

I'm natural successor to Naveen Patnaik's great values, only BJP calls me 'outsider': Pandian

Bhubaneswar(KCN): Unfazed by the 'outsider' barb of his opponents, Naveen Patnaik's closest associate Kartik Pandian has said he is a 'natural successor' to all the great values of the Odisha Chief Minister and he will do everything under the sun to help his 'guru' serve the people of the state.

In a no-holds-barred attack on the BJP, Pandian also said it is the ruling party at the Centre that has done nothing for the 'Odia Asmita' or for promoting the language, art and culture of the state despite repeated pleas by the chief minister.

In a candid video interview with PTI at Patnaik's residence here, the 49-year-old former IAS officer who last served as private secretary to the chief minister before quitting the service to join the party last year, said, "I



call Naveen Babu my guru and I'm his shishya (disciple).” Pandian said he is just a foot soldier and not even an office bearer of Biju Janata Dal (BJD), but he is a big fan of Patnaik. “I do everything under the sun to see that Naveen Babu comes out with flying colours and continues to serve the people of Odisha in the best possible way and with all the big dreams he has for Odisha,” Pandian said. Asked about he being seen as a natural successor to 77-year-old Patnaik, who has been Odisha’s chief minister for five terms and is seeking his sixth term in the ongoing polls, Pandian

said, "I'm a natural successor to all the great values he possesses, whether it's his impeccable integrity, his commitment to people of Odisha, his hard work, punctuality, sincerity, everything." "Every person in Odisha and perhaps in the country should try to succeed his values. That's the kind of successor of Naveen Babu I see myself as and I'm proud of it. I try to emulate whatever he is doing," he said.

On the BJP's charge of he being an outsider in Odisha, Pandian said, "BJP calls me an outsider for their own political reasons, people

of Odisha don't say that." Pandian was born in Tamil Nadu, studied in Delhi and started his career as a Punjab cadre IAS officer, but shifted to Odisha cadre after marrying an Odia.

"I have worked in Odisha for a quarter of a century now. People of Odisha see me as one of them. Why would otherwise they come out in such scorching heat in such large numbers, try to come close to me," he said referring to the huge crowds seen at his rallies and public meetings.

Speaking fluent Oriya laced with the local dialect of the place of the rally, Pandian always begins his public meetings interacting with the people, taking selfies for them on their own phones, shaking hands, and collecting their petitions.

He begins and ends his speeches with 'Jai Jagganath' and reads out a report card on the status

of the petitions collected by him from the same place 3-4 months ago. Pandian, who always removes his sandals before entering the stage, said, "I'm not a superstar or a great cricketer or somebody in some fancy field. I'm just a worker, but there is still so much love and affection of the people." "It clearly means that some connect is there and it has to be because of the great work done by Naveen Babu. I'm just a part of his team," he said.

On persistent attacks on him from the BJP, including recently for the chief minister releasing a vote appeal video wearing a lungi, Pandian said, "I'm always the target. Whenever there is a tree with lots of fruits, everyone tries to throw stones at that so that something will happen, something will fall down. It's like that."

PRESIDENT OF INDIA VISITS AYODHYA; HAS DARSHAN AT SHRI HANUMAN GARHI TEMPLE AND PRABHU SHRI RAM TEMPLE



New Delhi, (KCN): The President of India, Smt. Droupadi Murmu visited Ayodhya (Uttar Pradesh) today (May 1, 2024). The President had Darshan at the Prabhu Shri Ram Temple and performed Aarti. After the Darshan, the President, in a tweet, shared that she had the privilege of seeing the Divine Child form of Prabhu Shri Ram. She

said that the Ram temple is a vibrant symbol of the ideals of Indian society and culture. The Ram temple will continue to inspire people to work for welfare of all. She sought the blessings of Prabhu Shri Ram and prayed for prosperity of all citizens. Earlier, the President visited Shri Hanuman Garhi Temple and performed Darshan.

and Aarti. She also attended Aarti at the ghat of river Saryu before visiting the Ram temple. The President also offered Puja at Kuber Teela and paid obeisance at the statue of celestial bird Jatayu who is so revered in our tradition as a symbol of the value of collective caring among the divine, human beings and other creatures.

Odisha CM Naveen Patnaik files nomination from Kantabanji Assembly seat

Bhubaneswar(KCN): BJD president and Odisha Chief Minister Naveen Patnaik Thursday filed his nomination papers from Kantabanji assembly segment under Bolangir parliamentary constituency in the state's western region, two days after he filed his papers from his traditional Hinjili seat in Ganjam district. After reaching Tushra Airstrip, Patnaik led a procession to the sub-collector's office at Titlagarh and filed papers in the presence of BJD leader and his schoolmate AU Singhdeo and party leader VK Pandian. Patnaik chose Kantabanji



as the second seat as it is strategically located and connected to three Lok Sabha seats such as Kalahandi, Bolangir, and Bargarh. These three LS seats were won by the opposition BJP in the 2019 elections.

BJD insiders feel that Patnaik's decision to contest from Kantabanji will have a significant impact on raising BJD's stake in the region,

particularly in Bolangir district. Kantabanji seat was last won by Congress candidate SS Saluja. Even in the 2019 elections, Patnaik had contested from two seats – Bijepur and Hinjili – and had won in both. He retained the Hinjili seat while resigning from the Bijepur assembly segment.

Bhubaneswar(KCN): Severe heatwave conditions continued to prevail in the state for the 18th day in a row, while Balangir, Boudh, Nuapada, Baleshwar, Mayurbhanj, Jajpur, Keonjhar and Nayagarh districts experienced heatwave conditions on Thursday. In 6 towns of the state, the temperature was recorded above 44°C, while in total 29 towns recorded above 40°C. Bolangir became the hottest city in the state at 45°C. According to the Regional Meteorological Center expert, Umashankar Das, the day temperature has dropped slightly in coastal Odisha following thunderstorms and hailstorms in some places. The maximum rainfall of 42 mm has been recorded in

Khurda's Begunia. Due to rain and nor'wester, the temperature has decreased in the coastal and neighbouring districts, but severe heatwave conditions continue to prevail in interior Odisha. On Friday, Orange Warning has been issued for Mayurbhanj, Keonjhar, Sundergarh, Jharsuguda, Sambalpur, Deogarh, Angul, Boudh, Sonepur, Bolangir and Nuapada. Similarly, a Yellow Warning has been issued for Bargarh and Balasore. From the 6th of May, the day temperature will drop significantly and there will be a break from the heatwave conditions. On Thursday, the temperature of Bhubaneswar decreased by 4°C and stood at 39°C, after remaining above 40



degrees for 17 consecutive days. A yellow warning has been issued for 2 to 3 days in some districts of South Odisha for thunderstorms and rains. From the 6th of May, a yellow warning has been issued for the entire coastal and interior districts with lightning and hail accompanied by rain and hail at places. A yellow warning has been issued for Koraput, Ganjam and Gajapati districts due to

lightning and rain. A yellow warning has been issued for the entire coastal and interior districts from the 6th of May for thunderstorms and lightning accompanied by rain and hail at many places, said Regional Meteorological Center expert Umashankar Das. The hottest cities on Thursday were Bolangir 45°C, Angul 44.7°C, Nuapada 44.6°C, Talcher

and Titlagarh 44.5°C, Boudh 44.3°C, Baripada 43.4°C, Bhawanipayana 43°C, Sambalpur and Dhenkanal 42.8°C, Jharsuguda and Malkangari 42.6°C, Nayagarh 42.5°C, Sonepur 42.2°C, Hirakud and Keonjhar 42.1°C, Phulbani 41.9°C, Chandbali and Balasore 41.2°C, Bhadrak and Rourkela 41°C, Bargarh 40.6°C, Khurda and Chhatrapur 40.5°C, Paralakhemundi 40.2°C, Kendrapara and Rayagada 40°C, Deogarh 39.8°C, Nabarangpur 39.5°C, Bhubaneswar 39°C, Koraput 38.8°C, Cuttack 38.6°C, Daringbadi 38°C, Jagatsinghpur 37.6°C, Puri 33.6°C, Paradip 33.5°C and Gopalpur recorded the maximum day temperature of 33 degrees on Thursday.

BJP-Congress and Akali Dal fighting against NOTA: Bhagwant Mann

Chandigarh (JAG MOHAN THAKEN), May 2: Stating that all the opposition parties in Punjab have lost their ground base, Punjab Chief Minister Bhagwant Mann attacked BJP-Congress and Akali Dal and said that these parties are fighting against NOTA. Whereas I am fighting against inflation, poverty and unemployment. We are fighting this battle to make Punjab 'Rangla Punjab', bring industry to the state and make Punjab economically prosperous by increasing business here.

Chief Minister Bhagwant Mann on Thursday was campaigning for the Aam Aadmi Party (AAP) Fatehgarh Sahib Lok



people of Punjab were in ruins. I didn't come into politics to earn money or take shares in businesses. I joined politics to share the pain and sorrow of the people. Mann appealed to the

people to vote for the Aam Aadmi Party and said that I am working day and night for the progress of Punjab. I need your support. This time make all our 13 candidates win. They will become your voice in Parliament. When

they win, I will get 13 more hands and voices. After that, we will be able to work for the development of Punjab with the doubled pace and courage. Mann appealed to the people of Fatehgarh

Sahib to make AAP candidate Gurpreet GP win and said that seeing your zeal and enthusiasm I am completely sure that Gurpreet GP's victory is certain, only its announcement is pending. Mann said that it is your responsibility to vote for us on June 1, after that it will be my responsibility to work for you. Mann denied the rumour about Ravneet Bittu and said that we have not come here to make anyone win. My aim is to win for AAP by 13-0 in Punjab. Bittu should prepare for fourth or fifth position. He said that someone has spread this rumour as part of a conspiracy that Ravneet Bittu is my friend, so I will help him win. This

is a false and baseless rumour. Mann said that we are asking for votes from the people of Punjab on the basis of our work in the last two years. Wherever I am going in the state, people are applauding our work. I have given government jobs to 43000 youth in the last two years. I made electricity bills of 90 percent of the houses zero. We are giving sufficient electricity to farmers for irrigation during the day without any power cuts.

Apart from this, we built about 850 Mohalla clinics in which people are getting free treatment. We opened Schools of Eminence

and improved the condition of government schools as a result of which 158 students of government schools cleared JEE-Mains this year. He said that our government is the first government of Punjab which has done more work than promised. It closed 14 toll plazas; the people of Punjab are saving Rs 60 lakh every day. We have created the Road Safety Force thanks to which the number of deaths in road accidents in Punjab has reduced significantly. The AAP government has done more work than we promised during the election campaign of 2022.

Weavers in lurch as 70% handloom units shut in Kendrapara district

Kendrapara(KCN): As many as 7,000 artisans have been rendered jobless following the closure of 70 per cent of the handloom units in Kendrapara district during the last three decades. The handloom units had to close down following the arrival of modern machines and quality threads in the market. As a result, over 7,000 artisans earning their livelihood by weaving handloom clothes lost jobs to the modernisation wave sweeping the textile industry in the country. The absence of government sponsorship, publicity and marketing facility is stated to be the reason behind the closure of these handloom units. Moreover, lack of

modern weaving machines and quality threads dealt a body blow to the traditional handloom sector in this district. The dhoti, napkin (gamchha) and clothes manufactured by these handloom units were once in great demand among the consumers in the state. However, with the passage of time, modern manufacturing machines and high-quality cotton thread forayed into the market and spelt disaster for these handloom units in the district. Moreover, several handloom weavers' cooperative societies which had been marketing their products have now become a thing of the past.

A weaver Kishore Dey of Thakurhat village said many looms have fallen silent as several weavers are now not keen on weaving sarees, lungis, dhotis, and towels. The increasing cost of raw materials has robbed the sheen off their businesses. He said over 10,000 residents of Kushiapal, Dihasahi, Haripur, Korua, Kutaranga, Keutagada, and other villages were into weaving clothes. Handwoven napkins, dhotis, and shawls produced by these units were in great demand even in foreign countries, he added. Weaving clothes in the loom was part of the school curriculum and a school was established for the purpose during



the freedom movement launched by Mahatma Gandhi to overthrow British rule. Currently, there is great demand for handloom products in the country and abroad but many units are on the verge of closure while others have shut down due to absence of government sponsorship, Dey added. Another weaver

Narayan Bhadra of Korua village said handloom products are in great demand in and outside the state as well as in foreign countries. Weaving is the second source of livelihood for many after agriculture. Over 3,000 people are still engaged in weaving handloom clothes. However, a fall in income has forced many youths

to migrate to other states and abroad for a decent livelihood. Plagued by a series of problems and dwindling income, the youths have lost their faith in this business, he said. Harekrushna Das, president of the Kushiapal handloom weavers' cooperative society, said the demand for handloom products is still high among customers despite a sharp

rise in the business of machine-woven clothes. The handloom products are in great demand during marriages and various other festivals. However, lack of marketing facilities is troubling them, he said. Another weaver Ajay Kumar Behera said the increasing cost of raw materials and their shortage have hit the weavers hard. Moreover, the government restrictions imposed on purchase of some chemicals have also hit the weavers hard as they have failed to prepare quality clothes and sarees. Things have come such a pass that weavers now fail to recover even the production cost of a handloom product due to a drop in profit margin. This apart, handloom products do not get the

kind of publicity that Sambalpuri handloom or Jhel saree of Mayurbhanj, usually worn by President Droupadi Murmu, he added. When contacted, ADM Pitambar Samal said the state government is attaching utmost importance on the improvement of the handloom sector and marketing the products through the state government-owned Khadi Board and Boyanika. Recently, the government has sanctioned Rs15 crore to Boyanika with which handloom products are purchased from the weavers. This will greatly help in improving the business of the weavers, he added.

Jindal Stainless announces - INR 5,400 crore strategic investments, capacity expansion to 4.2 MTPA

Kalinganagar, (Sapan Kar) :- Jindal Stainless, India's leading stainless steel manufacturer, today announced major expansion and acquisition plans to augment its melting and downstream capacities, to become one of the largest stainless steel producers in the world. The company announced a three-pronged investment strategy worth nearly INR 5,400 crores to achieve global leadership

in stainless steel. Jindal Stainless entered into a joint venture (JV) for developing and operating a stainless steel melt shop (SMS) in Indonesia with an annual production capacity of 1.2 million tonnes per annum (MTPA). This will increase the company's melting capacity by over 40% to 4.2 MTPA at an investment of more than INR 700 crore. Secondly, the company

also set aside around INR 1,900 crore for the expansion of its downstream lines in Jajpur, Odisha, to be able to process an increase in melting capacity. Besides, the company earmarked nearly INR 1,450 crore towards the associated upgradation of infrastructural facilities, such as railway siding, sustainability-related projects, and renewable energy generation.

Thirdly, the company will acquire a 54% equity stake in Chromeni Steels Private Limited (CSPL), which owns a 0.6 MTPA cold rolling mill located in Mundra, Gujarat, through a structured indirect acquisition deal. The transactions entail an outlay of around INR 1,340 crore, comprising a takeover of existing debt of ~INR 1,295 crore and a balance of ~INR 45 crore towards equity purchase.

In-laws murder woman in Bhadrak



Tihidi(KCN): Police arrested three persons for allegedly killing a woman at Paliabindha Beherasahi village under Tihidi police limits in Bhadrak district, police said. Following the arrest, the cops here produced the accused persons before a court Tuesday. The deceased identified as Akhilata Behera, 25, was murdered by her mother-in-law Bhagyabati Behera, father-in-law Ganesh Behera and husband Madhusudan Behera, Chandbali SDPO Kartik Chandra Mallick said in a press

conference organised at Tihidi police station Tuesday. According to the police, Akhilata was in love with Madhusudan and they got married in 2019. However, Akhilata's in-laws were not happy with their marriage and there used to be frequent quarrels within the family due to various reasons since their marriage. When Madhusudan was not home, Akhilata's mother-in-law asked her to give a bowl to eat Monday morning but when she denied the same, an argument broke out

between them. Akhilata's father-in-law, who was present at the scene, started beating her mercilessly with a bamboo stick and then in a fit of rage caught hold of her neck with a saree with the help of his wife. When Akhilata died of suffocation, they took the body inside the room and hanged her from the ceiling to give it the shape of suicide. Later they informed police that Akhilata committed suicide. However, Akhilata's brother lodged a complaint at Tihidi police station alleging

that his sister was murdered by her in-laws over Rs50,000 dowry. Acting on the complaint, police along with a scientific team reached the spot, seized the body and initiated an investigation. Police after preliminary investigation found injury marks on the neck of the deceased and during questioning her in-laws confessed their crime. After registering a case (No-197/24) police arrested the accused and recreated the crime scene on the spot, informed SDPO Mallick.



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Alia Bhatt reviews Kiran Rao's 'Laapataa Ladies', calls it a 'beautiful film'

Alia Bhatt joined the chorus of praise for 'Laapataa Ladies.' The film, directed by Kiran Rao, recently premiered on Netflix. It has garnered positive reviews for its heartwarming story and stellar performances. Sharing on her Instagram story, Bhatt raved about the movie, calling it "Such a beautiful film." She showered praise on the cast, particularly the leading ladies Pratibha Ranta and Nitanshi Goel,

saying, "These ladies...truly have my heart." She also acknowledged the strong performances by the male leads Sparsh Shrivastava and Ravi Kishan, and extended her congratulations to the entire team. Bhatt's positive review adds to the growing acclaim for "Laapataa Ladies." The film, based on an award-winning story by Biplab Goswami, explores the lives of two women separated from their



husbands at a train station. Set in rural India, the film has resonated with audiences for its

sensitive portrayal of female resilience. The film is a production of Aamir Khan

Productions and Kindling Productions. Prior to its theatrical release, it was screened

at the Toronto International Film Festival (TIFF) in 2023, where it received a standing ovation.

On the professional front, Alia's upcoming film, 'Jigra', has completed shooting. She will be sharing screen space with Vedang Raina. She will also be seen in Sanjay Leela Bhansali's 'Love and War', set to release on Christmas 2025, alongside Ranbir Kapoor and Vicky Kaushal.

When Shah Rukh Khan crashed a car, caused Rs 2.6 crore damages on 'Don 2' set

Actor Shah Rukh Khan had crashed a car on the set of Farhan Akhtar's 'Don 2', leading to damages worth Rs 2.6 crore. His co-star in the film, Alia Bhatt, who was sitting next to him in the car during the crash, recently recalled the accident. He remembered how moments after saying, "I have never had a major accident," Shah Rukh crashed the car. "It was a Sunday, and we were shooting a chase sequence in Berlin. Shah Rukh is on the left, I'm on the right, Farhan Akhtar is hiding in the back seat so that he isn't seen in the shot. On the bonnet, there are HMI lights and two large cameras. All in all, this is equipment worth ₹300,000 (Rs 2.6 crore). Obviously, this has affected the car's balance," narrated Alia



during an interview with Dawn News. Khan added that the makers had cordoned off a square kilometre for the shoot of the chase sequence, which also involved Priyanka Chopra, in Berlin. The scene required Priyanka to drive up to Shah Rukh's car. He had to look at her and say the famous dialogue, "Don ko pakadna mushkil hi nahi, naamumkin hai." Shah Rukh was confident that he would ace the scene. In fact, during the

rehearsal, SRK nailed the scene and when Alia praised him, he said, "I've driven a lot in my day, but thankfully I've never had a major accident." Finally, they began the shoot after rehearsing it. But Shah Rukh got late by a couple of seconds in taking a left and rammed his car into a stunt car. "As he turned left, because he was late by a couple of seconds, the other stunt car rammed directly into us. Immediately, Shah Rukh looked at me and asked

if I was okay. I said I was fine. Everyone gathered around, checking if everything was okay. But there was a loss of ₹300,000 because the camera equipment had been damaged. Gone in a flash," Alia recalled. A video of the said incident is also available on the internet. In the making video of 'Don 2', Shah Rukh talked about the accident. He said, "I went and banged into a car. It was not such a difficult shot. I was overconfident, I just went wrong and it was one of the most embarrassing times I have had on a film set." 'Don 2' was released in 2011 and was well-received by the audience. The film also featured actors Boman Irani, Om Puri, Lara Dutta, and several others. Farhan Akhtar has announced 'Don 3' with Ranveer Singh and Kiara Advani.

Samantha Ruth Prabhu Climbs 600 Steps Barefoot, Prays to Palani Murugan



Samantha Ruth Prabhu climbed 600 steps of the Palani Murugan temple in Tamil Nadu on February 13 draped in an all-white churidar-kurta and offered prayers at the temple.

She also lit a camphor diya and tweeted on the same. She was accompanied by her

'Jaanu' movie director C. Premkumar and other friends. The actor, who suffers from Myositis, an autoimmune disease condition that causes acute muscular pain, has started shooting for the web series 'Citadel' in which she shares screen space with Bollywood actor Varun Dhawan.

'Citadel' is the Indian version of the international sci-fi action web series of the same name created by the Russo Brothers. In the international series, Priyanka Chopra plays the lead.

The Indian web series is directed by the director duo Raj and DK, who

had helmed the popular web series, 'The Family Man', in which Samantha played the role of Raji, a Sri Lankan Tamil militant.

She had recently tweeted: "I am thrilled to be part of this brilliant universe conceptualised by the Russo Brothers AGBO. I am also looking forward to working with Varun for the first time. He is someone who is full of life and cheer when you are around him." Samantha is awaiting the release of her Telugu mythological movie 'Shakuntalam' in which she shares the screen with Prakash Raj and Dev Mohan. The movie is to be released on April 14.

Alia Bhatt Recalls Getting Emotional With Kriti Sanon Before Receiving National Award

Alia Bhatt recalls the getting emotional with Kriti Sanon before receiving the national award, says

"It was just two young girls living the dream and feeling a moment of gratitude."

The national film award ceremony happened recently in Delhi where Kriti Sanon and Alia Bhatt were honored with the best actress award for their path-breaking performance in 'MiMi' and 'Gangubai Kathiawadi' respectively.

Recently, Alia Bhatt shared the memorable moments she had with Kriti. "If I had to recall, exactly what happened, it was quite a lovely moment that Kriti and I shared together. She was standing in front of me and she looked back at me and said 'I just wanted to give you a hug' and I just hugged her and we both got emotional. It was just two young girls living the dream and feeling a moment of gratitude and with gratitude sharing it with each other. Literally we both had tears in our eyes after that moment. Then we had to get out of the hug because we will start weeping over here, which we don't want. So yes, that was actually quite a special moment."

Kriti Sanon and Alia Bhatt indeed delivered the best performance of their career with 'MiMi' and 'Gangubai Kathiawadi' respectively. While both actresses proved the mettle of their acting, they also showed how strong powerful characters can change the game for themselves, and today both of them are standing as the leading ladies of the industry. On the work front, Kriti will be seen in Rhea Kapoor's 'The Crew' and an untitled film with



Karan Johar reviews 'The Romantics', asks Aditya Chopra if he can share their personal pictures clicked over the decades

The 'Romantics', which released on OTT on the occasion of Valentine's Day, has received an emotional review from Karan Johar. He confessed to binge-watching the four episode long docu series, which got him thinking about old school filmmaking.

"I realised the purity, the innocence and the conviction we all collectively had...is so lost today for most of us.... Yash Chopra is not just a

legend of romance ... a connoisseur of chiffon, music and beauty... a maestro of musicals... he was also a pillar of belief and conviction... is there any conviction left today? We are burdened by media commentary... box office opening analytics, research engines (all probably relevant to the technology and times) but where did good old fashioned conviction vanish," shared Karan Johar.

He went on to state



how the series made him reflect on his own journey and added, "The rom doc reminds us of the past that seemed so organic and heartfelt.... Makes me

want to go back to that zone of filmmakingI am so deeply inspired by the YRF story... it's origin and it's journey.... Having

learnt everything I know from the corridors of the studio I stand blessed and watching 'The Romantics' made me so self-aware ... of my strengths and my failings.... Thank you @smritimundhra for weaving a narrative out of the archives and actually making an audience go through the many emotional beats through the 4 episodes...just brilliant!"

Paying an ode to Chopra scions, Aditya and Uday, KJo added,

"And finally my Best friend has a face and how beautifully articulate was he!!! Adi does that mean I can post all the images we have shared over decades that you have threatened to never speak to me if I put out ??? #justasking #loveyouAdi congratulations to my dearest friend @udayc for being such a force behind this."

Open access is inevitable – only the ‘how’ remains up for conversation



Scholarly knowledge is produced mainly at taxpayers’ expense. Why they should have to pay again to read it remains a mystery. Information wants to be free – but isn’t cheap. For scholarly knowledge, taxpayers have already paid for the bulk of research and writing, and the additional cost of disseminating it is a small fraction of that. Producing knowledge is already a public responsibility, therefore it is time to push on and allow everyone to read what we have already paid to create. The moral argument for opening access to at least scholarly content is persuasive. The cost of allowing everyone access to scholarly knowledge is significant but not overwhelming. Assuming that in global book production the fraction of scholarly monographs mirrors that of the US (20 per cent), some 440,000 are published annually. At a book publishing charge of \$10,000 each, that is \$4 billion. Throw in 3 million articles at a publishing charge each of \$2,000, and is about \$10 billion in total.

The acquisitions budget of all libraries globally is \$30 billion, according to Outsell, a California-based research and advisory firm for data, information and analytics. That, of course, covers more than just scholarly content. Beyond that, savings are possible in other aspects of libraries’ budgets. North American research libraries house almost a billion volumes, only 60 million of which are distinct titles. This Library store, shelve, bind, catalogue, reshelve, heat, cool and otherwise care for 940 million duplicate volumes. That costs \$4.26 per volume annually in open stacks – a redundant expense in a digitised future. How to sustain a journal and beat the academic publishing racket? Why does open access make publishing more complicated? The monies to make all scholarly content available are thus already in the existing library system. Whether that means they can be repurposed to pay for open access as digitality changes the nature of libraries is a political question. In fact, much of that library money has already been put to this use. Scientific publishers have long been channelling these budgets to their bottom line. Starting in the 1980s, with the so-called serials crisis, the number and price of new scientific journals skyrocketed.

Doing the bidding of a price-insensitive professoriate in pursuit of an substitutable product, university librarians had little choice but to spend ever more on periodicals. That left less for the monographs favoured by the humanities. Spending on journals during the 1980s and 1990s increased by more than 200 per cent, while it decreased by 21 per cent for monographs. Having already commanded the available monies, the scientific publishers eventually realised that whether they were paid for analogue subscriptions or for open-access article publishing charges made little difference, as long as the sums remained comparable. The outcome is that the sciences are well on their way to publishing the bulk of their output open access. Indeed, for the sciences, publishing charges are but a minor annoyance – some 2 per cent of total research costs. That is the good news. The bad news is that this leaves the humanities and social sciences adrift. Without research funds to meet publication charges, they cannot easily switch to open access. Since library budgets have been gutted, first for journal subscriptions and now for article publishing charges, either these monies must be clawed back or new ones found. Some solutions are visible.

Libraries are banding together into purchasing consortia. If 100 libraries pay \$100 each for an academic monograph or unite to pay the \$10,000 an open-access publisher needs to make the work freely available is a wash for their budgets – but, for the world, the difference is enormous. In effect, digitality allows the most impactful bulk-purchasing conceivable, with a discount in the form of universal access. Library budgets may no longer be sufficient for all the needed monographs, but those they buy can now be opened for all to read. The humanities and social sciences would also do well to follow the hard sciences’ example by expanding their definition of publication. The web allows posting and reading of all content as long as we are not overly picky about format. Everything should be readable, but not everything must be an article or book any more than every book must be a printed volume, or every printed volume a leather-bound, gold-embossed artefact. In some disciplines, such as computer science, physics and mathematics, information now circulates largely as online preprints. The final published articles, if they issue at all, remain of interest mainly to future historians of science. The exchange of ideas has already been accomplished on preprint

sites such as arXiv, where dissemination costs (\$10) are a tiny fraction of the average article publishing charge, not to mention the most expensive ones, such as Science (\$10,000). Whether humanities and social science scholars are thus willing to disseminate their work hinges on signals sent by university promotion and tenure committees. As long as departments outsource qualitative evaluations to the prestige hierarchy of journals and publishers, scholars will not break rank. If we remain in thrall to such prestige signals for where to direct our ever more beleaguered attention spans, alternative means of dissemination will remain struggling seedlings. A decision to hire and promote based on work’s quality, regardless of where or how it appears, is entirely in the universities’ hands. They need no one’s permission to emphasise or reward work presented open access. That, in turn, raises the hoary question of review, which transcends open access. Pre-publication review was intended not just to winnow according to quality but to save scarce resources in the analogue era when a bad article took up limited space deserved by a good one. Today, with the cost of dissemination on the web approaching zero, and space no longer a limiting factor, no physical

resources are wasted, and whether review takes place before or after posting is less critical. Still, it must be done, and universities could set an example by rewarding reviewing when hiring and promoting. Reviewing needs greater recognition as part of the mutual hand-washing-hand of scholarly research. We can’t all be broadcasters if no one is receiving. The open-access problem would be solved most directly through copyright reform. For scholarly content – paid for by taxpayers – immediate access should be the norm. But for commercial works, where authors and disseminators expect a return, shortening terms would be a more direct approach. A return at least to the original duration of copyright would substantially diminish the prize that rights-holders are fighting to retain and thus reduce the battles’ intensity. If works fell into the public domain quicker, the open-access discussion might well have at least been limited to the scholarly realm, where there is no pressing argument for keeping content behind paywalls in the first place. Given the interests at stake – publishers and authors united – such reform is improbable. Nor are attempts to distinguish commercial from scholarly content, with differently lengthy terms,

likely to succeed. Paring back the scientific publishers’ extravagant profits also seems a long shot. That leaves the sort of reforms suggested here as the most likely route to achieve what is undoubtedly a historical imperative, freeing up access at least to scholarly knowledge. Is open access tarnished? As open access terms have split into colour-coded brands, not all allow totally unrestricted access and reuse. Among these, “bronze OA” stands out as a potentially damaging misnomer. Open access (OA) is a global movement to unlock research outputs, allowing unrestricted access without barriers except for the need of an internet connection. Different characteristics of OA have become branded with colours (such as green OA), precious metals (gold OA) and gems (diamond OA) that are intended to describe the nature of how open outputs are and how that is achieved. However, it is crucial to recognise that some OA brands fall short of true open access. Among these, the term “bronze OA” stands out as a potentially damaging misnomer. Bronze OA refers to content that is freely accessible to users at the

point of use, but it is not always clear what licence is applied or what the users’ (or indeed the authors’) rights are. Open access, however, was defined by the 2003 Berlin Declaration as the worldwide and irrevocable right to freely “access”, “copy, use, distribute, transmit and display the work publicly and to make and distribute derivative works”, “subject to proper attribution of authorship”. These principles are vital in safeguarding authors’ intellectual property, while enabling others to build on and benefit from the work, maximising the publication’s impact. In response to early advocacy for OA, mechanisms and publishing business models were developed to address these needs. Not all those mechanisms address every definitive point of OA. However, one can argue that bronze OA meets none of these requirements perpetually and unambiguously.

The author is an eminent social scientist, columnist, and professor in the Department of Higher Education, Government of Madhya Pradesh.
E mail: mailgasspub@gmail.com
Mobile: 9340538466
(Calling), 9425382228
(WhatsApp)

Life and Agriculture in danger due to deepening water crisis



Due to adverse human behaviour, earth’s temperature is on rise and the resulting climate change has now become a threat to every aspect of human life, as well as to water bodies and rivers. The dangerous impacts of climate change are being felt at alarming levels on total water storage in major reservoirs and river basins, including the Ganga, Indus and Brahmaputra, which could lead to serious water consequences for people. The latest figures of the Central Water Commission show the seriousness of this increasing water crisis in India. The latest figures show an alarming decline in the levels of reservoirs across the country. According to the report dated April 25, 2024, the water available in major reservoirs in the country has declined by thirty to thirty-five percent in proportion to their earlier storage capacity, which is a big decline compared to recent years. This points towards a drought-like situation; the root of

which is said to be the effect of the El Nino phenomenon and lack of rainfall. Life cannot be imagined without water. Apart from human-beings and animals, water is also essential for all forms of agriculture, vegetation and most industrial production processes. But today India is standing under the shadow of a serious water crisis. Unplanned industrialization, increasing pollution, shrinking deserts and glaciers, falling water level of rivers, lack of rainfall, environmental destruction, insensitivity towards rampant exploitation and misuse of natural resources are leading India to an impending major water crisis. Water levels in 150 major reservoirs across India are currently at 31 per cent, with South India being the most affected region, with 42 reservoirs currently at only 17 per cent of the total capacity. This marks the lowest water potential observed in various regions of India. The situation is worrying in other areas too, with reservoir capacity at 34 per cent in the west and 32.5 per cent in the north. However, the situation in eastern and central India is better; they have 40.6 percent and 40 per cent of the

active capacity of their reservoirs respectively. Rainfall last year was deficient, especially in South India. The 2023 monsoon was uneventful as it was an El Nino year, which was also – a climate pattern that typically causes hot and dry conditions in the region. This has created a lot of anxiety. Currently, irrigation is also being affected, and there are growing concerns about the impact on drinking water availability and hydropower generation across the country. Looking ahead, more heat is expected in the coming months, indicating that a major water crisis is going to emerge in the coming days. This reduction in water storage has occurred due to lack of adequate rainfall for a long period. Due to which, drought-like and unsafe conditions have arisen in many areas. Due to which various crops are being adversely affected. One reason for this is that even today half of the cultivable land in the country is dependent on monsoon rains. In such a situation, the future of agriculture completely depends on the vagaries of monsoon. In fact, due to continuously increasing

heat the water level is shrinking rapidly. Due to its serious consequences, water shortage has become serious in states like Andhra Pradesh, Karnataka and Tamil Nadu. The country’s IT hub Bengaluru is facing a severe water crisis, which is not only



affecting agricultural activities, but everyday life is also being badly affected. In such a situation, to deal with any impending crisis, there is a need to intensify water conservation efforts from homes to all agricultural practices and industrial works. There is also an urgent need for major investment in water infrastructure and management systems to improve water storage and distribution efficiency. Along with this, there is a need to promote traditional

techniques of water conservation. Also, there is a need to run public awareness campaigns to motivate the common people to promote judicious use of this valuable resource of nature. By conserving water and ensuring adequate availability, we can

improve the environment and also solve the problem of climate change. You may wonder how much water a human being uses in his lifetime, but does he try to save that much water? Climate change has led to 134 percent increase in flood events since 2000, and 29 percent increase in drought duration. Water is a basic requirement for the existence of life on earth. Water consumption has increased exponentially with the increase in population, but the

amount of clean water on Earth is decreasing. Climate change and rising earth’s temperature have made this problem a serious crisis. Like in many parts of the world, India is also threatened by an impending water crisis. About 18 percent of the

system is deteriorating, and the groundwater level is continuously depleting. Considering the very low percentage of safe and potable water on earth, water conservation or water save campaigns have become very important for all of us. To bring more efficiency in saving water, a proper water management system should be promoted by builders in all industrial buildings, apartments, schools, hospitals etc. Atal Bhujal Yojana is running for groundwater management in 8220 gram panchayats of seven states of the country. This is the world’s largest program led by local communities. Also, efforts like tap water, cleaning of rivers, and removal of encroachments are being done under the leadership of Prime Minister Narendra Modi. The main means of saving water here are rivers, ponds and wells. Adopt them, protect them, give them protection, do not abandon them to the desert. People should start collecting rain water at the village level. Rain water can be saved by creating or renovating small or big ponds with proper maintenance. About 70

percent of the earth’s surface is filled with water. But, potable water is only three percent. Out of this, we are actually able to use only one percent of freshwater. While using water, we do not think at all about saving water, as a result of which a situation of water crisis has arisen in most of the places. Water crises and critical situations have existed from ancient times. For this reason, there has been an ancient tradition of making Nadi, Pond, Johad, Bandha, Sagar, Samand and Sarovar etc. for water conservation in the provinces like Rajasthan, Gujarat, Madhya Pradesh etc., where nature and culture have been in harmony with one another. The forts of Rajasthan are famous anyway, but their water management is especially worth seeing and is also exemplary. The tradition of water harvesting is linked to the social structure there and due to the religious attitude towards water, natural water sources are worshipped.

Writer, journalist, columnist
E-253, Saraswati Kanuj Apartment
25 IP Extension, Patparganj, Delhi-92
Phone: 22727486, 9811051133

Number of Third Gender Voters is Maximum in Ranaghat (SC) PC in Phase 4 of General Election in West Bengal

Kolkata, (KCN):As we witnessed the first and second phase of the General Election 2024, the number of third gender electors have gone up considerably in comparison to the 2019 Lok Sabha poll. In the fourth phase of General Election which will be conducted on May 13, 2024, eight Parliamentary Constituencies (PCs) will be in the fray. The Constituencies are, Asansol, Baharampur, Bardhaman-Durgapur, Bardhaman Purba (SC), Birbhum, Bolpur (SC), Krishnanagar and Ranaghat (SC). There are 56 Assembly Constituencies in these eight PCs. This time, the number of third gender voters is maximum in Ranaghat (SC) Constituency. Here the number of such voters

is 59. Total 282 third gender electors will exercise their franchises in this phase of poll in these eight Parliamentary Constituencies. Next in comes Bardhaman Purba (SC) Constituency. Here the number of third gender electors is 49. After that comes Baharampur (43), Asansol (38), Krishnanagar (26), Bardhaman-Durgapur (25), Bolpur (23) and Birbhum (19) respectively. Ten States and Union Territories including West Bengal will be undergoing the fourth phase of General Election on May 13, 2024. Total 96 Parliamentary Constituencies (PCs) will be going for polls in this phase of election. In West Bengal, voting will be

done for eight PCs on that date. Total 14,53,00,17 electors will exercise their franchises in these eight constituencies in West Bengal on May 13, 2024. However, the number of male electors is maximum in Ranaghat (SC) Parliamentary Constituency. Here the number of male voters is 9,59,308. So far as the number of female electors is considered, it is maximum in Birbhum Parliamentary Constituency. Here, the number is 9,22,989. There are a total of 1,55,07 Polling stations in these eight Constituencies. The polling stations are maximum in Bardhaman-Durgapur Parliamentary Constituency. Here the number is 2039.

Hilsa (Tenualosailisha) Attains 689 g (43.6 cm) in Pond in 3 years– a Better Growth than in River



Kolkata, (KCN):Hilsa, the coveted fish of Southeast Asia has always attracted the attention of researchers for a long time which led to a recent sincere attempt to bring the fish into aquaculture through support from various research projects sponsored by two multi-Institutional projects under ICAR-NASF. Under the ICAR-NASF project phase II, Hilsa broodstock development was a major objective. In this direction, juveniles of

Hilsa were reared in ponds at various locations like freshwater zone at Rahara (ICAR-CIFA), brackishwater zone at Kakdwip (ICAR-CIBA) and intermediate zone at Jamitya village in Kolaghat, Midnapur East, West Bengal (ICAR-CIFRI). The broodstock ponds are fed with water from River Rupnarayan, a tributary of river Ganga at Kolaghat. Good growth and survival was recorded at all the two

pond culture facilities there. During recent monitoring, a fish of 689 g (43.6 cm) was recorded at Kolaghat, which is gained during rearing for three years. This attainment of size is the highest reported from any such attempt in India. The growth of pond reared Hilsa is better to that of the open water, revealing that there is a possibility of aquaculture of Hilsa. Fishes were fed with their preferred food of live zooplankton in addition to the specially designed feed. Water quality is almost freshwater with salinity of about 0.4-0.5 ppt and conductivity of about 800-1000 µS/cm. Water is alkaline (pH 7.4-7.5) with sufficient dissolved oxygen (7.4-7.5 mg/l). The success story highlights the prospects of successful captive Hilsa culture if ponds are properly managed.

PM Modi and Amit Shah inciting one religious community members to fight against the other: Sukhbir Badal

Chandigarh (JAG MOHAN THAKEN) : – Shiromani Akali Dal (SAD) president Sukhbir Singh Badal today said no Prime Minister should talk of one religion alone and asserted that it was unfortunate that Prime Minister Narendra Modi and Home minister Amit Shah were not talking about the farmers or the poor but were inciting members of one religious community to fight against the other. The SAD president was speaking at a massive Indian National Lok Dal (INLD) rally at Kurukshetra after accompanying INLD secretary general Abhay Chautala when the latter

filed his nomination papers for the Kurukshetra Lok Sabha seat. Speaking at the rally, Mr Sukhbir Badal said “our country belongs to everyone, be it Hindu, Sikh, Christian or Muslim. The Prime minister of the country represents everyone and should not take up cudgels on behalf of one religious community alone. He also should not represent two to three businessmen but instead should talk about the welfare of crores of farmers and the poor”. Giving a clarion call to strengthen the INLD, which he said was a regional party like the SAD; Mr Badal said



“both these regional parties have always stood up for the interests of farmers”. He said in stark contrast a national party like the Bharatiya Janata

Chandigarh- Punjab Journalists celebrate May Day



Chandigarh (JAG MOHAN THAKEN): Chandigarh-Punjab Journalists celebrated labour day by forming a human chain by holding

hands of one another on May Day Rally at Sector – 17 Plaza on Wednesday at Chandigarh. The Chandigarh-Punjab

Union of Journalists (CPUJ) organized labour day to recall sacrifices of the people who gave up their lives for the cause of working

class. On this occasion a large number of journalists formed a human chain by holding hands of one another to press their genuine

demands. While addressing the journalists CPUJ President, Vinod Kohli, demanded inclusion of electronic media in the purview of the Press Council by renaming it as the Media Council. This he said, would help in addressing the issues related to the electronic media. He also demanded from Chandigarh administration the introduction of Pension scheme for journalists including journalists working on desk.

Manish Sisodia Moves Delhi High Court Seeking Bail In Liquor Policy Case

New Delhi(KCN): Former Delhi deputy chief minister Manish Sisodia approached the high court on Thursday seeking bail in the corruption and money-laundering cases lodged by the CBI and the ED respectively in relation to the alleged excise policy scam. The bail pleas are scheduled for hearing before Justice Swarana Kanta Sharma on Friday. Sisodia approached the high court after a trial court refused to grant him bail in the matter on April 30.

The bail pleas were mentioned by the Aam Aadmi Party (AAP) leader's counsel before a bench of Acting Chief Justice Manmohan and Justice Manmeet P S Arora for an urgent hearing, which agreed to list the same for Friday. Advocates Rajat Bhardwaj and Mohammad Irshad, representing Sisodia, told the bench that the petitioner is an MLA and requested that both the pleas seeking bail be listed for an urgent hearing.

The trial court had dismissed Sisodia's bail pleas in the corruption and money-laundering cases lodged by the Central Bureau of Investigation (CBI) and Enforcement Directorate (ED) respectively in connection with alleged irregularities in the formulation and execution of the now-scrapped Delhi excise policy for 2021-22. The beneficiaries diverted "illegal" gains to the accused officials and made false entries in

their books of account to evade detection, the probe agencies have alleged. The special judge had, in the April 30 order, denied the relief, saying the stage is not right to grant bail to Sisodia. The AAP leader was arrested by the CBI on February 26, 2023 for his alleged role in the "scam". The ED arrested the former deputy chief minister in a money-laundering case stemming from the CBI FIR on March 9, 2023. Sisodia resigned from

the Delhi cabinet on February 28, 2023. The high court had dismissed Sisodia's bail pleas in the CBI and ED cases on May 30 and July 3 last year respectively. On October 30, 2023, the Supreme Court also refused to interfere with the high court's verdict, saying the allegation by the probe agencies that "windfall gains" of ₹ 338 crore were made by a few wholesale liquor distributors was "tentatively supported" by material and evidence.

Can't Devise Policy Amid Elections: Delhi High Court On Curbing Deepfakes

New Delhi(KCN): The Delhi High Court today reposed its trust in the Election Commission of India (ECI) to deal with deepfake technologies being used in the Lok Sabha poll campaign, saying it cannot devise a policy in the middle of elections. The high court directed a lawyers' organisation to give a representation to the ECI on its plea seeking directions to the poll panel for the formulation of guidelines to prevent deepfake videos. The court also asked the

ECI to expeditiously decide by May 6 the representation to be given by the petitioner, keeping in mind the urgency of the issue involved. A bench of Acting Chief Justice Manmohan and Justice Manmeet PS Arora disposed of the petition, saying it cannot devise a policy in the middle of elections. The court said only the methodology has changed since rumours were spread about politicians earlier as well. To this, the petitioner's counsel said that

deepfake content is a lot more vicious and faster. The court said it trusts the ECI, which is a constitutional body, to act on the matter. "We can't devise a policy today in the midst of elections. Once it is entrusted with the ECI, the court's interdiction at this stage will not be proper. At this moment, the courts will not give any direction. You'll have to live with it. All of this is to be done before the elections. At the 11th hour, courts cannot interfere," the bench said. "At this moment it will not

be proper for the court to intervene with the jurisdiction of the ECI. Let us trust the ECI," it said. The court was hearing a plea by Lawyer's Voice, an organisation seeking directions to the ECI to formulate and implement the necessary guidelines and/or executive action which was necessary to address the public harm and democratic crisis caused by the pervasive use of deepfake technologies in the 2024 election campaign. The plea also sought direction to several social

media platforms to take down and block deepfake content or those concerning political candidates or public figures on their respective platforms until the declaration of poll results. During the hearing, the counsel for the ECI submitted that in case a comprehensive representation is made by the petitioner with the commission, it will be decided in accordance with the law on or before May 6 and that any appropriate steps that have to be taken shall also be taken by them.

Chandigarh (JAG MOHAN THAKEN) : – Shiromani Akali Dal (SAD) president Sukhbir Singh Badal today said no Prime Minister should talk of one religion alone and asserted that it was unfortunate that Prime Minister Narendra Modi and Home minister Amit Shah were not talking about the farmers or the poor but were inciting members of one religious community to fight against the other. The SAD president was speaking at a massive Indian National Lok Dal (INLD) rally at Kurukshetra after accompanying INLD secretary general Abhay Chautala when the latter

filed his nomination papers for the Kurukshetra Lok Sabha seat. Speaking at the rally, Mr Sukhbir Badal said “our country belongs to everyone, be it Hindu, Sikh, Christian or Muslim. The Prime minister of the country represents everyone and should not take up cudgels on behalf of one religious community alone. He also should not represent two to three businessmen but instead should talk about the welfare of crores of farmers and the poor”. Giving a clarion call to strengthen the INLD, which he said was a regional party like the SAD; Mr Badal said

“both these regional parties have always stood up for the interests of farmers”. He said in stark contrast a national party like the Bharatiya Janata

Party had framed the three agricultural laws without consulting farmers or even their ally – the SAD. “This is why we chose to leave the NDA government. Abhey Singh Chautala

also resigned as member of the Vidhan Sabha. Both of us did this because we understand the pain of the farmer and are committed to

safeguarding the interests of the annadata”. Detailing how the BJP had started a war with the SAD after the latter quit the NDA

government, Mr Badal said “the BJP government in Maharashtra has handed over control of Takht Sri Hazur Sahib to the RSS”. He said similarly the Shiromani Gurdwara Parbandhak Committee (SGPC) was broken and a separate gurdwara committee was made in Haryana to give its control to the RSS. The SAD president also warned the people to beware of both the Congress and AAP. He said Sikhs could never forgive Indira Gandhi for attacking Sri Darbar Sahib with tanks and mortars besides the Congress sponsored genocide of the community in 1984. He said as far as AAP

was concerned; the people of Haryana should take feedback from their neighbours in Haryana to assess how AAP had reneged on all promises made to Punjabis. “A party which won 92 seats in the Vidhan Sabha elections is set to be wiped out in the parliamentary elections in Punjab now”, Mr Badal added. The SAD president also spoke about the ‘sanjh’ between the SAD and INLD. He said both parties had been connected with each other for decades with Late Choudhary Devi Lal and S Parkash Singh Badal forming an inseparable alliance. SAD Haryana unit president Sharanjit Singh Sohta was also present on the occasion.

Rich multi-faceted Manipuri Culture presented through Manipuri Dance form at ICCR

Kolkata(PARTHA ROY): A tapestry of rich, vibrant, colourful multi-faceted Manipuri Culture was presented through Manipuri Dance form under title " Nongi Ithin " by Poushali Chatterjee and her group under Horizons series program at ICCR Kolkata on 26th April 2024.

Nongi Ithin, a dance production, is an exploration of rhythms and rain – both found in abundance in the valley of Manipur. This is a meandering story of water and rhythm cycles – explored and danced with movements from Jagoi Raaslila, Nata Sankirtana, Thang Ta, and other ritualistic, social and harvest dances. Nongi Ithin gives glimpses of stories where ancient divinities brought rain, and some even danced with it! From children's gleeful play to the worship of the



gods, from gathering harvest to breaking embankments, come with us to feel the pulse, the beats of rhythm in rain. It showcases the different rhythms associated in the dances performed in Manipur related to the rains. It includes the dance of the goddess of thunder, a harvest dance, Krishna and Radha rejoicing in the showers, Lord Krishna lifting Govardhan to shield

the world from torrential rains and finally the destruction that is brought by rains when embankments break and flood occurs. Poushali Chatterjee & Group presented compositions : " Mangalacharan " , " Vrindavan Varnan" , " Hari Sayal Tara (Dasavatar) " , " Pung Vadan" . Each composition is in some way related to Sri

Krishna and/or Radha .

People who created & presented Nongi Ithin & others : Concept & Script: Poushali Chatterjee and Debanjali Biswas Choreography: Poushali Chatterjee & senior artistes of Nandanik Movement Arts Music by R K Upendro, Vocals T. Lansana Chanu & O. Kalyan Singh, Sarod: A Shashikumar Sharma, Violin: T.Sandip, Flute: T. Nanao, Pena: H. Tomba,

CEO SSCL Conducts On-Spot Inspection of Ongoing Construction of Balidan Stambh at Pratab Park Lal Chowk



Srinagar(KCN): the CEO,SSCL Dr.Owais Ahmed IAS along with Chief Engineer S S C L , Executive E n g i n e e r s S S C L , General Manager (UP&D), Senior officials from SMC,SSCL and line Departments Conducted on-spot inspection of the ongoing

construction of the Balidan Stambh monument at Pratab Park. During the inspection, the CEO closely examined the progress of the construction work, emphasizing adherence to architectural plans, structural integrity, and

overall project timelines. The CEO expressed satisfaction with the dedication and skill exhibited by the construction teams involved in bringing the Balidan Stambh to life. The Balidan Stambh, a tribute to the sacrifices of our heroes, holds great significance and is set to become a symbol of remembrance and honor. The CEO of SSCL reiterated the organization's commitment to ensure that the Balidan Stambh is completed with the utmost care. The monument is expected to stand as a timeless reminder of the valor and sacrifices of those who have served our nation with bravery and dedication.

ECOR GM REVIEWED THE PROGRESS OF REDEVELOPMENT OF CUTTACK & BHUBANESWAR RAILWAY STATIONS



Bhubaneswar,(KCN): East Coast Railway General Manager (I/C) Shri Mohes Kumar Behera today inspected the redevelopment work of both Cuttack and Bhubaneswar Railway Stations and reviewed the ongoing redevelopment works in the Railway Stations. Shri Behera during the

inspection advised railway officials to take necessary precautions to ensure safety while on work. Timely completion of infrastructure projects and passenger amenities is also emphasized, indicating a commitment to meeting scheduled targets. The vision to transform these stations into centers

of attraction with world-class passenger facilities is ambitious and highlights a dedication to enhancing the travel experience for passengers. Inspecting both side entry points and circulating areas of Cuttack & Bhubaneswar Railway Stations by Shri Behera demonstrates a thorough

assessment of the redevelopment progress. The Development works for Entry points will have facilities like Parking for Two / Three / Four Wheelers, Pickup and Drop point, Parking for Ambulance, VIP Vehicles etc., including Wider Approach Roads, Air concourse for passengers waiting, Foot Over Bridge, Integrated Passenger announcement system and Fire alarm protection system, Food stalls, Provisions for Divyangjan passengers, Baggage scanners, Retiring rooms, Passenger flow management system, Integrated CCTV surveillance, etc. Senior officials from ECoR headquarters led by Chief Administrative Officer (Construction) Shri A G Srinivas were present on the occasion.

International Dance Day celebrated around the globe

Kolkata(PARTHA ROY): International Dance Day was celebrated around the globe on 29th April 2024 to highlight importance of Dance as art form in human development journey path.

International Dance Day was created by the Dance Committee of the International Theatre Institute ITI, the main partner for the performing arts of UNESCO. Since its creation in 1982, the International Dance Committee and the International Theatre Institute (ITI) select an outstanding dance personality to write a message for International Dance Day each year. This day is a celebration day for those who can see the value and importance of the art form "dance", and acts as a wake-up-call for governments, politicians and institutions which have not yet recognised its value to the people and to the individual and



have not yet realised its potential for economic growth. This year San Martin, Argentina, born Dancer Marianela Núñez, selected to write message for International Dance Day 2024. Dancer Marianela Núñez born on March 23, 1982, in the same year International Dance Committee was created. In her message Dancer Marianela Núñez said " I am with you all in the commitment to rescue and revitalize the history of masters, artists and choreographers who have enriched the world

of dance, deserving of being heard by future generations. Let us all know that we are not Spectators, but inheritors of a tradition forged with art, dignity and sacrifice, nourishing our path with vocation and love for beauty. Although the future and the present capture our attention, without the solid foundation of the past, without the fertility of our land, the dance tree cannot flourish. The roots are tradition and at the same time... nutrients. " The original message is in Spanish language.

In Kolkata, International Dance Day was celebrated by many organisations and individuals. Bangiya Nritya Karmi Oikyo Manch o celebrated World Dance Day at East Zone Cultural Centre (EZCC) where Gaudiya Nritya Bharati performed Ganesh Vandana. Prof. Dr. Mahua Mukhopadhyay rediscovered and revived Gaudiya Nritya - the dance form which has its origin in Bengal. International Dance Day was celebrated at Raj Bhavan Kolkata where talented young dance students and scholars performed .



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CFA Institute in India Expands Student Accessibility with a New Exam Center in Bhubaneswar

Bhubaneswar : CFA Institute, the professional body for excellence and thought leadership in finance, has opened registrations for their upcoming February 2023 intake. Additionally, with the rising demand to increase candidate accessibility and convenience, the institute will have 4 new exam centers in Kochi, Ch a n d i g a r h , Bhubaneswar and Guwahati for the CFA Program. These centers will take the total number of test center cities for the CFA exam to 16 across India and over 400 worldwide.

The recent CFA Institute Investor Trust survey showed that Indians place a high level of trust on the potential growth in job opportunities in the financial services sector. However, in the post-pandemic era, students as

well as professionals are prioritizing safety, accessibility and ease of travel while accomplishing their life and career goals. Ease of accessibility to exam centers is expected to improve a candidate journey through the program and reduce costs associated with travelling to take exams.

The CFA Charter continues to be the global gold standard for professionals aspiring to work in the investment management industry. We constantly work to make the CFA Program affordable, accessible, meritocratic and relevant. During the pandemic we moved our examinations to Computer Based Testing from Paper Based Exams and started offering examinations four times in a year. By expanding of our test

center network, we are taking one more step to bring the CFA Program within the reach of aspiring professionals and students in India.” Said Arati Porwal, Director Society Relations at CFA Institute in India.

India has a robust banking, insurance and investment industry. It has a diversified financial sector undergoing rapid expansion, both in terms of strong growth of existing financial services firms and new entities entering the market. With such rapid expansion, there is a growing demand for professionals with relevant competencies and high standards of ethics. The CFA Institute works closely with the industry and regulators to support an inclusive and secure financial services industry in India.

Experience the best-in-class customer services at 11 new Alpha Service Centers across India

Bhubaneswar : Sony India is expanding its Alpha Service Network across 11 cities in India including Mumbai, Coimbatore, Jaipur, Pune, Hyderabad, Ahmedabad, Trivandrum, Chennai, Indore, Bhubaneswar and Guwahati. This is expansion for Alpha Camera body and lens repairs facilities is a testament to the brand's continued dedication to customer satisfaction. Sony now has the widest service network of after sales support for Digital Imaging products with 8 service centers for lens repairs, 18 service centers for Alpha Camera Body repair, 40+ service centers which can offer basic services like CCD Imager cleaning and

firmware updates and 220+ collection centers pan India.

The service centers are equipped with necessary jigs and tools to deliver best quality repair of Alpha camera body, Camera Lens, Professional Cameras and other digital imaging products like Digital Still Cameras and Camcorders. Customers can also avail instant services for basic supports like CCD Imager cleaning and getting the latest firmware update to enjoy best performance from their products. The friendly customer care staff at these service centers will help customers to register their in-warranty

products on Sony Alpha Community portal to enable them avail free of cost additional one year warranty on applicable products.

Speaking on the occasion, Mr. Mukesh Srivastava, Head of Digital Imaging Business at Sony India, said, “By supporting and assisting partners in local markets, Sony aims to ensure customers receive exceptional service and satisfaction along with quicker and faster turnaround at all outlets across the country. The new service centers will offer customers a seamless experience across multiple touch-points to provide a consistent brand experience that surpasses expectations.”

ATLAS OF AFFLUENCE - INDIA'S FIRST EVER WHITE PAPER ON LUXURY LAUNCHED AS A YEARLY FEATURE

Mumbai: Amidst leading luminaries of industries spanning across the business of luxury, the Atlas of Affluence (AOA) 2022 has been launched in Mumbai. Created by The Voice of Fashion (TVOF), a division of Reliance Brands Limited, the daily digital magazine that tracks and leads conversations on Indian fashion, design, crafts and retail, AOA 2022, is the

first such wide and deep white paper from India that dissects consumer behaviour studied through the prism of luxury.

A collective reflection on what affluence means in India spiked during the two years of the pandemic. Charting the post-pandemic market and the clearly altered consumer mindset through a specially commissioned study

across six cities and markets of India, AOA 2022 has been published as a book with e x c l u s i v e l y commissioned artworks. This study uses the time graph of “pre-pandemic” and “post-pandemic” months to specify a comparative matrix. It also helps debunk long-held ideas about what affluence and luxury have meant to Indians.

SBI now offers Real Time Xpress Credit on YONO app

Mumbai : With an aim to digitally empower customers and offer additional convenience, the country's largest lender, State Bank of India (SBI) has announced the introduction of Real Time Xpress Credit (RTXC) on YONO. The bank's flagship personal loan product for salaried customers – Xpress Credit has a Digital Avatar now. Customers can now avail RTXC from the comfort of their homes through YONO – which is going to be 100% paperless and digital. The end-to-end 8 step journey would be easy and instant for the customers.

Under Real Time Xpress Credit, Central/ State Government and Defence salaried customers of SBI will no longer be required to visit the branch for availing a personal loan. The credit checks, eligibility, sanction & documentation will now be done digitally in real-time.

Shri Dinesh Khara, Chairman, SBI said, “We are pleased to introduce Real Time Xpress Credit (RTXC) Loan facility for our eligible salaried customers on YONO. The Xpress Credit product will enable our customers to experience a digital, hassle-free, and paperless loan process. We at SBI constantly endeavour to offer technology-led enhanced digital banking experience to the customers in order to simplify banking.” The digitalization of Xpress Credit delivery will also help the bank to do away with the need to handle and store enormous paperwork.

Blenders Pride Fashion Nights arrives in Bhubaneswar

Bhubaneswar : Blenders Pride Fashion Nights, a unique travelling experiential property, arrived in the City of Temples – Bhubaneswar – celebrating the authentic spirit of the city through fashion and style. A spirit that echoes with Pride and inspires the creators of today to become icons of tomorrow. Bhubaneswar's ‘Made of Artistic Flair’ edition for Blenders Pride Fashion Nights, brought together an eclectic evening that blended fashion, culture and dance, celebrating a symbolic amalgamation of homegrown artistry and the unwavering spirit of local talent.

Exemplifying the region's signature weave through a curated evening at the majestic Vivanta, Bhubaneswar, DC Square was Odia designer Sabyasachi Satpathy, whose intricately crafted ensembles drew inspiration from the multicultural city and its colourful history. In a true celebration of Odisha's distinct and masterful craftsmanship, the show was elevated with a captivating performance by the Prince Dance Group – from the small Odisha town of Berhampur – widely lauded for their artistry. The show drew to a finale with none other than actor Diana Penty, who captivated the audience in a beautiful ensemble by the designer. The “Made of Artistic Flair” edition of Blenders Pride Fashion Nights was a beautiful embodiment of the rich craft and cultural heritage of the city in a modern and contemporary setting.

Taking us on a ‘Jatra’ – The Journey of a Young Woman – the show encapsulated the journey of a woman from post adolescence to her nuptials, navigating the various challenges, trials and significant moments that come her way. The enigmatic journey was captured through the array of colours and textiles that Odisha Bandha/Ikkat offers. Truly encapsulating the spirit of ‘Made of Pride’, the designer made use of Odisha weave, which is sustainable, hand-woven, organic and a homegrown initiative of design, painstakingly woven by the weavers of Odisha. The upbeat set was a composition designed to narrate the spirit of Bhubaneswar along with the flair of the designer. The evening was attended by the city's A-listers & influencers. The fashion walk truly left the guests mesmerized and engaged.

Through this unique showcase of Pride encompassing diverse talent across creative fields, Blenders Pride Fashion Nights 2022, encourages everyone, especially youth at large to celebrate & take pride in their authentic and individual journeys. The evening spotlighted individuals who take Pride in their choices, are comfortable in their skin and, most importantly, embrace their authentic selves – truly living a life that is ‘Made of Pride’.

Mr. Amit Garg, Chief Executive Officer of TP Southern Odisha Distribution Ltd, stated, "We are fully prepared and committed to providing uninterrupted power supply to all pandals during this auspicious festive season. We urge the public to seek proper electricity connections and adhere to all safety measures. In the event of any emergency, please reach out to our toll-free helpline number." TPSODL wishes everyone a safe, joyous, and electrifying festive season.

Khimji Jewellers sparkles with the launch of the great Akshay Tritiya sale

Bhubaneswar(KCN) : Celebrating the true spirit of Akshay Tritiya, Khimji Jewellers, Odisha's oldest and most trusted jeweller today announced the launch of the eagerly awaited great Akshay Tritiya sale. a flat 50% discount on making charges for gold and diamond jewellery, and a flat 20% discount on silver jewellery making charges, starting May 1, 2024. Customers are invited to join this unique shopping extravaganza that provides a golden opportunity for patrons to indulge while enjoying substantial savings. It marks the first time Khimji Jewellers has extended such a significant offer creating an event that promises unparalleled value. With a legacy of 88 years, and as Orissa's most trusted jewellery brand, Khimji Jewellers is known for its exquisite designs that have been meticulously crafted for generations. Whether it's

a dazzling diamond necklace, an elegant gold bangle, or intricately designed bridal jewellery, the brand offers diverse options to cater to every preference and occasion. Mr. Mitesh Khimji, Managing Director of Khimji Jewellers, expressed the sentiment behind this exclusive offer, stating, "This is by far the biggest sale we have ever offered in the Odisha market with a flat 50% discount on the complete range of gold and diamond jewellery making charges. As we celebrate Akshay Tritiya, we are thrilled to extend this exclusive deal to our valued customers starting this month. Additionally, we are happy to offer a 20% discount on making charges of silver jewellery as well. Our brand, with a relentless focus on customer satisfaction, strives to exceed expectations by catering to unique preferences and needs. We anticipate good footfalls this Akshay

Tritiya, the rates have stabilized in the past week at around ~ 6,600 per gram for 22 Karat and we expect people to take the benefit of this offer and invest in gold further." Speaking on the occasion he further said, “Historically gold has proven to be one of the safest avenues for investment, but has also given the highest returns, in fact, compared on a Y-o-Y basis in the year 23 - 24 the gold has appreciated ~ 20% on investment. We are anticipating a bullish response this season, and we hope for a bumper turnout.” Khimji Jewellers' unwavering commitment to delivering unmatched quality and service has cemented its status as the most trusted jeweller in Odisha. With nine strategically located stores across Orissa, the brand remains the top choice for those seeking high-quality craftsmanship in their jewellery.

NTPC Triumphs at SCOPE Business Quiz Bonanza 2024



National, May 01, 2024(KCN): NTPC proudly announces its resounding victory at the prestigious SCOPE Business Quiz Bonanza (SBQB) held recently at SCOPE Convention Centre, as part of the Public Sector Day celebrations. The NTPC team comprising of Shri K M Prashanth, GM (CC) and Shri Anshuman Srivastava, DGM (CP) emerged as the winner in the grand finale, surpassing stiff

competition from other esteemed public sector units. The prizes were distributed by Shri Amarendu Prakash, CMD (SAIL), Shri Atul Sobti, DG, SCOPE, Shri Uttam Lal, Director (HR), NHPC and others senior dignitaries from SCOPE. Shri D K Patel, Director (HR), NTPC congratulated the team members for their excellent performance. More than 100 teams from various Maharatna, Navaratna and Miniratna PSUs participated in the

quiz from across the country. After an initial screening round, followed by two semi-final rounds, the grand finale had four teams - one team from NTPC and three teams from SAIL. After four rounds of quizzing, NTPC team emerged as the winner. The quiz covered questions from management concepts, current business events, brands, business personalities and also the history and legacy of Public Sector Companies.

BOB Financial and HPCL launch co-branded contactless RuPay Credit Card

Mumbai: BOB Financial Solutions Limited (BFSL), a wholly-owned subsidiary of Bank of Baroda (BoB) and Hindustan Petroleum Corporation Ltd. (HPCL) – a Maharatna Central Public Sector Enterprise in partnership with National Payments Corporation of India (NPCI), have announced the launch of HPCL BoBco-branded contactless RuPay Credit Card. The card is designed to reward customers for spends at HPCL fuel pumps as well

as the HP Pay app. It also offers accelerated rewards for spends on utilities, grocery and departmental stores. This card can be used across merchants and ATMs globally through the JCB network. Cardholders of HPCL BoB RuPay Contactless Credit Card will be able to earn up to 24 reward points (per INR 150 spent) for spends at HPCL fuel pumps and on the HP Pay app. In addition, cardholders will also benefit from 1% Fuel

Surcharge Waiver on fuel purchases at HPCL pumps or on HP Pay. Customers who spend INR 5,000 or more within 60 days of card issuance will get 2,000 bonus reward points. The co-branded credit card will offer 10 reward points (per INR 150 spent) on utilities, grocery and departmental stores and 2 reward points on other categories. The card also offers attractive discount on movie ticket bookings.

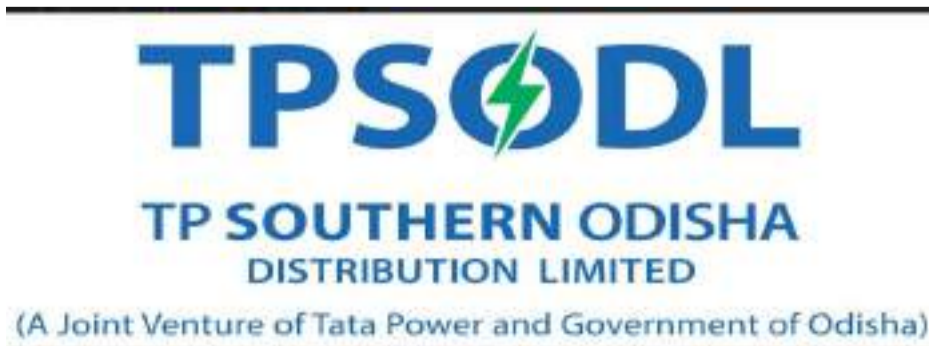
Jindal Stainless signs MoU with SCTEVT, Odisha to train future-ready stainless steel professionals

Bhubaneswar: Odisha's State Council for Technical Education & Vocational Training (SCTEVT) today signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU)

with Jindal Stainless to promote technical education in the field of stainless steel and its various applications. Under this MoU, stainless steel courses will be introduced in all the

Polytechnic colleges in Odisha from June 2022. The MoU was signed by Vice Chairman, SCTEVT, Shri Reghu G (IAS) and Unit Head, Jindal Stainless Limited (JSL),

Berhampur, September 2023: TP Southern Odisha Distribution Limited (TPSODL) is fully prepared to ensure a seamless and uninterrupted power supply during the forthcoming festive season. As part of our commitment to safety, TPSODL has undertaken several initiatives and released essential guidelines for temporary structures and pandals. To ensure safety and reliability, TPSODL strongly advises obtaining temporary connections from our authorities for any temporary pandals and shops erected during the festive season.



In our pursuit of uninterrupted power supply, TPSODL has deployed dedicated teams from the Fuse Call Centre (FCC) to monitor and maintain seamless electricity provision at all pandals. These teams will also vigilantly ensure that

there is no unauthorized hooking or access to TPSODL lines, guaranteeing a festival filled with uninterrupted joy. TPSODL's 24x7 Call Centre, in conjunction with our Social Media Monitoring Unit, is tirelessly working round the

clock to promptly address and resolve any complaints. In case of emergencies or concerns, we encourage to contact our toll-free helpline at 1912 or 1800 3456 797, or visit the nearest Fuse Call Centre/office.

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