities in the thriving asset management industry and drive value for investors and distribution partners." He further added "Our vision is to be a trusted partner in wealth creation and a mutual fund of choice. Our track record of managing funds for over three decades has enabled us to gain trust of investors. We will remain focused and work towards delivering long-term performance by adopting adequate risk control mechanisms."

About LIC Mutual Fund: LIC Mutual Fund was established on 20th April 1989 by LIC of India. LIC MF is an AMC with LIC of India as its Sponsor and other stakeholders being LIC Housing Finance Ltd, GIC Housing Finance Ltd and Union Bank of India.

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°C as compared to external temperature. These innovative heat barrier technology, include noise reduction, high fire resistance etc.

KiiT International School becomes the only school from Odisha to win at ToyCathon

Bhubaneswar: The revered founder of KiiT International School, Shri Achyuta Samanta, has always inspired and encouraged the youth to think outside the box. This motivation has led to an immense achievement for the school. A game, 'Untold Stories', designed by Shree Roy, a 10th Grade student of KiiT International School, has been selected as one of the top 7 winning games at ToyCathon, an inter-ministerial initiative of GOI, in association with AICTE.

Speaking on the occasion, Dr. Mona Lisa Bal, Chairperson, KiiT International School said, "This is an extremely proud moment for KiiT International School family. I congratulate Shree for her endeavours. This is an accomplishment not just for

consistent quality and enhanced strength (>5 MPa) are the main differentiators of this product.

Ambuja Cool Walls is a sustainable product as it consumes large volume of fly ash in its manufacturing. The walls does not require curing during construction and thus saves 5000 liters of water for a 1000-square feet house. Mr. Neeraj Akhoury, CEO India Holcim and MD & CEO of Ambuja Cements Ltd., said, "Ambuja Cements has always pursued innovation to provide customers with eco-friendly solutions for a better and a greener future. It's our endeavor to provide world class solutions to customers in India. Ambuja Cool Walls is a testimony to our commitment to provide sustainable, high strength and durable solutions to our customers".

her but the entire school. We always nurture our students to think beyond their textbooks and take interest in activities outside their classroom. I am glad that this morale-boosting has steered us to achieve this great honour. I firmly believe that these leaders of tomorrow can drive us towards a better tomorrow with proper education and guidance."

Shree's game 'Untold Stories' is a multiplayer game where one must answer questions about India's heritage to move on to the next level. With this game, Shree intended to revive the art and culture of India. With modernization and technology, most youngsters are glued to their smartphones and the internet. Shree designed this game with the help of the

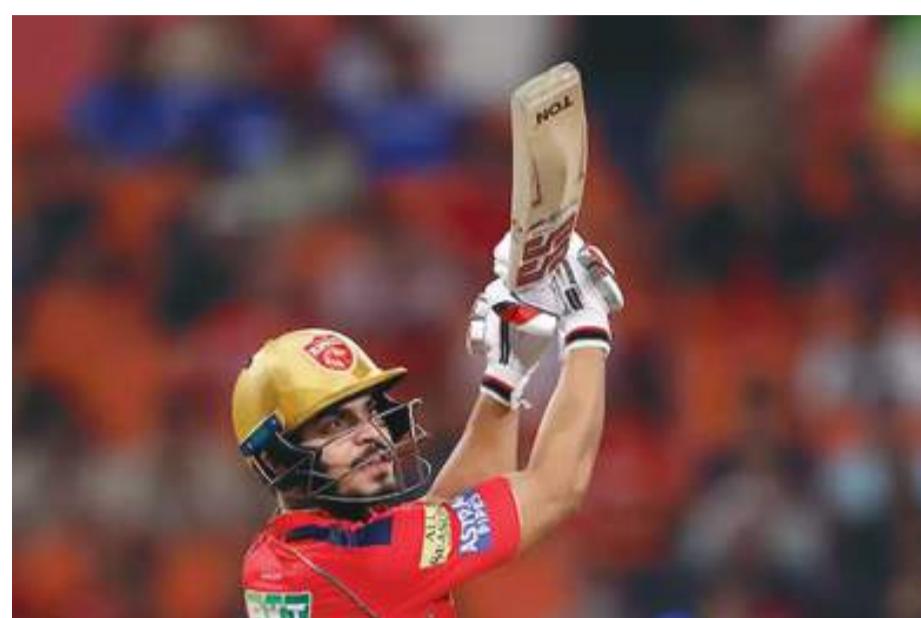
Audacious Ashutosh leaves his mark again

New Delhi: "Jab tak main khel raha tha mujhe khud pe poorabelftha ke main toh kar doonga (as long as I was there I had the belief that I can totally pull this off)." That Ashutosh Sharma was brimming with audacity on Thursday is no secret. Ashutosh had been wowing oppositions with his power-hitting at death for four successive games now but his nascent IPL career peaked when he slog-swept Jasprit Bumrah for a six en route another rearguard act for Punjab Kings. Whether it was the license of a free-hit that made him attempt his "dream shot off Bumrah" or the actual confidence of having admittedly rehearsed it multiple times over in nets, talking about it brings a smile back to his face even in the aftermath of yet another close defeat for his team. The same confident smile he sported immediately

after, as the ball sailed over to the backward square leg stands, knowing he's pulled it off "against the world's best bowler".

It was Bumrah menace in the PowerPlay that had resulted in him taking guard as early as in the 10th over, with PBKS pushed to the point of no return at 77/6 in a chase of 193. Ashutosh though was walking in to join a well-set Shashank Singh in the middle, his partner-in-crime in the Ahmedabad heist. And even if there was no encore on the cards, for the next eight overs, Ashutosh flipped the script on its head with some excellent reading and audacious strokeplay that had Mumbai Indians scrambling for answers. Ashutosh made his intentions clear from the word go, helped by a hit-me length ball straying down leg from Akash Madhwal that he swung hard over the fine leg. Shepherd returned with a

ropes. This was only the precursor though; a game-changing over awaited at death. Romario Shepherd then started with a short and wide ball that was duly slapped, quite literally. But the highlight of this duel was the helicopter shot that he crashed over deep square-leg. MI skipper Hardik Pandya brought himself on for damage control, and saw another one of those helicopters flying over the leg-side ropes. MI dialed Bumrah for rescue who managed to get rid of Shashank, and cut short a threatening partnership on 34, but Ashutosh wasn't backing down. He anticipated a yorker next after the MI spearhead overstepped later in the over, took it on the full, got down on one knee and swept it for a fourth leg-side six, breaking into a smile knowing he's outsmarted one of the game's finest. Ashutosh made his intentions clear from the word go, helped by a hit-me length ball straying down leg from Akash Madhwal that he swung hard over the fine leg. Shepherd returned with a



back of length slower ball, and the 25-year-old pulled it to deep midwicket for another m a x i m u m . Predominantly a leg-side player, Ashutosh's ferocious hitting had thrown the cat among the pigeons. That panic was setting in was very apparent from MI's field placement when Gerald Coetzee returned to the top of his bowling mark,

having already started off his over by conceding back-to-back boundaries to Harpreet Brar. MI had four fielders on the leg-side - fine leg, square leg, deep midwicket and long-on - for Ashutosh, all pushed back to the ropes and none inside the ring. But panic induced pressure and Coetzee erred with a juicy full toss from round the wicket that the PBKS finisher

helped to the fine leg ropes nonetheless. Rohit Sharma had to run in to comfort the bowler, seemingly gesturing him to stick to his strengths. Coetzee resumed over the wicket with a slower ball outside off that Ashutosh failed to connect to. And then came the 10-ball long Madhwal over that nudged PBKS ahead, even if momentarily so.

Ashutosh was on strike only for the second half of it, but still managed to bring the equation down from 42 off 27 to just 28 off the last four overs. With the mid-off up on the circle, Ashutosh preempted the bowler's line and length, backed away to make room off that attempted yorker and drilled it flat over the ropes to raise a 23-ball maiden half-century in IPL. To make matters worse, the bowler had overstepped and the Punjab batter reverse-scooped the free-hit over short third for his seventh maximum of the night that would have made a certain AB de Villiers proud. Brar joined the fun by dispatching the slot delivery back over the bowler's head for a third punishing six of the over, meaning PBKS asking rate was down to a manageable 7 an over and they could afford to see off Bumrah's last over that saw just the three singles that came at the beginning. However, the three dots at the backend of it meant Ashutosh would be looking to break-free against the next bowler and Coetzee put five players on the fence with the clear plan to go short as he took the pace off. Ashutosh took the bait and holed out straight to deep midwicket, bringing curtains down on a spectacular counter-attacking knock and, with that, Punjab's hopes. Coetzee's roar said it all, the ploy had worked. "He was cruising the game for them," the South African said, and added: "He really brought [the attack] to us. So we just wanted to be really clear tactically of what we wanted to do and guess we executed it really well at the backend to shut it down.

Maxwell, Head, Smith round up Aussie panache at revamped Washington Freedom



what the Aussie selectors thought vis vis his T20 World Cup spot. While Smith's T20I stocks may be on the decline, Freedom are certain to leverage his tactical nous and ability as a leader considering former captain Moises Henriques' absence from the retainer list.

Freedom would hope for Head to carry his purple patch that began with a blistering hundred against India in the World Cup final. The 31-year-old

has set the IPL ablaze with his pyrotechnics including a sensational 39-ball hundred against the RCB last week. Maxwell's lean patch puts himself on the opposite end of the spectrum in the IPL as he proceeded to drop himself from the XI. A white ball certainty for Australia, Maxwell has already embarked on a 4-month T20 voyage that will culminate with his stint at The Hundred in August.

"We warmly welcome everyone to the Washington Freedom family and honored to be associated with them. It is a matter of great pride that they have decided to be part of the MLC. Collectively all MLC teams will work hard to have the best products for our fans" said Sanjay Govil, owner of the Washington Freedom

New Delhi: Hardik Pandya was penalised for maintaining slow over-rate for the first time as Mumbai captain after their thrilling win over Punjab in an IPL 2024 match in Mullanpur on Thursday. Hardik was fined Rs 12 lakh for violating the IPL Code of Conduct pertaining to over-rates. MI fell short behind by 2 overs as they survived a scare from 25-year-old Ashutosh Sharma and successfully defended 192 to register their third win of the season.

Hardik Pandya needed help from the senior members of the team, including former captain Rohit Sharma and pace-bowling hero Jasprit Bumrah, as MI were under a bit of pressure. After having begun wonderfully well with the ball and having PBKS reeling at 14 for

4, MI let slip the control of the proceedings as PBKS's usual suspects, Shashank Singh (25-ball 41) and Ashutosh Sharma (28-ball 61) kept the Kings in the hunt. At one point when Ashutosh was going all guns blazing, PBKS needed just 28 runs from 4 overs, but Jasprit Bumrah bowled a terrific over to keep things quiet before Gerald Coetzee picked up the big wicket of Ashutosh Sharma and pegged PBKS back.

"As it was his team's first offence of the season under the IPL's Code of Conduct relating to minimum over-rate offences, Pandya was fined Rs 12 lakhs," the BCCI said in a release on Thursday.

MI paid the price for

their slow-over rate on the field as well. The visiting side was penalised on Thursday as they were allowed to have only 4 fielders, instead of 5 in the last 2 overs. However, Akash Madhwal kept his composure when in the final over when PBKS needed 13 runs and sealed the deal for MI. "It was a very good game. Everyone's nerves got tested. We spoke that the characters would be checked in this game. It is natural you think you are ahead but IPL tends to show that opposition can come back and how," Hardik Pandya said, expressing relief at the end of a thriller on Thursday. Jasprit Bumrah, with figures of 3 for 21, and Gerald Coetzee, with figures of 3 for 32, were the heroes of MI's win as the former champions moved to 7th in the 10-team points table.

Suryakumar, Bumrah star in thrilling MI win



New Delhi: Punjab Kings fell on the wrong side of a third straight final-over thriller at their home ground in Mullanpur with Mumbai Indians edging home to a nine-run win for their third victory of the season to keep pace with the other playoffs chasers. The visitors appeared to be cruising to victory for large portions of the game before a sensational knock from Ashutosh Sharma (61 off 28) rocked their boat sideways. But another impressive bowling performance from Jasprit Bumrah (3 for 21) enabled the visitors to hold their nerves and clinch victory, thereby ensuring Suryakumar Yadav's excellent 78 off 53 didn't go in vain.

That this was not a belter of a wicket, especially in the first innings, is ascertained by the fact that out of Suryakumar Yadav's 17 scores of 75 or more in T20 cricket, this knock was the only one scored at a strike-rate under 160. But he was typically quick off the blocks after MI were put into bat, hitting Kagiso Rabada for two fours after coming out to play in the third over of the game. MI got to 54/1 at the end of the powerplay with Suryakumar reaching 22 off 15 balls. At the halfway point of the innings, he was one short of a half-century having played three of his signature shots in the process: a whip behind the wicket for six off Rabada, a swept-four off

Harpreet Brar that beat short-fine leg and deep square leg and an inside-out six over extra cover off Liam Livingstone. At the other end, after making a fast start, Rohit Sharma was starved off strike and made only 29 off his 20 balls at the 10-over mark.

Sam Curran, continuing to lead in Shikhar Dhawan's absence, was proactive with his bowling changes and did not allow the MI

batters to line up any one member of his attack. The PBKS skipper dismissed Rohit, who faced only 13 balls in the seven overs leading into the 12th, by getting the India captain to hit to point after a 25-ball 36. Curran, Rabada and Harpreet Brar also bowled three boundary-less overs before Tilak Varma ended a 22-ball drought with back-to-back boundaries off Arshdeep Singh. Suryakumar added a four of his own to make it a 15-run over and inject momentum back into the innings.

MI scored 62 runs off the final five overs against an older ball that didn't always come on at an expected

pace off the wicket. Eighteen of those 62 runs came in Rabada's fourth over - the 16th of the innings - denting the South African's figures after he had given away just 25 from his first three. In that over, Suryakumar overturned an LBW decision against him and then proceeded to hit the

pace for a four over extra cover before flicking a full-toss over fine-leg for six. Tilak rounded that over with a pulled six over mid-wicket. Once Curran dismissed Suryakumar in the 17th over, Tilak took over the baton to give the team a finishing kick. He finished unbeaten on an 18-ball 34 while Tim David added 14 off 7 balls including two fours and a six off Curran's final over. Harshal Patel produced an impressive final over, dismissing David and Romario Shepherd with slower into-the-wicket balls. Only eight runs came from that over and even though MI fell short of the 200-mark, the 192 they got was more than any team had managed at Mullanpur and it showed. PBKS made the decision to drop the under-performing Jonny Bairstow and bring in big-money recruit Rilee Rossouw into their XI. It was a move that didn't work as Bumrah quickly set the cat among the pigeons in the second innings. Curran opted to bring himself up to open