



I Y A NEWS

- The Media Helpline

“An Association Based Community Media Organization”

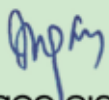
R.N.I Reg. No.- ODIENG/2017/72682 ; POSTAL REGD. NO. BN/301/23-25

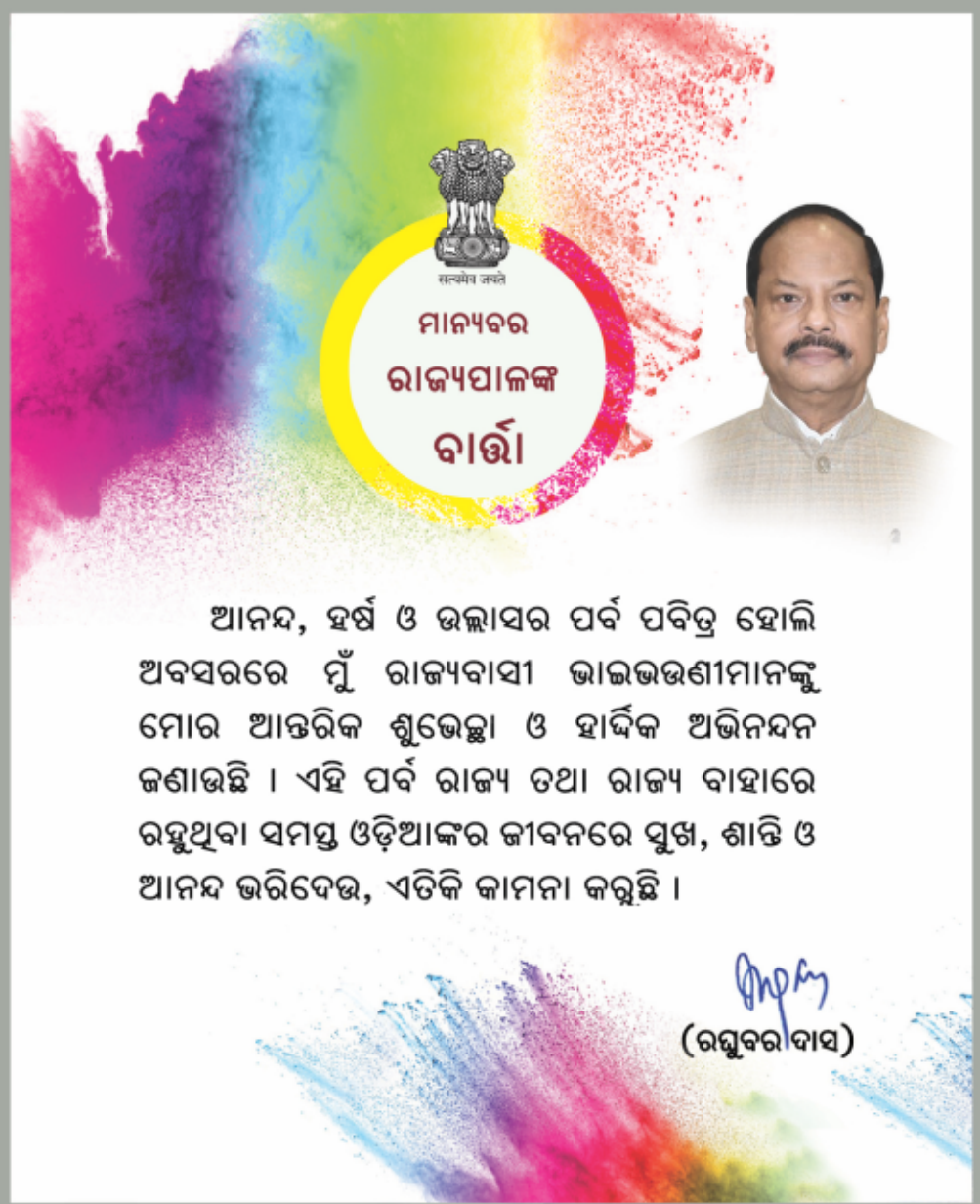
VOLUME - VIII | ISSUE - II | BHUBANESWAR, ODISHA | APRIL, 2024 | Pages - 20 | Rs. 10/-




ମାନ୍ୟବର ରାଜ୍ୟପାଳଙ୍କ ବାର୍ତ୍ତା


ପବିତ୍ର ଓଡ଼ିଶା ଦିବସ - ୨୦୨୪ ଅବସରରେ ମୁଁ ରାଜ୍ୟବାସୀଙ୍କୁ ମୋର ଆନ୍ତରିକ ଶୁଭେଚ୍ଛା ଓ ହାର୍ଦ୍ଦିକ ଅଭିନନ୍ଦନ ଜଣାଉଛି । ଓଡ଼ିଶାକୁ ଏକ ସମୃଦ୍ଧ ଓ ବିକଶିତ ରାଜ୍ୟରେ ପରିଣତ କରିବା ପାଇଁ ଆଜିର ଦିବସରେ ସମସ୍ତେ ସଂକଳ୍ପବଦ୍ଧ ହେବାକୁ ମୁଁ ଆହ୍ୱାନ ଜଣାଉଛି ।


(ରଘୁବର ଦାସ)



ଆନନ୍ଦ, ହର୍ଷ ଓ ଉଲ୍ଲାସର ପର୍ବ ପବିତ୍ର ହୋଇ ଅବସରରେ ମୁଁ ରାଜ୍ୟବାସୀ ଭାଇଭଉଣୀମାନଙ୍କୁ ମୋର ଆନ୍ତରିକ ଶୁଭେଚ୍ଛା ଓ ହାର୍ଦ୍ଦିକ ଅଭିନନ୍ଦନ ଜଣାଉଛି । ଏହି ପର୍ବ ରାଜ୍ୟ ତଥା ରାଜ୍ୟ ବାହାରେ ରହୁଥିବା ସମସ୍ତ ଓଡ଼ିଆଙ୍କର ଜୀବନରେ ସୁଖ, ଶାନ୍ତି ଓ ଆନନ୍ଦ ଭରିଦେଇ, ଏତିକି କାମନା କରୁଛି ।

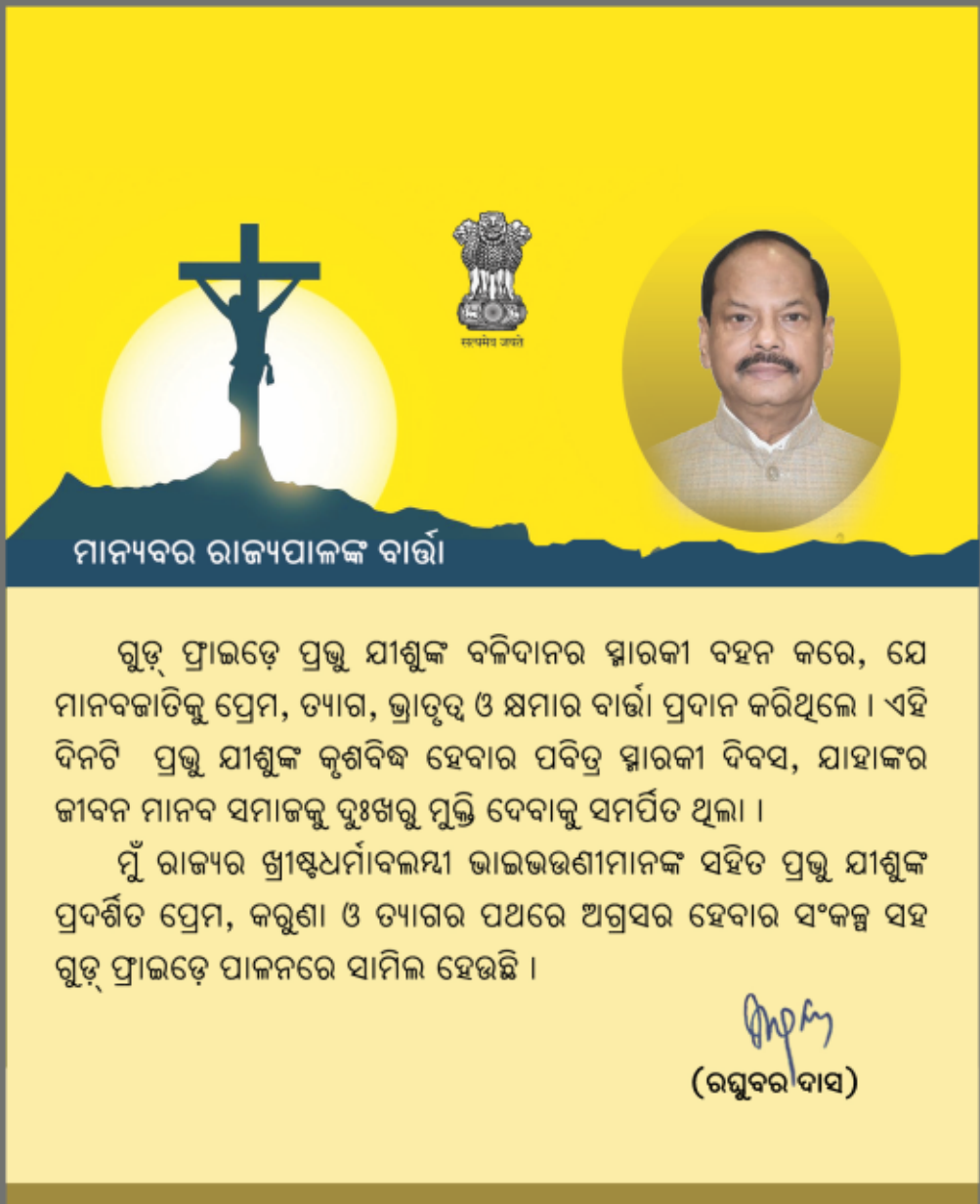

(ରଘୁବର ଦାସ)



ମାନ୍ୟବର ରାଜ୍ୟପାଳଙ୍କ ବାର୍ତ୍ତା

ପବିତ୍ର ଇନ୍ଦ୍ର-ଉଲ୍ଲା ଫିତର ଅବସରରେ ମୁଁ ଆମ ରାଜ୍ୟର ସମସ୍ତ ମୁସଲମାନ ଭାଇଭଉଣୀମାନଙ୍କୁ ଶୁଭେଚ୍ଛା ଓ ଅଭିନନ୍ଦନ ଜଣାଉଛି । ଶାନ୍ତି-ମୈତ୍ରୀ-ହର୍ଷୋଲ୍ଲାସର ଏହି ପର୍ବରେ ସମସ୍ତେ ସାମିଲ ହେବା ସହ ମୁସଲମାନ ଭାଇଭଉଣୀମାନଙ୍କ ସର୍ବାଙ୍ଗୀନ ବିକାଶ ନିମନ୍ତେ କାର୍ଯ୍ୟ କରିବାକୁ ମୁଁ ଆହ୍ୱାନ ଜଣାଉଛି ।



(ରଘୁବର ଦାସ)



ମାନ୍ୟବର ରାଜ୍ୟପାଳଙ୍କ ବାର୍ତ୍ତା

ଗୁଡ଼୍ ପ୍ରାଇଡ଼େ ପ୍ରଭୁ ଯୀଶୁଙ୍କ ବଳିଦାନର ସ୍ମାରକୀ ବହନ କରେ, ଯେ ମାନବଜାତିକୁ ପ୍ରେମ, ତ୍ୟାଗ, ଭ୍ରାତୃତ୍ୱ ଓ କ୍ଷମାର ବାର୍ତ୍ତା ପ୍ରଦାନ କରିଥିଲେ । ଏହି ଦିନଟି ପ୍ରଭୁ ଯୀଶୁଙ୍କ କୃଷିବିଦ୍ଧ ହେବାର ପବିତ୍ର ସ୍ମାରକୀ ଦିବସ, ଯାହାଙ୍କର ଜୀବନ ମାନବ ସମାଜକୁ ଦୁଃଖରୁ ମୁକ୍ତି ଦେବାକୁ ସମର୍ପିତ ଥିଲା ।

ମୁଁ ରାଜ୍ୟର ଖ୍ରୀଷ୍ଟଧର୍ମାବଲମ୍ବୀ ଭାଇଭଉଣୀମାନଙ୍କ ସହିତ ପ୍ରଭୁ ଯୀଶୁଙ୍କ ପ୍ରଦର୍ଶିତ ପ୍ରେମ, କରୁଣା ଓ ତ୍ୟାଗର ପଥରେ ଅଗ୍ରସର ହେବାର ସଂକଳ୍ପ ସହ ଗୁଡ଼୍ ପ୍ରାଇଡ଼େ ପାଳନରେ ସାମିଲ ହେଉଛି ।


(ରଘୁବର ଦାସ)

ELECTION IN INDIA

“Election” A democratic Festival in India

Report By Rajani Kanta Mohapatra, Journalist (IYA NEWS)

It is not a surprise that a country which is sometimes called ‘the land of festivals’ has also been treating a critical component of a democratic society as a festival. While there can be no objection to treating an election as a festival, if we treat elections merely as fun festivals, this may have serious implications for democracy in the country. Almost all festivals have a periodicity associated with them. A large number of them are celebrated annually, but some may occur monthly or even come

government.” Some, not very deep, reflection leads to the realisation that we do not elect the government. Instead all we do is vote for one of the candidates on the ballot. Exploring this a little deeper, all a voter can do is to vote for one of the persons on a slate of candidates, most of who have been chosen by the political parties contesting that election. In our country, there are several political parties that stand for the election. The presence of the political party

- have listed some of them.
- A political party contests elections by putting up candidates.
 - In countries like the USA, the candidates are selected by members and supporters of a party.
 - On the other hand, in countries like India, the candidates are chosen by top party leaders.
 - Every party has different policies and programmes. Voters make a choice in accordance with the policies and programmes liked by them.
 - In a democratic country, a large group of people that has certain similar opinions group together and form a party. Then give a direction to the policies adopted by the government.
 - Those parties which lose elections form the opposition. They voice different views and criticise the government for their failures and mobilize opposition to the government.
 - Political parties shape public opinion. With the help of the pressure groups, the parties launch movements for solving problems faced by the people.
 - Parties even offer access to government machinery and welfare schemes. The local party leader serves as a link between the citizen and the government officer.

Importance of Political Parties
A democracy cannot exist without the presence of a political party. This is clear from the function performed by the political parties. In case, there are no political parties then:

- Every candidate in the election would be an independent candidate. Any individual candidate does not have the efficiency to promise any major policy change to the people. In such a scenario, no one will be responsible for how the country is run.
- In the long run, only a representative democracy can survive. Political parties are the agencies that gather different views on various issues and present them to the government.

Party System
There are three types of party systems:

- One-Party System
- Two-Party System
- Multi-Party System

One-Party System
In a one-party system, there is no competition in this system. Here, the lone party nominates the candidates and the voters have only two choices i.e.

- Not to vote at all or
- write ‘yes’ or ‘no’ against the name of the candidates nominated by the party

Such a political system has been prominent in authoritarian regimes and communist countries such as China, North Korea, and Cuba. Before the collapse of communism, this system was also prevalent in USSR.

Two-Party System
In a two-party system, the power shifts between two major,

dominant parties. So, for winning the elections, the winner will have to get the maximum number of votes. However, please know that maximum number of votes is not equivalent to a majority of votes. So, the smaller parties tend to merge with the bigger parties or they drop out of elections. Such a parliamentary system prevails in Canada and Great Britain, in

International, Liberal International, Socialist International and Progressive Alliance. Through these networks, NDI fosters peer-to-peer exchanges and consultations. The Institute also facilitates constructive engagement between political parties and other institutions, such as civil society, the media and election management bodies. India has a parliamentary system



around every twelfth year. This may well have contributed to elections in India being considered an event that should be celebrated. This can be — and often is — problematic because it makes voters passive during the intervening periods. But for political parties and an overwhelming number of politicians, election-related activities go on all round the year. It can safely be said that everything political parties and political actors do is focused on the next election. The objective is to get a party to support the candidature of a particular person, or to “nominate” the person as a candidate of that party, with the right to use the election symbol of that party. What in common parlance is called getting the ‘ticket’ of the party is, arguably, is the most critical feature of democracy and elections in India. When asked, “Where does the government come from?” almost every Indian, without exception, responds, “We elect the

is actually a healthy situation for the nation. It gives people a choice to make a more evolved and effective decision. Moreover, it drives the other political parties to get better than their competitors to win elections and rule the nation. So, this is the basic backdrop of political parties. But what is a political party? Why do we need a political party?

Political Party
A political party basically, is a group of people. These people come together to contest elections in order to hold power in the government. It is a way to mobilize voters to support common sets of interests, concerns, and goals. The primary role of the political party is to fix the political agenda and policies. So, each party tries to persuade people by claiming their policies are better than those of other parties.

Functions of a Political Party
Every political party has a number of functions to perform. Here we



which there are two parties holding the maximum numbers of seats.

Multi-Party System
The third and the most common form of government is the multi-party system. In such a system, there are three or more parties which have the capacity to gain control of the government separately or in a coalition.

In case, no party achieves a clear majority of the legislative seats, then several parties join forces and form a coalition government. Countries like India, follow a multi-party system. Some people are of the view that a multi-party system often leads to political instability in a country.

Political parties are essential institutions of democracy. By competing in elections parties offer citizens a choice in governance, and while in opposition they can hold governments accountable. When citizens join political parties, volunteer their time, donate money and vote for their leaders, they are exercising their basic democratic rights. Participation of citizens in political parties offers unique benefits, including opportunities to influence policy choices, choose and engage political leaders, and run for office. However, in some countries political parties do not respect the rights of citizens to participate and are not accountable to voters. NDI supports the development of vibrant, accountable and inclusive multiparty systems that offer citizens meaningful choices and opportunities for political participation. The Institute’s work includes knowledge and resource sharing, and aims to expand the participation of marginalized groups including: women, youth, ethnic and racial minorities, persons with disabilities, and gender and sexual minorities. NDI’s assistance reaches across party organizations, from grassroots party members to mid-level party officials and senior party leaders. The Institute is the only organization to have official standing in the four largest international groupings of political parties: Centrist Democrat

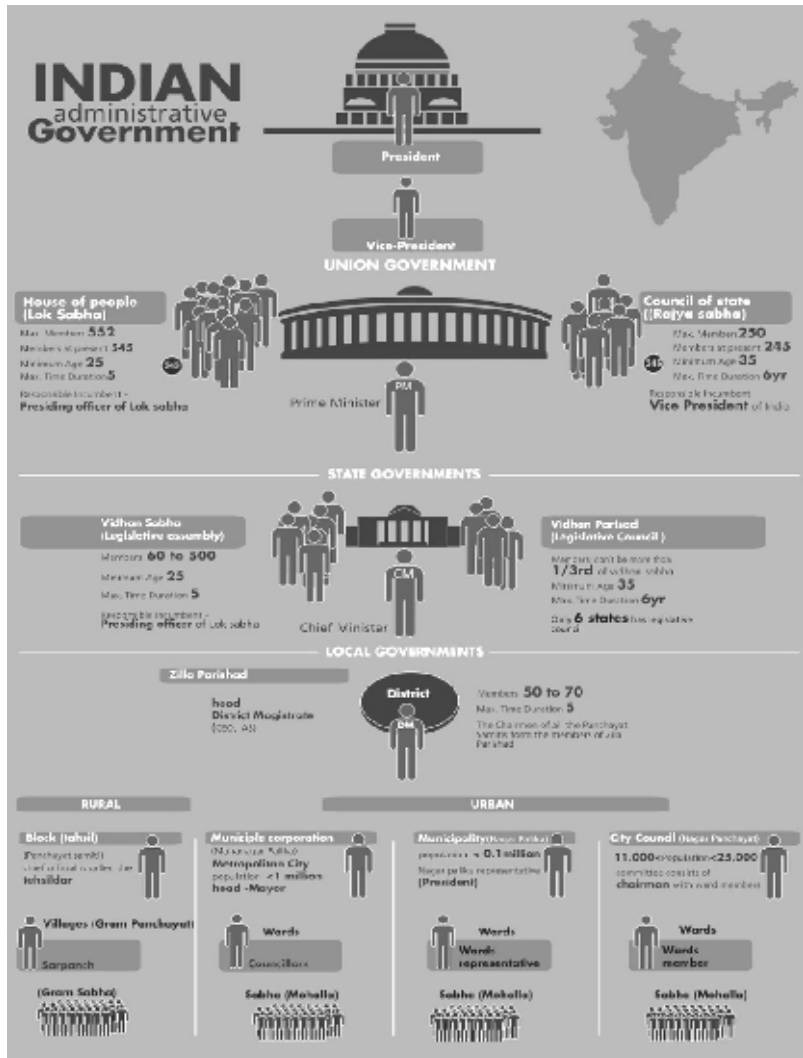
as defined by its constitution, with power distributed between the union government and the states. India’s democracy is the largest democracy in the world.

Election in India
The President of India is the ceremonial head of state of the country and supreme commander-in-chief for all defence forces in India. However, it is the Prime Minister of India, who is the leader of the party or political alliance having a majority in the national elections to the Lok Sabha (Lower house of the Parliament). The Prime Minister is the leader of the legislative branch of the Government of India. The Prime Minister is the chief adviser to the President of India and the head of the Union Council of Ministers.

India is regionally divided into States (and Union Territories) and each State has a Governor who is the state’s head, but the executive authority rests with the Chief Minister who is the leader of the party or political alliance that has won a majority in the regional elections otherwise known as State Assembly Elections that exercises executive powers in that State. The respective State’s Chief Minister has executive powers within the State and works jointly with the Prime Minister of India or their ministers on matters that require both State and Central attention. Some Union Territories also elect an Assembly and have a territorial government and other (mainly smaller) Union Territories are governed by an administrator/ lieutenant governor appointed by the President of India.

The President of India monitors the rule of law through their appointed governors in each State and on their recommendation can take over the executive powers from the Chief Minister of the State, temporarily when the elected representatives of the State government have failed to create a peaceful environment and has deteriorated into chaos. The President of India dissolves the existing State government if necessary, and a new election is conducted.

Continued Page 3







IYA NEWS

- The Media Helpline

“An Association Based Community Media Organization”

R.N.I Reg. No.- ODIENG/2017/72682 ; POSTAL REGD. NO. BN/301/23-25

VOLUME - VIII | ISSUE - II | BHUBANESWAR, ODISHA | APRIL, 2024 | Pages - 20 | Rs. 10/-

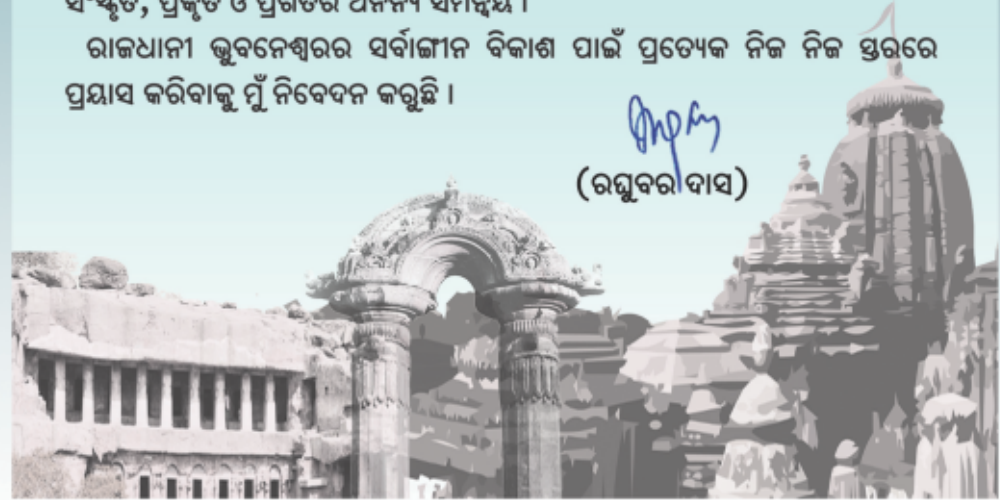


ମାନ୍ୟବର ରାଜ୍ୟପାଳଙ୍କ ବାର୍ତ୍ତା

ରାଜଧାନୀ ପ୍ରତିଷ୍ଠା ଦିବସ ଅବସରରେ ମୁଁ ସମସ୍ତଙ୍କୁ ହାର୍ଦ୍ଦିକ ଶୁଭେଚ୍ଛା ଓ ଅଭିନନ୍ଦନ ଜଣାଉଛି ।

ଓଡ଼ିଶାର ଭୂଗୋଳ ଓ ଇତିହାସରେ ଭୁବନେଶ୍ୱରର ବିଶେଷ ପରିଚୟ ଓ ପ୍ରତିଷ୍ଠା ରହିଛି । ଏଠାରେ ଆଧୁନିକ ଓଡ଼ିଶାର ରାଜଧାନୀ ପ୍ରତିଷ୍ଠା ହେବା ଫଳରେ ସମୃଦ୍ଧ ପରମ୍ପରା ଓ ଐତିହ୍ୟ ଆହୁରି ପରିପୁଷ୍ଟ ହୋଇଛି । ରାଜଧାନୀ ଭୁବନେଶ୍ୱରରେ ଘଟିଛି ସଂସ୍କୃତି, ପ୍ରକୃତି ଓ ପ୍ରଗତିର ଅନନ୍ୟ ସମନ୍ୱୟ ।

ରାଜଧାନୀ ଭୁବନେଶ୍ୱରର ସର୍ବାଙ୍ଗୀନ ବିକାଶ ପାଇଁ ପ୍ରତ୍ୟେକ ନିଜ ନିଜ ସ୍ତରରେ ପ୍ରୟାସ କରିବାକୁ ମୁଁ ନିବେଦନ କରୁଛି ।





(ରଘୁବର ଦାସ)

ମାନ୍ୟବର ରାଜ୍ୟପାଳଙ୍କ ବାର୍ତ୍ତା

ପବିତ୍ର ମହାବିଷୁବ ସଂକ୍ରାନ୍ତି ତଥା ଓଡ଼ିଆ ନବବର୍ଷର ପ୍ରଥମ ଦିନରେ ମୁଁ ରାଜ୍ୟବାସୀ ଭାଇଭଉଣୀମାନଙ୍କୁ ମୋର ହାର୍ଦ୍ଦିକ ଶୁଭେଚ୍ଛା ଓ ଅଭିନନ୍ଦନ ଜଣାଉଛି । ଓଡ଼ିଶାକୁ ଦେଶର ଅନ୍ୟତମ ଶ୍ରେଷ୍ଠ ରାଜ୍ୟରେ ପରିଣତ କରିବା ପାଇଁ ସମସ୍ତେ ମନପ୍ରାଣ ଦେଇ କାର୍ଯ୍ୟ କରିବାକୁ ମୁଁ ଆହ୍ୱାନ ଜଣାଉଛି ।

(ରଘୁବର ଦାସ)

ମାନ୍ୟବର ରାଜ୍ୟପାଳଙ୍କ ବାର୍ତ୍ତା

ମଇ ଦିବସ ଅବସରରେ ମୁଁ ଆମ ରାଜ୍ୟର ସମସ୍ତ ଶ୍ରମିକ ଭାଇଭଉଣୀମାନଙ୍କୁ ଶୁଭେଚ୍ଛା ଓ ଅଭିନନ୍ଦନ ଜଣାଉଛି ।

ନିଜ ନିଜ ପରିସରରେ ନିଷ୍ଠାପର ଭାବେ କର୍ମ କରି ନିଜ ପାଇଁ ତଥା ରାଜ୍ୟ ପାଇଁ ଗର୍ବ ଓ ଗୌରବର କାରଣ ହେବା ନିମନ୍ତେ ମୁଁ ଆହ୍ୱାନ ଜଣାଉଛି ।

(ରଘୁବର ଦାସ)

From Page 02 ("Election" A democratic...)

Elections

Election Commission of India

The Election Commission of India (ECI) is an autonomous authority of India which is enacted under the provisions of the Constitution, responsible for monitoring and administering Union and State election processes in India. This body is responsible for ensuring elections are free and fair, without any bias.[2]

The ECI, established as a permanent Constitutional Body, is entrusted by the Constitution with the superintendence, direction, and control of the entire electoral process for Parliament, State Legislatures, and the offices of the President and Vice-President of India.

Election ensures the conduct of members pre-elections, during elections, and post-elections are as per the statutory legislation.

All election-related disputes are handled by the Election Commission. The Supreme Court of India has held that where the enacted laws are silent or make insufficient provisions to deal with a given situation in the conduct of elections, the Election Commission has the residuary powers under the Constitution to act as appropriate. The first chief election Commissioner was Sukumar Sen.

The elections for the President and Vice President of India, the Rajya Sabha (council of states) and Lok Sabha (house of the people), State Legislative Assemblies (including Union territories of Delhi and Puducherry), and State Legislative Councils are conducted by the Election Commission of India (ECI).

State Election Commissions

The State Election Commission (SEC) is an autonomous constitutional authority responsible for administering elections to the 3rd tier of governance i.e. the Local Government, which includes the Panchayati Raj Institutions and the Urban Local Bodies. As per the constitutional provision, 'superintendence, direction and control of the conduct of Elections to Urban & Rural Local bodies vest in State Election Commission.

State Election Commission consists of a State Election Commissioner, who is appointed by the Governor for a fixed tenure of 5 years and cannot be removed from his office except in like manner and on the like grounds as a Judge of a High Court.


The elections to local self-government institutions, such as panchayats and municipalities, are conducted by the respective State Election Commissions (SECs).

Types of elections

Elections in the Republic of India include elections for

- President of India,
- Vice President of India,
- Members of the Parliament in Rajya Sabha (Upper house) and Lok Sabha (Lower house),
- Members of State Legislative Councils,
- Members of State Legislative Assemblies (includes legislative assemblies of three union territories - Jammu and Kashmir, National Capital Territory of Delhi and Puducherry)
- Members of local governance bodies (Municipal bodies and Panchayats),
- By-election is held when a seat-holder of a particular constituent dies, resigns, or is disqualified.

Types of Elections In India



SCIENCE & TECHNOLOGY

ISRO'S AMBITIOUS CHANDRAYAAN-4 MISSION

Er Mayadhar Swain

The Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO) after its historic success with the Chandrayaan-3 mission is already gearing up for the next lunar mission named Chandrayaan-4. In fact India is one of the few countries which

launched in 2023 with a propulsion module, one lander and one rover. The lander Vikram and rover Pragyan successfully soft landed on the surface of the Moon on August 23, 2023 and worked for 14 days (one lunar day). The mission conducted

the aim is to collect rocks and soils from the surface of the

The five components of the Chandrayaan-4 mission will not be launched together. According

challenges to be overcome for the mission. It will be the first time for ISRO to collect and bring back the rock and soil from the Moon to the Earth. Some of the challenges identified by the ISRO are given below.



Chandrayaan – 3 on Moon

has achieved success in lunar exploration. India carried out Chandrayaan-1 mission in 2008 with an orbiter and a probe. In this mission water was detected for the first time in Moon. The second mission Chandrayaan-2 was launched in 2019 with an orbiter, a lander and a rover. After separating from the orbiter, the lander and rover descended on lunar surface, but due to some software problem they crash landed on the lunar surface instead of soft landing. As a result, the lander and the rover did not work, but the orbiter is still working.

The Chandrayaan-3 was

several in-situ scientific experiments on the lunar surface. On August 30, the Laser-Induced Breakdown Spectroscopy instrument onboard 'Pragyan' rover of Chandrayaan-3 'unambiguously confirmed' the presence of sulphur in the lunar surface near south pole. Other elements like Aluminum, Calcium, Iron, Chromium, Titanium, Manganese, Silicon, and Oxygen were also detected.

Chandrayaan – 4

With the success of Chandrayaan-3 ISRO has planned the next lunar mission Chandrayaan-4 and is scheduled to be launched in 2028. This time

Moon and bring them to India so that these can be tested in Indian laboratories.

Speaking at the National Space Science Symposium in the first week of March this year, ISRO chief S Somanath revealed the proposal about the mission.

CHANDRAYAAN - 4 COMPONENTS

While Chandrayaan-3 consisted of three main components - lander, rover and the propulsion module, the Chandrayaan-4 mission will have two more additional components tasked to return the samples from the Moon and drop them on Earth.

The Chandrayaan-4 components will consist of five spacecraft modules. The five modules will be as follows.

* **Propulsion Module:** Similar to Chandrayaan-3, the propulsion module will guide Chandrayaan-4 in lunar orbit, before separating.

* **Descender Module:** This module will make the lunar landing, similar to the Vikram lander on Chandrayaan-3.

* **Ascender Module:** Once the samples are collected and stored, the ascender module will eject from the lander and begin returning to Earth.

* **Transfer Module:** It will be responsible for grabbing the ascender module and getting it out of lunar orbit. It will journey back to Earth before the capsule with the rock and soil samples detach.

* **Re-entry Module:** This will be the capsule carrying the lunar soil that will land on Earth after a return journey from the Moon.

TWO SEPARATE LAUNCHES

The mission will not be launched in a single phase like its predecessor, instead, two separate launches will push vehicles that will not only land on the Moon but also return rocks and soils from the lunar surface to India.

to ISRO Chief, India's heaviest launch vehicle LVM-3 will launch with three components, which will include the Propulsion Module, the Descender Module and the Ascender Module. This will be a similar launch to the Chandrayaan-3 mission in 2023. The Transfer Module and the Re-entry Module will be launched aboard a Polar Satellite Launch Vehicle (PSLV). This will, however, be the first such mission involving two launch vehicles aimed at completing a single mission.

Working of the Mission

The propulsion Module will carry the Descender Module and Ascender Module to the Moon and insert them to the lunar orbit. The Descender Module will detach from the Propulsion Module and land on the lunar surface, carrying a robotic arm and a drill to collect samples. The Ascender Module will also detach from the Propulsion Module and dock with the Descender Module on the surface, transfer the samples to a container. The Ascender Module then lift off from the surface and rendezvous with the Propulsion Module in orbit.

The Transfer Module will carry the Re-entry Module to the Moon and dock with the Propulsion Module in orbit. The Transfer Module will then transfer the sample container from the Ascender Module to the Re-entry Module. The Re-entry Module will separate from the Transfer Module and return to Earth, carrying the samples. The Re-entry Module will enter the Earth's atmosphere and land safely using parachutes.

Challenges

The Chandrayaan-4 mission will be a major milestone for India's space program, as it will demonstrate India's capabilities in various aspects of lunar exploration, such as landing, ascent, docking, transfer, and return. But there are many

1. There is a need for multiple launchers for this mission. The Chandrayaan-3 mission was launched in a single phase. But now there are five modules and these will be launched in two phases by two separate launching vehicles. The mission has to demonstrate return and re-entry to Earth for sample delivery.

2. The team "must have docking capability either on Earth orbit or on the Moon's orbit. Failure in docking mission can make a mission to fail.

3. We must have the robotic capability to operate a drill, select a sample and load it in compartments to keep the samples very safe.

4. One of the objectives of the mission is to demonstrate the transfer of samples from one module to the other. This is a difficult task.

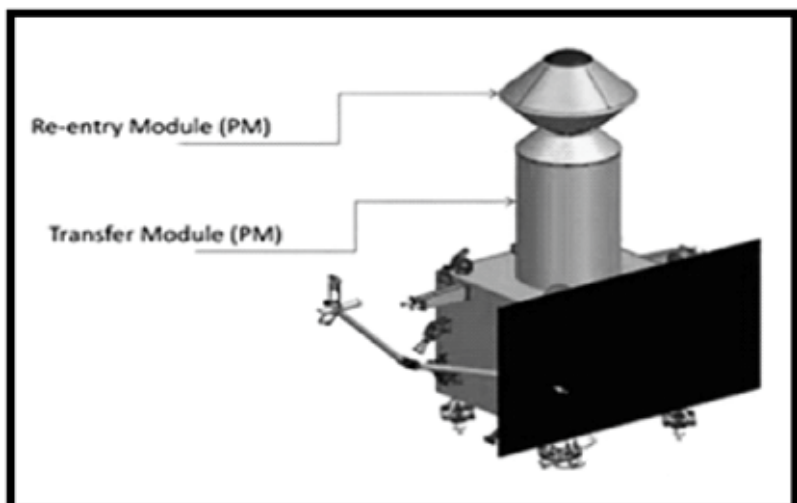
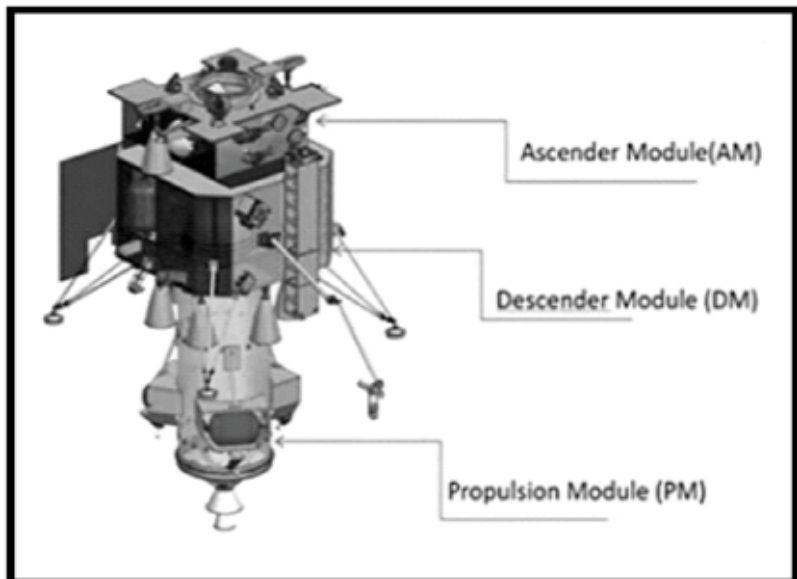
5. There are also challenges on the technical capabilities. ISRO first started with remote sensing and then in-situ observations and experiments were done. The third phase is to bring lunar samples back to Earth for greater laboratory observations and analysis. So there must be greater challenge here.

Conclusion

Chandrayaan-4 aims to build on the accomplishments of the recently concluded Chandrayaan-3 mission while attempting more complex objectives. Only three countries have achieved lunar sample return so far: the United States, the Soviet Union, and China. The successful execution of Chandrayaan-4 would position India as the fourth nation globally to achieve the capability of bringing back samples from the lunar surface. This ambitious venture underlines ISRO's continuous efforts to push the boundaries of space exploration and enhance India's standing in space research and technology. The mission will also contribute to the global efforts of lunar exploration and cooperation, and advance the scientific and technological knowledge of humanity.



ISRO Chairman S Somanath shares details about next Chandrayaan-4



Chandrayaan-4 components. (Photo: ISRO)

Editor, Science Horizon

Plot No. 70, Laxmi Vihar Phase-1

Bhubaneswar – 751018

Phone : 9438693724

IPL 2024

Gavaskar gives fiery message to BCCI

IPL 2024 has been proved to be a batters' paradise. In just 35 matches so far, 15 times has the 200-run mark been breached, five of which went past 250.

In response to the development, former India captain Sunil Gavaskar sent a fiery message to BCCI calling for protection of bowlers. The Little Master gave a fiery message to BCCI on how the bowlers can be protected.

As per the former batting great, the boundary ropes can be pushed a little more back, especially at smaller venues, as

he pointed out the gap between the advertisement board and the fence where the stands begin.

"I wouldn't suggest any changes to a cricket bat because they are all within regulations, but I have been saying this for a long time, increase the size of the boundary at every ground. There is enough space in the stadiums to take it back a little more by a couple of metres. It can often prove to be the difference between a catch and a sixer. You can push that LED or advertisement boards even further so that the boundary

rope can go back by 2-3 metres and that will make a difference. Otherwise, the bowlers are the only ones who will suffer," said Gavaskar.

"What we have been seeing in T20 cricket over the last few days is that this is batting like the coach tells in the nets, 'This is the last round', and everybody starts swinging their bat around bang, bang whether they get out or not. It's enjoyable to a little extent, but after that it gets...not so exciting. I wanted to use a stronger word, but no," the former batting great added.



Dhoni to play IPL 2025 for CSK

Speculation is rife among the fans and experts that 2024 edition of the Indian Premier League (IPL) will be the last IPL for veteran wicketkeeper-batsman MS Dhoni. This kind of speculation has been raised since the last few editions of the mega event. However, the former CSK captain went on to defy the speculations to play for the Yellow Brigade again and again.

In the current edition of the IPL, question mark was raised over

Dhoni's fitness when he was found limping after the match against Mumbai Indians (MI).

While the CSK players were finding moving towards the team bus, Dhoni's former India and CSK teammate Suresh Raina was found assisting the later who was seen limping.

In a video shared by CSK, Raina was seen giving support to Dhoni who was struggling while walking towards the team bus.

However, when Raina was asked about the future of MS Dhoni in the upcoming edition of IPL, Raina asserted that the former CSK captain will play in IPL 2025.

Notably, Dhoni has been grappling with a persistent knee issue since the last edition of IPL. During the tight encounter against MI, Dhoni's left leg was tightly wrapped indicating the severity of his condition.



IPL 2024: Uncapped stars as future prospects

Time and again the cash-rich Indian Premier League (IPL) has helped several talented youngsters to come to the fore. Over the course of time, some of them have been groomed properly and included in the Indian team.

The ongoing edition of IPL is no different. IPL 2024 has been incredible so far. The 17th edition of the mega event has already produced some brilliant games. Moreover, some uncapped players have impressed everyone with their performances in the tournament. Every IPL season produces some new talented players who play for India at the highest level.

There have been a few youngsters who have been incredible with their performances and gathered attention during the ongoing edition of IPL. Let's have a look at those prospects...



Abhishek Sharma

The left handed batter from SRH has impressed all and sundry with his attacking batting in IPL 2024. He has so far garnered 211 runs at a strike rate of 197.19 including a 16-ball fifty. He can bat anywhere in the batting order and bowl quality spin. He can be a utility batting all-rounder for India if groomed properly.

Mayank Yadav

LSG pacer Mayank Yadav has made headlines with his sheer pace and accuracy during IPL 2024. The 21-year-old pacer has clocked a speed of 157 km/h. It is the fastest delivery in the ongoing season. He has already won two man of the matches with his brilliant bowling in the mega event so far. With his ability to bowl quick, the Indian management can work on him. He can be a bright prospect in the pace bowling department across all the formats for Team India.

Riyan Parag

Rajasthan Royals' aggressive batter Riyan Parag overcame severe criticism to come up with flying colours in IPL 2024. He has so far garnered 318 runs in seven innings at an impressive strike rate of 161.42. Parag has proved that he has got a matured head on his shoulder. Parag is reportedly in the reckoning for a spot in the Indian team for the forthcoming T20 World Cup 2024. He can be a useful batting all-rounder for the Indian team if groomed properly.

From Page 03 ("Election" A democratic...)

Parliamentary General Elections (Lok Sabha)

Members of Lok Sabha (House of the People) or the lower house of India's Parliament are elected by being voted upon by all adult citizens of India, who crossed 18 years from a set of candidates who stand in their respective constituencies. Every adult citizen of India can vote only in their constituency. Candidates who win the Lok Sabha elections are called 'Member of Parliament' and hold their seats for five years or until the body is dissolved by the President on the advice of the council of ministers. The house meets in the Lok Sabha Chambers of the Sansad Bhavan in New Delhi, on matters relating to the creation of new laws, removing or improving the existing laws that affect all citizens of India. Elections take place once in 5 years to elect 543 members for the Lok Sabha (Lower house).[4]

State Assembly Elections

Members of State Legislative Assembly, are elected directly by voting, from a set of candidates who stand in their respective constituencies. Every adult citizen of India can vote only in their constituency. Candidates who win the State Legislative Assemblies elections are called 'Member of Legislative Assembly' (MLA) and hold their seats for five years or until the body is dissolved by the Governor. The house meets in the respective state, on matters relating to the creation of new laws, removing or improving the existing laws that affect all citizens living in that state.

The total strength of each assembly depends on each State, mostly based on size and population. Similar to the Lok Sabha elections, the leader of the majority party/alliance takes oath as Chief Minister of the State.

The Election Commission conducts the elections and provides voluntary facility to 80 years plus aged electors to vote through ballot papers at their homes depending upon polling booth accessibility. Elections are taken up enthusiastically by major portion of the population who turn out in high numbers. For example, an 83-year-old woman, Dolma, cast her vote at Chasak Bhatari polling station in Pangri area of Chamba district after covering 14 kilometers walking on a snowy road during 2022 assembly elections in Himachal Pradesh.[9]

Prior to the much awaited Lok Sabha election in 2024, the state assembly elections in Chhattisgarh, Madhya Pradesh, Rajasthan, and Telangana are an important political event. November 7 and November 17 are the scheduled dates for Chhattisgarh's elections, while Madhya Pradesh, Rajasthan, and Telangana will hold their votes on November 17, November 23, and November 30, respectively. The political climate before the national elections is anticipated to be shaped by the outcomes of these elections, which are anticipated to be declared on December 3. Key political players in these states are diverse and competing for domination, such as the Indian National Congress (INC), the Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP), and other regional parties. These states differ in the quantity of assembly seats they have; Chhattisgarh has ninety [10]s

Continued Page 06

T20 WORLD CUP 2024

T20 WC 2024: ICC confirms reserve days for semifinals, final

The International Cricket Council (ICC) has recently confirmed that the ICC Men's T20 World Cup 2024 would have reserve days scheduled for the semifinals and final. The ICC Men's T20 World Cup 2024 will be jointly hosted by the West Indies and the USA from June 1 to 29.

The decision to this effect was taken during the ICC's annual Board meetings in Dubai. The ICC has introduced reserve days for the final of the ICC Men's ODI World Cup 2023 in India after it faced a lot of criticism

over the lack of such a rule in the previous editions.

During the meeting, the ICC also approved the playing conditions for the Men's T20 World Cup 2024 and announced the qualification process for the 2026 edition, which will be co-hosted by India and Sri Lanka.

Furthermore, the ICC has stipulated that a minimum of five overs will need to be bowled to the team batting second to constitute a game in the group stages and the Super Eight stage, the ICC informed in a release after the annual board meeting.

However, for the knockout matches, a minimum of 10 overs

need to be bowled in the second innings to constitute a match.

The ICC Men's T20 World Cup 2026 qualification process was also approved on Friday. The 20-team tournament will be co-hosted by India and Sri Lanka and will have a total of 12 automatic qualifiers.

The top eight teams in the 2024 edition will join India and Sri Lanka as automatic qualifiers, with the remaining spots (between two and four, depending on host finishing positions) will be taken up by the next best-ranked sides in the ICC Men's T20I rankings table as of June 30, 2024.

The remaining eight positions will be filled through the Regional Qualifiers.

Big players who may miss T20 World Cup 2024

Upcoming T20 World Cup 2024 is set to take place in the West Indies and USA in June and July. Formidable teams like England, Australia and India are considered favourites for the marquee event.



While England will be looking to defend their 2022 title, Australia will attempt to become the first-ever team to simultaneously hold all three ICC trophies, after winning the World Test Championship and the World Cup last year. India have not won an ICC event in over 10 years. Hence, the Men in Blue will be desperate to make amends

Now the focus is on the ongoing Indian Premier League (IPL) 2024. Good performances in this tournament could be important criteria for selection. However, several key players across the globe have pulled out of the tournament due to injury issues. Some of them are in danger of missing the T20 World Cup as well.

Let's have a look at some of the big players who may miss the bus for the upcoming T20 World Cup...

Mohammad Shami

Team India's veteran pacer Mohammad Shami will miss the T20 World Cup due to injury issues. Wicketkeeper-batsman Rishabh Pant's selection into the Indian team also depends upon his IPL exploits and fitness issue.

Lungi Ngidi

South African speedster Lungi Ngidi was also ruled out of the IPL 2024 earlier this week. It is still unknown whether he will recover in time to represent South Africa in the mega event this summer.

Harry Brook

England's explosive batter Harry Brook pulled out of the Test series against India. Subsequently, he missed IPL after losing his grandmother. His selection for the England team in the mega event is under scanner.

Jason Behrendorff

Australia's premier T20I player of the year- speedster Jason Behrendorff suffered a fractured fibula while training. Subsequently, he was ruled out of the IPL. His recovery time is at least eight weeks. It means his appearance at the T20 World Cup is in doubt.

From Page 05 ("Election" A democratic...)

By-Election

When an elected candidate to either the State Assembly or Lok Sabha or Rajya Sabha leaves the office vacant before their term ends, a by-election is conducted to find a suitable replacement to fill the vacant position. It is often referred to in India as Bypolls.

Common reasons for by-elections:

- Resignation by the sitting MP or MLA
- Death of the sitting MP or MLA

But other reasons occur when the incumbent becomes ineligible to continue in office (criminal conviction, failure to maintain a minimum level of attendance in the office, due to election irregularities found later, or when a candidate wins more than one seat and has to vacate one).

Rajya Sabha (Upper House) Elections

The Rajya Sabha, also known as the Council of States, is the upper house of India's Parliament. Candidates are not elected directly by the citizens, but by the Members of Legislative Assemblies and up to 13 can be nominated by the President of India for their contributions to art, literature, science, and social services. Members of the Parliament in Rajya Sabha get tenure of six years, with one-third of the body facing re-election every two years. Rajya Sabha acts as a second-level review body before a bill becomes an act.^[12]

The Vice President of India is the ex-officio Chairman of the Rajya Sabha, who presides over its sessions.

The Legislative proposals (making new laws, removing or appending new conditions to the existing law) are brought before either house of the Parliament in the form of a bill. A bill is the draft of a legislative proposal, which, when passed by both houses of Parliament (Lok Sabha and Rajya Sabha) and assented to by the President, becomes an Act of Parliament.

The Constitution of India, however, places some restrictions on the Rajya Sabha which makes the Lok Sabha more powerful in certain areas. For example, it stipulates that Money bills must originate in the Lok Sabha.

Members of Rajya Sabha debate bills sent by the Lok Sabha and can approve, reject or send the bill back to the Lok Sabha for further debate and discussion on the matter, as well as to suggest better changes in the drafted bill. Members of the Rajya Sabha can only make recommendations to the Lok Sabha for money bills within 14 days. If the Rajya Sabha fails to return the money bill in 14 days to the Lok Sabha, that bill is deemed to have passed by both the Houses. Also, if the Lok Sabha rejects any (or all) of the amendments proposed by the Rajya Sabha, the bill is deemed to have been passed by both Houses of Parliament of India in the form in which the Lok Sabha finally passes it.

Electoral procedures

Candidates are required to file their nomination papers with the Electoral Commission. Then, a list of candidates is published. No party is allowed to use government resources for campaigning. No party is allowed to bribe the candidates before elections. The government cannot start a project during the election period. Campaigning ends by 6:00 pm two days before the polling day.

The polling is held between 7:00 am and 6:00 pm. The Collector of each district is in charge of polling. Government employees are employed as poll officers at the polling stations. Electronic Voting Machines (EVM) are being used instead of ballot boxes to prevent election fraud. After the citizen votes, his or her left index finger is marked with indelible ink. This practice was instituted in 1962.

Privacy Shields for Voting Booth used in India.

Continued Page 07



Rohit Sharma to continue after T20 World Cup 2024

Though speculation is rife that Team India captain and veteran batsman Rohit Sharma may retire after the upcoming T20 World Cup 2024, the veteran batsman is in no mood to bid adieu to the game.

In a recent interaction, Rohit revealed that he has no plans to bid adieu to cricket in the next two to three years and wants to win the T20 World Cup badly.

"I really want to win that World Cup. There is also a WTC Final at Lord's in 2025 as well, hopefully,

we make it there in the finals," said Rohit in an episode of Breakfast With Champions.

Well, Rohit's comments indicated that he wants to play the 2027 ODI World Cup which will be hosted jointly by South Africa, Zimbabwe and Namibia.

Rohit is currently playing for Mumbai Indians (MI) in the ongoing edition of the Indian Premier League purely as a batsman. However, the veteran batsman has another major task at hand. He will lead India at the

T20 World Cup 2024 in USA and West Indies. However, for Rohit the 50-over World Cup is ultimate.

"50 Over World Cup is actual World Cup for me. We've grown up watching the 50 Over World Cup," said Rohit.

Notably, Rohit has led MI to five IPL titles. He was made India's all-format captain in 2021 after Virat Kohli decided to step down. Fans are hopeful that under Rohit's captaincy, India will win the forthcoming T20 World Cup 2024.



ENVIRONMENT

Environment in elections: Sea erosion is key election issue in Odisha's Satabhaya

Villagers, opposition criticise state government's failure to address erosion issues in this Kendrapara village.

As the electoral campaign intensifies in Odisha's Kendrapara district, the looming threat of sea erosion has emerged as a pivotal issue. The coastal district is increasingly concerned about rising sea levels and their impact on local communities.

Residents of Kendrapara's coastal villages like Satabhaya have long faced the devastating effects of sea erosion. Many people in these sea erosion-prone areas have suffered significant losses of farmland and houses along the coast. These villagers are determined to send a strong message to the ruling party for failing to resolve their issues.

Dhruv Charan Sahoo, a Biju Janata Dal (BJD) candidate from Rajnagar Assembly, won the constituency in 2019 and is campaigning again this year. But the ruling BJD candidates may struggle to gain support in villages affected by sea erosion, as leaders from the opposition Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) and the Indian National Congress (INC) criticise the state government's failure to address sea erosion issues in the Satabhaya Gram Panchayat within the Rajnagar Assembly seat in Kendrapara.

"Our coast has been experiencing severe sea erosion for over three decades. Displacement and loss of livelihoods, combined with the state government's slipshod attitude towards effectively addressing the issue, are likely to dominate voters' minds in these areas during polling," said Amarbar Biswal, a social worker in Kendrapara.

In 2018, the district administration relocated 571

families from Satabhaya Gram Panchayat to a rehabilitation colony at Bagapatia, 12 kilometres from the sea. At present, 17,049 people from displaced families reside in the rehabilitation colony.

Large areas of Satabhaya have been swallowed by rising sea levels. Once a cluster of seven villages, Satabhaya now only has



a small portion remaining, teetering on the brink of extinction. The Bay of Bengal has claimed the other six villages: Gobindapur, Mohanpur, Chintamanipur, Badagahramatha, Kanhupur, and Kharikula.

But many families are still in Satabhaya as the sea inches closer. "The officials have yet to relocate us. We are dangerously close to the encroaching sea," said 62-year-old Maheswar Behera.

Swadhin Mallick just went through one of the toughest years he has ever faced. The 64-year-

old fisherman from Satabhaya, is one of the people who have not relocated yet and was forced to relocate after the encroaching waves swallowed his ten-year-old thatched house three months ago.

Ranjit Mallick, also 64, has long witnessed the effects of sea erosion. Five years ago, for the third time, he, like many others,

families in the Satabhaya and Magarkandha areas have been spending sleepless nights as the sea continues to threaten their homes. This situation is exacerbated by the government's sluggish progress in relocating them to the Bagapatia rehabilitation site.

"The state government is playing with our lives by not relocating us to Bagapatia," said Prasana Kumar Parida, the Sarpanch (village head) of Satabhaya Gram Panchayat.

"Three decades ago, the sea was far away. Now it's just a few yards away, and we fear for our children's safety. We've lost our farmland, and over a thousand people have already lost their homes to the rising sea in the past 30 years. We all want to leave, but where can we go? We don't have the money to move," said Malay Mallick (56) from Satabhaya village.

But troubles for those who were relocated have not ended either. Villagers who were shifted to Bagapatia reported a lack of livelihood options.

"We used to catch fish and crab in the rivers and creeks and collect honey from the mangrove forest in Satabhaya. But when the government relocated us to Bagapatia, we lost our livelihoods," said Sudarshan Rout.

Displacement caused by sea erosion is forcing hundreds of people to migrate to places like Gujarat, Kerala, Mumbai, Delhi, and other major cities in search of work, said Bijaya Behera (34) from Satabhaya. "We've pleaded with the government multiple times to provide us with agricultural land in Bagapatia, but the authorities have ignored our appeals. That's why we won't vote for the ruling party, BJD, in

the upcoming elections," the villager said.

However, some villagers are hopeful that their situation will turn around soon. "Last year, the government allocated Rs 22 crore for our rehabilitation, so we hope the district administration will soon provide us with land and assistance to build houses in Bagapatia," said Fakir Behera (54) of Satabhaya.

But most villagers don't share Behera's optimism.

"We have repeatedly demanded that the district administration rehabilitate all the remaining villagers from Satabhaya. However, the officials have only paid lip service," said Dharanidhar Rout, the convener of the Satabhaya Citizen Forum.

Sahoo, the member of the legislative assembly for Rajnagar, said he was confident of people's support for BJD. "The government has provided displaced people with houses under the Biju Pucca Ghar Yojana, and built a high school and a nodal upper primary school in Bagapatia rehabilitation colony. The district administration has also constructed 19 roads, a multipurpose cyclone centre, four Anganwadi centres, and a market complex with 14 shops. They have dug 32 tube wells and built two cremation grounds, a community centre, a village library and a Mission Shakti building," he said.

In 2023, the state government granted Rs 22 crore for the development of Bagapatia and the rehabilitation of villagers. All remaining villagers from Satabhaya will be relocated within this year, and that's why people will vote for BJD, claimed Sahoo.

From Page 06 ("Election" A democratic...)

Vote from home

The Election Commission of India has granted permission for individuals aged 80 and above and those with physical challenges to cast their votes from the comfort of their homes using ballot papers.[13] To avail of this facility, eligible individuals must register with the designated booth-level officer at least 10 days prior to the election date. The necessary Form 12-D for facilitating the postal ballot has been submitted well in advance. A dedicated team of five officers, including a polling officer, micro observer, police officer, and photographer, will visit their residences to ensure a smooth and transparent polling process. The entire polling procedure will be documented through photographs and videos. While the option to vote from home is voluntary, the decision cannot be reversed later once an elector chooses this method. Election officials in Bhopal, India, are actively reaching out to the residences of super senior citizens (aged above 80 years) and voters with disabilities to provide assistance in submitting their votes through postal ballots for 2023 Madhya Pradesh Legislative Assembly elections.[14]

In the 2024 lok sabha elections, ECI extended the "vote-from-home" option to people aged 85 years and above, and to Persons with Disabilities (PwD), for the first time in the history of the Lok

Sabha elections. The goal of this move is to improve participation and accessibility in the electoral process.[15][16]

A senior citizen above 80 is casting her vote from home in Bhopal

Indelible ink

Ink used in Indian election sink bottle pledge

Research into indelible ink was commenced by the Council of Scientific and Industrial Research (CSIR). In the 1950s, M. L. Goel worked on this research at the Chemical Division of the National Physical Laboratory of India. The ink used contains silver nitrate, which makes it photo-sensitive. It is stored in amber-colored plastic or brown-colored glass bottles. On application, the ink remains on the fingernail for at least two days. It may last up to a month, depending on the person's body temperature and the environment.

Electronic voting

Voting machine

BHAVIK (EVM) was first used in the 1997 election and became the only method of voting in 2004. The EVMs save time in reporting results. A voter-verified paper audit trail (VVPAT) was introduced on 14 August 2014 in Nagaland.[17] In the 2014 general election, VVPAT was operational in 8 constituencies (Lucknow, Gandhinagar, Bangalore South, Chennai Central, Jadavpur, Raipur, Patna Sahib and Mizoram) as a pilot project. A slip generated by the VVPAT tells a voter to

which party or candidate their vote has been given, their name, their constituency and their polling booth.

Opposition parties demanded that VVPAT be made mandatory all over India due to allegations against the government of hacking the EVM. Accordingly, Voter-verified paper audit trail (VVPAT) and EVMs were used in every assembly and the general election in India since 2019.[25][26] On 9 April 2019, Supreme Court of India gave the judgement, ordering the Election Commission of India to increase the VVPAT slips vote count to five randomly selected EVMs per assembly constituency, which means the Election Commission of India has to count VVPAT slips of 20,625 EVMs in the 2019 General elections. VVPAT enables voters to cross-check whether the vote they have given goes to their desired candidate as the VVPAT unit produces a paper slip, additionally called a ballot slip, that contains the name, serial number, and image of the candidate selected by the voter for his vote. Post the 2019 general election, ECI declared that no mismatches between EVM and VVPAT.

NOTA

Further information: None of the above in Indian Elections

On 27 September 2013, the Supreme Court of India judged that citizens have the right to cast a negative vote by exercising the "None of the above" (NOTA) option. This was the result of petitioning by the Electoral Commission

and the People's Union for Civil Liberties in 2009. In November 2013, NOTA was introduced in five state elections. Even if the number of electors opting for NOTA option is more than the number of votes polled by any of the candidates, the candidate who secures the largest number of votes has to be declared elected.

Absentee voting

India does not provide general absentee voting. On 24 November 2010, the Representation of the People (Amendment) Bill 2010 was gazetted to give voting rights to non-resident Indians but a physical presence at the voting booth is still required.

Postal voting

Postal voting in India is done only through the "Electronically Transmitted Postal Ballot Papers (ETPB)" system of Election Commission of India, where ballot papers are distributed to the registered eligible voters and they return the votes by post. When the counting of votes commences, these postal votes are counted before those from the Electronic Voting Machines. Only certain categories of people are eligible to register as postal voters. People working in the Union armed forces and state police as well as their spouses, and employees working for the Government of India who are officially posted abroad can register for the postal vote; these are also called the "Service voters". Additionally, people in preventive detention, disabled and those above the age of 80 years old can use postal vote.

Electoral Reforms in India

It is generally accepted that while the first three general elections were held in a free and fair manner, a plummeting of standards started during the fourth general elections in 1967. Many consider the electoral system in the country as the basis of political corruption. In the next sections, we will talk about the challenges in this regard, and some of the previous attempts at electoral reform.

Issues in Electoral Politics in India

There are multiple issues plaguing the electoral process in India. Some of the most prominent ones are mentioned below.

Money Power

In every constituency, candidates have to spend crores of rupees for campaigning, publicity, etc. Most candidates far exceed the permissible limit of expenses.

Muscle Power

In certain parts of the country, there are widespread reports of illegal and untoward incidents during polling such as the use of violence, intimidation, booth capturing, etc.

Criminalisation of Politics and Politicization of Criminals

Criminals enter into politics and ensure that money and muscle power wins them elections, so that the cases against them are not proceeded with. Political parties are also happy as long as they have winnable candidates. Political parties field criminals in elections for funds and in return provide them with political patronage and protection.

Continued Page 10

SPECIAL STORIES

AIIMS Bhubaneswar transplants Urinary Sphincter

After carrying out the complicated surgery of an intestine of a premature newborn baby successfully a few days back, AIIMS Bhubaneswar has added another feather to its cap in the field of advanced health care.

The trusted tertiary care national health institution has recently implanted Artificial Urinary Sphincters (AUS) in a person's body successfully. The cutting-edge service is considered as a significant advancement in urological care.

The Urology Department of AIIMS Bhubaneswar conducted the complicated and advanced surgery successfully. The modern surgery is first of its kind

implantation in Odisha. Earlier, this implantation was only available in the metro cities of our country.

The AUS program at AIIMS Bhubaneswar was led by a team of highly skilled urologists and surgeons, trained in the latest techniques and using state-of-the-art technology.

The Artificial Urinary Sphincter (AUS) implantation procedure is recognized as a gold standard treatment for urinary incontinence that has not responded to conventional treatment modalities. This service is particularly tailored for patients who have experienced urinary incontinence due to

prostate surgery, spinal cord injuries, or other underlying conditions that affect urinary control.

Congratulating the team of doctors for the successful implantation, Executive Director of Bhubaneswar AIIMS Dr. Ashutosh Biswas said, "The Department of Urology at AIIMS Bhubaneswar has consistently been providing world class care which is at the forefront of technology and innovation. With the introduction of the services of Artificial Urinary Sphincter implantation here, the people of Odisha and Eastern India will have access to this service, for which they had been travelling to centres in other states."



First ever liver transplant surgery in Odisha

History was created at the SCB Medical College and Hospital (SCB MCH) in Cuttack when the liver of a woman was recently transplanted on her husband. It was the first instance of liver transplantation in Odisha.

As per reports, a woman from Tigiria area in Cuttack district donated her liver and it was transplanted on her husband. The operation was carried out by a nine-member team of doctors from Asian Institute of Gastroenterology (AIG), Hyderabad and SCB. The eight-hour long operation continued from 8 am till 4 pm.

The advance treatment was carried out at the special modular operation theatre at the trauma building on the hospital premises.

As per SCB Superintendent Dr Sudhansu Sekhar Mishra, the condition of the patient is stable.

"Liver transplantation is the most difficult transplantation. It is even more complicated than heart and kidney transplantation. Two third part of the liver from the donor was transplanted on the recipient during the complicated operation. The liver of the recipient was extracted as it has been completely damaged. After

the operation, the donor will now function with one third of its liver. The liver will grow again and come back to the normal shape after four to five months," said Mishra.

Notably, an MOU has been signed between AIG, Hyderabad and SCB for the liver transplantation process.

Generally, liver transplant costs anything between Rs 25 lakh and Rs 30 lakh in corporate hospitals across India. However, in a good news to the people of Odisha, the State government is planning to make it affordable at SCB MCH.



Transgender's noble act to protect birds and animals from sizzling heat

With the mercury level soaring continuously, residents in several parts of Odisha are grappling with a severe drinking water crisis. Apart from human beings, innocent animals and birds are also suffering due to acute shortage of drinking water. As various water bodies have dried up, the animals and birds have become helpless while searching for water.

Under the circumstances, social worker Chinmayee Das along with her associates from Angul is going out of her way to provide food and water to hungry and thirsty birds and animals. She is roaming in forests and hills to make available drinking water facilities for the hapless wild animals and birds.

As per reports, Chinmayee, who is a transgender, is moving around in dense forests and hills with some earthen pots, food, drinking water



and a ladder in this sizzling heat. She is even climbing trees to provide water for birds. She is keeping water in earthen pots in the hollows of some trees and hanging water-filled bowls and containers in some other trees.

According to Chinmayee, as animals and birds are not able to express their sufferings, human beings need to be sensitive enough to help them beat the severe heatwave conditions by providing water and food. Apart from providing drinking water, Chinmayee is also providing food to the animals and birds.

"Despite many precautions, we human beings are unable to bear the scorching heat. Think about the conditions of speechless birds and



animals. They are not able to express their sufferings. Hence we have been providing them drinking water in innovative ways for the last few years. We have also been urging people to take small steps in this direction. The response we are getting is really encouraging and motivating," said Chinmayee.

"We are climbing trees in dense forests and hills with the help of ladders and placing water pots in these trees. We are doing it at regular intervals to help animals quench their thirst," said Chinmayee's associate Niharika Nayak.

However, Chinmayee's effort in this direction is not new. She has been doing this for the last many years. Inspired by Chinmayee's kind act, some employees of the Forest Department, volunteers of various social organisations and local residents have joined hands with Chinmayee in her noble deed.

Local residents and various social organisations have heaped praise on Chinmayee for her selfless service towards the birds and animals.

"Chinmayee's innovative effort to provide food and water to the birds and animals in the prevailing heatwave situation is really praiseworthy. The administration should come forward to encourage her to carry out her noble act," said Ramani Ranjan Dash, a social worker.

DIGITAL TECHNOLOGY

Odisha Bridging Digital Divide and Transforming Ease of Living

Pradeep Kumar Panda, Economist, Bhubaneswar

Odisha is on the cusp of a data and correspondence innovation insurgency. The state stresses most extreme significance to the reception of innovation to affect a large number of resident's lives. In arrangement with the 5T philosophy of good governance (Teamwork, Technology, Transparency, Time, Transformation), the state is good to go to understand the vision of a true digital economy. The state has seen change in all sphere of life and these measures are transforming ease of living of millions of Odia. Odisha stands apart as an express that guzzles innovation as a lifestyle in

that various applications can utilize this framework irrespective of their level of automation such as whether the service delivery methodology is fully automated / partially automated / offline. It is envisaged to integrate more than 200 G2C services in OdishaOne portal.

Key Digital Transformation Projects

The state has adopted several digital transformation projects.

Mo Sarkar, laid in 2019, is a first of its sort drive - broadly and globally -

workplaces of Odisha, enveloping roughly 15,000 clients and bringing about brief navigation at all levels. The quantity of clients were around 1,300 of every 2013 and roughly 7,000 out of 2020. State HQ, Directorates, and Locale HQs have been associated through OSWAN. VC office has likewise been made accessible as far as possible from State level to Impede level.

Optical Fibre Connectivity has been provided to all Gram Panchayats, thereby ensuring a digitally connected and digital ready population.

One more major successful initiatives is **Government of Odisha - Single Window for Investor Facilitation and Tracking (GoSWIFT)** launched in December 2019, which is a one stop financial backer help entryway for simplicity of carrying on with work in Odisha. It mechanizes significant clearances, grants and endorsements expected for foundation and development of enterprises in Odisha. Student Academic Management System, sent off in 2009, is likewise a bound together, normal stage for confirmations and understudy lifecycle the executives for advanced education (moderate and degree schools) across numerous streams and universities in Odisha.

An exceptional scheme started in 2012 by the state to recognize veritable ranchers (particularly small & marginal land holders and tenant farmers) and obtain paddy at least help cost straightforwardly from makers (dispensing with mediators) is Paddy Procurement Automation System. Here the rancher vaults are coordinated with land records information base (Bhulekh launched by the Revenue and Disaster Management Department).

Being plentiful in mines and minerals the Government of Odisha designed Integrated Mines & Minerals Management System (I3MS) which is a model single window ICT stage carried out by Odisha that associates all partners of the significant mines and minerals biological system. Since its launch in 2014, this framework has improved income assortment, revived leeway and license processes and stopped spillages across the mining value chain.

State Occupant Information base Center point is a Coordination of administrations with the Aadhaar stage (UIDAI) for verification of recipients for different govt. plans. On a normal, 614 administrations (of different divisions) under 5T system have been made on the web. The State has commanded all divisions to make distinguished administrations online by 2nd October, 2020.

Leveraging information technology for promoting and implementing innovations in the space of public service delivery

Public service delivery requests legislatures to have a sound comprehension of residents' assumptions, encounters and drivers of fulfillment. All the more critically, a consequence of a strategy structure places residents at the core of administration and accords most extreme significance to their criticism for expanding productivity in help conveyance. In this setting, one of the most milestone tech based advancements for changing public help conveyance in Odisha has been the execution of the Mo Sarkar

stage. This arrangement (counting progressed contact communities, client relationship and guest the executives consoles) is utilized to gather resident criticism on the exhibition of government plans and impressive skill of authorities at government workplaces. High level information representation and investigation on the information accumulated is utilized for creating scores for examination of divisions and recognizing areas of administration improvement.

Odisha has been very dynamic in utilizing use instances of arising advances to drive developments in broad daylight administration conveyance. A couple of critical models are:

- Use of Block chain in Paddy Procurement Automation System: This makes the procurement transaction records tamper proof and hence assures the farmer & millers of the correct price for their output.
- Use of Predictive Analytics in CoVID Management: This gives indicators to the government on the infection trends & the risk spread so as to effectively plan for infrastructure augmentation (testing kits, isolation beds, critical care equipment such as ventilators)
- Use of Drones in Mining Compliances: A POC on the usage of drones to check mining compliances - such as lease area boundaries, active mining area vs forest area - has been conducted in Odisha
- Use of Biometrics for Verification: Iris recognition has been actively used for authenticating ration beneficiaries at fair price shops and facial recognition has been used for regulating visitor entry at Odisha Secretariat.
- Use of Digital Experience Management stack in Odisha Tourism: Advanced content management, analytics and targeting tools have been used for providing an immersive

watchmen can progressively adjust to virtual learning. Thus, teachers have been deputed to go from one town to another to convey guidelines to understudies. Right around 5 lakh SC/ST understudies concentrating on in government schools are supposed to be helped under this program.

Technological Innovation During Covid-19 Pandemic

As the transmission elements of CoVID19 unfurled worldwide, the Public authority of Odisha rushed to distinguish that a tempest was coming and that we must be ready. It had the prescience to use innovation for intently observing suspect CoVID19 suspect transporters, authorizing social separating and expanding foundation limit on testing and clinical treatment to manage the emergency. Rich datasets organized around client ventures and caught through different ICT devices carried out have demonstrated basic for proof based approach making in Odisha. Control over the large scale and miniature level granularity of information has empowered chiefs to conjecture and plan actually for the times to come. What's more, last yet not the least, innovation has empowered the public authority to lay out straightforward correspondence channels with its residents to keep them protected and guaranteed in such unsure times. Single brought together entry (covid19.odisha.gov.in) that catches datasets (utilized by various divisions like Home, Health & Family Welfare, Labour, Panchayati Raj, Transport) and presents a solitary form of truth.

Future Technological Innovation Projects

Government of Odisha has taken a number of initiatives to make the state an Innovation & Start up Hub 2025.

- Establishment of 8 STPIs (highest in among all Indian states)
- Collaboration with STPI for establishment of Centers of Excellence (CoEs) in niche technology where the Product



cutting edge administration.

According to the 5T principle of governance laid out by Hon'ble CM, the state is spearheading the utilization of tech for carefully changing business processes and further developing productivity openly administration conveyance to residents. These means worked with stream of data, worked with great administration, empowered groundbreaking public help conveyance, gave mechanical help to guarantee bound together and decentralized administration, and worked with advancement of all areas in the state. Mechanical mediations are empowering groundbreaking public assistance conveyance and bound together and decentralized administration in the state. These digital transformations are being well accepted by 4.5 crore Odia and well appreciated by one and all.

The state emphasizes utmost importance to the adoption of technology to impact millions of citizen's lives. In alignment with the 5T principles of good governance (Teamwork, Technology, Transparency, Time, Transformation), the State is all set to realize the vision of a digital democracy. Since the year 2000, the state has undertaken series of transformational measures to bridge digital divide and transform ease of living of millions of citizens.

OdishaOne: Single portal for all services

OdishaOne, an unified Integrated Service Delivery portal developed, is a comprehensive and transformative effort by the state Government to better integrate Government-to-Citizen (G2C) services and improve quality of service delivery with enriched citizen experience. An unified & integrated portal helps to achieve a transparent and responsive governance for all, through a fully automated, streamlined self and assisted mode service delivery (through Mo Seba Kendra Centres) capabilities. The portal is a front-end interface for all e-Governance Applications of various Departments. The OdishaOne portal framework is designed in such a way

which includes the public authority taking suo moto criticism from residents on conduct of government functionaries. This plan has made residents an immediate partner in administration and furthermore prompted different disciplinary activities against defaulting authorities by various offices. Calls for resident criticism are produced using all degrees of government, going from the Chief Minister Office to department officials and collectors.

Through the Jan Sunani (Public Grievance Redressal) portal launched in 2021, residents are presently effectively ready to enroll their complaints through various channels: site chatbot, versatile application, WhatsApp chatbot, actual visit, and letter through post.

The Student Academic Management System (SAMS) empowers online affirmation in all state schools, including junior, professional, and sports universities. Just a single normal application should be filled while applying to any school and the whole interaction has been made consistent and understudy well disposed. Covering 2100 universities in 2012-13, it has developed quickly to cover more than 4400 schools in 2021-22. These changes have made Odisha's residents computerized prepared who access well being administrations through a brilliant card and apply to universities through a concentrated internet based confirmation framework.

Mo Seba Kendras have brought taxpayer driven organizations at the doorsteps of residents and given a road of big business to country youth and WSHGs under Mission Shakti. In excess of 6,900 MSKs have proactively been set up, and this number will ascend to 8,000+ in close term.

The drives of the division have additionally brought more noteworthy efficiency and effectiveness into government working. The inclusion of Odisha State Workflow Automation System (OSWAS) has been stretched out across all divisions in secretariat, all directorates/HoDs, all area collectorates, and DG and SP



experience to website visitors and converting them to tourist footfalls.

Odisha has likewise shown excellent strength in adjusting to the intricacies presented by the pandemic. Furthermore, in this, innovation has been an extraordinary empowering agent. As a case, in this period, all courses of government schools have been brought on the web. Cross breed model of learning has been embraced to guarantee that educators, understudies and

Startups will be encouraged to develop solutions for Smart Cities, Healthcare, agriculture, e-learning, transport, fin-tech. This can fuel innovation & product development to address social challenges in the state.

- Collaboration with STPI to establish Electropreneur Park Bhubaneswar. This shall create a holistic eco-system and encourage R&D, Innovation, and Entrepreneurship in the field of IT & ESDM.

Continued Page 16

WOMEN

State of Maternal Health in India

Pradeep Kumar Panda, Economist, Bhubaneswar

Despite improvements and a multitude of health care initiatives over the years, India continues to grapple with high maternal mortality, limited access to healthcare, nutrition disparities, and mental health concerns. The challenge

and within states. Poor women in many of the high-focus states have been left behind. The high inequality in the use of antenatal care services across high-focus states is of serious concern.



Despite recent improvements in the maternal health scenario in rural Assam and interventions made by the state, it remains one of the states with the highest number of maternal deaths in the country. She attributes this trend to several factors. Factors of patriarchy affecting reproductive health decisions

becomes further compounded when we consider the intersectionalities such as caste or economic status, among others.

India has fourth lowest health budget in the world. Furthermore, the alarming increase in unnecessary c-section deliveries, commercialisation of medical services, lack of timely detection of complications, inadequate training facilities, barriers to maternal education and a lack of awareness of existing government initiatives, all pose concerns for both maternal and infant health.

India continues to face the serious health issue of a high maternal mortality rate, compounded by persistent disparities in maternal healthcare service utilisation and maternal health outcomes across different states. Although the utilisation of Maternal, Newborn, and Child Health (MNCH) services has increased between 2006 and 2016, it still varies widely across states, with considerable inequality persistent between

have not been rightfully addressed and visible incongruences between the knowledge of the people and the services provided by the government machinery remain. These impediments will continue, as long as we continue to narrowly view reproductive health as a mere "pathological challenge."

Maternal nutrition plays an intricate role in women's well-being and has far-reaching implications for child development. Budget allocations for nutrition did not meet needs; the deficit created a backlog of requirements; health facilities functioned sub-optimally; and service delivery was poor. Further, a vicious cycle of understaffing and shortage of infrastructure has led to underutilisation of even the limited resources available and, in turn, to fund allocation for the scheme in subsequent financial years.

Tribal women also tend to fare worse in most of the nutritional

indicators. Large-scale surveys and routine monitoring are currently deficient in measuring the nutrition status of women, especially tribal women. The nutrition status of adolescent girls and women is largely worse in tribal regions compared to non-tribal regions in the study states, with the exception of Odisha. The reach of essential nutrition services is lowest in Jharkhand amongst the three study states. Universal schemes like ICDS and Janani Suraksha Yojana have not reached women from all social groups equitably.

In a similar vein, improving access to nutritionally rich foods, biofortification, and a better public distribution system can help improve maternal nutrition outcomes. An overhaul of the preexisting network of agriculture and cooperatives is



required, that deeply integrates women into its fold. Accelerating undernutrition reduction in India requires realigning agriculture and rural development policy to empower women in agriculture. Improved maternal nutrition has been shown to have positive intergenerational effects as well.

Those individuals who face more than one vulnerability may be more disadvantaged than those who face a single vulnerability.

For example, women from poorer households are more likely to experience adverse health outcomes than those from wealthier households. If those poor women also lack education or if they are from otherwise socially disadvantaged groups, their burden increases.

In case of maternal and reproductive health domain, there is an emerging concern regarding early age at menopause, and the rise in hysterectomies among Indian women. Thus, a common opinion evolving in such a circumstance should ideally collect information on menopausal management rather than a larger module devoted to HIV/AIDS prevalence.

Caste hierarchies in hospitals, which in turn impact infection control and maternal health. Deep caste prejudice against cleaners, who continue to come from marginalised Dalit communities, prevents the professionalisation of their work. This, in turn, leads to a lack of hygiene as casteist notions of what is clean and unclean influence the way that infection is understood and infection control is implemented.

Further, in India, even though there has been a remarkable surge in institutional births, this has been accompanied by a disturbing increase in caesarean section deliveries. The results expose a concerning prevalence of c-section deliveries in the town, with a significant portion performed without medical indications, leading to adverse effects on women's health. The government should ensure that c-sections are not carried out for non-medical reasons. This will lead to improved maternal and child health outcomes, empowerment of women, and reduction of expenditure on health. Thus, urgent policy interventions are necessary to monitor and regulate c-section

deliveries across the country.

Post-partum depression is emerging as a growing health concern in India, affecting the lives of women residing in both



rural as well urban areas. Evidence shows that sociocultural determinants, particularly relating to women's position within families and society, influence the development of PPD beyond hormonal and psychological factors. To them, interventions and policies concerning women's maternal health and mental well-being must recognize the significance of these determinants and develop targeted measures that address the underlying structural factors.

Thus, as these examples across India illustrate, better dissemination of holistic knowledge frameworks surrounding can help fill information gaps, enable mothers to make informed choices, and foster equitable outcomes. Further, there is a pressing need to establish comprehensive programmes for women's health that adopt an intersectoral approach to effectively address issues related to the development of PPD. Overall, the challenges that persist in improving the state of maternal care in India require that we employ a multidimensional approach.

From Page 07 ("Election" A democratic...)

Misuse of Government Machinery

There is a general opinion that the party in power uses government machinery such as using government vehicles for canvassing, advertisements at the cost of the exchequer, disbursements out of the discretionary funds at the disposal of the ministers, and other such means to improve the chances of their candidates winning.

Non-serious Independent candidates Serious candidates float non-serious candidates in elections to cut a good portion of the votes that would otherwise have gone to rival candidates.

Casteism

There are cases of certain caste groups lending strong support to particular political parties. Thus, political parties make offers to win over different caste groups, and caste groups also try to pressurize parties to offer tickets for their members' elections. Voting on caste lines is prevalent in the country and this is a serious blotch on democracy and equality. This also creates rifts in the country.

Communalism

Communal polarization poses a serious threat to the Indian political ethos of

pluralism, parliamentarianism, secularism and federalism. Read more about Communalism in the linked article.

Lack of Moral Values in Politics

The political corruption in India has led to politics becoming a business. People enter the political arena for making money and retaining their money and power. There are very few leaders who enter politics to make a difference in the lives of their people. The Gandhian values of service and sacrifice are missing from the Indian political scene.

Electoral Reforms Undertaken Electoral reforms undertaken by authorities can be broadly divided into two categories: pre-2000 and post-2000. Both of these are discussed in the section below:

Electoral Reforms

1. Lowering of Voting Age: The 61st Amendment Act to the Constitution reduced the minimum age for voting from 21 to 18 years. (Read about important amendments in the Indian Constitution, in the linked article.)
2. Deputation to Election Commission: All personnel working in preparing, revising and correcting the electoral rolls for

elections shall be considered to be on deputation to the EC for the period of such employment, and they shall be superintended by the EC.

3. Increase in the number of proposers and the security deposit: The number of electors required signing as proposers in the nomination papers for elections to the Rajya Sabha and the State Legislative Councils has been raised to 10% of the electors of the constituency or ten such electors, whichever is less chiefly to prevent frivolous candidates. The security deposit has also been hiked to prevent non-serious candidates.

4. Electronic Voting Machine (EVMs): First introduced in 1998 during the state elections of Delhi, Madhya Pradesh and Rajasthan, EVMs are used widely now as they are fool-proof, efficient and a better option in terms of the environment.

5. Disqualification on conviction for violating the National Honours Act, 1971: This shall lead to disqualification of the person for 6 years from contesting to the Parliament and the state legislatures.

6. Restriction on contesting from more than 2 constituencies: A candidate cannot contest from more than 2 constituencies.

7. Death of a contesting candidate: Previously, the election was countermanded on the death of a contesting candidate. In the future, no election will be countermanded on the death of a contesting candidate. If the deceased candidate, however, was set up by a recognized national or state party, then the party concerned will be given an option to nominate another candidate within 7 days of the issue of a notice to that effect to the party concerned by the Election Commission.

8. It is prohibited by law to go to or near a polling booth bearing arms. This is punishable by imprisonment for up to 2 years.

9. On poll days, employees of organisations get a paid holiday and violation of this is punishable by a fine.

10. Prohibition on sale of liquor: No liquor or other intoxicants shall be sold or given or distributed at any shop, eating place, or any other place, whether private or public, within a polling area during the

period of 48 hours ending with the hour fixed for the conclusion of poll.

11. Time limit for bye-elections: Bye-elections to any House of Parliament or a State Legislature will now be held within six months of the occurrence of the vacancy in that House. (Read about Parliament & State Legislature in the linked article.)
12. The period of campaigning has been reduced.

A true celebration of Democracy and the practises which make it a crucial part of the existence of various countries, the festival aimed at taking the legislative practises to the people, making them familiar about various parts of the democratic processes which are generally never discussed or never given attention to. The cooperation of the state governments on both the occasions proved to be the decisive factor behind the successful conduction of this highly ambitious event. The youth realised the importance of politics as a sphere which can touch lives, motivate its seekers and promote the desire in the hearts of the people to not neglect but to strive towards making their contribution to our democracy.

INSPIRING TALES

Ashwin's Fear

Ravichandran Ashwin is known as one of the greatest spinners that India has ever produced. Batters across the globe often face the champion off-spinner in awe. However, former India explosive opener Virender Sehwag often treats Ashwin in disdain during Indian Premier League and other domestic tournaments.

During an interaction, Ashwin had once recalled that that Sehwag had a 'demoralising' effect on him. The off-spinner recalled about an incident when he was bowling to Sehwag and the later was smashing him all over the park.

“There was an incident in Dambulla, where every ball that I bowled, Sehwag smashed those. The first ball I bowled outside off stump, Sehwag cut me. Next ball I bowled on off stump, he cut me.



Next ball I bowled on middle stump, he cut me. The next ball I bowl on leg stump, he again cut me. So I said 'what the hell is happening'. So I just bowled a ball fuller, Sehwag stepped out

and slugged me out for a six,” said Ashwin during the interaction.

“So I said to myself either I am just not good enough or this guy is just way too good ... which he was. But to the greater Sachin Tendulkar also, I didn't struggle with bowling so much in the nets too. I was very inquisitive. I observed this for a few days,” he added.

Subsequently, when Ashwin asked the former Indian batting great how it is that he can improve himself, he got a very typical Sehwag answer.

“You know what, I don't think off-spinners are bowlers. They do not trouble me at all. I just find it easy smashing them,” said Sehwag in a nonchalant manner which stunned Ashwin.



Incredible Cricketing Act

As per a popular adage- age is just a number. Eighty three year old former Scottish cricketer Alex Steele has proved the adage right again. Now-a-days, Alex plays with an Oxygen cylinder on his back.

A video of the incident has taken several social media platforms by storm. Several cricket crazy fans across the globe are stunned over the incident. In the video, Alex can be seen performing wicketkeeping duties with an Oxygen cylinder on his back.

It's really incredible that even at the age of 83, Alex's reflexes have not slowed down much. In

the video, he is found standing up to the stumps to a right-arm medium pacer and collecting wides down the leg side without breaking much sweat. Anticipating that the ball was drifting down the leg side, Alex made a swift move towards his left and safely gloved the delivery to make sure that his side didn't concede any unwanted extras.

Notably, Alex is a former first-class wicketkeeper-batter from Scotland. He made his debut back in 1967. He played 14 first-class games during his career and garnered 621 runs at an average

of 24.84. He had two memorable outings with his bat as he scored two fifties, with an individual best of 97.

As a wicketkeeper, Alex grabbed 11 catches and affected two stumpings. His first-class career spanned close to 13 years and came to a halt in 1980.

Alex's love and passion for the game is endless. It is evident by taking into consideration that the 83-year-old has been suffering from idiopathic pulmonary fibrosis, a terminal respiratory disease. However, his love for the game doesn't seem to die down anytime soon due to the old age and disease.



Armless Wonder Archer

Competing with able-bodied archers was part of her growing up. The 2023 Hangzhou Para Asian Games gold medallist Sheetal Devi was at it again as the wonder armless archer narrowly missed a top of the podium finish at the Khelo India NTPC national ranking meet for women at the DDA Yamuna Sports Complex, Surajmal Vihar in New Delhi recently.

A strong medal contender at the Paris Paralympics in August this year, Sheetal finished behind Haryana's Ekta Rani in the final shoot off in



the sub-junior girls' section. The teenager lost 138-140 but not before giving Ekta, a world youth champion, a mighty scare.

“This result will help me more going ahead in the international platforms and the Olympics,” said Jammu girl Sheetal.

Her personal coach Abhilasha said, “Taking part in the national ranking tournament, alongside able-bodied competitors, is giving training and competition exposure which is much-needed prior to the Olympics.”

“We have to go abroad for exposure but we are getting the same experience here itself. Domestic-level tournaments like these are helping the cause. This is helping Sheetal's Olympic preparation,” she added.

For Ekta, it was a challenging experience for sure. A gold medallist at the Archery Youth World Championships 2023 in Ireland, Ekta said,



“I have faced-off with Sheetal previously so I had the match experience against her. We faced off in Patiala last December as well. It feels good to play against her because she is an armless archer and it gives a lot of motivation as well.

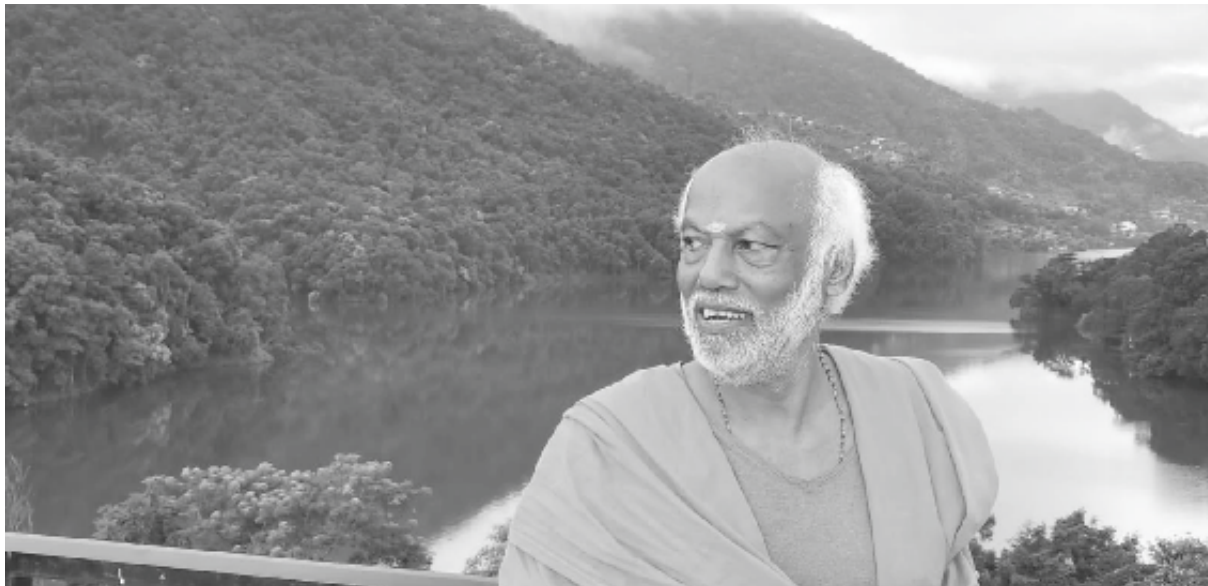
“During the final however, I was just focused on my own performance,” revealed Ekta.

While Ekta bagged the prize money of Rs 50,000, Sheetal received a cash prize of Rs 40,000.

The Khelo India ranking archery tournament was conducted in three categories - senior, junior and sub-junior in recurve and compound. As many as eighty-seven archers competed in this event.

SELF KNOWLEDGE True Treasure Trove

Swami Siddhananda



Just as man can be proud of his material possessions, so can he be of his intellectual accomplishments. These are also an extension of the gross acquisition. After all, what else are thoughts, if not the impressions of the perceptible material universe! But the beauty is that “thinking” is just not the thoughts. “Thinking” is the observation, recognition and manipulation of various thought impressions.

If the mind is only a reflector of the external world of objects, then there shall be no growth, no evolution, no investigation into the nature of perceptions and impressions. There, the individual must and will question his thoughts, and his projections. The scientists have questioned the origin of the material universe, but they are yet to question the source of thoughts systematically.

If the mind is a mere reflecting surface like that of the water, then there will be absolutely no conflict, no resolution, no sense of denial or indulgence, no sense of purity or impurity, no ethics, no morality or immorality and there will not even be a sense of mortality and the struggle to go beyond. There shall be no sense of ignorance or knowledge.

All these reflect a sense of “I”, i.e. “I” as an existent conscious entity. Usually we think that the “I” is the product of our

experiences, our perceptions, a cumulative effect of all that we have experienced or known. That perception is false.

First “I am” and only then I perceive. Ignorant of himself, “I” allows himself to identify with every perception, every experience, every thought as knowledge. The “I” can tag on to anything as everything is in it and it is in everything.

To look for the source of the mind - the thinking, enjoying, conflicting mind - is to look for the source of “I”, which manipulates the thoughts. The sense of “I” is not the product of the thoughts, nor are the thoughts the product of “I”. The word “I” belongs to the

language of the external world, but the feeling of “I-The Being”, is independent of a thought, a word or the world around

Since “I” has apparently gained its existence from the body, the “I” strives to protect the body for its continuing existence. The thoughts are manipulated to serve that purpose. No wonder, the thinker wishes to establish his exclusiveness not only for his mental satisfaction, but also to gain something substantial in the world. The individuality or - the I thought - is more sinister in the educated man, more pronounced and heightened in the informed man than in the average uneducated man, but that does not make the latter in

any way innocent. He is just waiting for the bloom time. Sooner or later the arrogance will manifest itself even from out of non achievements or emptiness. He can be proud that he is ignorant and he need not gather any knowledge. He can be just materially rich and look down disdainfully upon any emotional or intellectual refinement, as even the intellectual idealist can look down upon any such material prosperity. Soon, both find themselves trapped in their own achievements or the absence of them. A fool, intellectually poor, can look down upon scholarship as even a scholar can brand an uneducated man as sub-human! In its material,

gross counterpart one can see the dramatisation of the same phenomenon where the poor sneers at the rich as greedy, manipulative, unethical, insensitive and immoral; the rich can look down upon the poor as lazy, lacking character, motivation, drive, sensitivity and inspiration.

Yes, an intellectual too is a materialist as his source of knowledge or information is of the material universe. When an uneducated peasant can own a large tract of land and be rich, the educated man with his capacity to think can produce much ore in a lesser tract of land and be equally rich. There comes his pride because of the efficient management but the source of pride or the riches is the same – the material universe.

That does not bring about any substantive or qualitative change in the man” – the “I”. In fact he can get further entangled in his achievements with the feeling of “I know”. That is how the educated man is strangled by the long rope of his knowledge, while the ignorant is strangled by the long rope of ignorance. After all, relative knowledge is ignorance from the “Absolute” stand point.

It is ignorance to say “I do not know myself”, just as it is ignorance to arrogantly or humbly declare to the world as false identity, such as “I am educated, I am a father, a mother or rich or poor etc. “I” is trapped in ignorance in both the cases and that is how to understand the mind, the creation as “One’s own Self”, is to understand the source of “I”. That is the beginning of real education.

When one understands that, all other forms of knowledge fall in their own places, and one is no longer proud of one’s knowledge or ignorance. One then ceases to look down upon knowledge, achievement, scholarship of any sort, as they help in reorganising the creation. Nor is one afraid of ignorance or shy of one’s ignorance. One admits it happily to eliminate it gracefully. Living becomes a luxury, a lavish indulgence with no sign of any disharmony whatsoever!

Each must discover it for himself and each will enjoy the same thrill of discovery. Shared, it fills the heart which is already full and overflowing! May you enjoy such a heart!



Love is a sacred reserve of energy; it is like the blood of spiritual evolution.

HISTORY

Legendary Parala King Gajapati !

Pradeep Kumar Panda, Paralakhemundi, Gajapati

Legendary son of soil freedom fighter statesman Parala King Sri Krushna Chandra Gajapati Narayan Deo was prime minister of Odisha twice in the

He was a royal by birth but a commoner in all other senses. His biographers often run short of words to sum up his

other, wearing beads made from the seeds of wild fruits around his neck, and headband adorned with colourful feathers. However, he would also carry his pistol and a few rounds of bullets to protect himself from wild animals. He would ask his men to pick him up from the village on a predetermined date. Often, he spent weeks with the tribals. He would share their food, speak their dialects and mingle with people of all age groups.

The king often sang and danced with the tribals to get closer to them. He walked from village to village and at times went hunting with them too. Krushna Chandra played the role of a true saviour by killing man-eaters during his forest stay. However, sometimes it became difficult to hide his identity and people eventually came to know about his presence. The village chiefs and scores of men and women would then welcome him and present their concerns before him. He would note down their problems and promise to resolve them as soon as he reached the palace. Often older people would drop in at the palace and gave him a hug and their blessings. He was a strong administrator as a king but soft towards his subjects, Satyanarayan said in his second book *Ama Parala Gajapati*, quoting Jnanpitha award winner Gopinath Mohanty.

In another incident in 1921, the Maharaja walked several miles with his staff and a British engineer in the middle of night to repair a bank of the river Vamshadhara to save the people of Kashinagar from being inundated, added Satyanarayan who was a top official of the Census department.

During the freedom movement, Krushna Chandra asked for separation of Odia-speaking regions from the Madras Presidency the moment he ascended the throne. A year after his coronation, he hosted an annual session of Utkal Union Conference (Utkal Sammilani), a campaign for a separate state of Odisha, in Paralakhemundi to bolster the movement. A galaxy of intellectuals including Madhusudan Das, Fakir Mohan

Senapati, Gopabandhu Das and Godabarish Mishra attended the session. With the backing of the key members of Sammilani, he put forth the demand of Odia people before the Philip-Duff Committee in 1924. Those were the early days of the struggle.

The defining moments came when he attended the two Round Table Conferences in London, in 1930 and 1931. There, he submitted fact-based memoranda seeking creation of a state on the basis of language. His irrefutable arguments paved the way for the birth of modern Odisha. Given his relentless effort to unite the scattered Odia community, many consider him the

guided by his suggestions. Besides, Krushna Chandra set up many hospitals, schools, colleges, industrial institutions and offered scholarships to thousands of poor and meritorious students in humanities, science, agriculture, medicine and engineering. He was a patron of Odia art, literature and music too.

His first term as Prime Minister was from April 1, 1937 to July 18, 1937, for 80 days while the second term lasted from November 24, 1941 to June 30, 1944. The position was dissolved after the country's Independence. Though he lost his crown to democracy, he remained the pivot of the



years before India got independence. He was a benevolent ruler who was also a social reformer, educationist and a driving force of the movement for a separate state of Odisha.

Odisha is not a country but a state, so how can it have a Prime Minister, asked most of the respondents when a question 'who was the first Prime Minister of Odisha' was asked on a very popular knowledge sharing platform. Shockingly, many of those who were not sure whether the state ever really had a Prime Minister were Odias.

Krushna Chandra Gajapati, also known as Maharaja Sri Krushna Chandra Gajapati Narayan Dev (1892 – 1974), was king of Paralakhemundi, an estate under Madras Presidency. He was not only the first Prime Minister of Odisha, he was also a freedom fighter, social reformer, an eminent educationist and one of the tallest figures who played a decisive role in unifying the Odia-speaking tracts in 1936.

enormous contributions in the making of modern Odisha in a single book. He was an institution, says Satyanarayan Mohapatra, who has authored four books on the life and achievements of the Maharaja.

A couple of instances can well describe Krushna Chandra's stature not only as a monarch but as a popular people's leader.

Born in the royal family of Paralakhemundi April 26, 1892, Krushna Chandra ascended the throne in 1913. Most of his subjects belonged to the Lanjia Saora community and he was more than a king to them. He instructed his men to deliver justice to the tribals. He used to pay surprise visits in disguise to tribal hamlets in the forests to establish a direct connect with the people and get an unbiased idea of their problems.

He would ask his staff members to drop him near a tribal dominated region. The king would enter the villages donning typical tribal attire – bare bodied, bow and arrow in one hand and an axe in the



founding father of the state.

The Maharaja put his education, knowledge and experience to the best use improving the standard of living of people living under his jurisdiction. From Nemington Residential College of Madras he acquired the knowledge needed to improve agriculture in Odisha. He instituted some endowments for agricultural researchers, established many modern agricultural farms, and excavated over a thousand community water tanks to improve irrigation facilities making Ganjam the 'Rice bowl of Odisha'. No wonder, the Maharaja was appointed as a member of the Royal Agricultural Commission in 1927. The Commission's chairman Lord Linlithgow held him in high regard and was

Odisha state movement and the uncrowned ruler of many Odia hearts.

His major contributions to the state are: Utkal University, Vani Vihar, SCB Medical College and Hospital, Cuttack, Central Rice Research Institute, Cuttack, MKCG Medical College and Hospital, Berhampur, Odisha High Court, Cuttack among others

His services and honours include Honorary captain in World War I, Member of Royal Commission of Agriculture, Member of Madras Legislative Council, Honorary doctoral degree from Utkal and Berhampur universities, Knight Commander of the Order of the Indian Empire (KCIE) among others.

Deep Homage to Legendary Parala King Gajapati !

SPIRITUALITY

Devotion and Worship

By J Krishnamurti

A mother beating her child, and there were painful screams. The mother was very angry, and while she was beating she was talking to it violently. When presently we came back she was caressing the child, hugging as though she would squeeze the life out of it. She had tears in her eyes. The child was rather bewildered, but was smiling up at the mother.

Love is a strange thing, and how easily we lose the warm flame of it! The flame is lost, and the smoke remains. The smoke fills our hearts and minds, and our days are spent in tears and bitterness. The song is forgotten, and the words have lost their meaning; the perfume has gone, and our hands are empty. We never know how to keep the flame clear of smoke, and the smoke always smothers the flame. But love is not of the mind, it is not in the net of thought, it cannot be sought out, cultivated, cherished; it is there when the mind is silent and the heart is empty of the things of the mind.

The room overlooked the river, and the sun was upon its waters.

He was by no means foolish, but was full of emotion, an exuberant sentiment in which he must have taken delight, for it seemed to give him great pleasure. He was eager to talk; and when a green golden bird was pointed out to him, he turned on his sentiment and gushed over it. Then he talked of the beauty of the river, and sang a song about it. He had a pleasant voice, but the room was too small. The green-golden bird was joined by another, and the two sat very close together, preening themselves.

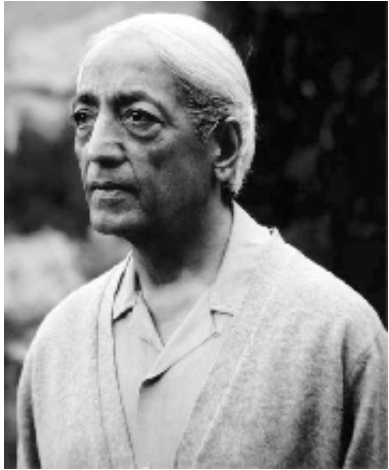
"Is not devotion a way to God? Is not the sacrifice of devotion the purification of the heart? Is not devotion an essential part of our life?"

What do you mean by devotion? "Love of the highest; the offering of a flower before the image, the symbol of God. Devotion is complete absorption, it is a love that excels the love of the flesh. I have sat for many hours at a time, completely lost in the love of God. In that state I am nothing and I know nothing. In that state all life is a unity, the sweeper and the king are one. It is a wondrous state. Surely you must know it."

Is devotion love? Is it something apart from our daily existence?

Is it an act of sacrifice to be devoted to an object, to knowledge, to service, or to action? Is it self-sacrifice when you are lost in your devotion? When you have completely identified yourself with the object of your devotion, is that self-abnegation? Is it selflessness to lose yourself in a book, in a chant, in an idea? Is devotion the worship of an image, of a person, of a symbol? Has reality any symbol? Can a symbol ever represent truth? Is not the symbol static, and can a static thing ever represent that which is living? Is your picture you?

Let us see what we mean by



devotion. You spend several hours a day in what you call the love, the contemplation of God. Is that devotion? The man who gives his life to social betterment is devoted to his work; and the general, whose job is to plan destruction, is also devoted to his work. Is that devotion? If I may say so, you spend your time being intoxicated by the image or idea of God, and others do the same thing in a different way. Is there a fundamental distinction between the two? Is it devotion that has an object?

"But this worship of God consumes my whole life. I am not aware of anything but God. He fills my heart."

And the man who worships his work, his leader, his ideology, is also consumed by that with which he is occupied. You fill your heart with the word 'God', and another with activity; and is that devotion? You are happy with your image your symbol, and another with his books or music; and is that devotion? Is it devotion to lose oneself in something? A man is devoted to his wife for various gratifying reasons; and is gratification devotion? To identify oneself with one's country is very intoxicating; and is identification devotion?

"But giving myself over to God does nobody any harm. On the contrary, I both keep out of harm's way and do no harm to others."

That at least is something; but though you may not do any outward harm, is not illusion harmful at a deeper level both to you and to society? "I am not interested in society. My needs are very few; I have controlled my passions and I spend my days in the shadow of God."

Is it not important to find out if that shadow has any substance behind it? To worship illusion is to cling to one's own gratification; to yield to appetite at any level is to be lustful.

"You are very disturbing, and I am not at all sure that I want to go on with this conversation. You see, I came to worship at the same altar as yourself; but I find that your worship is entirely different, and what you say is beyond me. But I would like to know what is the beauty of your worship. You have no pictures, no images, and no rituals, but you must worship. Of what nature is your worship?"

The worshipper is the worshipped. To worship another

is to worship oneself; the image, the symbol, is a projection of oneself. After all, your idol, your book, your prayer, is the reflection of your background; it is your creation, though it be made by another. You choose according to your gratification; your choice is your prejudice. Your image is your intoxicant, and it is carved out of your own memory; you are worshipping yourself through the image created by your own thought. Your devotion is the love of yourself covered over by the chant of your mind. The picture is yourself, it is the reflection of your mind. Such devotion is a form of self-deception that only leads to sorrow and to isolation, which is death.

Is search devotion? To search after something is not to search; to seek truth is not to find it. We escape from ourselves through search, which is illusion; we try in every way to take flight from what we are. In ourselves we are so petty, so essentially nothing, and the worship of something greater than ourselves is as petty and stupid as we are. Identification with the great is still a projection of the small. The more is an extension of the less. The small in search of the large will find only what it is capable of finding. The escapes are many and various but the mind in escape is still fearful, narrow and ignorant.

The understanding of escape is the freedom from what is. The what is can be understood only when the mind is no longer in search of an answer. The search for an answer is an escape from what is. This search is called by various names, one of which is devotion; but to understand what is, the mind must be silent. "What do you mean by 'what is'?"

The what is is that which is from moment to moment. To understand the whole process of your worship, of your devotion to that which you call God, is the awareness of what is. But you do not desire to understand what is; for your escape from what is, which you call devotion, is a source of greater pleasure, and so illusion becomes of greater significance than reality. The understanding of what is does not depend upon thought, for thought itself is an escape. To think about the problem is not to understand it. It is only when the mind is silent that the truth of what is unfolds.

"I am content with what I have. I am happy with my God, with my chant and my devotion. Devotion to God is the song of my heart, and my happiness is in that song. Your song may be more clear and open, but when I sing my heart is full. What more can a man than to have a full heart? We are brothers in my song, and I am not disturbed by your song."

When the song is real there is neither you nor I, but only the silence of the eternal. The song is not the sound but the silence. Do not let the sound of your song fill your heart.

A Moment of Devotion

By Osho

Devotion is not a path. You don't have to travel it. Devotion is a way of merging and melting into existence. It is not a pilgrimage; it is simply losing all the boundaries that divide you from existence – it is a love affair.

Love is not a path. Love is a merger with an individual, a deep intimacy of two hearts – so deep that the two hearts start dancing in the same harmony. Although the hearts are two, the harmony is one, the music is one, the dance is one.

What love is between individuals, devotion is between one rebel and the whole existence. He dances in the waves of the ocean, he dances in the dancing trees in the sun, he dances with the stars. His heart responds to the fragrance of the flowers, to the song of the birds, to the silences of the night.

Devotion is not a path. Devotion is the death of the personality. That which is mortal in you, you drop of your own accord; only the immortal remains, the eternal remains, the deathless remains. And naturally the deathless cannot be separate from existence – which is deathless, which is always ongoing, knows no beginning, no end.

Devotion is the highest form of love.



It is possible you may love one person, and love becomes so deep that slowly, slowly the very quality of love changes into devotion. Then that person becomes only a window for you to take a jump into existence. That is the situation of the master, as far as the rebel is concerned.

For my people I am not a savior, I am not a messiah. I am just a door, a bridge to pass on into the infinite.

India has a very strange city – perhaps there is no other city like it in the world – Fateh-pur Sikri. It was made by the great emperor Akbar. He wanted to make a special city for his capital. The whole city had to be totally fresh, a piece of art; and he was going to shift the whole capital from Delhi [Agra] to Fateh-pur Sikri. He was a very demanding man, and it had to be not an ordinary city; every house had to be a palace.

For forty years continuously the city was being built – it is surrounded by a beautiful lake – but it was never inhabited. This is the only city in the whole world which has such beautiful palaces, but nobody ever lived there because Akbar died before he could complete the project. The project was too big – to make a whole capital, absolutely fresh and new, out of a special stone; and all the houses, all the roads in a certain pattern with a certain meaning.... Thousands of artists from all over the world were called to work – stone-cutters, masons, architects.

Akbar had perhaps the greatest empire in the whole world in those days. Under Akbar, India was the greatest land; there was immense money available, but Akbar spent everything.

He wanted the capital to be complete before his death. But seeing that it seemed to be impossible, that the capital would take at least forty years more to be absolutely complete, he decided, "At least while I am alive, half of the capital – particularly the offices of the government and the special people – should move."

A beautiful bridge was made across the lake to join it with the main road; the city was almost a small island inside the lake. Akbar asked his wise people to find a beautiful sentence to be engraved on the main gate of the bridge, to welcome any visitor to the city.

They searched and searched in all the scriptures, in all the literature of the world. It is strange that, although they were Mohammedans, they could find a sentence which was absolutely suitable only in the sayings of Jesus, as if it was being said specially to be engraved on the capital of Fateh-pur Sikri. The sentence is, "It is only a bridge. Remember, don't make your house on it – it is a place to pass on." It is a statement about life. Life is a bridge. Don't make your house on it – it is a place to pass on.

Akbar loved the sentence. It is engraved on Fateh-pur Sikri's main gate. But before any move could happen, he died. His son had been against the idea from the very beginning, for the simple reason that the whole treasury had been destroyed. Nothing else had been done, only a dead capital had been made – and Delhi [Agra] was doing perfectly well. There was no need, and in fact he had no money left to continue the project for forty more years, so the project was dropped; nobody ever moved. It became a monument, a great memory of the dream of a great king. But to me the most important thing is the sentence on the bridge.

That's what a master is, for a rebel. That's what love is, for a rebel. For a rebel, love and the master are synonymous. When his love becomes so deep with the master that he cannot think of himself as separate in any way, love has transformed itself into a new height. That height has been known as devotion.

Devotion is not a path. Devotion is only a love affair, purified to its ultimate state. Then whomsoever you love becomes a door, a bridge to the universal organic unity, the experience of your small identity dissolving in the ocean just like a dewdrop slipping from a lotus leaf.

CLIMATE CHANGE

Why did Dubai flood? World Weather Attribution says global warming, not cloud seeding, the reason

The recent rainfall in West Asia was made 10-40 per cent heavier by warming, according to the WWA

“While the researchers could not precisely determine how much of the increase is due to human-caused climate change, they find

because of the flooding.

The Al Ain weather station in the United Arab Emirates (UAE) recorded 254 mm of rainfall, the highest in 75 years, when records began, according to the National Center of Meteorology of UAE. In Oman, 20 people were killed due to flash flooding related incidents. There was also heavy rainfall in Bahrain and parts of Saudi Arabia.

The scientists analysed observations of single day heavy rainfall events in a world that is 1.2°C warmer than pre-industrial times and found the current event, that occurred due to a low pressure system over the region, to be 10-40 per cent heavier than a world that is 1.2°C cooler.

authors used climate models. But the available climate models could not arrive at a trend as the results are highly uncertain because of the high year-to-year variability in rainfall over the region.

The scientists can be sure about the role of climate change when the observational data analysis matches with the trend results from the climate models. Which is not the case for this particular event.

“The disagreement between model results and observations prevents us from concluding with certainty that human-induced climate change is the main driver making this event more likely,” said the authors in the summary of findings.

older adults, individuals with disabilities, women with caregiving responsibilities, racial/ethnic minorities, migrant workers, and lower-income groups,” added the research.

The study authors also listed the presence of surfaces with “limited permeability and absorptive capacity” because of urban development, extremely arid soils and lack of drainage as the other reasons for the floods, apart from the extreme rainfall. They also found cloud seeding operations to have had no involvement in the cause or intensity of the rainfall event.

“Model uncertainties meant we couldn't complete the last step of the analysis to precisely quantify how much of the increasing rainfall is due to climate change,”



Extremely heavy rainfall events, like the one that caused floods in many countries across West Asia in the second week of April 2024, have become 10-40 per cent heavier according to a rapid attribution study by the World Weather Attribution (WWA) group.

WWA is a global consortium of climate scientists who study the role played by human-induced climate change in the occurrence, frequency and intensity of extreme weather events such as heatwaves, droughts, cold spells, extreme rainfall, floods and storms. Such studies come under the purview of attribution science.

Scientists from universities, research organisations and meteorological agencies in Saudi Arabia, Switzerland, Sweden, the Netherlands, Germany, the United Kingdom and the United States, were involved in the study.

that warming, caused by burning fossil fuels, is the most likely explanation for the increasing rainfall,” noted a statement from WWA.

The scientists also highlighted that the excessive rainfall could have been caused due to the El Nino conditions prevalent in the equatorial Pacific Ocean. They said most of the previous record rainfall events have occurred during El Nino years.

El Nino is the warmer than normal phase of the El Nino Southern Oscillation phenomenon that occurs in the equatorial Pacific Ocean and is generally responsible for heavier than usual rainfall in West Asia, especially during March and April.

Dubai received more than a year and a half's worth of rainfall in 24 hours on April 14-15 that submerged the city, including its airport and most the freeways. Four people lost their lives



Further, to characterise and quantify the exact role of human-induced climate change in enhancing the rainfall, the study

“However, while multiple reasons could explain the absence of a trend in our model results, we have no alternative explanation for a trend in observations other than the expectation of heavy rainfall increasing in a warmer climate,” they further added.

The study also talked about the lack of early warnings for people travelling in both UAE and Oman as many people died trapped in their cars. The cities in both countries are highly vulnerable to flooding events.

The analysis flagged that 80 per cent and 85 per cent of the total populations in Oman and the UAE respectively, live in flood-prone and low-lying areas that are highly exposed.

“Because of various challenges to their abilities to respond to flood risk, particularly vulnerable groups tend to include

said Mariam Zachariah, researcher at the Grantham Institute — Climate Change and the Environment, Imperial College London, in the statement.

“However, multiple lines of evidence point to climate change as the most likely explanation for the increasing rainfall,” she added.

“While we can't stop El Nino, we can stop climate change. The solution is to stop burning fossil fuels, to stop deforestation,” said Friederike Otto, senior lecturer in climate science at the Grantham Institute — Climate Change and the Environment, Imperial College London.

“At COP28 in Dubai, the world agreed to 'transition away' from fossil fuels. Nearly half a year later, countries are still opening new oil and gas fields,” she added.



AWARD

Abel Prize – 2024

Er Mayadhar Swain

The Abel Prize is awarded every year to one or two mathematicians for outstanding works on mathematics. It is considered as equivalent to Nobel Prize. The prize has been named after Niels Henrik Abel, one of the great Norwegian mathematicians.

Niels Henrik Abel

Niels Henrik Abel was born on 5th August, 1802 in Finnøy, an island near the Norwegian town of Stavanger. In school, he was greatly influenced by his mathematics teacher Bernt Michael Holmboe, who recognized his mathematical



(Niels Henrik Abel)

talent. He went deep in the subject and tried to solve various mathematical problems unsolved at that time. Like Srinivas Ramanujan of India, he spent most of the time on mathematics and neglected other subjects and hence did not do well in the examination. After his school education, he entered Christiania University in 1821 after getting scholarship from the government. After graduation, he studied mathematics on his own.

After publication of some of Abel's papers, Christiania University provided him funds for higher studies in Paris and he went there in 1826. Before going to Paris, Abel had gone to Berlin where he met great mathematician August Leopold Crelle, who had just launched the Journal of Pure and Applied Mathematics (popularly Known as Crelle's Journal). He persuaded Abel to publish his results in the magazine. Abel readily agreed and most of his major works were published in it.

Abel stayed in Paris for about ten months and then returned to his old university as a contractual faculty member. He was soon contacted tuberculosis and died on 6th April 1829 at the age of only 27 years.

The life time of Abel was short; but during this brief period he had made significant contributions in mathematics. While studying in college, he tried to solve the quintic (fifth degree) equation. Mathematicians were trying to

solve this for many years, but were not successful..

Abel's first important research paper was solution of an integral equation published in 1823. It was the first ever solution of such an equation. He also contributed valuable works on integrated functions. Abel had written many papers on the theory of equation which included a new class, now known as Abelian equations. He was not recognized during his life time, but after his death his works were analyzed and he was counted as one of the great mathematicians. His works were edited by his school teacher Holmboe and published by the Swedish Government.

The Abel Prize

During Abel's Birth Bicentenary in 2002, the Government of Norway established an International Prize named as the Abel Prize in 2001 to be awarded to the persons for outstanding scientific works in mathematics. Norway government provided the initial capital of NOK 200 million for this purpose.

The amount of prize money and selection process is almost equal to that of Nobel Prize. It carries an award of 6 million Kroner (US \$ 777,000). The Norwegian Academy of Science and Letters administers and manages the



(Abel Medal)

prize. The prize is awarded every year. The first Abel Prize was awarded in 2003 to Jean-Pierre Serre of France. Till 2024, total 27 mathematicians have been honoured by this prize.

Abel Prize 2024

The Norwegian Academy of Science and Letters in Oslo announced on 20 March to award the Abel Prize for 2024 to Michel Talagrand of the French National Center for Scientific Research (CNRS), Paris, France.

Michel Talagrand receives the prize for his work in probability theory and stochastic processes which are mathematical models of phenomena governed by randomness. A typical example is a river's water level, which is highly variable and is affected by

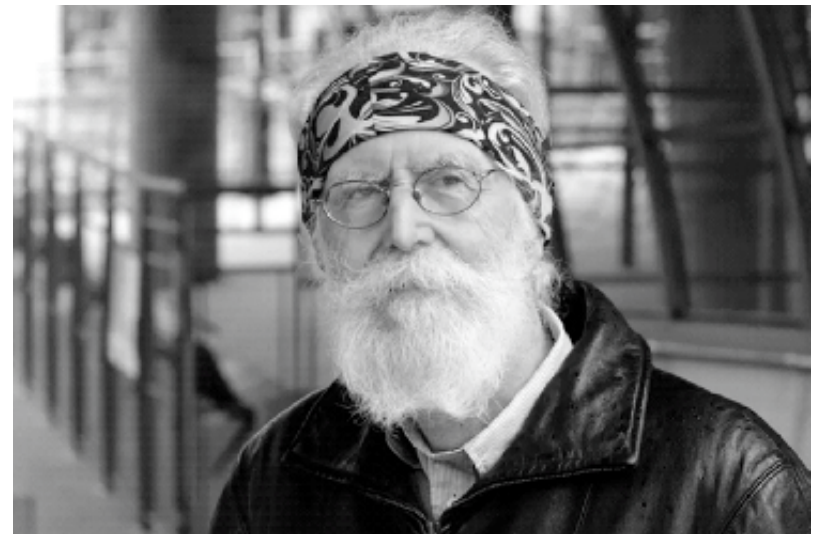
many independent factors, including rain, wind and temperature. His proudest achievement was his inequalities, a set of formulas that poses limits to the swings in stochastic processes. His formulas express how the contributions of many factors often cancel each other out — making the overall result less variable, not more.

From the outset, the development of probability theory was motivated by problems that arose in the context of gambling or assessing risks. The pioneers were the French mathematicians Pierre de Fermat and Blaise Pascal who developed it in the seventeenth century. The theme in Michel Talagrand's groundbreaking discoveries is working with and understanding the random processes. It has now become apparent that a thorough understanding of random phenomena is essential in today's world. For example, random algorithms underpin our weather forecasting and large language models.

The modern world is a constant flow of random events, and understanding that randomness has impacts on everything from business logistics to condensed-matter physics. Much of Talagrand's work involves understanding and utilising the "Gaussian distribution", often better known as the "normal distribution". Our whole life is guided by the Gaussian

distribution: the weight of babies at birth, the test results students get at school and the ages athletes retire at are all seemingly random events that neatly follow the Gaussian distribution.

"Talagrand is an exceptional mathematician, and a formidable problem solver. He has made profound contributions to our understanding of random, and in



(Michel Talagrand)

particular, Gaussian, processes. His work has reshaped several areas of probability theory. Furthermore, his proof of the celebrated Parisi formula for free energy of spin glasses is an amazing accomplishment," says Professor Helge Holden, chairman of the Abel Prize Committee.

Michel Talagrand was born in Béziers, France, on February 15, 1952. He obtained his PhD in mathematics in 1977 from the

University of Paris VI. He spent some years at Ohio State University in the US. He also proved the Parisi formula discovered by the theoretical physicist Giorgio Parisi for glass spin in 1979 for which Parisi had won Nobel Prize in Physics in 2021.

Talagrand loves to challenge other mathematicians to solve problems that he has come up with — offering cash to those who solve — and he keeps a list of those problems on his website.

Some have been solved, leading to publications in major mathematics journals. The prizes come with some conditions: "I will award the prizes as long as I am not too senile to understand the proofs I receive. If I can't understand them, I will not pay."

Talagrand is married and has two sons. He is a member of the French Academy of Sciences. He has received numerous awards including Loeve Prize (1995), Fermat Prize (1997), Shaw Prize (2019) and Abel Prize (2024).

From Page 09 (Odisha Bridging...)

- Declaration of ESDM as priority sector and establishing a dedicated Electronic Manufacturing Cluster (EMC) in Bhubaneswar. Added incentives have been provisioned by Government of Odisha over and above the MSIP benefits of Government of India.
- Establishment of Fabrication Lab in collaboration with STPI for creating a maker culture among the Startups & young techno-entrepreneurs which helps in designing prototype in the field of IT, ESDM, Internet of Things (IOT).

Urban Development through tech enablement

One of the significant achievements in Urban Development was the utilization of robots for the world's biggest ghetto restoration project ("Jaga Mission") undertaken by Odisha in 2017. The robot based flying reviews of accessible land and

nature of metro framework gave basic contributions to the State for the dissemination of land titles and arranging of municipal infra expansion across Odisha. Implemented in partnership with Tata Trust, the ease of liveability achieved by this project was recognized by the prestigious UN World Habitat Award (2019) and India Geospatial Excellence Award (2019).

Odisha has likewise fostered a satellite symbolism based arrangement (called BLUIS) in July 2020 to screen changes in government lands and thus forestall unapproved endless suburbia or infringement. This makes Odisha the leading state in the country to tap space innovation and Computerized reasoning for shielding government lands.

In a bid to change the metropolitan help conveyance framework, Odisha is presenting a full heap of civil administrations, for example, building plan endorsement, utility grants, squander the executives, exchange permit application and restoration on a solitary web and

versatile connection point.

IT enablement in Odisha

Odisha has marched a data and correspondence innovation upheaval. The State agrees most extreme significance to the reception of innovation to affect a huge number of resident's lives. In arrangement with the 5T principles of good governance (Teamwork, Technology, Transparency, Time, Transformation), the State is good to go to understand the vision of a computerized vote based system. With the emphasis on interfacing the whole state on a vigorous computerized spine and driving consistent electronic help conveyance, Odisha can possibly arise as a worldwide force to be reckoned with for "Tech for Individuals". As public and worldwide business sectors wrestle with the "computerized partition", Odisha can utilize its insight to open monetary open doors and commodity items and arrangements in the GovTech space.

Continued Page 18

MISCELLANEOUS

Amazing Scientific Facts

Human stomach can dissolve razor blades

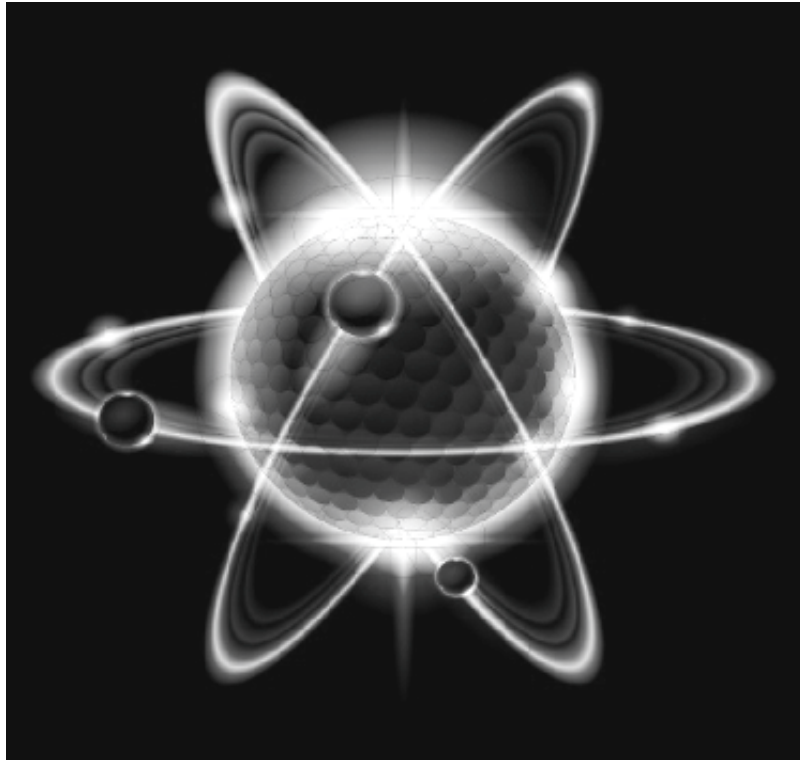
It may sound horrible, but it is another one of the most amazing facts in science that a human stomach is more capable of dissolving razor blades. Acids are classified on a scale from 0 to 14. Remember, the lower the pH level, the stronger the acid is. And the pH level in the stomach ranges from 1-3 which is so strong that it can dissolve a single-edge blade in a few hours of immersion in the stomach acid, as found in a study. So, if you ever swallow a razor blade, you don't need to panic.

Animals use earth's magnetic field to know their location

Yes, among amazing facts in science, sea animals have the ability to sense the magnetic fields of the earth for their orientation. According to the U.S. Geological Study, "There are pieces of evidence showing that some animals, like sea turtles and salmon, can sense the earth's magnetic fields and use it for navigation." But is the earth a magnet? Yes. The earth is composed of layers having different chemical compositions and physical properties. The crust of the earth has some magnetization while its core generates its own magnetic field.

Helium works against gravity

Till today, did you know that helium doesn't get affected by gravity? If you cool helium just a few degrees lower than its



boiling point ie. 452 degrees Fahrenheit (-269 degrees Celsius), it becomes superfluid, which means it can move without friction. It can rise up and over the sides of a glass. Not only this, but it can also drain through molecule-thin cracks in a container. Among other amazing facts in science, helium is the second-most abundant element in the universe.

Humans may harbour genes from other species

From now on, we can say that we aren't completely human, at least when it comes to the genetic composition inside our cells. It is

another did you know facts that our genome may harbour as many as 145 genes that we inherit from bacteria, other single-celled organisms, and viruses, as per the studies published in the journal Genome Biology.

There is no flavour in food without saliva

Last but not least, one of the most amazing facts in science is that we need saliva to taste our food. In order for food to taste, the chemicals from the food must dissolve in saliva. Once the chemicals in the food are dissolved, they can be detected by receptors in our taste buds.

Sufi Story

The Holy Shadow

One Sufi mystic was so full of love, and so full of joy – his whole life was laughter, music, dancing. And the story says God became very interested in him because he never asked anything, he never prayed. His whole life was a prayer, there was no need to pray.

"I have watched you and I have loved you. This is the way: you have become the prayer. You are, right now, my only argument in the world that something more than man exists – although you have never argued, you have not even uttered my name. Those are superfluous things... but you live, you love, you are so full of joy that there is no need for any language; your very presence becomes the argument for



my existence. I want to give you a blessing. You can ask for anything."

The sage said, "But I don't need anything. I am so joyous, and I cannot conceive there can be anything more.

Forgive me, I cannot ask because I really don't need anything. You are generous, you are loving, you are compassionate; but I am so over-full, there is no space within me for anything

God said, "I had thought that you would not ask, so don't ask for yourself – but you can ask for others, because there are millions of people who are miserable, sick, have never known anything for which they can be grateful. can give you powers to do miracles, and you can change the lives of all these people."

The sage said, "If you are insistent, then with a condition I can accept your gifts."

God said, "With a condition? You really are strange. What is the condition?"

He said, "My condition is that I should not become aware of what is happening through me, by you. It should happen behind my back;

it should happen through my shadow, not through me. I may be passing and my shadow may fall on a dead tree, and the tree may become alive again – again lush green, again heavy with flowers and fruits – but I should not know it.

"If you can accept my condition, and remember that should not know at all. because I am so full of joy, so blissful.

Don't drag me back into the miserable world. Don't drag me back to become again an 'I.'

And it is said that God said to him, "You are not only strange, you are unique and rare. And this will be so: you will never know what things are happening around you. Miracles will be happening around you – wherever you will go, miracles will happen. Neither those people will know that you have done those miracles, nor you will know that you have done those miracles. I will remember the condition."

Motivation from Lord Hanuman



'Lord Hanuman' is believed to be immortal for ages and one can adopt qualities from his life to provide a booster to one's motivation and lifestyle. Here's the list of those five essential life lessons from Lord Hanuman that can change the way you live, and bring more peace in your life...

Adaptability: The ability to thrive in any situation: Adaptability is the rule of nature. Only those who adapt to changing times can survive in the long run. Be flexible and not rigid. Instead of giving up, focus on inventive solutions and not on challenges pulling you back.

Humility: The ability to be humble even when you have everything. Lord Hanuman is down to earth even after being the master of divine capabilities. He considers Shri Ram his source of inspiration, and most importantly, is humble enough to learn from him, show unconditional friendship, and live his life as his devotee. Those who are on the top are not arrogant. They are wise enough to know knowledge is as vast as the universe.

Devotion: The ability to give it all to your goals. From his childhood, Lord Hanuman was a

big admirer and devotee of Shri Ram. It was his dream to live under his parasol. He remained focused on the biggest goal of his life and when the opportunity knocked at his door, he went for it. Dedication, focus, and devotion will help you cross the highest mountains to achieve your objective. The greatest example of this is Rambhakta Hanuman.

Leadership skills: The ability to lead, inspire and motivate. If Lord Ram was the absolute idol of leadership, his best follower Hanuman was not behind. Throughout Ramayana, we see him motivating and leading an army of monkey warriors to face the evil force of Ravan. Half of the war is won if you have great leadership skills. From entrepreneurs, managers, employees, and students, everyone needs to cultivate this skill.

Sense of humour: The ability to lighten a tense environment with amusement. Even the worst of situations can't snatch his sense of humour away from him. Yes, he was a fearless warrior. But he was also a genius who can find things amusing in the face of adversity.

SPORTS AFFAIRS

Cricketers with Mental Health Issues

Mental health issues are often considered taboo in most parts of the world. People who suffer from various psychological ailments and depression often shy away from expressing it in the public for fear of being judged.

Several cricketers across the globe have come out by speaking openly about their struggle with mental breakdown. There have been also many instances when many cricketers were forced to leave their favourite game due to mental health issues. Let's have a look at some of those cricketers...

Meg Lanning

In a stunning disclosure, Australia's six-time World Cup-winning former women's cricket team captain Meg Lanning has recently revealed that her early

retirement at 31 was forced by bouts of depression and weight-loss due to 'over-exercising and under-fuelling'.

Marcus Trescothick

Whirl-wind English cricketer Marcus Trescothick suffered mental health issues when he was at the peak of his career. In 2006, he decided to go back home in between the tour of India and later revealed that he was dealing with depression. The attacking opener even returned just two weeks into the tour of Australia in 2006-07. Later he also confessed that he even had to bid adieu to cricket due to mental problems.

Jonathan Trott

Jonathan Trott is another solid English batsman who had to battle psychological problems during the peak of his career. Technically flawless Trott had

almost cemented his spot in the England team when he was hit with the mental turmoil. Though he was part of the Ashes squad in 2013, he had to end his career abruptly. He tried to play county cricket after his retirement, but he had to quit all form of cricket soon due to anxiety disorder.

Andrew Flintoff

One of the greatest all-rounders produced by England cricket is Andrew Flintoff. He also battled through mental health issues which forced him to draw curtains to his international career in 2010.

David Bairstow

Bairstow, who played 25 internationals in the late 90s, also underwent mental stress and issues, which was initiated post-illness of his wife, Janet. The wicket-keeper went on to accumulate several financial issues, along with drinking and driving charges in 1997.

Sarah Taylor

Another England cricketer who suffered mental health issues was wicketkeeper-batter Sarah Taylor, who won the 2017 Women's World Cup at home. Taylor was renowned for her lightning glove work and had 232 dismissals to her name. However, Taylor shocked the English cricket



Pant opens up on Dhoni

After a long injury lay-off, aggressive wicketkeeper-batsman Rishabh Pant has made a comeback to cricket in the ongoing Indian Premier League. Pant is currently leading the Delhi Capitals (DC) in the mega event.

Pant opened up on how former India and Chennai Super Kings (CSK) skipper MS Dhoni's advice helped him to get his game better ahead of the upcoming IPL match against Sunrisers Hyderabad (SRH).

"Mahi bai always says one thing that focus on controllables. So it

is the same that you are doing your thought process on your cricket, the work you are doing, the practice you are doing," said Pant during a recent interaction. "You are implementing in the match. Focus on that rather than if someone is criticizing you from outside. Thought process, I think you think this is high risk, high reward. I think I am playing normally. I am not taking any risky shots. According to me, I calculate everything. Whatever knowledge I have according to the game. That this can happen in

this position, this can't happen," the DC captain further said.

"It is important to play well. There will be criticism but don't focus on what people are saying. I am giving my 100% on the field. That is important for me. And I don't lie about it. So I am fine with it," he added.

Notably, Dhoni is arguably the best captain India have ever produced as the team won all the ICC titles under his captaincy. He is one of the best captains in IPL as well. Under his guidance and leadership, CSK have won five IPL titles so far.



When Dhoni lost his cool!

Veteran wicketkeeper-batsman MS Dhoni is known as the epitome of calmness and composure. This is the reason why he earned the tag of 'Captain Cool' during the time he led Team India and Chennai Super Kings (CSK) in the Indian Premier League (IPL).

However, there have been also rare incidents when Dhoni lost his cool. One such instance happened in the CSK dressing room during IPL 2014. Recently, Dhoni's former CSK teammate Suresh Raina revealed the reason.

In a recent interaction, Rain revealed that Dhoni was left infuriated after the loss against Punjab Kings in the second Qualifier of IPL



2014. As per Raina, Dhoni threw his helmet and pads in the dressing room and vented out his frustration over the lack of runs from the CSK batters.

"I have never seen Dhoni that angry. He vented it out after that match. He was like 'we don't score runs, we don't do this, that'. He threw his pads and helmet in the dressing room. He was irritated that we lost a match that we should have won. He was angry because we lost a match that we shouldn't have. Otherwise, we would have won the IPL that year as well," said Raina.

From Page 16 (Odisha Bridging...)

- Investing in GovTech projects (as seen for school admissions in SAMS) can have a spiralling effect on job creation- both in the private sector (in IT companies working on solutions for the government) & in the government (new age govt. workforce required to handle large scale automation). The efficiencies introduced through digitalization can also establish brand Odisha as an IT investment destination - thus generating further employment.
- Multiple ICT interventions such as creation of citizen registries at the CSC level can provide employment to semi-skilled people (not very digitally literate)
- Odisha aspires to feature prominently on the global map as a preferred IT destination and be recognized as a creator of benchmark technology based products, solutions and services for the world. We aim to advance Industry 4.0 by building partnerships for applying emerging technologies such as Cyber Security, Data Analytics, Mobile Tech/5G, IoT, Artificial Intelligence and Machine Learning. And most importantly, the State plans to continue its investment in digital infrastructure and extensive adoption of IT for transforming quality of citizens' lives in a transparent and cost efficient manner.

As all these implemented and planned initiatives demonstrate, the Odisha government has made considerable efforts to fulfil its promises to the people of the state. For these interventions, the state has been the recipient of numerous national awards which include the National e-Governance Silver Award 2019-20 under category 'Excellence in Government Process Re-engineering for Digital Transformation' DARPG, GoI for Odisha's single window investment portal GOSWIFT, the National e-Governance award 2021 for Bhubaneswar Land Use Intelligence System, the National Geospatial Award 2023 of FICCI and Planet Lab USA for Village Wise Plot Level Analysis of Paddy Crop Growing Areas, the State Category Award of Excellence 2021 given by Computer Society of India, and the National e-Governance award 2016 for Paddy Procurement System (PPAS).

Vision for Future Digital Transformation

The Government of Odisha has been utilizing Computerized Administration administrations to give all taxpayer driven organizations to its residents. Be it enlistment of Births and Passings or issue of random declarations, issue of sponsorships to different recipients, monetary help to ranchers under KALIA conspire, E-filing of police grumblings, single window freedom to projects, upkeep of data set and records of school and undergrads and a lot more administrations, all should be created under a solitary power to get consistency and simplicity of support. There is likewise a need to incorporate every one of the necessities of the various divisions and to halfway deal with the general Data Innovation situation. The step is most certainly going to assist the public authority in accelerating the computerized change drives and add an ever increasing number of developments so that help conveyance with willing be smoothed out. These means worked with interests into the state, made impressive business, empowered groundbreaking public help conveyance, gave mechanical help to guarantee brought together and decentralized administration, and worked with advancement of a broad telecom framework in the state. Mechanical mediations are empowering groundbreaking public help conveyance and bound together and decentralized administration in the state. Advanced change is giving advantageous, straightforward, and all day, every day open assistance admittance to residents.

NEWS & VIEWS

Women in Parliament and State Assemblies: Currently, 15% of Lok Sabha MPs and 13% of Rajya Sabha MPs are women and 9% of MLAs are women in India

Pradeep Kumar Panda, Economist, Bhubaneswar

The Constitution (One Hundred and Twenty-Eighth Amendment) Bill, 2023 was introduced in Lok

South Africa have more than 45% women representation in their national legislatures.

women representation in its Assembly. Chhattisgarh has the highest representation



Sabha on September 19, 2023. The Bill seeks to reserve one-third of all seats for women in Lok Sabha and State Legislative Assemblies. A similar Bill had been introduced in Rajya Sabha in 2008, and was passed by the House two years later. It lapsed after the dissolution of the 15th Lok Sabha in 2014. Lets takes a

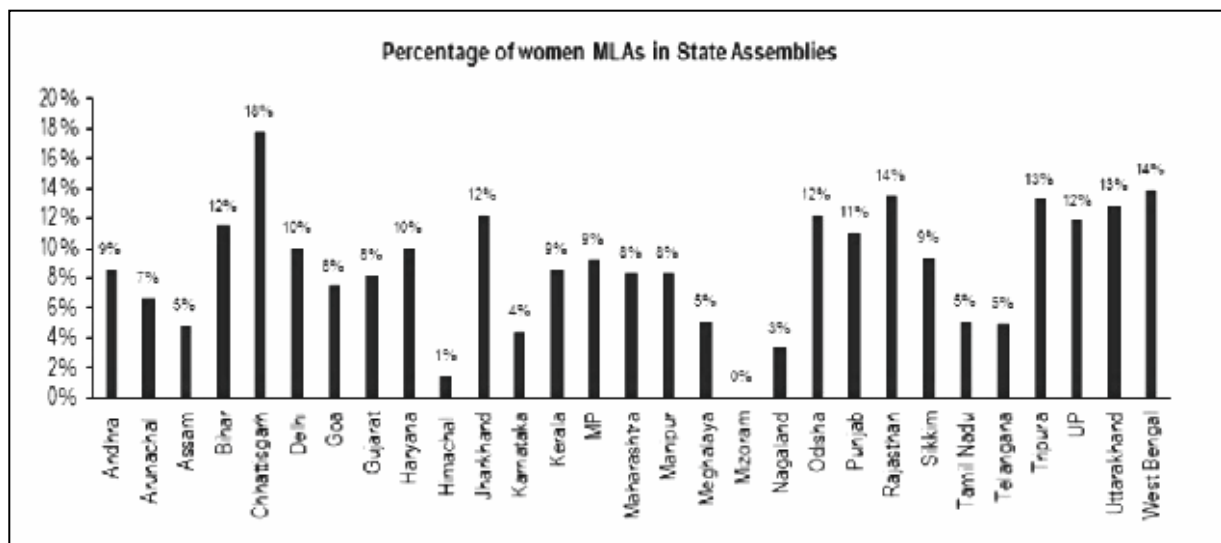
Japan at 10%, lags behind India.

- Currently, 15% of Lok Sabha MPs and 13% of Rajya Sabha MPs are women.
- Among parties with more than 10 seats in Lok Sabha, 42% of BJD MPs and 39% of TMC MPs are women. In

with 18% women MLAs, while Himachal Pradesh has just one woman MLA and Mizoram has none. Odisha has 12% Women MLA.

Participation of women marginally less than men in the 17th Lok Sabha

- Both men and women have more than 75% attendance in



look at participation of women in Parliament and State Legislative Assemblies.

Slow rise in the representation of women in Lok Sabha

- Women representation in Lok Sabha has increased from 5% in the first Lok Sabha to 15% in the current Lok Sabha.
- Scandinavian countries such as Sweden and Norway, and

Rajya Sabha, 17% of INC MPs are women.

No difference in 'winnability' of men and women candidates

- TMC and BJD fielded the highest proportion of women candidates. Across parties with 10 or more MPs, women were as likely to win as men.
- **9% of MLAs are women**
- No state has more than 20%

Lok Sabha. Attendance and participation in Lok Sabha ensure that members are performing their legislative duties.

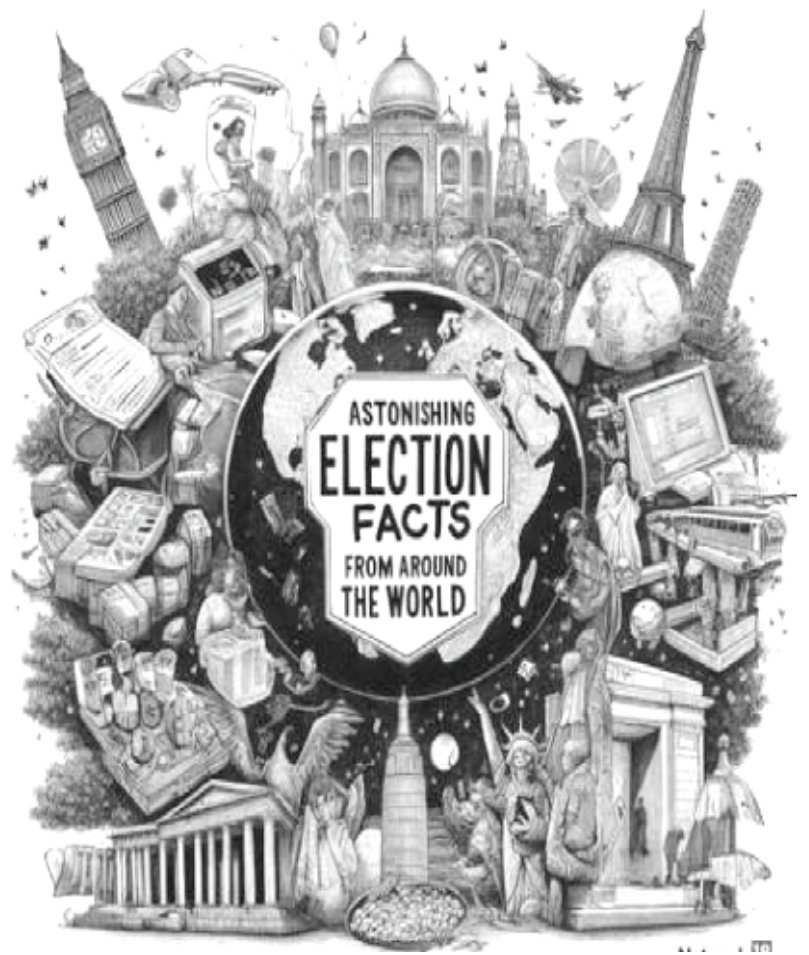
Women and men legislators have similar educational backgrounds

- There is no significant difference in the educational qualifications of men and women legislators.

Ahead of the highly-anticipated Lok Sabha 2024 elections, here's a look back at the astonishing facts about the elections around the world.

Pradeep Kumar Panda, Economist, Bhubaneswar

- In some local elections around the world, there have been instances where animals have been 'nominated' or symbolically elected to office, often as a statement by the voters.
- In some countries like Australia, Belgium, and Brazil, voting is compulsory, and eligible citizens are required to vote in elections.
- The election of a new Pope by the College of Cardinals in the Vatican is one of the oldest ongoing electoral systems in the world.
- Even in the remote and inhospitable environment of Antarctica, countries like Australia and New Zealand make provisions for their citizens to vote in national elections.
- Estonia became the first country to hold legally binding general elections over the internet with their national parliamentary election in 2007.
- The Isle of Man, a self-governing British Crown dependency, is recognized for having the oldest continuous parliamentary body in the world, the Tynwald, established in 979 AD.



- Around the world, there are numerous self-declared micronations—small entities that claim to be independent nations but are not recognized by world governments.
- In some countries, like India, ballots include a None Of The Above (NOTA) option, allowing voters to express their dissatisfaction with all the candidates.
- Astronauts in space don't miss out on their democratic rights. Countries like the United States have made provisions for astronauts to vote from space.
- Different countries and regions have experimented with various voting methods to improve fairness and representation.
- In ancient Athens, citizens had the power to exile or 'ostracise' a person from the city-state for ten years through a process that involved scratching names onto pottery shards (ostraka).
- India takes the accessibility of voting to an extreme level to ensure every citizen can vote.

Odisha reels under intense heatwave conditions

Pradeep Kumar Panda, Economist, Bhubaneswar

Odisha has been reeling under heatwave conditions since March 2024. The situation has become more intense since the first week of April. The entire state has virtually become a blast furnace, with temperatures soaring above 40°C at 31 of the 38 monitoring centres of the India Meteorological Department (IMD) located in the state. Odisha has two of the hottest place in the world.

According to the Bhubaneswar Meteorological Centre of IMD,

on 30 April, 2024, its centre in the western Odisha city of Baleswar recorded a maximum temperature of 46.2°C, followed by Baripada with 46.1°C. IMD has issued an 'red alert' for heatwave to severe heatwave across the state.

As per the special bulletin issued by IMD, hot weather conditions are very likely to prevail in some districts of Odisha. Maximum temperature is very likely to be above normal by 4-6°C at a few places over the districts during

the next month also.

The capital city of Bhubaneswar recorded a temperature of 45.2°C. Bargarh, a town in western Odisha, recorded 44.9°C, while another five centres, including Boudh, Balangir, Titlagarh, Nayagarh and Talcher, recorded 44°C each. A total of six centres, including Angul, Jharsuguda, Rourkela, Dhenkanal, Cuttack and Nuapada, recorded temperatures between 43.9°C and 43.2°C.

Sundargarh, Jagatsinghpur and

Khurda recorded temperatures above 42°C while Kendrapara, Phulbani, Bhadrak, Rayagada,

Due to extreme heat conditions, roads are deserted by 9 am in several parts of Odisha, especially in the western parts of



Bhawanipatna and Malkangiri centres recorded above 41°C. Keonjhar, Deogarh, Baripada, Paralakhemundi, Chandbali and Chhatrapur recorded above 40°C.

Heatwave conditions began in Odisha in mid-April and continued through May, but from June, it became more severe. From the first week of the April, most of the IMD centres have been consistently recording temperatures above 40°C. While Sambalpur, Jharsuguda and Titlagarh have recorded above 45°C on different days, many other centres have too consistently recorded above 44°C.

the state. The special relief commissioner has asked the people to take precautionary measures while venturing out between 11 am and 3.30 pm.

Due to extreme summer heat, Government of Odisha has announced summer vacation for Schools from 25 April.

Odisha has a history of extreme heat. In 1998, over 2,000 people died due to extreme heatwaves. However, since then, fatalities reduced to a large extent to 91 the following year due to measures taken by the state government. The fatalities since then have been in two digits except for 2005 and 2010, when 237 and 109 people died, respectively.

EXTREME SUMMER HEAT SHUTS SCHOOLS