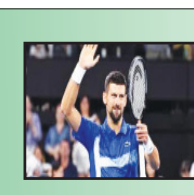
Truth in true form

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RNI Regd No: ODIENG/2019/77780 BHUBANESWAR www.aroundodisha.com VOLUME - 6 ISSUE - 178 Rs-2/- FRIDAY 3 JANUARY 2025


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Arif Mohammad Khan Sworn In As Bihar Governor



Patna: Arif Mohammad Khan took the oath as Bihar's 42nd Governor on Thursday at Rajendra Mandapam, Raj Bhavan.Patna High Court Chief Justice Krishnan Vinod Chandran administered the oath of office and secrecy to Khan.The ceremony was attended by Bihar Chief Minister Nitish Kumar, Deputy Chief Minister Samrat Chaudhary and other ministers.Khan, who previously served as Kerala Governor, will succeed Rajendra Vishwanath Arlekar.

Before taking the oath, Khan paid tribute to former President Rajendra Prasad at his memorial in Patna.After reaching Patna on Monday, Khan told the media that he would "try to discharge his duties as per the glorious tradition of the state".Khan is the second person from the minority community to hold the Governor's post in the state. Earlier, A. R. Kidwai served as Governor from August 14, 1993, to April 26, 1998.Khan has a long and diverse political career having been associated with the Janata Party, Lok Dal, Bahujan Samaj Party, Congress, and the BJP.

Odisha CM Announces Major Hike In Freedom Fighters' Pension



Bhubaneswar (correspondent):-: Recognizing the invaluable sacrifices of freedom fighters, Chief Minister Mohan Charan Majhi announced a significant increase in their monthly pensions at the All India Freedom Fighters Day Festival today.As part of the revised scheme, the monthly pension for freedom fighters who were imprisoned during the freedom movement has been doubled from Rs10,000 to Rs 20,000. Those who participated in the freedom struggle but were not imprisoned will now receive Rs15,000 per month, up from Rs 9,000. The state government has also raised the pension for beneficiaries under the national pension scheme for freedom fighters from Rs 8,000 to Rs10,000. Additionally, individuals arrested under the Maintenance of Internal Security Act (MISA) during the Emergency will now be entitled to a monthly pension of Rs 20,000.Chief Minister Majhi emphasized the government's commitment to honoring the sacrifices of Odisha's freedom fighters, including those who laid down their lives for the nation's independence. "Our government is dedicated to acknowledging their contributions and ensuring their legacy is preserved for future generations," he said.The initiative underscores the Odisha government's resolve to recognize and support the state's freedom fighters, who played a crucial role in the country's struggle for independence.

Madras HC Quashes Criminal Complaint Against VCK Leader Thol Thirumavalavan



Chennai: The Madras High Court has quashed a criminal case against Viduthalai Chiruthaigal Katchi (VCK) founder and Member of Parliament Thol Thirumavalavan, in a case alleging the degradation of Indian women, particularly Hindu women.A single-judge bench, led by Justice P. Velmurugan, on Thursday quashed the complaint, observing that Thirumavalavan's remarks were based on what was written in the Manusmriti, an ancient text, and were neither his invention nor a created speech. The judge stated that Thirumavalavan had referred specifically to the Manusmriti and that the allegations against him did not constitute any offense under the law.The case stemmed from a complaint by V. Vedha alias Dhamodharan, who alleged that Thirumavalavan, during a conference on Periyar and Indian Politics on September 27, 2020, made remarks that degraded the reputation of Hindu women. The speech was later aired on the YouTube channel Periyar.Vedha alleged that Thirumavalavan's comments, referencing how women are portrayed in the Manusmriti, humiliated Hindu women and lowered their image. As a member of a Hindu family, Vedha stated that he felt humiliated.Following the complaint, the Judicial Magistrate of Peraiyur in Madurai took cognizance of the case and summoned Thirumavalavan. However, the VCK leader moved the High Court seeking to quash the case.In his defense, Thirumavalavan submitted that he had no intention of degrading the reputation of women, particularly Hindu women and that his remarks were a direct quote from the Manusmriti.

Worries Mount In Eastern, Central Europe After Ukraine Halts Russian Gas Transit

Vienna: On a frosty morning in Slovakia's capital Bratislava, cameraman Peter Lahky expressed his concerns over a looming energy crisis after Ukraine halted Russian gas transit to Europe, fearing that higher energy prices would further add to his financial burden.Lahky told Xinhua that he has been worried about the recent forecasts by Slovakia's Regulatory Authority for Network Industries, the country's energy regulator, which projected household gas prices to increase by 15 to 34 per cent in 2025 without state energy assistance.This means his family would have to pay some 300 euros (310 US dollars) more than in 2024 for gas this year, and it remains unclear whether the Slovak government will continue providing energy aid in 2025, he said."It's not a small amount, so I'll be more careful with my wallet," he added.Lahky's concerns are shared by many in central and eastern Europe, a region which has long heavily relied on Russian gas supplies but now has to seek costlier alternatives after both Ukraine and Russia announced on Wednesday the stoppage of Russian gas transit via Ukraine.The stoppage followed Ukraine's decision not to renew a 2019 gas transit agreement between its state-run Naftogaz and Russia's Gazprom, which expired on December 31, 2024.Data showed that in 2023, roughly 15 billion cubic meters of Russian gas were transported via Ukraine to Europe, accounting for around 5 per cent of Europe's needs. Following the halt of the Ukraine transit, the TurkStream pipeline under the Black Sea becomes the sole remaining route for transporting Russian gas to Europe.The halt of the Ukraine transit is dealing a major blow to Moldova, which imported about 2 billion cubic meters of gas annually from Russia via Ukraine. Residents here worry not only about soaring gas prices, but also about possible energy shortage.Tirasteploenergo, an energy company in Moldova's Transnistria region, announced on Wednesday morning the suspension of heating and hot water services due to "temporary cessation of gas supplies" to the company's heat-generating facilities, barring healthcare facilities and residential care institutions.Noting that restoring the services could take up to two weeks, the company advised its customers to seal gaps around windows and balcony doors to retain heat and to gather all family members in a single room, Xinhua news agency reported.

New Orleans Attacker Has ISIS Influence, Links Under Probe

Washington: The New Orleans attacker had posted videos indicating he was inspired by ISIS before he ploughed New Year's eve revellers in a popular area. Investigations are on into possible links between this attack and the explosion of a Tesla cyber-truck outside a Trump organisation property in Las Vegas, which left several people injured."Mere hours before the attack, he posted videos on social media indicating that inspired by ISIS, expressing a desire to kill," Biden said in an address to the nation from the presidential retreat of Camp David in the state of Maryland where he is spending the rest of the week. "

Three Found Dead in Jammu Guest House, Asphyxiation Suspected

JAMMU: Three individuals were found dead under suspicious circumstances in a guest house in the Doda district of Jammu and Kashmir. The deceased have been identified as Mukesh Kumar, Ashutosh, and Sunny Choudhary, all residents of Jammu.A charcoal heater was discovered in the room, and it is suspected that the trio may have died from asphyxiation. According to the police, a man reported that his brother, who had gone to Bhaderwah, was unresponsive to calls. The police tracked the location of his brother's mobile phone late Wednesday night and dispatched a team to investigate.The team located the complainant's brother's vehicle and learned that they had booked a room at the Royal Inn guest house in Bhaderwah. After several attempts to knock on the door without receiving a response, the police broke it open and found three individuals unconscious inside.Doctors and forensic experts were called to the scene, and upon their arrival, they declared all three individuals dead. The exact cause of death is yet to be determined, but Senior Superintendent of Police (SSP) Doda, Sandeep Mehta, stated that initial investigations suggest asphyxiation may be the cause.

SC Declines To Entertain PIL To Expunge Trial Court's Remarks On 'Love Jihad'



New Delhi: The Supreme Court on Thursday refused to entertain a public interest litigation (PIL) seeking expunging of certain observations made by a trial court, which had said that the issue of "love jihad" conversion cannot be taken lightly and "illegal conversion is a big threat to the unity, integrity and sovereignty of the country".A bench of Justices Hrishikesh Roy and SVN Bhatti questioned the PIL litigant if the apex court in writ proceedings can expunge observations made by the trial court on the basis of evidence.Further, it said: "How are you concerned with this matter? Can we really entertain an Article 32 petition like this? Dismiss or withdraw?"Sensing the disinclination of Justice Roy-led Bench to entertain the plea, the counsel representing the petitioner chose to withdraw the PIL.Ultimately, the petition was dismissed as withdrawn by the apex court.The PIL sought redressal against the "unwarranted and prejudicial" remarks made in September 30 judgment delivered by the Additional Sessions Judge of Fast Track Court-I in Uttar Pradesh's Bareilly concerning Muslim community.The PIL litigant prayed for the expunging of the serious and discriminatory observations which undermine the constitutional values of secularism and equality.The plea said that the impugned remarks made in the judgment of the trial court flagrantly violate the secular ethos and foundational principles of the Constitution of India, as enshrined in the Preamble and fortified by Articles 14, 15, 21, and 25."These provisions collectively ensure equality before the law, prohibit discrimination based on religion, safeguard the freedom of religion, and protect the right to life and personal liberty, which includes the right to dignity," it added.The petition said that the Union Home Minister in a Lok Sabha session in 2020 had answered that there is no case of "love jihad" reported by any central agency and the term is also not defined anywhere in the extant statutes.Further, it sought the issuance of guidelines to the courts across the country to ensure that judicial pronouncements remain free from personal or generalised comments, particularly those that may infringe upon the fundamental rights of any community, group, or individual, or contravene the foundational ethos of the Constitution of India to preserve the integrity and impartiality of the judiciary.As per the PIL, the trial court remarks included allegations of "love jihad," giving a definition to the term "love jihad", assertions of international funding purportedly linked to this alleged phenomenon

Grenade Found Near Home Of Manipur Civilian Worker At Military Station Untraced For 40 Days

Imphal: A live hand grenade was found on Thursday outside the rented house of Laishram Kamalbabu Singh, a supervisor for a contractor at a military station in Manipur, who remains missing for around 40 days, officials said.A police official said that the hand grenade was found in front of the gate of Singh's house at Loitang Khunou in Imphal West district and immediately, a police team went to the spot to retrieve it and experts defused it.Police also recovered a note along with the grenade."The note demanded to disband the Joint Action Committee and form a new JAC," the official said.The JAC, along with many other organisations, including Meira Paibis (women vigilantes in Manipur), have been organising agitations to rescue Kamalbabu Singh, who went missing on November 25.The Manipur government last week handed over the "missing" case to the CBI.Defence sources said that around 2,000 soldiers of the Army and Assam Rifles continued their hectic search operation to locate Kamalbabu Singh.The Army officials are constantly interacting with village heads and community elders to gather information to further intensify the search operation, the sources said, adding that the CCTV feeds have been scanned, Kamalbabu Singh's co-workers were being spoken to, and an intense search operation, including with the aid of sniffer dogs, has been continued.Manipur Police also separately conducted the search operation to locate Kamalbabu Singh, a resident of Gossaipur under Cachar district in southern Assam, who was staying at Loitang Khunou village in Imphal West.He had left his residence on November 25 for the Leimakhong military station but went missing.He was working as a supervisor for a contractor working with the Military Engineering Services (MES) at Leimakhong Military Station of the 57th Mountain Division at Kangpokpi.The JAC and the Meira Paibis have also sought intervention of Defence Minister Rajnath Singh and Assam Chief Minister Himanta Biswa Sarma to locate the man.The JAC leaders and other agitating organisations' representatives have, on a number of occasions, met Chief Minister N. Biren Singh and discussed the "abduction" of Kamalbabu Singh.The Chief Minister earlier urged the Army to undertake all-out efforts to locate and rescue Kamalbabu Singh and take responsibility for finding him.

After Ending Terror, We Will Reclaim What Has Been Lost: HM Amit Shah

New Delhi: Calling Kashmir an inseparable part of India and its soul, Union Home Minister Amit Shah on Thursday said Prime Minister Narendra Modi-led government has not only eliminated the ecosystem of terrorism from the Kashmir Valley but is determined to reclaim what has been lost, a veiled reference to the territory occupied by Pakistan and the cultural glory of the region.He was speaking after releasing the book, 'Jammu Kashmir and Ladakh:



Through the Ages – A Visual Narrative of Continuities & Linkages' that seeks to present the story of Jammu and Kashmir and Ladakh. The book by Indian Council of Historical Research has been edited by Raghuvendra Tanwar.
"Kashmir has always been an inseparable part of India, is so today and will remain in future also and we shall soon see Kashmir regain its cultural glory," said HM Shah.He recalled a statement of Syama Prasad Mookerjee, "Jammu and Kashmir is not only a part of India but an inseparable part of the country's soul."This book has proven that Kashmir and Ladakh are also an inseparable part of our culture and heritage, he said."Article 370, which was an attempt to separate Kashmir from the nation, was also pulled down," he said.

Probe On Into Video Recording In Women's Washrooms At Hyderabad College After Protests

Hyderabad: After massive protests by female students of a private engineering college over alleged video recording in hostel bathrooms, police on Thursday registered a case and began investigations.CMR Engineering College at Medchal, on the outskirts of Hyderabad, was rocked by protests on Wednesday night and this continued till 2 a.m.Medchal police registered a case after taking a complaint from the students and picked up five mess workers on suspicion.Assistant Commissioner of Police Srinivas Reddy said they seized 12 mobile phones of these workers."We have so far found no evidence that they recorded videos. We have not found any obscene videos on their phones. However, we are verifying if any videos were deleted," he said.The ACP said they took a complaint from the students and registered a case.A case of negligence has also been registered against the management of the college as the rooms were given to mess workers next to the bathroom and they had access to the ventilator of the bathroom.
"We have found no evidence so far but there is room for suspicion," the ACP said.The police official said a girl saw the shadow of a person and brought the same to the warden's notice but as there was no response from the warden, the students began the protest as they suspected that their videos might have been recorded.The protestors raised slogans of "We want justice". Leaders of student unions, including the ABVP, also joined the students in the protest which continued past midnight. ABVP leaders demanded action against the management of the college. They alleged that female students were being blackmailed. The student leaders warned that if videos recorded in bathrooms surface on social media, former minister and MLA Malla Reddy, who owns the college, will have to own responsibility.The police official said fingerprint experts were called to collect samples from the imprints found on the glass of the ventilator. The experts will ascertain if the imprints match the fingerprints of any of the workers.The ACP appealed to parents not to worry over rumours that 150-300 videos were recorded.The police also questioned the management on employing male workers in women's hostel.

Sambhal: Survey Report Of Shahi Jama Masjid Submitted Before Court

Sambhal: While the political showdown over Sambhal's Shahi Jama Masjid survey rages on, the commissioner submitted the survey report of the mosque in Chandausi Court on Thursday.The confidential survey report was submitted by court commissioner Ramesh Singh Raghav, who reached the court and presented it before the Civil Judge.The survey report, running into about 45 pages includes photos from the survey site, which the Hindu side claimed was built over the centuries-old Harihar mandir.The survey of Shahi Jama Masjid was undertaken



on November 19 and November 24. As the second round of survey began at the mosque, violence broke out in the area resulting in the death of four individuals.Clashes had erupted between the protesters and police over the court-ordered survey of Shahi Jama Masjid.Later, the Sambhal Additional Superintendent of Police (ASP) informed that a total of 50 people were arrested in connection with the violence.The survey was ordered by a Sambhal court via an advocate commissioner after it accepted a plea from the Hindu petitioners, claiming that the mosque was built by Mughal invader Babur in 1526 after demolishing Shri Harihar Mandir. Days ago, an eleven-member delegation from the Samajwadi Party (SP) visited the violence-hit district to meet the families of those killed in violence.The delegation expressed their condolences and provided financial assistance of Rs 5 lakh to the affected families in the form of cheques.Later, speaking to the press, Mata Prasad Pandey, leader of the opposition in Uttar Pradesh Assembly.

Mamata To Write To Centre On BSF's Role In Infiltration From Bangladesh

Kolkata: West Bengal Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee said on Thursday that she would write to the Union Ministry of Home Affairs regarding the alleged involvement of the Border Security Force (BSF) in facilitating illegal infiltration from neighboring Bangladesh."The state police do not guard the borders, the BSF is responsible for that. At times, they are complicit in aiding such illegal infiltration," Banerjee stated.She added, "Miscreants are crossing the borders illegally, entering the state, and killing innocent people. The state police director general, Rajeev Kumar, has gathered specific intelligence on this issue, along with additional information at the local level.

NSUI urges PM Modi to name central university after Manmohan Singh

NEWDELHI: After former Prime Minister Manmohan Singh's passing, the National Students' Union of India (NSUI) on Tuesday, January 2, 2025, has written to Prime Minister Narendra Modi, urging the government to name educational institutions after him.The students' organization further demanded that the University of Delhi have a college named after the former Prime Minister, and also dedicate a central university in his name.NSUI's demand comes in the wake of the upcoming inauguration of a college named after Veer Savarkar under the University of Delhi. The NSUI has demanded Prime Minister Modi to rename the university in honour of Dr Manmohan Singh instead. The organisation argues that a more fitting tribute to Dr Singh's contributions would be to dedicate premier educational institutions to his memory.

First Vande Bharat sleeper train to launch in January

NEWDELHI: The much-anticipated first Vande Bharat train with sleeper coaches is all set to be launched by the end of this month.This marks a significant milestone in India's push for faster and more comfortable train travel.However, sources from the Research Design and Standards Organisation (RDSO) have indicated that the train is unlikely to achieve the expected top speed of 130-180 km/h.The Vande Bharat sleeper train has undergone several modifications to include sleeper berths, which were absent in the original chair car version.Additionally, adjustments were made to allow for more water storage capacity in the coaches.

GOVERNMENT OF ODISHA
OFFICE OF THE EXECUTIVE ENGINEER
RURAL WORKS DIVISION-II, KENDRAPARA
eerw_kendraparat@yahoo.co.in

'E' PROCUREMENT NOTICE NO.RWD-II/KPD-11/24-25 DTD 27.12.2024 O-1091

1	Name of work	: Building works in the District of Kendrapara for the year 2024-25.
2	Total No of Work	: 9 Nos Building
3	Estimated Cost	: Rs.2.52 Lakhs to 10.08 (Approx.)
4	Period of Completion	: 1 Month
5	Class of contractors	:C & D Class
6	Cost of Tender Paper	: Cost of Tender paper is to be remitted ONLINE as specified in column-3 of the Annexure
7	Detail projects	: As specified in the Annexure
	Other details as follows:	
a)	Procurement officer	: Superintending Engineer Rural Works Division-II, Kendrapara
b)	Availability of tender online & submission of bid	: 06.01.2025 at 11:00 AM to 14.01.2025 up to 5:00 PM
c)	Last date & time of seeking of tender clarification	: 13.01.2024 up to 5:00 PM
d)	Opening of Tender	: 15.01.2025 at 11:00 A.M

Further details can be seen from the Govt. website www.tendersorissa.gov.in

OIRP-25098/11/0012/2425

Superintending EngineerRural Works Division-II Kendrapara

Indian Scientists Show Hormone Melatonin Can Treat Parkinson's

New Delhi: Scientists from the Institute of Nano Science and Technology (INST) Mohali, an autonomous institute of the Department of Science and Technology (DST), have showed that nano-formulation of melatonin — the hormone produced by the brain in response to darkness — could provide therapeutic solution for Parkinson's disease.Parkinson's disease (PD) is one of the most common neurological disorders caused by the death of dopamine-secreting neurons in the brain due to aggregation of synuclein protein inside it.Available medications can only minimise the symptoms but cannot cure the disease and this underlines the need to develop better therapeutic solutions for the disease.Previous studies have shown the implications of Parkinson's related genes in governing a quality control mechanism called "Mitophagy". This mechanism identifies and removes dysfunctional mitochondria as well as cuts down oxidative stress.It has shown that melatonin, used to treat insomnia, could be a potential inducer of mitophagy to mitigate Parkinson's.To decode the molecular mechanism behind melatonin-mediated oxidative stress regulation, the team from INST Mohali used human serum albumin nano-formulation and delivered the drug to the brain.The team led by Dr. Surajit Karmakar used a biocompatible protein (HSA) nanocarrier for the delivery of melatonin to the brain. They proved that the nano-melatonin resulted in a sustained release of melatonin and improved bioavailability.Further, the nano-melatonin boosted antioxidative and neuroprotective properties. It not only enhanced mitophagy to remove unhealthy mitochondria, but also improved mitochondrial biogenesis to counteract a pesticide (rotenone) induced toxicity in an in vitro Parkinson's model.The improvement is because of the sustained release of melatonin and targeted delivery to the brain resulting in increased therapeutic efficacy compared to bare melatonin.The increased antioxidative effect is a result of mitophagy induction through the upregulation of a crucial epigenetic regulator called BMI1 that controls gene expression. The reduction in oxidative stress contributes to alleviating the symptoms of Parkinson's disease.

OFFICE OF THE EXECUTIVE ENGINEER
RURAL WORKS DIVISION:BARGARH

1st corrigendum to tender call notice no. 11 of 2024-25

The following changes has been made to tender call notice No.Online-11 of 2024-25

Tender Call Notice No.Online-Bgh-11 of 2024-25 is hereby cancelled due to some un-avoidable circumstances.

OIPR-25062/11/0014/2425

Executive Officer
Rural Works Division,Baragarh

Health Supervisor Caught Taking Bribe Via UPI In Odisha

Bhubaneswar(correspondent):-: Odisha Vigilance officials on Thursday apprehended Laxmi Narayan Maharana, a Multi-Purpose Health Supervisor (MPHS) in Mahulpatna Sector and In-Charge of Vital Statistics at the Community Health Centre (CHC) in Thuamul Rampur, Kalahandi district, for allegedly demanding and accepting a bribe of Rs 4,000 via UPI (PhonePe) from a complainant. The bribe was taken to process and issue a birth certificate for the complainant and his relatives.The vigilance team seized the accused's smartphone, which was used to receive the bribe, along with the applications for birth certificates submitted by the complainant and others. Following the trap, simultaneous searches are being conducted at three locations associated with Maharana to investigate possible disproportionate assets.A case has been registered against Maharana at the Koraput Vigilance Police Station under Section 7 of the Prevention of Corruption (Amendment) Act, 2018. Further investigations into the matter are underway.

New Odisha Governor Hari Babu Kambhampati Arrives In Bhubaneswar

Bhubaneswar(correspondent): The newly appointed Odisha Governor Hari Babu Kambhampati arrived at the Bhubaneswar Airport here on Thursday.Upon arrival at the airport, he was welcomed by Chief Minister Mohan Charan Majhi, Deputy CM KV Singh Deo, Deputy CM Pravati Parida and other Ministers.A Guard of Honour was offered to the newly appointed Governor at the airport from where he proceeded to the Raj Bhawan, the official residence of the Odisha Governor.Governor Kambhampati later headed to Puri where he will offer prayers to the holy triad at the Jagannath Temple. On reaching Puri Kambhampati visited Srimandir.He is scheduled to return to Bhubaneswar, where he will take the oath at 10:15 a.m. on Friday.The Chief Justice of the Orissa High Court will administer the oath in a ceremony organised at the Abhishek Hall of Raj Bhavan.President Droupadi Murmu on December 24, 2024, appointed Mizoram Governor Kambhampati as the new Governor of Odisha. He is going to replace Raghubar Das



who recently relinquished his post citing personal reasons.
The newly appointed Governor Kambhampati holds a B.Tech degree in Electronics and Communications engineering from Andhra University (AU). He has also completed an ME in Electrical and Control Systems and done PhD in Control Systems from Andhra University.He also worked as an associate professor for 24 years in Andhra University Engineering College.Kambhampati also served as the Andhra Pradesh BJP President from 2014-2018.The former Governor of Odisha, Raghubar Das, was in the line of fire of the opposition Biju Janata Dal and Congress over the alleged assault on an Assistant Section Officer by his son in Puri during the Rath Yatra last year.The Opposition also accused Das of turning the Odisha Raj Bhawan into the war room for the Jharkhand Assembly elections.After serving Mizoram for more than three years and five months, Governor Kambhampati left the northeastern state on Thursday to assume the gubernatorial post of Odisha.A ceremonial send-off function hosted by Mizoram Chief Minister Lalduhoma was organised at the state's lone airport in Lengpui, around 30 km from the state capital Aizawl.

Adulterated Ginger-Garlic Paste Making Unit Busted In Berhampur

Berhampur(correspondent):: Police busted a fake ginger garlic paste unit at Lakshmi Nrusingh Sahi, Badabazar police station in Ganjam district on Thursday.During the raid, police found a large quantity of ginger and garlic paste in 14 plastic containers, 41 boxes, five machines, and one weighing machine.The estimated value of the seized items and equipment is around Rs 15 lakh. The adulterated spice was sold



under the brand name 'Khanti Kitchen'.The paste was supplied to various parts of Berhampur and surrounding areas. The police sealed the unit and detained its owner, E Ritik Patra, for questioning.The police have seized the containers and are conducting further investigations to determine whether the unit had a valid FSSAI license.

Krushi Odisha 2025 From ToDAY

BHUBANESWAR,(AoBureau): Odisha Agriculture & Farmers Empowerment Department is going to organise 'KRUSHI ODISHA 2025', a three-day event from 3rd to 5th January 2025 at Biju Patnaik Play Ground in Baramunda, Bhubaneswar.The mega event will be inaugurated by the Chief Minister, Mohan Charan Majhi. Deputy Chief Minister and Minister of Agriculture and Farmers' Empowerment Kanak Vardhan Singh Deo and other dignitaries will be present at the event.The theme of Krushi Odisha 2025 is, "A Step Towards Sustainable Food System" which has three sub-themes i.e. 1. Climate Smart Agriculture 2. Organic Farming and 3. Water Governance, whereas the first day will exclusively be devoted to Climate Resilient Food System & Climate Smart Horticulture, the second day to SoilHealth, Natural Farming and its value chain & the third day is devoted to Pani Panchayat Pakhya Palan with Sustainable Water Governance.A sustainable food system in Odisha aims to promote local economies, improve environmental health, and increase food security through a number of interconnected objectives.This three-day programme organised by the Government of Odisha will showcase and leverage the great potential of the State and enormous investment opportunities in Agriculture, Horticulture, Food Processing, and Fisheries & Animal Husbandry Sectors.

Adivasi Mela-2025 To Kick Off In Bhubaneswar From Jan 5

Bhubaneswar(correspondent): The state-level Adivasi Mela 2025 is set to begin in the capital city of Bhubaneswar on January 5. Preparations are underway. This year's Adivasi Mela will recreate the ambience of a tribal village in the city.Coinciding with the Pravasi Bharatiya Divas being organized in Odisha for the first time, the ST&SC Development, Minorities & Backward Classes Welfare Department will organize the Tribal Fair from January 5 to 16 at the Unit-3 IDCO Exhibition Ground.The main attractions of this year will be a tribal village, tribal haat, art and craft stalls, tribal food courts,



live demonstrations, Bhagban Birsa Munda Pavilion. This year, 20 tribal huts are being constructed and tribal goods will be sold in 147 stalls.In addition, 40 stalls are being prepared for the art and craft and 15 stalls will have the facility of live demonstrations. In addition, galleries related to Birsa Munda's Life and Journey, National and state freedom fighters' gallery, painting exhibition, Mini Theatre, Photo Exhibition will be organized in 5 galleries of Bhagban Birsa Munda Pavilion.Tribal dance and music will be performed every evening, along with a laser show based on the life and journey of Bhagban Birsa Munda, a drone show based on the tribes of Odisha, a light and sound show based on the tribal freedom fighters of Odisha, a fashion show and a fireworks show

Odisha CM's Grievance Cell to Remain Closed on Jan 6

BHUBANESWAR, (correspondent):-The Chief Minister's grievance cell will remain closed on 6th January (Monday) as per a notification from the General Administration and Public Grievance Department.According to the official press release, due to some important official engagements of the Chief Minister, the grievance cell will remain closed on 6th January. The date for the next hearing will be announced to the public through newspapers and other media via a press release, as stated in the announcement.

Odisha Releases Pravasi Bharatiya Divas Control Room Numbers

Bhubaneswar (correspondent):-: The Odisha government on Thursday released the control room numbers for the upcoming three-day 18th Pravasi Bharatiya Divas scheduled in Bhubaneswar from January 8.The control room telephone numbers are 0674 2390411/0674 2390811 they will remain functional from January 2 to 11.

LoP Naveen Writes To CM Majhi Seeking Adequate Compensation To Farmers



Bhubaneswar(correspondent):-: Leader of Opposition (LoP) Naveen Patnaik on Thursday wrote to Chief Minister Mohan Charan Majhi, seeking adequate compensation to the farmers after a proper inquiry for crop damage due to unseasonal rain.Patnaik also empahsized on providing weather updates to the farmers in a timely manner."…..the government of Odisha must take the plight of our farmers very seriously and order proper inquiry followed by timely compensation. Also, the government advisory to farmers on weather updates should be given in a timely manner henceforth," Patnaik wrote in his letter.Patnaik wrote that he visited various areas in Ganjam, Puri, Cuttack, Jagatsinghpur and Kendrapada districts on December 30 and 31 and met farmers who have suffered huge losses due to unseasonal rains recently."The farmers and their families are in severe distress. The rains have caused extensive damage to both paddy and non-paddy crops during the harvesting period," he said.
Naveen claimed he was told by the farmers that they were not aware of the intensity of rains as the government advisory was not issued on time. Besides, at many places, the survey of crop damage has not yet been done, he claimed."The most disturbing and unfortunate part of the disaster is the suicide of farmers in different parts of the state," the LoP said.Stating that the confidence of farmers is shattered after the calamity, Naveen said, "I would like to demand that government must work hard and provide timely and adequate compensation so as to boost the confidence of farmers."

H&UD Minister Dr Mahapatra Reviews City Readiness Ahead Of Pravasi Bharatiya Divas

Bhubaneswar(correspondent):-: With just a few days to go before the Pravasi Bharatiya Divas, which kicks off on January 8, Dr. Krushna Chandra Mohapatra, Minister for Housing and Urban Development, conducted a thorough inspection today, covering areas from Airport Chowk to Nandankanan and Janata Maidan.With thousands of overseas Indians expected to attend, the Odisha government is working tirelessly to ensure a seamless and memorable experience for all participants. The Minister closely reviewed the city's sanitation, road conditions, and beautification efforts, emphasizing that no detail is too small. Traditional Odisha wall paintings now adorn the streets, while roadsides and public areas have been meticulously cleaned and beautified.Dr.



Mohapatra directed engineers to immediately address any potholes, uneven surfaces, or unkempt areas and ensure the city maintains its aesthetic appeal. He also instructed that trees and fences be painted to enhance the city's visual charm.To provide a unique cultural experience, the city will host a food festival and tribal fair at the exhibition grounds, offering guests a taste of traditional Odia cuisine. Additionally, special arrangements have been made to transport NRIs to Puri in newly introduced double-decker buses for a spiritual visit to the Jagannath Temple, where they will enjoy Jagannath Darshan and partake in the temple's sacred offerings.Dr. Mohapatra has urged corporate entities, businesses, and residents to actively participate in the cleanliness drive by maintaining their premises. This collaborative effort is intended to reflect the city's hospitality and community spirit.Senior officials, including BMC Commissioner Rajesh Prabhakar Patil and BDA VC Tirumala Nayak, accompanied the Minister during the inspection. Teams from the Bhubaneswar Municipal Corporation (BMC), Bhubaneswar Development Authority (BDA), and other departments are working round the clock to ensure the city is ready to host this prestigious event.Speaking to media Minister Dr Mahapatra said "Our goal is to create an unforgettable experience for our overseas guests. Bhubaneswar is not only a city of heritage and culture but also one of warmth and hospitality. I urge all stakeholders to contribute to presenting our city in its best light,"With these efforts, Bhubaneswar is set to welcome the world with open arms, celebrating the spirit of Pravasi Bharatiya Divas and the rich cultural heritage of Odisha.

EDITORIAL

Becoming a doctor is very difficult

There is no doubt that medical science has made a lot of progress. The number of discoveries that have been made in this field have hardly been made in any other field. The discoveries of medical science have mostly been proved to be correct. Whether it is new drugs to save life-threatening diseases or surgery with robot technology, medical science has touched the heights. Every year lakhs of children try their luck to become a doctor by giving NEET entrance test. There is no doubt that medical educationVery expensive education. If it is called the most expensive education in India, then there is no mistake. Costing crores of rupees to become a doctor has become a trivial matter. First MBBS and after that post graduation studies cost lakhs of rupees. One thing is as clear as glass that a poor man cannot make his children doctors, same is the case with middle class families. Even if their children are very bright, now the money crunch shatters their dream. Medical studies onlyThe education of the children of rich people has remained. A doctor's child definitely thinks of becoming a doctor and his doctor parents also encourage him to go into his field. The salary and allowances of senior doctors in our country are much higher than that of junior doctors. It is natural that the children of senior doctors are able to complete this education financially. Earlier, senior doctors used to run their own private clinics or hospitals along with government jobs due to which their economic condition was quite stable. butThe Punjab government has enforced that a government doctor cannot run a private clinic or hospital while on duty. The result of which was that many doctors resigned from their government jobs and gave priority to running their own private clinics or hospitals. The largest government medical university in Punjab is Baba Farid University, Faridkot, along with Guru Gobind Singh Medical College, where medical students are admitted. Similarly, during a conversation with a college student, PatIt felt that one has to face many hardships to become a doctor. After explaining in detail, it came to know that many children who are studying medicine become mentally ill. As a result, they try to keep themselves sober by taking drugs. This is very worrying. That student believed that MBBS. The fee is the highest in Punjab, while the health system of Punjab is in shambles.should be motivated. He said that professors put pressure on children. If ragging is happening in the college, then the college management is unaware of it or has become careless on purpose. This should also be considered. If seen, government hospitals are running on the heads of junior doctors. Along with 24-hour rigorous duty, they also do rigorous post-graduation studies. Governments are not unaware of this. A good doctor can become only if he gets a comfortable environment or no pressure on himwill be If this continues, in the near future children and parents will be seen avoiding medical studies. A student who has become a doctor by spending close to crores of money will somehow work to add to his hard-spent money. Then people like us address doctors as robbers. In 2018, the fee was directly reduced from four lakh to nine lakh, if we take the cost of the hostel, then the cost reaches about fifteen lakh. The reason behind all these is less availability of seats.

A New Year Brings New Beginnings

Aditya Kumar Mohanty

New Year's Eve is widely celebrated across the globe with much enthusiasm and merrymaking. The month of January is said to be named after the ancient Roman god, Janus, the deity of beginnings, journeys, transitions and endings. Divine Janus is thought to be divom deus — god of gods, remover of obstacles and the doorkeeper to the heavens and therefore, the Romans invoked him at the beginning of every year, month and morning. From this perspective, New Year celebrations signify overcoming impediments and welcoming progressive possibilities.

At a deeper, psychological level, human beings have always associated the arrival of a new year with a fresh lease of life and aspired for new beginnings. Around this time, most of us follow the old tradition of making New Year resolutions to bring significant changes in our life. Although different people make different resolutions, the following seem to top the New Year resolutions survey lists: Eating healthy, exercising regularly, quitting addictions, nurturing relationships, working for self-growth, doing charity, conserving the environment and natural resources, helping others and connecting to the Divine.

At the outset, in a new year, people have a lot of excitement and tremendous motivation for working toward realising their new dreams, but as time passes by, they go off-track and they lose momentum completely. A research conducted at the University of Washington reveals that around 75% people fail to sustain their New Year resolutions. Subsequently, they seem to wallow in defeat, stop trying, embrace old behavioural patterns and unconsciously decide to wait for another special occasion.

However, making a new beginning and persevering in chasing your dreams is not very complicated. All you have to do is believe in yourself — yes, it's terribly simple. Swami Vivekananda states, "All power is within you. You can do anything and everything. Believe in that. Do not believe that you are weak… stand up and express the divinity within you." Psychologists have also found that self-efficacy and self-esteem, our belief in our ability to shape our life, determines how we perceive ourselves and whether or not we successfully achieve our goals, including fulfilling New Year resolutions.

Individuals with low self-esteem believe that they are doomed because of factors beyond their control. These are the people who find their goals very overwhelming and get discouraged as soon as they encounter the first obstacle on their path. They choose to remain in their comfort zones and refrain from getting passionately involved with their aspirations. In contrast, those with high self-esteem have complete faith in their ability to reclaim their life. They embrace setbacks and challenges as opportunities for new learning and self-growth, keep fighting till the end and emerge as winners. These people are zealous about turning their dreams into reality and put their body, mind and soul in realising their aspirations. In this coming New Year, let us resolve to make a new beginning by changing ourselves and consciously aligning with the Divine plan.

The Flag of Jammu and Kashmir: A Disconnect Between Symbol and Sentiment

Er. Shahzada Athar Ishaq Shah

A flag, more than just a visual representation, is a deep-rooted symbol of national identity, unity, and shared aspirations. For any region or nation, it serves as a unifying emblem, capturing the essence of its history, struggles, and values. The flag of Jammu and Kashmir, however, failed to evoke such sentiments among the Kashmiri populace. Rooted in the National Conference (NC) party's identity, the flag was never truly accepted as a national symbol of Kashmir by the masses. This disconnect can be traced back to the flag's origins and the way it was wielded politically in a region yearning for genuine representation and autonomy.Historically and philosophically, a flag serves as more than a mere symbol of governance. It reflects the people's struggles, their victories, and the shared identity of a nation. Flags across the world evoke deep emotional responses, from pride to grief, as they encapsulate the collective aspirations of a people.

In contrast, Kashmir's state flag—a red field with a white plough—failed to serve this purpose. The flag's design was a near replica of the National Conference's party flag, with only minor modifications. It was first adopted by the NC during its early years, with the red symbolising labour and the plough representing the working class. However, the transition of this party flag into the official state flag in 1952, under the leadership of Sheikh Abdullah, created a stark dissonance. What should have been a symbol of the state's autonomy and the will of its people, instead became a symbol of political monopolisation.

The flag of Jammu and Kashmir never resonated with the people as a symbol of their collective aspirations or autonomy. This disconnect is evident in how the flag was largely absent from public demonstrations, protests, and other political expressions in Kashmir. Unlike national flags, which are often hoisted with pride during rallies, the Kashmiri flag seldom appeared in moments of political upheaval, both before and after the revocation of Article 370 on 5 August 2019. Its absence speaks volumes about how it was never perceived as a true symbol of the region's identity by the people.Instead, Kashmiris would often hoist green flags, green is often associated with Islam, symbolising peace, paradise, and faith, or other symbols that better represented their frustrations and aspirations. The official state flag, with its deep association with the National Conference, was viewed as a tool of political convenience rather than a unifying emblem for the people of the region.

A critical reason behind the flag's failure to resonate with the Kashmiri people lies in its close association with the National Conference. The flag's origins within the party and its eventual adoption as the official state symbol point to an attempt by the NC to blur the lines between the party and the state, creating a monopoly over political identity in the region. This tactic, while politically advantageous for the NC, was undemocratic and problematic for a region like Kashmir, which already struggled with questions of autonomy and representation.

By having the state flag almost identical to its own party flag, the National Conference symbolically reinforced the notion that the party and the state were one and the same. This not only undermined the democratic fabric of the region but also alienated large sections of the population who did not see themselves represented by the NC's political narrative. A healthy democracy thrives on pluralism and diversity in representation. However, the NC's attempt to establish monotony within the political space of Jammu and Kashmir through symbolic measures such as the flag stifled alternative voices and perspectives.

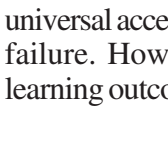
From a democratic standpoint, the conflation of the state's identity with a single political party sets a dangerous precedent. Democracy demands plurality, where different voices, ideologies, and perspectives can thrive and represent the diverse needs of a population. In Kashmir's case, the flag's close association with the National Conference deprived the state of a symbol that could represent the collective identity of its people, transcending party lines.

By adopting a near-identical flag, the National Conference effectively sent a message that there was no room for competing political ideologies or alternatives within the region. This move was seen as an attempt to further consolidate power and cement the NC's dominance in Kashmir's political landscape. The lack of a distinct, neutral flag that could unite the people of Jammu and Kashmir as a whole was a missed opportunity to foster a broader sense of unity and inclusivity.

In conclusion, the flag of Jammu and Kashmir was more a reflection of the National Conference's political monopoly than a true representation of the people's aspirations. Its failure to resonate with the masses stems from its deep association with the NC's political agenda and its inability to evolve into a symbol of autonomy, resistance, or unity for the region. The absence of the flag during key moments in Kashmiri history—especially during protests and rallies—further highlights its detachment from the emotional and political sentiments of the people.

For a flag to hold philosophical and emotional importance, it must transcend party politics and become a symbol of the collective will and identity of the people. In Jammu and Kashmir, this was never achieved. Instead, the state flag became a symbol of political compromise and monotony, failing to capture the hearts and minds of the Kashmiri people. As a result, Kashmir remains without a true national symbol that reflects its unique identity, history, and aspirations.

Create policies for holistic development/life skills instead of pass/fail



Priyanka Saurabh

Under the no detention policy, no student from class 1 to 8 could be failed. However, now these students can be failed. Also, the failed students will get the opportunity to take the exam again within 2 months. If they fail in this too, they will not be promoted to the next class. According to the no-detention policy of the Right to Education Act, no student can be failed or expelled from school until he completes primary education from class 1 to 8. All students up to level 8 will be automatically promoted to the next class. The main point of the policy is that till class 8, there is no "examination" in the traditional sense. The demand of the time is that all parties should work more seriously, and now the time has come to make efforts to address the remaining issues.

The abolition of the no-detention policy for students in classes 5 and 8 is a significant change in India's education system. Introduced under the Right to Education Act, the policy was aimed at ensuring universal access to education by preventing student failure. However, with concerns of declining learning outcomes, the amendment seeks to strike a balance between access and quality education by emphasizing academic improvement. Abolishing the no-detention policy ensures that students continue to receive education even if they struggle academically, thereby reinforcing the principle of universal access. Students who would have been expelled for failure now have the opportunity to retake exams and receive remedial support.

By retaining failing students, the policy encourages active participation and accountability while still prioritizing universal access to education. Students who fail in grade 5 now have a chance to improve before moving to the next grade, ensuring they are not left behind. The policy includes provisions for remedial instruction, promoting equitable access by ensuring no student is denied education due to academic struggles. For example, students who fail in grade 5 receive special support and retesting opportunities, helping them to remain in the education system. Parents are actively involved in identifying struggling students and monitoring progress, ensuring all children, regardless of their performance, receive a quality education.

Parents are involved in the learning process through regular communication with teachers, ensuring that no child is overlooked due to academic failure. The policy aims to prevent students from dropping out of school by encouraging them to remain in the education system by giving them multiple opportunities to succeed. After the policy change, students who fail in Class 8 are given another chance to appear for the exams, reducing the dropout rate. The policy change also prompts schools to identify students who need additional support, taking a more customized approach to improve learning outcomes. In Kendriya Vidyalayas, struggling students are now provided with additional coaching to bridge learning gaps, ensuring better academic performance.

The re-examination system focuses on competency-based tests rather than rote learning, ensuring that students' learning outcomes are more meaningful and impactful. In Sainik Schools, the recently implemented competency-based exams assess practical knowledge, enabling students to understand core concepts rather than memorizing facts. The policy promotes holistic development by ensuring that failing students receive individual attention to address both academic and non-academic needs. In Delhi government schools, struggling students receive academic remediation as well as psychological and emotional support to promote holistic development. Teachers are now responsible for identifying and addressing learning gaps, ensuring they invest more in each student's progress.Classroom teachers now maintain progress records and individually monitor students struggling in subjects, allowing for targeted intervention strategies. By providing multiple chances to pass, the policy reduces the stigma of failure, motivating students to stay engaged and improve. Students who had previously failed, at risk of stigma, are now given a second chance, reducing dropout rates and facilitating persistence. Eliminating the no-detention policy balances universal access with improved learning outcomes. By emphasizing accountability and quality education, it can improve teaching and assessment. However, to make this change successful, better training of teachers, remedial support, and better infrastructure to strengthen students' foundational skills are needed.

Instead of addressing the root causes of the poor quality of education in the country, the focus is on reintroducing the pass/fail system. The need of the hour is for all parties to act more seriously, and it is now time to make efforts to address the remaining issues. As a result, the policy should be amended with suitable adjustments to minimize the negative impacts, or it should be replaced with a new, more balanced approach. The main goal should be to encourage the holistic development of children and provide them with life skills.understand the importance of Swaraj and start aggressively to pursue these dreams so that we can provide a better future to our coming generation as well. I would like to end on one of the best quotes of Dr. APJ Abdul Kalam: "Dreams are not what you see in your sleep but those which do not let you sleep.".

Shri Shankaracharya Welcome Committee Meeting



Talcher:Correspondent) :- After the postponement of Jagatguru Shankaracharya's visit to Talcher, an emergency meeting of the Shri Shankaracharya Welcome Committee was held at Delaveda, Talcher on Thursday afternoon. The meeting wished for Swamiji's speedy recovery due to his health condition. The meeting was held under the coordination of coordinator Parsuram Barik. Vice President Varun Kumar Sahu proposed to go to Puri on January 8th to have darshan of Mahaprabhu Jagannath, to seek blessings from Guruji, and to inform about the upcoming Talcher arrival program and Hindushta Mahadhiveshan and to schedule a time. Welcoming the proposal, Shri Shankaracharya Welcome Committee met on January 8th to meet Swamiji. More than 500 workers of the committee have decided to go to Puri. Hundreds of workers including Editor Vrindavan Behera, Vijay Kumar Sahu, Madan Pradhan, Antaryam Sahu, Jyotirmay Rath, Mayadhar Sahu, Jagdish Mishra, Jagdish Singh, Ranjan Bishoi, Uchhan Patnaik, Ranjit Mahapatra, Vinod Lal, Abhay Pani, Bablu Sahu, Puliyachandra Sahu, Vijay Naik, Naresh Behera, Milu Sahu, Kshirod Pal, Binda Singh were present in today's meeting.

Industries must form local crisis groups and their smooth management, collector J Sonal



JAGATSINGHPUR Correspondent). The Jagatsinghpur collector J Sonal directed the formation of local crisis groups in industries and factories to handle accidents and disasters, presiding over the district crisis group meeting on chemical disaster held at Sadbhabana Sabha Gruha inside the collector's office here on Tuesday.Speaking at the meeting, the collector said that there are 44 small, medium, and large industries around Paradip port town that deal with dangerous chemicals and gases. Therefore, industrial houses functioning there must be prepared to manage any potential disasters and should have their own disaster management plans. Industrial representatives, local NGOs, the fire brigade, police, and doctors and medicos from government hospitals should form local crisis groups tailored to each area's needs. This will help manage any disaster in the industrial area and prevent it from spreading to other units, the collector suggested. Industries should prepare a crisis management plan suitable for the local area and integrate it with the district disaster management plan, this is crucial for effectively addressing unexpected accidents in industrial areas, industries handling dangerous substances should periodically check safety equipment, manpower, and other resources, revealed Manoj Kumar Panda deputy director factory and broiler department, CuttackAll industries should be informed about procedures to follow during natural disasters, industrial hazards,, and potential crises. Panda mentioned that programmes should be conducted to raise public awareness around hazardous factories.It is mandated as per the Environment Protection [EP] Act 1986 that manufacture storage and import hazardous chemicals rules 1989 to prepare the offsite emergency plan for all the districts that have concentrations of Major Accident Hazard units. Emergency Action Plans [EAP] should be prepared by experts with experience in chemical and industrial hazards, said C S Behera assistant director of factory and broiler. The offsite EAP aims to standardize chemical emergency response in the district, the standard operating procedure document will help in the overall management, implementation, monitoring, control, and use of the offsite EAPs in a structured manner, Behera said. To conduct realistic simulated exercises and scenario-based mock drills to practice emergency response scenarios and identify areas for improvement, provide specialized training for individuals with specific roles during emergencies ensuring they understand their responsibilities, said D L Mohapatra environmental engineer from the State Pollution Control Board.Participant industrial houses as Paradip Port authority, IFFCO, PPL, IOCL, HPCL, BPCL, AM/NS, IOCL terminal representatives presented power point presentations concerning their offsite EAPs

Jungle Safari Starts At Atei Forest In Keonjhar

KeonjharCorrespondent): In a thrilling move, the Forest Department has launched a special safari experience in the Atei forest of Keonjhar district, offering tourists a chance to explore the dense forest and spot wild animals up close.The initiative was inaugurated by Keonjhar MP Anant Nayak, with Anandpur MLA Abhimanyu Sethi, District Council Chairperson Sagarika Sahu, and Keonjhar DFO Dhanraj HD in attendance.Tourists can now embark on an exciting journey through the forest, with options for both AC and non-AC vehicles available at Rs 250 and Rs 2000 respectively.The new venture promises to attract more tourists to the region and provide an unforgettable experience amidst nature.

Bargarh-Nawapada Road Rail Line To Transform Connectivity In Odisha

BhubaneswarCorrespondent): The Indian Railways continues its major infrastructure expansion in Odisha with the ongoing construction of a 138.32 KM long new railway line connecting Bargarh Road to Nawapada Road. This strategic project is set to improve connectivity, boost regional development, generate employment and offer significant benefits to both passenger and freight transportation in the region.The Railway Board sanctioned the project on September 10, 2024, at a total cost of Rs. 2621.92 crore. The financial breakup of the project is _ Civil Engineering: Rs. 2107.30 crore, Electrical Engineering: Rs. 305.55 crore & Signal & Telecom Engineering: Rs 209.07 crore.The State Government of Odisha has extended its full support by providing land free of cost and offering a grant of Rs 300 crore for the project.The project necessitates the acquisition of 924.64 hectares of land, amounting to approximately Rs 364 crore. The land to be acquired includes 752.524 hectares of private land, 123.233 hectares of government land and 48.913 hectares of forest land.The acquisition process is progressing smoothly, with the competent authorities for land acquisition in both Bargarh and Nawapada districts appointed via gazette notifications published on October 15, 2024, and November 29, 2024, respectively.The new rail line will be an electrified broad gauge (BG) mail line from Bargarh Road to Nawapada Road, passing through Padmapur, providing an alternative shorter route and bypassing the congested Jharsuguda-Bilaspur-Raipur circuit.

Man Shoots Wife Dead With Arrow Over Illicit Affairs In Keonjhar

KeonjharCorrespondent): In a shocking incident, a man killed his wife by shooting her with an arrow over suspected extra-marital affairs at HandiBhanga village under Bambari police station in Keonjhar district.According to the preliminary police investigation, Chani Munda, the wife of Dasora Munda of this village, was allegedly having an affair with another man. Late last night, a fight broke out over the incident, following which Dasora Munda got up in anger and shot Chani Munda with an arrow. The arrow hit Chani in the chest.

Boudh Residents Up In Arms After Puppy Stolen From Colony

Bhubaneswar Correspondent): In a bizarre incident, residents of a colony in Boudh district sought police help after a stray puppy went missing.The colony residents, who had adopted a mix-breed dog named Chhaki that gave birth to four adorable puppies two months ago, are beside themselves with worry and anger.At the centre of the storm is Motu, one of the four puppies, who has been stolen from the residential colony. The residents, who had grown attached to the puppies, are devastated by the loss and are demanding justice."We have developed a special bond with the puppies, Motu in particular. We have been taking care of Motu like a baby. His disappearance has left us heartbroken. Motu's mother Chhaki and siblings are also missing Moto badly," said a resident.Meanwhile, the residents, who have put up a notice warning potential puppy thieves of severe consequences, including a penalty of Rs 2,000 and physical punishment, are urging the police to trace the missing puppy."We are not going to take this lying down. We want Motu back. This is not the first time that the colony has been targeted by miscreants. Earlier, there were attempts to steal puppies from the locality, and a calf was stolen and sold just a few days ago. The residents are fed up with the lack of security and the impunity with which thieves operate in their area", said another resident.Till the last report came in, the search operation for Motu was underway.As the search for Motu continues, the residents are determined to protect their beloved pets and their neighbourhood from those who seek to harm them.

Two Blood-Soaked Bodies Recovered From Road

Jeypore Correspondent): Locals spotted two blood-soaked bodies on the road under Baipariguda police limits in Odisha's Koraput district on Thursday morning. While the identity of the deceased is yet to be ascertained, police suspect that the duo died in a road accident late on Wednesday night.According to reports, the deceased were run over by a speeding truck enroute to Jeypore while they were returning from a New Year feast. The bodies were recovered near Meuli village in the district.On being informed, police reached the spot and sent the bodies for post-mortem.

Forest Department Allegedly Deceives Indigenous Villagers in Rayagada

- Villagers lose 500 acres of individual and communal land.
- Indigenous communities are displaced, livelihoods disrupted, and human rights violated.
- Resettlement and compensation plans remain incomplete.



ANUGUL, (correspondent):-The indigenous villagers of Rayagada have been displaced under a voluntary village relocation scheme, primarily for tiger conservation. However, this has resulted in 78 Kondh tribal families being uprooted from their ancestral village. The villagers have reportedly lost 163 acres of individual land and 350 acres of communal land, including forests, grazing fields, cremation grounds, orchards, roads, schools, water bodies, and sacred sites—a total of nearly 500 acres. Despite losing such a vast expanse of land, the Forest Department and administration have provided only 17 acres of rocky terrain for resettlement, with each family receiving a mere 4 decimil (approximately 0.016 hectares) of land for housing. Shockingly, seven families are yet to receive even this minimal allocation. Moreover, the 17 acres of resettlement land have neither been surveyed nor marked, depriving the displaced families of access to communal facilities such as grazing grounds, cremation grounds, and forests. The displaced families have been resettled in a new village named "Nuapada Rayagada" in Saruali village under Bardakantakula Panchayat. The resettlement, which started six years ago, has left the villagers confined to their small plots without basic amenities such as education, healthcare, or stable livelihoods. Many villagers, traditionally dependent on subsistence farming and forest-based resources, have been left with no means of survival. Their ancestral farming practices—growing rice, millet, and pulses—have been replaced by makeshift cultivation on borrowed lands. Young men are migrating to Andhra Pradesh and Gujarat to work in hotels due to the lack of local employment opportunities. Nabakishore Bishoi, President of the Satkosia Wildlife and Citizen Protection Committee, has highlighted that the villagers' fundamental, constitutional, and human rights have been severely violated. He criticized the Forest Department's negligence in implementing the Forest Rights Act, which ensures both individual and community forest rights.
The villagers claim that their consent for relocation was obtained with promises of proper resettlement and compensation, which have not been fulfilled. There has been no allocation of alternative agricultural land, nor has the legally mandated 2 hectares of cultivable land per family been provided. Furthermore, the Forest Department has failed to utilize 35% of the compensation funds to purchase land or convert forestland for agricultural purposes, as stipulated in the relocation guidelines. The situation in Nuapada Rayagada underscores the urgent need for proper resettlement measures, including access to basic amenities and sustainable livelihood opportunities, to uphold the rights and dignity of the displaced indigenous communities.

Security Beefed Up In Sambalpur For Smooth Eviction Drive



Sambalpur (correspondent): Section 163 of the BNS has been promulgated and security arrangements have been beefed up in Sambalpur in view of the eviction drive to remove encroachments from government land and beautify the city. The eviction drive was launched in the Motijharan and Sunapali areas of the city on Thursday.The restrictions imposed prevents gathering of four or more people within a 200-metre radius of Motijharan Square. Police have been making repeated announcements over the public address systems appealing to the people to cooperate with the authorities in removing encroachments.The road connecting the National Highway from Dhanupali Thana Street in Sambalpur was heavily encroached and even a permanent construction was made there by blocking the drain. This created a traffic problem in the area.The Commissioner of the Sambalpur Municipal Corporation, Additional Superintendent of Police (SP), Sub-Divisional Police Officer (SDPO), and station officers of different police stations, are supervising the eviction process.So far, no untoward incident has been reported from the area.

The Many Looks Of Ranveer Singh Leaked From Dhurandhar Shoot

Ranveer Singh is currently filming Aditya Dhar's multi-starrer Dhurandhar. The many looks of the lead actor are leaked from the shooting and they are doing the rounds on social media. In a video, circulating on X, Ranveer Singh can be seen sporting long, untamed hair. With a cigarette in one hand, he looks menacing as he leads a gang of men. The caption accompanying the video read, "Excited For This One.#RanveerSingh 's Comeback." In another Reddit post, Ranveer Singh is seen with a turban and a suit. Probably, he will be wearing turban on screen for the first time. The look surely impressed the Internet. A quick look at the comments section. A user wrote, "Ranveer man I'm rooting for you. Please let this be good!"Another user wrote, "Excited for this one!!"



No-Oil Vegetable Pulao Recipe



How to Make No-Oil Vegetable Pulao

1.First, wash the rice nicely and soak it in water for around 20-30 minutes. Add half of the milk to the pressure cooker and allow it to heat.2.Now, add cloves, bay leaves, nutmeg, elaichi, and the cinnamon stick. Allow it to come to a boil.3.Next, add the chopped carrots, cauliflower, and beans. Then, we need to season it with haldi, salt, and sugar. You could also add some cashew nuts at this stage for extra flavour.4.Next, add the soaked rice and saute it in the cooker. Once the milk dries up, add the remaining milk and some water.5.Cover the lid of the cooker and cook the vegetable pulao for one whistle.6.Garnish with fresh coriander leaves, and serve hot!

Ingredients

2 Cups rice
1/2 cup beans
2 small carrots, chopped
1/2 cup cauliflower, chopped
¾ cup milk
1 tsp haldi
1 tsp red chilli powder
1 tsp garam masala
2 bay leaves
2-3 cloves
5-6 black peppercorns
1-inch cinnamon stick
4-5 elaichis
1/2 nutmegto taste Saltto taste Sugar
Coriander leaves, for garnishingCashew nuts (optional)

Moringa Tea: Fat Loss, BP Control And More Incredible Benefits

Moringa or drumsticks have been used in the regional cuisines of Southern Indian states for millennia, but the world is only now warming up to it. From 'miracle herb' to 'superfood', Moringa oleifera has been felicitated with a number of titles and phrases, making the western world go gaga over it. The plant has been converted to powders which can be added to teas and coffees and which are now being used in countless classic recipes of main dishes and condiments. It's safe to say that moringa is enjoying its spot under the Sun and is being actively incorporated in the diets of people around the world. Although some health experts may be more skeptical than the rest of the world about these 'magical' qualities of moringa, it seems like it is here to stay as a health food.

Moringa tea is just one drink that this superfood craze has spawned. The tea that is prepared from the leaves of moringa or drumstick tree is now a popular beverage with several food and drinks





manufacturers cashing in on the trend. Moringa tea is fast becoming a popular choice among 'health freaks' and the drink is also said to have several health benefits for us. Let's look at some incredible health benefits that moringa tea is known for.

Moringa Tea Benefits1. Fat LossMoringa is known to be rich in a number of essential vitamins and minerals and is also said to help mobilise stored visceral fat. The tea is rich in antioxidants, which are primarily the polyphenols or plant compounds in it. According to the book 'How To Lose Back Fat' by Cynthia Trainer, "Moringa tea is shown to have a weight loss effect. Energy production takes place instead of fat storage... the leaves are low-fat and nutrient-dense and can be easily viewed as alternatives to high-calorie foods." Pesto Mania: From Moringa Pesto to Spinach, Peanut Butter and More!2. Blood Pressure ControlMoringa tea, which is prepared from dehydrated and ground moringa leaves, is said to help in blood pressure control as well. This has been credited to the presence of quercetin in it, which is said to reduce blood pressure. Additionally, it may also help BP patients fight inflammation, due to its anti-oxidative abilities.

3. Blood Sugar ControlMoringa leaves may also help people suffering from diabetes, as it contains the antioxidant chlorogenic acid, which is also present in coffee and that is said to keep blood sugar levels in check. Additionally, it is said to be rich in Vitamin C, which has been shown to reduce blood sugar and blood pressure in patients of Type-2 diabetes.

Also Read: How To Use Drumsticks?4. Fights Cholesterol Build-upMoringa oleifera may also help reduce levels of cholesterol, thereby potentially helping heart patients and lowering risks of heart diseases.5. Beauty BenefitsThe powerful antioxidant abilities of moringa mean that it may also help improve quality of your skin and hair, by fighting inflammation and oxidative stress in the body. Antioxidants may help keep toxins at bay and potentially clear the skin.How To Make Moringa Tea At HomeMoringa powder is widely available online and in grocery stores nowadays. It can be boiled in filtered water and then passed through a sieve to get a bright green tea, which is the moringa tea. However, if you don't trust brands and packaged powders, then you can also make moirnga powder at home. All you need to do is get your hands on some fresh moringa leaves, dehydrate them and then grind them to make a powder. Alternatively, you can just clean the leaves and boil them in water for a few minutes to make moringa tea. If you suffer from any chronic conditions, then make sure you consult a dietitian or your doctor, before adding this tea to your diet.


Image credit: istockphoto.com/Luis Echeverri Urrea

5 Everyday Foods To Lower Cholesterol Levels In Body



We just love indulging in all things greasy, fried and decadent; don't we? Today, burgers, pizzas, chips and sodas have become an unavoidable part of our lives. While eating junk food at times is okay, the problem arises when our temptation goes out of control. Eating excess amounts of fried and junk foods leads to several lifestyle diseases - high cholesterol being one such instance. If you look around, you will find high cholesterol is one of the most common conditions faced by people of today's generation. There are two types of cholesterol in the human body - HDL (good cholesterol) and LDL (bad cholesterol). When LDL level increases, it affects our heart health. This is why experts suggest keeping a check on our cholesterol levels for healthy living.

1. Amla

Amla is one of the richest sources of vitamin C, minerals and amino acids. According to a study, published in the Indian Journal of Pharmacology, it is found that amla helps reduce cholesterol levels of the body. Besides, amla is found to provide the additional benefit of protection against atherosclerosis and CAD (coronary artery disease).

2. Green Tea

Green tea is a rich source of polyphenols. According to Rupali Datta, "Green tea has the highest concentration of polyphenols associated with not only lowering LDL Cholesterol but also increasing HDL Cholesterol."

3. Lemons

Lemon (or any citrus fruit) is loaded with vitamin C and antioxidants that help flush out toxins and reduce the body's inflammation. According to the book 'Healing Foods' by DK Publishing, "Citrus fruits contain hesperidin, which can reduce symptoms of hypertension and pectin (fibre) and limonoid compounds. These factors can slow atherosclerosis (hardening of arteries) and reduce "unhealthy" (LDL) cholesterol in the blood. Antioxidant flavones can also lower the risk of strokes in women."

4. Spinach

Spinach is loaded with several essential nutrients. It is one popular food in our kitchen pantry and helps benefit our overall health. According to experts, spinach contains carotenoids which are known to lower cholesterol levels in the body.

5. Walnut

A study conducted by the University of California found that eating a walnut-rich diet can be effective in losing weight and improving cholesterol levels. The research further found that a diet containing walnuts, which primarily comprise polyunsaturated fats, positively impacts heart health markers too.

There Were Some Honest Words: Gambhir On Leaked Dressing Room Chat

Sydney: India's head coach Gautam Gambhir has quashed the controversy surrounding reports of leaked dressing room conversations during the ongoing Border-Gavaskar Trophy, calling it just a report not a truth.There were reports of disquiet and turmoil in the Indian team dressing room during their ongoing series after their 184-run defeat to Australia in the Boxing Day Test at Melbourne, claiming that head coach Gautam Gambhir is believed to have said, "Bahut ho gaya (I've had enough) in his dressing room speech, with the dressing room environment being 'far from ideal'.
Addressing the press conference on the eve of the Sydney Test, Gambhir downplayed such claims and said, "Those are just reports. That's not the truth. I don't think I need to answer any reports. There were some honest words, that is what I can say. Honesty is very important. Honesty is extremely important if you want to go and achieve great things."'Team first. It's a team game, and everyone understands this. Debates between a player and a coach should stay between them. Any conversations in the dressing room should stay in the dressing room," he added.A report in The Indian Express on Wednesday claimed that Gambhir went on to tell the players that some of them were doing their own thing in the name of the "natural game", instead of playing shots based on the situation.



Proud Moment for KIIT University as Four Students to receive Prestigious National Sports Awards 2024

Novak Djokovic Cruises Past Gael Monfils to Reach Brisbane International Quarters



NEWDELHI: Novak Djokovic was in imperious form as he demolished Gael Monfils 6-3, 6-3 to reach the quarter-finals of the Brisbane International on Thursday, with the Australian Open just over a week away.On a day when rising stars Mirra Andreeva and Giovanni Mpetshi Perricard underlined their potential, Djokovic cruised past fellow veteran Monfils in 72 minutes.Djokovic and Monfils played an entertaining match, but the 37-year-old Serb was always in control as he notched his 20th straight win over the Frenchman.Former world number one Djokovic next plays giant American Reilly Opelka.

Manu Bhaker, D Gukesh Among 4 Athletes to Get Khel Ratna Award



NEWDELHI:The quartet of athletes — shooter Manu Bhaker, chess world champion D Gukesh, men's hockey captain Harmanpreet Singh, and para-athlete Praveen Kumar — were announced as the recipients of this year's Major Dhyan Chand Khel Ratna Award, which is the highest sporting honour in the country.Manu Bhaker, 22 years old, became the first athlete from independent India to win two medals in a single edition of the Olympics. She secured a bronze medal in both the 10m air pistol individual and the 10m air pistol mixed team events in August.During the same Olympic Games, Harmanpreet Singh led the Indian hockey team to its second consecutive bronze medal.Eighteen-year-old D Gukesh made history by becoming the youngest World Chess Champion and played a crucial role in helping the Indian team secure a historic gold medal at the Chess Olympiad last year.The fourth recipient, para high-jumper Praveen Kumar, was crowned the T64 champion at the Paris Paralympics. The T64 classification is for athletes who have one or both legs missing below the knee and use a prosthetic leg for running.According to a press release from the sports ministry, the awardees will receive their awards from the President of India at a special ceremony organized at Rashtrapati Bhavan on January 17, 2025 (Friday) at 11:00 AM.Based on the recommendations of the Committee and after due scrutiny, the Government has decided to confer awards upon the following sportspe rsons, coaches, university and entity:

Debutant Lhingdeikim Stars With Four Goals As India Women Maul Maldives Again



Bengaluru: Debutant forward Lhingdeikim netted four goals as the senior India women's team began its 2025 international campaign on a bright note, defeating the Maldives 11-1 in the second FIFA Friendly at the Padukone-Dravid Centre for Sports Excellence, here on Thursday. The Blue Tigresses led 6-1 at half-time.Lhingdeikim (12', 16', 56', 59'), who scored two in each half, along with Nongmeikapam Sibani Devi (45+1'), were the two debutants in India's starting XI. Meanwhile, Ribansi Jamu, Thingbaijam Sanjita Devi, Juhi Singh, Monisha Singha, Khumukcham Bhumika Devi, and Simran Gurung made their debuts off the bench. The latter scored a debut brace.India head coach Joakim Alexandersson made wholesale changes to the team that played in the first friendly on December 30; goalkeeper Maibam Linthoingambi Devi, defender Aruna Bag, and midfielder and captain Sangita Basfore were the only players to retain their respective spots in the starting XI from the last match that India won 14-0.
India goalkeeper Linthoingambi Devi had to make a couple of regulation saves early on, but once the Blue Tigresses settled into the game, they well and truly opened the floodgates and were up by four goals by the 17th minute.Lhingdeikim scored the first with a right-footed drive from inside the box, before she turned provider, setting up Kajol Dsouza (15'). The debutant scored her second goal a minute later, this time, being fed a through ball by Sibani. Maldives captain Hawwa Haneefa's (17') own goal soon made four in India's favour, as a header by skipper Sangita Basfore deflected off her feet and into the goal.The Maldives did compose themselves for a brief period after the initial India onslaught, and managed to score their only goal from the two friendlies, as Mariyam Rifa (27') capitalised on a defensive error near the half-hour mark, the only blemish on an otherwise seamless couple of friendlies for the Blue Tigresses. Striker Pooja (41') and winger Sibani added one each, minutes before the halftime whistle.

HIL 2024-25: UP Rudras Defeat Soorma Hockey Club 3-0; Lead With Six Points

Rourkela: UP Rudras took on Soorma Hockey Club and beat them 3-0 in the Hockey India League (HIL) 2024-25 at the Birsa Munda Hockey Stadium here on Thursday. This is UP Rudras' second successive win in as many matches as they lead the standings with six points.Sudeep Chirmako (2') scored early in the game for the UP Rudras, while Soorma Hockey Club created multiple opportunities in the second quarter, the UP Rudras held firm and Jobanpreet Singh (38') doubled their lead in the third quarter. Akashdeep Singh (58') scored in the last quarter to seal the UP Rudras' second win in the League. UP Rudras took control of the game right from the push-off, forcing Soorma Hockey Club to defend deep. In just the second minute, Gurjot Singh ventured into the shooting circle and found Lalit Kumar Upadhyay but his shot was deflected to Sudeep Chirmako who unleashed a rocket on the half-turn to score the first goal of the game.Soorma Hockey Club began stringing passes together as the quarter progressed and rebuffed the Rudras' advances on their goal. Soorma went on to earn two penalty corners as the first quarter came to an end but failed to find the back of the net. UP Rudras continued to employ a high press in the second quarter but Soorma grew into the game, earning a slew of penalty corners but the Rudras' defensive unit, led by first rusher Lars Balk and goalkeeper James Mazarelo remained alert to avert any danger to their goal.

Shubman Gill with other players to be summoned in Rs 450 cr ponzi scam

NEWDELHI: Shubman Gill, a prominent figure in Indian cricket, is among four players from the Gujarat Titans who may be summoned by the Gujarat CID Crime Branch as part of an investigation into a ?450 crore ponzi scheme.The other players potentially linked to the case are Sai Sudharsan, Rahul Tewatia, and Mohit Sharma.This development follows the interrogation of Bhupendrasinh Zala, the alleged mastermind behind the ponzi scheme. During questioning, Zala reportedly admitted to not returning the investments made by these cricketers. According to the report, Gill, who captained the Gujarat Titans during IPL 2024, had invested ?1.95 crore in the scheme, while the other players—Mohit Sharma, Rahul Tewatia, and Sai Sudharsan—invested smaller amounts.As Gill is currently in Australia as part of the Indian Test squad, the summons for the players will reportedly be issued at a later date. Efforts to reach Mohit Sharma for comment were unsuccessful, as the former India cricketer did not respond.Bhupendrasinh Zala, the alleged operator of the ponzi scheme, hails from Himmatnagar town in Sabarkantha, Gujarat. He allegedly collected ?450 crore from over 11,000 investors through his entity, BZ Financial Services, between 2020 and 2024. Zala lured investors with promises of exceptionally high annual returns of 36 percent, initially fulfilling these promises to gain their trust before defaulting.

Rohit Sharma Dropped for SCG Test vs Australia, Bumrah to Lead



NEWDELHI: Rohit Sharma has been dropped from India's playing XI for the Sydney Test against Australia, which starts tomorrow (Friday). The Indian captain has been in poor form during his recent test outings, making this decision expected. The entire team combination was affected by Rohit's fluctuating position in the batting order.After missing the first Test due to the birth of his second child, Rohit returned to lead in Adelaide, but things have not gone well since then. He opted to bat in the middle order for the Adelaide and Brisbane fixtures but decided to open in Melbourne. This return to the top of the order led to Shubman Gill being dropped, and it backfired, as Rohit's struggles with the bat continued, impacting his decision-making as well.At 37 years old, Rohit's decline in form indicated that he might be nearing the end of his Test career, especially with the Sydney match being likely his last. His current performances did not justify a place in the lineup for this New Year Test, prompting the selection committee to make the bold choice to exclude him from the final game of the series.Rohit has been in a lean patch for some time now. In the ongoing Border-Gavaskar Trophy (BGT), he has only managed 31 runs from five innings at an average of 6.20. His performance since the beginning of 2024 has been equally disappointing, as he scored just 619 runs in 14 matches last year, averaging 24.76 with two centuries and two fifties. Since scoring 103 against England in March 2024, Rohit has struggled to find runs, accumulating only 154 runs from 15 innings at an average of 10.26, with a best of 52 against New Zealand in Bengaluru.Rohit did not attend the pre-match press conference, and coach Gautam Gambhir's comments regarding the playing XI further fueled speculation about his future. During what is expected to be his last session with the Test side, Rohit seemed detached and observed from a distance, while Jasprit Bumrah took charge of conversations with Gambhir and other players.As things stand, India is undergoing a period of transition. While Rohit has yet to officially retire, he has likely played his final Test match at the Melbourne Cricket Ground. Bumrah was very active during practice on Thursday, interacting with Gill and joking with Rohit. As designated vice-captain, he appears ready to take on the leadership role again. Under his captaincy, India won the series opener by 295 runs, but the team's performance declined in subsequent matches.India will now hope that this change in leadership will uplift the energy in the dressing room and help them retain the Border-Gavaskar Trophy in the final match in Sydney. With normalcy expected to return, KL Rahul and Yashasvi Jaiswal will likely open the batting, while Gill is expected to bat at No. 3. Due to Akash Deep's injury, a new pacer is likely to be added, with Prasidh Krishna being the favourite to make the team. Mohammed Siraj spent most of the session on the sidelines, raising questions about whether the team will support him for another match or bring in Harshit Rana.

Tata Steel Foundation Celebrates New Year with PVTGs

Sukinda, (correspondent):-: Tata Steel Foundation (TSF) celebrated the New Year 2025 with the Mankadia communities of Sukinda region here on Wednesday. Reaching the Kalarangiata village of the communities that come under the Particularly Vulnerable Tribal Groups (PVTGs), the Foundation organised cake-cutting ceremony followed by cultural events.Around 200 tribals including 100 children from the village took part in the festivities and welcomed the new year with a gratitude



to the almighty for the year 2024 gone well. What made them happier was the company of Pankaj Satija, Executive-In-charge, Ferro Alloys and Minerals Division (FAMD), Tata Steel, Shambhunath Jha, Chief of Mines (FAMD), Pramod Kumar, Head of Administration (FAMD) and other officers from the steel major who spent quality time in the village with fun activities.Wishing the community members of the PVTGs a happy and safe new year, Pankaj Satija said, "Our cultural traditions are our strength, and preserving them while embracing modern opportunities is key to a brighter tomorrow. With the advent of the new year 2025, I wish everyone to join hands to promote inclusivity and work towards an equitable society." This celebration was a part of Tata Steel's ongoing commitment to fostering inclusive development and strengthening its bond with the PVTGs & local communities in the region, ensuring a brighter future for all

ICAR-CIFA concludes SwachhtaPakhwada with Community-Centric Initiatives

Bhubaneswar, (correspondent):-The ICAR-Central Institute of Freshwater Aquaculture (ICAR-CIFA) successfully wrapped up its two-week-long SwachhtaPakhwada on December 31, 2024, under the Swachh Bharat Mission. Held from December 16 to 31, the campaign brought together local communities, students, farmers, and staff in a series of activities focused on cleanliness, waste management, afforestation, and sustainable practices.The campaign was launched on December 16,2024 with a Swachhta Pledge taken by ICAR-CIFA's Director, Dr. P.K. Sahoo and staff, followed by awareness campaigns at Dhauli Hill and the Dhauli Shanti Stupa to emphasize sustainable practices. The momentum continued December 17, with ICAR-CIFA collaborating with KVK Khordha to demonstrate waste-to-wealth technologies like vermicomposting to over 20 participants.December 18 witnessed a large-scale cleaning drive at ICAR-CIFA headquarters, complemented by waste segregation stations to encourage sustainable waste management. The next day, outdated records and scrap materials were cleared during a cleanliness drive at the office premises. A Swachhata Selfie Booth was set up to promote the initiative on social media.Afforestation efforts took center stage on December 20, with plantation drives at ICAR-CIFA's headquarters in Bhubaneswar and regional centers in Kalyani, Bangalore, Vijayawada, and Bhatinda. This was followed by cleaning drives on December 21 at various locations, including Laxminarayanpur and the Regional Research Centre in Vijayawada.ICAR-CIFA's Social Science Section organized a signature campaign on December 22 in Kairi village, Puri, engaging villagers, youth, and women in cleanliness drives.

TPSODL Corporate Office Transformed into a Green Office

Berhampur, (correspondent):-: Once a conventional workspace, TP Southern Odisha Distribution Limited (TPSODL) has transformed its corporate building into a Green Office, powered entirely by solar energy-a significant step in TPSODL's broader mission to champion eco-friendly practices and renewable energy across Southern Odisha.TPSODL has installed a 100KW rooftop solar plant at its corporate office in Berhampur. This rooftop solar plant generates around 12,000 units of electricity each month, meeting the daily energy needs of the office while also creating a surplus.



Over the next 25 years, this initiative is expected to prevent approximately 2,800 tons of CO? emissions, showcasing TPSODL's commitment to reduce its carbon footprint and adopting sustainable energy solutions.Marking a significant milestone, the Green Office initiative began operations from New Year's Day, symbolizing a fresh start towards sustainability. From this New Year, the corporate office operates entirely on solar energy, reflecting TPSODL's vision of a greener and more sustainable future.Commenting on the achievement, Mr. Amit Kumar Garg, CEO of TPSODL, said, "We are proud to announce that our corporate office is now a Green Office. By switching to solar energy, we are setting an example of sustainable living and affordable energy solutions. TPSODL is dedicated to promote solar adoption throughout Southern Odisha and leading the way in building a greener future."The project is part of TPSODL's approved capital expenditure for the current financial year under a government initiative. It also includes plans to solarize all TPSODL office buildings across Southern Odisha. Through these efforts, TPSODL aims to reduce reliance on traditional energy sources, foster a culture of renewable energy, and inspire the community to embrace eco-friendly practices. Earlier, in the first phase of commissioning, 48.9 KW of the plant had been commissioned, and now the entire plant is fully operational.

Indian Stock Market Poised To Advance In 2025 Beginning: Report

Mumbai: Indian equity indices are poised to advance in the beginning of 2025 on the back of recovery expected in earnings, supported by boost in rural spending and pick up in government spending, according to a Bank of Baroda (BoB) report released on Thursday.Both Sensex and Nifty 50 surged by 8.7 per cent and 9 per cent, respectively, in CY 2024. Sensex touched an all-time high this year as it breached the mark of 85,500. Sectors including real estate, consumer durables and IT were amongst the best-performing stocks in CY24, the report said.The government continue to follow its fiscal prudence path, as it plans to lower its fiscal deficit to 4.9 per cent of GDP with the gross borrowing target of Rs 14 lakh crore.Expectation of rate cut by RBI are back on the table beginning with possibly February 2025 after keeping rates on hold at 6.5 per cent since Feb 2023, the report mentioned.As per the report, rupees depreciated by 2.8 per cent in CY24, but remained one of the better-performing currencies amongst other its peers.The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) continued with the forex intervention in order to address the weakness in the currency. Stable CAD (current account deficit) and lower oil prices also supported the rupee," said Jahnavi Prabhakar, economist, Bank of Baroda.

"In CY25, the rupee is expected to depreciate marginally as volatility in FPI flow might continue given the likelihood of a stronger dollar," she added.eanwhile, on the Bond front, the report said that US Fed began with the monetary easing cycle this year in September 2024, as it lowered rates for the first time in three years.

Indian Oil Inks 30-Year Pact To Operate Fuel Stations At Noida International Airport

Noida: The Noida International Airport (NIA) has signed a 30-year concession agreement with Indian Oil Corporation Ltd (IOCL) to operate fuel stations at three key locations within the airport premises.This collaboration will ensure uninterrupted access to high-quality fuelling services at the airport, supporting the Noida International Airport's vision of a seamless and efficient aviation hub, according to a company statement issued on Thursday.The agreement encompasses the establishment and operation of three fuel stations by the country's biggest oil company.These will be near the main western access road for passengers, there will be one airside fuel station for airport operations, and near the eastern cargo precinct The fuel stations will be designed to adhere to global standards of safety and operational excellence in line with NIA's vision of creating a world-class airport for Northern India.Noida International Airport is scheduled to commence operations in 2025.Noida International Airport CEO Christoph Schnellmann said: "Our collaboration with Indian Oil Corporation Ltd marks another milestone in NIA's journey to operational readiness. By partnering with one of India's most trusted fuel providers, we will ensure seamless and efficient fuelling services at the airport. This is a step forward in building Noida International Airport as the gateway to Northern India."Indian Oil Corporation Ltd's Noida Divisional Office's Divisional Retail Sales Head, Sumeet Munshi, said: "Indian Oil is proud to join hands with Noida International Airport to create an unparalleled experience for travellers. This collaboration underscores our commitment to innovation, sustainability, and customer convenience. By setting up these fuel stations, we are not only serving customers but also supporting the region's growing infrastructural requirements."The airport's intermodal connectivity and focus on innovation and efficiency align with IOCL's mission to energise India's growth story, the statement said.The Noida International Airport (IATA code – DXN) will connect the greater Delhi area and western Uttar Pradesh with other cities in India and the world. This world-class airport will combine Swiss efficiency and Indian hospitality to offer rich experiences and comprehensive commercial attractions and services to its passengers. NIA is committed to an ambitious net-zero emissions goal supported by sustainable design and operations principles, the statement added.

ONDC Empowering Small Businesses, Revolutionising E-Commerce: PM Modi

New Delhi: The government-run Open Network for Digital Commerce (ONDC) has empowered small businesses and revolutionised e-commerce, said Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Thursday.ONDC — a network of more than 200 apps, including buyer apps and seller apps — was launched in 2021 to democratise e-commerce in India.The PM said that ONDC has been enabling growth and prosperity in the country."ONDC has contributed to empowering small businesses and revolutionising e-commerce, thus playing a vital role in furthering growth and prosperity," said PM Modi, in a post on social media platform X.The Prime Minister said this quoting a post by Piyush Goyal, Union Minister of Commerce and Industry.Goyal noted that ONDC has revolutionised the country's e-commerce landscape; and has bridged the gap between sellers and buyers.ONDC has built "a robust and inclusive digital marketplace",



Goyal said. He added that in the last year, the network has "not only achieved numerous milestones but also empowered businesses, especially small enterprises, by creating a level playing field for them on the network".."By bridging the gap between sellers and buyers, ONDC continues to revolutionise the nation's e-commerce landscape!" Goyal said.In the last three years, ONDC has seen more than 150 million transactions, over 200 networks.The platform has over 7 lakh sellers and service providers, with sellers from over 600 cities and towns.Consumers from over 1,100 cities and towns have transacted through the network.Further, more than 7,000 farmer-producer organsations are part of the platform, representing 35 lakh farmers.About 50 per cent of beneficiaries at the MSME Trade Enablement and Marketing Initiative (MSME-TEAM), which aims at assisting five lakh Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises (MSMEs) are women-owned enterprises.

Sensex Soars Over 1,200 Points, Auto And IT Stocks Rally

Mumbai: Indian stock market surged by nearly 1.6 per cent in afternoon trade on Thursday as heavy buying was seen in auto, energy, private bank, infra, commodity and IT sectors on Nifty.At around 1.39 pm, Sensex was trading at 79,766.88 after rising 1,259.47 points or 1.60 per cent, while Nifty was trading at 24,112.25 after rising 369.35 points or 1.56 per cent.The market trend remained positive. On the National Stock Exchange (NSE), 1,366 stocks were trading in green, while 529 stocks were in red.

Nifty Bank was up 386.45 points or 0.76 per cent at 51,447.05. Nifty Midcap 100 index was trading at 57,740.40 after rising 289.50 points or 0.50 per cent. Nifty Smallcap 100 index was at 19,022.65 after rising 62.85 points or 0.33 per cent.In the Sensex pack, Bajaj Finserv, Bajaj Finance, Maruti Suzuki, M&M, Infosys, Titan, UltraTech Cement, HCLTech, Kotak Mahindra Bank and IndusInd Bank were among the top gainers. Only Sun Pharma was among the top losers.The domestic benchmark indices opened flat in morning trade as selling was seen in the PSU bank, pharma, FMCG, realty, media, energy and metal sectors on Nifty.According to Vaibhav Agrawal, CIO–Alternates (Public equity), MOAMC, broader markets are expected to grow earnings at 12-13 per cent in FY26.

Printed, Published & Owned byBansidhar Das, Plot No. 499/4262, Saktinagar, Shisupalgarh , Bhubaneswar-751002, Dist Khordha(Odisha), Printed At Mahesh Printing Press, 30, Industrial Colony, Kharavela Nagar, Bhubaneswar- 751001, Khordha Phone: 9439094123, Email:aroundodisha@gmail.com, E-paper: www.aroundodisha.com.

Editor: Bansidhar Das