

Budget Session of Parliament Concludes as Both Houses Adjourned Sine Die

New Delhi(KCN): The Budget Session of Parliament which commenced on Monday, 22nd July 2024 has been adjourned sine die today i.e. Friday, the 9th of August, 2024. After the constitution of the 18th Lok Sabha, this was the first Budget Session and the Union Budget along with the Budget of Union Territory of Jammu and Kashmir was presented in Lok Sabha on Tuesday, 23rd of July, 2024. After the presentation of the Budget, a General Discussion on the Union Budget was held in both Houses. This engaged the Lok Sabha for 27 Hours 19 minutes against the allotted 20 Hours and Rajya Sabha for 22 Hours 40 minutes against the allotted 20 Hours. General discussion on



the Budget of Jammu and Kashmir for 2024-25 and discussion on Demands for Grants in respect of Union Territory of Jammu and Kashmir-2024-25 along with connected Appropriation Bill were also taken up together and passed in Lok Sabha along with General discussion on Union Budget for 2024-25 in Lok Sabha. In Lok Sabha, Demands for Grants relating to Ministries of Railways, Education, Health and

2024 was considered and passed by Lok Sabha on the 6th and 7th August 2024.

In the Rajya Sabha, the working of the Ministries of Housing and Urban Affairs, Agriculture and Farmers Welfare and New and Renewable Energy were discussed. The Rajya Sabha returned the Appropriation Bills related to Demands for Grants for the year 2024-25 and Demands for Grants for the year 2024-25 in respect of the Union Territory of Jammu and Kashmir and the Finance (No. 2) Bill, 2024 on 08.08.2024. Lok Sabha passed the Bhartiya Vayu Vidheya, 2024 to provide for regulation and control of the design, manufacture, maintenance, possession, use, operation, sale, export and import of aircraft and for matters connected therewith or incidental thereto on 09.08.2024.

Short Duration Discussions on "India's preparedness for upcoming Olympic Games" and "Tragic incident of death of students in a coaching institute in Delhi due to alleged negligence of authorities" were taken up in Lok Sabha and Rajya Sabha, respectively. Calling Attention motions regarding loss of lives and property due to landslides and floods in various parts of the country and the Situation arising out of a devastating landslide in Wayanad district in the State of Kerala were also taken up in both Lok Sabha and Rajya Sabha, respectively.

Junior Engineer Caught Taking Rs 25K Bribe in Jagatsinghpur

Jagatsinghpur(KCN): Odisha Vigilance Sleuths today arrested a Junior Engineer in Jagatsinghpur district for demanding and accepting a bribe of Rs 25,000.

The accused has been identified as Smruti Ranjan Nayak, Junior Engineer(JE), Naugaon Block, Dist- Jagatsinghpur.

Nayak along with his Private Person Babina Das has been apprehended by Odisha Vigilance for demand and acceptance of a bribe of Rs 25,000 from a Contractor (complainant) for handing over of cheque for clearing his final pending bill.

As per the direction of Nayak, Private Person Das, while accepting the bribe amount of Rs



25,000 from the complainant in the former's presence, Vigilance officials nabbed both the accused persons Nayak and Das(Private Person). The entire bribe money has been recovered from their possession and seized.

Following the trap, simultaneous searches are going on at two locations in Nayak from the DA angle.

In this connection, Cuttack Vigilance Division PS Case No 21/2024 U/s-7/12 PC (Amendment) Act, 2018 has been registered. The investigation is in progress against the accused persons.

Odisha CM Announces Pension for Families of Freedom Fighters under 'Kutumba Yojana'

Bhubaneswar(KCN): Chief Minister Mohan Majhi on Friday declared that the families of freedom fighters in the state would receive a pension under the 'Kutumba Yojana' scheme.

He also mentioned that the state is set to identify the families of the freedom fighters shortly and will commence the pension distribution.

Representing the State Freedom Fighters Association, Shri Majhi graced the August Kranti Divas ceremony at the Bhubaneswar Martyr's Memorial & Freedom Fighters Sadan as the Chief Guest.

During the event, Majhi announced that the new government would honour the families of freedom fighters who laid down their lives for the nation. He disclosed plans for a potential family pension scheme for martyrs and freedom fighters holding identity cards.

The Chief Minister acknowledged the demands of the freedom fighters' families, affirming that his government would care for every valiant



individual who served the country, ensuring their families receive the respect they deserve. He highlighted that under Mahatma Gandhi's leadership, numerous Odia freedom fighters contributed to India's struggle for independence. From Koraput to Kendrapara, he commemorated the state's warriors who made the ultimate sacrifice, urging that their legacy be remembered and honoured.

The government has launched the 'Shaheed Madho Singh Hatha Kharsha Yojana', a scheme to support tribal

children's education by providing them with pocket money, ensuring they face no hurdles in their studies. The entire program was organized under the coordination of Upendra Pani on behalf of the Freedom Fighters Association, and the State Youth Front Secretary Birupakshya Tripathy conducted the meeting. Majhi praised the Odia as a valiant race, recalling the historical contributions of Veer Surendra Sai, Bakshi Jagbandhu, Jayi Rajguru, Madho Singh, Kasti Dakua, and Shaheed Laxman Nayak to

India's freedom movement. He also paid homage to the unforgettable efforts of Naba b akrushna Choudhury, Gopabandhu Das, and Harekrushna Mahatab. Ex-minister Suresh Kumar Routray and Bhubaneswar MLA Babu Singh were present as guests of honour. The chief minister, along with other dignitaries, paid respects to the families of 10 martyrs and the kin of 30 freedom fighters. The ceremony commenced with the hoisting of the national flag and a tribute to the martyrs.

to education, healthcare to technology, their contribution is invaluable. The President appreciated the dedication, hard work, and creative spirit of the Indian community. She said that these values have guided us for generations, and will continue to inspire us in the future.

The President was happy to note the rapid progress of bilateral relations between India and New Zealand. She said that exchanges of high-level visits and delegations have contributed to deepening understanding between the two countries and opening up of new avenues of cooperation.

The President said that we see our Indian community across the world as key partners in the journey of building a developed India. The skills, expertise, and experience of the Indian community are valuable for the progress of India.

Following the reception, the President departed for Timor-Leste - the final leg of her three nation State Visit.

President Murmu Addresses Members of Indian Community in New Zealand



New Delhi(KCN): On the concluding day of her visit to New Zealand, the President of India, Smt. Droupadi Murmu addressed the members of Indian Community in Auckland, at a Reception hosted by the High Commission of India. The accompanying Minister of State, Shri George Kurian as well as Members of Parliament, Shri Saumitra Khan and Shri Jugal Kishore were present on the occasion. Addressing the enthusiastic gathering of Indian community members who had travelled to Auckland for the occasion from all parts of New Zealand, the President appreciated them for playing an important role in the development and prosperity of New Zealand. From business

spirit, enabling the Indian community to thrive and prosper. The President announced that India will soon open a Consulate in Auckland to fulfill the long-standing demand of the Indian diaspora in Auckland. She expressed confidence that it will play a major role in further enhancing India-New Zealand diplomatic relations.

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Six More Sluice Gates of Hirakud Dam Opened, SRC Issues Alert



water level in the reservoir was recorded at 612.25 feet at 6:00 am, below its maximum capacity of 630 feet, with 286,136 cusecs being released. In response, the Odisha State Relief Commissioner (SRC) has issued an alert to the district Collectors in Mahanadi's lower

catchment area. The Collectors of Sambalpur, Sonepur, Nayagarh, Angul, Boudh, Puri, Khordha, Cuttack, Jagatsinghpur, and Kendrapara have been instructed to stay vigilant. The SRC has directed the authorities to closely monitor low-lying areas, restrict access to

submerged roads, culverts, and bridges, and report any incidents immediately. Furthermore, the release of water from the Hirakud Dam has led to a quasi-flood situation in Banki, with water overflowing into the river basin's shallow regions. The culvert linking Lladabhuum-Khandhata in Athagarh, Cuttack district, is experiencing water flow two feet above its level, disrupting traffic. Concurrently, vast expanses of farmland in the Tigrisia and Uttarbanki regions are submerged in the Uttarbanki Mahabar area.

Odisha govt forms committee to inquire into various aspects of StartUp Odisha

Bhubaneswar(KCN): The Mohan Majhi government has formed a three-member committee headed by Director of Industries to inquire into various aspects of StartUp Odisha. The other two members are Additional Secretary/ Joint Secretary, Finance Department and Additional Secretary/ Joint Secretary, Public Enterprises

Department, an official notification issued by the MSME Department said. The committee will look into financial grant of startups within and outside the state, fund distribution/grant to different private institutions stating them as incubator, output of project management consultants, contribution of NPS and EPF of project officials and use of office space by

MNCs. It has been asked to submit the report by August 21. Last month, the government had restricted the financial powers of the Startup Odisha authorities after MSME Minister Gokulanda Mallik visited O-Hub, the state's maiden centralised incubation centre, amid allegations of irregularities and negligence. This saw a cap of Rs 1 crore and Rs

10 crore on financial power of executive chairman and board of directors respectively. "The department, which is 100 per cent shareholder of Startup Odisha, however, has the full power for sanctioning and incurring expenditure of any type, including schematic, non-schematic, recurring, non-recurring, revenue and capital," the notification said.

14 New Govt Degree Colleges Inaugurated In 8 Odisha Dists

The new Govt Degree Colleges in the remote area will revolutionise education: Minister Suryabansi Suraj

Bhubaneswar(KCN): Odisha Higher Education Minister Suryabansi Suraj inaugurated 14 new Government Degree colleges in eight districts of the State through video conferencing on Friday.

Minister Suraj inaugurated the new Government Degree colleges at Tiring in Mayurbhanj district; Thuamul Rampur in Kalahandi district; Gurundia and Nuagaon in Sundargarh district; Bandhugaon and Narayanpatna in Koraput district; Jharia on

Kosagumuda, Raigarh and Tentulikhunti in Nabarangpur district; Kashipur and Ramanaguda in Rayagada district; Dharakote in Ganjam district; and Khajuripada of Kandhamal district.

Speaking on the occasion, the Minister said that education is the only medium through which the youth can empower themselves and usher in societal change. These new 14 Government Degree colleges in the remote areas will revolutionise education, Suraj added.

Suraj said that the



dropout percentage will decrease in addition to creating interest in higher education among the students.

Minister conveyed his best wishes to the principals and students of the new Degree Colleges, government

officers and people's representatives through video conferencing.

Commissioner cum Secretary of the Higher Education Department Arvind Agarwal said that with the establishment of Degree colleges in 14 blocks of 8 districts,

education has reached the students living in the remote regions of Odisha. Along with this, he congratulated the students and advised them to work hard to build a bright future. Bonai MLA Laxman Munda and Lakhimpur MLA Pabitra Saunta participated in the program through virtual mode and thanked the Minister of Higher Education Department on the occasion of the inauguration ceremony of the colleges and also expressed the opinion that this initiative of the government is a revolutionary step in the end of the program.

CUO Team visits Bonda Hills for field visit to prepare a documentary film

Kolkata,(KCN): The Central University of Odisha team visited Bonda Hills at Malkangiri as a part of the preparation for making a documentary film on Bonda Tribe, one of the PVTGs of Odisha.

The CUO team comprised Prof. Bishnu Charan Barik, Former VC, Sambalpur University, Shri Girish Kuber from Vanabasi Kalyan Ashram, Dr. Pradeep Kr Mishra, Researcher-Writer, Shri Gobardhan Panda, Researcher-Writer. Among CUO Faculty, Dr. Chakradhar Padhan, Dept. of Hindi, Dr.



Jayanta Kumar Nayak, Dept. of Anthropology and Dr. Sourav Gupta, Dept. of Journalism & Mass Communication were in the team. The tour was coordinated by Dr. Sourav Gupta,

Nodal Officer, Ek Bharat Shrestha Bharat who thanked Prof. Chakradhar Tripathi, Hon'ble Vice-Chancellor, CUO for his dynamic vision and Prof. N C Panda, Registrar, CUO

for logistical support.

The shooting for the film will start soon, he informed. The documentary film will be based on research and will act as an authentic archive on Bonda tribe, hoped Prof. Tripathi, VC.

LIC's Financial Performance in April-June (Q1) of FY 2024-2025

Kolkata, (KCN): Shri Siddhartha Mohanty, CEO & MD, Life Insurance Corporation of India (LIC) while disclosing the financial statement, for the April-June Q1 of FY 2024-2025 stated on Thursday (August 8, 2024), "During the first quarter of this financial year, our market share increased to 64.02% as compared to 61.42% for the same quarter of previous year and 58.87% for the full year ended March 31, 2024. LIC is progressing on its stated objective of gaining market share after having focused, during the last year, on consolidating changes in product mix, channel mix and margin improvement. The momentum around increasing share of Non Par products within the Individual segment continues and our Non Par Share, on an APE basis, within the Individual business has increased to 23.94% in the first quarter of FY25 as compared to 10.22% for the same quarter last year. While achieving these growth parameters our margin is stable and our expenses ratio has declined by 98 bps to 11.87% in this quarter. As leaders of the insurance industry in India we are conscious of our responsibility to deliver enhanced insurance penetration and we look forward to working with



the regulatory authorities to achieve the same. We are committed to further optimising our product and channel mix and improvement of margins. With the digital transformation exercise underway we intend to create a seamless experience for our customers and partners. We thank our customers, shareholders, distribution partners and employees whose continuous support allows us to create superior sustainable value as we move to the next stage of our journey."

PERFORMANCE UPDATE for April-June (Q1) of FY 2024-2025

- Profit After Tax increased by 9.61% to Rs. 10,461 crores.
- Overall Market share by First Year Premium Income (FYPI) increased to 64.02% from 61.42% on YoY basis.
- Total Premium Income increased by 15.66% to Rs. 1,13,770 crore for the quarter ended June 30th, 2023, registering a growth of 9.61%. In terms of market share measured by First Year Premium

Income (FYPI) (as per IRDAI), LIC continues to be the market leader by market share in the Indian life insurance business with an overall market share of 64.02%.

For the quarter ended June 30, 2024, LIC had a market share of 39.27% in Individual business and 76.59% in Group business. The Total Premium Income for quarter ended June 30, 2024 was Rs. 1,13,770 crore as compared to Rs. 98,363 crore for the quarter ended June 30 2023, registering a growth of 15.66%. The Total Individual Business Premium for the quarter ended June 30, 2024 increased to Rs. 67,192 crore from Rs. 62,773 crore for the comparable period of previous year, showing an increase of 7.04%. The Group Business total premium income for quarter ended June 30, 2024 was Rs. 46,578 crore as compared to Rs 35,590 crore for the quarter ended June 30, 2023, showing an increase of 30.87%. A total of 35,65,519 policies were sold in the individual segment during the quarter ended June 30, 2024 as compared to 32,16,301 policies sold during the quarter ended June 30, 2023, registering a growth of 10.86%.



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How preparing for Olympiads can help ace JEE



JEE hopefuls can improve their chances of success and gain a deeper respect and comprehension of the subjects they are passionate about by incorporating Olympiad preparation into their study routine.

One of the hardest and most difficult engineering entrance tests in India is the Joint Entrance Examination (JEE). Numerous students strive to gain admission to esteemed establishments such as the National Institutes of Technology (NITs) and the Indian Institutes of Technology (IITs) every year. In order to accomplish this, students frequently put in a lot of preparation work and look for different ways to

improve their conceptual knowledge and problem-solving abilities. Taking part in Olympiad exams is one such efficient route.

Understanding Olympiads and their relevance

Olympiads are competitive tests intended to find and develop a student's aptitude in a particular field, such as computer science, physics, chemistry, biology, or mathematics. These tests, which range in difficulty from school to international, call for a thorough comprehension of the subject matter in addition to strong problem-solving skills.

The parallels between

Olympiads and JEE preparation make them relevant in this setting. Both call for a solid understanding of basic ideas, the capacity to work through challenging situations, and effective time management.

Additionally, the JEE and Olympiad syllabuses frequently overlap, which enhances their

mutual benefit. Enhancing conceptual clarity

A major advantage of getting ready for Olympiads is the focus on conceptual clarity. Olympiad issues are renowned for their intricacy and profundity, compelling pupils to study the material thoroughly. This in-depth study aids in creating a solid foundation, which is essential for JEE questions that frequently assess how basic ideas are applied in different contexts.

For example, there are questions in the Indian National Mathematical Olympiad (INMO) and the International Mathematics Olympiad (IMO) that call for a deep comprehension of mathematical ideas and their relationships. Similar to this, a thorough understanding of physical concepts is the main goal of both the Indian National Physics Olympiad (INPhO) and the International Physics Olympiad (IPhO). Students gain a strong conceptual foundation by

preparing for these Olympiads, which makes it simpler to take on the JEE syllabus. Developing advanced problem-solving skills Olympiad problems require knowledge application in order to solve original and difficult problems; they do not only require memorisation. For JEE hopefuls, this component of the Olympiad preparation is quite helpful. Particularly in the JEE Advanced, students' analytical and logical reasoning skills are put to the test with challenging, application-based questions.

By working through Olympiad tasks, students can hone these sophisticated problem-solving techniques. The Chemistry Olympiad, for instance, has questions that test students' ability to use critical thinking skills and apply their knowledge in unfamiliar contexts. The capacity to address JEE problems creatively and

with confidence is honed by this type of practice. Improving time management and examination strategy Effective time management is an essential competency for all competitive exams, including JEE and Olympiads. Olympiad exams usually contain a time constraint in which students have to work through difficult tasks. Students can directly transfer their skills to manage their time efficiently to JEE by preparing for these tests. Olympiads also instruct students on how to plan their approach to the test. They get knowledge on how to manage their time effectively, rank questions according to difficulty and familiarity, and remain composed under duress. These are very helpful tactics for the JEE, where a person's performance can be greatly affected by how well they manage the exam.

Gaining confidence and competitive edge

An Olympiad participant

who does well might greatly increase their confidence. One feels accomplished and more prepared for other competitive tests like JEE because of the intense preparation and experience of competing at a high level. Olympiad accomplishments are also frequently acknowledged and praised by academic institutions, giving a student's resume a another boost.

Access to advanced study material and resources

Students get access to advanced study materials and tools outside the usual school curriculum when they prepare for Olympiads. Specialised books, problem sets, and internet sites devoted to Olympiad preparation are frequently among these options. These resources help students get a deeper and wider understanding of the subjects they are studying for in JEE.

JEE hopefuls can benefit greatly from books like "Problems in General

Physics" by I.E. Irodov and "Mathematical Circles" by Dmitri Fomin, Sergey Genkin, and Ilia Itenberg, which are frequently suggested for Physics and Mathematics Olympiads. They provide difficult issues and thorough solutions that improve problem-solving abilities.

Building a strong peer network

Interaction with like-minded peers who have similar academic aspirations is a common part of preparing for an Olympiad. This network has the potential to be very encouraging and inspiring.

Collaboratively addressing problems, exchanging resources, and having debates can all improve the learning process. In addition to offering moral support, a robust peer network might be helpful during the rigorous JEE preparation phase.

Beyond the immediate objective of competing well in these events, there are several advantages to training

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Why the brain doesn't really think

Dr. Samrat Kar



At some point in the history of medicine, a picture coalesced about the role of the brain. From the first basic insight that the brain is the organ of thought, this picture became more and more complex, until neuroscience reached its present state, where the brain is glorified as "the three-pound universe". Like a magic lantern casting pictures on a blank wall, the brain supposedly projects the three-dimensional world and everything in it.

Placing the brain on such an exalted plane will lead to a dead end – in fact, it already has. There is no physical evidence that your brain has ever had a single thought, that it projects a realistic picture of the world, or that it creates mind as a byproduct of cellular activity the way a bonfire creates heat. Instead, the brain

displays physical activity as thoughts take place, the same as a piano's keys going up and down as a performer plays, say, Beethoven's Moonlight Sonata.

Our experience of life lies at the foundation of being human, and we have evolved by being Self-aware. This fact cannot be explained by declaring that the brain, with its 100 billion neurons and up to a quadrillion connections between them, somehow became conscious through sheer complexity.

Likewise, freedom of mind is what the brain is here to serve. The brain isn't a fixed object. It can produce new neurons and connections according to a person's experiences in life. We misuse the brain by conditioning it into fixed habits, beliefs and behaviour. This sort of self-limiting conditioning wasn't caused by the brain. If you meet a stubborn, angry, controlling, or bigoted person, he became that way by interpreting the world and coming to fixed

conclusions about it. No one lives in a neutral world – the human mind interprets every conscious experience.

Therefore, we have a choice. Unlike a piano, which doesn't change just because someone plays Mozart on it, the human brain is fluid, dynamic and malleable. This provides a clue for how we should use it as the instrument of thought. We should think and behave in such a way that old conditioning is challenged and an open, accepting, fresh approach is favoured. If we managed to make such a shift, the unlimited capacity of the human mind would break free.

The mind is both prisoner and jailer. As we engage in the mental act of interpreting the world, we decide what is fearful, dangerous, alien and unknown. On that basis we lay down our core beliefs. Then when a situation comes along that makes us feel afraid, angry, or threatened, we react automatically, as if we have no control over what the conditioned mind and brain are doing. We have ascribed to the brain far too much independent power

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A new movement for spiritual progress

Soura Chandra Mohapatra



traversed the path of sainchara, Consciousness to matter, and pratisainchara, matter to Consciousness, have ultimately reached their cherished desideratum. That's why they are venerated. All great personalities have attained the highest spiritual plane through intense meditation. Those who claim their path to be the only one create communal conflicts.

Those who run down another teacher or path must not be encouraged to do so. One should always remember that all great personalities of different religious communities deserve equal respect. They are the collective glory of human society.

We may have built a new path of movement for spiritual progress of society according to the needs of a particular age – a path which may be somewhat different from the one on which great personalities trod before us. But that does not mean that we will not extend our respect to those venerable personalities. It is only by learning from teachings of various faith leaders that we are able to evolve our own

vision of the path we wish to tread, and find the strength to do so with dedication and without dismissing any other path. There is room for many paths.

Now the question is, how can people acquire this non-discriminatory knowledge? One way to do this is through the practice of Ishvara pranidhana and abhidhyana. By Ishvara, we mean the Supreme Controller of the universe, the Supreme Object of ideation for all living beings. Hence Ishvara pranidhana means to let the entire psychic energy flow towards Ishvara. And dhyana means anudhyana.

When sadhakas feel that the object of

meditation – which is

their life and soul – is

eluding them, they

immediately make the

effort to pursue it.

Through (this) the unit mind remains continuously absorbed in the ideation of the Supreme Entity and finally merges in Him and consequently overcomes the influence of vishvamaya, universal illusion, the creator of numerous differentiations. At this point, the sadhakas, spiritual aspirants, finally attain non-discriminatory knowledge. To attain this stage, worldly knowledge, social position, and skin colour are of no importance whatsoever. Even the different systems of worship, sacrifice, incantation, ostentatious devotion are insignificant. In psycho-spiritual practice the mind plays a vital role – external rituals have no place. When the unit mind goes beyond the jurisdiction of the indriyas, the sensory, motor organs and samskaras, the seeds of reactive momenta have been completely destroyed, it becomes altogether non-existent. In that state of complete mindlessness, the jiva, unit being, gets completely merged in Shiva. The mind, after reaching the sahasrara, the pineal plexus, does not return. And due to the obliteration of spatial differences, the sadhaka experiences dissolution.

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Spying: Can death sentence put a halt?



the Nagpur District Court to a former engineer, Nishant Agarwal, who worked for BrahMos Aerospace Private Limited. He was convicted under the Official Secrets Act for supplying information to Pakistan's intelligence agency ISI.

Bills are passed by two Houses of parliament which become Acts after Presidential nods. The government of the day implements them for the benefit of the people and the country. The intention is good. But some of them are often misused by greedy persons in the country. The Right To Information or the RTI, ACT is a case in point. Information useful for enemies have been, many a time, collected through this and passed on to them.

A new case related to spying has gone unheard in a noise raised by the opposition over the "victory" in the Lok Sabha elections. It's a major story. A life imprisonment for spying for Pakistan has been ordered by

Islamabad, believably by Pakistani intelligence agents. Agrawal was arrested by Uttar Pradesh and Maharashtra ATS and Military Intelligence on charges of leaking information about BrahMos missile.

The investigating agencies claimed that his computers and other digital devices were examined and it was found that sensitive data was transferred. Jaichands and Mir Jafars who spy on the army may be present in many places in our country. They may be working in the army in government offices as well as newspapers and agencies. The modus operandi is simple: collect information through RTI and pass that to masters for a handsome amount of money. They have no love for the nation. Nor have they any conscience left.

Agarwal was suspected to have contacts with Pakistani intelligence agency through two Facebook accounts of Neha Sharma and Pooja Ranjan. These accounts were from the Right To Information Act was implemented for a good purpose. But,

under the guise of a genuine information seeker some anti-national elements have tried to collect information about the preparations of the Indian Army.

It has been observed that some elements have also started collecting most sensitive and important information. A meeting chaired by the Union Cabinet Secretary was held on April 28, 2022 in which serious concern was expressed over it. This meeting was held just two days before the retirement of Army Chief Manoj Mukund Naravane.

There are limits to the rights of citizens of the country to get information under the RTI Act. Through the Right to Information, the nation makes its citizens, its work and the system of governance public. In a democracy, the

people of the country give the opportunity to rule to their elected person and expect that the government will fulfill its responsibilities with full honesty and dedication. But, the general public cannot be given this right to demand information about the preparations being made for the security of the country and to fight the enemy.

Pakistan and China, however, have often tried to get information about our defence preparations. The story of Madhuri Gupta is relevant in the connection. She was a "Group B" category officer of the Indian Foreign Service. In her 27 years long service, Madhuri worked in Iraq, Liberia, Malaysia, Croatia and Pakistan. Madhuri, who had a good command over Urdu and had a Sufi temperament, was also active in literary circles. She had an

open mind. A few years ago, during her posting as Second Secretary in the High Commission of India in Islamabad, Madhuri was assigned the task of monitoring the Pakistani media due to her good command over Urdu.

Barely six months after her posting in Pakistan, Madhuri was contacted by Jamshed, whose code name was Jim.

When the Indian government officials came to know about it, a false information was deliberately sent through her for confirmation. As a result, Madhuri's leaking of intelligence information were confirmed. Madhuri Gupta was called back to India on the pretext of preparations for the SAARC Summit to be held in Bhutan. As soon as she landed at Delhi airport on April 22, 2010, the

intelligence agency people caught her.

Interrogation revealed that she used to supply intelligence input to two ISI spies - Munawar Raza Rana and Jamshed alias Jimmy. On the basis of all this, Madhuri was arrested on July 20, 2010 and was kept in judicial custody. On May 18, 2018 Delhi's Additional Sessions Judge Siddarth Sharma sent her jail for three years for espionage.

A few years ago, a "senior journalist" from the capital, Rajeev Sharma, was arrested on charges of spying for China. It was revealed later that Rajeev Sharma used to get information through the RTI and supply it to China. He was arrested under the Official Secrets Act. He had given many secret documents related to the army to China. He used to get a huge amount in exchange for providing sensitive

information.

Many people keep asking questions, some unintelligent ones including. Therefore, it has to be ensured that this right is not misused. Some aspects should be also looked into in the light of the recent case. Agarwal had the opportunity to study in a top educational institute like IIT. He did mechanical engineering from there. After this, he started working as an engineer in BrahMos Aerospace. Due to his expertise, he was promoted to important posts in BrahMos Aerospace in a very short time and was made an important member of the team working on missile projects. The same person acted as a country's enemy. How to deal with such persons? Can capital punishment be a deterrent?

(The writer is a senior editor, columnist and former MP)

R.K.Sinha

Webinar and Video Conference Etiquettes



making it convenient for busy professionals or those with scheduling conflicts.

Interactivity: Many platforms offer features for audience engagement, such as live Q&A sessions, polls, and chats, enhancing participant interaction and learning.

Global Reach: They enable organizations to reach a global audience easily, facilitating international collaboration and networking opportunities.

Overall, webinars and online conferences have become increasingly important in today's digital age due to their flexibility, cost-effectiveness, and ability to foster learning and collaboration across distances.

Maintaining etiquette during a webinar or online conference is crucial for several reasons:

Professionalism: Etiquette shows respect for others and professionalism, enhancing your reputation among peers and colleagues.

Convenience: Participants can join from anywhere with an internet connection,

minimizing interruptions and distractions, allowing all participants to contribute effectively. Engagement: Good etiquette helps in keeping participants engaged and focused on the topic being discussed, leading to more productive discussions and

outcomes. Respect for Time: Observing etiquette ensures that the session runs on time, respecting everyone's schedules and commitments.

Positive Impression: It leaves a positive impression on others, potentially leading to better networking opportunities and professional relationships.

Overall, etiquette in online meetings mirrors the principles of face-to-face interactions, promoting a conducive

Saikat Kumar Basu

and respectful environment for all participants.

The dos' Test the tools specifically: Your internet connection, clarity of your voice or video, or your position or the lighting. Are all the needed apps

presenting in a way that is easy to follow. Avoid talking too fast and always repeat questions asked before you answer.

Be engaging: Use your facial expressions, nod your head, etc., to let others know you're listening and that you're

urgent, try using the chat feature to ask. Take notes! Write down whatever data or information is most useful to you. You won't need to ask for important data in the future if you write it down now.

Always respond to

Here in summary are a few important things to keep in mind when attending or hosting a webinar:

1. Introduce a waiting room for latecomers
2. Respect everyone's time by keeping to the schedule.

3. Have a back-up plan in case of technical difficulties.

4. Be sure to introduce yourself and your co-hosts.

5. Always check your mute/unmute button.

6. Prepare to be flexible.

7. Stick to the topic.

8. Have a clear objective.

9. End with a call to action.

10. Allow for Q&A at the end.

11. Send a follow-up email with key takeaways and next steps.

12. Use the chat function sparingly.

13. Don't forget to say thank you at the end.



properly downloaded? Are the presentations ready to open? Wear a headset: It provides better sound quality for your viewers and will allow you to be more self-confident during your presentation.

Maintain eye contact: Remember to look into your webcam. Viewers will feel as if you are looking directly at them, just like at a traditional conference.

Be clear and precise: Make sure you're

interested. The don'ts

The less noise the better: Keep your audio muted to avoid distracting background noise. Try not to disturb those who are talking or listening. Please be courteous.

Don't distract the speaker: It's always better to ask questions during the Q & A mode rather than while the host or presenter is speaking. Write down your questions and try to wait your turn.

Use the chat: If you feel that your question is

questions: Never try to avoid answering the questions. Try to answer the host/audience questions after the webinar. It's even better if the presenter requests the audience to ask some questions.

Provide feedback: If the host/audience ask for any feedback, don't try to skip that. When a presenter wants to engage with their audience in a meeting, it creates a nice vibe and good intellectual environment.

14. Make sure about the quality of the net connection throughout the program/presentation.

15. Except the speaker or presenter all the mikes of individuals attending the webinar should remain mute.

16. Unmute only when you need to speak or comment or is invited to make a statement or comment.

17. Never be rude to anyone even if you don't like a specific criticism or comment or question.

18. Don't rush to deliver your presentation too quick; as this will make the audience confused and lose interest quickly.

19. Keep your presentation simple and customized according to the need and target audiences.

20. Say no if you don't have an answer to a specific question/comment. Don't make up or cook a response to impress your audience.

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Appropriate Time to Hold Assembly Polls but will review security before making decision: CEC Rajiv Kumar

SRINAGAR (Aasif Malik): "Our commitment is to conduct elections as soon as possible. Drug misuse in J&K a major concern; action is being taken; All polling stations will be under CCTV coverage; Security situation an issue, but no leniency will be allowed; will review security situation separately after Amarnath Yatra; will not let any terror activity disrupt the election process"*

Srinagar, Aug 09 (Chief Election Commissioner (CEC), Rajiv Kumar on Friday said that appropriate time has come to hold assembly polls in Jammu and Kashmir. CEC Rajiv Kumar was addressing a press

conference at Jammu after meeting stakeholders from J&K administration and Political Parties during two day visit. "We believe the timing is right for elections, but we'll return to Delhi to reassess the security situation, especially with the Supreme Court's deadline in mind," said CEC Rajiv Kumar. "We'll evaluate all aspects and then announce our decision on holding the polls." Stressing on urgency of holding elections, Rajiv said that their commitment is to conduct the elections as soon as possible, and are confident that the people will respond

strongly against any attempts to disrupt the election process.

On recent Lok Sabha elections, Rajiv said that now is the moment to advance the hopes of the people of J&K, demonstrated by their overwhelming participation in the Lok Sabha elections. The time has come to fulfill the aspirations of the people who have upheld the values of democracy. On the demands of political parties, he said that political parties collectively called for assembly elections, with some requesting a level playing field. "We will ensure that the security of political leaders is maintained to allow a fair



and free election environment."

Addressing the critical issue of drug misuse in J&K, Rajiv said that the drug issue in J&K is alarming; and they cannot allow a whole generation to jeopardize their future. "We're taking this matter very

seriously, and I have been informed that actions are already underway." Regarding election security, Rajiv said that CCTV coverage will be provided at all polling stations, as requested by the political parties. "We'll ensure a fair environment for all parties, and the

security of leaders will be carefully reviewed. There will be no unauthorized filming of polling stations."

He also clarified the process for election rallies: "All rallies will require online approval. We have explicitly instructed all DCs and SSPs to remain impartial and unbiased. Anyone found to be acting otherwise will be held accountable."

Expressing optimism for the upcoming elections, Rajiv said that they see elections as a festival, and given the enthusiasm shown during the Lok Sabha polls in J&K, they believe the assembly elections will be an even larger celebration. No

one should be allowed to derail this process. He added that all stakeholders, including political parties and security agencies, are aligned.

"Every political party has urged for the elections to be held as soon as possible. The agencies have assured us they are prepared for the polls, even though challenges exist. Security is a concern, but we will not compromise on measures to ensure a peaceful and smooth election."

Regarding the Amarnath Yatra, Rajiv said that with the Amarnath Yatra concluding soon, they need to separately assess the security

situation for the assembly elections. "We will conduct this review upon our return to Delhi and make decisions accordingly."

"There are some positive challenges, such as the eagerness of the people for elections. We are determined to hold the polls, and our goal is to translate the enthusiasm shown in the Lok Sabha elections into reality", he added.

On potential security threats, Rajiv said that they are prepared to handle any threats to the election process. "Our forces and the entire administration are fully capable of managing any challenges that may arise", he added.

Former Delhi Deputy CM Manish Sisodia came out of Tihar after 17 months

New Delhi (Ahsan Ansari): Former Deputy Chief Minister Manish Sisodia came out of jail at 6.50 pm after getting bail from the Supreme Court in the money laundering (ED) and corruption (CBI) case related to the Delhi liquor scam. He was released from Tihar Jail on Friday evening after 17 months i.e. about 530 days. Security was increased outside the jail before his release. After getting bail in the morning, the lawyers presented a copy of the Supreme Court order before the trial court. There the bail-bond was filled and in the afternoon the trial court issued the release order. After being released from jail, Sisodia said, "After this order, I feel indebted to Baba Saheb Ambedkar. We have brought this legal battle to a constitutional logical end. I am grateful to the Supreme Court which used the power of the Constitution to strike hard at dictatorship. Bail has been granted due to the power of the Constitution and democracy. This power will also release our leader



Arvind Kejriwal. After being released from jail, Sisodia will first go to the Chief Minister's residence in Civil Lines. After meeting CM Arvind Kejriwal's family there, he will go to Minister Atishi's residence located at AB 17 Mathura Road, where her family lives. The residence has been decorated with blue and yellow balloons. Tomorrow i.e. Saturday at 9 am, he will go to Rajghat with the leaders. Then at 10 am, he will go to the temple and worship. After this, he will address AAP workers at 11 am in the party office. Sisodia will stay in Atishi's government residence Deputy Chief

Minister's government residence located at Plot number AB 17 Mathura Road. After becoming the Chief Minister, Manish Sisodia was allotted this house, but after he went to jail and resigned from the post of minister, this house was allotted in the name of Minister Atishi. However, Sisodia's family still lives in this house. Atishi has made her camp office in it. It is being told that now Sisodia will live in this house, but the name plate outside the house will be of Minister Atishi. Until Sisodia takes oath as a minister, the house cannot be officially allotted in his name. Manish Sisodia does not have any other house in Delhi.

Liberal Party of India (BLP) held a protest at Jantar Mantar against the removal of Ambedkar's statue



New Delhi (Ahsan Ansari): Liberal Party of India (BLP) participated in the protest at Jantar Mantar on Friday against the removal of Dr. Bhimrao Ambedkar's statue from in front of Parliament. A large number of people gathered at Jantar Mantar and raised their voice against the neglect of the sentiments of the Dalit community. BLP President, Dr. Munish Kumar Raizada was present at the protest along with party general secretary, Akbar Khan Rana, and other party members. BLP workers and volunteers gathered in large numbers and demanded the restoration of Baba Saheb

Ambedkar's statue in front of Parliament. BLP President, Dr. Raizada called the decision to remove Dr. Ambedkar's statue from Parliament an attempt to erase Baba Saheb's image. Dr. Raizada said, "Dr. Ambedkar is the architect of the Constitution of India. He has devoted his entire life for the upliftment of the Dalit community. This is an attempt to erase the legacy of Baba Saheb." The party president agreed with the sentiments of other organizations present at the protest and said that the statue of Dr. Ambedkar should be re-installed in the

Kolkata (AMBAR MUKHERJEE): The Indian Electrical and Electronics Manufacturers' Association (IEEMA) hosted the first edition of the Odisha Power Conclave, in Bhubaneswar on Thursday. This

exclusive event brought together key government officials, industry stakeholders, policymakers, and leaders from the state's power sector ecosystem. The Conclave highlighted Odisha's potential to become a major hub for manufacturing and renewable energy, with a special focus on harnessing of solar and wind energy along with production of Green Hydrogen/Ammonia & energy storage through Pumped Storage Plants (PSPs).

Shri Kanak Vardhan Singh Deo, Deputy Chief Minister and Minister, Department of Energy, Government of Odisha, was the Chief Guest at the inaugural session of the conclave. Speaking at the event the Deputy Chief Minister acknowledged IEEMA's efforts in the Eastern region and said,

"I thank IEEMA for

organising the Odisha Power Conclave for the first time. The state government is committed to the growth of the sector, and with the announcement of the Prime Minister's Surya Ghar Scheme, along with the energy sector's expansion across the state and trained personnel, there is tremendous scope for harnessing of potential. We want the industry to establish their bases and set up units here, so that we can drive the growth of the sector forward."

Hemant Sharma, IAS, Principal Secretary, Industries Department, Government of Odisha, delivered a special address highlighting growth opportunities in Odisha, "We are very happy to host the Odisha Power Conclave by IEEMA's Eastern Region. Odisha is the gateway to the Eastern and Northeastern regions and offers immense opportunities for the electrical & electronic equipment industry. Odisha itself presents a very large market for electrical & electronic equipment and when combined with the demand from neighbouring eastern states, we could become one of the most important locations for the industry. The upcoming Renewable

Energy Projects has created a huge market of RE Capacity addition, managing the Grid variability and also the corresponding capacity addition in the Transmission & Distribution sector, ensuring power evacuation and distribution to the end consumers."

Speaking on the renewable energy sector in Odisha he said,

"Odisha is encouraging

renewable power

development, and it aims

to produce 43% of the

electricity from

renewable energy

sources by 2030".

Trilochan Panda, MD, GRIDCO Limited, highlighted the opportunities in the renewable sector in Odisha, "We are very happy to host the Odisha Power Conclave by IEEMA's Eastern Region. Odisha is the gateway to the Eastern and Northeastern regions and offers immense opportunities for the electrical & electronic equipment industry. Odisha itself presents a very large market for electrical & electronic equipment and when combined with the demand from neighbouring eastern states, we could become one of the most important locations for the industry. The upcoming Renewable

Energy Projects has created a huge market of RE Capacity addition, managing the Grid variability and also the corresponding capacity addition in the Transmission & Distribution sector, ensuring power evacuation and distribution to the end consumers."

The Electrical & Electronic

Manufacturers need to

grab the opportunities to

set up their Units in

Odisha by taking

advantage of the policy

benefits and conducive

Government support."

Speaking at the conclave

Gagan Bihari Swain,

Director (F&CA),

GRIDCO Limited said,

"We have investment

proposals of Rs.15,000

crore in renewable

energy. There will be

further investment of

Rs.30,000 to 40,000 crore

in Transmission &

Distribution Sector. Adding

to the regular CAPEX

requirements of the state,

there is a potential of Rs.1-

lakh crore of investment in

Power Sector in the next

5-6 years in Odisha."

Hamza Arsiwala,

President, IEEMA stated

that "IEEMA recognises

the significant

achievements of Odisha in

the energy sector. The

addition of 1,320 MW to

OPGC's capacity and the

substantial increase in renewable energy share, which rose to 10.7% in 2022-23 from 2.74% in 2018-19, are commendable milestones. The state's progressive Renewable Energy Policy, aiming to add about 10 GW of renewable capacity by 2030, highlights a clear commitment to sustainable development.

Sunil Singhvi, President-Elect, IEEMA said, "The

future of India's growth lies in balancing

development with environmental stewardship. Odisha's

initiatives in promoting green energy and reducing carbon emissions set a benchmark for other states."

Devesh Goel, Chairman, IEEMA Eastern Region said "As we gather in the vibrant state of Odisha, we stand at the threshold of tremendous opportunities in the power sector, particularly in the eastern region of India. This is a time of great transformation, driven by technological advancements, policy reforms, and a growing emphasis on sustainable energy solutions. Odisha, with its rich resources and strategic location, is poised to play a pivotal role in this journey."

Handing over of State Finances Audit Report of C&AG of India on Government of West Bengal

Kolkata (KCN): The Principal Accountant General (Audit-I), West Bengal, Shri Satish Kumar Garg in a Press Note today has informed today through a Press Note that in accordance with Article 151 of the Constitution and Section 19A of Comptroller and Auditor General of India's (Duties, Powers and Conditions of Services) Act, the Comptroller and Auditor General of India is required to forward 'Audit Report' on the accounts of the State Government to the Hon'ble Governor who causes them to be laid on the table of State Legislature. The Comptroller and Auditor General of India also compiles the Finance Accounts of the State Government together with the Appropriation Accounts. These are examined by the concerned Principal Accountant General (Audit-I) under the overall direction of the Comptroller and Auditor General of India in accordance with the requirements of the C&AG's (DPC) Act 1971. The Press Note added, "Accordingly, the State Finances Audit Report of the Comptroller and Auditor General of India for the year ended March 2023 on the Government of West Bengal containing analysis of the Fiscal position, Finances of the State, Budgetary Management, Quality of Accounts & Financial Reporting practices and Functioning of State Public Sector Enterprises has been handed over to the State Government on July 3, 2024 and to the Hon'ble Governor, West Bengal on July 10, 2024 for laying in the State Legislature."

Academics & Researchers called for stopping of violence against Hindus in Bangladesh



Kolkata (PARTHA ROY): Academics, Scientists, Researchers from various universities and institutions of Higher Education including IIT Kharagpur, Jadavpur University, Calcutta University, Kalyani University organised a press conference at Press Club of Kolkata to express their concern on violence, atrocities, torture and killing of Hindu and other minorities in Bangladesh that is going on after fall of Sheikh Hasina Government on 9th August 2024.

Dr. Jishnu Basu eminent scientist, Prof. Ayan Datta of IACS, Prof. Papia Mitra addressed the press conference. The group of civil society members called for stopping of violence and killing against women, children, aged members as well as stopping of destruction of properties of Hindu minorities in Bangladesh.

The civil society members called upon Central & State Governments to provide humanitarian aid to victims of violence who are taking refuge in Indian border area.

Odisha accords Habitat Rights to three PVTGs under FRA

Bhubaneswar (KCN): Odisha has become a leading state in the entire nation to accord habitat rights to three Particularly Vulnerable Tribal Groups (PVTGs) under the Forest Rights Act (FRA). With the recognition of the habitat rights of Juangs, in the tribal-dominated Keonjhar district August 7 by the district-level committee (DLC), the state has become a forerunner with three habitat rights recognised for the PVTGs, the maximum in the country. Earlier August 6, the habitat rights of Juang PVTG community of Jajpur district were approved

by the respective DLCs. Paudi Bhuyan of Deogarh district was the first PVTG community in the state to receive the habitat rights title March 7, 2024. While the habitat rights of Paudi Bhuyan have been recognised over 32 villages under Barkote block, habitat rights of Juangs in Jajpur have been recognised covering 13 villages under Sukinda block, and habitat rights for Juangs in Keonjhar have been recognised covering 134 villages across four blocks. PVTGs have been the stewards of their ancestral lands for generations, practicing sustainable living and preserving their rich cultural heritage. This approval not only affirms their rights but also reinforces the importance of respecting and upholding the traditions and lifestyles of indigenous populations. Recognition of habitat rights under FRA is a significant step in recognising and safeguarding the rights of indigenous communities. The Juangs of Keonjhar will become the sixth such title awarded under the category along with the Juangs of Jajpur and Paudi Bhuyans of Deogarh in Odisha, Bharia PVTG in

Madhya Pradesh and Kamar PVTG and Baiga PVTG in Chhattisgarh, having legal title and rights over their forest habitats. ST & SC Development, Minorities and Backward Classes Welfare Minister Nityananda Gond, while expressing his happiness over the development, said, "Our pro-people government is always there to see overall development of the tribal communities and especially the PVTGs, and with this Habitat Rights recognition, this will be more defined

and concrete." Habitat for the PVTGs refers to an area where these communities have both spiritual and material connections. The spiritual connection implies an area that is important to fulfil the socio-cultural needs of the community. This area includes burial grounds, birthplaces, temples, deities, ancestral lands, or areas used for any other socio-cultural purposes, such as festivals and processions. This area also includes places of customary land use for livelihood generation such as forest produce collection, fishing sources, cultivation

areas, and seasonal migratory lands. Habitat Rights under FRA can be defined as a bundle of rights consisting of these connections with the landscape: livelihood, social, and cultural practices embedded in the territory that forms their habitat. Odisha houses 13 PVTGs – the highest among all the States and Union Territories of India. The PVTGs inhabit 1,683 villages/ settlements distributed in 285 gram panchayats (GPs) under 42 blocks and 14 districts of Odisha. There are as many as 1,79,742 households with a total population of 7,73,092. All 13 PVTGs have different socio-cultural and socio-political significance and different habitat aspects. SC & ST Research and Training Institute (SCSTRTI), Bhubaneswar, has undertaken the research study on the determination and mapping of Habitat Rights of PVTGs under FRA across Odisha wherein Habitat Rights mapping for all 13 PVTGs have been done. Under the guidance of SCSTRTI and with the support of partner NGO Vasundhara, the process of Habitat Rights determination and

claim-making was done by the traditional institutions of each of the PVTGs. Out of the 13 PVTGs, the Habitat Rights claims for 9 PVTGs across 14 micro-projects have been submitted at Subdivision Level Committees (SDLC) and are at various stages of approval at SDLC and DLC, official sources said. ST & SC Development, Minorities and Backward Classes Welfare Commissioner-cum-Secretary Roopa Roshan Sahoo said, "The Habitat Rights for PVTG communities is a remarkable achievement."

Review on Preparedness of ULBs for Independence Day Celebrations Actively participate in the "Har Ghar Tiranga" campaign : Usha Padhee, Principal Secy H&UD



Bhubaneswar (KCN): In view of ensuing 77th Independence Day, Principal Secretary of Housing and Urban Development Smt. Usha Padhee, took a review meeting to assess the preparedness of Urban Local Bodies (ULBs) across the state. The meeting, which took place via video conference, was attended by DMA

Debasis Singh and Additional Secy Rabindra Kumar Sahu alongside Commissioners & Executive Officers from all ULBs, including five Municipal Corporations. During the review, Smt. Padhee emphasized the importance of Celebrating Independence Day with the spirit of patriotism and unity. She urged all ULBs to actively participate in the "Har Ghar Tiranga" campaign, encouraging every household to hoist the national flag with pride. This initiative, which forms a significant part of the Nationwide celebrations, aims to foster a sense of belonging and national pride among citizens. She stressed the need for proper coordination and planning to make the event a grand success, reflecting the collective

spirit of the nation. The meeting concluded with Smt. Padhee urging all ULBs to work diligently and ensure that every corner of the state resonates with the spirit of independence on August 15th and to make this year's Independence Day celebrations a memorable and unifying experience for all citizens.

Every Driver is a Member of My Family: Minister



Bhubaneswar (KCN): "Every driver is a member of my family. I always take their welfare seriously," said Bibhuti Bhusan Jena, Minister of Commerce and Transport, while addressing the gathering during a felicitation program organized by the Driver's Federation at the office of the Regional Transport Officer, Bhubaneswar-1. The Minister emphasized that the government is considerably addressing the demands of the Drivers.

During the event, Under the leadership of Odisha Driver Mahasangha representatives from various transport associations across the state were present, along with Transport commissioner Amitabh Thakur and senior officials of the Transport Department. The Minister was briefed on various demands from the Driver's association. He assured that the government is attentive to the needs of the drivers. Measures are being taken to make the Odisha Motor

Transport Driver and Worker Welfare Board more effective. Active members will be included in this board, the Minister stated. He also highlighted the steps being taken by the government to improve road safety, where drivers have a crucial role to play. The Minister urged everyone to work together in reducing accidents and encouraged the Driver's Federation to raise awareness among all drivers about road safety regulations.

To curb disorderly parking on highways, 23 truck terminals are being constructed where trucks can park, and drivers can rest. The state also has four heavy vehicle training centers where free driving training is provided. These facilities are available to all drivers. The Minister called for collective efforts to create an accident-free Odisha, assuring that the government will extend all necessary support to the drivers.



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Empowering Resilience: Parna Mehta's Journey from Career Break to AWS, Inspiring Inclusion and Transformation

Bhubaneswar (KCN): Women are the embodiment of remarkable strength, juggling responsibilities at home, and thriving in their professional endeavours. They navigate the complexities of modern life with grace, carving their own unique paths to success. Their remarkable journeys serve as evidence of their adeptness at overcoming the obstacles of contemporary life and carving out distinctive paths towards success. To commemorate International Women's Day, the 'She Is Amazon' drive by Amazon under the theme of 'Inspire Inclusion' celebrates women who demonstrate resilience by forging their own unique identities while balancing

home and personal responsibilities. One such example is Parna Mehta, born and raised in Mumbai, who embarked on her career in the IT industry after graduating as a computer engineer in 2002. For over six years, she honed her skills in various software development roles across India, the UK, and Australia, then Parna opted for a career break that spanned almost 12 years as she chose to prioritize family and dedicated herself to raising her two sons. With an arising need to be financially independent, Parna decided to re-join the workforce. Returning to the workforce after such a long hiatus presented significant challenges. Her once-advanced skills had

become outdated, and the lack of readily available flexible work options seemed insurmountable. Yet, Parna refused to be discouraged. She started working part-time, teaching coding, and designing curriculum for kids, a testament to her ability to adapt and pivot. Never one to shy away from learning, Parna actively sought opportunities to upskill. She participated in the Amazon Web Services (AWS) re/Start, a 12-weeks full-time development training program that prepares individuals for careers in the cloud and connects them to potential employers. This was a crucial step in her journey towards cloud computing. This decision not only rekindled her passion for technology but also opened doors to

the world of cloud expertise. With unwavering determination, she earned multiple AWS certifications, including the highly sought-after AWS Certified Solution Architect Associate supported by the SheBuilds program designed to create an inclusive and supportive environment for technical skills development.

Speaking about her experience, Parna shares, "The flexibility and support offered by AWS have been instrumental in my professional growth. Programs like AWS re/Start and SheBuilds played a vital role in equipping me with the necessary skills and confidence to re-enter the workforce." Parna's ambition transcended acquiring

technical expertise. She wanted to empower others, especially women who, like her, sought to re-enter the workforce. Becoming a mentor, Parna actively involved herself in AWS programs like CloudUp for Her, Tech4Her, and BeSA, guiding and supporting aspiring women re-starters. "I appreciate the opportunity to inspire and empower other

women through mentorship and share my knowledge through training." In late 2022, Parna's dedication and perseverance paid off. She landed her dream role as an Authorized Instructor at AWS. Today, she trains customers, sharing her knowledge and passion for cloud technology. This success not only marks a personal

triumph but also embodies the transformative power of Amazon's initiatives like re/Start and SheBuilds, which have been instrumental in empowering individuals like Parna to redefine their careers. Her story, a remarkable example of resilience and reinvention, was featured in the book "Cloud Career Journeys," further inspiring countless individuals.

SBILife extends 'ThanksADot'-Breast Cancer Awareness program, promoting self-breast examination among women in Bhubaneshwar



Bhubaneshwar (KCN): In its steadfast commitment to women's health and empowerment of underserved communities, SBI Life Insurance, under its 'ThanksADot' initiative, organized a breast cancer awareness program to educate and create awareness around the importance of self-breast examination amongst female sanitation workers of Bhubaneshwar Municipal Corporation (BMC). Through collaborative efforts with the Rotaract Club of Bhubaneshwar, the initiative aimed to bring about a behavioral change by empowering these women with an innovative easy-to-use tool for self-breast examination, SBI Life Insurance continues to take a step forward in this direction to educate female sanitation workers on ways to fight this deadly disease. Mr. Rajesh Bhugra, Regional Director-Bhubaneshwar, SBI Life Insurance along with Dr. Sanjay Kumar Mishra, Director-Radiology Oncology at Utkal Hospitals, Ms. Nandita Shah, Vice President, SBI Life Insurance were accompanied by the members of Rotary Club at this awareness program. They addressed these sanitation workers and distributed the innovative 'Thanks A Dot' hot water bag.

The innovative 'Thanks A Dot' tool re-engineers the 'hot water bag', that is most commonly used by women across the country to tackle menstrual pain, by engraving special lumps on the front side of the bag allowing women to experience the sensation of how a real breast cancer lump would feel during self-examination. SBI Life Insurance reaffirms its dedication to this cause, pledging to continue its efforts for spreading awareness and facilitating innovative tools for early

important and the practice of self-breast examination should be included in the monthly routine.

Breast cancer is among the many health issues affecting women's overall well-being. Alarmingly, 60% of breast cancer cases are reported in later stages, underscoring the urgent need for early detection. Unlike other diseases, breast cancer can often be detected early through simple self-examination steps, without the need for expensive medical devices. Understanding the critical importance of raising awareness and empowering women with life-saving skills, SBI Life Insurance has designed the innovative 'Thanks A Dot' Hot Water Bag.

The event concluded with the distribution of the hot water bags to the female sanitation workers alongside an interactive session that educated them on the importance of early detection and technique of self-breast examination. SBI Life Insurance reaffirms its dedication to this cause, pledging to continue its efforts for spreading awareness and facilitating innovative tools for early

Jindal Stainless partners with JBM Auto to roll out over 500 energy-efficient electric buses

Bhubaneshwar (KCN): Pioneering eco-mobility revolution in India, Jindal Stainless, India's largest stainless steel manufacturer, is partnering with JBM Auto Ltd., the country's largest electric bus manufacturer, for fabrication of over 500 energy-efficient and light-weight stainless steel

TPSODL Bags Best Innovation Project Award for 'Press Fit Fuse'

Berhampur, March: TPSODL (TP Southern Odisha Distribution Limited) received the "Best Innovation Project" in Innovation Council-2023 in Mumbai for Designing and implementing of 'Press Fit Fuse'. This Patented Safety Innovation Project, "Press Fit Fuse," was implemented at various DSS (Distribution Substations) at TPSODL to eliminate electrical accidents and ensure utmost safety. The award was received by Mr. Sushil Panigrahi, Head, Safety, TPSODL from Mr. Himal Tewari, CHRO, Chief Sustainability, and CSR, TATA Power during the Annual Award Ceremony.

Earlier, in the case of a burnt fuse, linemen replaced it by climbing up to the HG fuse structure physically. Despite safety zones created surrounding the electrical structure, accident cases

kept occurring from time to time. Also, a longer time was required while replacing a faulty fuse. To tackle this traditional fuse and method of replacing the fuse, TPSODL developed the Press Fit Fuse. It works on press-fit principles,

which can be replaced in a comparatively easier way standing from ground level without taking any risk. No ladder and additional electrical tools are required to replace the newly developed fuse. This innovation ensures

quick fuse replacement and outage restoration in a safe manner. Additionally, it is cost-effective and safe. One skilled person can replace the faulty fuse in minimal time and effort without climbing to the heights. It is noteworthy

that this Press Fit Fuse was developed along with Govt. ITI College, Berhampur, with required technical and resource support from the TPSODL Safety and Operation team. It is jointly patented by TPSODL and Govt. ITI Berhampur.



Airtel Xstream Fiber unlocks its NEW All-in-One plans

Bhubaneshwar: To serve the needs of premium households who want the next generational connectivity and entertainment experience, Bharti Airtel ("Airtel"), India's premier communications solutions provider, has once again raised the bar in the home broadband segment with the launch of three new all-in-one plans built for the evolving entertainment needs of today's connected homes. Vir Inder Nath, CEO - Homes, Bharti Airtel had this to say: "Our new plans are built for India's emerging entertainment needs. Through these bundle offers we plan to offer our discerning customers great value, convenience and unlock a multi-faceted digital experience."

Increased broadband consumption in Indian homes has given rise to the phenomena of hybrid viewing, where families are looking to consume OTT content on the TV screen along with linear TV without the hassle of managing multiple subscriptions and devices. Airtel's plans are the first of their kind in terms of catering to the evolving entertainment needs of the whole family and come with: Subscription to 17 premium OTTs to go with unlimited data. This includes Netflix, Amazon Prime, Disney+ Hotstar and Airtel Xstream Premium ((SonyLIV, Lionsgate, Hoichoi and 11 more OTTs). 350+ TV channels covering the best of linear TV. Airtel 4K Xstream TV Box* that allows you to enjoy OTT and linear TV content with a single device and single remote.

EXCEPTIONAL EXPERIENCES AWAITS SINGAPORE AIRLINES CUSTOMERS

Singapore: Airlines (SIA) today unveiled its all-new flagship SilverKris and KrisFlyer Gold lounges at Singapore Changi Airport Terminal 3, following a S\$50 million re-design, upgrade, and expansion project. This will further enhance the on-ground customer experience at the airline's main hub, and comes as the demand for international air travel from and through Singapore takes off once again.

The Private Room, the First Class section of the SilverKris Lounge, the Business Class section of the SilverKris Lounge, and the KrisFlyer Gold Lounge can collectively accommodate around 1,150 customers within

their 6,100 square-metres, translating to 30% more seats and space. This also doubles the capacity that was available during the pandemic while the upgrading works were going on. The airline has created a sanctuary that has been thoughtfully designed to enhance the comfort and convenience of diverse groups of travellers, and meet their evolving needs in the coming years. Customers will be able to enjoy world-class products and services, as well as enticing food and beverage options, around the clock at the lounges before their flight.

Mr Goh Choon Phong, Chief Executive Officer, Singapore Airlines, said: "Extensive customer engagement and research have gone into the design of the new SilverKris and KrisFlyer Gold lounges. Customers will enjoy the curated product offerings and experience the signature Singapore Airlines hospitality, all within a comfortable and restful environment, ensuring that they are refreshed and ready for their journey."

"Opening these lounges at this time signals our commitment to SIA's premium brand and growth strategy. It reinforces our position as Changi Airport's anchor airline, and reflects our confidence in Singapore's future as a pre-eminent global air hub."

WHEC recognizes Amrita Vishwa Vidyapeetham as excellence worldwide in Gender Equality

Barcelona: Amrita Vishwa Vidyapeetham was invited to the UNESCO World Higher Education Conference (WHEC), which recently took place in Barcelona, Spain. UNESCO recognized Amrita as one of five universities of excellence worldwide for its performance in gender equality.

The WHEC aims to reshape ideas and practices in higher

education to ensure sustainable development for the planet and humanity, as well as to define and prepare a roadmap for a new era of higher education. As the world comes out of COVID-19, the WHEC's goals and strategic scope remain, and the new timeframe represents an opportunity to deepen and expand common efforts of knowledge production,

policy dialogue, exchange, and networking. Swami Amritaswarupananda Puri, President of Amrita Vishwa Vidyapeetham, participated in a round table called "Universities' Contribution to Gender Equality: A global perspective". Adding to his views, Swami Amritaswarupananda expressed how Amrita is

making a difference in terms of gender equality and which policies have been put into place at the university level. Gender equality is number five in the United Nations' list of 17 Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). He explained how the culture of gender equality is not implemented only in terms of policies within Amrita, but also practiced in spirit. The round table included Dr. Gloria Bonder, UNESCO Chair on Women, Science and Technology; Dr. Ricardo Vilanueva Lomeli, Rector General, University of Guadalajara; Ms. Elizabeth Shepherd, Leader of the Consultancy team, Times Higher Education; and Dr. Victoria Galan-Muros, Chief of Research and Analysis,



Neeraj Chopra wins javelin silver, Pakistan's Arshad Nadeem gold with Olympic Record

NEW DELHI: Neeraj Chopra won silver in the men's javelin final with a best effort of 89.45m. Pakistan's Arshad Nadeem won gold with an Olympic record of 92.97m at the Games in Paris on Thursday, August 8. Pakistan's Arshad Nadeem threw 92.97m for gold and Olympic record.

India's Neeraj Chopra missed out on becoming the first athlete from the country to win two Olympic gold medals in individual sports. The Tokyo champion finished with a silver medal in the men's javelin final at the Paris Olympics. In a result that sent

shockwaves in the athletics fraternity, Pakistan's Arshad Nadeem won the gold medal with a new Olympic Record of 92.97m throw. Neeraj Chopra added an Olympic silver to his decorated trophy cabinet with a best effort of 89.45m, which came in his second attempt. It was his best-ever throw in the Olympic Games as he went past the 89.34m, which helped him seal the top spot in the qualification round on Tuesday. Neeraj Chopra managed only one legal attempt and it was enough for him to take the silver and

achieve another first for India at the Olympics. On the other hand, Arshad threw twice more than 90m in the final in one of the greatest track and field performances in the Olympics. Grenada's Anderson Peters took home the bronze medal. Neeraj Chopra and Arshad Nadeem ensured India-Pakistan finished 1-2 for the first time on the Olympic podium in men's javelin, a sport that is traditionally dominated by the Europeans. It was also the reversal of order from the World Championships last year when Neeraj Chopra won gold and Arshad

Nadeem won silver.

Neeraj Chopra became the first Indian to win an Olympic gold medal in a track and field event when he won the men's javelin event in Tokyo



with a best effort of 87.58m. He also became the fifth Indian after Norman Pritchard, Sushil Kumar, PV Sindhu and Manu Bhaker to win more than one individual

Olympic medals. Neeraj Chopra managed just one legal attempt as he fouled as many as five times in the final. He was under pressure after Arshad Nadeem threw

92.97m to smash the Olympic Record which was with Andreas Thorkildsen's record of 90.57m since 2008 Beijing Olympics.

Eventually, Arshad Nadeem finished with two throws in excess of 90m as he finished his series with 91.79m and sealed a historic gold medal for Pakistan.

It was a sensational men's final, which had a star-studded field of Olympic medalists. As many as five throwers went past Neeraj's gold-medal mark of 87.58m in Tokyo on an adrenaline-pumping evening at Stade de France.

Arshad Nadeem won

Pakistan's first-ever gold medal in an individual event at the Olympics. Tokyo Olympics silver medalist Jakub Vadlejch finished fourth after a valiant effort.

Two-time world champion Anderson Peters won the bronze medal, his first Olympic medal, with an effort of 88.54m. Rio Olympics silver medalist Julius Yego finished fifth while Julian Weber, featuring in his third Olympics, finished outside the top 3 again. He finished fourth in Rio and Tokyo. London Olympics bronze medallist Keshorn Walcott finished 7th with a best effort of 86.16m.

Excellence Personified: PM Modi congratulates Neeraj Chopra for Paris Olympics Silver

NEW DELHI: India's Prime Minister Narendra Modi took to his X account to send a heartfelt wish to Neeraj Chopra for his silver medal win in the Paris Olympics Men's Javelin. Neeraj's best throw in the final on August 8 went 89.45m, while Arshad Nadeem won the gold with his 92.97m throw. India Prime Minister Narendra Modi shared a special wish for India's star athlete Neeraj Chopra for his silver medal win at the Men's Javelin throw at the Paris Olympics on August 8. PM Modi heaped praise on Neeraj after the 26-year-old scripted history after becoming the only Indian track and field

athlete to win back-to-back Olympic medals, after winning the gold medal at the Tokyo Olympics 2020. PM Modi took to his X account to heap praise on Neeraj Chopra's silver-medal winning feat, which also amounted to the fifth medal at the Paris Olympics after the likes of Manu Bhaker, Sarabjot Singh, Swapnil Kusale, and also the Indian Hockey team winning bronze earlier in the day. "Neeraj Chopra is excellence personified! Time and again he's shown his brilliance. India is elated that he comes back with yet another Olympic

success. Congratulations to him on winning the Silver. He will continue to motivate countless upcoming athletes to pursue their dreams and make our nation proud," PM Modi's tweet read. In a result that left all the athletics fraternity stunned to the core, Pakistan's Arshad Nadeem won the Gold medal with a new Olympic Record of 92.97m throw. Neeraj's best effort in the final came on his second attempt, which went for 89.45m. It was also his best-ever throw in the Olympic Games as he went past 89.34m, which helped him seal the top spot in the qualification round on Tuesday.

D H A K A : The Bangladesh Cricket Board has retained a flicker of hope over hosting the upcoming ICC Women's T20 World Cup in the wake of violent protests that have seen the imposition of an emergency by the country's interim government. The board has written to the Bangladesh Army Chief of Staff General Waker-Uz-Zaman on Thursday seeking security assurance for the conduct of the tournament, which is currently scheduled to begin on September 27 with the warm-up games. The International Cricket Council (ICC) meanwhile has been closely monitoring the situation in Bangladesh

and has even weighed up other host options and in the event of the tournament being moved out, is likely to opt for a country in a similar time zone as Bangladesh. India, UAE and Sri Lanka fit its requirement. On Thursday (August 8), Nobel Laureate Professor Muhammad Yunus-led interim government was appointed to run the country's affairs till fresh elections are conducted. Following Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina's departure from the country, several board directors, including BCB president Nazmul Hassan, were also forced to leave Bangladesh given they were backed by Hasina's party, Awami League. However, some other directors of the board continue to reside in

Dhaka and retain hope with regards to hosting the marquee event. "We are trying to host the tournament," Iftekhar Ahmed Mithu, BCB's Umpire Committee chairman, told Cricbuzz. "To be honest there are not too many among us present in the country and on Thursday (August 8) we have sent a letter to the Army Chief regarding assurance about the security of the ICC Women's T20 World Cup as we have only two months in hand," Mithu told Cricbuzz on Thursday. "ICC communicated with us two days back and we replied that we will come back to them shortly. Today after the [interim] government is formed, still we have to give them

assurance of the security considering it cannot be given by the board or any anyone else apart from a law enforcement agency of the country and so we sent the letter today and after getting written assurance from them [the Army] we will inform the ICC," he added. Ten teams are scheduled to play 23 matches, over 18 days of the World Cup, at two venues in Bangladesh - the Sher-e-Bangla National Cricket Stadium in Dhaka and the Sylhet International Cricket Stadium in Sylhet - from October 3 to 20. It is learnt that the ICC will take until August 10 before taking a decision on the venue of the tournament after assessing the conditions on-ground in Bangladesh.

Rahul Dravid on wild celebration with T20 World Cup: 'Felt really happy for team'



NEW DELHI: Former India cricketer and head coach Rahul Dravid opened up on his wild celebration after India's T20 World Cup 2024 victory.

India head coach Rahul Dravid opened up on his wild celebration after India's T20 World Cup 2024 triumph. Notably, India beat South Africa by seven runs in the final on 29th June at Kensington Oval, Bridgetown, Barbados. As a result, India ended their 11-year-long ICC Trophy drought and clinched their second T20 World Cup trophy.

Following India's historic triumph, Dravid was seen at his animated best as he wildly celebrated with the trophy blurted out loud roars and with intense fist pumps. Seeing the legendary cricketer celebrate like a five-year-old kid, Indian fans were moved to tears. Recently, Dravid opened up on his viral celebration and said that he just let his emotions out as he was very happy for the team. "You don't plan these things. In most times, I try to keep my emotions in check as a coach and you are expected to do

that. But at that time, I felt really happy for the team. I felt happy for the boys. I felt happy for the support staff. So many people who had worked really hard along with me," Dravid told Star Sports.

Further speaking ahead, Dravid reflected on India's failure to clinch an ICC trophy in the past few years despite playing in four finals since 2017. "I had been with the team for 2.5-3 years and we had come close a few times, whether it be the semifinals of the last T20 World Cup in Australia, the World Test

Championship final or the 50-over World Cup final in India, and we were just not able to cross the line in those critical moments. In those situations you need a little bit of luck, a little bit of destiny to work your way and that day it was with us," he stated in the

same conversation. Dravid stepped down from his position as the India head coach as his tenure came to an end after India's World Cup win. As a result, Dravid got his redemption on the very soil where he faced the lowest point of his cricketing career after India were knocked out in the first stage itself of the 2007 ODI World Cup under his captaincy. The 51-year-old ended his glittering career on the cricketing pitch by finally being able to hold an ICC Trophy which eluded him throughout his professional career.

lead in the 62nd minute when Saber scored on a rebound. Despite hitting the woodwork three times, France equalized seven minutes from time when Mateta netted from an Olise pass.

Egypt will now compete for the bronze medal against Morocco in Nantes on Thursday. Earlier on in the day, Spain had reached the final with a comeback win over Morocco. The 2020 silver medallists found themselves trailing in the first half and took the

semi-final after Soufiane Rahimi, the tournament's top scorer, netted a penalty for his sixth goal of the Games. Barcelona's Fermin Lopez leveled the score midway through the second half in Marseille, capitalizing on a loose ball in the penalty area. Substitute Juanlu Sanchez secured the victory and his team's place in Friday's final in Paris by drilling home the winning goal five minutes from time.

Olympics 2024: France overcome Egypt 3-1 to setup football final with Spain

NEW DELHI: Jean-

Philippe Mateta was the star of the show as his brace helped France reach the football final of the Olympics for the first time in 40 years. France will now face Spain in the final on Friday, August 9. France will compete in the Olympic men's football final for the first time in 40 years after a thrilling 3-1 victory over Egypt in extra time at Lyon's stadium on Monday. They will face Spain for the gold medal. The match saw France come from behind after Egypt's Mahmoud Saber scored a spectacular goal, marking the first time France had conceded in the tournament. Jean-Philippe Mateta equalized with a late strike, pushing the game into extra time. Mateta then scored his second goal of the match, followed by Michael Olise, who sealed the victory in extra time. This win propels Thierry Henry's team into Friday's final at Parc des Princes against Spain, who defeated Morocco 2-1 earlier. Egypt, in their third Olympic semi-final, had more goal attempts in the first half and took the

