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India Bids Tearful Adieu To Icon Ratan Tata, Thousands Join His Final Journey



Mumbai: Many thousands including top political leaders, captains of industry, celebs and commoners bid a tearful farewell to the legendary business giant and a genteel Parsi, Ratan Naval Tata at his final journey on Thursday.Battling with age-related health issues at the Breach Candy Hospital since Monday, Tata (86) breathed his last shortly before midnight on Wednesday, plunging the world of industry and corporates into gloom.His mortal remains were taken to the NCPA Lawns this morning to enable the people to pay their last respects before the funeral at the Worli Crematorium in the evening.Since morning, thousands of people and dignitaries, including Union Home Minister Amit Shah, Maharashtra Chief Minister Eknath Shinde, Deputy Chief Minister Devendra Fadnavis and Ajit Pawar, Speaker Rahul Narwekar, Central and state ministers, MPs, legislators and leaders of all political parties turned up to pay their respects.India's top industrialist tycoons including Mukesh Ambani, his wife Nita Ambani and their family members, representatives or heads of leading business families like the Piramals, Godrejs, Hindujas, Mahindras, Bajajs, Birlas and more attended and paid homage to the departed star of the country's business galaxy.

South Korean Author Han Kang Awarded 2024 Nobel Prize in Literature



Stockholm: The Nobel Prize in Literature for 2024 has been awarded to South Korean author Han Kang. The Swedish Academy announced the prestigious honor, recognizing her for "intense poetic prose that confronts historical traumas and exposes the fragility of human life".Han Kang, best known for her novel "The Vegetarian," has captivated readers worldwide with her profound and evocative storytelling. Her works often delve into themes of violence, trauma, and the human condition, resonating deeply with a global audience. The Nobel Committee praised her ability to weave poetic language with powerful narratives, creating a unique literary voice that stands out in contemporary literature.This accolade places Han Kang among the ranks of literary giants who have previously received the Nobel Prize, including Gabriel García Márquez, Toni Morrison, and Kazuo Ishiguro. The award ceremony will take place on December 10, 2024, in Stockholm, where Han Kang will be presented with the Nobel medal and diploma, along with a monetary prize of 11 million Swedish kronor.

In Laos, PM Modi Presents 10-Point Plan To Strengthen ASEAN-India Comprehensive Partnership



Vientiane: Emphasising that the 'Act East' policy has given new energy, direction and momentum to the historic relations between India and southeast Asian countries over the past decade, Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Thursday said that the 21st century is the "Asian century" of India and Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN) countries."We are neighbours, fellow members of the Global South, and the fastest growing region of the world. We are peace-loving countries, respect each other's national integrity and sovereignty, and are committed to a bright future for our youth," PM Modi said in his opening remarks at the India-ASEAN Summit in Vientiane, shortly after his arrival in Laos."I believe that the 21st century is the Asian century of India and ASEAN countries. Today, when there is a situation of conflict and tension in many parts of the world, the friendship, coordination, dialogue and cooperation between India and ASEAN remains very important," he added. During the Summit, Prime Minister Modi announced a 10-point plan to strengthen connectivity and resilience based on Laos' theme as the 2024 ASEAN Chair and in celebration of 10 years of the 'Act East' policy.The 10-point plan to strengthen ASEAN-India Comprehensive Partnership includes enhancing physical, digital, cultural and spiritual connectivity towards achieving cyber, disaster, supply chain, health and climate resilience.

सत्यमेव जयते



'ପବିତ୍ର ବିଜୟା ଦଶମୀ -୨୦୨୪' ଅବସରରେ
ମାନ୍ୟବର ରାଜ୍ୟପାଳଙ୍କ ବାର୍ତ୍ତା ।

ପବିତ୍ର ବିଜୟା ଦଶମୀ ଅବସରରେ ମୁଁ ରାଜ୍ୟବାସୀଙ୍କୁ ମୋର ଆନ୍ତରିକ ଶୁଭେଚ୍ଛା ଓ ହାର୍ଦ୍ଦିକ ଅଭିନନ୍ଦନ ଜଣାଉଛି ।

ବିଜୟା ଦଶମୀ ହେଉଛି ଅସତ୍ୟ ଉପରେ ସତ୍ୟର, ଅନ୍ୟାୟ ଉପରେ ନ୍ୟାୟର ଏବଂ ଅଶାନ୍ତି ଉପରେ ଶାନ୍ତିର ବିଜୟ ପ୍ରତୀକ । ପ୍ରତ୍ୟେକ ବ୍ୟକ୍ତି ନିଜ ଜୀବନରେ ତଥା ସମାଜରେ ସତ୍ୟ, ନ୍ୟାୟ ଏବଂ ଶାନ୍ତିର ପ୍ରତିଷ୍ଠା ଦିଗରେ ନିଷ୍ଠାପର ଭାବେ କାର୍ଯ୍ୟ କରିବାକୁ ଆହ୍ୱାନ ଜଣାଉଛି ।

(ରଘୁବର ଦାସ)

ଓଡ଼ିଶା ସରକାର





ଦୁର୍ଗାପୂଜା ଅବସରରେ
ମୁଖ୍ୟମନ୍ତ୍ରୀଙ୍କ ଶୁଭେଚ ବାର୍ତ୍ତା

ପବିତ୍ର ଦୁର୍ଗାପୂଜା ଓ ଦଶହରା ଅବସରରେ ରାଜ୍ୟବାସୀ ଭାଇ ଓ ଭଉଣୀମାନଙ୍କୁ ମୋର ଶୁଭେଚ୍ଛା ଜଣାଉଛି ।

ମାତୃଶକ୍ତିର ଉପାସନା ଆମ ସଂସ୍କୃତିର ଏକ ଅନନ୍ୟ ପରମ୍ପରା । ମା' ଦୁର୍ଗାଙ୍କ ଆରାଧନା ଏପରି ଏକ ଧାର୍ମିକ, ସାମାଜିକ ଓ ସାଂସ୍କୃତିକ ଉତ୍ସବ, ଯେଉଁଠାରେ ଆଧ୍ୟାତ୍ମିକ ଭାବ ସହ ଆନନ ମୟ ଭାବର ସମ୍ମିଳିତ ପରିପ୍ରକାଶ ହୋଇଥାଏ ।

ଜଗତ୍‌ଜନନୀ ମା' ଦୁର୍ଗାଙ୍କ ଅପାର କରୁଣାରୁ ସମସ୍ତଙ୍କ ଜୀବନରେ ସୁଖ, ଶାନ୍ତି ଓ ଆନନ୍ଦ ଭରିଉଠୁ, ପାର୍ବଣର ଏହି ଅମୃତ ଲଗ୍ନରେ ମା'ଙ୍କ ନିକଟରେ ଏତିକି ପ୍ରାର୍ଥନା ।

(ମୋହନ ଚରଣ ମାଝୀ)
ମୁଖ୍ୟମନ୍ତ୍ରୀ, ଓଡ଼ିଶା

Centre Sends Eight AIS Officers Serving In Telangana To Andhra Pradesh

Hyderabad: In a setback to at least eight All India Service (AIS) officers who had been serving in Telangana, the Union Government has rejected their request for allocating the Telangana cadre to them.The Department of Personnel and Training (DoPT) rejected the request of five Indian Administrative Service (IAS) and three Indian Police Service (IPS) officers, who were allocated to the Andhra Pradesh cadre following the bifurcation of the state in 2014 but they had challenged the move and had requested that they be allocated Telangana cadre.The decision was taken by



the Ministry following the recommendation by a single-member committee comprising former DoPT Secretary Deepak Khandekar, which was constituted to reconsider the final allocation of AIS officers.
The DoPT has directed IAS officers Vakati Karuna (2004 batch), Ronald Rose (2006), Vani Prasad (1995) and Amrapali Kata (2010), M. Prashanti (2009) and IPS officers Anjani Kumar (1990), Abhilasha Bisht (1994), and Abhishek Mohanty (2011) to join the Andhra Pradesh government by October 16.It has also ordered AIS officers of the Telangana cadre serving in Andhra Pradesh to join the Telangana government. They are IAS officers S.S. Rawat, Anantha Ramu, Srijana Gummala, and Siva Sankar Lotheti.
Following the bifurcation of united Andhra Pradesh into two separate states of Andhra Pradesh and Telangana in 2014, the Union government had re-allotted IAS and IPS officers working in the undivided state to the residuary state of Andhra Pradesh and the newly created Telangana state.Some of the officers had challenged their re-allocation and approached the Central Administrative Tribunal (CAT), which had ruled in their favour. The DoPT had then challenged the CAT orders in the High Court.The Telangana High Court, in its order of January 3, 2024, had ruled that the cases of the AIS officers should be reconsidered for final allocation in accordance with the guidelines framed on the basis of the recommendations of Pratyush Sinha committee between the states of Telangana and Andhra Pradesh.Acting on the High Court's direction, the DoPT had constituted the Khandekar committee in March 2024 for reconsideration of the final allocation.The AIS officers who have been directed to join Andhra Pradesh are currently holding key positions in Telangana.

Amritsar Jail Warden Among Three Held For Drug Smuggling, Supply

Chandigarh: In another breakthrough against trans-border narcotic smuggling in Punjab, the Amritsar Police Commissionerate have arrested three people after recovering 4.5 kg heroin and Rs 4.32 lakh drug money from their possession, Director General of Police Gaurav Yadav said here on Thursday.
Those arrested include a jail warden who supplied drugs to inmates of the Central Jail, Amritsar.The accused have been identified as brothers Akashdeep Singh and Satwinderpal Singh, residents of Amritsar, while the jail warden has been identified as Gurmej Singh, a resident of Moga. The latter used to supply heroin to prisoners.The development came a day after Amritsar Commissionerate Police arrested three drug smugglers after recovering 5 kg heroin and Rs 3.95 lakh drug money from their possession.DGP Yadav said preliminary investigations have revealed that Akashdeep Singh and Satinderpal Singh were directly in touch with Pakistan-based drug smugglers, who were using drones to transport drugs across the border. He said during questioning, the duo revealed that they used to supply heroin to the jail warden to supply it to drug smugglers in the jail.Technical leads were developed in a professional investigation and a first information report (FIR) has been registered under the NDPS Act, he said, adding investigations are ongoing to establish the backward and forward linkages in this case.Sharing details, Commissioner of Police (Amritsar) Gurpreet Singh Bhullar said acting on a tip-off that the brothers had retrieved a huge consignment of narcotics, dropped using a drone, from across the border and concealed it at their residence in Guru Hargobindpura, Chheharta, police teams laid a trap and arrested both the drug smugglers from a house in near Dera Radha Soami in Guru Hargobindpura.

Chief Ministers Of NE States Mourn Iconic Industrialist Ratan Tata's Death

Guwahati/Agartala: The Chief Ministers of the northeastern states on Thursday mourned the demise of iconic industrialist and Chairman Emeritus of the Tata Group, Ratan Tata, who passed away late on Wednesday night at the age of 86.Assam Chief Minister Himanta Biswa Sarma conferred the state government's "Assam Baibhav", the state's highest civilian award, to Ratan Tata at an event in Mumbai's Taj Wellington Mews in February 2022.The Assam Chief Minister said in a post on X:



"Ratan Tata's legacy is one of compassion, statesmanship and unshakeable conviction in India's growth story. His life is defined by building an enterprise and giving back to society."Sarma said that with his demise, the people of Assam have lost one of its biggest well-wishers."Shri Tata, a recipient of Assam's highest civilian award, occupied a special place in the hearts and minds of the people of Assam. He took a giant leap of faith for the welfare of Assam. He was deeply passionate about improving healthcare in the state and with his vision we gave birth to the Assam Cancer Care Foundation," the Chief Minister said.Sarma said that Ratan Tata played an instrumental role in setting up Tata's Semiconductor facility in Jagiroad and creating several employment opportunities for our youth. "For me, it's a personal loss," he said."My every interaction with him left me wiser, the most recent being when I visited him in Mumbai to thank him for the Semiconductor project and having faith in Assam's abilities as an industrial base.

Ahead Of Polls, Maharashtra Government's Big SC-OBC Outreach

Mumbai: Hoping to repeat the BJP's success in Haryana, the ruling BJP-Shiv Sena-NCP coalition in Maharashtra, which is seen as facing an uphill battle in the Assembly polls expected to be held later this year, has reached out to two key groups – the Scheduled Castes (SC) and Other Backward Classes (OBCs).On Thursday, the Maharashtra cabinet took several key decisions, including approving an ordinance giving constitutional status to the state



Scheduled Caste Commission and giving its nod to a proposal urging the Centre to hike the income criterion for inclusion in the creamy layer among OBCs from ? 8 lakh a year to ? 15 lakh.A statement from the office of Maharashtra Chief Minister Eknath Shinde said the cabinet approved a draft ordinance to accord constitutional status to the Maharashtra State Scheduled Caste Commission. The ordinance, the statement said, would be tabled in the next session of the state legislature and added that 27 posts had been approved for the panel.A proposal to request the Union government to increase the income limit for inclusion in the 'creamy layer' category to ? 15 lakh per year from the current ? 8 lakh was also passed.A non-creamy layer certificate, stating that the family income of a person is below the prescribed limit, is needed to get reservation benefits in the OBC category.

NC Chooses Omar Abdullah As Leader, Set To Be New CM Of J&K

Srinagar: National Conference (NC) Vice President Omar Abdullah is set to be the new Chief Minister of Jammu and Kashmir after being unanimously elected as the leader of the legislature party.The decision to elect Omar Abdullah as the leader was taken in a meeting held at the NC headquarters at the 'Nawa-e-Subha' complex in Srinagar city on Thursday. And the party will soon stake its claim to the UT's top post.NC President Dr Farooq Abdullah, Vice President Omar Abdullah, senior leaders of the party and recently elected MLAs were present in the meeting.Farooq Abdullah had already told the media immediately after the election results for the J&K Legislative Assembly were announced by the Election Commission of India (ECI) that Omar Abdullah would be the new chief minister of J&K.Omar has told some reporters that the Assembly election results proved that the majority of people in J&K have not endorsed the revocation of J&K's special status.He said that had the people endorsed the revocation then the BJP and not the NC-Congress alliance would have got a majority in the Assembly polls.The NC Vice President said on Wednesday that the first business of the J&K cabinet would be to pass a resolution for the restoration of statehood. "It should be the first business of the cabinet to pass a resolution asking the Centre to restore statehood to J&K. The Chief Minister should then travel to Delhi with the resolution and ask the government to restore our statehood."He said this was promised by the Prime Minister, Home Minister and others.

28 Killed In Israeli Airstrike On School In Gaza

Gaza: At least 28 Palestinians were killed and more than 54 others injured on Thursday afternoon in an Israeli airstrike on a school sheltering displaced persons in the Gaza Strip, said the Palestinian Health Ministry.The Palestine Red Crescent Society (PRCS) said on social media platform X that its teams responded to the casualties following the Israeli army's targeting of Rafida School located near the PRCS headquarters in the city of Deir al-Balah.Medics said ambulance crews and the civil defence



apparatus recovered the dead bodies, including children and women, some of whom were dismembered, Xinhua news agency reported.Meanwhile, the Israeli military said Thursday in a statement that it carried out a "precise strike" targeting militants inside "a command and control centre" in the compound of the Rafida School in Deir al-Balah.The centre was used "to plan and execute terrorist attacks against IDF (Israel Defense Forces) troops and the State of Israel," the military said."Numerous steps were taken to mitigate the risk of harming civilians, including the use of precise munitions, aerial surveillance, and additional intelligence (before the strike)," it said, accusing Hamas of operating from within the civilian population.
The conflict in Gaza, sparked by a Hamas attack on Israel on October 7, 2023, that left about 1,200 people dead and around 250 taken hostage, has now entered its second year.In response, ongoing Israeli military operations in Gaza have caused 42,065 deaths and 97,886 injuries, according to figures released by Gaza-based health authorities on Thursday.

More Than 85pc Of Blindness In India Is Preventable: Experts

New Delhi: While India has the maximum number of blind people in the world, most do not know that in more than 85 per cent of the cases, the condition is preventable, said experts on Thursday on World Sight Day.India is home to an estimated 34 million people living with blindness or moderate or severe visual impairment (MSVI)."Nearly 85 per cent of blindness in the world is avoidable which can either be preventable or treatable," Dr. Rajesh Sinha, Professor, Dept. of Ophthalmology, AIIMS New Delhi said.The expert called the need for public awareness so that a majority of people in the society who may become blind due to ignorance maintain their sight for life."Ocular causes of preventable blindness can be infections, vitamin A deficiency while causes of treatable blindness can be cataract, uncorrected refractive error, diabetic retinopathy," Sinha said.According to the National Blindness and Visual Impairment Survey, cataract is the leading cause of blindness, accounting for 66.2 per cent of all cases of blindness in India.

PM Modi Meets New Japanese PM In Laos, Reaffirms Commitment To Strengthen Ties

Vientiane: Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Thursday held bilateral meetings with his counterparts from Japan and New Zealand on the sidelines of the ASEAN-India Summit in Laos.The newly-appointed Japanese Prime Minister Shigeru Ishiba from the ruling Liberal Democratic Party (LDP) had recently succeeded Fumio Kishida in a parliamentary vote on October 1.Prime Minister Modi congratulated Ishiba on his new responsibility and wished him success in leading Japan to greater heights. He also underscored that India will continue to accord the highest priority to its ties with Japan, a trusted friend and strategic partner."The two leaders reaffirmed their commitment to further strengthening India-Japan Special Strategic and Global Partnership through enhanced cooperation in a wide range of areas including trade and investment, infrastructure development, defense and security, semiconductors, skilling, culture and people to people exchanges," read a statement issued by the Prime Minister's Office (PMO) after the meeting."Both leaders emphasised that India and Japan are indispensable partners for a peaceful, safe, and prosperous Indo-Pacific region and renewed their commitment to working together to achieve this goal. The two leaders looked forward to the next India-Japan annual summit," it added.Ishiba, who has visited India earlier, mentioned that, thanks to the efforts of Prime Minister Modi and other relevant parties in both countries, Japan-India relations have progressed dramatically, and that he hopes to further develop Japan-India relations under the 'Special Strategic and Global Partnership'."

Odisha CM Mohan Majhi, LoP Naveen Patnaik Mourn Ratan Tata's Demise

Bhubaneswar(AoBureau): A host of leaders from across the political spectrum in Odisha expressed deep grief over the demise of industry icon Ratan Tata.Chief Minister Mohan Majhi has expressed condolences on the death of the Chairman Emeritus of Tata Sons, terming him as an 'industry legend and a true national icon'."Deeply saddened by the passing of Ratan Tata Ji, an industry legend and a true national icon. His visionary leadership, unwavering commitment to ethics and immense contributions to India's growth will inspire generations to come. My heartfelt



condolences to his family and loved ones. His legacy will live on forever," Majhi wrote on 'X'.Leader of Opposition Naveen Patnaik also mourned Tata's death, describing him as 'a shining beacon of India's entrepreneurial spirit'."Deeply saddened to learn about the passing away of visionary industrialist, philanthropist RatanTata. He was a shining beacon of India's entrepreneurial spirit. He has left an indelible legacy in the business landscape across the world which will inspire future generations. My thoughts and prayers are with the bereaved family, friends and followers in the hour of grief. OmShanti", Patnaik posted on his 'X' handle.Odisha Assembly Speaker Surama Padhy mentioned on her micro-blogging site that late Tata was a pathfinder for Indian society."Shri Ratan Tata Ji was a Social activist, nationalist, Industrialist and path-finder for Indian society. His absence is really a huge loss for our Nation. Praying before Mahaprabhu Shri Jagannath bless his immortal soul and deepest condolences to his family," Padhy wrote on 'X'.Terming Tata as a man with a golden heart, Union Education Minister Dharmendra Pradhan stated that Ratan Tata belonged to a rare breed of business leaders who was always passionate about giving back to society."A titan of India Inc. bids adieu! India Inc. is left poorer today with the passing of Shri #RatanTata. A man with a golden eart, he will be remembered for his philanthropic works and towering contributions to the world of business and enterprise. He belonged to a rare breed of business leaders who was always passionate about giving back to society. He will remain an inspiration to millions around the world. Sincere condolences. My thoughts and prayers are with his family, friends and admirers in this hour of grief. Om Shanti!," Pradhan mentioned on 'X'.Deputy Chief Minister KV Singh Deo Described the industry doyen as 'a paragon of integrity'."Time has stilled, and a Titan has departed. RatanTata, a paragon of integrity, ethical leadership, and philanthropy, has etched an indelible legacy upon the world of business and far beyond. His memory shall eternally ascend, a beacon of inspiration for generations to come", Singh Deo stated on his 'X' handle.

Odisha To Complete e-KYC For Ration Cards In 15-20 Days, Says Minister

Bhubaneswar(AoBureau): The e-KYC verification process for ration cards in Odisha is expected to be completed within the next 15-20 days, according to Food Supplies and Consumer Welfare Minister Krushna Chandra Patra.As part of an ongoing initiative, over 2.30 crore verifications have already been completed, with approximately one crore remaining. Once



the process is finalized, new ration cards will be issued to eligible beneficiaries, Patra said.Minister Patra emphasized that the completion of the e-KYC will help identify and remove ineligible persons from the list of beneficiaries.He also expressed gratitude to Prime Minister Narendra Modi for the Centre's decision to continue the supply of free fortified rice under the Pradhan Mantri Garib Kalyan Anna Yojana (PMGKAY) until 2028.The Odisha government, following the Centre's decision, will also extend the supply of free fortified rice under its own scheme.

Tata Steel's FAMD Holds Homage Ceremony for Padma Vibhushan Ratan N Tata

Bhubaneswar, (AoBureau): In a heartfelt tribute to one of India's most revered industrialists, Tata Steel's Ferro Alloys and Minerals Division (FAMD) organised a solemn homage ceremony on Thursday to honour the legacy of Padma Vibhushan Ratan N. Tata, who passed away on October 9, 2024.



The ceremony took place across all the operational locations of FAMD in Odisha and West Bengal. Pankaj Satija, Executive-In-Charge, FAMDalong withPranav Kumar Jha, Chief Financial Controller, BD Nanda, Chief-Operations (Ferro Alloys Plant Jajpur, Ferro Alloys Plant Gopalpur, Ferro Alloys Plant Athagarh and Stainless-Steel Plant Bishnupur), Amit Choubey, Chief Logistics and other officials of FAMD paid their respects to Ratan N. Tata at FAMD's head office in Bhubaneswar. Similar ceremonies were organised across all other locations of the Division where respective heads, employees and workers paid tribute to Tata for his monumental contributions to the nation.Ratan Tata who was the Chairman Emeritus of Tata Sons, was not just a visionary leader but also a philanthropist whose impact extended far beyond the corporate world. Under his stewardship, Tata group expanded into various sectors, including steel, automobiles, and information technology, playing a pivotal role in shaping India's industrial landscape. Ratan Tata was committed to ethical business practices, innovation, and social responsibility. His initiatives in education, healthcare, and rural development have transformed countless lives across the country. The establishment of the Tata Trusts, which focus on areas like health, education, and livelihood, exemplifies his dedication to nation-building. As FAMD moves forward, it remains committed to honouring Ratan Tata's vision by continuing to prioritise ethical practices, community development, and sustainable growth.

SCB Data Entry Operator Arrested By Vigilance For Taking Bribe From Patient's Attendant

Bhubaneswar (AoBureau): Vigilance sleuths apprehended a Data Entry Operator (DEO) at SCB Medical College and Hospital in Cuttack for accepting bribe from a patient's attendant to give medicine.DEO Smruti Ranjan Sahoo at the Department of Hepatology was caught red-handed while accepting a bribe of Rs. 2,000 from the son of a poor patient undergoing treatment for Hepatitis.Sahoo demanded the bribe in



exchange for issuing prescribed medicines, which were distributed free of cost by the government. When the complainant refused to pay, Sahoo denied providing the medicines, prompting the complainant to report the matter to the Vigilance.The vigilance laid a trap and caught Sahoo while accepting the illegal gratification. The entire bribe money has been recovered and seized. Searches are currently underway at two locations linked to Sahoo to investigate disproportionate assets.Cuttack Vigilance registered a case under Section 7 of the Prevention of Corruption (Amendment) Act, 2018.

Former MLA Prakash Behera Quits BJD

Bhubaneswar(AoBureau): Former MLA Prakash Behera resigned from the primary membership of Biju Janata Dal (BJD) on Thursday.Behera sent his resignation letter to BJD president Naveen Patnaik.



Behera had contested on a BJD ticket from Cuttack Barabati Assembly constituency during the last general elections.He had joined the BJD after quitting BJP in April this year and was given a ticket by the BJD to contest from Cuttack Barabati Assembly seat.Behera had successfully contested the 2014 Assembly polls from Salipur constituency on Congress ticket.In 2019, he left Congress and joined the BJP.He also contested from the very constituency that year on BJP ticket but lost to BJD's Prashant Behera.

1 Killed, 2 Others Critical After Roof Of Under-Construction Building Collapses

Dhenkanal: In a tragic incident, a labourer died after the roof of an under-construction hotel building collapsed at Mahispat in Dhenkanal on Wednesday. Four others were feared trapped under the debris,According to reports, 10 labourers were engaged in the construction of the five-storeyed building for the construction of the portico roof. The labourers were putting the concrete mixture at a height of around 40 feet.Shuttering which provides support to the wet concrete broke down while the labourers were busy working.While some of them survived the accident with minor injuries, one died under the debris. Similarly, another labourer lost his hand with critical injuries on the body. A labourer also suffered a fracture in hand.

OSSC Aspirants Stage Protest in Cuttack by Making Paper Boats with Admit Cards & Floating in River

Cuttack(AoBureau): Job candidates who applied for the Revenue Inspector (RI) and Amin positions demonstrated in Cuttack on Thursday, demanding the cancellation of the exams conducted by the Odisha Staff Selection Commission (OSSC).Accusing the OSSC of irregularities in the online exams recently held, the candidates escalated their protest by turning their admit cards for the RI and Amin exams into paper boats.RI, Amin Aspirants Stage Protest In Front Of Odisha Minister's Residence Over Irregularities



These paper boats were then set afloat in the Kathajodi River near the Cuttack Netaji Bus Terminal (CNBT).In protest, examinees have called for the cancellation of the examination. Recently, they demonstrated in front of the District Collector's office, urging the state government to immediately cancel the exam.The candidates are questioning why a blacklisted organization was tasked with conducting the exam. Allegations of irregularities in the RI and Amin examination, which commenced on September 30, have surfaced.It is claimed that the Group-C job examination was held in a cyber cafe owned by a private company in the Bhubaneswar area, while OSSSC conducted the examination centres for RI, ARI, ICDS Supervisor, and Amin. There was also commotion due to the delayed start of the exam. Examinees have accused OSSSC of conducting the exam in a cyber cafe, noting that there was a hotel beneath the examination centre where individuals were entering without ID cards, leading to allegations of a lack of transparency in the examination process.

Sudarsan Pattnaik Pays Tribute to Ratan Tata with Sand Art on Puri Beach

Puri(AoBureau): Acclaimed sand artist Sudarsan Pattnaik paid tribute to Veteran industrialist and philanthropist Ratan Tata with his sand art on Puri beach on Thursday.A Padma Vibhushan recipient, the former chairman of Tata Sons passed away on Wednesday night at the age of 86.Tata was admitted to the Breach Candy Hospital in south Mumbai on Monday (October 7, 2024) owing to age-related issues and to control his blood pressure.Tributes



poured in from across the country, following Tata's death. Prime Minister Narendra Modi condoled his death, calling him a "visionary business leader, compassionate soul and an extraordinary human being".Maharashtra Chief Minister Eknath Shinde said industrialist Ratan Tata will be accorded a state funeral.

City Cops Brace For Hassle-Free Puja & Immersion Fest

Cuttack: The Commissionerate Police today held a preparatory meeting for the Durga Puja and immersion festival at Jawahar Lal Nehru Indore Stadium in Cuttack in the presence of all the senior police officers.The meeting was presided over by twin city police commissioner S. Dev Datta Singh in the presence of DCP Jagmohan Meena.

The meeting emphasised on liquor-free and disciplined immersion festival. The Commissioner of Police said that Police Mitra will be deployed for the first time in the immersion ceremony. Police Mitra has been appointed in 174 mandaps in the city. As many as 300 Police



Mitra will be appointed. Two police Mitras will be deployed at each Mandap.The meeting focused on traffic management during Puja.This year, 70 platoons of police force and more than 200 police officers have been deployed in Cuttack city for Durga Puja and immersion of idols. 24-hour control rooms will be opened at various places in the city and CCTV cameras have been installed in various mandas to keep a watch on anti-social elements.

EDITORIAL

Let's live a happier life in gratitude

Our well-being in testing times is linked to both physical and mental health. Greater happiness is now needed more than ever before and that is precisely the reason why we should start our day by thanking existence for this priceless gift called life. When we look at the trees, mountains, rivers, the whole of nature outside of our home, one thing in common is that all seem to be full of life, yet as though in deep, silent prayer. We feel speechless, with a deep sense of gratitude. Prayer exists in the inner realm, at the very core of our centre. Researchers are now discovering that the sense of gratefulness not only has a profound impact on our overall health; it also helps in reducing depression, anxiety and in treating sleep disorders.

Krishna in the Bhagwad Gita said to Arjuna, "Tam eva sharanam gachchha sarvabhavena bharata, Tat-prasadat param shantim sthanam prapsyasi shashvatam" – Hey Arjuna, your whole being needs to surrender for the gift of peace, happiness and that eternal abode. The surrender Krishna is talking about is deep gratitude towards existence, towards life and all the other valuable things it has given us.

When we thank the trees for the breeze in the morning, it becomes prayer and our being turns into pure gratitude. When we see misery, pain and suffering today, we should try helping someone who needs help. This action could bring joy to someone. Just like existence, we have many things in abundance and a sense of thankfulness can change our life. Osho observed that gratitude arises, whenever we start feeling God's presence all around, and that moment transforms our whole energy into gratitude and our whole being becomes a thanksgiving.

We should never think about existence's gift to us in terms of quantity – big or small. Sant Kabir said, "Tinka kabhu na nindiye" – We should not even show disrespect to a speck of dust. This is a deep message that everything around has its own value. We need to acknowledge that everything existence is offering us has the potential to bring harmony and balance in life. Gratefulness is true communion with existence and perhaps the only fragrance of the heart. We should be grateful for breathing, for being helped, and for the abundance. Let this feeling of deep gratitude become our intrinsic nature. And, slowly we will realise that all our complaints simply disappear, leaving us in an ocean of joy, celebration and total bliss.Each day of the Navratri is dedicated to an incarnation of Maa Durga.

The Hidden legends of Durga Puja from Ramayana, Mahabharat

Durga Puja or Navratri is an integral part of the Hindu culture in India. Celebrated in between September to November throughout the country, the puja is considered to be most complex and difficult puja out of all Hindu ceremonies. It is a 9-day long affaie in which the Goddess of Power 'Maa Durga is worshipped in 9 different forms namely Shailputri, Brahmacharini, Chandraghanta, Kushmanda, Skandamata, Katyayani, Kalatri, Mahagauri and Siddhidatri. It is said that worshipping Goddess Durga with full devotion brings success, luck, health and prosperity to one's family. There are also several legends and stories associated with the puja.

An interesting story associated with Navratri is of Kautsa, the young son of Devdatt. It is said that after completion of his studies he insisted on his guru Varatantu to accept 'gurudakshina'. After lot of request, his guru finally asked for 14 crore gold coins, one crore for each of the 14 sciences he taught him. Kautsa then went to king Raghuraj, the ancestor of Rama who was known for his generosity, but just at that time he had emptied all him

Dr. Dillip Kumar Moharana

money bins on the Brahmins. So, Raghuraj went to Lord Indra and asked for some gold coins. Indra in return asked Kuber, the god of wealth to make rainfall of gold coins on 'Shanu' and 'Apati' trees around Raghuraja's city of Ayodhya. So, Raghu was able to fulfill his promise to Kautsa. The significance of Durga Puja has also been inscribed in the great Hindu epic 'Ramayana'. It is said that Rama before going on a war with Raavan did chandi-puja and invoked the blessings of Durga so that he could become invincible. Durga then divulged the secret to Rama how he could kill Raavan. Appropriately, Rama killed Raavan on Vijaya Dashmi.

Godess Durga is considered to be a united front for all divine forces against the evil and wickedness existing in the society. It is said that whenever the evil would upsurge on earth, the gods will unite to eliminate those forces and establish a kingdom of peace and prosperity. Likewise, when the terror of the buffalo headed Mahisasur took a toll on the life of poor and innocent devotees of the gods, the gods in heaven decided to create an all-powerful being to kill Mahisasur. As Mahisasur was destined to be killed by only a woman, Brahma, Vishnu and Mahesh created a beautiful woman with ten hands. All the other gods then furnished her with their powers and special weapons. She was then named Durga. She fought against Mahisasur for 9 days (Navratri) and finally killed him on the 10th day of Vijaya Dashmi. Another story of Navratri has been taken from the great epic Mahabharata. It is said that on the occasion of Vijaya Dashmi, the Pandavas declared their true identity after spending their last year of exile in disguise. They brought down the weapons from the Shami tree which they had hung over there before entering the palace of King Virat. It is said that since then the exchange of Shami leaves on the Vijaya Dashmi day became symbol of good, will and victory.

Why listening is more than an art ?

en, we would not have been able to respond to the world around us. From the early morning call of the birds and the hum of bees, to the sound of horns and passing traffic, we are daily taking in sounds that surround us. Yet, we are not fully conscious of these sounds; they remain in the background of our minds. So it is with conversations. As we grow up and develop personalities of our own, we tend to talk more than we listen. We want to be listened to, but will not make the effort to listen to others. That is why there is so much miscommunication in the world.

We can learn from those who exercise the power of listening. When others listen to us, they make us feel secure, validated and understood. They accept us the way we are. They make us feel loved and appreciated. Often, we pre-programme our replies, because we have not paused to really listen to the other. Sometimes, we have two or more

Dr. Suresh Kumar Nayak

people who are really shouting out their inner convictions and pre-judged opinions and conclusions at each other, as happens on TV debates. On the other hand, there are good programmes in which the anchor draws out the other by taking time to listen to what they really say.When listening is face-to-face, it is important to not only listen to the conversation others are making with us, but also to listen to all the non-verbal communication of others. Sometimes, the facial expressions and body language of the other may contradict what the person is saying. In a telephone conversation, we could pick up not only from the tone of voice of the other or the volume with which they speak, but also sense whether the conversation is laced with care, concern and openness or whether it is laced with hostility or indifference. The American psychiatrist Karl A Menninger called listening "a magnetic and strange thing, a creative force". He said, "The friends who listen to us are the ones we move towards. When we are listened to, it creates us, makes us unfold and expand." When we listen to others, we show them respect. When students really listen to their teachers, they are not only showing due respect to them for their knowledge and skills, but also respecting them as persons. Listening also has a healing quality to it. Illness and trauma can be cured when others listen to our stories. The priest and author, Henri Nouwen said, "Somewhere we know that without silence, words lose their meaning; that without listening, speaking no longer heals; that without distance, closeness cannot cure." The ability to listen is an essential part of our beings. We can become trained listeners. That is an art we can cultivate. More than what we say during the course of a day, what we listen to is from where our learning begins.

Is Observing A Day For Older Persons Sufficient ?

There is a section of our society whose many members spend a lifetime establishing themselves in the society through their ability, intelligence, conscience, time and dedication, while sharing in the happiness and sorrows of those around them. Let 's take a view on an individual case. Everything goes well until he or she is at work. He or she wants to be more self-sufficient, but is slave to the circumstances and sometimes ,seeks the help and cooperation of others. As he or she grows older, the lion's share of his or her life is distributed in the family, social and national collective activities assigned to him or her.

He or she finds joy in giving satisfaction to others in a bid to make the most out of life's precious moments. Sometimes ,he or she succeeds and sometimes, success eludes him or her, but he or she feels that he or she has fulfilled his or her duty pretty well, fulfilling the great purpose of creation. As time passes and he or she reaches old age, it is as if everything turns upside down. There begins a gap in the generation, he or she enters into another class whose name is 'old age'. Suddenly, much pains, much tormentations surface.

A chronic condition with old age makes it unbearable, very painful.The Elderly Day is being observed every year to sympathise with the said elderly people by measuring their attitude and many problems arising before them. In this backdrop is the write -up .

October 1st every year is being observed as the International Day of Older Persons. The

Sanjib Kumar Das



day was first observed in 1991 in accordance with UN Resolution 45/106. Initiatives such as the Vienna International Plan of Action on Aging, which was adopted by the World Assembly on Aging in 1982 and supported by the United Nations, have helped happen this day .

This observance ,in the 34th year in 2024 is considered one of the focal points of the Organization on Aging and the United Nations Program on Aging.

According to one statistic, the number of elderly people (defined as those aged 65 or older) increased from about 260 million in 1980 to 761 million in 2021. Between 2021 and 2050, the elderly population is estimated to increase from 10% to about 17% world-wide,it is estimated Therefore, due to the rapid growth in the number of people reaching the mentioned older ages, it is only natural that the importance of health care, disease prevention and treatment of diseases throughout the life course will increase.

The United Nations Council's position is clear in this regard. The Council's observations at present state that the increase in the number of educated adults is a major trend in the world. Life expectancy at birth is now more than 75 years in half of the world's countries, which is 25 years higher than in 1950. It is estimated that by 2030, older people will outnumber young people worldwide, and this number will increase rapidly, especially in developing countries. These demographic changes have therefore significantly altered the caregiving landscape, incorporating a wide variety of needs for both paid and unpaid support in formal and non-formal settings. With the growth of this population, the demand for comprehensive health care, caregiving processes and social support services has increased significantly, especially for older people with conditions such as dementia .

In view of the ever-increasing number of elderly individuals in society, it is imperative to support them. Guiding those who have functional capacity is essential. Supportive environments play an important role in helping older adults maintain their activity levels and independence in a systematic way.

In previous years, the annual theme of the day has focused on a number of important themes, namely, Society For People Of All Ages;

Older Persons In An Intergenerational Society, Aging In The New Millennium:

Addressing The Challenges And Opportunities Of Aging, Improving The Quality Of Life Of Oolder Persons;

Older Persons' Rights, Longevity: Shaping The Future,

The Future We Want: What Older People Are Saying,

Sustainability and Age Inclusion in Urban Environments, Stepping into the Future: Promoting The Talents, Contributions And Participation Of Older Persons In Society,

Age Equality Journey,

Epidemics: How They Face Age And Aging

Digital Equity For All, Resilience Of Older Persons In A Changing World, Fulfilling The Promise of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights for Older Persons etc.

Recognizing the above multifaceted challenges and opportunities, the 34th edition of the United Nations International Day of Older Persons 2024 has the message "Ageing with Dignity: The Importance of Strengthening Care and Support Systems for Older Persons Worldwide".

In some cases, many people from this category are living in financial stress while some are victims of violence and death due to lack of security. It is the duty and responsibility of all of us to assist this group of citizens in the society to grow up with dignity.

The central and the state governments are taking many steps, which are welcome. The question however, arises, are they adequate?

It needs to be resolved in right earnest ,honouring their social commitment in the past, that it is high time that the society gave them justice they truly deserve.

Death of Eminent Sculptor Dillip Rana



SUBARNAPUR (AoBureau) -- Sonepur Pottery Sculptor Dillip Rana has passed away at the age of 45 years.However, it is known that he passed away at 12:00 on Wednesday due to a heart attack. Dillip was the youngest son of international sculptor Loknath Rana. Just as his father showed the magic of his sculpture art in Denmark, Sweden and other countries. Son Dillip followed in his father's footsteps and always tried to do something new in the art of pottery. Dillip has been promoted by many national and state institutions. He was a sculptor trained in ceramic art at the National Institute of Ceramics in Bhadravati, Maharashtra. After attending a national seminar held in Mahisur, Dillip returned to his native Sonepur at 9 pm on Wednesday with his elder brother Anant. However, due to a heart attack at 11:00 PM,Dillip was admitted to the Subarnapur district head quarter hospital by his colleagues, but he died at 12:00 PM. The death of Dillip cast a shadow of mourning in Subarnapur district. As he has an 8-year-old daughter and a 4-year-old son, the government has demanded financial assistance from the district artists' association to provide financial assistance to Dillip's family.

International Girl Child Day Observed in Kendrapara



Kendrapara (AO Bureau): Kendrapara District social welfare department observed four days International Girl Child Day in various aspects. In this regard district level alertness programme observed in Kendrapara block conference hall on Wednesday in chairmanship of district social welfare officer Manorama Swain. Atrocities against girl child, identification against sex birth and bring financial equality among girls for prosperous India took oath among the participants. At the end of the observation the award distribution held among the participants in various competitions. Kendrapara block development officer Chandan Khatua presented the award.

300 bottles of Ginger liquor seized in Banpur , One arrested



Khordha,(AoBureau):The new Khordha SP Sagarika Nath has taken various steps to stop the drug trade in the district. On Thursday, Banpur police raided Damia Barbara area and seized a huge quantity of ginger liquor bottles and arrested an accused. The accused has been identified as Surendra Sabar (42) of Mandar village. As per the information, on the instructions of Balugaon SDPO, Banpur IIC Ramesh Kumar Debata formed a team and raided the place after receiving the news of illegal ginger trade in the area. During the raid, 300 bottles of ginger liquor and 10 liters of ID liquor were seized from the accused.

New Khordha SP visits Banpur & Balugaon PS area



Khordha (AoBureau):On Thursday, new Khordha SP Sagarika Nath visited Banpur and police station. She first went to Maa Bhagabati Temple and offered prayers to the goddess. She spent some time there and supervised the security of the temple.The SP inquired from the local police about the measures taken in this regard to emphasize the disciplined darshan of the devotees in the temple during Dussehra Puja.Later, the SP went to Banpur and Balugaon police station and reviewed the law and order and traffic situation of the both PS area. She advised the officers on quick registration of complaints of citizens coming to the police stations , good behaviour , speedy services to senior citizens and women. Balugaon SDPO, Banpur IIC and Balugaon IIC were present during the visit of new SP Mrs. Nath.

Two Bike Rides Died As Oil Tanker Hits On NH-53

Kendrapara (AoBureau): Two persons died in a road accident near Alabanka Chhak of Chandikhole-Paradeep national highway NH-53 in kendrapara district today. The deceased are identified as forty years old Ajay Das of Chandbali and thirty six years old Bhavani Mahapatra of Pradeep Kujanga area. Both went towards Chandikhole in a bike in the morning and coming opposite side oil tanker OD 15N 8834 Hits them. Local people rescued and shifted them to nearest Chhata Medical where doctor declared them dead. Local Public blocked the road more than hours due to the absence of police for the long time. Both deceased were outside of the district. Derabish police registered a case and ceased the tanker from the spot.

Couple Die By Suicide Over Family Dispute In Koraput

Koraput(AoBureau): In a tragic incident, a couple died by suicide at Bamuniput village under Jeypore Sadar police limits in Koraput district on Thursday allegedly following a family dispute.The deceased have been identified as Suman Saura and his wife Sumitra Saura.According to the police, Suman and Sumitra had a spat in the morning today. Following the spat Suman hanged himself using a saree. On noticing this Sumitra too hanged herself using a stole.

Jeypore Sadar police on receiving information about the incident at around 11.00 AM rushed to the spot. Jeypore Sadar IIC Iswar Tandi has launched an investigation into the incident with the help of scientific team. Both the bodies have been seized by the police for conduct of post mortem.Preliminary investigation by the police suggests that the suicides were fallout of a family dispute.

Sister's Observes 'Bhai Jiuntia' During Dussehra



Kantabanji, AO Bureau : The 'Bhai Jiuntia' celebration is a common religious tradition in Kantabanji and other western parts of the State which is observed during Dussehra festival symbolizing the bond between sisters and brothers.

A unique tradition involving the celebration is seen in Kantabanji , The significance of the fete is that women, both married and unmarried observe fast on Mahastami day, praying to Goddess Durga for long life, happiness and prosperity of their brothers.As the married women visit their paternal house to observe the festival, in the same way, Devi Durga also visits her father's place for the purpose.

World Mental Health Day Observed



SUBARNAPUR (AoBureau): World Mental Health Day was observed at Subarnapur district Birmaharajpur Panchayat Samiti confrence hall with the support of Basic Need India from RARE Sonepur. Dr. Swarup Behera, a doctor of Birmaharajpur sub-divisional hospital was the chief guest in the program. Basic Need India was the guest of honor State coordinator Rajib Karmi, Abhinash Padhan from Birmaharajpur police station, RARE co-founder Ambuj Bihari Satpathy,RARE general secretary Anang Negi highlighted the purpose of the day. In the beginning, project coordinator Bisambar Sahu gave a presentation on the status of mentally ill people in Birmaharajpur block area. The program was attended by mentally ill persons, members of family support groups, volunteers of RARE members of local voluntary organization SIYA, caregivers of mentally ill persons. Finally field assistant Mitrabhanu Mallik gave vote of thanks while Abani Satpathy , Sudam Gaigaria contributed. An awareness rally took place around the town on the occasion.

Miscreant Injured in Police Encounter in Sambalpur Days After Attacking Cop

Sambalpur(AoBureau): A miscreant, who had allegedly attacked and injured a police constable, sustained injuries in a police encounter in a forest near Burla in Odisha's Sambalpur district, today.Kamalu Pradhan, the man who hacked the police constable's palm six days ago, sustained bullet injuries to his right leg and was admitted to VIMSAR in Burla for treatment.The encounter occurred in the Katapali forest, where Pradhan had been hiding since the attack. Acting on a tip-off, police launched a raid to apprehend him. During the operation, Pradhan attacked the police team with the same sharp weapon he had used to injure the constable."After receiving information about his location in Katapali forest, a team led by Burla IIC raided the area. When they attempted to capture him, he assaulted the team, injuring Sub-Inspector Debashis Khilar.

WORLD MENTAL HEALTH DAY OBSERVED AT SUM PHULNAKHARA CAMPUS

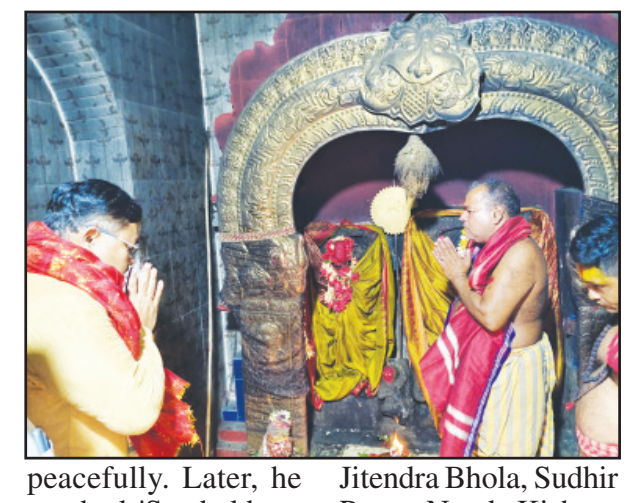


Bhubaneswar, (AoBureau): The subject of workplace environment and its effect on mental health figured at a special program organised at the Institute of Medical Sciences and SUM Hospital's Campus 2 at Phulnakhara on the occasion of 'World Mental Health Day' on Wednesday.

Eminent psychiatrist and Advisor to the state government on mental health, Prof. Neelmadhav Rath, who attended the event as the chief guest, spoke on the need to promote positive mental health in various situations.He elaborated on the various aspects of this year's theme for the day -'It's time to prioritise mental health in the workplace.'Prof. (Dr.) Prasenjit Mohanty, Pro-Vice Chancellor, Prof. (Dr.) Arakhita Swain, Dean of the institute and Dr. Siddharth Goutam, Assistant Medical Superintendent, underlined the need for maintenance of a cordial and stress free environment at the workplace for promotion of mental health.

The hospital's Department of Psychiatry also organised an awareness program in which the department's Professor and Head Dr. Bhabani Sankar Shit, Assistant Professors Dr. Abhishek Samal, Dr. Saiprasad Ray, Dr. Sujata Sahoo, Dr. Gyandendra Raghuvanshi, Dr. Sucharita Mishra and Senior Resident Dr. Sumaila Asif discussed different facts and myths about mental health issues at workplace and focused on positive mental health practices to lead a healthy and productive life.

Law Minister Visits Maa Bhagabati Temple ahead of Dussehra



Khordha (AoBureau):Odisha Law Minister Prithiviraj Harichandan visited the famous Shaktipeetha Maa Bhagabati temple in Banpur on Thursday, on the occasion of the holy Maha Ashtami. Minister Shri Harichandan was given a grand welcome by party activists and public in front of the temple. On the same occasion, the minister discussed the improvement of the temple with the sebayats. The minister emphasized on how the Dussehra festival of goddess would end peacefully. Later, he reached 'Satabakhara ghara' and worshipped the deity there. Banpur Block Chairman Amarendra Ranasingh, Chilika Block Chairman Jyotsna Behera, organiser Jitendra Bhola, Sudhir Patra , Nanda Kishore Mishra, Rabinarayan Mishra, BJP councilor Sasmita Prusty , Sanjay Supakar were prominently present during the minister's visit.

Similipal Tiger Reserve Reopens for Tourists After Four-Month Hiatus

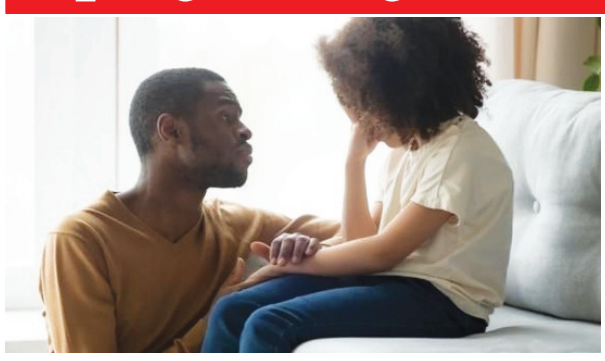
Mayurbhanj(AoBureau): The Similipal Tiger Reserve in the Mayurbhanj district of Odisha welcomed visitors again on Thursday after a four-month closure.Similipal offers a rare chance to discover one of India's most biodiverse national parks, housing Bengal tigers, elephants, leopards, and a plethora of over 200 bird species. It stands as an ideal spot for wildlife aficionados and nature admirers.According to reports, Similipal Tiger Reserve authorities greeted tourists at the Pithabata gate in Baripada and at Kuliani in Jashipur. From 6 am to 9 am, 35 four-wheelers are permitted to enter the forest via the Kuliani gate in Jashipur, and 25 vehicles through the Pithabata Gate in Baripada. Visitors can obtain entry permits at the booking counters located at both gates. The entry fee has been set at Rs 100 per visitor.To maintain the cleanliness of the sanctuary, bans have been placed on plastic items, drugs, non-vegetarian food, and combustible materials. Tourists are encouraged to book in advance on the website (www.ecotourism.com) for overnight accommodations in Similipal's guest houses.Typically, tourist entry to the reserve forest is barred from mid-June each year due to the monsoon season disrupting road access within the sanctuary. The national park, a prominent Odisha tourist attraction, generally reopens in the first week of November. This reopening schedule coincides with the Durga Puja holiday, allowing visitors to revel in the natural splendour of Similipal, especially when the waterfalls and streams are brimming.Sources indicate that the sanctuary saw a decline in visitor numbers in the 2023-24 fiscal year.

Amitabh Bachchan Reveals How His Film 'Sharaabi' Was Conceived Mid-Flight

Veteran Bollywood megastar Amitabh Bachchan, who will soon turn 82, has shared an interesting anecdote around his film 'Sharaabi'.The senior actor made the revelation during the latest episode of his quiz based reality show 'Kaun Banega Crorepati 16', as he welcomed contestant Dinesh Kumar, from Aligarh to the hot seat.As the game unfolded, Big B posed a question related to the 1984 classic 'Sharaabi', which led to a fascinating behind-the-scenes story.The veteran actor said, "We were travelling to the West Indies from New York, with Kalyanji-Anandji's orchestra, and Prakash Mehra was with us. During the flight, Prakash Ji brought up the idea for Sharaabi. He outlined the entire story while we were in mid-air and asked for my thoughts. I simply said, 'Okay, let's think about it'. When we returned, he had already written the script. However, the dialogues were incredibly long—some spanning 2-3 pages".This ignited the curiosity of Dinesh with regards to the shooting of the film. As he asked more questions, Big B, in his signature style, said, "Nahi, nahi, suniye toh… Abhi kahani khatam nahi hui (hold on, the story is not yet finished)".He then recollected telling director Prakash Mehra, "You made me an alcoholic for the whole movie, and it takes time for an alcoholic to speak. If I were to deliver these 4-page dialogues, the film would span multiple hours. Please shorten them".Prakash agreed, and the dialogues were condensed.'Kaun Banega Crorepati' season 16, airs Monday to Friday on Sony Entertainment Television.Earlier, on the show, Big B revealed as to how his mother's influence turned him into 'Angry young man'.The veteran actor narrated a story from his childhood when he was beaten up by his friends. A crying Amitabh Bachchan, an unfathomable sight perhaps, went home, and told his mother Teji Bachchan that his friends had beaten him up.Looking at the sight of her poor boy, Teji Bachchan, who was a social activist, told him to go back and beat those guys up in return thereby empowering the young Big B to not let anyone take him for granted. Big B said that he went back and beat the pulp out of those guys.



Childhood anxiety: Common causes, coping strategies for parents and children



Childhood anxiety can happen from various things and all of them are interconnected but differ from one child to another hence, parents need to understand its cause and techniques to cope with it. This mental health issue is becoming increasingly common, with stressors like academic pressures, social challenges and family dynamics playing key roles so, it is crucial for parents to help their children manage anxiety for their mental health and resilience.

Common Causes of Childhood Anxiety:

In an interview with HT Lifestyle, Archana Singhal, Counsellor, Family Therapist and Founder of Mindwell Counsel in Delhi, highlighted the following causes of childhood anxiety -

Genetic factor: children with a family history of anxiety disorders are at great risk.

Environmental factor: Environmental factors become a main contributor to anxiety. For:- Disturbance between both the Parents, fights in the family or the loss of a loved one can trigger anxiety. An unhappy family also contributes the feelings of anxiety.

Social influence: Peer pressure, bullying and social interaction also contribute to anxiety. Pressure to be fit can lead to heightened anxiety.

Academic pressure: In today's scenario, there is a lot of pressure to get good marks and grades. Tests and fear of failure also create anxiety among the children.

Bringing her expertise to the same, Prasanna Vasanadu, Parent Educator and Founder of Tikitoro, shared, "For children, understanding their triggers and learning to manage emotions is vital. In more severe cases, seeking professional help from a therapist may be necessary to address and manage anxiety effectively." She listed the reasons for childhood anxiety as -

Genetic factors: Anxiety or mental health issues run in the family.

Environmental factors: Environmental factors include traumatic or stressful experiences, schedule adjustments, and family disputes.

Personality traits: Children who are inherently more sensitive or perfectionistic are examples of personality traits.

Developmental Factors: Typical developmental phases, such as the start of school or puberty, might set off anxiety.

Habitual Behaviours: Children with anxiety may develop habits such as excessive scratching or picking at their skin, which can lead to irritation, infections, or scarring. These behaviors often stem from a need to cope with their anxiety.

Academic Pressure: Stress from school can cause a lot of worry in kids, especially when they start attending more formal educational environments. Anxiety might be brought on by pressure to do well on tests, fear of failing, or concerns about grades and academic success.

Coping Strategies for Parents and Children:

Archana Singhal advised -

Open Communication: Encourage your children to express their feelings, listen to them very carefully and try to understand them. After this conversation, they feel very light.

Establish routines: Try to create and follow a healthy routine. Consistent daily routines help children to feel more in control and reduce anxiety levels.

Teach relaxation techniques: introduce methods l like meditation, yoga and some physical exercise. These will help you manage and reduce anxiety.

Seek professional help: If you see any significant impact of anxiety in your child's behavior. Then go and consult with a mental health professional.

Limit exposure to stressors: Try to keep away the children from content that creates anxiety and help them manage their anxiety whether it is created by academic pressure or social interaction.

If a child has difficulty in explaining how they feel, ask them to communicate in the form of a story."

Honest Communication: Encouraging your child to talk freely about their emotions can make them feel supported and understood.

Actively Listen: Observe your child's spoken and nonverbal cues. Be understanding and affirm their emotions.

Gradual exposure to Fears: Help children face their fears gradually by breaking them into manageable steps. For example, if a child is afraid of sleeping alone, start by sitting with them for a few minutes and gradually reducing time over a few nights.

Establish a Daily Routine: Establish a regular schedule for your meals, homework, playtime and bedtime.

Social networking: In healthy social relationships, anxiety can be lessened. Encourage your youngster to make friends and participate in enjoyable group activities. Sometimes, as children grow, social pressures related to appearance can lead to anxiety about their skin too.

Promote Healthy Behaviors: Encouraging healthy practices can benefit your child's mental well-being. For example:

A well-balanced diet should consist of a variety of fruits, vegetables, whole grains, and proteins for your child.

Daily exercise to help lower stress and elevate mood.

Create a relaxing evening ritual and make sure your kids get adequate rest.

Fostering a positive outlook in your child can help them become less anxious and more resilient. It also increases their self-esteem and confidence.

Tips for your parents to mitigate loneliness and holistic approaches to mental wellness

Loneliness is a growing epidemic among the elderly, particularly as more seniors find themselves living alone or with limited social interactions. This condition goes beyond merely feeling alone; it encompasses a deep sense of disconnection and isolation that can have serious psychological consequences.

As life expectancy increases, so does the urgency to address the mental health needs of our ageing population. In an interview with HT Lifestyle on World Mental Health Day, Sanjeev Kumar Jain, CEO and Founder of Nema Eldercare, shared, "While advancements in healthcare have extended the number of years people live, the quality of those years must also be ensured, particularly when it comes to mental well-being. Loneliness is one of the most profound challenges faced by the elderly, and it extends far beyond the absence of companionship—it's about the deep, often silent, pain of feeling disconnected from the world around you. Addressing this issue requires more than just providing company; it demands fostering genuine connections and a sense of belonging."



The Psychological Toll of Loneliness

The emotional and psychological effects of loneliness can be devastating. Research has shown that prolonged loneliness can lead to a range of mental health issues, including depression, anxiety and cognitive decline.

Seniors who experience chronic loneliness are at a higher risk of developing conditions like dementia and are more likely to experience a rapid decline in physical health as well. Bringing her expertise to the same, Dr Reema Nadig, Group COO at Lifebridge Senior Care Private Limited, highlighted, "Loneliness among the elderly is not just a feeling of being alone; it is a serious psychological issue that can lead to a range of mental health conditions, including depression, anxiety and even dementia. The emotional and psychological toll of loneliness can manifest in various ways, leading to a decline in cognitive functions and overall well-being."

In India, where the traditional family structure is evolving and more seniors are living alone, loneliness is becoming an increasingly common issue. This is further compounded by the stigma surrounding mental health in the elderly, which often prevents open discussion and support.

Mitigating Loneliness Through Connection and Community

Addressing loneliness requires a multifaceted approach that involves not just providing companionship but fostering meaningful connections by leveraging technology, community engagement and mental health support to combat loneliness. According to Sanjeev Kumar Jain, seniors can bond over shared passions through interest-based social groups, from gardening to reading, creating lasting friendships and a sense of belonging. Safety and accessibility are also paramount, with robust privacy controls in place to encourage seniors to engage in social activities without fear.

Intergenerational interactions play a critical role in mitigating loneliness as well. This not only provides seniors with much-needed social support but also enriches the lives of the younger generation, creating a more interconnected society.

Hemanshu Jain, Co-Founder of Khyaal, revealed, "Navigating mental health can be a complex and often solitary journey for many seniors, who are frequently burdened by a lifetime of memories and the inevitable changes that come with ageing. Isolation can be reduced and meaningful connections can be cultivated by participating in community groups or learning about new technology. Resilience and mental agility can be greatly increased by accepting change, whether it's adjusting to new habits or finding joy in long-lost interests."

Harry Brook becomes England's first triple centurion in Test cricket since 1990



London: Harry Brook has become the first English cricketer in 34 years to score a Test triple century, achieving this milestone on the fourth day of the first Test against Pakistan in Multan.His remarkable innings came from just 310 deliveries, making him the sixth English player to reach a triple century in Test cricket. Moreover, Brook's innings established a new record for the highest Test score by an Englishman against Pakistan, eclipsing Denis Compton's 278 at Trent Bridge in 1954.Brook was eventually out for 317 from 322 balls, including 29 fours and three sixes. Previously, Joe Root and Brook had set a new benchmark for England's highest partnership in Test cricket with 454 runs.The last time an English player scored a triple century was when Graham Gooch hit 333 against India in 1990. Brian Lara retains the record for the highest individual Test score with his unbeaten 400 against England in Antigua in 2004.

Indian men's team wins third straight bronze medal at Asian Table Tennis Championships



Astana: The Indian men's team secured its third consecutive bronze medal at the Asian Championships in Astana, Kazakhstan, on Thursday, following a 0-3 defeat to Chinese Taipei in the semifinals.India had previously won bronze medals in 2021 and 2023. Sharath Kamal was defeated 0-3 (7-11, 10-12, 9-11) by Lin Yun-Ju in the first singles match.In the second singles, Manav Thakkar put up a strong fight but ultimately lost 1-3 (9-11, 11-8, 3-11, 11-13) to Kao Cheng-Jui. Harmeet Desai couldn't secure a game in the crucial third singles, losing 0-3 (6-11, 9-11, 7-11) to Huang Yan-Cheng. The Indian team had previously beaten host Kazakhstan 3-1 in the quarterfinals, ensuring a medal.On the previous day, the Indian women's team won its first-ever medal at the event, a bronze, marking a historic moment since the Asian Table Tennis Union began the competition in 1972.

Rafael Nadal Announces Retirement, Concludes Legendary Career with 22 Grand Slam Titles



Spain: Rafael Nadal, one of the sport's greatest icons, has confirmed his retirement from professional tennis. The 38-year-old Spanish legend will play his final match at the Davis Cup finals in Malaga this November.Nadal, known for his unparalleled dominance on clay courts and his relentless fighting spirit, shared the news via a video message on social media. "I am here to let you know I am retiring from professional tennis," Nadal said. "The reality is that it has been some difficult years, the last two especially. I don't think I have been able to play without pain." Throughout his illustrious career, Nadal has amassed an incredible 22 Grand Slam titles, including a record 14 French Open victories. His achievements have cemented his legacy as one of the greatest players in tennis history.Nadal's final appearance will be a symbolic return to the Davis Cup, a tournament that marked one of his earliest career highlights. In 2004, a young Nadal played a pivotal role in helping Spain secure the Davis Cup title, an experience he fondly referenced in his retirement announcement.As the tennis community prepares to bid farewell to a true legend, Nadal's impact on the sport will be remembered for generations. His unmatched grit, sportsmanship, and passion for the game have inspired countless fans and aspiring athletes worldwide.

Jr Women's National Hockey: Jharkhand Crowned Champions Of 14th Edition



Ranchi: Hockey Jharkhand defeated Hockey Madhya Pradesh in the final as they were crowned champion after eleven action-packed days at the 14th Hockey India Junior National Championship 2024. Hockey Haryana won the bronze medal after defeating Hockey Haryana.In the summit clash of the tournament, Hockey Jharkhand got the better of Hockey Madhya Pradesh 3-1. Sweety Dungdung (30'), Shanti Kumari (43') and Niru Kullu (48') struck a goal each for Hockey Jharkhand to take the game away from Hockey Madhya Pradesh.Their strong defence also restricted Hockey Madhya Pradesh, who could score only one goal to clinch the title. Kajal (45') scored the consolation goal for Hockey Madhya Pradesh.In the other match of the day, Hockey Haryana defeated Hockey Association of Odisha 2-2 (2-1 SO) in the playoff for the third and fourth place.Sejal (1') and Shashi Khasa (36') scored one goal each for Hockey Haryana whereas Karuna Minz (53') and Priyanka Kujur (59') scored the equalizers for Hockey Association of Odisha before the final whistle.

EC to Bring 'No Confidence Motion' Against PT Usha



New Delhi: Less than two years into her tenure as the first female president of the Indian Olympic Association, legendary athlete PT Usha may confront a no-confidence vote during the Special General Meeting slated for October 25.The agenda, set forth by the Executive Council under item number 26, includes a 'discussion and consideration of a No Confidence motion against the President due to alleged constitutional breaches and actions that could be harmful to Indian sports.'Usha has been embroiled in an extended conflict with members of the IOA's Executive Council, with accusations being exchanged. As the first female leader of the IOA, she has served show cause notices to several Executive Council members for purportedly breaching eligibility standards.Conversely, her detractors have levelled charges of 'high-handedness' against Usha. The Comptroller and Auditor General (CAG) of India has also scrutinized her over the contract with Reliance for a hospitality lounge at the Paris Olympics. The CAG has claimed that 'undue favours' were granted to Reliance and that Usha's decisions resulted in a financial loss of Rs 24 crore to the IOA. Usha has firmly refuted these claims.Additional points on the agenda cover a review of the powers of the IOA president, 'discussion on the specifics of sponsorship contracts' undertaken by Usha, the appointment of a CEO, a Rs 1.75 crore loan to the Weightlifting Federation of India, and show cause notices issued to several Executive Council members, including IOA treasurer Sahdev Yadav, Ajay Patel, Bhupinder Singh Bajwa, Rajlaxmi Singh Deo, and Alaknanda Ashok.

Women's T20 WC: It Was One Of Those Days When I Was In My Zone, Says Harmanpreet



Dubai: After comprehensively thrashing Sri Lanka by 82 runs to keep their semifinal hopes alive in the ICC Women's T20 World Cup 2024, India skipper Harmanpreet Kaur said Wednesday's match was one of those days when she was in the zone to conjure up magic with the bat.After India had a splendid 98-run opening stand, where vice-captain Smriti Mandhana hit a 38-ball fifty and Shafali Verma made 46, Sri Lanka fought back by dismissing the duo on successive deliveries. But Harmanpreet, coming to bat at number three, applied perfect finishing touches by smoking pacers and spinners on both sides of the ground to hit a 27-ball unbeaten 52."We just wanted to go with the momentum, Shafali and Smriti gave us a good start. Credit goes to them. They were there on the pitch, calculative, and didn't throw their wicket away. Jemi (Jemimah Rodrigues) and I, just wanted to score seven-eight runs an over. It was one of the days when I was in my zone, whenever the ball was in my zone, I went hard.""I was only thinking about the positives. This wicket was not true to batting, you have to keep rotating the strike. Once the ball is in your zone you can go for it. It's not like you can keep swinging the bat. We were there and didn't throw the wicket away. Really happy for the team," said Harmanpreet, named Player of the Match, in the post-game presentation ceremony.It was a game where India shone in all departments – after the batters posted a massive total on board, all five bowlers took wickets and kept their economy rates below five, while the fielders took great catches to ensure the net run rate rose to 0.560, and zoom past New Zealand to occupy second spot in Group A."When you play good cricket, you always feel well. All boxes were ticked today. Happy we took all the catches, which is very important for us. We did discuss before the game if we are batting first what's the target we want to set and if we are fielding what should be the score, but these wickets are tricky.""In between we lost two wickets back-to-back. Today a lot of things went according to plan, we were thinking of 160 and we posted 170. You have to think about NRR also when you are in this position," added Harmanpreet.India's final match in Group A will be against Australia at Sharjah on Sunday, and Harmanpreet thinks the team has to play well against the defending champions. "We have to play good cricket (vs Australia). Good to see our bowlers getting in good rhythm and giving us breakthroughs. These wickets are tricky as I said. As a captain, happy we played good cricket."

Sri Lanka skipper Chamari Athapaththu said the team needs to go back to the drawing board and look at the areas they need to improve. "We struggled even in the bowling. We dropped catches. We didn't bowl in the right areas. Batters including me and Vishmi didn't do a good job. We have to rethink what we have to do and bounce back."

"The first game is important in this tournament. It was low-scoring and as a batting unit, we had to chase (but we didn't). After that, the dressing room was a little down. I try to lift them. Happy with the bowling unit in the last two games. We have to improve our batting," she concluded.

Hockey India League 2024-25: Over 1000 Players Set To Go Under Hammer At Auction



New Delhi: As the players auction for the 2024-25 season is scheduled to take place from October 13 to 15, over 1000 players, including global stars, set to go under hammer with a balance of domestic and international talents.

After a seven-year hiatus, HIL is making its comeback with an expanded format that includes both men's and, for the first time ever, an exclusive women's league, running concurrently.With the Hockey India League restarting for men and the inaugural season for the Women's League set to start this season. The men's auction will be held on October 13 and 14, while the historic women's auction will take place on October 15.Over 400 domestic and more than 150 overseas men's players, along with 250 domestic along 70 foreign women's player will under go auction. Players are divided into three base price categories: Rs 2,00,000, Rs 5,00,000, and Rs 10,00,000, based on the value they selected for themselves.Over 600 players in the Rs 2,00,000 category, more than 250 players in the Rs 5,00,000 category and over 250 players in the Rs 10,00,000 category.The men's auction will kick off with India's bronze medal-winning team from the Paris Olympics, featuring top stars like captain Harmanpreet Singh, vice captain Hardik Singh, and seasoned players like Manpreet Singh and Mandeep Singh, among others. Adding to the excitement, former Indian hockey legends such as Rupinder Pal Singh, Birendra Lakra, and Dharamvir Singh have also registered, setting the stage for a highly anticipated event.International hockey icons including Arthur van Doren, Alexander Hendrickx, Gonzalo Peillat, Jip Janssen, Thierry Brinkman, and Dayaan Cassiem will add global talent and flair to the men's league.The women's auction will kick off with top players, including seasoned goalkeeper Savita, Captain Salima Tete, rising star and drag-flicker Deepika, the most-capped Indian women's player Vandana Katariya, and Lalremsiami, among others.Former Indian players like Yogita Bali, Lilima Minz, and Namita Toppo have also registered for the auction.International women's players, including Delfina Merino, Charlotte Stapenhorst, Maria Granatto, Rachael Lynch, and Nike Lorenz are set to be part of the bidding war

Malabar Group Launches 247 Micro Learning Centres to Bring Street Children to School

BHUBANESWAR,(AoBureau): As part of the Malabar Group's ongoing Hunger Free World initiative, 247 micro learning centers have been established across the country to provide basic education to street children and facilitate their transition into formal schooling. So far, 11,700 children have been enrolled in these centres, where they receive one year of foundational education to help them return to or begin formal education. The initiative ensures each child continues their studies in a structured school environment, with an annual expenditure of Rs. 10,000 per child to support their education.In a ceremony held in Mumbai's East Govandi Tata Nagar slum, Malabar Group Chairman MP Ahammed inaugurated 101 Micro Learning Centres as part of the project's second phase, spanning 11 states. Dignitaries at the event included Vice Chairman KP Abdul Salam, India Operations Managing Director O. Asher, Group Executive Director A. K. Nishad, and Dr. V. Idrees, Chairman of'Thanal'.



Amway India Strengthens Efforts to Safeguard Consumer Wellbeing and Support its Distributors

Bhubaneswar (AoBureau) : Demonstrating its unwavering commitment to safeguarding both consumer and distributor interest and wellbeing, Amway India, one of the leading companies supporting health and wellbeing, initiated a robust awareness campaign to educate stakeholders on the unauthorized sale of its products. The comprehensive strategyinvolvesefforts to educate stakeholders against the risks involved, enhance supply chain monitoring, stringent measures against the offenders, and targeted



support sessions and resources for authorized distributors. The move reinforces Amway's dedication to consumer protection by ensuring they get authenticAmway products and associated benefits when purchased through Amway distributors or official Amway website only.

Unauthorized selling is not limited to direct selling only. Many companies are battling with this issuewhere products are often distributed through unofficial channels such as e-commerce platforms or third-party sellers, undermining product authenticity and consumer safety.Amway India, in its commitment to consumer safety and product integrity, is actively fighting against unauthorized selling to protect itscon sumersfrom potentially counterfeit and harmful products. Unauthorized sellers often bypass the stringent quality control measures that Amway India implements to ensure every product reaching the consumer meets the highest standards. It not only putsthe consumers at risk but also undermines the trust and hard work of the dedicated Amway distributors. The company follows a Zero Tolerance Policy against unauthorized selling, which includes clear guidelines and actions to the extent of suspending or terminating distributors involved in unauthorized sales and ensures that authentic Amway products are available only through Amway-authorized channels.

Sensex Trades Higher On Positive Global Cues

Mumbai: Indian equity indices opened in the green on Thursday following positive cues from the US and Asian peers.At 9.50 a.m., Sensex was up 93 points or 0.11 per cent at 81,560 and Nifty was up 29 points or 0.12 per cent at 25,011.In early trade, the market trend was positive. On the National Stock Exchange (NSE), 1,689 shares were in the green and 475 shares were in the red.Buying was also seen in midcap and smallcap stocks. The Nifty midcap 100 index was up 334 points, or 0.56 per cent, at 59,423 and the Nifty smallcap 100 index was up 138 points, or 0.73 per cent, at 19,002.
Among the sectoral indices, Auto, metal, realty, fin service, energy, private bank, infra, PSE, and oil and gas were the major gainers. IT and pharma were the major losers.Hardik Matalia Derivative Analyst at Choice Broking said, "After a positive opening, Nifty can find support at 24,950 followed by 24,850 and 24,700. On the higher side, 25,100 can be an immediate resistance, followed by 24,200 and 25,300.""The charts of Bank Nifty indicate that it may get support at 50,800, followed by 50,500 and 50,200. If the index advances further, 51,200 would be the initial key resistance, followed by 51,400 and 51,500," they added.In the Sensex, Power Grid, M&M, HCL Tech, L&T, Tata Steel, Axis Bank, Titan, NTPC, JSW Steel, IndusInd Bank and UltraTech Cement were the top gainers.

Tata Steel Kalinganagar Holds Homage Ceremony for Padma Vibhushan Ratan N Tata

Kalinganagar, (AoBureau): In a heartfelt tribute to one of India's most revered industrialists, Tata Steel Kalinganagar organised a solemn homage ceremony on Thursday to honor the legacy of Padma Vibhushan Ratan N Tata, who passed away on October 9, 2024.The ceremony took place at TSK Centre inside the plant premises, where Rajiv Kumar, Vice President (Operations), Tata Steel Kalinganagar in the presence of RabindraJamuda, President, Tata Steel Kalinganagar Workers' Union, senior officials, officials of TSK Workers' Union and employees gathered to



pay their respects for his monumental contributions to the nation.Ratan Tata who was the Chairman Emeritus of Tata Sons, was not just a visionary leader but also a philanthropist whose impact extended far beyond the corporate world. Under his stewardship, Tata group expanded into various sectors, including steel, automobiles, and information technology, playing a pivotal role in shaping India's industrial landscape. Ratan Tata was committed to ethical business practices, innovation, and social responsibility. His initiatives in education, healthcare, and rural development have transformed countless lives across the country. The establishment of the Tata Trusts, which focus on areas like health, education, and livelihood, exemplifies his dedication to nation-building. As Tata Steel Kalinganagar moves forward, it remains committed to honoring Ratan Tata's vision by continuing to prioritise ethical practices, community development, and sustainable growth.

SUMUM PROVIDING BRACHYTHERAPY TO TREAT BREAST CANCER

Bhubaneswar, (AoBureau): Interstitial Implant Brachytherapy, the latest and effective treatment regimen to fight breast cancer, is now being offered to patients at the SUM Ultimate Medicare (SUMUM) here.
Interstitial Brachytherapy is a form of internal radiation involving intra-operative placement of small radioactive sources to treat the tumour.Breast cancer, the most common cancer found in women is usually treated with surgery, radiation therapy, chemotherapy and hormone therapy. Radiotherapy has been adopted as a safe,



proven, readily used, less expensive and easily available cancer treatment for more than 100 years, Dr. Chira Ranjan Khadanga, Senior Consultant, Radiation Oncology in the hospital, said.Post surgery radiation therapy is taken up after four to six weeks of surgery. But the availability of Interstitial Brachytherapy has made it possible to provide radiation therapy to the patient within five to 10 days which reduces the treatment time, expenditure and is less painful for the patient, he said.Dr. Khadanga said this form of radiation therapy was conducted successfully for the first time in Odisha at SUMUM when it was used to treat a 60-year-old woman suffering from breast cancer. Diagnosed at the first stage, the tumour was removed surgically and the patient was subjected to brachytherapy immediately with implantation of a flexible catheter at the vacant area known as the tumour bed. The patient was given the therapy twice a day for five days, he said.The patient has fully recovered and was discharged. The entire treatment process, surgery and brachytherapy were completed within 10 days. Latest equipment, skilled technicians, treatment related knowledge, experience and expertise are required for this type of high end treatment process. SUMUM has Bravo's multi-channel brachytherapy machine, Brachy vision TPS, skilled doctors, experienced technicians and nurses which has been helping in the treatment and recovery of patients.

UPI Transactions Volume Surges 52 Pc To 78.97 Billion, Value Crosses Rs 116 Lakh Crore

Mumbai: The unified payments interface (UPI)-based transactions volume surged 52 per cent to 78.97 billion in the first half this year (H1 2024), from 51.9 billion in the same period last year, a report showed on Thursday.Similarly, the value of transactions grew by 40 per cent, increasing from Rs 83.16 lakh crore to Rs 116.63 lakh crore in the first six months this year.Month-wise, the number of UPI transactions rose significantly from 8.03 billion in January last year to 13.9 billion in June.This growth in volume was matched by an increase in transaction value, which climbed from Rs 12.98 lakh crore in January last year to Rs 20.07 lakh crore in June, according to the report by Worldline, a global leader in payment services."This significant rise in UPI transactions, particularly in the person-to-merchant (P2M) segment, further cements its position as the preferred method for micro-transactions, demonstrating long-term sustainability and even movement to larger transactions in the coming years," said Ramesh Narasimhan, CEO, Worldline India.The average ticket size (ATS) of all UPI transactions dropped to Rs 1,478 in the first six months this year, from Rs 1,603 last year, reflecting an 8 per



cent decrease.The payment infrastructure also continues to grow as well. The number of POS (point of sale) terminals deployed on the field crossed the 8.96 million-mark.According to the report, the most visited in-store merchant categories included grocery stores, restaurants, service stations, clothing stores, government services, pharmacies, and hospitals.Together, they represented approximately 68 per cent of transaction volume and nearly 53 per cent of total transaction value.In the online sector, e-commerce, gaming, utilities, government services, and financial services accounted for around 81 per cent of transaction volume and about 74 per cent of total transaction value.Notably, UPI QRs saw a remarkable growth of 39 per cent, surging to 340 million from 244.23 million during the same period. This expansion in UPI QRs is also reflected in the increasing volume of UPI transactions.Three UPI apps dominate the landscape in terms of volume and value: PhonePe, Google Pay and Paytm. As of June, these three apps accounted for 94.83 per cent of all UPI transaction volume.
In contrast to card issuance, the volume of card transactions in H1 2024 totalled 3.735 billion, reflecting a 3 per cent growth from H1 2023. The total value of card transactions reached Rs 13.49 lakh crore, reflecting a 21 per cent YoY increase.

NTPC Darlipali Signs MoU with the Collector and DM Jharsuguda



Jharsuguda, (AoBureau):AnMoA was signed between NTPC Ltd. Darlipali and Collector and DM, Jharsuguda, Odisha on 09th October 2024 at Collectorate, Jharsuguda, Odisha. This agreement aims to construct a new Indoor Badminton Hall inside the R.O. Campus Jharsuguda to promote the cause of sports in the district. The signing ceremony was conducted in the presence of Smt. Aboli Sunil Narvane, Collector and DM (Jharsuguda), Sh. Parmar Smit Parshottam Das, (Superintendent of Police), Sh. Ram Bhajan Malik-Head of Project- Darlipali, Smt. Pratibha Singh, AGM (HR), Sameer Bhanja, AGM (R&R) and other NTPC and district officials.Speaking on the occasion, Sh. Ram Bhajan Malik, praised NTPC's efforts in national building and mentioned that establishing the Badminton Hall district, it would be a great service to the youth. HOP reiterated his words by saying that NTPC has always been committed to the wellbeing of the society.

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