

Odisha will be among country's key growth engines for next 25 years: Modi

New Delhi(KCN): For the next 25 years, Odisha will be among the country's key growth engines, said Prime Minister Narendra Modi Friday at an NDA parliamentary party meeting in New Delhi. "Whenever I think of Lord Jagannatha, I feel he is the God of poor," PM Modi further said. Chosen by the BJP-led National Democratic Alliance as its leader to become prime minister for the third time, Modi also said the NDA government in the next 10 years will focus on good governance, development, quality of life and minimum interference in the lives of common citizens. Modi further said that he would strive to ensure unanimity in all decisions of his next government and asserted that the NDA is an organic alliance committed to the principle of 'nation first'. He said mutual trust was at the core of this alliance and they were committed to the principle of 'sarv pantha



sambhava' (all sects are equal).

"If we look at it in terms of numbers in the history of coalitions, this is the strongest coalition government," Modi said, asserting the NDA knows it very well to digest victory.

"We have never lost. Our conduct following June 4 shows that we know how to digest victory," the prime minister said, and attacked opposition parties.

"There were efforts to not acknowledge this very victory, to cast a 'shadow of defeat' on this victory. But all such efforts remained fruitless... Such things 'die very young', and it happened," Modi said at the meeting of the NDA

Parliamentary Party. NDA leaders including N Chandrababu Naidu (TDP), Nitish Kumar (JD), Eknath Shinde (Shiv Sena), Chirag Paswan (LJP-RV), HD Kumaraswamy (JDS), Ajit Pawar (NCP), Anupriya Patel (Apna Dal-S), Pawan Kalyan (Jana Sena) attended the meeting along with newly elected Lok Sabha members from the ruling alliance.

Modi congratulated the victorious NDA leaders and said he must salute the lakhs of ground workers who worked to ensure this victory.

"This is the most successful alliance in the history of our country. It has completed three successful terms and is

now entering its fourth. "The NDA is not a grouping of parties that have come together to get power, it is committed to the principle of 'nation first,' he added.

Modi said "INDI alliance" parties have already started saying they came together only for the Lok Sabha polls. Such an approach showed their character, hunger for power, he said. "For me the NDA stands for New India, Developed India, Aspirational India," he said. "Our 10 years were just a trailer. We will work much harder and faster for the development of our country. People know that we will deliver," Modi said.

The prime minister said he had been missing parliamentary debates and hoped that the Opposition MPs also contribute to nation-building when they come to parliament.

Taking a dig at the Congress, he said the opposition party could not even touch the 100

seats mark, and that their total seats in the last three LS polls were fewer than the BJP's tally in this election alone. "We are glad to note that for the first time, one of our representatives has emerged victorious in Kerala. We have been having a brilliant performance in Arunachal Pradesh. In Sikkim also, we have almost registered a 'clean sweep'. In Andhra Pradesh, it is a historic victory. The way NDA's vote share has increased in Tamil Nadu clearly shows what is in the offing," Modi said. "In the last 10 years, we worked to make the country touch new heights of success. A common thing that exists amongst all the leadership pillars of NDA is Good Governance," Modi said. "Whenever given the chance to serve, each and every leader of the NDA has ensured Good Governance across Bharat. The NDA has become synonymous with Good Governance," Modi said.

President Murmu appoints Narendra Modi as PM-designate; new govt to take oath Sunday



New Delhi(KCN): President Droupadi Murmu Friday appointed NDA Parliamentary Party leader Narendra Modi as Prime Minister-designate and the new government will take oath Sunday evening. Murmu handed over the letter of appointment to Modi, who called on her at the Rashtrapati Bhavan here Friday evening.

Earlier, leaders of the BJP-led NDA had called on Murmu and handed over letters of support for Modi, who was elected as the leader of the NDA

Parliamentary Party. Addressing the media in the forecourt of the Rashtrapati Bhavan, Modi said he has been appointed as Prime Minister-designate by the President. "The President has asked me to work as the PM-designate and she has informed me about the oath ceremony," Modi said and added that he has informed the President that they will be comfortable if the event is held on the evening of June 9. He said the Rashtrapati Bhavan will work out the details of the oath taking ceremony on Sunday by when he

would hand over the list of the Council of Ministers to the President. "This 18th Lok Sabha is an important milestone towards fulfilling those dreams when the country will celebrate the 100 years of independence in 2047," Modi said. This 18th Lok Sabha is a House of new energy, youthful energy, and people have given the NDA government one more chance, Modi said. The BJP-led NDA won 293 seats in the recently concluded Lok Sabha elections and enjoys majority in the 543-member House.

IAS Sujata Karthikeyan goes on six-month-long childcare leave



Services in October 2023.

In the recently held Lok Sabha and Assembly elections in the state, the regional party faced an electoral debacle as the BJP won 78 of the 147 seats in the assembly. The BJD, led by Naveen Patnaik, managed to secure 51 seats in the assembly, with the Congress winning 14 seats, Independents 3 and CPI (M) one. The BJD also failed to open its account in the Lok Sabha elections. After BJD's debacle, two retired IAS officers, R Balakrishnan and Suresh Mohapatra, resigned from their posts in the Chief Minister's Office.

Bhubaneswar(KCN):

The Biju Janata Dal (BJD) is going through a churning for the first time in its 27-year-long history following the unexpected defeat in the recently concluded Assembly polls in Odisha. The party witnessed a major dent in the popularity of BJD supremo Naveen Patnaik who himself faced a defeat in Kantabanji in Bolangir district. The 77-year-old Patnaik won from his home turf Hinjili constituency in Ganjam district by a very narrow margin. The writer-turned-politician had never tasted defeat since he joined politics in 1997 by winning the by-election from Aska Lok Sabha constituency after the death of his father and former Janata

Dal stalwart, Bijayananda (Biju) Patnaik. Naveen Patnaik, a political novice, founded the Biju Janata Dal, December 26, 1997, after splitting from the erstwhile Janata Dal. The BJD along with alliance partner Bharatiya Janata Party formed the government in Odisha winning the 2000 and 2004 Assembly elections. Though Patnaik ditched his alliance partner BJP, yet he registered an emphatic win in the 2009 Assembly elections due to his simplicity, anti-corruption crusader image and pro-poor welfare policies. He maintained this success in future elections too. He continued to retain his pre-eminence and invincibility in Odisha politics with a constant rise

in the BJD's vote share and seats tally during the 2014 and 2019 elections too. Meanwhile, the local units of the opposition BJP and the Indian National Congress were busy in their internal party squabbles over the question of leadership. The BJP finally breached the BJD citadel wresting power from the once-invincible Patnaik after 24 years of his rule. The BJD through an aggressive campaign managed to convey the message to the voters that

Patnaik. Everyone's eyes are now on Patnaik who has the daunting task before him to revitalize the party bringing together all the workers and leaders. Experts opined that Patnaik has to build a second rung of leadership in the party who can lead the party in the future. The veteran leader neglected to nurture a second rung of leadership which also cost the party dearly in this election.

Speculation is also rife that the political career of bureaucrat-turned-politician Pandian has also come to an end with the results clearly indicating this rejection by the voters as the reported successor to Patnaik.

Odisha: 73% of newly elected MLAs 'crorepatis'



Bhubaneswar(KCN): Seventy-three per cent of the newly elected MLAs in Odisha are 'crorepatis' with BJD's Sanatan Mahakud the richest legislator having total assets worth Rs 227.67 crore, a report said. The Odisha Assembly has 147 members. Odisha Election Watch and Association for Democratic Reforms (ADR) have analysed the self-sworn affidavits of all 147 elected MLA candidates and found that 73 per cent of the

newly elected MLAs in 2024 are 'crorepatis' while 95 (65 per cent) 'crorepatis' MLAs were elected in 2019 polls. Out of 107 crorepatis MLAs, 52 candidates are from BJD, 43 from BJP, nine from Congress, one from CPI (M) and two independent candidates. The BJP won 78 Assembly seats while BJD secured 51, Congress 14, three independent nominees emerged victorious and CPI (M) won one seat in the 2024 Assembly polls. Out of the 147 winning

candidates, 85 candidates have declared criminal cases against themselves, which includes 67 candidates who are facing serious criminal cases. As per the report, 46 out of 78 winning MLA candidates from BJP and 12 out of 51 winning MLA candidates from BJD have declared that they are facing serious criminal cases against themselves in their affidavits. Similarly, five out of 14 winning Assembly candidates from Congress, one of CPI

(M) and three independent winning candidates are also facing serious criminal cases, it said. The average assets per winning candidate in the Odisha Assembly elections is Rs 7.37 crore while it was Rs 4.41 crore in the 2019 Assembly elections. Among the winning MLA candidates, Champua MLA Sanatan Mahakud (BJD) is the richest with total assets of Rs 227.67 crore. BJD's Subasini Jena, who won the election from the Balasore assembly segment, is the

second richest MLA with total assets of Rs 135.17 crore. Three candidates with the lowest assets are BJP's Sanjali Murmu (Rs 35,076) who won from the Bangriposi Assembly seat, Congress candidate Mangu Khilla (Rs 1.47 lakh) from Chitrakonda assembly segment and Congress' Pabitra Saunta (Rs 2.90 lakh) who won from Lakshmipur Assembly constituency, the report said. As many as 43 winning candidates have declared their educational qualification

to be between Class-V and XII pass, while 97 winning candidates have an educational qualification of graduate and above and 7 others are diploma holders. Out of the total 147 winning candidates, 68 are of the age between 25 and 50 years while 79 have declared their age to be between 51 and 80 years, it said. Moreover, the number of women candidates in the state assembly decreased to 11 from 13 elected in 2019 polls.

"I Will Be With PM Modi Always": Nitish Kumar Takes A Jibe At INDIA Bloc

New Delhi(KCN): Nitish Kumar on Friday completed the formality of endorsing Narendra Modi for Prime Minister - for a third term - at a meeting of the BJP-led National Democratic Alliance's newly-elected MPs.

The Bihar Chief Minister - who underlined his 'paltu Kumar' sobriquet in January when he pivoted from the INDIA opposition bloc he helped create to the BJP's side - also took a jibe at his former allies, stating the group "has not done any work for the country". The JDU boss also declared "I will be with

PM at all times" - a response to critics expecting a sixth political U-turn in a decade.

Nitish Kumar's claim of support for Mr Modi was also an answer to speculation the INDIA bloc - which defied exit polls to slash the BJP's advantage and win 232 seats - had reached out to him.

The JDU leader emerged as one of two kingmakers after the Lok Sabha election - 12 MPs from his JDU and 16 from Chandrababu Naidu's TDP - will be key for Mr Modi's party to form and run the government after it failed

to cross the majority mark of 272 on its own; the BJP has only 240 seats.

The rest of the NDA has only 25 seats - not enough to carry the BJP past the finishing line.

Buzz of a sensational Nitish Kumar - INDIA bloc reunion surfaced Tuesday evening after it became clear the BJP would not win 272 seats on its own. Senior INDIA leaders, including ex-Maharashtra Chief Minister Uddhav Thackeray, suggested an olive branch might be extended to Nitish Kumar.

There were similar



rumours about Chandrababu Naidu as the two made their way to Delhi for the NDA parliamentary meeting. Mr Naidu made his position clear, but Nitish Kumar remained coy. On Thursday sources

close to Nitish Kumar ruled out this possibility, but left a sting in the tail; with both sides locked in talks over ministerial berth allocation, the BJP brass was reportedly told to remember Nitish Kumar had walked out of

the INDIA bloc over delays in naming him as its Convenor.

Recalling a January meeting of the INDIA group - when Nitish was still a member - and the events that followed, sources said an agreement to that effect had been reached. However, it was allowed to be deferred after Rahul Gandhi spoke up; the Wayanad (and now) Raebareli MP asked for the deferral since Trinamool boss Mamata Banerjee was absent from that meeting.

The intervention was not well-received by the JDU; Nitish Kumar and two of his closest aides, Rajeev Ranjan alias Lallan Singh, and Sanjay Jha, who immediately switched off their video conference lines.

Bihar's Deputy Chief Minister, Vijay Kumar Sinha, stressed this week his boss will (now) remain part of the NDA. Speaking to news agency ANI, he said Nitish "was, is, and will remain part of the NDA".

Nitish Kumar has maintained radio silence on this or any related topic, even after the JDU boss and his former ally, the RJD's Tejashwi

Yadav, set tongues wagging when photographed on the same Patna-Delhi flight, en route to NDA and INDIA meetings to review poll results and plot next moves.

Sources, though, have confirmed the JDU has informed the BJP of what it expects - two cabinet and a junior Union Minister berth, as well as a common minimum programme - in return for support. The Railways Minister post - held previously by Nitish Kumar - is among those the party has its eye on.

Two Arrested in Connection with Stone Pelting on Train



confessed to consuming alcohol and engaging in the reckless act of throwing stones at a passing train. Both offenders failed to provide a satisfactory explanation for their presence in the railway vicinity and were visibly intoxicated at the time of apprehension. They admitted to their actions, citing the influence of alcohol. In response to this grave breach of railway safety, the RPF has registered a case against Ramesh Majhi and Sadasib Pradhan under Case Number C3C/ 944/24, dated June 7th, 2024, invoking sections 153, 147, and 145(b) of the Railway Act. The RPF reiterates its commitment to ensuring the safety and security of railway passengers and personnel. Such reckless acts of vandalism will not be tolerated and swift action will be taken against those found responsible.

staff, RPF Khurda Road initiated a thorough investigation. Through diligent efforts, including coordination with the train's Ticket Examiner (TTE) and pinpointing the exact location of the occurrence, it was confirmed that the incident took place between Golabai and Nirakarpur Railway Stations in the Balugaon-Khurda Road Railway Section of the Howrah-Chennai mainline operated by the East Coast Railway. Upon receiving reports of stone pelting endangering the safety of passengers and railway

A team from the RPF, proceeded to the identified area and detained two persons, later identified as Ramesh Majhi (aged approximately 38 years) from Golabai village and Sadasib Pradhan (aged approximately 33 years) from Nakula Patna village within the jurisdiction of Jankia Police Station in Khurda District. The detained persons were found in an inebriated state near the railway track, and upon questioning, they

Giving gifts of Savitri Brat to the women of slum area



Savitri Vrat was distributed as a gift. Secretary Bibhudatta Khudayat Roy, columnist Meera Beura, Rakesh Kumar Shethpathi, Dr. Ranjan Kumar Jati, Hemant Kumar Naik and Satish Kumar Paul participated in the program and managed the program.

Amit Shah Rejects Devendra Fadnavis's Offer To Resign, Asks Him To Continue



New Delhi(KCN): Amid reports of Maharashtra Deputy Chief Minister Devendra Fadnavis standing firm on his decision to resign, taking responsibility for the NDA's poor performance in the state, Home Minister Amit Shah has spoken to him and asked him to continue his work in the government.

Mr Fadnavis, a former chief minister, is part of the Mahaashtra government with the Eknath Shinde faction of the Shiv Sena and the Ajit Pawar-led Nationalist Congress Party (NCP). The

undivided Shiv Sena and the BJP had won 41 of the state's 48 between them in 2019, but the new coalition - called the Mahayuti in Maharashtra - managed to get only 17 this time. The Mahaashtra Aghadi, consisting of the Congress, Shiv Sena (Uddhav

Balasaheb Thackeray) and the Nationalist Congress Party (Sharadchandra Pawar), has achieved victory in 30 constituencies. Mr Fadnavis had offered to resign on Wednesday, a day after the counting of votes, and several BJP leaders have spoken to him since.

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Relic Forest



Relic is also the term for something that has survived the passage of time, especially an object or custom whose original culture has disappeared, but also an object cherished for historical or memorial value (such as a keepsake or heirloom). Cultural relic is a common translation for wenwu, a common Chinese word that usually means "antique" but can be extended to anything, including object and monument, that is of historical and cultural value. However, this has some issues since the term wenwu has little resemblance to the English usage of "relic". In most cases, "artifact", "archaeological site", "monument", or just plain "archaeology" would be a much better and meaningful translation. A relic is also an object or an article of religious significance from our past deeply associated with history, culture and

heritage. It usually consists of the physical remains or personal effects of a saint or other person preserved for the purpose of veneration as a tangible memorial. Relics are an important aspect of some forms of Buddhism, Christianity, Islam, Shamanism, and other religions or religious practices.

The English word "relic" has been derived from the Latin root "reliquiae" that refers to "remains", and a form of the Latin verb *relinquere*, to "leave behind, or abandon". In simple terms, reliquary is a shrine that houses one or more religious relics. The concept of relics has been repeatedly reflected in the socio-cultural practices of both Western and Eastern religions, religious faiths and practices in multiple dynamics across the centuries; and is deeply integrated with our history and heritage. For example, the Japanese concept of Relic Cave or Sacred Forest's Cave is a small tunnel underneath a village or hamlet, leading to the Relic Forest and Relic Stone. It is said that the whole area is blessed with supernatural power. Traditionally forests are

composed of areas of very dense vegetation. They are made up of a large variety of plants, herbs and trees, climbers and creepers, shrubs and bushes, epiphytes, complexity as well as the various trophic levels of the forest necessary for the maintenance of the forest ecosystem dynamics. Forest Residuals means small

Saikat Kumar Basu

wood chips, etc.). Relic forests comprise very original and unique cultural vegetation corresponding to the indigenous culture in Far Eastern countries like



hemiphytes, lithophytes, xerophytes, and various grasses. There are both flowering and non-flowering trees as also evergreen and deciduous trees that abundantly grow in the forests. Flowering trees add beauty to the landscape of forests. But the rich biodiversity of flora and fauna represented in the form of various invertebrates and vertebrates add to the

trees, branches, tops and otherwise unmerchantable wood remaining after the clearing, thinning or final felling of forest stands. Residues that are left after logging operations (branches, stumps, treetops, bark, sawdust, etc.). Forestry residues are by-products and co-products of industrial wood-processing operations (bark, sawmill slabs, sawdust,

on research conducted by Japanese botanist Akira Miyawaki, dense plantings of native tree and shrub seedlings can be as small as two parking spaces and still provide large benefits (Miyawaki forests). Japanese botanist Akira Miyawaki endowed the Miyawaki technique to create dense forests with native plants. This unique method is used worldwide for urban afforestation by growing a forest in someone's backyard.

A Residual Forest or a remnant (residual or remaining or last standing natural area or remnant or residual habitat), is an extremely fragile and highly sensitive comparatively smaller ecological community containing native flora and fauna that has not been significantly disturbed by either natural or anthropogenic activities such as forest fires, flooding, draught, diseases, over grazing and/or over population, destructive human activities such as agriculture, logging, pollution, industrial and infrastructural developments, fire suppression, or active/

passive invasion by non-native species replacing or degrading the native species. The more disturbed an area has been, the less characteristic it becomes of a remnant or residual habitat or a residual forest. Remnant areas are also defined in technical terms as as "biologically intact" or "ecologically intact" areas. Residual forests can be successfully used as reference ecosystems in various ecological restoration projects and are important micro ecosystems in understanding the broader perspective of how our ecosystem works.

A Residual Forest can be described in terms of its natural quality or biological integrity, which is the extent to which it has the internal biodiversity and abiotic elements to replicate itself over time. In other words, the capability of supporting and maintaining a balanced, integrated, adaptive community of organisms having a species composition, diversity, and functional

the natural habitat of the region. Abiotic elements determining the quality of a natural area may include factors such as hydrologic connectivity or fire. In areas that have been dredged, drained, or dammed, the altered hydrology can destroy a remnant natural area. Similarly, too much or too little fire can degrade or destroy Residual Forest. Such areas are characterized by the presence of "conservative" plants and animals, that mean organisms that are restricted to or highly characteristic of areas that have not been disturbed by humans. Due to its unique ecological characteristics as well as biodiversity, Residual Forests identified within any biogeographic area need serious protection and conservation efforts for their long term sustenance and survival.

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Banking Exams After 12th: A Gateway to a Career in Banking



have good verbal and written communication skills to deal with end-users, explain financial procedures or concepts, and resolve their inquiries daily.

Customer Service Skills
Customer service includes diverse features like problem-solving, active listening, empathy and communication skills.

Customer service is pivotal for bank jobs since it ensures consumer satisfaction. Below-par customer service results in negative reviews and dissatisfied clients, ultimately affecting the customer retention rate.

Analytical Skills

Analytical skills are an individual's ability to recognise a problem and develop something logical. Analytical skills are vital for bank jobs as they enable one to merge piles of data, analyse it, and resolve various issues.

Teamwork

Teamwork means operating effectively within a group. It includes motivating, collaborating, communicating openly, influencing, and guiding fellow team members.

Must-have Skills for Bank Jobs After 12th

Listed below are some of the skills that candidates need to have in order to increase their chances of landing a job in the banking sector.

Communication Skills

Candidates aspiring to work in the banking industry after Class 12 must have good communication skills. Bank employees should

for bank jobs after Class XII, let's look at the list of available bank jobs after the 12th.

List of Bank Jobs after 12th

Listed below are some of the bank jobs that candidates can apply after completing their Class XII Board Examinations:

Job Title

Educational Qualification

Average Annual Salary (in ₹)

Stenographer

Candidates need to secure at least 60% marks in their 10+2 Board Examinations from a recognised educational institution and need to appear for the SSC Stenographer Preliminary Examinations

₹90,000-6,00,000

Data Entry Operator

Candidates need to clear their 10+2 Board Examinations in any stream. Also, it would be great if the candidate did a Microsoft Office certification course ₹1,00,000-5,00,000

Tele Caller

Candidates need to clear their 10+2 Board Examinations in any stream ₹1,00,000-3,00,000

Now that candidates have a general understanding of some bank jobs they can apply for after 12, let's explore these positions in more detail.

Stenographer: Bank Jobs after 12th

A stenographer is a

professional who can transform languages into a coded form, commonly called shorthand. Stenographers use shorthand and a steno machine to transcribe legal, official, medical, academic, or corporate information.

Besides these primary duties, they perform several other responsibilities, such as typing, writing, transcribing, and compiling office documents. This role is one of the most sought-after bank jobs after completing class 12. A candidate should be between 18 and 25 years old in order to apply for the Stenographer's post.

Data Entry Operator: Bank Jobs after 12th

Data Entry is another option that candidates can choose after completing their class 12 board examinations. A Data Entry Operator's responsibility is to make sure that every necessary detail is entered into a computer.

This clerical job requires computers and other electronic devices in an indoor setting.

A candidate for a data entry operator must have the skills of language, data entry, computer, and customer service.

Duties of a Data Entry Operator

The typical responsibilities of a data entry operator include the following:

Prepare and sort data files for data entry.

Ensure error-free and clear data input to eliminate potential shortcomings.

Compile, certify, and sort information to prepare source data for computer entry.

Provide data to authorised members timely whenever the members raise a request.

Tele Caller: Bank Jobs after 12th

Entry-Level Bank Jobs: Many students opt for tele-calling since they wish to earn immediately after completing 10+2.

Telecallers assist clients, addressing their inquiries via phone or in person.

They engage in telephonic communication with existing and prospective clients to generate sales.

This job position requires a strong command of the English and Hindi languages and proficiency in basic computer skills.

Banking Exams After 12th: A Gateway to a Career in Banking

Understanding the Landscape

After completing the 12th grade, students have the opportunity to enter the banking sector through various entry-level exams.

These exams are the first step in a rewarding career in banking, offering roles in clerical, assistant, and officer positions.

Popular Banking Exams

IBPS Clerk Exam:

Conducted by the Institute of Banking Personnel Selection, this exam is for clerical positions in multiple public sector banks.

SBI Clerk Exam: State Bank of India conducts this exam for recruitment of Junior Associates (Customer Support and Sales) in its various branches.

RBI Assistant Exam: Reserve Bank of India conducts this exam for assistant positions, offering a chance to work in the nation's central bank.

Bank Job Eligibility: What You Need to Know

Educational Qualifications:

For most entry-level bank jobs, a minimum educational qualification is a high school diploma (12th grade). However, for higher positions, a bachelor's degree in finance, accounting, business administration, or related fields is often required.

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Age Criteria:

The typical age criteria for entry-level bank jobs range from 18 to 25 years. This can vary depending on the bank and the specific job role.

Nationality:

Candidates must usually be citizens of the country where the bank is located. For instance, in India, candidates must be Indian citizens for most public sector bank jobs.

Physical Fitness:

Some banking jobs may have specific physical fitness requirements, especially for roles that involve security or fieldwork.

Background Checks:

Banks conduct thorough background checks, including educational, criminal, and credit checks, to ensure the reliability and integrity of

their employees.

Training and Certifications:

While not always mandatory, certifications in banking and finance can enhance a candidate's profile. Many banks also provide on-the-job training to new recruits.

Read: Financial Recruitment Process Conclusion

As mentioned in the above post, there are diverse bank jobs for 12th-pass candidates. To secure bank jobs after 10+2, candidates can enrol in appropriate banking courses and demonstrate genuine interest. Both private and government bank jobs are always in demand, and banks seek self-motivated candidates ready to take on new challenges.

Candidates must sit for certain bank examinations after the 12th if they want to enter the banking industry. Aspiring candidates who wish to financially support themselves or their families as soon as they complete schooling can consider pursuing bank jobs after 10+2. Not only do these jobs offer a decent starting salary, but they also give a respectable boost to the candidate's career.

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Retired Principal Educational columnist malout, Punjab

From Street Selling Sweet to a Brand-Thagguk Ke Laddu

Dr. Ravi Chaturvedi

modifications his laddus became hot sellers. The laddu-lovers soon started lining up, waiting for Pandey to buy their delicious sweet. To attract the customers, Pandey thought of giving his laddus a unique name to catch the attention of customers and even those passing in front of his shop. He named his sweet as Thagguk Ke Laddu. It worked wonders and today it has many branches in Kanpur selling laddus like hot cake. But the naming has historical narrative. Ram Avtar's grand son, Ravi who runs the business with his brother Adarsh says, "Our grandfather was the follower of Mahatma Gandhi and was a regular at his public meetings. He would get motivated by listening to the Mahatma's speeches. Once, Gandhiji referred to sugar as white poison. His words put our grandfather in a dilemma. As a follower of Gandhi, he wondered how he would prepare laddu without sugar? So he decided to be true to his customers and named his product Thagguk Ke Laddu, implying that he was a cheat because he was using sugar in his laddus. The brand name now comes with his popular line: "Aisa koi saga nahijiskohumne thaganahi



(there is no relative remaining whom we have not cheated.)"

Ram Avtar had a knack for storytelling and drawing attention to his products using humour and wit. Ravi says, "Our grandfather was a firm believer that you cannot sell something in a straight-forward way. People like a twist in the tale made him give his shop Thagguk Ke Laddu

was allotted at a central place Bada Chauraha in Kanpur as compensation. Since then it has been no looking back.

Talking about their brand laddus, Ravi says that they do not have any secret recipe. The laddus are made of simple ingredients, including khoya, suji, gond, desi ghee, cardamom, and sugar. They have two variants of laddu -- kaju laddu and special laddu. They also have doodhpeda which is seasonal and badnaam kulf.

From selling a sweet on the streets to becoming a brand, the story of Kanpur's Thagguk Ke Laddu has used self-deprecating humour to win not only the common man but a scene of Bollywood movie Babli aur Bunty with Abhishek Bachan and Rani Mukherjee in leading roles was shot in this shop too. Atal Bihari Vajpeyi, former Prime Minister was fond of these delicious laddus and Prime Minister Narendra Modi does not forget to mention about Thagguk Ke Laddu while talking about Kanpur.

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Popular people's Daily of Odisha

Letter to Editor

Sir,

Resolve the NTA-NEET controversy

The NEET 2024 results have stirred controversy and skepticism due to cheating allegations, suspected question paper leaks, and the NTA's decision to grant grace marks for time loss during the exam. Concerns focus on the NTA's normalization formula following reports of time loss, leading to unusually high scores and questioning the fairness of competition. Additionally, a cheating scandal involves individuals allegedly paying for passing marks, casting doubt on result authenticity and revealing corruption within the system. An unusual pattern emerged in Haryana where students from the same center achieved identical marks and percentiles, raising suspicions of collusion or protocol breaches. Urgent transparency from the NTA is necessary to address concerns and restore confidence in the NEET exam's integrity. Stringent measures are needed to protect the examination system's sanctity and ensure fairness for aspiring medical students.

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

The NDA and the Congress have a lot of lessons to learn from the recently held general election. A little bit of overconfidence and assertiveness plus matters regarding the handling and meddling of economics, price raise in fuels and the not so diligent rhetorics from leaders of the top order of the ruling party have clearly jolted the strong NDA juggernaut in many of the states. Also issues related to farmers, divisive speeches and false propaganda by some opposition parties that the constitution would be changed caused a break in the flow of NDA's calculations and assumptions. The results were not like what the NDA expected. They now have to urgently stitch up the tears as the results obviously shows that the voters are keenly observing the movements of the government. The ruling party will have to fulfill the hopes and promises given by them to the people at a war footing. They ought to prove that the strong leadership at the helm is ready to serve the people rather than rhetorics and promises repeated again and again especially in the present challenging times.

As for the congress a strong helmsman and a panel of trustworthy, hardworking, out of the box thinking leaders can revive them back to their old stature. The Congress were able to get allies with different ideologies together and rattle the NDA front which only proves that they learnt lessons from previous elections, analysed the flaws and found remedies for that.

M Pradyu Kannur
Geeth Thalikavu Kannur 670001.

Challenges and opportunities before Modi government

- Lalit Garg -

The results of the 18th Lok Sabha elections shown up with different scenarios, even if the Bharatiya Janata Party did not get the absolute majority, even if the India Alliance stood as a challenge, still Narendra Modi, becoming the Prime Minister of India for the third time, is moving ahead with more strength, determination and will to build a new and strong India than in the first two terms. BJP may have suffered a loss in terms of seats, but it emerged as the largest party for the third consecutive time. The party has surprised everyone with its excellent performance in Odisha and Telangana. In Odisha, not only in the Lok Sabha, the party also broke the 24-year-old dominance of the Biju Janata Dal in the Assembly.

In the 60-member assembly elections of Arunachal Pradesh, BJP has succeeded in forming the government on the strength of 54 percent votes and a massive majority of 46 seats. At the same time, Gujarat, Chhattisgarh and Madhya Pradesh remain

the strongholds of BJP, while Modi is still the biggest and dominant leader in the country's politics. He will continue to give the nation new wings of development with his surprising and unique decisions. BJP should review and ponder over the reasons for getting fewer seats and accept the reasons for its defeat with ease and generosity and should remove the mistakes that led to fewer seats.

The role of the Election Commission in conducting this election in a planned and effective manner was commendable. Even though the India Alliance had tarnished the country and democratic processes by questioning the impartiality of EVMs and the Election Commission, the election results have not only shattered such misleading statements and myths, but have also restored the vibrant, pluralistic, secular and healthy democratic image of India. The left-jihadi-communalist political group that blindly opposes Prime Minister Modi has left no stone unturned in its nonsense babbling and anti-national conspiracy. Despite this, the election results have been satisfactory in many ways for the constituent parties of the India Alliance. This election has become the harbinger of new life for

the Congress. Anyway, for an ideal democracy, it is necessary to have a strong opposition; this is what gives beauty to democracy. Indian voters have given the message to the India Alliance to play the opposition role effectively.

This time the election results have also raised many questions in front of many political parties. The courts decide who will stay in jail. But Delhi Chief Minister Arvind Kejriwal had handed over the right to the voters to stay in or out of jail, the result of which was that AAP's account was not even opened in Delhi ruled by him, while his party failed to repeat the miracle of Assembly Elections-2022 in Punjab and won only 3 out of 13 seats.

Who is Sharad Pawar's political heir and whose is the real Shiv Sena? Are Maya and Mamta still powerful? This election started with many such questions. Some of these have been answered and some are still pending. The kinds of results that have come have also raised doubts whether economic reforms will continue in the country? Will the country continue to move on the path of development? What will happen to policy stability? Perhaps due to this doubt, there was a huge fall in the stock market. But these questions were answered to a large extent in the

speech given by Narendra Modi at the first BJP headquarters and in the meeting with the alliance parties, due to which the stock market also gained momentum and enthusiasm was generated among the workers of BJP and the alliance parties.

The country is once again entering the era of coalition governments. Now it is a reality that in view of the current mandate, forming a coalition government has become a compulsion for the BJP. Certainly, there is a big difference between running a government with allies with an absolute majority and running a government with allies in minority. The question is being raised whether the BJP, which has taken big decisions in the interest of the country in two terms with an absolute majority, will be able to feel comfortable in ruling under the pressure of coalition partners? But

there is no doubt that the government under the leadership of Modi will move forward with strength and will give shape to its resolutions and plans. A coalition government is going to be formed for the first time at the central level in the country after 2009. In the past, Narsimha Rao and Atal Bihari Vajpeyi have also run coalition governments efficiently and have also taken forward the reforms.

Manmohan Singh has also run a coalition government for ten years, but it cannot be ignored how he had to bow down to undue pressure from allies many times. Atal Bihari Vajpeyi also struggled with the challenges of a coalition government. But Modi's circumstances are different. He is a master of politics and Amit Shah is a player of political manipulation. Considering this, it is believed that the BJP and the NDA government

holding many posts in the BJP organization. Facing pressures from within the country and abroad, he has made India a power. When the world is facing an economic crisis, India's economy is moving towards becoming the third economy of the world. His running of the coalition government will certainly give a new dimension to his leadership ability and political skill of taking everyone along. He has a political vision and skill to solve the country's problems amidst challenges.

Coalition governments have some positive aspects as well as some negative aspects. The leader of coalition governments has to work in coordination with the constituent parties. The problem arises when the constituent parties start making unreasonable demands or try to bargain or start doing politics of pressure to fulfill their narrow interests. To deal with these situations, the Modi government is already making efforts to include other independent MPs and other political parties in its fold. The allies should worry about the political and economic interests of their states instead of unreasonable demands and pressure, but while doing so, they should not lose sight of national interests. They should also ensure that the



coalition government runs smoothly.

Certainly, Modi government is facing challenging situations, just like 'Pandavas' faced complex situations in Mahabharata war. Today, there is appeasement instead of Drona, corruption instead of Kripacharya, terrorism instead of Ashwatthama, ambition and immorality instead of Duryodhan, internal and global conspiracy instead of Shakuni, all kinds of disruptive forces instead of nationalism - linguistic, regional, casteism, communalism, selfishness etc. and fundamentalism instead of Karna. Along with this, there are extremely complex problems of inflation, unemployment, discontent etc. and now India is trapped in them. Still, the light in the form of Narendra Modi will become more powerful in his new innings and break all these "Chakravyuh" of India. Playing the most successful innings of his political life, he will once again show the negative and anti-national forces their place.

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Ahead of SANJY-2024, ADGP L&O chairs Joint Meeting of officers at PCR Kashmir

Srinagar(Aasif Malik): Improve surveillance tactics, and bolster personnel deployment along pilgrimage axes: ADGP, Vijay Kumar to officers_ ADGP Law & Order J&K Shri Vijay Kumar chaired a joint meeting with the officers of Police, Army, CAPFs and other agencies at Police Control Room Kashmir. Threadbare discussions were made regarding overall security arrangements to be adopted for safe, smooth & incident-free conduct of upcoming SANJY-2024. The meeting was attended by ADGP Jammu Zone, IGP Kashmir Zone, IG BSF Ftr. Hqr Srinagar, IG Traffic J&K, DIG SSB Srinagar, DIsG NKR Baramulla/CKR Srinagar/ SKR Anantnag, DIsG of CRPF South Srinagar/ Ops Srinagar/North

Srinagar, DIG DKR Batote, DIG Udhampur/ Reasi Range, DIG JSK Range Jammu/ DIsG Armed/ IR Kashmir/ ITBP, Col GS (IS 15 Corps), Rep from Kilo Force, SSSP of PCR Kashmir, Srinagar, Kulgam, Anantnag, Awantipora, Pulwama, Budgam, Bandipora, Ganderbal, Traffic Rural Kashmir & Traffic City Srinagar, SP Telecommunication Kashmir and other officers including NDRF & MRT representatives. At the onset of the meeting the participating officers briefed the chair about the security arrangements to be adopted for the smooth and peaceful conduct of Shri Amarnath Ji Yatra-2024. The officers present in the meeting shared their insights, past experiences and recommendations, highlighting the



importance of robust communication channels, co-ordination among various forces, and real-time monitoring systems. Deliberations focused on fortifying the existing security infrastructure, improving surveillance tactics, and bolstering personnel deployment along the pilgrimage route. The meeting addressed

cut-off timing vis-a-vis concerns regarding local and tourist movement during the Yatra to ensure minimal disruption & inconvenience. It was emphasized that Yatri or tourist vehicles would be taken to safe places/ yatra camps enroute if plying beyond designated cut-off timings at various points

along the route. Concerned stakeholders were accordingly briefed on the protocol that prohibits Yatra and tourist vehicle movement beyond the specified timings. During the meeting, ADGP L&O and IGP Kashmir provided insights into the necessary Standard Operating Procedures (SOPs) that must be adhered to

throughout the Yatra. They also emphasized the importance of preparedness and proactive measures in mitigating risks and ensuring the safety and security of the yatris/ devotees. They underscored the significance of collaboration among stakeholders and the implementation of robust contingency plans to effectively address any unforeseen challenges.

During the meeting, ADGP L&O & IGP Kashmir also stressed upon the officers regarding the identification and assessment of areas prone to vulnerabilities like landslides, snow avalanches, rock falling etc aiming to devise strategies for enhanced vigilance and proactive measures in these regions. They

also directed that the services of specialized forces like National Disaster Response Force (NDRF), State Disaster Response Force (SDRF) & Snow and Avalanche Study Establishment (SASE) may be utilized in order to get these vulnerable points mapped so that these can be monitored on regular basis to enhance overall safety measures. Furthermore, the ADGP L&O directed the officers to enhance/reinforce security measures and mitigate potential risks by deploying Anti-Sabotage teams along the Amarnath Yatra route to identify and neutralize any potential terror threats. ADGP L&O Shri Vijay Kumar also advised the officers to enhance

In UP, State With Most Lok Sabha Seats, Only 10% Of New MPs Are Women

Lucknow(KCN): Uttar Pradesh, a state with more than six crore women voters, will send just seven women MPs to parliament. While all political parties have been championing adequate female representation in the Lok Sabha, less than 10 per cent of all candidates who fought the Lok Sabha election were women. A total of 851 candidates in Uttar Pradesh contested the elections for 80 seats, out of which 771 were men and 80 women. Out of the seven MPs elected to parliament, five are from the Samajwadi Party and only one from the BJP - actor-turned-politician Hema Malini. Another is Anupriya Patel, who won from Mirzapur, of the BJP's

ally Apna Dal (Soney Lal). The five women MPs from the Samajwadi Party are Dimple Yadav, Iqra Chaudhary, Priya Saroj, Ruchi Vira, and Krishna Devi. Priya Saroj won from Machhishahr seat by a margin of 35,850 votes. She had been pitted against BJP MP Bholanath. Ms Saroj is the daughter of three-time MP Toofani Saroj. Iqra Chaudhary, 29, won by 69,000 votes from Kairana; she is the daughter of Chaudhary Munawwar Hasan, a former Rajya Sabha MP, and Begum Tabassum Hasan, a former Lok Sabha MP. The BJP and the Rashtriya Lok Dal initially fielded six



women candidates in the contest for 79 seats. One was kept for Anupriya Patel. In Barabanki, the ticket was initially given to MP Upendra Rawat, but after a purported obscene video of the MP went viral, the party gave the ticket to Rajrani Rawat, and the Trinamool Congress contested. Of

women candidates from the BJP in UP, and a total of eight women candidate from the National Democratic Alliance (NDA). The Samajwadi Party fielded 12 women candidates in the 63 seats, which the party and the Trinamool Congress contested. Of them, five have won the election. Its ally the Congress gave a ticket to only one woman, Dolly Sharma from Ghaziabad, making a total of 13 candidates from the opposition bloc INDIA.

The Bahujan Samaj Party (BSP) gave tickets to three women. The party did not win any seat.

"It's a fact that the minorities continue to suffer and that they have the lowest per capita income. As a government, it is my responsibility to bring them out of poverty. So whatever decisions I take are not for appeasement, but to bring them out of Naidoo's arrest, the TDP leader said that it was vendetta politics and his father was wrongfully jailed for 52 days. "We are victims of vendetta politics. The rule of law should be implemented equally for everyone. No place for vendetta politics in



As BJP Weighs Nitish Kumar's Terms, A Lesson From His INDIA Bloc Exit

Patna(KCN): Bihar Chief Minister Nitish Kumar and his incoming Andhra Pradesh counterpart Chandrababu Naidu have emerged as kingmakers after Tuesday's Lok Sabha election result, which left the BJP 32 seats short of majority and dependent on them for support to form and run the new government.

Mr Naidu's TDP has 16 and Nitish Kumar's JDU has 12 MPs, the second- and third-largest parties in the BJP-led National Democratic Alliance. In fact, the rest of the NDA put together has only 25 seats - not enough to carry the BJP's 240 MPs past the majority mark of 272 and form the government. The TDP and JDU are, therefore, critical to the BJP's hopes of a third term, a fact underlined by Narendra Modi when he mentioned the two state leaders in his victory speech on Tuesday night. There has been



speculation, though, that the Congress-led INDIA bloc - which has 232 seats - could attempt to lure Nitish Kumar, a founding-member, back to its side. Sources close to the Bihar Chief Minister ruled out this possibility but left a sting in the tail, stating the BJP top brass would do well to remember that Nitish walked out of the INDIA bloc over delays in naming him as its Convenor. Recalling the January 13 meeting, and the events that followed, sources said an agreement to that effect (and another naming Congress boss

Mallikarjun Kharge the bloc's Chairperson) had been reached. However, this was deferred after Rahul Gandhi spoke up; the Wayanad (and now) Amethi MP asked for the deferral since Trinamool boss Mamata Banerjee was absent from that meeting.

Mr Gandhi argued the appointment needed a sign-off from all senior leaders. The intervention was not well-received by the JDU; Nitish Kumar and two of his closest aides, Rajeev Ranjan alias Lallan Singh, and Sanjay Jha, who immediately switched off

their video conference lines. There were, we were given to understand, other reasons why Nitish quit the bloc, including a sharp social media post by Rohini Acharya, the daughter of long-time ally-rival Lalu Prasad Yadav. Nitish Kumar has maintained radio silence on this or any related topic, even after the JDU boss and his former ally, the RJD's Tejashwi Yadav, set tongues wagging when photographed on the same Patna-Delhi flight, en route to NDA and INDIA meetings to review poll results and plot next moves.

Sources, though, have confirmed the JDU has informed the BJP of what it expects - two cabinet and a junior Union Minister berth, as well as a common minimum programme - in return for support. The Railways Minister post - held previously by Nitish Kumar - is among those the party

has its eye on. In the first two Modi governments the BJP - strengthened by not needing NDA partners to remain in power - enforced a strict limit on berth allocation - one post to each allied party - to NDA members.

This, in fact, was why Nitish Kumar quit the NDA after the 2019 general election; back then he - infamous for his flip-flops - had ditched mahagathbandhan partner RJD and allied with the BJP.

This time around - given the BJP needs Nitish Kumar's support - sources close to him said they expect the saffron party to meet the JDU's demands without (too much) of a fuss. Should the BJP dither too much, the JDU is expected to remind it that "other doors are open", which has been seen as a clear reference to a possible switchback to the INDIA bloc.

instrumental in the National Democratic Alliance (NDA) winning the elections. Mr Lokesh said that they would continue the reservation provided to Muslims in the state, a policy that their alliance partner BJP staunchly opposes.

"It (reservation for Muslims) has been going around for the last 2 decades and we stand by it. We intend to continue it," Mr Lokesh said in an exclusive interview with NDTV. "If you want to make our nation a developed nation, we cannot leave anyone behind. We should do it together and there is a great opportunity to do it. It has been the trademark of the TDP, to take everyone together," Mr Lokesh added.

Nara Lokesh played a key role in the party's stellar performance in the Lok Sabha as well as assembly polls in Andhra Pradesh. After the arrest of Chandrababu Naidu, Mr Lokesh took over the reins of the TDP and undertook a 4,000-kilometre 'padayatra' to reach the masses. Speaking about Mr

poverty," he said. "If you want to make our nation a developed nation, we cannot leave anyone behind. We should do it together and there is a great opportunity to do it. It has been the trademark of the TDP, to take everyone together," Mr Lokesh added.

"TDP never negotiates when it comes for post, we only negotiate for funds for the state. We don't ask for ministries. Our interest is the state's interest," Mr Lokesh told NDTV. "Strong states make strong nations. We want to be part of a 5 trillion dollar economy dream. We believe that Andhra alone can be a 1 trillion economy. Look forward to working with NDA," he added.

BJP will exploit tribal land, natural resources: Congress



Bhubaneswar(KCN): Senior Congress leader Ajoy Kumar Thursday warned that the new government that would be formed by BJP will snatch away the natural resources belonging to the people of Odisha,

while saying that his party has humbly accepted the verdict in the recently concluded elections. The Congress won 14 seats in the 147-member Odisha Assembly. "We humbly accept the verdict of the

people of Odisha in the recently concluded election. But, we want to warn the people that they are going to lose their 'jal' (water), 'jungle' (forest) and 'jham' (land) as the BJP is set to form government in the state,"

Kumar told a presser here. He assured the people of Odisha that Congress would fight inside and outside the Assembly for the next five years to protect the people of Odisha and their

resources. "Our 14 newly-elected MLAs will fight like 140 MLAs and they will stand tall before the people of Odisha and protect them," Kumar said. He alleged that BJP would exploit the tribal land and natural resources of Odisha. "The people of our country have shown BJP their place. The Congress has fought this election not only against the BJP but also against the central agencies like ED, CBI, IT, etc. If there would have been a level playing field for Congress, we would have got 400 seats in Lok Sabha polls."

Drop in turtle numbers sparks concern

Kendrapara(KCN): The decline in the number of Olive Ridley turtles for mass nesting at Gahirmatha Marine Sanctuary near Bhitarkanika National Park in this district for the last two years has sparked concern among the environmentalists, sources said Sunday. According to an official report, 5.11 lakh Olive Ridley turtles had laid eggs at Gahirmatha in 2022. The number decreased slightly, to around five lakh in 2023. However, this year the drop in the number of turtles visiting the sanctuary is alarming. According to official estimates, only three lakh turtles have arrived at Gahirmatha. This massive decline in numbers has sparked fears of drastic climate changes or some massive natural disaster in the offing. Hemant Kumar Rout, secretary of 'Gahirmatha Marine Turtles and Mangrove Protection Committee', environmentalists Khitish Kumar Singh and Srikant Nayak said there are several reasons behind the decrease in numbers. They pointed out that erosion and loss of land mass is one of the main reasons behind the



decrease in several turtles visiting the sanctuary. As the land is being gobble up by the sea, the nesting places of the turtles are also being reduced. Hence many turtles are staying away from the sanctuary, pointed out Nayak. Rout on the other hand, added that the only way to stop the erosion is through a plantation of mangroves. "However, awareness programmes about the importance of mangroves and the plantation drive have not been properly implemented," he pointed out. The three informed that the mushrooming prawn gheries in Bhitarkanika National Park have a role to play in soil erosion. They said that the chemical laced water released from these gheries acts as a 'killer'

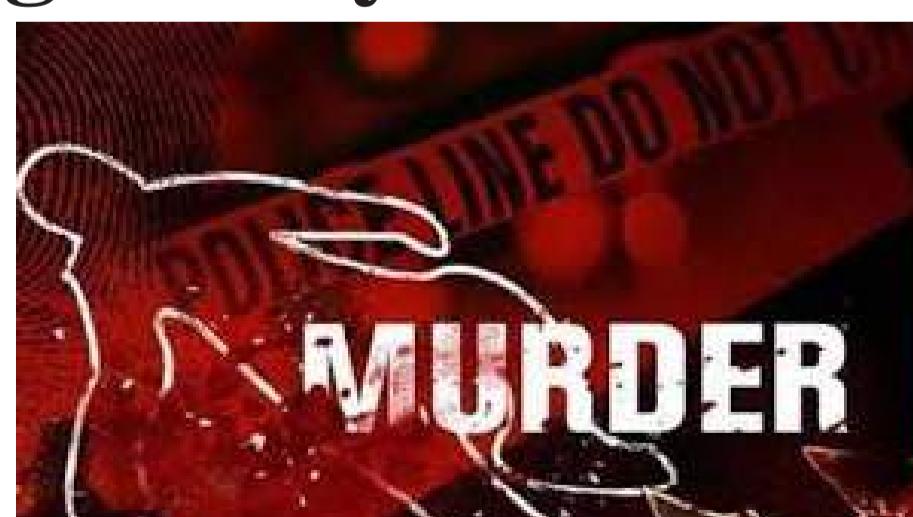
for whatever little mangrove plantation is there. The toxic water also affects the turtles and hence it may be another reason why a lesser number of turtles are visible in Gahirmatha this year. Fishermen and changes in climate are the other main reasons why there is a decrease in the number of turtles. Despite bans, fishermen enter prohibited areas inside the sea. In the process, many turtles die after getting entangled in the nets, the three opined. They also pointed out that earlier the turtles used to lay eggs in March, but this year they have done so in April. This time shift is proof enough that some climatic change is affecting the visiting turtles, the environmentalists pointed out. They

warned that the turtles will stop visiting Gahirmatha for mass nesting like Harachandi coastline in Puri district if the natural environment is not restored at the earliest. When contacted, Gahirmatha ranger Pradosh Moharana said the Forest department is taking a number of measures for the protection of the turtles. He pointed out that mangrove forest plantations are being carried out to solve the erosion issues. Security has also been beefed up to prevent the unauthorised entry of fishermen in prohibited zones. "We will shortly conduct a review to find out why the number of turtles visiting Gahirmatha this year has declined. Accordingly, we will take steps," said Moharana.

Woman 'kills' son for stealing money

Kalimela(KCN): In a shocking incident, an eight-year-old boy died after being allegedly kicked in the chest by his mother at Tumbaguda village under police limits in Malkangiri district Saturday night. The deceased has been identified as Rohit Padami, son of Muka Padami of the same village. It has been stated that Rohit used to steal money regularly. There used to be frequent quarrels between him and his mother Wagi on this issue.

Infuriated at the wrongdoing of her son, Wagi landed a hard kick on the chest of Rohit, Saturday night. The



minor boy collapsed on the spot immediately. Initially, Wagi thought that Rohit had fallen asleep. Only Sunday morning family members discovered that Rohit had died. On being informed, officials from the

Kalimela police station reached the spot and initiated an investigation into the incident. A forensic team was also pressed into service. Later Wagi was detained after her husband officially complained to her.

ITI Berhampur combats plastic pollution with UN collaboration



Berhampur(KCN): ITI Berhampur has joined forces with the UN Environment Programme (UNEP) in a new initiative to educate the public about reducing plastic bottle use and keeping the planet clean. In a unique display, ITI Berhampur created a 12-foot-tall metal faucet constructed from recycled scrap materials. This symbolic tap dispenses plastic bottles, highlighting the issue of plastic pollution. The message "turning off the tap" figuratively encourages a reduction in plastic bottle consumption. This initiative embodies the 'Waste2Wealth' concept, promoting a circular economy where waste is repurposed into valuable resources. Rajat Kumar Panigrahi, the institute's principal, believes this innovative approach will educate hundreds of students and visitors who come to the campus regularly. The team effort of ITI Berhampur's students and staff has received widespread praise.



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Balasore School triumphs as State Champions in Intach's National Heritage Quiz.

Bhubaneswar (KCN): The Indian National Trust for Art and Culture Heritage (INTACH), Odisha Chapter, held the Finals of the State level inter-school quiz competition on 15th Oct 2023 at the Blossoms School, Bhubaneswar. The INTACH National Heritage Quiz is the biggest event of its type held on a pan-India level. It is an effort to raise awareness and cultivate affection for cultural and architectural heritage. The Quiz was based on the heritage and culture of India, and aimed to increase awareness about our glorious nation among

school children. Students from classes 7th to 10th were eligible to participate in teams of two. In an exciting showcase of knowledge and heritage, the State Final Round saw the emergence of St. Thomas Convent, Balasore as the victor, securing their place in the next round which is the National Level Quiz. The questions asked during the quiz comprised from various topics like India's heritage, history, crafts, art forms, architecture, wildlife sanctuaries, National parks, cultural heritage, art forms, dances etc. with a special focus

Aryashree Das Adhikari and



Dibajoti Das from St. Thomas Convent Balasore were the first and the team from Odisha Adarsh Vidyalaya were runners up. They will go to New Delhi for the National Finals to be held in November.

Anil Dhir, Convener of INTACH's Bhubaneswar Chapter, said that the Heritage Quiz was a part of INTACH's initiative for heritage awareness among School children. Amiya Bhushan Tripathy IPS (Retd), State Convener of Intach gave away the prizes and certificates to the participants.

CM Naveen Launches 32 Industrial Projects Worth Rs 6,993 Cr, To Generate 24,508 Jobs

Bhubaneswar (KCN): In a significant milestone in the journey of Odisha's economic advancement, Chief Minister Naveen Patnaik today inaugurated nine industrial projects and performed a groundbreaking ceremony of 23 industrial units. These Inaugurations & Groundbreaking are statements of the Chief Minister's vision for faster conversion of investment intents to grounding.

These projects with a total investment of Rs 6,992.94 Crore and employment potential of 24,508 are spread over

14 districts i.e., Bolangir, Boudh, Cuttack, Ganjam, Jajpur, Jagatsinghpur, Jharsuguda, Keonjhar, Khurda, Puri, Rayagada, Sambalpur, Subarnapur & Sundergarh. Speaking on this occasion, the Chief Minister said, "Our industrial portfolio is expanding with the inclusion of new age and employment-intensive sectors such as green energy equipment manufacturing, textiles, tourism, etc. The continuous improvement in the Ease of Doing Business ranking of the state, coupled with a

Industries.

Dalmia Bharat Celebrates Empowerment of 18000 women on International Day of Rural Women

Bhubaneswar (KCN): Dalmia Bharat Group, India's leading conglomerate with businesses in cement and sugar, announces the successful empowerment of 18000 women on International Day of Rural Women. Through the establishment of Self-Help Groups (SHGs), these women are provided essential skill training and access to vital resources for sustainable livelihood development. In collaboration with various organisations like NRLM, NABARD, etc. Dalmia Bharat organizes various training initiatives like micro-enterprise development, handicraft production and others in both farming and non-farming sectors. All these activities are conducted in communities settled around their regions of operation across 12 states in India. These initiatives aim to upskill rural women to empower them, diversify their income sources and provide access to formal credit systems. Two notable initiatives in Odisha include Project Hastakala – upskilling women artisans and enterprise development via mushroom cultivation in communities surrounding its facilities in

Cuttack, Rajgandpur, and Lanjiberna Mines. Dalmia Bharat has enabled over 10,000 women in Odisha to become financially independent earning a monthly income ranging from Rs.4000 to Rs8000, significantly improving their individual well-being and the ability to support their families. Commenting on the company's initiatives on International Day of Rural Women Mr. Ashok K. Gupta, CEO, Dalmia Bharat Foundation said, "Rural women in developing countries play a vital role in food security and economic development but face severe marginalization, including limited land ownership, higher illiteracy rates and unequal earnings compared to men. Dalmia Bharat is dedicated to uplifting marginalized rural women through holistic programs that bolster their income while managing household responsibilities. Our commitment aligns with UN Sustainable Goals, promoting self-reliance and gender equality for an inclusive and sustainable India, where empowered women drive community and national development."

Project Hastakala is an 'earning with joy' skill

development programme where women are trained in the unique tie & dye batik products. This project is conducted in tribal areas of Jhagarpur & Katang panchayat in Odisha. After witnessing immense success at national exhibitions, Dalmia Bharat introduced the SADRILE brand for promoting the handmade batik products like bedsheets, handkerchiefs, scarves etc. through multiple marketing platforms. Another successful initiative includes enterprise development through mushroom cultivation. Dalmia Bharat actively facilitates training programs and market linkage support for SHG women, equipping them to earn an additional monthly income of Rs. 5000 by establishing their own cultivation units.

International Day of Rural Women, observed annually on 15th October, celebrates the vital role of rural women in agriculture, food security, and rural development. It highlights the need to empower them, address inequalities, and aligns with global goals for gender equality and sustainable development.

An alltime record cargo handling in 2023-24 at Syama Prasad Mookerjee Port, Kolkata since 1870

Kolkata (AMBAR MUKHERJEE):

In its 154-year history, Syama Prasad Mookerjee Port, Kolkata (SMP Kolkata) including Kolkata Dock System (KDS) and Haldia Dock Complex (HDC), achieved a milestone in the fiscal year 2023-24 by handling 66.4 million metric tonnes (MMT) of cargo, marking a 1.11% increase from the previous record of 65.66 million tonnes moved in 2022-23.

Chairman of the SMP Rathendra Raman attributed this unprecedented throughput to a series of strategic initiatives implemented by the port to enhance productivity, safety measures, business development, and overall capacity

utilization.

Highlighting HDC's significant contribution, Raman said that the complex handled 49.54 MMT in FY 2023-24, marking its highest cargo volume ever since its inception and surpassing the previous record of 48.608 MMT in FY 2022-23, representing an increase of 1.91%. Meanwhile, KDS managed 16.856 MMT of cargo in 2023-24 compared to 17.052 MMT in 2022-23.

He emphasized the port's robust financial performance in 2023-24, achieving a net surplus of Rs. 501.73 crores as well, a significant 65% growth over the previous year's net surplus of Rs. 304.07 crores, marking a remarkable accomplishment.

To augment capacity of the port, SMP Kolkata is stressing on the PPP Projects in a big way.

Concession awarded by SMPK for 2 PPP projects costing Rs 480

crores by Century Ports Ltd. on 24.06.2023 and

M/s Adani Port & SEZ on

14.07.2023 respectively

for rejuvenation of KPD-

I West (Cost Rs. 181.81

crores) and

mechanization of berth

no. 2 at HDC (Cost

298.28 crore) which

could lead to Incremental

Capacity Addition of 6.78

MMT (approx.)

Three more projects

(berth No 5) for HDC,

strengthening and

mechanization of Berth

no. 7 and 8 NSD and

Floating Crane at

Diamond Harbour at a

cost of Rs 1160 crore,

incremental capacity of

4.5 MMT) are likely to reach award stage by 2024-25.

The chairman said development of drainage network (Phase-IIA) on

eastern side of dock

basin at Haldia dock

complex, Haldia under

master drainage plan

(Cost Rs.26.79 Cr.)

Regarding Implementation of

energy efficient/smart

fittings and outdoor

purpose along-with roof

top solar power plant at

KDS, Lol issued for

smart light to Schnell

Energy Equipment's Pvt.

Ltd. on 20.12.23 (Value:

4.76 cr. excluding GST).

4 Major Projects costing

Rs. 201.23 cr. completed

during FY 2023-24:

Procurement of 1 no. 40

tonne Rail Mounted Quay

Crane (RMQC) at HDC, (Cost Rs.52.82 Cr. and

0.25 MMTPA capacity addition).

Raman thanked Indian Railways, Department of Customs, Government of West Bengal, NHAI and other organizations for their continued support.

Furthermore, the Chairman attributed the achievement for the growth in diverse cargo types, the influx of new and additional cargo, and the multi-faceted user-friendly measures, such as better services, improved facilities, cost-effective and customer-friendly charges and all-out efforts of the workers of the port. He congratulated all the officers, staff and unions, PPP Operators, Stevedores, Stakeholders, etc. for working like a team to produce the spectacular performance.

Airtel Xstream Fiber unlocks its NEW All-in-One plans

Bhubaneswar: To serve the needs of premium households who want the next generational connectivity and entertainment experience, Bharti Airtel ("Airtel"), India's premier communications solutions provider, has once again raised the bar in the home broadband segment with the launch of three new all-in-one plans built for the evolving entertainment needs of today's connected homes.

Vir Inder Nath, CEO – Homes, Bharti Airtel had

this to say: "Our new plans are built for India's emerging entertainment needs. Through these bundle

offers we plan to offer our discerning customers great

value, convenience and unlock a multi-faceted digital

experience."

Increased broadband consumption in Indian homes has given rise to the phenomena of hybrid viewing, where families are looking to consume OTT content on the TV screen along with linear TV without the hassle of managing multiple subscriptions and devices. Airtel's plans are the first of their kind in terms of catering to the evolving entertainment needs of the whole family and come with: Subscription to 17 premium OTTs to go with unlimited data. This includes Netflix, Amazon Prime, Disney+ Hotstar and Airtel Xstream Premium ((SonyLIV, Lionsgate, Hoichoi and 11 more OTTs). 350+ TV channels covering the best of linear TV. Airtel 4K Xstream TV Box* that allows you to enjoy OTT and linear TV content with a single device and single remote.

EXCEPTIONAL EXPERIENCES AWAITS SINGAPORE AIRLINES CUSTOMERS

Singapore:

Airlines (SIA) today unveiled its all-new flagship SilverKris and KrisFlyer Gold lounges at Singapore Changi Airport Terminal 3, following a S\$50 million re-design, upgrade, and expansion project. This will further enhance the on-ground customer experience at the Airline's main hub, and comes as the demand for international air travel from and through Singapore takes off once again.

The Private Room, the First Class section of the SilverKris Lounge, the Business Class section of the SilverKris Lounge, and the KrisFlyer Gold Lounge can collectively accommodate around 1,150 customers within

their 6,100 square-metres, translating to 30% more seats and space. This also doubles the capacity that was available during the pandemic while the upgrading works were going on. The Airline has created a sanctuary that has been thoughtfully designed to enhance the comfort and convenience of diverse groups of travellers, and meet their evolving needs in the coming years. Customers will be able to enjoy world-class products and services, as well as enticing food and beverage options, around the clock at the lounges before their flight.

Mr Goh Choon Phong, Chief Executive Officer, Singapore Airlines, said: "Extensive customer

engagement and research have gone into the design of the new SilverKris and KrisFlyer Gold lounges. Customers will enjoy thoughtful and curated product offerings and experience the signature Singapore Airlines hospitality, all within a comfortable and restful environment, ensuring that they are refreshed and ready for their journey.

"Opening these lounges at this time signals our commitment to SIA's premium brand and growth strategy. It reinforces our position as Changi Airport's anchor airline, and reflects our confidence in Singapore's future as a pre-eminent global air hub."

WHEC recognizes Amrita Vishwa Vidyapeetham as excellence worldwide in Gender Equality

Barcelona: Amrita Vishwa Vidyapeetham was invited to the UNESCO World Higher Education Conference (WHEC), which recently took place in Barcelona, Spain. UNESCO recognized Amrita as one of five universities of excellence worldwide for its performance in gender equality.

The WHEC aims to

reshape ideas and practices in higher education to ensure sustainable development for the planet and humanity, as well as to define and prepare a roadmap for a new era of higher education. As the world comes out of COVID-19, the WHEC's goals and strategic scope remain, and the new timeframe represents an opportunity to deepen and expand common efforts of knowledge production,

policy dialogue, exchange, and networking. Swami Amritaswarupananda Puri, President of Amrita Vishwa Vidyapeetham, participated in a round table called "Universities' Contribution to Gender Equality: A global perspective". Adding to his views, Swami Amritaswarupananda expressed how Amrita is making a difference in terms of gender equality and which policies have been put into place at the university level. Gender equality is number five in the United Nations' list of 17 Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). He explained how the culture of gender equality is not implemented only in terms of policies within Amrita, but also practiced in spirit.

The round table included Dr. Gloria Bonder, UNESCO Chair on Women, Science and Technology; Dr. Ricardo Vilanueva Lomeli, Rector General, University of Guadalajara; Ms. Elizabeth Shepherd, Leader of the Consultancy team, Times Higher Education; and Dr. Victoria Galan-Muros, Chief of Research and Analysis,



Babar Azam critical of Pakistan's play in all departments

New Delhi: Pakistan captain Babar Azam was critical of his team's performance in all three facets of the game following the shock reversal to the USA in Dallas. Finalists two years ago in the previous edition of the T20 World Cup, Pakistan were heavy favourites to get off the mark in Group A ahead of the marquee weekend clash against India but produced an insipid display that began with a shoddy PowerPlay effort after being put in to bat.

Both Mohammad Rizwan and Fakhar Zaman hit sixes to get off the mark but were dismissed quickly thereafter. Between them Usman Khan was dismissed for another low score. The trouble for Pakistan was that they have among the lowest averaging middle orders

in the competition but their captain scoring 4 from 14 balls during the field restrictions didn't help.

From a PowerPlay score of 30/3, Babar and Shadab Khan managed to score 63 in the next six overs. However, just as they were looking to ride the new-found momentum, Pakistan lost wickets of Shadab and Azam Khan off successive Nosthush Kenjige deliveries in the 13th over. And once Babar fell a couple of overs later, Pakistan managed an under-powered 159 on a pitch that was beginning to settle down.

"To be honest, whenever you lose a game, you are always upset. We did not play good in all three departments," Babar said after the defeat. "For six overs, I think we

did not capitalise properly, but later on, after the 10th over we got momentum, but again we lost too many wickets and then your momentum is gone. So yeah... I think as a batting unit we need to step it up in the middle and in the end.

"The first six overs, the ball was holding and was swinging. But later on, I didn't feel it was a different wicket. It settled down a bit. Because of the early start - the matches are starting at 10.30 am - the fast bowlers will obviously get a little help. There was some juice in the pitch early morning. So they utilised that and executed their plan. It was difficult in the beginning, but we covered it. I think when we lost the wickets back-to-back, that was the turning point. But as a professional, you have

to step up against such a team in the batting... in the middle order. This [contingencies] is not an excuse...they played well, [but] I think we played badly," he added.

Babar was left wanting even with the ball, so often Pakistan's stronger suit in these ICC events. In the absence of the injured Imad Wasim,



Shadab and Iftikhar Ahmed had to cover up the fifth-bowler's job as a pair. Between them they conceded 37 runs in four overs and couldn't effect any breakthroughs. USA attempted yorkers in the final over from Haris Rauf, however, turned into full tosses which were put away for boundaries as USA forced a dramatic

"Even in the second innings, I think we also got help [from the wicket], but we were not up to the mark in terms of our bowling areas. We

lacked in that in the first ten overs. We came back after that but they had already taken the momentum. But given the bowlers we have, we should have defended that total. On this pitch, I think it was a defendable total for our bowling.

"We are better than that in the bowling. We did not take wickets in the first six overs. In the middle overs, if your spinner is not taking wickets, then the pressure is on you. After ten overs, we did come back but I think the way they finished game in the Super Over, the credit goes to the US team," Babar added.

Curiously enough, defeats to seemingly unfancied teams on paper haven't been rare for Pakistan. They dropped a game to Zimbabwe in the last T20 World Cup in Australia.

More recently, they lost a game to Ireland in a bilateral series before bouncing back to win the final two games. Babar admitted to the possibility of a slightly different mindset, one in which the players can tend to relax.

"See, whenever you come to any tournament, you do the best preparation always," Babar said. "You can say it's a kind of mindset. When you come up against a team like this, you relax a little. If you don't execute your plan against any team, then whatever team it is, they will make you pay. So I

believe that our execution was not up to the mark. We were doing well in the preparation but in the match, we did not execute our plans as a team."

Sunil Chhetri's emotional farewell message to media goes viral

Mumbai: Sunil Chhetri's special letter to the media and journalists after playing his final international game in India's FIFA World Cup qualifier against Kuwait on June 6 is winning hearts on social media. India's 0-0 draw against Kuwait on Thursday at the Vivekananda Yuba Bharati stadium in Salt Lake, Kolkata marked a not-so-ideal end to Sunil Chhetri's 19-year-long India career. Ahead of the post-match press conference, the 39-year-old went on to express his ultimate gratitude towards the media personell with a lengthy letter, which has since gone viral all over social media.

Chhetri was not able to end his already iconic India career with another one of his trademark match-winning goals. The 39-year-old ended his career as the fourth-highest goalscorer in men's international football with his 94 goals, behind the likes of Cristiano Ronaldo, Lionel Messi and Ali Daei.



Ending his India career as the side's most-capped, and most successful player, Chhetri was graced with a loud standing ovation from the 58,000 fans at the Salt Lake stadium, who would've wanted a better end to the night and also the journey of their Captain Fantastic, who bowed out with teary eyes in the grandest of fashion.

In his letter to the press, Chhetri heaped praise on his journalists friend, and even apologised for a brief press-conference. "Over the last 19 years, I've had the opportunity to interact with so many of you, on more than a few occasions. There were times when I had to say a lot less than I would have liked to, and others where I responded to your questions with long monologues. There were the answers laced with frustration, the ones that were - much to your annoyance - non-committal, and then the press conferences that ended in a hurry. But through it all, I'd like to believe that I was always honest with you."

Berrington, Leask help Scotland topple Namibia

New Delhi: Skipper Richie Berrington and Michael Leask starred for Scotland as they beat Namibia to pick up their first win of the 2024 T20 World Cup. Scotland, who had already impressed against England before the washout, chased down 156 with nine balls left to spare.

At the death. Until then, it was anyone's game with both teams being at a similar position after the 15th over. While Namibia let it slip at the death losing way too many wickets, Scotland managed to hammer 48 runs in just 3.3 overs to go past the finish line. Namibia definitely got the desired result in the powerplay in terms of the runs. But at what cost? By the end of the fifth over, they had lost their top 3. JP Kotze was out for a three-ball duck in the opening over and Jan Frylinck dragged one onto his stumps. Nikolaas Davin cut loose to fetch a flurry of boundaries but his march was cut short as Scotland took early



control. Losing those three wickets meant Namibia had to play it safe during the middle overs especially after Chris Greaves struck early in his first over to leave the batting side reeling at 55/4. That control did arrive in the form of skipper Gerhard Erasmus who helped Namibia recover. Erasmus pushed the scoring rate up again after a dull spell as he hit boundaries at regular intervals. Unfortunately for the skipper, he got out stumped at a crucial

juncture immediately after getting to his fifty with a six, leaving his side vulnerable again. Namibia began well at the death. David Wiese smashed one over long on and Zane Green finally showed signs of aggression in Mark Watt's final over. At 135/5 after 17 overs, Namibia could have and should have aimed for at least 165. However, Scotland came back strong in the final three overs as Brad Wheal got rid of both Wiese and Green in the space of

3, needing a big fillip to change things. The misery continued as 69/3 became 73/4 by the end of the next over before the well-set Berrington finally unleashed himself with a four and a six to release the pressure. Leask hit a six as well to bring the equation down to 47 from the final five overs. Wiese, who had conceded just 3 runs from his first two overs, bore the brunt of Leask's assault as he smashed him for a couple of sixes with a four from Berrington sandwiched between them. That 19-run over effectively put Scotland on top as Leask then cleared the ropes for the fourth time in the evening. Even though he couldn't finish the job, Berrington sealed the deal with nine balls left. Brief scores: Namibia 155/9 in 20 overs (Gerhard Erasmus 52; Brad Wheal 3/33) lost to Scotland 157/5 in 18.3 overs (Richie Berrington 47*, Michael Leask 35; Gerhard Erasmus 2/29) by 5 wickets

USA pull off giant-killing act via Super Over win against Pakistan

New Delhi: After taming Bangladesh in the build up to the 2024 T20 World Cup, the United States of America proved it wasn't a flash in the pan as they stunned Pakistan at the Grand Prairie Stadium in Dallas, Texas on Thursday (June 6). It was a collective effort with several heroes turning up for USA. Nosthush Kenjige and Saurabh Netravalkar's fine bowling kept Pakistan to 159/7 after the hosts opted to bowl. Monank Patel, Aaron Jones and Harmeet Singh came out to bat in the Super Over for USA, with the former

contributions while and Nitish Kumar played an important role as well with his 14, which included a four off the final ball that took the game into the Super Over. Pakistan looked off colour and lacked discipline in various phases of the match, including the Super Over, as the USA defended 18 to register a historic victory and move to the top of the Group A table. Aaron Jones and Harmeet Singh came out to bat in the Super Over for USA, with the former

placing the ball behind square on the off side off Mohammad Amir for a four off the first ball. Amir tried to nail the yorkers and didn't concede another boundary in the over. But he was guilty of bowling several wides, with the batters sneaking in extra runs to finish with 18. Saurabh Netravalkar started with a dot ball to Iftikhar Ahmed but the batter put away the next through the midwicket region for a four, which was followed by a wide. Iftikhar tried to clear long off but a terrific diving

catch from Milind Kumar put further pressure on Pakistan who needed 14 from 3. The next one was a wide again, followed by a fortunate boundary via leg-byes. A couple off the next brought it down to 7 off the final delivery, with Shadab needing to clear the ropes for another Super Over. But that wasn't to be as Netravalkar conceded only a single to deliver a famous win for USA. USA started with the left-arm spin of Kenjige, who was swept for a six by Mohammad Rizwan in the opening over. But

Rizwan's stay was short-lived as Netravalkar found the outside edge and Steven Taylor took a stunning one-handed catch diving to his right at slip. Kenjige also found success as Usman Khan's attempt to go over the off side resulted in a catch to long-off. Fakhar Zaman started with a six off Kenjige but Babar Azam was struggling at the other end, unable to rotate strike and find the boundaries. To add to Pakistan's problems, Fakhar handed a catch to short fine leg attempting a lap shot in Ali Khan's

opening over. Another economical over from Netravalkar, who had figures of 1-8 from his three overs, helped the USA keep the opposition in check in the powerplay, with the Pakistan captain managing only 4 off 14. USA continued to keep it tight after the powerplay, with Pakistan getting only 46 in the first nine overs. The much-needed impetus came in the 10th over, which was bowled by Jasdeep Singh, with Shadab striking two successive sixes and Babar ended the over with his first four, which

was also the first of Pakistan's innings. 20 came off the 10th over and Pakistan continued the momentum as Babar hit a four off Kenjige and followed it up with a six off Harmeet Singh, and the bowler was also struck for a four and a six by Shadab in the same over. The fourth wicket pair put on a quick-fire 72 run stand which was broken when Shadab swept a Kenjige delivery to short fine leg. The left-arm spinner trapped Azam Khan in front off the very next ball, with a review failing to come to