

Odisha CM leads 10th International Yoga Day celebration in state



Bhubaneswar(KCN): Odisha Chief Minister Mohan Charan Majhi led the celebration of the 10th International Yoga Day in the state Friday. For the first time after the BJP formed government in Odisha, the day was celebrated across the state in a big way Friday morning to highlight the importance of the ancient practice of yoga. The Chief Minister led the main event at Kalinga Stadium here. He performed yoga and addressed the huge gathering of students, officials and other

individuals. Sports and Youth Services Minister Suryabansi Suraj and Chief Secretary Pradeep Kumar Jena also participated in the event. Majhi said the yoga day is being celebrated across the state and the government has sent deputy chief ministers and ministers to participate in the celebration as chief guests in different places of the state. Besides, MPs, MLAs and senior government officials are also participating in such events in their respective areas, he said.

Yoga is India's unique gift to humanity: President Droupadi Murmu

New Delhi(KCN): President Droupadi Murmu Friday said yoga is India's unique gift to humanity, and it has become far more important because of rising lifestyle-related problems. She, along with other officials of the President's Secretariat, also performed yoga at the Rashtrapati Bhavan here.

"Greetings to the entire global community, especially the fellow citizens of India on International Yoga Day!



Yoga is India's unique gift to humanity. In view of rising lifestyle related problems, Yoga has become far more important today. Yoga is a way to physical, mental and spiritual well-being. Let us resolve to adopt yoga as an integral part of our day-to-day living," the president said in a post on X and shared pictures of her doing yoga.

The International Yoga Day is celebrated every year June 21.

Excise policy case: Delhi HC reserves order on ED's plea, Kejriwal to remain in jail

New Delhi(KCN): The Delhi High Court Friday reserved its order on the Enforcement Directorate's plea seeking a stay on the release of Chief Minister Arvind Kejriwal on bail. A Delhi court Thursday granted bail to the Chief Minister in connection with a money laundering case related to the now-scraped excise policy, but the high court has stayed the order till it pronounces its final order on ED's plea, which also means that the CM will remain in judicial custody.

The ED Thursday had sought a 48-hour deferral in signing the bail bond following the pronouncement of the order. However, the trial court firmly denied the



ED's plea for a stay. On Friday, the ED moved High Court challenging the lower court's bail order. The plea was urgently mentioned before a vacation bench comprising Justices Sudhir Kumar Jain and Ravinder Dudeja by Additional Solicitor General, S.V. Raju, on behalf of the ED. "I am moving for an urgent stay. The order was pronounced

yesterday at 8 p.m. The order is not uploaded. We were not given a clear opportunity to oppose bail," he argued. ASG Raju further said that his prayer for a stay on the bail order wasn't even considered. "I am demanding that the order be stayed and the matter be heard as soon as possible. We were denied the full opportunity to argue the case. I am making allegations with full

seriousness," he stated. Senior advocate Abhishek Manu Singhvi, representing CM Kejriwal, opposed the stay request, citing legal precedents. "There are ten Supreme Court judgments that cancellation of bail is radically different from grant of bail," he contended. After hearing arguments from both sides, the High Court directed that the bail order should not be enforced until the matter is heard in full. "The bail order will not be given effect. We have not passed the final order. You may argue as much as you can," the Bench stated, effectively halting CM Kejriwal's release.

Odisha extends sponsorship deal with Hockey India till 2036



Majhi, Minister of State for Sports & Youth Services Suryabansi Suraj, Chief Secretary & Chief Development Commissioner Dilip Tirkey, secretary-general Bhola Nath Singh, and Commissioner-cum-Secretary R Vineel Krishna.

"We had a productive

Tirkey said in a statement.

"We are thankful to the Government of Odisha for their support and commitment to Indian hockey. This partnership has played a pivotal role in uplifting the sport across our nation," he added.

Bhola Nath added, "Odisha government's support for Indian hockey has been invaluable. The Government of Odisha has consistently been a pillar of strength for our sport. Their decision to consider extending our partnership until 2036 underscores their dedication to sports and youth development."

India rejects comments by UN's top human rights official on foreign influence laws

New Delhi(KCN): India's Permanent Representative of India to the United Nations and other International Organisations in Geneva Ambassador Arindam Bagchi, said he "humbly disagrees" with the comments of UN High Commissioner for Human Rights Volker Turk.

India has rejected a comment by the UN's top human rights official on foreign influence laws, saying principles of "transparency and accountability cannot

be applied selectively." India's Permanent Representative of India to the United Nations and other International Organisations in Geneva Ambassador Arindam Bagchi, said he "humbly disagrees" with the brief reference to India made by UN High Commissioner for Human Rights Volker Turk in his Global Update 56th session of the Human Rights Council this week. Turk had said in his global update that a

worrying trend in terms of civic space is the consideration or adoption of so-called "transparency" or "foreign influence" laws in over 50 countries, including in the Republika Srpska entity of Bosnia and Herzegovina, Georgia, India, Kyrgyzstan, the Russian Federation, Slovakia and Turkiye. These laws risk having serious chilling effects on the work of civil society, freedom of expression and of association." Bagchi said

democratic nations across the world, including India, have had regulations for many decades to guard against legitimate concerns about the misuse of foreign funds. "Principles of transparency and accountability cannot be applied selectively. Portraying a dependence on the crutches of opaque or illegal foreign funding is

also a disservice to India's vibrant civil society," he said.

Bagchi added that ongoing global conflicts have "unfortunately" divided the Human Rights Council further.

"It is more important than ever for the Office of High Commissioner to focus on its core mandates," he said.

Noting that the High Commissioner's global update is a rather gloomy assessment of human rights across the world, Bagchi spoke about "our pride" in India's just concluded general



Central University of Odisha celebrates 10th International Day of Yoga

Koraput, (KCN): The Central University of Odisha marked the 10th International Day of Yoga with a grand celebration under the theme "Yoga for Self and Society" on 21 June 2024. The event, held at the campus, was inaugurated by the Hon'ble Vice-Chancellor, Prof. Chakradhar Tripathi, alongside Registrar I/c Prof. N. C. Panda and Yoga Expert Sri Jaya Krishna Padhan. Attendees included university faculty, staff, and students, as well as teachers and children from Government High School, Sunabeda, and Jagannath Bidya Pitha, Sunabeda.



In his opening address, Prof. Tripathi highlighted the importance of integrating yoga into daily routines, stating, "Regular practice of yoga fosters a healthy mind, body, and soul, leading to a prosperous and fulfilling life." He encouraged students to explore the inner joy that yoga brings.

Registrar I/c Prof. N. C. Panda also spoke, extending his best wishes and discussing the significance of this year's theme.

A highlight of the event was a yoga workshop conducted by Sri Jaya Krishna Padhan, who led participants through

various asanas in line with the Common Yoga Protocol. Attendees practised poses such as Bhramari, Dhyana, Sitali, Kapalabhati, Nadi sodhan, Setu Bandha sana, Bakrasana, Bhadrasana, Ardha Chakrasana, and Tadasana, along with knee and shoulder exercises.

The event began with a welcome address by Dr. Minati Sahoo, Assistant Professor of Economics, and concluded with a vote of thanks from Dr. Sarbeswar Barik, Assistant Professor of Mathematics, who also coordinated the program.

SAMBALPUR DIVISION OBSERVED INTERNATIONAL DAY OF YOGA

Sambalpur, (KCN): International day of Yoga was observed in Sambalpur Division on 21st June-2024 at Railway Community Hall, Sambalpur. Shri Tushar Kant Pandey, Divisional Railway Manager, Sambalpur joined as Chief Guest and said that "Yoga is a way of life for healthy living.

On this occasion a Yoga session for officers, staffs and their family members was organised at Railway Community Hall. Shri Pratap Pradhan & other members from Vivekananda Kendra Kanyakumari,



Sambalpur conducted the Yoga session. Additional Divisional Railway Manager, Shri Anand Singh, Smt. Leena Pandey, President, East Coast Railway Women's Welfare Organisation, Sambalpur, Divisional Railway officers, members of ECoRWKO, staffs & their family members participated in the yoga session. International Yoga day was also observed over all stations and units of Sambalpur Division. Shri Jusuf Kabir Ansari, Sr. Divisional Personnel Officer, Sambalpur co-ordinated the programme.

ECoR OBSERVED INTERNATIONAL DAY OF YOGA-2024

Bhubaneswar, (KCN): The East Coast Railway (ECoR) observed the International Day of Yoga today, at various Railway establishments over East Coast Railway jurisdiction including headquarters at Bhubaneswar, all the three Railway Divisions at Khurda Road, Waltair and Sambalpur. General Manager, East Coast Railway Shri Parmeshwar Funkwal with staff and officers participated in a yoga session held at Koraput. Similarly, Additional General Manager Shri Mohes Kumar Behera led the officers and staff at Rail Vihar, Bhubaneswar. Apart from this, Divisional Railway Managers / Additional Divisional Railway Managers led the staff and employees at their respective Divisional headquarters at Khurda Road, Sambalpur and Waltair. Gracing the occasion at Koraput, General Manager Shri Parmeshwar Funkwal emphasized that yoga is



one of the best ways to maintain physical and mental fitness, urging regular practice to sustain the body's inner balance. Employees and officials from other railway establishments, including the Mancheswar Carriage Repair Workshop, Coaching Depots, and various branch offices, also observed International Day of Yoga 2024 at their respective locations.

The International Day of Yoga is celebrated globally with growing participation, spreading the message of universal well-being. Yoga plays a crucial role in fostering a healthy and peaceful society by harnessing collective energy. This year's theme, "Yoga for Self and Society," emphasizes the dual

benefits of the practice. Through yoga, individuals can achieve inner balance, enhance strength, balance, and flexibility, maintain cardiovascular health, and reduce stress and anxiety.

Members of the East Coast Railway Women's Welfare Organisation (ECoRWKO) also participated in the grand yoga event. Principal Chief Personnel Officer Shri Siddharth Kati coordinated the Yoga Day celebrations at Bhubaneswar and Divisional Railway Manager/Waltair Shri Saurabh Prasad coordinated Yoga Day celebrations at Koraput. To mark the occasion, a workshop was organized at the ECoR headquarters in Rail Sadaan, Chandrasekharpur, Bhubaneswar. Numerous employees and officers participated, sharing their experiences and the benefits they have gained from practicing yoga.

DAV, KALINGA NAGAR OBSERVED INTERNATIONAL DAY OF YOGA

"Yoga is not about self-improvement; it's about self-acceptance."



Bhubaneswar, (KCN): DAV Public School, Kalinga Nagar observed 10th International Day of Yoga in its premises today. The campus reverberated with the soothing chanting of 'Omm' early in the morning amidst which all the staff members, students and parents participated in the observation and practiced different postures of yoga. Joining as the Chief

Guest, eminent yoga personality Sri Kabi Prasad Mohapatra of Bharatiya Yoga Sansthan highlighted on the relevance of yoga in order to live a healthy and happy life. While addressing the gathering, Sri Mohapatra said, "Yoga cultivates the ways of maintaining a balanced attitude in day-to-day life and endows skill in the performance of one's actions." In the

formal meeting organised to mark the occasion, Principal Sri Balaram Mohapatra advised the students to inculcate in them the healthy habit of creating consciousness and achieving personal as well as collective wellbeing through yoga. An array of activities were organised among the students including parents to sensitise them about the



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NO ROOM FOR COMPLACENCY – A WARNING THAT BJP CAN'T DENY



The Sangh (RSS) and the BJP are known to sing from the same hymn sheet. Both, being the proponents of the same nationalist view, holding the nation to be supreme, with its adorable motherhood, an ideal that they frequently declare that their lives are made to make a sacrifice for, have recently developed a slight ideological rift. The RSS began to feel that the BJP's transformation under the powerful popularity of Prime Minister Modi has, to some extent, been underhanded and the results of national election 2024 evidently made this sense of understanding surface. Mohan Bhagwat, the RSS Chief made unequivocal remarks on the power that the BJP was building around, and the party mechanism,

according to him, needs to undergo an ideological overhauling. The drying up of the BJP's electoral exchequer in the Hindutva heartlands especially in Uttar Pradesh might have triggered an intellectual churn in the Sangh. And the unambiguously uttered statements of the RSS Chief in the event held at Nagpur the other day must have pricked the BJP leadership. His views being put for analysis, pundits seem to have understood the predicament that the saffron family, in the larger context, might have sensed. An electoral defeat to this magnitude was sure to invite criticisms and the RSS being a thought movement believes in dialogues and corrections. As for Narendra Modi, the Sangh cohorts understand the fact that he had never hesitated to express his association with the RSS as a pracharak (full time worker) and even today his ideological bonhomie with the organization is

intact. His predecessor Vajpayee had been alert and conscious while he drew from the pages of his RSS days. He was certainly aware of the coalition compulsions. Probably, the congeniality of the coalition structure of politics made him choose the middle path of a conscience keeper among the alliance partners. He preferred to keep his Sangh ideology a personal brand of understanding but he was sure to keep it aside when coalition dharma needed a larger platform to create consensus. Modi never had to face such coalition compulsions. He has no experience of working under the compulsive dynamics of an alliance as his party always under him performed far better than its allies. Therefore, the question on how his administrative temperament and strict visionary zeal of being an unquestioned power center would support him run the coalition did not arise. Vajpayee had a humorous way of

handling his partners and he was ready to make policy adjustments in decision making. The RSS, being the largest ideological entity in the Sangh parivar, seems to have sensed Modi's unchallenged wave of power that controlled the government for a decade. Coalition partners remained mute, invisible and frozen as and when the government decided to go with its earth shattering reforms. Modi's unquestionable power rose to immeasurable heights as his party won 303 seats in 2019. His party and the RSS too, probably accepted the larger than life image of the Prime Minister. The statements of the RSS Chief passed tremors of discontent as it was possibly ignored and literally sidelined by the overconfident BJP leadership. There have been strict and decisive imprints of dissatisfaction in his words as he shed light on the horror that the state of Manipur has been through for more than a year. Indirectly, Mohan Bhagwat was holding the Modi government

responsible for its failure as it was unable to chalk out a credible solution to check the ruthless bloodshed in the state. Bhagwat's strike on the BJP was precise, straight and unexpected. As usual, he was composed and kept the manners of great intellectualism of an orator. His words were loaded with humility. But, of course, they intended to warn the political party that was born and grown as an ideological offshoot of the Sangh. "A true sevak (one who serves the people) does not have 'ahankar' (arrogance) and works without causing any hurt to others," he said. We have no reason to be confused as the statement was a straight shot from the quiver of dogmas of the Sangh and the target was the Prime Minister. The poll campaign this time was verbally violent and disrespectfully shot in haste on the opponents. Neither the Prime Minister nor his cohorts in the party nor even the opposition paused for a restraint. The aggressive narrative war brought the entire campaign down to mere mudslinging. The RSS

chief's critical examination further reiterated as to who a true sevak is. "The one who maintains decorum does his work, but remains unattached. There is no arrogance that I did this. Only such a person has the right to be called a sevak," he said. The writing on the wall is clear. The RSS, though it never hesitates to support the BJP, has now come out with warning signals against the personality cult in the party. The Sangh believes with certainty that organization is above people. It also believes with conviction that nobody in the doctrinal framework of the Sangh Parivare enjoys the power of an emperor. Highlighting the pre-poll gimmicks of the ruling party indirectly, the Sangh chief's words were to set the thought process in the BJP right. Stressing hard on the need for consensus in the parliament, Bhagwat appeared to have literally passed a leaf of reminder for the BJP and its leadership. That the

government without consensus being built cannot push for reforms. Elected members, irrespective of their strength in numbers, hold complete right to know the policy mobilization and 'consensus' is the catchphrase that in practice makes the government run smoothly. Bhagwat's decisive remarks force us to go back to the days of Vajpayee's coalition government. Politics, being an art of compulsion, demands Vajpayee's accommodative, inclusive and consensual behavior. Prime Minister Modi, in the last decade of his administration had never been forced to change his self-willed and as he is frequently criticized, his independent style of functioning. Moreover, the most critical element that sticks out with uncertainty and waiting for a way to get enhanced in the coalition regime is his party's hardcore Hindutva ideology. Bhagwat, politely reminding the government and its leadership about the value of consensus,

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Refugee Crisis : From Desperation to Hope



they face. Refugees often confront significant barriers to integration within their host communities. Language differences, cultural dissimilarities and a lack of understanding can lead to social isolation. This exclusion is detrimental to their mental health and well-being hindering their ability to build a new life. For instance, in countries like Germany and Sweden, where large numbers of refugees have sought asylum, integration programs are crucial in overcoming these barriers. Discrimination is another pervasive challenge. Refugees frequently experience discrimination based on ethnicity, nationality or religion. This discrimination can occur in various spheres including employment, education and access to services. It not only violates their basic human rights but also exacerbates their vulnerability. In countries like Lebanon and Jordan,

where refugee populations are high relative to the local population, refugees often face legal and social discrimination that limits their access to essential services and economic opportunities. Exploitation is a grave concern particularly for women and children. Refugees are at heightened risk of labor exploitation, human trafficking and sexual violence. The lack of legal protections and the precarious nature of their situation often leave them with limited recourse to justice. For example, in regions of Southeast Asia, Rohingya refugees fleeing persecution in Myanmar have fallen victim to human trafficking networks, facing severe exploitation and abuse. To tackle the refugee crisis effectively, it is crucial to address the underlying causes of displacement. Conflict resolution and peacebuilding are paramount. Many refugees flee due to armed conflict and

Prasar Khuntia

violence. International efforts must focus on diplomatic solutions, peace negotiations and supporting stable governance in conflict-prone regions. Organizations such as the United Nations and regional bodies play pivotal roles in mediating and resolving conflicts. In Syria, efforts towards a diplomatic resolution are critical to halting the outflow of refugees and enabling eventual safe return. Human rights protections are equally vital. Persecution based on race, religion, nationality or political opinion forces many to flee. Strengthening international human rights mechanisms and ensuring accountability for human rights violations are essential steps toward reducing forced displacement. In countries like Eritrea, where government repression forces thousands to flee annually, international pressure and human rights advocacy are essential in mitigating

such exodus. Climate change mitigation and adaptation must also be prioritized. Natural disasters and climate change are increasingly significant drivers of displacement. Implementing robust climate action plans, supporting sustainable development and aiding communities to adapt to changing environmental conditions can help mitigate this cause of displacement. In Bangladesh, the impacts of climate change on the coastal regions have led to significant internal displacement, highlighting the urgent need for comprehensive climate strategies.

For refugees who cannot return home, sustainable solutions include resettlement, local integration and voluntary repatriation. Expanding resettlement programs in third countries is essential. Resettlement offers a durable solution for the most vulnerable refugees who cannot safely remain in their host country or return

home. Countries like Canada and Australia have been proactive in resettlement programs offering new beginnings to thousands of refugees annually. Local integration is another critical solution. Host countries should create conducive environments for refugees to integrate locally. This includes providing access to education, healthcare and employment opportunities and promoting social inclusion. In Uganda, a progressive refugee policy allows refugees to work, move freely and access public services setting a commendable example for other nations.

Voluntary repatriation is the preferred solution for many refugees but it must be done voluntarily and in safety and dignity. This requires restoring peace and stability in their countries of origin and ensuring their rights and security upon return. Efforts in countries like South Sudan and Afghanistan focus on rebuilding and

Day, it is imperative to recognize the resilience and courage of refugees worldwide. The global community must work collaboratively to address the root causes of displacement, ensure the protection of refugees and implement sustainable solutions that respect their dignity and rights. By doing so, we can move closer to a world where everyone has a place to call home.

The author is a journalist and columnist

Letter to Editor

Sir

The shocking incident of a couple receiving an online parcel box with a venomous snake inside goes to show how even popular online companies take things for granted. The couple fortunately escaped from getting bitten by the snake as the creature was stuck in the parcel tape. The jittery incident exposes negligence of the staff plus the care less way in which parcels are stored and transported to customers. More shocking it is as this has happened in a globally renowned company. This is an eye opener for all online companies as well as for customers to be double alert while dealing with online parcel service. Authorities concerned should immediately look into this matter and see that such horrifying incidents do not happen again.

M Pradyu
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Changes in Indian Forest Laws Can Have Negative Impacts on Elephant Conservation



Elephants are integral to the cultural heritage, ecological health, historical legacy, and economic vitality of the Indian subcontinent. Elephants hold immense importance in the Indian subcontinent for several reasons:

Cultural and Religious Significance: Elephants are deeply embedded in the cultural and religious fabric of the region. They are revered in Hinduism, particularly through the deity Ganesha, who has an elephant's head and symbolizes wisdom and prosperity. Elephants are also important in Buddhist and Jain traditions.

Historical Role: Historically, elephants were used in warfare, transportation, and ceremonial events. They

were prized possessions of kings and featured prominently in royal processions and battles. Ecological Importance: Elephants are a keystone species in their habitats. They play a critical role in maintaining the ecological balance by aiding in seed dispersal and creating pathways through dense forests that other animals use. Economic and Touristic Value: Elephants contribute to the economy through tourism. Many tourists visit India and other parts of the subcontinent to see elephants in national parks and sanctuaries, boosting local economies.

Conservation Efforts: The conservation of elephants is a significant environmental issue. Efforts to protect and preserve elephant populations involve substantial resources and attention from both governmental and non-governmental organizations.

However, on March of

2021, the Union Environment & Forests Ministry notified new rules for the transfer of captive elephants. Asiatic elephants can now be transferred between individuals or states for "religious and other purposes" something that the law did not permit before. These, along with the amendment to the Wild Life Protection Act (1972) in 2022, could legitimise the live trade of elephants and encourage the illegal capture of elephants from the wild. Again in the month of March 2023, Bhupinder Yadav introduced the environment ministry's amendment of the Forest Conservation Act (1980) in the Lok Sabha and gave away 28% of the forest land to industrial houses as a gift. This was surprising that almost all of the forest fraternity and relevant stakeholders were muted. People in this country have been so divided on political lines that none really protested

about this monumental change that can have severe long term implications in the future. Changes in forest laws can have significant implications for elephant conservation in India. Elephants, being a keystone species, are highly dependent on forest ecosystems for their habitat and survival. Here are several key implications of such legal changes: Habitat Fragmentation and Loss:

Reduced Protection: Easing of forest protection laws could lead to increased deforestation and fragmentation of habitats, which are critical for elephants. This can result in the loss of crucial corridors that elephants use to migrate between different forest areas.

Infrastructure Development: Laws that favor industrial development, mining, or infrastructure projects (such as roads and

railways) within forested areas can fragment habitats, making it difficult for elephants to move freely and find food, water, and mates. **Human-Elephant Conflict:** Increased Encroachments: Weakened forest protection can lead to more human encroachments into elephant habitats. This often results in human-elephant conflicts as elephants raid crops or come into contact with human settlements, leading to casualties on both sides.

Resource Depletion: Forest degradation due to lax laws can deplete resources like food and water that elephants rely on, pushing them closer to human habitations in search of these resources.

Conservation Funding and Management: Funding Cuts: Changes in laws might also affect the funding allocated for wildlife and forest conservation. Reduced

financial support can hinder conservation initiatives, anti-poaching efforts, and the management of protected areas.

Community Involvement and Livelihoods: Community Rights: Positive changes in forest laws can empower local communities by granting them rights to manage and conserve their forests, which can lead to better protection of elephant habitats. Conversely, laws that undermine community rights can result in poor management and increased degradation.

Alternative Livelihoods: If legal changes promote sustainable livelihoods for forest-dependent communities, it can reduce the pressure on forest resources and help in conservation efforts. On the other hand, lack of support for these communities can lead to increased exploitation of forest resources.

Biodiversity Conservation: Ecosystem Balance: Elephants play a crucial role in maintaining the

ecological balance of forest ecosystems. Changes in forest laws that harm elephant populations can have cascading effects on the biodiversity and health of these ecosystems. Hence, changes in forest laws in India can have profound effects on elephant conservation. It is essential that any legal reforms consider the ecological, social, and economic aspects comprehensively to ensure that the conservation of elephants and their habitats is not compromised. Engaging stakeholders, including conservationists, local communities, and policymakers, is crucial in shaping laws that support sustainable and effective conservation efforts.

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Modi 3.0 Budget 2024: Income tax cut likely?

Pradeep Kumar Panda

Union Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman is all set to present her seventh straight union budget next month. She has so far presented five full-fledged budgets and one interim one as the finance minister in Modi 2.0 government. With just over a month to go until the budget, anticipations and speculations are high that Sitharaman will give taxpayers some relief this time as the last time anything significant taxpayers witnessed was in budget 2020, when she announced a new tax regime with lower tax slabs.

With the new government sworn in, all eyes are now on the full Budget for FY25. Well, reports indicate that the Budget may be presented towards the end of July with the commencement of the Monsoon Session of the Parliament.

Pre-budget consultations, starting June 18 and lasting seven to ten days, will influence the final schedule. Depending on when these consultations finish, the budget is expected to be tabled towards the end of July, closer to the third week. The probable dates for Budget presentation vary from July 15–22. There is widespread discussion regarding who will be the key beneficiaries of possible

tax rate cuts in the budget? Certain categories of taxpayers might get some good news from the finance minister in this upcoming budget. According to a Reuters report based on government sources, lowering personal tax rates for certain categories of individuals is being considered as the aim is to boost consumption. Individuals earning more than Rs 15 lakh

A cut in income tax would see consumption going up due to extra cash in consumer hands. Lowering of taxes for certain categories would also increase savings for the middle class, the report further said. While the economy grew at 8.2% in 2023-24, consumption has grown at half that pace, the report said. Speculations over possible tax rate cuts are also high because PM Modi, while staking

upcoming full Budget for 2024-25 considering the high levels of inflation. In the interim budget, presented in February this year ahead of the Lok Sabha elections, FM Sitharaman did not announce any changes either in the tax rates or slabs, but now, taxpayers – especially salaried and middle-class – are expecting that she will provide some relief. In recent years, the



per annum might get tax relief, the report said citing one of the sources.

The changes could be made to the new tax regime introduced in 2020. Under the new regime, annual income up to Rs 15 lakh is taxed at 5-20% while earnings over Rs 15 lakh attract 30% tax.

The personal tax rate jumps six-fold when an individual's income increases by five times from Rs 3 lakh to 15 lakh, "which is quite steep," the report said citing another source.

a claim to form his government for the third term by getting alliances' support, had said his government would focus on shoring up middle-class savings and bettering their lives. India Inc is also hoping to see FM Sitharaman announcing some tax relief measures for the taxpayers, especially smaller ones.

Newly-elected CII President Sanjiv Puri in an interview with PTI said income tax relief for the people in the lowest slab may need to be considered in the

government has focused on fiscal consolidation that aims to reduce the fiscal deficit to 5.1 percent of GDP by 2024-25 and further lower it to below 4.5 percent by 2025-26.

The Reserve Bank of India (RBI), in its recent Monetary Policy announcement, forecasted a 7.2 percent growth for the Indian economy for FY25. This growth is expected to be driven by improving rural demand and easing inflation.

**Economist,
Bhubaneswar**

Climate Change is affecting people all over the world

Vidya Das

hand in hand with environmental degradation.

The tribal communities traditionally practiced shifting cultivation, which supplemented their hunting and food gathering from the forest. A wide range of crop combinations, including millets, pulses, squash, would be cultivated in a swidden patch, providing a diverse and rich nutrition.

Tribals consider the forest run off as vital for fertilizing the swidden land, while also enabling the cultivated patch to regain its forest cover patch in a matter of few years. Now, all these functions have been severely affected due to deforestation.

In addition, climate change has also affected rainfall patterns. The long periods of gentle continuous rain characteristic of the Koraput monsoons in the past, has been replaced largely by much more erratic, short heavy showers, including cloud bursts leading to landslides, and severely impacting upland cultivation.

All this has led tribal

farmers to give up much of their traditional crops, and turn to commercial monocrops, that necessitate excessive use of chemicals, pesticides and herbicides. There has thus been a loss of agricultural biodiversity, with many of local traditional crop varieties that were cultivated and preserved over generations being seriously endangered.

The traditional seeds and traditional cropping patterns were decided by women. With change to commercial crops, women's decision making role in agriculture has also been severely affected.

Through the SEPL support, the project seeks to channelise youth energy to help farmers develop sustainable and integrated family farms, as a model for addressing the impact of climate change in upland tribal regions. The project will train youth to work as eco-leaders, that is it will enable them to provide inputs to farmers in their village and neighbouring villages for improved and sustainable land use, development and

maintenance of plantations, and over all establishing a family farm that meets most of the livelihood needs of the family. In addition, the youth will also be trained and supported for running learning centres for dropouts and children in their own villages. Each youth will be encouraged to develop one acre of their land, as a Farmers' Field Schools, for training and demonstration of approaches and methods for sustainable land use and management.

The project thus seeks to demonstrate, as also build up the skills for an alternate and integrated method of land use in the tribal regions that can have multiple benefits for impoverished tribal families. It is envisaged that the visible success of the efforts will motivate other farmer neighbours to also develop their lands into sustainable family farms, and be able to stop distress migration, as also eucalyptus cultivation which dries up the water table and spoils the land for any cultivation, over the long run.

**Aragamee
Kashipur, Rayagada**

ICCR organised "Exit - Engagement Evening" for ICCR Scholars in Kolkata

Kolkata (PARTHA ROY): ICCR organised "Exit Engagement Evening" for ICCR scholars who are completing their current academic/professional course curriculum in West Bengal, Odisha, India on 20th June 2024 in Kolkata.

The students from different countries who are studying in different universities in West Bengal & Odisha on ICCR Scholarship and completing their courses were presented with ICCR Alumini Card with life time validity so that the students can get easy access to various business chambers of India as well as other corporate bodies to explore business opportunities. ICCR Scholars after passing out and on their return to their home country can explore scope of various business opportunities between India and their home countries.

Idea of empowering ICCR scholars with basic knowledge & information on trade opportunities with India was of Dr. Vinay Sahasrabuddhe former President of ICCR. This is second year of "Exit - Engagement



Evening" (E-3).

The program was presided by Smt. Anju Ranjan IFS Deputy Director General (Culture) of ICCR. Smt. Ranjan also designed the ICCR

Alumini Card given to the scholars. Smt. Anju Ranjan is heading Culture vertical of ICCR and overseeing ICCR scholarships & scholars.

Deputy Director

General of India Tourism of Ministry of Tourism Shri Pranav Prakash made presentation on touristic places in eastern India as well as scope and opportunities of

tourism business in Eastern India.

Shri Dipankar Bhattacharjee Director of CII made presentation on CII to the students as well as invited them to participate in various activities of CII. Shri Sushantjit Dey Deputy Director of ICC made presentation on ICC & spoke on various engagement & interactions options for ICCR Scholars.

Shri Pabitra K. Sarkar of KVIC made presentation on Khadi industry in West Bengal and its entrepreneurship development programs.

As indicated by Ms. Minakshi Misra Head & Zonal Director of ICCR Kolkata, ICCR is organising "Exit Engagement Evening" in various cities of India for ICCR scholars to sensitise and spread awareness about rich socio-economic-cultural heritage of Bharat as well as empower and encourage the ICCR scholars to participate in economic and trade development activities with India in time ahead. A cultural performance was presented by ICCR empanelled Dancers & scholars.

NTPC Bongaigaon and BTC Strengthen Ties: Shri Akhilesh Singh and Shri Pramod Boro Discuss Collaborative Initiatives

Kolkata (KCN): Shri Akhilesh Singh, Head of Project (HOP) and Business Unit Head at NTPC Bongaigaon, had a productive meeting with Shri Pramod Boro, Hon'ble Chief Executive Member of BTC NTPC recently.

The meeting highlighted the collaborative efforts between NTPC and the BTC Administration, focusing on Corporate Social Responsibility (CSR), sustainability, and environmental conservation.

Shri Pramod Boro appreciated the diligent efforts of NTPC in these crucial areas and lauded the company's commitment to powering the nation 24x7. He acknowledged the significant impact of NTPC's initiatives on the community and the environment.



During the interaction, Shri Akhilesh Singh briefed Shri Boro on various ongoing and upcoming initiatives of NTPC. He expressed gratitude towards the BTC administration for their unwavering support in key areas such as digital literacy classes, skill development, sanitation, empowerment, and health. These initiatives are designed to uplift and empower the local communities, contributing to the overall development and well-being of the region. The meeting was attended by senior officials from NTPC Bongaigaon, including Shri Onkar Nath, AGM (HR), Shri Roshan Dungdung, DGM (HR), and Smt. Aduity Thakuri, CSR Executive and officials of BTC Administration. Their presence depicts the commitment of NTPC's leadership towards enhancing community engagement and fostering sustainable development. NTPC remains dedicated to its mission of sustainable growth and community development, ensuring that its operations benefit not just the nation but also the local communities in which it operates.

AIIMS Bhubaneswar celebrates 10th International Day of Yoga

Yoga plays a significant role in fostering individual and societal well-being



Bhubaneswar (KCN): "Yoga for Self and Society," the theme for this year, highlights yoga's dual role in fostering individual and societal well-being, encouraging grassroots participation and the spread of yoga in rural areas, said AIIMS Bhubaneswar Executive Director Dr. Ashutosh Biswas on the occasion of 10th International Day of Yoga. Through a message, Dr. Biswas has emphasized the profound impact of yoga on young minds and bodies, aiming to unite thousands in the practice and promote global health and wellness.

employees and public participated in the Yoga session. While Yoga Instructor Santosh Kumar Sahu practised Yoga, Dr. Ajit Kumar Pradhan extended the vote of thanks. To mark the day, yoga sessions also organised earlier at CHC, Tangi and OPD foyer of AIIMS Bhubaneswar. It may be noted here that AIIMS Bhubaneswar has been taking all steps to promote Aayush among people. Also, the institute has started Yoga at the workplace to reduce stress and workload.

Shatabdi Nrityayan Celebrating International Yoga Day

Kolkata (KCN): Yoga is very essential to keep the human body healthy in a busy life. It is a group of physical, mental and spiritual practices or disciplines which originated in ancient India and dates back to thousands of years. Its evidence is found in the writings of sages in various ancient books. It was earlier designed as a path to spiritual enlightenment, but in modern times, the physical aspects of yoga have found huge



popularity as a gentle form of exercise and stress management.

India's Prime Minister Narendra Modi celebrates the importance of Yoga in the International arena on June 21st every year

as International Yoga Day. In remembrance of this great day, World Yoga Day was celebrated by Shatabdi Nrityayan in Kolokakoli Children's Park of Dum Dum, Nager Bazar. Eminent yoga instructors Mamata Mallik and Moushumi Dutta were guiding the session. The Yoga camp focused on how to keep our body healthy through different types of Yoga asanas. People of different age groups participated in this camp to practice Yoga.

Mamata Banerjee Set To Campaign For Priyanka Gandhi In Wayanad: Sources

New Delhi: Sending out a strong signal that all is well between the Trinamool Congress and the INDIA alliance following the pre-election acrimony, West Bengal Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee is ready to campaign for Congress leader Priyanka Gandhi Vadra, who is set to make her electoral debut from Wayanad, party sources have said.

The Trinamool Congress sources said that not only is Ms Banerjee willing to campaign for Ms Gandhi, but she had also suggested during an INDIA alliance meeting last December that the Congress leader should contest against PM Narendra Modi from Varanasi - an idea that has also been floated within the

Congress as early as 2019.

Ms Gandhi will be fighting from Wayanad when a bypoll is held there, after Rahul Gandhi decided to vacate the seat and retain the family bastion of Raebareli.

He had won the Wayanad constituency for the second time, by a margin of 3.6 lakh votes, in the just-concluded elections.

Part of the reason behind the rekindled bonhomie between Ms Banerjee and the Congress is the fact that Adhir Ranjan Chowdhury, one of the Bengal chief minister's strongest critics, has lost from the Baharampur Lok Sabha constituency in these elections after five straight victories.

On Thursday, he also resigned as the president of the Bengal Congress Unit, but there is no confirmation on whether the resignation has been accepted.

While Ms Banerjee and the Gandhis are known to share a close bond, Mr Chowdhury's acerbic and often personal barbs at the chief minister have been a source of friction between the Trinamool and the Congress. They were also seen as a factor behind her decision to go it alone in West Bengal in the Lok Sabha elections - a move that paid off, with the Trinamool fending off an all-out challenge by the BJP and winning 29 of the state's 42 constituencies.

The sources said the "Adhir issue" has now been resolved and that the Trinamool had told the Congress that he would lose his seat. Ahead of the Parliament session starting on Monday, which will see the opposition at its strongest since 2014, the sources said the Bengal Chief Minister has also sought better

coordination among members of the INDIA alliance, who have won 232 Lok Sabha seats between them. Signs of this happening have already begun, with the Trinamool, the Congress and the DMK opposing the implementation of the three new criminal laws - Bharatiya Nyaya Sanhita, Bharatiya Nagarik Suraksha

Parliament last year, when over 140 MPs were suspended. In a letter to the Prime Minister on Friday, Ms Banerjee pushed for a fresh review of the laws by Parliament. "The outgoing government of yours had passed these three critical bills unilaterally, and with absolutely no debate. That day, almost 100 members of the Lok Sabha had been suspended and a total 146 MPs of the both Houses were thrown out of Parliament," Ms Banerjee wrote, adding that the three bills were passed in an "authoritarian manner" in a "dark hour of democracy". Chandigarh MP and senior Congress leader Manish Tewari has also hit out at the

government over the implementation of the laws.

"The new criminal laws that come into effect from July 1st 2024 lay the foundations of turning India into a Police State. Their implementation must be stopped forthwith and Parliament must re-examine them," he posted on X.

Another issue that the opposition is likely to try and corner the government over is the NEET and NET exam fiasco. Protests have erupted across the country over irregularities in NEET and the cancellation of the UGC-NET, both of which are conducted by the National Testing Agency.



Sanhita and the Bharatiya Sakshya Adhiniyam, which will replace the Indian Penal Code, the Code of Criminal Procedure and the Indian Evidence Act, respectively.

The opposition has claimed that the laws were passed without consultation during the Monsoon session of

Harmony in Heritage : Yoga Day at Konark Sun Temple

Bhubaneswar, (KCN Bureau): In a significant celebration of health and wellness, International Yoga Day was observed today at the iconic Konark Sun Temple premises in Odisha. The event saw participation from notable dignitaries including the esteemed Deputy Chief Minister of Odisha, Pravati Parida, the Member of Parliament for the Puri constituency, Dr. Sambit Patra and renowned sand artist Padmashree Sudarsan Pattnaik. The historic backdrop of the Konark Sun Temple provided a serene and spiritual environment for the International Yoga

Day celebrations. Attendees gathered early in the morning ready to participate in the yoga practice program. The majestic architecture of the temple combined with the tranquility of the morning set the perfect stage for a day dedicated to holistic well-being. Deputy Chief Minister Pravati Parida addressed the audience emphasizing the importance of incorporating yoga into daily life. She stated, "Yoga is not just an exercise; it is a way of life. It promotes physical well-being, mental peace and spiritual growth. I urge everyone to embrace yoga for a healthier and more



balanced life." Her message resonated with many highlighting yoga's comprehensive benefits that go beyond mere physical fitness. Dr. Sambit Patra, MP for Puri also shared his thoughts on the significance of yoga. "In

today's fast-paced world, stress and anxiety have become common challenges. Yoga offers a powerful solution by helping us connect with our inner selves and achieve a state of harmony. Let's make yoga a regular

practice to lead happier, healthier lives." His words underscored the relevance of yoga in contemporary times where the pressures of modern life often take a toll on mental health. The event saw enthusiastic participation

from people of all age groups who practiced various yoga asanas under the guidance of experienced instructors. The guests along with the attendees engaged in the session highlighting the inclusive and universal appeal of yoga. The

Parida and Dr. Sambit Patra emphasized, incorporating yoga into our daily routines can lead to profound benefits for both body and mind. This event not only honoured the ancient practice but also encouraged a collective movement towards a healthier lifestyle. International Yoga Day at the Konark Sun Temple was more than just a gathering; it was a testament to the enduring legacy of yoga and its transformative power. By promoting physical health, mental peace and spiritual growth, yoga continues to be a beacon of hope and wellness in our fast-paced world.

Tata Steel Kalinganagar Celebrates International Day of Yoga

~ More than 900 people participated in various yoga sessions



Kalinganagar, (KCN): With an objective to promote the importance of health and wellness among its employees and their family members, Tata Steel Kalinganagar observed 'International Day of Yoga' on Friday. On the occasion, Yoga sessions were organised at the Plot 2 Housing, Jajpur Road and

Bamnipal Housing Complex. Apart from these two sessions jointly organised by Administration Department and Occupational Health Services Department under 'Wellness Corner' initiative, various other Departments of TSK like Engineering & Projects, Security Department, etc

also organised yoga sessions inside the plant premises for the employees. More than 400 people including employees, their family members and contractual employees participated in the sessions. Similarly, Tata Steel Foundation's

Regional Initiative for Safe Sexual Health by Today's Adolescents (RISHTA) Project also organised five yoga sessions at different villages in Kalinganagar and Bamnipal region in which more than 500 people, including school students, adolescents, and community members participated.

FSSAI - Eastern Region Joins Hands with SAI-Eastern Regional Centre, to Promote Food Safety and Health on International Yoga Day



Kolkata, (KCN): The Food Safety and Standards Authority of India (FSSAI)-Eastern Region, Kolkata under the Union Ministry of Health and Family Welfare, in collaboration with the Sports Authority of India (SAI) - Eastern Regional Centre of the city organised a comprehensive food safety and awareness session on the occasion of the 10th International Yoga Day. This event was a part of FSSAI's ongoing 'Eat

Right India' initiative, a nationwide campaign aimed at promoting safe, healthy, and sustainable lifestyles. The initiative focuses on educating the public about behavioral changes to reduce lifestyle diseases and enhance overall well-being. In tandem with the International Yoga Day celebrations, where SAI conducted a yoga session for students and athletes, the FSSAI Eastern Regional Office took the opportunity to engage

participants with vital information on food safety practices. During the awareness session, Mr. Ashshri Neli, Technical Officer from FSSAI, emphasised the importance of reading food labels and encouraged the reduction in intake of foods high in fat, salt, and sugar. The event showcased the critical link between food safety and health, underlining that mindful eating and physical fitness go hand in hand.

diversity of participants—from children to the elderly—demonstrated yoga's accessibility and benefits for everyone. Government officials including Puri Collector Sidharth Sekhar Swain, Gop CHC Superintendent Dr. Jasmine Afroz, Gop BDO Chhabirani Sahu, Puri Public Relations Officer, Konark NAC Executive Officer and the Tourist Officer were present to ensure the smooth functioning of the program. The celebration at the Konark Sun Temple is a reminder of the rich cultural heritage of yoga and its relevance in today's world. As both Pravati

2024-2025



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TPSODL Joins hands with Odisha Millet Mission to Promote Sustainable Agriculture and Nutrition

Berhampur, (KCN): TPSODL, a dedicated advocate for women and communities in Southern Odisha, is championing Income Generation Activities (IGAs) through its livelihood enhancement program. Collaborating with Mission Shakti, Odisha Livelihood Mission, and NGO partner, TPSODL is identifying and supporting potential Women Self-Help Groups (WSHG) and farmers through various initiatives.

One of the noteworthy



endeavours of TPSODL is its commitment to the promotion of millet cultivation. To this end, the organization has mobilized approximately 500 WSHGs and farmers, providing them with essential resources.

TPSODL offers capacity-building programs, training sessions, and input support including seeds and on-ground guidance. The goal is not only to

empower these individuals but also to promote the numerous nutritional and health benefits of millet. Millet, known for its resilience in challenging environmental conditions with minimal water and fertilizer requirements, also aids in mitigating the effects of climate change due to its low carbon footprint.

During the kharif season, more than 500 acres of land have been cultivated across 8 districts of TPSODL operational areas. In

total, 70 Gram panchayats were involved impacting a total of 500 farmers and WSHGs. Which includes 24 GPs of Ganjam, 8 GPs of Gajapati, 8 GPs of Koraput, 8 GPs of Nabarangpur, 8 GPs of Malkangiri, 9 GPs of Boudh, and 5 GPs of Kandhamal. Looking ahead to the upcoming Rabi season, coinciding with the International Year of Millets, TPSODL aims to extend its support to 1000 acres of land and farmers.

Inaugural of 9th Conference on Transportation Systems Engineering and Management

Warangal (KCN): The inaugural of 9th Conference on Transportation Systems Engineering and Management (CTSEM 2023) was held today morning in Chandrasekhar Hall of Seminar Halls Complex. The programme is organised by the Transportation Division, Department of Civil Engineering, National Institute of Technology, Warangal, Telangana. Prof. C.S.R.K. Prasad, Chairman of the conference inaugurated the conference. The objective of this



conference is to bring together postgraduate students and researcher scholars to present their ongoing research works. Experts in the field of Transportation Engineering from academic institutions,

industries, and research organizations were also invited to share their knowledge, expertise, and experience with the young participants and to provide an overview on the latest trends and potential research

Pavement Engineering, Traffic Engineering, and Transportation Planning.

The keynote speeches will be delivered by the eminent personalities at national and international level. On day one, Prof. J. Murali Krishnan from IIT Madras and Prof. K. Sudhakar Reddy from IIT Kharagpur shared their experiences and the major research works that are being executed by them in Pavement Engineering.

The programme is sponsored by LEA Associates South Asia Pvt. Ltd., Coact

Solutions Pvt. Ltd., Avijeet Agencies Pvt. Ltd., and Parameshwari Projects. About 150 Postgraduate students and research scholars will be presenting their papers and receive valuable suggestions from the experts. The coordinators of this conference are Dr. K.V.R. Ravi Shankar, Dr. S. Shankar, and Dr. Arpan Mehar and the co-coordinators are Dr. B. Raghuram Kadali, and Dr. Vishnu R. The Chairman of the conference is Prof. C.S.R.K. Prasad, and the Convenor is Prof. Venkaiah Chowdary.

Business icons confer with Utkal Tycoons Awards

Bhubaneswar: Noted business icons of Odisha conferred with Utkal Tycoons Award in an exotic platform organizes by Utkal Updates and Addiction Fashion Management today at WelcomHotel by ITC Hotels, Bhubaneswar. As part of Epari Sadashiv Jewelry presents Odisha's unique award show and fashion fest 'Utkal Tycoons Awards' with Bhubaneswar Runway Week Season-6, numbers of well known and successful face of Odisha business fraternity got thumping applause for their wonderful contribution to the economy of Odisha.

Their contributions were recognized and awarded.

Program starts with lighting of lamp by organizer Sushree Sangeeta Sahu, John Ajay, Gaurav, Sridhar Epari and Sunil Murarka. Surya Narayan Patra, Speaker, Odisha Assembly attended as chief guest and Sulochana Das, Mayor, Bhubaneswar as guest of honour. Today, Utkal Tycoons Awards conferred to Rashmi Sahoo, Director, Frozit; Nirupama Biswal, Director, Gayatri Devi Group; Kabir Taneja, Director, Espirit Toyota; Ratnamala Swain, real estate player; Sukirti Pattnaik, MD, Indulge the

designs. Ollywood celebrities like Elina Samantray and Bhoomika graced the occasion as guest designers and brands like Priya's (Priya Mohapatra), Tasa Wings (Sipra Das), TP Garments (Savitri Panigrahi), AJ Fashion Realm (Selina Dashon) and Reemly Design Studio (Reemly Studio) participated and showcase their designs.

Priya's By Priya Mohapatra showcases handloom collection 'EKATRA' which is amalgamation of sambalpuri handloom fabric and pipli applique work. AJ Fashion Realm by Selina Doson

has showcased summer collection which is inspired by gorgeous butterfly hamadryas. Sipra Das's Tasa Wing has brought collection 'Fusion' which is inspired from 'the galaxy' fit for festive season, evening party and wedding season. Reemly's Design studio is showcasing the Bridal Collection 'Rooh' at Bhubaneswar Runway Week 2022 (season 6). TP Garments are here with some of our evening gowns collection, rich in colours, unique designs, patterns, and Using shades nude, grey, navy blue, teal blue.

Bandhan Bank registers strong business growth in Q4FY



During the fourth quarter of the current financial year, the Bank's deposit book grew 24% over the corresponding quarter of the previous year. The total deposits now stand at Rs. 96,331 crore. In this period, the Bank's retail deposit book showed a substantial

growth and grew 21% year-on-year to Rs. 74,441 crore. The current account and savings account (CASA) book grew by 18% year-on-year, and the CASA ratio now stands at 41.6% of the overall deposit book.

To cater to its

corresponding quarter of the previous year. The total advances are now at Rs. 99,338 crore. Capital Adequacy Ratio (CAR), an indication of the stability of the Bank, is at 20.1, much higher than the regulatory requirement.

Mahindra Promises, "Get Highest Productivity Per Liter of Fuel"

Pune : Mahindra's Construction Equipment Division (MCE), a part of the Mahindra Group, today announced their unique and disruptive customer value proposition "Get Highest Productivity Per Liter of Fuel or Give Machine Back" Guarantee for their BS4 range of Backhoe Loaders - Mahindra EarthMaster.

The new range features the proven and reliable 74 HP CRI Mahindra Engine and many other technological advancements, besides the cutting-edge iMAXX Telematics solution, all of which together, ensure guaranteed better fuel efficiency. Given the fact that fuel is one of the major element of the operating cost (nearly 50%), with unique features as Banana Boom, joystick lever, robust design, and bigger buckets, EarthMaster range is well suited for all types of backhoe applications,

advanced, class-leading products and set higher standards for the Indian CE industry. The Service Uptime Guarantee further reinforce our commitment to our customers and our confidence in our products and after-sales capabilities."

Jalaj Gupta further added, "Our new BS4 machines have delivered higher fuel efficiency, which is the outcome of Mahindra's superior technological prowess rooted into a deep understanding of the Indian customer. Additionally, MCE is offering Service guarantee to ensure higher uptime for our customers through guaranteed speedier turnaround of the machine. The state-of-the-art iMAXX Telematics technology is further helping lower the Cost of Ownership by providing a firm control to the owners over their machines, remotely."

ICICI Lombard launches Professional Indemnity Insurance for Doctors

Mumbai: ICICI Lombard, one of the leading private general insurance companies has launched Professional Indemnity Insurance for doctors. This new offering covers all specializations, provides instant policy issuance, and comes equipped with transparent and competitive pricing, a hassle-free claim process, and legal counsel services support in case of claims.

As professionals, doctors are vulnerable to human errors where they can be held liable by the kin of the patients. As a solution to situations of such nature, this policy has been curated to provide support to medical practitioners against the scope of various human errors that can happen while rendering professional services to patients.

Speaking on the same, Mr. Sanjeev Mantri, Executive Director, ICICI Lombard said "Doctors and healthcare professionals are prone to uncertainties and risks while they are in the forefront to save lives. Error, omission, or

negligence are a part and parcel of their professional life. Any aggrieved person possesses the right to claim damages for medical negligence against them. In such cases, our Professional Indemnity insurance safeguards doctors against all professional risks such as legal defense costs, compensation claims, injury among others, as well as against invalid claims.

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RapiPay launches De Dhana Dhan Offer

New Delhi/ Bhubaneswar : RapiPay Fintech Private Ltd, one of the leading fintech companies in India, has announced the launch of RapiPay De Dhana Dhan offer pan India for its 5 Lakhs + agents, also known as, Direct Business Outlets (DBOs). The new scheme incentives thousands of lucky DBOs daily with prizes such as Smart TVs, Smartphones, mobile accessories and cashbacks.

To become eligible, DBOs need to do AEPS or Recharge transactions

on RapiPay between 6am - 12pm in the morning and 5pm to 11pm in the evening. The first winner of Smart TV is from Darbhanga (Bihar) and he has been awarded his 55 inch Smart TV with much fanfare and celebration on 12th May 2022. Similarly, every week winners of TV and Smart phones are being gratified instantly so that they don't have to wait for their prizes for long. Mr. Nipun Jain, CEO, RapiPay Fintech Ltd. said "We believe, it is important to bring excitement in the business with regular incentives for

our DBOs, RapiPay's De Dhana Dhan Offer is a step towards that. An effective incentive scheme like this does not just improve customer experience and build your business, but also helps with DBOs retention. Moreover, as a category leader, we are committed to grow the Assisted Payments space and take the financial inclusion to the last mile. "RapiPay is one of top players in AEPS and Micro ATM services. It has witnessed 200% growth in AEPS and Micro ATM transactions from April 2021 to March 2022.



Cummins hat-trick headlines Australia's easy win

New Delhi: A hat-trick from Pat Cummins and a breezy, unbeaten fifty from David Warner helped Australia make a winning start to Super 8 as they made light work of Bangladesh in a rain-hit encounter at North Sound. Bangladesh huffed and puffed their way to 140/8 before Australia raced towards it with ease. The game didn't witness a proper conclusion as a result of rain but Australia had enough in the tank by then to get the two points by DLS method. The intent in the powerplay made the difference. Bangladesh

struggled, at least for the first half of their powerplay, scoring only 8 runs before eventually dragging that score to 39. However, Australia effortlessly managed to set up the chase with their belligerent hitting, taking full toll of the fielding restrictions to knock off 59 runs without losing a wicket. It took Mitchell Starc just three deliveries to strike as Tanzim Hasan inside-edged one onto his stumps. Josh Hazlewood followed it up with a maiden over as Bangladesh made just 8 in the opening three overs. Desperate to get

out of this rut, Najmul Shanto stepped down the track against Hazlewood to hammer him for a six before Litton Das hit a couple of boundaries off Starc. Bangladesh managed 31 off the last three powerplay overs but there was still a lot of work to be done. While Shanto attempted to show some intent again immediately after the end of the powerplay with boundaries off Adam Zampa and Marcus Stoinis, Australia regained control. Litton missed a sweep against Zampa and got bowled whereas Glenn Maxwell struck in his very first

over, getting rid of Rishad Hossain. The spinners tied down Bangladesh in the middle phase, not allowing the batters to break free. The pressure resulted in the key wicket of Shanto as well. Bangladesh definitely needed at least 60 runs from their final five overs

in order to pose a challenge for Australia. They had a well-set Towhid Hridoy and the veteran Shakib Al Hasan to take charge at the death. Even though Shakib was dismissed by Stoinis, Hridoy gave his side some hope after smashing Stoinis for

successive sixes. But an anti-climax was in store as Cummins came in, varied his pace to good effect and ended up picking two wickets off consecutive deliveries to peg Bangladesh back further. Taskin Ahmed managed to eke out some precious runs in the penultimate over but the onus was on Hridoy to give his side a big finish. Cummins, who was on a hat-trick having picked those two wickets off the previous over, bowled a slower one as Hridoy couldn't time a scoop properly and ended up finding the fielder. It was

only the second instance of an Australian bowler picking up a hat-trick in a T20 World Cup. The previous one was by Brett Lee in the inaugural edition against the same opposition. Hridoy's wicket was a massive blow for the men in green as they ended up with a below par total. Australia were always going to come hard no matter what the target was. Travis Head and David Warner hit a boundary each in the opening two overs before the latter slog swept Mahedi Hasan for a six. Taskin was taken apart for 15 in his first



Dunkley returns for New Zealand series

New Delhi: Opener Sophia Dunkley could be in line for her T20I comeback after being named in England's 16-member squad for the upcoming home series against New Zealand. Mahika Gaur, the 18-year-old pace sensation, was unavailable for selection due to a side strain. Dunkley's inclusion is the only movement in an otherwise unchanged squad from the one that sealed the T20I series against Pakistan in May. Allrounder Freya Kemp, who played as a pure batter in that series, has been passed fit to resume bowling.

The five-match T20I series, in preparation for the T20 World Cup in October in Bangladesh,



kickstarts in Southampton on July 6. Hove will host the second game on July 9 and the third T20I will be at Canterbury July 11 before the caravan moves to the capital for the two London fixtures at the Kia Oval and Lord's on July 13 and 17 respectively. "This five-match series against a strong New Zealand side is really

important for us and also vital preparation as we build towards the T20 World Cup in Bangladesh," head coach Jon Lewis said. "We are pleased to welcome Freya Kemp back as an all-rounder and we will hopefully see her bowl across this series as she returns from injury. "Sophia Dunkley comes back into the squad after

showing good form at regional level, she has earned the right to be in this squad.

"Mahika Gaur is not available to play due to a small side strain. We will look to have her in and around the squad preparing to return to play," Lewis added.

The T20I series will be followed by three ODIs, the squad for which will be named later.

England Women T20I squad: Heather Knight(c), Lauren Bell, Maia Bouchier, Alice Capsey, Sophia Dunkley, Charlie Dean, Sophie Ecclestone, Lauren Filer, Danielle Gibson, Sarah Glenn, Bess Heath, Nat Sciver-Brunt, Amy Jones, Freya Kemp, Linsey Smith, Danielle Wyatt

Shabnam Shakil added to India Women squad

New Delhi: Under-19 World Cup winning pacer Shabnam Shakil has been handed her maiden India senior call-up after being named as a late addition to the national squads for the ongoing multi-format series against South Africa.

Shakil, 17, is likely added as a cover or in view of the workload management of India's frontline pacers. Pooja Vastrakar and Renuka Thakur shared the new-ball duties in the opening ODI of the three-match series currently underway in Bengaluru. Vastrakar though was a doubtful starter for the ODIs, her selection in the original squad subject to fitness after she



reported a shoulder niggle for which the pacer underwent rehab at the NCA in Bengaluru. On Wednesday, in Thakur's absence in the second ODI - termed as 'rest' by skipper Harmanpreet Kaur at toss - Arundhati Reddy received her maiden ODI cap. Thakur, meanwhile, was seen undergoing a fitness test on the sidelines of the

Amanjot Kaur for the three-match T20I series. Shakil was also in Bengaluru until recently, first as a part of the pacers-specific camp head of the selection for the India squads for the series and then was a part of the Board President's XI that played a warm-up fixture against the tourists. Only 14 overs of BP XI's batting were possible in the 50-overs contest before the game was rained out. After spending the inaugural season on the bench at Gujarat Giants, Shakil made late debut in the 2024 season and picked up four wickets in four WPL games at an economy-rate of 7.

Suryakumar, Bumrah help India begin Super 8s on bright note

New Delhi: Suryakumar Yadav's enterprising batting and Jasprit Bumrah's reliability with the ball helped India kickstart their Super 8s campaign with a clinical 47-run victory against Afghanistan at Kensington Oval in Bridgetown, Barbados. Opting to bat, India lost early wickets but Suryakumar led the team's revival with a 28-ball 53 and put on a 60-run fifth wicket stand off only 37 balls with Hardik Pandya (32 off 24). A target of 182 proved beyond Afghanistan's reach as they were bowled out for 134, with Bumrah's 3 for 7 off four overs being complemented by the other bowlers.

Rashid Khan delivered key strikes in the middle overs but Suryakumar helped India forward with his busy approach in the middle overs. He employed the sweep shot to good effect and ensured Afghanistan did not get ahead despite India losing four wickets inside 11 overs. Coming to the crease in the eighth over, Suryakumar scored

41 off 21 deliveries in the 7-15 overs phase, which facilitated a platform for India to capitalise in the death. In contrast, Afghanistan kept losing wickets and couldn't find a batter in the Suryakumar mould to transfer the pressure back on India. Although the difference between the teams in this phase was 11 runs, the pressure of the required run rate hovered over Afghanistan and they finished well short.

On a wicket where the ball wasn't coming easily onto the bat, the Indian openers weren't able to score as freely as they would have liked.

Fazalhaq Farooqi conceded only five runs in the opening over, which included an edge off Rohit Sharma's bat that travelled to the boundary after a misfield. Mohammad Nabi bowled the second over and kept it tight, giving away only four runs. Afghanistan lost a review at the start of the third over when Fazalhaq Farooqi thought he had Rohit out leg-before but the ball had pitched outside leg. But

he tasted success a short while later, with Rohit falling in his attempt to force the pace. Rishabh Pant got off the mark with a flick for a four off the left-arm seamer and got three off the first ball from Nabi that he faced. Kohli then kept himself and the fielders busy with a slew of twos, before hitting a short of length delivery from Naveen-ul-Haq for a straight six. Pant reverse-swept Nabi for a four before being put down by Naveen in the deep and the ball went for a boundary. Pant made it a hat-trick of fours to help India end the powerplay on a good note.

Rashid brought himself on soon after the powerplay and made an immediate impact, ending a brisk 43-run stand, as Pant was out lbw trying to reverse-sweep a full delivery and took a review with him. Kohli fell in Rashid's next over, handing a catch to long off looking to go over cover. Suryakumar Yadav ended the over with a well-placed sweep shot for a four. Shivam Dube didn't take long to

tee off against spin, hitting a six straight over Noor Ahmad's head. Suryakumar, with a favourable matchup against Rashid, attacked the legspinner as he struck a four and a six off him in the 11th over. But Dube fell in the same over, trapped in front, with Afghanistan having to use the review to get the decision in their favour. Pandya drilled a drive through cover off Naveen for his first boundary before an audacious whip-sweep off Azmatullah Omarzai gave Suryakumar another four, helping India past 100 in the process. Pandya saw

through Rashid's final over and even struck a four off the final ball, as the Afghanistan captain finished with 3-26, and then Suryakumar struck a straight six off Omarzai. Pandya went inside out over cover for a four, followed by a thumping straight six off Noor in the 16th over, which yielded 12 runs. The half-century stand was raised in the next over, off 35 balls, after which Suryakumar hit a six and a four off Farooqi to bring up a 27-ball 50. The left-arm had the last laugh though, as Suryakumar mistimed a

Rahmanullah Gurbaz, entering this game with a rich vein of form, got going in the opening over with a four over mid off and a six over long on off Arshdeep Singh. But India's bowling spearhead Bumrah, bowling the second over, kept it slow and wide of Gurbaz to have him edge to the keeper, and conceded only one run. Ibrahim Zadran found the gap past point for a four off Arshdeep and the seamer was unlucky not to pick up a wicket next ball as Kohli put down the catch. Axar, however, ensured Ibrahim's stay was a short one, getting him caught at cover, and started his spell with a wicket - maiden. Hazratullah Zazai got a leading edge to give Bumrah his second wicket. Azmatullah Omarzai got off the mark by edging Bumrah for a four but he had figures of 2-5 after two overs. Axar was hit for a six off the last ball of the final over to help Afghanistan's scoring rate was under six at the end of the sixth over.

Pandya started his spell with an overpitched delivery to Omarzai which was hit for a four. But he was tidy otherwise, conceding only five runs in his first over. Axar's third over yielded only seven runs as India continued to keep it tight. Kuldeep Yadav, coming into the side in place of Mohammed Siraj, did not start well, bowling a no-ball and being hit for a four off the next ball by Gulbadin Naib. Jadeja had an expensive start as well, struck for a first-ball six by Omarzai. But having reached only 66/3 at the halfway stage and needing to score at 11.41 in the second half of their innings, the pressure was on Afghanistan. This pressure resulted in two more wickets going down as Naib and Omarzai fell to Kuldeep and Jadeja respectively looking for big hits. Najibullah Zadran struck a six off Pandya in the 15th over, but with 81 needed off the last five overs, India were well ahead in the game.

