

Ex Bihar Chief Minister Karpoori Thakur Awarded Bharat Ratna Posthumously

New Delhi(KCN): Former Chief Minister of Bihar Karpoori Thakur was conferred the nation's highest honour, Bharat Ratna, posthumously by the President of India Droupadi Murmu this evening. The award comes 35 years after his death -- Karpoori Thakur died on February 17, 1988.

"I am delighted that the Government of India has decided to confer the Bharat Ratna on the beacon of social justice, the great Jan Nayak Karpoori Thakur Ji and that too at a time when we are marking his birth centenary. This prestigious recognition is a testament to his enduring efforts as a champion for the marginalized and a stalwart of equality and empowerment," tweeted Prime Minister Narendra Modi.

Dubbed "Jan Nayak" by many in the state, Karpoori Thakur served as the Chief Minister of Bihar for a short while -- from December 1970 to June 1971 and from December 1977 to April 1979. The Centre's recognition for the state's first non-Congress Chief Minister meets a long-standing demand of Bihar Chief Minister Nitish Kumar and his Janata Dal United.

Today, the Chief Minister said, this "highest honor to late Karpoori Thakur ji on his 100th birth anniversary will create positive sentiments among the Dalits, deprived and neglected sections".

Coming ahead of the general election, it is seen as the BJP's masterstroke in a state that has 40 parliamentary seats. Karpoori Thakur being a member of Other



Backward Castes, many see it as part of the BJP's attempt to gain allegiance of this section which has so far been loyal to Nitish Kumar. Sources said Prime Minister Narendra Modi was well aware that after the state government's caste survey in Bihar and the subsequent increase in quota for the Economically Backward Classes, the Other Backward Classes and the Dalits in jobs and educational institutions in Bihar, the ruling alliance led by Nitish Kumar was enjoying a

clear edge. "The government which was forced to give Bharat Ratna posthumously to late Karpoori Thakur, the pioneer of social justice of the entire region, understood the rise of Bahujan concerns. Congratulations to respected @laluprasadrjd ji @NitishKumar ji @yadavtejashwi ji. First the caste census and then increasing the scope of reservation scared them," read a rough translation of a tweet by RJD MP Manoj Jha. A BJP ally for decades,

Mr Kumar had broken away from the NDA ahead of the 2014 general elections but returned to the fold in 2017. Less than two years ago, he walked out again, forming government with a new alliance that has all parties of Bihar -- small and big -- on board. That move had left then BJP out in the cold, with a fractured Lok Janshakti party for company. The BJP's isolation factor has cemented the spin on today's events, leaders indicate. The Bihar BJP leaders though, have been caught unawares. Leaders confided that the party high command never gave them any hint about this. Else they would have "vociferously made this demand", which was continuously raised by Mr Kumar's Janata Dal United and Tejashwi Yadav's Rashtriya Janata Dal.



PRESIDENT OF INDIA PAYS HOMAGE TO NETAJI SUBHAS CHANDRA BOSE ON HIS BIRTH ANNIVERSARY

New Delhi(KCN): The President of India, Smt Droupadi Murmu paid homage to Netaji Subhas Chandra Bose on his birth anniversary today (January 23, 2024) which is being celebrated as Parakram Diwas. She paid floral tributes in front of a portrait of Netaji at Rashtrapati Bhavan.

Over 2.5 Lakh Devotees Offer Prayers At Ayodhya Ram Temple Today

Ayodhya (KCN): Around 2.5 lakh to 3 lakh devotees have offered prayers to Ram Lalla in Ayodhya's Ram Temple on Tuesday and a similar number of devotees are awaiting the darshan, state government officials said.

With the influx of a large number of devotees to Ayodhya's Ram Temple, senior officials of the Uttar Pradesh government were present inside the temple premises to monitor the orderly movement of devotees.

Uttar Pradesh Special DG (Law and Order) Prashant Kumar and Principal Secretary (Home) were present inside the 'Garbha Griha' to monitor the situation. The Ram Temple was thrown open to the



general public on Tuesday after the 'Pran Pratishta' ceremony was performed on January 22.

According to officials, more than 8,000 security personnel are present to control the situation. Since early morning, devotees have arrived at the temple to offer prayers.

"We are very pleased. We are touched even more to come to terms with the fact that we are

going to have 'darshan' of the Ram Lalla," said Tejender Singh, a devotee from Chandigarh. On the huge crowd gathered at the gates of the temple, he said, "Lakhs of people will have the darshan of Lord Ram. So it is bound to be crowded." Another devotee said that he had come all the way from Odisha to have the darshan of Lord Ram at Ayodhya.

AICC Revokes Suspension Of Three Odisha Congress Leaders



Bhubaneswar(KCN): The Indian National Congress (INC) withdrew the suspension of senior party leaders Mohammed Moquim and Chiranjib Biswal on Tuesday. The grand old party also revoked the expulsion of former MLA Krishna Chandra Sagaria. On Monday, Mohammed Moquim, MLA from Cuttack-Barabati, and former legislator Chiranjib Biswal met Ajoy Kumar, the party in-charge for

Odisha, in Bhubaneswar and discussed the issue of revoking their suspension from the party. Despite the disciplinary actions against them, the two Congress leaders have been loyal to the party and did not join any other organization.

It is worth mentioning here that the All-India Congress Committee (AICC) suspended Moquim and Biswal from the party on July 16, 2023, on the grounds of anti-party activities. Odisha Pradesh Congress Committee president Sarat Pattnayak had alleged that he had received complaints against the two leaders. Based on the complaints, AICC general secretary and party's disciplinary action committee (DAC) member Tariq Anwar served show cause notices to the two leaders seeking explanations.

Joda(KCN): Two labourers were killed after a mound of earth collapsed on them while carrying out underground drainage work at Kamarjoda under Joda police station limits in Keonjhar district on Tuesday.

According to reports, five labourers were working on the underground drainage system pipelines being laid on both sides of the road, when a mound of earth fell from about 15 feet above trapping two labourers underneath this afternoon at around 5 pm.

A worker, Mukesh Sardar, who spotted the tragic incident, rushed out and informed that two workers, Charan Lohar and Arjun Lohar, got buried under the heap of soil. With the help of an earthmover machine, the soil was removed with caution and both were rescued from there by the fire department personnel. While one was brought to Tata Steel Hospital, the other was taken to Kamarjoda Community Health Center where doctors declared them dead.

Odisha CM Elated With The Divine Experience Of Puri Srimandir Parikrama



Puri(KCN): After the inauguration of the Srimandir Parikrama project recently, Chief Minister Naveen Patnaik on Tuesday visited Puri Srimandir for darshan of Lord Jagannath and toured the Parikrama project again to experience the new facilities available to the devotees.

The Odisha CM, accompanied by 5T Chairman VK Pandian, arrived at the Mati Tota helipad this afternoon, where District Collector Samarth Verma and SP Dr. Kanwar Vishal Singh welcomed them.

The Chief Minister then reached Jagannath Ballabha Pilgrim Center

Jagannath for the prosperity and well-being of the people of Odisha. Near the south entrance and west corner of the

shrine, he got off the e-vehicle and walked around the corridor for some time. Along with this, he also performed the Srimandira Parikrama Marga Pradakhshina. The Chief Minister was elated with the overall experience i.e. from darshan of the deities to

The servitor also presented the chief minister a Khandua Pata. Similarly, on his way back, Satyanarayan Pujaris presented a photo to the Chief Minister near Satyanarayan Temple. The Srimandira Parikrama Marga offers wide avenues for viewing, beautiful flower gardens, mutts and temples along with Kalingan art and architecture. When a devotee arrives, he can sit anywhere around the shrine and have a divine experience. A lot of facilities like a cloakroom, information centre, amphitheatre etc. have been provided for

the devotees along with the beautiful green environment, and Khondalite stone works. The 75-meter-wide Parikrama project around the temple will be magnificent, and aesthetically pleasing and will provide a spiritual environment to generation after generation of devotees. The Chief Minister inaugurated the project on the 17th of January. During the Chief Minister's visit, tight security arrangements were made on the Helipad to Shri Setu, Jagannath Ballabha Pilgrim Center to Shri Marga, Srimandir and also Parikrama Marga.

AIIMS Bhubaneswar conducts successful trial of utilising Drones in healthcare services

Bhubaneswar, (KCN): AIIMS Bhubaneswar on Tuesday conducted a successful experimental trial of utilising drones to provide superior healthcare services in Odisha. The Drone completed the successful journey of 120 kms from AIIMS Bhubaneswar to CHC Tangi in just 1.10 hours, carrying the essential blood supplies weighing around 2kg, without encountering any operational issues.

The trial was conducted in the presence of AIIMS Bhubaneswar Executive Director Dr. Ashutosh Biswas. Speaking over it, Dr. Biswas reiterated the commitment of the national institute to



- ◆ Can carry essential medical supply, blood upto 5kg
- ◆ Covers 60km only in 35 minutes
- ◆ Can play a pivotal role during natural disasters to ensure timely delivery of critical medical supplies to remote areas

develop a model to integrate the technology into the healthcare system as a supplement to existing logistics methods and suggest ways for the long-term sustainability of drone-based delivery of medical supplies. Induction of drone delivery can boost the

healthcare services in rural, tribal, and semi-urban locations. These drones can carry multiple health products including vaccines, essential drugs and diagnostic samples. AIIMS Bhubaneswar, as a leading tertiary healthcare provider has created this opportunity

for the people of Odisha, added Dr. Biswas. Drone service can play a pivotal role during any natural disasters, overcoming geographical barriers and ensuring timely delivery of critical medical supplies to remote areas like emergency medicine,

ECoR ACHIEVED 200 MILLION TON FREIGHT LOADING IN JUST 295 DAYS



Bhubaneswar, (KCN): East Coast Railway has surpassed all records of Indian Railways in Freight Loading in the Financial Year 2023-24. From 1st April, 2023 to 22nd January, 2024, the zone loaded 202.111 million tons of freight, shattering the earlier record of highest Freight

Loading of 191.39 MT loaded in last fiscal, i.e. in 2022-23 fiscal. By this, ECoR became the 1st Zone to cross the Milestone of 200 Million Tonne of loading for 5th times in a row. The three divisions of the ECoR have contributed greatly to the stupendous feat achieved by it.

During the financial year 2023-24, East Coast Railway has loaded 121.747 MT of Coal, 10.65MT of Raw Materials to Steel Plants, 16.398 MT of Pig Iron & Finished Steel, 24.018 MT of Iron Ore, 1.192 MT of Cement, 2.415 mt of Food Grains, 5.235 MT of Fertilizers, 2.425

BLOOD DONATION CAMP AT DAV, KALINGA NAGAR TO MARK PARAKRAM DIWAS AND 200th BIRTH ANNIVERSARY OF MAHARSHI SWAMI DAYANANDA SARASWATI



Bhubaneswar, (KCN): DAV Public School, Kalinga Nagar observed P A R A K R A M DIWAS- the birth anniversary of Netaji Subhas Chandra Bose and Veer Surendra Sai in addition to commemorating 200th birth anniversary of Maharshi Swami Dayananda Saraswati in its premises today. Principal Sri Balaran Mohapatra, all the supervisors, teachers and members of student cabinet

offered their floral tribute to the great patriots of India's freedom struggle. Joining as the Chief Guest of the occasion, Dr Gitanjali Mishra of Regional Red Cross Center, Bhubaneswar reiterated the exemplary valor and audacity of Netaji Subhas Chandra Bose and Veer Surendra Sai and their contribution to the freedom movement of India. While summing up the crucial role of the great spiritual leader Maharshi Swami

Dayananda Saraswati in leading the Indian masses on the right path in their quest for knowledge, she said that the ideologies of these great souls shall continue to rule the over the hearts of thousands and millions of people all over the world till eternity. A wide range of activities were organised to mark the occasion. The students recounted the glory and sacrifice of the all-time great leaders through their beautiful chorus and small skit. A blood donation camp was

BJD's Parivaar Sampark Yatra: Uniting Homes, Winning Hearts for the Future

Bhubaneswar, (KCN):

In an effort to resonate with the masses, the Biju Janata Dal (BJD) launches a grand campaign, syncing with the birthdays of Netaji Subhas Chandra Bose and Biju Patnaik. Running from January 23 to March 5, the Parivaar Sampark Yatra is set to bridge the gap between the party and the people. In a dazzling prelude to this initiative, BJD's Kakatpur constituency inaugurates its Parivaar Sampark Yatra from Chhuriana Panchayat in Astarang Block. With a mission to reach every family, the campaign embodies both success and a profound commitment to understanding people's needs. Leading the charge are prominent figures such as Swadhin Kumar Nayak, Vice Chairman of



Puri Zilla Parishad, Tushar Kanti Behera, Sports and Youth Affairs Minister, Jyotirmay Dalai, Former President of Puri Zilla Parishad, Saraswati Swain, Banita Behera, Block BJD President Kedar Nath Biswal, Prasant Nayak, Block Youth BJD President, Sarpanch Khirod Kandi, Nominee Mandakini Chhatoi, MP's representative Champak Barik, Minister's representative Bhimsen Swain and others. The campaign's core objective is to strengthen ties with households, symbolized by the conch symbol, reflecting success and a

steadfast commitment to the people's well-being. The strategy includes home visits, engaging with residents and articulating the party's vision for the state. Eagerly anticipated as a pivotal event, the forthcoming announcement of the election schedule is poised to set the stage for the upcoming elections. BJD's ambition is to reach every voter, using the campaign as a dynamic platform to forge connections, raise awareness, and embrace a people-centric approach in preparation for the crucial elections ahead.



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Ram Mandir Inauguration: Hombale Films Releases Majestic Melody 'Rama Chandraya'

Hombale Films is one of the pioneer filmmakers of the nation who has always created a story that resonates with the audience and presents the richness of our cultural values on the big screen. Be it KGF 1 & 2 or Kantara Or Salaar Part 1 Ceasefire, they have always ensured to treat the audience with a bewitching tale that also touches the hearts. Now, Hombale Films has brought their vision of nourishing Indian heritage in real by creating a divine majestic melody RamaChandraya Mangalam to mark the inauguration ceremony of Ram Mandir in Ayodhya. The team Hombale Films created a divine melody titled RamaChandraya Mangalam celebrating the spirit of unity and harmony. The special song has been created by the team members of Hombale Films for the big day when a historic chapter of Bharat unfolds as the whole nation unites in celebration of the inauguration of Ram Mandir in Ayodhya. Dressed in Indian attire, the team Hombale Films can be seen drenched in fervor with all the devotion.

Taking to their social media, the filmmakers shared divine melody and jotted down the caption, "A historic chapter of Bharat unfolds as the whole nation unites in celebration. The inauguration of the #RamMandir in #Ayodhya is a testament to our shared cultural heritage. Let's come together as one nation, celebrating the spirit of unity and harmony. Embracing the cultural richness of our past, let's rejoice in the shared legacy of Jambudweep, where Lord Ram resided. Meanwhile, Hombale Films has an interesting line-up that includes, Kantara Chapter 1, 'Bagheera', and many more

Ram Charan Poses With Dad Chiranjeevi At Historic Ram Mandir Pran Pratishta In Ayodhya



In a historic moment awaited for 500 years, the Mega Family, featuring Global Star Ram Charan, Mega Star Chiranjeevi, and the elegant Surekha Konidela has added unparalleled excitement and significance to the grand ceremony, which is the largest in the nation's history. The Mega Family, accompanied by devotional chants and

sentimental fervor, landed in Ayodhya on a chartered plane, symbolizing their profound connection to the historic event. "RAM FOR RAM MANDIR" echoes from Hyderabad as Ram Charan, dressed in a pristine kurta, steps onto the sacred land of Ayodhya, marking the

Varun Tej, Manushi Chhillar-Starrer Air Force Action Film Makers Drop Big Update



The suspense will soon be over as the title for India's biggest Air Force action film will be unveiled tomorrow. The Hindi-Telugu film, also stars Manushi Chhillar as a radar officer. VT 13, inspired by true events, will take us through the biggest and the most deadly attacks witnessed by India and the victory of our Indian Air Force over their enemies by demonstrating strong courage to protect their country.

The highly anticipated film is produced by Sony Pictures International Productions and Sandeep Mudda from Renaissance Pictures, co-produced by Nandakumar Abbineni and God Bless Entertainment and is written by Shakti Pratap Singh Hada, Aamir Khan and Siddharth Raj Kumar.

Shah Rukh Khan's Jawan Becomes First Film To Cross USD 16 Million At Box Office In UAE



It's almost a month since Shah Rukh Khan's action-entertainer 'Jawan' has been released but its craze among the audience doesn't seem to settle down at any cost. One after the other, the film is creating new records at the Box Office not just in India but also across the world. Having set its strong feet in different parts of the world, 'Jawan' has now made a distinctive mark in the UAE market as well, as the film has emerged as the #1 Indian film in the Middle East with its phenomenal collection figures.

Talking about the same, Nelson D'Souza, Vice President International Distribution, said, 'Jawan' has been received

exceptionally well in international markets and continues to perform exceptionally well, becoming the first Indian film to cross USD 16 Million in the Middle East and emerging as the #1 Indian Film while raking in an outstanding 44.43 million in overseas till date. There is nothing quite like this we have seen before and we are now looking forward to even more exciting times ahead with Dunki! - Nelson D'Souza, Vice President, International Distribution

'Jawan' is spreading its magic in the UAE market.

The film has become the first film to cross the whooping collection of USD 16 Million and has made it the #1 Indian film in the Middle East. Well, among many, this is indeed yet another example of its success and the unprecedented love that the film is receiving from the audience. Well, as we see, Jawan is constantly on the rise, it would be interesting to see how the film will create more records in the future. 'Jawan' is a Red Chillies Entertainment presentation directed by Atlee, produced by Gauri Khan, and co-produced by Gaurav Verma. The film was released worldwide in theaters on September 7th, 2023, in Hindi, Tamil, and Telugu.

Prime Video's Maitri: Female First Collective Hosts Its First Session In Chennai



Prime Video released the latest session of 'Maitri: Female First Collective', hosting its maiden discussion in Chennai. Launched last year, the collective is an endeavour to create a safe space where women from the Indian media and entertainment industry can come together to discuss their experiences, challenges and successes, and offer their perspective on bringing about a positive shift.

The session featured 8 eminent women from India's various entertainment industries, ranging from award-winning prolific actors who have worked across languages like Malavika Mohanan, Aishwarya Rajesh and Madhoo, to women who have left an indelible mark behind the camera, like creator, writer, showrunner & producer Reshma Ghatala, writer & director Swathi

Raghuraaman, and cinematographer Yamini Yagnamurthy, in addition to Aparna Purohit, creator - Maitri & head of India Originals, Prime Video, and Smriti Kiran, creator and curator of Maitri & founder, Polka Dots LightBox. Sharing personal anecdotes, the participants discussed the existing gender dynamics in the film industry, the challenges faced by female professionals, including stereotyping, colourism,

ageism, and much more. Surprisingly, the women noted how the issues were similar irrespective of whether they worked in front of the camera or behind it, or whether they worked in production or corporate roles. The core discussion also touched upon the true essence of feminism and empowerment, what gender-equality really means for the trailblazers gathered in the room. An interesting insight that was shared by all was

that true equality can be achieved when the industry stops tagging a particular role, a narrative or a job as woman-oriented or male-oriented. The group as a whole agreed that age-old conditioning often restricts the personal and professional growth potential of women, and can be changed only if it is internalized in one's home and social environment. The interaction also highlighted the critical role that streaming was

playing in improving female representation, creating new opportunities for actors, regardless of their age, body size, or skin colour, and for creators to tell all kinds of unique stories.

"Equal representation opens up a new world for young girls to draw inspiration from, making it all the more important to have women in positions of influence, where they can provide a platform for newer voices and open up doors for more women," said Aparna Purohit, creator - Maitri & head of India Originals, Prime Video. "However, we know that change is a gradual process. It is, therefore, important for us to continue having these discussions across the country, and we are thrilled to have hosted our first session in Chennai. Even though it is only a year old, Maitri has managed to drive change in the right direction. It is heartening to see people

having a conversation about diversity, equity and inclusion when writing or planning their projects."

Speaking about the need to have such conversations frequently, Smriti Kiran, creator & curator of Maitri and founder, Polka Dots LightBox said, "There is an undeniable need for spaces where women can voice their stories without any fear. Creating an environment that allows women to share their experiences without judgement is the first step in enabling any change, whether it is in the industry or society. This is precisely why we have to keep the conversation going relentlessly. Thrilled that Maitri is in Chennai today, tomorrow it will be in another part of India. We will continue to connect women across sections and states through conversation and collaboration."

Sextortion is a new mode of cyber fraud

Amit Baijnath Garg-



The data of the National Crime Records Bureau i.e. NCRB for 2022 shows that there has been a rapid increase in cyber-crimes across the country, which is creating a worrying situation. There has been an increase of approximately 24.4 percent in cyber-crimes compared to 2021. Cyber-crimes are rapidly making inroads in the country.

Pradesh besides Haryana.

In 2023, such cases started coming from the areas of Mewat i.e. sextortion cases started being reported to the police. After becoming the center of cyber fraud, cyber criminals of Mewat have made sextortion a new weapon of fraud. This new method of criminals is emerging as a challenge for cyber police and law enforcement agencies. Some reports on such scams say that 300 to 400 people fall victim to these scammers every day. They have gangs of many people, who describe themselves differently. Someone will become an army man, someone will become a cyber police officer, someone will become a businessman or a YouTube employee and someone will say that he is connected to the court. Everyone will have different numbers and you will get calls from several numbers.

Then the cheating game will begin. First someone will call you as an officer of the cyber police and say that your pornographic video is running on YouTube, which you should delete. Then he will give you a number, which will be claimed to be of a YouTube staff. The so-called staff will first tell you about your running video. After taking the money to remove it, he will say, your video is also running on Instagram and Facebook, remove it from there too. Then money will be charged for removal from both these locations. After this, security money will be taken. The YouTube employee will deduct one thousand rupees, and will tell you the money will be refunded to your account within 12 hours. He will ask for the account number. Then the cyber-crime officer will take the money once the case is settled. In this way you will lose up to one lakh

rupees or more. Reports show that this gang of criminals earns big money after trapping people. All money is divided equally among gang members. According to an estimate, some districts of Mewat report more than eight thousand cyber-crimes annually. People are facing huge losses of crores of rupees. A few months ago, the police registered a case based on a complaint, in which a person alleged that he received an unknown WhatsApp video call. There was a nude girl. A screenshot was taken capturing his face during the call. After some time, he received calls from two different numbers. The callers claimed to be from Cyber Crime Delhi and said that the alleged screen shot was about to be circulated. They started threatening the victim and demanding a huge amount of

money. He was also given the threat of arrest. Fearing threats, the complainant transferred more than Rs 12 lakh to the bank account given by the fraudster.

In November 2023, a 22-year-old man was accused of posing as a police officer, duping people by displaying nude videos of young women through WhatsApp calls and later capturing shots of their mobile screens to extort money from the victims. The accused was identified as Rizwan of Deeg district in Rajasthan. He called himself ACP Vikram Rathore of Crime Branch. In another case, the Delhi Police arrested a 55-year-old cyber fraudster who allegedly posed as an army soldier and duped a wire manufacturer on the pretext of buying wire for a school. The accused has been identified as Ali Mohammad of Nuh district of Haryana. The arrest was made on the complaint of a resident

of Shahdara area. He said that he had received a call from an army officer who needed wires for army schools. Cases of cyber-crimes operating from Mewat areas are continuously being reported across the country. Police officials claim that special campaigns against cyber fraud are being conducted across the country to raise awareness about cyber-crimes. The mobile phones and numbers found with the criminals of Mewat region are mostly bought with fake documents from other states, especially Assam, Odisha and West Bengal. Recently, many accused have been sent behind bars in Bharatpur district. Police say their teams from almost all states are working together to investigate cyber-crimes. Some cases of cyber fraud have also been solved successfully. In Jaipur also, cyber police have

been successful in investigating many such cases. Many accused have been arrested and handed over to the police of other states. The police say, many times during operations in the Mewat area, cyber criminals attacked and threw stones at them. According to the police, there is no need to be afraid of sextortion, it is nothing more than fraud. One should not give money to anyone. Nothing is going to get worse.

Let us take a look at the figures. The data of the National Crime Records Bureau i.e. NCRB for 2022 shows that there has been a rapid increase in cyber-crimes across the country, which is creating a worrying situation. There has been an increase of approximately 24.4 percent in cyber-crimes compared to 2021. Cyber-crimes are rapidly making inroads in the country. The danger of

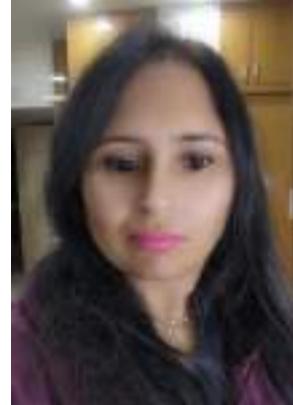
these is also continuously increasing. To deal with this, strong cyber security measures and awareness are needed. However, the action of cyber police created to expose such cases and arrest criminals is not as effective as it should be. This may also be due to lack of resources. In fact, it is very important to identify and eliminate the centers of cyber-crimes. People should also be careful, not to fall into their traps.

International and National Award Winner Journalist-Writer

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A Mesmerizing Journey into the Depths of Human Existence: 'Tales Beyond Twilight' by Preeth Padmanabhan Nambiar

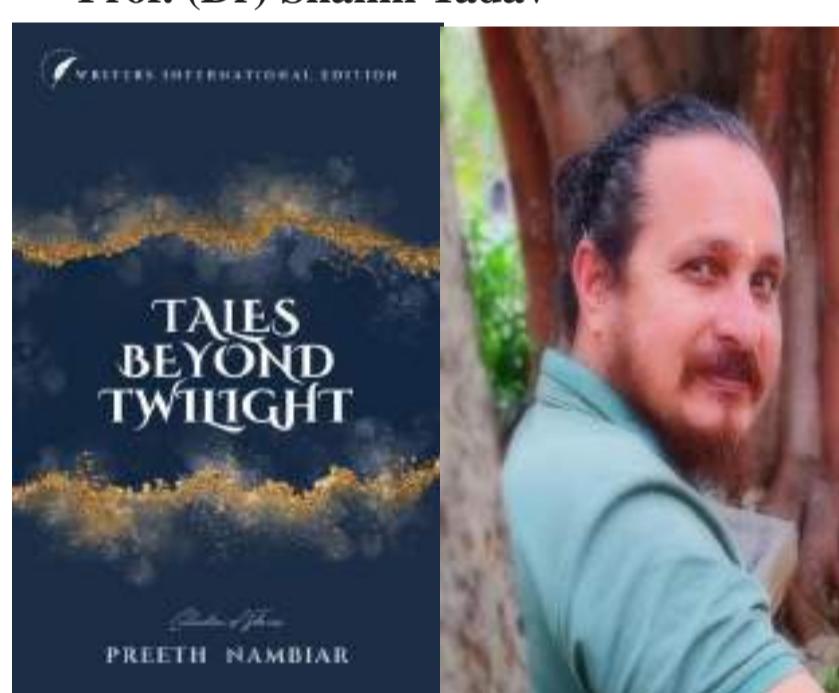
Prof. (Dr) Shalini Yadav



wisdom, and the enigmatic nature of life itself.

In "A Young Man and a Tiny Piece of Land," Preeth Nambiar paints a vivid portrait of resilience, love, and the cyclical nature of life. The story unfolds in a seemingly barren land that defies expectations by blooming into a haven of lush greenery and celestial flowers under the care of a devoted young man. Nature's symphony comes alive through birdsong, butterflies, and the fragrance of wildflowers, creating a mystical atmosphere. The young man's labor of love, from toiling under the scorching sun to tenderly conversing with the leaves, reveals a profound connection between humanity and the natural world. The changing seasons mirror the ebb and flow of life, from the vibrancy of spring to the poignant beauty of winter. The narrative culminates in a poignant realization—life is an illusion, and so is death—a contemplative note that lingers in the reader's mind, echoing the eternal dance of existence. Nambiar's prose is imbued with a poetic quality that elevates the story into a meditation on the interconnectedness of life and the enduring power of love.

"The Flower Seller," yet another gem in the book, is a poignant



narrative that beautifully captures the essence of love, resilience, and the unexpected grace found in life's simple moments. An elderly man, driven by love for his ailing wife, embarks on a journey to sell flowers, weaving a tapestry of hope amid the challenges they face. The author vividly portrays the man's determination against the backdrop of quiet streets and deserted lanes. The story takes an enchanting turn when he stumbles upon a bustling junction, revealing a vibrant celebration of life that provides solace to his weary soul. The imagery is vivid and evocative, transporting readers to a world of intricate patterns, laughter, and the shared humanity that binds us all. This tale is a testament to the transformative power of connection, compassion, and the unexpected beauty that can emerge in the midst of life's trials. Nambiar crafts a narrative that resonates deeply, reminding us that even in the seemingly mundane, there exists a profound poetry waiting to be discovered.

"The Somnambulist" intricately weaves a tale of an innocent young man whose nightly conversations become a source of concern for his family. Nambiar masterfully navigates the delicate balance between the tangible and the ethereal, as the protagonist grapples with the dualities of his nocturnal utterances. The narrative unfolds with a blend of familial dynamics and the protagonist's inner world, where dreams become a sanctuary for profound connections and unrestrained self-expression. The intervention of a priest introduces a supernatural element, adding layers to the story's complexity. The climax, marked by a desperate act to break free from imposed silence, echoes with both physical and metaphorical intensity. Nambiar's storytelling prowess shines in this exploration of the boundary between dreams and reality, inviting readers to

ponder the consequences of suppressing one's authentic self. "The Somnambulist" is a captivating journey through the realms of consciousness, blending the ordinary and the extraordinary in a thought-provoking narrative. In "Face Casts," Preeth Nambiar crafts a tale that seamlessly blends the ordinary with the mystical, leaving the reader in delightful awe. The story revolves around a seemingly mundane request—a man wanting a cast of his own face amidst workers creating statues of gods. Nambiar masterfully explores the transformative power of belief, blurring the lines between the ordinary and the divine. "Face Casts" is a charming and thought-provoking story that invites contemplation on the mystical threads that weave through the fabric of everyday life.

"Enlightenment" is a profound exploration of self-realization and the transformative power of empathy and liberation. The narrative unfolds in the tranquility of the night, where the protagonist experiences a sudden awakening to the interconnectedness of all life. The author skillfully weaves a tapestry of emotions, from the serenity felt within the softly illuminated room to the poignant realization of the impact of human actions on other living beings. The act of setting potted plants free in the rain and releasing captive sparrows becomes symbolic of the man's journey toward enlightenment and a deeper understanding of his place in the vastness of existence. The story transcends the ordinary and delves into the philosophical, challenging the reader to contemplate the boundaries we construct around ourselves and the profound liberation that lies in embracing the boundless world beyond. The narrative culminates in a powerful and symbolic departure as the protagonist steps into the darkness, guided by the drizzling rain, seeking a new dawn and an awakening to the limitless possibilities that lie ahead. Nambiar crafts a thought-provoking narrative that lingers in the reader's mind, inviting contemplation on the nature of freedom, connection, and the eternal quest for enlightenment.

In the mesmerizing world of 'Tales Beyond Twilight,' the storyteller transcends mere words

on a page and delves into the depths of the human soul. These narratives transport readers to landscapes of emotion, mystery, and self-discovery. With each story, the author weaves a tapestry that resonates with universal aspects of the human experience. From the complexities of life's labyrinth to the dance between reality and the fantastical, these tales beckon readers on a profound journey of contemplation and connection.

'Tales Beyond Twilight' is more than just a book; it is a celebration of the art of storytelling and a testament to the extraordinary found within the ordinary. Authored by Preeth Nambiar, an esteemed metaphysical poet, this collection surpasses expectations, delivering narratives that resonate on a deep and profound level. By the end, readers may find themselves pondering whether these are mere stories or poetry that can be interpreted in volumes.

As we close the cover of this book, the echoes of these tales linger in our minds, leaving an imprint of the characters' footsteps on the paths of our own imaginations. The storyteller's pen has transformed into a magic wand, conjuring enchanting realms that invite us to return again and again.

(Writer & Critic)

GSI Formulates 1055 Scientific Programmes for 2024-25, including 392 Mineral Development Projects with Potential for Generating Auctionable Mineral Blocks

Kolkata, (KCN): The 63rd Central Geological Programming Board (CGPB) meeting was held on Monday, January 22, 2024 at Bhopal, Madhya Pradesh, under the Chairmanship of Shri V.L. Kantha Rao, Secretary to the Union Ministry of Mines (MoM). Shri Sanjay Lohiya, Additional Secretary, Ministry of Mines, and Shri Janardan Prasad, Director General, GSI were the dignitaries gracing the occasion. Senior functionaries of different Ministries, State Directorates of Mining & Geology, PSUs, representatives from

private mining industry, mining associations and other stakeholders attended the meeting. The proposed Annual Programme for ensuing Field Season year 2024-25 was placed before the Board for discussion. During the ensuing year 2024-25 GSI has formulated about 1055 scientific programs for the year 2024-25, which includes 392 Mineral Development projects (G2;G3;G4; and Offshore Explorations) that has the potential to generate auctionable mineral blocks in near future. 133 projects with mineral bias or Mineral Discovery

Projects (RMT; Research Project; C-MAP;GT; MPA; Multispectral/Hyperspectral projects) having potential for generating promising areas for future exploration in the G4 stage. Within the exploration activity, the major thrust has been given on the exploration of strategic & critical and fertilizer minerals. A total of 188 projects on these strategically important mineral commodities like REE, RM, Graphite, Lithium, Vanadium and PGE etc. have been approved for the year 2024-25, which is almost a jump of 50%

from previous year's target.

During his address to the gathering Shri Rao, Secretary, Mines and Chairman CGPB mentioned the importance of scientific rigour in the mining sector. He urged GSI and other exploration agencies to increase the pace of exploration and emphasized on exploration of Critical Minerals. He also urged the State Governments to be more aggressive in implementation of exploration projects through NMET funding. He requested stakeholders to make use of geo-science data

available in the NGDR portal for a smooth exploration process. Shri Rao, in presence of senior officials also inaugurated an Exhibition on the theme, "Mining and Beyond", in which GSI, PSUs, DMFs, major mining companies, private exploration agencies, start-ups, Madhya Pradesh Government showcased their project of sustainable mining. Hindalco through VR showcased their achievements. BALCO and Tata Steel also participated in the exhibition. The students of engineering colleges of Bhopal also visited the exhibition and got first hand exposure of the mining sector.

Total 111 projects under

Consultancy Ltd. (MECL) showcased their best practices and technical advancements in this exhibition. While companies like HCL, NALCO and HZL gave the visitors a feel of mining and mineral processing through their VR system, Hindalco through VR showcased their project of sustainable mining. BALCO and Tata Steel also participated in the exhibition. The students of engineering colleges of Bhopal also visited the exhibition and got first hand exposure of the mining sector.

Natural Hazard Studies/ Public Good Geoscience were taken having societal benefits. Among these, 25 programmes have been taken up on State request/Disaster Management which includes programme mostly covering the natural hazards and 43 programmes are in collaboration with universities / agencies / under sponsorship of different authorities like IITs, NGRI, DRDO, NRSC-ISRO, University of Hyderabad, ASI, CGWB Ministry of Jal Shakti, SJVNL, NWDA, Indian Railways, BRO and State Irrigation Departments etc. Besides approval of the FSP items of GSI, the Report on Geological & Geotechnical investigation of Joshimath Township, Chamoli District was also unveiled by Shri V.L. Kantha Rao, Secretary, Ministry of Mines for handing it over to Uttarakhand Govt. The Mineral Map of the newly carved out UT of Ladakh was also released on this occasion along with other significant publications of GSI.

"India Betting On Africa's Rise": S Jaishankar In Nigeria



Abuja, Nigeria (KCN): External Affairs Minister S Jaishankar on Tuesday said India is "betting on Africa's rise" and the rebalancing and the multipolarity of the world will not be complete until the continent takes its due place.

Addressing the Nigeria-India Business Council (NIBC) here, the foreign minister said the rebalancing and reordering of a new global order will only happen when the core of it is economic, which is the rise of Africa has to be the economic rise of Africa.

"Now, that obviously presents choices, because it is very difficult to go up in the global order by being a market for others or just by being a provider of resources," he said.

S Jaishankar said, "Africa is rising, and India is betting on Africa's rise," because, by any objective assessment, today there is "so much growing for Africa in terms of

demography, in terms of resources, in terms of ambition, in terms of, increasingly, of policy alignments". That clearly potent, a very different, much more positive future in the very short term, he said.

"We are betting on Africa because...we have a shared past, not always a happy history, not between us, but between us and some other people. But it is a history which has engendered an enormous solidarity. And that solidarity today makes me say very clearly that for us, when we speak about a changing global order..the reordering of the world, the rebalancing, the multipolarity of the world will not be complete until Africa takes its due place," S Jaishankar said.

He said digital public infrastructure, green and clean growth, water, a rural sustainability and security, and blue economy are some of the areas where the

Rahul Gandhi Unveils "Five-Point Justice" During Bharat Jodo Yatra



New Delhi (KCN): Congress's Rahul Gandhi -- leading his Bharat Jodo Nyay Yatra through Assam -- promised what he called the "Five-point justice". This involves achieving "justice" for four key sections of the society -- young people, women, farmers and labourers -- and achieving equal representation in every field. He said he would provide a blueprint within two months.

The rally is expected to bring justice to the four pillars which will empower the country.

For women and it would involve everything

starting with education and jobs. For farmers and labourers, it would mean loans, job security, Provident Fund, healthcare and other facilities that are not available in the unorganised sector.

"There is an idea of Nyay behind this Nyay Yatra. Congress party will bring forward its 5 pillars of justice in the next one month which give the country power," Mr Gandhi said today.

"The five pillars are Justice for the youth, equal representation, justice for women, justice for farmers and justice for labourers. For

these pillars we'll organise a program by the Congress in the coming month," he added.

His remarks came amid repeated confrontations between his party and the Himanta Biswa Sarma-led BJP government in Assam

over the 'Bharat Jodo Nyay Yatra'.

Today, Mr Gandhi's yatra was barred from entering the state capital Guwahati, triggering protests from Congress workers, who broke barricades and raised slogans. The Congress is benefiting from what the



Sarayu ghat illuminated with diyas after the Pran Pratishtha ceremony of Shree Ram Janmaboomi Temple in Ayodhya, Uttar Pradesh

Uddhav Thackeray Uses Reference From Ramayan To Slam Eknath Shinde



Nashik (KCN): Shiv Sena (UBT) leader Uddhav Thackeray on Tuesday invoked king Vali from epic Ramayana to launch a veiled attack on Chief Minister Eknath Shinde whom he accused of stealing the party. Addressing a party convention in Nashik city, Thackeray appealed to Shiva Sainiks to take a vow to "politically assassinate" the traitors.

"One will have to understand why Lord Ram killed Vanar king Vali. We will also have to kill today's Vali (politically) who has decamped with our Shiv Sena. Make a

resolution to kill this Vali (politically) who has escaped with our Shiv Sena.

"We will surely do political assassination of all those who decamped with our Shiv Sena, cheated the saffron flag, and their masters," Mr Thackeray said.

As per Ramayana, monkey king Vali had allegedly usurped the kingdom of his brother Sugriva following a dispute.

Mr Thackeray said Shiva Sainiks would tear masks of "Ravanas" donning the masks of Lord Ram".

"Lord Ram is not the property of a single party. If you think so, we will

have to make 'BJP-mukt Shri Ram," he said targeting the BJP.

Launching an oblique attack on Mr Shinde whose rebellion caused a vertical split in Shiv Sena

didn't visit Ayodhya during his first term in office (2014-19) even though he visited various countries.

He also alleged that Shiv Sena had actively campaigned to ensure Narendra Modi became PM but now false cases are being filed against Shiv Sena (UBT) leaders.

"Lord Ram was known for keeping his word whereas you break promises. You forgot those Shiv Sainiks who helped you reach this position. 'Ram ki baat ho gayi, ab kam ki baat karo'," the former Maharashtra chief minister said.

they have done in the last 70 years. Tell us what you have done in the last 10 years. In the first five years of his tenure, the Prime Minister visited other countries. Ask him whether he visited Ayodhya even once in the first five years. We had also campaigned for Modi to become the PM," he said.

Alleging that false cases are being filed against leaders of the Shiv Sena faction led by him, Thackeray said, "We will also conduct an inquiry against you and send you to prison (after coming to power)".

He demanded a probe into the PM Cares Fund "which is the source of

scams". Dismissing criticism over Shiv Sena (UBT)'s alliance with Congress, Thackeray said, "They say we became 'Congresswasi'. We didn't become 'Bhajapawasi' even after spending 30 years with the BJP. Then how can we become 'Congresswasi'? He said the BJP should also speak about the fact that "Syama Prasad Mukherjee had formed a government with the Muslim League". He alleged RSS didn't participate in the freedom struggle and they are now "trying to snatch Independence (of the country)".

Ram Lalla resonates across Odisha

BHUBANESWAR(KCN): While Ayodhya witnessed history with the consecration of Ram Lalla on Monday, the state celebrated the momentous occasion by organising prayers, distributing sweets and taking out processions depicting Lord Ram's life.

All the towns and cities including twin city of Cuttack and Bhubaneswar were caught in the wave of devotion. At Nayagarh, 'Pran Pratishtha' ceremony of a new Ram Mandir was also organised on the day while at Sambalpur, more than a lakh clay lamps were lit in the evening.

In Cuttack, Ram temples were chock-a-block with devotees since early

morning. While bhajan samarohs were organised at Raghunathjee, Gopinath and Shyam Baba temples and sweets distributed among joyous devotees, many apartments and colonies in the city put up small tents and arranged TVs outside to watch the Ram Mandir ceremony together. It was a Diwali-like celebration at Nayagarh where many shops lit 'diyas' and burst crackers to mark the historic event. Religious processions carrying kids adorning traditional attires of Lord Shri Ram, Maa Sita, Lord Hanuman and other characters of Ramayana continued throughout the day. Like Cuttack, capital

city Bhubaneswar was clad in saffron hues in wake of the grand consecration ceremony. Thousands of devotees thronged the Ram Mandir in Janpath to offer their prayers to Lord Ram amidst elaborate arrangements made by the temple trust for a grand celebration of the special occasion. Responding to Prime Minister Narendra Modi's call to citizens of the country to illuminate 'Shri Ram Jyoti', many families also lit 'diyas' and decorated their houses with 'rangoli'. 'Ram bhajans played out in many of the temples in Old Town where devotees lit thousands of lamps near Tinimundia Chhak. In Sambalpur, 1,11,111

diyas were lit at the Ayodhya Sarovar Ghat of Mahanadi along the Ring road. Members of the Marwadi Yuva Manch held 'Ram Leela' at Gandhi Marg near the Ring road. Similarly in Berhampur, Sri Ramcharitamanas and Sundarakand were recited at temples and big screens were



installed at many places for live viewing of 'Pran Pratishtha' ceremony. A replica of Ravan was set afire in the evening. At Fatehgarh in Nayagarh, a new Ram Mandir was inaugurated atop the Giri Govardhan hill earlier in the morning. Constructed as per Kalinga style of architecture, the temple

close to five lakh devotees offered prayers in the temple on the day. Meanwhile, a group of 'mardala' players from the state participated in the 'Mangal Dhwani' rendition during the consecration ceremony at Ayodhya. Mardala was among the 50 musical instruments chosen from 18 states for the grand musical rendition by Ayodhya's celebrated poet Yatindra Mishra. The rendition was supported by the Sangeet Natak Akademi, New Delhi.

CM watches consecration ceremony
Chief Minister Naveen Patnaik watched the live telecast of 'Pran Pratishtha' ceremony at the Ram Janmabhoomi temple in Ayodhya, at Naveen Nivas in

Bhubaneswar. Taking to X (formerly Twitter), Naveen wrote, "Witnessed the auspicious Ram Mandir Pran Pratishtha being held at Ayodhya. Delighted to see the nation coming together with religious fervour for the Pran Pratistha." He was accompanied by the chairman of ST and Navin Odisha VK Pandian. On the occasion, Union Education Minister Dharmendra Pradhan participated in the inauguration ceremony of Shri Badrinarayan Dev temple in Salepur Malihata village of Cuttack district. Gajapati Maharaj Dibyasingha deo attended the consecration ceremony at Ayodhya.

General Election: Cuttack prepares strong rooms at two universities



CUTTACK(KCN): In preparation for the upcoming general elections, the district administration has initiated steps for setting up vote-counting centres and strong rooms for the safekeeping of electronic voting machines (EVMs). A s Bhubananda Orissa School of Engineering (BOSE), where strong

rooms and vote counting centres were earlier set up, has become unsuitable given the ongoing expansion of SCB medical college and hospital, the district administration has decided to set up strong rooms and vote counting centres in the second campus of Ravenshaw University and Maulana Azad National Urdu University under Cuttack Sadar sub-

division in the second campus of Ravenshaw University and Maulana Azad National Urdu University after inspecting the venues and holding a preliminary discussion with the authorities of the two institutions," said collector Narahari Sethi.

As per the proposal, while strong rooms and vote counting centres for four Assembly segments will be set up in the second campus of Ravenshaw University, the same for the rest two segments will come up in MANUU, he added. As was being done earlier, while the strong rooms and vote counting centre of Athagarh and Badamba Assembly segments will be set up in Athagarh College, the ones of Banki Assembly segment will be set up in Banki Autonomous College.

Odisha Seeks Kumki Elephants

Bhubaneswar(KCN): Additional Chief Secretary (ACS), Forest, Environment and Climate Change Satyabrata Sahu has urged his counterpart in Tamil Nadu Supriya Sahu to supply trained kumki elephants to Odisha to be used for mitigating human-elephant conflicts.

Penning down a letter to ACS, Environment, Climate Change and Forest Department in TN Government, ACS Shri Sahu said, "In recent years we have been facing significant challenges in mitigating human-elephant conflicts. Your help in getting trained kumki elephants would greatly assist us in addressing these conflicts effectively and humanely."

Kumki elephants can be deployed strategically to help the State Government to manage and drive wild elephants thereby reducing damage to crops, human habitations and the potential loss of both human and elephant lives.



These elephants can also be deployed for forest patrolling and rescue operations, he pointed out. Understanding that Tamil Nadu has a successful and commendable program in place, whereby kumki elephants are trained and utilized for wildlife conservation purposes, the ACS requested Supriya to provide four kumki elephants for deployment in conflict-prone areas of Odisha. "These elephants will serve as an invaluable asset to our State's Wildlife Organization, aiding our efforts to minimize conflicts and safeguard both human and wildlife interests," he noted.

Smt. Sahu.
The State Forest Department has also initiated a process to train local elephants to ward off man-animal conflict in forested pockets of the State.

In the initial phase, five elephants from Kapilash will be brought to Chandaka Dampara Wildlife Sanctuary on the outskirts of Bhubaneswar to receive Kumki training, informed Principal Chief Conservator of Forests (PCCF) Wildlife Susanta Nanda.

The trained elephants are needed to mitigate man-animal conflict. The State Government is planning to impart training to elephants initially at four places — Chandaka, Satkosia, Kapilash and Similipal. Later, the training will be arranged at Debrigarh Sanctuary too, he said.

The Department has drawn up a special blueprint to mitigate the man-animal conflict, Chief Wildlife Warden Shri Nanda added.



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Ather Energy announces its new family-oriented scooter, 'Ather Rizta'

Bhubaneswar: Ather Energy, one of India's leading electric vehicle manufacturers, announced on Friday the upcoming launch of its new family-oriented electric scooter, named "Rizta." Breaking away from their sporty and youthful design ethos, seen in the 450 Series, the Rizta aims to cater specifically to the needs of families. Rizta has been spotted testing in Bengaluru a couple of months ago. In a previous tweet by Tarun Mehta, co-founder

& CEO of Ather Energy in November, he highlighted that Ather Energy will be launching a larger, family-friendly scooter that's comfortable, safe, spacious, and affordable. The excitement has soared now that Tarun has dropped a video teaser in his latest tweet, unveiling the family scooter name, Rizta. In his post, Mehta revealed the Rizta has been in development since 2019, with Ather's teams reportedly incorporating "groundbreaking



integrations" that promise to elevate the ride experience for families. The scooter will be unveiled at the Ather

Community Day Celebration 2024. According to the announcement, the company aims to begin

deliveries of the scooter in the next six months. In the tweet, Tarun Mehta said: "With Rizta, we will be taking a big leap in

Doctors at HCG Panda Cancer Hospital successfully treated 33-year-old suffering from a rare case of Salivary Gland Cancer

Bhubaneswar/Cuttack : Doctors at HCG Panda Cancer Hospital, Cuttack, treated 33-year-old Reema (name changed), hailing from Western Odisha, from Parotid Gland Carcinoma, a rare form of cancer that occurs in the salivary glands situated right below the ear lobes. The cancerous gland was resected by conducting an advanced form of Total Parotidectomy Surgery on the patient while preserving her facial nerves, which are responsible for facial expressions. This incredible feat was achieved by Dr Manjunath NML, Senior consultant Surgical Oncologist and his team at HCG Panda Cancer Hospital Cuttack.

Reema suffered from unexplained excruciating pain continuously on the face and earlobes for a period of 8 months. In order to get relief from the pain, she visited neurological specialists and physicians from multiple hospital where she was misdiagnosed for other neurological diseases and was treated with analgesics, as they failed to diagnose her actual condition. She consulted the doctors at HCG Panda Cancer Hospital, who discovered a vague swelling near the earlobes and with suspicion of a tumour. Imaging of the parotid gland was conducted to check for any malignancy and it was discovered that she had

a parotid lobe tumour in the junction between the superficial lobe and the deep lobe, right behind the mandible or the lower jaw bone. Nerve sparing total parotidectomy was conducted using advanced form of equipments such as surgical loupes, nerves monitoring devices and Vessel Sealer, which helped surgeons achieve an absolute haemostasis or minimal blood loss during the surgery. This four- and half-hour surgical procedure was conducted by preserving the facial nerves that passes through the superficial lobe and deep lobe and any implication on the facial nerves would lead to disfigurement of the face, paralysis on one

side of the face, lack of expressing emotions, inability to close the eyes and move the eyebrows. Elaborating the complexities of the surgery, Dr Manjunath NML said, "This is a unique and a rare case among young women, where we usually witness just one or two cases per year. This was one challenging case, as the cancer tumours were adjacent to the facial nerve and we had to carefully dissect them without causing any hindrance or impact to the nerve. With the advanced facilities at HCG Panda Cancer Hospital Cuttack, we were able to resect the tumour successfully and witness a big smile on the patients face." Post her successful

comfort and safety. Our teams have been working on this for a while (this one has been on and off the table since 2019!) and have pulled off some amazing integrations that are industry-first and will make your ride experience way better. Rizta will also continue to maintain the same quality and reliability that Ather's other products are known for. We will be unveiling 'Ather Rizta' at ACDC 24 - Ather Community Day Celebration 2024. You will hear about it soon!" Talking about Rizta in a tweet, Swapnil Jain, Co-

founder & CTO of Ather Energy said, "When we started Ather the team believed, you need to be your own customer first. Most of us were below 25 years of age building the first made in India EV and were crazy about vehicle dynamics. Every single choice from mid mount motor, to aluminium cast chassis to dual disc brakes, were all focused on building the best handling vehicles. That was the Ather 450X for you. It did exactly what we intended. It is the best handling scooter and it was built for us. We are now all 30+ and have family. So we set out again to build for us. Introducing Ather Rizta. A family vehicle built with the same passion, but this time towards comfort and safety! Because now Family comes first!"

As the electric scooter industry witnesses a surge in demand, Ather's strategic move shows a responsiveness to diverse consumer needs, as they extend their expertise in electric scooters to meet the demands of families.

ROYAL ENFIELD LAUNCHES THE MOST AWAITED ADVENTURE TOURER - THE ALL NEW HIMALAYAN



Bhubaneswar(KCN) : The perfect balance between capability and usability, Royal Enfield today launched its adventure tourer that is built for all roads, and for no roads, the all-new Himalayan at the brand's biggest motorcycling festival, Motoverse 2023. Unveiled for the world at EICMA 2023 earlier this month, the all-new Himalayan is now available for bookings in retail in India starting today, and will be available across Europe starting March 2024. The motorcycle will be available at a starting price of £5,750 in the UK and 5900 across Europe. In India, the Himalayan will be available at a special introductory price of INR 2,69,000 till December 31, 2023.

The all-new Himalayan is launched with a robust lineup comprising 3 distinct variants - Base, Pass and Summit and a palette of 5 colors inspired by the elements of the Himalayas - Kaza Brown (base variant), Slate series comprising Poppy Blue & Himalayan Salt (Pass-mid variant) and Hanle Black & Kamet White (Summit-top variant). The Asia-Pacific region and Americas will soon experience the Himalayan's adventure-ready prowess, solidifying Royal Enfield's commitment to global riders. Speaking at the launch of the motorcycle, Royal Enfield CEO, B Govindarajan said, "Embarking on the creation of the new Himalayan, we immersed ourselves in the riding experiences of our community, engaging with globetrotters, explorers, and athletes. Informed by these insights and our own journey in the Himalayas, we retained the crucial elements of its DNA and worked on the areas for evolution in the new and evolved Himalayan which is absolutely purpose-built for the Himalayas. The results are fantastic and we can see that with the immense love shown by consumers and experts from across the world. The new Himalayan represents an evolution, thoughtfully shaped by genuine rider needs, making it a true global motorcycle poised to set new standards in the adventure touring category worldwide. In line with our Pure Motocycling philosophy, we are also delighted to announce the upcoming rides calendar for our passionate community across the globe."

The new Himalayan is set to bring in a significant paradigm shift in the adventure touring space and promises to elevate the aspirations of the growing motorcycle community across the world.

Ashok Leyland reaches yet another milestone, showcases 'CNG engine H series' at EXCON

Chennai: Ashok Leyland, the flagship Company of the Hinduja Group and India's leading commercial vehicle manufacturer today showcased 'CNG engine H series' at the ongoing EXCON 2022, organized by Confederation of Indian Industry (CII). Based on strong leverage of Auto BSVI engine development, the CNG engine H series (4 and 6 Cyl) is designed for off highway / CEV clients, and this product will be

the first of its kind in the CEV / mining and off highway segment. The H series CNG engine has a number of features, including ECU-controlled gas leak detection; improved cold start capability; enhanced lower end torque and flat torque from 1200rpm to 2000rpm; gear-based torque control for better fuel economy; durable engine valves and valve seats for CNG operation; proven, durable engine for CEV application;

Ashok Leyland said, "Ashok Leyland's expertise in engineering has paved the way for the company to establish itself as a key player in the CNG engine sector, and we aspire to continue to do so by expanding our portfolio of CNG Engines and technology solutions. Ashok Leyland aims to make India's CNG engine sector self-reliant, and to be one of the leaders in the "Make in India" narrative."

Present at the event Dr N Saravanan, CTO, Ashok Leyland said, "Ashok Leyland has a track record of catering to customer needs with world class products that generate higher profitability. With the increasing need for better fuel efficiency and use of alternate fuels, we have a solid pipeline of such technologies. We aspire to lead the market in this segment, as the need for engines with alternative fuels grows".

Symphony, in partnership with AEEE, invests in the 'SAHARA Programme'

Bhubaneswar : Symphony Ltd., in partnership with Alliance for an Energy Efficient Economy (AEEE), initiated the first-of-its-kind pilot programme "SAHARA", an initiative for Supporting Affordable Heat Action for Resilient Academic Institutions in India by deploying Evaporative Air Coolers. It is envisioned to enable a pathway to achieve Thermal Comfort for a Billion Lives (TCBL). This initiative aims to mainstream energy efficient, affordable and sustainable cooling solutions in India's academic institutions. It could bring about systemic changes on multiple fronts in the long term.

around four trillion-person cooling degree days, India is characterised by tropical and sub-tropical climatic conditions coupled with a lack of access to cooling, rising temperatures and ever-evolving socio-economic trends such as rapid population growth and urbanisation, which will not only amplify the climate change-induced heat stress but would also fuel the demand for space cooling. SAHARA programme would act as a catalyst for disseminating knowledge about the thermal comfort situation in India's academic institutions. It could bring about systemic changes on multiple fronts in the long term.

AIC-GIM Foundation, Climate Collective and the Taj Hospitality Brand collaborate on a Global Single Use Plastics Challenge

Panaji: The consumption of Single Use Plastics (SUP's) in the food and beverage industry grew dramatically during the Covid-19 outbreak and is now expanding at a 2.5-fold rate. With the aim of reducing single use plastic from the F&B industry in Goa, Atal Incubation Center Foundation at Goa Institute of Management (AIC-GIM) in partnership with Climate Collective Foundation and IHCL's Taj hospitality brand is bringing the Single-Use Plastics (SUP) Challenge.

The SUP challenge is inviting innovations to reduce single use plastic

from the F&B sector. The selected solutions will get the opportunity to test their ideas in Goa with the Taj hotel network of Indian Hotels Company Limited (IHCL). "As a company, we want to put a strong emphasis on sustainability as a way of life for everyone, which thus culminates in the adoption of a variety of sustainable business methods. We are happy to collaborate with AIC-GIM Foundation and Climate Collective Foundation for the Global SUP challenge which will reduce the usage of Single Use Plastics across our properties in Goa" said Mr. Vincent Ramos,



McCullum wants England to 'be the bravest' on India tour

New Delhi: Ever since the Ben Stokes-Brendon McCullum combo took over the reins of England's Test team, the litmus test of their alleged 'Bazball' template was bound to be a trip to India. With three days left for the first game of the five-match series, the spotlight is firmly on the captain and coach.

"India is the land of opportunity and that's what sits in front of us now, we'll take the positive option. Other teams might be better, but we want to be the bravest. We've got to do that and that's got to be factored into selection, too," McCullum said during his interaction with reporters in Hyderabad. England took an

unconventional route of preparation for this tour, preferring to have a camp in Abu Dhabi as opposed to arriving early to play warm-up games in India. Given the flamboyant nature of the Stokes-McCullum duo, this isn't entirely surprising but the coach knows well that they could be under the firing line if things go haywire in the series.

"The guys walked away from Abu Dhabi with a huge amount of confidence that we've prepared as well as we possibly can.

"In the end all you're trying to do is get guys in the frame of mind where they feel 10 foot tall and bulletproof when they walk out to play."

India's supreme record at home is well-documented. The hosts

haven't lost a series in their backyard since 2012 and while this is an enviable streak to hold, Stokes' men would draw inspiration from the fact that it was an England team that last emerged victorious on these shores. It's still early days to have the pitch talks but spinning surfaces are bound to be the order of the day whether they are rank turners or not. Ultimately, the key plot will be how England's ultra-aggressive batting approach fares against India's world-class spin

trio. McCullum, though, chose to keep it very simple.

"We've got to take 20 wickets with the ball in each Test and we've got to get one more run than them with the bat. It's not rocket science but it will be the nuances of the

game and when to stick and when to twist which will be the fascinating part."

Stokes, who had a surgery on his left knee in November, is set to feature as a specialist batter. McCullum sounded upbeat about the all-rounder's fitness levels.

"He looks like a greyhound. He's stripping fit," said McCullum. "He's put the hard work in and everyone knows his work ethic is phenomenal. I've seen him running around and I think he's good to go. We'll obviously make that call as late as what we need to. But he's put all the work in and we'll just have to wait and see."

England were dealt a setback earlier this week with Harry Brook opting

out of the series due to personal reasons. This development means that Ben Foakes is likely to slot into the XI and don the gloves. The wicketkeeper-batter had been on the sidelines in recent times owing to Jonny Bairstow, who in turn had made a successful comeback with the bat although had his share of problems with the keeping. Brook's exit means that both players can co-exist in the same team, with Foakes' game against spin being a major plus in his favour. The other call England need to make is regarding the composition of their bowling attack.

"What balance we go for in terms of the side we'll work out in the coming days, but the thing we need to be is really brave with whatever we decide," he said.



Australia overcome spirited Namibia to win low-scoring game

New Delhi: Bangladesh recorded their first win of the tournament with a six-wicket victory over Ireland in Bloemfontein. Asked to bat first, Ireland were off to a watchful start but lost their way after Maruf Mridha's strike of Ryan Hunter in the sixth over. It was the 81-run stand for the fifth wicket between Kian Hilton (90) and Scott MacBeth (27) that propelled the score to a respectable 235/8. Hilton's presence at the crease until the 49th over ensured quick runs at the back end, with as many as 61 coming in the last 10 overs.

It wasn't a breeze of a chase for Bangladesh, who got over the line only in the 47th over. Ashiqur Rahman Shibli



(44) and Adil Bin Siddik (36) added slow and steady 90 runs for the first wicket, but the real thrust came when Ahrar Amin (45*) and Mohammad Shihab James (55*) added 109

unbeaten runs for the fifth wicket and steered their side home. Australia vs Namibia It was a pacers day out in Kimberley that saw Australia edge ahead of a spirited Namibian side

by four wickets. Sent to bat, Namibia were rolled over for 91 in 33.1 overs, thanks to Callum Vidler (4 for 17) and Tom Straker (3 for 16). Vidler struck twice inside the first 10 overs and the 26-

run stand that followed remained the highest of the innings. Zacheo van Vuuren, involved in that stand, was the top-scorer with 29 runs. Only captain Alexander Volschenk (21) and Hanro Badenhorst (11*) were the others to get into double digits. When it was Australia's turn, they found the going tough too. The Hugh Weibgen-led side lost four inside the PowerPlay, and 46/4 soon became 57/5 when Jack Brassell (3 for 28) picked his third wicket, his other two opener Sam Konstas and No.4 batter Harjas Singh. But Hugh Weibgen played a captain's knock, remaining unbeaten on 39 off 43 to steer the side home in the 20th over.

The first domino then took the others down with him. The very next delivery, the first of the following over, Will Jacks attempted to pull Marco Jansen but the disconcerting bounce meant he could only

glove the ball to the short fine-leg fielder. By the time Ottiel Baartman (4 for 12) was introduced into the attack, the Capitals were already three down with Rilee Rossouw also back in the hut. Baartman struck with his first ball and sent Colin Ingram's off-stump cartwheeling. Soon enough, the visitors were down half the side for just 32 runs on the board with everything that could go wrong, doing so.

James Neesham picked a Worrall half-volley on legstump and found the fielder in the deep. Baartman then added the wickets of Senuran Muthusamy, Wayne Parnell and Ethan Bosch to wrap up the innings inside 14 overs. Sunrisers' chase was but a formality even though they lost Dawid Malan early. Tom Abell smashed four fours and a six in his 22-ball knock of 31 and in the company of Jordan Hermann, saw the chase home in the seventh over.

Brief scores: Pretoria Capitals 52 in 13.3 overs (Ottiel Baartman 4-12, Daniel Worrall 3-22) lost

to Sunrisers Eastern Cape 54/1 in 6.5 overs (Tom Abell 31*, Jordan Hermann 20*) by 9

wickets

Pretoria Capitals shot out for lowest total in SA20 history



T20 World Cup 2024: India's U19 World Cup Winning Captain Set To Play For USA Vs Men In Blue On June 5

New Delhi: Team India will kickoff their World Cup campaign on June 5 vs USA in the T20 World Cup 2024 and there is a big likelihood that they will find three players in the opposition XI who have previously represented India at the Under19 level. in fact, they did not just represented the Indian team, they won the World Cup in 2012 by beating Australia in the final. The man of the match of that final and also the captain of that Indian team Unmukt Chand is one of three players who is likely to play against India at the World Cup. Unmukt had shifted base to India after retiring from all forms of cricket in India. He started playing in USA where he currently still resides.



In March, Unmukt will become eligible to play for USA. The U19 World Cup winning captain from Delhi was hailed as the next Virat Kohli from Delhi once. But poor show in IPL, domestic cricket and injuries meant that he never got a chance to play for India. Unmukt later decided to

try his luck in franchise cricket and after a few matches in Australia's Big Bash League (BBL), he went to USA to continue playing cricket at a higher level. Before making the move outside India, Unmukt had also become the captain of Uttarakhand team but after a few losses, he was removed as the captain.

Unmukt is only 30 years old and is looking to do well vs country of birth India in the T20 World Cup. But he says he has no bad blood. "Something which would be very strange, but I think since I've retired from India, my next goal was always to

sort of play against India, and not in any bad blood but keen to test myself out against the best team in the world," Chand said in an interview to Cricbuzz.

Two other India U19 World Cup winners from same batch will play for India. They are Harmeet Singh and Smit Patel. Patel has, in fact, captained India A teams which included the likes of Jasprit Bumrah, Mohammed Shami and Suryakumar Yadav.

"Have spent a lot of time with Jassi (Bumrah) over the years. Still remember the day he rocked up to practice for the first and he left us awestruck with what we were witnessing (laughs)" Smit said. "The team had a name for him those days, we used to call him Jasprit Gumrah," Smit told Cricbuzz.

Mumbai Indians, Delhi Capitals to kick off WPL 2024 on Feburary 23



Mumbai: The second season of Women's Premier League (WPL) is set to commence in Bengaluru on February 23, featuring a match between last year's finalists, Mumbai Indians and Delhi

Capitals, at the Chinna Swamy Stadium. The game is scheduled to start at 7:30 pm. As per the schedule drawn by the Board of Control for Cricket in India (BCCI), the second match will be played between Royal Challengers Bangalore and UP Warriorz. The final will be played on March 17, preceded by a play-off game on March 15. Both the games will be in Delhi.