Truth in true form

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India, EU Cementing Economic Ties Amid Growing Global Uncertainties



New Delhi: The India-EU summit scheduled for January 27 comes as part of the steady strengthening of economic relations between the two sides amid growing uncertainties in global markets triggered by the US tariff turmoil and dramatic geopolitical shifts in the world order.The summit to be hosted by Prime Minister Narendra Modi and co-chaired by European Council President Antonio Costa and European Commission President Ursula von der Leyen will witness the adoption of a document by both sides to announce the conclusion of FTA negotiations, after which the agreement will go through the necessary legal procedure and ratification by the European Parliament and Council.The EU, as a bloc, is India's largest trading partner in goods. For FY 2024-25, India's total trade in goods with the EU was worth about USD 136 billion, with exports around USD 76 billion, and imports at USD 60 billion.

From 2019 to 2024, India-EU bilateral trade in services exhibited steady growth, with Indian exports increasing from EUR 19 billion in 2019 to EUR 37 billion in 2024. Imports from the EU also saw an increase, reaching EUR 29 billion in 2024.Prime Minister Narendra Modi and European Commission President von der Leyen had already laid the foundation for cementing ties between the two sides with the establishment of the India-EU Trade and Technology Council in April 2022, during the latter's official visit to India, as a strategic coordination mechanism to tackle challenges at the nexus of trade, trusted technology, and security.

Odisha Economy Now Future Ready, On Way To Become An Industrial Powerhouse: CM



Bhubaneswar,(Correspondent): Odisha's journey from a traditionally resource-driven economy to a future-ready industrial powerhouse is gaining strong momentum, as the state sharpens its strategic focus on new-age and technology-led sectors. "Yahi Samaya Hai, Sahi Samaya Hai. We welcome investors who are operating in new-edge sectors. Come and invest in Odisha and be a part of a future-ready economy," said Chief Minister Mohan Charan Majhi after the success of Kolkata Road Show.disha traditionally known for its strong base in steel, mining and heavy industries, Odisha is now steadily expanding into modern and high-growth sectors such as IT & ITES, Aerospace & Defence, Hosiery, Apparel Accessories & Technical Textiles, Metal Ancillary, Downstream & Engineering Goods, Plastics, Chemicals, Packaging & Recycling, Pharmaceuticals, Medical Devices and Biotechnology, marking a decisive shift in its growth trajectory.This strategic transition was clearly reflected during the Odisha Investors' Meets held in Hyderabad in December 2025 and Kolkata January 2026, which showcased the state's vast potential across emerging sectors. These investor interactions were organised under the leadership of the Chief Minister of Odisha, reinforcing the state's readiness to align with future industrial and economic opportunities.As part of this outreach, six sector-specific roundtable discussions were conducted in Hyderabad and at Kolkata. In Hyderabad, two roundtables were held focusing on Pharmaceuticals and Aerospace & Defence. In Kolkata, sectoral discussions covered Hosiery, Apparel Accessories & Technical Textiles; Metal Ancillary, Downstream & Engineering Goods; Plastics, Chemicals, Packaging & Recycling; and Pharmaceuticals, Medical Devices & Biotechnology.A total of 123 company leaders participated in these roundtable discussions. Through this collaborative engagement in both the cities, Odisha secured investments worth 1,67,000 cr, with the potential to generate 1,46,000 employment opportunities.

Trump Starts Second Year With Push To Upend International Strategic Order



New York: US President Donald Trump started the anniversary of his inauguration as president for a second term on Tuesday with a push to upend the strategic international order, risking a rupture with the NATO alliance that has underpinned Western security for 76 years, while he made a friendly gesture to Russia."The United States of America is the most powerful Country anywhere on the Globe, by far," he declared in an early morning post on Truth Social, as he reiterated his imperial agenda and testing its limits, he doubled down on claims to Greenland and issued a veiled threat to resurrect designs on Canada.

France's President Emmanuel Macron accused Trump of trying to "weaken and subordinate" Europe and raised the threat of the European Union retaliating with one of its harshest countermeasures against the US, even if it sounds "crazy".He said, "I do regret that, but this is a consequence of just unpredictability and useless aggressivity".Macron was referring to what is colloquially known as the "Bazooka Option", which would impose large tariffs and other economic and political sanctions on countries coercing members of the European Union.Such a countermeasure could doom the Trans-Atlantic alliance, whose core is NATO.In a challenge to NATO, Trump invited its nemesis, Russia's President Vladimir Putin, to join his Peace Council.As the spectacle of a NATO member threatening aggression against another was playing out, Trump was set to jet to Davos for the World Economic Forum, where he would come face to face with some of the leaders he is locked in a showdown over Greenland."I agreed to a meeting of the various parties in Davos, Switzerland", he said on TruthSocial, adding," Greenland is imperative for National and World Security. There can be no going back."

Fire Rages Through Bhubaneswar's Unit-1 Market, 50 Shops Reduced To Ashes



Bhubaneswar: A devastating fire broke out at Bhubaneswar's Unit-1 Market around 2 am, engulfing approximately 50 shops and causing widespread destruction. The blaze was finally brought under control after a 3-hour effort by 13 fire tenders.According to reports, the fire, which started in one of the grocery shops, quickly spread to nearby stores due to the presence of inflammable materials. Over 70 firefighters, led by senior fire officials, and two units of the Striking Fire Force were deployed for rescue operations and to douse the flames. The fire was doused using chemical foam compound, fire proximity suits, JCB machines, and robotic monitors, which played a key role.It is learnt that property worth ?1 crore was destroyed in the blaze.Traders said the fire likely spread from one shop to others, but the exact cause remains unclear. Local police has meanwhile launched an investigation, reviewing CCTV footage. Meanwhile, the Bhubaneswar Municipal Corporation (BMC) Mayor visited the scene to take stock of the situation.

Six Killed In Shootings In South Africa's Cape Town

Cape Town: Six people were killed and two others wounded in two separate shooting incidents in the early hours of Tuesday in Cape Town, South Africa's legislative capital, police said.In a statement, Western Cape provincial police said the first shooting was reported at about 2:50 am local time on Tuesday in Melck Street in Ndabeni, an area under the Maitland policing precinct. Officers were alerted by a passer-by after a dog was seen lying in a pool of blood, Xinhua News Agency reported. "Upon responding, members discovered three women aged between 20 and 52, and an adult male, inside an informal dwelling," the statement said. "All four victims sustained fatal gunshot wounds and were declared deceased on the scene by medical personnel."

'Not Sarcastic, Very Serious': SC Reiterates Dogs Feeders May Be Held Responsible

New Delhi: The Supreme Court on Tuesday remarked that it stood firmly by its earlier oral observations in the suo motu stray dogs case, including remarks that dog feeders may be held responsible for dog attacks, rejecting the contention that such comments were made sarcastically.While hearing a suo motu case concerning the management of stray dogs in public spaces, a Bench of Justices Vikram Nath, Sandeep Mehta, and N.V. Anjaria was told by advocate Prashant Bhushan that certain oral remarks of the court during previous hearings had been misinterpreted and had allegedly led to attacks on dog feeders."Sometimes, the remarks of the Court lead to unfortunate consequences. For example, your lordships said feeders should be made responsible for dog bites. Perhaps it was sarcastic," Bhushan submitted.However, Justice Nath-led Bench rejected the submission, stating that the remarks were made "very seriously"."No, we didn't make it sarcastically. We said it very seriously," the apex court said, adding that the nature of the remarks did not change merely because they were made during oral exchanges with counsel.During the hearing, Bhushan highlighted the uneven implementation of the Animal Birth Control (ABC) Rules across the country.He submitted that while sterilisation of stray dogs reduces aggression, the system has failed in most cities due to a lack of transparency and accountability."This system of sterilisation has worked in places like Jaipur and Goa, but in most cities it has not. To make it effective, it must be transparent and ensure accountability," Bhushan argued, proposing a mechanism through which citizens could report unsterilised stray dogs to designated authorities.

Anti-Encroachment Drive In Ahmedabad's Vatva Area, Over 450 Houses And Shops To Be Razed



Ahmedabad: The Ahmedabad Municipal Corporation (AMC) launched a major anti-encroachment drive near Bandarvat (Vanarvat) lake in the Vatva area of Ahmedabad.The operation began on Tuesday morning, continued till late evening with adequate police deployment in the area.According to officials, the drive was undertaken to free the illegally occupied area where many residential houses have been raised without government sanction.Heavy machinery including JCBs carried out demolition drives to remove the encroachments while the police and municipal as well as administrative teams maintained a close watch on the law and order situation.According to AMC, a water body existed here, which was overtaken by builders to erect residential houses.During the action, the demolition of about 430 residential houses and 30 commercial structures was initiated.Corporation officials said that nearly 58,000 square metres of area, including Vanarvat Lake and TP Road, will be cleared of encroachment.Of this, nearly 28,000 square metres is the pond area, while the remaining area is TP Road and the surrounding area.According to AMC officials, 10 large Hitachi machines and 5 to 10 JCBs were deployed in the operation, eight teams are carrying out the operation while about 500 police personnel are monitoring the situation.Deputy Municipal Commissioner B.C. Parmar said that demolition work is underway at Vanarvat Lake.He added that a project has been initiated to connect Mahalaxmi Lake, Ropar Lake, and Vanarvat Lake. This will reduce water pressure in the area and provide relief from waterlogging during the rainy season.He also told that under the corporation's policy, those who lived here before 2010 and possess valid documents will be provided with alternative housing.Assistant Municipal Commissioner Yatendra Nayak told media persons that this entire area was a pond, and any illegal construction within the water body is not in the public interest.

Maha Congress Rift: Wadettiwar And Dhanorkar At Loggerheads Over Leadership Selection



Chandrapur: Despite a significant victory in the Chandrapur Municipal Corporation elections, the internal friction within the Chandrapur district unit of the Congress party has reached a breaking point as a public dispute has erupted between the Congress Legislative Party leader Vijay Wadettiwar and party MP Pratibha Dhanorkar.The conflict, centred on the selection of local leadership and organisational control, has prompted the State Congress President to intervene.Dhanorkar levelled explosive allegations against Wadettiwar, accusing him of forcibly "lifting" newly elected corporators. The tension escalated during recent discussions regarding the appointment of key office-bearers in the district.According to reports, both Wadettiwar and Dhanorkar are pushing for their respective loyalists to be appointed to influential positions in the Chandrapur civic body and also in the district party unit.The rift became evident when supporters of both factions began operating independently, bypassing the traditional party hierarchy. The rift surfaced especially after Congress emerged as the single largest party by winning 27 of the total 66 seats, while the BJP won 23 seats in the Chandrapur Municipal Corporation. The poll results set the stage for tough coalition negotiations.The friction is not new but has intensified following the Lok Sabha elections. Sources indicate that the disagreement involves the selection of the District President and other executive roles, with both leaders seeking to consolidate their influence ahead of upcoming local body and state elections."Instead of focusing on forming the government after winning 30 seats, Wadettiwar has started factionalism by picking up corporators from their homes by force," Dhanorkar alleged.She further revealed that her faction has moved the remaining corporators to a hotel to ensure their safety. Dhanorkar, whose Lok Sabha constituency includes Chandrapur, issued a stern warning to Wadettiwar to stay out of her jurisdiction.

Congress MP Jairam Ramesh Takes Swipe At Maharashtra CM Over Davos MoU

New Delhi: As the snow-lined avenues of Davos in Switzerland played host to global leaders and industry captains discussing growth, governance, and future economies, Maharashtra's participation at the World Economic Forum emerged as both an economic milestone and a political talking point. The Maharashtra government's Davos outreach has come under political scrutiny after Congress General Secretary Communications In-charge Jairam Ramesh questioned an Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) signed at the global forum. On the opening day of the summit, the state signed 19 MoUs worth a record Rs 14.5 lakh crore, with the potential to generate more than 15 lakh jobs. The agreements reinforced Maharashtra's long-term roadmap under its "Viksit Maharashtra 2047" vision.Chief Minister Devendra Fadnavis focused on pitching the state as a hub for infrastructure expansion and industrial growth.However, as is often the case in Indian politics, the economic narrative soon intersected with political commentary.Congress leader Jairam Ramesh, took to his official X account to question one of the MoUs signed in Davos.

Labour Party Supporting New Zealand-India FTA A Game Changer: Shashi Tharoor



New Delhi: Congress MP Shashi Tharoor on Tuesday hailed the news that the New Zealand Labour Party has officially announced to support the enabling legislation for the New Zealand-India Free Trade Agreement (FTA).India and New Zealand concluded a comprehensive and long-awaited FTA last month, marking a major economic and strategic milestone. The negotiations were formally launched on March 16, 2025.In a post on X, Tharoor said the Labour Party's decision effectively "rescues" the deal for New Zealand Prime Minister Christopher Luxon, as his coalition partner, New Zealand First, remains staunchly opposed and has invoked the "agree to disagree" clause."Labour says it's a continuation of their long-standing efforts to deepen ties with India and that it would be irresponsible to block a deal with the world's fastest-growing major economy. Though they remain concerned about the 'dairy deficit' (the exclusion of core dairy products from the FTA), Labour argued that some progress is better than none and that the deal provides a vital foothold for other sectors like education, tech, and wine," Tharoor posted.The ruling National Party offered certain "political concessions" to secure Labour's votes. A specific one-year review mechanism is built into the agreement."This allows for a formal pursuit of 'further improvements', specifically regarding dairy and environmental standards. The migration provisions, which are important for India, will also get special scrutiny," the Congress MP further said.The enabling legislation will now move through a parliamentary Committee process and is expected to pass with a "super-majority" (National + ACT + Labour) in the first half of 2026."We may be in business with New Zealand by the end of the year! NZ may be a small economy, but concluding an FTA with it will be game-changer symbolically and signal that India is increasing its trade channels — and widening its options," he wrote.The FTA eliminates duty on 100 per cent of Indian exports, along with a $20 billion investment commitment over 15 years to strengthen long-term economic and strategic cooperation.

Four Transgender Individuals from UP to Attend Republic Day Parade as Special Guests

Lucknow, UP, : In a historic move towards inclusivity, four transgender individuals from Uttar Pradesh have been invited to attend the Republic Day parade in New Delhi as special guests. This marks an important step in recognizing and empowering the transgender community. The individuals, all associated with the Garima Grih shelter home in Gorakhpur, will travel to the national capital on January 24, following the official protocols, as confirmed by District Magistrate Deepak Meena.

Bengal Agriculture Dept Developed Four New Weather-Suitable Rice Varieties: Mamata Banerjee

Kolkata: West Bengal Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee, on Tuesday, told that the State Agriculture department had been able to develop four new high-yielding rice varieties suitable for the state's weather and climate."After several years of research at the Purulia Drought Resistance Research Centre and the Chinsurah Rice Research Centre, it has been possible to create these varieties. I extend my heartfelt congratulations to all the scientists involved in this work," the Chief Minister said in a statement.She had also told that among these four new weather-suitable varieties, three namely Subhashini, Lachhmanti, and Musafir, were intended for drought-prone areas in the western part of the state, such as West Medinipur, Purulia, and Bankura."These varieties are capable of yielding 52 to 55 quintals per hectare during the kharif season," the Chief Minister claimed.On the other hand, Chief Minister Banerjee had claimed that a variety named Iravati had been developed for flood-prone areas in south Bengal.This variety, according to the Chief Minister, does not get damaged even when submerged in water for long periods and does not lodge during storms."Taking these four into account, since 2011, the state government has developed a total of 25 new crop varieties through research for the benefit of farmers, of which 15 are rice varieties," she said.Agriculture scientists feel that, as the Chief Minister claims, the development of these four varieties will really solve the problem of damage to large quantities of crops every year, either because of prolonged drought situations or because of flood because of the excessive rains, where farmlands remain submerged for a prolonged period.
"The development of Iravati is especially important since the flood situation in the paddy belts in South Bengal has become a yearly feature every year. Seedbeds remaining submerged for a prolonged period lead to huge losses of crops every year.

ED Files Chargesheet Against Former NCL Manager In Bribery, DA Case



Bhopal: The Enforcement Directorate (ED), Bhopal Zonal Office, has filed a chargesheet against Shailendra Pasari, a former Senior Manager (Civil) at Northern Coalfields Limited (NCL), under the Prevention of Money Laundering Act (PMLA), 2002.The chargesheet was submitted before the Special PMLA Court in Jabalpur on January 9, 2026, and a notice for pre-cognisance hearing has been issued to the accused, the investigation agency said.The ED's action stems from two FIRs registered by the Central Bureau of Investigation's Anti-Corruption Branch (CBI ACB), Jabalpur, ED said.The first FIR, dated September 8, 2018, was filed under Sections 7 and 13(2) read with 13(1)(a) of the Prevention of Corruption (PC) Act, 1988. Pasari was caught red-handed by CBI accepting a bribe of Rs 10,000 for clearing pending escalation bills at NCL's Jayant Project in Singrauli, Madhya Pradesh, it said.Subsequent searches at Pasari's residence, bank lockers, and office led to the recovery of unaccounted cash amounting to Rs 72,97,200.

CAQM revokes Stage IV restrictions across Delhi-NCR as AQI improves

Delhi:The Sub-Committee on the Graded Response Action Plan (GRAP) of the Commission for Air Quality Management (CAQM) revoked all Stage IV actions across Delhi-NCR with immediate effect on 20.01.2026, in view of the improvement in air quality and forecast trends.The Sub-Committee had invoked Stage IV of GRAP on 17.01.2026, following a sharp rise in Delhi's average AQI. Subsequently, Delhi's air quality showed steady improvement. As per the daily AQI Bulletin provided by the Central Pollution Control Board (CPCB), the average AQI improved from 440 on 18.01.2026 to 410 on 19.01.2026 and 378 on 19.01.2026. In view of this improving trend and based on air quality and meteorological forecasts from the India Meteorological Department (IMD) and the Indian Institute of Tropical Meteorology (IITM), the CAQM Sub-Committee met today to review the situation.
The Sub-Committee noted that favourable meteorological conditions, including increased wind speed, have led to improvement in Delhi's AQI, which is currently in the 'Very Poor' category. Forecasts indicate that AQI is likely to remain in this range in the coming days. Considering the improvement in air quality, forecast trends and the disruptive nature of Stage IV restrictions impacting a large number of stakeholders and public, the Sub-Committee unanimously decided to revoke all actions under Stage IV of the extant GRAP across the entire NCR with immediate effect.

Grand Conclusion of Sisir Saras 2026

Record Sales of Rs 30 Crore and Footfall of 5 Lakh Visitors

Bhubaneswar, (Correspondent): The Sisir Saras Mela- 2026 concluded today on a grand note, marking the most successful chapter in its history. This year, the fair achieved an extraordinary financial milestone with total business worth Rs 30 crore. This remarkable achievement far surpasses the previous record, clearly reflecting the growing consumer demand for local products and a significant positive transformation in the livelihoods of rural artisans and Self-Help Groups (SHGs).

The fair's outstanding success was driven by unprecedented participation and strategic promotional efforts. A record 400 stalls were set up this year, including a large food court offering a wide variety of traditional delicacies. To ensure extensive outreach, a special promotional video was screened in cinema halls across the state, resulting in an impressive footfall of over 5 lakh visitors who actively supported local entrepreneurs.

With a focus on inclusive and holistic development, the 2026 edition introduced



several "first-ever" initiatives. For the first time in the history of Sisir Saras, daily workshops on business growth and modern marketing were organized for SHGs and new entrepreneurs. A dedicated 'Kids Zone' was also introduced, transforming the fair into a truly family-friendly destination. Additionally, an innovative fashion show was organized for the first time to showcase Odisha's rich handloom heritage to contemporary audiences. First time a 'Kite Show' organised by ORMAS on occasion of Makar Sanktranti.

The fair placed special emphasis on Odisha's regional identity and authenticity by prioritizing GI-tagged products and ODOP (One District One Product) items. While visitors had access to high-quality, authentic products, rural artisans successfully established a distinct identity for their crafts. The beautifully executed road paintings and sand art installations within the fair premises further captivated visitors and enhanced the festive atmosphere.

Birla Global University Invites Applications for First Batch of MBA in Communication Management

Bhubaneswar: Birla Global University (BGU), a premier university from Birla Group, invites applications for the first batch, i.e., 2026-28 batch of its MBA in Communication Management programme. The program responds to the strong industry demand for skilled communication managers across corporate, media, consulting, and public policy domains. In alignment with the National Education Policy (NEP) 2020, emphasizing interdisciplinary education, experiential learning, and competency-based outcomes, BGU marks a significant step in strengthening its management education portfolio, with a focus on communication-led leadership.The MBA in Communication



Management at BGU has been designed to prepare future-ready professionals capable of navigating the evolving landscape of brand communication, corporate communication management, crisis management, media engagement, and digital communication.

Prof. (Dr.) Kulbhushan Balooni, Vice Chancellor, Birla Global University, said, "Taking Birla Group's legacy forward with Birla Global University, we are committed to shaping future-ready leaders who can thrive in a data-driven and digitally connected world. As communication increasingly defines leadership, trust, and organisational success, our focus is on integrating strategic thinking, industry relevance, and experiential learning to empower students to create impact, build influence, and drive meaningful informed transformation across sectors."

Minor girl rapist sentenced to 20 years in prison

Malkangiri correspondent, The Malkangiri POCSO court has sentenced accused Tirupati Biswas to 20 years in prison for raping a minor girl. POCSO court judge Mr Shantanu Kumar Dash gave this verdict after considering all the evidence. He also ordered to pay Rs 10 lakh 50 thousand as compensation for the loss. He also ordered to pay Rs 50 thousand for the medical treatment of the victim. According to information, accused Tirupati Biswas raped his 13-year-old niece on the pretext of abducting her. The family complained about this at the police station. The police investigated the incident and filed a complaint against the accused. The case was handled by the public prosecutor S. Maheshwar on behalf of the victim.

Vice President C.P. Radhakrishnan To Visit Odisha On Jan 23 for Netaji Jayanti

Bhubaneswar, correspondent: Vice President of India C.P. Radhakrishnan is scheduled to visit Odisha on January 23 to attend celebrations marking the birth anniversary of Netaji Subhas Chandra Bose, also known as Parakram Diwas.During his visit, the Vice President will pay homage at the Netaji Birthplace Museum located in Odia Bazaar, Cuttack. On the occasion, he will also inaugurate the District Culture Bhavan situated near the museum.To ensure smooth and efficient conduct of the Vice President's visit, a state-level preparatory



meeting was held on Wednesday at the Lok Seva Bhavan conference hall. The meeting was chaired by Chief Secretary Anu Garg.According to the official schedule, the Vice President will depart from New Delhi in a special Indian Air Force aircraft and arrive at Bhubaneswar airport at 8.50 am. From there, he will proceed by road to Cuttack, reaching the Netaji Birthplace Museum at 9.35 am, where he will participate in various commemorative programmes.After completing the engagements in Cuttack, the Vice President will return to Bhubaneswar and have lunch at Lok Bhavan. He is scheduled to depart from Bhubaneswar airport at 2.00 pm for Kolkata.The preparatory meeting was attended by Additional Chief Secretary of the Home, Mines, and Information & Public Relations Departments Hemant Sharma, Principal Secretary of Works Department Sanjay Kumar Singh, and senior officials from various concerned departments.Director General of Police Y.B. Khurania, Commissioner of Police S. Devdutta Singh, and the District Collector of Cuttack also participated in the discussion through virtual mode.

Odisha, Meghalaya Sign MoU To Boost Early Childhood Development

Bhubaneswar correspondent: In a landmark move to strengthen Early Childhood Care, Education, and Development (ECCED), the Governments of Odisha and Meghalaya today signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) to foster inter-state collaboration, knowledge sharing, and capacity building in Early Childhood Development (ECD).he MoU was signed in the presence of Deoranjan Kumar Singh, Development Commissioner cum ACS, Odisha; Dr. Sampath Kumar, Principal Secretary – Health, Social Welfare, Community & Rural Development Departments and Development Commissioner, Planning Department, Government of Meghalaya; Shubha Sarma, Principal Secretary, Women & Child Development Department, Government of Odisha; and Monisha Banerjee, Director, ICDS & Social Welfare.The agreement was formally signed by Dr. Sampath Kumar, Principal Secretary, Government of Meghalaya, and Ananta Narayan Singh Laguri, Additional Secretary, Women & Child Development Department, Government of Odisha.

3 Elephants Rescued From Open Well In Deogarh

Bhubaneswar correspondent: In a remarkable rescue operation, forest personnel successfully saved three elephants on Tuesday after they had fallen into an open well in Tinkbir (Baranali) village under the Reamal range in Deogarh district.According to reports, the incident came to light around 4:15 pm when a local villager alerted the authorities. Immediately, the Range Officer of Reamal, Deputy Range Officer, forest guards, and staff from the Reamal Range rushed to the site to initiate the rescue.Using a JCB machine to create a ramp along the well, the team was able to safely extract all three elephants within 50 minutes.

Court Allows Odia Jatra Star Piyush Tripathy To Resume Performances Amid Contract Dispute

Bhubaneswar corresponden: Popular Odia jatra actor Piyush Tripathy has received major interim relief from the court, which has permitted him to resume stage performances while the legal dispute over an alleged contract breach continues. With the restriction lifted, audiences will once again be able to watch Piyush perform on the jatra stage from today.The legal trouble began after the Surya Mandir Opera troupe owner filed a case at the Bhubaneswar Civil Judge Court accusing Piyush of violating a contractual agreement by joining another opera troupe. Acting on the complaint, the court had earlier issued a notice to the actor and imposed a temporary restraint, preventing him from performing with any jatra troupe until further orders. Following the directive, Piyush stayed away from all stage performances.Piyush's counsel, Bibhu Tripathy, confirmed that the court has quashed its interim order and has now allowed the actor to perform, though the main case remains pending. The Bhubaneswar Civil Judge Court heard arguments from both sides for nearly two hours and reserved its judgment on January 14.

Women Drivers To Take The Wheel Of AMA Buses

Bhubaneswar corresponden: In a significant move towards inclusive and safer public transport, Housing and Urban Development (H&UD) Minister Krushna Chandra Mahapatra on Tuesday announced that women drivers will soon operate the AMA Bus Service across Odisha. The announcement was made during a high-level review meeting chaired by the Minister to assess the performance and operations of the state-run public transport system.Senior officials, including Capital Region Urban Transport (CRUT) Managing Director Sanjay Biswal, General Manager



Sahadeva Samadhiya, Special Duty Officer Pallavi Behera and other departmental officers, were present at the meeting, which focused on improving operational efficiency, passenger safety and service delivery.

Stressing the importance of women's safety and employment, Mahapatra said that 20 women candidates from CRUT will be sent to Pune on January 31 for specialised training in operating electric buses. He said the induction of women drivers would not only promote gender inclusion but also strengthen public confidence in the AMA Bus Service.The Minister placed strong emphasis on passenger safety, noting that alcohol consumption remains one of the major causes of road accidents. He informed that alcohol testing has been made mandatory for all AMA bus drivers. Over the past one year, 1.97 lakh alcohol tests have been conducted through checks at the beginning and end of trips, along with random inspections during operational hours. Nineteen drivers were found positive during these tests and, as per legal provisions, were arrested by the police. Their driving licences were suspended for three months and forwarded to the respective Regional Transport Officers.Highlighting CRUT's role as a pioneering government-run public transport organisation, Mahapatra said the agency has extended immediate compassionate assistance to the families of accident victims. He added that insurance coverage exceeding ?4 crore has been provided to families of those who lost their lives in road accidents.To further strengthen driver skills and road safety, the Minister announced that a dedicated driver training institute will soon be set up at the CRUT depot premises. The proposed institute will focus on practical driving skills, behavioural training, traffic regulations, lane discipline and road safety practices.

3 Forest Dept Watchers' Bikes Torched In Nabarangpur

Nabarangpur correspondent: Three motorbikes belonging to forest department watchers were set on fire by unidentified miscreants on Tuesday at the Bald Hill plantation of Bald Hill Reserve Forest near Khadkapadar village, under the Maidalpur section of Dabugam range in Nabarangpur district.The vehicles belonged to forest watchers Sindhu Jani, Gajendra Jani, and Surendra Agariya.According to Nabarangpur Assistant Conservator of Forests (ACF) Subash Chandra Khuntia, the staff had parked their bikes while working at the plantation when the incident occurred. One bike was completely destroyed, while the other two were partially damaged. "The attack may be linked to our plantation activities in an encroached area. Our staff were clearing encroachments to carry out the plantation, and it is suspected that miscreants involved in the encroachment may have targeted the vehicles," said ACF Khuntia.ACF Khuntia also stated that a written complaint has been filed at Maidalpur Police Station, and the Maidalpur Police Station IIC has initiated an inquiry. Further action will be taken after the submission of the investigation report.

EDITORIAL

Benefits of the World Book Fair

The World Book Fair is an annual celebration of books, reading, and ideas that brings together publishers, authors, educators, students, and book lovers from across the globe. It is more than just an exhibition of books; it is a vibrant cultural event that promotes literacy, knowledge sharing, and global understanding. The fair offers numerous benefits to individuals, communities, and society as a whole.

1. Promotes Reading Culture

One of the main advantages of the World Book Fair is that it encourages people of all ages to develop and nurture a love for reading. With a vast variety of books on display—from fiction to academic texts—visitors are exposed to diverse genres and subjects. This helps cultivate an interest in reading, especially among children and young adults, which is essential for lifelong learning and intellectual growth.

2. Encourages Literacy and Education

The World Book Fair plays a significant role in improving literacy rates. Schools, teachers, and students often visit the fair, using it as a unique educational opportunity beyond classroom learning. Many fairs have special programs like book readings, storytelling sessions, and educational workshops that inspire students to read more and support their overall academic development.

3. Connects Authors and Readers

For writers, the World Book Fair provides a valuable platform to showcase their work and connect directly with readers. Authors can participate in book signings, panel discussions, and interactive sessions, allowing them to build relationships with their audience. Readers, on the other hand, get the chance to meet their favorite authors, discover new ones, and participate in meaningful conversations about literature.

4. Encourages Cultural Exchange

The World Book Fair attracts participants from different countries and cultural backgrounds. This exchange of ideas fosters mutual understanding and appreciation of global cultures. Visitors can explore books in various languages and learn about different traditions, histories, and perspectives, making the fair a truly enriching cultural experience.

5. Supports the Publishing Industry

The fair provides a platform for publishers—both large and small—to showcase their latest titles and reach a wider audience. New and emerging authors get opportunities to find publishers or literary agents. Additionally, industry professionals use the fair to network, discuss trends, and explore collaborations, which helps the publishing world grow and innovate.

Lord Ayyappan: The Confluence of Shaiva and Vaishnava Philosophy

Dr Simant Kumar Nanda

A distinctive feature of Indian spiritual tradition is that deities are not merely objects of worship; they are living symbols of profound philosophical ideas. In this context, Lord Ayyappan emerges as a unique divine figure who harmoniously integrates the core principles of Shaivism and Vaishnavism. Through this synthesis, he offers humanity a path of discipline, restraint, equality, and balanced living. Lord Ayyappan represents a culmination of harmony without conflict-a spiritual resolution where differences dissolve into unity.The philosophical roots of this synthesis can be traced to the narrative of the Samudra Manthan, the churning of the cosmic ocean. When gods and demons together churned the ocean, it symbolized the inevitability of both positive and negative forces in creation. The first outcome of this churning was the emergence of the deadly poison Halahala. Lord Shiva consumed this poison and held it in his throat,neither swallowing it completely nor rejecting it. This act signifies that true renunciation does not mean escapism or denial, but the conscious capacity to contain and regulate negativity without being destroyed by it.From the same churning emerged Amrita, the nectar of immortality. However, conflict arose over its distribution, as the demons attempted to seize it by force. At this critical moment, Lord Vishnu assumed the enchanting form of Mohini and, through wisdom and controlled illusion, ensured the righteous distribution of the nectar. Mohini was not deception for selfish ends; she represented disciplined Maya-an intelligent force that restores balance where disorder prevails. This episode reflects the essence of Vaishnava philosophy, which emphasizes preservation, harmony, and ethical allocation of resources.

Lord Shiva, intrigued by Mohini's form, expressed a desire to witness this divine manifestation. This curiosity was not born of desire but of a seeker's quest for understanding. Upon beholding Mohini, Shiva experienced a subtle vibration of Maya, revealing that illusion is a universal test,even for the highest consciousness. Yet Shiva was not bound by it. As Mohini vanished and Vishnu revealed his true form, Shiva comprehended the deeper truth: even Maya operates under divine awareness and control.From this divine interplay was born Lord Ayyappan-the son of Shiva and Mohini (Vishnu), revered as Harihara Putra. In him, the ascetic discipline, detachment, and self-control of Shiva merge seamlessly with Vishnu's principles of protection, balance, and dharmic responsibility. Ayyappan is a powerful warrior, yet deeply restrained; an ascetic, yet never detached from society.

The mode of worship of Lord Ayyappan further reflects this philosophical synthesis. The forty-one-day Ayyappan Vrata culminates during Makara Sankranti. Through this observance, devotees cultivate self-discipline, celibacy, simplicity, and equality. During this period, both body and mind are purified through fasting, restraint, and spiritual practice. In South India, this vow stands as a remarkable example of social equality, where all devotees address one another as "Swami," dissolving distinctions of caste, class, and status.

In the modern world-marked by unequal distribution of power, unchecked desires, and ego-driven instability,the philosophy of Ayyappan offers a guiding light. Shiva's containment of poison, Mohini's ethical distribution of nectar, and Ayyappan's disciplined way of life together convey a timeless message. Creation without ethics leads to chaos. Power without restraint moves toward collapse, and renunciation without awareness degenerates into hypocrisy. Only restrained power guided by Dharma leads to truth and lasting strength.

Lord Ayyappan is not merely a deity; he is a living synthesis of Shaiva and Vaishnava wisdom. Through his philosophy, humanity learns that power without restraint is blind, and that a conscious, disciplined life is the highest expression of Dharma.

ANNAM PARABRAHMASWAROOPAM

Soura Chandra Mohapatra

Wasting food is not good for anyone in anyway-to the economy, to the environment or to our own ethical justification. So if things are going wrong, we have to put them on the right track and so first we have to do fault-finding. Here we go- The basic reason behind this is degradation of ethics in men irrespective of caste, colour, creed, race ,region and religion. Scientific Inventions are creating plenty but commercial conventions are creating scarcity. Production units have become partly destruction units. Civilization is moving forward-only to say but our values are actually moving backward. Frankly telling, there are lots of justifiable and unjustifiable reasons behind the above citations. No one can and should be blamed wholly for disrespecting this living God. India can not be destroyed due to the lack of food. India is Annapooma Kshetra. Why do people starve today ? We has a very small stomach. We have to hands. If we work well, it will not be difficult to feed a small stomach. You can not feed yourself. So work hard and your stomach will be filled.

Your complain of the starvation of poor people, but what is the reason for it ? There is slackness in human effort. Selfishness is on the rise. For example, take a labourer. He goes to work but he has his wife and children at home. Suppose h has a true sense of sacrifice, he can feed them with Rs.10. But because of selfishness, he drinks liquor with the ten rupees, comes home and beats his wife and children. This is the result of selfishness or else we could feed our family with our money. We desire more than what we require. So, we should check our desires. Don't waste food; Don't waste time; Don't waste money and Don't waste energy. This concept of food being equal to God should first be included in the textbooks of small children. This is where the strongest foundation should be laid about this issue. They can work wonders and teach everyone most effectively than any management gurus or spiritual messiahs. Next ladies should be in the focus of the voluntary organizations because they are the home ministers and they are the makers of a family's destiny. Tell them how much income is being thrown away everyday in the dishes they do, how much of alternative value lies in the food that gets wasted while she feeds her children in their lunch boxes or on the dining table , how much does it amount to per annum, per decade, its interest and the alternative uses of that income and soon she will get to task. She would train the entire family, especially the children once again, most effectively. Women have lead great movements and this is not a big deal for them. Moreover this movement has something to do with their self-respect because they have the right to demand respect for the food they prepare. Women take lot of strain, stress and play with fire day in and day out to prepare food irrespective of the time, energy and money available. If the food prepared with such an effort goes into the drain, shouldn't it hurt them? Even if they prepare the food with ease in a cooker, oven or something else, would they keep quite when valuable coins are thrown into the drain? Yes food is an economic resource and wasting it like throwing coins or currency into the drain. Women may disrespect economic resources BUT WOULD THEY DISRESPECT GODDESS DHAANYA LAKSHMI? Throwing food unnecessarily is equal to showing disrespect to Goddess Lakshmi.

India is truly making its own decisions

Dr. Priyanka Saurabh



For any democratic nation, strategic autonomy is not just the technical jargon of foreign policy, but a matter of survival. When major decisions are driven by external pressure, fear of sanctions, or concerns about global image building, the nation gradually becomes more of a "managed partner" than a policymaker. A truly strong India will be one that engages with the US, Russia, China, and Europe—all while taking the final decisions on its own interests. Applause, headlines, and photo-ops are momentary; but an independent stand in favor of national interest determines a country's long-term dignity.

A nation's strength isn't measured by its military budget, speeches on international platforms, or photographs taken with foreign leaders. True strength lies in its ability to make decisions independently in accordance with its national interests. India today presents itself as a "strong nation," a "world leader," and an "emerging global power," but the fundamental question is: is India truly making its own decisions, or is it adjusting its actions to cues from global powers?

Foreign policy is the clearest reflection of a nation's self-respect and sovereignty; it determines which countries it will befriend, which it will distance itself from, and on what terms it will participate in the global order. For decades, India, under the guise of non-alignment and later strategic autonomy, conveyed the message that it was not a permanent adherent of any power bloc, but an independent player seeking partnerships in accordance with its own interests. During the Cold War, India maintained ties with both the United States and the Soviet Union, yet maintained a distance from formal military alliances; this stance made it an ideological inspiration for newly independent Asian and African countries. In the new century, especially in recent years, this balance is under greater pressure than ever—whether it is the growing rivalry between the United States and China or the polarized world following the Russia-Ukraine War.

Iran's Chabahar port was not just a trading base for India, but also a gateway for direct access to West Asia, Afghanistan, and Central Asia, bypassing Pakistan and counterbalancing China's dominance of Gwadar and the Belt and Road Initiative. Following US sanctions and the subsequent lifting of the Chabahar waiver, India's commitment to the project steadily weakened; recent reports indicate that India has moved to limit its long-term presence at the port. The real question here is not technical, but political: did India take an independent stand in keeping with its long-term geostrategic interests, or did the fear of angering Washington force it to forgo viable options?

For India, purchasing crude oil from Russia at a discounted rate is a matter of energy security and economic prudence, not merely diplomatic obstinacy. Despite Western sanctions, India initially signaled clearly that it would choose energy sources in accordance with its national interests, and this logic led to a sharp surge in oil imports from Russia. Over time, "moral preaching" and hints of indirect sanctions from the US and European countries created additional pressure; some large corporate importers reduced their purchases of Russian oil and shifted toward pro-Western alternatives, even though overall Russian oil imports remained high. A strong nation is one that is driven by the economic interests and energy security of its citizens, not by the "image management" or narratives of other countries—otherwise, "strategic autonomy" gives way to "strategic hesitation."

The most dangerous trend is that applause and headlines on international platforms are becoming a substitute for decision-making autonomy. Speeches in foreign parliaments, laudatory headlines in the global media, or a "pat on the back" from a superpower are being presented as certificates of national honor, while recent history, such as Iraq, Libya, and Afghanistan, is replete with examples of how quickly external support can change direction. Military and security decisions are the last line of sovereignty for any democracy; if concerns about "someone else's approval" or "global message" become dominant here, it is not just policy but independence that is at stake.

At a time like this, the true test of a democratic society is whether it can provide space for debate without labeling those who ask critical questions about foreign policy and security strategy as unpatriotic. In a democracy, dissent is not a weakness, but a fundamental condition of public control; patriotism does not mean acquiescence to power, but the courage to speak the truth in the national interest.

The true test of "self-reliant India" isn't how many mobile phones or cars are manufactured in the country, but how independent India can make decisions on its foreign policy, energy options, and strategic partnerships. India stands at a crossroads: one path could lead it to maintaining relations with the US, Russia, China, and Europe, yet bowing to none; the other could transform it into an influential but dependent ally, awaiting a response from Washington or another capital before every major decision. A strong nation is one that stands its ground rather than seeks applause; India's true test in the coming years will be whether it chooses to be a "managed ally" or truly stands as a sovereign, self-confident power.

District level poets' conference held for Malyabant Mahotsav

Malkangiri, correspondent :The district level Malyabant Mahotsav is going to be held from 1st to 5th of next February, on the sidelines of Malyabant festival, the district level poets' conference was organized by the District Cultural Council yesterday at the local cultural hall. In this conference, over 50 senior renowned poets from different areas of the district - Kalimela, Chitrakonda, Podia, Malkangiri, Korukunda, Mathili, Khairput - were present and recited their poems. The program was held under the chairmanship of District Cultural Officer Santras Narayan Panda and Deputy Director of District Planning Board Golak Chandra Dalai was present as the chief guest and honoured all the poets with certificates. Former Odisha Sahitya Academy member Banavasi researcher Ratnakar Dash conducted the stage and coordinated the poems. All the employees of the District Culture Department conducted the program.

Indomitable Struggle for Self-Reliance: Divyang Woman Arati Sahu



Jajpur, (Correspondent):Physical disability can never stop human courage and dreams—this has been proved by Arati Sahu, a differently-abled young woman from Kulasahi village under Jari Panchayat of Binjharpur block. Though she is completely unable to walk, Arati carries out all her daily activities by moving on her knees, showing remarkable determination and strength.She holds an 80 percent disability certificate. Arati lives in an asbestos-roofed house along with her elderly mother and a total of seven family members. Despite the family's poor financial condition, she has never given up. She runs a small betel (pan) shop in the middle of the village, which she manages on her own.Earlier, when her father was alive, he looked after all the responsibilities of the family. After his untimely death, Arati took charge and now sits in the shop herself, selling goods to earn a livelihood. Whatever little income she earns daily is used to support the entire family.Despite her disability, Arati's indomitable courage and efforts toward self-reliance have become a great source of inspiration for society. With proper government assistance and social support, many differently-abled persons like Arati can become self-reliant and move forward in life with dignity

Gajapati Farmers Annoyed as Paddy Selling Blocked due to AP Regd Vehicle



Paralakhemundi:(Correspondent):- Mostly Gosani & Kashinagar blocks farmers of Gajapati district are from Telugu community people.They recently observed their main Pongal festival.But due to delay those who invested more on farming they are hardly getting their returns due to delay of their Paddy selling at Mandi. Recently another issue boiled where those farmers loaded their paddy bags in Andhrapradesh (AP) registered vehicles obstructed from selling at Mandi.So driver association met with MLA Paralakhemundi Er. Rupesh Kumar Panigrahi regarding this core issues.They requested to sort out this issue.

Disaster Response and Emergency Management Awareness Session Held at HPCL Rayagada LPG Plant

Rayagada, Correspondent) :An awareness session on disaster response and emergency management was conducted at the HPCL Rayagada LPG Bottling Plant on Friday by the NRDF 3rd Battalion.The session was led by Inspector B. B. N. Sharma in the presence of HPCL Plant Head Prabin Kumar Sika. During the programme, participants were given detailed training on effective response mechanisms during natural and man-made disasters such as floods, earthquakes, and fire incidents.Inspector Sharma elaborated on emergency preparedness, evacuation procedures, and safety protocols to be followed during crisis situations. Special emphasis was laid on first-aid treatment, including cardiopulmonary resuscitation (CPR) and other life-saving response techniques. The programme aimed at enhancing awa reness, preparedness, and response capacity among employees to ensure safety and minimize loss during emergencies. HPCL officials and staff actively participated in the session, making the programme informative and impactful.

Food Inspection Conducted at Baruneshwar Fair by Administration

JAJPUR (Corres pondent): The famous Baruneshwar Fair and Olashuni Fair are being celebrated with great enthusiasm in Jajpur district, attracting thousands of devotees. With large crowds gathering at food stalls, the district administration has conducted inspections to check the quality and hygiene of food being sold at the fairs.The Jajpur Food Safety Officer carried out detailed inspections at various food and fast-food stalls at the Baruneshwar Fair over three days — January 17, 18, and 20. During the inspection, nearly 17 kilograms of stale and unfit food were identified and destroyed.Similarly, food quality inspections were also conducted at the Olashuni Fair on Monday. Food vendors operating without valid licenses under the Food Safety Act were issued notices.These steps have been taken to ensure that healthy, safe, and quality food is available to the public. Vendors have also been advised to maintain hygiene and sell food of good quality for the safety of visitors.

Animal Ambulance Service Launched in Jajpur Municipality

JAJPUR (Correspondent):An animal ambulance service has been inaugurated in Jajpur Municipality to provide medical assistance to stray and helpless cattle and animals injured in accidents. The service was formally launched by the Sub-Collector of Jajpur, Shri Tapas Ranjan Dehuri.The main objective of this service is to ensure timely veterinary care for stray and abandoned cattle and animals affected by road accidents or other emergencies. If required, the animals will also be shifted to nearby gaushalas (cow shelters) for further care and protection.The ambulance service will operate in two shifts — from 6:00 AM to 2:00 PM, and again from 2:00 PM to 10:00 PM. Each shift will have a team consisting of one veterinary doctor, one livestock assistant, one attendant, and one driver. This service will be available only within the Jajpur Municipal area.Several senior officials were present at the inauguration ceremony, including District Chief Veterinary Officer Dr. Subrata Mahapatra, In-charge Additional District Chief Veterinary Officer (Animal Welfare) Dr. Aniruddha Biswal, Additional District Chief Veterinary Officer (Disease Control) Dr. Sushanta Kumar Behera, Additional District Chief Veterinary Officer (Animal Husbandry) Dr. Ranjit Sahu, Deputy Director of Veterinary Services Dr. Bijay Kumar Sahu, and Executive Officer of the Municipality Shri Lakshmidhar Rout.On the occasion, Dr. Mahapatra appealed to the public to make full use of this service. Citizens can avail of the service by calling the toll-free number 1962. He further informed that a dedicated animal rescue vehicle will soon be provided to the municipality to strengthen emergency animal rescue operations.

A mass singing program was held



SUBARNAPUR correspondent ---- A mass singing program was held at the Sonepur town hall to mark the 150th anniversary of the national song "Vande Mataram". Subarnapur Collector Dr. Nruparaj Sahu, Sonepur Sub Collector Dr. Soumyarupa Rath, Chairperson, Sonepur Municipal Council Smt. Tamasi Tamasmita Nayak, Executive Officer, Municipal Council, Subarnapur Rushi Majhi, District Welfare Officer Achyutananda Singh, District Sports Officer Chittaranjan Mishra, District Panchayat Officer cum District Information and Public Relations Officer Arjun Majhi, all the councilors of Sonepur Municipal Council, students of various schools and colleges of Sonepur town participated and sang the national song Vande Mataram. This program was supported by Shri Madan Sundar Kheti, Professor, English Department, Biju Patnaik Women's Degree College, Choudhury Bibhar and employees of Sonepur Municipality. On this occasion, on the occasion of the 150th anniversary of the national song Vande Mataram, the students of schools and colleges of Sonepur town who excelled in the competition held in elocution, composition and other subjects were awarded and felicitated by the guests. On this occasion, Shri Kheti and Shri Bibhar and other guests provided detailed training to the students on how to sing this national song. Executive Officer, Sonepur Municipal Council presented his speech on the national song

District Education Department prepares 200 students for 10th board

Malkangiri, correspondent: Malkangiri District Education Department has started the Pride of Mallyabandhu program, which is being run to bring good results in the 10th board 2026 examination. The program, which was scheduled to be held from January 19 to 24, was welcomed by 200 selected students from the district at 4 centers today. Arrangements were made for 70 students of Malkagiri block to stay,



eat and study for a week at Jagannathpalli High School MV-7. In which Additional District Education Officers Manjulata Bhoi and Bhagirath Behera, Block Education Officer Mamata Soye, HM Iswar Rao joined and explained the purpose and preparation to the children, while District Education Officer Chittaranjan Panigrahi personally flagged off 50 students at Kalimela High School. Similarly, 80 students from PM Shri Balimela High School and High School Khairput participated in the other block.For a week, subject experts will practice the entire text book among the children. They will resolve any doubts in the child's mind and prepare him for the examination. 80 teachers, including the BEO and the head teacher, will prepare for good examination results.

10th Panchayat Samiti meeting in Khaprakhol

patnagarh- (Correspo ndent) The 10th Panchayat Samiti meeting was held at the khaprakhol Panchayat Samiti meeting hall on Tuesday under the chairmanship of Block Chairperson Nirupma Patel. At the beginning of the meeting, BDO Bibekananda Sadangi gave the welcome speech while Gram Panchayat Development Officer Parameswar Naik read out the minutes of the previous meeting and declared the proposal passed. On this occasion, various discussions were held on development work, education, health, drinking water supply, electricity supply, agriculture etc. The meeting was attended by Deputy Chief Minister's Block Representative Padma Kumar Singh Bariha, Lok Sabha MP's Block Representative Santosh Kumar Zilla parisad Member Sanjukta Meher, Assistant Executive Engineer Rajkishore Naik, Block Agriculture Officer Santosh Kumar Meher, Block Joint Education Officer Rudra Deb Sadangi, Debakanta Panigrahi, Sushil Kumar Guru, Umakant Meher, Debraj Pradhan, Vaidyanath Mishra, Seemanchal Purohit, Sarpanch of various Panchayats, Samiti members, officers of various departments.

322 Nursing Officer Posts Increased in Sishu Bhawan

Cuttack, (Correspo ndence): The problem of shortage of nursing officers in Sardar Ballabh Bhai Patel Postgraduate Institute of Pediatrics or Sishu Bhawan, which has been going on for a long time, will be solved. The government has approved the proposal submitted by the Sishu Bhawan authority to the Health Department for the creation of 322 new nursing officer posts. It is reported that the increase in the number of nursing officers from 234, which has been sanctioned for a long time, will now be 556. Since the increase in the posts, the Health Department can issue further notifications for the recruitment, said Sishu Bhawan Superintendent Professor Dr. Prabhakar Mishra. After the number of beds



in Sishu Bhawan increased from 200 to 846, the number of general beds and ICU beds has increased. But due to the shortage of nursing officers, patient service is being disrupted. Although the sanctioned posts of nursing officers were 234, in reality about 190 are currently working. The hospital authorities are facing a shortage of human resources to deploy nursing staff on a shift basis for a thousand patients. Due to the shortage of nursing officers, the ICU in the new building is not fully functional. As a result, there is a lack of quality treatment for critically ill newborns and children in the ICU.

OFFICE OF THE SUPERINTENDING ENGINEER, C-2135
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* * * * * *
Office Order No. 577 **/Dt.** 19.01.26
Bid Identification No. EEPHBBSR - 66 / 2025-26 Dt. 06.01.2026
1) **The Tender ID : - 2026_PHEO_124310_1** for the work *"Drinking water supply to Internal Zone of Banapur NAC."* **is hereby cancelled due to 1st time single bid.**
Superitending Engineer
P.H. DIVISION,BHUBANESWAR

OFFICE OF THE DIVISIONAL FOREST OFFICER & WILDLIFE WARDEN,
CHANDAKA WILDLIFE DIVISION, mm-512
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Letter No.- 400 /1WL_13/2026, Bhubaneswar, the 19th January, 2026

TENDER CALL NOTICE

The Divisional Forest Officer, Chandaka Wildlife Division, invites Sealed Tenders under the Double cover system, strictly in **"OFFLINE"** mode for the Pre-Fab building work **"Construction of Bharatpur Eco-Café & kitchen, Chandaka Wildlife Division, Bhubaneswar"**.

Tender Paper Availability	From 21.01.2026 to 30.01.2026 (up to 05:30 PM) can be collected in person from the office of the undersigned or downloaded from https://odishaforest.in/ & https://wildlife.odisha.gov.in/
Estimated Project Cost	₹ 25,08,000.00 (Excluding GST)
Last Date & Time for Submission of Bid	30.01.2026 up to 05:30 PM
Opening of Technical Bid	31.01.2026 at 11:30 AM
Technical Presentation & Opening of Financial Bid	31.01.2026 at 03:00 PM & 31.01.2026 at 04:30 PM
Name & Address of Officer Inviting Bid	Divisional Forest Officer & Wildlife Warden, Chandaka Wildlife Division, Gajavihar, Bhubaneswar, Odisha -751003

Divisional Forest bfficer-cum-Wildlife Warden
Chandaka Wildlife Division, Bhubaneswar

Mrunal Thakur Teaser A New Project: 'New Year, New Beginnings'



It seems like actress Mrunal Thakur is all set to go on a new creative journey soon. After the release of the teaser for her forthcoming romantic entertainer, "Do Deewane Seher Mein", co-starring Siddhant Chaturvedi, she has teased another project.Mrunal took to the Stories section of her official Instagram handle and dropped a black and white picture of a film script, along with the caption, "New year.. New script..New biginnings..Sab New New! Also hello Hyderabad!"As her hand was covering the script, the text and other details of this upcoming project remain under wraps for now. However, it would be exciting to see what the 'Sita Ramam' actress has in store for us next.On Monday, the makers of Mrunal starrer "Do Deewane Seher Mein" added to the buzz for the romantic drama by unveiling the gripping teaser.With the iconic song 'Do Deewane Seher Mein' as the backdrop, the film revolves around the maybes of love and the countless what-ifs that come with it.Mrunal and Siddhant's characters are seen figuring themselves out, leading to some genuine romance and emotional depth.Zee Studios and Bhansali Productions present "Do Deewane Seher Mein", made under the direction of Ravi Udyawar. Backed by Sanjay Leela Bhansali, Prerna Singh, Umesh Kumar Bansal, and Bharat Kumar Ranga in association with Ravi Udyawar Films, the drama will be reaching the cinema halls on February 20, 2026.In addition to "Do Deewane Seher Mein", Mrunal's lineup also includes "Dacoit", in which she will be seen sharing the screen with Adivi Sesh.With Prakash Raj, Sunil, Atul Kulkarni, Zayn Marie Khan, and Kamakshi Bhaskarla in key roles, the movie revolves around an angry convict determined to seek revenge on his ex-girlfriend, who betrayed him.The drama has been shot simultaneously in Hindi and Telugu, with the story and screenplay jointly crafted by Adivi Sesh and Shaneil Deo.

'Kohrra' Season 2: Release date, plot, and what to expect from new crime thriller



After captivating audiences with its gritty, atmospheric storytelling in Season 1, 'Kohrra' is set to return with its second season on February 11, 2026. This investigative drama, one of Netflix's most intriguing crime thrillers, continues to delve deep into the dark, wintry landscapes of Punjab, where silence often speaks louder than words.The new season introduces a fresh case and a new pairing of characters, following Assistant Sub-Inspector Amarpal Garundi (played by Barun Sobti) as he moves from his previous posting in Jagrana to the Dalerpura Police Station. In this new chapter, Amarpal works under his new commanding officer, Dhanwant Kaur (played by Mona Singh), as they investigate a new crime that will leave viewers on the edge of their seats. The show also stars Rannvijay Singha in a key role.The director and co-creator Sudip Sharma shared his excitement about the new season, saying, "Season 1 allowed us to explore quieter tensions between people and the past and present. For Season 2, we've stayed true to portraying the authentic reality of Punjab, and the characters are rooted in a universal truth. This season is an emotional rollercoaster, and I am thrilled for the audience to experience it. Barun and Mona have done an incredible job, and I can't wait for people to watch it."Tanya Bami, Series Head for Netflix India, praised the show's uniqueness, stating, "'Kohrra' has become a cult classic, earning love, awards, and praise from both audiences and critics. What makes it stand out is its honest simplicity, where unassuming backgrounds reveal complex layers as the fog of mystery clears episode by episode. Season 2, set in a new city with a fresh crime and a new partnership, is even more riveting. Sudip Sharma, as the creator, showrunner, and debuting director for this season, has crafted an unmissable crime drama thriller."

Health benefits of edamame

When it comes to eating healthy, the importance of vegetables cannot be understated. Each comes with its own unique nutritional benefits and is generally rich in dietary fibre, vitamins and minerals. The sheer diversity of edible greens available on the planet has resulted in some vegetables becoming more popular than the rest.

While edamame is not likely to beat the likes of carrots and broccoli in popularity anytime soon, it can give them a run for their money when it comes to nutritional benefits. It is whole, immature soybeans which are often sold while still inside a pod.

According to FoodData Central of the US Department of Agriculture, 100 grams of cooked edamame contains:

Calories - 140
Protein - 11.54 g
Total lipid (fat) - 7.57 g
Carbohydrate - 8.63 g
Fibre - 5 g

It is also rich in vitamins A, B, C, D, E, and K, as well as minerals such as calcium, iron, magnesium, phosphorus, potassium, sodium, zinc, and copper, among others.

Taking to Instagram on January 19, Florida-based gastroenterologist Dr Joseph Salhab explained the health benefits of eating edamame, while also sharing a recipe to implement it in our everyday diet.

"Edamame isn't a trend food," he noted. "It's a smart, evidence-based choice."



Health benefits of edamame

With one cup of edamame providing 18–19 g of complete plant protein, along with fibre, folate, iron, magnesium, and potassium, it is known to have the following benefits:

Support cardiometabolic health
Improve LDL cholesterol
Contribute meaningfully to daily protein intake, especially in plant-forward diets

Everyday recipe using edamame

With rice being a staple diet in many families, Dr Salhab suggests adding frozen edamame to white rice just after cooking, while it is still "fresh and hot." This will defrost the edamame and give it the perfect texture. The simple step increases the fibre and protein content of the rice and helps us meet our daily goals.

To further increase the nutritional benefit, Dr Salhab suggests cooking white rice with quinoa, which adds even more fibre to the dish and makes it a "total nutrient powerhouse" that supports the gut and the liver.

Turmeric Moong Dal

Turmeric moong dal is a light, protein-rich dish often eaten during recovery or seasonal changes. Moong dal digests easily, while turmeric supports joint and gut balance. This simple dal suits daily meals and works well for people looking for gentle, anti-inflammatory food.

Ingredients (Serves 3)

Yellow moong dal – 1 cup
Turmeric powder – ½ teaspoon
Cumin seeds – 1 teaspoon
Garlic (crushed) – 4 cloves
Ghee – 1 tablespoon
Salt – to taste
Water – 3 cups

Instructions



Wash and cook dal with turmeric and water until soft.
Heat ghee, add cumin and garlic.
Pour tempering over dal, add salt, and simmer 5 minutes.

Best and worst snacks, protein, carbs for visceral fat



Your fat loss journey is an uphill battle that depends not only on working out regularly and adopting a healthy lifestyle, but also on following a whole-foods-rich diet. On Monday, January 19, Dr Saurabh Sethi, a gastroenterologist and hepatologist trained at Harvard, AIIMS, and Stanford Universities, shared a list of best and worst foods for visceral fat.

Best and worst foods for visceral fat

According to the gastroenterologist, sugar fuels visceral fat more than most people realise. Therefore, it is important to check the ingredient list of the foods you eat daily and rely heavily on whole foods. Here's the list Dr Sethi shared:

1. Best and worst snack

The best snack for visceral fat is nuts and seeds, such as walnuts, almonds, chia, and flax.

The worst snack for visceral fat is ultra-processed packaged snacks with long ingredient lists.

2. Best and worst protein (vegetarian and non-vegetarian)

The best protein for visceral fat is fatty fish like salmon and sardines, as well as eggs and chicken.

The best vegetarian sources of protein for visceral fat are lentils and chickpeas.

The worst protein for visceral fat is processed meats, such as deli meats and sausages.

3. Best and worst carbs

The best carb for visceral fat is whole grains like oats, barley, and millets.

The worst carb for visceral fat is refined flour, including white bread and pastries.

What is visceral fat, and why is it dangerous?

According to a report from the Luxembourg Institute of Health (LIH), visceral fat is intra-abdominal adipose tissue stored around several organs, including the stomach, intestines, and liver. It stated that an increase in visceral fat of more than 130 cm^2 defines visceral obesity, a major risk factor of several chronic diseases at any weight or BMI level.

But how do we know if we have visceral fat? In an Instagram video shared on January 17, Dr Shubham Vatsya, a gastroenterologist and hepatologist at Fortis Vasant Kunj with over 10 years of experience, shared the key signs. Highlighting that the texture of your abdominal fat is a critical indicator of internal health, he shared, "Soft belly usually means surface fat. Hard often means deeper, riskier visceral fat that affects hormones, blood sugar control, and the heart.

World Athletics Level-1 Coaches Education Certification Programme Concludes at KIIT

BHUBANESWAR, (Correspondent) : The World Athletics Level-1 Coaches Education Certification Programme was successfully conducted at KIIT – Deemed to be University, Bhubaneswar, from 15th to 20th January 2026, under the aegis of the Athletics Federation of India. The six-day intensive programme concluded with a valedictory ceremony held at the Seminar Hall, Campus-12, KIIT.The programme was structured under a three-level coaching education framework aligned with international best practices and the Long-Term Athlete Development (LTAD) model.The valedictory session commenced with the assembling of participants, followed by the arrival of dignitaries and presentation of bouquets. The programme featured a welcome address by Shri Sanjay Garnaik, Head Athletic Coach, followed by addresses from Shri Bora Venkat Reddy, Level-1 Lecturer, and Dr. Gaganendu Dash, Director General, School of Sports & Yogic Sciences, KIIT -



DU. The Chief Guest, Prof. (Dr.) Saranjit Singh, Vice-Chancellor, KIIT – DU, addressed the gathering and felicitated the participants.On the occasion, Prof. (Dr.) Achyuta Samanta, Founder of KIIT, KISS and KIMS, congratulated all the participating coaches on their successful completion of the certification programme. He reiterated KIIT's commitment to the promotion of sports education, coach development, and excellence through world-class infrastructure and academic support.The participants expressed their heartfelt gratitude to Prof. Samanta for his visionary leadership, constant encouragement, and for providing state-of-the-art facilities, which played a crucial role in the smooth and successful conduct of the programme.The ceremony concluded with a vote of thanks by Shri Saharsh Shah, Level-1 Lecturer, marking the successful completion of yet another significant initiative in advancing athletics coaching education in India.

1st T20I: Suryakumar Yadav & Co. Return For Final Push Ahead Of T20 World Cup 2026

Nagpur, (Correspondent): Skipper Suryakumar Yadav's performance will be closely watched when India starts a five-match T20I series against New Zealand at the New Vidarbha Cricket Association Stadium in Nagpur on Wednesday.This series is the last chance for both teams to prepare for the T20 World Cup, starting on February 7. Since he became captain in 2024, Suryakumar has led India to an impressive series of results. The team has won eight T20I series in a row and holds a 29-5 record, which includes two super over victories, since claiming the world title in Bridgetown.However, it has been a challenging time for him personally. The 2025 season was his toughest yet while playing for India, resulting in only 218 runs from 19 matches at a strike rate just above 123, and he didn't score a single fifty. Having moved down to No. 4 to make room for Tilak Varma, Suryakumar will be eager to bring back his aggressive batting style and strengthen his leadership during this important period.New Zealand, meanwhile, arrive chasing history of their own. Over the last year and a bit, they have pulled off unprecedented series wins in India in Tests and ODIs. The one thing they still want is to win a T20I series in India, excluding the one match they did win in 2012. But New Zealand has been so close to winning a T20I series twice; both the 2017 and 2023 series were decided in the final match, where India prevailed by a score of 2-1.This close call adds an extra edge to the five-match series, even without considering the World Cup context.

Aus Open: Musetti Receives First-Round Walkover After Collignon Retires With Injury

Melbourne: World no. 5 Lorenzo Musetti of Italy advanced to the second round after his Belgian opponent Raphael Collignon retired due to injury.The match was a gruelling three-hour marathon, with Musetti leading 4-6, 7-6(3), 7-5, 3-2 when Collignon had to stop.The match marked Musetti's Grand Slam debut, shortly after he attained his career-high ranking of No. 5 on January 12, 2026, following his final appearance in Hong Kong. He is only the third Italian man in history to reach this ranking milestone.The Italian's start to the first Grand Slam of the season was shaky as he handed an early advantage to Collignon, who clinched the first set 6-4. The fifth seed missed a break point early in the set and couldn't recover against his Belgian opponent, leading to a poor start to his tournament.However, after being pushed to the brink by the World No. 72, the Italian battled through a fierce tie-break in the second set and ultimately won it 7-6, (7-3).Musetti appeared well on his way to advancing to the second round, leaving Collignon to require something exceptional to turn the match around.Just when Musetti seemed the favourite to advance, holding a lead in the fourth set with the score at 4-6, 7-6 (7-3), 7-5, 3-2, Collignon retired hurt, granting his Italian opponent a walkover.Musetti asked the crowd to give a standing ovation to Collignon as he walked off the court, exhausted.The World No. 72 showed clear signs of physical distress in the third set and was forced to retire despite receiving on-court medical treatment. Collignon has a track record of physical issues in demanding matches, most notably severe cramping during a Davis Cup victory over de Minaur in late 2025.Musetti now advances to face Italian rival Lorenzo Sonego in the second round.Sonego, who beat Musetti at the Paris Masters in late 2025, won his latest match in four sets earlier in the day.

BCCI To Discuss Changes In India Men's Central Contracts In Apex Council Meeting

New Delhi: The Board of Control for Cricket in India (BCCI) will discuss possible changes to the India men's central contracts system at its next Apex Council meeting, as per proposals from the Ajit Agarkar-led selection committee.Sources in the BCCI told IANS on Tuesday that the five-member selection panel has made some proposals, though it is understood that the board's top brass haven't received them yet, and a formal discussion will take place at the upcoming meeting."A possibility of change in the grading system in India men's central contracts will come for discussion in the next BCCI Apex Council meeting. The Ajit Agarkar-led selection committee is learnt to have made some proposals and it will be discussed in the Apex Council meeting, for which a date will be announced in due course of time," sources said further.It is further understood that Grade A+ is likely to be phased out, but its final fate and any subsequent monetary changes will be implemented only after the Apex Council approves them at the meeting.As of now, annual retainers for Indian men's cricketers are categorised into A+, A, B, and C grades, in addition to match fees across different formats. The retainer amount for Grade A+ players is Rs 7 crore, while Rs 5 crore, Rs 3 crore, and Rs 1 crore are given to cricketers in Grades A, B, and C, respectively.Currently, senior players Rohit Sharma, Virat Kohli, Jasprit Bumrah and Ravindra Jadeja are in the A+ bracket. However, it will be interesting to see whether Kohli and Rohit, who play only ODIs, and Jadeja, who plays Tests and ODIs, will continue to be in the top tier of annual retainers, especially if the system changes.According to the 2024/25 contracts list announced on April 21, 2025, Mohammed Siraj, KL Rahul, Shubman Gill (now India's Test and ODI skipper), Hardik Pandya, Mohammed Shami, and Rishabh Pant were in Grade A.



JSW Soorma Hockey Club Stuns Leaders Vedanta Kalinga Lancers in Men's Hero HIL 2025-26 Clash

Bhubaneswar: Hockey fans at the iconic Kalinga Hockey Stadium witnessed a thrilling upset on Monday as JSW Soorma Hockey Club halted the winning streak of the table-topping Vedanta Kalinga Lancers. In a high-stakes Match 26 of the Men's Hero HIL 2025-26, the visiting side displayed remarkable grit to secure a vital 2-1 victory, keeping their hopes for a playoff spot firmly in the picture.While the Lancers have dominated the league so far, this match proved to be a stubborn test. Both teams started with a defensive mindset, keeping the first quarter goalless. Goalkeeper Vincent



Vanasch was instrumental for Soorma early on, pulling off two crucial saves in the final minute of the first quarter to deny the home team a lead.Momentum shifted in the second quarter. After a series of precise passes, Nicolas Keenan launched an attack from the left flank. Although his initial shot was blocked, Jeetpal was perfectly positioned to smash the rebound home in the 23rd minute, handing Soorma a 1-0 advantage. The Lancers struggled to find their rhythm, with frustrations boiling over as Dilpreet Singh received a yellow card just before halftime.Soorma capitalized on their momentum immediately after the break. In the 38th minute, they executed a brilliant tactical variation during a penalty corner. Instead of a direct drag-flick, the ball was slipped to Vivek Sagar Prasad, who calmly slotted it past the keeper to double the lead.

The home crowd eventually found something to cheer for in the final quarter. Henderson scored in the 48th minute, sparking a frantic attempt by Vedanta Kalinga Lancers to find an equalizer. However, Victor Wegnez, who was later named Player of the Match, marshaled the midfield and defense superbly. despite a heavy offensive surge from the local favorites, JSW Soorma Hockey Club held their ground to claim three massive points.This result moves Soorma to sixth place in the standings, proving that the race for the Men's Hero HIL 2025-26 title is far from over.

Hyderabad Toofans Secure Third Spot With Thrilling 3-2 Win Over HIL GC At Kalinga Stadium Turf

Bhubaneswar: Playoff hopes hung by a thread for the Hyderabad Toofans as they stepped onto the turf at the Kalinga Hockey Stadium this Tuesday. In a match defined by high stakes and intense pressure, Hyderabad managed to secure a crucial 3-2 victory over HIL GC in their final league stage encounter of the Men's Hero Hockey India League (HIL) 2025-26.Early momentum shifted quickly in the first quarter. While HIL GC initially controlled the ball, Hyderabad struck first against the run of play. Zachary Wallace found the net in the 6th minute with a deflected effort from a penalty corner. However, the lead was short-lived. Just two minutes later, Kane Russell leveled the score for HIL GC with a powerful dragflick.Refusing to



back down in this must-win scenario, the Toofans responded immediately. Local favourite Amandeep Lakra restored the lead in the 8th minute, rifling a dragflick past the keeper to make it 2-1 before the first quarter ended.Hyderabad continued their aggressive approach in the second quarter. Their persistence paid off when Shilanand Lakra scored from close range in the 27th minute, extending the lead to 3-1. Despite trailing by two goals, HIL GC remained dangerous, consistently threatening the Hyderabad circle before halftime.Tension peaked as the second half began. Kane Russell completed his brace in the 31st minute, converting another penalty corner to narrow the gap to a single goal. Both teams launched wave after wave of attacks, desperate to alter the scoreboard, but the goalkeepers and defenders stood tall.HIL GC launched a relentless offensive in the final quarter, recording 18 circle entries as they hunted for an equalizer.

Vedanta Aluminium's Transformative Community Showcase Captivates Visitors at Kalahandi Utsav 2026

Kalahandi:(Correspondent) :- Vedanta Aluminium, India's largest producer of aluminium, participated in the 28th edition of Kalahandi Utsav – Ghumura 2026, where its Lanjigarh refinery showcased key aspects of its operations and community development programmes. The company's pavilion recorded a footfall of over 30,000 visitors, with significant interest in its display on the bauxite to aluminium manufacturing process, providing stakeholders with a clear view of aluminium production and its applications.



The event, held in Bhawanipatna, served as an important platform for Vedanta Aluminium to highlight its long-term association with the district and its role in supporting local socio-economic development. The five day festival also witnessed the presence of the Hon'ble Chief Minister of Odisha, Shri Mohan Charan Majhi.Beyond industrial excellence, the exhibit spotlighted the company's community transformation journey through dedicated zones for Project 'Sakhi' and Project 'Adikala'. The Project Sakhi marketplace featured a wide range of products, from millet-based organic produce to handcrafted items, developed by over 4,000 women entrepreneurs from rural Odisha. Simultaneously, Project Adikala brought the region's rich tribal heritage to life through live demonstrations by local artisans specializing in traditional Dhokra and Saura art forms. Through sustained training, design support, and market linkages, Vedanta Aluminium has enabled sustainable livelihoods for over 200 artisan families, ensuring these ancient traditions thrive in a modern economy.Additionally, during the festival, the company conferred the Vedanta Gyanshree Awards to eight Class X district toppers from Kalahandi, recognizing academic merit and promoting higher education among rural students. The awards were presented by Shri Anup Ranjan Pattnaik, OJS, District & Sessions Judge, Kalahandi; Shri Sachin Prakash Pawar, IAS, Collector & District Magistrate, Kalahandi; Shri Madhusudan Das, IAS, Collector, Nuapada; and Shri Nruparaj S. Sahu, OAS, Collector, Subarnapur (Sonepur), and Mr Pranab Kumar Bhttacharyya, CEO, Vedanta Alumina Business.Speaking on the occasion, Pranab Kumar Bhattacharyya, CEO, Vedanta Alumina Business, said, "Kalahandi Utsav is a platform that celebrates the soul of this region. We are honoured by the visit of the Hon'ble Chief Minister, which reaffirms our belief that industrial progress and cultural preservation must go hand in hand, fostering an inclusive and sustainable future for the people of Kalahandi."Through its participation at Kalahandi Utsav 2026, the company once again reaffirmed its role as a responsible industry partner, deeply committed to the cultural preservation, social development, and economic progress of Kalahandi district.

ICAR DG calls for linking Science with Society to enhance farm productivity in fish culture



Bhubaneswar, Correspondent):The ICAR-Central Institute of Freshwater Aquaculture (ICAR-CIFA), Bhubaneswar organised a One-Day National Workshop on "Freshwater Aquaculture Technology Dissemination in India - Charting the Way Ahead" with the objective of finalising a time-bound national roadmap for scaling up proven freshwater aquaculture technologies through a demonstration-led and capacity-building framework in convergence with initiatives of the Department of Fisheries, Government of India and the National Fisheries Development Board (NFDB)Dr.Mangi Lal Jat, Secretary, Department of Agricultural Research and Education (DARE) and Director General, ICAR, graced the occasion as the Chief Guest. In his address, he appreciated the commendable work of ICAR-CIFA and underscored the critical role of freshwater aquaculture in enhancing farmers' income, ensuring nutritional security, and strengthening rural livelihoods. He emphasized the need for coordinated national efforts to ensure effective dissemination of technologies, highlighting the importance of leadership and teamwork in realizing the vision of Viksit Bharat. Stressing the imperative of linking science with society, Dr.Jat noted that the Agricultural Technology Application Research Institutes and KrishiVigyanKendras play a pivotal role in translating research into field-level impact.

Electricity Theft Impacts Honest Consumers; TPNODL Adopts Zero-Tolerance Policy

Balasore, (Correspondent):: TP Northern Odisha Distribution Limited (TPNODL), a joint venture of Tata Power and the Government of Odisha, has further strengthened its drive against electricity theft, reaffirming its commitment to delivering reliable and quality power supply. Despite rolling out multiple consumer focused initiatives, power theft continues to pose a serious challenge. Through focused enforcement actions, TPNODL has successfully curbed nearly 500 MW of unauthorized power usage so far, underscoring its zero-tolerance approach towards electricity theft.The impact of these enforcement efforts is reflected in recent figures, with 132 MW of electricity theft prevented during 2025 alone. Among all regions, the Balasore Electrical Circle led the drive by preventing 54.40 MW, with 9,418 cases registered. Other circles also recorded notable outcomes, including 20 MW in Baripada, 24 MW in Bhadrak, 21 MW in Jajpur and 13 MW in Keonjhar. Overall, more than 29,000 cases have been booked against offenders across these areas. The utility has demonstrated steady progress over the years by preventing 73.23 MW in FY 2021-22, 101.12 MW in FY 2022-23 and a combined nearly 200 MW during FY 2023-24 and 2024-25.To tackle the issue more effectively, TPNODL has put in place a strong monitoring mechanism spanning from Section Offices up to Electrical Circle Offices. Dedicated central enforcement teams, including women officers, are carrying out intensive inspections with active assistance from the District Administration and Police. The company continues to act firmly against offenders to safeguard the reliability and safety of the power distribution system. Consumers are reminded that electricity theft is a punishable offence and are encouraged to regularize their connected load in line with actual household requirements.TPNODL also highlights that electricity theft does not only lead to revenue loss but adversely affects honest consumers by resulting in frequent outages, voltage fluctuations and higher tariff pressures. Promoting public participation, the company has urged citizens to report power theft in their neighborhoods by calling 94389-06002. With the onset of the summer season, these preventive initiatives are being increasingly acknowledged by the public and intellectuals as vital measures to ensure uninterrupted and dependable power supply across Northern Odisha.

Hirakud, Government Higher Primary School classrooms renovated with Hindalco grant

Sambalpur:(Correspondent):- The Hirakud, Government Higher Primary School classrooms have been renovated by Hindalco Environmental Development Department. Keeping in mind the need for renovation of the classrooms of Hirakud Government Higher Primary School near Durgamandir Chowk, the classrooms have been renovated and rin partnership with the government and made it safe for students to sit and study there. This was jointly inaugurated by Shri Biswas Shinde, Human Resources Head of Hirakud Complex, and Shri Daniyal Barik, Regional Resource Center Coordinator of Hirakud Cluster. Anand Chakravarthy, Head of CSR Department, Hindalco, Advisors Shri Sukant Kumar Mahapatra, Jayashree Rao, Saroj Kumar Acharya, Milan Kumar Sahu and Santosh Tripathi were present at the event. Today, the school celebrated its annual festival with a classroom renovation program. On this occasion, the chief guest, Head of Human Resources Shri Biswas Shinde, said that Hindalco has always been working for the overall development of the Hirakud region, especially in the field of education, and expressed his opinion that the efforts to create an educational environment will continue in the coming days as well. In this event, the students of the school presented an interesting cultural program and the students were awarded by the guests. The President of the Panchasakha Setu of the school, Shri Virendra Kumar Jena, Vice President Shri Kartik Kolet, Principal Mrs. Sudeshna Sahu, former CRCC Mrs. Namita Dhal, Assistant Teacher Mrs. Sushri Mahant, Shri Bawan Singh, all the students of the school, parents and common citizens were present in large numbers in this program. At the end of the program, Principal Mrs. Sudeshna Sahu appreciated this great program and thanked Hindalco for the many development programs being carried out by Hindalco in her school.



Tata Motors Launches 17 Next-Generation Trucks

Rourkela, (Correspondent)-In a landmark move set to transform the Indian trucking landscape, Tata Motors, India's largest commercial vehicle manufacturer and mobility solutions provider, today launched its next-generation portfolio of 17 trucks, spanning 7 to 55 tonnes, setting new benchmarks in safety, profits and progress. This comprehensive launch introduces the all-new Azura series, the cutting-edge Tata Trucks.ev range, and significant upgrades to the established Prima, Signa, and Ultra platforms. Engineered to conform to stringent global safety standards (ECE R29 03), these trucks maximise earning potential, reduce total cost of ownership and enhance vehicle uptime to deliver greater success to transporters.Launching the new trucks, Mr. Girish Wagh, MD & CEO, Tata Motors Ltd., said, "India's trucking landscape is undergoing a rapid transformation, driven by progressive national policies, modern infrastructure, and the rising demand for safer, cleaner, and more efficient logistics. Tata Motors has always led the way in setting benchmarks that shape the industry's future. With the introduction of our next-generation portfolio-including the all-new Azura series, two advanced high-efficiency powertrains, India's widest range of zero-emission electric trucks and tippers on our new I-MOEV architecture, significant upgrades to European standard cabins and industry-leading safety features, increased payload and fuel efficiency, all seamlessly integrated with Fleet Edge digital services, we are advancing this legacy. Guided by 'Better Always' philosophy, our relentless drive for innovation, deep commitment to localisation, and unwavering focus on customer success embody the vision of 'Atmanirbhar Bharat', enhancing India's self-reliance and aspiration to lead in sustainable mobility."

Intel Unnati Data-Centric and AI Labs Inaugurated at GIET University

Gunupur:(Correspondent) :-A significant step toward strengthening advanced technological education was marked today with the inauguration of the Intel Unnati Data-Centric Lab and the Artificial Intelligence Lab at GIET University, Gunupur, under the Intel Unnati initiative. The facilities have been established in the Data-Centric Lab in Emerging Technologies and in the Computer Science Block (Lab–2).The initiative aims to equip faculty members with hands-on exposure to contemporary AI and data-driven technologies, enabling them to align teaching and research with current industry practices.The inaugural ceremony was attended by Mr. Gurpreet Singh from EdgeGate Technologies as a special guest. Joining virtually were Mr. Haraprasanna Rath from HPE and Mr. Girish from Intel Unnati, who highlighted the future possibilities and transformative potential of emerging technologies.The Vice-Chancellor of GIET University, Gunupur, Prof. Dr. A. V. N. L. Sharma, addressed the gathering and emphasized the importance of industry–academia collaboration in preparing students and educators for evolving technological demands. The Registrar, Dr. N. V. Jagannadha Rao, was also present on the occasion.The event began with a welcome address by Dr. K. Murli Gopal, Deputy Dean, Department of Computer Science and Engineering. As part of the programme, a "Train the Trainer" faculty development initiative was launched under the leadership of Mr. Suhas Dink from EdgeGate Technologies, further reinforcing the university's focus on capacity building and skill enhancement.



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