

Malvika Tops Rich List

Bhubaneswar(KCN): As many as 17 crorepati candidates are in the race for four Lok Sabha constituencies, which will go for election in the first phase in Odisha on May 13, according to a report of ADR.

In its first report on elections in Odisha, Association for Democratic Reforms (ADR) said 37 candidates have remained in fray for the Nabarangpur, Berhampur, Koraput and Kalahandi Lok Sabha segments, of which BJP candidate for Kalahandi LS seat, Malvika Devi is the richest person in the race for the first phase



polls. The MP candidate has declared that she has assets of Rs 41.89 crore. She was followed by independent candidate for Berhampur MP segment, V Chandra Shekhar (Rs 1

28.70 crore) and Bharatiya Bikash Parishad nominee for Berhampur, Rajendra Dalabhera (Rs 10.30 crore).

SUCI(C) candidate for Koraput MP seat, Pramila Pujari is the poorest candidate in the race. Pujari declared that she has assets of only Rs 20,625. Pradeep Kumar Panigrahy, BJP nominee for Berhampur LS segment, has highest liabilities worth Rs 3.82 crore.

As many as 17 (46%) candidates have declared their assets worth more than Rs 1

crore. All four candidates of BJP and BJD nominated for the LS seats are crorepati while three crorepati candidates of Congress are also in the race. Besides, four independent candidates, one from Bharatiya Bikash Parishad and another from Naba Bharata Nirmana Seva Party have announced their properties worth over Rs 1 crore.

Similarly, 14 (38%) candidates have declared their educational qualification to be between 5th and 12th, while 22 (59%) candidates have declared having an educational

qualification of graduate or above. One candidate has declared himself to be just literate. Out of 37 candidates, only seven are female.

Besides, 10 (27%) candidates have declared their age to be between 25 to 40 years while 23 (62%) candidates are in the age of 41 to 60 years. There are 4 (11%) candidates whose age is between 61 and 70 years.

As many as 7 (19%) candidates have declared criminal cases against themselves, of whom six are facing serious criminal charges, the report said.

PM Modi likely to lead roadshow in Bhubaneswar May 10

Bhubaneswar(KCN): Prime Minister Narendra Modi is likely to lead a roadshow in Bhubaneswar May 10, party leader Aparajita Sarangi said Saturday.

In a post on X, Sarangi, the MP of Bhubaneswar, urged the people to extend a grand welcome to the Prime Minister. The roadshow will cover three assembly segments in the city — Ekamra, Bhubaneswar North and Bhubaneswar Central. It will begin at Fire Station Square around 9 pm and culminate at Jayadev Vihar.

Sarangi is seeking a re-election from the Bhubaneswar Lok Sabha constituency.

She held a meeting with the party's candidates for



the seven assembly seats that form the Bhubaneswar Lok Sabha constituency and discussed the preparations for the roadshow.

Meanwhile, the PM is scheduled to address election rallies in Berhampur and Nabarangpur Monday. State BJP vice-president Golak Mohapatra said he is scheduled to arrive in Bhubaneswar Sunday night. Berhampur,

Nabarangpur, Kalahandi, and Koraput will go to the polls May 13, while Bhubaneswar will vote May 25.

Police said elaborate security arrangements have been made in Bhubaneswar for the PM's latest visit. DCP Prateek Singh said the PM will land at the Bhubaneswar airport at 9.30 pm Sunday, and then he will head to the Raj Bhavan where he will spend the night.

Opposition parties spreading lies, shedding crocodile tears: Naveen Patnaik



Koraput / Nabarangpur(KCN): Odisha Chief Minister and BJD president Naveen Patnaik Saturday alleged that the opposition parties are spreading lies and shedding crocodile tears.

According to Naveen Patnaik, the opposition parties are spreading lies and shedding crocodile tears.

Addressing election rallies in tribal-dominated Koraput and Nabarangpur Lok Sabha constituencies Patnaik asked the people whether they are happy with his government.

Patnaik also asked the people whether Naveen Patnaik is a good person and whether welfare schemes beneficial for the poor and tribal people

of the region are reaching them.

The people responded by saying "Yes" and shouted Naveen Patnaik Zindabad slogans.

"If Naveen Patnaik is good, then bless him and vote in conch symbol," Patnaik told the gathering.

"The opposition parties are spreading lies and shedding crocodile tears for the people," Patnaik said.

Patnaik's close aide Kartik Pandian, BJD's Nabarangpur Lok Sabha candidate Pradeep Majhi, Koraput LS candidate Kausalya Hikaka and

nominees of different Assembly seats were present at the meeting. Both Pandian and Majhi came down heavily on the opposition and alleged that BJP leaders were opposing several welfare schemes and also Shree Jagannath Temple heritage corridor project.

The BJD leaders told the people about the state government's flagship schemes like school transformation, Mission Shakti, Kalia Yojana for farmers, Mamata Yojana for pregnant women, renovation of temples, mosques, churches and improvement of place of worships of tribal people.

Mercury settles at 44.6 degC in Odisha's Boudh, IMD sees no relief from intense heat



degrees in Khammam (Telangana), 46.2 degrees in Cuddapah (Andhra Pradesh), 43.4 degrees in Erode (Tamil Nadu), and 44.6 degrees in West Bengal's Kalaikunda.

The IMD said the ongoing heatwave spell in east and south peninsular India will continue until May 5-6 and abate thereafter. The Met office on Wednesday said above-normal maximum temperatures are likely over most parts of the country in May and a significantly high number of heatwave days expected over the northern plains, central region and adjoining areas of peninsular India.

April witnessed record-smashing maximum temperatures in east, northeast and southern peninsular India, prompting health warnings from government agencies and some states

to suspend in-person classes in schools.

A number of stations recorded their highest-ever April day temperatures.

Five active western disturbances led to rainfall, thunderstorms and hail storms over north and central India at regular intervals in April, preventing heat waves.

IMD data shows that heat waves this April were far worse than in 2023, the warmest year on record so far.

This trend is likely to continue in May, with around eight to 11 heatwave days predicted over the south Rajasthan, west Madhya Pradesh, Vidarbha, Marathwada and the Gujarat regions. The remaining parts of Rajasthan, east Madhya Pradesh, Punjab, Haryana, Chandigarh,

Delhi, Uttar Pradesh, and some parts of Chhattisgarh, interior Odisha, Gangetic West Bengal, Jharkhand, Bihar, north interior Karnataka and Telangana may record five to seven heatwave days during the month. Normally, the northern plains, central India and adjoining areas of peninsular India experience around three days of heat waves in May.

India witnessed two spells of heat waves in April — from April 5 to 7 and April 15 to 30.

The IMD attributed the prolonged heatwave spell over east, northeast and south peninsular India in April to the absence of thunderstorms and an anticyclone at lower levels over the west central Bay of Bengal and the adjoining eastern coasts of India.

This caused the sea breeze to cut off over Odisha and West Bengal on most days. The weather office said south peninsular India recorded an average maximum temperature of 31 degrees Celsius in April, the second-highest since 1901.

The mean temperature (28.12 degrees Celsius) in

April in east and northeast India was the highest since 1901, it said.

The IMD said above-normal maximum temperatures have become frequent over south peninsular India since the 1980s. The region recorded 12.6 mm rainfall in April — the fifth lowest since 1901 and the second-lowest since 2001.

According to IMD data, the number of heatwave days this April was the highest in 15 years in Gangetic West Bengal and nine years in Odisha. Odisha also experienced the longest heatwave spell (16 days) in April since 2016.

Amid the prevailing but weakening El Nino conditions, the IMD had earlier warned of extreme heat during the April-June period, coinciding with the seven-phase Lok Sabha elections.

Hundreds of thousands of voters had to cope with the searing heat when they stepped out to exercise their franchise in the second phase of the elections on April 26.

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Code Violation Slur On IFS

Bhubaneswar(KCN): Alleging violation of code of conduct by a senior IFS Officer, the Governing Biju Janata Dal (BJD) today demanded action against the Officer for allegedly helping BJP nominee for Sambalpur and Union Minister Dharmendra Pradhan in this election.

Holding a press conference here, BJD National Spokesperson Sasmit Patra said the IFS Officer was serving as an OSD to Union Minister Shri Pradhan when he was holding the Petroleum Ministry from 2014 to 2019.

"Both Shri Pradhan and the IFS Officer have developed a close relation during



the tenure. Now, the Officer, who is serving as the Consulate General of India, New York (USA), took one month leave and landed here at Sambalpur to support Pradhan," Dr Patra alleged.

Stating such a scenario has never been witnessed in the history of Odisha till now, the BJD MP said, the Officer is providing entire

back-end support to Pradhan and looking after his campaigning. "We have filed a complaint petition before the Election Commission on April 24, 2024 against the IFS Officer for his misconduct and violation of poll norms. We had demanded an examination of his call records and movement," Dr Patra

said. The BJD has also submitted a copy of the petition to the Ministry of External Affairs and Cabinet Secretary. "We have written a letter for the second time to the Chief Election Commissioner on April 26, 2024 to the ECI. Till now, we have not received any reply to the petition by either of the Central

authorities," he said.

Later, on April 28, the BJD submitted a memorandum to the Chief Electoral Officer (CEO) Odisha about the matter.

Alleging that this move of the senior IFS Officer is against the MCC and Peoples' Representation Act, the BJD leader said, "Is the law different for the IFS Officer and Pradhan? Will the law take another turn, as he is very close to Union Minister Shri Pradhan?"

He informed me that the BJD will again move to the CEO against the IFS Officer today.

Bhubaneswar(KCN): Ahead of twin elections to State Legislative Assembly and Lok Sabha, former minister and four-time MLA Debasis Nayak today joined the Congress within three months after joining the BJP. Shri Nayak formally joined the Congress here in presence of Odisha Congress in-charge Ajoy Kumar at Congress

Bhawan. MLA from Bari Assembly constituency in Jajpur district. Debasis was first elected to the State Assembly from Bari seat in 2000 and was re-elected thrice from the same Assembly segment in 2004, 2009 and 2014. The BJD denied him a party ticket in 2019. He also served as a Minister in Naveen Patnaik's Cabinet during 2004 to 2008.

Debasis Left BJP; Joins Cong



AMRI Hospital, Bhubaneshwar, Launches Liver Clinic, Offering Complimentary Consultations on Inaugural Day

Bhubaneswar, (KCN): AMRI Hospital, a leading healthcare institution in Eastern India, announces the launch of its Liver Clinic on May 8th, 2024. As part of their commitment to community health, the hospital is hosting a special event- a free registration and consultation Liver health check-up camp in its premises on the inaugural day.

Liver transplant cases in India have been steadily increasing over the years, with statistics showing a rise in demand due to various factors such as liver diseases, hepatitis, and lifestyle-related issues. According to

recent data, India conducts thousands of liver transplants annually, making it one of the leading countries in the field. "Liver transplantation stands as the definitive solution for End Stage Liver Disease. Timely consultation and surgery are pivotal for its success. We encourage everyone to seize this opportunity by visiting our liver clinic at AMRI Hospital Bhubaneswar for a complimentary consultation on the inaugural day," remarked Dr. Rajasekhar K, Consultant Liver Transplant Surgeon. Liver health is essential for overall well-being as

the liver plays a vital role in detoxification, metabolism, and nutrient storage. Getting vaccinated against hepatitis viruses, and getting regular check-ups can help prevent liver diseases and ensure optimal liver function.

Dr. Pratap Behera, Senior Consultant in Medical Gastroenterology at AMRI Hospital, Bhubaneswar, emphasised the crucial role of liver health, stating, "Our liver plays a vital role in maintaining overall health. Simple lifestyle adjustments, such as adopting a balanced diet, regular exercise, and moderating

alcohol consumption, can significantly mitigate the risk of liver diseases. Let's prioritize liver health and wellness, setting the standard for healthcare excellence in our region."

Dr. Gyanranjan Rout, Consultant in Medical Gastroenterology at

AMRI Hospital, Bhubaneswar, highlighted the prevalence of liver

ailments, expressing concern, "Chronic liver diseases silently impact a significant portion of the population, often leading to severe complications. Join us May 8th onwards for consultation with dedicated team focused on nurturing your liver health. Take proactive steps toward a healthier liver."

Odisha: Soumya Patnaik contests as independent from Ghasipura



Congress leader Niranjan Patnaik, who happens to be Soumya Ranjan's elder brother. During a recent visit to the

Ghatagaon Maa Tarini temple, Patnaik had said that he had received a proposal from the BJP to contest from Ghasipura. However, the BJP on Thursday nominated Shambhunath Rout from the seat. As the election approaches, the political landscape in Ghasipura promises to be interesting. Soumya's decision to

contest as an independent candidate adds unpredictability in Keonjhar politics.

Meanwhile, Niranjan Patnaik, Soumya's elder brother and former PCC president, is contesting from the Bhandaripokhali assembly seat in neighboring

Bhadrak district. It remains to be seen how this electoral battle unfolds in the coming days in Ghasipura.

Rourkela: Youth goes missing in Brahmani River

Rourkela, May 4(KCN): In a tragic incident, a youth has gone missing in the River Brahmani on Saturday while he was bathing in the Tarakera Dam along with his two friends. One was rescued by the locals whereas another friend's body was reportedly fished out from the dam.

Sources said three friends were taking their bath in the Tarakera Dam in the afternoon.



Meanwhile, they went missing in the dam due to strong current of water. On being aware of the incident,

locals rushed to the spot and managed to rescue one of the victims. However, two others were

swept away and went missing. Later locals with the fire service personnel's aid fished out a body from water.

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Saurabh Shukla-Directorial Dry Day Is The Comedy Drama You Need To See - Here's How You Can Watch It



on December 22. Dry Day is a powerful and emotional story that delves into the complexities of addiction, love, and the extent of a man's sacrifices for his family. Directed by Saurabh Shukla, and produced by Monisha Advani, Madhu Bhojwani, and Nikhil Advani, under the banner of Emmay Entertainment, the comedy drama features Jitendra Kumar, Shriya Pilgaonkar, and Annu Kapoor in pivotal roles. The film is set to premiere exclusively on Prime Video in India and across more than 240 countries and territories worldwide

Speaking about the film,

Director Saurabh Shukla said,

"The movie is a social satire presented with a hilarious tragic-comedy of errors with lots of drama and emotions. Dry Day gives an important and relevant message about alcoholism and I consider myself fortunate to have had the opportunity to craft this film, aiming to

entertain and enlighten the audiences. It brings me immense joy to partner with streaming service Prime Video, Emmay Entertainment, and a talented bunch of actors, collectively breathing life into a compelling and beautiful narrative."

"Dry Day is a captivating blend of comedy and

drama, offering a rollercoaster of emotions," shares actor Jitendra Kumar. "It was an exhilarating experience playing the character of Gannu in the movie. Getting into the skin of this intriguing character was like adding a new skill to my toolbox. The character's struggle of defying all odds in pursuit of trust adds depth to the narrative of the film. I'm excited for audiences to witness this unique journey on screen. The film's fusion of heartwarming moments and compelling storytelling is something I can't wait for people to experience and appreciate."

Jee Le Zaraa: Real reason behind Priyanka Chopra, Katrina Kaif and Alia Bhatt starrer's delay revealed and it's not date issues

Jee Le Zaraa is one of the most talked about movies starring Priyanka Chopra, Katrina Kaif and Alia Bhatt. The movie was announced a couple of years ago and there has been much excitement around the same as it is. Farhan Akhtar along with Zoya Akhtar and Reema Kagti are making this all-female road

trip movie happen but there have been a lot of hiccups already. Whether Jee Le Zaraa is being shelved or not, has Priyanka Chopra said no

to the script, etc. have grabbed headlines in the last couple of days. But fresh reports revealing the real reason for the delay have surfaced. A lot of fans have questioned Farhan Akhtar about the delay of Jee Le Zaraa which is supposed to star Priyanka Chopra, Katrina Kaif and Alia Bhatt in the lead. There have been numerous reasons that have surfaced for the delay in making of the new movie. Recently, reports surfaced talking about Priyanka Chopra opting out of Jee Le Zaraa because she did not like the script. She was supposed to come down to India during Parineeti Chopra's wedding and sign the contract which did not happen. But that's not the case, as per a report in Koimoi.com, Priyanka is very much a part of the movie. She has not opted out of the project nor has she said 'no' to the script

Sushmita Sen says her father was 'not happy' about her wearing a swimsuit at pageant, stopped speaking with her because she decided to pursue showbiz

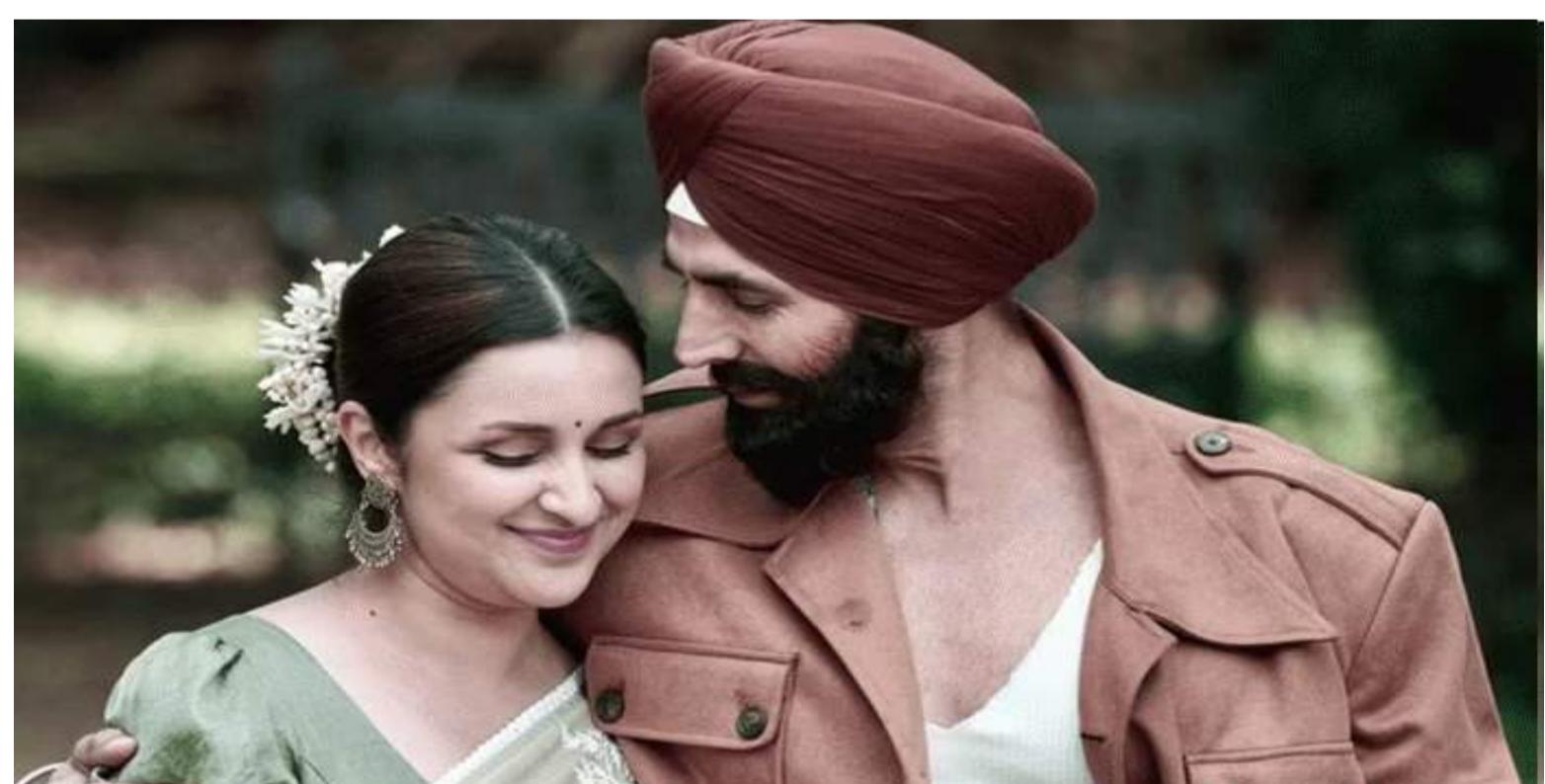
Sushmita Sen created history when she became the first Indian to win the Miss Universe pageant back in 1994. While Sushmita has always spoken about how supportive her family was, in a recent interview, she opened up about how her father did not speak to her when he learnt that she would be participating in Miss India. Even when she had to wear a swimsuit for one of the rounds in the pageant, her father was quite upset about it. Talking to Mid-Day, Sushmita said that she was all of 18 when her life changed, and at that point, her father wanted her to be an IAS officer. "My father wanted me to be an IAS officer, so I was studying

accordingly. When the bomb was dropped on my father that she is going to Miss India, my father didn't speak to me for a bit," she said. Sushmita said that when she entered the world of pageants, her father was quite concerned as she had not even finished her graduation at that point. "I never went to a college and graduate, which was a big problem for my father because he

always said, 'Beta, do whatever, just have a degree,'" she recalled. Recalling the time she had an "emotional moment" with her father, Sushmita shared that he wasn't too happy about the fact that she would be wearing a swimsuit on stage. "I remember having this very emotional moment with my father when I promised him, I said 'Baba, I have to wear

a swimsuit, it is a part of the show. I cannot not wear it but I promise you I will add respect to it. It won't be crass.' He was not very happy with that, but when I won Miss India and I told my father that I will represent my country, that, for my father, being a defence person, he had balled his lungs out," she recalled. In 1994, the Miss Universe pageant was held in Manila, The Philippines, and while her mother and brother had traveled with her, her father was in India and watched the show on television. Sushmita Sen said that he watched the delayed broadcast with the rest of the country.

Mission Raniganj: Akshay Kumar, Parineeti Chopra's Romantic New Poster Released



here's a gift for your special day, coming tomorrow! Watch the story of Bharat's true hero with #MissionRaniganj in cinemas on 6th October," Akshay wrote sharing the still. The makers, Pooja Entertainment also shared a powerful poster of the film that featured an ensemble cast including Parineeti Chopra, Kumud Mishra, Pavan Malhotra, Dibyendu Bhattacharya,

Rajesh Sharma, Virendra Saxena and Shishir Sharma with the lead actor Akshay Kumar. The makers of 'Mission Raniganj' dropped the film trailer recently. Akshay, who is seen playing the late IIT Dhanbad engineer Jaswant Singh Gill, is seen racing against time to rescue the trapped miner from the flooded coal mine. Akshay Kumar, who plays Jaswant Singh Gill

in the film, completely shines in the trailer. His looks have bedazzled everyone. His steadfast determination and courage as Gill to rescue the miners trapped in the coal mine is the highlight of the film. The 'Khiladi' actor once again proved that no one can showcase a real-life story better than him on the big screen. The trailer also highlights Jaswant Gill's innovative rescue

technique, which is being used for the first time ever. The trailer also shows Parineeti Chopra in the role of Gill's wife. The immensely talented cast features Kumud Mishra, Rajesh Sharma, Pavan Malhotra, and Ravi Kishan. All in all, the film promises to have impactful and poignant performances by an ensemble and talented cast.

Vashu Bhagnani Presents, A Pooja Entertainment Production - 'Mission Raniganj' has been produced by the powerhouse team of Vashu Bhagnani, Jackky Bhagnani, Deepshikha Deshmukh, and Ajay Kapoor, and directed by Tinu Suresh Desai. This cinematic marvel is set to hit theaters on October 6, 2023.

India and Sweden Forge Ahead in Clean Technology at Kolkata Workshop



Kolkata (ABHIJIT SETH): A vital workshop on innovative clean technologies marked a significant advancement in the India-Sweden bilateral relationship, as it was hosted recently at the Hotel ITC Royal Bengal in Kolkata. The event, part of the ongoing India-Sweden Innovations' Accelerator (ISIA) program, brought together

a Swedish delegation and Indian industry leaders to explore and expand upon the possibilities in clean energy technologies. The workshop, organized by the Confederation of Indian Industry - Sohrabji Godrej Green Business Centre (CII-GBC) in collaboration with Business Sweden and the Swedish Energy

Agency, provided a platform for over 60 participants including industry leaders, government officials, and tech innovators. The event featured presentations from nine Swedish companies, focusing on sectors such as green energy, green financing, electric vehicle transition, water conservation

technologies, and energy storage solutions. Lisen Stenberg, the International Business Developer and Country Manager - India for the Swedish Energy Agency, emphasized the achievements of the ISIA program, now in its 12th year. Stenberg detailed the program's history, notably its role in introducing over 70 Swedish clean-tech companies to India, facilitating more than 250 sustainable projects across the country. She also highlighted the LeadIT initiative, started by Sweden and India at the UN Climate Action Summit in 2019, aimed at achieving net-zero emissions in heavy industries. Pawan Tahlan, Head of Business Sweden in New Delhi, spotlighted the robust collaboration

between the two countries, underscoring shared goals for providing sustainable, affordable, and reliable energy solutions. He pointed out the strategic frameworks and Memorandums of Understanding (MoUs) signed between the two nations, focusing on energy and environmental cooperation.

The workshop not only shed light on the innovative technologies from Sweden but also opened up avenues for future partnerships, aiming to drive a sustainable transition within the Indian industry. Both nations continue to pioneer significant efforts towards this end, marking a promising path for clean technology collaboration and a sustainable future.

Arvind Kejriwal, Wife Sunita In AAP's List Of Star Campaigners For Lok Sabha Polls



New Delhi (KCN): Aam Aadmi Party on Saturday issued a list of 40 star campaigners for Lok Sabha polls in Delhi and Haryana, featuring party convener and Delhi Chief Minister Arvind Kejriwal who is in judicial custody and his wife Sunita Kejriwal.

AAP's star campaigners' list also included the names of jailed AAP leaders Manish Sisodia and Satyendar Jain, as well as Punjab Chief Minister Bhagwant Mann.

Sunita Kejriwal has already taken the reins of party's campaigning for the polls, attending roadshows in support of party's Lok Sabha candidates in Delhi and Gujarat.

Recently she attended roadshows along with AAP candidates in East Delhi, West Delhi and

Bharuch and Bhavnagar constituencies in Gujarat. She is scheduled to attend a roadshow in support of AAP candidate from South Delhi seat Sahi Ram Pehalwan on Sunday, party leaders said.

She will also hold roadshows in Punjab and Haryana under the party's campaign 'Jail Ka Jawab Vote Se' centred around the arrest of the Delhi chief minister by Enforcement Directorate (ED) in a money laundering case on March 21. The CM is currently held in Tihar Jail in connection to the case.

AAP's other star campaigners for the polls include Rajya Sabha MPs Sanjay Singh and Raghav Chadha -- who is currently abroad for

an eye treatment. Rajya Sabha MP and national general secretary organisation Sandeep Pathak as well as all Delhi government ministers, including Atishi, Saurabh Bharadwaj, Gopal Rai, Kailash Gahlot were among the star campaigners. Prominent party leaders and ministers of AAP-ruled Punjab also figured in the star campaigners list. AAP is contesting four of the seven Lok Sabha seats in Delhi and its candidates have filed their nomination papers. The party is contesting the Kurukshetra seat in Haryana and Bharuch and Bhavnagar in Gujarat.

Despite an alliance with Congress in Delhi, Haryana and Gujarat, the AAP is independently contesting all the Lok Sabha seats in Punjab. I am studying the issue and will speak more on it,"

"Extradition is a long and expensive process. Foreign courts decide on basis of their law on extradition after assessing and evaluating our evidence. There is need to overcome this. I am

he said.

Hailing Prime Minister Narendra Modi, the lawyer-turned-politician said the he had increased India's stature in the world and that he had plans to roll out several welfare schemes apart from massive betterment in

Station Master Dozes Off On Duty, Delays Patna-Kota Express Train Near UP

New Delhi: The Patna-Kota Express train waited for a green signal for about half an hour at Udi Mor Road station near Etawah in Uttar Pradesh on May 3 as the station master fell asleep on duty.

Taking serious note of the incident, the Agra Division, under which the station falls, has asked the station master to explain the reason for negligence which could have resulted in an untoward incident.

"We have issued a charge sheet to the station master and disciplinary action is being taken," Agra Railway Division PRO Prashasti Srivastava told PTI. Railway officials said the Udi Mor Road station is a small but important station before Etawah as trains going towards Prayagraj from Agra as well as Jhansi pass from this station.



According to sources, the loco pilot of the train had to blow the horn multiple times to wake up the station master and make him turn on the green signal for the train to pass.

"The station master has admitted his mistake and apologised for the lapse. He said that he was alone at the station as the pointsman who was on duty with him had gone for track inspection," a source said.

"Divisional Railway Manager (DRM) Tej Prakash Agrawal has taken serious note of the incident as his focus is on improving punctuality. He has been insisting on and encouraging employees to improve punctuality which has resulted in achieving 90 per cent punctuality recently.

"However, dereliction of duty on the part of the station master has not only ruined others' hard work and dedication but also posed grave risk to train operations," the source said.

"Those Who Can't Take Care Of Own People...": Arvinder Lovely Jabs Congress



New Delhi (KCN): After joining the BJP today, former Congress Delhi chief Arvinder Singh Lovely said that he had resigned last Sunday from the Congress post but till date no response has been received from party leaders.

"I had resigned last Sunday and till date no response has been received from the party. So those who cannot take care of their own people, how will they take care of the people of Delhi?" Mr Lovely said.

He also mentioned that he met all his colleagues and thousands of Congress workers after resigning, who said to him that he should not sit at home but continue his fight for the people of the Delhi.

"We are not just five,

now this convoy is very big who have decided that they will fight for the people of Delhi by staying in BJP. I joined Congress at the age of 18. At that time, when we heard former Prime Minister Indira Gandhi's speech in which she said "Mere khoon ka katra-katra desh ke liye hai".

Today, when we have joined BJP, the Congress party has come from 'Katra-Katra' to 'Tukde-Tukde'. We felt that if any party is fighting for the country then we should contribute to it and strengthen that strong leadership," Arvinder Singh Lovely added.

Meanwhile, along with Lovely, former Congress MLAs Raj Kumar Chauhan, Naseeb Singh and Neeraj Basoya and former Youth Congress President Amit Mallik also joined the BJP. Arvinder Singh Lovely resigned from the Delhi Congress chief on April 28 and wrote a letter to Congress President Mallikarjun Kharge citing that he was against the alliance between Congress and AAP in Delhi.

"The Delhi Congress Unit was against an alliance with a party which was formed on the sole basis of levelling false, fabricated and malafide corruption charges against the Congress Party. Despite that, the Party made a decision to ally with the AAP in Delhi...," he said in his letter.

Voting for all seven Lok Sabha seats in Delhi is scheduled to take place on May 25, during the sixth phase of the ongoing general elections. The counting for all seven phases is scheduled for June 4.

"Getting Great Response Due To People's Love For PM Modi": BJP Candidate Ujjwal Nikam



New Delhi (KCN): Lawyer Ujjwal Nikam, who has been fielded by the BJP from the Mumbai North Central Lok Sabha seat, on Saturday said the process to extradite accused persons to the country was a long and expensive one and emphasised the need to overcome the problem. Talking to PTI on the sidelines of his campaign, Ujjwal Nikam also said the foray into politics was the second innings of his life and dubbed it a move from the court of law to that of the people.

"Extradition is a long and expensive process. Foreign courts decide on basis of their law on extradition after assessing and evaluating our evidence. There is need to overcome this. I am

he said.

Hailing Prime Minister Narendra Modi, the lawyer-turned-politician said the he had increased India's stature in the world and that he had plans to roll out several welfare schemes apart from massive betterment in

represent them in the next Modi government," Ujjwal Nikam claimed. On criticism from some quarters of a few provisions of the Bharatiya Nyay Sanhita, which will replace the Indian Penal Code and come into force from July 1, being draconian, Ujjwal Nikam said he would express his views after getting elected, adding that "certain provisions need more attention". Ujjwal Nikam said he was touring the constituency and studying its geographical and other issues and asserted rehabilitation of slums in the vicinity of the airport is one needs that needs quick resolution. "I am getting a great response due to the love people have for the prime minister," Ujjwal Nikam said.

Tiger Population On Rise

Bhubaneswar(KCN): With Tiger Population on rise, Susanta Nanda, Principal Chief Conservator of Forests (Wildlife) and Chief Wildlife Warden (CWW) is on Cloud 9. Shri Nanda, an ardent wildlife lover has been hyperactive in protection of wildlife in the State. Thanks to his leadership in wildlife management, the latest Report on All Odisha Tiger Estimation reveals total Tiger number at 30 with 8 cubs of less than one year. The State of Odisha is a part of Central Indian and Eastern Ghats

Landscape and the forest cover accounts for 33.50 Percent of the state's total geographic area (India State of the Forest Report, 2021). There is one national park, one proposed national park and nineteen wildlife sanctuaries in Odisha. As per the All India Tiger Estimation (AITE), 2022 report, minimum 17 tigers were camera trapped in Odisha, which was largely confined to Similipal Tiger Reserve. In order to keep a close track of its tiger population and develop a p r o p r i a t e management strategy,

the All Odisha Tiger Estimation (AOTE), 2023-2024 was conducted, which spanned across 47 forest divisions, aimed at much more intensive state-level tiger monitoring. A State-level field survey was conducted to look for tiger signs such as pugmarks, scrapes, scats, rakes, urine spray, vocalization and livestock depredation. Sites where the direct and indirect signs of tigers were found with certainty, were intensively camera trapped to arrive at the



minimum number of unique adult tigers based on their distinctive stripe pattern. Camera trap image based identification of tigers is a scientifically accepted methodology and is also used in the All India Tiger Estimation exercises. A total of 27 unique adult tigers were camera trapped in Odisha

during the AOTE exercise, comprising 14 females and 13 males. Evidence of another 3 adult tigers were also seen in the Similipal tiger reserve, which have not been camera trapped. With 24 adult unique tigers, Similipal Tiger Reserve currently holds the largest share of the state's tiger

population. Similipal currently holds all the adult female tigers of the state.

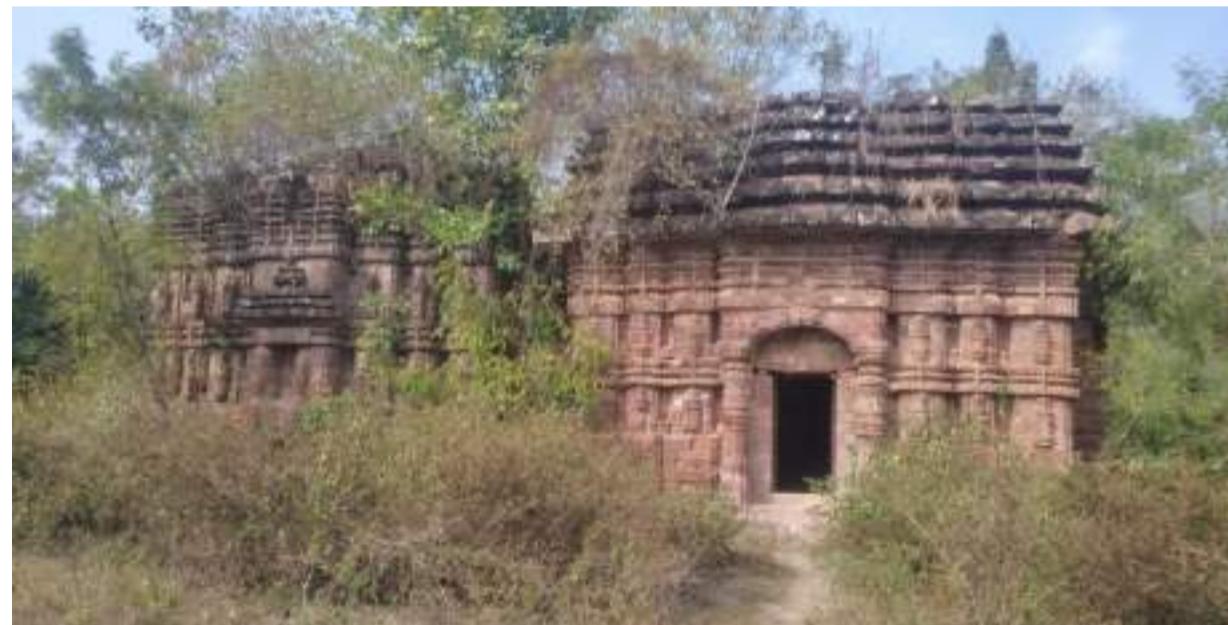
In total, 13 adult tigers (seven females and six males) were found to be pseudomelanistic in Similipal, and no other wild habitat in the world has pseudomelanistic tigers. Seven cubs which were of less than 1 year also photo-captured in Similipal. Apart from Similipal, the Hirakud Wildlife Division and Paralakhemundi Territorial Forest Division, each holds one adult male tiger. Another adult male tiger

was also found to utilize Greater Similipal tiger Landscape.

The tiger abundance has increased in Odisha from the previous estimate of AITE, 2022. Similipal Tiger Reserve, which currently harbors 27 unique adult individuals, has also witnessed an increase from 16 tigers captured through Camera Traps in 2021-2022. This growth has resulted from strict management actions and scientific conservation practices. The images of eight unique tiger cubs during

AOTE, 2023, indicate a recovering population in Similipal landscape. Similipal is the only place on earth to boast the pseudomelanistic tigers. The presence of three unique adult male tigers camera-trapped in Hirakud Wildlife Division, Paralakhemundi Territorial Division, Keonjhar Territorial and Keonjhar Wildlife Division looks promising and provides hope for a better future for tigers in these habitats. Apart from these regions, there is excellent potential for tiger recovery in Satkosia Tiger Reserve and Sunabeda Wildlife Sanctuary.

Neglected Mahurigarh fort inches towards extinction



Berhampur(KCN): The historical Mahurigarh fort, the seat of erstwhile Mahuri royals near Aska in Ganjam district, is on the verge of extinction due to lack of proper upkeep and government apathy. Ganjam district is full of antiquities. Mahurigarh fort is one such monument which mirrors the rich cultural heritage of the district. However, it is fast fading into oblivion. Academics and historians lament that the medieval era Mahurigarh fort, which once stood as the silent witness to the attack launched by the East India Company, is now in ruins. Mahurigarh is located on the outskirts of Berhampur under Kukudakhandi block of Ganjam district. The distance of Mahurigarh is around 15 km from Berhampur town and 8 km from Kanishi on National Highway-16. It came into existence when Puri royal Purushottam Dev returned home after victory in Kanchi war. He stopped mid-way and donated land there to all his sardars (army commanders) and directed them to become kings. His two commanders Somaraj and Bhimaraj received Mahurigarh as their province to rule. The

royal province was named as Mahurigarh as the two commanders played 'Mahuri' (a piece of musical instrument) during the war. Somaraj was anointed as the king of the princely state while Bhimaraj was anointed as his 'Thata Raja' (deputy) in 1450. The Mahuri royal lineage consisted of Somaraj, his son Purushottam Singh, Purushottam's son Dhruba Singh and his descendants. The Mahuri princely state, consisting of 411 villages and seven forts, was spread over 521 square mile area. The seven forts are Mahudagarh, Satahapahandia, Pandiajholi, Nuagaon, Nalihada, Dengapadar and Narayanpur. Mahurigarh or Mahuda was the capital of the princely state. Mahurigarh, ruled by the Mahuri royal family for six generations, had a Jagannath temple and many historical relics and antiquities apart from the royal palace. However, bad days followed soon as the French army attacked Mahurigarh in 1755. The Mahuri royal fought with the French army and managed to save his fort. Later, the army of East India Company attacked Mahurigarh and tried to capture it in

1765. The East India Company pulled down several temples and mutts during the war to inflict humiliation on the Mahuri royals. Back-to-back battles pushed the Mahuri royal into distress while disputes within the royal family aggravated the problems. According to historians, the then Mahuri royal Harihar Narendra Dev was assassinated by his brothers, December 10, 1782. Family disputes and enmity weakened the royal family and it became difficult to collect revenue from the people in the kingdom. As a result, the then British government auctioned the princely state as it failed to deposit Rs 60,000 towards outstanding revenue to the British treasury in 1832-33. There was no end to the Mahuri royal family's woes as the princely state had to face a drought from 1837 to 1840. The unending hurdles forced the Mahuri royal family to shift their base to Berhampur from Mahuda. As a result, the historical Mahurigarh was pushed to obscurity and left abandoned. The then British government took over



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'UnserHaus' by BSH Home Appliances - Kolkata's new luxury address

Bhubaneswar: BSH Home Appliances Group, one of the world's leading home appliances companies today launched its first 'UnserHaus' in Kolkata. This is BSH's only experience center in India to house all its three brands – Bosch, Siemens and Gaggenau under one roof. Located at Salt Lake city's Adventz Infinity @ 5, this new experience center is all set to welcome customers as well as Kolkata's strong architecture & design community. The company already has two other stores in Kolkata – a multi-channel Bosch & Siemens Brand Store in Dhakuria and a Bosch Studio in Shakespeare Sarani. UnserHaus is the German name for "Our House". It is a place where comfort,

convenience, inspiration, and memories reside in every corner. The philosophy and core ethos of BSH's UnserHaus are focused on building long-lasting trust with all customers & business partners. Keeping this in mind, the space is designed to ensure that all visitors feel at home when they visit, helping them experience the products as if they were in their own house.

Commenting on the launch of UnserHaus, Kolkata, Neeraj Bahl, MD & CEO, BSH Home Appliances (India & SAARC) said, "Kolkata is one of our high performing markets and we're thrilled to further expand our presence here by opening doors to our 101st retail space*. The new-age Indian consumer continues to look for offline

Mahagram offers door to door banking services through Kirana stores

Bhubaneswar: Mahagram is a social enterprise focusing on Financial Inclusion that has enabled banking from the mom-and-pop store around the corner through fintech solutions. The company's mission is to enable rural women to save money at the local Kirana (or grocery) stores, instead of traveling miles to the nearest bank branch.

Recently, Mahagram has tied up with a public sector bank – the Bank of Maharashtra to roll out the 'Bank Sakhi' project in Odisha. The

fintech would provide financial technology and infrastructure support to augment rural financial inclusion. As part of the tie-up, the company has onboarded more than 11,000 bank sakhis (women) on the BharatATM platform to help the rural citizens avail themselves of basic banking services at their doorstep or the next door Kirana stores.

Mahagram aims to increase the ratio and habit of household savings in rural India. "At Mahagram, we are indulged in offering basic banking services like

Amazon.in launches 'Back to School' store

Bhubaneswar: With the opening of schools and resuming of offline classes, Amazon.in announced the launch of 'Back to school' store – a one stop destination to simplify the shopping needs of children. The specially curated store offers deals on a wide range of products across study essentials like stationery, laptops, tablets, mobile phones, PCs, headsets & speakers, printers, Amazon devices, home furnishing among others

to help parents, teachers and students with school supplies and to create an effective learning and productive environment. The offers and deals will be available till 12th June 2022. Here are some popular products customers can choose from the 'Back to school' store on Amazon.in. All offers & deals are from participating sellers. HONOR MagicBook X 15, Intel Core i3 Anti-Glare Thin and Light Laptop – It has stylish

appearance with premium aluminum metal body with 16.9MM thickness, 5.3 MM narrow bezels and the weight of the laptop is only 1.56kg, which allows you to carry it easily, making it very convenient for school, travel, and work. It is available for starting INR 37,990 on Amazon.in.

Lenovo Tab M10 FHD Plus Tablet, Platinum Grey - Make way for the stylish 8.1 mm Tab M10 FHD Plus.

OSL Group founder bags 'Lifetime Achievement Award' for reshaping Shipping & Logistics scenario in Eastern India



Bhubaneswar (KCN) : On the August occasion of the 4th Edition of prestigious Times Business Awards Odisha 2023, Orissa Stevedores Limited (OSL) founder Sri Mahimananda

(Mahima) Mishra was conferred with the coveted 'Lifetime Achievement Award' for reshaping the shipping and logistics scenario in eastern India.

Rise of non-communicable diseases in India

Bhubaneswar : India has a high burden of non-communicable diseases (NCDs) such as diabetes, hypertension, obesity, and dyslipidaemia, a cross-sectional and population-based survey of 33,537 people aged over 20 in urban and 79,506 in rural areas across 31 states and Union Territories has found. This study also demonstrates that although all metabolic NCDs are more common in urban regions, rural areas have significantly greater prevalence rates than previously reported. However, experts agree that NCDs are largely preventable and controllable by adopting healthier lifestyles, engaging in regular physical activity and

improving dietary habits. In the battle against NCDs, the significance of a well-balanced diet cannot be overstated. Even taking small yet mindful steps to improve your diet can prove to be beneficial in the long-term. Incorporating nutritious and natural foods instead of HFSS (High Fat, Salt, and Sugar) foods can be an excellent way to boost your health. Almonds are one such food that holds immense potential for promoting overall health. Almonds are a natural source of 15 essential nutrients such as healthy fats, dietary fibre, protein, vitamin E, zinc, copper, magnesium, calcium, and phosphorus, amongst others. Multiple research



studies have indicated that incorporating almonds into a well-balanced diet can positively affect cardiovascular health, cholesterol reduction, blood sugar, and weight management. Additionally, almonds have satiating properties that promote feelings of fullness, which may help to manage hunger between meals and keep cravings for unhealthy food away. Ritika Samaddar, Regional Head –

Dietetics, Max Healthcare, Delhi, said, "I believe that prevention is key to reducing the burden of non-communicable diseases. This makes it very important to be mindful of our lifestyle habits. Hence, I would urge everyone to make a commitment to prioritize their health and well-being by making healthier choices such as including natural and nutritious foods like

Godrej Appliances offers wide range of home appliances and enhanced shopping experience to consumers

Bhubaneswar: Godrej & Boyce, the flagship company of the Godrej Group announced that its business Godrej Appliances plans to strengthen its presence and expand its network of exclusive brand outlets further, inaugurating its first store in Chandol, Kendrapara district in the state of Odisha, India. This will be the brand's 26th exclusive outlet in Odisha under Bhubaneshwar branch.

Towards strengthening the supply chain and creating a next-level experience for customers in Kendrapara, Godrej Appliances has launched its exclusive brand outlet called Godrej Inspire Hub spread over 1200

sqft, strategically located on the Chandol main road, in collaboration with its channel partner Jagannath Electronics.

Convenience and comfort are primacies for consumers today. This is evident from the gradual increase in demand for premium products, even in tier II and tier III cities.

Moreover, with the

pandemic in the backdrop, appliances have emerged as a necessity in every Indian home.

EBOs solidify Godrej Appliances' already extensive network across the country, fulfilling the premium product requirement of its customers and most

importantly give them a much wider display to choose from thus enhancing their purchase experience. The brand currently has 120+ exclusive outlets across the country and aims to have 140+ EBOs by this financial year.

Speaking on the occasion of the launch, Sanjeev Jain, National Sales Head - Godrej Appliances said, "We have always endeavored to be as close to our customers as possible. We believe our Exclusive Brand Outlets will give even greater value to our loyal customers. With our exclusive showroom, we have the opportunity to showcase our entire range of best-in-class

appliances at a single location. Odisha is an important market for us and we look forward to delighting our customers with the best shopping experience."

Adding further, Sanjay Kumar Behera, Owner of Jagannath Electronics said, "We are extremely delighted to have partnered with Godrej Appliances, which is a highly respected and trusted brand. We are sure that our outlet will prove to be a great destination for the discerning customers of Chandol through its unique offerings from Godrej Appliances."

The exclusive brand outlet will display the entire range of Godrej appliances including

Raj Petro Specialities strengthens its leadership team with Prasad Vaze's appointment

Regensburg: Vitesco Technologies, a leading international developer and manufacturer of cutting-edge drive systems for sustainable mobility, held its first Annual General Meeting (AGM) today. The AGM was held virtually due to the continuing COVID-19 pandemic.

In separate votes, the shareholders formally approved the actions of all the Executive Board members during their term of office in the 2021 financial year. The actions of all members of the Supervisory Board in office in 2021 were also approved for their respective terms. "We are delighted to have received this vote of confidence from the Annual General Meeting.

All current members of the Supervisory Board representing the shareholders who were up for election were re-elected to office. The members of the Supervisory Board who represent the employees will be elected separately. A complete list of all Supervisory Board members and the results of the voting at the AGM are available on the Vitesco Technologies website under 'Annual General Meeting'.

Bhubaneswar: L V Prasad Eye Institute's Mithu Tulsi Chanrai Campus in Bhubaneswar organized a Retinoblastoma Awareness Walk on 8th May 2022. This walk is part of the 'Whitathon' event organized by LV Prasad Eye Institute across its campuses in Bhubaneswar, Hyderabad, Visakhapatnam and

Vijayawada. Celebrity actor, Mr Sabyasachi Mishra, will be flagging off the walk.

Whitathon is LV Prasad Eye Institute's annual cause-related event focusing on raising awareness and funds for early diagnosis and treatment of Retinoblastoma – a life and vision-threatening Eye Cancer in Children. One of the most common

development & management.

Commenting on the appointment of a new member in the leadership team, Mr. Mehl Nanavati, Managing Director, Raj Petro Specialities Pvt Ltd, a Brenntag Group company. He will lead the comprehensive lubricants Business Units, including Speciality, Industrial and Automotive lubricant businesses.

Mr. Prasad Vaze is a result-oriented business leader with more than 25 years of extensive experience in customer-centric roles. Mr. Vaze has served in numerous senior leadership roles, including leading retail operations, profit centre management, developing business strategy and channel

Ms. Archana Ghate - Head HR said, "We would like to extend a warm welcome to Mr. Prasad Vaze, our newest member to the LT team. He will be

taking on the important hat of managing Raj Petro's Lubricants Business, and we wish him all the best for his journey! With his knowledge and extensive experience, we are confident that Prasad will assist Raj Petro in reaching new heights."

On his appointment Mr. Prasad Vaze said, "I am very thrilled to take on this new role. My vision is to create a world class experience for our consumers and channel partners. Our aim is to leverage Kyros, Onwo and Zoomol brands, explore humongous potential that India and international markets offer and grow the Lubricant business profitability."

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symptoms of Retinoblastoma is White Reflex (white glow) in a child's eye. Through this walk, LVPEI aims to raise awareness among the public that if they spot a 'White Reflex' in a child's eye, it could be a sign of eye cancer that needs immediate medical intervention. Hence, the event is named 'Whitathon'.

Dr Devjyoti Tripathy, Ocular Oncologist, Mithu Tulsi Chanrai Campus, Bhubaneswar, L V Prasad Eye Institute said, "Our aim is to raise awareness about early detection and treatment of retinoblastoma eye cancer in children. No child should die of eye cancer because of lack of awareness and treatment. We extend our sincere thanks to Mr. Sabyasachi Mishra for joining us for

the Retinoblastoma Awareness Walk and spreading awareness about Retinoblastoma. We also acknowledge the support received from Aroh – Giving Hope, an NGO working for children with Cancer and their families."

Dr. Tripathy further added that it is time to make detailed eye check-ups a part of mandatory paediatric examinations.

LV Prasad Eye Institute Organizes a Retinoblastoma Awareness Walk

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CT impact: PSL to clash with IPL next year as PCB identifies April-May window

NEWDELHI: Pakistan Super League (PSL) will clash with Indian Premier League (IPL) next season. The overlap of the schedule has become unavoidable in view of the Champions Trophy that Pakistan will host in February-March 2025. The tentative window allocated for the PSL 2025 is April 7 to May 20, the dates during which the IPL runs. This year, the IPL started on March 22 and will conclude on May 26.

Cricbuzz reported on February 9 about the potential disruption of schedule for three domestic leagues - in UAE (ILT20), in South Africa (SA20) as well as

Pakistan. On Saturday, the Pakistan Cricket Board (PCB) held a meeting with the six franchise owners of the PSL to look ahead for the coming season. "Due to the ICC Champions Trophy 2025 being held in the traditional event window, the event window for the 2025 event will be 7 April - 20 May," the PCB said in a statement.

The meeting decided that Karachi, Lahore, Multan, and Rawalpindi will host matches with each side playing, at least, five matches on home ground. The PCB will continue to explore additional venues, the board said, adding, "The



Stumbling CSK gear up for another PBKS challenge



NEWDELHI: Dharamsala has an iconic importance in the annals of Chennai Super Kings' long and distinguished IPL history. Facing a must-win game at this venue back in 2010, MS Dhoni famously bailed the side out in a dramatic last-over finish to send Chennai into knockouts. Ultimately, they'd go on to win the first of their five IPL titles. Fast forward 14 years later and CSK once again find

themselves in a spot of bother heading to Dharamsala. It's not yet panic stations as it was in 2010 but with the playoffs race heating up considerably, the defending champions know that more slip-ups will put their qualification hopes in jeopardy. After a promising start to the season with four wins in six games, CSK slipped to three losses in their next four games, including two at home in

Chepauk. After the high-flying success in 2023, the batting approach this year has come under scrutiny with the over-dependence on Shivam Dube clearly visible during the middle overs phase. The powerplay hasn't been explosive either as Ajinkya Rahane's form remains a concern. Skipper Ruturaj Gaikwad's excellent form is a relief but CSK need to sort out the tempo of

their batting in a season where teams have pushed the envelope when it comes to boundary-hitting. CSK have, of course, not been helped by the dew factor of which they have been on the wrong side of. It has handicapped an already rusty batting unit but with this being an afternoon game, that shouldn't be an excuse. The bowling has also been inconsistent though with injuries being a

four playoffs proposed to be staged at a neutral venue."

It will be for the first time that the dates of the IPL and the PSL will be clashing. The view

for the PSL, considered the second best franchise-based league after the IPL.

"At the back of this meeting, and in relation to the most suitable window for HBL PSL 2025 and beyond, the PCB will share further data with the franchise owners so that they can discuss amongst themselves, make a more informed decision and share their ideas and thoughts at the General Council meeting. We look forward to working closely with the franchisees to make timely decisions for the future trajectory of one of Pakistan's biggest brands," PCB Chief Operating Officer Salman Naseer said.

Starc expects better balance in T20 WC without Impact Player rule

NEWDELHI: Mitchell

Starc doesn't expect the upcoming T20 World Cup in West Indies-USA to be anywhere close to the high-scoring tournament that the ongoing Indian Premier League season is turning out to be. With nearly two-thirds of IPL 2024 completed, high scores have been the trend with the 200-run mark no longer a safe metric for teams batting first. The 250-run mark that was only breached once prior to this season has been taken down multiple times with Sunrisers Hyderabad daring to even get close to the unprecedented 300-run mark. Starc, however, feels that the ICC showpiece event will have a better balance between bat and ball, and he had an explanation for this.

"There's no Impact Player rule (in international cricket),

so whether that affects the scores is yet to be seen," said Starc. "I think it probably will.

People talk about the balance of the team when you can't just bring someone in. Your all-rounders come back into play. Captains have to think a bit tactically, too, when you have just 11 players. It's been interesting

to experience it first-hand in the IPL."

The impact player rule that came into existence from the 2023 IPL season has constantly attracted divided feedback. While it has allowed a plethora of uncapped talents to get a window of opportunity to showcase their skills, the 12 vs 12 battle hasn't gone down well with the pundits of the game.

If the first season was about the teams testing the waters, this year has seen the batting approach go through the roof in terms of intent. On Friday, the rule came to KKR's aid as they sent out Manish Pandey as the Impact Player with the side struggling at 57/5, thereby holding back Andre Russell and Ramandeep Singh for the back end.

"There's no fear in the powerplay when all you have to do is to clear the infield and score runs. Certainly, there has been some really good batting, don't get me wrong, it's not just the rules that play a part there. There's been some fantastic scoring, some fantastic partnerships and some individual brilliance with the bat."

Iyer for a decisive 83-run stand that gave Kolkata the platform towards a strong total. Starc did concede that the batters have upped the game but did underline the role of the Impact Player in this.

"The Impact Player rule changes things a fair bit. Everyone gets to bat a lot deeper having a batting and a bowling XI. There's a lot made of that rule throughout the tournament and there's been a lot of high scores, which is the nature of the wickets and the grounds we play on here. When you have batters and batting all-rounders come in at Nos. 8 or 9, it's a long batting line-up.

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On this occasion, their skill was better than ours: Stokes

New Delhi: Ben Stokes, the England captain, heaped praise on the Indian spin trio of R Ashwin, Ravindra Jadeja and Kuldeep Yadav for using the conditions to their advantage and ensuring his team's batters were challenged after India secured a five-wicket win in Ranchi to gain an unassailable 3-1 lead in the five-match series. The three Indian spinners combined to bag 15 of the 20 English wickets in the Test.

"It's always disappointing being on the losing team," Stokes admitted on Sunday. "Looking back at when we had our chance to bat yesterday, cricket is always skill against skill. Ashwin, Jadeja and Kuldeep and the conditions we found ourselves in against them

were very, very challenging. When India have a sniff in conditions like that, any team is going to find it hard to not only keep the scoreboard ticking but rotate the strike. You've got to give them a lot of credit for the way in which they bowled in very favourable conditions. On this occasion, their skill was better than ours yesterday."

England had India on the mat after piling on 353 runs in the first innings and then reducing the hosts to 177 for 7. However, Dhruv Jurel - playing his second Test - took the contest away from the visitors with a well-compiled 90. To give him company, were No 9, 10 and 11, none of whom have great credentials with the bat. Despite that,

England took a 46-run lead in the first innings, but lost the momentum in the second innings with the bat, folding up for 145 on Day 3, which turned the course of the contest. However, Stokes doesn't want to pin the blame on the team's batting failure in the second innings alone. "You can say everything is a missed chance when it doesn't go well but I think you've just got to give so much credit to the way India's spinners bowled in that very, very crucial period of the game. It was very, very obvious they sensed an opportunity to really put us under pressure. When you've got three world-class spinners operating in conditions like that, you know you're going to be up against it. That period

was the game. But we always still felt in the game; trying to bowl India out for 190 on a wicket that was offering a lot of assistance."

Unlike the typical Bazball way, England opted to take a more reserved approach to batting in the second innings. Much of that was witnessed in the first innings itself where

just because the pitch was assisting spinners. "Nothing is impossible, I wouldn't say that. But it was nigh on impossible to operate how we wanted to. But one thing is that we don't tell people how to go out and play. What we do is give people the freedom and the confidence to go out and assess the way they think is best for them, but also for the team, in every single situation. It was very, very tough yesterday."

"I thought Foakes read the situation very well, dragging the game out as long as he could while ticking the board over because every run was going to be crucial. We obviously would have liked more but the longer that game drew out, it gave us more of an

opportunity to exploit a pitch that was always going to get harder to bat on."

"It is the first Test series loss for England under the Stokes-McCullum leadership. England's over-aggressive intent at times backfired for them during the series and led to a wave of criticism, none more than Joe Root's dismissal on the third day of the Rajkot Test, when he mistimed a reverse scoop to the slip fielder. Despite the loss, Stokes believes there is little

particularly bothered about that saying in itself. Obviously we want to win every game we play, and win every series. This is the first we have lost, but we will be involved in plenty more series going forward. A lot of talking point are after the fact of them happening. That is something I have come to terms with, something the team has come to terms with. But the way we play is pretty simple. You can have it all taken away from you at the click of a finger so why not enjoy every opportunity you have to play, and make sure you are doing it with a smile on your face regardless of what is happening. It is a very short career so why not make it as enjoyable as you can."



Joe Root returned to his conventional style and led England's batting charge with a century. It was England's slowest scoring rate since Stokes and McCullum took over the reins of the Test side. Stokes admitted that it was a conscious decision and not dictated by England's unwillingness to go on the offensive