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Anomaly Delays ISRO's ESA Proba-3 Launch To Thursday

New Delhi: The Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO) rescheduled its European Space Agency (ESA) Proba-3 Sun observation mission to Thursday.



The launch was postponed due to an undisclosed anomaly that occurred after the "countdown progressed smoothly".."Due to an anomaly detected in PROBA-3 spacecraft PSLV-C59/PROBA-3 launch rescheduled to tomorrow," ISRO posted on social media platform X.ISRO's PSLV-XL rocket was earlier expected to launch the ESA Proba-3 mission on Wednesday. The mission will now take flight on Thursday at 4:12 pm from the First Launch Pad (FLP) at Satish Dhawan Space Centre (SDSC-SHAR), Sriharikota, the agency said.ESA's Proba-3 will be the first mission to launch from India since the Proba-1 mission in 2001, underscoring deepening space collaboration.The Proba-3 satellites were flown to the Chennai airport from Liege in Belgium, following which they were trucked to the spaceport at Sriharikota.PSLV-C59 vehicle will carry the Proba-3 spacecraft into a highly elliptical orbit as a dedicated commercial mission of NewSpace India Limited (NSIL). The launch also reflects India's growing contributions to global space exploration.

Ayurveda A Complete Health Science For Proper Treatment, Diet, & Lifestyle: CM Majhi



Bhubaneswar(Correspondence): Ayurveda which is an ancient and rich medical science, has been an integral part of Indian culture and tradition for over 5,000 years, Chief Minister Mohan Majhi said.While addressing the 75th anniversary of Gopabandhu Ayurveda College in Puri in the presence of President Droupadi Murmu, Majhi explained that Ayurveda is a complete health science that emphasizes the importance of proper treatment, balanced diet, and lifestyle.Majhi noted that the human body, composed of five basic elements – sky, air, fire, water, and earth, along with the soul – can achieve harmony with nature and increase the quality of life through Ayurveda.Established in 1949 as an Ayurvedic Vidyapeeth, Gopabandhu Ayurveda College has evolved into a model institution, attracting students from across the country for higher education in Ayurveda, the CM pointed out. The college has produced many renowned Ayurvedic experts in the state and nation.The government of India led by Prime Minister Narendra Modi has taken significant steps to promote Ayurveda, including the formation of the Ministry of AYUSH in 2014. The Government has also decided to celebrate 'World Ayurveda Day' on the birth anniversary of Dev-Vaidya Bhagwan Dhanvantari, the CM said.In Odisha, there are currently three government Ayurveda colleges and one private Ayurveda college, along with 520 Ayurveda clinics and five Ayurveda hospitals."Our government has built 250-bed AYUSH hospitals in Dhenkanal and Ganjam. These will be dedicated to the public very soon and the public can get health services from these two institutions. Along with the construction of new hospitals, steps are also being taken to increase the performance of various Ayurveda hospitals providing services in the state," Majhi said.Majhi announced that the state government will take steps to improve Gopabandhu Ayurveda College and make it an institution of excellence. He also emphasized the importance of Ayurveda and its complementary role with allopathy in providing effective healthcare services.The Chief Minister paid tributes to the institution's founder, Pandit Lingaraj Mishra. The occasion was graced by the presence of President Droupadi Murmu and the Governor of Odisha Raghubar Das.

Maha Guv Invites Fadnavis To Form Govt, Swearing-In On Thursday In Presence Of PM Modi

Mumbai: MahaYuti submitted a letter to stake claims for the government formation to the Maharashtra Governor C.P. Radhakrishnan on Wednesday.The Shiv Sena chief leader Eknath Shinde and NCP President Ajit Pawar gave their letters supporting Devendra Fadnavis as the Chief Minister after he was unanimously elected by the BJP legislators as the legislature party leader.Thereafter the



Governor has invited the MahaYuti to form the government.Fadnavis told reporters that the swearing-in would take place on Thursday at 5.30 pm in the presence of Prime Minister Narendra Modi, adding that other BJP allies and independents also gave letters supporting him as the Chief Minister.Fadnavis said that he met Eknath Shinde on Tuesday and urged him to be part of the government."I am sure that he (Shinde) will accept my request. Similar appeals have been made by the Shiv Sena legislators. During two and half years, we Eknath Shinde, Ajit Pawar and myself together took decisions for Maharashtra's development. We will decide by late evening how many ministers will take oath tomorrow," Fadnavis said.

Devendra Fadnavis Unanimously Elected Leader of Maharashtra BJP Legislative Party

Mumbai: In a significant political development, Devendra Fadnavis has been unanimously elected as the Leader of the Maharashtra BJP Legislative Party.The decision was made during a core committee meeting attended by senior BJP leaders, including Union Minister Nirmala Sitharaman and former Gujarat Chief Minister Vijay Rupani.Fadnavis, who has previously served as the Chief Minister of Maharashtra, received overwhelming support from the newly-elected MLAs.His name was proposed by former state minister Sudhir Mungantiwar and seconded by several other party members. This unanimous decision reflects the confidence the party has in Fadnavis' leadership and his ability to steer the state towards progress.

Hemant Soren Cabinet Expansion Set To Take Place Today

Ranchi: The much-anticipated cabinet expansion of Jharkhand's Hemant Soren government is set to take place on Thursday with the swearing-in ceremony to be held at Ashok Udyan in Raj Bhavan at 12 noon, according to a statement from the Governor's house.Protem Speaker Stephen Marandi will also take oath at the event.While the list of MLAs being inducted as ministers remains undisclosed, sources indicate a coalition formula — six ministers from the Jharkhand Mukti Morcha (JMM), four from the Congress, and one from the Rashtriya Janata Dal (RJD).From the RJD quota, Godda MLA Sanjay Yadav is expected to secure a ministerial berth. Earlier talks favoured Deoghar MLA Suresh Paswan, but he is now likely to be the leader of the RJD legislature party.Among Congress MLAs, former Minister Rameshwar Oraon is poised to take on the legislature party leader's role, potentially paving the way for Kolebira MLA Naman Vixal Kongadi or Khijri MLA Rajesh Kachhap to join the cabinet.

Decision On AIADMK's Symbol In Four Weeks: ECI To Madras HC

Chennai: The Election Commission of India (ECI) informed the Madras High Court that it would take a decision within four weeks on a petition seeking not to allocate the 'Two Leaves' symbol to candidates proposed by AIADMK General Secretary Edappadi K. Palaniswami (EPS).S. Surya Moorthi, a resident of Dindigul and a self-proclaimed member of the AIADMK had filed a petition urging the court to prevent the allocation of the party's iconic symbol to the faction led by EPS.A division bench of Justices R. Subramanian and C. Kumarappan on Wednesday (December 4) recorded the submission of ECI standing counsel Niranjan Rajagopalan.The counsel informed the court that the ECI had issued a notice to the AIADMK, which had already submitted its response.The commission assured the court that it would make a decision after considering all representations within four weeks.The court directed the ECI to hear all concerned parties before arriving at a conclusion.This directive followed a plea by senior counsel P.H. Arvindh Pandian, representing expelled AIADMK leader O. Panneerselvam (OPS), who argued that no notice had been issued to his client despite his critical role in the party's leadership dispute.The High Court observed that several civil suits had been filed challenging the AIADMK's general council resolutions and its conduct.

"Muhammad Yunus Involved In Genocide": Sheikh Hasina

New Delhi:Ousted Bangladesh Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina has mounted a stinging attack on the country's interim leader Muhammad Yunus over alleged persecution of minorities.In a virtual address at an event in New York, Sheikh Hasina accused Muhammad Yunus of perpetrating "genocide" and failing to protect minorities including Hindus. She also claimed that there were plans to assassinate her and her sister Sheikh Rehana just like their father Sheikh Mujibur Rahman.Mujibur Rahman was assassinated in 1975.It was Sheikh Hasina's first public address after taking shelter in India following her resignation in August in the face of massive anti-government protests, though she had commented on the overall situation in Bangladesh."The armed protestors were directed towards Ganabhaban. If the security guards opened fire, many lives would have been lost. It was a matter of 25-30 minutes, and I was forced to leave. I told them [guards] not to fire no matter what happened," she said referring to the storming of her official residence in Dhaka on August 5."Today, I am being accused of genocide. In reality, Yunus has been involved in genocide in a meticulously designed manner. The masterminds -- the student coordinators and Yunus -- are behind this genocide," she said at the event on



Sunday.Sheikh Hasina said the current ruling dispensation in Dhaka failed to protect the minorities."Hindus, Buddhists, Christians -- no one has been spared. Eleven churches have been razed, temples and Buddhist shrines have been broken. When the Hindus protested, the Iskcon leader was arrested," she said in an oblique reference to the arrest of Hindu monk Chinmoy Krishna Das."What is this persecution of minorities for? Why are they being ruthlessly persecuted and attacked?" she said."People no longer have the right to justice... I never even got the time to resign," she said speaking in Bengali.Sheikh Hasina said she left Bangladesh in August with an aim to stop the violence, but that did not happen.The relations between India and Bangladesh came under strain after the interim government headed by Muhammad Yunus came to power. India has been expressing concerns over attacks on minorities, especially Hindus, in that country.Sheikh Hasina has been staying in India since she left Bangladesh following massive anti-government protests in July and August.In her speech at the event hosted to mark Bangladesh's 'Vijay Diwas', the Awami League leader also alleged that there was a plot to assassinate her."When people were dying indiscriminately, I decided I should leave," she said.There has been a spate of attacks on minorities including on the Hindu community in Bangladesh

Rajya Sabha Clears Bill To Replace 100 Years Old Boiler Act



New Delhi,: The Rajya Sabha on Wednesday cleared a bill to provide for the regulation of boilers, safety of life and property of persons from the danger of explosions of steam-boilers and uniformity in registration.The Boilers Bill, 2024 seeks to repeal the century old Boilers Act, 1923. The bill, which aims to decriminalise seven offences and promote ease of doing business, was cleared in the Upper House by a voice vote.

Centre Approve Rs 97.70 Cr Project To Set Up 51-Shakti Peethas Park In Tripura



Agartala: In a bid to develop and protect the spiritual heritage, the Union Tourism Ministry has approved a Rs 97.70 crore project to develop a 51-Shakti Peethas Park in southern Tripura's Banduar.The proposed park has a religious significance as the place is just 4 km away from the Mata Tripura Sundari temple, founded by the erstwhile king 523 years ago.The Tripura Sundari temple, set up in 1501 by the state's erstwhile king Maharaja Dhanya Manikya in Udaipur, 65 km south of Agartala, is one of the 51 Shakti Peethas in the country, and the third such shrine in eastern India after the Kali temple in Kolkata's Kalighat, and the Kamakhya temple in Guwahati.A government official told IANS that the site of the proposed 51-Shakti Peethas Park at Banduar is a quiet village in Gomati district and it is surrounded by lush greenery and a serene environment.The area offers a tranquil setting.

Udaipur, the district headquarters of Gomati district, is renowned for its religious significance, cultural heritage, and historical importance, particularly due to the Tripura Sundari temple, which attracts pilgrims from all over India and abroad.The temple is situated alongside a huge lake known as Kalyan Sagar.Udaipur, which during the royal dynasty was headquarters for a brief period, is also known as "lake city" and has many beautiful lakes like Bijoy Sagar, Jagannath dighi, Amar sagar.It also has a national library named "Nazrul Granthagar", after the name of renowned poet Kazi Nazrul Islam.Under the project, replicas of 51 Shakti Peethas would be developed in the proposed park along with other facilities."The 51 Shakti Peethas Park is an ambitious religious tourism project that would be developed in Banduar village. This unique project aims to create an immersive experience for visitors by showcasing replicas of the 51 Shakti Peeth temples from across the Indian sub-continent, symbolising the rich cultural and spiritual heritage associated with Shakti (Devi) worship in Hinduism," the official said.He said that the park would feature a range of amenities designed to enhance the overall visitor experience, including a food court with adequate seating, a souvenir shop, drinking water facilities, well-constructed roads with parking, public conveniences, guest accommodation, landscaped gardens, museums dedicated to mythology, and a range of entertainment activities.

K'taka Govt Slams ED For Sending Letter To Lokayukta In MUDA Case

Bengaluru: Karnataka government on Wednesday criticised the Enforcement Directorate (ED) for writing a letter to the Karnataka Lokayukta in connection with the Mysuru Urban Development Authority (MUDA) case allegedly involving Chief Minister Siddaramaiah.Minister for Home G. Parameshwara, Minister for IT & BT, RDPR Priyank Kharge and Chief Minister's legal advisor and Congress MLA A.S. Ponnanna held a joint press conference at the Vidhana Soudha in Bengaluru and slammed the ED and the BJP.Minister Priyank Kharge said that the ED and IT are "puppets" of the Central government."In states where the BJP is weak, they use the CBI and IT. No one knows how the ED entered the MUDA case. The Chief Minister has said that there's nothing wrong and that an investigation can proceed. Look at the timing of the leak; the hearing is scheduled for Thursday, but the information was leaked today (Wednesday). The ED officials themselves leaked information to certain media outlets," said Priyank Kharge.He added that after Sardar Patel, Union Minister Amit Shah is considered the strongest Home Minister. "How did this leak happen under his watch," he said.He said that investigations are ongoing in the MUDA case, adding that ED's letter to Lokayukta mentions many points."Two investigations cannot be conducted into the same matter. By writing a letter to Lokayukta, the ED has confused the issue. During former Chief Minister Basavaraj Bommai's tenure, site allocations were made to the Siddaramaiah family. How is the same report being leaked across the country? Only Siddaramaiah's name is out; why not others," he said.He claimed that it is being done to divert attention from Covid-19 and other cases of the BJP. "People have given a verdict against BJP's communal politics.

over 6 Cr Individuals Trained Under PM Gramin Digital Saksharta Abhiyan



New Delhi: Pradhan Mantri Gramin Digital Saksharta Abhiyan (PMGDISHA) was launched by the Government of India to promote digital literacy in rural India.The aim was to reach 6 crore rural households (one person per household) nationwide. The scheme has ended, as against 6 crore,6.39 crore individuals were trained across the country as of March 31, 2024. The State/UT-wise achievement is given at the bottom.MeitY, Government of India launched the India BPO Promotion Scheme (IBPS) and North East BPO Promotion Scheme (NEBPS) to create jobs and promote IT/ITES in small towns by offering financial support of up to ?1 lakh per seat. The schemes also provide incentives for promoting local entrepreneurs and hiring women and disabled individuals through BPO/ITES units across the country operating in States/UTs.

India is the IT skills capital of the world. Stanford University has ranked India amongst the top 4 along with the US, UK and China in Global and national AI vibrancy ranking based on 42 indicators. The government of India has been taking steps to ensure that we continue to retain our advantage in IT skills.

Missing Actor-Comedian Sunil Pal Claims He Was Abducted, Back Home Safe

Mumbai: Veteran comedian and Bollywood actor Sunil Pal, who had gone 'missing' on Monday, has claimed he was 'abducted' in Delhi, but has now returned home here safely, as per his social media post on Wednesday.On Tuesday (December 3), his comedienne wife Sarita had lodged a missing complaint with Mumbai Police, but hours later she announced that he was safe and reached home, even as his fans went into a frenzy on social media networks.Subsequently, a video purportedly released by him on X has claimed that he was actually abducted on Monday in Delhi where he had gone for a show."I was kidnapped on December 2 but now I have returned home safely. I have given my statement to the police. I will share more details once the police procedures are complete," he informed his fans and admirers.He said that the kidnapping took place in Delhi, on the border towards Meerut but promised to keep revealing more later, while expressing gratitude to his fans for their love and seeking their prayers for him.Sarita Pal also informed the Mumbai local media that her husband was back home.

SC Suggests Terror Convict Saquib Nachan To Avail Amicus Curiae Help

New Delhi: The Supreme Court on Wednesday suggested terror convict Saquib Nachan to avail assistance of amicus curiae in his petition seeking quashing of two government notifications which had declared the Islamic State of Iraq and Syria (ISIS) and an allied outfit as terrorist organisations.A bench of Justices Surya Kant and Ujjal Bhuyan suggested Nachan, who has filed the writ plea as a petitioner-in-person, to avail assistance of amicus curiae (friend of the court) in the matter.To this, Nachan, who appeared virtually before the apex court from Tihar jail, nodded and expressed his agreement.The apex court said that it would direct prison authorities to allow Nachan to meet the amicus curiae.In an earlier hearing, the Supreme Court had ordered authorities of Tihar Jail to ensure proper online connectivity in the course of the hearing after Nachan could not complete his submissions due to poor connectivity.It had said that it would consider on the next date of hearing "the desirability of appointment of amicus curiae for the assistance of the court".Nachan was arrested by the National Investigation Agency (NIA) for his alleged active involvement in promoting terrorist activities of the designated foreign terrorist organisation. "The accused, Shamil Saquib Nachan, a resident of Padgha, Thane, was found involved in the fabrication, training and testing of improvised explosive devices (IED) for the commission of terrorist acts.

Bhutan King To Visit India Today

New Delhi: The King of Bhutan, His Majesty Jigme Khesar Namgyel Wangchuck, the Queen of Bhutan, Her Majesty Jetsun Pema Wangchuck accompanied by senior officials from the Royal Government of Bhutan, will be on an official visit to India from December 05 to 06, an official said.He said that during his visit, the King would meet Prime Minister Narendra Modi, External Affairs Minister S. Jaishankar and senior officials of the government.He added that India and Bhutan enjoy unique ties of friendship and cooperation, which are characterised by mutual understanding and trust.

"The visit shall provide both sides an opportunity to review the entire gamut of bilateral cooperation and to further advance the exemplary bilateral partnership across diverse sectors," he said.

TA Soldier Shot & Injured By Terrorists In J&K's Tral

Srinagar: A Territorial Army (TA) soldier was shot at and injured by terrorists in the Tral area of Jammu and Kashmir's Pulwama district on Wednesday, officials said.The incident was reported from Sofigund Aripal village of Tral tehsil of Pulwama."Terrorists opened fire at a TA soldier outside his residence at Sofigund Aripal village of Tral today evening. The soldier, identified as Delhair Mushtaq, sustained injuries and was immediately shifted to the hospital for treatment. Attending doctors said he has suffered an injury in his leg and his condition is stable," an official said.The area has been cordoned off for searches.According to officials, the soldier was at home on leave when the attack happened.Terrorists have increased their activities for the last four months in J&K after the peaceful Lok Sabha and Assembly elections.

PM Modi One Of The Wisest Persons In World: Kuwait Foreign Minister



New Delhi: Calling India a "very important partner", Kuwait's Foreign Minister Abdullah Ali Al-Yahya on Wednesday heaped praise on Prime Minister Narendra Modi, saying that the West Asian nation believes that the Indian leader is one of the wisest persons in the world."I would like to thank you for the invitation and also for the opportunity of meeting Prime Minister Modi, who we believe is one of the wisest persons worldwide. I am sure that the Prime Minister puts India on a better level, and I am sure that he will continue that… India is a very important partner and we count on our relationship," the visiting Foreign Minister said in his opening remarks at the delegation-level meeting with External Affairs Minister (EAM) S. Jaishankar in New Delhi on Wednesday evening.Abdullah Ali Al-Yahya arrived in India late Tuesday night for an official visit that aims at further strengthening the multifaceted relationship between the two countries.In the afternoon, he made a courtesy call on PM Modi at his Lok Kalyan Marg residence before holding a meeting with EAM Jaishankar at the Hyderabad House."Glad to receive Foreign Minister of Kuwait Abdullah Ali Al-Yahya. I thank the Kuwaiti leadership for the welfare of the Indian nationals. India is committed to advance our deep-rooted and historical ties for the benefit of our people and the region," PM Modi posted on X after the meeting.India and Kuwait share a historically strong bilateral relationship that has stood the test of time. Rooted in centuries of trade and cultural exchange, the partnership predates Kuwait's independence in 1961, during which the Indian Rupee served as its legal tender.

South Korea: Cabinet Offers To Resign Collectively Over Martial Law Declaration

Seoul: The South Korean Cabinet has offered to resign collectively in the midst of political turmoil triggered by President Yoon Suk Yeol's overnight martial law order, officials said on Wednesday.At a meeting convened by Prime Minister Han Duck-soo, nearly all Cabinet members, including Finance Minister Choi Sang-mok and Education Minister Lee Ju-ho, expressed their intent to resign to take responsibility for the President's declaration and subsequent lifting of martial law earlier in the day, Yonhap news agency reported."I have no intention of continuing in my post," Justice Minister Park Sung-jae told reporters after the meeting. Defence Minister Kim Yong-hyun, who reportedly proposed declaring martial law to Yoon, later announced his resignation in a statement.Prime Minister Han urged the Cabinet to continue fulfilling their respons ibilities."I ask the Cabinet to fulfil your responsibilities together with the public officials of all ministries to ensure the people's safety and everyday lives are maintained without the slightest wavering," he said.



4.3-Magnitude Quake Hits Japan's Ibaraki

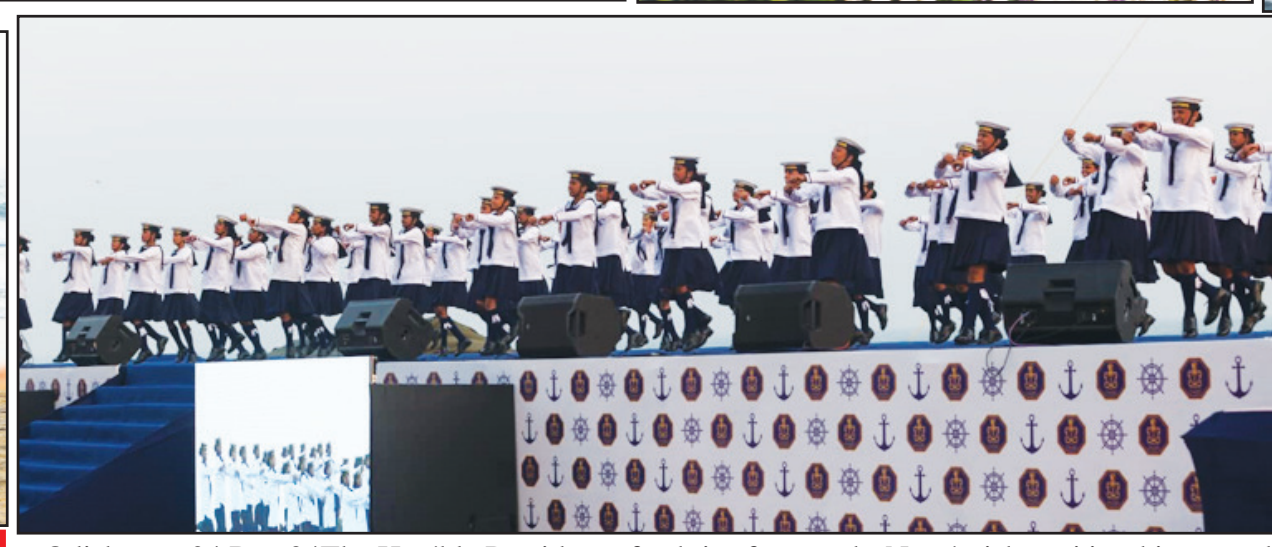
Tokyo: An earthquake with a preliminary magnitude of 4.3 jolted Japan's Ibaraki Prefecture on Wednesday, the country's weather agency said.According to the Japan Meteorological Agency (JMA), the temblor occurred at 7:11 pm local time at a depth of 50 km, measuring 3 on Japan's seismic intensity scale which peaks at 7. Tremors were felt in parts of Tokyo, Xinhua news agency reported.The temblor's epicentre was located at a latitude of 36.1 degrees north and a longitude of 139.9 degrees east.Earlier on November 26, an earthquake with a magnitude of 6.4 jolted off Japan's Ishikawa.The temblor occurred at 10:47 p.m. local time at a depth of 10 km, measuring lower 5 on the Japanese seismic intensity scale of 7 in parts of the prefecture, said the Japan Meteorological Agency (JMA).The epicentre was located at a latitude of 37 degrees north and a longitude of 136.5 degrees east.













Indian Navy Operational Demonstration at Puri

Puri:(Correspondent) :-Indian Navy displayed its operational prowess and capabilities through an _'Operational Demonstration'_ that covered many facets of naval operations by ships, submarines, aircraft, marine commandos and Indian Army personnel at the pristine Blue Flag Beach, Puri, Odisha, on 04 Dec 24The Hon'ble President of India and the Supreme Commander of the Armed Forces, Smt. Droupadi Murmu, was the Chief Guest for the event, which was hosted by Adm Dinesh K Tripathi, Chief of the Naval Staff. The event was also witnessed by senior Central and State Government officials, military dignitaries, and the local populace.The Indian Navy celebrates Navy Day on 04 December to commemorate Operation Trident the audacious attack on Karachi harbour during the Indo-Pak War in 1971. The Op Demo aimed to bring focus to the Navy's rich maritime history and demonstrated the valour and courage of its personnel and their resolve to safeguard national maritime interests _Anytime, Anywhere, Anyhow_.The event also showcased the Indian Navy's state-of-the-art ships and aircraft to the spectators and online viewers through live streaming on the _Indian Navy's YouTube channel_ as well as on Doordarshan Channels.The Op Demo saw the participation of 15 warships, aircraft comprising MiG 29K and MH 60R , along with combat beach reconnaissance by the Marine Commandos of the Indian Navy. Other major attractions included performances by the *Naval Band, Continuity Drill, and Horn Pipe Dance by SCC Cadets. The event culminated with the illumination of ships at anchorage followed by a Laser and Drone show at the beach.This was the second time that the Indian Navy had organised a mega event at a location other than a major Naval Station. Blue Flag Beach, Puri, is about 500 km from Visakhapatnam and about 200 km from the nearest Naval Station at INS Chilka.

Legal Metrology Dept Conducts Over 4 Lakh Raids In 2 Yrs; Collects Rs 3.78 Cr Fine

Bhubaneswar(Correspondent): The Directorate of Legal Metrology under the Food Supplies and Consumer Welfare Department has carried out an extensive crackdown on irregularities, conducting 4,22,484 raids in the last two fiscal years and seven months (from the beginning of 2022-23 to October 2024).This was revealed by Food Supplies and Consumer Welfare Minister Krushna Chandra Patra in the Odisha Assembly on Wednesday.Responding to a query by BJP MLA from Brahmagiri, Upasana Mohapatra, the Minister stated that the raids resulted in the registration of 13,435 cases of irregularities. A total fine of ?3,78,39,300 has been collected during the same period.

Odisha Farmers' Monthly Income Stands At Rs 5,112: Agriculture Minister

Bhubaneswar: According to data from the National Statistical Office (NSO), the average monthly income of agricultural households in Odisha stands at Rs 5,112, informed Deputy Chief Minister and Agriculture Minister Kanak Vardhan Singh Deo in the state Assembly on Wednesday.Singh Deo's reply came in response to a question raised by Congress MLA Taraprasad Bahinipati.Bahinipati in his question asked the Deputy Chief Minister to state the annual income per head of agricultural households in the state. The Minister was also asked to provide the amount of minimum support price (MSP) provided by the state government per quintal of paddy. Additionally, he was requested to disclose the cost incurred by farmers to produce one quintal of paddy. Lastly, he was asked to provide the cost of paddy production per quintal in non-irrigated and irrigated land.Replying to the Congress MLA's queries, Deputy CM said, "For the 2024-25 year, the minimum support price (MSP) for common paddy has been fixed at Rs 2,300 per quintal. The state government provides additional support to farmers, taking the total support to Rs 3,100 per quintal."According to the Commission for Agricultural Costs and Prices (CACP), the cost of production for paddy in Odisha stands at Rs 2,067 per quintal.

Prez Murmu Calls Upon Students To Undertake Extensive Research In Ayurveda



Puri(Correspondent): President Droupadi Murmu on Wednesday called upon the Ayurveda students to undertake extensive research in the field of Ayurveda as it holds remedies for several ailments.Addressing the 75th Foundation Day celebration of Gopabandhu Ayurveda Mahavidlaya in Puri, Murmu said one can remain disease-free throughout life by remaining connected to yoga and nature."By maintaining a balanced diet, we can stay healthy. Yoga can help to keep diseases at bay," she said, adding, 'Be Yoga Yukta to remain Roga Mukta' (remain connected with Yoga to be free from diseases)."Research can prove the scientific basis of any method. Evidence builds trust among people and trust widens the path of acceptance," the President said while calling upon Ayurveda students to undertake research.The President said that she was aware of the method of treatment prevalent among the tribals for treating certain diseases, adding that some elderly tribals know about various diseases and the herbs needed to treat them."Unfortunately, traditional knowledge is disappearing slowly. I hope some of you (students) will be interested in exploring the scientific basis of that treatment. By doing so, the method can be saved from extinction and also be beneficial to the society," Murmu, who hails from Santal community in Odisha's Mayurbhanj district, said.Drawing the attention of the students and researchers to Odisha's palm leaf manuscripts preserved at the State Museum, the President said that they have much information on Ayurveda. Many people also have palm leaf manuscripts at their houses and they can gain from their contents."Besides literature, those palm-leaf manuscripts have information on medical treatment. In this direction, I hope that you will make efforts to bring our hidden treatment methods to the public through research," the President said.The President said that globally people are eager to learn Yoga and Ayurveda.

Odisha Stares At Whooping Rs 6,587 Cr Debt From Four Power Discoms

Bhubaneswar(Correspondent): Four electricity distribution companies of Odisha owe a staggering Rs 6,587 crore to the state. Deputy Chief Minister KV Singhdeo revealed this in a written reply to the Odisha Assembly, in response to a query from BJP's Om Prakash Mishra.The breakdown of the dues is as follows: CESU owes Rs 2,651 crore, NESCO owes Rs 958 crore, WESCO owes Rs 1,676 crore, and SOUTHCO owes Rs 1,300 crore.

ORIDL Asked to Review Alignment of New Line: Vaishnaw on Rail Connectivity for Kandhamal

BHUBANESWAR, ((Correspondence): The proposed rail connectivity for Kandhamal district is set to be established by the Rairakhol–Gopalpur new line project, undertaken by the Odisha Rail Infrastructure Development Limited (ORIDL).Railway Minister Ashwini Vaishnaw, in response to Sukanta Kumar Panigrahi's query in the Lok Sabha, mentioned that this new line, a joint venture between the government of Odisha and the Ministry of Railways, is intended to provide the proposed connectivity.The Detailed Project Report (DPR) for the new rail line has been prepared by ORIDL. However, the proposed alignment did not include Phulbani, contrary to the In-Principle Approval (IPA) granted to ORIDL, as stated by the Minister. Consequently, ORIDL has been instructed to reassess the alignment of the Gopalpur–Rairakhol new rail line, and the project awaits sanction.Notably, the residents of Kandhamal have expressed their discontent as the revised location survey map for the Gopalpur-Sambalpur railway line, as prepared by ORIDL, has excluded Phulbani town. The original survey had proposed a connection between Berhampur, Aska, Kandhamal, and Sambalpur.

President Droupadi Murmu Prays For Nation's Prosperity During Her Visit To Jagannath Temple



Bhubaneswar ((Correspondence): President Droupadi Murmu visited the Puri Jagannath Temple and offered prayers for the prosperity of the nation.As per reports, President visited the Puri Jagannath Temple in Odisha today, as part of her five-day visit to the state. She arrived at the temple around 10 am and was received by Gajapati Maharaja Dibyasingha Deb, Chief Administrator of the Shree Jagannath Temple Administration, and other officials.The President broke security protocol and walked from her car to the temple, interacting with people on the way. She also touched the Aruna Stambha before entering the temple. Inside the temple, she offered prayers to Lord Jagannath, Lord Balabhadra, and Goddess Subhadra. President Murmu also visited the Bimala temple, where she offered prayers and spent some time. Later, she visited the Lakshmi temple and offered prayers there as well, said sources.Prior to the President's visit, the general public was not allowed to enter the temple. Thousands of people gathered on the roads to catch a glimpse of the President.During her visit, she prayed for the happiness and well-being of the people of the state and the country.Following her visit, President said, "After visiting Lord Jagannath, I prayed for the well-being of the state and the country. May the people of the state and the country be happy and prosperous. May God bless everyone."During her visit, she prayed for the happiness and well-being of the people of the state and the country.

Vigilance Arrests Assistant Executive Engineer for Possessing Disproportionate Assets

Bhubaneswar((Correspondence):: The Assistant Executive Engineer of Jeypore Block and Municipal Engineer of Jeypore Municipality in Koraput, has been arrested by Vigilance for possessing disproportionate assets.Searches conducted at the properties of Biswanath Patro revealed assets worth approximately Rs 1.55 crore, including two multi-storeyed buildings, 18 plots, deposits over Rs 1.01 crore, 854 grams of gold, and 1.8 kilograms of silver.Patro was arrested as he was unable to provide a satisfactory explanation for these assets.

EDITORIAL

Spiritual progress makes existence meaningful

What is mantra? "Mantra is that which when repeated again and again, shows the way to trana, liberation." In the spiritual sphere, the word trana is used in the sense of paritrana, permanent liberation. The word trana is derived from the Sanskrit verb, trae plus anat, and means, "saving from danger, relief from bondage". Suppose someone binds you hand and foot, and somehow your bonds are untied. It means you have attained liberation; but at any time you may again fall into bondage.

Today there is no bondage, but tomorrow, it may come back. There is no permanent escape in trana. But paritrana means that once bondages are removed, they will never come back. Hence that consecrated word which, by repeating it internally repeatedly, will bring about one's permanent liberation, is termed a mantra. The vibrational expression and emanation of the psycho-spiritual entity that forms the subtlest part of human existence, is guided by mantra. During sadhana, the mind advances more in accordance with the vibration. This is the work of a mantra, its excellence.

You cannot call all sounds as mantras, because they do not possess the capacity to liberate one from bondage. There are so many sounds, syllables and words in the universe. Each word is meaningful. Every syllable bears a special import; nothing is meaningless or insignificant, but only that sound, whose acoustic expressions or acoustic waves have the stamina to goad the subtlest portion of the human mind unto the supreme stance, can be a mantra. When the mind of even a learned person turns towards crude physicality, then, what can pull the mind towards subtlety, benevolence, and break the shackles of crude bondage? The living mantra can.

For spiritual progress, mantra is indispensable. Without such progress, existence will not be meaningful. And while one is moving in the spiritual sphere, one will at the same time have to discharge his duties towards the psychic and physical world in a proper way. This is what human life is all about. For spiritual progress, one must not ignore the psychic realm or the mundane external sphere. One will move steadily in the spiritual sphere, and the rjuta, straightforwardness; sahas, courage and satyanistha, love of truth, that grow, will be utilised for the mental welfare of the entire world. Spiritual aspirants will engage themselves in common welfare – in the physical world – because no one can render service as much as a spiritualist can. Hence such a person should remember that he is doing sadhana for spiritual salvation, and this endeavour will be successful only if it is dedicated to the service of the world. Finally, with the help of mantra, one will attain mantra chaitanya, mantra consciousness. And thus, one finds a beacon to guide one onward towards his goal.

Patha Padhibi, Kalia Ghoda Re Chadhibi : Stay Focused



Dr Annada Tripathy

"Patha Padhibi, Kalia Ghoda Re Chadhibi" is a famous Odia proverb. It means "I will study and achieve success, symbolized by riding the black horse." This message is closely associated with Utkal Gourav Madhusudan Das. He is known as the architect of modern Odisha. His life and work inspire countless people to aim high and work hard.

Madhusudan Das, also called "Madhu Babu," was a great leader, lawyer, and social reformer. He was born on April 28, 1848, in Satyabhamapur, Cuttack. He was the first graduate and lawyer from Odisha. He dedicated his life to the progress of the Odia people.

Madhusudan Das believed education is the key to success. He showed this through his life. In his time, very few people could go to school. But Madhu Babu worked hard and completed his studies. He went to Calcutta and earned degrees in arts and law. His achievements made him a role model.The proverb "Patha Padhibi, Kalia Ghoda Re Chadhibi" reflects his belief. It teaches us that education is the first step to achieving our dreams.

In this proverb, the black horse represents success, dignity, and power. For Madhusudan Das, education was the path to riding this black horse. He used his knowledge to fight for the rights of the Odia people. He worked to unite the Odia-speaking regions and protect their culture and identity.

Madhusudan Das's life teaches us many lessons:

1. Hard Work: Madhu Babu worked hard to overcome challenges. He never gave up, even when life was difficult.
2. Self-Belief: He believed in his abilities. He showed that with determination, we can achieve great things.
3. Service to Society: He used his success to help others. He fought for the poor and worked to uplift society.

Madhusudan Das wanted young people to study and dream big. His life proves that education is the most powerful tool for change. Students should focus on their studies and work hard. Like Madhu Babu, they should use their knowledge to help others and make the world a better place.

Even today, "Patha Padhibi, Kalia Ghoda Re Chadhibi" inspires people. It reminds us that success comes from education and effort. In a world full of competition, this message is more important than ever. It tells us to aim high, stay focused and never stop learning.

The proverb "Patha Padhibi, Kalia Ghoda Re Chadhibi" is not just words. It is a guiding principle for life. It reflects the vision of Madhusudan Das, who believed in the power of education and hard work. Let us follow his example, dream big and make our lives meaningful through dedication and knowledge.

Why is it that honest people suffer



Bipin Bihari Rout

The general grievance everywhere is that the innocent suffer at the hands of the vicious. That the honest are deceived and harassed while the dishonest exploit and prosper. The innocent are frustrated not knowing the reason for this paradox in life. The reason becomes obvious with a study of the inner personality of humans. A careful analysis would reveal that the nature of human beings falls under two broad classifications. The aggressive and the passive. Each of these can further be classified as good and bad. Thus there are the aggressive good and aggressive bad persons. Likewise, the passive good and passive bad, as illustrated below:

The terms aggressive and passive herein have a particular connotation depending on the use or non use of the intellect. The mind and intellect are the two equipments that propel human activity. The physical body cannot act on its own. Actions proceed either from the mind or the intellect. A person would be classified as passive when he acts from feeling and emotion of the mind without the guidance of the intellect. And, the one who acts with his intellect governing the mind through reason and judgment would be classified as aggressive.

A passive person functioning from his mind's feeling and emotion may be good or bad. He conducts himself either way, unaware of his goodness or badness. He merely manifests his good or bad impulses. His intellect is not sufficiently developed to examine the nature of his activities. He does not intend to be either good or bad. Thus there are passively good and passively bad persons.

In contrast to the passive, the aggressive function with the intellect. The aggressive also may be categorised as good or bad. An aggressively bad person is wilfully vicious, catering to his personal interests. He plans and schemes, manipulates and manoeuvres in his immoral, corrupt way of living. He breaks customs and traditions, rules and regulations, to feed his egocentric desires. The use of the intellect makes him more powerful to dominate over the passive good and bad. Since the passive do not use the intellect and function directly from the mind, they succumb to the oppression of the aggressive bad. As opposed to the aggressive bad, the aggressive good is essentially benevolent. He uses his intellect to evaluate his role in life and act in the best interest of the community at large. He is charitably disposed, service oriented.

Study these four classifications of human nature. You will find that the honest suffer because of lack of use of the intellect. Operating at the level of the mind, the passive become victims of intellectual manipulations of the aggressive bad. The solution to this problem lies in the passive developing and using their intellect to turn into aggressive good persons. The aggressive bad dread the aggressive good. Aggressive goodness would therefore take care of all evil and corruption in the world. Not knowing this solution there is no attempt to develop, strengthen the intellect and promote aggressive goodness. Instead, people lead a passive life, complain of malpractices and suffer at the hands of the oppressors.

Happiness has something to do with you



Anupama Bhuyan

The wise will always state that happiness does not depend on circumstance. Being happy is truly a natural state; there are no pretexts – one is simply that. However, from birth, happiness is something we gradually relinquish. We scour the surface for answers to this dilemma but it is like tossing a cork onto the vastness of the ocean. Happiness is taken out of our hands. From this fallen state, some embark on yoga. The path aims at a new level of happiness, independent of all circumstances. It is not an easy way and many tests are hurled at us. The right attitude is to regard them all as for our own good because these lessons will not go away until they are fully absorbed.

The transition can be immensely uncomfortable and we notice more and more twisted patterns coming to the surface. The emerging consciousness and the process of yoga are producing this change. Consciousness has an action and if one is attentive, a happy equilibrium will be restored. The knowledge of what is happening (and why) brings joy and invites the spirit into all proceedings.

The surface can no longer keep us happy. The ego, once essential for our survival, now becomes a hurdle. It creates a tight shell. We had formerly used it to deaden harmful impacts from outside but now we find it deadening us inside. How it suffocates! It becomes our biggest cause of unhappiness. So we plunge deeper for answers to our existence and look for deeper happiness.

Slowly, we realise that happiness is also a matter of internal organisation. If we want to be master of our circumstances, we must master every movement inside first and learn to align ourselves, to our true nature. The aim is harmony and through its influence, our dispersive nature becomes a homogenous whole. Our psychology, once tormentor, now becomes a malleable instrument in the hands of the Supreme. Only our soul can achieve this but the process requires inner work. Consciousness becomes our searchlight and illuminates every hidden corner inside. Divine Consciousness is the only true help, the only true happiness. The further one moves forward, the more one realises this simple fact. Nothing else seems enough any longer. This is the Truth and our key to happiness."

Cities grappling with vehicle parking problems



Dr. Satyawan Saurabh

Good public transport does not necessarily reduce traffic congestion significantly. To improve congestion, cities must combine efforts to improve their public transport systems with activities that target the functional, psychological, and cultural values of owning and using private cars. Vehicle congestion and inadequate parking facilities are increasingly pressing challenges for India's large and cosmopolitan cities, severely impacting mobility. Despite limitations due to constitutional mandates, many Indian cities are trying to address the problem through parking policies that focus on regulation, pricing as a management tool, new technologies, and off-street parking provisions.Vehicle parking problems in India are significant urban challenges that affect not only traffic flow but also the very fabric of urban life. The problem arises from a combination of rapid urbanization, rising vehicle ownership, and outdated urban planning, creating a complex dilemma for traffic management, urban planning, and quality of life in metropolitan areas. As cities expand and car ownership becomes more accessible, Indian urban centers are struggling to accommodate the growing number of vehicles. Lack of adequate parking infrastructure and cities not designed for the number of vehicles today lead to rampant illegal parking. This not only leads to road congestion but also to a shortage of pedestrian space. Many Indian cities were founded in ancient or colonial times but were not planned with modern traffic demands in mind. Narrow streets and mixed land use put pressure on the load of parked and moving vehicles. Additionally, lax enforcement of parking rules and a cultural tendency towards non-compliance further aggravate the situation, leaving urban spaces cluttered.A direct consequence of parking problems is severe traffic congestion, which increases travel time, increases pollution levels, and degrades the quality of urban life. Pedestrians are particularly inconvenienced, as parked vehicles often encroach on pedestrian paths, forcing them onto the streets and compromising their safety. Economically, lack of parking affects local businesses, as congested streets do not attract customers. The high demand for parking spaces also increases the cost of real estate, which in turn promotes urban sprawl and environmental degradation by promoting the development of parking infrastructure at the expense of green spaces. Motor vehicle matters in India fall under both the central and state jurisdictions. Although vehicle congestion is an emerging problem for Indian cities, the automobile industry is unlikely to be banned, as it has considerable economic and employment potential and is vital to India. The parking policies of all five cities seem to agree on some important aspects. They are unanimous in their view that parking cannot be free, and wherever public space is used, a fee must be levied, as the concept of 'free parking' is not sustainable.Addressing the parking problem requires a comprehensive strategy that includes the development of adequate parking infrastructure, the adoption of smart parking technologies, and the enforcement of parking regulations. For example, defining parking areas and using technology such as vehicle identification sensors and automatic license plate recognition can streamline parking management. In addition, adjusting parking fees based on land value and congestion can discourage unnecessary vehicle use in congested areas. In addition to infrastructure solutions, promoting public transport and sustainable urban mobility practices can reduce parking pressure. Encouraging the use of public transport, cycling, and walking can reduce reliance on private vehicles, thereby reducing demand for parking spaces.

Good public transport does not necessarily reduce traffic congestion significantly. To improve congestion, cities need to combine efforts to improve their public transport systems with activities that target the functional, psychological, and cultural values of owning and using private cars.

Vehicle parking problems in India are a complex issue that requires a multi-pronged approach, including urban planning, policy reforms, technological innovations, and cultural change. By tackling this challenge head-on, India can enhance its urban mobility, improve the quality of life of its citizens, and set an example for sustainable urban development. The way forward lies in collaborative efforts between the government, the private sector, and the public to reimagine and rebuild better urban spaces.

Mild earthquake felt in Malkangiri district



Malkangiri (Correspondence): Malkangiri district was hit by a mild earthquake this morning. This mild earthquake was felt in some areas of Malkangiri district at around 7:28 am. No damage was reported in this earthquake that lasted for about five to seven seconds, but it is reported that the epicenter was in the neighboring state of Telangana. The intensity of this earthquake, which lasted for about five to seven seconds, was 5.0 in rictor scale and its effects were felt for a very short time. However, after feeling the tremor, some people got scared and some people came out of their houses. The complete information about this was not given by the Meteorological Department.

Illegal Cow Smuggling, Truck Seized, More Than 70 Cows Rescued, Driver Arrested



SUBARNAPUR (Correspondence):Subarnapur District Binika Police seized two cow trucks near Mahanadi bridge.While patrolling at College Chhak, Binika Police tried to stop two trucks coming at high speed from Rampur side, but the truck tried to speed back. Later, two trucks together As they were speeding along, the police chased them with suspicion and caught them near the Mahanadi bridge. Investigation revealed that illegal cow smuggling had been observed. Truck No. WB-33-F 2152 and another truck No. WB-13-6423. The driver of one truck fled from the spot while the other one has been detained by the police and further investigation is underway.A total of more than 70 cow have been taken to the nearby Kamdhenu Go Sebashram . A driver was arrested by the police as the people in the two trucks retaliated. The driver has been detained at the police station for further questioning and is being investigated by the police.

Vigilance Probe Initiated in Jharsuguda Municipality Mosquito Oil Scam

Jharsuguda, (Correspondence): A high-level vigilance inquiry has been launched into alleged corruption in the procurement of mosquito oil by the Jharsuguda Municipality. The move follows a report published in Odisha news papers, highlighting irregularities in the tender process and price escalation.On Tuesday, a vigilance team, led by DSP Vigilance, inspected the municipality office, scrutinized relevant records, and seized documents for further investigation. Executive Officer Manas Ranjan Mallick provided the required data to the team.Initial findings reveal a significant discrepancy in the prices of mosquito oil procured through tenders over different periods. Between June 2019 and November 2022, 2,000 liters of mosquito oil were supplied by a Sundargarh-based agency at per liter, costing 1.54 lakh. However, from March 2023 to November 2023, a different agency supplied 7,500 liters of oil at ?740 per liter, amounting to ?55.5 lakh.This tenfold price hike has raised serious questions about the integrity of the tendering process, despite adherence to procedural formalities. Allegations of tender manipulation have been leveled against the municipality's tender committee, chaired by the Municipality Chairman.The issue was also raised in the State Assembly by MLA Tankadhar Tripathy, who questioned the rationale behind such exorbitant pricing. In response, Housing and Urban Development Minister Krushna Chandra Mohapatra confirmed that a departmental inquiry has been initiated, promising stringent action against those found guilty.As the vigilance inquiry progresses, tension has gripped the municipality office, with staff reportedly under pressure. The case has sparked widespread public concern about accountability in civic administration.

Sex Racket Busted In Angul; One Arrested, Five Women Rescued

Angul (Correspondence): The Nalconagar police in Angul district dismantled a sex racket operating out of the Basla Huttings slum on Wednesday, arresting one person and rescuing five women.The raid was conducted following a tip-off and undercover investigation by the police.Among the rescued women, one is reported to be from Bengal, while the remaining are from Odisha.The police also seized several incriminating items, including five mobile phones and an autorickshaw, during the operation.According to sources, a team of police officers posing as customers contacted the woman allegedly running the racket.After gathering solid evidence, the Nalconagar police, in coordination with the Special Squad, conducted a surprise raid in the afternoon. The operation led to the arrest of 28-year-old Bijay Gocchayat from Gotamara.Investigations are ongoing to identify other individuals involved in the illegal activity.

BJD Congratulations to new SUJ District Vice President Rohan



Kantabanji, correspondence: Odisha Journalist Union (SUJ) has elected new members in Balangir district. In the SUJ Balangir District Branch meeting held at Sambadik Bhavan in Balangir, Odisha Journalists Union (SUJ) elected young journalist Rohan Kumar Mahat of Kantabanji area as Balangir District Vice President. As a fearless journalist, he always publishes news in all areas with truth and by going to ground zero and brings the problems of many suburban areas to the notice of the government and administration and works towards solving the problems of the people. After being elected to the post of Vice President, Rohan was felicitated on Wednesday by Kantabanji Biju Janata Dal under the leadership of young BJD leader Giriraj Singh Majhi at the party office located at Turekela Block Chatuanka. On this occasion, former vice-president of Balangir District special Development Council and BJD leader Nirupama Majhi, BJD Mahila Janata Dal District General Secretary Pinky Khersel, town president Dewara Barik, town youth president Bishnu Jued, senior BJD leader Daitari Bhoi, journalist Tulsiram Jagat, social worker Dubu Lath were prominently present. Similarly, under the leadership of Sai Bhai social Sansthan, founder Rajendra Deep felicitated, vice-president Rohan and district executive members Tulsiram Jagat, jugal Kishor Sabar and member Mohan Suna with garlands and flowers. Upendra Deep, Ghulam Jilani, Upasana Chauhan, Deepak Deep of the Sansthan were present.

Navy Helicopter Makes Emergency Landing In Mayurbhanj District



Baripada (Correspondence): In a dramatic incident, an Indian navy helicopter made an emergency landing in a paddy field at Amarada under Rasagovindapur in Mayurbhanj district on Wednesday.As per reports, the helicopter, which was on a routine sortie, developed a technical snag and was forced to make an emergency landing in the field at Amardda village.Farmers were cutting paddy crops in the field when they saw the helicopter hovering over the field to land in the middle of the field. The helicopter was unable to do so due to flying paddy stubble and instead landed in another nearby field. The pilot spent around 30 minutes in repairing the technical snag in the helicopter.The pilot and other crew members were safe, but the helicopter suffered significant damage.The incident caused panic among the farmers, who were busy working in the paddy field at the time. However, they were later thrilled to see the naval helicopter up close. After a 45-minute halt, the helicopter took off again, leaving behind a trail of excitement and curiosity among the villagers.

Leopard Dies Of Electrocution In Nayagarh; Poaching Suspected

Bhubaneswar(Correspondence):: A leopard carcass was found lying near the Budhijhari protected forest area under the Singhapada section of Nayagarh district.However, the exact reason behind the death of the leopard is not known, but preliminary investigations suggest that it might have died due to electrocution caused by a live wire set up to hunt wild boars.Upon being informed, officials from the Khandapada forest division visited the site and investigated the matter. The forest department has sent samples from the leopard's body for further examination to ascertain the exact cause and nature of the death.The Nayagarh forest division officer stated that samples from the leopard's body would help ascertain the exact cause and nature of the death.The death of the leopard has also brought attention to the menace of electrocution caused by live wires set up by poachers to hunt wild animals.Meanwhile, the incident raised concerns among wildlife experts and animal conservationists in the state regarding rising cases of illegal poaching inside protected forests of the state.It's a matter of coincidence that the death of a leopard in Nayagarh occurred on the same day Odisha Forest, Environment, and Climate Change Minister Ganesh Ram Singkhuntia revealed that 34 leopards and three Royal Bengal Tigers had lost their lives in the state over the last five years.

Woman Sets Herself, Infant On Fire Over Family Dispute In Cuttack

Bhubaneswar(Correspondence): In a shocking incident, a woman, driven by family disputes, set herself and her two-month-old infant on fire pouring kerosene at Atoda village near Salipur under Jagatpur police station in Cuttack district.The mother and child were rushed to SCB Medical College and Hospital, Cuttack in a critical, but unfortunately, the infant succumbed to burns at the hospital, while the mother passed away at a private hospital.According to eyewitnesses, the woman had locked herself and her baby in the house before setting themselves ablaze. Locals rescued them and admitted them to the hospital.The police intervened, breaking down the door to rescue the mother and daughter, and are currently investigating the incident.

LPG Cylinder Truck Catches Fire on Highway in Ganjam

Ganjam (Correspondence):: An LPG cylinder truck caught fire while traversing on NH-16 in the Puintala Chhak area in Ganjam district on Thursday.According to reports, the truck unexpectedly burst into flames while en route from Bhubaneswar to Berhampur. The driver, however, managed to escape without any injuries.The Odisha Fire Services Department responded promptly, containing the fire before it could reach the LPG cylinders. Initial assessments by the Fire Services officials indicate that the fire may have been caused by a short circuit

Hindu Suraksha Samiti Stages Bandh in Jharsuguda Against Persecution of Hindus in Bangladesh

Jharsuguda (Correspondent),: The Hindu Suraksha Samiti organized a protest rally and a complete bandh in Jharsuguda on Wednesday, voicing concerns over the alleged oppression of Hindus in Bangladesh.Over 2,500 participants, including members of various organizations like the RSS, Vishwa Hindu Parishad, Bharat Vikas Parishad, and others, marched from Manmohan School Ground to the Old Bus Stand. The rally called attention to rising violence against Hindus in Bangladesh, including attacks on temples and incidents of arson, looting, and assaults on women by Islamic extremists.The Samiti condemned the silence of the Bangladeshi government and international agencies, demanding immediate action to stop the persecution of Hindus. They also sought the release of ISKCON saint Chinmay Krishna Das, who was recently arrested in Bangladesh, sparking strong reactions



across India.A memorandum was submitted through the Jharsuguda District Collector's office, urging the Indian government to press for the protection of Hindus in Bangladesh and ensure the deportation of Bangladeshi Muslim and Rohingya infiltrators from Jharsuguda and surrounding areas.The memorandum highlighted concerns about the growing presence of infiltrators, alleging that some work as laborers and live in rented accommodations. The Samiti warned that their presence poses a potential threat to national security.The protest received support from organizations like Ekal Abhiyan, Durga Vahini, Brahma Kumaris, and Sindhi and Marwari communities, among others. Businesses across Jharsuguda remained closed during the bandh, reflecting widespread support for the cause.The rally concluded with a public meeting where speakers called for collective action to safeguard the rights of Hindus and prevent further violence against minorities in Bangladesh.

Mutilated Body of Man Found Under Shree Setu in Puri

Puri(Corres pondent),: The mutilated body of a man was found under the Shree Setu bridge in Puri district on Wednesday morning.
The deceased has been identified as Sudarshan Sahu (43) of Khandiabandh village was a tiffin shop owner near Market Chhack in Puri.As per reports, Sahu had gone to Shree Setu with his friend for some work. However, he didn't return home. He was allegedly stoned to death late on Tuesday night.

AFFIDAVIT

I, Rajashree Senapati, D/o. Late Gram Murty Patra, Resident of Talasahi, Banpur, Po/ PS - Banpur, Dist, Khordha, Odisha Pin-752031 declare by this affidavit No. 3512 dtd.- 03/12/2024 that now onwards I shall be known as RAJASHRI SENAPATI for all future purposes.



Preity Zinta Shares Picture Posing With Mother, Says 'You Are The Strongest Woman I Know'

Mumbai: Actress Preity Zinta shared some pictures posing with her "best" mother Nilprabha Zinta and shared that she is the strongest woman she knows.

Preity took to Instagram, where she shared a slew of images posing with her mother from an outing. In one image, the actress is seen giving a peck on her mother's cheek. She also shared a photograph of the some gelatos and chocolate cake."Short trips across the globe are pretty hectic n stressful. This thanksgiving weekend made me realise that true wealth is when you have family, that you truly love around you. I'm so grateful for the best mom in the galaxy and the best family Happy Belated birthday ma (sic).""You are the strongest woman I know & the sweetest. Love you to the moon & back #family #ma #ting," she wrote.Talking about the actress' early life, Preity was born in Shimla, Himachal Pradesh. Her father, Durganand Zinta, was an officer in the Indian Army and died in a car accident when she was thirteen. The accident also involved her mother, who was severely injured and consequently remained bedridden for two years.Talking about her journey, Preity made her acting debut in 1998 with the Shah Rukh Khan-starrer "Dil Se…". She then featured alongside Bobby Deol in "Soldier". Her role as a teenage single mother in the 2000 film "Kya Kehna" helped her attain more stardom.Her filmography includes "Chori Chori Chupke Chupke", "Dil Chahta Hai", "Dil Hai Tumhaara", "Kal Ho Naa Ho", "Koi… Mil Gaya", "Veer-Zara", "Salaam Namaste", "Kabhi Alvida Naa Kehna". It was in 2008, when Preity worked in her maiden international role in "Heaven On Earth".The actress is all set to return to the big screen with Rajkumar Santoshi's "Lahore 1947", which is produced under the banner of Aamir Khan Productions. It also stars Sunny Deol.

Understanding Dengue: What is dengue? Symptoms and treatment; Can dengue kill?



What is dengue?

Dengue fever is a mosquito-borne viral infection prevalent in tropical and subtropical regions worldwide, including India. The disease is common in the country, especially during monsoon. It is transmitted primarily by the Aedes mosquito. Here are the symptoms and treatment options for dengue fever, as it is crucial for timely identification and treatment.

Major symptoms

Dengue fever typically begins with a sudden onset of high fever, often reaching up to 104°F (40°C). This fever is usually accompanied by severe headache, joint and muscle pain, and discomfort behind the eyes. A characteristic rash may appear around the third to fourth day of the illness. Some patients may experience nausea, vomiting, abdominal pain, or diarrhea. In severe cases, dengue fever can lead to bleeding from the nose or gums, easy bruising, or other signs of bleeding disorders.

Treatment

While there is no specific antiviral treatment for dengue fever, medical care focuses on supportive measures to alleviate symptoms and prevent complications. Maintaining proper hydration is crucial in dengue fever management, especially since the disease can cause severe fluid loss. Over-the-counter pain relievers such as paracetamol can help reduce fever and alleviate joint and muscle pain.

Hospitalisation

Patients with severe dengue symptoms, such as persistent vomiting, bleeding tendencies, or signs of shock (such as rapid breathing, cold/clammy skin), may require hospitalisation for close monitoring and supportive care. In critical cases, blood transfusions or other interventions may be necessary.

Can dengue kill?

Yes, dengue fever can be life-threatening, especially in severe cases. While most cases of dengue fever result in mild symptoms and can be managed with supportive care, a small percentage of cases can progress to severe dengue, also known as dengue hemorrhagic fever (DHF) or dengue shock syndrome (DSS). These severe forms of dengue can lead to serious complications and death if not promptly treated.

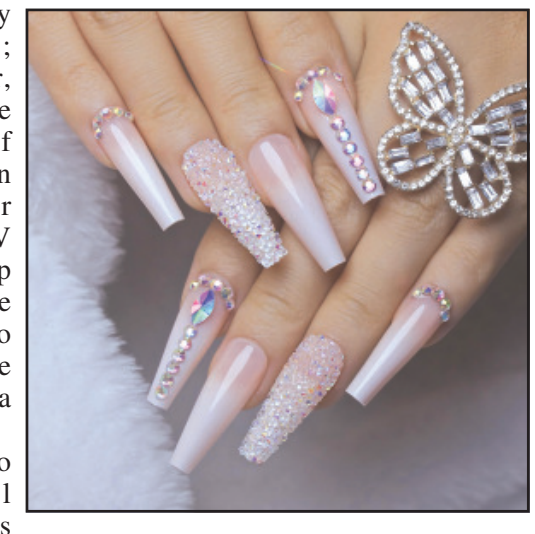
Gel polish, acrylic nails: How a booming industry can cause cancer

Booming industry comes at a cost

Nail art, acrylic nails and gel manicures are becoming increasingly popular, with celebrities including Kylie Jenner, Ariana Grande and Rihanna often donning them. However, according to Lancester University's Adam Taylor who wrote for The Conversion (appearing on news agency PTI), they can pose potential health risk. Nail fashion is now a booming industry with gel manicures and acrylic nails among the most popular current trends. While manicures might feel like self-care, they can ruin healthy natural nails – and might even cause unexpected health problems in a small proportion of people who get them, Taylor said.

Gel manicures can cause cancer

The nail glue used to attach acrylics to the natural nail is typically a mixture of alcohol, cyanoacrylate and photo-bonded methacrylate, with other ingredients including formaldehyde, which is a known carcinogen. There are many factors that contribute to cancer risk, including age, skin type, previous exposure and family history; however, there are cases of skin cancer where UV nail lamp are reported to have played a role.



How do gel manicures cause cancer?

Gel nails are cured using special dryers that emit ultra-violet light in the form of UVA, which hardens the gel converting it to stiff polymers. Since most people have their nails done every few weeks – and it takes approximately ten minutes to harden – that significantly increases UVA exposure. The back of the hands may be one of the most UV-resistant parts of the body but it's also unprotected by clothing – and one of the most common places people forget to apply sunscreen. If sunscreen is applied to hands then it's often washed off regularly without being reapplied. UV rays are known to cause skin cancer.

Pseudo-psoriatic nails

Prolonged wearing of gels and acrylics can also lead to pseudo-psoriatic nails, where extra-skin – known as hyperkeratosis – growing under the nail resembles the red and crusty appearance of psoriasis. Many manicure enthusiasts with pseudo-psoriatic nails test positive for allergy to methyl methacrylate. In some cases the allergy can be so severe that it causes the permanent loss of fingernails. Others suffer from peripheral neuropathy – tingling or numbness in fingers – sometimes permanently.

Traumatic onycholysis

Removing the nails can also cause traumatic onycholysis, where the nail is pulled away from the bed underneath, giving a classic rollercoaster appearance at the joint between the nail and the underlying bed. This can open up the barrier that protects the internal body from the outside world, particularly at the edges on either side of the nail, when they become infected this is known as paronychia. The removal process for both gel and acrylic manicures can wear down natural nails, which can be overfiled, causing stripes running across the ends of the nails, as well as changes and damage to the capillaries underneath.

Lactose intolerant? 6 top non-dairy calcium sources for healthy bones

Calcium

Calcium is crucial for maintaining bone density and strength, as it helps form and maintain strong bones and teeth. A deficiency in calcium can lead to brittle bones and conditions like osteoporosis. Here are 6 non-dairy sources of calcium that are great for maintaining healthy bones:

Almonds

Almonds are rich in calcium and also provide magnesium, which is essential for bone health. A handful of almonds can give you a good calcium boost.

Kale

This leafy green vegetable is packed with calcium, along with vitamins K and C, which help in bone strength and health.



Chia Seeds

Chia seeds are an excellent plant-based source of calcium. They are easy to add to smoothies, yogurt, or oatmeal for a nutritional boost.

Tofu

Tofu made with calcium sulfate is a fantastic source of calcium. It's also high in protein, making it a great option for bone health.

Figs

Dried figs are a sweet way to get more calcium. They are also loaded with antioxidants and fiber, promoting overall health.

Broccoli

Broccoli is not only high in calcium but also in vitamin C and K, which are important for bone strength and overall health.

Kalinga Stadium To Host 39th National Junior Athletics Championship From Dec 7 – 11



Bhubaneswar: The 39th National Junior Athletics Championship will be held at the Kalinga Stadium in Bhubaneswar from December 7 to 11. Around 2,000 athletes from across the country will participate in the competition to be held for five days.A maximum of 150 athletes from Haryana will participate in the competition. Similarly, a total of 78 athletes from Odisha will participate in the competition. Of the athletes participating from Odisha, 43 are male and 35 are athletes.Sports Minister Suryavanshi Suraj said that the 39th National Junior Athletics Championship will be held at the Kalinga Stadium in Bhubaneswar from December 7 to 11. A total of 78 athletes from Odisha will participate in the competition.It is worth mentioning that this year, sports competitions such as the 27th National Federation Senior Athletics, 70th Odisha State Senior and Junior Athletics Championship and 35th East Zone Junior Athletics Championship have already been held in Odisha.

Under-19 Asia Cup: 13-Year-Old Vaibhav Suryavanshi's 76 Not Out Guide India To Semis



Sharjah: India's 13-year-old sensation, Vaibhav Suryavanshi, lit up the Sharjah Cricket Stadium on Wednesday, as he smashed an unbeaten 76 off 46 balls to lead India to a resounding ten-wicket victory over the United Arab Emirates (UAE) in Match 12 of the Under-19 Asia Cup 2024.Suryavanshi, who became the youngest player in IPL history to be sold at auction, with Rajasthan Royals (RR) buying him for a whopping Rs 1.10 crore, has been under intense scrutiny. Expectations skyrocketed after the historic deal, but the prodigy struggled in the tournament's opening two games, managing scores of just 1 and 23.Facing mounting criticism, Suryavanshi walked out to chase a modest target of 138 with a point to prove—and he wasted no time in making a statement. The left-hander got off the mark in emphatic style, launching UAE pacer Ali Asgar for a towering six off his very first delivery.Suryavanshi's aggression continued unabated, as he smashed two more sixes in the next over off spinner Aayan Khan. His ferocious strokeplay saw him race to 28 off just 11 balls, peppering the Sharjah boundary with ease.Inspired by his partner's fireworks, fellow opener Ayush Mhatre shifted gears after a cautious start, accelerating from 8 off 17 balls to take on the bowlers. The duo forged a devastating 100-run opening stand in just 70 balls, leaving the UAE attack in tatters.Suryavanshi brought up his half-century in style, reaching the milestone in 32 balls with a mix of power and finesse. Mhatre followed suit, notching his own fifty off 38 balls as the pair continued their assault. Fittingly, Suryavanshi sealed the chase in the 17th over with a massive six, finishing with a sparkling 76 not out that included three fours and six towering sixes. Mhatre, equally impressive, remained unbeaten on 67 not out off 51 balls, smashing four boundaries and four sixes.Earlier in the day, India's bowlers delivered a clinical performance to bundle out UAE for a modest 137 in 44 overs. Right-arm seamer Yudhajit Guha was the pick of the bowlers, claiming 3/15 in his seven-over spell. Chetan Sharma (2/27) and Hardik Raj (2/28) provided excellent support, while the fielders ensured that UAE never found momentum.With this dominant performance, India finished as runner-ups in Group A, behind Pakistan, with two wins from three matches, securing their place in the semi-finals. They will face Sri Lanka in a highly anticipated clash on Friday at the same venue.

Bindra, Narang, Harbhajan Send Best Wishes To Jr Men's Hockey Team

New Delhi: Indian Men's Junior Hockey Team is set to face their arch-rivals Pakistan in the Men's Junior Asia Cup Final. Ahead of this much-anticipated clash, Beijing Olympics gold medallist Abhinav Bindra, and Olympian Gagan Narang and veteran Indian spinner Harbhajan Singh extended their best wishes to the Indian Colts on Wednesday, encouraging them to bring the trophy back home.As the defending champions, India will aim to retain their title by overcoming their long-standing rivals, Pakistan, in this high-stakes final.Olympic Gold medallist Bindra in his message, praised the young guns for their win against Malaysia and wished them for the finals against Pakistan.

Odisha FC Striker Roy Krishna Out For Season With ACL Injury

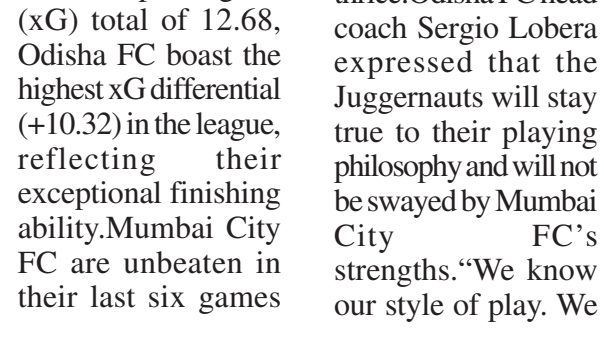


Bhubaneswar: Odisha FC have been handed a heavy blow in the context of the ongoing season as the Kalinga Warriors' star striker Roy Krishna will be sidelined for the remainder of the season due to an ACL (Grade 3) injury sustained during the game against Hyderabad FC.The club confirmed the length of his injury via social media channels on Wednesday."We are deeply saddened to announce that Roy is out for the season, as confirmed earlier by our medical team. We are losing an incredible player and one of the best professionals I have ever worked with."I am confident he will recover well and come back stronger to help us. It's always difficult to accept such setbacks however, we must keep moving forward and remain focused on our work," said Head Coach, Sergio Lobera to Odisha's media team.The Fijian forward has been a key player for the club, contributing significantly to their success after joining last season. His absence will undoubtedly be a major blow to the team's attacking prowess."While the news is undoubtedly disappointing for fans and the team alike, the club remains optimistic about the future and wishes Roy a speedy recovery," read the statement by the club.The 37-year old came to India in 2016 with the Kolkata based franchise, then known as Atletico de Kolkata and played for the team till 2022 before securing a move to Bengaluru FC, following which he joined Odisha in 2023. In his first full season with the side, Krishna broke the record of most goals scored by a Odisha FC player in a single season.The Fiji-born striker has made 116 appearances so far in the Indian domestic competition, playing 9381 minutes whilst scoring 58 goals and providing 28 assists.

Indian-Origin Star Aaron Rai Wins Hero Shot Ahead Of Woods-Hosted World Challenge

Albany (Bahamas): Aaron Rai, one of the eight debutants in the field of 20 and one of three Indian-origin players in the star-studded World Challenge got off to a fine start winning the Hero Shot, the curtain raiser to the $5 million event hosted by Tiger Woods.In the final, Rai landed two of three shots on the platform floating between the ninth-hole and 18th-hole greens and beat Jason Day.The fast-paced event had six competitors picked from the field of 20 who will play the main 72-hole event from December 5 to 8. The event took place soon after Hero's Executive Chairman Dr Pawan Munjal and Woods announced the extension of their partnership till 2030.The tournament, which has had an Indian player only once – Anirban Lahiri (in 2016) in the field – will see three players of Indian origin in the field. They are Sahith Theegala, Akshay Bhatia and Aaron Rai, all of whom have won on the PGA Tour.The three Indian-origin players exemplify the global nature of the game. Rai's parents are of Indian origin and his mother grew up in Kenya but they are now living in England, where Aaron was born.

ISL 2024-25: Mumbai City Eye Seventh Straight Unbeaten Match Against Odisha



Bhubaneswar: Mumbai City FC are all set to take on Odisha FC at the Kalinga Stadium in Bhubaneswar as the two teams battle it out in the reverse fixture, for bragging rights in their Indian Super League (ISL) 2024-25 fixture on Thursday.The two sides played out a 1-1 draw in their previous encounter that was played in Mumbai in October, but with the competition intensifying, they will have their eyes on all three points in the forthcoming encounter.Odisha FC, buoyed by consecutive wins, will look to make it three on the bounce, while Mumbai City FC are aiming to extend their unbeaten run against Odisha FC to seven games in the competition.Odisha FC have found the back of the net in each of their last 10 home games in the ISL. A goal in this fixture will equal their record of scoring in 11 consecutive home matches, set between December 2019 and December 2022. With 23 goals this season from an expected goals (xG) total of 12.68, Odisha FC boast the highest xG differential (+10.32) in the league, reflecting their exceptional finishing ability.Mumbai City FC are unbeaten in their last six games against Odisha FC. Only against FC Goa (13 games) and Chennaiyin FC (9 games) do they have a longer active streak. In 11 ISL encounters, Mumbai City FC have won six matches, whereas Odisha FC have emerged victorious thrice.Odisha FC head coach Sergio Lobera expressed that the Juggernauts will stay true to their playing philosophy and will not be swayed by Mumbai City FC's strengths."We know our style of play. We know our strengths and we have to play according to that. If we don't do that, we won't be strong. The team is ready for tomorrow's game," Lobera said.Mumbai City FC head coach Petr Kratky quipped that they need to be defensively strong to halt Odisha FC's goal-scoring spree."Odisha FC have scored 10 goals in their last two matches. We need to find a way to stop this. Because, they have found a way to out-score the oppositions. We have to stay true to our style of play too," Kratky saidThe Juggernauts were handed a devastating blow last time out as star striker Roy Krishna will be sidelined for the remainder of the season due to an ACL (Grade 3) injury sustained against Hyderabad FC.

Harry Brook Surges To Career-High Test Rankings, Challenges Joe Root For Top Spot



Dubai: England's Harry Brook's brilliant 171 in the first innings of England's eight-wicket victory over New Zealand at Christchurch has propelled him to second place on the ICC Men's Test Player Rankings for batters, closing the gap on teammate Joe Root.Brook's seventh Test century earned him a career-high rating of 854 and reduced the gap between him and Root to just 41 points. The former England captain endured a rare failure in the same match, registering his first Test duck in over two years.The shake-up in the rankings also saw India's Yashasvi Jaiswal drop to fourth, while England's Ollie Pope (up eight places to 32nd) and captain Ben Stokes (up seven spots to 34th) climbed the ladder after contributing to the victory over the Black Caps.The ICC rankings saw further movement after South Africa's commanding 233-run win over Sri Lanka in Durban. Proteas captain Temba Bavuma's scores of 70 and 113 earned him a jump of 14 places, putting him into the top 10 for the first time in his career. Kamindu Mendis of Sri Lanka also reached a career-high ranking, climbing two spots to seventh after his solid performance with the bat.Other notable improvements included Sri Lanka's Dinesh Chandimal (up two places to 17th) and Tristan Stubbs (up 29 places to 42nd), who impressed in the Durban Test.The star of the Durban Test was undoubtedly South Africa's Marco Jansen, whose devastating spell of 7/13 in the first innings led to a match haul of 11 wickets. Jansen's all-round brilliance earned him career-best rankings in two categories.He surged 19 spots to ninth on the bowler rankings and moved into second place among Test all-rounders, trailing only India's Ravindra Jadeja. His Player-of-the-Match performance underscored his growing reputation as a match-winner.Sri Lanka's Vishwa Fernando also impressed, climbing four places to 29th on the bowling rankings. Meanwhile, England's Brydon Carse (up 21 spots to 43rd) and Shoaib Bashir (up four places to 48th) gained ground following their efforts against New Zealand.Pakistan's Saim Ayub continued his rise, moving 12 places to 78th in ODI batting rankings and 39 spots to 119th in T20Is after some explosive performances in Zimbabwe.
Teammate Abbas Afridi climbed 20 places to 61st among T20I bowlers, while Zimbabwe's veteran all-rounder Sikandar Raza rose six places to 40th in the ODI bowling rankings after a string of impressive displays.

TPSODL issues alert on rising electricity bill fraud

Berhampur, (Correspondence): TP Southern Odisha Distribution Limited (TPSODL), a joint venture between Tata Power and the Odisha Government, has identified a new phishing scam targeting its customers. Fraudulent messages are being circulated, claiming that customers' electricity connections will be disconnected due to non-payment of bills. The messages often originate from numbers like +91 8481-042151 and urge recipients to contact numbers such as 6290317395 to avoid service disruption.

These phishing messages are designed to trick customers into sharing sensitive information or making unauthorized payments. TPSODL advises customers to remain cautious and avoid engaging with such messages, calls, or any suspicious links."Customer safety is of utmost importance to us at TPSODL. We are actively addressing such malicious activities and encourage customers to report suspicious messages or calls to our toll-free number. We urge everyone to use only official and authorized platforms for all payments and communication," said Mr. Amit Kumar Garg, CEO of TPSODL.TPSODL assures its customers that it never requests sensitive details like passwords, OTPs, bank account information, or remote access to devices through calls, messages, or emails. All customer interactions and payment services are conducted through secure and authorized channels.For any clarifications or assistance, TPSODL customers can contact the company through its dedicated 24x7 toll-free numbers: 1800-345-6797 / 1912. The company also requests that any instances of phishing be reported immediately to help mitigate such scams.TPSODL remains committed to safeguarding its customers and ensuring the security of their information against fraudulent activities.

AIIMS Bhubaneswar Dedicates 4D Spine and Gait Analysis Lab



Bhubaneswar, (Correspondence):: AIIMS Bhubaneswar has added a significant milestone in healthcare by inaugurating the 4D Spine and Gait Analysis Lab, the first of its kind in Eastern India. The state-of-the-art facility, housed in the Department of Physical Medicine and Rehabilitation (PMR), was dedicated to the public by Executive Director Prof. (Dr.) Ashutosh Biswas on the occasion of International Day of People with Disability.The newly established lab features cutting-edge techno logies, including Prosthetic and Orthotic Services, Occupational Therapy, Physiotherapy units, and other allied services. Speaking on the occasion, Dr. Biswas emphasised that the integration of these facilities would enhance the PMR department's capability to provide a holistic approach to patient care. "This lab will enable AIIMS Bhubaneswar to offer high-quality, personalized rehabilitation services to a wide range of patients, including those with locomotor disabilities, musculoskeletal conditions, and sports injuries," he added.This advanced technology (4D Spine and Gait Analysis Lab) evaluates and quantifies spinal deformities while providing real-time biomechanical data on the body's joints. It is particularly beneficial for managing conditions such as Stroke, Scoliosis, Neck and low back pain, post-polio residual paralysis, Myopathy and neuropathy.Additionally, the lab offers real-time gait analysis for sports rehabilitation, aiding athletes in recovery and performance enhancement.

SOA NSS VOLUNTEERS UNDERGO TRAINING AT HIMACHAL ADVENTURE CAMP

Bhubaneswar, (Correspondence):: Two volunteers of the National Service Scheme (NSS) of SOA Deemed to be University and its Program Officer Dr. Mou Roy took part in a 10-day long training program at the Atal Behari Vajpayee Institute of Mountaineering and Allied Sports at Manali and Skiing Centre, Solang Valley, Himachal Pradesh, which was held from November 15 to 24.The volunteers were Ms. Abhipsa Mohapatra and Mr. Sanchit Pradhan, students of 3rd Year B.Tech at the Institute of Technical Education and Research (ITER), SOA's faculty of Engineering and Technology.They were part of a group of 20 enthusiastic NSS volunteers who took part in the training program. The trip was organised to promote leadership and resilience and inculcate the spirit of adventure in the students with two Program Officers in charge.During the program, the trainees participated in activities such as trekking through rugged mountainous terrain, rock climbing techniques, river crossing and learning survival skills in challenging situations. Guided by trained instructors, they trekked 80 km and climbed 10,000 feet during the training."

Hindalco observed National Pollution Control Day with massive tree plantation drive in Hirakud

Hirakud: (Corresp ondent):- On the occasion of National Pollution Control Day 2024, Hindalco has launched a massive tree plantation drive in Hirakud to emphasize environmental conservation and pollution control. The move was a part of the "Ek Paid Maa Ke Naam" campaign The campaign involved plantation of trees at BKdhakata village, demonstrating Hindalco's collective commitment to environmental protection. The program highlighted the important role of both individuals and communities in



combating pollution and ensuring a green, healthy future for all. Sahoo, HR Head Viswas Sinde, Transformation Head Sandeep Singh and other senior officers and employees were present at the tree planting event. Their participation strengthened Hindalco's commitment to promoting sustai nability and environmental stewardship. The National Pollution Control Day observed every year on December 2 serves as a solemn reminder of the Bhopal gas tragedy and the urgent need for effective pollution control measures to prevent similar industrial disasters in the future.

EPFO Investment Corpus Doubles To Rs 24.75 Lakh Crore In 5 Years

New Delhi: The total amount in the investment corpus of the Employees' Provident Fund Organisation (EPFO) more than doubled in the past five years to Rs 24.75 lakh crore in the financial year 2023-2024 from Rs 11.1 lakh crore 2019-20, according to official figures.EPFO invests funds in accordance with the pattern of investment notified by the Department of Financial Services, Ministry of Finance. These investments have been made in Debt Securities and Exchange-Traded Funds, as per the prescribed pattern. As per approval of the 207th meeting of the Central Board of Trustees (CBT), EPF, held on March 31, 2015, the EPFO started investment in Exchange-Traded Funds from August 2015 onwards.The total corpus of various funds managed by EPFO was Rs 24.75 lakh crore as of March 31, 2024, Union Minister of State for Labour and Employment Shobha Karandlaje informed the Lok Sabha."EPFO regularly invests in Equity markets through Exchange Traded Funds (ETFs) replicating BSE-SENSEX and NSE NIFTY-50 indices. In addition, EPFO has also invested from time-to-time in ETFs constructed specifically for disinvestment of shareholding of the Government of India in body corporates, namely ETFs tracking Bharat 22 and CPSE Indices," the Minister said.According to data tabled by the Minister, EPFO has invested Rs 34,207.93 crore in ETFs during 2024-25 (up to October 2024).

EPFO Board okays redemption policy for ETFs to boost earnings for membersThe meeting of the EPFO Central Board of Trustees chaired by Labour and Employment Minister Mansukh Mandaviya on November 30 approved a Redemption Policy for Exchange-Traded Fund (ETF) investments in CPSE and Bharat 22 to generate higher income for the EPF Scheme's 'Interest Account'.The policy mandates a minimum five-year holding, returns exceeding government securities, and performance above the CPSE and Bharat 22 indices, according to an official statement issued after the meeting.

India's Trade Grew 5.45 Pc In H1 2024 To $576 Billion: NITI Aayog

New Delhi: India's trade performance demonstrated stability and moderate growth during the first quarter of the current financial year, according to a NITI Aayog Trade Watch report released on Wednesday. The publication offers a holistic snapshot of India's trade position, combining global demand-supply perspectives, sectoral performance, and insights into emerging trade opportunities.Merchandise exports showed restrained growth, influenced by declines in critical sectors such as iron and steel, as well as natural and cultured pearls. On the other hand, imports were propelled by high-value commodities, including aircraft, spacecraft, mineral fuels, and vegetable oils. Services exports displayed an



encouraging surplus, the 40-page report states.According to the highlights of the report, India's total trade in H1 2024 experienced a 5.45 per cent year-on-year increase compared to 2023.Merchandise imports showed consistent growth, with Q1 FY25 exports rising by 5.95 per cent to $110 billion and imports increasing by 8.40 per cent to $173 billion, leading to a growing trade imbalance.In Q1 FY25, Indian iron and steel exports exper ienced a massive decline (33 per cent) primarily due to weak domestic demand and excess capacity in China which resulted in an oversupply of steel in the global markets.In Q1 FY25, North America accounted for 21 per cent of India's exports, followed by the EU at 18.61 per cent. Imports were largely from Northeast Asia, West Asia (GCC), and ASEAN, making up 51 per cent of total imports.During Q1 FY25, export growth to FTA partners was notably strong at 12 per cent, while import growth from these partners was 10.29 per cent.

All-New 3rd Gen Honda Amaze makes its Global Debut in India

NEWDELHI: Honda Cars India Ltd. (HCIL), a leading manufacturer of premium cars in India today unveiled and launched its much-awaited all-new 3rd Generation Honda Amaze.This marks the global debut of the new generation Amaze in India, a key market for Honda globally and the first country to launch the new model. The all-new Amaze will be available at an introductory price range of Rs 7,99,900 – Rs. 10,89,900 (ex-showroom, Delhi); valid till 45 days from launch.The stylish and premium compact sedan has been designed to offer an OUTCLASS and delightful sedan experience that meets the aspirations of young as well as family-oriented users who are looking to step up in every aspect of life. The all-new Amaze has been developed by Honda R&D Asia Pacific Center, located in Thailand under the grand concept of 'Elite Booster Sedan' reflecting Honda's vision of empowering users to express their success and sophistication, take pride in their achievements and confidently display their elevated social status.

Indian Stock Market Ends In Green, All Eyes On RBI's MPC Decision

Mumbai: The domestic benchmark equity indices closed in green on Wednesday as buying was seen in PSU bank and realty sectors. The investors are keenly watching the Reserve Bank of India's (RBI) monetary policy committee (MPC) meeting which will announce its decision around the repo rate on Friday.Banking stocks rose amid volatile sessions in the market due to the possibility of Cash Reserve Ratio (CRR) cut by the central bank. Sensex settled at 80,956.3, higher by 110.58 points, or 0.14 per cent, while the Nifty ended at 24,467.45, up by 10.30 points, or 0.04 per cent.Anticipation of CRR reduction energised banking stocks, pushing the Bank Nifty index over 1 per cent higher with the PSU Banking Index outperforming its private sector counterpart, as investors turned optimistic ahead of the RBI monetary policy meeting announcement.On the broader market front, the Nifty Midcap 100 ended at 58,112.40, higher by 603.40 points, or 1.05 per cent. while



the Nifty SmallCap 100 ended at 19,173.55, higher by 170 points, or 0.89 per cent.According to experts, the domestic market maintained a positive trajectory, despite some volatility stemming from mixed sentiments in Asian markets due to the situation in South Korea."Broader indices showed strong performance, with the banking and financial sectors continuing to excel. Conversely, auto stocks were impacted by mixed November sales results. The upcoming speech by the FED Chair could sway market sentiments, as recent FED minutes have shown confidence in the easing of inflation," they added.On the sectoral front, Nifty PSU Bank, Realty, Financial Service, IT, Media, Private Bank and PSE ended in green, while Nifty Auto, Pharma, FMCG, Metal, Energy and Infra ended in red.In the Sensex pack, HDFC Bank, NTPC, Bajaj Finserv, Titan, TCS, Tech Mahindra and Bajaj Finance were the top gainers. Bharti Airtel, Tata Motors, Power Grid, Maruti, Reliance and ITC were the top losers.On the Bombay Stock Exchange (BSE), 2,383 shares were traded in green and 1,582 in red. Whereas, there was no change in 105 shares.According to Rupak De of LKP Securities, the Nifty remained choppy throughout the day as investors exercised caution ahead of the RBI's monetary policy announcement."A decisive move above 24,700 could trigger a continuation of its upward momentum. Conversely, a fall below 24,350 could weaken market sentiment," he added.

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