

Odisha govt to fill up 1.5 lakh vacant posts: Governor Das

Bhubaneswar(KCN): Odisha Governor Raghubar Das Monday said the state government will fill 1.5 lakh vacant government posts in a fair and transparent manner, with 65,000 positions set to be filled within the next two years.

Das made these remarks during the inaugural session of the newly formed 17th Odisha Legislative Assembly. In a bid to transform Odisha into a vibrant manufacturing hub, the state government will prioritise industries such as automobile, electric vehicles (EV), semiconductors, and IT/

ITES under the 'Make in Odisha' initiative, he said, adding such a move will generate over 3.5 lakh jobs by 2029, thereby boosting economic growth and employment opportunities across the state.

Das emphasised the government's commitment to enhancing skill development and apprenticeship opportunities for youth to equip them with essential experience and expertise. Highlighting the empowerment of SC and ST youths, Das underscored the

government's efforts to foster entrepreneurial initiatives among these communities. Recognising women as pivotal to family and societal fabric, Das outlined plans to create 25 lakh successful entrepreneurs (lakhpatti Didis) in Odisha by 2027. This will be achieved through establishing industrial clusters for self-help groups (SHGs) and providing comprehensive support for product marketing and promotion, he added.

Despite challenges such as teacher vacancies and limited access to



quality digital learning resources in the state's education system, Das announced the adoption of a state-level education policy aligned with the

engineering courses in Odisha.

He said the state will formulate a flood control and management policy and state climate strategy to address long-term climate change challenges, and green industrial policy to incentivise industries with zero carbon emission.

"My government will stay faithful to this vision and will work tirelessly with a broad vision of a Viksit Bharat. The motto of my government will be Reform, Perform, and Transform, a mantra that can usher in a new era of inclusive,

sustainable and rapid development," the Governor said.

In healthcare, the state plans to implement the Ayushman Bharat scheme and appoint 3000 new doctors, with each community healthcare centre (CHC) complemented by a mobile health unit to ensure accessible healthcare delivery. The state also aims to build 10 lakh houses in rural areas and 5 lakh houses in urban regions under Pradhan Mantri Awas Yojana (PMAY). For low-income groups not covered under PMAY, the government will launch another

scheme to ensure housing for them, he added.

Other initiatives include the construction of Odia Samudaya Bhawans in major cities across the country, implementation of a 'senior citizen first' policy to ensure that the elderly receive priority in benefits and services delivery.

Concluding with a vision for inclusive and sustainable development, Das urged cooperation among all legislative members to ensure comprehensive growth and progress for all sections of society in Odisha.

NEET showdown in Parliament: Akhilesh, Rahul question exam system; Education Minister responds



New Delhi(KCN): Congress leader Rahul Gandhi said in the Lok Sabha Monday that there is a very serious problem in the country's examination system, prompting Education Minister Dharmendra Pradhan to issue a strong rebuttal and state that there was no evidence of paper leaks in the last seven years.

As the opposition sought to corner the government over the issue of paper leaks, Speaker Om Birla also weighed in saying it was not right to raise questions about all exams and that members should discuss about developing a better examination system.

The Central Bureau of Investigation (CBI) is probing the alleged irregularities in the medical entrance exam NEET. The agency has lodged six FIRs. The NEET-UG is conducted by the NTA for

admissions to MBBS, BDS, AYUSH and other related courses in government and private institutions.

On the first day of the Budget session of Parliament, Opposition members raised the issue of exam paper leaks. Gandhi, the Leader of Opposition in the Lok Sabha, said there was a very serious problem in the examination system, not just with NEET but all major examinations.

Noting that millions of students are concerned,

he claimed, "If you are rich and if you have money, you can buy the Indian examination system".

The CBI is probing the issue of exam paper

leaks and the Supreme

Court is also looking into the matter. "We should look at developing a better system... it is not right to raise questions about all examinations," he said.

After the Speaker concluded his remarks, Gandhi wanted to speak but was disallowed.

Gandhi and almost the entire Opposition members, including from TMC and DMK, walked out of the House.

Congress Deputy Leader in the House Gaurav Gogoi raised slogans demanding the

resignation of Pradhan.

Samajwadi Party leader Akhilesh Yadav also

raised questions about the exam paper leaks and claimed that the government will make a record on the issue.

The House also paid tributes to Nguyen Phu

Trong, general secretary of Vietnam's ruling

Communist Party, who

passed away July 19.

Bhubaneswar(KCN):

Odisha Law Minister Prithiviraj Harichandan Monday said that swift action would be taken against those involved in the alleged assault of a government official at Raj Bhavan in Puri July 7. The incident, in which Governor Raghubar Das's son Lalit Kumar

allegedly assaulted an Assistant Section Officer (ASO),

prompted strong demands

for accountability from the opposition BJD and

Congress.

Harichandan's reassurance came after BJD and Congress members walked out of the Assembly, protesting the lack of action against Lalit Kumar.

He clarified that the Governor's secretariat had instructed the Puri collector to conduct a comprehensive investigation and submit a report within 15 days, emphasising that subsequent actions would be based on this inquiry. Earlier in the day,

BJD and Congress lawmakers staged a walkout during the Governor's address, citing dissatisfaction with the response to the assault and alleging inaction by the police.

Opposition leader Naveen Patnaik expressed dismay over what he perceived as a breakdown in law and order under the BJP government in the state. "We were deeply shocked by this. Law and order seems to have completely broken down

in our state," Patnaik told reporters.

Patnaik further said immediate action was taken against ministers, MLAs, MPs, senior government officers whenever they broke law during the previous BJD regime. "The state government should take action according to the law," Patnaik said. Meanwhile, Congress MLA Taraprasad Bahinipati vowed to continue their agitation until the culprit is apprehended.

Naveen Patnaik Backs VK Pandian Again, Terms 'BJP Deal' News False National English Daily Tenders Unconditional Apology

Bhubaneswar(KCN):

Biju Janata Dal (BJD) President Naveen Patnaik has dismissed a news report claiming he requested Union Home Minister Amit Shah to disregard his trusted aide VK Pandian.

Patnaik labelled the report by a National English Daily, as "completely false," motivated

defamatory, and malicious," reaffirming his earlier statements that Pandian has served the state and party with utmost dedication, efficiency, and integrity, earning respect and recognition for his contributions. Despite the BJD having nine MPs in the Rajya Sabha and the BJP's reduced strength of 86 members in the Upper

Rajya Sabha, where the Narendra Modi-led NDA is in the minority. It also alleged that Patnaik cautioned Shah about Pandian's supposed attempts to negotiate with the BJP leadership to undermine the BJD in Odisha. Despite the BJD's support in the

House, the report claimed that the BJP leadership has chosen to align with Patnaik and dismiss Pandian for the time being. Pandian has not yet responded to these allegations, but Patnaik has quickly come to his defence, as he did when Pandian faced criticism following BJD's poll debacle in Odisha.

Economic Survey pegs India GDP growth at 6.5-7%, backs Chinese investment

New Delhi(KCN): The government's pre-Budget Economic Survey Monday set a conservative growth forecast of 6.5 to 7 per cent for the current fiscal as it flagged the need for creating more jobs in the economy and backed more Chinese direct investments to boost exports.

The report, which is authored by the chief economic adviser's office, favoured considering targeting inflation that excludes food, the prices of which are influenced more by supply than demand.

It sounded a bell of caution on the soaring stock markets, saying retail investor participation has increased significantly and there are chances of speculations due to overconfidence and

expectations of greater returns.

The Survey, tabled by Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman in Parliament, projected a 6.5 per cent to 7 per cent GDP growth rate in the current fiscal year that started in April. This is lower than 8.2 per cent growth seen in the previous 2023-24 (April 2023 to March 2024) fiscal and below than RBI's 7.2 per cent estimate for current fiscal.

"The Indian economy is on a strong wicket and stable footing, demonstrating resilience in the face of geopolitical challenges," Chief Economic Adviser V Anantha Nageswaran wrote in the preface to the annual report card on the state of the economy. He, however, hastened to add that fears of

cheaper imports from countries with excess capacity could limit the formation of private capital.

Acknowledging that this year's forecast was on the conservative side, and lower than market expectations, the Survey cited slower investment growth by the private sector as well as uncertain weather patterns as some of the reasons for caution.

For the medium-term, it saw a potential of 7 per cent-plus growth rate on a sustained basis if structural reforms are implemented. The report, that came just a day before Sitharaman presents the Budget for 2024-25 that is likely to layout the economic priorities of the Modi 3.0 government and the vision for a developed nation by

2047, identified boosting private investment, strengthening small businesses and agriculture, raising financial resources for climate change adaptation, easing red tap for small businesses, and tacking income inequality as focus areas. Priorities should also include bridging the gap between education and employment, it said, calling for expediting

implementation of labour reforms to create a more conducive environment for job creation.

"The Indian economy needs to generate an average of nearly 7.85 million jobs annually until 2030 in the non-farm sector to cater to the rising workforce," the report said.

In the preface to the Survey, the CEA said job creation happens mainly

in the private sector. "Second, many (not all) of the issues that influence economic growth, job creation and productivity and the actions to be taken therein are in the domain of state governments."

"So, in other words, India needs a tripartite compact, more than ever before, to deliver on the higher and rising aspirations of Indians and complete the journey to Viksit Bharat by 2047," he said.

He termed Prime Minister Narendra Modi coming to power for a third time as an "unprecedented third popular mandate" that "signals political and policy continuity" and in the same breath stated that "letting go is part of good governance".

"The Indian state can free up its capacity and

enhance its capability to focus on areas where it has to by letting go of its grip in areas where it does not have to," he said. "The Licensing, Inspection and Compliance requirements that all levels of the government continue to impose on businesses is an onerous burden. Relative to history, the burden has lightened. Relative to where it ought to be, it is still a lot heavier."

The Survey called for boosting direct investment from China while reducing imports from that country. Amid strained ties since 2020 after border skirmishes, the report said to boost exports, India can either integrate into China's supply chain or promote foreign direct investment from China.

"Among these choices, focusing on FDI from China seems more

promising for boosting India's exports to the US, similar to how East Asian economies did in the past," it said, adding choosing the FDI strategy "appears more advantageous than relying on trade" as it can arrest the growing trade deficit India has with China.

Following the 2020 clashes in the Galwan Valley, India banned over 200 Chinese mobile apps such as TikTok, and rejected a major investment proposal from EV maker BYD. Visas for Chinese nationals also slowed. On inflation, the Survey said the short-term inflation outlook is benign. It favoured Reserve Bank of India's monetary policy framework, considering to tame inflation excluding food and using it to set interest rates.



Double Murder In Sambalpur: Man Kills Wife, Mother-In-Law Over Family Feud

Rairakhol(KCN): A man brutally murdered his wife and mother-in-law at Podabalandia village over a family dispute and surrendered before the local police station at Rairakhol in Sambalpur district on Monday.

According to reports, the accused man, identified as Mithun Sahu (26) of Jamdali village within Athamallik police station in Angul, murdered his wife, Gayatri Sahu (22) and mother-in-law Rukuni Sahu (48) and surrendered before the police along with his 2-



year-old son.

After learning about the double murder incident, SDPO Prashant Kumar Meher, and IIC Sabita Lata Sethi reached the scene and carried out

an investigation. Later, a scientific team from Sambalpur arrived and collected evidence. It is reported that the scientific team and the police are conducting

further investigations in the presence of Manoj Kumar Meher, Rairakhol BDO. According to sources, Gayatri Sahu, the daughter of Rukuni Sahu

of Podabalandia village under Rairakhol police station, was married to Mithun Sahu of Jamdali village under Athamallik police station of Angul district for the last 4 years. All went fine for the couple for about one and a half years, but gradually a family feud ensued between them. Relatives of the deceased claimed that Mithun used to beat his wife Gayatri, following which she has been living with her two-year-old son for the past 11 months at her father's house in Podabalandia village.

Prof. N. C. Panda Honored with Sanskrita Mahamahopadhyaya Award for Sanskrit Contributions



Koraput, (KCN): Esteemed Sanskrit scholar Prof. N. C. Panda was honored with the Sanskrit Mahamahopadhyaya, the highest accolade in Sanskrit, by the Hindi Sahitya Sammelan, Prayag, on the 106th birth anniversary of Dr. Pravat Sashtri, former

Prime Minister of the Hindi Sahitya Sammelan. Prof. Panda received a Manapatra and Utariya for his exceptional efforts in promoting and preserving the Sanskrit language from Chief Guest Prof. Vedprakash Upadhyaya. Currently serving as the Dean of the School of Language

and Acting Registrar at Central University of Odisha, Koraput, Prof. Panda was joined in recognition by two other distinguished professors. The event, attended by Chairman Shri Bibhuti Mishra, Prime Minister Shri Kuntak Mishra, Deputy Minister Shri

Ramakrishna Pandey,

as well as Shri Sheshmani Pandey, Shri Pavitra Tiwari, Shri Bhaskar Mishra, Dr. Annapurna Malaviya, and Shri Manish Pandey, marked a significant celebration of scholarly achievement and dedication to Sanskrit.

Plastic surgery evolves into a vital field within healthcare

- The State-of-the-art Burns Unit at AIIMS Bhubaneswar provides quality care to serious burn injuries in Odisha and neighbouring states
- Free compression therapy for lymphedema patients and free VAC therapy for wound care

Bhubaneswar, (KCN): Plastic surgery has emerged as an essential factor in healthcare, providing life-changing solutions for various conditions, including burns, cancer, lymphedema, and cosmetic procedures. It has been addressing both functional and aesthetic needs of patients. AIIMS Bhubaneswar continues to lead in providing exemplary plastic surgery services, reinforcing the importance of advanced medical care in enhancing patients' lives. But, more research and awareness over this sector is need of hour, said experts attending a special programme organised by the department of Burns & Plastic Surgery at AIIMS Bhubaneswar to mark World Plastic Surgery Day.

This year, under the auspices of the Association of Plastic Surgeons of India (APS), a pioneering Plastic & Reconstructive Surgery Week was initiated. The week-long event

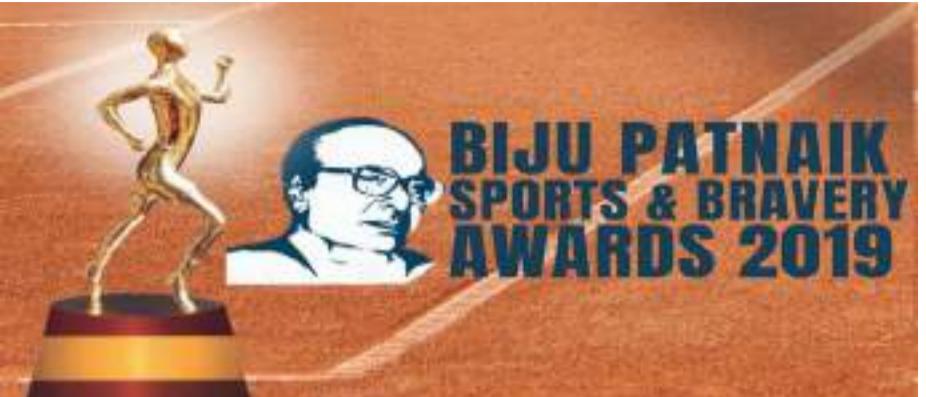


featured a series of specialized days dedicated to various subspecialties within plastic surgery, each marked by the performance of relevant surgeries, all provided free of cost. The Department of Burns & Plastic Surgery performed various surgeries, awareness programs, and felicitated burn and cancer survivors. Notable services included free compression therapy for lymphedema patients and free VAC therapy for wound care. The state-of-the-art Burns Unit at AIIMS Bhubaneswar has been

instrumental in treating severe burn injuries from Odisha and neighbouring states, significantly enhancing patients' quality of life. The unit has consistently demonstrated excellence in providing top-notch care and performing complex surgeries, solidifying its reputation as a crucial component of the healthcare system, said AIIMS Bhubaneswar Executive Director Dr. Ashutosh Biswas.

Head of the Department Dr. Sanjay Giri stated, "We have achieved significant milestones, such as reducing huge lymphedema through

Govt Revokes Plan To Rename 'Biju Patnaik Sports Award'



Bhubaneswar(KCN): In a recent turn of events, the Odisha government has decided to retain the original name of the 'Biju Patnaik Sports Award'. The idea to change the award's name had faced criticism after the government initially issued guidelines to rename it as the 'Rajya Krida Samman'. Following widespread objections and concerns, Chief Minister Mohan Majhi clarified on Sunday that there were no plans to alter the award's title. He acknowledged Biju Patnaik's contributions to the state and the nation, stating that the name would remain unchanged. Today, the government issued a notification stating the cancellation of the previously published notice on 19th July concerning the name change.

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Artificial Intelligence (AI) & Human Society: Perspectives & Reflections



Artificial intelligence (AI) refers to the simulation of human intelligence processes by machines, particularly computer systems. These processes include learning (the acquisition of information and rules for using it), reasoning (using rules to reach approximate or definite conclusions), and self-correction. Specific applications of AI include expert systems, natural language processing, speech recognition, and machine vision.

Impact of AI on human society?

The transformative potential of AI across multiple domains suggests it will play a crucial role in shaping the future of human society. AI is expected to have a significant impact on human society for several reasons:

Automation of Tasks: AI can automate routine and repetitive tasks, increasing efficiency and productivity across various industries such as manufacturing, healthcare, and customer service.

Data Analysis: AI can process and analyze vast amounts of data quickly, providing insights that can lead to better decision-making in fields like finance, marketing, and research.

Personalization: AI can tailor services and products to individual preferences, enhancing user experiences in areas like online shopping, entertainment, and education.

Healthcare Advances: AI is transforming healthcare by improving diagnostics, personalizing treatment plans, and predicting patient outcomes, which can lead to better health and longevity.

Innovation and Creativity: AI can assist in the creative process, helping to design new products, create art, and even write content, expanding the boundaries of innovation.

Improved Accessibility: AI can provide tools and technologies that make life easier for people with disabilities, such as speech recognition for those with mobility impairments and visual recognition for the visually impaired.

Economic Impact: AI can drive economic growth by creating new markets and job opportunities, although it

also poses challenges related to job displacement and the need for new skills.

Ethical and Social Implications: AI raises important ethical and social questions about privacy, bias, and the role of machines in human life, prompting discussions and policies that will shape the future of society.

Can AI be successfully integrated with our education system?

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Professional Development: AI can offer personalized professional development for teachers, identifying areas for improvement and recommending resources and training.

Predictive Analytics: AI can analyze data to identify students at risk of falling behind and provide early interventions. This helps in addressing issues before they become significant problems.

Content Creation and Curation: AI can assist in creating educational content, including interactive simulations and engaging multimedia resources. It can also curate existing content to match curriculum requirements.

Accessibility: AI can improve accessibility for students with disabilities by providing tools like speech-to-text, text-to-speech, and other assistive technologies.

Language Learning: AI can support language learning through interactive and immersive experiences, providing real-time feedback and practice opportunities.

Personalized Learning: AI can tailor educational content to individual students' needs, helping them learn at their own pace and style. This personalized approach can improve

understanding and retention.

Intelligent Tutoring Systems: These systems use AI to provide students with one-on-one tutoring. They can offer instant feedback, answer questions, and provide additional resources based on the student's progress.

Administrative Efficiency: AI can automate administrative tasks such as scheduling, attendance tracking, and resource allocation, making the education system more efficient.

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Language Support: AI-powered translation and language learning

tools can assist non-native speakers, making education more accessible to students from diverse linguistic backgrounds.

Assistive Technologies: AI can power assistive tools such as text-to-speech, speech-to-text, and other adaptive technologies that help students with physical or learning disabilities.

Access to Resources: AI can help bridge gaps in resource availability by providing access to high-quality educational materials and tutoring services online, reaching students in remote or underserved areas.

Bias Reduction: AI can help reduce biases in education by providing objective assessments and feedback, ensuring that all students are evaluated fairly.

Teacher Support: AI can handle administrative tasks and provide insights into student performance, allowing teachers to focus more on personalized instruction and support for each student.

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Consciousness is brain's user-illusion of itself

Dr. Samrat Kar



The Cartesian notion of consciousness and the relation between the body and mind has been at the heart of modern Western thought, with Descartes positing consciousness as the one undeniable and certain fact of existence. Modern scientific propositions of a unified field theory further dissolved the distance between the observer and the observed, proposing an indivisible consciousness running through mind-body, space-time, and energy-matter.

Daniel Dennett challenged this Cartesian concept. He lays down a purely materialistic physical paradigm of consciousness through a dissection of the physical human brain and mental phenomena. In laying

down this model of consciousness, heterophenomenology, as he calls it, where a scientific methodology alone is applied to studying consciousness, Dennett argues against a Cartesian central point where conscious experience occurs.

He contends that the human brain's billion neurons are warring with each other for influence over our brain's circuitry, with the 'winner neurons' influencing our perceptions and actions. The contents of our consciousness are an edit of the real world, just the 'winnerneurons' setting the narrative out of countless innumerable possibilities. This conscious experience is just an offshoot of the 'winner-neurons' being imprinted into memory.

He then contends that all humans end up experiencing 'user-illusion'. Just as the visual metaphor of a desktop computer creates the illusion of a simplified version of computing but masks the underlying complexity of the computer, our individual conscious experience, too, is similarly a simplification of the complex reality. While this allows us to act

as memory imprints brought about by physical processes, just as one brings alive the icons on the computers from its intricate software circuitry. Overturning Descartes's idea of an immaterial soul or mind, Dennett views the human mind and

consciousness as a brain-computer operating a series of algorithmic permutations.

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Unique Halwa Ceremony of Union Budget

Dr. Ravi Chaturvedi



The 'Halwa Ceremony' used to take place every year to mark the final stage of the Budget preparation process under the aegis of the Ministry of Finance.

This notion of consciousness as an illusion arises from his larger philosophical conviction in the Darwinian theory of evolution by natural selection, which he contended accounts for all dimensions of human existence and behaviour. One does not need a personal God, 'an intelligent designer', or an immaterial soul.

In upholding this Darwinian idea that all creatures, including human beings, were created by a series of undesigned and unintentional mutations, Dennett sees this 'Tree of Life' as an affirmation of the 'magnificence of creation'.

Psychiatrist, The Brain Foundation, Purighat Road, Cuttack, Mob. : 9132433333

normally in the world, it is 'the brain's user-illusion of itself'. The subject's view is no longer taken as authoritative or accurate since that view only describes things as they seem to the subject.

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the final stages of preparing the Union Budget and is inaugurated by the Finance Minister at the ministry's headquarters in the national capital.

During the ceremony, the Finance Minister stirs the halwa in a traditional kadhai and shares it with colleagues, symbolizing the beginning of the Budget compilation process.

To maintain utmost secrecy, officials directly involved in the Budget's creation undergo a "lock-in" and remain confined to the North Block until the Budget is presented in Parliament.

Minister of Parliamentary Affairs, Kiren Rijiju, had announced on X that the Union Budget for the financial year 2024-25 will be presented in the Lok Sabha on July 23. The Budget Session of Parliament will take place from July 22 to August 12.

Rijiju posted, "Hon'ble President of India, on the recommendation of Government of India, has approved the proposal for summoning of both the Houses of Parliament for the Budget Session, 2024 from 22nd July 2024 to 12 August, 2024 (Subject to exigencies of Parliamentary Business)." The budget will lay out the government's plans for economic growth, development, and fiscal policies for the upcoming financial year. This year, Union Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman will present the Budget in the house at 11 am.

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Budget Should Promote Inclusive Growth, Sustain Capital Investment



According to Article 112 of the Indian Constitution, the Union Budget of a year, also referred to as the annual financial statement, is a detailed statement of the estimated receipts and expenditures of the government for that particular year, essentially serving as a comprehensive plan of the anticipated resources, which often but not exclusively come from taxes, and the projected expenditures. K. Shanmukham Chetty had the distinction of presenting the first-ever Budget of Independent India on 26th November 1947, while before independence, British economist James Wilson presented the first Budget for India in 1860.

The new government's first Budget is being prepared against the backdrop of continuing tensions in the geopolitical arena. The Russia-Ukraine war and the Israel-Hamas conflict show no signs of abating. The domestic economy may grow sustainably at seven per cent, but the outlook may alter depending on the stability of the external environment. Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman hopes that global oil prices will remain subdued and that Western economies will emerge from recessionary trends affecting export growth. Keeping international ocean lanes free from strife will also be critical to avoiding an undue rise in inbound or outbound trade costs. The external headwinds have the potential of playing spoilsport with India's growth story. Therefore, the Budget must strengthen critical sectors like infrastructure and

services while supporting agriculture and the rural economy equally. On the infrastructure front, policymakers would do well to maintain the steep rise in capital expenditure recorded over the past few years. The 2024-25 Interim Budget scaled down the earlier 30 per cent rise in capex to about 16.9 per cent, but a higher increase is warranted, given the vast infrastructure gap in the country. Though this may only create a small number of skilled jobs after some time, it will undoubtedly impact employment creation. The fact that the Reserve Bank of India has transferred Rs 2.11 lakh crore to the Central Government exchequer gives it a considerable cushion to continue in this direction during the current fiscal year. The Budget will also need to move towards creating an easier climate for private investment, which needs to catch up to the public sector. While policies already in

Prof (Dr.) S N Tripathy

place -such as the production-linked incentive schemes-will boost manufacturing, procedures must be further streamlined. The regulatory environment has come a long way since the 1991 economic reforms. But comparisons with the past are no longer relevant. Comparisons now need to be made with other emerging economies. Countries like Vietnam and Indonesia offer simpler and easier investment regimes, attracting multinationals to set up bases there. India, in contrast, does not look so appealing.

Domestic investors must contend with higher capital and logistics costs. Yet, the primary hurdle for domestic and foreign investors is the plethora of clearances needed to set up new projects. These issues are now primarily at the level of the states or even local municipalities. Bringing the ease of doing business down to this

level must be part of next-generation reforms. An indication that this is already being considered lies in the economic statement issued with the 2024-25 Interim Budget in February. It referred to improving block, district, and village governance. A one-time loan to states, amounting to Rs 75,000 crore, was also offered for growth and development-oriented reforms. The focus areas were identified as health, education, skilling, and land acquisition.

The only snag in this plan is that not all states will cooperate despite the availability of loans to carry out reforms. BJP-ruled states are bound to comply with directives from the Centre, but the same response may be absent from other states. The aim of kickstarting next-generation reforms may be only partially successful. At the same time, some states, especially in the southern region, already have streamlined regulatory processes. The result is that investors are making

a beeline for them. For instance, tech giants like Apple and Microsoft are locating new projects in Tamil Nadu, Karnataka, and Andhra Pradesh. Policies adopted by these states need to be studied and replicated in others. In this context, budgetary provisions need to be made for the critical segment of education and skilling. While job creation is bound to be high on the government agenda, many sectors are facing a shortage of skilled personnel. There is also a mismatch between the type of education and the specific skills needed by the industry. Long-term policy prescriptions should be formulated to resolve this issue, but in the short run, the upcoming Budget can provide adequate allocations for skilling institutes.

In addition, education needs greater attention.

India has excellent higher education institutes like the IITs and IIMs, but primary

and secondary education is in a dismal state. Here, the Centre and the states must work together to ensure that our large, youthful population is well-equipped to enter the workforce.

The Finance Ministry also needs to give more support to services like travel and tourism, both

in terms of their contribution to the GDP as well as employment creation. The hospitality industry seeks hotel infrastructure status to access better financing options and attract more investment. This sector rebounded strongly from the Covid-induced collapse, but some targeted support would expand employment opportunities.

As for the agricultural policy, there is an urgent need to establish agro-linked industries in rural areas. Along with incentives to set them up, systems need to be established so that farmers can access retail markets in a more

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An Echo of the Eco: Integrating Eco-Vocabulary, Etiquettes, and Values in Language Teaching



equitable and environmentally conscious future. Therefore, incorporating eco-vocabulary, etiquettes, and values while teaching a language can greatly contribute to raising awareness and promoting sustainability; shaping responsible citizens.

The concept of an "Echo of the Eco" refers to an echo or reflection of the natural environment in our language and behavior. As the world grapples with environmental challenges, 'echoing the eco' emphasizes here the need to develop a symbiotic relationship between language and the environment. By actively incorporating eco-vocabulary into language lessons, educators can familiarize students with terms like renewable energy, recycling, conservation, and biodiversity. This not only adds depth to their language skills but also introduces them to the vocabulary necessary for discussing and understanding environmental issues.

To integrate Eco-Vocabulary and Etiquettes, educators in Schools, HEIs and Universities can incorporate eco-related words and phrases

related to sustainable things, variety of different plants, animals, and microorganisms in an ecosystem, plants or animals at risk of becoming extinct, amount of greenhouse gases produced by human activities into lesson plans, use authentic materials and multimedia resources to illustrate eco-concepts, encourage students to create eco-themed projects and presentations and role-play eco-friendly scenarios and dialogues. Eco-etiquettes particulars such as 'Reduce, Reuse, Recycle', use public transport, cycle, or walk when possible, turn off lights, electronics, and taps when not in use, use eco-friendly products and packaging, respect and protect wildlife and their habitats, plant trees and support reforestation efforts, avoid single-use plastics and choose sustainable alternatives, support renewable energy sources and reduce carbon footprint and get involved in local environmental initiatives and conservation efforts through various language activities.

For incorporating Eco-Values, facilitators can emphasize the importance of sustainability and conservation, discuss environmental issues and their impact on society, encourage students to reflect on their ecological footprint and foster empathy and respect for diverse environmental perspectives. The importance of environmental ethics,

such as compassion towards animals and the need for ecological balance can be taught. Importantly, teaching eco-vocabulary, etiquettes, and values in the language classroom must not be limited to theoretical concepts. Integrating practical activities like gardening, waste management, and community clean-ups allows students to experience firsthand the impact of their actions on the environment. Such activities also provide opportunities for language practice while emphasizing the application of eco-consciousness in everyday life.

Integrating eco-literature into language learning can also enhance vocabulary acquisition, develop critical thinking, encourage empathy and appreciation for nature and provide a cultural context for language learning. Fictional texts and poetry, in particular, offer a unique opportunity to engage language learners with eco-vocabulary in a creative and meaningful way.

To illustrate, novels like Barbara Kingsolver's 'The Poisonwood Bible' that deals with environmental degradation and

conservation, Margaret Atwood's 'The Handmaid's Tale' that explores eco-feminism and sustainability are good to go. Walt Whitman's poem 'Leaves of Grass' that highlights nature and the human experience and Mary Oliver's poem 'Wild Geese' that blows the trumpet for environmental awareness and conservation can be taught by the language teachers in the classrooms. There are many other writers and poets who have contributed to eco-literature such as Adrienne Rich, Henry David Thoreau, Rachel Carson, Pablo Neruda and Alice Walker etc.

Writers such as Wordsworth, William Blake, P.B. Shelly, John Keats, S.T. Coleridge, G.M. Hopkins, and many more who found sanctuary in the lap of nature can be taught but they did not face the ecological problems which people are facing now in this technological era thus there is a need to update learners with contemporary literature including fiction, short stories, poetry and essays of present times.

For engaging language learners in meaningful conversations about environmental issues and sustainable practices, general eco-movements can be shared with them such as The Zero Waste Movement, The Climate Strike Movement, The Sustainable Fashion Movement, The Reduce Plastic Movement, The Environmental Justice Movement, The Conservation Movement, The Renewable Energy Movement, The Eco-Feminism Movement, The Sustainable Agriculture Movement, and The Eco-Tourism Movement etc. There have been many specific movements such as Narmada Bachao Andolan by Medha Patkar, Bishnoi Movement led by Amrita Devi, Chipko Movement by Chandri Prasad Bhatt and Sunder Lal Bahuguna, Silent Valley Movement by an NGO led by Kerala Sasthra Sahithya Parishad (KSSP), Jungle Bachao Andolan by the local people of Bihar (Jharkhand) who were concerned about rapid deforestation, etc.

Educators play a pivotal role in shaping young minds and influencing their perspectives. By imparting eco-vocabulary, etiquettes, and values in language teaching, they can empower students to become active contributors to a sustainable society. This, in turn, creates a ripple effect as students share their knowledge and practices with their peers and families.

Furthermore, incorporating eco-consciousness into language education nurtures critical thinking skills. Students learn to analyze environmental issues, consider the implications of their actions, and propose sustainable solutions. These critical thinking skills not only enhance language proficiency but also equip students with the ability to make informed decisions regarding the environment and its preservation.

By echoing the eco in language teaching, young learners will become eco-literate individuals and responsible global citizens, equipped with the knowledge, skills, and values necessary to address environmental challenges.

(Author is a Professor, Writer and Columnist hailing from Jaipur, Rajasthan.)

BIS Honours IS: 1, 1968 on National Flag Day

Kolkata, (KCN): The Bureau of Indian Standards (BIS) is celebrating National Flag Day with pride, shining a spotlight on the iconic Indian Standard Specification for the National Flag (Cotton Khadi) IS: 1-1968. This historic standard, first unveiled in May 1951, has been the bedrock of preserving the integrity and excellence of our revered national emblem. While delineating about the legacy of the Standard, Shri Pramod Kumar Tiwari, the Director General, BIS, stated, "On this National Flag Day, we celebrate the enduring legacy of IS: 1-1968 and its vital role in upholding the dignity of our national flag. As the custodian of

over 22,000 Indian Standards, BIS reaffirms its commitment to ensuring the safety, reliability, and quality of goods for the citizens of India." The Standard was meticulously crafted by the National Flag Sectional Committee (TDC: 8) of the erstwhile Indian Standards Institution (ISI), now BIS, under the esteemed chairmanship of Shri Bharat Ram, an industrialist and Chairman of Delhi Cloth & General Mills (DCM). IS: 1-1968 delineates, with precision and illustrations, the general design, constructional details, and dimensions

of the various flag parts, standardised to nine sizes, including one for motor cars. In 1964, the national flag standard was updated significantly to switch its measurements to the metric system, matching the new system adopted by the government of India. This revision also modernised the flag's materials, removing old specifications for the cotton Khadi fabrics and making changes to the sizes of the hemp ropes and wooden toggles used in the flag. The Standard saw another revision in 1968, which focused on refining the method of attaching the panels of the flag and adjusting the tolerances on the dimensions of the flag and the Chakra.

South Eastern Railway conducted footplate inspection in Howrah-Ranchi Vande Bharat Express



Kolkata, (Saikat Kumar Basu): Shri Anil Kumar Mishra, General Manager, South Eastern Railway has conducted footplate inspection in Howrah-Kharagpur section by Howrah-Ranchi Vande Bharat Express today (20-07-2024).

Howrah-Ranchi Vande Bharat Express is popular with the businessmen as well as tourists visiting Ranchi and other nearby travel destinations. The General Manager has

inspected the cleaning, food and other amenities provided in the train. He has interacted with staff and suggested some measures to improve the service. Shri Mishra also interacted with the crew during the inspection. Shri Anil Kumar Mishra, General Manager, South Eastern Railway interacting with the passengers of Howrah-Ranchi Vande Bharat Express during his footplate inspection

on 20-07-2024. The General Manager, while inspecting the train has communicated with the passengers. He assured them about the best service and acknowledged their valuable feedback. Senior officers of South Eastern Railway have accompanied him during the inspection. In the afternoon, Shri Mishra conducted one more footplate inspection by a goods train between Kharagpur and Andul.

Bhubaneswar (KCN): Reghu G, IAS, Director of Technical Education and Training, Odisha (DTET) under the administrative control of Skill Development and Technical Education (SDTE) Department, signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with Central Tool Room & Training Centre (CTTC), Bhubaneswar, represented by Mr. L. Rajasekhar, General Manager of Central Tool Room & Training Centre (CTTC), Bhubaneswar to setup Mini Tool Rooms in Advanced Manufacturing sector at Government Polytechnic Jajpur and Government ITI Barkote using the OMBADC (Odisha Mineral Bearing Areas Development Corporation) fund on 22.07.2024 at the official chamber of the Hon'ble Minister, Industries, Skill Development and Technical Education at



manufacturing & precision engineering skills and have agreed in principle for setting up of 02 Mini Tool Room & Training Centers in the available workshop area at Government ITI Barkote and Government Polytechnic Jajpur in Odisha under his administrative control. Central Tool Room & Training Centre (CTTC), Bhubaneswar, a Society registered under Society Registration Act 1860

Bill For Greater Bengaluru Governance In Monsoon Session: Sources



Bengaluru (KCN): The ambitious and controversial plan to restructure the civic administration of Karnataka capital Bengaluru is likely to be tabled in the state assembly in the monsoon session, sources said. The Greater Bengaluru Governance Bill, 2024, aims to revamp the administration with a three-tier multiple-corporation set up -- a move that the state's Opposition BJP resists, seeing the existing set-up as their legacy.

The Bill aims to establish

the creation of ward committees at the lowest rung. On the second rung will be a set of municipal corporations governed by the Greater Bengaluru Authority. The whole set-up will be chaired by the Chief Minister and the Bengaluru Development minister. The GBA shall be responsible for the overall planning of Greater Bengaluru, coordinating the activities of multiple Municipal Corporations, administering major infrastructural projects

consisting of the Mayor, Deputy Mayor and 10 other members. The Mayor-in-Council, instead of the Commissioner, is vested with executive powers of the Corporation and shall be collectively responsible to the Corporation. During the earlier tenure of Chief Minister Siddaramaiah, a bill was introduced to trifurcate the civic body. The Bill was passed in the Assembly,

but defeated in the Council.

In 2019, the BJP opted for a bureaucratic decentralisation under a single corporation. But with no civic polls held in 4 years now amid disagreement over the multiple issues including delimitation and decentralisation of the civic body, a bunch of petitions are pending at the Karnataka High Court and the Supreme Court.

The term of the elected council of BBMP expired in September 2020.

The local body earlier had 198 seats. In July 2022, the BJP notified 243 wards, which was opposed by the Congress. In 2023, the Karnataka High Court gave the Congress government a 12-week deadline to finish the delimitation process. Decentralisation and multiple corporation proposals setting battle lines delayed the election process.

Elon Musk Reacts After Vivek Ramaswamy's Biden Prediction Goes Viral

Washington: Indian-American businessman-turned-politician Vivek Ramaswamy had predicted some eight months ago that incumbent President Joe Biden would not be the presidential nominee of the Democratic Party.

Joe Biden announced on Sunday that he decided to give up running for re-election as president of the United States and endorsed his deputy Kamala Harris to be the presidential nominee of the Democratic Party. "Best way to predict the future: just follow the incentives. It's shocking how precisely right you can be, right down to the exact timing," Ramaswamy, a 38-year-old Republican, said in a social media

post along with the video interview with Fox News last November, soon after Biden announced his decision.

"Yeah, all his predictions have come true," Tesla CEO and X owner Elon Musk said in response. "Wish it weren't so," Ramaswamy responded. In his interview with Fox News, Ramaswamy had said: "I think that the reality is the managerial class around Biden has lost their use for him. This has been obvious to me since last year to play out the incentives. He is not the strongest candidate they can put up. And these people, they have stopped at nothing to keep Donald J Trump out of office," he said.

The Indian-American, who then was the



Republican presidential candidate in the primaries along with former president Donald Trump, said that two candidates – Kamala Harris and Michelle Obama – were possibly to be picked by the Democrats.

"Let's give credit where credit is due. For almost a year one man has been saying 'Biden won't be

the Democratic nominee'" and predicting a last-minute blindsight. People called him crazy," Tristane Tate, a social media influencer, said, applauding Ramaswamy for his prediction coming true. Ramaswamy had made a similar prediction during one of the Republican presidential debates.

He also posted a

compilation of videos of his predictions and said, "The anatomy of how a 'conspiracy theory' became reality, in just 18 months."

"I remember corporate media reporters sneering and laughing when Vivek Ramaswamy made this point in the debate. They're not laughing now!" Raheem Kassam, a journalist, said on X.

CTTC Bhubaneswar To Setup Mini Tool Rooms At Govt Polytechnic Jajpur, Govt ITI Barkote

achieve a GDP growth for any country, the manufacturing sector has to grow. To achieve a sustained rate of growth, the manufacturing sector needs to build and maintain competitiveness needed to face the challenges posed by globalization.

The Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises (MSME) sector has been a significant contributor to the manufacturing by making tool & die with very good quality and as per the demand of the nearby industries with mutually agreed price to generate the Internal Revenue, which will help these MTRs to self-sustain.

These MTRs will not only cater to the need of the industries nearby, but also enhance the skill of the youths from ITIs and Diploma colleges in the field of Manufacturing and Automation. Students from nearby engineering

colleges and polytechnics will also be benefited from add-on short term training which will be imparted by the Technical Experts from CTTC Bhubaneswar. In addition to bridge the skill gap in industrial automation sector, this MTRs will open employment opportunities for the passed out trainees by honing their skill to perfection, as experts from CTTC Bhubaneswar will provide one-year handholding in training the trainers too.

On the occasion, the Minister Sri Sampad Chandra Swain emphasised on building of Koushal Bhawan in existing ITI and Polytechnics. Training and manufacturing are the key factors of employment, the Minister added.

IAS Smita Sabharwal's Disability Quota Remark Draws Massive Criticism

New Delhi: Amid a huge row over the selection of controversial probationary IAS officer Puja Khedkar under disability criteria, a senior bureaucrat has questioned the need for quotas for the specially-abled in the civil services. Smita Sabharwal - member-secretary of the Telangana Finance Commission - said the demands of the job for ground work make the job difficult for those with disabilities.

"With all due respect

to the Differently Abled. Does an Airline hire a pilot with disability? Or would you trust a surgeon with a disability. The nature of the IAS (IAS/IPS/IFoS) is field-work, long taxing hours, listening first hand to people's grievances which requires physical fitness. Why does this premier service need this Quota in the first place!" Smita Sabharwal posted on X - earlier known as Twitter.

Ms Sabharwal's post drew sharp responses

with many calling it "flawed logic" and ignorant.

"This is such a pathetic and exclusionary view to have. Interesting to see how bureaucrats are showing their limited thoughts and their privilege too," Shiv Sena MP Priyanka Chaturvedi said.

"I haven't seen bureaucrats criticising the misuse of the quota such as EWS/Non creamy layer or Disabilities and getting into the system but rather

about doing away with a reservation that promotes diversity and inclusion. I don't know how you telling about the number of years in service is relevant to your point. Thanks anyway," Ms Chaturvedi said in



diversity are badly needed," said senior Supreme Court Advocate Karuna Nundy.

"As a trustee of @ncpedp_india, we see thousands of innovative outcomes by people with disabilities, which is inspirational in many ways. NCPEDP was instrumental in getting disabled people in UPSC & we see them struggling daily due to lack of awareness. If given a universal ecosystem, persons with disabilities can contribute to the mainstream society on

an equal basis. It's time we educate ourselves rather than excluding 20 Crore Indians from contributing to a better India," said NCPEDP Trustee Arvind Gupta.

Puja Khedkar, the 2023-batch trainee IAS officer made headlines a few weeks ago when Pune collector Suhas Diwase wrote to Maharashtra Chief Secretary Sujata Saunik, flagging several demands that she was not entitled to during her probation.

This complaint set in motion a chain of events that led to shocking revelations. Questions were raised over how she cleared the tough selection process for UPSC. She was found to have availed of concessions for physical disability and OBC candidacy though she was not eligible. Her two-year training has now been put on hold, and her selection into the IAS is being probed by a panel formed by the Centre.

Biju Sports Award Continues

Bhubaneswar(KCN): With Chief Minister Mohan Charan Majhi's intervention, the State Government today clarified that the name of Biju Patnaik Sports Award will not be changed.

The Sports and Youth Services Department on Friday issued guidelines for this year's award, renaming it 'Rajya Krida Samman'.

Chief Minister Mohan Charan Majhi and Sports Minister Suryabanshi Suraj have come with clarifications today. The Chief Minister said his government has not taken any formal decision to drop Biju Patnaik's name from the award.

"My government respects the sons of the soil and therefore, there



will be no change in the title of the sports award named after Biju Patnaik," he said, noting that he came to know about the renaming from the press. Stating that Biju Patnaik's contribution towards the state and the

country was memorable, Shri Majhi said, "Biju Patnaik Sports Award will continue as it is."

Similarly, the Sports Minister said he has all due respect for Biju Patnaik and his department is trying to prove?" he had asked.

IAS Officer Usha Padhee Warns Of Cyber Fraudster Seeking Money Using Her Name

Bhubaneswar(KCN): Senior IAS officer Usha Padhee alerted citizens on Sunday that some unidentified fraudster allegedly attempted to cheat people and extort money by using her name. The bureaucrat, through her X handle, posted about a cyber fraud incident where someone was soliciting money from her contacts on WhatsApp using her identity. IAS Padhee also shared a screenshot of the fraudulent message, in which the scammer requested Rs 50,000 and provided a bank account



number for the transfer, promising to repay the amount later. She mentioned that she has reported the matter to the relevant authorities and urged the public to remain vigilant to avoid falling

prey to such cyber scams.

Tagging the official handle of the Director General of Police (DGP), Odisha, Padhee wrote, "It has been brought to my attention

Three Motorcyclists Killed In Hit-And-Run In Sundargarh

Sundargarh(KCN): In a tragic accident three youths were killed after an unidentified vehicle ran over their motorcycle on Sunday evening at Toda Ghati within Koida police station limits of Sundargarh district.

According to reports, the young individuals were returning home from a football game when the tragedy struck them. The impact was so intense that the trio died on the spot.



On intimation, personnel from the Kalta outpost and Koida police station reached the scene and shifted the bodies to Koida Community Health Center for autopsy. The deceased identified as Debendra Dehuri, Anadi Nayak and Anil Dehuri were residents of the Toda slum area, sources said.



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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 "ground breaking 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 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

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 surgery, while thanking her doctors, Reema

said, "For the past eight months, the events that occurred to me because of this condition are unexplainable. I would like to express my heartfelt gratitude to Dr Manjunath and the entire team for the timely help in relieving the pain I was enduring and helping me recover back from this deadly tumour. Also I was worried about my facial expressions when doctors explained me about the tumor in relation to facial nerve and need for its removal if required. Thanks again to the entire team for helping me to get rid of this bad tumor with my smile intact" (with a big smile on her face).

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), Slat 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

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; turbocharged engine

provides higher torque, fuel efficiency, better drivability, and transient response; maintenance-free engine. The CNG engine H series also fulfils CEV V standards without SCR or DPF, and features proven multipoint sequential gas injection for dependable performance; a 500 hours oil drain interval; and the maximum power in the sector.

Sharing his views, Mr. Dheeraj Hinduja, Executive Chairman, 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,

Union Minister Shri Jyotiraditya M. Scindia releases 'The Future is Now' as the theme for India Mobile Congress 2024



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,

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 to bring a paradigm shift at the ecosystem level and enable TCBL. With 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.

Bhubaneswar : The theme of the India Mobile Congress 2024, 'The Future is Now', was unveiled today by Shri Jyotiraditya M. Scindia, Minister for Communications and Development of Northeastern Region, launched the Indian Mobile Congress 2024 application and Website, a unique interactive App for registration. With the first registration and keynote address by Shri Jyotiraditya M. Scindia, the Indian Mobile Congress 2024 bringing together global leaders - visionaries, pioneers, and innovators - to collaborate and actively shape the technologies transforming our world today, where the future isn't just a concept - it's happening.

Shri Jyotiraditya M. Scindia, Minister for Communications said: "Technology is best when it brings people together. There can be no better example than our country Bharat" He emphasised on the role of technology in bridging divides across the country in line with the commitment of Prime Minister Narendra Modi. He said, "It is technology and communications that will provide a platform of opportunities. Communications and networks will bring together the people from first village of India to the people of central villages of India."



Bashir showed the world what he can do: Ben Stokes

NEW DELHI: Ben Stokes heaped praise on Shoaib Bashir after the 20-year-old offspinner bowled England to a series-clinching win against West Indies at Trent Bridge. Bashir, who claimed 5 for 41 from 11.1 overs of bowling in the second innings, became the youngest England bowler to take a five-fer in a home Test and also the first spinner to take five in a Test innings at the Nottingham venue since 2006.

"He has got so much talent and he's got an unbelievable desire to get better," Stokes said of Bashir after England completed a 241-run victory to go 2-0 up in the series. "His intent is to always take wickets and never just to hold an end up. It's really good for a young guy to put in a performance that wins England a Test. He was pretty emotional at the end. It's a pretty cool day for him. He has shown the world what he can do."

Bashir's rise from relative obscurity has been well documented. He was scouted and cherry-picked for the India tour



early this year after Stokes, the England captain, saw videos of him bowling to Alastair Cook on X (formerly Twitter). Despite him not being a regular for Somerset, the young offspinner's release point of 2.35 metres and his control of length were deemed vital for a challenging tour of the subcontinent.

Bashir validated that

inspired selection call with 17 wickets from three Tests in India, including five-fers at Ranchi and Dharamsala. Funnily, Bashir was loaned out to Worcestershire in Trent Bridge after not getting a bowl at Lord's.

"The decisions we make are all based around not only how far we think talent can take a player, but if we think they're good enough for international cricket straight away," Stokes said after Bashir's efforts in Trent Bridge after not getting a bowl at Lord's.

While Bashir walked away with all the plaudits on the final day of the Test, Stokes had words of praise for Mark Wood, whose 28 overs in the

Test yielded just two wickets. While the England captain didn't reveal if his pace ace would be rested for the final game of the series - England named an unchanged squad - he expected some opposition to suffer Wood's ferocity this summer.

"On another day, Woody could have got Man of the Match, the way that he bowled was just phenomenal," Stokes said. "He's not got the rewards this game, but someone will pay

eventually this summer. In batting we talk a lot about partnerships, and it's the same thing with bowling. You look at the amount of wickets at the other end when Woody was bowling his spells, that's the effect that a bowler like Woody can have."

He's got the heart of a lion, he'll run in ball after ball after ball for us. And his pace is just phenomenal but it's the skill that he's got as well, to be able to consistently hit a certain area, with batters always thinking 'when is it coming at my head?'

The third Test of the series starts at Edgbaston on July 26.

While Bashir was hauled out of the tournament. So at this moment, you can see that we are hurting," said Klaasen after his side's six-wicket loss against the San Francisco Unicorns.

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Klaasen called upon some of the domestics who have had a below par tournament this year to make it count in the final game. Nauman Anwar, the former Pakistan batter, emerged as a reliable resource for the Orcas at the top of the order last season but did not fulfil the role this year, averaging just four in three innings. The Orcas shuffled around USA World Cup hero Aaron Jones in the top-three but he couldn't kick on either in the opportunities he was rendered with.

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