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Centre Recognises Cuttack Bali Jatra As National Fair



Bhubaneswar(correspondent):: In a significant development, the Ministry of Culture has granted 'national status' to Cuttack's historic Bali Jatra.Culture Minister Gajendra Singh Shekhawat made the announcement in the Rajya Sabha today. The Ministry also issued a notification in this regard.Earlier, Prime Minister Narendra Modi had promised to accord national status to the State's biggest trade fair.The move aims to promote Odisha's rich cultural heritage and make the state's major commercial fair more popular.PM Modi has consistently highlighted the significance of Bali Jatra, mentioning it in various events, including his Mann Ki Baat radio program and the National Trade Fair. He also spoke about the festival during his visit to Indonesia in 2023.Efforts are underway to obtain UNESCO recognition for Cuttack Bali Jatra. A committee has been formed at the administrative level to facilitate this process. Collector Dattatraya Bhausaheb Shinde informed that steps will be taken to publicize Bali Jatra in various national programmes.Last year, ambassadors and representatives from 14 countries attended the inaugural function of Bali Yatra in Cuttack as guests. The festival celebrates Odisha's rich maritime history and commemorates India's historical and civilizational links with Southeast Asia.The recognition of Bali Jatra as a national festival is expected to boost tourism and cultural exchange between Odisha and other states, as well as with Southeast Asian countries.

Odisha Seeks Rs 12,59,148 Crore Funds From 16th Finance Commission For 2026-2031



Bhubaneswar(correspondent):: The State government has made a significant demand for funds from the 16th Finance Commission, seeking Rs 12,59,148 crore for the period 2026-2031.Chief Minister Mohan Charan Majhi announced this after meeting with the Commission, outlining the state's financial needs and proposals.The demand includes a substantial allocation of Rs 9,88,422 crore for addressing the pre-devolution revenue deficit. Additionally, the state has sought Rs 1,10,434 crore for meeting state-specific needs and Rs 1,00,036 crore for grants to rural and urban local bodies. Furthermore, the state has demanded Rs 31,004 crore for the State Disaster Management Fund and Rs 29,252 crore for the State Disaster Relief Fund. Majhi emphasized that the demands are based on the state's developmental needs, financial capacity, and proposed financial devolution mechanism. He expressed hope that the Commission would consider their presentation favourably.The Chief Minister also discussed the state's share in central taxes, currently at 41%, and demanded an increase to 50%. Additionally, Odisha's share in the Central Government's tax revenue, currently at 4.528%, was proposed to be increased to 4.964%.The 16th Finance Commission, chaired by Dr. Arvind Panagariya, is visiting Odisha from February 4 to 7. The Commission has proposed to provide 2% of the Gross Revenue Receipt estimated by the Centre for the period 2026-31 as grants to Rural and Urban Local Bodies.The Chief Minister was accompanied by Chief Secretary Manoj Ahuja, Development Commissioner Anu Garg, State Finance Secretary Shaswat Mishra, along with officers of the Finance Department and heads of various departments of the state.

Third Child Shows Symptoms Of GBS In Jharkhand, Govt On Alert

Ranchi: Another child exhibiting symptoms of Guillain-Barre Syndrome (GBS) has been admitted to a hospital in Ranchi, bringing the total number of suspected cases in Jharkhand to three. While two children are undergoing treatment in private hospitals, one has been admitted to Rajendra Institute of Medical Sciences (RIMS), Ranchi. The state health department's surveillance team is closely monitoring all three patients. Authorities have also alerted civil surgeons across Jharkhand to remain vigilant.Approximately ten days ago, a five-year-old girl was diagnosed with GBS at a private children's hospital in Booty Mor, Ranchi. While doctors report slight improvement in her condition, she remains bedridden.

Govt Justifies Deportation From US, Cites Diplomatic Obligation



New Delhi: Calling for a focus on a strong crackdown against the illegal immigration industry, External Affairs Minister S. Jaishankar on Thursday reiterated the universal obligation for countries to repatriate their nationals found living abroad illegally.In a statement in response to an adjournment motion given by the Congress in Lok Sabha, the Minister shared figures of the UPA era to explain that illegal immigrants have been sent back by the US in the past as well.Providing figures to illustrate the ongoing nature of the process, EAM Jaishankar shared: "In 2009, the number of deportees was 734, in 2010 it was 799, in 2011 it was 597, in 2012 it was 530, in 2013 it was 515, in 2014 it was 591 and in 2015 it was 708."
He continued with the figures: "In 2016 it was 1,303, in 2017 it was 1,024, in 2018 it was 1,180, in 2019 it was 2,042, in 2020 it was 1,889, in 2021 it was 805, in 2022 it was 862, in 2023 it was 617, in 2024 it was 1,368, and in 2025 it is 104."The Minister highlighted the ongoing engagement with the US government to ensure the humane treatment of deportees during transit.The remarks followed the arrival of a US military C-17 aircraft at Sri Guru Ram Dass Jee International Airport in Amritsar, Punjab, carrying the first batch of 104 illegal Indian immigrants, with the highest numbers coming from Haryana and Gujarat (33 each).Earlier, dozens of Indian Youth Congress (IYC) activists were detained by Delhi Police as they protested near Parliament against the alleged handcuffing of some of the 104 Indians deported from the US.The protesters shouted slogans against the government for silently allowing such ill-treatment of the deportees and broke barricades before being detained.IYC President Uday Bhanu said in a post on X: "Handcuffs and shackles have been put on not just a few youths but 140 crore Indians.

No Repoll Required In Absence Of Complaints By Nominees: Delhi CEO

New Delhi: In the absence of any complaint from the 699 candidates, no re-poll is required in any of the 70 Assemblies, Chief Electoral Officer of Delhi R. Alice Vaz said on Thursday after the scrutiny of election documents.The CEO said the scrutiny of election documents, including Form 17C, presiding officers' diaries etc. was completed by Returning Officers of all 70 Assembly constituencies in the presence of General Observers, candidates, and their agents.Vaz stated that all election-related documents were found in proper order during the scrutiny process. "The presence of observers, candidates and representatives ensured transparency and fairness in the electoral process," she said.She said that all Electronic Voting Machines (EVMs) have been securely stored in strong rooms and there are 70 strong rooms – one each for a constituency – across 19 locations.Vaz said that all necessary arrangements have been made to ensure the safety and security of the polled EVMs and VVPATs in accordance with ECI safety protocolsElaborating on the security measures, she said a three-tier security has been deployed round-the-clock, with the innermost perimeter guarded by Central Armed Paramilitary Forces (CAPF) and the outermost perimeter by State Armed Police.She said a 24×7 CCTV camera coverage of the sealed doors of the strong rooms and corridors, with continuous monitoring, is being done.She said there is a single entry/exit point to the strong rooms with a double lock system.Mandatory videography during the opening and closing of the strong rooms was also done, she said, highlighting the maintenance of a logbook for recording visits of authorised officials (General Observers, DEOs, or DCPs) under videography.

Insult To Nation: Shashi Tharoor On US Treatment Of Deported Indians



New Delhi, : Congress MP Shashi Tharoor on Thursday said the manner in which Indians staying illegally in the US were deported was "an insult to India and the dignity of Indians"He also asserted that the government needed to issue a message to the US, making it clear that it had no right to do this in such an "insulting manner"

France Denounces Trump's Plans To Take Over Gaza Strip

Paris: France on Wednesday affirmed its opposition to any forced displacement of Gaza's Palestinian population, in the wake of remarks made by US President Donald Trump that he plans to take over the Gaza Strip and redevelop it after Palestinians are relocated elsewhere.Trump made the remarks at a joint press conference with visiting Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu on Tuesday, without providing details about how to conduct a resettlement procedure.The French Ministry of Foreign Affairs said on Wednesday that the forced displacement of the Palestinian population of Gaza would constitute a "serious" violation of international law, and an "attack on the legitimate aspirations of Palestinians."

IAF Aircraft Crashes In Shivpuri, Trainee Pilots Safe

Bhopal: A twin-seater Indian Air Force (IAF) Mirage 2000 aircraft crashed in Madhya Pradesh's Shivpuri while it was on a routine training sortie on Thursday.Fortunately, the two pilots of the Mirage 2000 fighter plane were safe, and they were rushed to a nearby hospital for a medical checkup.The IAF in a post on social media platform X said: "A Mirage 2000 aircraft of the IAF crashed near Shivpuri (Gwalior), during a routine training sortie, after encountering a system malfunction. Both the pilots ejected safely."An inquiry has been ordered by the IAF, to ascertain the cause of the accident.

India ranked among world's top 3 countries for Green Building Certification in 2024

New Delhi: India retained its third spot on the US Green Building Council's (USGBC) annual list of top 10 countries and regions for LEED (Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design) in 2024 with 370 projects, across both buildings and spaces, being certified for LEED in the country covering 8.50 million gross square metres (GSM). India has consistently ranked among the top three countries for LEED certifications, underscoring its dedication to achieving the United Nations' Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) for 2030.The ranking reflects India's focus on combating climate change and promoting environmentally conscious practices through green development initiatives. LEED certifications in India are managed by the Green Business Certification Inc (GBCI), which works to accelerate the adoption of green buildings nationwide. China topped the rankings with over 25 million GSM certified followed by Canada with 10 million GSM.The annual ranking by USGBC highlights the significant progress made by countries and regions outside the United States in adopting healthy, sustainable and resilient building design, construction and operations. GBCI MD, Southeast Asia & Middle East, Gopalakrishnan Padmanabhan, said: "India's remarkable achievement of 370 LEED-certified projects in 2024 highlights the country's steadfast commitment to sustainable development and climate action. With 8.50 million GSM of green-certified space, India is not only addressing the growing need for sustainable urban infrastructure but also making significant strides towards achieving the United Nations' SDGs for 2030. As the nation continues to expand its urban footprint, the adoption of green building practices will be central to improving community well-being and mitigating climate change. India's ongoing push for net-zero emissions by 2070 further solidifies its leadership in the global movement for a sustainable future." India's growing real estate market is increasingly aligned with sustainable practices. The expansion of LEED certifications beyond commercial spaces to industrial, residential, and educational sectors underscores the country's commitment to its net-zero targets and sustainable growth. As LEED continues to evolve, India remains a global leader in green building practices, inspiring other nations to prioritise sustainability in their built environments, according to a GBCI statement.

'Our Candidates Getting Calls To Leave Party': Kejriwal Alleges Exit Polls Are Part Of Plot

New Delhi: A day after multiple Exit polls predicted a resounding victory for the BJP in the Delhi Assembly elections, Aam Aadmi Party (AAP) national convenor Arvind Kejriwal has labelled these surveys as fake, claiming they are part of a strategy to disrupt his party's momentum.In a post on X, Kejriwal expressed his disapproval of the results and shed light on why he believes these surveys are being manipulated.He wrote: "Some agencies are showing that the 'Gali Galauj Party' is winning more than 55 seats. In the last two hours, 16 of our candidates have got calls saying, 'Leave your party and join



theirs, we'll make you ministers and give each of you Rs 15-15 crores.' If their party is indeed winning more than 55 seats, then why do they need to call our candidates?"Clearly, these fake surveys are being conducted just to create an atmosphere and break a few of our candidates. But, 'Gali Galauj walon', not a single one of our people will be swayed."The remarks came after several exit polls predicted a sweeping victory for the Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP).Among these, Axis My India released its forecast, claiming the BJP would secure 45-55 seats in the 70-member Delhi Assembly, while the AAP would only manage 15-25 seats, marking a significant dip from its previous strongholds.

The Congress, according to the same survey, is expected to perform poorly, winning just 0-1 seat.The Axis My India forecast, seen as a major blow to the AAP, has sent shockwaves through it.Kejriwal's comments came amid allegations that BJP leaders are attempting to poach AAP candidates.AAP MP Sanjay Singh also weighed in, rejecting the exit poll predictions and accusing the BJP of executing an "Operation Lotus" in Delhi. Singh alleged that the BJP was offering bribes to AAP leaders in an attempt to destabilise the party and ensure their path to forming the government in the national capital.

UGC Draft Regulations An Attack On TN's Heritage & Federalism: Stalin

Chennai: Tamil Nadu Chief Minister M.K. Stalin has strongly opposed the University Grants Commission's (UGC) draft regulations, calling it an assault on the rich heritage of Tamil Nadu and a violation of the Union's federal principles.Expressing his gratitude to Leader of Opposition in Lok Sabha Rahul Gandhi and Samajwadi Party leader Akhilesh Yadav for their support in the protest against the UGC draft in New Delhi, Stalin took to social media to voice his concerns."The RSS-BJP's agenda is clear: to erase diverse histories, traditions, and languages in order to impose a singular identity. As my brother Rahul Gandhi rightly pointed out, the UGC draft is not merely an educational move; it is an attack on Tamil Nadu's heritage and the very foundation of India's federalism," he said.The Chief Minister urged people to reject the UGC draft and appreciated the efforts of the DMK Student Wing, Members of Parliament, and members of the INDIA Bloc, including Rahul Gandhi and Akhilesh Yadav, for amplifying students' voices in the national capital and defending the future of education."From NEET to CAA to the three farm laws, the DMK has led every fight to uphold our Constitution and pluralism. Today, our voice in New Delhi will echo across the country," said the Chief Minister.The UGC's new draft guidelines propose allowing candidates to qualify for faculty positions in higher education institutions by clearing the UGC-NET, regardless of whether their undergraduate and postgraduate degrees are in different disciplines.Additionally, the draft guidelines expand the eligibility criteria for vice-chancellors, permitting professionals from academia, research institutions, public policy, public administration, and industry to be considered for the role.A key concern is the draft rules granting governors (chancellors) broader powers in appointing vice-chancellors to state-funded universities, which has led to strong opposition from Tamil Nadu's ruling party.Earlier, the DMK's student wing staged a protest against the UGC draft regulations at Jantar Mantar in New Delhi, joined by several leaders of the INDIA Bloc, including Rahul Gandhi and Akhilesh Yadav.The Tamil Nadu legislative Assembly had already voiced its disapproval of the regulations.On January 9, the Assembly passed a resolution urging the withdrawal of the UGC draft rules, particularly those related to the National Eligibility cum Entrance Test (NEET) and its impact on admissions in the state.During the Assembly session, Stalin reiterated his stance: "This Assembly considers that the recent UGC draft rules should be withdrawn. They are an assault on the idea of federalism and negatively impact Tamil Nadu's higher education system."

Tirupati Panigrahi extends a helping hand in the field of education and health



Bhubaneswar:(Correspondent):-On the occasion of the Saraswati Puja festival organized by Maa Saraswati Puja Committee Unit-6, the founder chairman of Hitech Medical College and Hospital, Dr. Tirupati Panigrahi joined as an invited guest and said that the Hitech Group, which has brought about a revolutionary change in the field of education and health, has extended its helping hand to every person in the society in the coming days and this will continue continuously. Puja Committee President Biswajit Samantaray, Vice President Soumya Pradhan thanked Tirupati Panigrahi for such work and said that Chief Advisor Srikant Nayak and Cultural Editor Subham Nayak will jointly lead social programs in the field of health with the Hitech Group in the coming days. Tirupati Panigrahi's help in the field of education and health for the neglected and Dalit people of the society will play a special role for Odisha.

10 more agricultural goods included under e-NAM trade

New Delhi: The Centre has decided to further expand the scope of trade under e-NAM (National Agricultural Market) with the addition of 10 more agricultural commodities to enable farmers to get higher prices for their produce."This initiative aims to increase the coverage of agricultural commodities and offer more opportunities for farmers and traders to benefit from the digital trading platform," the Ministry of Agriculture and Farmers' Welfare said in a statement issued on Thursday.The new commodities that have been included in the e-NAM platform include dried tulsi leaves, besan (chickpea flour), wheat flour, chana sattu (roasted chickpea flour), and water chestnut flour in the miscellaneous category.Besides, asafoetida and dried fenugreek leaves have been included from the spices category while water chestnut and baby corn are the vegetables among the additional commodities. Jackfruit also figures in the list of 10 goods.The step has been taken in response to the continuous demand from farmers, traders and other stakeholders for the inclusion of more agricultural commodities, the statement said.The Directorate of Marketing and Inspection (DMI) has formulated tradable parameters for the 10 additional agricultural commodities. These parameters are a result of extensive consultation with key stakeholders, including state agencies, traders, subject matter specialists and SFAC and with approval from the Union Minister of Agriculture and Farmers' Welfare Shivraj Singh Chouhan, the statement said.DMI has been entrusted with the formulation of tradable parameters for agricultural commodities to be traded on the e-NAM platform.

BGBS-25 Attracted Rs 4.40 Lakh Crore Investment Proposals For Bengal: Mamata Banerjee

Kolkata: The Bengal Global Business Summit (BGBS)- 2025 has attracted total investment proposals worth Rs 4.40 lakh crore for West Bengal, Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee announced on the second and final day of the annual event to showcase the state as an ideal investment destination."During the last two days of the event, we have received a total investment proposal of Rs 4,40,595 crore. Several memoranda of understanding have been signed during the last two days," the Chief Minister said in her address at the closing session of the event.State government insiders pointed out that the figure of new investment proposals in the event this year as claimed by the Chief Minister is significantly higher than



the last such event in 2023 which was Rs 3.76 lakh crore.The annual event was not organised in 2024.Banerjee claimed that during the event this year, a total of 212 MoUs have been signed. The most significant investment proposal had been in the oil & gas segment, where public sector ONGC will be engaged in oil and gas exploration at Ashoknagar in the North 24 Parganas district, she added."We have provided 50 acres of land at just Re 1 to ONGC at Ashoknagar for that purpose," she said.Banerjee said that the remarkable progress achieved in the area of infrastructure development during the last 14 years has eased the process of doing business in West Bengal."No other state in India has such an investor-friendly environment as it is there in West Bengal. This is because of the remarkable achievements we have made in the area of infrastructure development during the last 14 years," she said.The Chief Minister did not miss the opportunity to highlight the successes of her government in social welfare and the elevation of people from below the poverty line."We have been able to bring out 1.72 crore people from below the poverty line during the last 14 years. Each family in West Bengal is covered by several social welfare schemes," she asserted.

Omar Abdullah Demands Central Probe Into Two Civilian Deaths

Jammu: J&K Chief Minister Omar Abdullah on Thursday demanded a time-bound inquiry by the Union government into two incidents of alleged excessive use of forces by the army."I have seen the reports of excessive use of force & harassment of Makhan Din in police custody in Billawar leading to his suicide and the death of Waseem Ahmed Malla, shot by the army under circumstances that are not entirely clear. Both



these incidents are highly unfortunate and should not have happened," Omar Abdullah wrote on X.The Chief Minister added that J&K will never be completely normalised and free of terror without the cooperation of and partnership with the local population. "Incidents like these risk alienating the very people who we need to carry with us on the road to complete normalcy. I have taken up these incidents with the Union Government & insisted that both incidents are inquired into in a time bound, transparent manner. The Government in J&K will also order its own inquiries," Omar Abdullah wrote on X.The Chief Minister was reacting to two incidents, the suicide of Makhan Din of Billawar in Kathua district allegedly

SC Asks Police Authorities To Protect Discovery Officials Following Threats From 'Supporters Of Asaram Bapu'

New Delhi: The Supreme Court, in an interim order passed on Thursday, granted police protection to officials of OTT platform Discovery+ after they received threats from "groups claiming to be supporters of Asaram Bapu" following the release of the documentary series "Cult of Fear: Asaram Bapu?"A bench of CJI Sanjiv Khanna and Justice Sanjay Kumar was hearing a plea filed by top officials of the OTT platform seeking a direction to ensure police protection for themselves, their colleagues, and other similarly situated individuals. "This protection is sought in light of threats and criminal intimidation from groups claiming to be supporters/fans/followers/devotees of 'Asaram Bapu', following the release .

More Women, OBC Voters Backed BJP To Take Tally To 45-55 Seats: Axis My India Exit Poll

New Delhi: With more women and OBC voters backing the BJP in the February 5 Assembly election, the party may garner 45-55 seats with a vote share of 48 per cent as against the ruling AAP's 15-25 seats with a vote share of 42 per cent, an Exit poll by Axis My India said on Thursday.The change in BJP's fortune appears linked to a rise in Congress' vote share from 4.62 per cent in 2020 to a possible 7 per cent, the poll said, adding that almost 74 per cent of Muslim voters backed the AAP.Another poll agency, Today's Chanakya, gave the BJP 51 (plus/minus six seats with a vote share of 49 per cent (plus/minus 3 per cent).It gave the AAP 19 seats (plus/minus 6 seats) with a vote share of 41 per cent (plus/minus 3 per cent).The findings of the two Exit Poll reports released on Thursday were a reconfirmation of the findings of a majority of exit polls that indicated, within hours of end of polling, an edge for the BJP over its rival AAP while giving the Congress 0-1 seat.The result for the 70-member Assembly poll will be declared on February 8.The election recorded a 60.44 per cent turnout, around 2 per-



centage points lower than the 62.59 per cent in the 2020 Assembly poll. The turnout in the Lok Sabha election was 58 per cent.Axis My India pollsters said that in the just-concluded election 46 per cent of women voters backed the BJP as compared to 44 per cent for the AAP. About 50 per cent of the male voters backed the BJP as compared to 40 per cent for the AAP.Similarly, young voters aged between 18-25 favoured the BJP (46 per cent) over the AAP (44 per cent).Almost 52 per cent of the 61-plus voters backed the BJP as against 39 per cent for the AAP.The BJP also got a higher percentage of votes from occupational categories like small shopkeepers, private and government servicemen and students.In terms of castes and communities, the AAP got a bigger share of votes than the BJP from communities like Muslim (74 per cent), Jatav (60 per cent), Balmiki (53 per cent), SC (51 per cent) and Sikh (69 per cent).On the other hand, the BJP got the majority backing of Brahmins (66 per cent), Jats (63 per cent), OBC (58 per cent as against AAP's 34 per cent), Rajputs (61 per cent) and general voters (68 per cent), said Axis My India report.The BJP also proved to be the favoured party for hill state migrants or voters with roots in Uttarakhand and Himachal Pradesh.A total of 57 per cent of hilly area residents backed the BJP as compared to 35 per cent for the AAP.More voters from Bihar (50 per cent), Haryana (54 per cent), Rajasthan (45) and Uttar Pradesh (48) backed the BJP than the AAP which was backed by 43 per cent of Bihari voters, 36 per cent of Haryanvi voters, 42 per cent of UP voters and 44 per cent of Rajasthani voters.

Odisha Govt, IIT Madras Join Hands To Tackle Rising Road Accidents



Bhubaneswar/Berhampur(correspondent): In a proactive effort to reduce road accidents in Odisha, the state government has partnered with IIT Madras to implement effective road safety measures. As part of this initiative, a team from IIT Madras met with Director General of Police (DGP) Y.B. Khurania on Wednesday.According to an official press release of the State Transport Authority (STA), the team visited Berhampur in Ganjam district on Thursday, where they held discussions with Berhampur SP Shravana Vivek and IIT Madras Prof. Venkatesh Bal Subramanian.The discussions focused on identifying key causes of road accidents in the district—particularly overspeeding and drunk driving—and formulating strategies to address them.Ganjam is among the districts where road accidents remain a significant concern. The team emphasized the need for public awareness campaigns to promote responsible road behavior and strict adherence to traffic regulations.During the visit, the team inspected several black spots—high-risk accident-prone areas—in Berhampur and identified engineering flaws in the road infrastructure. These issues will be reported to the relevant departments for immediate corrective action. Additionally, awareness efforts will be intensified in accident-prone areas to encourage safer driving habits.Another key aspect of the discussions was enhancing citizen participation in road safety initiatives.The team explored ways in which the administration could actively involve the public in promoting traffic discipline. To strengthen enforcement, it was also decided to increase traffic monitoring, particularly during peak accident hours.The Odisha government remains committed to reducing road accidents through a combination of stricter enforcement, infrastructure improvements, and public awareness campaigns.

Odisha Takes Major Leap In Road Safety: DGP, Transport Commissioner Hold High-Level Meeting



Bhubaneswar(correspondent): In a significant milestone for Odisha's road safety journey, a high-level meeting was chaired by Director General of Police (DGP) IPS YB Khurania and Transport Commissioner, Special Director General of Police, CID, CB Vinyotosh Mishra and Chairman cum Commissioner of State Transport Authority Amitabh Thakur.The meeting focused on implementing a comprehensive road safety plan devised by the Indian Institute of Technology Madras (IITM) in collaboration with the state government.Key Highlights:– IITM's 3-Year Roadmap: IITM presented its vision for enhancing road safety in Odisha, outlining strategic interventions and initiatives for the next three years.– Sadak Suraksha Bal (SSB): The concept of SSB, a specialized task force comprising retired ex-servicemen, was discussed to support the state in enforcing road safety regulations.– Data-Driven Interventions: IITM plans to create data-driven enforcement and intervention strategies using Naksha, a platform consisting of two applications: Field Perception Survey and Sanjaya.– Zero Accident Day for Bhubaneswar: The Zero Accident Day (ZAD) initiative was launched to reinforce positive behavioral change through awareness campaigns and incentivizing good road user practices.– Capacity Building of Crash Investigating Officers: IITM will conduct capacity-building workshops for Investigating Officers (IOs) based on the Root Cause Analysis Matrix (RCAM) framework.The meeting was attended by other senior officials, including Special Director General of Police, CID, CB Vinyotosh Mishra, Additional Transport Commissioner Dipti Ranjan Patra, Joint Transport Commissioner Pradeep Mohanty, Nodal Officer of State Project, Gangadhar Sahoo (Retd IAS) rof. Venkatesh Balasubr amanian, Head of Centre of Excellence for Road Safety at IITM, presented a comprehensive presentation on road safety management and data-driven interventions.

IMD Issues Yellow Warning For Dense Fog In Odisha's Several Districts

Bhubaneswar(correspondent):: The India Meteorological Department (IMD) has issued a yellow warning for dense fog in several districts of Odisha over the next 24 hours.According to the midday weather bulletin released by the IMD's regional center in Bhubaneswar on Friday, dense fog is expected to occur in one or two places in Jagatsinghpur, Cuttack, and Khurda districts.Additionally, shallow to moderate fog is expected during the early morning hours in some areas of these same districts.n Saturday, dense fog is likely to occur in one or two places in the districts of Ganjam and Nayagarh. Furthermore, shallow to moderate fog is expected in the early morning hours at a few places in these districts, as well as in Puri, Gajapati, Khurda, Kandhamal, and Kalahandi districts.The IMD has advised residents to be cautious while traveling, as visibility may be significantly reduced during these conditions. Authorities have urged people to follow safety guidelines and stay updated on weather advisories.

Railways Suspends Four Employees After Goods Train Rams Into Slum In Rourkela



Bhubaneswar(correspondent): The Railways has taken swift action following a devastating incident where a goods train crashed into slum houses in Basanti Colony on Wednesday morning. Considering the severity of the incident, the Railways has suspended four employees, including Rourkela Station Manager PK Das, who has been held responsible for the accident.According to Aditya Chaudhary, Senior Divisional Commercial Manager of Chakradharpur Division, the suspended employees include the loco pilot of the goods train, a guard, and a centring staff. The incident occurred when a goods train lost control while being shunted from one line to another at the Malgodam FCI slum railway siding around 6:10 am on Wednesday.In a harrowing sequence of events, the train crashed into several shops, hitting an auto, two bikes, and more than 10 shops. Fortunately, a major accident was averted due to the quick thinking of tea shopkeepers, who alerted the slum dwellers. However, if the train had travelled just 8 feet further, many people sleeping in the slum would have lost their lives.South Eastern Railway General Manager Anil Kumar Mishra and other senior officials have investigated the incident, ordering three officers to conduct a thorough probe. Rourkela Station Manager PK Das has been transferred to Sardega, and action will be taken against those responsible for the incident. Moreover, the railway siding will be shifted from Malgodam.the incident has created an atmosphere of fear among local residents, who are demanding appropriate compensation for the affected auto, bike, and shop owners.

Patient Dies After Falling From Hospital's Top Floor In Keonjhar



Bhubaneswar(correspondent): A patient died after falling from the top floor of the Sub-Divisional Hospital in Anandapur, Keonjhar district, on Thursday.The patient was identified as Bijay Sahoo (58), a resident of Kantipal village.According to reports, Bijay and his wife, Santilata Sahoo, had come to the hospital for his dialysis treatment. While waiting for their turn, Bijay went to use the bathroom. However, instead of going to the restroom, he accidentally went to the top floor. It is believed that he felt weak and faint, which caused him to fall.The hospital staff quickly assisted him and took him for treatment, but unfortunately, doctors later declared him dead.Upon receiving the information, Ghasipur police arrived at the spot promptly and initiated an investigation.

Class X Matric Exams 2025: BSE Puts In Place Robust Security Measures To Prevent Question Paper Leaks

Cuttack(correspondent): With the Class X board matric examination conducted by the Board of Secondary Education (BSE) commencing on February 21 and concluding on March 6, the board has put in place robust measures to prevent question paper leaks and malpractices.Addressing a presser, Board President Srikant Tarai said "A total of 5,10,778 students from across the state will appear for the examination this year. To facilitate this, 3,133 examination centres have been set up across 30 districts and 314 nodal centres."He further said "To ensure the integrity of the examination process, all the centres will be equipped with CCTV surveillance. Additionally, building on last year's initiative where live streaming of the examination was conducted from 200 centres, this year the Board will expand the live streaming to 600 centres.""To prevent question paper leaks, the Board has incorporated advanced security features, including QR codes, watermarks, and unique serial numbers, to ensure the integrity and confidentiality of the examination process", maintained Tarai.He further informed the question papers will be distributed to all examination centres between February 12 and 19. To prevent leaks, the Board has implemented a robust security system, where each question paper bears a unique serial number, enabling swift identification of the source and centre in case of any leak.

BJD Rejects Draft UGC Regulations,Calls Them Anti-Federal

Bhubaneswar(correspondent): The Biju Janata Dal (BJD) has strongly opposed the draft University Grants Commission (UGC) Regulations, 2025, rejecting the proposed provisions for appointing vice-chancellors and other academic staff in universities.In a letter addressed to the UGC chairman on Wednesday, Debi Prasad Mishra, chairman of the BJD Coordination & Activities Committee, expressed concerns over what the party termed as the "anti-federal nature" of the draft regulations."The BJD firmly objects to the draft UGC (Minimum Qualifications for Appointment and Promotion of Teachers and Academic Staff in Universities and Colleges and Measures for the Maintenance of Standards in Higher Education) Regulations, 2025. The proposed rules grant absolute power to state governors—and, by extension, the central government—to appoint vice-chancellors and academic staff in universities, including state-run institutions, without any involvement of the respective state governments," the letter stated.Mishra argued that this move undermines the federal structure of governance, which is a fundamental part of the Indian Constitution, and disregards the principles of cooperative federalism. He warned that such a regulation would severely compromise the autonomy of higher education institutions across states.The BJD urged the UGC to reconsider the proposed regulations and ensure a more transparent, participatory, and inclusive selection process for vice-chancellors and academic staff in state universities. The party insisted that state governments must have a significant role in the appointment process and that the search-cum-selection committee should include representatives from the respective state governments and universities.Additionally, the regional party emphasized the need for a transparent appointment process, with clear accountability for the search committee and appointing authorities. It also called for consistent consultation and collaboration between the UGC, state governments, and universities to uphold cooperative governance."We hope the UGC will take our concerns into account and amend the draft regulations before finalizing them to respect federal principles, safeguard the autonomy of state universities, and protect the interests of all stakeholders," the BJD's letter concluded.

Odisha CM Urges Officials To Expedite Grievance Process Or Face Disciplinary Action



Bhubaneswar correspondent):: The state government has expressed concern over the long delay in addressing public grievances at various levels.The Odisha Chief Minister's Office (CMO) has instructed its officials to speed up the process of resolving complaints.According to an official letter, the Public Hearing program is one of the best initiatives by the Odisha government, offering a platform for citizens to submit their grievances to authorities at any time and from anywhere.Upon reviewing the status of complaints, it was noticed that many of them have been delayed for a long time due to slow action at different levels."As a result, complainants have been repeatedly visiting the Chief Minister's Grievance Cell with the same issues," the CMO stated in a letter sent to senior officials, including the Additional Chief Secretary, DGP, SPs, and district collectors.The CMO has directed officials to speed up the grievance redress process and take disciplinary action under the Orissa Civil Services (Classification, Control and Appeal) Rules, 1962, against those who are deliberately neglecting the resolution of complaints.

Vigilance Brings Malkangiri PD, Watershed, To Bhubaneswar For Bank Locker Inventory

Bhubaneswar (correspondent):: Odisha Vigilance officials on Thursday brought Santanu Mohapatra, Deputy Director & PD Watershed, Malkangiri, who was arrested on Wednesday for possessing huge disproportionate assets, to Bhubaneswar for the inventory of his locker at Kapilaprasad Branch of the State Bank of India (SBI).During the inventory of the bank locker, the Vigilance sleuths have unearthed Rs 2 lakh cash and sale deeds and other land documents. With these, the total cash recovered from Mohapatra's possession goes up to Rs 2,08,92,850. Searches are still underway. Meanwhile, Vigilance officials suspect that Mohapatra and his colleagues have siphoned off large amounts of government funds by showing work done and making payments to labour accounts and subsequently withdrawing the money. Numerous passbooks of different labourers were recovered during Vigilance searches at the residence of Mohapatra's colleagues Biswajit Mandal, DEO, and Amiyakanta Sahu, a contractual employee of the office, on Wednesday.

EDITORIAL

Overcoming Automatic Negative Thoughts

Meditation and deep breathing can help reduce stress, anxiety and self-doubt

Today at least one out of ten is being the victim of catastrophising (expecting the worst outcome), overgeneralising (believing that a single failure defines overall ability) and filtering (focusing solely on negatives while ignoring positives). Recent studies have proven that over 70,000 thoughts that come into an individual's mind every day consist of negative ones wherein some of them are the fuel for depression, anxiety and low self-esteem. Automatic Negative Thoughts often abbreviated as ANTs are like unwelcome guests in an individual's mind. They are a psychological phenomenon that can significantly impact mental wellbeing and performance in various aspects of life. These thoughts are spontaneous and fleeting, that arise without conscious effort.Triggered by specific situations, they even involve pessimistic thoughts that arise in response to everyday situations, often leading to increased stress, anxiety and self-doubt. It is very important for an individual to understand and address them for fostering a positive mindset and improving emotional resilience. ANTs are characterised by their automatic nature, as they occur spontaneously without conscious effort. These thoughts are often distorted and irrational, stemming from deep-seated fears or past experiences.For instance, a student who performs poorly on one test might think, "I'm a complete failure," despite having performed well in other areas or in professional settings, after a presentation that received constructive criticism, an individual might think, "Everyone hated it," even though the feedback was largely positive and aimed at improvement. Similarly, in social situations, a person who notices someone yawning might assume, "I'm boring," disregarding the possibility that the person might simply be tired. These examples highlight how ANTs can distort perceptions and negatively affect confidence and behaviour. The impact of ANTs can be profound. They contribute to a range of mental health issues, including anxiety, depression, and low self-esteem. By distorting reality and reinforcing negative beliefs, ANTs can hinder decision-making, problem-solving, and interpersonal relationships. In academic and professional settings, these thoughts can undermine confidence, reduce motivation, and impair performance. Fortunately, there are effective strategies to combat ANTs and develop a more positive thought pattern. One of the most widely used approaches is cognitive-behavioural therapy (CBT), which focuses on identifying, challenging, and replacing negative thoughts with constructive ones.For instance, when faced with a thought like, "I'll never succeed," individuals can challenge its validity by reflecting on past successes and recognising their capabilities. Mindfulness practices, such as meditation and deep breathing, can also help in managing ANTs. These techniques encourage individuals to observe their thoughts without judgment and creating space to respond thoughtfully rather than react impulsively. Another useful tool is journaling, which involves writing down thoughts and analysing accuracy can help uncover patterns and triggers. Also, the act of writing helps to crystallise it and get it out of head. Building a strong support system is equally important.Sharing feelings and concerns with trusted friends, family members, or therapists can provide valuable perspectives and emotional relief. Positive affirmations and self-compassion can further counteract the negative effects of ANTs by fostering a sense of worth and capability.

The Gita verse, 'Sambhavami Yuge Yuge'



Yudhister Moharana

The scene is the battlefield of Kurukshetra, where opposing armies of the Kauravas and Pandavas are arrayed in battle formation. Arjuna is seated in his chariot driven by Krishna. Looking at kith and kin and teachers and grandfathers, Arjuna feels depressed and decides to lay down his arms. At this juncture, Krishna reveals to Arjuna and through him to entire humanity, what came to be known as the Bhagwad Gita. After speaking at length, Krishna takes a pause and tells Arjuna that he has revealed this spiritual knowledge in different ages for the benefit of man. He says he imparted this immortal yoga before to Vivasvan, Vivasvan to Manu and Manu to Ikshvaku. This confuses Arjuna who questions Krishna: When Arjuna and Krishna are contemporaries how is it possible for him to have taught those venerable men who lived long ago?To this Krishna replies that he and Arjuna have passed through many births but while he is aware of this, Arjuna is not. He further says that though birth-less and deathless and also being the Lord of all beings, yet, Krishna takes birth at will, employing the pure sattva aspect of his material Nature. He declares that he is born from age to age for protection of the good, for destruction of evil and for establishment of dharma. How to recognise God in human form? The natural state of God is said to be Un-manifest and if so, how can He who is also the One who is omnipotent, be present in a human body with limitations? This is a legitimate question. One can understand the mystery when one contemplates on the drama of Creation – where the Supreme Being manifests Himself as the Universe (the material cause),without in any way affecting or diminishing His Un-manifest condition. Surely, He can choose to come into a human frame in the same manner!There is a vast difference between Krishna's birth and Arjuna's. The birth of humans including Arjuna's follows the karmic principle. The body of the incarnate is not subject to karma and is born out of Divine Will full of the sattva aspect.Every incarnation is meant to serve a cosmic and not individual purpose. The purpose of a Divine Incarnation is said to be reestablishment of dharma, righteousness, destruction of evil and protection of the good. Hence Krishna says in the Gita, "Sambhavami Yuge Yuge" – I will appear again and again to help humanity redeem itself. The Ramayana and the Bhagavatam bring forth the glory of Rama and Krishna and have formed the centre of devotional life for countless generations. The scope of dharma today can be widened to recognise the lives of many great men like Kapila, Vyasa, Buddha, Adi Shankara and more recent sages and saints. They were great teachers and their lives and teachings have far-reaching effects on human life. In this way, we can say that they have established dharma, a scheme of life which has man's spiritual elevation as its ultimate goal. In today's age when evil and wicked situations are all around us, only spiritual kindling and awareness can be the way forward.

Why waste precious opportunity to moksha



Umesh Chandra Patra

Humans are ever engaged in action as it is almost impossible to live without action. In life, we play many different roles like being a student, employee, son, daughter, spouse, parent, citizen and so on. We are generally guided by our family value system in our actions. Karma means prescribed duties. But today, an average human being goes about his life for the sole purpose of meeting material ends, be it towards material wellbeing, prosperity or professional excellence and the list can be endless. Karma includes all desire-based actions.Vikarma is prohibited action, generally based on baser qualities like greed, lust, and anger, for example. Akarma is action performed without the notion of akarta bhava, doership and does not mean not doing work. Sometime in our life, we do ask ourselves whether there is a higher purpose than the current materialistic way. The answer is 'yes, there is'. In the Bhagwad Gita, Krishna says, "I have two prakritis, powers of manifestation, the lower and the higher.Lower prakrti is material Nature, consisting of earth, water, fire, air, sky, and so on. Higher prakrti is my manifestation as jivas or centres of consciousness." Creation and dissolution has a purpose for the jiva – to help the jiva to regain its divine nature, overcoming domination of material nature in the state of ignorance. Karmas, good and bad, accrue to the jiva in the course of the creative process giving it different embodiments. This entanglement in the cycle of births and death is samsaraa. Delinking of jiva from this cyclic process of time is the ultimate aim of evolution.The attainment of delinking is called moksha. Attaining the Supreme is the way to moksha. This is the higher purpose of life one should strive for. Human birth is a precious gift granted after a long struggle of evolution and is the only vehicle for reaching enlightenment. It should not be wasted.

So what one is expected to do is to shun vikarma at all times and remembering the higher purpose of life, work, controlling the senses by the mind and doing duty in a dedicated way without caring for fruits. Fruits of all actions should be resigned to the Lord, and this is called Prasada Buddhi, graceful acceptance.The yogi has still the sense of agency, the feeling of doership. At a higher level of perfection, the sense of agency is also resigned, this is known as Isvararpana Buddhi, offering of choice of action to the Lord. Soon the yogi would begin to feel that he is the Atman and he would remain as the spirit, the pure witness –this state is called 'Naishkarmya' or egoless passivity of the spirit. This is the essence of karmayoga.Through devotion and resignation to Divine will, complete peace and perfection is attained even in the midst of all work. Thus it is that bhakti completes the Gita doctrine of dedicated and detached work.The purpose of human life is achieved by this yogi and Universal Self becomes a matter of experience and he enjoys Life Divine.

Enigmatic question: What is happiness



Narayan Chandra Biswal

The question, 'What is Happiness?' is an enigma. It is like the question, 'What is time?' of which St Augustine in 'Confessions' says, "If no one asks me I know, but when I am asked to explain I am at a loss, as I am not able to provide an answer." Happiness, like the notion of time, is something about which we know but when asked to explain, we are at a loss to give a cogent answer. As Wittgenstein put, it is "something that we know when no one asks us, but no longer know when we are supposed to give an account of."

Happiness is not a natural state of mind or body. If it were an innate passive state, Aristotle argues, "It might belong even to a man who slept all through his life, passing a vegetable existence, or to a victim of the greatest misfortune." We have to strive and make a conscious effort to achieve happiness. Happiness is inherent in an activity. Happiness is not a means but an end in itself. Happiness is distinct from pleasure. Pleasure can be abandoned after it is achieved, as its attainment marks the end of the quest for it. Happiness has no end. Happiness never surrenders to its fulfillment. It is a continuous, never ending process of purging desires and annihilation of pain and suffering. It is perpetual.

The following thought experiment shows that happiness is not what we wish to achieve at any cost. Suppose we have a drug that induces in us extreme, infinite and perpetual happiness. But, it has a side effect that renders us infertile, making ours the last generation of human beings. Most of us will decline to take that drug as we value continuity of the human race above our individual or collective happiness because continuity of life has an intrinsic value higher than any other value. Thus, happiness alone cannot be the end of human conduct.

Charvakas, like other materialists, wrongly believe that summum bonum of happiness lies only in eating delicious food, keeping company of young men and women, using fine clothes, perfumes, garlands, anointing oneself with sandal paste and so on. Aristotle argues, "Happiness lies in control of oneself and becoming master of one's own passions and appetites". He says, "Intemperate craving can never be satisfied. Temperate life is one in which one is content with whatever comes to hand and asks for no more." The temperate and moderate are happier than the intemperate. As the old adage goes, "Happiness is not having what you want. It is appreciating what you have." The key to happiness, according to Plato, is living life as a "play, playing certain games, making sacrifices, singing and dancing". Indic wisdom says, life is a lila, play. Contentment is what makes us happy. What makes us content differs according to the context, from time to time, from one form of life to another form of life. So, too, is the notion of happiness.

Ask why your mind is not free



Aditya Kumar Mohanty

The word 'freedom' has been greatly abused by tyrannical as well as democratic governments, and religions too, everywhere in the world. Personal freedom and independence do not exist, except perhaps in the scientific world. It does not exist in the business world or in the religious structures which man has organised through fear and belief; it does not exist in governments or in any field of human activity. But man has consistently asserted that he is free and complained that it is environment that enslaves him.

Freedom, is independence to think for oneself clearly and not to act according to the dictates of society or one's own personal inclinations … Freedom is not merely freedom from something, but is freedom in itself. This does not mean freedom to do whatever one likes, so one has to understand not merely verbally but factually what that word implies. We are not trying to define what freedom is; each one would interpret it according to his own inclination or upbringing, and some would even deny that there is such a thing at all.

Freedom is to be found not by seeking it, but rather by understanding what it is that imprisons the mind. When these prison walls are broken, then there is freedom naturally, and one does not have to seek it. So what is important is not how to achieve freedom or to ask what freedom is, but rather to ask why the mind, which is the product of time and environment and has had so many experiences of misery and conflict, is not free.

Find out why the mind still remains so heavily conditioned after so many millions of years. The mind is conditioned by society with its cultures, laws, religious sanctions, economic pressures and so on. The mind is, after all, the result of the past, and this past is tradition. It lives in this tradition with all its strife, wars and agonies. One must ask if it can be free from its own conditioning. Some have said that it must always remain conditioned and can never be free, and others have said this freedom from conditioning can never be found here but only in some future heaven, or at the end of some long sacrifice, discipline, programme of further conformity to a pattern of so called religious practice. Without freedom from conditioning, humanity will always remain a prisoner and life will remain a battlefield.

The first thing to understand in this inquiry is the nature of authority. In any community, law and the policeman are necessary, but we have also introduced a policeman into the inner world of thought and feeling. A discipline which comes naturally, without any conformity, is the simple observation of all these fears, anxieties, and envies; to see your own fears, your own ambitions as you see a tree. This very seeing is that discipline. The word discipline means learning, not conformity, suppression or obedience. Learning the nature and the structure of conditioning brings order; not the order of society which is disorder.

Bihar Person Nab In Jwellery Shop Theft Attempt

Kendrapara(Correspondent): The local people of coastal Odisha of Kendrapara district caught red handed a person from Bihar state on attempt of theft in a jwellery shop on Wednesday. Aul police arrested the person and seized two revolvers,three sharp weapons,an axe and a screw from him. Twenty six years old accused identified as Lalan Binda from Bihar Kakrauri village of Lakhisarai district. He caught by local people,when attempted to theft through drill a jwellery shop at Singiri market under Aul police station limit. Binda was caught when he felt into a pond during attempted to escaped and his other associates managed to escape. Police investigate the matter and try to nab the other associates. Police also suspects a gang of involvement in this matter. In a regular intervals the rubbery and criminal activities enhancing in coastal areas of the district. Which is painful for local public.

Two days training camp held on Natural farming methods



Malkangiri, AO correspondent :A two-day training camp on natural farming methods was organized by the Malkangiri District Headquarters Krishi Vigyan Kendra. Under the chairmanship of Senior Scientist Devi Prasad Dash, Head of the Krishi Vigyan Kendra, 30 leading young and female farmers from various villages of the district were trained. In particular, the farmers were trained on scientific skills and methods on how young farmers can cultivate various vegetables, fruits, pulses, greens, flowers, etc. using natural farming methods. A work plan was also prepared to adopt this natural farming method. Later, the farmers were given advice on how they were cultivating the land under the Krishi Vigyan Kendra by visiting various fields, examining the soil texture of their land, applying appropriate seed treatment, cultivating at the specified time, applying plough tilling,irrigation, applying organic fertilizers, etc., and giving practical advice on the success and failure of farmers in farming. Field Manager Chinmay Kumar Behera, Sudipta Ranjan Raut, Babuli Sahu, Chandrasekhar Behera, Sachidananda Raut, Budhiram Behera, among others, participated in this program.

Youth Dies Under Mysterious Circumstances At Rehab Center, Family Alleges Murder

Bhubaneswar(correspondent): A youth undergoing treatment at a rehabilitation center in the Jharpada area in Bhubaneswar died under mysterious circumstances on Thursday. While the management of the rehab center has said that the youth succumbed to ailment, his family has alleged that he was murdered.The deceased has been identified as Prashant Nayak of Nayagarh district in Odisha.According to reports, Prashant was undergoing de-addiction treatment at the rehab center for the last six months. He breathed his last today morning while undergoing treatment. However, his family alleged that he was beaten to death for non-payment of the rehab center dues.Prashant's mother alleged that they had already deposited Rs 2 lakh at the rehab center but the authorities demanded Rs 7,000 more. As the family could not afford the treatment charges, his mother requested the rehab management to discharge her son. However, her request was turned down and more money was demanded.The rehab authorities called Prashant's family on Thursday saying he had fallen unconscious and was taken to the Unit-6 hospital. However, when they reached the hospital, they were informed that Prashant had breathed his last while being taken to the hospital.Now, Prashant's family has alleged that he was thrashed to death by the rehab authorities for non-payment of dues.

Child Help Line rescues 5 begging children in the Sonepur town



SUBARNAPUR (Correspondent): Five begging children from different parts of Sonepur town were rescued by Mr. Sujit Kumar Mishra, District Project Coordinator, Child Help Line, Subarnapur and with the help of Sonepur Police and presented them to the Child Welfare Committee. The committee called the parents of the children and after proper consultation, the parents signed a paper promising to stop the child from begging and to take proper care of him. After that, the children were handed over to their families in the presence of Child Welfare Committee Chairman Shankarshan Panda, members Shantanu Kumar Karna and members Hemanta Kumar Sa along with Bijaya Kumar Biswal of Child Protection Unit, Prashant Kumar Mahakur, Sudhir Kumar Das of Child Help Line, and Roji Sa, the head. It is revealed that the said family is being trafficked by people from different districts and states, pushing the future of the tender-hearted children into darkness. In view of this, the administration is demanding that the said family be provided with rehabilitation.

Mahanadi Coal Field donates 14 auto rickshaws

JAGATSINGHPUR correspondent: As a part of program under the CSR scheme, Mahanadi Coal Field Ltd donated 14 auto rickshaws to a similar number of Divvying persons in a function held in a private disabled school at Nuapola on the Jagatsinghpur outskirts on Thursday.Industry and Skill Development Minister Sampad Swain attended the event as chief guest and spoke over several benefits meant for the Divvying people being provided by union and state governments and lauded efforts taken by Mahanadi Coal filed Ltd donating auto rickshaws to disabled people.Among others, MLA Amarendra Das, collector J Sonal, Zilla Parishad president, municipality chairperson Archana Singh, ADM Sambit Kumar Rout, and district social security officer Mamata Nayak spoke on the occasion.

Mystery Shrouds Death Of Elderly Woman In Bargarh

Bargarh(correspondent): Mystery shrouds the death of an elderly woman whose body was recovered from a locked house in front of the Arabinda School in Bargarh Town of Odisha.The deceased woman has been identified as Subashini Seth. According to reports, neighbours broke open the woman's locked house after they found a foul smell emanating from there and found the body of the woman.On being informed, Bargarh Town Police seized the body and sent for autopsy. A case has been registered in this regard.

New School Buildings Inaugurated in Boudh



BOUDH correspondent:-Damamunda High School in Kantamal Block has officially opened its newly constructed additional classroom. The inauguration ceremony took place on Thursday at 12:30 pm, with Kantamal MLA Kanhai Charan Dang as the chief guest.Other notable attendees included District Collector Subrata Kumar Panda, District Council Vice President Sankarshana Pradhan, and District Education Officer Temlal Dubey. The event also featured a public meeting, with students, parents, and local community members in attendance.The successful organization of the program was made possible by the collective efforts of the school's H.M., teachers, and staff. This new classroom addition is expected to enhance the educational experience for Damamunda High School students.

Excise Dept Sleuths Seize 70 Kg Ganja In Ganjam; 4 Arrested

Berhampur correspondent:: Excise department officials seized 70 kg of ganja from a pick-up van and an escorting car during a vehicle check near Aska in Ganjam district on Thursday.Four persons have been arrested in connection with the case. The accused have been identified as Santosh Palai, Titu Palai, and Sunil Swain from Nabaratnapur in Aska, and Ashok Sahu from Polasara.Officials also confiscated six mobile phones from their possession. According to excise department sources, the contraband was procured from the Daringibadi area in neighbouring Kandhamal district and was intended to be transported to Mumbai via Purushottampur, either by train or car.

Survey for reconstruction of damage roads in Mecca



Malkangiri (correspondent): Due to the flood in Malkangiri district, the roads of various villages of Mecca Gram Panchayat under Mathili block were washed away. On Wednesday, the engineers of Malkangiri District Rural Development Agency went to Mecca Panchayat and surveyed all the villages along with the local Sarpanch Ranjita Pujari to reconstruct the said roads. Mathili Block Social Worker Sadashiv Pujari, local Ward Member Ramdas Nayak, Nilakantha Anugulia were prominently present in this survey. The local Sarpanch Mrs. Pujari said that once the roads are constructed, the residents of the area will get various basic amenities and it will be easier for students to go to school during the rainy season. It is worth noting that since the roads of various villages were washed away by the flood, the Mekka Panchayat residents submitted a demand letter to the local Sarpanch Ranjita Pujari demanding the reconstruction of the roads. The Sarpanch had informed the Block Administration and District Magistrate about the demands of the villagers.

NSKY distribution camp held in Jagatsinghpur

JAGATSINGHPUR correspondent:. The Nirman Shramika Kalyan Yojana [NSKY] distribution of benefits camp was held at Sanskruti Bhawan here on Thursday. State industry and skill development minister Sampada Chandra Swain participated as chief guest and graced the occasion.Reiterating manifold NSKY benefit schemes for Nirman Sramika, Minister Swain lauded its wide publicity among people as a consequence it would be known to the beneficiary. As many as 1763 beneficiaries across the district were given Rs 5 crore and 10 Lakh 16 thousand financial benefits under various categories enshrined under NSKY. 175 new enlisted members were given identity cards in the function. Among others MLA Amarendra Das, collector J Sonal, Zilla Parishad president, Municipality chairperson Archana Singh, district labour officer Smruti Rekha Nayak chaired the meeting, and assistant labour officer Santosh Kumar Mohanty proposed a vote of thanks.

16 Students Allegedly Assaulted By Teacher At Bargarh School



Bargarh(correspondent) : Sixteen students were allegedly physically assaulted by their teacher at Thakuradia Primary School in Bargarh district on Wednesday.The accused teacher has been identified as Padmalochan Muna.According to Kishore Sahoo, the father of one of the students, the teacher was drunk when he struck the children. "He hit some students with a stick and injured some on their heads. After the attack, the injured students were taken to the hospital," Sahoo said.He added that they immediately contacted the Block Education Officer (BEO) and local police arrived at the scene. "The police told us they would take action after receiving the report from the BEO," he explained.Feeling distressed by the sight of their injured children, Sahoo said, "Seeing the injuries on my child, my heart breaks."So far, there has been no official comment from the school's headmaster or senior officials about the situation.

Bribe For NAAC Rating: Sambalpur University Suspends Prof Bulu Maharana

Burla(correspondent): The Sambalpur University authorities have suspended Prof Bulu Maharana, a teacher in the Library Science department, following his arrest by the CBI for his alleged role in a National Assessment and Accreditation Council (NAAC) rating bribery case on February 2.Bulu Maharana was arrested by the Central Bureau of Investigation (CBI) on Wednesday for allegedly receiving bribe from a private deemed university in Andhra Pradesh's Guntur for granting it an A++ NAAC rank. The CBI raided the Sambalpur University premises and Maharana's government quarters, early this week and reportedly found incriminating documents suggesting that a NAAC team, including Prof Maharana, allegedly granted the Koneru Lakshmaiah Education Foundation (KLEF) NAAC++ ranking in lieu of a hefty bribe.Subsequently, the CBI sealed his government quarters in the Jyoti Vihar campus. Following the allegations, the CBI raided 20 locations across India, including Chennai, Bangalore, Vijayawada, Palamu, Sambalpur, Bhopal, Bilaspur, Gautam Budh Nagar, and New Delhi.During the raids, the CBI seized Rs 37 lakh, 6 laptops, gold, mobile phones, and other incriminating materials.

Thieves Decamp With Silver Crowns From Soro Jagannath Temple

Soro(correspondent):: Thieves broke into the Jagannath temple at Champu village under Soro police limits last night and made off with three silver crowns and a donation box last night.

According to reports, the burglary came to the fore after the temple priest reached the temple to worship the presiding deities.Thieves reportedly vandalized the temple before decamping with the valuable items of the temple, according to the complaint filed by the temple priest with Soro police.On a tip-off, police have arrived at the scene and are conducting a thorough investigation.The incident has sent shockwaves through the community, and locals are demanding swift action against the culprits.

52 senior pilgrims from Subarnapur district under the Senior Citizen Pilgrimage Scheme



SUBARNAPUR(correspondent):Today, under the state government's Senior Citizen Pilgrimage Scheme, the pilgrim bus carrying 52 senior pilgrims from the district set off from the Subarna pur Collectorate premises, by the Honorable MLA Birmaharajpur Er . Raghunath Jagdala and Collector Smt. Anya Das, by displaying the green flag, and wished them a successful journey. On this occasion, Additional District Magistrate Rajendra Majhi, Additional District Magistrate Anjalina Pradhan, Chief District Development Officer Zilla Parishad Ashwani Kumar Meher, Sub Collector Birmaharajpur Lalatendu C, District Information and Public Relations Officer Ashwani Kumar Bhoi, District Tourism Officer Ramesh Chandra Gochhi, Assistant Collector Satyabrata Sahu, along with the employees of the Collector's office, district level journalists were present. He encouraged the pilgrims to experience the spiritual and divine vision through a successful pilgrimage. The bus, which left the district under the direct supervision of the Collectorate Senior Revenue Assistant Sahadeb Meher and Biswapratap Seth, will reach Sambalpur this evening and will stay overnight at Panthaniwas. Tomorrow, on 07/02/25 at 11 am, the special senior citizen pilgrim train organized by the government will leave for Kamaksha and Kolkata, carrying 32 male and 20 female senior pilgrims from Subarnapur district along with senior citizen pilgrims from 7 neighboring districts

Anupam Kher Announces International Actor Prepares Awards As His Institute Completes 20 Years

Mumbai: Veteran actor Anupam Kher, who was recently seen in the Kangana Ranaut directorial 'Emergency', has announced International Actor Prepares Awards on the occasion of his acting institute, Actor Prepares completing 20 years.Even as his institute celebrates two decades of excellence, Anupam himself is in one of the most dynamic phases of his career. With recent successes like 'The Signature', 'Vijay 69', and the popular series 'New Amsterdam', the senior actor continues to leave a significant impact on cinema around the world.The awards will honour excellence in acting. Talking about the awards, Anupam shared, "Actor Prepares has been a premier institution of learning for the past 20 years, built on international standards and led by highly qualified faculty. Over the years, we have had the honour of hosting renowned personalities from not only who's who of Indian cinema and but also across the globe, including The Wachowskis Sisters, Ang Lee, Russell Peters, Danny Boyle and Robert De Niro. I have long envisioned instituting acting awards that truly honour actors of international standards. The Actor Prepares Awards will be the most prestigious and dignified recognition, celebrating actors internationally across all categories".The introduction of the International Actor Prepares Awards is a fitting tribute to the institute's legacy, ensuring that the spirit of excellence continues to thrive in the world of acting.Earlier, Anupam essayed the role of revolutionary Jayaprakash Narayan in Emergency'. During the promotional campaign of the film, he spoke about his portrayal of 'Lok Nayak', Jayaprakash Narayanji, as he said, "He did not take up any position after this whole thing happened, so a lot of people do not know about his contribution to that period. Atal ji later became the prime minister and he remained one of the tallest leaders".The film is based on the 21-month period from 1975 to 1977 when former Prime Minister Indira Gandhi declared a state of emergency across the country by citing internal and external threats to the country.Meanwhile, the actor is also deeply engrossed in the making of his directorial, 'Tanvi The Great', adding yet another milestone to his illustrious journey.



Chickoo Pecan Kulfi Recipe



Ingredients

5-6 chickoos, seeded and roughly chopped with skin3-4 American Pecans1/4 cup sugar2-3 tbsp milk powder1/2 tsp green cardamom powder3 cups reduced milkGarnish:Chickoo slices as requiredAmerican Pecans as required

How to Make Chickoo Pecan Kulfi

1.Chop 15-20 American Pecans.2.Transfer remaining American Pecans in a grinder jar and grind coarsely.3.Add chickoos, sugar, milk powder, green cardamom powder and grind to a fine paste.4.Transfer the ground paste in a bowl, add half the chopped American Pecans, reduced milk and mix well.5.Take metal kulfi moulds. Pour the mixture into kulfi moulds Cover them with their lids and freeze for 6-8 hours.6.Demould and roll in remaining American Pecans.7.Cut into halves, garnish with chickoo slices, whole American Pecans and serve chilled.

Why You Need To Add Pineapple to Your Period Routine

Unbearable abdominal pain, backache, fatigue, nausea – any person who menstruates knows how uncomfortable periods can be. For many, menstruation can be dreadful and excruciatingly painful. To tackle this, they turn to over-the-counter painkillers, hot water bags, or even a day of rest. But what if there was a natural and delicious way to tackle this uncomfortable feeling? Yes, you have read that right! Of so many natural options out there, the humble pineapple stands out for its amazing benefits. This tropical fruit is not just a delicious addition to your diet but can also keep your menstruation at bay. Read on to learn how pineapples can help during menstruation.

Here Are 5 Reasons Why You Should Consume Pineapple During Your PerioD

1. Anti-Inflammatory PropertiesOne of the best benefits of eating pineapple during your period is that this fruit is packed with bromelain content. Bromelain is a mixture of enzymes that is found in pineapple juice and flesh. While menstruating, inflammation becomes a major cause of pain and discomfort. According to a 2016 research paper published in Biomedical Reports, bromelain has anti-inflammatory properties that may help reduce menstrual cramps and muscle soreness. So, the next time you are on your cycle, eat pineapple to get relief from menstrual pain.

2. Packed With Vitamin C We all know vitamin C is important for maintaining a healthy functioning immune system. But did you know pineapples are rich in vitamin C and can help you navigate through your cycle? As per a research paper published in Cureus in 2022, vitamin C or Ascorbic acid may help relieve menstrual pain. Plus, vitamin C can also help strengthen blood vessel walls and reduce heavy menstrual bleeding. So, include pineapples in your diet to make your menstrual days a breeze.3. Boosts Mood And Reduces AnxietyYou must have experienced severe mood swings and anxiety issues during your menstrual cycle. This is because of the hormonal fluctuations that we feel low and tired. However, pineapple can come to your rescue! This is because pineapple has manganese which, as per reports, can help elevate



your mood. Plus, pineapple has tryptophan which is an amino acid known to produce serotonin or the "feel-good" hormone.

4. Reduces Bloating Bloating and digestive issues are common during menstruation. As mentioned above, pineapple contains bromelain, which not only has anti-inflammatory properties but also helps with digestion. This can help reduce bloating, gas and other uncomfortable digestive issues which we experience during menstruation. Plus, pineapple is high in fibre which helps relieve constipation, another frequent problem faced during menstruation.5. Supports Iron AbsorptionBy now, you know that pineapples are rich in vitamin C. According to a 2020 research paper published in JAMA Network Open, vitamin C is the only dietary tissue other than animal tissue that can help in iron absorption. Iron deficiency can be a common concern during menstruation, especially for those who experience heavy periods. The body loses iron with blood, and with it comes weakness and fatigue. So, by including pineapple in your diet, you can help your body absorb more iron from other foods like spinach, lentils, etc. and maintain your energy levels.

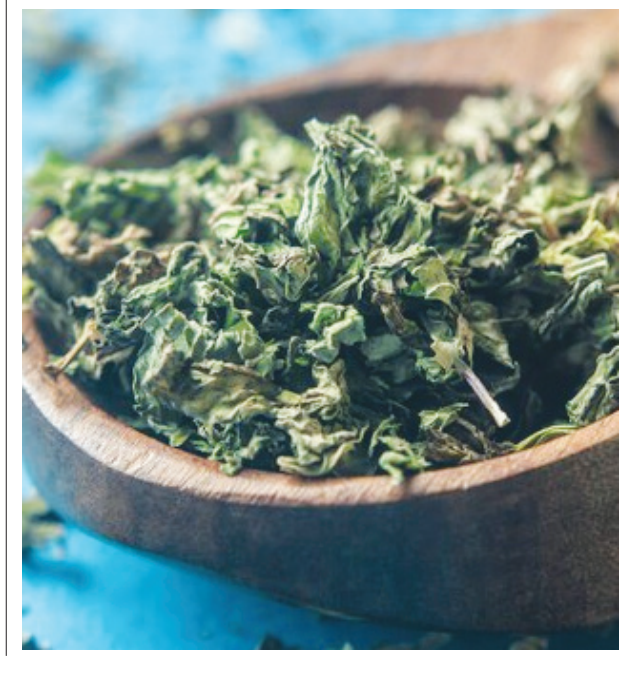
5 Ways Spearmint Tea Can Help Manage Your PCOS Battle

In today's world, the market is flooded with drinks claiming to combat PCOS symptoms, but few deliver like spearmint tea. PCOS, a common hormonal disorder affecting many women, brings with it a host of challenges from irregular periods to mood swings. Amidst the hype, spearmint tea stands out for its natural, refreshing taste and potent benefits in managing these symptoms. Wondering how? We give you some interesting ways to use spearmint tea that may help manage PCOS.

Here's How Spearmint Tea Can Help Manage PCOS1. Reduces Androgen LevelsExcess androgens causing acne and unwanted hair growth? Enter spearmint tea. Research shows sipping it twice daily can significantly lower testosterone levels in women dealing with PCOS, helping tackle those frustrating symptoms head-on.2. Regulates Menstrual CyclesFor those navigating irregular cycles due to PCOS, spearmint tea offers a natural solution. Its anti-androgen properties help balance hormones, potentially bringing order to your monthly calendar and supporting reproductive health.3. Anti-Inflammatory EffectsIs inflammation wreaking havoc? Spearmint tea's anti-inflammatory compounds can help calm the storm within. Regular consumption may ease chronic inflammation, offering relief from discomfort associated with



PCOS.
Here's How Spearmint Tea Can Help Manage PCOS1. Reduces Androgen LevelsExcess androgens causing acne and unwanted hair growth? Enter spearmint tea. Research shows sipping it twice daily can significantly lower testosterone levels in women dealing with PCOS, helping tackle those frustrating symptoms head-on.2. Regulates Menstrual CyclesFor those navigating irregular cycles due to PCOS, spearmint tea offers a natural solution. Its anti-androgen properties help balance hormones, potentially bringing order to your monthly calendar and supporting reproductive health.3. Anti-Inflammatory EffectsIs inflammation wreaking havoc? Spearmint tea's anti-inflammatory compounds can help calm the storm within. Regular consumption may ease chronic inflammation, offering relief from discomfort associated with PCOS.
4. Regulates MoodSay goodbye to mood swings! Spearmint tea's calming properties can help stabilize your mood, reducing anxiety linked to hormonal imbalance. Sip your way to a more balanced emotional state and a healthier lifestyle.5. Improves DigestionFrom bloating to IBS, digestive issues are common companions for PCOS sufferers. Luckily, spearmint tea's soothing properties can ease these problems, promoting a happier gut and overall digestive health.How To Make Spearmint Tea At HomeIncorporating spearmint tea into your routine is a breeze. Grab tea bags from your local store or steep fresh spearmint leaves in hot water for a homemade brew. Enjoy it hot or chilled-your body will thank you either way.



Jadeja Becomes Fifth Indian To Claim 600 International Wickets



Nagpur: Ravindra Jadeja on Thursday became only the fifth Indian bowler to reach 600 international wickets across three formats. The all-rounder achieved this feat in the first ODI against England at the Vidarbha Cricket Association Stadium in Nagpur.

Jadeja reached the landmark with his third scalp of the match, finishing with figures of 3-26 in nine overs as India bundled out visitors for 248 in 47.4 overs.Jadeja is now part of an elite club of Indian bowlers who have crossed the 600-wicket mark, joining the esteemed ranks of Anil Kumble (953), Ravichandran Ashwin (765), Harbhajan Singh (707) and Kapil Dev (687).Jadeja made an impact immediately after being introduced into the attack in the 15th over, extracting a sharp turn from the surface. While Axar Patel bowled before him, it was Jadeja's experience that proved decisive in the battle of left-arm spinners in the ODI series opener.Jadeja claimed his first wicket of the match by surprising Joe Root with a quicker delivery, trapping him lbw. He then delivered a crucial breakthrough by dismissing Jacob Bethell, who had scored 51 runs, in a similar fashion.His final scalp came when he clean bowled Adil Rashid, wrapping up an impressive spell.Since making his international debut in 2009, Jadeja has been India's go-to player across all three formats. His versatility as a bowler, batter, and fielder has made him a true match-winner over the years.His numbers across formats speak volumes about his all-round brilliance. In Tests, Jadeja has 323 wickets with 3,370 runs. In ODIs, he has 223 wickets in 198 matches, including two five-wicket hauls.Jadeja retired from T20Is after India clinched the 2024 T20I World Cup title last year.With over 200 ODI wickets, Jadeja is among seven Indian bowlers to achieve this feat, joining the likes of Anil Kumble, Kapil Dev, Javagal Srinath, Zaheer Khan, Ajit Agarkar and Harbhajan Singh.

1st ODI: Rana, Jadeja Claim Three Each As India Bowl Out England For 248

Nagpur: Debutant Harshit Rana and all-rounder Ravindra Jadeja claimed three wickets apiece as India pegged back England in the middle overs to bundle them out for 248 in 47.4 overs in the first ODI of the three-match series at the Vidarbha Cricket Association (VCA) stadium here on Thursday. Hammered for 26 runs in an over by Phil Salt in his debut match, Rana showed great courage to come back strongly and claimed 3-53 while Jadeja was exceptional in bagging 3-26 as India showed their bowling power once again at home to restrict England to what appears to be a manageable chase despite fighting fifties by Jos Buttler (52) and Jacob Bethell (51).After skipper Buttler elected to bat first, England made a decent start before they were pulled back in the middle overs, falling for a small total. The Indian batters would definitely fancy their chances as dew is expected to set in and make bowling a bit difficult in the second innings on a pitch that had a good pace and bounce.Earlier, England were off to a decent start and raced to 50 for no loss in 36 balls after Mohammed Shami had started the proceedings with a maiden over.With Virat Kohli unavailable because of a sore right knee, India had to restrict England to a small total. But Phil Salt had other ideas as he hammered Harshit Rana for 26 runs in his second over, blasting 6,4,6,4 in the first four balls and then another six off the final delivery of the over, top-edging, pulling and sweeping the debutant pacer with aplomb.But a terrible mix-up with fellow opener Ben Duckett saw Salt getting run out going for a second run while Shreyas Rana ran back and made a sliding stop and then sent in a fine throw for K.L Rahul to do the needful. Phil was out for a 26-ball 43 and England lost their first wicket for 75 in the ninth over.

Marcus Stoinis Announces Surprise Retirement From ODIs With Immediate Effect



New Delhi: Australia's seam-bowling all-rounder Marcus Stoinis has surprisingly announced his retirement from ODIs with immediate effect, bringing the end of his international 50-over career at 74 games.

Cricket Australia (CA) said on Thursday that Stoinis will continue to be available for selection in T20Is, adding that his decision to retire from the 50-over format is to focus on T20 cricket. Stoinis' retirement from ODIs also means CA will replace him with another player in Australia's squad for the ICC Champion's Trophy."Playing ODI cricket for Australia has been an incredible journey, and I'm grateful for every moment I've had in the green and gold. Representing my country at the highest level is something I'll always cherish."This wasn't an easy decision, but I believe it's the right time for me to step away from ODIs and fully focus on the next chapter of my career. I've got a fantastic relationship with Ron (Andrew McDonald) and I've hugely appreciated his support. I'll be cheering the boys on in Pakistan," said Stoinis in a CA statement.Stoinis' ten-year ODI career for Australia began against England in 2015 at Old Trafford, and also played his first T20I on that tour. He had to wait until the following year for his next opportunity to establish himself in Australia's ODI team, which came by scoring a whirlwind 146 not out against New Zealand at Eden Park and taking three wickets.Stoinis was part of Australia's ODI World Cup title win in 2023 in India and was voted the country's ODI cricketer of the year in 2018-19. "Stoin has been such a pivotal part of our ODI setup for the past decade.""Not only has he been an invaluable player but also an incredible person to have in the group. He is a natural leader, an exceptionally popular player and a great person. He should be congratulated on his ODI career and all of his achievements," said head coach Andrew McDonald.With Stoinis retiring from ODIs just a fortnight before Champions Trophy begins, along with injury concerns over Pat Cummins

WPL 2025: After Leading India U19 To World Cup Title, Niki Prasad Ready To Shine For Delhi Capitals



Pune: Delhi Capitals' Niki Prasad, received a resounding reception from her teammates as she joined the side in Pune for the pre-season camp ahead of the Women's Premier League (WPL) 2025, scheduled to kickstart on February 14 in Vadodara.Earlier this week, Prasad made headlines after leading the India U19 team to a historic World Cup win in Kuala Lumpur, defeating South Africa in the title clash. Delhi Capitals players made sure the World Cup-winning skipper received a grand welcome to celebrate her successful journey in the competition.On joining the camp, Prasad expressed, "To be honest, I expected that there would be cameras but I didn't expect players being there to welcome me. But obviously, it made me very happy and I'm thankful to all the players for such a grand welcome."

The youngster believes staying calm on the big day in Kuala Lumpur was the key to success. "The important thing was that we were calm and composed during the finals. We just went out there and expressed ourselves. That's why we looked a more dominating side. My message to the players was very simple, go out there, just have fun, enjoy and dominate," she highlighted.After a dream campaign with the national team, the right-handed batting all-rounder is now set to make her WPL debut with Delhi Capitals. She expressed her excitement about joining the tournament, seeing it as a valuable opportunity to learn and enhance her skill set."Being a part of WPL team is a great opportunity for the youngsters to learn from other players. I'm very grateful to DC that they have shown faith in me. Coming into this franchise, I'm going to learn a lot and more importantly, will try to contribute as much as I can and win it for the team," she concluded.Delhi Capitals will begin their WPL 2025 campaign against Mumbai Indians on February 15 in Vadodara.

Leverkusen Move Past Cologne To Advance Into German Cup Semifinals



Berlin: Defending champions Bayer Leverkusen came from two goals down to beat stubborn second-division Cologne 3-2 in extra time to book its semifinal spot in the German Cup on Thursday (IST).Facing a well-organised Cologne side, it took half an hour for Leverkusen to create its first clear chance when Alejandro Grimaldo's free kick hit the woodwork and four minutes later, Grimaldo shot wide from a tight angle.On the stroke of halftime, Damion Downs pounced on Dejan Ljubicic's good work to break the deadlock for Cologne, reports Xinhua.The hosts responded with furious attacks after the restart, but Cologne doubled its advantage in the 54th minute when Downs found Linton Maina, who slotted into the bottom corner of the far post from a tight angle. Leverkusen was rewarded on the hour when Patrik Schick beat goalkeeper Marvin Schwabe from close range to halve the deficit.

Italian Qualifier Mattia Bellucci Stuns Daniil Medvedev In Rotterdam



NEWDELHI" Italian qualifier Mattia Bellucci stunned former world number one Daniil Medvedev in three tough sets on Wednesday to reach the Rotterdam ATP quarter-finals. The 23-year-old left-hander, playing on a career-high ranking of 92, came through 6-3, 6-7 (6/8), 6-3 to record a first win over a top 10 opponent. "It was a three-hour match and I really enjoyed every moment of it. I really tried to do the best I could. I'm pretty tired but I'm happy," said Bellucci. "I was going for the serve and volley which is not something I'm used to doing but it worked pretty good today."Bellucci held his nerve in the decider, where he saved six break points, after squandering a match point in the second set tie-break against the 2023 champion in Rotterdam.The Italian, who also reached the last eight in Atlanta in 2024, will next play sixth seed Stefanos Tsitsipas or Dutchman Tallon Griekspoor for a spot in the semi-finals.Listen to the latest songs, only on JioSaavn.comFormer US Open champion Medvedev, ranked seven in the world, had defeated veteran Stan Wawrinka in the first round but has struggled at the start of 2025 having lost in the second round of the Australian Open last month.

Kohli's Injury Appears Minor, Likely To Get Into Action In Next Match

Nagpur: The injury suffered by senior batter Virat Kohli ahead of Thursday's first ODI against England here may turn out to be a minor setback for India as the injury does not look serious and the former India captain is likely to be back in the next match.India captain Rohit Sharma informed at the toss that Kohli had injured his right knee during practice on Wednesday evening and therefore was withdrawn from the first ODI. Though both the Indian team management and Kohli himself would feel disappointed in losing the opportunity to play the match, the injury seems minor. BCCI said in an official update that Kohli was unavailable for selection in the first ODI in Nagpur due to a sore right knee.Kohi was on the field with his teammates soon after they arrived at the stadium, warming up for the first ODI though with a strapping or kneecap on his right knee. This proves the injury is not very serious and may not require him to miss more matches.

Champions Trophy: Lahore's Gaddafi Stadium To Have Public Inauguration On Feb 7

New Delhi: The Pakistan Cricket Board (PCB) has announced that it will host the public inauguration of Lahore's Gaddafi Stadium on Friday, just a day before the tri-series between Pakistan and New Zealand begins on February 8, which involves South Africa as the third team.In a statement on Thursday, the PCB said the renovation and upgradation work at the venue has been completed in record time of 117 days and it is now ready to host international matches, including the all-important ICC Champions Trophy.The new-look stadium now features brighter LED lights, two new larger score screens, and comfortable imported seating in all enclosures, ensuring an unparalleled viewing experience for fans."First of all, I thank the workers who made the impossible task possible. The combined efforts of Frontier Works Organisation (FWO), NESPAK, the contractors and PCB teams have turned this dream into reality."Our venues are now on par with international standards and we are proud to offer cricket fans the best possible experience. The transformation of this stadium in such a short time is a testament to the hard work and dedication of our entire team," said PCB Chairman Mohsin Naqvi.The inauguration ceremony of the Gaddafi Stadium, to be done by Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif on Friday, will have fireworks and a unique light show, along with performances by renowned singers Ali Zafar, Arif Lohar and Aima Baig, as well as a dazzling drum and firework display.PCB further said Chairman Naqvi has personally overseen the reconstruction process, making frequent day and night visits to monitor progress. "His dedication has resulted in world-class facilities, including newly built hospitality boxes and upgraded amenities for both players and spectators," it added.Apart from Lahore, Karachi's National Stadium and Rawalpindi Cricket Stadium are also being prepared after upgradation work to host 2025 Champions Trophy matches, starting from February 19.

Samsung's flagship store at BKC sets a record with over 700 early deliveries of the new Galaxy S25 Series smartphones

NEWDELHI: Samsung's flagship store at Bandra Kurla Complex (BKC) celebrated the success of the new Galaxy S25 Series with a special event to kick off the early delivery of the devices, where over 700 customers were handed over the phones. This record delivery follows the overwhelming response for the pre-orders of the highly anticipated smartphone series. Soon Choi, Corporate EVP/Head of Division, MX Division, Samsung Electronics, was



present at the store to personally handover a few of the Galaxy S25 devices to customers, who had pre-ordered the same. The gala event also marked the one-year anniversary of the store, known for showcasing Samsung's top-of-the-line premium products through unique curated experiences and real-life scenarios.To manage the influx of customers and ensure a smooth experience, the store set up dedicated data transfer zones and device exchange counters alongside delectable food and beverage arrangements. The initiative aimed to provide exceptional service to every customer, as they picked up their new Galaxy S25 devices. Consumers coming to pick up their Galaxy S25 devices at the Samsung BKC store will be able to enjoy complimentary services such as Gen-AI Smartphone Case Customization, Dedicated Tech Experts and a unique Celebration Programme that aim to capture and make their shopping moments special.

Vedanta AluminiumDevelops Odisha's First LED Glow Garden

Jharsuguda,(correspondent) : Vedanta Aluminium, India's largest producer of aluminium.has developed Odisha's first LED Glow Garden, a unique initiative aimed at enhancing community infrastructure, promoting tourism, and providing an engaging recreational space for residents and visitors alike.The garden was inaugurated by Mr. Suresh Pujari, Revenue Minister, Odisha; Mr.Tankadhar Tripathy, MLA, Jharsuguda; Ms. Aboli Sunil Naravane, Collector and District Magistrate, Jharsuguda; Mr. Parmar Smit Parshottamdas, IPS,



Superintendent of Police, Jharsuguda; and senior officials of Vedanta.he LED Glow Garden is a visual marvel, featuring life-size and realistic glow sculptures that are waterproof. The garden showcases more than40 illuminated animal sculptures, including elephants, giraffes, pandas, zebras, and deer, alongside artistic representations of cherry and maple trees, roses, mushrooms, and butterflies. Designed to be both interactive and informative, the park includes artistic LED seating and dedicated selfie points, making it an attractive destination for families and tourists. The installations are proudly made in India, highlighting Vedanta's commitment to supporting local artisans and manufacturing. In addition to offering a vibrant and immersive experience, the LED Glow Garden serves as an educational space, fostering awareness about various animal species and plant life.Speaking about the project, Mr. Sunil Gupta, Chief Operating Officer, Vedanta Aluminium, said, "The development of Odisha's first LED Glow Garden reflects our commitment to creating innovative and attractive community spaces.

PNB Launches Home Loan Expo

New Delhi: Punjab National Bank (PNB), nation's leading public sector bank, is hosting the PNB Home Loan Expo 2025, a two-day premier event aimed at helping homebuyers and real estate investors explore exclusive financing solutions. The PNB Home Loan Expo 2025 will bring together leading real estate developers, financial experts, and aspiring homeowners under one roof,offering a range of exclusive benefits to make homeownership more accessible, affordable, and convenient.Attendees can take advantage of customised home loan solutions at competitive interest rates, along with on-the-spot consultations with PNB loan officers for instant eligibility checks and approvals. In addition, expert financial guidance will be available to help homebuyers make informed decisions on their dream homes.Eligible customers canalso receive in-principle sanction letters, with final sanction letters issued within 72 hours for home loan leads from approved housing projects.

Honda Cars India achieves E20 Complianceacross its product range

New Delhi: Honda Cars India Ltd. (HCIL), a leading premium car manufacturer in India, today announced that it has achieved E20 (20% Ethanol blended) Petrol compliance certification for all its current models comprising of Honda Elevate, Honda City e:HEV, Honda City and Honda Amaze. It also includesE20 compliant certification received for 2nd Generation Honda Amazein January 2025. This achieve-



ment highlights Honda's commitment to sustainable mobility and supporting India's transition to greener and cleaner transportation. HCIL embraced E20 petrol since 2009 and all Honda cars manufactured in India from 1 Jan 2009 have been E20 material compatible, demonstrating its unwavering commitment to its customers by providing them with the most advanced global products and services ahead of time. Customers can freely use the E20 petrol in their existing Honda cars without durability concerns or need of changing any part in the car. The Government of India has mandated all Gasoline fueled Mono Fuel and Bi-Fuel vehicles with positive ignition engines including Hybrids, manufactured on and after 1st April 2025 to be certified with Ethanol (E20) fuel to comply with the prevailing emission norms.

TPCODL Uncovers Electricity Meter Tampering Racket

BHUBANESWAR, (correspondent): An electricity meter tampering racket has been unearthed in Cuttack district. The suspected prime perpetrator was arrested by Athagarh Police on February 2, 2025, and is in police custody.A toolkit used for meter tampering was recovered and it was revealed that a significant amount was being charged to consumers for each meter tampering. Further investigations are on to identify the other team members and take appropriate action. The suspected meter tampered cases are being inspected.Electricity theft is a criminal offense, under Section 135 of the Electricity Act, 2003 that impacts the reliability besides being a safety risk. Special teams have been deployed to detect, eliminate and initiate legal actions against power theft. All are encouraged to report electricity theft via WhatsApp at 9437158670, email at enforcement@tpcentralodisha.com, MITRA App or TPCODL website.

Odisha AM/NS India Kho Kho High-Performance Centre athletes outperform at 38thNational Games

Bhubaneswar, (correspondent):: 12 athletes of the Odisha AM/NS India Kho Kho High-Performance Centre (HPC) represented Odisha teams at the 38thNational Games held in Haldwani, Uttarakhandduring January 28 to February 01, 2025. The Odisha teamsmade the state proudby securing silver medals in both the Men's and Women's categories. The Odisha Women's team included five athletes from the HPC - Archana Majhi, Archana Pradhan, Magai Majhi,



Subhashree Singh, and Lisarani Raita while the Odisha Men's team included seven athletes from the HPC - Arjun Singh, Pabani Sabar, Deepak Kumar Sahoo, Sunil Patra, Vishal Oram, T. Sankar, and T. Jagannath Das. The athletes showed unparallelled teamwork and an indomitable spirit which reflected the hard work and coaching provided at the Odisha AM/NS India Kho Kho High-Performance Centre.Sanjeev Sharma, Head Coach, Odisha AM/NS India Kho Kho High-Performance Centre said, "Our athletes displayed exceptional skill, agility, and teamwork throughout the tournament. Securing silver in a highly competitive event is a testament to their hard work and dedication. This is just the beginning, and we will continue striving for gold in future tournaments."

Jindal Foundation celebrates National Girl Child Day with week-long celebrations

Angul, (corresp ondent):The Jindal Foundation celebrated National Girl Child Day with Week-long celebrations in collaboration with the Zilla Swasthya Samiti, District Child Protection Unit and ICDS. The celebration aimed to raise awareness about gender equality, recognize girls' contributions to society, and highlight the importance of empowering them to overcome challenges.The Jindal Foundation launched an awareness tableau, flagged off by ADM (General) Shri Pratap Pritimay and ADM (Revenue) Shri Uday Mohapatra, to educate the public about the importance of girls. The tableau, featuring audio-visual tools, banners, and



information, will travel the areas with the lowest sex ratios—to raise awareness about gender equality and the value of the girl child.The Chief Guest, ADM (Revenue) Shri Uday Mohapatra, praised the events in his address, remarking, "Investing in the girl child is investing in our future."A mass rally with college and school students was held to raise community awareness. Hoardings, leaflets, and banners were distributed, and a folk show (Pala) and drama performance were organized to educate participants about law enforcement and protecting girls' rights.A sensitization meeting, chaired by CDM & PHO Dr. Shibanand Mohanty, featured speeches by several dignitaries, including DCPO Shri Gourishankar Behera, ADPHO (FW) Dr. Antaryami Mishra, ADPHO (Vector Borne) Dr. Poornima Ugdata, DSWO Smt. Nirupama Pani, and OB-GYN Specialist Dr. Sujata Das. Each speaker emphasized the importance of empowering girls through education, healthcare, and collective community action.Speaking on the occasion, Smt Shallu Jindal , the Chairperson of Jindal Foundation & Chancellor of OP Jindal University said " Empowering the girl child is the best and the wisest option a Nation could have in empowering itself. Through our multi-dimensional holistic development programmes for women empowerment , we are partnering for promotion of girls' education , sustainable livelihood options , sports & Health care and contributing to expanding the horizon of equitable and inclusive development of India."The Foundation works to prevent child marriages by raising awareness and supporting marriages of girls at a suitable age. Its Kishori Express Program, launched in 2011, has helped 2.7 lakh girls with anaemia, while the 'Yashasvi' Scholarship Program has benefited over 11,000 girls in pursuing education. The Foundation also promotes maternal health by ensuring reproductive rights and access to essential healthcare services.

Sensex, Nifty End Lower As Investors Await RBI MPC Decision

Mumbai: The Indian stock market on Thursday closed lower as investors remained cautious ahead of the Reserve Bank of India's (RBI) Monetary Policy Committee (MPC) decision on the rate cut scheduled for February 7.The Sensex fell by 213.12 points, or 0.27 per cent to settle at 78,058.16. During the day, the index fluctuated between a high of 78,551.66 and a low of 77,843.99.Similarly, the Nifty ended lower by 92.95 points, or 0.39 per cent to close at 23,603.35. The index recorded a day's high of 23,773.55 and a low of 23,556.25.Among the Nifty stocks, 30 companies closed in negative territory.Trent, Bharat Electronics, Bharti Airtel, ONGC and Titan were among the biggest losers with falling up to 8.39 per cent.On the other hand, Adani Ports, Cipla, Infosys and Dr. Reddy's Labs managed to close higher during intra-day trade with gains of up to 2.51 per cent.The broader market also followed a downward trend. The Nifty Midcap100 fell by 1.26 per cent, while the Nifty Smallcap100 declined by 0.30 per cent.Sectoral indices on the NSE had a mixed performance amid cautious sentiment among investors.The Nifty Auto, FMCG, Consumer Durables, Realty, and Financial Services indices faced losses with a decline of up to 2.19 per cent.On the other hand, sectors like Nifty Bank, IT, Pharma, Private Bank, and Healthcare showed resilience by ending the session in modest gains of up to 0.64 per cent.

RBI May Cut Repo Rate By 50 Basis Points To Boost Economy: ASSOCHAM

New Delhi: The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) is expected to cut the benchmark policy repo rate, which stands at 6.50 per cent, by at least 50 basis points, to support economic growth, a top industry body said on Thursday.To help the economy tide over the crisis following the Covid-19 pandemic, the central bank last reduced the repo rate by 40 basis points to 4 per cent in May 2020.

After consulting key stakeholders, the Associated Chambers of Commerce and Industry of India (ASSOCHAM) believes that the Indian economy needs an urgent boost in demand and investment, which can be achieved by reducing the cost of borrowing."With Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman giving a liberal income tax relief to the middle class, the next booster is expected from the RBI," ASSOCHAM said.The rate cut can enhance liquidity in the banking system and will also revive consumption and fiscal discipline. The central bank's MPC shifted to a neutral stance in October last year.The chamber's General Secretary Manish Singhal said: "We are confident the MPC will deliver it, expecting a demand-led economic recovery in the short to medium term."He added that the food inflation is moderating and there are bright prospects for the Rabi crop."Going forward by March-April, food prices should be further corrected, giving elbow room for a reversal in the rate cut cycle," Singhal contended.The chamber further continued that the growth impetus is also required in the face of global headwinds in the form of tariff war amongst the top economies of the world."Exporters need to be given a strong support in a challenging environment," Singhal noted.The chamber welcomed the RBI's recent steps, such as the Rs 10,000 crore liquidity infusion by the National Housing Bank into housing finance companies.

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