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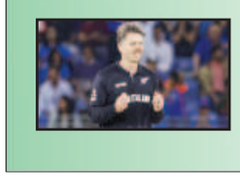
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India and Maldives signed several Memorandums of Understanding (MoU)



Male: Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Friday held wide ranging talks with Maldives President Mohamed Muizzu at the President's Office in Male as both leaders reviewed the entire spectrum of India-Maldives relations and reaffirmed their commitment to further strengthening bilateral ties."They discussed cooperation in the fields of development partnership, capacity building, health, infrastructure, digital economy, aquaculture, climate change and renewable energy. The two leaders called for closer collaboration to enhance peace, progress and prosperity of the Indian Ocean region," the Ministry of External Affairs (MEA) posted on X after the bilateral discussions.The leaders also took stock of the progress in the implementation of the India-Maldives Joint Vision for a 'Comprehensive Economic and Maritime Security Partnership' adopted in 2024.This is Prime Minister Modi's third visit to Maldives - he had visited the Indian Ocean archipelago in 2018 and 2019, earlier - and the first by a Head of State or Government to Maldives during the Presidency of Mohamed Muizzu which began in November 2023.

Odisha To Emerge As Eastern India's Textile Hub: CM Mohan Charan Majhi



Bhubaneswar: Chief Minister Mohan Charan Majhi has announced that Odisha is poised to become the textile hub of Eastern India, as the state government inaugurated Odisha TEX 2025, Eastern India's largest textile and apparel industry event, in Bhubaneswar. The event attracted over 650 delegates, including global brands, leading textile and apparel companies, investors, and senior government officials. The summit witnessed the signing of 33 MoUs, worth ?7,808 crore, which are expected to generate employment for over 53,300 people. The Chief Minister announced the launch of two state-of-the-art Textile & Footwear Parks with plug-and-play facilities for global-standard manufacturing, modern Workers' Hostels, and MoUs for Skill Development.The Chief Minister announced an increase in employment cost subsidies under the Odisha Technical Textile & Apparel Policy 2022 from 5,000 to ?6,000 per month per male worker and from ?6,000 to ?7,000 per month per female worker. He also announced that Odisha TEX will be an annual event, showcasing the state's rich handloom legacy and modern textile ecosystem.The state government aims to create over 1 lakh jobs in textiles and apparel by 2030, with plans to expand new textile clusters in Bolangir, Keonjhar, Sambalpur, Jatsinghpur, Ganjam, and Cuttack. The Chief Minister emphasised Odisha's ambitious vision for the textile industry, backed by excellent infrastructure, governance, and attractive incentive packages.The event saw participation from over 160 companies, including Page Industries, First Step Baby Wear, KPR Mills, Sportking, Adarsh Knitwear, Anubhav Apparels, Bon & Co., and B.L. International, representing the full spectrum of India's textile value chain.With the success of Odisha TEX 2025, the state has firmly positioned itself as the next big textile destination in India, drawing national attention and global interest for its integrated and sustainable approach to textile growth.

Sudden Deaths Caused By Health Issues, Genetic Link Not Covid Vax: Nadda



New Delhi: Covid-19 vaccination did not increase the risk of sudden deaths, said Union Health Minister JP Nadda in the Parliament on Friday.Speaking in the Lok Sabha during the ongoing Monsoon session, Nadda noted the role of underlying health issues, as well as genetic links behind the rising unexplained deaths in the country."Covid-19 vaccination does not appear to increase the risk, whereas the role of underlying health issues, genetic predisposition, and risky lifestyle choices does play a role in unexplained sudden deaths," said Nadda.He cited the studies undertaken by the ICMR and NCDC, as well as the ICMR and AIIMS, to investigate the causes of sudden death."The studies observed that Covid-19 vaccination did not increase the risk of unexplained sudden death among young adults in India. Past Covid-19 hospitalisation, family history of sudden death, and certain lifestyle behaviours increased the likelihood of unexplained sudden death," Nadda said."Early analysis of data from the AIIMS-led study indicates that heart attacks, or myocardial infarction (MI), continue to be the leading cause of sudden death in this age group. Importantly, no major changes in the pattern of causes have been observed when compared with previous years before the Covid-19 pandemic," he added.Meanwhile, the government informed the Parliament that Covid claimed 164 lives between April and July in the recent summer wave. In a written reply in the Lok Sabha, Union Minister of State for Health and Family Welfare Prataprao Jadhav shared details on Covid cases increasing in the country during the last three months."

DRDO flight-tests ULPGM-V3 from UAV at Kurnool; Rajnath hails 'industry-ready' defence tech



NEWDELHI: In a significant fillip to India's indigenous strike capabilities, the Defence Research & Development Organisation (DRDO) has successfully conducted flight trials of the UAV-Launched Precision Guided Missile (ULPGM)–V3 at the National Open Area Range (NOAR), Kurnool, Andhra Pradesh, Defence Minister Rajnath Singh announced on X.He congratulated DRDO along with its development-cum-production partners (DcPPs), MSMEs and start-ups, saying the success "proves the Indian industry is now ready to absorb and produce critical defence technologies."While technical particulars of ULPGM-V3 were not disclosed, earlier DRDO documents and open-source reporting show a clear evolution pathway of the family—from ULPGM V2, for which DRDO's TBRL lab designed multiple warhead options, to extended-range UAV-launched munitions unveiled at Aero India 2025 (ULM-ER) featuring imaging-IR seekers and dual-thrust propulsion. The latest test underscores that maturation.The choice of NOAR, Kurnool, continues a pattern of DRDO using the range to validate next-gen systems—most recently high-energy laser Directed Energy Weapons (DEWs) that defeated fixed-wing UAVs and swarm drones, and other advanced trials that signal India's expanding high-technology test ecosystem.The minister's framing aligns with New Delhi's Aatmanirbhar Bharat push.

SC Rejects Plea To Increase Assembly Seats In Andhra, Telangana



New Delhi: The Supreme Court on Friday declined to issue a direction to the Centre to increase the number of Assembly seats in Andhra Pradesh and Telangana.A Bench of Justices Surya Kant and N. Kotiswar Singh was dealing with pleas seeking implementation of the provisions under the Andhra Pradesh Reorganisation Act, 2014, which provided for delimitation of Assembly seats in the two successor states.

In its judgment, the Justice Kant-led Bench refused to direct delimitation in Andhra Pradesh and Telangana, observing that Article 170 of the Constitution allows delimitation only after the first census conducted post-2026.Delimitation under Article 170 has been frozen until the first census after 2026, as per the 84th and 87th Constitutional Amendments.The apex court rejected the contention that the Centre's decision to carry out delimitation in Jammu and Kashmir, raising the number of Assembly constituencies from 83 to 90 based on the 2011 census, while excluding Telangana and Andhra Pradesh, was arbitrary and discriminatory. Highlighting the constitutional distinctions, it opined that J&K, having been reconstituted as a union territory, is regulated by parliamentary legislation and provisions of the Constitution under Chapter III of Part VI will not apply.In a related development, the Telangana Assembly, in a resolution passed in March this year, urged the Centre to increase the number of seats from 119 to 153, pursuant to the A.P. Reorganisation Act, 2014 and as per the latest census.The state Assembly urged the Union government to introduce necessary Constitutional amendments for this purpose in order to strengthen representative democracy.Chief Minister A. Revanth Reddy pointed out that the Centre, in reply to his question when he was a member of the previous Lok Sabha, had stated that the delimitation of Assembly constituencies would be done only after the 2026 census.Reddy slammed the Centre for its double standards on the issue. He said the Centre increased the number of Assembly constituencies from 83 to 90 as per the 2011 census in Jammu and Kashmir, and, in Sikkim

2 Killed, Over 150 Injured In Syria Explosion

Damascus: A powerful explosion rocked the area around Maarrat Misrin in Syria's northwestern Idlib province, killing at least 12 people, including a woman and a child, according to the Syrian Observatory for Human Rights.The blast, which occurred in an area east of al-Foua and near the town of Sirin, is believed to have originated from a weapons depot, the observatory reported on Thursday.Explosions continued later in the day as additional ammunition detonated, further complicating rescue efforts, Xinhua news agency reported.



PM Modi Receives Honour In Maldives As He Becomes India's Second-Longest Serving Prime Minister



Male: In a moment infused with diplomatic grace and historical resonance, Maldives President Mohamed Muizzu on Friday extended heartfelt congratulations to the visiting Indian Prime Minister Narendra Modi, lauding his achievement as India's second-longest-serving PM in consecutive terms.Addressing a formal banquet in honour of Prime Minister Modi at Male, President Muizzu hailed the milestone of 4,078 consecutive days in office as emblematic of his "unwavering commitment to public service and dedication to the progress and prosperity of the Indian people".The ceremony reflected a warm reciprocation of bilateral goodwill."Tonight we are delighted to reciprocate that friendship and goodwill in the spirit of the closed ties between the two nations. First of all let me convey my heartiest congratulation to your excellency on becoming second longest serving prime minister of India today. This remarkable milestone 4,078 consecutive days in the office is a testament to your unwavering commitment public service and dedication to the progress and prosperity of the Indian people," President Muizzu said.Prime Minister Modi arrived earlier in the day at Velana International Airport following his landmark visit to the UK.In a notable gesture, President Muizzu personally received him at the airport, accompanied by senior members of his Cabinet including the Foreign Minister, Defence Minister, Finance Minister and Minister of Homeland Security.PM Modi's visit is at the gracious invitation of President Muizzu, in the context of Maldives' 60th Independence Day celebrations, where he is participating as the Guest of Honour.The occasion is not only symbolic of the enduring ties between the two nations, but also a reminder of India's early recognition of Maldivian independence in 1965. The diplomatic encounter is seen as an opportunity to reframe bilateral relations and reaffirm mutual interests in the Indian Ocean region.The presence of Prime Minister Modi during such a landmark celebration signals India's continued support for regional stability, maritime cooperation, and cultural dialogue.Meanwhile, with the completion of 4,078 uninterrupted days in office, Prime Minister Modi surpasses the tenure of late former PM Indira Gandhi's unbroken stretch of 4,077 days between 1966 and 1977.

PM Modi Continues To Expand 'Ek Ped Maa Ke Naam' Initiative Globally With Tree Plantation In Maldives

Male: In keeping with their deep commitment to conserving nature, Prime Minister Narendra Modi and the Maldives President Mohamed Muizzu on Friday planted mango saplings as part of India's 'Ek Ped Maa Ke Naam' (Plant for Mother) and Maldives's "Pledge of 5 million Tree Plantation" campaigns."India and the Maldives fully understand the challenges of climate change and environmental degradation. And, we are committed to doing everything possible to boost sustainability. This evening in Male, President Muizzu and I planted saplings, strengthening 'Ek Ped Maa Ke Naam' (a tree for Mother) initiative and Pledge of 5 million Tree Plantation of the Maldives Government," PM Modi posted on X.Prime Minister Modi reiterated India's commitment to support Maldives and its people, as per its requirements and priorities, and for the peace, progress and prosperity of the Indian Ocean Region (IOR).Both leaders also jointly inaugurated today the state-of-the-art Ministry of Defence (MoD) building of Maldives in Male.Overlooking the Indian Ocean, the 11-storey building is a symbol of the strong and long-standing defence and security cooperation between the two countries.The MoD building has been constructed with India's financial assistance and will contribute towards enhancing the capabilities of the defence and law enforcement authorities of Maldives.Prime Minister Modi also handed over two units of Aarogya Maitri Health Cube [BHISHM] sets to the Government of Maldives. With state-of-the-art medical equipment as part of the cube, it can provide medical aid to 200 casualties with in-built support to sustain a crew of six medical personnel for up to 72 hours."Presented BHISHM cubes to President Muizzu, reaffirming our partnership in service of the people.

Rajnath Singh to Head 16-Hour Lok Sabha Debate on Operation Sindoor This July 28

NEWDELHI: The debate will also spotlight the recent Pahalgam terror attack, as the government aims to respond to Opposition demands for clarity on critical defence and diplomatic issues.Union Parliamentary Affairs Minister Kiren Rijiju confirmed the schedule, adding that the Rajya Sabha will take up the debate the following day, with External Affairs Minister S. Jaishankar and other senior leaders expected to participate. Prime Minister Narendra Modi may intervene in both Houses, marking a rare and high-stakes engagement in Parliament's Monsoon Session.

his comes after five consecutive days of disruption in the House, as Opposition members protested over various issues—including claims by former US President Donald Trump about brokering a ceasefire between India and Pakistan. An all-party meeting helped break the stalemate, paving the way for this extended debate. Rijiju emphasised the government's openness to a full discussion, stating, "We are ready for a serious debate on Operation Sindoor and the Pahalgam terror incident. The Speaker has approved a structured session to restore normalcy and address public concerns." Key participants expected include Home Minister Amit Shah, BJP leaders Anurag Thakur and Nishikant Dubey, Samajwadi Party's Akhilesh Yadav, and MPs from TDP and other regional outfits.The Monsoon Session has seen limited legislative progress, with only one Bill passed so far. With tensions high, the scheduled debate on July 28 could be pivotal in reshaping discourse on cross-border issues, internal security, and India's diplomatic posture.

ECI Appoints Returning Officer, Assistant ROs to Elect Vice-President

NEWDELHI: The Election Commission of India (ECI) has officially announced the appointment of key officials to oversee the conduct of the Vice-Presidential Election 2025, following the recent resignation of incumbent Vice President Jagdeep Dhankhar.In its statement released on Friday, the ECI confirmed the selection of PC Mody, Secretary General of the Rajya Sabha, as the Returning Officer for the upcoming election. The appointment was made with the consent of the Hon'ble Deputy Chairman of the Rajya Sabha and in consultation with the Ministry of Law and Justice.To assist in the process, Ms. Garima Jain, Joint Secretary, and Shri Vijay Kumar, Director at the Rajya Sabha Secretariat, have been appointed as Assistant Returning Officers.As per convention, the role of Returning Officer alternates between the Secretary General of the Lok Sabha and the Rajya Sabha. The last Vice-Presidential election saw the Lok Sabha Secretary General take charge. This time, the responsibility shifts to the Upper House.The Vice-Presidential election is conducted under Article 324 of the Constitution of India and is governed by the Presidential and Vice-Presidential Elections Act, 1952 and the corresponding rules of 1974.The ECI is expected to release a Gazette Notification later in the day detailing the full schedule for the election

4 Children Dead, Several Injured as Roof of Rajasthan School Collapses



RAIPUR: At least four students lost their lives and several others were injured when the roof of Piplodi Primary School in Rajasthan's Jhalawar district collapsed on Friday. Authorities fear that more children could still be trapped under the debris.According to SP Jhalawar Amit Kumar Budania, both the District Collector and senior police officials have rushed to the site to oversee rescue operations. Emergency response teams, including local police and disaster management personnel, are engaged in a massive search and rescue effort.A video shared by PTI captures the chaos at the scene, with locals and rescue teams frantically clearing debris. A bulldozer has been deployed to remove large blocks, while residents are seen attempting to lift bricks by hand to reach those trapped.Officials have not yet confirmed the total number of injured students, but those rescued have been shifted to nearby hospitals. The cause of the roof collapse is still being investigated, with initial reports pointing to possible structural weaknesses due to recent heavy rainfall in the region.

Delhi: Major Arms And Fake Currency Cartel Busted; Kingpin, Woman Trafficker Among 5 Held

New Delhi: In a significant breakthrough, Delhi Police's Special Cell (Trans Yamuna Range) has busted an interstate arms and fake currency smuggling cartel operating across Delhi, Haryana, Uttar Pradesh, and Bihar.Five key operatives, including the kingpin and a woman trafficker, have been arrested. A total of 10 semi-automatic pistols, 68 live cartridges, and Rs 4.10 lakh in Fake Indian Currency Notes (FICN) were seized during the crackdown.The police also recovered three vehicles, including a bullet-proof Scorpio SUV used for smuggling, and mobile phones containing incriminating chats. The operation was led by Inspectors Rahul Kumar and Vineet Kumar Tewatia under ACP Kailash Singh Bisht.The action followed a tip-off received on July 6, leading to the arrest of Ravi Thakur from Mathura with five illicit pistols and cartridges. This led to further arrests of Yogesh Phogat from Gurugram, Kuldeep alias Chhotu from Sonipat, Meera from Mathura, and finally kingpin Samsu Khan alias Rehan from Firozabad.The gang used social media and coded chats to coordinate the supply of arms from Madhya Pradesh and fake currency from Siwan, Bihar.

India, New Zealand Conclude 2nd Round Of Free Trade Agreement Negotiations



New Delhi: The government on Friday said the second round of negotiations for the India-New Zealand Free Trade Agreement (FTA) concluded successfully in the national capital, further advancing the shared objective of strengthening bilateral trade and economic partnerships.The third round of negotiations is scheduled to be held in New Zealand in September. The intersessional virtual meetings will maintain the forward trajectory set in the second round, according to a Commerce Ministry statement.Continuing the momentum generated during the first round held in May in New Delhi, the second round of negotiations was held from July 14-25.This round accomplished significant advancement in multiple areas, including Trade in Goods and Services, Investment, Rules of Origin, Customs Procedures and Trade Facilitation, Technical Barriers to Trade, Sanitary and Phytosanitary Measures, and Economic Cooperation.Discussions were marked by mutual interest in achieving early convergence on several texts. Both sides reaffirmed their commitment to concluding a balanced, comprehensive, and forward-looking agreement.The development catalyses the shared commitment to deepen economic ties and guidance given by Prime Minister Narendra Modi during the visit of New Zealand Prime Minister Christopher Luxon in March this year.India's bilateral merchandise trade with New Zealand reached $1.3 billion in FY2024-25, recording a growth of 48.6 per cent over the previous financial year, signaling the growing potential of the economic partnership.The FTA is expected to enhance trade flows, support investment linkages, promote supply chain resilience, and establish a predictable and enabling environment for businesses in both countries.The FTA was launched during the meeting between Commerce Minister Piyush Goyal and New Zealand's Minister for Trade and Investment Todd McClay on March 16.Continuing the momentum generated during the first round held in May in New Delhi, the second round of negotiations was held from July 14-25.

Bold Defence Reforms And Strategic Self-Reliance Mark PM Modi's 11 Year-Milestone

New Delhi: As Prime Minister Narendra Modi surpasses Indira Gandhi, becoming India's second-longest-serving Prime Minister after Jawaharlal Nehru, his 11-year tenure stands marked by a transformative overhaul of India's defence sector, with a sharp focus on indigenous capabilities, swift military responses, and modernisation.Since taking office in 2014, PM Modi has prioritised 'Aatmanirbhar Bharat (self-reliant India)' in defence manufacturing, reversing decades of import-dependency.Under his leadership, India has emerged as one of the world's top 25 arms exporters, with over Rs one lakh crore in defence exports reported in the last few years.According to the Ministry of Defence, "Defence exports have grown 21 times, from Rs 4,312 crore in the 2004-14 decade to Rs 88,319 crore in the 2014-24 decade, highlighting India's expanding role in the global defence sector."Key milestones include the successful production of LCA Tejas fighter jets, the development of the Prachand Light Combat Helicopter, and indigenous artillery systems like Dhanush and ATAGS, along with others."Strategic reforms, private sector involvement, and robust R&D have led to the development of advanced military platforms like the Dhanush Artillery Gun System, Advanced Towed Artillery Gun System (ATAGS), Main Battle Tank (MBT) Arjun, Light Specialist Vehicles, High Mobility Vehicles, Light Combat Aircraft (LCA) Tejas, Advanced Light Helicopter (ALH), Light Utility Helicopter (LUH), Akash Missile System, Weapon Locating Radar

Odisha Approves 869.8 Crore Investment in Renewable Energy Projects

Bhubaneswar(correspondent): The State of Odisha has taken another major step in advancing its renewable energy agenda by approving fresh projects with a total capacity of 178 MW and an estimated investment of ?869.8 crore. The approvals came during the 12th meeting of the Single Window Committee (SWC) held on July 24, 2025, under the chairmanship of Shri Vishal Kumar Dev, IAS, Principal Secretary, Energy Department, Government of Odisha.The meeting was attended by key officials including the Managing Director of GRIDCO, Directors of GRIDCO and OHPC, EIC (Electricity)-cum-PCEI, and other senior members of the Committee. Project proposals were presented by the Chief



Project Manager of the Renewable Energy Nodal Agency (RENA) and were thoroughly examined before being cleared by the SWC.Among the approved projects is a 69.5 MW solar park to be developed by Prozeal Green Energy Limited at Biramaharajpur in Subarnapur district. INOX Solar Limited received clearance for a 49.5 MW solar project at Telkoi in Keonjhar, while Mahanadi Coalfields Limited (MCL) was granted approval for a 10 MW solar project at Lakhanpur in Jharsuguda. Additionally, NLC India Renewables Limited will be setting up a wind power project at Papadahandi in Nabarangpur district. Together, these projects account for 128.5 MW of solar and 49.5 MW of wind energy capacity.With these additions, the total renewable energy capacity approved by the Single Window Committee has now reached 1,844.86 MW, attracting cumulative investment commitments of ?12,599.79 crore. This marks a significant milestone in Odisha's clean energy transition and underlines the State Government's focus on facilitating ease of doing business in the renewable sector.Officials noted that the projects align with Odisha's commitment to achieving its Renewable Purchase Obligations and contributing to India's climate goals while also boosting local employment and infrastructure development in the approved districts.The Energy Department reaffirmed its commitment to supporting green investments and streamlining project clearances through timely coordination between all stakeholders.

Strategic Push for Planned Urban Growth in Baripada

Bhubaneswar, (correspondent):In a significant move towards ensuring planned and inclusive urban development, a high-level meeting on the Comprehensive Development Plan (CDP) for Baripada town was convened today at Lok Seva Bhawan, Bhubaneswar. The meeting was chaired by Dr. Krushna Chandra Mahapatra, Hon'ble Minister, Housing & Urban Development Department, Government of Odisha.Setting the tone for the deliberations, Smt. Usha Padhee, Principal Secretary, Housing & Urban Development Department, highlighted the growing need for a structured Master Plan for Baripada — a key urban centre in northern Odisha with strategic economic and cultural relevance. She emphasized the



importance of inter-departmental collaboration for holistic and sustainable urban growth.A major decision taken at the meeting was to constitute a Joint Technical Committee, comprising representatives from key stakeholder departments, to initiate and oversee the preparation of a detailed Master Plan for Baripada. The committee will be responsible for data collection, spatial mapping, integration of infrastructure requirements, and alignment with regional development goals.The meeting witnessed the participation of Commissioner-cum-Secretary, Panchayati Raj & Drinking Water Department, Collector & District Magistrate, Mayurbhanj, senior officials from the Indian Railways, National Highways Authority of India (NHAI), Urban Planning experts, and other senior officers from relevant departments.Discussions covered key aspects such as:Land use planning to accommodate future population growthUrban mobility and connectivity, particularly in relation to National Highways and Railway networksInfrastructure development including water supply, drainage, solid waste management, and housingHeritage conservation and eco-sensitive zoning, given Baripada's unique socio-cultural identityIntegration with ongoing state-level urban initiatives under the Vision 2036 frameworkHon'ble Minister Dr. Mahapatra stressed the need to ensure that the CDP reflects the aspirations of the people of Baripada and takes into account the challenges of rapid urbanization. He called for a time-bound action plan and directed officials to ensure people's participation and transparency throughout the planning process.The meeting marks a critical step in translating Baripada's urban potential into a livable, sustainable, and economically vibrant town.

Pre-Election Violence Erupts at Samanta Chandra Sekhar College

Bhubaneswar, (correspondent):Political tensions have resurfaced on campus with pre-election violence breaking out at Samanta Chandra Sekhar College.Although no official announcement or notification regarding the upcoming student union elections has been made, clashes have already begun between student groups vying for dominance.The incident on Friday left two students injured, who are currently admitted to the district headquarters hospital. Reports indicate that a student returning from an exam was attacked near the college premises. Another student, who tried to shield the victim, was also assaulted. A student named Shubham has lodged a complaint against four individuals. Police have detained one suspect, who is being interrogated by Town Police Station officials.Political Rivalry Sparks TensionDespite student union elections not being held in the last six years, anticipation of this year's elections has stirred up rivalry among student groups. Students aligned with ABVP and Biju Chhatra Janata Dal (BJD's student wing) came face-to-face in a heated confrontation today.According to sources, some aspiring student leaders have already begun campaigning to gain support. Tensions escalated when both factions allegedly called in former students for reinforcement, further intensifying the situation. Reports also suggest that weapons were brandished during the altercation.Police have increased their presence on campus to ensure safety and prevent further escalation. The incident has raised concerns about what might happen as election dates draw closer.

Odisha Governor Felicitates Jindal Foundation's Wushu Champions for International Achievements

Bhubaneswar, (correspondent): His Excellency, the Governor of Odisha, Dr Hari Babu Kambhampati, felicitated two young athletes — Prem Munda and Rajkumar Munda — from the Jindal Foundation's Wushu Training Program in Barbil at a special ceremony held on 23rd July at Raj Bhawan, Bhubaneswar. These young athletes recently represented India at an international Wushu championship held in Moscow, Russia, and won gold medals in the men's 48 kg & 52 kg, showcasing not only their talent but also the power of focused



grassroots sports development.Both Sri Rajkumar and Sri Prem are living in the Jindal Sports Hostel at Barbil and are being holistically nourished by the Jindal Foundation with everyday expert sports coaching, food, customised nutrition, clothing, education, health care and other facilities – those needed for a sportsperson to grow and compete on global platforms.Expressing her gratitude to the Hon'ble Governor for felicitating the young athletes, Ms. Shallu Jindal, Chairperson of the Jindal Foundation, said, "This is a moment of immense pride for all of us. These young boys from Barbil have not only demonstrated excellence in sport but have proven that talent, when nurtured with the right support, can shine on the world stage. Their achievements echo our belief that rural India holds unlimited potential, waiting to be empowered."Mr Prashanta Hota, President and Group Head, CSR & Education, Jindal Steel, said, "Inspired by the vision of Hon'ble Chairman of Jindal Steel and Member of Parliament, Shri Naveen Jindal Ji, our Wushu training programme aims to transform lives and instil confidence, discipline, and global competitiveness in youth in the hinterland. These medals from Moscow are not just sporting wins — they are victories of inclusion, opportunity, and empowerment. Shri Jindal, himself, is an iconic sports person of our country and has been our flame of inspiration for fostering inclusive improvement in the Human Development Index in our country. We in the Jindal Foundation, under the leadership of Ms Shallu Jindal, are walking an extra mile every day to nourish and nurture such hidden talents of our country in various fields of excellence.

Prof. Jagneshwar Dandapat Reappointed As Utkal University Vice-Chancellor

Bhubaneswar: Prof. Jagneshwar Dandapat has been reappointed as the Vice-Chancellor of Utkal University, according to an official notification issued by the Raj Bhavan on Friday. He will continue to serve in the post until a new Vice-Chancellor is appointed.Prof. Dandapat's earlier appointment was set aside on July 22 following a directive from the Orissa High Court, which cited non-compliance with provisions of the old University Act. However, after a recent amendment to the University Act by the State Cabinet, the Chancellor has reinstated him in the role.

Puri Minor Girl Records Statement at AIIMS Delhi; Crime Branch Intensifies Probe

Bhubaneswar(correspondent):In a significant development in the Puri minor girl immolation case, the victim from Balanga recorded her statement on Friday at the All India Institute of Medical Sciences (AIIMS), New Delhi. The statement was taken under the close supervision of the Odisha Crime Branch team, doctors at AIIMS, and in the presence of her family members.Based on her testimony, the Crime Branch has intensified its investigation, gathering crucial leads to piece together the events leading to the horrific incident. Officials confirmed that



vital information was obtained during the recording, which is now being cross-verified. However, neither AIIMS authorities nor the Crime Branch team has released an official statement on the case so far.The victim, a 16-year-old girl, continues to remain in critical condition after sustaining 75 percent burns when three unidentified bike-borne assailants allegedly set her on fire in Balanga, Puri, on July 19, 2025. She underwent a six-hour-long skin grafting surgery on Thursday, which had initially been delayed due to a mild fever.According to a medical bulletin from AIIMS, the victim is currently on oxygen support and is under 24×7 monitoring by a dedicated team of doctors at the Department of Burns and Plastic Surgery. "On Day 5, the minor girl underwent surgery for the management of deep burns. She remains critical but stable under constant supervision," the hospital stated.Earlier, a two-member Crime Branch team from Odisha reached Delhi to oversee the investigation and coordinate with local authorities regarding the probe.The shocking case has sparked outrage across Odisha, with demands for swift action to identify and punish the culprits behind the brutal attack.

Two Retired Officials Convicted in Corruption Case; Odisha Vigilance to Seek Pension Stoppage

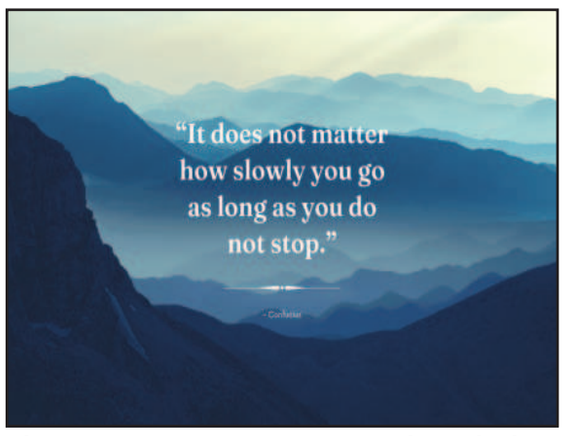


Bhubaneswar:(correspondent): In a significant judgment, the Special Judge, Vigilance, Baripada, on Friday convicted Pabitra Mohan Naik, Former Junior Engineer (Retired), and Suresh Chandra Satpathy, Former Junior Soil Conservation Assistant (Retired), both of the Office of PD Watershed, Deogarh, in a corruption case filed by Odisha Vigilance.The two were charge-sheeted under Sections 13(2) read with 13(1)(c) of the Prevention of Corruption Act, 1988, along with Sections 409 and 120-B of the IPC, for misappropriating government funds by inflating measurements/check measurements of water harvesting structure works during their tenure.The court sentenced both convicts to two years of rigorous imprisonment and imposed a fine of Rs 20,000 each.Following the conviction, Odisha Vigilance has announced its intention to approach the competent authority to stop the pension benefits of both former officials.

EDITORIAL

When you don't feel like studying

Studies are a work that is most disoriented when doing. But in this environment of compitition, you cannot even sit on your hand. | Put in one place all things before sitting to read keep all the necessary things like subject books, copy, rough copy, pen, pencil etc with you. This way you will avoid getting up on the pretext of raising things again and again. Sometimes our mind goes to the same side, the thing that we do not have, so sit by preparing for the whole. Sleep well Take at least seven hours of sleep to regulate hormone right and protect 1 mind from getting tired. Sleep is extremely essential for our body. Good sleep makes the mind sharp and the read is also remembered. Attract When studying, when your mind starts wandering around, then once you ask yourself the question that the rest



of this time is good and the comfort of life in return for the trouble of life or the passion and hard work of this time. This election will determine your life ahead. RNS EDUCATION Move to more than a little Always make small time periods to study. After that slowly increase your reading time. There is another trick for that as soon as you start getting up from studies, give yourself the target of one last question or last page etc. As if it has to get up after completing it just. Similarly slowly increase your study time and goal. The goal will be, only then will there be something Decide what you have to do in life? For whom are you studying, for your career, for a secure future, to earn money or for someone's happiness. If the mind starts running away while reading, remind yourself of your goal. When you set your own goal, nothing can mislead you. Be strict with yourself Keep yourself away from meditation wandering things like mobile, TV, computer, friend- relative etc. Your life is, the career is also yours, so the responsibility will also be taken only by you. When studying, explain yourself that it is a little late and then can live with anything in your mind. It will only have to lose something to get something. It's a great pleasure to have you. Regular studies will not lead to tension is it possible that you eat food for a week in a day? No na . Similarly you can't do year long studies in few days . So keep studying regularly. Decide a few hours for your reading everyday and do nothing but studies at that time. This will make your good preparation even with a little revision at the time of exam. Decide morning or night time to read as you need. Keep taking small brakes in between, so as not to feel bored.

We Must Complete Our Promised Work to God



Dr Annada Tripathy

Each passing day reminds us of a great truth — our time on this Earth is limited. Life is moving forward every second and we cannot bring back even a single moment once it is gone. With every sunrise, we come closer to the end of our earthly journey. One more page of our life book turns over. But in the noise and rush of everyday life, do we pause to reflect why we are here?Long before we entered this world, before we saw the light of day, we made a silent promise to the Divine. While resting safely in our mother's womb, our soul agreed to live a meaningful life — a life filled with truth, love, and goodness. We promised that we would use this human birth to spread kindness, to uplift others and to walk on the righteous path. We agreed, in our purest form, to serve others with a clean heart and to fulfill our soul's purpose. That was our sacred vow to God.But when we are born, we begin to forget. As we grow, the distractions of the world pull us in different directions. We become busy chasing success, wealth, name and fame. Our time is spent on comforts, possessions and temporary pleasures. In this chase, our divine purpose becomes a distant memory. We postpone good deeds. We say, "Not now, maybe later. I will do it tomorrow." But what if tomorrow never arrives?Life is uncertain. Time waits for no one. Every moment that passes is a moment we will never get again. That is why it is important to act now. Today is all we truly have. This moment is a gift. We must use it with care. Let us not waste our hours in regrets or laziness. Let us rise and complete the good tasks we were meant to do. We must return to the path we once promised to walk.It is good to ask ourselves often — Am I living with honesty? Am I being kind to others? Am I giving love and hope? Am I fulfilling my role as a child, as a parent, as a citizen and most importantly, as a human being? If we find that our answers are not satisfactory, let us not feel ashamed. Instead, let us begin again with fresh strength. Life always gives us the chance to correct, to restart and to grow.There is no need to wait for a perfect time. Perfection is a myth. The right time is now. Let us start with small steps — a smile to someone sad, a helping hand to the needy, a kind word to a lonely soul an honest day's work done with care. These little acts are the real promises we must keep.We were not born by accident. We have been sent for a reason. Our life has a sacred meaning. Every person has a unique work to do — work that only they can complete. That work may not always be big or seen by others, but it is important. It could be loving your family, caring for a sick person, teaching a child, planting a tree or spreading peace where there is anger. These small deeds shine brightly in God's eyes.Time is flying, but we can give our life wings by making it useful. We can add meaning to every passing moment by keeping our heart pure and our actions truthful. Even if our days are limited, their impact can be unlimited — if lived with purpose.So let us not delay any more. Let us turn inward and remember the promise we made before birth. Let us stop wandering and return to the path of righteousness. Let us live in such a way that when our time is over, our soul can say with peace — "I have done what I came here to do. I have kept my promise to God."Let us walk forward with truth in our words, kindness in our hands and light in our hearts. Let us complete our divine mission with love, strength and faith.

The Sacred Lotus: A Symbol of Selfless Devotion and Divine Purity



Dr SIMANT KUMAR NANDA

The lotus, or Kamala, is not just a flower in Indian culture,it is a living symbol of spiritual truth, inner strength, and pure devotion. From ancient scriptures to temple carvings, the lotus has been revered for its quiet yet powerful message. It teaches us how to live a life of meaning,rooted in duty, untouched by desire, and full of compassion.Born in the muddy waters, the lotus never becomes muddy. Its petals remain clean, untouched by the very medium in which it grows. This reflects the ideal of a noble person,living amidst the challenges and chaos of the world, but remaining inwardly pure and unaffected. The Bhagavad Gita describes this beautifully, comparing the sage to a lotus leaf untouched by water. The lesson is clear: do your duty with full heart, but let not attachment stain your spirit.Yet, unlike the cold idea of detachment, the lotus also teaches love. It doesn't reject the water,it loves it. Water is its mother, its nurturer. This love for the water reflects the love for our motherland, our roots, and our sources of strength. True detachment is not about indifference. It is about serving with affection, acting with integrity, and loving without clinging. The lotus, by loving its birthplace and blooming in it, symbolizes how we must honor and serve our homeland.There's more to this sacred symbol. When the Bhramara,the buzzing black bee,approaches, the lotus offers its nectar freely. It does not resist, does not count how much to give. This is the spirit of compassion and generosity,KaruGa and badaanyataa. The lotus gives what it has, in silence and grace. It reminds us to open our hearts to others, to nourish the world with whatever sweetness we possess, without pride or expectation.The sun, another divine force, shines and lifts the darkness. It helps the lotus bloom, giving it warmth and light. And the lotus responds by turning towards it in devotion. This mutual bond between the sun and lotus symbolizes the ideal relationship between society and its selfless servers. Just like the sun, those who serve others with no interest in reward are the ones who bring light to the world. And like the lotus, society must recognize and cherish these beings of quiet service.No wonder then that the lotus is so deeply embedded in our spiritual imagery. The hands of God hold lotuses. The eyes, face, and even the feet of deities like Lord Vishnu, Goddess Lakshmi, and Lord Jagannath are compared to the lotus. Why? Because the lotus has all the qualities that symbolize the divine,purity, beauty, serenity, and sacred power. It is not just decoration; it is a representation of divinity itself.The lotus also expresses the nature of devotion (bhakti). Real devotion is not dry,it wets the body, mind, and heart,like water does. It makes us soft, humble, and open. It makes us Ardra,touched, moistened by the divine presence. The love of the lotus for water, and its offering of nectar to the bee, is like the soul's offering of love to God and to the world.In the realm of science, the sun neither rises nor sets,it is the earth that rotates. But in human language, we still say "the sun has risen." Why? Because language is not bound only to logic,it follows the rhythm of feeling, the poetry of perception. It is through this poetic lens that we begin to understand the philosophy of the lotus.The lotus, dependent on sunlight, blooms not because the sun physically rises, but because it feels the touch of light. It is this sensitive response to a deeper presence that makes the lotus a symbol of spiritual awakening. In fact, the phrase "The sun never rises, yet the lotus blooms" teaches us a profound truth: that even illusion (bhrânti) can be meaningful, when it leads us to greater awareness.Indian thought often uses natural symbols like the lotus and the sun to express subtle truths. The kumuda (water lily) blooms under moonlight,its softness represents devotion, humility, and emotional surrender. Meanwhile, the lotus thrives in sunlight,symbolizing knowledge, clarity, and awakening. These twin metaphors reflect the two great paths of Indian spirituality: Bhakti (devotion) and Jnana (knowledge).The swan (hamsa) too enters the symbolic frame. Though scientifically it cannot separate milk from water, mythology says it can,and so it becomes the symbol of viveka (discrimination). The person who, like the swan, can distinguish truth from falsehood, illusion from essence, is honored as a ParamahaAsa, the ultimate seeker of truth.So, when we say that the lotus blooms even when the sun hasn't risen, we are not speaking in error,we are speaking in wisdom hidden in metaphor. This is the language of literature, where truth does not always need to be literal. Rather, it flows in layers,scientific, emotional, poetic, and spiritual,until it reveals its deeper essence.In every way, the lotus gives us a model to live by. It shows us how to rise, how to love, how to give, and how to stay pure. It stands for a balanced life,where detachment doesn't mean coldness, and love doesn't mean bondage. It offers its nectar, receives sunlight, and yet stands tall and calm.That is why the lotus is not just admired,it is worshipped. It is not only beautiful,it is meaningful. It does not just bloom,it enlightens. In the hands of God, in the hearts of sages, and in the lives of those who walk the path of truth, the lotus lives as a perennial inspiration.Its journey from mud to magnificence, from darkness to light, becomes a mirror to our own inner transformation. In our fast-moving world, where distractions are many and silence is rare, the lotus teaches us the value of stillness—of being rooted in our dharma (duty), even as the winds of life blow hard.The lotus doesn't rush to bloom. It opens petal by petal—with patience, grace, and surrender. This is how true growth happens—not by force, but by trust in time and nature. Each unfolding petal is like an expanding awareness, a moment of self-realization. And in that realization, we become like the lotus,radiating serenity without pride, rooted in the world but reaching for the sun.In Buddhism too, the lotus holds a sacred place. The eight-petaled lotus symbolizes the Noble Eightfold Path,the way to liberation. In the heart of the lotus sits the Buddha, meditating in peace, representing how inner awakening is possible even amidst life's sorrows.

NATO, BRICS, and India



Dr. Debidutta Pattnaik

NATO and BRICS are two of the most influential international groups today. NATO is a military alliance of 32 countries, mostly from Europe and North America, committed to collective security. BRICS, made up of ten emerging economies such as Brazil, Russia, India, China, South Africa, Egypt, Ethiopia, Indonesia, Iran, and the United Arab Emirates, focuses on economic development and promoting a more balanced global system. Tensions between these blocs have grown. In July 2025, NATO Secretary-General Mark Rutte warned that India, China, and Brazil could face secondary sanctions if they continued buying Russian energy. India responded by asserting its right to secure affordable energy for its population and rejected what it called "double standards." This exchange highlights the growing divide between Western-aligned and alternative global powers, especially in the context of energy and resource security.NATO, formed in 1949, is underpinned by the military strength of its members, particularly the United States, and represents an economy of around 38 trillion US dollars. Its strength lies in military coordination, intelligence sharing, and influence over global financial systems. In contrast, BRICS, which began in 2009 to strengthen economic ties among major developing nations, now represents over 40 per cent of the world's population and has a combined GDP of 60 trillion US dollars. BRICS prioritises economic cooperation and has created its own development bank, with ambitions to reduce reliance on Western financial systems.One of the key issues dividing these blocs is access to energy and minerals. Before Russia's invasion of Ukraine in 2022, Europe sourced over 40 per cent of its gas from Russia. While that figure has fallen to under 15 per cent by 2024, several European countries remain dependent on Russian gas. The EU has turned to the United States and Norway to diversify its energy supply, while also investing in renewable energy sources. However, prices have risen sharply, affecting households and businesses. At the same time, Russia continues to sell energy to BRICS countries, particularly China and India. BRICS as a group holds a significant share of global oil and gas reserves, giving it leverage. Yet, competition among members, such as Iran and the UAE, makes coordinated energy strategies difficult.Beyond energy, access to critical minerals is another concern. BRICS countries dominate global reserves of essential materials such as rare earth elements, manganese, graphite, nickel, and titanium. These are vital for defence equipment and clean energy technologies. Restrictions from Russia or China could delay NATO's military supply chains or Europe's environmental goals. However, differences among BRICS members, including export controls and logistical challenges, limit their ability to act as a unified supplier. NATO's strategic advantage lies in its military capabilities and its influence through sanctions and financial systems. However, its reliance on external sources for energy and minerals is a key vulnerability. BRICS, while not a military alliance, is becoming increasingly important in global trade and resource control. It appeals to many developing nations looking for alternatives to Western dominance. Still, internal disagreements, especially between China and India, and unequal economic power among members affect its unity and effectiveness.Thus, NATO remains stronger in terms of military power, institutional coordination, and global influence. Its well-established structures and control over global financial systems continue to provide it with significant leverage in international affairs. BRICS, however, is steadily gaining ground through its collective economic strength and control over vital natural resources. While NATO excels in security and defence, BRICS is emerging as a powerful voice for the Global South, with growing influence in trade, energy, and development. Each bloc has clear advantages, but both also face important limitations. NATO must reduce its reliance on energy and minerals supplied by geopolitical rivals, while BRICS needs to overcome internal divisions and build greater strategic coherence among its diverse members. Their ability to address these vulnerabilities will shape the global balance of power in the years ahead.For India, the evolving dynamics between NATO and BRICS present both opportunities and challenges. As a key BRICS member with strong trade and defence ties to Western countries, India occupies a unique position. It must navigate this complex landscape carefully, maintaining strategic autonomy while securing its energy and resource needs. Rather than aligning exclusively with either bloc, India should adopt a pragmatic and interest-driven approach, deepening economic partnerships with BRICS countries, investing in domestic resource security, and continuing defence cooperation and diplomatic engagement with NATO members. To ensure long-term stability and growth, India should focus on diversifying its energy imports, securing critical minerals through bilateral agreements, and strengthening regional alliances in the Indo-Pacific. Promoting multilateralism, encouraging dialogue between competing blocs, and positioning itself as a bridge between the West and the Global South could enhance India's global standing and resilience in an increasingly multipolar world. Jai Hind!

Old Sanskrit College Lacks Sanskrit Teacher

Paralakhemundi(correspondent)-At oldest Sanskrit College teaching staff on basic Sanskrit subject lacking. Established since 1916 about 75 students are studying.They are facing difficulties on lack of main Sanskrit teacher.2 guest teachers handling teachings.So let state administration should look after such core issue what intellects feeling.

Rayagada Police Recover 7 Lost/Stolen Mobile Phones Using CIER Portal

Rayagada,(correspondent):In a significant step towards tech-enabled policing and citizen service, the police stations of Rayagada, Muniguda, Padmapur, and Kashipur have successfully recovered seven lost or stolen mobile phones over the past two weeks.The recovery was made possible through the Central Equipment Identity Register (CIER) portal, a digital platform used to trace and track lost or stolen



mobile devices. Based on technical inputs and tracking mechanisms, the concerned police teams coordinated their efforts to locate the missing phones.All the recovered mobile phones have been duly returned to their rightful owners, bringing relief and appreciation from the affected citizens.The initiative reflects the growing emphasis on digital tools in enhancing law enforcement efficiency and public service delivery. Rayagada police have urged citizens to promptly report any mobile theft or loss and register the device details through the CEIR/CIER portal to enable faster recovery.

SRC Alerts To River Side Villagers In K'pada District

Kendrapada(Correspondent): Deep depression in Bay of Bengal and discharge of water from Hirakud dam water label in various rivers in Kendrapara district increases. River side villagers of the district have to stay alert said special relief commissioner(SRC). SRC also said to district administration to keep vigil towards the situation due to heavy rain due to deep depression. Seven river based Kendrapara district always affected by flood situation almost



in every years and now six blocks out of nine also affected in flood. Due to flood in Mahanadi river system Bramhani, Kharasrota, Kani, Birupa,Paika, Luna and Karandia Paika the current situation became grim in Pattamundai,Aul, Rajnagar, Rajkanika and Garadpur blocks. Most of the Bramhani,Luna, Baitarani, Birupa, Kani,Hansua, Kharasrota, Karandia, Paika flowing in the every corner of the district. Almost in every years flood situation hits public in the district and damaged lives and property. Agriculture sector also faced heavy losses. Out of nine block of the district seven blocks situated in flood zone. Aul, Rajnagar, Mahak alpada, Garadpur, Pattamundai, Marshaghai, Rajkanika block always affected by the flood.



MLA JHARSUGUDA MEET J P NADDA IN NEW DELHI

Snakebite Awareness and Prevention Program Held in Narasinghpur Cluster

Ranpur,(Correspondent)–As per the instructions of the District Collector of Nayagarh, Snakebite Awareness and Prevention Programs were organized across all schools in the district on 23rd July. As part of this initiative, schools conducted essay, quiz, and poster-making competitions among students. Students who secured the first position at the school level participated in the cluster-level competition. The events were categorized into junior (Classes VI to VIII) and senior (Classes IX and X) divisions.In this context, a cluster-level event was held today at Narasinghpur High School, organized with the support of Headmaster Godavari Nayak and under the guidance of CRCC Susil Kumar Rana.The program began with a lamp-lighting ceremony, attended by several dignitaries including Headmasters Niladri Bihari Subudhi (Hansara UPS), Ajay Kumar Sahu (Narasinghpur UGME), Sukanta Kumar Behera (Samantarapur PS), Sushanta Kumar Atta (Pampada UPS), and senior teachers Pushkar Pradhan and Bhagabata Jena. The event commenced with the chanting of shlokas by teacher Sarojini Mangaraj.Students from various schools took part in essay writing, quiz, and poster-making competitions. The concluding ceremony was graced by senior journalist Bishwaranjan Acharya as the Chief Guest, and Snake Helpline members Ajay Kumar Das and Ranjan Kumar Jena as keynote speakers. They provided detailed guidance on snakebite prevention and safety awareness to the attending students and parents.Students welcomed the guests with flowers and sandal paste. The prize distribution was facilitated with the support of Sukanta Kumar Behera. Winners were awarded by the guests, and the CRCC announced that those who secured the first position would go on to represent the cluster at the block-level competition.

Kujanga Minor girl sexual exploitation incident

Two accused siblings held, forwarded to the court

JAGATSINGHPUR Correspondent):. An alleged minor girl sexual exploitation incident has been reported in Kujanga police limits, based on an FIR lodged by the victim girl's father. Police have arrested two persons and forwarded them to court on Friday. Meanwhile, the victim girl is undergoing medical examination at the district headquarters hospital here. After completion of the medical checkup, she will be present before the Child Welfare Committee [CWC] Jagatinghpur for the next course of action, police informed.The alleged accused persons were siblings from Kathakot village under Kujanga block, identified as Bhagyadhar Dash and Panchanan Dash, the former a priest and the latter a cook working in a local Matha. Police have arrested a duo from their village based on an FIR lodged against them. A case has been registered in Kujanga police station bearing number 275 of 2025, and further investigation is on, police informed.According to the FIR lodged by the victim girl's father at the police station revealed that both alleged accused persons had been maintaining a regular sexual relationship with the minor. As a consequence, she became pregnant after five months. Then both men had approached him for termination of the pregnancy, when he declined the proposal, they offered a life threat to both me and my child, looking safety and security of our live, we complained, FIR stated.On the other hand, sources informed that the victim's mother is dead as a result she was living with her father without siblings, taking advantage of her loneliness being sexually exploited by both accused siblings.Meanwhile, police have taken efforts to provide medical aid and a safe home for the victim girl and are awaiting CWC instruction for the next lawful action, police said

Farewell Felicitation Held for District Collector Smt. Parul Patwari

Rayagada(Correspondent): A heartfelt farewell ceremony was organized today to bid adieu to District Collector Smt. Parul Patwari dated July 25th, 2025, marking the conclusion of her commendable service in Rayagada district. The event was held in the Chintan Kaksh of the District Collector's Office,



under the esteemed chairmanship of Additional District Collector Shri Nihar Ranjan Kanhar.All staff members and sub-divisional officers of the district administration came together to express their gratitude and appreciation through a formal felicitation.A second felicitation program was also conducted at the Revenue Officers' Conference Hall by officials of the Revenue Department, again chaired by Shri Kanhara.

Grand Farewell to BKDash Outgoing Collector Gajapati

Paralakhemundi(Correspondent):-By Gajapati district administration a marvelous farewell has been given to Collector Bijay Kumar Dash,who has been transferred as Addl.Secretary of Health & Family Welfare. Held at UBSETI hall ADM Phalguni Majhi,SP Jatindra Kumar Panda, Zilla Parishad Chief Development Officer Sankar Kerketa,ADM (Revenue)Munidra Hanaga,Sub Collector Anup Panda,Project Administrator Ansuman Mahapatra,Addl.Project Director Pruthwiraj Mandal graced on dias. On his 11months & 15 days staying at Gajapati district,he proved his exquisite skill to chase towards development with best team work.He could be close with common citizens & intellectuals.His befeating role will be remembered,said the speakers.On his farewell address,he too conveyed gratitude to all people of Gajapati district for their amicable support on progress of the district. All Block Development Officers,Executive Officers of both Paralakhemundi Municipality & Kashinagar NAC,all Tehsildars with staff of various institutions & organizations with intellectuals attended.

5-year-old child dies due to electrocution

SUBARNAPUR (correspondent) - A tragic incident has taken place in Jamchhapar village under Binika police station in Subarnapur district. A 5-year-old child has died due to electrocution. The deceased child has been identified as Shreyansha alias Subrata Sanyasi, son of Himanshu Sanyasi. According to information, Shreyansha came into contact with an electric wire at home for some reason. As a result, some parts of his face and hand were burned. The family members immediately admitted him to Binika Hospital. After primary treatment, the doctor declared him dead. The police have seized the body and registered a case of death. It is known that it was handed over to the family after autopsy.

Youth Found Dead on Railway Tracks in Boudh

BOUDH Correspondent):-The recent discovery of a young man's body near Sandungripali overbridge on the Khurda-Bolangir railway line has sent shockwaves through the local community in Boudh district, Odisha.The deceased has been identified as 25-year-old Narendra Nehera, a resident of Purunapani village. His body was found on the tracks near Purunapani railway station on Friday.Local police, railway police, and officials have launched a joint investigation to determine the cause of death, exploring possibilities of murder or suicide. Authorities have assured a thorough examination, including forensic analysis and circumstantial evidence.

Changing Political Dynamics in Bargarh District: Navigating Power Dynamics Among MPs and MLAs

BargarhCorrespondent):: An interesting political landscape is emerging in Bargarh district, characterised by evolving power dynamics among the ruling BJP, its Members of Parliament (MPs), and Members of the Legislative Assembly (MLAs). This situation highlights some internal challenges that the administration must address.In the last general elections, the BJP made significant strides in breaking the BJD's longstanding influence in Bargarh district, celebrating important victories by securing four assembly seats. The Bargarh MP achieved a historic margin of success in Odisha. However, signs of internal discord within the BJP have surfaced a year into governance. Many party members, particularly those aspiring to legal positions, have expressed concerns over unfilled government appointments.While this sentiment is shared across the state, the discontent regarding allocating government legal roles appears particularly significant in Bargarh. Bargarh MLA Ashwini Sarangi has established a strong presence by unseating BJD MLA Debesh Acharya, marking a noteworthy shift in the district's political power balance. His influence on district matters is remarkable, as he is a prominent figure in the assembly. Meanwhile, MP Pradeep Purohit is working to assert a greater role within the district administration, contributing to ongoing negotiations about leadership.During visits from the Chief Minister, MP Purohit has sought to shed light on certain activities associated with the MLA through the support of his network, raising discussions regarding allegations of irregularities. In response, the MLAs have been proactive in defending their positions. A close associate of the MP has even approached the Chief Minister on behalf of the MLAs, highlighting the potential for resolution through dialogue. However, the situation has gained the Chief Minister's attention, indicating that careful management of these tensions will be necessary.Additionally, since the last election, Sushant Mishra, the former Bhatli Assembly leader, has stepped back from active politics due to health concerns. His wife, Parinita Mishra, the BJD MP candidate in the previous election, has not taken on any formal responsibilities within the party, resulting in a less vigorous BJP presence in Sohela than initially anticipated. Under Sushant Singh's tenure, the BJP was a formidable force in the area, yet some devoted party members continue to show support despite changing circumstances.Recently, Irashish Acharya triumphed in what was once considered Sushant Singh's stronghold. However, long-standing BJP workers feel somewhat overlooked, expressing concerns about being bypassed and facing challenges from the current Bhatli MLA. Consequently, some former BJP supporters have realigned with the BJD, reflecting a cautious approach among grassroots workers regarding future engagement with the BJP.Earlier this year, there were reports of significant equipment being stolen from the Luhurachati toll gate without subsequent police action. This event has generated speculation in the Sohela area about possible involvement from some BJP workers. Once a key area of influence for the party, Sohela now appears to be navigating a transition period in leadership.As the competition for leadership continues among Bargarh district's MPs and MLAs, the BJP finds itself navigating internal challenges just a year into its governance. While there is a vision for development under BJP leadership, some observers have noted a need for tangible actions beyond the Bargarh Dhanu Yatra Toran. Political analysts emphasise the importance of addressing these internal disputes promptly to maintain the party's standing against potential challenges from the BJD.

TPCODL Wins CSR TIMES Award for Women Empowerment Initiative



Bhubaneswar: (correspondent): TP Central Odisha Distribution Limited (TPCODL), a joint venture of Tata Power and the Government of Odisha, has received the prestigious CSR TIMES Award at the 12th National CSR Summit 2025 held in New Delhi.The award recognises TPCODL's flagship initiative Samriddhi, under "Anokha Dhaaga", which focuses on empowering women through skill development and the promotion of traditional art and craft enterprises. Implemented through the Roshni Centre in Odisha, the initiative supports women in producing eco-friendly jute-based products, helping them build sustainable livelihoods.This honour highlights TPCODL's commitment to inclusive growth and community development. By reviving local crafts and creating income-generating opportunities, TPCODL is enabling women to become self-reliant and contribute to their families and communities.The company remains dedicated to fostering social impact through meaningful CSR initiatives across its operational areas.

Canara Bank organised Financial Inclusion Saturation Campaign at 63 GPs across Odisha State



Bhubaneswar:(correspondent) Under the guidance of Shri Jagdish Chander, General Manager & State Head Canara Bank, a mass Financial Inclusion Saturation Campaign at Gram Panchayat levels & urban areas of Odisha was organised by Canara Bank on 25.07.2025. 63 Branches from our Bhubaneswar, Cuttack, Bhadrak and Sambalpur regions have conducted this Campaign at 63 GPs of Odisha, and have done Re-KYC of account holders, including inactive PMJDY accounts. Bank has opened accounts of unbanked adults under PMJDY and enrolled citizens under social security schemes viz. PMJJBY, PMSBY, APY. Apart from nomination awareness activities, Bank has also spread awareness on CBDC and digital fraud prevention, access to unclaimed deposit and grievance redressal mechanisms. Large number of citizens have benefited from this initiative of Canara Bank.

AM/NS India first to secure CSIR-CRRI's breakthrough steel slag aggregates technology license



New Delhi/ Mumbai, : ArcelorMittal Nippon Steel India (AM/NS India) has partnered with the Council of Scientific and Industrial Research (CSIR) - Central Road Research Institute (CRRI) to spearhead the transformative shift towards sustainable infrastructure development by promoting the adoption of steel slag road technology that replaces the usage of natural aggregates with processed steel slag aggregates in road construction. AM/NS India has become the first company in the country to secure the coveted license for steel slag valorisation technology from CSIR - CRRI, a premier national research institution operating under the Ministry of Science & Technology, to produce processed steel slag aggregates for road construction.AM/NS India has received the 'Steel Slag Valorization Technology for Development of Processed EAF Steel Slag Aggregates at AM/NS India plant in Hazira for Utilization in Road Construction' certificate of license, which means the company can apply the special technology developed by CSIR-CRRI to scientifically process steel slag aggregates at the flagship plant in Hazira, Gujarat, for their use in road construction.

Indian Stock Market Ends Sharply Lower

Mumbai: The Indian stock market closed in the negative territory on Friday, with the domestic stock indices declining by up to a per cent amid selling pressure.Sensex closed at 81,463.09, down 721.08 or 0.88 per cent. The 30-share index started the trade in negative territory at 82,066.76 against the previous session's closing of 82,184.17. The UK-India FTA failed to push a rally; instead, the index fell over 950 points to hit an intraday low at 81,397.69.Nifty settled at 24,837.0, down 225.10 or 0.90 per cent.The broader market sentiment remained bearish throughout, with pronounced weakness evident across Media, Energy, Oil & Gas, PSU Bank, Auto, and IT sectors," said Ashika Institutional Equities in its note.Overall, the market tone was convincingly risk-off, accentuated by sectoral headwinds and a break of pivotal index support levels, suggesting that caution may prevail in the near term, the note added.Bajaj Finance, Tech Mahindra, Bajaj FinServ, Infosys, Trent, Tata Motors, NTPC, Maruti Suzuki, SBI, Tata Steel, and HCL Tech were the top losers among the Sensex basket. While Sun Pharma and Bharti Airtel were settled in green.Meanwhile, 43 stocks declined and 7 advanced from the Nifty50.Not only heavyweights, but the selling pressure was extended to the broader market as well.Nifty 100 tanked 259 points or 1 per cent, Nifty Midcap 100 dragged down 951 points or 1.61 per cent.

SBI Commences the on-boarding of 13,455 Junior Associates to strengthen customer service nationwide



Mumbai,:: State Bank of India, the nation's largest and most trusted bank, commences the on-boarding of the newly recruited 13,455 Junior Associates into its vast network of branches across the country. These new Associates mark a vital addition to the bank's frontline workforce, bringing renewed energy, commitment, and customer-first spirit that define the SBI's way of service. This milestone reinforces the bank's ongoing efforts to enhance customer experience and operational efficiency at every touchpoint.SBI, on June 11, had announced the hiring of Junior Associates during which the bank's Chairman Shri CS Setty highlighted the strengthening of human resource capabilities by implementing structured skill development programmes aligned with evolving functional and technological requirements.SBI, employer to over 2,36,000 employees, takes pride in nurturing the next generation of banking professionals and remains committed to building a stronger, more inclusive future.

Hindalco Signs MoUs with Odisha Govt. to Set up Apparel Manufacturing Units in 2 Districts



Bhubaneswar(correspondent): In a significant move to boost employment and industrial development in Odisha, Hindalco Industries Ltd of the Aditya Birla Group, has committed an investment of 200 crore to set up apparel manufacturing units in Kendujhar and Sambalpur districts.Two separate Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) were signed between Hindalco and the Government of Odisha on Friday in the presence of Hon'ble Chief Minister Shri Mohan Charan Majhi. The MoUs were exchanged between Sri Ardhendu Mahapatra, President Corporate Affairs, Hindalco Industries Ltd, and Sri. B.S. Poonia, Principal Secretary, Department of Skill Development and Technical Education .The agreements were signed during the Textile Investor meet 2025 (Tex-2025), organized in collaboration with FICCI at the Odisha Secretariat in Bhubaneswar. As per the MoUs, Hindalco will establish apparel manufacturing units in the two districts with each unit's investment of 100 crores, creating potential for 2,400 direct employment opportunities for the youth of the state. The units are expected to become operational in the coming days. The event was also graced by Shri Sampad Charan Swain, Minister for Industries and Skill Development, Shri Pradeep Bal Samant, Minister for Handlooms and Textiles, Chief Secretary Shri Manoj Ahuja, Development Commissioner Shri Anu Garg, and Additional Chief Secretary Shri Hemant Sharma.

Fortnight-long Awareness Drive Launched by Railway Protection Force (RPF), East Coast Railway to Mark World Day Against Trafficking in Persons



Bhubaneswar(correspondent) :In observance of World Day Against Trafficking in Persons, which is commemorated globally on 30th July, the Railway Protection Force (RPF), Khurda Road Division, has launched a fortnight-long awareness campaign across various major railway stations over it's jurisdiction.This initiative aims to educate passengers, railway personnel and the general public about the perils of human trafficking, with a special emphasis on the protection of children and vulnerable groups.The awareness drive is being carried out at key stations including Bhubaneswar, Khurda Road, Cuttack, Puri, Talcher, Bhadrak, Jajpur Keonjhar Road, Kendujhargarh, Angul, Brahmapur, Palasa and other high-footfall stations across the Division. Activities include Informational Displays, Public Announcements, Passenger Interaction Sessions, and Special Awareness Programs about the Child Helpline – 1098, encouraging people to report suspicious activities involving Children or Vulnerable individuals.

SBI Life Insuranceregisters New Business Premium of Rs.7,268croresfor the period ended on 30th June, 2025

Bhubaneswar: (correspondent): SBI Life Insurance, one of the leading life insurers in the country registered a New Business Premium of Rs.7,268 crores for the period ended on 30th June, 2025 vis-a-vis Rs.7,033croresfor the periodendedJune 30, 2024.Regular premium has increased by 12% over the corresponding period ended on 30th June, 2024.Establishing a clear focus on protection, SBI Life's protection new business premium stood at Rs.980crores for theperiodended June30, 2025. Protection Individual new business premium stands at Rs.165crores for the periodended June30, 2025.Individual New Business Premium stands atRs.4,939crores with 4% growth over the corresponding period ended on 30th June, 2024. SBI Life's profit after tax stands atRs.594crores for the periodended June30, 2025 with a growth of 14% over corresponding period last year.The company's solvency ratio continues to remain robust at 1.96as onJune30, 2025 as against the regulatory requirement of1.50.SBI Life's AUM also continued to grow at15% to Rs.4,75,813crores as on June30, 2025 from Rs.4,14,772croresas onJune30, 2024, with the debt-equity mix of 60:40. 94% of the debt investments are in AAA and Sovereign instruments.

Jindal Steel & Power Limited Renamed as Jindal Steel Limited

New Delhi, – Jindal Steel & Power Limited has officially changed its name to Jindal Steel Limited, effective 22 July 2025, following approval from the Registrar of Companies, Ministry of Corporate Affairs, Government of India.The change reflects the Company's sharpened focus on its core business in steel and its strategic direction as a dedicated, future-forward steel enterprise. The new name reinforces clarity of identity, both within India and globally, while maintaining continuity with the Company's legacy and values.This change has been effected in accordance with Rule 29 of the Companies (Incorporation) Rules, 2014. The Certificate of Incorporation reflecting the new name has been issued by the Registrar of Companies and is enclosed with this communication.There are no changes to the Company's Corporate Identification Number (CIN: L27105HR1979PLC009913) or its registered office address, which remains:Jindal Steel Limited, O.P. Jindal Marg, Hisar - 125005, Haryana, IndiaJindal Steel will continue to operate as a public limited company limited by shares under its new name. All existing rights, responsibilities, obligations, and contracts remain unchanged and fully valid.

Indian Men's Hockey Team To Tour Australia For Four-Match Series In August

New Delhi: The Indian men's hockey team is set to tour Australia in August for a four-match series, set to be held at the Perth Hockey Stadium from August 15 to 21.The series promises to be a highly competitive contest, featuring eighth-ranked India taking on sixth-ranked Australia. The matches will be played on August 15, 16, 19, and 21.The two sides recently faced each other in the FIH Pro League 2024–25 in Europe, where Australia edged India 3–2 in both legs. However, India had earlier scripted a memorable 3–2 victory over the Kookaburras at the 2024 Paris Olympics — their first Olympic win over



Australia since the 1972 Munich Games.While recent encounters have been closely fought, Australia have historically held the edge in the rivalry, winning 35 of the 51 matches played between the two teams since 2013. India have won nine times, with seven matches ending in draws.The series will serve as important preparation for India ahead of the Asia Cup 2025, set to be held in Rajgir, Bihar from August 29 to September 7. The tournament offers a direct qualification spot for the FIH Hockey Men's World Cup 2026, making the Australia tour a key milestone in India's buildup.Speaking on the tour, chief coach Craig Fulton said, "This tour comes at a crucial time for us, just ahead of the Asia Cup in Bihar. While these are technically friendly matches, they form a very important part of our preparation phase. Playing against a team like Australia will test us in all aspects – both on the ball and off it – and that is exactly what we need to sharpen up before a major tournament.""We have just completed a 10-day training block, and the mood in the camp is upbeat as we are fully focused on what lies ahead. One of our key goals on this tour is to use the first two matches for selection purposes, while the remaining games will be played with the shortlisted squad for the Asia Cup. Our focus is firmly on moving forward – the goal now is to prepare well and go to the Asia Cup with the intent to win it," he added

Bracewell To Replace Phillips For First Test Against Zimbabwe

Harare: New Zealand all-rounder Michael Bracewell has been named as a replacement for injured Glenn Phillips for the first Test against Zimbabwe.

Phillips suffered the injury during the Major League Cricket (MLC) final and was assessed on arrival in Zimbabwe and required a number of weeks to rehabilitate.Bracewell, who was not considered in the original squad due to his commitments with The Hundred overlapping with the two-Test series in Bulawayo, set to make a return in the BlackCaps red-ball lineup for the first time since 2023.The 34-year old, who last featured in a Test match during Sri Lanka's tour of New Zealand in



2023, will depart Zimbabwe after the conclusion of the first Test and join the Southern Brave ahead of their first game.Having made his debut in the longest format back in 2022, Bracewell has 24 wickets and 259 runs to his name from eight matches. New Zealand head coach Rob Walter said Bracewell is a strong replacement for Phillips."Glenn's injury provided a gap in the Test squad and Michael is the closest like-for-like replacement. Michael's experience and skillset will be a great asset and allows us to keep the same balance of the team," said Walter.After the conclusion of the T20I tri-nation series that also includes South Africa, Zimbabwe and New Zealand in Harare, the latter two will contest in a two-Test series in Bulawayo starting July 30."Given he's here with the T20 squad and his availability aligned for the first Test

Veda Krishnamurthy Announces Retirement from Professional Cricket

NEWDELHI: Former Indian middle-order batter Veda Krishnamurthy has officially retired from professional cricket, marking the end of a vibrant 11-year career that inspired countless young cricketers across the nation.



The 32-year-old took to social media to announce her decision, sharing an emotional message: "From Kadur's quiet lanes to wearing the India jersey with pride... I say goodbye to playing, but not to cricket. Ready to give back to the game that gave me a life." Her heartfelt note thanked family, coaches, teammates, and fans for their enduring support.Krishnamurthy, known for her aggressive batting style, made her international debut at just 18, scoring 51 runs against England. She went on to represent India in 124 matches, including 48 WODIs and 76 WT20Is. Her performance in the 2017 World Cup semifinal, where she smashed a blistering 70 against Australia, was a defining moment in her career.Her last appearance in international cricket was at the 2020 T20 World Cup final. Most recently, she played for Gujarat Giants in the Women's Premier League. Krishnamurthy concluded her career with 829 ODI runs and 875 T20I runs, remembered not just for her scores but for her passion, resilience, and pride in representing India.As she steps away from the pitch, the focus now shifts to how she might contribute off the field — mentoring future stars or influencing cricket development. The cricketing world awaits her next chapter with anticipation.

Yash Dayal Accused of Raping Minor; FIR Filed Under POCSO Act in Jaipur

NEWDELHI: Royal Challengers Bengaluru's pace bowler Yash Dayal has been named in a First Information Report (FIR) for allegedly raping a minor girl.The FIR, lodged on Wednesday at the Sanganer Sadar police station in Jaipur, invokes charges under the Protection of Children from Sexual Offences (POCSO) Act and the Bharatiya Nyaya Sanhita (BNS).According to police officials, the victim has alleged that Dayal first assaulted her in 2023 when she was 17 years old. A second incident reportedly occurred in April 2025, at a hotel in Sitapura, Jaipur, when the cricketer was in the city for IPL duties. "She alleged that the cricketer promised support for her career and called her to a hotel during his IPL visit. It was there that the second assault took place," said Anil Jaiman, SHO of Sanganer Sadar police station.Dayal, who started his IPL career with Gujarat Titans and now plays for Royal Challengers Bengaluru, had been a key part of RCB's trophy-winning lineup this year. He has not issued any public statement on the allegations yet.Notably, Dayal is also facing separate charges in Ghaziabad, where another woman has accused him of sexual exploitation over a five-year relationship.

Joe Root Overtakes Rahul Dravid to Become Third-Highest Test Run Scorer

NEWDELHI: History was rewritten at Old Trafford as Joe Root etched his name deeper into cricketing legend during the fourth Test against India.The former England captain went past Rahul Dravid and Jacques Kallis on Day 3, becoming the third-highest run-scorer in Test cricket.Root achieved this milestone in style, reaching 30 runs in Friday's morning session — the exact figure needed to surpass Dravid. This feat puts him behind only Sachin Tendulkar (15,921 runs) and Ricky Ponting



(13,378 runs), underscoring his legacy among cricket's elite.Known for his consistency and elegance at the crease, the 34-year-old has now accumulated 13,292* runs in 157 matches, including 37 hundreds. His performance in the ongoing Anderson-Tendulkar Trophy has further showcased his enduring brilliance and hunger for runs.Root's achievement adds another chapter to England's rich cricket history, while also igniting conversation about the evolution of modern-day batting legends.

India, Pakistan Likely To Be In Same Group For Asia Cup 2025: Report

New Delhi: India and Pakistan are expected to be drawn into the same group for the Asia Cup 2025, setting the stage for another high-voltage clash between the arch-rivals, says a report.The Asia Cup was a key topic of discussion during the Asian Cricket Council (ACC) Annual General Meeting (AGM), held in Dhaka on Thursday, with officials from the Board of Control for Cricket in India (BCCI) attending virtually.The BCCI, which holds the hosting rights for the eight-team tournament, has reportedly agreed to stage the event at a neutral venue, with Dubai and Abu Dhabi emerging as the frontrunners. According to India Today report, all hurdles have been cleared for the much-anticipated continental T20 tournament, which had been under uncertainty following the terror attack



in Pahalgam earlier this year. "An agreement has been signed with the Emirates Cricket Board (ECB) for the use of three venues, but only two are expected to be utilised for the Asia Cup", the report said.BCCI vice-president Rajeev Shukla and ACC President-cum-Pakistan Cricket Board (PCB) Chairman Mohsin Naqvi are set to meet in the coming days to finalise the venues and the tournament schedule. A tentative window from September 7 to the third or fourth week of the month has been proposed, making the Asia Cup a perfect preparatory event for the T20 World Cup in February 2026.The tournament's financial structure is heavily supported by Indian sponsors and broadcasters. Sony Pictures Networks India (SPNI), which bagged the media rights for Asia Cup events in 2024 for USD 170 million over eight years, is expected to benefit from at least two confirmed India-Pakistan fixtures, apart from a possible final between the two sides.Last week, the BCCI had initially declined to attend the AGM in Dhaka due to strained bilateral relations with Bangladesh.

4th Test: These Are Moments You Remember 50 Years From Now, Says Manjrekar On Pant Batting With Injury

NEWDELHI: Manchester Former India cricketer Sanjay Manjrekar praised vice-captain Rishabh Pant's brave decision to walk out and bat despite a fractured right foot on day two of ongoing fourth Test against England, adding that this will be one of those moments which will be remembered by the cricketing world for 50 years.On Thursday, Pant, who retired hurt on the opening day of the fourth Test due to a fracture in the fifth metatarsal of his right foot, received a standing ovation as he hobbled out to the crease and



went on to make a courageous 54 off 75 balls – his 18th fifty in the longer format. "When we saw Rishabh Pant with Gautam Gambhir having a chat, he was in his whites — we thought maybe he might come out to bat at the end of the innings. Who would've thought he'd walk in after the fall of the very next wicket? He is injured, but don't rule out this guy.""If he's told one day that he can't move his feet, he's got such wonderful hand-eye coordination that he'll still be able to dominate. So England would be worried that Rishabh Pant is back, even though he looked clearly in pain. This is clearly Rishabh Pant's decision; he decided, 'I'm going to go out there'.""And when you do things like this — gestures like Anil Kumble bowling with his jaw strapped, those are moments in history you remember 50 years from now. It shows how keen he is to turn up for India. There's something about Test cricket, especially when it's being played in England.""Look at the amount of attention you get as a cricketer here. This is where he wants to give his best. If you wonder why he hasn't made the same impact in white-ball cricket, maybe this is why. Because Pant wants to leave a mark on Test cricket more than any other format," said Manjrekar on JioHotstar.Apart from Pant's 54, B Sai Sudharsan and Yashasvi Jaiswal shined with 61 and 58 respectively, as India made 358 in their first innings. "This is a story I'm going to take home with me forever. This Indian team is missing two senior batters, and there are no senior players like Cheteshwar Pujara and Ajinkya Rahane and still they've batted nearly 750 overs in the series."

सत्यमेव जयते
Government of India

Government of India's Transformative Steps towards accelerated Development in Tamil Nadu



Laying of Foundation Stone, Inauguration and Dedication to the Nation of Projects worth ₹4900 Crore related to Airport, Highways, Railways, Port and Power in Tamil Nadu

Laying of Foundation Stone of

Transmission System under ISTS for evacuation of Power from Kudankulam Unit-3&4

Inauguration of

New Terminal building of Tuticorin Airport

North Cargo Berth-III of VOC Port, Tuticorin

Dedication to Nation of

Four Laning of Sethiyathope-Cholapuram section of NH-36

Six Laning of Tuticorin Port Road section of NH-138

Doubling of Nagercoil Town-Nagercoil Jn.-Kanniyakumari Railway Line

Doubling of Aralvaymozhi-Nagercoil Jn. and Tirunelveli-Melappalaiyam Railway Line

Madurai-Bodinayakkanur Railway Line Electrification Project

Benefits of the Projects

- Tuticorin's **New Airport Terminal** spanning across 17,340 sqm. with all modern facilities to **enhance annual passenger capacity** by six-fold to 20 lakh, to boost air connectivity
- Built at a **cost of ₹452 Cr., the eco-friendly Airport Terminal** to foster travel & tourism, generate new avenues for employment, resulting in economic growth
- The enhanced **road projects worth ₹2557 Cr.** to strengthen connectivity, quicker cargo movement, bolster logistics while alleviating congestion and boosting trade
- **Doubling and Electrification of Rail Network costing ₹1032 Cr.** ensure sustainable **connectivity & speedy transportation** of industrial products, alongside reduction in carbon emissions
- **2 Giga Watt transmission** of clean and sustainable energy **costing ₹548 Cr.** caters to the beneficiary states of Tamil Nadu, Kerala, Karnataka, and Puducherry (U.T.)
- **Port Project of ₹285 Cr.** poised to transform cargo handling capabilities at V.O. Chidambaranar Port, advancing its multi-dimensional development in a futuristic and sustainable manner
- The sustainable **Air, Road, Rail, Port, and Energy projects** to expedite the Govt's vision of achieving Viksit Bharat goals by 2047

by

Shri Narendra Modi
Prime Minister

in the august presence of

Shri R. N. Ravi
Governor, Tamil Nadu

Shri M. K. Stalin
Chief Minister, Tamil Nadu

Shri Nitin Jairam Gadkari
Union Minister of Road Transport & Highways

Shri Ashwini Vaishnaw
Union Minister of Railways; Information & Broadcasting; and Electronics & Information Technology

Shri Manohar Lal
Union Minister of Power; and Housing & Urban Affairs

Shri Kinjarapu Rammohan Naidu
Union Minister of Civil Aviation

Shri Sarbananda Sonowal
Union Minister of Ports, Shipping and Waterways

Shri Murlidhar Mohol
Union Minister of State for Civil Aviation; and Cooperation

Dr. L. Murugan
Union Minister of State for Information & Broadcasting

Smt. Kanimozhi Karunanidhi
Member of Parliament (Lok Sabha)

Shri C. Shunmugaiah
Member of Legislative Assembly

Saturday, 26th July, 2025 | 08:00 PM | Tuticorin Airport, Tamil Nadu








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