



The President of India, Smt Droupadi Murmu paid floral tributes to Shri Fakhruddin Ali Ahmed, former President of India on his birth anniversary at Rashtrapati Bhavan today (May 13, 2024).

63% voter turnout recorded in Odisha till 5pm

Bhubaneswar(KCN):

Around 63 per cent of 62.87 lakh voters exercised their franchise till 5pm in the four Lok Sabha and 28 Assembly constituencies in Odisha Monday, officials said. Voting started at 7am in 7,303 polling stations in Berhampur, Koraput, Nabarangpur and Kalahandi parliamentary constituencies along with 28 Assembly segments within the jurisdiction of these seats.

Till 5pm, 62.96 cent voters cast their votes, officials said, adding that the highest voter turnout was recorded in tribal-dominated Kalahandi Lok Sabha seat at 67.07 per cent followed by Nabarangpur (65.07), Koraput (61.43) and Berhampur (58).

Of the eight districts where the simultaneous



polls are being held, highest 68.84 per cent

turnout of 71.30 per cent

while only 47.90 per cent of electors cast their votes in Berhampur Assembly seat in Ganjam district. Chief Electoral Officer N K Dhal said EVM glitches were detected in several places and the machines were replaced within 30 minutes.

Dhal said there was brisk voting in Swabhiman Assembly segment in Nabarangpur district reported the highest

district. "People of Kotia are participating in the polls very enthusiastically," Dhal said.

Meanwhile, the EC suspended three polling officials and directed police to arrest two of them for 'serious dereliction' of duty.

"We have directed the Ganjam collector to suspend presiding officers of three polling booths and arrest two of them for serious dereliction of duty," Dhal said.

Odisha CEO directs police to arrest two polling officials for 'dereliction of duty'

associates," Sarangi alleged. Referring to the BJD government's flagship Puri Heritage Corridor project, Bhubaneswar MP Aparajita Sarangi questioned the state government over entrusting the work to 'Bhoomi Putra', which according to her is a south Indian firm with no prior expertise.

"I want to ask 'Sana babu' (referring to Pandian), who is desperate to become the 'bada babu', what was the motive behind handing over the Rs 4,200 crore project to this firm. We urge people to check the company's credentials," she said.

Aparajita also alleged that the Tamil Nadu Generation Distribution Corporation is buying power at 2.52 paisa per unit from Odisha while consumers of the state

are being charged 2.82 paisa.



misconduct during the election, officials said.

The CEO and his team are continuously monitoring the election process through direct webcasting from the booths, they added.

Voting started at 7 am in 7,303 polling stations in Berhampur, Koraput, Nabarangpur and Kalahandi Lok Sabha constituencies along with 28 assembly segments under these parliamentary seats.

A total of 52.91 per cent of voters have exercised their franchise till 3 pm. The highest voter turnout of 58 per cent was registered in the tribal-dominated Kalahandi Lok Sabha seat, followed by Nabarangpur (55.69), Koraput (53.08) and Berhampur (44.65), Dhal added.

under suspension while the presiding officers of booth numbers 27 and 163 in Chatrapur Assembly segment in Ganjam district have been suspended and police were directed to arrest them, he said.

Speaking to reporters, Dhal said, "We have directed the Ganjam collector to suspend three presiding officers of three polling booths and arrest two of them for serious dereliction of duty."

The presiding officer of polling booth number 193 in Gopalpur assembly constituency has been put

to arrest them, he said.

Earlier in the day, the CEO suspended one polling official in Narla Assembly constituency in Kalahandi district and another in Chikiti assembly seat in Ganjam district.

So far, five polling officials have been suspended after they were engaged in senior

Odisha: BJP's CM face to be decided by party's parliamentary committee, says Samal

Bhubaneswar(KCN): Amidst speculation surrounding the announcement of BJP's chief ministerial candidate, the party's Odisha unit chief, Manmohan Samal, Monday said the party's parliamentary committee will take a decision on the matter.

Samal made the remark during a press conference, attended by senior leaders including Union Minister Dharmendra Pradhan, former Union minister and Balasore MP Pratap Sarangi, Bhubaneswar MP Aparajita Sarangi, and the party's national vice-president Baijayant Panda

Earlier in the day, the ruling BJD leaders came up with several posts in social media forecasting that the BJP will announce its CM face Monday.

Samal said, "They (BJD)



should think about their own party rather than focusing on us. The BJD lacks a proper leader while an agent is running the regional party. Our parliamentary committee will decide the BJP's CM candidate."

On the other hand, BJD MP and party's national spokesperson Sasmit Patra said the BJP could not announce its CM candidate due to dispute among aspirants.

"All of us had heard that Odisha BJP will declare their CM candidate today, but there was so much quarrelling among aspirants that they could not announce it. Odisha BJP cannot announce the

CM candidate because if they do, their party in Odisha will break into four parts," Patra posted on X.

BJD leader and CM's close aide Kartik Pandian had also asked the BJP to announce its CM face before elections and claimed that the saffron party would not get even 10 per cent of votes if they make such a declaration.

"They are not admitting

to the fact that they

(BJD) are losing. All the

four Lok Sabha

constituencies and

majority of the

Assembly seats that

went to polls today will

be bagged by BJP. All the phases in Odisha will go in favour of BJP," Samal added.

Referring to a recent statement of Pandian on the 2008 Kandhamal riots,

Balasore MP Pratap

Sarangi urged people to dethrone the BJD

government and blamed

Chief Minister Naveen

Patnaik for the murder of

VHP leader Swami

Laxmananand Saraswati.

A communal riot had erupted in

Kandhamal following

Saraswati's murder in

2008.

"Security personnel were

not there when criminals

opened fire on Saraswati

kill him and his four

associates," Sarangi

alleged. Referring to the

BJD government's

flagship Puri Heritage

Corridor project,

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Aparajita Sarangi

questioned the state

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welcome it in every constituency. "People are showing an emotional connection with the SAD which will be reflected in the polls. Be ready for a historic result in Punjab", the SAD president added. The SAD president said the people of Bathinda were also looking at development. He said development had become a major issue in Bathinda as both the erstwhile Congress and present AAP government had discriminated against the constituency.

"People have witnessed how the face of the constituency was changed with AIIMS, central university, refinery, cancer

hospital and airport among other things established in this constituency during SAD tenure. They want a return to the days of development and will ensure Mrs Harsimrat Badal's victory by 1.50 to 2 lakh votes".

Speaking on the occasion, Mrs Badal thanked 'Parmatma', the party and people of this constituency for giving her an opportunity to serve them. "I have done my utmost to pilot development works both in the villages and towns of this constituency. I am also proud that I raised the voice of Punjab in parliament in the face of dictatorial trends. I will continue to serve this constituency to the best of my ability".

Chandigarh (JAG MOHAN THAKEN), May 13: Former union minister and Bathinda MP Harsimrat Kaur Badal Monday filed her nomination papers from Bathinda constituency in the presence of Shiromani Akali Dal (SAD) president Sukhbir Singh Badal and the senior party leadership. The SAD president filed his nomination from the constituency as the covering candidate of Mrs Harsimrat Badal. Talking to newsmen on the occasion, Mr Sukhbir Badal said repeated rounds of voting had made it clear that the Bhartiya Janata Party (BJP) would not form the next government. He said

the BJP was crashing in North India and had been completely wiped out in Maharashtra and Bihar. "The Prime Minister's speeches are also indicating that the party is in panic mode. He is now attacking a particular community openly and even stating the 'Mangalsutras' will be taken away and given to others. This never happened in the last 70 years and will never happen", he asserted adding in the new scenario regional parties would emerge stronger. When queried about the mood of the people in Punjab, Mr Badal said "Punjabis feel betrayed by the Aam Aadmi Party (AAP) and its leadership. They have lost all hope from chief

minister Bhagwant Mann and regard him as a drunkard who can do nothing for them". He said people had also realized that AAP and Congress were one side of the same coin and that both parties were playing a friendly match because they were aligned with each other at the national level.

The SAD president alleged that the chief minister had also fallen at union home minister Amit Shah's feet to escape being arrested in the Punjab liquor scam case. He said the collusion between the two could be seen from the AAP government's about turn on BJP candidate

Parampal Kaur's resignation and its immediate acceptance within one day of opposition from the chief minister. Mr Badal said in such a situation the SAD had

emerged as the strongest party in the Lok Sabha elections. "People feel that the SAD alone can take all communities with it and ensure all round development as well as

peace and communal harmony". He also disclosed how the party's Punjab Bachao Yatra was receiving a phenomenal response in the field with thousands of people coming on the roads to



THE KALINGA CHRONICLE

Odias repose full trust on Modi's Development Schemes : Purandar Mishra

Nuapada / Bhubaneswar, (KCN): People of Odisha are reposing full trust and unflinching support on the development schemes of Prime Minister Narendra

underlined that like the people of the country, residents of Odisha are also quite enthusiastic to elect Narendra Modi as Prime Minister of India for the third consecutive

he could speak Odia fluently, Naveen Patnaik couldn't learn Odia language inspite of ruling the State for last 24 years, he added. This shows his affection and attachment

pretty as silent spectator. Odisha's all round development will be made possible incase Naveen's BJD Government is replaced by BJP Government in



Modi says MLA of Raipur City North and Co-incharge of Odisha's election, Purandar Mishra. Addressing two mammoth election meetings at Nuapada and Junagarh within Kalahandi Lok Sabha constituency, Shri Mishra

terms. Shri Mishra alleged that in Odisha the villagers, labourers, workers and backward class people have been totally neglected by the deaf and dumb present Biju Janata Dal Government. While inhabiting in Chhattisgarh

towards our Mother Tongue and Mother State, Shri Mishra observed. Shri Mishra further said that while the educated youth masses of Odisha are roaming around in search of Jobs, Odisha Government is sitting

the State, he asserted. Shri Mishra assured that the BJP Government will provide Rs 3100/- to farmers per a quintal of paddy and women will be given Rs. 3,000/- per month under Subhadra plan.

KiiT International School Excels in Class X, XII CBSE Board Exams 25 percent of Class X batch score over 95 percent



Bhubaneswar, May 13 (KCN): KiiT International School has set a high benchmark in academic excellence in both Class X and Class XII CBSE Board exams, the results of which were declared on Monday. The school reported a 100 percent first division in both classes, with a significant number of students achieving top scores.

In an impressive display of academic prowess, 45 percent of Class X and XII students scored above 90 percent.

The school also

highlighted its commitment to inclusive education through the SEN Global initiative, which focuses on providing quality education to special children. All 11 students enrolled under this initiative passed with first-division marks, with the top scorer achieving an admirable 87 percent.

Dr. Achyuta Samanta, Founder, KiiT & KISS congratulated the students for their success and wished them all the best in their future endeavors. He also thanked Dr. Mona Lisa Bal, Chairperson, KiiT International School, and Principal Dr. Sanjay Suar. "Students of KiiT-IS have consistently excelled, and this year is no exception. These results are a testament to the hard work of our students and the dedication of our faculty. We are particularly proud of our SEN Global initiative students who have overcome diverse challenges to perform brilliantly," he added.

Ecosystem Health of Vembanad Lake : A story for better governance and management



The largest lake Vembanad in Kerala is full of diversity, and this has been severely affected by human activities and climate change. ICAR-CIFRI prepared ecosystem health card for easy access of information public on health status of open water bodies. The country's only backwater systemized lake has divided into two zones (Northern and Southern) by Thanneermukkam salt-water barrage. ICAR-CIFRI introduced an Ecosystem Health card based on 12

parameters related to fisheries resources, fishers' livelihoods, water quality, and biodiversity. An Ecosystem Health report was prepared to inform people about the health status of Vembanad wetland. Almost 1.6 million fishers suffered from the depletion of natural resources due to climate change, which had an adverse impact on their livelihoods. Moreover, the discharge of industrial wastewater adversely affected the quality of water in the

wetland. Vembanad lake was classified in overall grade "D" by ICAR-CIFRI, representing 21-40% of samples satisfying the required standard with low water quality and fisheries in certain areas. Individually, the North zone received an overall "C" grade, showing 41-60% of samples reaching the needed standard with fair water quality and fisheries, and the South zone scored an overall "D" grade. For sustainable management, immediate

STD.-XII CBSE BOARD RESULT:COMMENDABLE PERFORMANCE OF DAV, KALINGA NAGAR



Bhubaneswar (KCN): Students of DAV, Kalinga Nagar have fared very well with a thumping result in the recently published CBSE AISSC-2024 Examination. They have made the Alma mater glorious with a School average of 80.57% in Science & 77.48% in Commerce with a combined school average of 80.12%. The Highest percentage of the school in science has reached 96.20% and 94.80% in commerce respectively. In science, out of 94 students 14.89% students have scored above 90% marks, 56.38% students have scored above 80% marks, 82.98% students have scored above 70% marks, and all students have scored above 60% marks. Krishna Jena topped the list of meritorious students with 96.20% while Tanya Pattanaik has secured second position with 95.60% and Khyati Patel has secured the third position with 89.80% respectively. Chairman of the school, Sj. Madan Mohan Panda, Regional Director, DAV Institutions, Odisha Zone Dr. K.C. Satapathy, Asst. Regional Officer Dr. Sujata Sahu, Manager of the school Ms. Ipsita Das and Principal of the school Mr. Balaram Mahapatra congratulated the students & the teachers for their success & effort.

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Living idol of love & Non-violence

By Meera Beura



even the God bow their heads before her. Only a mother can feel just by looking in our eyes what is inside in our hearts which is impossible for everybody. When the time is hard ever she will always have her back.

fierce warriors. In order of her child to be happy she must overcome all obstacles. She is our friend, guide, philosopher and even a psychologist also. The word mother is

without taking break. She is our mother who works 24 hour with a big smile face. She helps us without leaving any hope and without hoping for anything in return. Only a mother made

individual to express their love, gratitude to their mothers. President Woodrow Wilson signed a proclamation declaring the second Sunday of every May as Mother's Day in 1914. Since then Mother's Day has been adopted by various countries around the World.

In Many countries Mother's Day is celebrated on the 2nd Sunday of May every year. This year the Mother's Day celebration falls on May 14, 2024. The purpose of Mother's Day is to express love, appreciation and gratitude towards mothers and mother figures for their unconditional love, support and sacrifices.

This day is celebrated around the world differently when Americans celebrate Mother's Day on March 8, whereas Indians celebrate on the 2nd Sunday of May. The character of a mother has been compared to that of God by some philosopher and preachers throughout history. So each day of our life is Mother's Day. Mothers are miracle and beautiful Angel. They are like candle who melt themselves to enlighten our life. No one can replace the mother in this world.

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Even 365 days of a year will fall short to express love and gratitude to our mother.

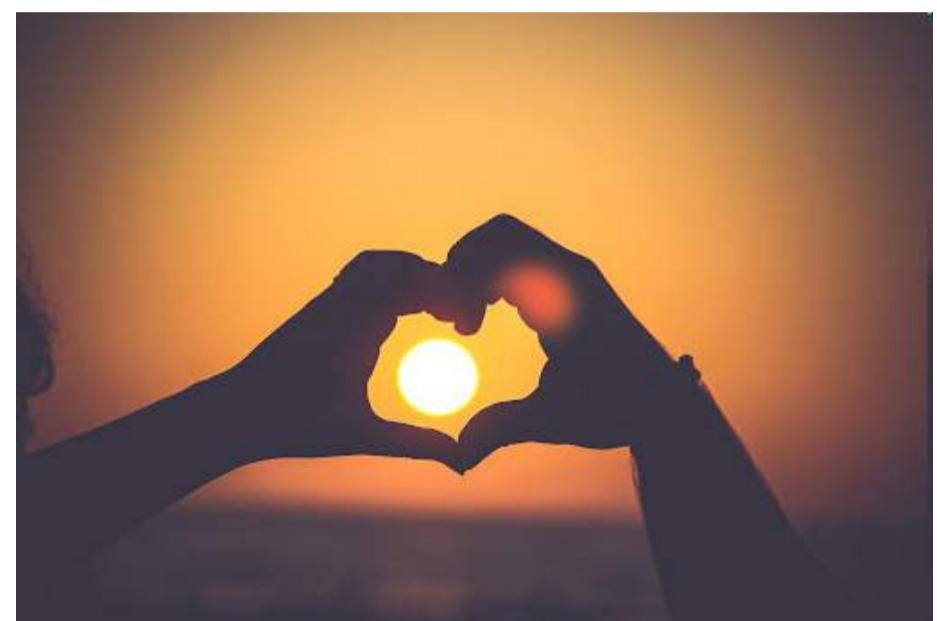
Really mother is the emblem of love and care. She displays all the affection unconditionally and selflessly. Even she sacrifices all her needs without the intention of getting anything in return and want just to get the needs of her children met without her presence it impossible to have our own life.

The Bible says that god cannot be everywhere and so he created mothers on Earth. In addition to being a symbol of love, mothers are also

indeed small but the feeling and importance are very big. The love of a mother and her existence is so pure that one should admire her every day. According to Leonardo De Caprio, "My mother is a walking miracle." Only mothers spend their lives fulfilling the dream of her children by giving up their own dreams. A mother is the family pillar and the backbone of our society. She anyway proves what true love is all about by sacrificing everything and keeping everyone happy all the time

endless sacrifices for the children's success and happiness. She is the Goddess who sacrifices even her life happiness and everything for our life. Now - a - d a y s celebration of mother's day is one of the most popular occasions especially for the children.

The modern mother's day was championed by Anna Jarvis, an American social activist. She held campaigning to establish a national holiday to honour mothers after her own mother's death in 1905 wanted to create a day for the

sunrise. 

Enhancing Historical Significance Through Lighting

Vijay GarG



structures are brought to life, captivating the imagination and enhancing their charm after dusk. Enhancing Historical Significance Through Lighting

Carefully designed external lighting has the power to breathe new life into heritage landmarks, illuminating their intricate details and historical significance. The Sun Temple, Modhera: Nestled in the heart of Gujarat, the Sun Temple stands as a testament to ancient craftsmanship and architectural ingenuity. Through the application of dynamic lighting, the temple's intricate carvings and majestic outlines are brought to life after sunset. Visitors are

mesmerized as the temple emerges as a radiant spectacle, inviting them to embark on a journey



through time and history. Roomi Gate, Lucknow: As a symbol of Lucknow's rich Mughal heritage, Roomi Gate exudes grandeur and historical significance. Dynamic lighting

Scrolling Addiction

Dr. Samrat Kar



to ease your anxiety about it. Treatment like cognitive behavioral therapy may help you break this cycle. There is also the feeling you get when you realize you spent nine hours scrolling on TikTok. Books can be fulfilling, enjoyable, emotional, and impactful, which is why reading books is more valuable for teenagers as they develop through their lives. Reading helps one gain perspective and character.

Scrolling social media and websites activates the brain's reward centre by releasing dopamine, a "feel-good chemical" associated to pleasure and reward. Every like, comment, or video is a mini reward, keeping us hooked on the next potential hit. Additionally, scrolling can be stressful. It can cause anxiety if we're constantly comparing ourselves to others. The algorithm of the digital world is such that if you seek negative news, more related news will come to your feed. The more negative news you watch or read, the more depressive you will feel.

The brain is wired to seek new stimuli, and scrolling satisfies this innate desire. As a result, many individuals find themselves trapped in a scrolling addiction, compulsively swiping through their screens for hours on end. Obsessive-compulsive disorder can also cause people to doomsroll. If you have this mental health condition, your mind may fixate on a certain topic, and you might doomsroll to try

both vertical and horizontal scrolling unless on a map. Having both horizontal and vertical scrolling becomes very confusing for users, and they can get disoriented. The most common exception seems to be digital maps.

Scrolling is when an individual gives multiple responses with the correct one included somewhere in the list. For example, if a student had previously learned to identify a banana and you show them a picture of an apple and ask them to identify it, they might respond "banana, apple". Much like a slot machine, social media feeds deliver a mix of mundane and exciting content, thus triggering a dopamine-fueled desire to keep scrolling in anticipation of the next piece of rewarding content. This mechanism exploits our natural desire for novelty and the pleasure we derive from unpredictable rewards.

Due to this the muscles around our eyes can get fatigued causing headaches or vision problems. So the next time you're using an app with an infinite scroll, make sure to not do it for too long. It's best if we could stay away from such apps, but that's easier said than done.

Psychiatrist, The Brain Foundation, Purighat Road, Cuttack, Mob.: 9132433333

facilities with rich cultural heritage, the airport offers a captivating experience for travellers and visitors.

Lighting greatly enhances India's architectural heritage, turning historic landmarks into captivating spectacles. Embracing this technology allows cities to showcase their cultural legacy and create vibrant public spaces, enriching the lives of residents and visitors. As India progresses, lighting signifies innovation, guiding towards a brighter future for its architectural landscape.

Retired Principal Educational columnist malout, Punjab

of New Delhi, Gujarat Bhawan serves as a cultural hub representing the vibrant heritage of

Signature Bridge: The Delhi Government's decision to illuminate the entire structure of the Signature Bridge underscores the city's commitment to enhancing its architectural landmarks. Towering above the city's skyline, the bridge now glows at night, offering a spectacular view to visitors and residents alike.

Maryada Purushottam Shri Ram International Airport, Ayodhya: This architectural marvel, features dynamic lighting that complements its unique design inspired by the Nagara style of temple architecture. Blending modern

Bridging Workers' Rights and Climate Change



On May Day, celebrated as Labour Day across India, we are reminded of the profound interconnection between workers' rights and the pressing issue of climate change. This day calls upon us to reassess our understanding of sustainability, urging the development of pathways that prioritize the well-being of workers while addressing environmental challenges.

Workers, often at the forefront of industries that contribute to environmental degradation, bear the brunt of climate change impacts. From factory workers to agricultural labourers, their livelihoods are threatened by rising temperatures, extreme weather events, and environmental degradation.

To combat climate change, we must recognize the essential role of workers in this

transition. It involves empowering workers with fair wages, safe working conditions, and opportunities for skill development in green industries. It means fostering inclusive policies prioritizing job creation in renewable energy, sustainable agriculture, and other eco-friendly sectors.

The Indian legal framework has taken strides in acknowledging the ramifications of climate change on fundamental rights, particularly enshrined in Articles 21 and 14. A landmark judgment by the Supreme Court of India underscored that realizing the rights to life and equality necessitates a clean and stable environment, igniting discourse on the symbiotic relationship between livelihoods, environmental sustainability, and a secure future.

In the discourse surrounding climate change, there's often a concern that efforts to mitigate its impacts might overshadow or even compromise workers' rights and protections. However, a closer examination reveals that it is possible to reconcile these seemingly disparate priorities and a

more comprehensive approach can be adopted. The Just Transition framework emphasizes investment in

compelling case for integrating worker representation into discussions on environmental sustainability.

The Just Transition Framework, conceived by the trade union movement, is at the heart of this reconciliation. This framework recognizes the significant implications that transitioning to a low- or zero-carbon economy will have on workers and their livelihoods. It bridges environmental sustainability and workers' rights by advocating for a socially just transition that safeguards jobs and ensures workers are active participants in shaping the changes ahead.

Central to the Just Transition is promoting dialogue and consultation between trade unions or elected worker representatives, employers, and sometimes governments and communities. This inclusive approach lays the groundwork for workers to have a voice in decisions affecting their workplaces and allows their expertise to inform the transition process.

Moreover, the Just Transition framework emphasizes investment in

worker education, upskilling, and reskilling, recognizing that empowering workers with the necessary tools and knowledge is essential for a successful transition. By involving workers in forecasting and decision-making regarding changes in workplace practices, the framework ensures that their concerns and interests are considered. Significantly, the integration of international labour standards and protections, such as those outlined in the ETI Base Code, strengthens adaptation frameworks by providing a legal basis for addressing the impact of climate change on vulnerable workers and enterprises. Upholding human rights at work becomes intrinsic to the broader goal of environmental sustainability.

Furthermore, trade union or independently elected representatives can play a crucial role as champions of environmental issues in the workplace. Just as they collaborate with employers to improve health and safety standards, these representatives can advocate for sustainable

practices and initiatives that reduce businesses' carbon footprint while safeguarding workers' interests.

Initiatives like the Climate Action Tracker emphasize the urgency of resolving climate change. The Tracker identifies reducing fossil fuel dependency and ensuring environmental sustainability as critical priorities for global supply chain operations. Failure to act jeopardizes the planet's future and threatens the stability of economies and livelihoods worldwide.

Within this discourse lies a stark reality: approximately 90 per cent of India's workforce operates in the informal sector, grappling with precarious employment conditions, meagre wages, and minimal social protection. The shift towards capital-intensive, labour-saving production processes has exacerbated this vulnerability, leading to a paradoxical scenario where economic growth diverges from employment generation. Informal workers, constituting the backbone of the labour force, bear the brunt of this transition, facing

heightened exposure to the adverse impacts of climate change.

From scorching heatwaves to erratic weather patterns and natural calamities, the toll of climate change on informal workers is palpable. A recent study revealed that Indian workers lost a staggering 259 billion hours of labor annually due to humid heat between 2001-2020, with projections indicating further reductions in labor hours by 2030. Displacement induced by climate disasters looms large, with millions at risk of being uprooted from their homes by 2050, underlining the imperative for proactive intervention.

A multifaceted approach is imperative to resolve these intertwined challenges. First, rigorous research and documentation are essential to delineate the impact of climate change on informal workers, laying the groundwork for evidence-based policy formulation.

Compensation mechanisms must be devised to encompass loss of wages, livelihoods, health, and habitats, ensuring that affected workers receive

adequate support. A robust legal framework, underpinned by objective laws and policies, is paramount to safeguard workers against climate-induced adversities.

Central to this framework is the establishment of a comprehensive loss and damage compensation and rehabilitation framework integrated into national and state climate action plans. Such measures should extend beyond necessities to encompass climate-adapted working conditions, including provisions for altered working hours and access to water, shade, and cooling facilities.

Moreover, proactive monitoring, compliance, and policy responses are imperative, necessitating the establishment of a dedicated national-level ministry tasked with spearheading climate change mitigation efforts.

Empowering local bodies and strengthening community participation is pivotal in fostering resilience and ensuring the effective implementation of climate adaptation strategies. By recognizing the intrinsic

nexus between workers' rights and climate change, India can chart a course towards climate-just transitions anchored in equity, justice, and inclusivity.

As we commemorate the struggles and achievements of workers past and present, let us reaffirm our commitment to building a society where the rights and dignity of every individual, regardless of their socio-economic status, are upheld and protected. Only through collective action and unwavering resolve can we confront the existential threat of climate change, ensuring a brighter, more equitable tomorrow for future generations.

In conclusion, integrating workers' rights and environmental sustainability is possible and essential for creating an equitable and sustainable future. By upholding the most basic workers' rights and protections while pursuing climate action, we can build a more resilient and inclusive future for all.

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

The goods and the bads of the social media



the bloggers and vloggers inspiring education and awareness.

Numerous small individual operated and owned news channel has become a new trend on social media too. Some of these have very high quality content and immense potentiality. The large spectrum of reports posted on the social media on multidisciplinary issues and their corresponding threats, consequences, impacts and significances on different communities populations across the planet is indeed awe inspiring. As an active audience (read netizen) it has been a great opportunity for me to know the unknown through the social media platforms. The various analytical discussions with so much intellectual criss crosses and precise articulation of facts in various formal and informal debates

among different groups or individuals on different issues has helped me a lot to evolve a crystal clear picture within the my core of the heart.

The environment, agriculture, as well as science and technology related reports are extremely engaging in their content and presentations. They are very informative, providing information about the comparative pricing, cost effectiveness, sustainability, market distribution chains and profit ratios. Several training programs highlighted in the TV reports are well documented. However, one criticism, is that one need present his/her thoughts at a slow pace, then it may be more beautiful and meaningful for listeners; and it helps a lot to increase the retention capacity of the audience. Most science related programs are excellent and has a highly sophisticated approach

towards natural science and its naturality as well as neutrality. The problems and possibilities of science are focused on intellectual and brilliance of the performance and presentation in majority of the TV reports.

However, I have also unfortunately noticed unimaginably negative and derogatory or disrespectful comments towards other individuals in the social media platform too which are absolutely not acceptable. There are unprecedented and unacceptable derogatory remarks made towards other religions, ordinary individuals, transgenders and cross dressers and other members of the LGBTQ plus communities, against celebrities, politicians, religious leaders and even against simple personal likes and dislikes. This is not a

Saikat Kumar Basu

platform for doing these things.

Timely intervention by the social media authorities on such inappropriate behaviour traits are mostly not reported quite frequently. Our global geopolitical dynamics and its inhuman nature is also responsible for such misbehaviour by a specific population of highly irresponsible and absolutely rude netizens. This is one of most important and effective component to be taken into consideration by the responsible authorities while addressing the situation. So, the shadow of these predetermined absences by the regulatory authorities and their apparent apathy, negatively influenced the entire trolling mechanism functional on various social media platforms.

I sincerely don't believe that everyone on the social media platform has solutions

to every problem of this planet. So it is important for responsible netizens to refrain from making unacceptable comments on areas where an individual or a group or community have suitable expertise and experience. The group admins should continue to monitor their platform with proper surveillance mechanism to prevent posting of continued misinformation and

inappropriate comments, videos, posts or memes on the social media platform. Let's confine our discussions to mutual learning and education only. There's no benefit in politicizing or bringing religion and hatred into every issue. There are already vested interests doing that. When the Supreme Court makes a statement, we should respect the judges' expertise and accept it.

They are professionals in their field. If we continuously disrespect and

discredit every subsequent amendment, such as Section 66D (Punishment for cheating by personation by using computer resource) and Section 67 (Punishment for publishing or transmitting obscene material in electronic form), may also apply depending on the circumstances. This is only for information and also

so that we are aware of what we are posting on these platforms. Let us use the social media for our benefit and not for negative propaganda, trolling or humiliating others while hiding behind the obscure shield of free speech.

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Scientists**

Arvind Kejriwal, Wife Sunita In AAP's List Of Star Campaigners For Punjab



Chandigarh (KCN): AAP supremo Arvind Kejriwal, his wife Sunita Kejriwal, and Punjab Chief Minister Bhagwant Mann were on Monday included in the party's list of 40 star campaigners in the state for the Lok Sabha elections. Polling for Punjab's 13 Lok Sabha seats will be held on June 1. The Delhi chief minister, who was arrested by the Enforcement Directorate in a money-laundering case linked to the alleged excise policy scam, was granted interim bail till June 1 by the Supreme Court on May 10. The list of star

campaigners also includes the names of jailed leaders Manish Sisodia and Satyendar Jain.

The other star campaigners for AAP are Rajya Sabha MPs Sanjay Singh and Raghav Chadha, who is currently abroad for eye treatment. Sandip Pathak, an AAP Rajya Sabha and the party's national general secretary, Delhi ministers Atishi, Saurabh Bharadwaj, Gopal Rai and Kailash Gahlot have also been included in the list. It also includes Punjab ministers Harpal

Cheema, Aman Arora, Anmol Gagan Mann, Chetan Singh Jauramajra, Bram Shanker Jimpa, Harjot Bains, Balkar Singh, Harbhajan Singh, Baljit Kaur and Lal Chand Kataruchak. Punjab MLAs who have been included in the AAP list of star campaigners are Budhram, Baljinder Kaur, Kulwant Pandori, Saravjit Kaur Manuke, Inderbir Singh Nijjar, Jagdeep Singh Goldy Kamboj and Dinesh Chadha. A constituent of the opposition INDIA bloc, AAP is contesting the Lok Sabha polls independently in Punjab.

Supriya Sule Alleges CCTV In EVM Strongroom Switched Off. Poll Officer Responds



New Delhi (KCN): The CCTV cameras at the strongroom where Electronic Voting machines were stored for the Baramati Lok Sabha Constituency, was switched off for 45 minutes, the Nationalist Congress Party (Sharadchandra Pawar) has alleged. Demanding an explanation from the Election Commission, senior party leader Supriya Sule called it 'suspicious', in a throwback to the multiple objections of the Opposition regarding Electronic Voting Machines. The Returning Officer for the constituency, Kavita Dwivedi, has said only the "display was temporarily closed". No reason was cited for this temporary closure. "CCTV system in warehouse where EVMs are kept in Baramati Lok Sabha Constituency fully operational. All data secure, only display temporarily closed. Explanation by Election

Returning Officer Kavita Dwivedi, read a post on X, formerly Twitter, by the District Information Office, Pune. The "explanation" came after a strong post from Ms Sule, the sitting MP who is defending the seat.

"It is suspicious that the CCTV is switched off where a very important thing like EVM is kept. Also, this is a big laxity," read a rough translation of a Hindi post by Ms Sule.

"When the election representatives contacted the concerned authorities and administration, no satisfactory answers were received. Apart from this, technician is also not available at the said place. Also our representatives are not allowed to inspect the EVM status. This is very serious," the post further read.

"The Election Commission should immediately take notice of this and announce the

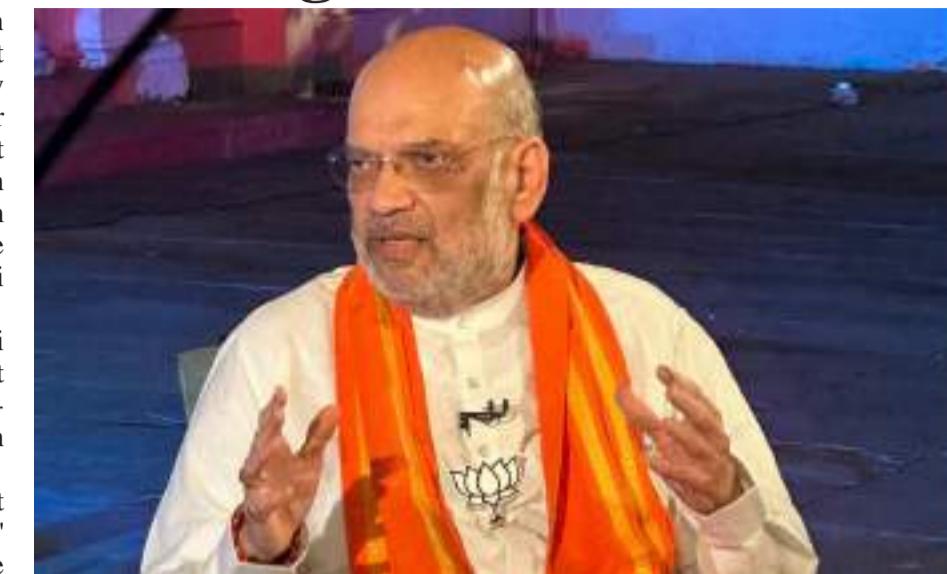
reasons why the CCTV was closed. Apart from this, appropriate action should be taken against those responsible for the incident," her post added.

Baramati is one of the key Pawar versus Pawar fights in the state that took place on May 7. Ms Sule, the daughter of NCP patriarch Sharad Pawar, is up against her sister-in-law Sunetra Pawar, the wife of her cousin and Maharashtra Deputy Chief Minister Ajit Pawar.

Ahead of the election, Ms Sule has called the choice of the candidate "dirty politics" by the BJP. In July last year, Ajit Pawar had joined hands with the BJP-Eknath Shinde alliance in a very public split that came as a huge loss of face for his 83-year-old uncle.

Only 12 of the party's 53 MLAs have been supporting NCP founder Sharad Pawar, 41 MLAs are with Ajit Pawar. The MPs are split down the middle, with two MPs on each side.

Rahul Gandhi Didn't Attend Ram Temple Event For Fear Of Losing Vote Bank: Amit Shah



Mumbai (KCN):

Union Home Minister Amit Shah on Monday claimed Congress leader Rahul Gandhi did not attend the consecration ceremony of the Ram temple in Ayodhya as he feared losing his "Bhendi Bazaar" vote bank. The mention of Bhendi Bazaar is significant given it is a Muslim-dominated area in south Mumbai.

He also asserted that

despite the Congress' opposition to the Uniform Civil Code (UCC), the BJP government will introduce the common law.

Shah addressed election rallies in Dhule district in north Maharashtra and Vasai, where he accused Congress of not removing Article 370 from Jammu and Kashmir because of appeasement politics.

This government will not run as per Sharia Law, Shah said while addressing a campaign rally at Vasai near

? 12 lakh crore.

Mumbai. "But there is no such allegation against the Narendra Modi government (in the last 10 years)," he said.

"I want to ask Uddhav Thackeray whether he is comfortable to sit with people who were soft on (Pakistani terrorist) Ajmal Kasab. The Congress is against UCC, but we will introduce it for sure. This government will not run as per the Sharia Law," the Home Minister added.

Earlier in the day, Shah addressed a campaign

rally in Dhule district for BJP's Dhule Lok Sabha seat candidate and former Union minister Subhash Bhamre.

Shah said Prime Minister Narendra Modi not only helped in the resolution of the Ram temple issue but also facilitated its construction.

Shah also targeted Shiv Sena (UBT) leader and Congress ally Uddhav Thackeray on Rahul Gandhi opposing the abrogation of article 370.

The Congress did not remove Article 370 from

Jammu and Kashmir because of the appeasement politics, the senior BJP leader alleged.

He claimed Rahul Gandhi and Congress insulted (Hindutva ideologue) Veer Savarkar. "What does Thackeray have to say about it?" "I also want a clarification from Uddhav Thackeray. One of the constituents of the opposition INDIA bloc is DMK led by M K Stalin, and his son Udhayandhi Stalin has insulted Sanatan Dharma. Does Uddhav agree with them?" Shah said.

In a dig, he said at least 20 attempts were made to "launch and relaunch" Rahul Gandhi as a leader. "Can he or his government ever give a befitting response to Pakistan? Can they end Naxalism or terrorism in the country? Can they make India prosperous?" Shah asked.

Dhule and Mumbai South constituencies will go to polls on May 20.

3 Dead, 59 Injured After Huge Billboard Falls During Mumbai Dust Storm



New Delhi (KCN): Dozens of people are feared trapped under the debris of a massive billboard that collapsed on a fuel station amid a strong dust storm in Mumbai's Ghatkopar this evening. Police said three people were killed and 59 were injured. The billboard was opposite the fuel station. Visuals show the structure crashing down right in the middle of the refuelling facility.

The metal frame of the billboard tore through the roof of several cars that were at the fuel station.

The police said teams of the National Disaster Response Force (NDRF) are at the site, and are looking for survivors trapped under the debris.

Maharashtra Deputy Chief Minister

Devendra Fadnavis in a post on X said the state government has ordered an investigation into the incident.

Mumbai was caught off guard by the strong dust storm, which crippled transport, uprooted trees and structures, and led to power outage in many districts of the financial capital. The sky turned dark when the dust storm hit the city, with people posting visuals on social media.

Local trains, a section of the metro network, and airport services were temporarily stopped amid a darkening sky.

"Due to the inclement weather and dust storms in the city, Chhatrapati Shivaji Maharaj International Airport (CSMIA) last week completed its pre-monsoon runway maintenance successfully, ensuring safe and smooth aircraft operations. Committed to efficiency

and passenger safety, the airport remains steadfast to prioritise seamless operations," it said.

"Operations resumed at 17:03 hours. During this time, the airport saw 15 diversions. CSMIA last week completed its pre-monsoon runway maintenance successfully, ensuring safe and smooth aircraft operations. Committed to efficiency

and passenger safety, the airport remains steadfast to prioritise seamless operations," it said. The India Meteorological Department (IMD) Mumbai issued a "nowcast warning" forecasting a thunderstorm accompanied by lightning and moderate to intense rain for Thane, Palghar, and Mumbai.

The unseasonal rain brought some respite from the scorching heat, but power outage in Thane's Kalwa and some other areas led to more trouble for residents.

The dust storm also uprooted trees in some areas across the city. The satellite towns of Thane, Ambernath, Badlapur, Kalyan and Ulhasnagar received moderate rain.

"Bharat Mitra Samman - Indology Award 2023" conferred in Thimphu, Bhutan



Kolkata (PARTHA ROY): Director General of Indian Council for Cultural Relations (ICCR) Shri Kumar Tuhin presented "Bharat Mitra Samman - Indology Award 2023" to Shri Lopen Lungtaen Gyatso, President, College of Language and Culture Studies, Royal University of Bhutan at an elegant function at India House in Thimphu on 10th May 2024.

The Embassy of India in Bhutan organised the award ceremony.

Prime Minister of the Royal Government of Bhutan, Shri Lyonchhen Tshering Tobgay was the Chief Guest on the program.

During his address, Prime Minister of Royal Government of Bhutan highlighted the deep rooted history of Indian and Bhutanese culture,

and the pivotal role India and Bhutan play in promoting stability and development in the region. Minister for Foreign Affairs and External Trade of Bhutan, Lyonpo D.N. Dhungyel also attended the award ceremony alongwith many other distinguished guests including His Eminence Tsugla Lopen Karma Rangdrol, Dashi Ugyen

Namgyel, Gyalpoi Zimpon, senior officials from the Royal Government, faculty and officials from the Royal University of Bhutan, eminent scholars, members of business community. Ambassador of India to Bhutan, Mr. Sudhakar Dalela, highlighted that it is for first time "Bharat Mitra Samman-

"Bharat Mitra Samman" is a distinguished Indologist award instituted by Indian Council for Cultural Relations in 2015, to recognize eminent scholars who have made an outstanding contribution to India's cultural heritage by studying, teaching, or conducting research in India's philosophy, thought, history, art and literature, culture, languages and society. The Award is conferred every year on foreign nationals and comprises a Citation, a Medallion, and prize money equivalent of US\$ 20,000.

The award ceremony concluded with a captivating music performance by an Indian and Bhutanese ensemble.

Illegal blackstone mining in Jajpur poses threat to school kids, trains

Jajpur(KCN): Rampant illegal mining of black stones from quarries in Aruha panchayat under Dharmasala tehsil in Jajpur district has not only put the lives of hundreds of students of a primary school to imminent hazards but also raised concerns over the safety of trains (and passengers) plying on the nearby tracks, a report stated. Locals alleged that black stones are being extracted from a quarry on a plot (no-2677), through blasting of explosives, which is situated nearby of Tarakasuni Primary School in Aruha panchayat. The miners while mining stones never spare a thought about the safety of the children.

Moreover, black stones are also being extracted from four other quarries in the panchayat where a rail line, farmlands and the school are situated in close vicinity. The deafening sound during explosive blasts at the quarries sparks fear among the children, while the pollutants emanating from there and adjoining crusher units is seriously affecting their health. Peeved at the state of affairs, the locals have made a written complaint to the Jajpur Collector demanding immediate closure of the illegal black stone quarries and stringent legal action against the smugglers. They have also filed similar complaints before the Director of the Minor Minerals department, the

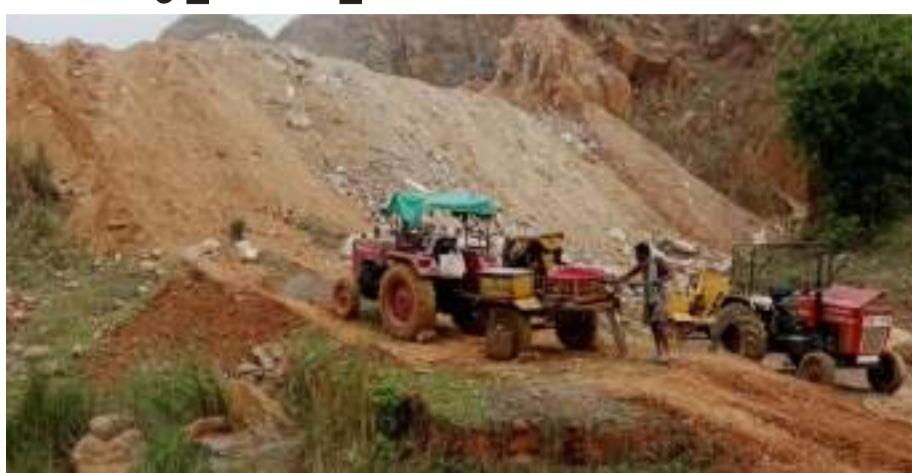
Principal Secretary of the Steel and Mines department and the regional officer of the State Pollution Control Board (SPCB) at Kalinganagar. Residents alleged that black stone loot from the quarries in Aruha panchayat has become rampant in complete violation of pollution norms. This is happening as revenue officials have failed to collect penalties from the leaseholders based on satellite mapping of the mines carried out earlier. They alleged that two black stone quarries – BSQ-2 quarry number 16/16-17 and 34/21-22 – are situated at a distance of 500 metres from the school. Similarly, the BSQ-1

quarry number 10/17-18, quarry number 35/21-22 and quarry number -36/21-22 are situated at a distance of 200 metres from the railway line. The mining of black stones from the quarries near the railway track has raised concerns over the safety of the railway track and the trains running on it. Moreover,

four stone crusher units functioning on plot nos 2733, 2594, 2704 and 2705 near the black stone quarries have resulted in heavy air and sound pollution. This has severely hit studies of the students and seriously affected their health. This has angered the residents as over 100 villagers, including Nirmal Nayak, Harihar Sahu, Pratap Rana, Anand Behera, Pramod Behera, Anam Behera, Sahadev Rana, Mohan Nayak,

Chittaranjan Jena and others have also lodged written complaint with the district Collector. Until a year ago, the Minor Minerals Department used to function under the Revenue Department. But now it has got a separate office at Jajpur. The office is headed by a deputy director with five officers to support him. It is alleged that illegal mining and smuggling of minor minerals like murram, black stones, sand, laterite stones have become rampant in Jajpur district after the establishment of this office.

Residents have also alleged that illegal black stone mining and smuggling is not only limited to Aruha panchayats, but similar loot of the black stones worth crores are also taking place from Dankari, Rahadpur, Bichhakhandi hills under the Dharmasala tehsil. They said that a firm, VCI Industries Private Ltd, took land from the state government for the establishment of its plant, but instead used the land for murram mining and smuggled murram worth Rs 20 crores outside.



Rabindra Sangeet recital captivates Steel City audience



Rourkela(KCN): A function for the recital of Rabindra Sangeet titled 'Unmesh' to commemorate the 163rd birth anniversary of Gurudev Rabindranath Tagore was held at Bhanja Bhawan Auditorium in Steel City, Sunday. The audience was enthralled by the exhilarating performance of quality and sacredness of the concert and expressed their appreciation throughout the event.

Similar performances were held across 11 states involving more than 1,100 artists who sang 20 choicest creations of the poet. The performance involving nonstop singing

of 20 poems by Tagore began at 11 am and continued for an hour and forty minutes. The songs included one of Gurudev's most loved and famous numbers, 'Ekla Chalo Re'. The programme was organised by Geetimalya, an organisation dedicated to music, especially Rabindra Sangeet. Earlier, Geetimalya used to perform in Kolkata, but this time it is organising the programme at the all-India level. Susmita Naskar and Rakhi from Cuttack were the lead singers. Speaking at the event, Susmita said live performance is a lifetime opportunity for all. "And this time, 105 artists, all from Odisha, are

participating in this chorus. As many as sixteen singers from Cuttack, five from Bhubaneswar and 84 from Rourkela are participating in this recital," she said. Most of the artistes from Rourkela were Odias. Mana Chakraborty of Geetimalya said that Gurudev Rabindranath Tagore and Rabindra Sangeet not only belong to Bengal or Bengalis but it is for all. The audience enjoyed the performance with rapt attention. Bisu, a member of the audience, said that he loved the music and this was just another opportunity to enjoy the immortal creations of Gurudev. Sharmila,

another audience, said she enjoyed every bit of the performance. "The best part of Rabindra Sangeet lies in its simplicity," she said. Koyena Dastidar, the coordinator of the programme, said, "The performance is the result of over eight months of relentless practice which was really back-breaking. It is for that hard work that the artistes managed to perform at a certain level." She thanked Susmita for her untiring effort to train a mixture of trained and amateur artistes. The practice sessions were held at various places in Rourkela, such as Civil Township, Basanti Colony, Koel Nagar. The performance was held with no accompanist musicians and the artistes sang to the track. Similar performances were held in MP, Jharkhand, Tamil Nadu, Kolkata, Assam, New Delhi, Chhattisgarh, Maharashtra, Karnataka and Telangana, and were live-streamed on YouTube.

Youth bludgeoned to death in Berhampur



Digapahandi/Chikiti(KCN): The K Nuagaon police Sunday recovered the body of a man who was allegedly bludgeoned to death by unidentified attackers at Narayanpur village of Bhramarapur panchayat under Digapahandi block in Ganjam district, Saturday night. The mutilated body was recovered from the embankment of a canal adjacent to a road, police

said while identifying the deceased as Milan Sahu, a resident of Deulipada village of Chandapur panchayat under Chikiti block in the district. He owned a cargo autorickshaw. According to reports, Saturday evening Milan went to a place near Nuapada college in his cargo auto to take a bath. A security guard at the college said Milan spoke to him briefly

before leaving the place on a bike with an unidentified person. His family members last spoke to him over the phone at 10 pm. However, after some time he went incomunicado, police said quoting his family members. Locals spotted the body Sunday morning and informed police. K Nuagaon PS IIC, Kishore Kumar Samal

along with a forensic team reached the spot and launched an investigation into the incident. The deep gashes on the head and face of the victim made the police suspect that he had been hit by some blunt object, causing his death. Samal said preliminary investigation and circumstantial evidence points to a pre-planned murder. The body was sent to MKCG Medical College and Hospital at Berhampur for postmortem after which it was handed over to the family members for performing the last rites. Locals meanwhile, alleged that Milan was into gambling and he could have been done to death by fellow gamblers over some monetary disputes.

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Bharat SaaS Yatra Commences Journey from Bhubaneswar, Celebrating India's SaaS Industry Rise

Bhubaneswar, (KCN)- The Bharat SaaS Yatra, a groundbreaking initiative dedicated to celebrating and nurturing India's dynamic Software as a Service (SaaS) sector, officially commenced its journey from Bhubaneswar today. With a resolute mission to inspire and empower the next wave of SaaS entrepreneurs nationwide, this transformative endeavour will traverse through 20 cities, orchestrating immersive SaaS exhibitions to showcase the extraordinary journey and accomplishments of India's SaaS ecosystem.

The momentous inauguration ceremony was organised in association with Startup Odisha for Odisha chapter, gathering over 100 prominent individuals and industry stakeholders. Dr. Omkar Rai, Executive Chairman of Startup Odisha, presided over the inaugural event held at Srusti Academy of Management, Bhubaneswar. Against the backdrop of Odisha's flourishing entrepreneurial landscape, with over 1800



emerging startups, the commencement of the Bharat SaaS Yatra signifies a significant milestone in the state's startup ecosystem. Among these burgeoning ventures are notable SaaS startups like Bookingini, Typoof, Retrod, Fydo, and Goodmeetings.ai, underscoring the vibrancy and innovation deeply ingrained within Odisha's startup ecosystem. India currently hosts approximately 7000 SaaS companies, generating an impressive revenue of

\$12-13 billion. To support and amplify this momentum, the Bharat Startup Yatra has forged partnerships with several State Govt agencies like Startup Odisha, SaaS BOOMi, Upekkha, and other ecosystem players from SaaS. Their collective aim to catalyze more individuals to venture into the SaaS domain as well as honor the contributions of industry pioneers. With a shared vision of establishing India as a global leader in product innovation, this initiative stands as a beacon of hope and inspiration for aspiring entrepreneurs nationwide. The journey

ahead will be documented in various forms, including podcasts, interviews, shorts, and culminating in a documentary for OTT platforms like Netflix and theatrical screenings in PVR cinemas.

Reflecting on the occasion, Omkar Rai, Executive Chairman of Startup Odisha, remarked, "The Bharat SaaS Yatra marks a pivotal moment in our journey towards fostering a thriving startup ecosystem in Odisha. We are proud to be the first destination for the Yatra, which will undoubtedly ignite the aspirations of countless

entrepreneurs across the nation."

Sri Maneru, Founder, Bharat SaaS Yatra expressed excitement, stating, "We are thrilled to embark on this transformative journey from the vibrant city of Bhubaneswar, which boasts one of the most proactive startup missions in Odisha. Through the Bharat SaaS Yatra, we aim to celebrate the resilience, innovation, and collective spirit of India's SaaS community, while paving the way for a future filled with limitless possibilities."

Workshop on causes and Diagnosis of Bleeding



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

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

FURO Sports Shoes welcomes Shahid Kapoor as its Brand Ambassador

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

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

BOB Financial crosses the 1 Million Credit Cards mark

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

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

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

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

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

MG celebrates its centenary year; launches '100-Year Limited Edition' in India

Gurugram (KCN): MG (Morris Garages), a British automobile brand with a 100-year-old legacy, today, launched the '100-Year Limited Edition' featuring the iconic 'Evergreen' colour synonymous with British racing history spanning over 110 years. Celebrating over a century of racing history, these Limited-Edition models capture the essence of performance and craftsmanship that define MG and will be available in:

These Editions will come in an 'Evergreen' exterior with a starry black finished roof and dark finished elements along with the '100-Year Edition' badge on the tailgate. Additionally, the interior has an all-black theme with '100-Year Edition' embroidered in the front headrests imparting sporty character to honour the history of the world of racing. The Limited Edition will also come with an 'Evergreen' themed head unit along with the customisable widget



colour. Commenting on the launch, Satinder Singh Bajwa, Chief Commercial Officer, MG Motor India, said, "The launch of our 100-Year Limited Edition is a testament to our enduring legacy and passion for automotive excellence. The 'Evergreen' colour holds a special place in our hearts, embodying the spirit of performance and heritage that define the brand. MG aims to establish itself as a brand renowned for its rich legacy, one that continues to resonate with customers for years to come."

Over the past few years, the automotive landscape has undergone significant evolution, reflecting a dynamic shift in motoring legacy. This special edition reverberates MG's legacy

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

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 poised 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 individual house builders.

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

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



Patidar's redemption arc drives the wind in RCB's sails

New Delhi: Delhi Capitals did themselves no favours missing as many as four chances in the space of 11 balls. Three of them was that of Rajat Patidar, who finished with 52 off 32 to become only the third Indian player to hit five fifties or more in a season for Royal Challengers Bengaluru in the history of IPL.

It's the kind of luck that Patidar would have treasured when he was undergoing a torrid Test series earlier this year against England. Brought in as a batter with a good domestic record until then, what was showcased on the field was a watered-down version of the batter that he had come to be known for. Across six innings he got out in a variety of ways to all kinds of spin - left-arm

orthodox, offspin and legspin. Gathering a mere 63 runs gave scarce indication of the reputation that he had built as one of the better players of spin going around in the Indian domestic circuit. "I can't change the past, for me it's important to stay in the present and do the best that I can do for the team," Patidar had said while reflecting upon that series. It's a mantra that has served him exceptionally well in IPL 2024 which has once again presented a strong case for his reputation to be restored.

Against Delhi Capitals, who boast of arguably the best spin attack in the competition at the moment with two of India's frontline spinners in the format, Patidar showed scant respect that they would normally

command. He lofted the second ball he faced off Axar Patel over long on for a six and similarly lofted the second ball he faced off Kuldeep Yadav for a six. A second six off Axar showcased his ability to seemingly shorten lengths that weren't so, as he pulled him for another six. These hits just on either side of the final powerplay over allowed RCB a big luxury. It hadn't helped their cause that their best spin-hitter in the squad, Glenn Maxwell, had been sidelined by poor form and a self-initiated break. They'd desperately needed to connect the Virat Kohli-led top-order renaissance to the Dinesh Karthik-led lower-order flourishes. Will Jacks filled one of those gaps more than adequately and enabled similar

success for someone like Patidar. All five of Patidar's fifties this season have come from the No. 4 slot in a batting order that has finally found its rhythm. It enabled Patidar a good chance to showcase his strength while simultaneously serving a

definite purpose for RCB in the way they shaped their line-up. So good has Patidar's spin-hitting ability been this season that he makes a case for being the best Indian middle-order bat against that suit. Some numbers that back it up include 20 sixes against spin which is the joint-most by any batter in IPL 2024 alongside Abhishek Sharma. Patidar also averages 91 against spin. But doing it at a stratospheric strike-rate of 224.69 is has been the big differential between him and others of his ilk

in the season. In turn, it has also made him the most prolific six-hitter in the middle-overs (7 to 15) with as many as 20 (equal with Riyam Parag).

This upsurge is a result of a conscious decision to bat in the middle order revealed Patidar. "I think I've done too much of batting in the top order," he'd said. In many ways this role simplified Patidar's main task at hand. "I think if you're going top of the order, you have some extra cushion. But if you go around the 10th or 11th over you don't have that extra cushion. So you have to be very quick in making your decision."

Patidar's resurgence as a strike-force in the middle order has synergized well with RCB's trajectory in the tournament. Three of his

fifties have come during RCB's five-match winning streak with another one playing a big part in them coming within a one-run distance of a 220-plus chase. There too his takedown of legspinner Suyash Sharma and a brief encounter against Sunil Narine showcased a specialised skill being done to good effect. Patidar puts down this rather elite skillset to something basic. "For me, it's important to pick from the hands, that's my main strength."

In a period where RCB has found the going sweeter with every passing game, Patidar's recipes would count amongst the more delicious ones. And they wouldn't mind one, or even a few more, servings of the same.



Premier League: Arsenal secure hard-fought 1-0 win against Manchester to go top again

New Delhi: Arsenal's Leandro Trossard capitalised on dreadful Manchester United defending to secure a 1-0 win on Sunday that saw his side provisionally overtake Manchester City atop the Premier League and guaranteed the title race will go down to the final day.

While Arsenal, who won for just the second time at Old Trafford in their last 17 visits, have 86 points with one game left of the tightest title race in years, holders City remain in the driving seat with 85 points and two matches to play.

City, who are aiming for an unprecedented fourth consecutive English top-flight title, can retake the lead when they play at Arsenal's London rivals Tottenham Hotspur on Tuesday.

Trossard scored in the



20th minute when Kai Havertz sauntered barely challenged into space on the right before sending the ball into the box for Trossard to tuck home. Heads turned to check for an offside flag but Casemiro -- recently moved from midfield into United's injury-depleted back line -- had slowly moved out from the box

and kept Havertz outside after goalkeeper Andre Onana launched the ball upfield. United manager Erik ten Hag was left shaking his head in frustration. The game swung from end to end over a final tense few minutes, with Onana leaping to push away shots from Arsenal substitute Gabriel Martinelli and Declan

Rice. United, who were hoping to bounce back after a woeful 4-0 loss at Crystal Palace on Monday, are eighth with two games left. They trail sixth-placed Newcastle by three points in their quest for a European berth next season, setting up a key showdown when the Magpies visit Old Trafford on Wednesday.

Trossard's goal was the 82nd Ten Hag's team have conceded this season in all competitions -- their most in a single campaign since 1970-71. United enjoyed plenty of the ball in the final third, and had 14 shots to Arsenal's 11, but struggled to create many quality chances. Alejandro Garnacho was United's biggest threat, particularly in the second half. He launched one shot wide and sent another into the side netting before hanging his head in frustration. The visiting fans, whose singing did not let up all evening, erupted at the final whistle after a game that was tighter than predicted. Not even the torrential downpour could dampen their celebration after the job done by Mikel Arteta's team.

New Delhi: Zimbabwe all-rounder Sean Williams has retired from T20Is. Cricbuzz has learnt the left-hander made his decision after the just-concluded five-match T20I series in Bangladesh. Bangladesh won the first four matches of the series before Zimbabwe got a consolation victory on Sunday to give Williams a happy send-

off from the format. He featured in just the first and last game of the series. He will continue to represent the country in ODIs and Tests. "He (Williams) decided to retire from T20I and informed about his decision to his team mates following the game," a BCB official working with the Zimbabwean confirmed Cricbuzz on Sunday.

Williams featured in 81 T20Is for Zimbabwe, scoring 1691 at a strike rate of 126.38. He also picked 48 wickets with his left-arm spin. Coincidentally, he has played the last of his 81 T20Is in the same country where he played his first, all the way back in 2006. Williams even captained Zimbabwe's T20I side following Elton Chigambura's retirement in 2019.

Sean Williams retires from T20Is



CSK make most of return to retro comforts

Chennai: Chennai Super Kings found themselves in a sticky spot on Sunday (May 12) that was a function of other factors in addition to the 73% humidity. Qualification scenarios for CSK at this stage of the season typically have a s y - t o - h a n d l e narratives, but this one had taken a life of its own - featuring drama and mystery, shredded hamstrings and nerves and from a position of sure-footed security at the start of the week, they were made to get their sea legs going on the return to the east coast for their final home game of the league phase.

As it is, T20 is a format for crunched chaos. CSK now had to play two of them with just a 40-hour gap in between, a significant portion of which was spent

travelling from Ahmedabad, where they were handed a chastening experience, to Chennai, where Rajasthan Royals had been camping, acclimatising and practising for two days. In a cruel twist of fate, Rituraj Gaikwad lost his 11th toss in 13 games and his players, who had paused their warm-up drills awaiting their fate with the coin, were told they had to bowl and field first in the heat.

It is at points like these that intentions can start to melt away, and the way ahead look a little hazy, improbable and even mirage-like. More so considering that the in-use pitch No. 6 had already seen three 200+ scores in four completed innings this season. But in this first and only afternoon game of the



away 60 in a collectively poor day in Gujarat. If the Royals saw him as an outlet to break free, they were in for a rude surprise. The 26-year-old was quick to suss out the need of the hour as evidenced by the second ball of his spell, which was wided by the umpire for height. It soon

became apparent that hard lengths were the way to go and Simarjeet's sprightly pace coupled with the slowness of the pitch made him an awkward proposition for batters. Jaiswal was rushed on an attempted pull and skied a catch. Butler chose an odd way out of the run-rate mire by attempting a scoop while a fine-leg fielder stood stationed. With the only left-hander in the top-order gone, Gaikwad could get Ravinda Jadeja to rattle through his four overs for just 24 runs. Theekshana himself gave away only

28 before Simarjeet rounded off his afternoon with a third big wicket, that of Sanju Samson for outstanding figures of 3 for 26 in Royals' under-powered total of 141 which was then overhauled with a degree of ease.

It was the kind of bowling performance that was typical of CSK teams of yore and even central to their 70 percent win rate at this venue. They set up for slow surfaces that also aid turn. But since their return to Chepauk last year, the pitches haven't been to their expectations, something head coach Stephen Fleming first highlighted at the end of last year's league phase, when CSK s o m e w h a t uncharacteristically dropped three home games.

That they still went on to

sail into the playoffs and grab a fifth title was down to their batting operating like clockwork. In that regard, 2024 has been different. Coming into the crucial fixture against one of the two top teams of the tournament, CSK were grappling with injury and form. Their bowlers were breaking down and their top-order batters were not breaking games open for them. A home pitch unwilling to do their bidding was a complication they could live without.

"I loved the game today," batting coach Michael Hussey said after the win. "It was one of those close contests where there was a lot of pressure on both teams, it wasn't the flattest batting wicket in the world where you can smash it out of the park."