

PM Modi addresses 100th episode of 'Mann Ki Baat', calls it festival of goodness

New Delhi: Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Sunday said his monthly radio broadcast 'Mann Ki Baat' has become a unique festival of goodness and positivity for the countrymen. Addressing the 100th episode of his monthly radio broadcast, the Prime Minister said: "Friends, October 3, 2014 (the day when the first episode was aired) was the festival of Vijaya Dashami and all of us together started the journey of 'Mann Ki Baat' on that day. Vijaya Dashami is the

festival of victory of good over evil. Mann Ki Baat has also become a unique festival of goodness and positivity of the countrymen," he said during the 100th episode of his monthly radio broadcast. "Today is the hundredth episode of 'Mann Ki Baat'. I have received thousands of letters from all of you, lakhs of messages and I have tried to read as many letters as possible, have a look at them and try to understand the messages a bit," Modi added.



The prime minister went on to add that whether it is about education or culture, whether it is about its preservation or

promotion, this has been an ancient tradition of India. "The work that the country is doing in this direction today is really

commendable. Be it the National Education Policy or the option of studying in a regional language, or technology integration

in education, you will notice many such efforts. Years ago, programmes like 'Gunotsav and Shala Praveshotsav' had become a wonderful example of public participation in Gujarat to providing better education and reducing dropout rates," he said. Modi said that through the programme, he has tried to highlight the efforts of many such people, who are selflessly working for education. In strengthening the social fabric of India, 'Mann Ki Baat' is like

the thread of a rosary, holding each bead together. In every episode, the spirit of service and capability of the countrymen have inspired others, he added. "In this programme, every countryman becomes an inspiration to other countrymen. In a way, every episode of Mann Ki Baat prepares the ground for the next episode. 'Mann Ki Baat' has always moved ahead with goodwill, the spirit of service-spirit and the sense of duty," the prime minister added

while expressing his gratitude to people of the country. He also thanked the teams of All India Radio and Doordarshan for recording the programme with "great patience". Several union ministers heard the programme live in different parts of the country. Governors and Lieutenant Governors also heard the programme live in Raj Bhavans across the country. Chief ministers of BJP-ruled states also heard the programme.

Mahanadi Tribunal Team Begins Second Phase Field Survey In Chhattisgarh

Bhubaneswar(KCN): A team of the Mahanadi Water Disputes Tribunal today began its second phase visit to Chhattisgarh. The team had undertaken a five-day visit to the neighbouring state from April 17 to 21 in the first phase. The members of the team today visited the upper catchment areas of Mahanadi at Kumbhari in Durg district of Chhattisgarh, sources said. The team is scheduled to visit Mahanadi river system in Bilaspur, Raigarh and Janjgir-Champa areas of Chhattisgarh in next few days, they added. The team will visit



Kumbhari anicut, Haradi anicut, Bango project, Kalama barrage, Kelo project and a few other projects in the upper catchment areas of Mahanadi in Chhattisgarh before

reaching Jharsuguda in Odisha, sources said. It is learnt that Chhattisgarh government has constituted a 22-member team comprising experts in river water

management, bureaucrats, engineers and lawyers to answer the queries of Mahanadi Water Disputes Tribunal team members. "A group of experts from

the tribunal team at Bilaspur," said a source. Notably, the Mahanadi Water Disputes Tribunal was formed in March 2018 after Odisha government filed a complaint with the Ministry of Jal Shakti in connection with the inter-state water dispute. The tenure of the tribunal has been extended twice since 2018. The tribunal has been asked to submit its report by December 2025. The tribunal had decided to undertake field visits in Chhattisgarh and Odisha in two phases to study the water flow and storage of water at various barrages during a hearing on the inter-state water dispute recently.

Eminent Odia Physicist Appointed Chairman Of Atomic Energy Commission

Bhubaneswar(KCN): Distinguished Odia scientist Dr Ajit Kumar Mohanty has been appointed as the Secretary of Department of Atomic Energy and Chairman of Atomic Energy Commission. The renowned physicist, who is currently Director of Bhabha Atomic Research Centre (BARC), was entrusted with the key responsibility after approval by the Appointments Committee of the Cabinet. As per the official notification, Mohanty will hold the post for a tenure up to the age of 66 years i.e. till 10.10.2025 or until further orders, whichever is earlier. He had been appointed as the 13th Director of Bhabha Atomic Research Centre in 2019. Born in Odisha in 1959, Mohanty completed his graduation in 1979 with Honours in Physics from MPC College, Baripada and post-graduation in 1981 from Ravenshaw College, Cuttack. In 1983,

Mohanty joined the Nuclear Physics Division, BARC after graduating from the 26th Batch of BARC Training School. He obtained his doctorate from Mumbai University. With several honorary positions at various organizations to his credit, Mohanty has served the Indian Physics Association (IPA) as General Secretary and later as its President. He has twice been the CERN Scientific Associate, first during 2002-2004 and again during 2010-2011. He is a recipient of the Young Physicist Award from the Indian Physical Society in 1988, the Indian National Science Academy Young Scientist Award in 1991 and the Homi Bhabha Science and Technology Award of the Department of Atomic Energy in 2001. He was recently conferred Honorary Doctor of Literature Honoris Causa by Utkal University.



Punjab: 11 killed, 11 hospitalised after gas leak in Ludhiana's



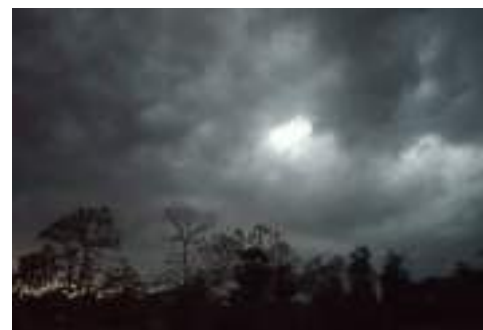
Chandigarh: At least nine people were reported killed and 11 were taken ill after a gas leak from a factory in Ludhiana, Giaspura on Sunday, police said. Official sources said that the condition of nearly 11 people who complained of breathing problems is critical. Gas victims have been admitted to nearby hospitals. An NDRF team is present at the spot for the rescue operation. "Definitely, it is a gas

leak case. The NDRF team is present at the spot to evacuate the people and will conduct the rescue operation. Nine people died in this incident, and 11 are sick," said Swati, SDM, Ludhiana West. The police are at the spot and have sealed the area. Fire officials are also present at the spot and locals have been asked to move to safer places. A team of doctors and ambulances has also been called, police added. Also, the incident

caused panic among locals, some of whom even left their homes to save lives. Taking to Twitter, Punjab CM Bhagwant Mann termed the incident "sad" and said all possible help is being provided. "The incident of a factory gas leak in Giaspura area of Ludhiana is very sad..Police, government and NDRF teams are present at the spot..All possible help is being provided..Rest details soon.." CMMann tweeted.

Thunderstorm Likely To Lash These Odisha Dists By Todya Morning

Bhubaneswar(KCN): Several districts of Odisha are likely to experience thunderstorm by the morning of tomorrow, the Regional Meteorological Centre here forecasted. Thunderstorm with lightning, hail and gusty surface wind speed reaching 40-50 kmph very likely to occur at one or two places over the districts of



Mayurbhanj, Keonjhar, Sundargarh, Rayagada,

Jharsuguda, Sambalpur, Bolangir, Nabarangpur,

Nuapada, Kalahandi and also heavy rainfall very likely to occur at one or two places over the districts of Sambalpur, Sundargarh, Jharsuguda, Bargarh, Bolangir, Kalahandi, Nuapada and Nabarangpur, the Meteorological Centre forecasted and issued Orange Warning for these districts. Thunderstorm with lightning and gusty

surface wind speed reaching 30-40 kmph very likely to occur at one or two places over the districts of Deogarh, Angul, Dhenkanal, Sonepur, Boudh, Kandhamal, Rayagada, Koraput, Malkangiri, Cuttack, Balasore, Bhadrak and Jajpur, it added and issued Yellow Warning for these districts.

Curfew Restrictions Withdrawn From All Areas Of Sambalpur Town

Sambalpur: In view of the restoration of normalcy in Odisha's Sambalpur town after the violence during Hanuman Jayanti celebrations, curfew restrictions have been lifted from all areas here. However, the local administration has kept restrictions on meeting and rally in force. Written permission from district administration will be required to organise such events. Notably, a motorcycle rally was taken out in the town on April 12 ahead of Hanuman Jayanti. While the rally was passing through Motijharan Square, some persons pelted stones at the participants of the rally. The incident subsequently led to a clash between two groups. Many shops and vehicles were set on fire during the clash. Several persons, including police personnel, were injured in the incident.

Odisha's Bhitarkanika National Park To Remain Closed From May 1 To July 31

Kendrapara(KCN): The Bhitarkanika National Park in Odisha's Kendrapara district will remain closed from May 1 to July 31 in view of the mating and nesting season of saltwater crocodiles. Tourists will not be allowed to visit the national park during the breeding season of the crocodiles.

The restrictions are imposed every year during the season as sound created by boats carrying tourists can disturb the reptiles and make them violent. Such restrictions will be imposed at Bhitarkanika, Dangamala and Ragadapati forest blocks. Local forest dwellers

have also been prohibited from entering the area for collection of honey and wood. Notably, Bhitarkanika is located in the estuarial region of Brahmani-Baitarani rivers in Kendrapara district. It is the only rainforest in the state famous for estuarine crocodiles

Trinamool's Big "Cleansing" Drive To Rebuild Image Ahead of Panchayat Polls

Kolkata: Dogged by charges of corruption, the Trinamool has launched one of its biggest "cleansing" drives since its inception and a massive mass outreach campaign to rebuild its image ahead of the panchayat polls this year and Lok Sabha polls next year. The exercise comes when it has lost its national party status and its leaders are battling allegations of graft both in and outside courts. Senior leaders like former minister Partha Chatterjee, two other MLAs, and Birbhum district president Anubrata Mondal were arrested in connection with cases of school jobs scam and cattle

smuggling since last year. After conducting a few internal surveys, including one by political consultancy group I-PAC, to assess the functioning and conduct of its elected representatives and leaders at all levels of village council elections, the Trinamool recently launched a campaign where the party would choose candidates based on the feedback of people through a secret ballot system. Leading the mass outreach programme "Trinamool-e Nabajowar" (new wave in Trinamool) from the front is the party's national general secretary Abhishek

Banerjee, who will crisscross the entire state for several weeks, and seek feedback from the masses on their preferable candidates, whom the party will nominate. "This is for the first time that the party has launched a rectification drive to weed out rotten elements on such a grand scale. This will help us reach out to the people and address their grievances. It will also help build a stronger connection with the masses by validating their choices and aspirations," senior Trinamool leader Sougata Roy told PTI. Mr Roy said the choice of candidates for nearly 78,000 seats in the three-



tier panchayat elections would be based on the feedback from the secret ballot system that is being undertaken during the campaign. "There will be a massive change in the candidate list. It is quite likely that

nearly 50 per cent might be new faces," he said. Under the secret ballot system, voters, party workers, and local influencers will vote to choose their Trinamool nominees from their respective areas.

"This system will revolutionise the Panchayati Raj system in West Bengal and be an example for the entire country. It will weed out corruption and build a people's panchayat as Mahatma Gandhi had

envisioned," Abhishek Banerjee said during a rally in Cooch Behar. Trinamool state vice-president Jay Prakash Majumdar also said even though organisational overhaul was on since August last year, the "cleansing of the party" is the second stage of building a "new Trinamool Congress" that Abhishek Banerjee has been talking about for the last one year. "It is not that all the allegations of corruption are true, but certain instances have brought a bad reputation to the party. So, the party which entered its 25th year decided to axe those with not so clean image from various levels of public representation and bring

in fresh faces with a good image among the masses," he said. According to Mr Majumdar, apart from the rectification drive, the party has also identified the minority and women community for conducting a special outreach campaign. "Minority party workers were scattered at various levels of the organisation. Some were with the youth wing, some with the main party, and some with the youth and women wing. The party is now working towards creating a combined data bank of its minority supporters and party workers across the state," he said.

Arvind Kejriwal's Home Renovation Is Latest AAP vs Lt Governor Flashpoint

New Delhi: Delhi PWD Minister Atishi on Sunday wrote to Lieutenant Governor V K Saxena saying his directions seeking the seizure of records and directing executive action in connection with renovation of Chief Minister Arvind Kejriwal's official residence is "unconstitutional" and "undemocratic". In the letter, she urged the L-G to "withdraw his communication" and "restore the scheme of governance intended by the Constitution for Delhi and its people". "We hope that you will not force the elected government to approach the court once again in respect of your actions," Atishi maintained. Amid a row over crores of rupees spent on renovating Mr Kejriwal's official residence, Mr Saxena has ordered officials to secure the records of expenditure and sought a report on the matter within 15 days. The Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) has been attacking Mr Kejriwal and the AAP, claiming 45 crore was spent on the renovation of the chief minister's residence at 6,

Flagstaff Road here during 2020-22. The Aam Aadmi Party (AAP) hit back, saying the BJP was trying to divert attention from real issues by raising this matter. A Raj Niwas order, issued on April 27, cited reports on alleged "gross irregularities" in the



renovation of the CM residence by the Public Works Department (PWD). In her letter to the LG, Atishi said his communication is "unconstitutional" and "undemocratic". As the PWD minister of the city, she noted that she is primarily responsible for all government business pertaining to the department. She asserted that the L-G's letter seeking the seizure of records and directing executive action is wholly outside the jurisdiction and authority of the office of

the Lieutenant Governor, and bypasses the minister and the council of ministers concerned, who are democratically responsible for the business of the Delhi government. "As per Rule 4(2) of the Transaction of Business of the Government of

National Capital Territory of Delhi Rules, 1993 ("ToBR"), I find myself compelled by my constitutional duty to the people of Delhi in whose name I hold my mandate, to write to you regarding my concerns with the unconstitutional and undemocratic nature of your communication dated April 27," the letter said. The minister also noted that the letter written by the L-G is politically motivated. "Needless to say that the insinuations and allegations made in the letter are baseless and

devoid of merits and have been made for political reasons," she added.

Citing the Constitution's scheme for Delhi's governance as incorporated in Article 239AA and explained by the Supreme Court in 2018, Atishi said the apex court had observed that the Lieutenant Governor of Delhi is bound by the aid and advice of the council of ministers, and he has not been entrusted with any independent decision-making power. Noting that though the L-G is empowered to seek information about decisions taken by the council of ministers under Rule 19(5) of the ToBR - information that the ministers do not wish to deny, she said he has no power whatsoever to direct executive action of any kind. "Your letter dated 27.04.2023, by directing that certain records be seized and taken into protective custody and further directing the submission of a report on the same to your office, grossly oversteps the limited jurisdiction conferred on the Lieutenant-Governor's office by the constitutional scheme.

"Wherever There's Congress Government...": PM's Big Charge In Karnataka

New Delhi: Prime Minister Narendra Modi took a dig at the infighting in the Congress today during the election campaign in Karnataka, where the party is the main opposition. At a poll rally in Karnataka's Belur, PM Modi also targeted HD Kumaraswamy's Janata Dal Secular, which is a prominent player in the state. The Congress and the JDS, he said, are both "symbols of instability". "Wherever there are Congress governments in the country, their signature is infighting between the leaders. You know what's happening in

Rajasthan or Chhattisgarh. The people there now know all the promises made by the Congress ahead of the election are a bundle of lies," he added. Then, targeting the JDS, he said, "The Congress leaders fight among themselves. The Congress's B Team JDS is also dreaming. They want to participate in the loot by somehow securing 15 or 20 seats". There is speculation that in case of a hung assembly, the Congress and Mr Kumaraswamy will opt to tie up to push the BJP out of power in the state, as they did in 2018. Senior Congress leaders including state

party chief DK Shivakumar and former Chief Minister Siddaramaiah, have denied any such possibility. "Here in Karnataka, the Congress and the JDS are making a show of opposing each other. But you pull out the videos of the Congress and JDS leaders ahead of the elections. They were going against each other, but no sooner the election was over, they tied up," PM Modi said. The BJP has been focussing exclusively on Karnataka -- the only state where it holds power in the south -- hoping to gain a second consecutive term in power. A

number of union ministers and the party's top leaders have been campaigning in the state. PM Modi is also scheduled to address a string of rallies in the state ahead of the May 10 election. The campaign, though, is seen as an uphill task for the BJP. Chief Minister Basavaraj Bommai's government has been riddled with allegations of corruption and bribery. Last year, the Congress had launched a mock campaign -- PayCM -- to highlight allegations that the state's ruling BJP was extracting 40 per cent commission from builders, contractors and others.

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Rashmika Mandanna Shares BTS Moments As She Announces 'Rainbow' Schedule Wrap

Actor Rashmika Mandanna, on Saturday, wrapped up the first schedule of her upcoming film 'Rainbow'. The actor penned a long note for the team and shared pictures from the shoot. Rashmika took to Instagram and shared a couple of BTS pictures and videos from the film sets. From selfie with Dev Mohan, scenery shoot location, time spent with her mother and sister to her first selfie from the sets of Rainbow. She thanked the team for their hard work.



"Pushpa" actor wrote, "Guys sorry I went missing for awhile...that's

Cz we were mostly shooting in no network areas.. but guzzzz our first schedule wrap of #rainbow. Thankyou #rainbow team for your hard workkkkk.. you guys are awesome! (Ok

now ps: it's a bit confusing.. so it's it's for those who actually want to know)" She gave details about the shooting and its locations. Rashmika added, "3rd place we shot

in was Munnar. 2nd was Kodaikanal and 1st was Chennai. All about my last few days. Ok worked too hard for this post.. bye." Tamil-telugu film 'Rainbow' is being

helmed by Shantharuban. Dev Mohan who has worked with Samantha in 'Shaakuntalam' is going to play the male lead in the movie. The music score will be provided by Justin Prabhakaran. Written and directed by Shantharuban 'Rainbow' is an emotional journey that Rashmika wishes to bring alive on screen. Meanwhile, Rashmika was recently seen in the thriller film 'Mission Majnu' opposite actor Sidharth Malhotra which premiered on the OTT platform Netflix. She will be next seen in the upcoming pan India film 'Pushpa 2' opposite actor Allu Arjun.

Neena Gupta reveals she is in talks with filmmakers for her biopic

Neena Gupta recently revealed that she has been approached by many filmmakers who wish to make a film on her autobiography 'Sach Kahu Toh' which was a big hit last year.

Spilling some beans on the same, Neena told a news portal in an interview that she just had her first meeting to discuss the film proposal and she is yet to decide on anything. The actress also revealed that she has no actor in mind yet who would essay her role in the film. According to her, it will be the producer who will decide on the actor and she would have no say in it. Neena spoke about the challenges of raising her daughter Masaba Gupta alone as a single mother to her first marriage that lasted for a year in her book that grabbed many eyeballs when it was released.

Meanwhile, on the work front, Neena will next be seen in Vikas Bahl's 'Goodbye' where she will be sharing the screen space with none other than Amitabh Bachchan. The movie also features Rashmika Mandanna and Pavail Gulati in key roles.

Apart from this, she also has 'Panchayat 2' alongside Jitendra Kumar and Raghubir Yadav. Directed by Deepak Kumar Mishra, it will be released on May 20 on an OTT platform.

Cancer survivor Chhavi Mittal shares she is getting 'tired of the pain in her stitches'

Chhavi Mittal is inspiring women each day with her cancer recovery story. The actress, who underwent breast cancer surgery last month, has shared how she is dealing with the painful healing procedure.

In her latest social media post, Chhavi shared a series of pictures along with a note wherein she updated fans about her current recovery stage. The actress shared how she is dealing with the sickness and pain while doing what she loves the most, gymming. She further added how she manages to feel great even about the most painful and sick days.

In her note, Chhavi wrote, "Yesterday was a not-so-good day. I had slight fever, throat ache, body ache and I basically realised yet again that more than "being" sick I hate "feeling" sick. So I got up, went to the gym, came back, finished writing a script, went to see one of my cancer surgeons..

Kiara Advani Celebrates Satyaprem Ki Katha Wrap With Kartik Aaryan

Sajid Nadiadwala and Namah Pictures upcoming 'Satyaprem Ki Katha' starring Kartik Aaryan and Kiara Advani is one of the most anticipated films. While the makers recently updated the audience about the wrap-up of the Mumbai schedule of the film, now to raise the excitement further the team has shared a still of the wrap-up of Katha played by Kiara Advani in this upcoming musical love saga, 'Satyaprem Ki Katha'. Nadiadwala Grandson Entertainment took to their social media and shared a picture of Kiara Advani in which she can be seen in a ravishing avatar. They further jotted down the caption: "Waiting to unfold this magic in theatres on 29th June 2023



#SatyaPremKiKatha." 'Satyaprem Ki Katha' will mark Kartik Aaryan and Kiara Advani coming together for the second time after their latest venture. Moreover, having seen Kiara in

such a stunning avatar, we can definitely expect to have a sizzling dance number of the actress. This has indeed raised our excitement to receive more information about the film.

'Satyaprem Ki Katha' also marks a massive collaboration between NGE and Namah Pictures. Interestingly, Sajid Nadiadwala and Shareen Mantri Kedia with Kishor Arora and

director Sameer Vidwans won a National Award for their respective feature films. 'Satyaprem Ki Katha' will be released in theatres on June 29, 2023.

Amitabh Bachchan's Kaun Banega Crorepati 15 registration opens

Registrations for the 15th edition of the "Kaun Banega Crorepati" will start from Saturday evening, megastar Amitabh Bachchan has announced.

The 80-year-old actor, who has served as the host of the reality show since its inception, shared the news in a post on Twitter. "#KBC15 Registration starts from 29th April .. @9PM @SonyTV" Bachchan tweeted. Bachchan has hosted 'KBC' since it started in 2000, except for the third season in 2007, which was hosted by superstar Shah Rukh Khan. On the film front, the veteran actor will next be seen in filmmaker Nag Ashwin's 'Project K', also featuring his 'Piku' co-star Deepika Padukone and Prabhas.



Bhumi Pednekar Addresses The Harm One Causes By Spreading Rumours In Her Next 'Afwaah'



With its intriguing storyline and talented cast, Sudhir Mishra's "Afwaah" is set to be one of the most highly anticipated movies of the year. Starring Nawazuddin Siddiqui and Bhumi Pednekar in the lead roles, the film revolves around the theme of standing up against dangerous rumours and the impact they can have on people's lives. For Bhumi Pednekar, being a part of "Afwaah" has been an inspiring experience. The actress says, "Afwaah is a story that is the need of the hour. Rumours have a lot of

power, and it's crucial that we stand up against them. When the story was narrated to me, I could instantly relate to it." With its thought-provoking message and talented cast, "Afwaah" is sure to leave a lasting impact on audiences. Stay tuned for the release of the quirky thriller and join us in spreading the word about the importance of standing up against dangerous rumours. The story of Afwaah revolves around how one wrong rumour has caused chaos and havoc in three lives.

The film also portrays the after effects of one false rumour and are a monster that won't stop chasing you. Fans have also expressed how they are looking forward to the film after the quirky trailer was released. Afwaah is directed by Sudhir Mishra. The film stars Nawazuddin Siddiqui, Bhumi Pednekar, Sharib Hashmi, Sumit Kaul, Sumeet Vyas, Rocky Raina, and TJ Bhanu. The film is produced by Anubhav Sinha under his banner Benaras Media Works and will release on the 5th May, 2023.

May Day: Challenge of unemployment



May Day, also known as International Labour Day or Worker's Day, will be celebrated all over the world again on May 1, 2023. As we prepare to celebrate May Day 2023, there is a need to examine various factors that influence labours' living standards. One important factor is the employment generation capacities of various economies.

Lack of employment opportunities has been India's Achilles' heel for decades. The pandemic has worsened the labour market recovery and made it highly fragmented. Various studies suggest how the pandemic has left several unemployed people discouraged and these people are now overly pessimistic about job conditions. Additionally, job discrepancies across regions, gender, and generations are on the rise. What is distressing is that when the number of educated youth unemployed is growing rapidly, the rate of generation of employment in the organised sector especially in government, public sector and corporate

sectors are declining. According to the Centre for Monitoring Indian Economy (CMIE), India's labour market metrics deteriorated in March 2023 on the back of a significant drop in employment in construction and retail trade as millions of workers moved to agriculture for the harvesting of rabi crops. CMIE's weekly analysis shows that the labour markets have been weak, especially during the last quarter of 2022-23.

According to the CMIE, the unemployment rate in India increased to 7.80 per cent in March from 7.50 per cent in February of 2023. This is too high compared to many advanced countries. The employment rate from 37.1 per cent in December 2022 to 36.9 per cent in February and further to 36.7 per cent in March, which means employment fell from 40.99 crore to 40.76 crores between February to March 2023.

The unemployment rate only measures people who are unemployed, but it didn't calculate the total number of people who have stopped demanding work. Typically, this happens when people of working age get disheartened from not finding work. Thus, it is better to track the variable: the Employment Rate (ER). The ER refers to the total number of employed

people as a percentage of the working-age population.

According to the CMIE, the labour force consists of people who are 15 years or older and belong to either of the following two categories: Are Employed and

Dr Santosh Kumar Mohapatra

asking for a job. It represents the "demand" for jobs in an economy. In India, the LFPR is not only lower than in the rest of the world but also falling. In India, it has been sliding over the last 10 years and has shrunk from 47 per cent in 2016

The main reason for India's LFPR being low is the abysmally low level of female LFPR. The reasons for low women's LFPR are essentially about the working conditions — such as law and order, efficient public

in 2021-22 was recorded at 4.1 per cent, lower than the 5.8 per cent witnessed in 2018-19. However, there has been an increase in the share of agriculture in overall employment. It was 42.5 per cent in 2018-19, which rose to 45.5 per cent in 2021-22. The bitter truth is that people move to farming when no jobs are available in the markets.

The numbers also show that the effects of the COVID-19 pandemic continued to bruise a section of the country's population. By contrast the share of manufacturing in employment has declined to 11.6 per cent in 2021-22, from 12.1 per cent seen in 2018-19. Five years ago, manufacturing was the second-largest employer after agriculture, but now it has been replaced by the construction sector and is in the fourth position. This is an omen sign.

Additionally, the share of self-employed persons in 2021-22 has increased to 55.8 per cent as compared to 52.1 per cent in 2018-19. Self-employed is considered a euphemism for the unemployed and does not give an accurate picture of employment. The share of those getting a regular wage or salary has dropped to 21.5 per cent from 23.8 per cent in the same period, the business daily

reported. The daily further reported that the dependency ratio (percentage of the working-age population) has slightly increased, suggesting more pressure on employed persons amid the recent economic turmoil.

Further, between 2004-05 and 2011-12, the workforce engaged in farming registered the biggest decline from 58.5 per cent to 48.9 per cent. The recent rise in the workforce engaged in farming reveals the increase of disguised unemployment. Also known as hidden unemployment, this refers to a situation where labour that is employed in a job is not actually utilised for the production of goods and services. In other words, such employment does not contribute to the output of an economy and is thus akin to a form of unemployment. Sometimes disguised unemployment could simply be a form of underemployment wherein the skills of a labour force are not utilised to their full capacity.

However, a falling unemployment rate in India as per any survey (though actually increasing) may not provide any idea about decent work or gainful employment. According to the International Labour Organisation (ILO), decent work sums

up the aspirations of people in their working lives. It involves opportunities for work that is productive and delivers a fair income, security in the workplace and social protection for all, better prospects for personal development and social integration, freedom for people to express their concerns, organize and participate in the decisions that affect their lives and equality of opportunity and treatment for all women and men.

According to a note on gainful employment in India, which was prepared by Jonathan Woetzel, Anu Madgavkar, and Shishir Gupta (2017) for McKinsey Global Institute -- an international private-sector think tank, "gainful employment covers a range of issues, including the quantity and type of work done by people already in employment, growth in labour productivity, higher earnings, and aspects of work quality such as greater safety, cleanliness, flexibility, income security, and intellectual challenge." But India is far behind in this regard.

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unemployed but willing to work and are actively looking for a job. In other words, it includes those who are employed and those who are unemployed but seeking jobs.

These two categories have people "demanding" jobs. This demand is what the labour Force Participation Rate (LFPR) refers to. Thus, the LFPR essentially is the percentage of the working-age (15 years or older) population that is

to just 40 per cent as of December 2021. According to CMIE data, as of December 2021, while the male LFPR was 67.4 per cent the female LFPR was as low as 9.4 per cent. In other words, less than one in 10 working-age women in India are even demanding work. Even if one sources data from the World Bank, India's female labour force participation rate is around 25 per cent when the global average is 47 per cent.

transportation, violence against women, societal norms etc. — are far from conducive for women to seek work. Further, a lot of women in India are exclusively involved within their own homes (caring for their families) However, the Periodic Labour Force Survey (July 2020 – June 2021) report provides a picture of the decline in unemployment which sounds preposterous. According to the report, the unemployment rate

Is Privatization of Public Banks the wisest decision to make?



May 1st carries immense significance for workers' solidarity and the struggle for fair working conditions, and it holds even greater meaning in our country where the entire banking industry is facing unprecedented challenges due to various government directives. The merger of PSU banks, mounting NPA caused by willful corporate defaulters, and threats of privatization of PSBs are major concerns for the country and the employees of Nationalized banks. These banks play a vital role in implementing government schemes, especially in rural areas.

The All-India Nationalized Banks Officers' Federation, the largest supervisory organization of

Nationalized Banks, has decided to hold a press meet on May Day to celebrate the services of this huge supervisory workforce. They are addressing the government's move to privatize two public sector banks, the economic policies, and labor policies. They are also demanding an increase in interest rates on deposits, reduction in service charges, and expansion of bank branches to provide affordable banking to the poor and needy. Public Sector Banks have witnessed incremental operating profit since 2009-10, and their net profit in FY 2020-21 was Rs. 31,820 Crores. Despite this, they are being considered for disinvestment/privatization policies, which is a major concern. More than one lakh positions are lying vacant in public sector banks, and instead of recruiting officers and staff, outsourcing is being carried out, risking the security of customer services. The

government's policies are perhaps devaluing the chances of recovery of underlying assets. Currently, only around 50,000 out of 6.42 lakh villages have bank branches, and the rest need to be covered

veteran Banking Trade union leader expresses that the faithful advocates of privatization are ill-informed of the real issues. The huge crowds that throng PSBs and put up with

ABHIJIT SETH

government pensioners bank exclusively with public banks? Did you know 100% of the rural people, peasants, artisan, women under Self Help Group with Public banks? Did you

with Public banks?", he commented.

Soumya Dutta, veteran Banking Trade union leader said, "We should never forget the role PSBs have played in financial inclusion. These banks have been the backbone of socio-economic agenda for the government. In any particular rural area, the role of a PSB is not confined only to banking. It also encompasses a more holistic developmental agenda. PSBs are the one-stop shop for all financial needs of the local rural populace, including insurance, financial literacy, remittance and receipt of welfare subsidies and grants, amongst others.

The government's socio-economic programmers have to use the banking conduit for movement of funds. Those who talk of privatization should visit the remote branches of public banks, where managers live at great risk to personal lives, and are mentoring the local population, not just in financial literacy, but, also technical, business and

agricultural literacy. It was public banks that revolutionized rural India in the social banking era of the 1970s. The expansion of bank branches in rural areas was particularly noteworthy".

Indira Gandhi's government had

nationalized 14 banks on July 19, 1969, each with reserves of more than Rs.50 crores. The economists of the time had said that the decision was "the single most important economic decision taken by any government since 1947".

Journalist, Kolkata.



under financial inclusion. Hence, there should not be any mergers/amalgamation of bank branches, is what the All-India Nationalized Banks Officers' Federation expressed when enquired about their perspective on the Privatization of Public Sector Banks. Sanjay Das, the General Secretary of All India Nationalized Banks Officers' Federation and

various inconveniences indicate the enormous faith that the public has in these banks. The challenge today does not involve providing ultra-sophisticated banking to the 10% upper crust. Instead, the true challenge is to provide basic financial services to India's 90%, who may not be the source of great revenue to banks. "Did you know that almost all

know 100% of the youth who built-up carrier through education loan with Public banks? Did you know 100% beneficiaries of Govt sponsored schemes, by dint if that both State and Central Govt getting votes, are with Public banks? Did you know more than 70% of the people under lower and lower middle class who contributes to the 60% of GST collection are

Letter To Editor

Sir, Climate change the menace

According to the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC), India is expected to pay the most for the consequences of the climate crisis. Aside from extreme weather events like flash floods and widespread wildfires, the country frequently experiences long heatwaves and droughts that deplete the country's water supplies and jeopardise crops. The North West and South West regions have been dealing with a prolonged wave of scorching and record-breaking heat since 2020, which was the hottest and driest month recorded in 130 years. Residents were subjected to temperatures exceeding 40 degrees Celsius for several days in a row, with surface land temperatures reaching up to 60 degrees Celsius in some areas. Experts are unanimous in their belief that this unprecedented heatwave is a direct result of climate change.

VijayKumar H K Environmentalist Raichur, Karnataka



The Union Minister for Fisheries, Animal Husbandry and Dairying, Shri Parshottam Rupala presents certificates at the event of World Veterinary Day 2023 at Vigyan Bhawan, in New Delhi on April 29, 2023. The Minister of State for Fisheries, Animal Husbandry and Dairying, Shri Sanjeev Kumar Balyan is also seen.

Odisha Veterinarian and War Veteran Conferred Nation's Highest Veterinary Award

New Delhi : Under the aegis of Azadi Ka Amrit Mahotsav, the Department of Animal Husbandry and Dairying in collaboration with the Veterinary Council of India celebrated World Veterinary Day- 2023 on 29th April, 2023 at Vigyan Bhawan, New Delhi in order to recognize and celebrate the important roles of Veterinarians in animal and human health and ecology. The theme of World Veterinary Day for the year 2023 was "Promoting Diversity, Equity, and Inclusiveness in the veterinary profession". The Award of 'National Outstanding Veterinary Award' was conferred by the Union Minister of Animal Husbandry and Dairying Parshottam Rupala, on Lt. Gen Narayan Mohanty PVSM,



AVSM, VSM (Retd) on the occasion. The award was bestowed on him for his outstanding achievements and contributions as a successful military leader, his achievements in Scientific Research in the field of International Equestrian sports and

enabling military level co-operation with friendly neighbouring countries. His contributions during his tenure as the President VCI, Gen. Mohanty he was instrumental in streamlining the Veterinary education and Service delivery system in the Country. An alumni of OUAT,

Bhubaneswar, with a graduate and post graduate degree in veterinary Science Lt. Gen. Mohanty was conferred prestigious Fellow of National Academy of Veterinary Sciences in 2005, Doctor of Science (H C) in 2011 and Doctor of Philosophy in 2012. Lt. Gen Narayan Mohanty was

commissioned in the Indian Army as an officer at a very early age of 22 years and was promoted to the coveted rank of Lt Genera. He was chosen as the first Director General of RVC of the Indian Army and had played a key role in bringing the Indian Army to deal with serious security concerns with neighbouring countries in operational planning and execution. Besides his military honours, he was also conferred the award of Pride of India for being an outstanding and successful military leader. Gen. Mohanty is engaged in many philanthropic and charitable activities aimed at the upliftment of economically weaker sections of the Society and other fields. He is a Life Member of INTACH, Bhubaneswar Chapter.

Headline : UCO Bank organised Startup Outreach Program

Kolkata(Partha Roy):UCO Bank Zonal office in Kolkata organised Startup Outreach Program on 28th April 2023 in Kolkata as per guidance of IBA to address financing issues and challenges currently faced by Startups to boost Startup ecosystem in India. IBA has advised Banks to organise Startup Outreach Program in different states to explore financing challenges being faced by Startups in different sectors and in different states. Earlier UCO Bank organised Startup Outreach Program in Agartala, Tripura as informed by Shri Alok Kumar, DGM UCO Bank. More than 50 Startup Representatives from various sectors and 30+



Bankers from various Public Sector Banks attended the outreach program. IBA Senior Advisor Shri. V Chandrashekar addressed through video message and requested the Startups to share their feedback so that Banks can adequately plan to help the budding Startups, among other things. Shri. Alok Kumar DGM UCO Bank spoke on various schemes available to Startups including process of registering under various schemes to avail benefits offered by various schemes.

GM SIDBI Shri. Pramod Vijayvargiya and GM SLBC of West Bengal and PNB Shri. Sheo Shankar Singh talked about various Government Initiatives to help the Startup ecosystem. Panelist included eminent speakers from IBA, SIDBI, Banking, Academia and Successful Startups who enlightened the august gathering with their views and experiences. Professor Dr. R N Saha, Ex-Director, BITS Pilani and Professor Dilip Shah, Dean, Bhawanipur

Education Society spoke on the Startup journey by Students focusing mainly on Incubation of Startups, among others in academic institutions. Shri. Avelo Roy from Kolkata Ventures (Largest Startup Incubator in East India) guided Startups to focus on identifying right problem statement and finding innovative solutions for it taking help from mentors and other Startup Stakeholders. Shri. A.Roy mentioned Startup entrepreneurs should distinguish between grants and

loans available under various schemes. Shri. Biplab Dey, Founder, Learn India, Mrs. Sujata Chatterjee, Founder, Twirl Store and Dr. Jola Dubey, Founder, Mitaanha Organic Products talked about their entrepreneurial journey focusing mainly on Idea Creation, Innovation and Social Entrepreneurship, among others. General view of the Panelist was to focus on creating Sustainable Startups providing innovative solutions to the Society with proper sustainable revenue generation planning to repay loans those are availed under various schemes. Many Tech based Startups expressed their concern regarding financing from Banks.

ZSI Researchers Discover 2 New Species of Spiders, One named after ZSI Director

Kolkata: When the entire country is rejoicing at the 100th episode of Prime Minister Narendra Modi's radio programme 'Mann ki Baat', the researchers of Zoological Survey of India (ZSI) commemorate the event with the discovery of two new species of jumping spiders from the southern part of India. These two new discoveries include Phintelladhritiae from Mookambika Wildlife Sanctuary, Karnataka, and Phintellaplatnicki from Salem district of Tamil Nadu. Phintelladhritiae has been named in honour of Dr. Dhriti Banerjee, the first woman director of the ZSI, Kolkata, and Phintellaplatnicki, in honour of the late Dr. Norman Platnick (1951-2020) for his tremendous contribution to the field of arachnology. The newly described species which belong to the genus Phintella, are small to medium-sized, colourful spiders, usually covered with metallic iridescent scales. The head is somewhat rounded or oval, relatively high with a



distinct posterior slope. The abdomen is ovoid or elongate, usually with pale and dark horizontal bands. Members of this genus generally inhabit under the leaves and barks of shrubs and grasses. Before the discovery of these new species of jumping spiders, 12 species of Phintella were known to be valid from India. The team was led by Dr. Souvik Sen and Dr. Sudhin P. P., Arachnida section, ZSI, Kolkata. Dr. John T D Caleb, from Chennai was also a member of

the team. The discovery of these new species of spider has been published in the March 2023 issue [published on March 28, 2023] of 'Arthropoda Selecta'. Earlier in this year, the team described another two new jumping spiders namely Stenaelurillusmegamalai and Stenaelurillusneyyar from the Western Ghats region. The paper was published in 'Zoosystematics and Evolution' on February 2, 2023.

World Dance Day celebrated in Kolkata on April 29

Kolkata (Saikat Kumar Basu):The International Dance Day is observed on 29th April every year. Initiated by the International Dance Council (IDC) in 1982, this global event aims to bridge cultures, connect people and promote the art of dance and its transformative power to express emotions. The concept of International Dance Day was proposed by the International Dance Council to commemorate the



International Dance Day is being celebrated on 29th April this year like every year. It has been used for ritual, social and artistic purposes throughout history and across

University on World Dance Day (April 29). Prof Amita Dutt and a galaxy of iconic members and exponents of classical Indian dance and drama from the dance



birth of Jean-Georges Noverre, the French dancer and choreographer who is considered the father of modern ballet. Noverre was born on April 29, 1727, and is best known for his treatise "Letters on Dancing and Ballet," which laid the revolutionary foundation for modern ballet and dance as an art form.

cultures. Dance can tell stories, express emotions and express ideas in ways that transcend language and cultural barriers. Felicitation of Uday Shankar Professor of Dance, Prof Amita Dutt at the historic Star Theatre auditorium, Kolkata (West Bengal, India) by the Alumni of the Dance Department, Rabindra Bharati

fraternity was felicitated on the stage on account of the world dance day idiot defect audience at the star Theatre. Enjoyed an evening of gala, performance videos, forms of classical, Indian dances, and fusion. Modern dances performed by number of famous dance groups from West Bengal.

Listen Mann Ki Baat ; Samal

Jharsuguda: Man Mohan Samal, State President Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) has requested all to listen Prime Minister Narendra Modi's popular radio program 'Mann Ki Baat'. 100th Edition of Mann Ki Baat will be rolled out on 30 April. While addressing Media Meet at Jharsuguda, Shri Samal requested all to listen one of the most popular program of the Nation. In fact Mann Ki Baat has played a significant role in introducing the real

Bharat to the countrymen, said Shri Samal. The program has initiated a trend where people are now more aware of the things in other parts of the country and they have started appreciating them, said Shri Samal. Sundargarh BJP MP Jual Oram, Bargarh BJP MP Suresh Pujari, Kalahandi BJP MP Basanta Panda and other senior leaders were present in the Media Meet. Recently IIMC New Delhi conducted a survey where 75



Percent of the respondents feel that 'Mann Ki Baat' has emerged as a platform, which introduces grass roots innovators working selflessly to ensure a

significant difference in the lives of people living in remote areas of India. According to IIMC study 'Knowledge about the Country' and 'PM's Vision

about the Country' are the two important reasons which motivate them to listen to the programme. When the respondents were asked how they listen to the

programme if they miss any episode, 63% said they prefer YouTube over the other mediums. 76% of the respondents feel that they are a participant in the

democratic process by listening to PM Modi on various issues in 'Mann Ki Baat'. The study also tried to understand which issue discussed by the Prime Minister in 'Mann Ki Baat' influenced the people's most. In response, 40% of respondents mentioned 'education', while 26% said 'information about grass roots innovators' as the most influential topic. The study also tried to understand with whom the people

share information about the topics discussed in 'Mann Ki Baat'. 32% respondents said they share their thoughts on the issues discussed in the program with their family members, while 29% people said they discuss the topics with their friends and colleagues. Another interesting fact that emerged in the study was that 12% people use radio, 15% television and 37% use Internet based platforms to listen to 'Mann Ki Baat'.

State Lauds S4R



Bhubaneswar: The United Nations World Food Program (WFP) and the Government of Odisha, with S4S Technologies as the technology partner, have launched the Solar 4 Resilience (S4R) initiative for building resilience and livelihoods of women and small-holder farmers through solar-based technologies. The initiative was unveiled at a district level event at Chatrapur, Ganjam on 26 April. The launch event held at the Krushi Bhawan in State Capital Bhubaneswar, saw participation from state government officials, including Director, Horticulture, Government of Odisha

Rohit Kumar Lenka and Country Director WFP in India Elisabeth Faure, and private sector partners and community representatives. Himanshu S Bal WFP Odisha Chief graced the occasion. "We are very excited about this partnership between WFP and Odisha government and the scale up unveiled today comes after pilots that show that the communities have shown a positive interest in the solution and the innovation that seeks to make an impact in critical areas of farmers' income, especially women, sustainability, and environment protection. The innovation and approach of the initiative take a holistic approach from processing to

marketing, which is much needed," said Mr. Lenka. "Solar 4 Resilience project is implemented with the support of the WFP Innovation Accelerator and is aligned with the strategic focus that WFP and Odisha government have on strengthening livelihoods and long-term food security, in a world facing adverse impacts of climate change," said Ms Faure. Some of the highlights of the project include building capacities of women farmers' collectives for alternative livelihoods, improve incomes building resilience through inclusive and gender-transformative approaches. The vision

of the project is to reduce post-harvest losses and support the scale-up of the initiative across states for the long-term benefits to the communities vulnerable to climate change. The project will provide women with solar-drying technology used to dry vegetables, millet, fish/seafood, and other perishable food that would otherwise be wasted. The women will receive low-interest loans from banks to purchase the equipment. The women are expected to improve the resilience and emerge as micro-entrepreneurs through training in financial management, quality assurance, and access to markets for processed food.


Former Odisha MP Bhaskar Rao Used To Provide Financial Assistance To Naxals: Congress

Bhubaneswar: Former BJD Rajya Sabha MP from Rayagada Nekkanti Bhaskar Rao used to provide financial assistance to Naxals in Odisha, alleged Congress media cell chairperson Ganeswar Behera in a presser held here today. "The former MP has been extending financial support to the Naxals. Besides, Rayagada Truck Owners' Association has filed an FIR with the Rayagada police on April 18 that N Bhaskar Rao has been involved in misappropriation of Association's funds," Ganeswar Behera alleged. "Recently, some office-bearers of the Rayagada truck owners' association were asked by Bhaskar Rao to give

extortion money on the pretext of giving it to Naxals. The outfit members have lodged an FIR that they used to give extortion money at Rs 50 per tonne for over the last 40 years. Why the local police have remained tight-lipped in this regard? Is the law taking its own course?" the Congress media cell Head questioned. "Ruling BJD claims that it has been fighting against the Naxal movement. On the contrary, some of its leaders are involved in the extortion of money to extend financial assistance to the anti-social elements. The State government had earlier said in its White Paper placed before the Legislative Assembly that, in 2022, about 12 incidents of violence

were carried out by Naxals in Odisha. At least seven Naxals were killed and 12 others were arrested during the same period," the senior Congress leader stated. Bhaskar Rao was taking Rs 5000 per truck from us in 2005. However, it was reduced to Rs 3000 in 2006 after protest from members. Later, we were charged Rs 50 per tonne of load. We were threatened that if we fail to adhere to these then our trucks won't get consignments. The money collected from us were given to Naxals, a truck owner claimed. On the other hand, the Opposition BJP has also levelled similar allegations against

Biju Janata Dal (BJD) leaders. "It is quite unfortunate and in the past also it came to the fore that BJD leaders were in contact with the Naxals. The party claims that they are into wiping out Naxal movement in the state. In reality, they are with the extremist group," Dillip Mallick, BJP spokesperson said. The former parliamentarian, however, refuted the allegations levelled against him. "I categorically deny the allegations against me. If they (truck owners' association) have any kind of evidence against me, they can hand it over to any investigating agency for probe," Rao said in his response.



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Chhatishgarh State Yadav Samaj Organised One Training Program for the upliftment of Women & Key to Happiness



Raipur (KCN):The Chhatishgarh State Yadav Samaj today Organised one two hours Training Program for the upliftment of Women & Key to Happiness at Vrindaban Hall, Civil Line, Raipur. Dr Ananya Mishra, a Dentist & Sonu Sharma were the Trainers & they gave two hours of training to all Participants who gathered in this Program. They sang a Hindi song " I am always Happy in such an attractive way, so that all Participants danced like anything. They trained about the development, improvement and upliftment of the Women as well as they gave training about the Key of Happiness. More to one hundred Participants of Yadav Samaj of the Chhatishgarh State were participated & it was a grand successful and it was talk of Raipur.



Mo School partners with British Council to skill children through sports

Bhubaneswar, : The government of Odisha initiative Mo School Abhiyan and UK based international organisation for educational opportunities and cultural exchange British Council signed an agreement to work together on a pilot programme designed to promote sports in school education. The one-of-its-kind initiative will support primary school teachers and coaches to improve learning outcomes of students by inculcating physical and health education to further boost holistic development of children. The programme will be piloted in 30 selected government schools of Odisha which are covered under the Mo School initiative. The Operational Alliance Agreement (OAA) has been signed

by Sri Anupam Saha, SPD-OSEPA & Member Secretary, Mo School and Rittika Chanda Parrukh, Director Education India, British Council in the presence of senior officials of Government of Odisha and British Council. The agreement will complement the existing overarching agreement between the Government of Odisha and British Council India to work together for strengthening school and mass education in Odisha. Speaking on the new partnership, Smt. Susmita Bagchi, Chairperson, Mo School said, "We are looking forward to the collaboration with British Council as we want to equip our teachers and trainers with better tools for promoting sports activities right from the school. The collaboration will help our students to build their career in sports

and deliver quality education by giving additional focus on students' health and wellbeing. By skilling them through this programme we hope to afford them a chance to demonstrate improved skills and knowledge while also increasing awareness about how sports can be used as a tool to bring transformative change." Alison Barrett MBE, Director India, British Council, said, "We are excited for delivering on the MoU we have with Odisha, and working again with Mo School Abhiyan for physical health and wellness of school going children. Prior to this partnership, we worked with Mo School for an English language development programme when Mo School was launched.

Stay in Charge – the OnePlus 10R 5G Launches in India

Bhubaneswar : Today, global technology brand OnePlus officially launched the OnePlus 10R in India. The OnePlus 10R is equipped with 150W SUPERVOOC Endurance Edition – the fastest wired charging ever in a OnePlus smartphone and one of the fastest wired charging standards in the industry. The device is powered by the customized and exclusive MediaTek Dimensity 8100-MAX chipset and has a 120 Hz Fluid AMOLED display, along with the largest and most advanced cooling system in any OnePlus device to date.

"The OnePlus R series exists to make the seamless integration of top-of-the-line hardware and software more accessible to a wider audience of gaming enthusiasts. The OnePlus 10R takes this concept to the next level by offering industry-leading technologies like 150W SUPERVOOC Endurance Edition at a competitive price point," said Navnit Nakra, India CEO and Head of India Region, OnePlus India. "Our fastest ever charging technology, combined with the MediaTek Dimensity 8100-MAX chipset, a high refresh rate display, and an advanced cooling system enable the OnePlus 10R to deliver truly exceptional performance."

The OnePlus 10R with 150W SUPERVOOC Endurance Edition can deliver a day's power after just 10 minutes of charging and its 4,500 mAh battery can be recharged from 1-100% in 17 minutes. 150W SUPERVOOC Endurance Edition is TÜV Rheinland certified for safe fast charging, meaning it has gone through rigorous testing to ensure the device delivers a charging experience that meets OnePlus' high standards.

Tata Steel dedicates bridge over river Suna to the community in Joda

Joda: With an objective to provide better commuting facility to the residents of Keth Hutting and nearby villages, Tata Steel dedicated a bridge over river Suna connecting Bichakundi with Keth Hutting on Saturday.

Smt Minakshi Mahanta, Hon'ble MLA, Champua graced the occasion as Chief Guest along with Shri Atul Kumar Bhatnagar, General Manager (OMQ Division), Tata Steel, Shri Saroj Kumar Banerjee, Chief (Joda), Tata Steel and Shri Rajesh Kumar, Chief, Tata Steel.

Among others present on the occasion were Ms Tulasi Bobanga, Sarpanch, Bhuiyan Roida, Ms Bilasini Oram, Sarpanch, Loidapada, Mr Narendra Munda, Sarpanch, Jalahari, Ms Subhakanti Soy, Sarpanch, Jurudi, Ms Priyanka Majhi, Sarpanch, Jajanga, Mr Arun Munda, Sarpanch, Palsa, Ms Laxmi Champia, Samiti

Sabhya, Jalahari, Ms Rajani Penthei, Samiti Sabhya, Jurudi, Mr Mahendra Majhi, Samiti Sabhya, Palsa, Mr Manbodh Oram, Ex-Sarpanch, Bhuiyan Roida and Mr Jatish Chandra Naik, Ex-Sarpanch, Bhuiyan Roida, along with senior officials of Tata Steel, and officials of Tata Steel Foundation.

The construction of the 91 feet long and 12 feet wide bridge allowing movement of light motor vehicles was completed in a record time of four months. To enhance the safety standard of the bridge technical interventions like RCC (Reinforced cement concrete) pillars, etc. have been used. Apart from this, to promote sustainability, Tata Steel Foundation (TSF), the CSR arm of the Company, has also installed two solar-powered streetlights near the bridge that will enable the villagers to safely commute at night. More than 10,000

people residing in Bhuiyan Roida, Malda, Loidapada, Jalahari, Jurudih and Guali panchayats along with Joda Municipality will be benefitted by the bridge which also connects Keonjhar district with Sundargarh district.

TSF has undertaken various developmental initiatives towards socio-economic development of the people in the peripheral areas of operations around Joda, focusing on health, education, infrastructure development, livelihoods, skill upgradation and women empowerment among others. Infrastructure being a very crucial sector for the overall development of any society, the Company has undertaken many infrastructure development initiatives in the region including construction of community centres, deep bore wells, infrastructure for schools, etc.

JSW Paints launches its innovative product that focuses on consumers' health & well-being at home

MUMBAI: JSW Paints, India's environment-friendly paints company and part of the US \$13 billion JSW Group, has launched its product campaign focusing on the Halo Aquaglo range. JSW Paints Aquaglo is India's first water-based paints for wood & metal surfaces with Germ Block Zn2+ion technology. Previously, Indian consumers were using solvent-based enamels, popularly known as "Oil Paint", for painting wood & metal surfaces. These contain chemicals and solvents that have a strong odour and have a high VOC (Volatile Organic Content). As a result, these paints are not recommended for kids and people with health

conditions as the solvents pollute the home with their unhealthy fumes post-application. Such paint products also take a relatively long time to dry, creating inconvenience for the family at home and can be smelly for a week or two. On the other hand, JSW Paints Aquaglo is 100% water-based, has low odour, dries quickly and is completely family-friendly. Due to its quick-drying benefit, it enables the painting to be finished in a very short time as well. It also retains its shine for a longer period. The Aquaglo campaign brings the focus back on consumers' overall health and well-being through the Bollywood

star and JSW Paints brand ambassador, Alia Bhatt, as she urges consumers to #PaintKaGKBadhao. The campaign also includes well-known artist and stand-up comedian Atul Khatri and brings to life the mass hysteria related to any new idea. Alia's reaction to the strong smell of solvent-based paint being used on her newly painted door results in a social media tsunami and a cascade of jokes & banter with everyone joining in for a laugh, misconstruing Alia's point that the oil paint on the door causes pollution, as doors cause pollution. This highlights the low level of awareness among consumers about the

availability and benefits of water-based paints for wood and metal. Aquaglo is also the first paint for wood & metal in India with Germ Block, making it very safe for the family. The campaign is on air across leading TV channels across India and Disney+Hotstar streaming platform. The campaign is conceptualized by TBWA/India According to Anuradha Bose, Chief Marketing Officer of JSW Paints, "Following the successful disruption of our Any Colour One Price initiative, we are now delighted to launch our thoughtful product innovation, Aquaglo. It aims to change yet another convention in paints of using only 'oil paint' for wood & metal.

Our new campaign draws consumers' attention to the clear benefit of adopting a water-based Aquaglo range of paints for painting wooden doors, metal grills and other such surfaces in their homes. Paint Ka GK badhao is a clear call to action to make India sit up and choose wellness and comfort." Speaking about the Aquaglo campaign's attempt to change Indian paint consumers' expectations, Govind Pandey, CEO, TBWA/India said, "Paint category has been dominated by the same market leaders for decades without any real challenger. JSW Paints is the disruptor that is questioning the status quo prevailing in the industry.

Jio tops 4G download speed chart in April: TRAI Data

Bhubaneswar: Reliance Jio continues to lead in the average 4G download speed chart published by the Telecom Regulatory Authority of India (TRAI) for the month of April. Jio achieved 23.1 Mbps average 4G download speed in the month of April, witnessing an improvement from 21.1 Mbps in March this year.

As per the data published by TRAI on its MySpeed portal, Vodafone Idea, Airtel and BSNL network registered 17.7 Mbps, 14.1 Mbps and 5.9 Mbps average download speed respectively in the month

of April. While Airtel registered marginal improvement in average download speed from 13.7 Mbps in the month of March, performance of both Vodafone Idea and BSNL dipped in April. The download speed helps consumers in accessing content from the internet, while upload speed helps them in sending or sharing pictures or video to their contacts.

In the average upload speed chart, Vodafone Idea topped with average upload speed of 8.2 Mbps in April, followed by Jio with 7.6 Mbps, Airtel with 6.1 Mbps and BSNL with 5.0 Mbps average upload speed.

In Odisha, Jio also topped the average 4G download speed chart with 46.3 Mbps average download speed followed by Airtel with 15.1 Mbps and VI with 12.7 Mbps average download speed, as per data published on MySpeed portal of TRAI. In average upload speed VI achieved 9.1 Mbps average upload speed followed by 8.2 Mbps of Jio and 4.9 Mbps of Airtel.

It is worth mentioning here that the average speed is computed by TRAI based on data it collects with help of its MySpeed application on a real-time basis.

Apeejay Education and AWS announce new accelerator program

Bhubaneswar : Apeejay Education, an academic institution in India established for more than 50 years, and Amazon Web Services (AWS), an Amazon.com company, today announced the launch of the National Education Policy Accelerator Program (NEPAP), an initiative to

enable academic institutions in India to align with the technology requirements documented in the Government's National Education Policy 2020 (NEP 2020). This is the first program in India to support the technology transformation of education institutions as

per the NEP 2020. The NEP 2020 aims to strengthen India's education sector that directly contributes to the country's growth and development, demonstrating the need to integrate technology in education to improve learning and teaching at all levels. The

accelerator program will address two key tenets of the NEP 2020 – on the extensive use of technology in teaching, learning, education planning, and management; and in the creation of open, interoperable, evolvable, public digital infrastructure in the

education sector to support multiple platforms and point solutions. The accelerator program will guide academic institutions on multiple aspects of the NEP 2020. It will support academic institutions by conducting digital innovation workshops to focus on

identifying and prioritizing unique challenges of the academic institutions, and co-building solutions or proof-of-concepts (POCs) using technologies such as artificial intelligence (AI) and machine learning (ML). AWS will drive these workshops based on the Amazon Working

Backwards innovation methodology, which uses design thinking to identify and define a customer-focused problem or opportunity and develop prototypes. Through the accelerator program, AWS and Apeejay Education will support academic institutions with AWS credits, capacity

building workshops, and access to dedicated resources, to build and implement the POCs. Apeejay Education will bring expertise on the use cases of digital solutions in the education sector, and support with testing the solutions to extend the reach to other institutions across India.

Vijay Shankar hails Titans' cohesive team environment

New Delhi: Vijay Shankar, whose unbeaten 24-ball 51* was one of the pillars of Gujarat Titans' seven-wicket win against Kolkata Knight Riders on Saturday, was all praise for the positive culture inside the defending champions' dressing room. Crediting the team management for the support and encouragement, Vijay felt that it was a major reason behind the Titans' success. In just their second season, the Gujarat franchise has already established itself as one of the formidable sides in the Indian Premier League. "The team management plays a major role in keeping everyone in a very good space," said Vijay at the post-match press conference. "We stick together and the amount of practice that we do is unbelievable.

It's not that other teams don't do but we keep doing it for hours and hours. It helps us to get out of difficult situations and there will be difficult situations in IPL and T20 cricket. It's about being together and communicating properly." (team management) keep us in a really good space, that doesn't mean just giving us what we want but doing the right things. In practice, we don't just turn up, practice and leave. We practice with a purpose. Which is very important. They give us clarity, define roles and people are ready to go out and do it for the team. It's a very special team because it's not just the players but also the support staff and even the net bowlers. Everyone deserves credit. That is the positive vibe that is

needed." Dwelling further on the team culture, Vijay revealed how Rashid Khan was constantly chatting away with his fellow countryman Noor Ahmad despite the former having a rare rough day with the ball. While Rashid was taken to the cleaners, Noor bowled a brilliant spell and had an economy of under six runs-per-over. "Rashid and Noor have a great rapport. They communicate well in their own language. Rashid had an off day but he was constantly communicating with Noor and he was delivering for the team. There are times when both will click for the team, sometimes one will click. The communication that Noor got from Rashid helped him to do well on such a wicket." Gujarat's bowling attack



has been one of the key aspects behind their success. With key bowlers available for all phases, they are generally able to exert relentless pressure on the opposition, thereby creating wicket-taking opportunities. On Saturday, this was once again on display as they managed to restrict the Knight Riders to 179 on

a surface where 200 seemed a par score. "That is the biggest strength we have. There are five to six regular bowlers who are doing the job again and again. If someone is going for runs, there is someone else who is stepping up and taking wickets. It's not just about bowling tight, it's about taking wickets. Most games we

have picked up more than six wickets, which is terrific in a T20 game. That has been our strength and we will find ways of taking wickets, adapting to a surface and picking up wickets." Vijay also talked up skipper Hardik Pandya's leadership and felt that the all-rounder's impact on the side was massive. The latter hasn't had the

greatest of seasons personally despite the odd flicker of brilliance here and there, but Vijay felt that his captain has been able to create an impact in the dressing room with his presence and attitude. "Hardik is really aggressive. He wanted to do it for the team. He wants to come out on top in difficult situations. In the game against MI, we needed Rohit Sharma's wicket and he got it for us. Against LSG, he went upto number three on a difficult wicket, got a 60. As captain, he is taking up responsibilities and that's the best thing to do. When you're captain, it's about showing the team that this is how it's done. He is someone who is doing that and that is why the other players are really trusting him, and doing whatever the team asks us to do." Vijay himself has been

having an impressive season thus far with close to 200 runs at an excellent strike rate of 165.83 and his ball-striking has been the major surprise. While he always had the frame and build to strike the ball, Shankar never seemed as comfortable as he has been this season with respect to hitting the ball cleanly. The Tamil Nadu all-rounder attributed it to the work that he had done pre-season. "Before the IPL, I was out for five to six months with injury. I came back and did well in the Ranji Trophy. I changed a lot of things and it worked for me. I changed my diet and not just physically, but even to the mental aspect of my game which I felt was important. All that together and with the team here, the management here helped me to get out of it properly. Happy that it is coming out good."

Hathurasingha waiting on Mustafizur to showcase his form

New Delhi: Bangladesh head coach Chandika Hathurasingha hinted that the country's leading left-arm pace bowler Mustafizur Rahman will have to showcase his skill set in order to earn his spot in the playing eleven. The left-arm pace bowler, who was picked by Hathurasingha after spotting him in the nets, was considered to be an automatic choice in the national team's white-

ball format since making his debut barring injuries. However, that was not the case during the home series against Ireland as he was rested after the opening game of the three-match ODI series and subsequently failed to retain his spot in the last T20I. In the recent past Mustafizur's form had been a real concern for the Bangladesh team management and his failure to get a game on a regular

basis for Delhi Capitals in the ongoing Indian Premier League only accentuated the fact that the pacer needs to pull up his socks in order to retain his place in Bangladesh's white-ball format while the rise of other pace bowlers like Ebadot Hossain and Hasan Mahmud along with Taskin Ahmed only makes the competition tougher for the experienced campaigner. "When you don't play it is very hard to say if you're in form or out of form,"

Hathurasingha told reporters at the Sylhet International Cricket Stadium on Saturday after completing an intense three-day camp ahead of the three ODIs against Ireland, scheduled in Chelmsford from May-9-14. "He (Mustafizur) hasn't played much and whenever he played here he did well, he did his job for the team," he said. "So I need to see how he goes when he comes back to us (from IPL) and how he performs," he said.



On the batting front, Hathurasingha felt that the openers need to bat with clarity and make sure they take full advantage of field restrictions. "The openers need to

maximize this field restriction. If you're batting in the middle then you're coming in different scenarios like sometimes four out, sometimes five out

(fielders), so it's important how you want to start. So if you don't practice that the way you want to start, once you go into the middle then you'll get sucked into the situation which we don't want. We want them to have a clear mind how they have been always regardless of the situation," he said. Hathurasingha stressed upon extending that attitude right through. "We're going to play

positive, aggressive cricket. It doesn't mean that we will hit every ball out of the park. Aggressive cricket means that in everything we do, we do very positive, aggressive intent as well as the decision-making. Also, it's going to be aggressive whether the selection with field placing, whether it's the type of ball that we decide to ball, so we want to give them that to go and express themselves," he said.

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