

Three killed, 33 injured as heap of firecrackers explodes in Puri

Puri/Bhubaneswar (KCN): At least three persons, including a minor, died and 33 others were injured after a stockpile of firecrackers exploded during Lord Jagannath's Chandan Jatra festival in Odisha's Puri, police said Thursday.

Chief Minister Naveen Patnaik ordered an administrative-level inquiry into the firecracker explosion that occurred on Wednesday night and announced ex gratia of Rs 4 lakh to the next of kin of each deceased. According to a statement issued by the chief minister's office (CMO), the inquiry will be conducted by the Revenue and Disaster Management Department's additional chief secretary, who is also the special relief commissioner.

"One boy succumbed to his injuries at SCB



Medical College in Cuttack and two others died while undergoing treatment in private hospitals in Bhubaneswar," a senior officer said. Hundreds of people had gathered on the banks of Narendra Pushkarinee, a water body, to witness the rituals of Lord Jagannath's Chandan Jatra and some devotees were celebrating the festival by bursting firecrackers. Suddenly, a splinter from the burning crackers struck the stockpile, leading to the explosion, Puri Superintendent of Police Pinak Mishra said. The chief minister visited



Odisha CM Naveen Patnaik orders probe, announces Rs 4 lakh ex-gratia

Bhubaneswar (KCN): Odisha Chief Minister Naveen Patnaik Thursday ordered a high-level probe into the firecracker tragedy during the Chandan Jatra festival in Puri that claimed three lives and injured 30. Expressing grief over the loss of lives, the Chief Minister announced an ex-gratia of Rs 4 lakh to the next of kin of the deceased. He directed a high-level probe into the incident by the Additional Chief Secretary, Revenue & Disaster Management and the Special Relief Commissioner Satyabrata Sahu. CM Patnaik met the injured, and spoke to the relatives of the injured and doctors at the private hospital. He also announced that the cost of the treatment of the injured would be borne by the state government. The incident occurred Wednesday after a heap of firecrackers exploded at Narendra Tank near Jagannath Temple. A splinter from fireworks hit a heap of firecrackers on the Devi Ghat where the longest annual festival of Jagannath Temple in Puri was being observed.

The crackers piled on the spot soon went off causing serious burn injuries to the devotees who were at the spot to watch the annual water sport of the deities.



Martin Luther King Jr., Mandela, Einstein took inspiration from Mahatma Gandhi: Rahul Gandhi

Balasore (KCN):

Congress leader Rahul Gandhi Thursday said renowned figures like Martin Luther King Jr., Nelson Mandela, and Albert Einstein drew inspiration from Mahatma Gandhi.

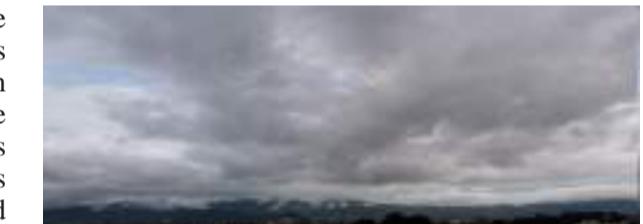
He made these remarks during a political gathering in Odisha's Balasore district. Responding to Prime Minister Narendra Modi's assertion that the world only learned of Mahatma Gandhi through the film 'Gandhi,' Rahul Gandhi criticised those affiliated with the RSS, suggesting their lack of understanding regarding Gandhi's legacy.

"Whose training is done in 'sakha' of RSS, they are followers of Godse, they do not know

anything about Gandhiji. They do not know about the history of Hindustan, truth and violence. This is expected that the PM will tell that the world does not know anything about Gandhiji," he said. He emphasised that people like Martin Luther King Jr., Nelson Mandela, and Einstein, along with various freedom movements, found inspiration in Gandhi's principles. "Martin Luther King Jr., Mandela, Einstein and



Monsoon arrives simultaneously in Kerala, northeastern states



New Delhi (KCN): The southwest monsoon has arrived simultaneously in Kerala and the northeastern states Thursday, two days ahead of its expected date of June 1. "Southwest monsoon has set in over Kerala and advanced into most parts of northeast India today, May 30, 2024," India Meteorological Department announced in a post on X.

IMD had said Wednesday that conditions were rapidly becoming favourable for the onset of the southwest monsoon over Kerala within the next 24 hours. This was a day earlier than IMD's first forecast for the

onset of the monsoon May 31. The influence of Cyclone Remal is reported to have accelerated the onset of monsoon over the northeast as well.

Normally, the monsoon arrives in the northeastern states of Arunachal Pradesh, Tripura, Nagaland, Meghalaya, Mizoram, Manipur, and Assam June 5.

The onset of the monsoon in Kerala marks the start of India's southwest monsoon

season, which stretches from June to September, and accounts for over 70 per cent of the country's annual rainfall.

The monsoon plays a key role in the Indian economy as close to 50 per cent of the country's farmland does not have any other source of irrigation. The monsoon rains are also crucial for recharging the country's reservoirs and aquifers from which the water can be used later in the year to irrigate crops.

Pandian not my successor: BJD supremo Naveen Patnaik

Bhubaneswar (KCN): Expressing his views on the much-debated succession plan of BJD's leadership and grooming of his close confidante Kartik Pandian, Odisha Chief Minister Naveen Patnaik Thursday has said that Pandian is not his successor.

In an interview with ANI, Naveen said that bureaucrat-turned-politician Pandian is not his successor and that the people of Odisha will decide about his successor. "I can't understand these

(Pandian being projected as Naveen's successor) exaggerations. You may have noticed that he (Pandian) is not even standing for elections," the BJD supremo added. Naveen further cleared the air on the allegations labelled by the opposition regarding the decision-making power of Pandian on behalf of the Chief Minister and said, "This is ridiculous and I have said it often before, this is an old allegation and it holds no weight." Responding to a question on Prime Minister

Narendra Modi's recent remarks on his health, Naveen said, "If he (PM Modi) is so concerned about my health, all he needed was to pick up the telephone and enquire about my health instead of stating it loudly

at public meetings three times yesterday (Wednesday)." Naveen also said, "My health is perfectly alright as you can see I have been campaigning for the past month all over the state amid a very hot season."



"Guru Ravidas Ji used to say, 'I desire such a rule, where everyone has food.' In the past 10 years, we have provided free grain and free treatment facilities to the poorest of the poor," he declared. Highlighting the impact of his government's welfare schemes, PM Modi noted, "Today, no poor, Dalit, or deprived child has to sleep on an empty stomach. Today, a poor woman does not have to hide her illness out of compulsion. Now she has a ration card and an Ayushman card." PM Modi underscored his government's focus on the welfare of the poor and

promote social equality. "Guru Ravidas Ji wanted a society without discrimination based on caste. Today, the benefits of the Modi government's schemes are reaching everyone without discrimination," he said, listing achievements such as providing concrete houses, gas connections, toilets, and electricity connections to all sections of society. He reaffirmed his commitment to the principle of "Sabka Saath, Sabka Vikas" which he described as a guiding philosophy for his administration. PM Modi highlighted his government's initiatives

to honour the heritage of Guru Ravidas Ji. "In Madhya Pradesh, I laid the foundation stone of a grand memorial to Guru Ravidas Ji. Facilities are being increased at Guru Ravidas Ji's birthplace in Kashi. Even in Delhi, there is a holy place of Guru Ravidas Ji Maharaj in Tughlakabad," he announced. He also expressed his desire to name the Adampur airport after Guru Ravidas Ji, promising swift action once the government is formed.

Addressing the challenges faced by his government, PM Modi criticized the self-serving politics of Congress and

the INDI alliance. He accused them of indulging in vote bank politics and failing to assert India's rights during the partition. "Their love for the vote bank was such that during the partition, they couldn't assert India's right over our Kartarpur Sahib," he said.

PM Modi also condemned their opposition to the Ram temple and the CAA, attributing it to their appeasement politics. "These are the same people who strangled the constitution during the Emergency and did not think of the constitution during the 1984 riots," he asserted.

Criticizing the INDI alliance's misgovernance, PM Modi highlighted, "Congress is the mother of corruption. Congress has done a double Ph.D. in corruption in 60 years. And now another corrupt party has joined Congress. This party is also extremely deceitful. These people came in

increased," he stated, attributing this respect to the strength of a stable government. Prime Minister Modi, on Thursday, concluded his 2024 election campaign with a public rally in Hoshiarpur, Punjab, Prime Minister Narendra Modi expressed confidence in the country's future. "Today the country has new aspirations, new hopes, new confidence. After decades, a majority central government is going to score a hat-trick," he said. Emphasizing the dream of a developed India, he noted, "Every Indian is connected with this dream, and that's why they are blessing us."

PM Modi reiterated his commitment to transforming India in the 21st century, citing the unprecedented development of the past decade. "When people from Punjab and other states go abroad, they see for themselves how much respect for India and Indians has

the name of making Punjab drug-free. But they have made drugs their means of income. The whole world knows about the liquor scam in Delhi. Here, the mining mafia is also running unchecked."

"These hardcore corrupt people, these extreme deceivers have thrown Punjab into gang wars. These people have ruined both industry and agriculture in Punjab. These hardcore corrupt people, extreme deceivers are also becoming number one in women's oppression. Today the world is seeing their deeds from Delhi to Punjab," he added.

During his concluding remarks, PM Modi urged the people of Punjab to support BJP candidates in the upcoming elections. "The coming 5 years will be for the rise of the poor, farmers, youth, and women empowerment. I urge you to make the lotus bloom on every seat in Punjab on June 1st," he appealed.

The country has new aspirations, new hopes, and new confidence: PM Modi



Special Convocation of KIIT

Like KIIT, Mongolia Also Gives Importance to Women: Ambassador of Mongolia to India

Bhubaneswar, (KCN): The Special Convocation of KIIT Deemed to be University on 30th May 2024 was marked by inspiring speeches and recognition of the institution's remarkable achievements. Distinguished speakers, including the Mongolian Ambassador to India, Mr. Ganbold Dambajay, lauded the university's contributions to education and women empowerment. Every year, a special Convocation is organized for the international students studying at KIIT DU. Altogether, 665 candidates received their degrees in the ceremony.

In the field of medicine, 158 students were awarded DM, MD/MS and MBBS degrees. Similarly, 94 students were awarded BDS (Dental) and 96 M.Sc. Nursing and B.Sc. in Nursing degrees. Every year, at the Special Convocation, KIIT also awards degrees to the international students studying here. Among foreign students, three were awarded Ph.D. degrees, 41 received postgraduate degrees and 273 students got undergraduate degrees. Praising KIIT, KISS, and KIMS for their efforts in empowering women, Mr. Dambajay remarked, "The real power in any



household belongs to the ladies. In my country, women play a major role in society. I am happy to note that KISS also gave opportunities to young

girls towards self-empowerment. In time, they will give back significantly to society." He encouraged the young graduates to

conquer the world with their hard work and dedication towards society.

Ambassador Mr. Dambajay highlighted the

historical and spiritual connections between India and Mongolia. "Mongolian-Indian relations date back to 2000 years. Monks used to come to study at Nalanda University and at a time when there were no means of transport," he said. He also reminisced about the spiritual bond, noting,

"Monks from here collected water from the River Ganga and poured it into a lake in eastern Mongolia, which came to be known as Lake Ganga." KIIT Chancellor Mr. Ashok Parija

celebrated the students' achievements, stating, "Our students have distinguished themselves both in academics and outside." He credited the Founder of KIIT & KISS Dr. Achyuta Samanta's tireless dedication as the driving force behind KIIT's success and urged the students to "embrace the challenge, be bold in your aspirations, and compassionate in your actions."

students, stating, "This is the end of your educational careers, but this is the stepping stone for the future to achieve milestones. Please seek a dream for a brighter future, plan, and pursue a good life ahead." Vice Chancellor Prof. Saranit Singh highlighted the university's international collaborations, stating, "More than 20 MoUs have been signed with international universities, including a cluster of 22 US universities." He proudly noted that KIIT's TBI has won the Successful Incubator Award by Startup Odisha and celebrated five students who have qualified for the Paris Olympics.

SAFETY RELATED MODERNISATION WORK OVER EAST COAST RAILWAY:

- At Dhenkanal Station for commissioning of 3rd & 4th Line between Dhenkanal and Sadasivpur Railway Stations.
- Commissioning of Freight Train Examination Line in Sambalpur-Jharsuguda Railway Section at Sarla Station.
- Bridge Rebuilding Works over Sambalpur and Waltair Railway Division.

In view of the above works, a few passenger carried trains will be affected resulting cancellation, Diversion, Rescheduling and regulation of trains.

Cancellation of Trains:
A. 18125/18126 Rourkela-Puri-Rourkela Express from Rourkela between 30th May 2024 to 14th June 2024 and from Puri between 31st May 2024 to 15th June 2024 will remain cancelled.

B. 08414/08413 Puri-Talcher-Puri Passenger Special from Puri between 30th May to 5th June 2024 and from Talcher between 31st May to 6th June 2024 will remain cancelled.

C. 07471/07470 Palasa-Visakhapatnam-

Palasa Passenger Special from both the directions on 31.05.2024 will remain cancelled.

D. 08169/08170 and 08171 / 08172 Jharsuguda-Sambalpur-Jharsuguda Passenger Special trains will remain cancelled from both the directions from 7th June to 14th June 2024.

E. 08264/08263 Bilaspur-Titilagarh-Bilaspur Passenger Special from Bilaspur between 7th to 14th June 2024 and from Titilagarh between 8th to 15th June 2024 will remain cancelled.

F. 08277/08278 Titilagarh-Raipur-Titilagarh Passenger Special from Titilagarh between 7th to 14th June 2024 and from Raipur

between 8th to 15th June 2024 will remain cancelled.

Diversion of Trains:

18190/18189 Ernakulam-Tata-Ernakulam Express from Ernakulam from 6th to 12th June and from Tata from 7th June to 14th June 2024 will run via Jaroli-Jakhapura-Cuttack-Khurda Road-Vizianagaram route from both the directions instead of its scheduled path via Vizianagaram-Titilagarh-Jharsuguda route.

Rescheduling of Trains:

06090 Santragachhi-Tambaram Express from Santragachhi on 30th May, 20896 Bhubaneswar-Rourkela Express from Bhubaneswar on

31st May, 06222 Muzaffarpur-Mysuru Special from Muzaffarpur on 30th May, 06104 Dibrugarh-New Nagercoil Special from Dibrugarh on 29th May, 09060 Brahmapur-Surat Special from Brahmapur on 31st May 2024 and 20917 Indore-Puri Express from Indore on 11th June, 15028 Gorakhpur-Sambalpur Express from Gorakhpur from 6th to 13th June, 22840 Bhubaneswar-Rourkela Express from Bhubaneswar on 4th June 2024 will be rescheduled from the originating stations minimum from one hours to maximum two hours 30 minutes.

The Ahmadiyya Muslim Community is celebrating its 116th Khilafat Day this year.

Bhubaneswar, (KCN): The Ahmadiyya Muslim Community is blessed to have a spiritual leadership system known as Khilafat. This system provides the community with a spiritual Khalifa who guides its members at every step. The system of Khilafat was established in the Ahmadiyya Muslim Community 116 years ago, and the community is now thriving under the leadership of its fifth Khalifa, achieving remarkable progress day by day.

The founder of the Ahmadiyya Muslim Community, Hazrat Mirza Ghulam Ahmad of Qadian, the Promised Messiah and Mahdi, stated that his mission was to establish a firm and living relationship between humanity and God, and to foster feelings of love, brotherhood, and compassion among people. Following the demise of Hazrat Mirza Ghulam Ahmad on May 27, 1908, the first Khalifa of the Ahmadiyya Community was elected. The spiritual system of Khilafat was established by God to continue and promote the objectives



and mission for which the founder of the Ahmadiyya Muslim Community was sent, spreading these ideals throughout the world. Allah Almighty has promised the establishment of Khilafat in the Holy Quran and has assured that this system of Khilafat will be a guarantor of peace. Today, as the world rapidly approaches the brink of a third world war and global peace is at risk, the worldwide head of the Ahmadiyya Muslim Community, Hazrat Mirza Masroor Ahmad, may Allah be his helper, is calling the world towards peace and security. He states: "Therefore, for true peace to be established in the world, it is essential to believe and act upon the principle that there is one God who desires for all people to live in peace. Ameen.

True peace cannot be established until a Supreme Being is acknowledged and His love is instilled in the hearts. The belief that Allah is the Giver of Peace has only been presented by Islam through the Holy Prophet Muhammad (peace be upon him) beautifully stated that one should desire for others what one desires for oneself. We must work not only for our own benefit but with a broad vision for the benefit of the entire world. In today's era, these are the means for establishing true peace." (Address at York University, Ontario, Canada, October 28, 2016)

Similarly, the Worldwide Head of the Ahmadiyya Muslim Community, while delivering an address at York University, Ontario, Canada, stated: "If we truly wish to

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Ajay Devgn, Tigmanshu Dhulia to unite for film on India's first Dalit cricketer

Actor Ajay Devgn and director Tigmanshu Dhulia are set to reunite for a biopic on India's first Dalit cricketer, Palwankar Baloo.

Producer Priti shared a note on X. After 'Maidaan', actor Ajay Devgn will reportedly feature in Tigmanshu Dhulia's film on India's first Dalit cricketer Palwankar Baloo. Priti Sinha, a film producer, shared a note on X on May 29, announcing the same. The filming of the biopic is likely to begin by the end of 2023.

The film is touted to be based on historian Ramchandra Guha's book 'A Corner Of A Foreign Field'. For the unversed, Palwankar Baloo belonged to the Dalit community and began his journey as a grounds man at a cricket club in Pune. In 1896, he was selected to play for the Hindu Gymkhana. The book, written by Guha, revolves around what transpired throughout his life (the discrimination he faces throughout his career).



Meanwhile, Ajay Devgn was last seen in the biopic 'Maidaan'. It was based on legendary footballer Syed Abdul Rahim. Apart from that, he was also seen in the horror-thriller 'Shaistaan', co-starring Jyotika and Madhavan in lead roles. He will soon be seen in Rohit Shetty's 'Singham Again'. The film features a bevy of actors, including Ranveer Singh, Arjun Kapoor, Deepika Padukone, Tiger Shroff and Kareena Kapoor. It is slated for a release on August 15, 2024.

Salman Khan teams up with director AR Murugadoss for his next



After the phenomenal success of his latest film, 'Tiger 3', Salman Khan announced that he is set to collaborate with director AR Murugadoss for his next film. In a note shared by the actor on social media, he wrote that the film will release during Eid 2025. Salman Khan shared the announcement on his official X handle on Tuesday, March 12. He

wrote, "Glad to join forces with the exceptionally talented, @ARMurugadoss and my friend, #SajidNadiadwala for a very exciting film !! This collaboration is special, and I look forward to this journey with your love and blessings. Releasing EID 2025 (sic)." Salman Khan always has something special to excite his fans. Yet

again, the superstar is all set to come back on Eid 2025. This time, he teams up with director A.R. Murugadoss and producer Sajid Nadiadwala. This is indeed the biggest announcement of this year that is worth creating waves among the fans. Salman Khan has a long-standing collaboration of

delivering blockbusters with producer Sajid Nadiadwala with films like 'Judwaa', 'Mujhse Shaadi Karogi', and 'Kick', just to name a few. After 'Kick', the audience were waiting for this collaboration to happen. On the other hand, A.R. Murugadoss is the name behind superhits like, 'Ghajini', 'Holiday: A Soldier Is Never Off Duty', and many more in the Tamil film industry.

AR Murugadoss made his Hindi debut with 'Ghajini', which crossed Rs 100 crore at the box office. This announcement is indeed the biggest one that has come this year. We eagerly anticipate seeing what this exceptional trio of Salman Khan, A.R. Murugadoss, and producer Sajid Nadiadwala will create with their collaboration.

Pakistani actor Mahira Khan ties the knot for second time, groom Salim Karim gets emotional. Watch first wedding video



things that might look basic from a privileged background but I hope this gives hope to a woman rethinking marriage." "Aww congratulations to her. May Allah bless her with a beautiful married life with her husband," commented a fan. A person wrote, "That's just graceful. Hope they find comfort." "Awwww the groom is crying. Such men still exist," said another fan. "Aww super cute mashAllah. Many congratulations to the happy couple," read another comment. "She's looking absolutely gorgeous," read a comment. As per Tribune.com, Mahira had earlier

confirmed dating Salim while speaking with Samina Peerzada. In 2022, when Mahira was asked if she was in love, she smiled and nodded her head. "Yeah, I think I am in love. I don't know, I am so shy about it," Mahira had said. She had also confirmed that he wasn't from the industry.

Mahira will be seen with Fawad Khan and Sanam Saeed in the Netflix series Jo Bachay Hain Sang Samait Lo. The show, an official adaptation of Farhat Ishtiaq's bestselling 2013 Urdu-language novel, is the streamer's first Pakistan-themed original, reported

Why Adah Sharma won't comment on The Vaccine War: 'After The Kerala Story, I have learnt...'

Actor Adah Sharma and Jatin Sarna are coming together onscreen for the first time in their short film Kofuku, which will premiere at JioCinema Film Festival. Kofuku is a 17-minute-long film, shot in Mussoorie. The title is derived from the Japanese word, which translates to happiness and fulfilment in life. In a chat with Hindustan Times, Adah and Jatin shared the essence of their film.

Adah Sharma shared about the film, "It's a film that you will resonate with, no matter where you are from and whatever age group you are. The topic is so



universal." Kofuku focuses on people and their perspective towards life. It is based around Adah Sharma's, Sadaf, who comes to a remote hill station from an urban city and meets a visually impaired stranger in a Mussoorie cafe who shows her around. As she intended to permanently bid goodbye, the stranger changes her mind with an insight into his life and its philosophies.

Adah Sharma recalled her role and said, "Sadaf is someone I don't actually identify with a lot. I am someone who's a little more grateful (towards life) but it was interesting to play her because she is someone who can see but she is not looking in the right place for happiness. She is basically living her life with eyes shut." "Jatin is playing someone who is visually impaired but he can see so much more than someone with 6/6 vision. She goes to make a decision in her life but it's Jatin who stops her. "Sometimes you meet people and realise there are so many ways in which you can be living your life differently. We all try to do different things to be happy. You think accumulating a lot of wealth will make you happy, someone might think having a lot of movies will make you happy, or starting a business will. Happiness is actually within you. Similarly, our film is very simple. It's conveying the same message." Jatin Sarna went on to weigh in, "The grass is always greener on the other side. The film also talks about focusing on what you have rather than looking at others' plates. We just want to achieve this and that in life. In that race, we forget to live life. Life is uncertain, especially after what we have seen during covid. After working on this film, my perspective towards life has changed. One should just make peace with life and enjoy, this is my take from the film." Adah and Jatin were clearly more invested in the film, not just professionally but also on a personal level. When asked about their shoot time together, Jatin had only great things to tell about his co-star and team.

"Our producer, Pradeep is such a sweetheart. He made sure we got everything on the sets that was

Why do people want to see Modi as Prime Minister for the third time?

The people of our vast and diverse country do not want any change in the top position of power, this is a unique example in itself. Despite all kinds of speculations, conjectures, predictions, allegations and counter-allegations during the Lok Sabha elections, the people of the country seem eager to see Narendra Modi on the post of Prime Minister for the third consecutive time. People may have different opinions on various issues but as far as the Prime Minister is concerned, the general opinion is in favor of Modi.

The question arises that why do the people of the country want to see Modi as PM for the third time? In the last election, 303 BJP MPs won. It is not possible that there should be no resentment among the voters against any of them, but the opposition parties did not pay attention to this and instead started criticizing Modi. The opposition has no agenda other than opposing Modi. The atmosphere has become such that people are no longer concerned about who is the candidate in the Lok Sabha constituency, they have made up their mind to vote for Modi. Due to which this election has also remained Modi centric like the elections

of 2014 and 2019. The election process has reached the final stage and the voters are firm on their decision that they have to vote for Modi. People are dreaming of developed India through Modi. Every government has some merits and it is also natural that it has some shortcomings. If the opposition parties had gone to the voters with examples of the government's shortcomings, they would have probably benefited to some extent, but they only targeted Modi, which the voters did not like. There is no doubt that there is still a Modi wave in the country and people do not like to hear against Modi. This is Modi's earning. Modi has completed ten years as PM and during this time he has left a mark on the hearts of the countrymen with his unique style. It is clearly visible what was the condition of the country when Modi became the Prime Minister ten years ago and what has changed in it now. The country has come out of the atmosphere of disappointment and frustration. A positive environment has been created in the country. People are full of confidence. India is famous all over the world. Thanks to Modi, there has been a radical

change in the country's politics, character of power and working style of administration. The impeccable tenure of 10 years of Modi government is commendable. 25 crore people have been taken out of poverty, this has been confirmed by various international agencies. The country has been freed from mega-scams and terror, steps have been taken towards improving the lives of the poor. On one hand, while the leaders of opposition parties have been focusing on the development of their families, on the other hand, Modi has taken care of 140 crore people of the country under 'Sabka Saath, Sabka Vishwas, Sabka Vikas'. Modi ignited the spark of change in the governance system, which has made it possible to move towards inclusive, development-oriented and corruption-free governance. It is due to the foresight of Modi that he has succeeded in realizing the objective of Antyodaya and making the people sitting at the last corner of the society benefit from the government schemes. Modi has given wings to cultural development and tourism development in the country. Work has been done with dedication for every section including energy, foreign

Prof. Mahesh Chand Gupta

policy, security, medicine, education, economic progress, poor welfare, women's upliftment. He is working like an ascetic. He is working considering 140 crore people of the country as



his idol. The country is moving forward with this spirit of his.

In the last ten years, Modi has worked in a targeted manner, due to which the condition of the common man has improved. Per capita income has increased in the country. Like the opposition parties, Modi does not give the slogan of eradicating poverty, rather he is emphasizing on increasing the income of the poor. Modi's Make in India program has taken the country up the ladder of progress. Under the PM Kisan Samman Nidhi Yojana, small farmers of the country are getting annual assistance of Rs

6,000. Thanks to the use of drones, a new revolution has started in farming. The needy section of the country has got relief from the Pradhan Mantri Garib Kalyan Anna Yojana. Ujjwala scheme has changed the lives of women. Women have openly come out in support of Modi due to the provision of cooking gas, clean drinking water, electricity, permanent houses, toilets etc. The Total Sanitation Campaign has shown a new path. The facility of free treatment up to Rs 5 lakh under Ayushman Bharat Scheme has saved the common man from getting burdened with debt. Similarly, Pradhan Mantri Jeevan Jyoti Bima Yojana, Atal Pension Yojana and Pradhan Mantri Suraksha Bima Yojana, which was run with the aim of protecting the large population of the

country, have provided support to the common people. Under the Pradhan Mantri Awas Yojana, the dream of crores of people of owning a house has come true. The country's economy is

by 2047, which has further increased Modi's attraction among the people. People believe that in the coming times, under the leadership of Modi, the country will not only move towards development but will also be able to face various challenges. This thinking among the people has been created due to Modi's actions like abolition of Article 370 from Kashmir, giving reply to Pakistan by entering its territory, massive campaign against corruption, which were considered not only difficult but also impossible.

The expansion of the feeling of nationalism during the Modi era is a unique example.

Even the election process has not been completed yet, but Modi, who is known for working at a fast pace, has made a blueprint of what to do in his third term. This shows that Modi is full of confidence and this confidence is due to the love and affection of 140 countrymen. In a recent interview, Modi said that the blueprint for the first 100 days of my third term is ready and I am planning to add 25 more days for the youth in this plan. According to what the Prime Minister has said, while preparing the agenda for the first 100 days of the government, he has taken suggestions

(The author is a renowned educationist. He has been a professor in Delhi University for 44 years.)

Convivial Classroom

Bijaya Kumar Parhi



A classroom is the sanctum sanctorum of an educational edifice as its respectful learning environment is sacrosanct. Needless to say, a healthy interaction always takes place among learners and teachers. A well-organized, productive and disciplined classroom ensures better learning outcomes. Teachers teach the concept of subjects, make the lessons enjoyable and develop a meaningful relationship with children. Interaction with the learners is the sine qua non of a successful transaction of a lesson. An effective class depends upon the effective strategies adopted by a teacher. Apart from this, it's important to instill a sense of social sensitivity in children so that they grow up to become responsible citizens. What the teachers teach in the classroom are mere instructions. When the same instructions are applied in life, get transformed into knowledge. It's axiomatic that there is no dearth of information, but the world is lacking in knowledge. Long gone are the days when teachers taught when learners only listened to the lecture. Learners were not allowed to interact with the teachers. The result was

disastrous when the children were made passive. The classroom was squarely teacher centered and the learners experienced monotony and dullness and boredom set in. The learning outcomes of such classes get stymied and creativity of the learners are suppressed. The IQs and EQs of the learners are not properly measured. There is a yawning chasm between the learners of the past generation and 21st century. With the march of super-fast information Technology today's learners, especially children belonging to Gen Z are found to be smarter, tech-savvy and cosmopolitan in outlook and liberated in spirits. John Dewey, an American philosopher and educational reformer has rightly pointed out that "If we teach today's students as we taught yesterday's, we rob them of tomorrow". In such a critical juncture competency-based education promulgated by the NEP-2020 is the need of the hour. It advocates to focus away from rote learning to development of concepts and understanding. It believes in democratic classroom which outlines a refreshing approach to education, where holistic development of students is given utmost importance. It offers a face lift and imbibe resurgence in the moribund system of education based on rote learning. Suffice it to say, classroom must focus on continuous, formative and competency-based

education promoting learning and development of students and testing higher order skills which include analysis, critical thinking and conceptual clarity. Narration of excellent stories, talks and case studies impact the learners to a great extent. Flexibility, strengthening life skills and giving special attention to inculcation of ethical, human and constitutional values are the parameters of evolving education. This is the ideal way to integrate classroom lesson with values. Individuals differ and so do their learning ability. So, the teachers must be careful while dealing with class consisting of heterogeneous categories of children. It's imperative to nurture every child's confidence instead of labelling them. A good sense of humor and appreciation not only lead to conducive learning environment but also ensure a convivial classroom. All measures should be taken to boost up the morale of the slow learners through personalized learning plans. Positive reinforcements for such learners work wonders. It's seen that the EQs of the learners who do not perform well in academics are better than the those who are brilliant in academics. The ability to listen others is implicit in teachers' handbook. If teachers listen to the learners patiently, the learners reciprocate. The teachers need to adopt a change in pedagogy that

allows learners a certain degree of freedom to explore, experiment and create. As a result, learners will explore their potential to the optimum. A maxim "Tell me, I will forget, show me I may remember and involve me, I will learn" typifies the real transformation of learners. Knowledge is limitless and creating heavy syllabi with mechanical learning doesn't help the learning and creativity process. With India poised on the cusp of change, the future of the country rides on the shoulders of her youth. The teachers must excite the curiosity of learners by exposing them to problems that exist around us in the world. The road to Atma Nirbhar Bharat can be well paved from the grass root levels. The implementation of Bloom's Taxonomy in the classroom is fundamental to this highest goal of education. Creation of Prototype can bring the desired results. It goes without saying that everything depends upon teachers' skills, efficiencies and strategies- more so the teachers must be intellectually rich. More often than not, a teacher achieves his goal not merely imparting factual information in isolation and principles and generalizations that accrue from them, but also logically and passionately analyzing the given information and synthesizing it in the context of current state of knowledge. In fact,

teachers' continuous professional development and engagement with updated methodologies contribute to their effectiveness. According to Radhakrishnan, "the purpose of education is to teach that life has a meaning, to awaken the innate ability to live the life of the soul to develop wisdom". The teachers through their interpretations of available facts and style of teaching must stimulate the learners the spirit of inquiry, criticism and evaluation.

A classroom is a veritable springboard to state of excellence in performance. Cerebral teachers can expedite the best learning outcomes by adopting multiple roles as a moderator, facilitators, mentors and so on and so forth. In order to make a class highly productive teachers must have deft command of their subjects, continuously refresh their skills, keep themselves abreast with latest knowledge and persistently engage in research. A convivial classroom is one when teachersteach the children from heart, elicit the responses from them, evaluate their answers and judge them without being judgmental.

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As we reminisce about a time when joy was safeguarded within the confines of our homes, we ponder the evolution of modern communication. In older times when we were children, we were told by our elders not to display our good fortune, lest we catch the evil eye. That meant we had to keep the happiness, the good fortune, or anything good in our life, within the four walls of our house. It was not a successful pearl passed on to us by our forefathers. There were avenues where we could still boast, like in school or during the mandatory evenings out to play with other children in the locality. Those were different times. A visit to our grandparents' during the holidays, or the new toy that we had received from our parents for our birthday, or any other such possession, was valuable - to be cherished and talked

about. Even laughter and happiness were something to value and to pass on to our near and dear ones. Things started changing. My letter-writing stopped. Emails were the new order. However, Government departments and corporations have yet to discover the paperless office. A hard copy of the communication, with a physical signature, was still required to be sent through post for it to be accepted. People said that any document without a physical signature was not legally enforceable; however, I believed that the reason was far simpler — the postal mindset doubted the receipt of email communication by the recipient. This was not baseless — the mail still finds ways to reach the spam box. But more likely, it had more to do with the sender's capability, or lack of it, in operating the computer. I started writing after my relative withdrawal a few years back from professional life. In the olden days, the only recourse that I had for an outreach, was to send my manuscript with a self-addressed stamped envelope to the limited number of magazines and journals

Ponder the evolution of modern communication

Vijay GarG

available at the time — to eventually receive a rejection. But I had the satisfaction of waiting in anticipation for a few weeks if not months. Now times have changed. I recently sent my article to the editor of a reputed daily by email and within hours I received a cryptic reply, "Regret." There is a popular serial currently airing on the TV. Two celebrities have a conversation over coffee - with a k, with another celebrity and talk about mundane subjects. A recent episode captured the changing times perfectly. A star from the 90s was asked about the one thing that she missed not having during her heydays. Her reply was spontaneous, without missing a beat, emphatic and crisp - "Social Media." I cannot even imagine the plight of the corporates who continue to prosper because we are obsessed with social media if people start following advice! Not to talk of the withdrawal symptoms for a generation brought up posting all their happiness and even sorrow, on social media!

**Educational columnist
Malout, Punjab**

Pradhan Assails BJD : Promises Development at Astarang Rally

Bhubaneswar, (KCN Bureau): Union Minister Dharmendra Pradhan attended a significant BJP victory rally at the Astarang block ground on Wednesday, where he launched a sharp critique of the ruling Biju Janata Dal (BJD) and its leadership in the Kakatpur constituency. Pradhan accused the BJD of failing to deliver progress and promised substantial development if the BJP wins the upcoming elections.

Pradhan asserted that the leadership of Kakatpur's BJD has been hijacked, describing the current BJD MLA as a "doll" controlled by external forces. He highlighted that Kakatpur is a "sovereign land" where the current representatives have not achieved meaningful progress. Pradhan particularly criticized the state government's



neglect of crucial infrastructure projects, such as the proposed port and the coastal highway which have stalled due to the government's lack of interest.

The Union Minister emphasized that a BJP-led government would bring significant improvements to Kakatpur. He promised real assistance for local

fishermen, increased grain prices and local employment opportunities to prevent the youth from migrating for work. He accused the current state leadership of corruption, alleging that thieves have infiltrated the administration. He likened the state's governance to Tamil rule, suggesting it is controlled by external influences that hinder local

development. The rally saw Pradhan urging the electorate to support BJP candidates Baidhar Mallick for MLA and Bibhu Prasad Tarai for MP. He called on voters to reject the "family rule" of the BJD and vote for the BJP's "Padma" symbol, which he said guarantees stability and development. Pradhan also highlighted several

central government schemes including the Subhadra scheme, as evidence of the BJP's commitment to development. Other notable attendees included former MLA Surendra Sethi, Astarang block Chairperson Aarti Nayak, Kakatpur block Chairperson Sridhar Naik, and senior leaders Prasanna Behera and Dibakar Chhattoi along with numerous district-level and young BJP workers. In his speech, Pradhan appealed to the people of Kakatpur to unite and vote for the BJP to ensure the constituency's development and to overcome the challenges posed by the current state administration. The rally concluded with a strong show of support from thousands of BJP workers and local residents, signaling a robust campaign effort ahead of the elections.

Ranching of IMC fingerlings for conservation at Balagarh, West Bengal



Kolkata, (KCN): ICAR-Central Inland Fisheries Research Institute, Barrackpore, performed a River Ranching Program-2024 at Balagarh, West Bengal, as part of the "Namami Gange" programme, with the goal of protecting and revitalising the Ganga River. Along with local fishermen and other members of the ICAR-CIFRI NMCG project team, 3.06 lakh IMC fingerlings were released into the Ganga River at P.C. Pal Ghat, Balagarh. In the event, 50

fishermen from local co-operative society and local women from fisher families had participated the ranching programme. Scientists from ICAR-CIFRI gave an overview of the goals of the Namami Gange initiative and emphasised its recent accomplishments. Speaking with local fisherman, they emphasised the significance of preserving the Ganges river system's health in order to protect the variety of native fish species. Extensive work and

BOBBY CHAKRABORTY'S GLOBAL YOUTH AWARENESS PROGRAM, RECOGNISED BY SREI & KANORIA FOUNDATION ALONG WITH WB. FEDERATION OF UNITED NATIONS ASSOCIATION



Kolkata, (KCN): Bobby Chakraborty is an actor and teacher of method acting by profession since 2002. He has been a prolific and popular social activist too, fighting against the social evils of addiction of all sorts and harmful social trends, among children, globally, for more than a decade, free of cost. Till now his preventive awareness program named 'IAM THE KING OF MY MIND' has reached out to thousands of children in more than 410 schools, colleges, universities, red light areas and orphanages, with a thundering response, which has won him

multiple awards and recognitions from all over. On May 29th his noble service towards the humanity was recognised yet again by SREI Foundation and Kanoria Foundation in association with West Bengal Federation of United Nations Association (WEBFANA), through the hands of Mr. Sitaram Sharma (Chairman of WEBFANA). It was an august gathering at the ICCR auditorium, Kolkata, with the initiative of West Bengal Federation of United Nations Association in

collaboration with Acid Survivors and Women Welfare Foundation to launch the campaign "SILENCE WILL NOT PROTECT WOMEN", which had several acid attack survivors and dignitaries from all walks of life present. Bobby ended this extremely purposeful and pertinent campaign launch event, dedicating two melodious songs to the 4 acid attack survivors present. One being 'Ruk Jana Nahin Tu Kahin Harke' and another, under the popular demand of the audience, 'Tomay Hrid Majhare Rakhibo'.

It was an august gathering at the ICCR auditorium, Kolkata, with the initiative of West Bengal Federation of United Nations Association in

no. of 27 fish species of 17 families have been recorded from the sampling sites viz., Kashipur, Rajagram, Bishnupur, Arambagh and Bandar. It was found that significantly out of 27 species about 65% of fishes are categorized as small indigenous fishes (SIF) which play a vital role in the aquatic food production system and offer tremendous nutritional value. Fishes like Puntius sp. (Puntimaach), Nandus nandus (Nadoshmaach), Labeo bata (bata maach), Cirrhinusreba (Raikhor bata), Channa punctatus (Letha maach), Mystusvittatus (Tengra) are predominately available in the stretches. During the sampling period a total

involving: Cast Nets: Commonly used by local fishermen to catch a variety of fish. Gill Nets: Used for catching larger fish such as carps and catfish. Hand Lines and Long Lines: For targeting specific species like catfish. Traps and Bamboo Structures: For catching smaller fish and prawns. Challenges: The fisheries of the Dwarakeswar River face several challenges: The visiting team highlighted that the flow in river Dwarakeswar has diminished at upper stretches due to various anthropogenic activities in the form of hydraulic structures, water extraction, sand mining, check dam etc. Pollution: Industrial discharge,

agricultural runoff, and domestic waste contaminated the river, affecting fish health and populations.

Habitat Degradation: Changes in river flow due to damming, sand mining, and other activities can disrupt fish habitats. An interactive session with the local fishermen revealed that a perceptible rise in the occurrence of fishes were recorded from the river in few decades back but due to diminished water flow and other anthropogenic factors fish catch has declined.

Fisheries in the Dwarakeswar River: contribute significantly to the livelihoods of local communities. Fishing is often a primary or supplementary source of income for many households, especially in rural areas. During the present study, it has been documented that there is a rich occurrence of small indigenous fishes (SIF) in the upper stretches of the river which needs more attention for the conservation and sustenance of their population.



Land, Fish, Fear: Probe Agency On How Shahjahan Built Sandeshkhali Empire

New Delhi (KCN): Sandeshkhali strongman Sheikh Shahjahan, the man at the centre of allegations that evolved into the biggest talking point in West Bengal this election, allegedly used an intricate web of dummy traders, numerous properties and multiple bank accounts to turn black money into white, the probe by Enforcement Directorate has found.

The central agency has filed a prosecution complaint before a special court in Kolkata under the Prevention of Money Laundering Act.

"ED initiated investigation on the basis of 13 FIRs registered by West Bengal Police under various sections of IPC Act, 1860 and Arms Act, 1959 against Shahjahan Sheikh and others on the allegations that they have created an atmosphere of terror by indulging in organized crime of giving threats of injury, murder, attempt to murder, extortion etc. and also grabbed land of general public and obtained illegal monetary gains/benefits," ED has said in a statement.

The agency has said that its probe found that

Shahjahan "created a criminal empire revolving around land grabbing, illegal fish farming/trading, grabbing brick fields, cartelization of contracts, collection of illegal taxes/levies, commission on land deals etc".

According to ED sources, the former Trinamool leader used political influence and armed goons to conduct his illegal businesses on the nondescript island in North 24 Parganas district. Four people have been arrested in the case -- Shahjahan, his brother Alamgir and the

strongman's aides Shib Prasad Hazra and Didar Boksh Molla. Statements of 100-odd witnesses have been recorded; these include local farmers, tribals, fish traders, landowners and contractors working in the area.

The ED had earlier attached assets worth ?

27 crore allegedly belonging to Shahjahan and others. Three SUVs belonging to the strongman -- Mahindra Thar, Jeep Compass and Mahindra Scorpio -- have been seized. "Out of the proceeds of crime of value Rs. 261.41 Crore derived and obtained by said persons from criminal activities, as revealed during the course of investigation conducted under PMLA, 2002," the agency has said.

ED sources said the proceeds of crime include the strongman's earnings from fish depots, rent

from 'Shahjahan market' and brick kilns. They also include government tenders received by Alamgir and Hazra due to Shahjahan's political influence.

ED sources also explained how the strongman, who was expelled by Trinamool soon after the allegations came to the fore, cleaned the black money made through illegal means. The agency has said in its chargesheet that back in 2009-2010, Shahjahan, then a CPM leader, grabbed fisheries of 60-70 bighas land and

employed over 100 goons who remained close to him and his residence. These goons would intimidate and extort individuals, compelling them to comply with Sk Sahajhan's orders. Those who resisted faced physical violence and threats of severe consequences," it says, adding, "these individuals were known to carry illegal firearms and were not hesitant to use excessive force". In the aftermath of his arrest by the ED in February, the Trinamool Congress suspended him for six years.

RMC awaits legitimate election

Rourkela(KCN): In a few days, Rourkela Assembly seat will get its new elected representative. However, despite the upgradation of Rourkela Municipality to Rourkela Municipal Corporation (RMC), the Steel City civic body is yet to get an elected body to take care of its day-to-day affairs. The last election of the civic body was held in 2008 and its upgradation was done in 2014. The term of the elected council led by BJD's Rashmibala Mishra as chairperson of

the municipality came to an end in 2013. A long time has passed since then but the wait for an elected body of Rourkela Municipal Corporation is yet to end. The number of wards under the civic body increased from 33 to 40 by merging Jagda area and parts of Jhatarang panchayat after Rourkela Municipality was upgraded to Municipal Corporation. This met with massive tribal opposition and legal hurdles, as a case was filed in the Orissa High



Court opposing the enhancement status in 2015. Ironically, it was George Tirkey, who is now in BJD, who had led a month-long seizure of the RMC office and also had

filed the case in the Orissa HC. Notably, his son Rohit Joseph Tirkey is contesting on a party ticket from Biramitrapur Assembly segment in the ongoing polls. No serious effort is visible

on the part of the BJD government to conduct the elections and take the plea as "the matter is sub-judice". Nihar Ray, former chairman of Rourkela Municipality, who fought as an

independent candidate as he was denied a BJP ticket for the Assembly polls, filed a writ petition in OHC in 2021. "My point is that the government should hold elections for the 33

wards of the municipality and not for the corporation since the latter's status has been challenged in the OHC," said Ray sometime back. He had further alleged that the state government is deliberately avoiding elections and is not serious about the legal hurdle as that will help it to take de facto control over the municipality by installing a commissioner here. Interestingly, when the monthlong siege was laid by Tirkey, most of those

who sat in demonstration did not belong to Rourkela. "They were drawn from all parts of the district to continue the agitation," a police officer had said then. Today, in the absence of any elected representative, the city residents are completely dependent on the mercy of the RMC staff. It has affected all the denizens and also the overall performance and achievements of RMC. Now, the question arising in everybody's mind is: when the elections will be held for RMC?

30 injured as crackers go off during Chandan Yatra

Puri(KCN): More than 30 persons were injured, many of them critically, in a firecracker explosion during Chandan Yatra of Lord Jagannath and his siblings at Narendra Pond Wednesday night. Sources said hundreds of people had congregated near the pond to witness the deities' water sports when the mishap occurred. "Huge quantities of firecrackers were kept near the pond. Some youths were bursting those one after the other. Suddenly, an explosion took place. Many people, including a few children, suffered severe burns in the



explosion," they said. While 10 of the injured are being treated at the district headquarters hospital (DHH) here, nearly 20 have been shifted to facilities like SCB Medical College and

Hospital in Cuttack, they pointed out. Meanwhile, Chief Minister Naveen Patnaik directed Chief Secretary PK Jena and the district administration to ensure proper treatment of the injured. "All expenses for the treatment of the injured will be met from the Chief Minister's Relief Fund. I pray Lord Jagannath for the speedy recovery of the injured," Patnaik said.

Naveen leads massive roadshow in Nimapara

Nimapara(KCN): Odisha Chief Minister Naveen Patnaik led a mega roadshow in Nimapara under Jagatsinghpur Lok Sabha constituency Wednesday. A large number of people gathered on both sides of the road in Nimapara as Patnaik greeted them from a specially-designed bus. On the 2-km route, he was greeted by supporters holding cutouts of 'conch', the party's election symbol, and waving the BJD flag.



The chief minister also delivered a brief speech, in which he assured the gathering of providing free electricity and

extending the Biju Swasthya Kalyan Yojana (BSKY) scheme to people of all sections. "No electricity bill will come from July. All will be covered under BSKY. Mission Shakti members will get pensions," he said, urging the people to bless the BJD in the simultaneous elections to the state assembly and Lok Sabha. Meanwhile, senior BJD leader VK Pandian campaigned at Jashipur, Sarskana, Moroda, Udal and Bangirposi in the Mayurbhanj Lok Sabha constituency during the day.

'BJP design' behind EC action against two IPS officers in Odisha, alleges Pandian



Balasore(KCN): Terming it as "unfortunate" the EC action against two IPS officers working in Odisha CMO for "interfering with polls", senior BJD leader Kartik Pandian Wednesday alleged it was done as per "design of the BJP, which was unable to digest imminent defeat" in elections in the state. The Election Commission Tuesday suspended IPS officer DS Kutey and ordered the medical examination another officer, Asish Singh, who has been on medical leave since May 4. "It is very unfortunate that the ECI has taken action

against some of the officers working in the CMO. I would say that those two officers are outstanding officers of Odisha and both of them have played a great role in controlling Naxalism in the state by risking their lives, be it Gajapati or Malkangiri. I think they have been awarded by the highest authorities of the country for their commitment, dedication and sacrifice," Pandian told reporters at Balasore.

Stating the action as "unfortunate", he said, "It is as per the design of the BJP, which cannot digest imminent defeat in the hands of BJD. And it cannot stand against the popularity of Naveen babu (Patnaik)." The ECI, in a letter to the Odisha CEO, said that

1997-batch IPS officer DS Kutey, who is presently working as the special secretary to the chief minister, be placed under suspension on the charge of "interfering" with the conduct of elections.

Kutey has been asked to report at the office of

Resident Commissioner,

Odisha at New Delhi

Wednesday.

Similarly, Asish Singh, an IPS officer of 2010-batch who is presently working as IG (CM security), was asked to present himself for a detailed examination by a special medical board constituted by the director of AIIMS Bhubaneswar, not later than May 30. He has been on medical leave since May 4.

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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, Typo, 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."

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.

NTPC Bongaigaon Enhances Cleanliness Initiatives by Donating Community

Bongaigaon, (KCN): In a significant step towards promoting cleanliness and hygiene, NTPC Bongaigaon has taken a commendable initiative as part of the Swachhata Pakhwada campaign. Demonstrating its commitment to community welfare and environmental sustainability, NTPC Bongaigaon has donated nine community dustbins to the District Administration office.

The donation ceremony was held at the District Administration office, where Shri Akhilesh Singh, Business Unit Head of NTPC Bongaigaon, handed over the dustbins to Shri Subhram Aditya Bora, Additional District Commissioner (ADC) of Kokrajhar. The event was held in the presence of Shri Onkar Nath, AGM (HR) of NTPC Bongaigaon, along with other distinguished officials.

Speaking on the occasion,



Shri Akhilesh Singh emphasized the importance of maintaining cleanliness and the role of such initiatives in ensuring a healthier environment for the community. He remarked, "NTPC Bongaigaon is deeply committed to contributing to the Swachh Bharat mission. By providing these dustbins, we aim to support the District Administration in managing waste effectively and promoting a clean and green Kokrajhar." Shri Subhram Aditya Bora, ADC, Kokrajhar, expressed his gratitude towards NTPC Bongaigaon for their thoughtful contribution. He highlighted the positive impact of such collaborative efforts between the corporate sector and the local administration in achieving the goals of the Swachh Bharat Abhiyan. This initiative by NTPC Bongaigaon is a part of its broader corporate social responsibility (CSR) activities, which focus on sustainable development and improving the quality of life in the communities surrounding its operations. The company continues to play an active role in various community welfare programs depicting its commitment to social responsibility.

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

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

operations, Nepal will receive 21.9% of the electricity generated by the Arun-3 power plant as free power. This underscores the exemplary cooperation between India and Nepal in harnessing the potential of renewable energy resources and reaffirms their commitment to strengthening bilateral relations.

On the joint venture, Sudipta Mukherjee, Deputy Managing Director, Texmaco Rail & Engineering Ltd., said, "Texmaco-SSFMPL JV is honoured to be entrusted with the responsibility of contributing to the Arun-3 hydroelectric power plant project in Nepal. We are committed to delivering excellence in every aspect of our work and in advancing renewable energy solutions. This venture exemplifies our dedication to sustainable progress."

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

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."

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NYPD fear lone wolf attack on India-Pakistan game

New Delhi: Ahead of the much-awaited June 9 game between India and Pakistan in the Twenty20 World Cup, there are concerns about security at the Nassau County Cricket Stadium in Long Island, New York. Security personnel are preparing for the possibility of potential lone wolf attacks and are taking extensive measures to prevent disruptions. The police presence will be everywhere, on the ground and in the air, and "Nassau County will have seen the tightest security ever."

Lone wolf attack, according to Wikipedia, "is a particular kind of mass murder, committed in a public setting by an individual who plans and commits the act on their own."

This security situation at

the upcoming India-Pakistan game was revealed to the media on Wednesday morning (Eastern Time) by Nassau County Executive Bruce Blakeman and Police Commissioner Patrick Ryder.

"Each and every day, Nassau County, as well as other communities and cities and counties and towns throughout the United States, receive all kinds of threats. We take every threat seriously," Blakeman was quoted as saying by CBS News. "To that end, we have taken many, many precautions. As well as making sure that the stadium and the surrounding Eisenhower Park are safe, the parking areas are safe, the watch areas are safe, we also are adding 100 additional police officers to our

normal staffing for the rest of the county, just as a precaution."

One particular tip-off was about a potential lone wolf attack on the June 9 game, according to the report which attributed it to the police commissioner. "When you've got a game and a crowd as big as this, everything is credible. We will go through every fine detail when it comes to the security and safety of the residents here in Nassau County. I can guarantee you this is the largest security we've ever had to do in this county's history, and I can also guarantee you the safest place to be in Nassau County on June 9 will be inside that stadium," Ryder said.

This is the first time that India and Pakistan will be playing in New York and the hype, hoopla and buzz



surrounding the game between the traditional rivals is new to the local authorities here. The big match got even the Governor of New York State involved and she said public safety will be her priority.

"In preparation for the Cricket World Cup, my

Administration has been working for months with federal law enforcement and Nassau County to ensure New Yorkers and visitors are safe. This has included close coordination with the New York State Police Counter Terrorism Unit and New York State

Police Troop L, based on Long Island. While there is no credible public safety threat at this time, we continue to monitor the situation closely. I have also directed the New York State Police to engage in elevated security measures, including an increased

law enforcement presence, advanced surveillance, and thorough screening processes. Public safety is my top priority and we are committed to ensuring the Cricket World Cup is a safe, enjoyable experience," the office of Kathy Hochul said in a statement released on Wednesday (May 29) morning. Meanwhile, the ICC said it is coordinating with the authorities. "The safety and security of everyone at the event is our number one priority and we have a comprehensive and robust security plan in place. We work closely with authorities in our host countries and continually monitor and evaluate the global landscape to ensure appropriate plans are in

Norway Chess: R Praggnanandhaa scores first-ever classical win over Magnus Carlsen



New Delhi: Norway Chess 2024: GM R Praggnanandhaa defeated World No. 1 Magnus Carlsen in classical chess for the first time in his career. With the win, the 18-year-old Indian shot into sole leader's position in the prestigious tournament at Carlsen's home turf.

18-year-old Grandmaster Rameshbabu Praggnanandhaa registered his first-ever classical win over World No. 1 Magnus Carlsen in the third round of the Norway Chess tournament in Stavanger on Wednesday, May 29. The Indian Grandmaster

took the sole lead in the open section of the prestigious six-player tournament after the momentous victory at Carlsen's home turf. Playing with white pieces, last year's FIDE World Cup runner-up, battled against the odds to beat Carlsen. Incidentally, R Praggnanandhaa's sister R Vaishali retained her sole

points at the end of the third round in the Norway Chess tournament. American Grandmaster Fabio Caruana, meanwhile, took the second spot after taking three full points following his win over GM Ding Liren on Wednesday.

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