

# Odisha played major positive role in saving people's life across the country by providing Oxygen to 17 States

A portrait of a middle-aged man with grey hair, wearing a white button-down shirt. He is looking directly at the camera with a neutral expression. The background is slightly blurred, showing an indoor setting with some decorative items.

this tenure the Parikrama project of Lord Jagannath was completed with HIS blessings. As the Gajapati Maharaj said in five hundred years this is the first major work taken up in Shree Mandira for improving devotees experience. I am so grateful for all those who have helped in this project. In addition to Shree Mandir, Maa Samalei Project was also dedicated recently. Almost all the major temples, across the State are being renovated and

State have been converted in to smart High Schools under the 5T initiatives. Almost all the Colleges and Higher Secondary Schools are being transformed under the 5T initiatives. In fact, almost every higher education institutions of Government or Government aided is getting covered under 5T and students have great atmosphere for learning. This is one of the biggest achievements in this term. By implementing 5T principles we have achieved a great deal of irrigation coverage helping the farmers from Lower Suktel to Kanpur barrage and many projects which have been pending for years have all been completed. In addition to that Gangadhar Meher Irrigation Project has been completed in a record time.

A group of four people are seated in a formal room with wood-paneled walls. On the left, a man in a dark suit and glasses sits in a yellow upholstered armchair. To his right, a woman in a black and white patterned dress sits in a similar chair. Further right, another woman in a pink and orange sari sits in a yellow upholstered armchair. A small wooden table between the man and the woman in the sari holds a large, ornate lamp with a white shade. In the background, a statue is visible on a pedestal. A bouquet of pink flowers is on a table in the foreground.

bonds of culture, traditions and language with the sizeable Indian diaspora community that has made Guyana its home for nearly two centuries. The President said that there is a need to further diversify our bilateral trade basket. There is also immense potential to improve collaboration in the fields of Ayurveda, bio-fuels and agriculture - especially in millets. She added that by working together in these areas, we can address the challenges posed by

climate change and by food insecurity. She congratulated Guyana on assuming the rotating Presidency of CARICOM, as well as this month's Presidency of the United Nations Security Council. As leading members of the Global South, she said that both our countries are string advocates for reformed multilateralism. The President also appreciated Guyana's efforts and leadership in the areas of climate change, green energy, and sustainable development.

**New Delhi(KCN):** In a scathing attack, Prime Minister Narendra Modi asked the Congress why they are questioning the BJP and its policies when they themselves never took a decision to strengthen India's economy when in power.

"In 10 years, we brought the country to no. 5 and Congress wants to preach about economy," PM Modi said while addressing the Rajya Sabha.

"That Congress trying to lecture us? Congress allowed separatism and terror to grow for its own purpose, the congress

A photograph showing Prime Minister Narendra Modi and Union Minister P. Chidambaram. Modi is in the foreground, wearing a white shawl over a checkered vest, looking towards the right. Chidambaram is behind him, wearing a blue shirt and a white shawl, also looking right. They appear to be in a formal setting, possibly a parliament or a government office.

that gave away a large part of the court... did not allow modernisation of army... is now giving us lectures on security," he added.

Replying to the debate on the Motion of Thanks in the Rajya Sabha, PM

Modi said the Congress party has “outsourced” its work and expressed his sympathies over its downfall. “The Congress’ thought has become outdated and it has outsourced its work. We are not

happy at such a downfall of the party and we express our sympathies,” he said. In a veiled reference to Congress MP DK Suresh’s ‘separate country for South India’ remark, PM Modi also accused Congress of attempting to create a “north-south divide.” “The Congress party killed democracy and that party who dissolved elected governments is creating narratives to divide the country. The Congress is aligned with those trying to break the country and is now talking about breaking south,” he said.

**Bhubaneswar(KCN):** Ahead of twin Polls in Odisha, Railway Minister Ashwini Vaishnaw has fulfilled a long standing demand of people from Western Odisha specially Bolangir district to set up a wagon workshop at Kantabanji, which was announced in 2010.

The Ministry of Railways has given the green signal for the establishment of a Wagon Periodic Overhauling (PoH) facility at Kantabanji, following the approval of Rs 244.77 Crore by the Railway Board.

This significant development comes after thorough consideration of a Detailed Project Report (DPR) submitted in



September 2023. The proposed Wagon PoH workshop, with a capacity for 200 wagons, will be set up on the vacant land available with Railways at Kantabanji. This decision comes in response to the fervent demands of the local people, including

public representatives, who have long advocated for such a facility in the region, railway officials said today.

Recognizing the critical need for such a workshop, Shri Vaishnav had assured local people of his commitment to their aspirations. The approval from the Railway Board underscores the Government's dedication to addressing the needs and concerns of citizens, they said.

The establishment of the Wagon PoH workshop holds several key benefits: It will increase the freight traffic in this region, regular Overhauling of Wagons

will be maintained well for safe train operations. The life span of wagons will aid in rectifying the wagons which will lead to cost saving on replacements, the officials claimed. These apart, the wagon maintenance will improve efficiency and reliability, resulting in better performance and reduced downtime. The establishment of the Wagon PoH workshop at Kantabanji underscores the Government's commitment to enhancing railway infrastructure and ensuring the safety, reliability, and cost-effectiveness of the railway system.

**Bhubaneswar(KCN):** The Opposition BJP members created a ruckus in the Odisha Assembly over the use of parboiled rice as Mahaprasad in Puri Srimandir. Unable to run the House, Speaker Pramila Mallick adjourned it thrice till 4 pm on Wednesday. As soon as the House assembled for the day in the question hour on the third day of Odisha Assembly budget session, opposition BJP MLAs stormed into the well of the House carrying placards and shouting slogans against the BJD-led government over the alleged use of parboiled rice as Mahaprasad in Puri Srimandir collected during the visit of Arpan Rath in the villages by the Odisha government on the occasion of the

Shree Mandira  
Parikrama Project  
inauguration.

To counter the opposition  
BJP, the BJD members  
also raised the minor girl  
Pari rape and murder  
issue being politicized by  
the saffron party.

Unable to transact any  
business due to the  
chaotic scene in the  
Assembly, Speaker  
Pramila Mallick  
adjourned the house till

11.30 am. When the House reassembled, the Opposition BJP members continued their protest forcing the Speaker to again adjourn it till 12.30 pm. The house was subsequently adjourned till 4 pm by the Speaker due to stiff protest by the Opposition BJP members over the use of parboiled rice in Mahaprasad of the Holy Trinity.

an apology from Union Minister Dharmendra Pradhan and BJP Chief Whip Mohan Majhi for politicising the sensational Pari murder issue. On Tuesday, the Special Children Court, Nayagarh sentenced one accused, a juvenile to 20 years of rigorous imprisonment in the sensational rape and murder case of Nayagarh. The BJD members said

the judgment in the Pari murder case has exposed the wicked political games played by the BJP targeting a former BJD minister in the murder case and condemned the statement of Pradhan and Majhi. Responding to media persons outside the House, Congress Legislature Party leader Narasingha Mishra said, "If the Speaker wanted, she could have called a meeting to resolve the issue without adjourning the House repeatedly". Supporting the issue raised by the BJP, the Senior Congress Leader said, "BJP has raised the right issue. No one has an account of how much and which rice was collected through Arpana Rathas. Even the inspection committee clarified the presence of parboiled which has hurt the sentiments of the people".

**Cuttack(KCN):** The Orissa High Court today directed the State Government to give priority to Sarpanchs and other elected public representatives in the selection of projects under the “Ama Odisha Nabin Odisha” programme. However,

the court refused to interfere in the project implementation. Several people's representatives at the grassroots level approached the High Court alleging that the government is ignoring them during the selection of projects in the "Ama Odisha Nabin Odisha" programme. In this regard, about 42 cases were filed in the Orissa High Court from various parts of the state. In this project financial

assistance of Rs 50 lakh will be provided to each Panchayat. The programme aims to develop the cultural and traditional infrastructure of the local Panchayat which also includes propagation of Jagannath culture, restoration of Bhagabata Tungis, organising meetings etc. As per the guidelines, the government officials would select the entire project and execute the work through the

As per the guidelines, the developmental works to be executed under 'Ama Odisha Nabin Odisha' are being done by any department engaged by the government or any agency engaged by the BDO or the District Collector. The public representatives opposed this move of the government and 42 cases were registered



Love

Sailabala Mahapatra

It has exposed her  
Back to the scorching sun  
Left her chest  
To face the pouring of rain

The shoulders got softened  
By some drops  
Of dew

You have to be a wall  
to correctly calculate the pain

But, is it that easy to be a  
Wall !

Writing for over last half a century, Sailabala Mahapatra is a well known contemporary Indian poet with seven anthologies of poems in Odia and Hindi besides over fifty translations and eight books for children in English, Hindi and Odia and one book of essays on eminent women. She has been widely translated and published in Hindi, English, Bangla, Asomiya, Gujarati and Urdu .

sailabala.mahapatra@gmail.com...9937247442

Translated by Manas Ranjan Mahapatra from Odia

Their Confluence

(Shibangi Dhara) Bandana Sahoo

She was innocent  
But not a fool among the innocents  
Admittedly, she was lured by hope  
Her trust slipped away  
But her values never dropped  
Who could never separate her  
from herself.

Her trust becomes non-existence  
And that relationship started shaking  
But her love never fades  
then she became Jogan .

She broke  
Then this also broke  
But never let this relationship break  
Even today she calls her hope  
Let us mix this confluence again .

Jajpur  
7205550713

Quotation of the Day

"The bad thing is  
that the time is  
short... and the  
good thing is that  
There is still  
some time.."

~ Invajy

My dear life

Saikat Kumar Basu

My dear life  
Hold me tight  
Hold me right  
Hold me strong  
Hold me happy

So that I don't fall  
So that I don't fear  
So that I don't shy  
So that I don't cry

I pray for a bright morning  
I pray for a warm afternoon  
I pray a loving twilight  
I pray for a dreamy night

I dream for a perfect rainbow  
I dream for a misty morning  
I dream for a moonlit night  
I dream for a refreshing breeze

I live for a warm hug  
I live for a soft kiss  
I live for a glorious sunshine  
I live for a perfect twilight

My dear life  
Give me your sweet aroma  
Give me your soft touch  
Give me your warm hug

Give me the sweet breeze of the monsoon  
Touch my face with refreshing raindrops  
Fill my ear with the buzz of the bees  
Rejoice my eyes with  
The jittery wings of the butterfly

Because life is great  
Rich with sweet and bitter feelings  
High and dry emotions  
Tears, laughs, giggles filled  
Pains and gains of life

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# Temples Of Khajuraho

India is known to have more than 2 million Hindu temples. These temples reflect the variety of Indian culture and way of life. Temple architecture in India has always embodied an underlying vision. It is a representation of experience, space and time. The art and architecture involved in the construction of Hindu Temples is well defined in the Shilpa Shastra. It mentions three main kinds of temple architecture in India: Nagara or the Northern Style, Dravida or the Southern style and Vesara or the Mixed style. The defining features of a Nagara style are Garbhagriha (Sanctum Sanctorum), Shikhara (Curvilinear tower), and Mandapa (Entrance Hall). The Nagara style developed gradually as the earlier temples had only one Shikhara, while the later temples were constructed with multiple Shikharas and the Garbhagriha can always be found under the tallest tower.

The Temples of Khajuraho are a magnificent example of the Nagara style of temples consist of a sanctum, a narrow ante-chamber (antarala), a transept (mahamandapa), additional halls (ardhamandapa), a mandapa or nave and an ambulatory passage (Pradakshinapath) which is lighted by large windows. Khajuraho, known for its ornate temples, was built by the Chandela rulers between 900 CE to 1130 CE. The first mention of Khajuraho and its temples is in the accounts of Abu Rahyan al Biruni ( 1022 CE) and Ibn Batuta (1335 CE). The temples were said to have been spread across 20 square kilometres and there were around 85 temples in the 12th century. The ravages of time have reduced the number of temples in Khajuraho to just 20 today. The Chandela Empire ruled central India from the tenth to the fourteenth centuries. Chandelas were well known for their interest in art and architecture. Although followers of Shaivism, the Chandelas were also said to have been inclined towards Vaishnavism and Jainism as well. The carvings at the temples seem to be predominantly about Hindu deities and mythology. The architectural style also follows Hindu traditions. This can be validated by various factors. A predominant feature of the construction of a Hindu temple is that the face of the temple should be towards the direction of sunrise. All the temples of Khajuraho have been built with this in mind. Moreover, the carvings



reflect the four goals of life in Hinduism, viz, dharma, kama, artha, moksha. The monuments built by the Chandelas were famous for their architectural and sculptural glory. The Chandelas were also deeply interested in performance arts and the various forms of music and dance. This is evident from the sculptural representation of various scenes of music and dance depicted on the walls of these temples. Erotic imagery is very common in the Temples of Khajuraho. Sculptures of celestial nymphs with broad hips, heavy breasts and languishing eyes are commonly found in the Kandariya Mahadeva and Vishwanath Temple.

These sculptures are believed to reflect the idea of female beauty and fertility. Other scenes depicted on the walls of the temples are a part of the Narathara (the human life cycle) signifying how sexual procreation and kama are an essential aspect of human life. The major focus of the study of the Temples of Khajuraho have been on the sculptures. The walls of these temples have some of the best sculptures of the time, making Khajuraho a representation of excellent artistic features. It is believed that the temples constitute five different sets of sculptures: the parivara, parsva and avarana devatas, the apsaras and the surasundaris

secular sculptures of miscellaneous themes (dancers, musicians, disciples and domestic scenes) mythical creatures (vyalas, sardula and other animals) These sets of sculptures and erotic images represent scenes from day to day life. Quite a few stories revolve around the history of these temples. One theory posits their construction can be understood as a part of the proliferation of the Siva-Sakti cult. The other theory is that the temples are a representation of the devadasis who were once a major part of the temple activities. The most beautiful women were brought from Magadha, Malwa and Rajputana to be trained as devadasis in

the Temples of Khajuraho. People say that the Surasundaris, who cover the interior and the exterior walls of the temples, were taken from real life and juxtaposed with the sculptures of Gods and Goddesses. Another theory says that the sculptures represent the life-cycle of a normal human being. It is difficult to state with certainty which of these theories is correct, as no written texts describing the construction exist today. Regardless of the reason behind the sculptures, what we do know is that we have been gifted with a set of the most ornate, intricate and beautiful sculptures extant anywhere in the world. The Temples of Khajuraho are divided into three groups, the Western

Group, the Eastern Group and the Southern Group. The architecture of the Temples of Khajuraho is very complex. The main components of these temples are: The Garbhagriha (sanctum sanctorum) with antarala, a narrow ante-chamber The Maha Mandapa, a large hall The Ardha Mandapa and a mandapa, which are smaller additional halls The Pradakshina Path, a circumambulation path. A few temples at Khajuraho are of the Panchayatana type, with four shrines dedicated to the divinities and often another shrine in front of the portico dedicated to the vahana (vehicle) of the principal deity. The Temples of Khajuraho are believed to have been built of light-coloured sandstone imported from the quarries of Panna, from the east bank of the Kane River. Iron clamps are also freely employed in the construction of the temples. A few other smaller temples are built partly of sandstone and partly of granite. Western Group of Temples - The Western Group of Temples are situated on the west of the Bamitha-Rajnagar road on the banks of Sib-Sagar. They comprise six major edifices and are dedicated to the Shaivite and Vaishnavite cults. 1) Chausath Jogini Temple

- This temple stands on the low rocky eminence to the south west of the Sib-Sagar Lake. This is the only temple in Khajuraho which is built entirely of granite and is oriented north-east and south-west. The temple stands upon a massive plinth and comprises a courtyard which is 104 feet in length and 60 feet in breadth. The temple premises consisted of 65 small cells, out of which one cell was dedicated to Goddess Kali and the remaining 64 were dedicated to the Yoginis, or the female attendants of Goddess Kali, after whom the temple is named. Out of the 65 cells only 35 have survived. No images remain on any of the cells. The cells are roofed with small spires or sikharas, the lower part of which are adorned with triangular ornaments in imitation of the chaitya windows. There is no dated inscription to show the precise age of the temple 2) Kandariya Mahadeva Temple - Largest of all the temples in Khajuraho, it dates back to the 10th century CE. It is 109 feet high and 60 feet wide . The interior arrangement of the temple differs from the usual construction of a Hindu temple as it has an open passage around the sanctum, thus forming a high altar at the inner portion of the temple.



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## Bade Miyan Chote Miyan- Akshay Kumar &amp; Tiger Shroff Give Jordan A Taste Of Bollywood

The sprawling desert, with its red and yellow dunes surrounded by myriad shaped mountains nestled underneath a clear blue sky with plump clouds, was the chosen spot by filmmaker Ali Abbas Zafar to shoot a song sequence with Akshay Kumar and Tiger Shroff for the much-awaited Bade Miyan Chote Miyan. The filmmaker says "It's a visually stunning place, raw yet majestic. It is untapped and just so enchanting".

In open-air jeeps racing across the sandy expanse, with gusts of sharp cold winds hitting our bare faces, we made our way to the set of the film nestled atop one of Wadi Rum's sandstone peaks. Huddled and swathed in our woollens one could not but applaud the actors (Akshay Kumar, Tiger Shroff, Alaya F and Manushi Chiller) who along with background dancers effortlessly swayed to the beats of the music, and steps choreographed



by Bosco Martin, Tiger Shroff sporting a vest which perfectly showed off his chiselled abs, laughed "Fit hone ka faida uthaya jaa raha hai". But jokes apart both Akshay Kumar and Tiger Shroff perhaps of the most disciplined and fittest actors answered in unison, that though used to shooting in varied temperatures, the expanse and beauty of the location made it worth the while. Inviting 50-odd journalists from across India to be part of the film's shoot as well as explore Jordan,

Producer Jacky Bhangani reminds us it is 25 years since the first Bade Miyan Chote Miyan (Amitabh Bachchan, Govinda) produced by his father Vashu Bhagnani and Pooja Entertainment released. "We wanted to create a mood where those who write on cinema can experience the film set for what it is. Over the years one felt the relationship had become a bit clinical, we all meet during promotions, talk and discuss the film and it is all forgotten. We wanted

everyone to experience what went behind the making of a film, as well as explore this amazing place (Jordan). By bringing everyone here we are also creating memories," says Jacky Bhangani. The Peter O Toole and Omar Sherif Academy award-winning film Lawrence of Arabia (1962) was one of the first films to be shot in Wadi Rum. Its dramatic landscape and its similarity to the surface of Mars made it a huge draw for filming science fiction as well as space-

related films. Star Wars: The Rise Of Skywalker, Dune, and The Martian were some of the films shot here.

After the set visit, we headed to Aqaba, where we were given a sneak peek into the making of the film at the wrap-up party. High octane action spread across continents, the makers have left no stone unturned in giving us a larger-than-life extravaganza.

The coastal city of Aqaba is arresting beautiful, its coastline is divided into four countries Jordan, Saudi Arabia, Egypt and Israel. One gets a confluence of the many cultures in its food, from succulent Mansaf (a lamb dish) to the mouth-watering Egyptian dessert Umm Ali, it is a gastronomic delight. Though you can lounge along the beaches of the Red Sea at Aqaba, one should not miss the opportunity to take the Dead Sea tour and soak in the natural yet simple beauty of Jordan.

The other popular filming location is the ancient city of Petra. Of course, the one film that comes to mind is Indiana Jones amongst the many shot there. We get a chance to explore the "Rose City", as you take in its majestic beauty, you cannot help but hear someone excitedly ask "Kareena Kapoor? No, I was not mistaken for the actor, rather had excited locals professing their love for Bollywood, and Kareena Kapoor Khan being a popular screen icon amongst them. "I wish her a lovely life and want her to make a film in Petra," says the shopkeeper in Petra, and even gave me a free souvenir to take home. With raw and human resources easily available and the consistent working of the Royal Film Commission of Jordan to make the country a viable filming and tourist destination. Apart from a single window clearance for film shoots, it is also a visa on arrival for Indians.

## Kiran Rao's 'Laapataa Ladies' To Have A Special Premiere For Villagers Of Sehare

Kiran Rao's directorial 'Laapataa Ladies' is catching up momentum as it is nearing its release date. While the trailer gave a little glimpse of its humorous world, it indeed left the audience craving for more from this comedy entertainer. Taking the audience further in this humorous world, the maker will be keeping a special premiere in Bhopal where the director will be inviting the entire Sehare village to be a part of the screening.



The makers of 'Laapataa Ladies' will be visiting Bhopal for the special premiere of the film. The film has been extensively shot in the Sehare village. Now, as the team will be going to Bhopal, the director Kiran Rao will be inviting the entire Sehare village people to the premiere. Interestingly, the director has involved the real villagers of Sehare village in the film as the film was shot in a real location.

Presented by Jio Studios, 'Laapataa Ladies' is directed by Kiran Rao and produced by Aamir Khan and Jyoti Deshpande. The film is releasing on March 1st, 2024, and has been made under the banner of Aamir Khan Productions and Kindling Productions, with the script based on an award-winning story by Biplab Goswami. The screenplay and dialogue are written by Sneha Desai, while the additional dialogues have been jotted down by Divyanidhi Sharma.

Step into the world of the heartthrob, Varun Tej, as we decode five winter looks that exemplify his impeccable style. From thick jackets to playful hoodies, this handsome hunk consistently sets the bar high when it comes to winter fashion. Brace yourselves for a journey through Varun Tej's winter looks that are not just style statements but a guide to staying dapper even in the coldest season. As Varun Tej gears up to steal hearts with the highly anticipated film 'Operation Valentine', we are enamoured both by his on and off-screen presence.

Varun makes a statement as he effortlessly pairs a thick light-colored jacket with an all-black ensemble. Winter elegance meets



contemporary chic, creating a timeless style statement that has us turning heads.

Embrace the rugged charm of winter with Varun's military-inspired look featuring a bold puffer jacket and a snug beanie. His winter aesthetic not only keeps you warm but also adds a dash of adventure to your wardrobe, making it

perfect for those chilly outdoor escapades.

Varun Tej proves that winter fashion doesn't always have to be about layers. Opt for his casual yet vibrant ensemble – an orange hoodie paired with shorts – to effortlessly blend comfort with style.

Witness the fusion of subtlety and vibrancy as Varun adorns a white

hoodie with delicate dye prints in pink. This winter look exudes a playful charm while maintaining a sophisticated edge. Get ready to make a fashion statement that seamlessly transitions from day to night.

Varun Tej's winter wardrobe wouldn't be complete without a timeless black hoodie.

## Kushi: Vijay Deverakonda And Samantha Ruth Prabhu's Romantic Saga's Advance Booking Begins

This year, Indian cinema enthusiasts are eagerly anticipating the release of the romantic musical drama titled 'Kushi'.

The film's captivating trailer has generated a lot of buzz, with audiences. Following this, the songs have been a chartbuster among everyone and the audiences are eagerly anticipating to watch the pairing of Vijay Deverakonda and Samantha Ruth Prabhu on the big screen. To further increase the excitement, the makers of 'Kushi' have announced the start of advance bookings for this highly-anticipated musical extravaganza. Fans can't wait to see what this film has in store for them and are eagerly



counting down the days until its release.

Today, the makers of Kushi have revealed a visually stunning poster

on their social media and announced the advance booking. The poster demonstrates the charming chemistry

between the heartthrob Vijay Deverakonda and beautiful Samantha Ruth Prabhu. Sharing the poster on their social

media, the makers captioned, "It's time to meet the most adorable pair and their most relatable tale on the big

screens #Kushi BOOKINGS OPEN NOW! In cinemas SEP 1st"

The news of the advance booking of the much-awaited Kushi will send happy waves among the fans and the masses who were waiting to catch their favorite stars casting their magic on the big screens

Written and directed by Shiva Nirvana and produced by Mythri Movie Makers, 'Kushi' is all set to set hearts aflutter and celebrate 'love' across theaters on the 1st of September 2023 in Hindi, Tamil, Telugu, Kannada, and Malayalam.



# Can Artificial Intelligence Replace Human Intelligence?

Vijay GarG



Artificial intelligence (AI) used to be something we've all heard of but didn't exactly understand or know its real-life applications. But, as free and easy-to-use AI tools like ChatGPT, Midjourney, or Whisper AI become available online, a new AI era has begun. Now, users can generate copy, long content, images, presentations and even websites using simple commands and instructions. It's mind blowing!

But, as it's natural, many wonder, "Can artificial intelligence replace human intelligence?" The short answer is no. AI cannot replace human intelligence entirely. While AI can perform certain tasks more quickly and accurately than humans, it lacks the same level of general intelligence, creativity, and social understanding humans possess. In this blog, we will explore what AI is, its limitations and

its possibilities.

What is AI?

Before we dive into the question of whether AI can replace human intelligence, let's first define what we mean by AI. At its core, AI is a technology that enables machines to perform tasks that would typically require human intelligence, such as recognising patterns, making decisions, and processing natural language. AI is often powered by machine learning algorithms, which allow the system to learn and improve over time.

While AI has been around in some form for several decades, recent advances in computing power and data analysis have led to a rapid acceleration in AI development. Today, AI is used in various applications, from self-driving cars to virtual personal assistants.

The Limits of AI

But, despite AI advances and possibilities, it's important to remember that there are limits to what it can do. One major limitation is that AI is only as good as the data it's trained on. If the data is biased or incomplete, the AI system will reflect those biases and limitations.

AI is also incapable of true creativity or

innovation. While AI can generate new ideas and solutions based on existing data, it cannot think outside the box and create original ideas. This is because AI is based on algorithms and patterns, whereas human creativity is driven by intuition, inspiration, and imagination. Therefore, AI can be a valuable tool for augmenting human ingenuity but can never replace it.

Additionally, AI is not capable of empathy or emotional intelligence. While AI can recognise and analyse emotions, it can't truly understand them or respond to them in a meaningful way. This means that AI can't replace human relationships or social interactions, as these require a deep understanding of human emotions and behaviours. Therefore, while AI can be a powerful tool for many applications, it's important to remember that it's not a substitute for human intelligence, empathy, and creativity.

The Potential of AI

Despite its limitations, AI has enormous potential to transform many industries and solve some of the world's biggest challenges. As Andrew Ng, co-founder of Google



Brain and founder of deeplearning.ai, puts it "It is difficult to think of a major industry that AI will not transform. This includes healthcare, education, transportation, retail, communications, and agriculture. There are surprisingly clear paths for AI to make a big difference in these industries."

AI can help us make more informed decisions by analysing vast amounts of data and identifying patterns and trends humans might miss. This can be especially useful in healthcare and finance, where making accurate predictions and diagnoses can have life-changing implications.

But perhaps one of the most important use

case of AI is that it can help us automate repetitive and mundane tasks, freeing up time and energy for more creative and meaningful work. This can improve efficiency and productivity in many industries, from manufacturing to customer service.

Additionally, AI can enable us to create new products and services that were previously impossible by combining data and insights in new and innovative ways. Overall, the possibilities of AI are vast and exciting, and we have only scratched the surface of what this technology can do.

The Importance of Human Input

While AI has enormous potential, it's important to remember that it's not a silver

bullet. AI systems require human input and oversight to perform appropriately and make decisions in ambiguous situations.

Ultimately, AI is not a replacement for human intelligence, it's a tool that can help us achieve our goals, but we need to ensure that we use it responsibly and ethically.

Furthermore, humans bring a wide range of experiences, creativity, and intuition to the decision-making process that AI cannot replicate. While AI can process vast amounts of data and identify patterns that humans may miss, it cannot replace the value of human intuition and creativity in decision-making.

It's important to understand that AI isn't

a replacement for human intelligence. It's an extension of it. It can help us to make better decisions and to be more productive, but it can't replace the value of human intuition and creativity.

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The Future of AI and Human Intelligence

So, what does the future hold for AI and human intelligence? AI will likely continue to advance and become more sophisticated, enabling it to perform an even wider range of tasks. However, there will always be tasks and problems that require human input and creativity. Human intelligence will always be a part of fields that require skills like research, design, strategic planning and more. Roles that require human relationships, decision-making, intuition and emotional intelligence, such as Physicians, Teachers, HR professionals and Business Leaders, can't be automated. Still, AI will make them more productive and effective.

In conclusion, while

AI has enormous potential to transform many industries and improve our lives in many ways, it cannot replace human intelligence entirely. While AI may be able to perform specific tasks more quickly and accurately than humans, it lacks the same level of general intelligence, creativity, and social understanding that humans possess. Therefore, the most effective and responsible approach to AI is to view it as a tool to augment human intelligence rather than a replacement for it. By doing so, we can unlock AI's full potential while preserving the value of human input and creativity.

Getting Started with End-to-End AI Transformation

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Retired Principal Educational columnist malout,Punjab

# Supreme Peace and Eternal Happiness

Anupama Bhuyan



The most fundamental fact of existence is that happiness is that it multiplies as we divide it with our people. It is 'infectious' in a sense of term without forgetting the Truth that our soul is eternal in nature. Bhagwad Gita has rightly enunciated: "Know that the abstract entity that pervades the whole body is indestructible as no one is able to cause destruction

of that unceasing and eternal soul." Realsing this we should exert for those pursuits whose affects are far reaching and lasting.

While we seek happiness in acquiring more material prosperity, we just give more importance to external glamour. When pursuing this goal we just disregard internal and more enduring things. We remain obsessed / judgemental about our external wellbeing. Being judgemental is just the enemy of our happiness. We judge others by external pump and

show and get obsessed to getting this fructified even at the cost of anything. This should always be borne in mind for acquiring the traits of eternal happiness.

While everyone wants to be happy and no one wants to suffer, very few understand the real cause of happiness and suffering. We spend almost all our time adjusting to the external world, and trying to make it conform to our wishes. We surround ourselves with material objects that make us feel comfortable, yet

we do not find pure and lasting happiness. This quest for happiness is as old as humanity itself. Happiness is a state of mind marked by joy, contentment, freedom, and absence of misery. Human beings dedicate most of their energies to realize this objective. If we study this subject from the scientific angle, we will observe that it is our mind that experiences happiness, misery and other emotions. Therefore, the crucial thing from the point of view of attaining true

happiness is to find ways to control and discipline the mind. This is also the message of Vedanta, which teaches a number of ways to attain enduring joy.

Peace shouldn't be mistaken as absence of distressing thoughts, emotions or dominating desires. It is rather a perfect state of equanimity and joy more profound and eternal. It can be cultivated by practicing meditation and executing simple human virtues like acceptance, forgiveness, mindfulness, integrity,

compassion, empathy and benevolence. The persistent and silent pursuit of peace is a shorter and surer way to achieve happiness than the long chase for happiness.

When human heart and mind achieve peace, there is nothing more left to attain. Being at peace with the world, within and without, is supreme joy. Let us turn inwards and attempt to experience the delight arising out of serenity within.

“Sai Bithi”, 7D/1354, Sector-9, CDA, Cuttack, Mob. : 9937581707

## Letter to Editor

Dear Editor

Our children need to looks upto us in a way that we do very interesting positive work to protect and conserve our already highly fragile and endangered ecosystems and environments. We need to provide them with something which they explore while growing up find to be very important, interesting and connected to their lives directly and indirectly. Only then will our next generation be very happy to see that apart from securing wealth, social status and prosperity; their parents have done or achieved something big or significant into meaningful giving back to the society and our environment. When we continue to ignore thr poor and our planet earth, both at our own peril... one cannot just only think about oneself always selfishly; and behave like a narcissist without thinking long term and more importantly in terms of sustainability.

We have to bring up our future generation to be a conscientious human being, that is the need of the hour. It is not just important to get good education; but, truly develop the full potential as a human being. We have to be patient and work seriously and sincerely to see how far our children can move forward with that. We need to have the humility to understand that we are fortunate enough and must share the gratitude to not take our privileged life lightly. It is important to discuss and learn what it takes to protect oyr planet from oyr own selfish actions, since this very impressive and worth exploring in my mind. Protection and conservation of precious natural resources is of paramount importance. Our poor, ignorant, but hard working farmers at the ground level need to be trained and guided properly. Booklets in their languages may be helpful for the farmers.

Thanking you  
Sincerely yours

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## 'PSUs In Odisha Will Be Privatized If Modi Comes To Power In 2024': Jairam Ramesh

**Rourkela (KCN):** Congress leader Jairam Ramesh while addressing a press conference on the sidelines of Congress leader Rahul Gandhi's Bharat Jodo Nyay Yatra in Rourkela said the Public Sector Undertakings (PSUs) in Odisha will be privatized if the PM Modi comes to power in 2024.

"Rourkela has significance when it comes to industrialization in the country. In 1950s and 1960s, the public sector played a major role in shaping the country. Units of NALCO and NTPC were established in Odisha. Today, the public sectors are in danger because of Prime Minister Narendra Modi's intention to sell these. While Congress has formed the country,



the PM is trying to sell it to selected industrialists. If the PM comes to power for the third time, Rourkela will be sold too. NALCO will be sold as well," said Ramesh. Alleging that the BJP and the BJD are working unitedly, he said, "Only the Congress party will oppose the privatization as the BJP and the BJD are two sides of a coin. The BJD always

supports the BJP in Parliament. Whenever I go to talk to the leaders of the BJD, they tell me that they received orders from Bhubaneswar to support Modi." "The two parties are engaged in shadow-boxing. Congress is the only party which fights against the ideologies of the BJP and RSS," he added. Earlier in the day, Rahul

Gandhi had come down heavily on Prime Minister Narendra Modi and Odisha Chief Minister Naveen Patnaik during the Bharat Jodo Nyay Yatra. Addressing a gathering at Panposh Chowk here, Gandhi said, "In Odisha, Naveen Patnaik and Narendra Modi are running a BJD-BJP partnership government. They work unitedly. I

have seen it in the parliament. Only the Congress party is fighting against the partnership in the state."

Raising the issue of unemployment in Odisha, Gandhi said, "Around 30 lakh people from Odisha have gone to other states for job because the Odisha government is not doing its work properly. Unemployment is at its peak in Odisha. As many as 30 industrialists from outside have come to Odisha to loot the assets of the state." "BJP and RSS are spreading hate across the country. We have to open 'Mohabbat ki Dukan' in 'Nafrat ki Bazaar'. The tribals, dalits and people belonging to backward classes in the region are facing injustice. We have come here to listen to your grievances," he added.

## Chakradhari Sharan Singh Sworn In As New Chief Justice Of Orissa High Court



**Cuttack (KCN):** Justice Chakradhari Sharan Singh was sworn in as the Chief Justice of the Orissa High Court today, with Odisha Governor Raghuraj Das administering the oath at a special ceremony today. Justice Singh's name was recommended by the Supreme Court Collegium to the Central Government

for appointment as the next Chief Justice of the Orissa High Court following the retirement of Chief Justice Subhasis Talapatra on October 3, 2023. Born on January 20, 1963, Justice Singh earned his LLB degree from Delhi University and began practicing at the High Court of Judicature at Patna in

1990, specializing in constitutional, service, criminal, and arbitration matters. He was appointed as a judge of the High Court of Judicature at Patna on April 5, 2012, and has also served as the Additional Advocate General for Bihar for 22 years. Justice Singh's tenure will conclude in January 2025.

## BJD MP Dr Sasmit Patra Honoured With Best Parliamentary Award



**Bhubaneswar (KCN):** Dr Sasmit Patra, Biju Janata Dal (BJD) lawmaker in Rajya Sabha, and Congress Lok Sabha MP Shashi Tharoor were picked as best parliamentarians for the Lokmat Parliamentary Awards 2023 on Tuesday. Besides Tharoor, Patra, and six other lawmakers from the two Houses also

received awards in various categories for their contributions to Parliament. While Lok Sabha MP and Bahujan Samaj Party leader Danish Ali and CPI(M) MP from Rajya Sabha, John Brittas, were picked as the best debutant parliamentarians of the year, Samajwadi Party MP from Rajya Sabha,

Ram Gopal Yadav, and Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP)'s Lok Sabha MP Maneka Sanjay Gandhi were conferred the lifetime achievement awards. Shiromani Akali Dal lawmaker from Lok Sabha, Harsimrat Kaur Badal, and BJP's Rajya Sabha MP Saroj Pandey were awarded the best woman parliamentarians in the respective Houses.

## Rahul Gandhi Targets BJD Govt, BJP On Day 2 Of His Bharat Jodo Nyay Yatra In Odisha

**Rourkela (KCN):** Senior Congress leader Rahul Gandhi on Wednesday took a jibe at the Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) and Biju Janata Dal (BJD), alleging that there is a partnership between them.

While addressing a massive gathering during Bharat Jodo Nyay Yatra at Panposh in Rourkela, Rahul Gandhi said that the BJP and RSS are spreading hatred which is affecting the country. He suggested to open 'Mohabbat Ki Dukan'. "There is a partnership



between CM Naveen Patnaik and Prime Minister Narendra Modi. There is a partnership government

in Odisha. I also see in the Parliament that whenever the PM needs BJD's help, the members of the latter start

harassing us on Modi's instructions. It is only the Congress which is fighting against the BJD-BJP partnership in

Odisha," said Gandhi. According to the parliamentarian, around 30 lakh people from Odisha have migrated and working as labourers in other parts of the country as the state government is not doing its work. "About 30 industrialists and billionaires from outside have come to loot the resources of Odisha. All the industries have been closed and there is highest unemployment in the state and other parts of the country, Gandhi added.

## Man Charged With Raping, Impregnating His Teenage "Wife"

**Thane (KCN):** An FIR was registered against a 22-year-old man from Navi Mumbai for allegedly raping and

getting his teenage "wife" pregnant. The teen has delivered the child, the police said. No arrest has been made so far in

connection with the incident that happened between November 2021 and February 2023. Based on a

complaint lodged by the parents of the girl, the police charged the man with rape under the Indian Penal Code, the

Protection of Children from Sexual Offences Act and the Prevention of Child Marriage Act, the official added.

## "States' Debt Affects Country's Rating": Centre On Kerala Borrowing Curbs

**New Delhi (KCN):** Uncontrolled borrowing by states would affect the credit rating of the whole country and the fiscal edifice of Kerala has been diagnosed with "several cracks", the Centre has told the Supreme Court on the issue of limits imposed on the state's borrowing capacity. In a note submitted before the top court, Attorney General R Venkataramani submitted that public finance management is a national issue. Venkataramani said if the State indulges in reckless borrowing to finance unproductive expenditure or poorly targeted subsidies, it will crowd out private borrowing from the market. "Debt of States affects the credit rating of the country. Moreover, default by any State in debt servicing would create reputational

issues and will have a domino effect endangering the financial stability of the whole of India," the note said. The AG said uncontrolled borrowing will lead to an increase in the borrowing costs of private industries and adversely impact the production and supply of goods and services in the market. "Increases in the State's debt servicing liabilities as a consequence of higher borrowing by it will reduce the availability of funds for the development, leading to impoverishment of people and loss of State income, and hence also loss of national income. It may also engender various social and other problems," said the note. Venkataramani stated that all States require permission from the Union government to borrow from any source. He said while giving this permission, the Union

government keeps in mind the overall objectives of macroeconomic stability of the country as a whole and fixes a borrowing limit for the State seeking its permission, under Article 293(4). The borrowing limits of States are fixed in a non-discriminatory and transparent manner guided by the recommendations of the Finance Commission, he said. The top court had earlier asked the Centre to respond in two weeks to a suit by the Kerala government accusing it of interfering in exercise of its "exclusive, autonomous and plenary powers" to regulate the state's finances by imposing a ceiling on net borrowing. On January 12, the top court sought the Centre's response on the suit filed by the



Kerala government. In an original suit filed under Article 131 of the Constitution, the Kerala government has said the Constitution bestows fiscal autonomy on states to regulate their finances under various articles, and borrowing limits or the extent of such borrowings are regulated by a state

legislation. Article 131 of the Constitution deals with original jurisdiction of the Supreme Court in any dispute between the Centre and states. The suit referred to the letters dated March 27, 2023 and August 11, 2023 issued by the Centre, through the Ministry of Finance (Public Finance-State

Division), Department of Expenditure, and the amendments made to section 4 of the Fiscal Responsibility and Budget Management Act, 2003. It alleged that the Centre "seeks to interfere with the finances of the state by (i) imposing a net borrowing ceiling on the plaintiff state in the

manner deemed fit by the defendant Union, which limits borrowings from all sources including open market borrowings..." It also gave the figure of dues as on October 31, 2023 which had accumulated over the years because of the financial constraints stemming from the ceiling imposed by the Centre on

borrowing. It said the suit "squarely raises a dispute as to the right, power and authority of the defendant Union (of India) to interfere with the exclusive, autonomous and plenary powers of the plaintiff state to regulate its own finances under several provisions of the Constitution". The suit claimed the Centre's actions "fall foul of, and violate the federal structure of the Constitution". It said the borrowing limits or the extent of such borrowings are regulated by the Kerala Fiscal Responsibility Act, 2003 as amended from time to time. The suit said the ability to determine the borrowing of the state in order to balance the budget and make up for the fiscal deficit is exclusively within the domain of the states.



# NGMC 2024 Kickstarts

**Bhubaneswar(KCN):** The two-day long National Green Metal Conference 2024 (NGMC-2024) kicked off here today. Chief Secretary Pradeep Kumar Jena inaugurated the mega conference in presence of K Murugesan, Member Secretary of Odisha State Pollution Control Board (OSPCB) and Director of Department of Environment, Forest and Climate Change and other senior officers. The theme of the crucial conference is "Balancing the Metal Eco Systems: Towards Green Sustainability". It is being organised jointly by the State Pollution Control

Board, Odisha, and the Biju Patnaik National Steel Institute (BPNSI). Additional Secretary Ministry of Steel Ruchika Chaudhry Govil, BPNSI Director Pritam K Purakayastha and other graced the occasion. Union Secretary Steel N N Sinha addressed the conclave on virtual mode. Speaking on this occasion, the Chief Secretary said, "The policy makers, academia and industrialists need to make partner with each other to deal with such a complex subject, which is so important for all of us, to find some way out." The demand for metal is growing each day and will grow in future too. It



is not going to come down. At the same time, its adverse impact on the environment is also known to everybody, he said. Greenhouse gas emission has its impact on different forms and no other state realised it better than Odisha, which witnessed several cyclones in the past three

decades. Shri Jena said, adding, the metal sector is one of the components responsible for such adverse impact on climate and environment. The Prime Minister has committed to the global community that India will achieve net zero emission by 2070. To achieve it, all need to start

acting in this regard, the CS said.

"We cannot compromise with our growth as the world is looking at India. At the same time, we cannot go to the extreme end of the impact of climate change. As we need to find a proper solution in between," he suggested.

The Chief Secretary advised the industries and academia to work together and find the solution to decrease the carbon emission in the metal sector.

Addressing the gathering, Member Secretary Dr. Murugesan said the OSPCB has been declared as number one pollution control board among all such boards of the country for its transparency index. He thanked the Chief Secretary for directing such an event in Odisha. He said Chief Minister Naveen Patnaik and Forest & Environment Minister Pradip Kumar Amat are scheduled to attend the conference.

However, they could not make it due to their presence in the State Assembly, which is on session.

Ruchika Chaudhry Govil, Additional Secretary, Ministry of Steel, Government of India, emphasized the critical challenges of sustainable development and climate change, and the need to achieve 'zero' carbon emissions by 2070.

N N Sinha, Secretary, Ministry of Steel, Government of India, delivered a message through virtual mode. Pritam S. Purkayastha, Director of BPNSI, elaborated on the conference theme. The conference's four

sessions held today were focused on India's climate change vision, innovations in the steel and aluminum sector, and the future of metal production in the context of the circular economy. This conference offers a unique opportunity for industry and mining organizations to learn about the latest in climate change mitigation technologies, environmental monitoring, and data storage. It also fosters knowledge exchange, contributing to the advancement of the mining and industrial sector and the overall progress of the metallurgical sector.

## Plea For Green Steel Making

**Bhubaneswar(KCN):** Dr. K Murugesan, Member Secretary State Pollution Control Board and Director Environment has advised the steel manufacturers for balancing the metal eco-system towards green sustainability. He urged for green steel making, which will be presenting a sustainable environment in the country. Dr. Murugesan was addressing the "National Green Metal Conference-2024" in which all the leading manufacturers of iron and steel, mines owners of the State, leading personality in the field of environment protection,



Professors of leading National Institutes are participating. Dr. Murugesan said that this mega event being organized by State Pollution Control Board, Odisha in association with Biju Patnaik National Steel Institute, Odisha. The main theme of this National Conference is

"Balancing the Metal Eco System Towards Green Sustainability". The focus areas include technology advancement in manufacturing and pollution control & monitoring, alternative energy, sustainable mining, circular economy, green financing, industrial safety and capacity

augmentation through skill.

Dr. Murugesan said that It is a fact that under guidance of our Hon'ble Chief Minister, the State Pollution Control Board Odisha has been declared as No. 1 Board amongst all State Pollution Control Boards of the Country for its transparency index.

Dr. Murugesan presented the welcome address in which he welcomed all the guests, invitees and media members. His presentation was lucid and information oriented, which reflects the seriousness of the National Meet, said R N Prusty, Veteran Scientist of SPCB.

## Odisha SSEPD Department Ropes In Five NGOs For De-Addiction Drives




**Bhubaneswar(KCN):** The Odisha Social Security and Empowerment of PwDs (SSEPD) Department will provide financial support to five non-government stakeholders to strengthen its de-addiction drive under the 'DISHA' scheme. In this connection, an MoU has been signed by the department for managing and providing services at the recovery centres for addicts run

by the organisations. SSEPD Department Principal Secretary Bishnupada Sethi said that the approach of the scheme is to provide a wide range of services including awareness generation, identification, counselling, treatment and rehabilitation of addicts through voluntary effort. All services at the recovery centre will be provided free of cost to the beneficiaries. He

suggested the stakeholders maintain transparency and philanthropic spirit in such activities. The MoU was signed at the State Institute for Disability Rehabilitation (SIDR) in the presence of the Principal Secretary along with Director Niyati Pattnaik, Special Secretary Dillip K. Ray, and senior officers of the Department. Faith Charitable Trust (Bhubaneswar), Mukti

Foundation (Khurda), Peoples Forum (Berhampur), Peoples Cultural Centre (Cuttack) and Vedic Group of Institutions (Berhampur) will get financial assistance for three years to run the recovery centres. It was decided to expedite programmes and activities on de-addiction in the Nisamukt Bharat Abhijan State Committee Meeting held last December.



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## 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), 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). 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 merger, investors invested in IDBI MF schemes will get access to LICMF's diversified basket of product offerings covering Equity, Debt, Hybrid, Solution oriented themes, ETF and Index funds.

Commenting on the successful completion of the scheme merger, Mr. T.S. Ramakrishnan, Managing Director & CEO of LIC Mutual Fund, said: "It is an important milestone in our journey as we are working towards developing our capabilities to serve as a diversified mutual fund house catering to investment needs across key markets in India. The merger complements our goal to strengthen our scheme offerings in the mid-cap, small-cap, gold fund, passive fund segments, etc. The merger will help us build wider market presence and offer a

more extensive range of product basket. The 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 solution 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 quality and enhanced strength (>5 MPa) are the main differentiators of this product.

Ambuja Cool Walls is an innovative solution to the problem faced by traditional construction with non-sustainable products. The challenge posed by traditional construction today are efflorescence on walls, termite attack, water absorption and highly prone to earthquakes. Ambuja Cool Walls along with unique jointing mortar makes the wall stronger and eliminates the problem faced by traditional construction practices. This helps the consumers in cost saving on electricity due to thermal insulation, low frequency of repeat painting because of no efflorescence, lesser repeat maintenance and lower construction cost. Additional benefits include noise reduction, high fire resistance etc.

Also it enables speedy construction and reduces project completion time by ~30%.

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".

## 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

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

school's research wing, Inspiron, in a pursuit to move them away from this exposure while enhancing their knowledge on India's art, history, and culture. From over 14 lakh online entries, 200 games were chosen for the physical edition of Toycathon. Untold stories was the only winner from Odisha among the top 7 felicitated games.

Under the 'Aatma Nirbhar Bharat Abhiyan' initiated by our Hon'ble Prime Minister, Shri. Narendra Modi, Toycathon is conceived to challenge India's innovative minds to conceptualize novel Toy and Games based on Bharatiya civilization, history, culture, mythology and ethos.



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