

# Odisha govt presents Rs 2.65 lakh crore budget for FY25

**Bhubaneswar(KCN):** The Odisha government Thursday presented a Rs 2.65 lakh crore budget for the 2024-25 fiscal in the state assembly with a focus on agriculture and irrigation.

The size of the budget for the current financial year was around 15 per cent more than the budgetary estimate of Rs 2.30 lakh crore for the 2023-24 fiscal, Chief Minister Mohan Charan Majhi said.

Majhi, who also holds the finance portfolio, presented the BJP government's maiden budget and proposed an outlay of Rs 33,919 crore for agriculture, which is about 36 per cent more than the allocation made in the previous year.

Of the total budget

estimates, programme expenditure was pegged at Rs 1.55 lakh crore, a administrative expenditure proposed at Rs 97,725 crore, and an outlay of Rs 3,900 crore for Disaster Risk Management Funds, he said. To ensure the speedy empowerment of women, as promised by the BJP in its election manifesto, Majhi proposed an outlay of Rs 10,000 crore for the 'Subhadra' scheme, a financial assistance programme for women. The chief minister allocated Rs 5,000 crore for the "Samrudha Krushak Yojana" for farmers. He also proposed a new scheme 'CM Kisan' for farmers with an outlay of Rs 1,935 crore in the state budget.



The government has taken suggestions from various stakeholders before preparing the document, Majhi said, adding that it is a "people's budget". "As many as 12,000 people were consulted in the last few days to prepare the annual budget," he said. Apart from agriculture, the chief minister said the

focus was on the industries, health, education and service sectors. Development for farmers, women, youth, and poor people has been "prioritised", and the government would fulfil the aspirations of the people. He said the objective of the BJP government was to ensure an inclusive development of the state.

## No proposal to discontinue existing state-sponsored schemes: Odisha CM

**Bhubaneswar(KCN):** Odisha Chief Minister Mohan Charan Majhi Thursday informed the Assembly that there are no plans to discontinue any state-sponsored schemes, as no proposals to that effect have been received by the Planning and Convergence Department.

The Chief Minister said this in a written statement while replying to questions raised by senior legislators Ranendra Pratap Swain (BJD) and Taraprasad Bahinipati (Congress). Majhi's statement addressed concerns regarding the continuity of schemes like Krushak Assistance for Livelihood and Income

Augmentation (KALIA) and Biju Swasthya Kalyan Yojana (BSKY), both introduced during the previous BJD government's tenure. Regarding new schemes proposed by the BJP government, the Chief Minister advised lawmakers to await details in the upcoming budget, scheduled to be presented in the Assembly later in the day.

In a separate response to an unstarred question from BJD member Ganeshwar Behera, Transport Minister Bibhuti Bhusan Jena clarified that there have been no in-principle decisions to terminate the ongoing 'Location

Accessible Multi-modal Initiative' (LAccMI) scheme. This initiative provides affordable bus services in various blocks across Odisha. Jena also noted that buses under this scheme have not been converted into the 'Mukhya Mantri Bus Service.' He confirmed that no government funds were spent on changing the colour of buses from green to saffron. Currently, Odisha boasts a fleet of 8,902 public transport buses, including 422 operated by the state-run Odisha State Road Transport Corporation (OSRTC), serving various regions across the state.

**Bhubaneswar(KCN):** Odisha Assembly Thursday witnessed ruckus with Congress members demanding formation of a House Committee on Polavaram Dam project in Andhra Pradesh, which the opposition party claimed is likely to submerge a large chunk of land in tribal-dominated Malkangiri district. The issue was raised by Congress Legislative Party (CLP) leader Rama Chandra Kadam during the Zero Hour. He strongly criticised the BJP-led central government for promoting the Polavaram project

- ◆ Subhadra Yojana: Rs 10,000 crore
- ◆ Mamata and PMMVY: Rs 521 crore
- ◆ POSHAN Abhiyan: Rs 295 crore
- ◆ Mission Shakti Programme: Rs 1,179 crore
- ◆ Bhubaneswar Metro Rail: Rs 1,000 crore
- ◆ Urban Water Supply: Rs 357 crore
- ◆ New City Development: Rs 918 crore
- ◆ Ayushman Bharat: Rs 500 crore
- ◆ Gopabandhu Jana Arogya Yojana: Rs 5450 crore
- ◆ Mukhya Mantri Swasthya Seva Mission: Rs 2462 crore
- ◆ National Health Mission: Rs 2095 crore
- ◆ Gopabandhu Mishra Adarsha Prathamika Vidyalaya: Rs 50 crore
- ◆ Panchasakha Sikhya Setu: Rs 332 crore
- ◆ Mukhya Mantri Sikhya Puraskar: Rs 139 crore
- ◆ PM Poshan: Rs 997 crore
- ◆ Samagra Sikshya: Rs 3791 crore
- ◆ Samrudha Krushak Yojana- Rs 500 cr
- ◆ CM KISAN- Rs 1935 cr
- ◆ Shree Anna Abhiyan Rs 649
- ◆ Crop Diversification-Rs 574 cr
- ◆ Odisha Matsya Mission- Rs 344 cr
- ◆ Prani Sampad Samrudhhi Yojana Rs 189 crore
- ◆ GOMATA scheme Rs 37 crore
- ◆ Pradhan Mantri Matsya Sampad Yojana-Rs 220 cr
- ◆ Madhubabu Pension Yojana- Rs 44,87 cr
- ◆ Bhima Bhoi Bhina Khyama Samarthya Abhijan-Rs 30 cr
- ◆ Home For Aged Rs 56 cr
- ◆ Advanced Rehabilitation Centre (ARC)-Rs 22 cr
- ◆ SJTA Corpus fund Rs 500 cr
- ◆ Corpus Fund for Odia Asmita Rs 200 cr
- ◆ Mukhyamantri Kalakar Sahayata Yojana-Rs 72 cr

## Ruckus in Odisha Assembly over Andhra Pradesh's Polavaram project



which will inundate about 1400 hectare to 1500 hectare of land in Malkangiri district. Claiming that poor and innocent tribals in Malkangiri district will be victims of the Polavaram project, the Congress leader said that the Centre "promoted the irrigation project in Andhra Pradesh without resolving the problems of the affected people in Odisha."

He demanded that a House Committee be formed to discuss the Polavaram project and its impact on tribal people in Malkangiri district. Not only tribal people, Kadam pointed out that the Polavaram project's adverse effect will also impact the forests, wildlife and the local environment. "The 20 MPs elected from Odisha and the double engine government in the state

has failed to protect the interest of the people in Malkangiri district," the Congress leader said. Alleging that the BJP-led NDA government has been promoting the Polavaram project to protect its government at the Centre to appease the Andhra Pradesh's ruling party, Kadam said his party would launch a mass agitation protesting the Centre's act.

Though BJD members remained silent in the House when Congress was raising the Polavaram issue, the regional party president Naveen Patnaik on Tuesday in a statement had said: "We have been fighting for justice in the Polavaram issue.

**'DURBAR HALL' AND 'ASHOK HALL' RENAMED AS 'GANATANTRAMANDAP' AND 'ASHOKMANDAP' RESPECTIVELY**

**Bhubaneswar,(KCN):** Rashtrapati Bhavan, the office and the residence of the President of India, is a symbol of the nation, and an invaluable heritage of the people. Continuous efforts are being made to make it more accessible to people. There has been a consistent endeavour to make the ambience of the Rashtrapati Bhavan reflective of the Indian cultural values and ethos. Accordingly, President Droupadi Murmu is pleased to rename two of the important halls of Rashtrapati Bhavan – namely, 'Durbar Hall' and 'Ashok Hall' – as 'Ganatantra Mandap' and 'Ashok Mandap' respectively.

'Durbar Hall' is the venue of important ceremonies and celebrations such as the presentation of National Awards. The term 'Durbar' refers to courts and assemblies of Indian rulers and the British. It lost relevance after India became a Republic, that is, 'Ganatantra'. The concept of 'Ganatantra' is deeply rooted in Indian society since the ancient times, making 'Ganatantra Mandap' an apt name for the venue.

'Ashok Hall' was originally a ballroom. The word 'Ashok' connotes someone who is "free from all sufferings" or is "bereft of any sorrow". Also, 'Ashoka' refers to Emperor Ashok, a symbol of unity and peaceful co-existence. The National Emblem of the Republic of India is the lion capital of Ashok from Sarnath. The word also refers to the Ashok tree which has deep significance in Indian religious traditions as well as arts and culture. Renaming 'Ashoka Hall' as 'Ashok Mandap' brings uniformity in language and removes the traces of anglicisation while upholding the key values associated with the word 'Ashok'.

## RESIDENT DROUPADI MURMU COMPLETES TWO YEARS IN OFFICE



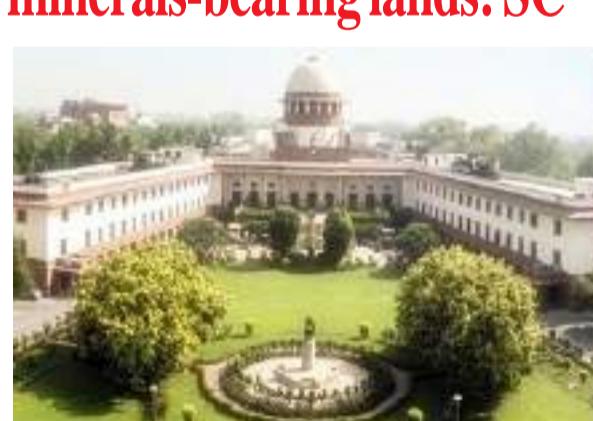
**New Delhi,(KCN):** The President of India, Smt Droupadi Murmu completed two years in the office today (July 25, 2024). As she completes the second year of her term, President Droupadi Murmu donned the role of a teacher that she once was. In her brief yet lively interaction with Class 9 students of Dr Rajendra Prasad Kendriya Vidyalaya in the President's Estate, she imparted lessons on nature conservation and climate change. Recalling the time when she was of their age,

she shared her experiences of caring for plants and animals. The students responded with enthusiasm and offered many suggestions too. She also participated in other important initiatives undertaken in the President's Estate which include:

1. Inauguration of a Skill India Centre in the presence of Minister of State (IC) for Skill Development and Entrepreneurship, Shri Jayant Chaudhary
2. Visit to Pranab Mukherjee Public Library where she interacted with students and viewed the digitised versions of old and rare books of the Rashtrapati Bhavan Library
3. Inauguration of a Cricket Pavilion at the Sports Ground of Dr Rajendra Prasad Kendriya Vidyalaya
4. Inauguration of Synthetic and Grass Tennis Courts
5. Launch of e-Upahaar, RB app, e-book – compilation of glimpses of past one year of Presidency (<https://rb.nic.in/ebook.htm>) and other

digital initiatives at Rashtrapati Bhavan. In her short remarks on the occasion of launch of various digital initiatives, the President appreciated the digitization work done in Rashtrapati Bhavan and said that it will increase convenience, speed, transparency and accountability. The President said that we should always strive to contribute to the development of all sections of the society, especially the deprived and backward classes. She was happy to note that in the last two years many such decisions have been taken which has increased the engagement of common people with Rashtrapati Bhavan.

The President also appreciated the continuous efforts for promoting reading culture and sports culture in the President's Estate. The court's seven-judge Constitution bench, which had held that royalty is tax, is incorrect. At the outset, the CJI said the bench has delivered two separate verdicts and Justice BV Nagarathna has given dissenting views. Reading out her verdict, Justice Nagarathna said the states do not have the legislative competence to levy taxes on mines and minerals bearing lands under Entry 50 of the List II of the Constitution.



Entry 50 of List II of the Constitution pertains to taxes on mineral rights subject to any limitations imposed by Parliament by law relating to mineral development. Reading the operative part of the majority verdict, the CJI said the 1989 verdict of the apex court decided the hugely contentious issue of whether the

## 75th Anniversary of India - Indonesia Diplomatic Relationship observed

**Kolkata (PARtha Roy):** India & Indonesia are observing 75th Anniversary of Diplomatic Relationship since its establishment in 1949.

An interactive session with Ambassador of The Republic of Indonesia to India H.E. Ina H Krisnamurthi was organised by Indian Chamber of Commerce (ICC) on 23rd July 2024 in Kolkata to deliberate and explore scope and opportunities to promote cooperation & collaboration to expand & enhance trade & investment in both nations.

Interactive session was attended by Mr. Mahesh K. Saharia, Hon. Consul of The Republic

of Indonesia, Kolkata & Chairman ICC (North-East Regional Committee); Mr. Dadang Hidayat, Minister Counsellor (Economics) Indonesian Embassy; Mr. M. Iqbal Djamil, Trade Attaché Indonesian Embassy; Mr. Nugroho P. Pratomo, Director Indonesia Trade Promotion Center (ITPC) Chennai; Mr. Pradeep Sureka, Past President, ICC; and Dr. Rajeet Singh, Director General, ICC.

Ambassador Krisnamurthi said, "The relationship between India and Indonesia has grown significantly, reaching a substantial \$1.24 billion in 2023. However, we believe there's untapped

potential. ...As a country with a long history intertwined with India, Indonesia aims to foster deeper business ties. In response to requests from the business community, we've started direct flights to four Indian cities within two and a half years. We're proud of establishing the Sister Hospital program as a platform for healthcare cooperation. Recognising India's global leadership in pharmaceuticals, we aim to build stronger connections between our healthcare sectors. We believe in the power of people-to-people connections. To strengthen these bonds, we've initiated over 120 Memoranda of



Understanding between universities. A notable example is the collaboration between Nalanda University and Jambi University on archaeological sites. India's impressive economic growth rate of 8% and Indonesia's

emergence as a global economic player create a promising landscape. However, growth must benefit our populations. Together, India and Southeast Asia represent a massive market of over two billion people. Digital collaboration, particularly

among youth, is crucial. While there's increasing Indian investment in Indonesia, there's scope for more, especially in sectors like healthcare and education. Healthcare requires a skilled workforce. We aim to collaborate with

India, especially in rural areas, to develop healthcare systems. ...Education is another priority. While university partnerships are growing, we need to enhance research collaboration. Beyond traditional sectors like coal and palm oil, we seek collaborations in digital technology, education and healthcare."

India and Indonesia have deep historical and cultural connections from ancient maritime trade to shared epics like the Ramayana and Mahabharata.

Indonesia is India's second-largest trading partner in ASEAN and significant investments flowing in both

## Clean-Up Drive Organized by NSS Bureau at Central University of Odisha Promotes Environmental Responsibility



**Koraput (KCN):** In an inspiring effort to instill a deeper sense of empathy and social responsibility, the Central University of Odisha, Koraput, hosted a remarkable NSS camp on 24 July 2024. With the motto "Not Me, But You" the event aimed at developing a society devoid of pollution through small yet impactful actions, woven with uncommon wisdom. Distinguished personalities of the university, including the Hon'ble Vice Chancellor Prof. Chakradhar Tripathi, Registrar and Dean School of Languages Prof. N.C.

Panda, Chief Warden Dr. Kapil Khemundu, Dean Students' Welfare Dr. Ramendar Kumar Parhi, and NSS Programme Coordinator Dr. T. Anjaneyulu, participated in the clean-up drive at the academic block premises. The Vice Chancellor shared valuable insights on respecting the environment, stating, "This initiative reflects our commitment to fostering a cleaner and greener campus." With the motto "Not Me, But You" the event aimed at developing a society devoid of pollution through small yet

impactful actions, woven with uncommon wisdom. The programme, characterized by varied resolutions and vibrant approaches, saw students divided into different groups, each named after historic leaders such as Gopabandhu Das, Mohammad Baji, and Gangadhar Meher. Each group, consisting of 10 members including a leader, participated wholeheartedly. About 150 NSS Volunteers exhibited a positive outlook and active participation throughout the event. Following the cleaning activity, students

## Press conference held by ABVP.



**SUBARNAPUR (KCN):** A press conference was held today on behalf of the ABVP, Sonepur. In this press conference, the demands of the student union elections were presented and information was given about the membership of ABVP in Subarnapur district. ABVP has been working in education and social sectors for 76 years. In Progress. In order to connect new students to ABVP every

academic year, 4000 membership has been started this year as well. The campaign will continue July 18 to till August 20. Various programs have been started at the college level to engage students interested in various fields. Similarly, there are many problems in the colleges as the students union elections have been suspended for 6 years. There are thousands of lecturer in vacancy

colleges in the state. It has been decided to present demands to the government to solve the many problems faced by the colleges. To solve these many problems, student parliament elections are essential. In addition, ABVP has help desks in every campus, various social programs, colleges. ABVP will work to solve the problem. There is also a wave of happiness among the students for the student union election.



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## Bad Newz box office Day 6: Vicky Kaushal film stays steady, earns over Rs 40 crore

Bad Newz box office collection Day 6: The Anand Tiwari directorial romantic-comedy is getting a steady footfall in the cinema halls. It stars Vicky Kaushal, Tripti Dimri and Ammy Virk in the lead roles. Bad Newz, which was released in theatres on July 19, is receiving decent footfall in cinema halls during weekdays. After gaining momentum on Tuesday, July 24, the Vicky Kaushal, Tripti Dimri, and Ammy Virk-led film witnessed a slight dip in its earnings.

According to the industry tracker Sacnilk, Bad Newz's box office collection on Day 6 (Wednesday) was estimated to be Rs 3.25 crore. This brings the film's total collection to Rs 40.20 crore. The film had an overall occupancy of 12.36 per cent in the Hindi market and attracted the most footfall



during the night shows. Bad Newz has also been performing well worldwide. According to a Forbes report, the film did well in the Gulf region and North America on its opening day and gained strength over the weekend. Within the first three days of its release,



the Anand Tiwari directorial had collected 6.4 million dollars worldwide. The film has been breaking box office records for its lead actor Vicky Kaushal. It became his career's biggest opener by earning Rs 8.62 crore



and gave him his second-best weekend collection (Rs 30.62 crore) after Uri: The Surgical Strike, which had earned Rs 35.73 crore over the weekend. Now, Bad Newz is on its way to becoming Vicky's second-best first-week earner, with over Rs 40

crore already in its kitty. His last theatrical release, Sam Bahadur, though a critical success, ended its first week at the ticket counters with a collection of Rs 36.75 crore. It faced competition from Ranbir Kapoor's Animal, which released on the same day.

Bad Newz is the story of a woman who gets pregnant and is told that her twins have two biological fathers. The doctor tells her that the rare condition is called 'Heteropaternal Superfecundation'. What follows is a story of confusion, drama, and romance. The film has mostly failed to impress film critics. IndiaToday.in's Tushar Joshi gave the film a 2-star rating, and a section of his review read, "Bad Newz resembles an Instagram filter that loses its sheen after first use. The surface is shimmery and looks glossy, but there is no material to sink your teeth into. The writing is shallow and flat. The punches never land."

Written by Ishita Moitra and Tarun Dubeja, Bad Newz is co-produced by Karan Johar's Dharma Productions

## Dance Deewane 4 Finale: Nithin And Gaurav Win The Show And Rs 20 Lakh Cash Prize



Bengaluru boy Nithin NJ and Delhi's Gaurav Sharma were crowned winners of the reality show, 'Dance Deewane', and were awarded a cheque of Rs 20 lakh. At what was hailed as the 'Parivaar Ki Grand Finale Party', the winners performed on the tracks 'Hai Rama' and 'Roop Suhana Lagta Hai' from the 1994 vigilante action film 'The Gentleman'.

The top six finale contestants were -- Taranjot and Kashvi, Chainveer and Chirashree, Yuvraj and Yuvansh, Harsha and Devansh, Varsha and Shrirang, and Nitin and Gaurav. The finale kicked off with the dance queen and judge Madhuri Dixit Nene setting the stage ablaze by grooving to 'Khoya Hain'.

Emotions soared when another judge, Suniel Shetty, sang the immortal song 'Sandese Aate Hain' from the J.P. Datta war movie, 'Border'. His

rendition moved everyone to tears, adding a heartfelt touch to the spectacle. Adding to the excitement, Bollywood heartthrob Kartik Aaryan rode on the finale hype wave to promote his upcoming sports drama 'Chandu Champion'.

Kartik took over the grand finale floor with the contestants dancing to tracks picturized on him, namely, 'Dil Chori Saada Ho Gaya', 'Coca Cola Tu', 'Bhool

Bhulaiyya' and 'Bom Diggy Diggy'. Talking about clinching the coveted trophy, Nithin, 19, said: "Winning this dance battle, which had the most skilled dancers across four generations, is like a dream coming true. I thank our competitors for cheering us on and celebrating this victory as if it was their own. This captures the true essence of our family."

When Nithin and Gaurav

'Dance Deewane', little did they know their on-stage chemistry would get them tagged as the dancing heroes of the North and the South. Reacting to their win, Gaurav, 22, said, "I bow to my parents and gurus, who trained me and recognized my potential. My heartfelt gratitude to Madhuri Ma'am and Suniel sir for elevating my dance skills with their guidance. It was an honor to have danced for the extended family, which

watched me from their living rooms every week." From day one, their shared passion for killer moves helped Nithin and Gaurav vibe like a house on fire and they became the most loved second-generation dancers, pulling off energetic hip-hop hoopers and even nailing those edge-of-the-seat dance stunts.

Commenting on the show, Madhuri said: "So

many of their performances were

masterpieces and I am sure their artistry will continue to stun the world. Their journey celebrated the art form that is so close to my heart. It has been a pleasure watching them grow as performers. As they lift the trophy of this season, I am confident that they will inspire generations with their moves."

Suniel added: "What a truly grand finale it has been. Congratulations to Nithin and Gaurav for showing us their 'deewangi' for dance and owning the stage with incredible performances right until their victory. I am proud of their journey and I thank them for sharing their gift with the world through this show." Bringing full-on entertainment, the trio Krishna, Kashmera, and Sudesh from the upcoming show, 'Laughter Chefs Unlimited Entertainment', got the 'Dance Deewane' family in splits with their antics.

## Did You Find Shahid Kapoor-Kriti Sanon's 'Laal Peeli Akhiyaan' Similar To Ranbir-Deepika's Badtameez Dil?



While Shahid Kapoor and Kriti Sanon have set the stage on fire with a groovy track, 'Laal Peeli Akhiyaan', fans have been quick to draw similarities from the

iconic dance number 'Badtameez Dil'. Taking to the comment section of the song, fans compared it to Ranbir Kapoor and Deepika Padukone's

season 2?" A third fan mentioned, "Kriti's look is similar to Deepika from the badtameez Dil song." Yet another fan wrote, "The song feels like a copy of Ranbir and Deepika's Badtameez Dil." And one more fan simply wrote, "Recreate Badtameez Dil."

Marking Shahid's return to the dance floor after nearly a decade, the song also portrays the fresh chemistry between Shahid and Kriti. Taking to Instagram, Shahid treated fans to the full song video.

Sharing the video, he wrote, "Shake the whole world today... Ca u s e #LaalPeeliAkhiyaan is out now." Sung by Romy and Tanishk, with lyrics by Neeraj Rajawat, the song is a perfect blend of rhythm and lyrics.

The dance number has been choreographed by Shaik Jani Basha. The video captured Shahid and Kriti showcasing their impressive dancing skills. He looked dapper in a black shirt that he paired with black pants and shades while Kriti looked stunning in blue saree. Tanishk Bagchi, the music

composer and singer, expresses his excitement, stating, "Laal Peeli Akhiyaan is an absolute banger! Its beats will make you hit the dance floor instantly. Shahid's infectious energy is definitely the highlight of the song... can't wait to see people groove to this one!" The trailer is all set to arrive on 18th January. The film 'Teri Baton Mein Aisa Uljha Jiya' is written and directed by Amit Joshi and Aradhana Sah. Dinesh Vijan, Jyoti Deshpande, and Laxman Utekar have produced it. The film will be out in theatres on February 9.

# Forcing eateries to display the name of the owner: Won't it disrupt the communal harmony?



Sociologists MacIver and Page have defined society as a web of social relationships. Another Sociologist Giddings shares the viewpoint of Ginsberg and gives the definition of society as- "Society is the union itself, the organisation, the sum of formal relations in which associating individuals are bound together".

Whether these parameters of society always stand static? Whether the web of relationships always remains unaffected? Whether the sum of formal relations, in which associating individuals are bound together, ever remains effective in maintaining the social fabric intact?

Before analysing these questions, we should have a sight over Newton's first law of motion, which states, "If a body is at rest or moving at a constant speed in a straight line, it will remain at rest or keep moving in a straight line at constant speed unless it is acted upon by a force."

Newton's first law of motion truly holds good in describing society fabric also.

Cooperation, harmony, relations and the social fabric run smoothly

unless and until some outer or inner destructive force disturbs these. In India, during this running decade, the country has faced or seen some factors-internal or external, which have tried to disturb or budge the harmony or social fabric of the society. Present issue of 'Kanwar Yatra' related orders issued in BJP governed Uttar Pradesh and Uttarakhand states, fears the intellectuals and political leaders that it may destroy the communal harmony in the country.

What is Kanwar Yatra? The Kanvar or Kanvad Yatra is an annual pilgrimage of devotees of Shiva, known as Kanvariyas or Bhole to Hindu pilgrimage places to fetch holy waters of Ganges River. Millions of pilgrims fetch sacred water from river Ganga and carry on their shoulders for hundreds of miles to offer it in their local Siva shrines, or specific temples.

The Current Issue? Last week, the police in the western Uttar Pradesh districts of Muzaffarnagar, Shamli, and Saharanpur issued orders directing eateries to put the names of owners on shops or carts. Later on, the Uttarakhand government also followed the same path.

The police plead that Kanvariyas abstain from certain food items during Shrawan month. They said that some shopkeepers, selling all types of food items, on

Kanwar Yatra Marg named their shops in such a way that it created confusion among the Kanvariyas which led to a law-and-order problem. It is also pertinent to mention here that special camps/ tents are also set up by many social organizations and individuals for the purpose of rest and night stay of the kanvariyas, where food and refreshments are provided free of cost.

However, the Uttar Pradesh police later on softened its stand, but the Chief Minister of the state issued the harsh directions. Jul 19, 2024 The Hindustan Times (HT), an English daily quoted the version of CM directions. 'Chief minister Yogi Adityanath on Friday ordered mandatory mentioning of owners of all eateries on the Kanwar Yatra route across Uttar Pradesh a day after the police softened its controversial directive asking restaurants along the 240km stretch the pilgrims take in the western part of the state.'

HT reported, "A spokesperson for the state government said Adityanath has issued "stern directives" over displaying names and identities of the owners of eateries, shops and carts on the route to ensure that religious sanctity of the pilgrimage remains intact, and the pilgrims are not disturbed during the 11-day pilgrimage beginning on July 22 in the Hindu holy month of Shrawan. He added Adityanath also directed action against those involved in selling and

promoting halal (permissible in Arabic) products."

The BJP supporters smell no foul odour in these orders. An advocate practising under Punjab & Haryana High court supporting the step of the police, says, "What's the wrong in displaying the name of the owner? No one is asking to write their religion, why hue and cry? Why is the opposition giving it a communal colour? However, the orders convey no mention of religion, but Opposition leaders and activists feared that the action was aimed at displaying the faiths of food sellers. What critics allege? Criticizing the move, the Polit Bureau of the Communist Party of India (Marxist) has issued the statement to show its anxiety and demanded that Uttar Pradesh and Uttarakhand BJP Governments must immediately ensure that such divisive and dangerous moves are not permitted and must mount pressure on both the UP and Uttarakhand governments to rescind this divisive order.

"The Polit Bureau of the Communist Party of India (Marxist) strongly condemns the decision by the BJP state governments in Uttar Pradesh and Uttarakhand directing all eateries along the entire stretch of the Kanwar Yatra route to display the owners' names. Clearly, this is designed to sharpen communal polarization and foster tensions among religious communities.

This move is blatantly unconstitutional and

strikes at the foundation of the fundamental right of equality for all citizens. While the immediate objective is to sharpen communal polarization, such actions by the BJP governments may soon lead to the exacerbation of caste tensions and intensifying caste-based social oppression. This is the direction in which the BJP aims to reorder our society along the lines of the 'Manusmriti', negating the foundations of our Constitution and its guarantee of liberty, equality, fraternity and justice for all citizens."

The CPIM added that BJP allies in the ND alliance must immediately ensure that such divisive and dangerous moves are not permitted and must mount pressure on both the UP and

Uttarakhand governments to rescind this order.

CPI(M) leader Brinda Karat says, "Uttar Pradesh and Uttarakhand BJP Governments must rescind this divisive order.

"The order should be withdrawn."

Member of Parliament Asaduddin Owaisi condemned the decision and likened it to apartheid in South Africa and the Juden boycott in Hitler's Germany.

Jayant Chaudhary, Member of Parliament and President of Rashtriya

Lok Dal (RLD), who is also holding the charge of Minister of State (Independent Charge) in the BJP led government in the center as its ally, has also broken his silence on UP's Kanwar Yatra order, and stated that govt's decision 'not well thought out'.

Pawan Khera @Pawankheraa, the Chairman, Media & Publicity Deptt. AICC and Member, Congress Working Committee on his X account comments, "We don't know whether this is a step towards economic boycott of Muslims or economic boycott of Dalits, or both.

Those who wanted to decide who will eat what, will now also decide who will buy what from whom?"

Senior Shiromani Akali Dal (SAD) leader and Bathinda MP Harsimrat Kaur Badal, participating in the All-Party meeting called on the eve of the budget session, also spoke on the increasing discrimination and even attacks on minority communities in the country. She said it was disconcerting that the Uttar Pradesh police was forcing members of the minority community to display their name plates on vends and eateries which would hit them economically.

"Similarly in Rajasthan baptized Sikh women were barred from entering the examination centre for a judicial paper which is a clear violation of their fundamental right to practice their religion. A

case under the National Security Act (NSA) was registered against the head of a gurdwara in Sri Ganganagar solely because the gurdwara head was speaking against someone who was calling for the destruction of gurdwaras".

Supreme Court: The Ray of Hope

What shall be the final outcome? Now the only ray of hope is the Supreme Court of India, which on Monday, 22 July, stayed the directions issued by Uttar Pradesh and

Uttarakhand governments to the effect that eateries along the Kanwar Yatra route should display the names of the owners and staff outside the shops. "Until the returnable date, we deem it appropriate to pass an interim order prohibiting the enforcement of the impugned directives. In other words, the food sellers (including dhaba owners, restaurants, shops, fruits and vegetable sellers, hawkers, etc.) may be required to display the kind of food that they are selling to the Kanvariyas. But they must not be forced to display the names/identities of owners and also the employees, deployed in their

respective establishments. It is ordered accordingly", a bench of Justices Hrishikesh Roy and SVN Bhattacharya ordered while issuing notice to states including Uttar Pradesh, Uttarakhand and Madhya Pradesh in three writ petitions, reports

livelaw.

The apex court posted the matter for hearing on July 26.

The bench was hearing a plea filed by an NGO, the Association of Protection of Civil Rights and others, challenging the Uttar Pradesh government's order.

Whatever the Supreme Court's decision comes, the divisive orders of the police for the time being have shaken the trust between different communities, which will take a long time to restore. Welcoming the apex court decision, CPIM Politburo Member Brinda Karat says, "It's a very welcome intervention by the Supreme Court and its interim order staying what we consider utterly divisive, communal and 'Manuvadi' orders of the UP, followed by Uttarakhand governments.

So, this is really a slap in the face of the UP and Uttarakhand governments. BJP, after their defeat in elections, are once again trying to divide the people on communal and casteist grounds."

If the CPIM leader's allegations carry weight and have a solid base, then the public will have to understand the divisive agenda as alleged and have to think over who is the real propagator and what's the motive behind it.

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## Biswabijayee Dash



Pandit Godavaris Mishra was a poet, First MLA of Banpur Assembly Constituency and notable socialist from Odisha, India. He is known for his contribution to Odia literature.

Godabarish Mishra was born to Lingaraj Mishra & Apsara Devi in Srinibaspur Sasan, near Banapur, Khordha district. His primary education from the village school and then received his higher education from the Puri District School in 1906 and enrolled in Ravenshaw College. He used to take tuition to cover the college fees. He received his B.A. in Philosophy in 1910. He obtained his M.A. in Economics from University of Calcutta in 1912. He was a teacher in the Satyabadi School from 1913 to 1919. Then, he became the

headmaster of Chakradharpur High School in the Singhbhum district from 1919 to 1921. He was sent there with the aim of preserving the Odia language in the district of Singhbhum by Pandit Gopabandhu Das. After taking part in the non-cooperation movement, he returned to his home village in 1922 and was involved in establishing new schools, small-scale industries, farms and social welfare organizations. His political life began from 1924. He was inspired by Mahatma Gandhi & Gopabandhu and joined the congress. He was member of the 'district board' from 1924 to 1933. After Odisha got its independence he was the member of Odisha Vidhan Sabha from 1937 till his death excepting for

Balasore and Sambalpur.

He was associated with Utkal Samilani Gopabandhu Das from 1919 to 1955. He was the President of Utkal Samilani special conference that was held at Berhampur in 1955. He was one of the "Panchasakha (five friends)" of Gopabandhu. He was a high standard politician, pandit, educator, historian, poet, writer, editor and orator. His works include many essays, stories, drama, novels, poems, biographies, travel stories, general knowledge, translation, workbooks, jokes etc.

His poem 'Kalijai', 'Kishalaya' electrifies the life of Odia. His poems have played an important role in creating awareness towards the nation and is heart touching. His drama 'Purushottam Deb', 'Mukunda Deb',

is a immortal gift for the Odia literature. The "Kendriya Sahitya Akademi" has awarded his autobiography 'Artha Shatabdi Ra Odisha O Tahin Re Mo Sthana'.

He was a master of all trades. He was also an efficient editor. He published a magazine "Lokamukha" from Banapur in 1924. He was the Editor of "Samaj" for around two years in 1928 after the death of Utkal Mani Gopabandhu Das. I Pay Tribute to the Social Reformer, Eminent Politician, Writer and Poet Pandit Godavaris Mishra on his Death Anniversary.

**Editor, Brajabilas E-Magazine  
Gambharimunda, Banpur, Khordha  
Pin -752035  
Mob no - 6370208428**

## Letter to Editor

Sir,

A rare case of a boy in Kerala recovering from the fatal amoebic meningoencephalitis, which has a 97 per cent mortality rate has given hope to the medical world that early detection and access to available treatments can rescue patients from this deadly amoebic infection.

According to medical history only 11 people worldwide have recovered from amoebic meningoencephalitis. Five cases were reported in Kerala in the last two months especially infecting children out of which three of them already succumbed to the infection. The deadly infection is contracted from freshwater sources such as lakes, rivers, and streams and is caused by free-living amoebae.

The state health ministry has now come out with treatment guidelines and a treatment protocol for amoebic meningoencephalitis which is the first comprehensive treatment protocol for the disease in the country and this pioneering move by the state can help in effective control and management of the deadly disease.

**M Pradyu  
Kannur**

**Geeth Thalikavu Kannur 670001.**

## MPEDA Applauds Union Budget 2024-25 Announcements Supporting Marine Products Sector

**Kolkata, (KCN):** The Marine Products Export Development Authority (MPEDA) applauds the recent announcements made in the Union Budget 2024-25, which are set to significantly enhance India's aquaculture and seafood export sectors. The budget includes a range of strategic measures aimed at bolstering the competitiveness of India's marine products Sector, with a particular focus on shrimp production and export. Key Highlights: 1.

Financial Support for Shrimp Broodstock Centres: projected savings of 50% on broodstock costs. Approximately 1 lakh farmers will benefit from a 30% reduction in shrimp seed costs.

2.

Facilitated Financing through NABARD: The National Bank for Agriculture and Rural Development (NABARD) will play a crucial role in facilitating financing for shrimp farming, processing, and export. This intervention is designed to cover 80% of project costs for farmers, accompanied by an interest subvention of

up to 3%. A total of 639 export processing units are expected to benefit from enhanced access to infrastructure development funds, enabling them to improve and expand their facilities through assistance from NABARD.

3.

Customs Duty Reductions for Aqua Hatchery; Aqua Farm inputs: Various inputs used in the manufacture of shrimp and fish feed will now enjoy customs duty exemptions. Various

feed inputs viz. mineral and vitamin premixes, krill meal, fish lipid oil, crude fish oil, algal prime, algal oil were fully exempted from any import duty. Artemia and Artemia cysts which are key nutritional inputs in aqua hatchery were also fully exempted from any import duty.

The Basic Customs Duty (BCD) on essential aquafarm / hatchery inputs such as Vannamei and black tiger broodstock, polychaete worms, fish / shrimp feed has been reduced to 5%.

Import duty for insect meal and single cell protein was also reduced to 5%.

4.

Customs duty exemption for key input for Value Addition: Breaded and battered shrimps, fish fingers, squid rings, etc, are in high demand in the international market. Pre-dust bread powder is one of the integral ingredients for manufacturing the product. Pre-dust Breaded Powder for Seafood Processing got exempted from 30%

import duty.

Shri. D V Swamy, Chairman of MPEDA, stated, "These budget announcements are a testament to the government's unwavering commitment to positioning India as a global leader in seafood exports. The proposed measures will substantially lower production costs, elevate quality, and enhance the international competitiveness of Indian marine products." MPEDA anticipates that these initiatives will lead to a significant increase in shrimp production, enhanced bio-security, and a notable surge in value-added seafood exports. The marine products sector has been a vital contributor to India's export earnings, with seafood exports reaching an all-time high of over ₹60,000 crore in the last financial year. With these supportive measures in place, MPEDA is confident that the sector will achieve new milestones in production and export performance.

## Union Budget '24-'25 triggers growth with focus on infrastructure development to "Aam Janta"

**Kolkata (PARTHA ROY):** Union Budget 2024-25 presented by Smt. Nirmala Sitharaman, Union Finance Minister, Government of India on 23 July 2023 welcomed by Business Chambers, common people including women, youths.

Mr. Ameya Prabhu, President of Indian Chamber of Commerce (ICC) welcoming the budget stated, "This is a government that listens. We have given recommendations on the rationalisation of custom duties, and while she (Mrs. Nirmala Sitharaman) announced rationalisation in a few sectors, I think once we go through the fine print, we will understand how many customs duties have been rationalised. Our idea about rationalisation was twofold: Firstly, we need to protect sectors with strong domestic manufacturing to prevent dumping from other countries. Secondly, we should have lower customs duty on raw materials so that our downstream sectors can benefit. I am glad that this government has taken that into account. Our role is to speak to the government and give recommendations for our industry as a whole. It is a government that listens and I am happy about that. India is a federal country and the government has to think about all the states. ...."

Mr Brij Bhushan Agarwal, Vice President, ICC



commented, "This is a very balanced budget. The government's focus is on the agricultural sector, digitalisation, transparency and improving farmer income. They are also prioritising employment by creating platforms for MSMEs through loans and infrastructure support. Additionally, the focus on liberalisation and nurturing new entrepreneurs is promising. Mudra Loans have been increased.... Energy remains a key focus with plans to increase power generation capacity using super-ultra-critical power plants and exploring nuclear options to meet growing demands. Efforts to control inflation and optimise available resources and infrastructure are evident. The budget also addresses the development of underdeveloped states like the Northeast and Bihar. On the tax side, there have been changes, including an increase in the buyback tax and adjustments to the capital gains structure. The reduction of foreign tax from 40 percent to 35 percent is a positive step, showcasing the country's welcoming approach."

The different policies that are announced for the development of various sectors and the enhanced allocation have given the roadmap for making India - Viksit Bharat by 2047.... There is increased allocation on infrastructure, women, youth, farmers and poor, which will make a multiplier effect, help in employment generation and growth as well...." CII President Shri Sanjiv Puri stated "A People-Centric Budget which balances equitable growth with fiscal sustainability. The maiden budget of the new government has unveiled a comprehensive roadmap for sustainable and equitable growth while retaining the focus on creation of jobs. Budget 2024-25 provides an extensive roadmap for each segment of society so that every Indian becomes an equity holder in the growth aspirations of the new and progressive India.

The nine key priorities unveiled in the Budget for Viksit Bharat provide an all-encompassing blueprint for an inclusive, resilient, prosperous, environmentally sustainable and technologically advanced India, and would be a crucial milestone in our journey for a developed India @2047.

The focus of the Budget on employment, skilling, MSMEs, and the middle-class along with measures for agriculture, urban development, incentivising states to carry out NextGen reforms, taking steps for promoting a virtuous cycle of consumption, investment and demand, and support to start-ups and women, among others is timely and would contribute significantly towards empowering people, and making growth inclusive while providing an impetus to consumption and growth...."

ICC organised Post Budget Analysis with Mr. Aditya Hans, Partner, Dhruva Advisors LLP and his team. The session was moderated by Mr. Pallav Gupta, Chairman of the Expert Committee on Taxation, ICC. Mr. Aditya Hans and team decoded the budget's fine print and discussed its implications. The team analysed the new regulations and their potential impact on business and personal finances.

## Union Budget '24-'25 is people centric with fiscal Sustainability : Rudra Chatterjee of FICCI



**Kolkata (PARTHA ROY):** FICCI - West Bengal State Council, in association with EY, organized an interactive session, "Decoding the Union Budget" on 24 July 2024 in Kolkata.

Shri Rudra Chatterjee, Chairman FICCI - West Bengal State Council said "...In a democracy like India, Government has to listen to people.... Union Budget 2024-25 reflects Government's intention to scale up tax reform in big way as well as simplify tax laws and implementation processes to promote "ease of doing business". Budget tried to address concerns of youths specifically employment generation. Budget initiated measures to promote employment by new skill development as technology evolution like AI creating serious challenges in traditional job markets. Budget has pushed for widespread infrastructure development leading to growth across India. Budget has tried to catalyse socio-cultural-economic evolution of India through various tax reforms and investment initiatives in various infrastructure development projects to create Viksit Bharat by 2047.

Group CFO, Ambuja Neotia Group, Mr. Saurav Singhania, CFO, Titagarh Rail Systems Ltd. Mr. Dinesh Agarwal of EY India moderated the panel discussion.

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## PlacementBee Launches Groundbreaking Initiative to Transform College Campus Placements Across India

**Kolkata (ADVAITA SETH):** During a recent press meeting at the Press Club in Kolkata, PlacementBee introduced a new initiative aimed at improving the college campus placement system in India. Despite being a leading producer of graduates globally, India faces challenges in aligning educational outcomes with job market demands. Every year, over 1 crore graduates come from about 58,000 higher education institutions, yet many encounter difficulties due to limited placement opportunities and inconsistent educational quality. PlacementBee's initiative seeks to address these issues by enhancing educational standards and expanding placement opportunities for graduates.

PlacementBee is a company focused on skill and knowledge assessment, and it offers its services free of charge to both colleges and students. This no-cost approach is designed to ensure that students from underprivileged backgrounds also benefit from high-quality placement services. The team behind PlacementBee includes notable figures such as Ms. Debjani Banerjee, Mentor; Dr. Arnab Chattopadhyay, Founder & CEO of EduMet India and Principal of PITM; Mr. Kanchan Sengupta, Chartered Accountant and Former Professor of Economics; and Mr. Turya Shankar Kar, Founder & Director of PlacementBee. The initiative aims to address the widespread issue of inadequate campus placement systems, with more than 95% of Indian colleges lacking a structured placement system. PlacementBee plans to conduct free aptitude tests at college premises under strict examination conditions, providing an accurate measure of students' skills and knowledge. Participants in the aptitude tests are required to register on the PlacementBee platform, where they complete their profiles by uploading documents and a self-introduction video. PlacementBee verifies these documents before approving profiles, and once approved,

candidates are added to a comprehensive database accessible to recruiters. This database allows recruiters to view candidate profiles, videos, and test metrics, streamlining the recruitment process.

The PlacementBee platform includes tools for recruiters to efficiently identify and compare candidates, reducing both time and costs. By eliminating pre-hire expenses and offering a pre-screened candidate database, PlacementBee helps recruiters save over 80% per hire. The platform also supports candidates by providing feedback on their performance and offering free training modules and low-cost specialized guidance.

Looking ahead, PlacementBee aims to reach all colleges in West Bengal for the academic year 2024-25 and expand its services to every college in India by 2027. This initiative seeks to make the recruitment process more inclusive and efficient, ensuring fair opportunities for talent across the country.

## ICC organises 'Live Viewing of Union Budget 2024-25' The session discuss the basis of Chamber's views on the budget

**Kolkata, (KCN):** Indian Chamber of Commerce (ICC) organised Live Viewing of Union Budget 2024-25 to discuss the standpoints of the chamber. The session witnessed valuable insights from Ameya Prabhu, President, ICC (virtually); Brij Bhushan Agarwal, Vice President, ICC & Vice Chairman and MD, Shyam Metallics; Pallav Gupta, Ex-Head, Taxation, ITC Ltd; M K Saharia, Chairman, Saharia Group; Rahul Kyal, MD, Vinayak Group; and Ashish Chhawharia, Practice Head-Eastern Region, Grant Thornton India LLP.

Commenting on the overall Budget session, President, ICC and Founder & Managing Director of NAFA Capital Advisors Pvt Ltd, Mr. Ameya Prabhu, stated, "This is a government that listens. We have given recommendations on the

rationalisation of custom duties, and while she announced rationalisation in a few sectors, I think once we go through the fine print, we will understand how many customs duties have been rationalised. Our idea about rationalisation was twofold: Firstly, we need to protect sectors with strong domestic manufacturing to prevent dumping from other countries. Secondly, we should have lower customs duty on raw materials so that our downstream sectors can benefit. I am glad that this government has taken that into account. Our role is to speak to the government and give recommendations for our industry as a whole. It is a government that listens and I am happy about that. India is a federal country and the government has to think about all the states. ...."

believe the budget is made for the entire country. Certain states will get an impetus. For example, Andhra Pradesh needs a new capital and if Amravati is getting support from the central government, it is the right thing to do. West Bengal has a lovely capital in Kolkata but Andhra Pradesh needs a new capital post-bifurcation. Overall, the budget benefits the whole country. Being a national chamber, we have seen that the budget has done a lot for the seafood industry, benefiting states like Kerala and Tamil Nadu. Seafood exporters in West Bengal, including members of the Indian Chamber of Commerce, will also benefit. The budget encourages renewable energy and the removal of NGL taxes, benefiting startups in Telangana, Maharashtra and Karnataka. Of course,

there will be times when more emphasis is placed on a few states, as they may need more support. Similarly, in state budgets, some districts may need more funds due to floods, droughts, or other natural disasters. The state has to support them. So, I believe this is the right decision."

After reviewing the budget, Mr Brij Bhushan Agarwal, Vice President, Indian Chamber of Commerce & Vice Chairman & MD Shyam Metallics and Energy Ltd., commented, "This is a very balanced budget. The government's focus is on the agricultural sector, digitalisation, transparency and improving farmer income. They are also prioritising employment by creating platforms for MSEs through loans and infrastructure support. Additionally, the

# CII Applauds Union Budget 2024-25: Empowering Rural Growth, MSMEs, & Women in the East & North-East

Kolkata(-ABHIJIT

S E T H , ) T h e Confederation of Indian Industry (CII) has lauded the Union Budget 2024-25 as a growth-oriented blueprint targeting rural development, MSMEs, and women's enhanced role in economic growth, with a particular focus on the East and North-East regions. The budget emphasizes support for Micro, Small, and Medium Enterprises (MSMEs), recognizing them as the economy's backbone. By fostering innovation and job creation, these initiatives are set to drive sustainable growth. The government has outlined comprehensive plans for the development of Bihar, Jharkhand, West Bengal, Odisha, and Andhra Pradesh, with 226,000 crores allocated for expressway and bridge projects in Bihar to boost regional connectivity and growth.

Significant investments in tourism include developing the Vishwanath and Mahabodhi temples and revitalizing Nalanda University. This focus on cultural heritage is expected to enhance

tourism and economic opportunities in the Eastern Region. Abolishing the Angel Tax and rationalizing taxation for charitable organizations and capital gains reflect CII's advocacy for a simpler tax regime. The introduction of employment-linked incentive schemes further supports workforce expansion.

The budget provides reconstruction support for states affected by extreme weather, demonstrating a commitment to resilience. The Critical Minerals Mission aims to boost domestic production and recycling, vital for technological advancement. With an allocation of 21.48 lakh crore, the budget prioritizes education and skill development, aiming to empower youth and enhance workforce capabilities. Initiatives like internships for 1 crore youth over five years are poised to nurture future talent.

Provisions for working women's hostels and crèches emphasize increasing female workforce participation.



These measures aim to create a more inclusive labour market.

Mr. S K Behera, Chairman, CII Eastern Region, and Vice Chairman and MD, RSB Transmission Pvt Ltd, applauded the focus on Purvodaya for comprehensive development. He highlighted the potential impact of infrastructure investments to uplift the Eastern states.

Mr. Shashwat Goenka, Deputy Chairman, CII Eastern Region, and Vice Chairman, RPSG Group, praised the budget's inclusivity and infrastructure emphasis, which he believes will drive economic growth.

Mr. Debasish Dutta, Vice Chairman, CII West Bengal State Council and Director, welcomed the simplified tax regime for foreign cruise companies, enhancing cruise tourism prospects.

Mr. Simarpreet Singh, Co-Chairman, CII ER Education and Skill Development Subcommittee, and Director, JIS Group, noted the significant boost to education and skill initiatives, underscoring the commitment to empowering future generations. Mr. Bijay Murmuria, Chairman, CII ER Banking and Financial Services

while maintaining fiscal discipline.

Ms. Sucharita Basu, Chairman, CII ER EODB Subcommittee and Partner, Aquilaw, highlighted the budget's focus on employment generation and women's participation in the labor force. Mr. Anil Kariwala, MD, Kariwala Industries and Member, International Trade, commended the balance between economic demands and social welfare.

Mr. Ravi Todi, Past Chairman, CII Eastern Region and Managing Director, Shrachi Group, felt the expanded MSME support through the Credit

Guarantee Scheme is a significant step forward.

Mr. Sumit Goyal, Chairman, CII International Trade Subcommittee & President, Patton International Ltd, noted the reduction in customs duties on precious metals will boost competitiveness in the global market. Mr. Ashwani Lal, Co-Chairman, CII ER International Trade Subcommittee and Chief, Steel Exports, Tata Steel Ltd, viewed the establishment of E-commerce export hubs as a strategic move to streamline trade.

Mr. Rupak Barua, Mentor,

CII, West Bengal, Healthcare Taskforce, and Managing Director and CEO, Woodlands Multispecialty Hospital Limited, welcomed healthcare affordability measures, emphasizing the impact on common people. The Union Budget 2024-25 presents a balanced approach to immediate economic demands and long-term goals. By focusing on rural development, MSMEs, infrastructure, and women's economic roles, it sets the stage for sustained growth and prosperity across India, particularly in the East and North-East regions.

## 'Motion Of Thanks' To Guv's Address Passed Without Opposition In Odisha Assembly

Bhubaneswar(KCN): The motion of thanks was presented and passed without any opposition on Wednesday during the assembly session. The opposition party abstained from the discussion, rejecting the governor's speech.

Similarly, Congress abstained due to not being allowed to discuss the central budget in the House. Consequently, the governor's speech was accepted with gratitude on Wednesday afternoon with the ruling party's support.

At 4:00 p.m., the House proceedings began, and being the sole nominee, Talsara MLA Bhabani Shankar Bhoi was elected unopposed as the new Deputy Speaker of the Odisha Assembly. Chief Minister Mohan Charan Majhi, Opposition Leader Naveen Patnaik, Congress MLA Leader Rama Chandra Kadam, and CPI (M) Leader Laxman Munda



extended their congratulations.

At 4:15 PM, Speaker Padhy proposed a motion of thanks for the Governor's speech. From the beginning, the BJD was demanding action against the Governor's son. The party members walked out following the opposition leader Patnaik's instructions alleging a lack of discussion on the matter. The Congress party staged a walkout after being denied permission to discuss Odisha's share in the Union budget. Even

the chief whip of the ruling party, Saroj Kumar Pradhan attempts to facilitate a discussion were unsuccessful. Meanwhile, CPI(M) leader Munda was also not seen. The motion of thanks was passed at 4:28 pm without any opposition. Initially, the ruling party leader and Jharsuguda MLA Tankdhar Tripathi expressed gratitude on behalf of the assembly for the governor's address to the House. The House was then adjourned until 10:30 a.m. on Thursday.

Subsequently, 18 ruling

party members expressed their support for the Governor's address. Chief Minister Mohan Charan Majhi also endorsed the Governor's speech and urged the ruling party members in the House to work towards building a new Odisha-developed Odisha. On Wednesday, proceedings were adjourned until 7:55 p.m., following which Speaker Padhy took up the motion of thanks on the Governor's address. The House was then adjourned until 10:30 a.m. on Thursday.

## Bhabani Bhoi elected Deputy Speaker of Odisha Assembly

Bhubaneswar,(KCN): Talsara MLA Bhabani Shankar Bhoi was elected as the Deputy Speaker of the Odisha Legislative Assembly on Wednesday.

Bhoi was elected uncontested, as no other candidate from the Opposition had filed their nominations for the post. Bhoi succeeded Saluga Pradhan in the post.

"I declare that Bhabani Shankar Bhoi, honourable member of the House, has been

chosen as the Deputy Speaker of the House," announced Speaker Surama Padhy.

Chief Minister Mohan Charan Majhi and Leader of Opposition Naveen Patnaik congratulated Bhoi for his election as the Deputy Speaker.

"I congratulate Bhabani Shankar Bhoi on being elected as the Deputy Speaker of Odisha Legislative Assembly. I have full confidence on him that he will maintain the dignity of the House

and conduct the functioning of the House in the right manner," said Majhi.

"I congratulate Bhabani Shankar Bhoi on being elected as the Deputy Speaker of this august house. I am sure that with his rich experience, he will be a successful Deputy Speaker. I request all the members to support Bhoi wholeheartedly," said Patnaik.

Bhoi filed his nomination papers for the post in the



2024-2025



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# Measures taken by Indian Railway during the monsoon to ensure proper functioning of Signalling System

**Bhubaneswar (KCN):** There is an established system of inspection of Railway Bridges and tracks on Indian Railways. The inspection of the Railway track is undertaken by designated officials at a specified frequency. In addition to prescribed schedule for regular maintenance, following measures are taken during monsoon to ensure proper functioning of signaling system:-

(i) Drainage system in yards is improved by cleaning of yard drains.

(ii) Identified vulnerable locations for failure of track circuits are attended in advance.

(iii) Joint inspection of points & track circuits are conducted by track & signaling officials and remedial measures are taken.

(iv) Axle counter is provided in identified areas vulnerable for water logging.

Special precautions such as the introduction of monsoon patrolling in identified sections,

deployment of watchmen at vulnerable locations, special patrolling of track in case of heavy rains are taken during monsoon. Coordination is done with concerned Regional Meteorological Centres for updated weather information and with District authorities for getting information regarding release of excess water from reservoirs/dams.

This information was given by the Minister of Railways, Information & Broadcasting and



Electronic & Information Technology, Shri Ashwini Vaishnav in a written reply to a question in Lok Sabha on 24.07.2024.

To improve safety of running trains including disruption free services and also to minimize the effects of heavy rain fall, East Coast Railway has planned precautionary steps before the onset of the monsoon.

| Close watch to save Railway Bridges, Tracks, Yards & Signaling System

| Silt, Vegetation and other obstructions cleared from catch water and side drains

| Patrolling at vulnerable locations by deputing patrolmen & Watchmen

| Sectional Gangmen will patrol tracks whenever there is heavy rain

| Arrangements made to stock sufficient quantities of monsoon reserve materials

| Constant touch with Meteorological Department

| Additional Control Room & Disaster Management Cell of ECoR to be opened if any untoward incident occurred.

General Manager, East Coast Railway has directed the concerned officials to be on full alert towards any incident caused by monsoon rain and flood situation near Railway Track for the safety of passengers and smooth train operations.

Accordingly, all precautionary measures have been taken prior to onset of monsoon. The catch water drains and side drains have been cleared of silt, vegetation and other obstructions to ensure free flow of rain water. The water ways of bridges have been cleared of vegetation and other obstructions. Meetings have been conducted with State Irrigation Dept Officials at different levels for proper maintenance of Railway-affecting Tanks & works.

Protective and river

draining works have been maintained in good condition and repairs carried out wherever necessary.

Full Supply Level

(FSL) in the case of canals and Danger Level (DL) in case of bridges have been painted with bright red band across each pier adjacent to the abutment so as to be clearly visible to the Patrolman, Stationery Watchman and Drivers.

Arrangements have been made not to allow water to stagnate on the track. In station yards, the cross drains and longitudinal drains have been cleared/ provided to proper grades.

Patrolling of Railway tracks by Patrolmen has been planned during monsoon. They observe danger or interruption if any and protect the trains and travelling passengers from any unusual occurrence. Stationary Patrolmen and Watchmen have been deployed at vulnerable locations. Mobile Patrolmen have been deployed in vulnerable sections.

Instructions have been issued that whenever there is heavy rain, the sectional Gangmen will organize patrolling of track on their own in their beat to make sure that the track is safe for passage of

trains and ensure protection at all locations where washouts/slips are likely to occur.

Arrangements have been made to stock sufficient quantities of monsoon reserve materials, viz., boulders, sand, cinder, quarry dust, ballast at identified locations.

The Engineering relief vans and their equipments are kept ready. The CC cribs and relieving girders are kept in readiness so that they can be moved as per requirement.

ECoR is in constant touch with India Meteorological Department and on getting weather alerts, proper mobilization is being done to meet the situations. Officers, Supervisors and staff are kept on alert for attending to the monsoon emergencies.

East Coast Railway Control Office, which works round the clock, is keeping close liaison with Meteorological Department, Disaster Management Cell and staff deputed at flood prone areas for continuous monitoring and constant updates.

**SBI Life extends 'Thanks A Dot' Breast Cancer Awareness program, promoting self-breast examination among women in Bhubaneswar**



**Bhubaneswar, (KCN):** In its steadfast commitment to women's health and empowerment of underserved communities, SBI Life Insurance, under its 'ThanksADot' initiative, organized a breast cancer awareness program to educate and create awareness around the importance of self-breast examination amongst female sanitation workers of Bhubaneswar Municipal Corporation (BMC). Through collaborative efforts with the Rotaract Club of Bhubaneswar, the initiative aimed to bring about a behavioral change by empowering these women with an innovative easy-to-use tool for self-breast examination. Approximately 90+ sanitation workers attended the awareness program, who were equipped with the skills and confidence to perform self-breast examination regularly. Often, these sanitation workers face significant barriers in accessing crucial healthcare resources, compounded by socio-economic challenges that hinder their ability to prioritize their well-being. Recognizing the need for creating awareness around breast cancer & self-breast

examination, SBI Life Insurance continues to take a step forward in this direction to educate female sanitation workers on ways to fight this deadly disease. Mr. Rajesh Bhugra, Regional Director-Bhubaneswar, SBI Life Insurance along with Dr. Sanjay Kumar Mishra-Director-Radiology Oncology at Utkal Hospitals, Ms. Nandita Shah, Vice President, SBI Life Insurance were accompanied by the members of Rotary club at this awareness program. They addressed these sanitation workers and distributed the innovative 'Thanks A Dot' hot water bag.

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

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

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

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

**Bhubaneswar:** To serve the needs of premium households who want the next generational connectivity and entertainment experience, Bharti Airtel ("Airtel"), India's premier communications solutions provider, has once again raised the bar in the home broadband segment with the launch of three new all-in-one plans built for the evolving entertainment needs of today's connected homes.

Vir Inder Nath, CEO – Homes, Bharti Airtel had this to say: "Our new plans are built for India's emerging entertainment needs. Through these bundle offers we plan to offer our discerning customers great value, convenience and unlock a multi-faceted digital experience."

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

## WHEC recognizes Amrita Vishwa Vidyapeetham as excellence worldwide in Gender Equality

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

The WHEC aims to reshape ideas and practices in higher education to ensure sustainable development for the planet and humanity, as well as to define and prepare a roadmap for a new era of higher education.

As the world comes out of COVID-19, the WHEC's goals and strategic scope remain, and the new timeframe represents an opportunity to deepen and expand common efforts of knowledge production, policy dialogue, exchange, and networking.

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

making a difference in terms of gender equality and which policies have been put into place at the university level. Gender equality is number five in the United Nations' list of 17 Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). He explained how the culture of gender equality is not implemented only in terms of policies within Amrita, but also practiced in spirit.

The round table included Dr. Gloria Bonder, UNESCO Chair on Women, Science and Technology; Dr. Ricardo Vilanueva Lomeli, Rector General, University of Guadalajara; Ms. Elizabeth Shepherd, Leader of the Consultancy team, Times Higher Education; and Dr. Victoria Galan-Muros, Chief of Research and Analysis,



# Marufa on a mission to improve death bowling skills

**New Delhi:** When the leading pace bowler for Bangladesh Women Marufa Akter was benched in their last game against Malaysia during the ongoing Women's Asia Cup in Sri Lanka, it raised a few alarm bells.

In 17 games before their match against Sri Lanka, Akter had not bowled her full quota of overs. Bangladesh had been left to cover up her overs with someone else especially as the game wore on.

Akter had made a name for herself as a new-ball bowler, but hardly considered with an older ball. Head coach Hashan Tillakaratne admitted that Marufa's death bowling is a concern and that they are working on it. "Actually we found out that she is a little expensive in the death overs and that is one of the reasons she didn't bowl four overs in that period (for more than a year). We have come out with a new plan we want to finish her a little earlier before the 17th over and we worked with her and wanted to add some variations in her armory like the slower balls and yorkers and especially



after the power play she have to have pace variations and work on not to be too predictable and she is working the fast bowling coach and I am surely she will learn in days to come," the former Sri Lankan star explained as a matter of fact. Marufa echoed the same sentiment portrayed by adding that she is working hard to overcome her lack while admitting earlier that it was something that came to her attention only in the recent past.

"To be honest with the new ball there is swing but I cannot control my bowling in the death over and that (having control

in the death over) is very important and I am working towards it," Marufa told Cricbuzz.

"I have not worked on pace variation (earlier) and now working on it and Alhamdulillah it's going well," she said.

"The in-swing (with the new ball) is natural for me but I feel it will not be good enough for me to sustain and so I am working on my variations in the death overs" she said.

"I am trying to increase my pace but I think I will be more equipped when I will be able to bowl the cutter, yorkers and slower," she said.

"During the camp in

BKSP Shibli Sir (former Test pacer Robiul Islam) worked with me extensively to develop these skills," she said. Robiul added that they did not try to push too hard as it is something she will have to develop gradually and cannot learn overnight. Basically there are few technical things that need to be rectified but as the time is short considering they will be on tours we could not do the technical things," said Robiul, who worked with her during the residential camp in BKSP ahead of the Women's Asia Cup. "We just focused on developing her variations like trying yorkers and

slower balls as well as the off-cutters because she struggles bowling these three deliveries. She is confident and looks better than before but she will need time to master the skill of bowling those deliveries," said Robiul Islam. I hope she will gain some pace when we can work on the technical things that is expected to take place after she returns from the Asia Cup," he added.

Marufa added that she is not losing her sleep for not knowing the art of bowling in the death over as experienced pace bowler Jahanara Alam, who returned to the squad for the Asia Cup, opined that trying to hurrying it up won't be beneficial in the long run. "Jahanara Apu is a very experienced bowler and I ask how she handles the death overs and she says that she tries different variations like bowling slow cutters and all those things," said Marufa.

"She said just said that as you are learning you will master it (bowling in the death over) with time and as I can bowl those deliveries as I am not playing for a long time and I feel she was quite right," she added.

## Clinical Sri Lanka crush Thailand, set up semi-final with Pakistan



**New Delhi:** A ruthless all-round performance from Sri Lanka saw them register a thumping ten-wicket win over Thailand in their final group fixture in Dambulla on Wednesday (July 24).

They will now meet Pakistan in the second semi-final on Friday, with the first semi-final set between India and Bangladesh earlier on the same day.

The victory was set up by Sri Lanka's bowlers who were relentless from the get-go to restrict Thailand to a total below 100. Nannappa Koncharoenkai (47\* off 53) was the only Thailand batter to show resistance and her knock accounted for more than half of the team's total.

Kavisha Dilhari (2-13) led a flawless bowling effort for the Lankans and their openers then knocked off the runs with 51 balls to spare. Chamari Athapaththu (49\* off 35) and Vishmi Gunaratne (39\* off 34) eased their way across the finish line to keep Sri Lanka's unbeaten run going.

Sri Lanka were expected to be the dominant side on paper and it's exactly how things panned out. They were too good for the inexperienced Thailand side that had no answers to an opposition that appeared hungry to put on a show. Despite

decent batting conditions on offer, Thailand's batters were put on a stranglehold and they could never get any tempo into their innings at any point. The bowling too lacked penetration although they could be excused for the fact that there weren't enough runs on the board at all.

Losing their best batter in Nattaya Boochatham off the first ball of the innings was the worst start Thailand could have wished for as Achini Kulasiyra castled the opener with a cracking delivery.

Inoshi Priyadarshani then got rid of Apisara Suwanchonrathi who had given some momentum with three boundaries in her nine-ball innings. It meant a sedate powerplay overall for Thailand against some accurate bowling.

Things only got tougher for Thailand after the Powerplay as Sri Lanka's spinners put the squeeze on. While the bowling was disciplined, Thailand didn't help their cause with an apparent lack of intent barring Koncharoenkai who fought a lone battle at her end. A run rate of under three-runs-per-over in the middle overs is a recipe for disaster and Thailand's innings nosedived beyond repair during this phase. Dilhari

struck twice while Athapaththu and Sugandika Kumari chipped in with a wicket apiece to leave Thailand tottering.

Thailand's best phase not only with the bat but in the entire game. They showed some urgency in the final five overs and while it didn't get them to a respectable total, it helped them have something on the board. Koncharoenkai struck a few boundaries and there were a few blows from her partners as well. The 20th over went for 13 runs and it gave Thailand a morale boost, although the total was still way below par.

With a very low score to chase, Athapaththu and Gunaratne took their time in the first six overs.

There wasn't any

intimidating scoreboard

pressure, so they could

afford to play the ball on

merit without taking

undue risks. Athapaththu

still showed her

trademark power with a

couple of monstrous

sixes while Gunaratne

also found the fence a

few times. It meant an

effortless start to the

chase for Sri Lanka as

Thailand's bowlers

struggled to create any

pressure.

As the overs went by,

both the Lankan openers

opened up with more

adventurous strokes.

## Harry Brook wants 'to be Harry Brook, not anybody else'

**New Delhi:** Harry Brook is undeniably one of the rising stars in English cricket. This summer, he showcased his potential by scoring a half-century at Lord's and a century at Trent Bridge against the West Indies. Despite his achievements, the 25-year-old remains humble, dismissing comparisons with former greats and focusing on carving out his own unique path in the sport.

"I want to be my own batter. I want to be Harry Brook, not anybody else," Brook

said. "But nowadays you have to take different parts of other batters and put it into your game. There's so many good players out there. An example is Rooty playing the ball so late, or AB de Villiers hitting all around the ground, or Kevin Pietersen for his power. "I've done a little bit of that but not too much. Rooty has just gone eighth in the all-time Test runs list, so I'd be stupid to not be tapping into his cricket knowledge and learning a few things

from him." Outlining his vision for the next couple of years, Brook reiterated Test cricket as his priority, calling the format as "top" of his list. "I want to play every Test match I can for England," said Brook. "I don't want to think too far ahead. The Ashes is a long way away and we have a lot of Test cricket before then. My main focus is to stay in the moment and not get ahead of myself. There will be conversations with [Rob Key] and the

head coaches but Test cricket is probably at the top of my list at the minute."

Brook was named the Northern Superchargers captain earlier this year and it's yet to be seen how he takes to the role. His name though seems to be making rounds as a potential candidate for the national white-ball captaincy as England are forced to take a long hard look after two back-to-back World Cup disappointments.

"This is my first captaincy role with the Superchargers, so we'll see how that goes and then maybe I'll have a different answer for you in a couple of months," Brook said. "For now, I don't see anything happening any time soon. So I'll just stay in the moment and focus on Test cricket."

"Fred [Flintoff] just asked me if I wanted to be captain [in The Hundred], he thought I'd do a decent job. So we'll see how we go. I [have] missed the first couple of games but I think I'll be a fairly chilled captain."

**New Delhi:** When the blue and yellow face off, there is a lot of fanfare irrespective of the tournament and this showdown was no different. It was the Texas Super Kings who cantered home and won by nine wickets to knock holders MI New York out of MLC 2024. Marcus Stoinis (2 for 18) was instrumental with ball in hand while Faf du Plessis (72 off 47) and Devon Conway (51 off 43) led the chase with a 101-run stand in the chase.

Put in to bat by TSK, MI New York lost Dewald Brevis for nought. Brevis was early into his pull shot lobbing it to mid-wicket in the first over off Zia-ul-Haq. At the other end, Stoinis dismissed Nicholas Pooran, who swatted a ball straight to

mid on, not getting the required elevation on his aerial shot. Domestic talents, Monank Patel and Shayan Jahangir stitched a 49-run partnership off 39 deliveries guiding MINY to 67 for 2 in 10 overs. Jahangir holed out to long off off Dwayne Bravo to the first ball of the 11th over trying to up the ante. The batting side promoted Rashid Khan to five, a move that returned high dividends as Rashid got going with a four and a six off Bravo over long on. Monank too glanced a ball behind square for four in the same eventful 11th over off which 16 runs were scored.

The batting pair continued to threaten the TSK bowlers, scoring a boundary in every over

and had Faf scratching his head. But, a quiet over from Mohammad Mohsin yielding only five runs forced Monank to take on Noor Ahmad who missed a slider. Rashid was more successful against his Afghan counterpart, hitting a six straight down the ground which Bravo caught. However, the all-rounder made contact with the boundary rope in the process. Bravo limped off the field in 17th over and Aaron Hardie who came in to finish the over was smashed for two maximums and as many wides in a 19-run over. Rashid brought up his 50 sweeping Noor, taking MINY to 150 at the end of the 18th over. With 175-180 on the cards, Stoinis bowled an

impeccable penultimate over, conceding four runs and trapping Rashid in front. Aaron Hardie dismissed Kieron Pollard and Heath Richards in consecutive deliveries as MINY ended with 163/8 in 20 overs. In reply, the TSK batters survived a mix up in the very first over, du Plessis

hit the ball straight to cover and took off for a suicidal single but the fielder missed the stumps. Unable to find the boundary regularly in the first few overs, the opening pair took the onus to rotate strike and survived multiple run out chances. Rashid and Romario Shepherd bowled quiet overs to keep the rate

down around six an over. However, the sixth over was when du Plessis broke the shackles. He hit Boult for a couple of boundaries with a six over long off in between. An eventful ninth over had du Plessis nearly run out as Rashid missed the stumps of his own bowling. A couple of deliveries later, the ball kissed the stumps but the bail didn't dislodge from the groove saving du Plessis once again. He brought up his fifty in the 10th over and at the halfway stage, they were comfortably poised at 74 for no-loss. The skipper took the onus of scoring quickly while Conway struggled to find his rhythm for most of his overs. The New Zealander was also bowled off a free hit. TSK went through a span

of 29 balls without a boundary between the seventh and 12th over until du Plessis pulled counterpart skipper Pollard over square leg. He followed it with two more boundaries behind square to make it an expensive over of 19 runs. Nosthush Kenjige finally broke the partnership as du Plessis lofted the ball to long off, getting the height but no distance. Conway was dropped by Monank Patel off Rashid while MINY were trying to take it deep and create chances. Conway finally middled a ball when he swatted Shepherd down the ground for four. He continued to chance his arm against Kenjige, a six over long on and a boundary fumbled by

Tim David signalling that the wheels were coming off MINY's title defence. Aaron Hardie got stuck into Boult at the other end deposited him all around the ground and scoring 18 of the over before he rounded it off with a boundary, completing the chase with nine balls to spare. What Next: TSK shall face the loser of the Qualifier on July 26 in the Challenger while MINY are now eliminated.

Brief Scores: MI New York 163/8 in 20 overs (Rashid Khan 55, Monank Patel 48; Marcus Stoinis 2-18, Aaron Hardie 2-22) lost to Texas Super Kings 167/1 in 18.3 overs (Faf du Plessis 72, Devon Conway 51\*; Nosthush Kenjige 1-24) by 9 wickets