

## Bengal Rose Society News Letter Volume-1 No.1

### Bengal Rose Society AGM

The Annual General Meeting of the Bengal Rose Society was convened on 19 August 2023 at the Dalhousie Athletic Club. Twenty BRS members attended the meeting.

After mourning the deaths of two senior members who passed away this year, Mr. S. B. Mookherjee (President Emeritus) and Mr. Dhruvo Bagchi, the Joint Secretary, Mr. Sanjay Mukherjee read out the Secretary's Report (in the absence of Mr. M.B. Guin, who was indisposed) and Mr. Tushar K. Mehta presented the details of accounts for the year. Dr. Narendra Dadlani and Mr. Sanjay Mukherjee then briefed the AGM about the upcoming 40<sup>th</sup> Indian Rose Convention of the Indian Rose Federation being convened at Bhubaneswar on 5-7 January 2024 in association with Odisha Rose Society. The meeting was also informed about the intention of BRS to host the next Indian Rose Convention at Kolkata

The AGM then elected fifteen members to the Executive Committee for 2023-2024.

### Bengal Rose Society First Executive Committee Meeting

The first meeting of the newly elected Executive Committee (2023-2024) was held on 30 August 2023 at the BRS City Office (46, Hidaram Banerjee Lane). Nine EC members attended the meeting.

The EC after due deliberations elected the following as the Office Bearers for the year:

President:	Dr. Narendra Dadlani
Vice President (s):	Mr. Kamal Prakash Mr. Sujoy Ghosh
Secretary:	Mr. Megh Baran Guin
Treasurer:	Mr. Tushar K. Mehta
Joint Secretary:	Mr. Sanjay Mukherjee
Asstt. Secretary:	Mr. Amit Dey
Member (s):	Mrs. Dhira Bose Mr. Dipten Sen Mr. Partha Majhi Mr. Nimai Mukherjee Mr. Amiya Kumar Thakur Mr. Swapan Halder Mrs. Sujata Basu Chattopadhyay Mr. Prabir Mukherjee

The EC approved hosting of the next Annual Rose Show on 12-14 January 2024 at Lion Safari Park, as in previous years.

### YOU WILL BE MISSED



With profound grief, the Bengal Rose Society, mourns the sad demise of the legendry

#### MR. M.S. 'VIRU' VIRARAGHAVAN

On 20 December 2023.

Mr. Viraraghavan was the most revered and eminent rose breeder and a well - respected speaker, not only in India, but globally renowned. 'Uncle Viru', as he was generally addressed by all rosarians in India, was a charming person, ever willing to share his profound wisdom about roses and life in general. He with his infectious smile and spontaneous encouragement, always inspired all those around him. All his rose Varieties, amongst the finest in the world, will continue to enchant all of us.

His last association with the Indian rosarians at Pune in September 2023 during the Monsoon Rose Show of the Rose Society of Pune, will be remembered for his views and discussions at the release of his outstanding book '*Roses in the Fire of Spring*'.

He will be deeply missed by the hundreds of rose workers whose life he touched with his gentleness and warmth.

Bengal Rose Society conveys heartfelt condolences of all its members to the bereaved family, particularly to

**Girija Auntee.  
OM SHANTI**

### IRF Governing Council meets at Pune

The Second Meeting of the Governing Council (GC) of the Indian Rose Federation (IRF) met during the Monsoon Rose Show of the Rose Society of Pune on 2 September 2023. The members from BRS who participated in the meeting included, Sanjay Mukherjee and Sujata Basu Chattopadhyay. Dr. Narendra Dadlani also was present. Besides transacting the usual Federation governance business, the GC announced the formation of IRF sub-committees related to Awards, Editorial, Convention and Technical & Research. The GC also approved the increase in individual membership subscription from INR 1000 to INR 1500 with immediate effect. For other categories of

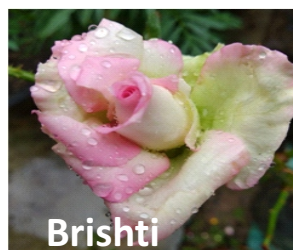
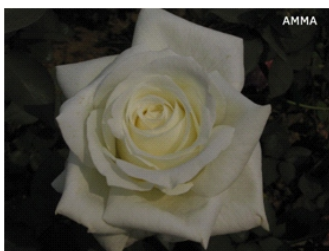
membership, the GC decided to discuss later. The GC also formed a Special Committee to update the IRF Website (this committee includes a BRS member Sujata Basu Chattopadhyay). The GC also approved the proposal of BRS for hosting the 41<sup>st</sup> Indian Rose Convention at Kolkata in December 2024 / January 2025.

### Breeders from Bengal 1: SUBRATA GHOSH

' I do not accept any royalty for my work. The joy of creation is my greatest reward' (Subrata Ghosh).



Among the eminent rose breeders of the country, one name that prominently appears from Bengal is that of Subrata Ghosh. An engineer by profession, he took up his rose breeding work on scientific lines in the large garden attached to his sprawling bungalow in Durgapur. While he would be away during the day to his office in Durgapur Steel Plant, his wife Sandhya would pitch in by recording meticulous notes on his thousands of seedlings. She would later become his active partner in his monumental rose breeding work. On the basis of extremely rigorous trial and screening, Ghosh has released more than 250 new roses, in different colours and forms. More than one fourth of his creations are registered in the 'Modern Roses' of the American Rose Society. His roses are propagated and introduced all over the country through the nurseries of KSG Son (Bangalore), Pushpanjali Roses, Horticulture Arena, among others. On his retirement, nearly 30 years ago, he now lives in his modest house with limited space for extensive trials. However, he continues with the same zeal, his scientific approach to rose breeding. He developed the concept of storing pollen in 'Pollen Bank' at 5 degree Celsius for more than two weeks. In a project, close to his heart, Subrata Ghosh focussed on creating a true green rose and his varieties, Green Light, Green Island, Green Tint and Green Valley, do develop a greenish tinge in cool weather. His next endeavour is to create a true blue rose.

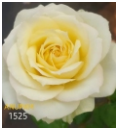


Subrata Ghosh has won many awards and laurels for his breeding work, including the prestigious 'Vijay Pokarna Gold Medal' of the Indian Rose Federation. Among his prominent creations are Tathagata (his first offering in 1996), Bahurupi, Brishti, Amma, Fragrant Beauty, Sir J.C. Bose, Dr. Bidhan Chandra Roy, Jyoti Basu, etc.

### NEW ROSES

Given here are some of the roses bred by the rose breeders from Bengal during the recent period. These new additions to the Indian rose wealth will surely enchant the rose lovers across the country and beyond.

**ANUPAM:** Breeder: Subrata & Sandhya Ghosh; A progeny of a cross *Headliner* x *Peace*, bears light cream yellow, well-shaped large (4" dia. – 45 petals) compact blooms of light fragrance.



**ARITRA:** Breeder: Swapan Halder; A floribunda with large globular flowers with broad petals, long lasting.



**ARYA:** Breeder: Subrata & Sandhya Ghosh; Parentage: *First Prize* x Unknown; Orang pink, high centered large (4.5" dia., 45 petals) flowers with deeper margins. Inside and reverse chrome yellow.



**AYUSHI:** Breeder: Sanjay Mukherjee; A floribunda from a cross between *Manjushree* and *Faith Whittlesey*.



**BROTHER TAPAN:** Breeder: Swapan Halder; A floribunda with high centre flowers with broad petals, long lasting.



**DAVID FAIRCHILD ROSE:** Breeder: Sanjay Mukherjee; A Hybrid Tea between *Bora Bora* and *Intense*



**DEBARUNA:** Breeder: Subrata & Sandhya Ghosh; A progeny of a cross *Headliner* x *Peace*, bears high centered, well-shaped blooms of a golden yellow, apricot and light pink colour blend.



**DR. PRANITA GUJRATHI:** Breeder: Subrata & Sandhya Ghosh; Bred from the cross *California Dreamin* x *White Master Piece*, this rose of excellent shape and form has a cream base, with petal edges and tips carmine; the high center blooms have rolled petals and large flowers of 4.5" diameter with 35-40 petals.



**ENDLESS LOVE:** Breeder: Saurav Mitra; A cross between *Headliner* and *Red Baccara*, bears large (4.5" dia ) perfect exhibition blooms of red rose colour with pinkish centre and reverse on healthy plants with no disease. Very floriferous.



**FAT LADY:** Breeder: Saurav Mitra; From a cross between *Moonstone* and *Signature*, bears large (6" dia. – 60 petals) deep pink blooms on long stems. Plants are healthy with no disease.



**GLOWING HEART:** Breeder: Saurav Mitra; A hybrid between *Headliner* x *Table Mountain*, bears large multicolour roses on long stems, with healthy plants with no disease.



**GOLDEN FAIRY:** Breeder: Subrata & Sandhya Ghosh; A hybrid from a cross *California Dreamin* x *Headliner* bears deep golden yellow flowers with broad petals. Citrus fragrance.



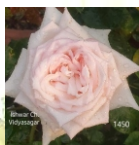
**GREEN MAGIC:** Breeder: Sanjay Mukherjee; A hybrid between *Tineke* x *Penguin*



**HAIMANTI SUKLA:** Breeder: Sanjay Mukherjee; A hybrid from *Arka Swadeshi* x *Naranga*



**ISHWAR CHANDRA VIDYASAGAR:** Breeder: Subrata & Sandhya Ghosh; Bred from a cross of *Royal Highness* x *Princess de Monaco*; Well-shaped, compact blooms of white with a wash of very light pink, long lasting blooms, large (4" dia. – 40 petals), moderate fragrance.



**ISRO:** Breeder: Sanjay Mukherjee; *Amma* x *White Success*; White large flowers with attractive leaves. Intense damask fragrance.



**JHARNA:** Breeder: SiddarthaSarma; A hybrid from *Midas Touch* x *South Africa*, bears long lasting flowers of apricot yellow colour.



**KADOMBARI:** Breeder: Saurav Mitra; Highly fragrant, light pink with a deeper edge, exhibition blooms borne on long stalks, showing good disease resistance.



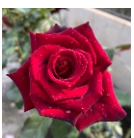
**KUHELI:** Breeder: Subrata & Sandhya Ghosh; A hybrid between *White Masterpiece* and *Headliner*, it bears large (4.5" dia. – 50/60 petals), compact, well-shaped long lasting white blooms on strong stalks.



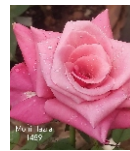
**MALAVIKA:** Breeder: Subrata & Sandhya Ghosh; A selection from the cross *First Prize* x *White Master Piece*, this very large rose (4.5-5.0inch) with high center is of very light lilac pink colour with darker reverse petals.



**MEGHA:** Breeder: Sanjay Mukherjee; A cross between *Ingrid Bergman* x *Gemini*



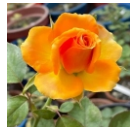
**MONI HAZRA:**Breeder: Subrata & Sandhya Ghosh; From a cross of *First Prize* x *Royal Highness*. High centered elegant well-shaped flowers of medium pink with darker reverse. Citrus fragrance.



**MOUNTAINEER PIYALI:** Breeder: Sanjay Mukherjee; A hybrid between *Coral Spire* x *Baccara*



**MR. TERRY FOX:** Breeder: Sanjay Mukherjee; From a cross between *Intense* and *Bora Bora*.



**MRS. ARPITA:** Breeder: Sanjay Mukherjee; A Hybrid Tea from *Headliner*x *Baccara*



**MRS. HIMA GIDLA:** Breeder: Sanjay Mukherjee; A progeny from a cross: *Marchenkonigin* x *Sakera*.



**MY FRIEND DEBNATH:** Breeder: Sanjay Mukherjee; A Hybrid Tea between *Pfizer Gold* x *Intense*



**PADMA SHRI NARAYAN DEBNATH:** Breeder: Swapan Halder; Flowers in clusters borne on strong stems. A floribunda.



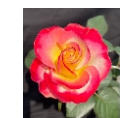
**PASSION OF KOLKATA:** Breeder: Sanjay Mukherjee; A progeny from a cross between *Coral Spire* and *Vanilla Perfume*



**PRITHA:** Breeder: Sanjay Mukherjee; A hybrid between *Arka Pride* and *Naranga*.



**ROYAL BENGAL:** Breeder: Sanjay Mukherjee; A Hybrid Tea between *Dick Clark* and *Coral Spire*



**SANTANA:** Breeder: Subrata & Sandhya Ghosh; A hybrid from *Diana Princess of Wales* x *Bora Bora* bears high centered flowers with rolled petals of a blend of apricot pink and yellow blend. Sweet rosy smell.



**SHUBHANGAM:** Breeder: Sanjay Mukherjee; From a cross between *Churachand* and *Coral Spire*, a slow opener with high centre apricot flowers with rolled petals. Fragrant.



**SHYAMALI:**Breeder: Subrata & Sandhya Ghosh;Parents: *Hemanta* x *Princess de Monaco*; Light to medium yellow with lilac pink petal edges, high centered bloom. Plants with a bushy growth.



**SLEEPING BUDDHA:** Breeder: Sanjay Mukherjee; A Hybrid Tea from *Coral Spire x Intense*



**YOU CAN WIN:** Breeder: Sanjay Mukherjee; A cross between *Headliner* and *Gemini*, bears Immaculate HT, high centre flowers of bright scarlet red colour on strong upright stems. Mild rosy fragrance.



**MEGHNA :** Breeder : Subrata & Sandhya Ghosh; From a cross between *Headliner* & *Mrinalini*, a HT of light apricot yellow colour, high center large (4.5" dia) blooms borne on strong stalk, mild fragrance.



## BRS Newsletter

We are pleased to present to you the Inaugural Issue of the **Bengal Rose Society e-Newsletter**. To begin with, it is proposed to bring it out biannually (January & July). The e – Newsletter will include news about BRS, Indian Rose Federation (IRF) and World Federation of Rose Society (WFRS), Rose Shows across the country, Profile of a rose breeder from Bengal, New rose varieties bred in Bengal, Miscellaneous news like Obituary, advertisements of Bengal service providers etc., and other news of interest to rose workers and rose lovers.

We humbly solicit your suggestions to improve the content and layout of this e – Newsletter. Please share your views and suggestions with Mr. Souvik Bandyopadhyay ([bansouvik@gmail.com](mailto:bansouvik@gmail.com)) or mail them to the BRS Secretariat (46, Hidaram Banerjee Lane, Kolkata 700 012).

SOUVIK BANDYOPADHYAY  
SUJATA BASU  
CHATTOPADHYAY  
SANJAY MUKHERJEE  
NARENDRA DADLANI

## Monsoon Rose Show, Pune

The Rose Society of Pune organized its Monsoon Rose Show on 2-3 September 2023. This year's show was dedicated to the memory of their Chief Patron – Mr. Vijay Pokarna, who passed away recently. The Show, organized at the Tilak Maharashtra Vidyapeeth, was Inaugurated by Mrs. Sanyogita Dhanwate, in the presence of Dr. Deepak Tilak, Chancellor of the Vidyapeeth.

Nearly 1500 roses of different hues, shapes and forms, belonging to more than 75 varieties were displayed by about 30 participants in a competition held in more than 70 categories. This year's show attracted many new rosarians to compete. Dr. Geetali Tilak, Vice-Chancellor of the Tilak Maharashtra Vidyapeeth gave away the prizes in the presence of a large gathering on day 2.



A special feature at the Show were two book discussions organized to discuss the books: *Roses in the Fire of Spring* (Virus&GirijaViraraghavan) and

*Indian Roses* (Narendra Dadlani), which were released at the Inauguration. The discussions on these two books were done vide an interview with the authors. While Dr. Narendra Dadlani interviewed Viru & Girija Viraraghavan and Dr. N.V. Shastri interviewed Narendra Dadlani. Another important event at the Inaugural Function of the Show was the release of a new variety 'ISRO' (breeder: Mr. Sanjay Mukherjee) to commemorate the successful landing on the moon by Chandrayan 3 launched by ISRO, by Dr. Tilak and others.



The Show also had several stalls selling rose plants, garden tools, fertilizers & pesticides and handicrafts, etc.

## ALL INDIA ROSE SHOW

The Rose Society of India (RSI), in association with the New Delhi Municipal Council (NDMC) organized its annual All India Rose Show on 23- 24 December 2023 at the India – Africa Friendship Rose Garden in New Delhi. More than 200 participants, including organizations (IARI; TERI; NDMC; PGI, Chandigarh; HUDA; etc.) and individuals exhibited their roses under 25 categories. The Show was inaugurated by Shri Amit Yadav, Chairman, NDMC. Mr. K.C. Sharma, Former Director Horticulture, NDMC gave away the prizes.



Rose Display at the Show

A new rose society, 'We the Rosarians' made its beginning at the Show with their entries and display and won several prizes including the Princess of the Show.. Among the major prize winners was TERI, who won the maximum prizes including the King and Queen of the Show.



Exhibitors working on the displays

Post Graduate students of Division of Floriculture & Landscaping, ICAR-IARI displayed flower arrangements made using roses. Many school students participated in the 'On the Spot' painting competition, based on the theme of rose show. Planters, value added



Rose arrangements by IARI students

## BRS Membership Cards

BRS is in the process of preparing Membership Cards for all its members. Please update your contact details (address, mobile number, email ID) and share with a recent photograph with Ms. Sujata Basu Chattopadhyay ([sujatabasu.kol@gmail.com](mailto:sujatabasu.kol@gmail.com)) or mail it to the BRS Secretariat (46, Hidaram Banerjee Lane, Kolkata 700 012). The same data will be used for updating the Membership Lists in the BRS Website.

## La Vie En Rose

The Show with a difference. As in previous years, Douglas Memorial HS School, Barrackpore (Kolkata) organized their annual event on 22-25 December 2023 at their School premises. The Show this year was Inaugurated by Mrs. SanyogitaDhanwatey, President of Indian Rose Federation, in the presence of Dr. Narendra Dadlani (President, Bengal Rose Society), Mr Arshad Bhiwandiwalla (Treasurer, Indian Rose Federation), Mr. Ganesh Shirke (President, The Rose Society of Pune), Mr. Sanjay Mukherjee (Vice President, Indian Rose Federation) and Mr. M.B. Guin (Secretary, Bengal Rose Society). More than 300 exquisite rose varieties, including some of the rare varieties like Sweet Juliet (among the most expensive rose variety in the world) and Red Damask Rose.



The Show, which attracts more than 60,000 visitors every year, is the brainchild of the School Rector, Mr. Wilson Gidla, who is passionate about roses and other flowers / plants. His penchant for these beautiful creations of nature, was much appreciated at the Show, which exposed the visitors to roses, adeniums, celosias, Calla Lily, vegetable plants, fruit plants, among other beautiful exhibits. There was an art exhibition too, of paintings and art works done by students and staff of the school.

## Jamshedpur Flower Show

The Horticulture Society, Jamshedpur & Tata Steel organised their 33rd Annual Flower Show – cum – Horticulture Exhibition on 23-26 December 2023. The Show, with the theme 'Khushal ho prakriti aur ghar sansar' was inaugurated by Mr. Chanakya Choudhary, Vice President, Tata Steel.

The Show was a vibrant celebration of nature's beauty and horticulture experience. The venue Gopal Maidan, was a blaze of colour with colourful blooms of seasonal flowers, roses, creative arrangements, bonsai, vegetables & a range of other plants. The Show, included technical sessions, children's art exhibition and hosted more than 30 nurseries, selling plants.

The Show was graced by several members of the Indian Rose Federation Governing Council, including the President, Mrs. SanyogitaDhanwatey, Treasurer Mr. Arshad Bhiwandiwalla, Vice President, Mr. Sanjay Mukherjee, Joint Secretary Ms. Tanuja Benke and Mr. Ganesh Shirke.

A beautiful bloom of the rose variety, Somasila (bred by Mr. ViruViraraghavan, who passed away recently) and exhibited by Mr. Abhijeet Sinha, a member of BRS, won the King of the Show. An excellent tribute to the great rosarian.



## E – Newsletter Advertisements

It has been suggested that we also include in the BRS e – Newsletter, a few small advertisements, particularly of the service providers related to roses (nursery, fertilizers & chemicals dealers, pots & other accessories; florists, consultants, etc.) besides others, as a service to the rose workers and rose lovers. The advertisements will be small (approx.. 3-4” x 2-3”), but bigger ones may also be considered. The advertisement tariff will be Rs. 2000 (colour or B/W) for each. Please contact: Mr. Sanjay Mukherjee ([snjaymukherjee@yahoo.in](mailto:snjaymukherjee@yahoo.in)) or mail your request to the BRS Secretariat (46, Hidaram Banerjee Lane, Kolkata 700 012).

## PANIHATI UTSAV O BOIMELA

The visitors to the famous Panihati Utsav O Boimela were greeted again by extremely beautiful flowers of different kinds (roses, dahlia, chrysanthemum, orchids, seasonal flowers, etc.). These flowers along with several fruits and vegetables on display brought great cheer to all the visitors. The event was inaugurated by Mr. Nirmal Ghosh (WB Vidhan Sabha).



A BRS member Mr. Pradip Sarkar won laurels and prizes (King of the Show and best group) for his display of roses. Kolkata Corporation bagged many prizes with their beautiful Dahlia, etc.

# 34th ANNUAL ROSE SHOW-2024

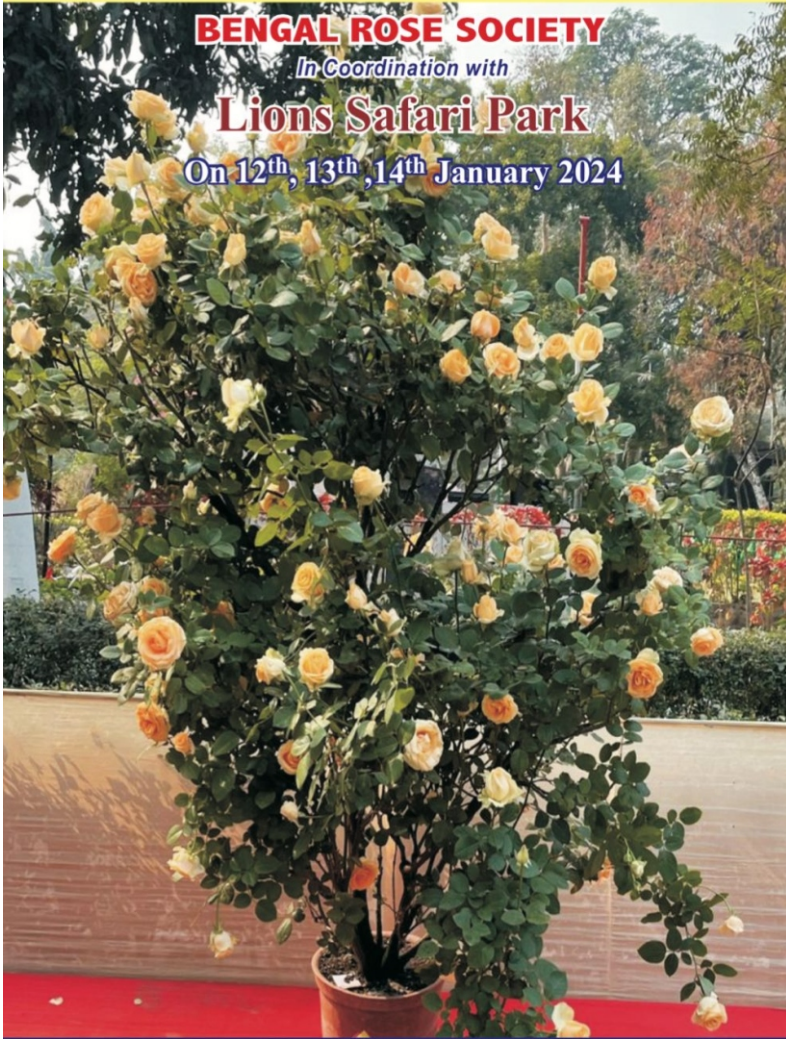
ORGANISED BY :

**BENGAL ROSE SOCIETY**

*In Coordination with*

**Lions Safari Park**

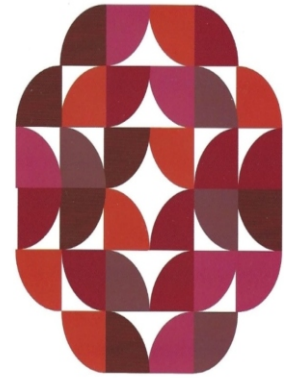
On 12<sup>th</sup>, 13<sup>th</sup>, 14<sup>th</sup> January 2024



Venue :

**Lions Safari Park**

Southern Avenue, Dhakuria, Robindrosarovor Area  
Kolkata, West Bengal -700 029



WFRS 20th  
WORLD ROSE  
CONVENTION

**2025**

in FUKUYAMA

**Roses for the Future**

A New Future Begins in Fukuyama

Create, Excite, and Shine Together!

18<sub>(Sun)</sub> - 24<sub>(Sat)</sub> May 2025

