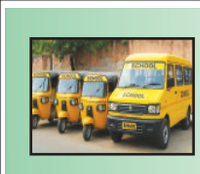
Truth in true form

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RNI Regd No: ODIENG/2019/77780 BHUBANESWAR www.aroundodisha.com VOLUME - 7 ISSUE - 177 Rs-2/- PAGES - 8 SUNDAY 4 JANUARY 2026



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PM Inaugurates Grand International Exposition of Sacred Piprahwa Relics in New Delhi



NEWDELHI: Prime Minister Narendra Modi inaugurated the Grand International Exposition of Sacred Piprahwa Relics related to Bhagwan Buddha, titled "The Light & the Lotus: Relics of the Awakened One", at the Rai Pithora Cultural Complex, New Delhi.Addressing the gathering, the Prime Minister emphasised that after 125 years of waiting, India's heritage has returned. He noted that from today, people across the nation can witness these sacred relics of Lord Buddha and receive his blessings.Modi stated that the relics are not merely artefacts but an inseparable part of India's civilisation.He highlighted that Bhagwan Buddha's wisdom and path belong to all of humanity and unite people across the world.He underlined that India is not only the custodian of these relics but also a living carrier of the timeless Buddhist tradition.He pointed out that India has made continuous efforts to contribute to the development of Buddhist heritage sites globally.He stressed that Buddha's teachings originated in the Pali language, which has now been accorded the status of a classical language to reach a broader audience.nspiring Message

The Prime Minister expressed hope that with the blessings of Lord Buddha, the year 2026 will usher in peace, prosperity, and harmony worldwide.

Odisha CM Directs OPSC to Add 151 Vacancies Across Key Civil Services Cadres



BHUBANESWAR, (Correspondent): Odisha Chief Minister Mohan Charan Majhi intervened in the ongoing controversy surrounding the Odisha Civil Services Examination 2025 notification.The notification, issued recently by the Odisha Public Service Commission (OPSC), had excluded vacancies in key cadres such as OAS and ORS, sparking discontent among aspirants.After learning about the issue, the Chief Minister immediately ordered a review of vacant positions and directed that additional posts be filled. Consequently, the government requested OPSC to include 151 more posts across multiple services:Odisha Administrative Service (OAS): 14 postsOdisha Revenue Service (ORS): 113 postsOdisha Transport Service (OTS): 16 posts

Odisha Welfare Service (OWS): 8 postsThis intervention ensures that many young aspirants will now have the opportunity to compete for these positions and secure success based on merit. The Chief Minister emphasised that the state government attaches the highest priority to employment generation. He highlighted that in the past 18 months, nearly 40,000 government posts have already been filled.

Majhi further instructed all departments to recommend filling every vacant post before the publication of examination notifications by various commissions.

Attorney General Bondi Announces Indictment Against Maduro, Vows 'Full Wrath' of US Law

Washington,: US Attorney General Pam Bondi announced Saturday that Venezuelan President Nicolás Maduro and his wife, Cilia Flores, have been indicted in the Southern District of New York on federal charges including drug trafficking and terrorism. Bondi said Maduro would face the "full wrath of American justice."Earlier in the day, US President Donald Trump claimed that the Venezuelan President and his wife have been "captured" and "flown out" of Caracas.Taking to his social media platform 'Truth Social', Trump said, "The United States of America has successfully carried out a large-scale strike against Venezuela and its leader, President Nicolas Maduro, who has been, along with his wife, captured and flown out of the Country."He mentioned that this operation was done in conjunction with US Law Enforcement, and further details will follow during a news conference at 11 am (local time) at Mar-a-Lago.Attorney General Bondi said that Maduro has been charged with Narco-Terrorism Conspiracy, Cocaine Importation Conspiracy, Possession of Machineguns and Destructive Devices, and Conspiracy to Possess Machineguns and Destructive Devices against the United States.

Colombia On High Alert, Calls For An Urgent UN Meeting On Venezuela



Bogota: Expressing deep concern over the US attacks on Venezuela, Colombian President Gustavo Petro on Saturday called for an urgent UN meeting, calling for prohibition of the use or threat of force and peaceful settlement of international disputes.In a post on X late Saturday afternoon, India time, Petro also said that Colombia is deploying forces at the border considering the tense situation in the region."We just finished the national security council meeting that started at 3 a.m. Public forces are being deployed to the border, along with all available assistance resources in case of a mass influx of refugees. The Colombian embassy in Venezuela is available to answer calls," said the Colombian President.In an earlier statement, Petro asserted that the Government of the Republic of Colombia observes with deep concern the reports of explosions and "unusual aerial activity" recorded in recent hours in the Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela, as well as the resulting escalation of tension in the region."Colombia reaffirms its unwavering commitment to the principles enshrined in the Charter of the United Nations, particularly respect for the sovereignty and territorial integrity of States, the prohibition of the use or threat of force, and the peaceful settlement of international disputes. In this regard, the Colombian Government rejects any unilateral military action that could aggravate the situation or endanger the civilian population," said Petro.He mentioned that Colombia adopts a position aimed at preserving regional peace and urgently calls for de-escalation, urging all parties involved to refrain from actions that deepen the confrontation and to prioritize dialogue and diplomatic channels.

"As a preventative measure, the National Government has implemented steps to protect the civilian population, preserve stability on the Colombian-Venezuelan border, and promptly address any potential humanitarian or migration needs, in coordination with local authorities and relevant agencies," the Colombian leader stated.He detailed that the Colombian Ministry of Foreign Affairs "must maintain open diplomatic channels" with the governments involved and will promote, in the appropriate multilateral and regional forums, initiatives aimed at the objective verification of the facts and the preservation of regional peace and security.

"The Republic of Colombia reiterates its conviction that peace, respect for international law, and the protection of life and human dignity must prevail over any form of armed confrontation. May Bolívar protect the Venezuelan people and the people of Latin America," the statement added.

Indramani Nayak Appointed as Director of Panchayati Raj

BHUBANESWAR, (Correspondent):In another administrative move, the Government of Odisha has appointed Shri Indramani Nayak, IAS (SCS-2015), as the new Director of Panchayati Raj.The appointment, effective immediately, was announced through an official notification from the General Administration and Public Grievance Department.

Bangladesh: Hindu Man Khokon Das Dies After Being Set on Fire on New Year's Eve, Report



NEWDELHI: Khokon Chandra Das, a 50-year-old businessman from Bangladesh, who was reportedly attacked and set on fire on New Year's Eve, died on Saturday morning while undergoing treatment for his injuries, according to officials.Dr Shaon Bin Rahman, a professor at the National Burn Institute in Dhaka, confirmed Khokon Das's death to news agency ANI. He said Das passed away at 7:20 am while receiving treatment in the institute's intensive care unit.According to reports, the incident occurred on December 31, 2025, around 9:30 pm, near Keurbhanga Bazar in Kaneshwar Union, Damudya Upazila, in Bangladesh's Shariatpur district. Unidentified individuals allegedly attacked Khokon Das, poured petrol on him, and set him on fire.Local residents rescued him and rushed him to Shariatpur Sadar Hospital, where he received initial treatment. Due to the severity of his injuries, he was later transferred to Dhaka Medical College Hospital and subsequently shifted to the National Burn and Plastic Surgery Institute in Dhaka.

Khokon Das ran a pharmacy at Keurbhanga Bazar and was well known in the local business community, according to reports.His nephew, Prashant Das, said Khokon's condition deteriorated early Saturday morning. "We are at Shahbagh police station completing the legal process. After the autopsy, we will take the body back to the village.

14 Maoists Gunned Down in Chhattisgarh Encounters



BHUBANESWAR, (Correspondent): Security forces killed over 12 Naxalites in separate encounters across Chhattisgarh's Bastar region on Saturday.Police confirmed that over 10 ultras were eliminated in Sukma, while two were neutralised in Bijapur during early morning operations.An exchange of fire erupted in the dense forests of Sukma's southern region, where District Reserve Guard (DRG) personnel were conducting an anti-Naxalite operation. SP Sukma Kiran Chavan reported that 12 Maoists, including three members of the Kota Area Committee, were gunned down in Konta Kistaram jungle near the Malkangiri border. Security forces recovered automatic weapons, including AK-47 and INSAS rifles, from the site.DRG soldiers engaged Maoists in a fierce gun battle in the Kistaram area. The encounter left 12 armed ultras dead. SP Chavan confirmed that recovered weapons will strengthen evidence against the Maoist network. Authorities continue to monitor the situation closely as search operations expand deeper into the forest.Meanwhile, in Bijapur district, intelligence inputs led to a search operation in the southern region. A DRG team engaged Maoists in intermittent exchanges of fire since early morning. Two ultras were killed at the encounter site. Security forces launched further combing operations to trace Maoists suspected of hiding nearby.

OHPC SIGNS MOU WITH ALIMCO TO EMPOWER DIVYANGJANS AND SENIOR CITIZENS ACROSS ODISHA



BHUBANESWAR, (Correspondent) :In a compassionate stride towards fostering inclusivity and dignity, Odisha Hydro Power Corporation Ltd. (OHPC) has signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with the Artificial Limbs Manufacturing Corporation of India (ALIMCO), Bhubaneswar, to distribute Aids and Assistive Devices to around 400 Divyangjans and senior citizens of Odisha under its Corporate Social Responsibility (CSR) initiatives.The initiative, fully funded by OHPC, aims to enhance mobility, independence, and quality of life for persons with disabilities (PwDs) and eligible senior citizens. As per the MoU, ALIMCO will supply and distribute a wide range of modern and need-based assistive devices, including tricycles, motorized tricycles, wheelchairs, joystick-operated wheelchairs, rollators, walkers, CP chairs, hearing aids, crutches, Braille canes, smart canes, smartphones for the visually impaired, ADL kits for leprosy patients.For senior citizens, the distribution will include walking sticks, elbow and axilla crutches, walkers, wheelchairs (with and without commode), chairs and stools with commode, silicon foam cushions, knee braces, spinal and cervical supports, lumbar-sacral belts, rollators with brakes, walking sticks with seats, foot care kits, and more- ensuring comfort, safety, and enhanced mobility.The MoU was formally signed by Smt. Anima Tripathy, Chief General Manager (HR), OHPC, and Sri Vivek Dwivedi, General Manager (Marketing) I/c, ALIMCO, in the august presence of Sri Sandeep Patnaik, Director (HR), Sri Amiya Kumar Mohanty, Director (Operation) I/c, and Sri Manoj Kumar Mohanty, Deputy General Manager (HR) of OHPC along with senior officials from ALIMCO, including Sri Shailendra Kumar, Deputy Manager & I/c, and Sri Smruti Mallick, Assistant Manager.This partnership reflects OHPC's unwavering commitment to social responsibility, reaffirming its belief that empowerment begins with accessibility and compassion. Through this initiative, OHPC continues to light the path towards a more inclusive, caring, and empowered Odisha- where every individual, regardless of physical ability or age, can lead a life of dignity and independence.

ECI Invites Citizen Suggestions to Improve ECINet App by January 10

NEWDELHI: The Election Commission of India (ECI) has invited citizens to share suggestions for improving the ECINet App by January 10, 2026.Citizens can download the app and submit feedback using the "Submit a Suggestion" tab.The trial version of ECINet already delivers better voter services, quicker access to polling percentage trends, and faster publication of Index Cards within 72 hours of polls. Previously, this exercise took several weeks or months. Moreover, the app was successfully tested during the Bihar Assembly Elections 2025 and subsequent bye-elections.The platform continues to evolve as officials refine it based on feedback from CEOs, DEOs, EROs, Observers, and field staff. In addition, user suggestions will be examined carefully, and updates will be rolled out to make the app more user-friendly. The official launch of ECINet is scheduled for this month.ECINet stands as a major initiative led by Chief Election Commissioner Shri Gyanesh Kumar, along with Election Commissioners Dr Sukhbir Singh Sandhu and Dr Vivek Joshi. Work on the app began after its announcement on May 4, 2025, and development has progressed steadily since then.Furthermore, ECINet integrates 40 separate election-related applications and websites into one interface. These include the Voter Helpline App (VHA), cVIGIL, Saksham, Polling Trends (Voter Turnout App), and Know Your Candidate (KYC) App. Citizens can download ECINet from both the Google Play Store and the Apple App Store.

Bihar Govt Issues Safety Guidelines For School Vehicles



Patna: Bihar Transport Minister Shravan Kumar has issued stringent guidelines to ensure the safety of schoolchildren travelling across the state.Emphasising that children's safety is the government's top priority, the minister warned that strict punitive action will be taken against school managements and vehicle owners who fail to comply with prescribed safety norms.To enforce these measures, the Transport Department will launch a state-wide inspection campaign in January.All District Transport Officers (DTOs) have been directed to conduct thorough checks of vehicles operated by schools.Under the new guidelines, every school vehicle must be equipped with a Vehicle Location Tracking Device (VLTD), panic button, GPS, and CCTV cameras.School managements will be responsible for securely storing at least 60 days of CCTV footage.To prevent overspeeding, speed governors have been made mandatory in all school buses, limiting the maximum speed to 40 km per hour.Kumar stated that strict norms have also been laid down for drivers. They will be penalised even once for speeding, dangerous driving, or drunk driving.
"Drivers fined more than twice in a year for red-light violations or lane indiscipline will also be disqualified," he said."Anyone convicted under the IPC, CrPC, or POCSO Act will not be allowed to drive school vehicles. Police verification of the driver's permanent address and two close relatives is mandatory before appointment," Kumar said.According to a transport department official, drivers must hold a valid Heavy Motor Vehicle (HMV) license and have at least one year of driving experience, and all school buses must be fitted with a first-aid box, fire extinguisher, and retro-reflective tape.Additionally, all documents—registration certificate, insurance, pollution certificate, fitness certificate, and permit—must be valid and up to date.The Transport Department stated that these measures are aimed at ensuring greater transparency, accountability, and safety in the transportation of schoolchildren across Bihar.

PPA Marks 65th Port Foundation Day with 21st Paradip Marathon



PARADEEP, (Correspondent) :Paradip Port Authority observed its 65th Port Foundation Day with the successful conduct of the 21st Paradip Marathon 2026 on Saturday. The event was organised by the Gopabandhu Kreeda Sansad of PPA and flagged off from Hanuman Temple Square by the Chief Guest, Shri P. L. Haranadh, Chairman, PPA, in the presence of Shri T. Venu Gopal, Deputy Chairman, PPA, as Guest of Honour.The 14 km stretch concluded at Gopabandhu Stadium amid enthusiastic support from residents of the port township and various organisations. A total of 336 runners participated, including 280 men and 56 women .Gracing the valedictory function held at Gopabandhu Stadium as Chief Guest, Shri Haranadh recalled that Paradip Port Authority, whose foundation stone was laid on 3 January 1962, has grown from a small jetty into one of India's leading major ports. He highlighted that the port is currently the largest major port in terms of rated capacity, records the best berth productivity among Indian major ports, and is the most cost-efficient major port in the country. He added that with ongoing modernisation, a strong focus on green development, and employee welfare, the port is steadily progressing towards a capacity of 400 MMT by 2030. He noted that the Paradip Marathon reflects the same spirit of growth, discipline, and collective participation.On the occasion, Odisha's rising sprinter Pratik Maharana, who recently bagged the bronze in the men's 200 m event and was part of the Indian men's 4x100 m relay team that secured a silver at the 4th South Asian Senior Athletics Championships 2025, was specially felicitated by Shri P. L. Haranadh, Chairman, Paradip Port Authority.In the men's category, Shri Ashok Dandasena of Odisha Police secured first place in Paradip Marathon 2026 with a timing of 43 minutes 52.2 seconds. Shri Gulson Dung Dung of Ranchi finished second in 44 minutes 11.9 seconds, followed by Shri Rakesh Mahanta of Jharkhand in third place with 44 minutes 18.3 seconds.

Torch Rally In Agartala Demands Justice For Tripura Student Killed In Dehradun

Agartala: The North-East Youth Congress Coordination Committee (NEYCCC), on Saturday, organised a large scale torch rally here to protest the killing of Tripura student Angel Chakma, who was brutally assaulted in Dehradun and later succumbed to his injuries in December last year.Angel Chakma, a 24-year-old MBA final-year student from Machmara in Tripura's Unakoti district and the son of a Border Security Force (BSF) constable, was allegedly attacked by a racist mob in Uttarakhand's state capital Dehradun on December 9.The attackers reportedly hurled racial slurs at him during the assault.After battling for his life for 18 days in hospital, he died on December 26.Holding banners reading "Justice for Angel Chakma", the torch rally began from the state Congress Bhavan and passed through several parts of the capital city.NEYCCC leaders, including Tripura State Youth Congress President Neel Kamal Saha, demanded the strictest punishment for those responsible for Chakma's killing.Earlier on Saturday, a NEYCCC delegation comprising Youth Congress leaders from various Northeastern states visited Chakma's residence in Unakoti district and met his family members.Saha said that, following instructions of the Lok Sabha Leader of Opposition (LoP) Rahul Gandhi, the NEYCCC delegation visited the bereaved family."We have assured the family that we will stand by them during this difficult time. During our meeting, Indian Youth Congress President Uday Bhanu Chib also spoke to Angel Chakma's parents through a video call and assured them that the organisation would remain with the family," Saha told the media.He alleged that the attackers branded Angel as "Chinese" and brutally assaulted him, even as his father, a BSF jawan, was guarding the country's borders.Meanwhile, senior Bharatiya Janata Party leader from Uttarakhand and former Rajya Sabha member Tarun Vijay, after meeting Chakma's family members in Unakoti district on Friday, also demanded the strictest punishment for those responsible for the killing.Condemning the incident, Vijay said that exemplary punishment must be awarded to the culprits to deter such crimes in the future.He added that Tripura Chief Minister Manik Saha has held several discussions with the Uttarakhand Chief Minister Pushkar Singh Dhami regarding the case.Vijay also proposed that Angel Chakma's younger brother, Michael Chakma, be provided a government job in Tripura to ensure financial stability for the family.He also suggested the formation of a special Northeast cell within the Uttarakhand Police to deal with cases of racial abuse and discrimination. Protests have been held almost daily in Uttarakhand following the incident, Vijay said.BJP's ally Tipra Motha Party (TMP) leader Rajeshwar Debbarma said the party is demanding exemplary punishment for the perpetrators and the invocation of the Scheduled Castes and the Scheduled Tribes (Prevention of Atrocities) Act, 1989.

Telangana Assembly Scraps Two-Child Norm for Local Body Elections Amid Declining Fertility Concerns

Hyderabad,: The Telangana Legislative Assembly unanimously passed the Telangana Panchayat Raj (Amendment) Bill, 2026, on Saturday, abolishing the longstanding two-child norm that barred individuals with more than two living children from contesting local body elections.Panchayat Raj and Rural Development Minister Danasari Anasuya Seethakka, popularly known as Seethakka, tabled the bill, which replaces a prior ordinance and paves the way for upcoming panchayat and municipal polls under revised eligibility criteria.Seethakka explained that the restrictive provision, introduced in 1994 during the undivided Andhra Pradesh era, aimed to curb population explosion exacerbating food insecurity, unemployment, and poverty in the 1980s and 1990s.Three decades later, a comprehensive government review of the population policy prompted its repeal, recognizing evolving demographic realities.Highlighting rural Telangana's total fertility rate (TFR) of 1.7—below the replacement level of 2.1—Seethakka warned that sustained decline could yield dire long-term consequences, including an aging population, shrinking workforce, and social imbalances.Citizens' voluntary shift toward smaller families, coupled with inputs from Panchayat Raj representatives, necessitated policy recalibration to sustain generational equilibrium and broaden grassroots democratic participation.The amendment eliminates disqualifications for posts like sarpanch, ward member, MPTC, and ZPTC, fostering inclusivity without coercive family planning mandates. This aligns with Supreme Court observations deeming such norms outdated in states achieving population stabilization, following Telangana Cabinet's October 2025 initial decision.

Puri's metropolitan status to drive comprehensive urban development



BHUBANESWAR, (Correspondent)The declaration of Puri as a metropolitan city will lead to large-scale, planned urban development in the temple town and its surrounding areas, according to State Housing and Urban Development Minister Dr. Krushna Chandra Mahapatra, who spoke at a press conference on Friday.Dr Mahapatra explained that the Puri Metropolitan Region will encompass adjacent areas where a comprehensive Town Planning (TP) Scheme will be implemented to ensure systematic and sustainable urban growth. As part of this integrated plan, multipurpose market complexes, parks, open spaces, and sufficient parking facilities will be developed.He mentioned that since the BJP government took office in the state, it has fulfilled its commitment to enhance urban governance by establishing 28 new Notified Area Councils (NACs), seven municipalities, and one metropolitan city. Dr Mahapatra expressed gratitude to Chief Minister Shri Mohan Charan Majhi and Panchayati Raj Minister Shri Ravi Nayak for their leadership and support in advancing the urban development agenda.The Minister informed that Block Development Officers (BDOs) have been given temporary administrative responsibility for the 28 newly created NACs, and Executive Officers will be appointed soon. Each new NAC has been allocated ?50 lakh for the development of roads, sanitation, and basic civic amenities. The State Government will also provide ?6 crore for the construction of office buildings for each NAC, for which a model Detailed Project Report (DPR) has been prepared. Similar financial provisions have been made for the seven new municipalities.Highlighting the government's special focus on Puri, Dr Mahapatra noted that following its upgrade to a Municipal Corporation, ?2 crore has been approved for sanitation and drainage works, and ?1 crore has been allocated for street lighting. "Puri is our identity. The State Government will ensure that there is no shortage of funds for its development," he asserted.Furthermore, the Minister stated that public input has been solicited from residents of 26 revenue villages within seven gram panchayats regarding the proposed expansion of the Bhubaneswar Municipal Corporation (BMC). The expansion process will proceed once their consent is obtained. Similarly, opinions from 34 revenue villages under 12 gram panchayats have been gathered for the proposed expansion of the Berhampur Municipal Corporation.Dr Mahapatra added that with the census process set to begin this year, the State Government has announced the formation of new NACs, municipalities, and municipal corporations before December 31. He remarked that urban reorganisation is an ongoing process, and the government will consider all genuine and relevant demands that may arise in the future.

Odisha Braces for Chilly Nights and Dense Fog



BHUBANESWAR, (Correspondent): With no specific weather system active over Odisha, the regional meteorological centre has forecast a rise in night temperatures accompanied by increased fog.Over the past 24 hours, fog has been reported in 12 cities, while six cities experienced cold nights with temperatures dipping below 10 degrees Celsius. Dense fog was recorded in Bhubaneswar, Nayagarh, and Paradip, with thick fog in Kendrapara and Puri, and moderate fog was observed in seven other locations.Following the forecast of rising minimum night temperatures, G. Udayagiri recorded the lowest at 7 degrees Celsius. Other chilly spots included Daringbadi at 7.5 degrees, Phulbani at 8.5 degrees, Semiliguda at 9.5 degrees, Koraput at 9.8 degrees, and Nabarangpur at 10 degrees.A very dense fog warning has been issued for the next five days. For Sunday morning, an orange warning is in place for Nayagarh, Cuttack, Khordha, Puri, Jagatsinghpur, and Kendrapara districts, while a yellow warning covers 12 districts.Starting from Sunday night, the regional meteorological centre has alerted that night temperatures across the state will undergo changes and trend downward.

Four Workers Killed In Stone Quarry Blast In Dhenkanal

Dhenkanal,(Correspondent):: At least four workers were killed in a powerful explosion during blasting operations at a stone quarry near Gopalpur village under Motanga police station limits in Dhenkanal district on Saturday.According to preliminary reports, the blast occurred while routine quarrying work was underway. All four victims were workers engaged in the blasting process. The intensity of the explosion proved fatal, killing them on the spot.After receiving information about the incident, personnel from Motanga police station immediately rushed to the site and began preliminary inquiries. Senior officials have also been alerted, and the local administration swung into action following confirmation of the fatalities.As of the latest reports, it is not yet clear whether there are more casualties or injuries. Rescue and verification efforts are underway to ascertain if any other workers were present at the site during the blast.The incident has cast a pall of gloom over the surrounding villages, with shock and grief gripping the local community. Residents expressed concern over safety practices in stone quarries operating in the area.Police have secured the quarry premises and are examining the circumstances that led to the explosion.

Odisha Reviews Compliance With SC Guidelines On Stray Animal Management



BHUBANESWAR, (Correspondent):: The Odisha government on Friday reviewed its compliance with the Supreme Court's (SC) directives on managing issues related to stray dogs, cattle and other animals, with an emphasis on public safety and humane treatment of animals. A high-level meeting in this regard was held at Lok Seva Bhawan under the chairmanship of Chief Secretary Anu Garg.The meeting focused on steps taken and proposed by various departments to address problems arising from stray animals, particularly incidents involving dog bites. The review comes in the backdrop of an important Supreme Court decision delivered on July 20, 2025, after the apex court took suo motu cognisance of a national newspaper report highlighting cases of children being bitten by stray dogs in several parts of Delhi, including New Delhi.During the meeting, senior officials briefed the Chief Secretary on measures initiated by their respective departments to comply with the Supreme Court's guidelines. Principal administrative secretaries, commissioners and secretaries from departments such as Fisheries and Animal Resources Development, Housing and Urban Development, Commerce and Transport, Women and Child Development, Panchayati Raj and Drinking Water, Higher Education, School and Mass Education, Sports and Youth Services, and ST/SC/OBC Welfare, among others, participated in the deliberations.Chief Secretary Anu Garg described the issue as one of critical importance, stressing the need to strike a balance between compassion for animals and the safety of human life. She underlined that while humane treatment of animals must be ensured, protecting citizens—especially children—from harm remains the government's foremost priority.

Talcher Implements GRAP Stage-II Restrictions Amid Hazardous Air Quality

BHUBANESWAR, (Correspondent): In a swift response to deteriorating air quality, the Collector and District Magistrate of Angul has invoked Section 163 of the Bharatiya Nagarik Suraksha Sanhita (BNSS) to impose a series of stringent restrictions in Talcher Municipality, a major coal mining and industrial hub in Odisha.The order, issued on January 3, 2026, cites the "poor air quality in Talcher Municipality" and aligns with Graded Response Action Plan (GRAP) Stage-II guidelines to curb dust and emissions. Talcher has recently recorded alarming Air Quality Index (AQI) levels, frequently exceeding 350-400, making it one of India's most polluted towns in early 2026, according to Central Pollution Control Board (CPCB) data.Separate restrictions to be issued by Sub-Collector, Talcher, and RTO for coal transportation.The order also mandates daily monitoring by the Sub-Divisional Magistrate, Talcher, with compliance reports submitted to the district office. It remains in force for seven days unless extended, directing police, municipal authorities, and executing agencies to ensure strict enforcement.Talcher's air pollution woes stem largely from its extensive coal mines, thermal power plants, and industrial activities in the Angul-Talcher belt. Recent CPCB readings have placed Talcher at the top of national pollution charts, with AQI levels in the 'very poor' to 'hazardous' category, posing serious health risks to residents, including respiratory issues.

Traffic Restrictions Announced In Bhubaneswar For Patha Utsav On Jan 4

Bhubaneswar (Correspondent):: The Bhubaneswar–Cuttack Police Commissionerate has issued a traffic advisory in view of the "Patha Utsav" scheduled to be held on January 4, 2026, along the Janpath stretch from Master Canteen to Ram Mandir Square in Bhubaneswar.According to the advisory, all vehicular movement will be completely restricted on the specified stretch of Janpath as well as on its connecting lanes from 11:00 PM on January 3 to 11:00 AM on January 4, 2026. The restrictions are being imposed to ensure smooth conduct of the event, which is expected to witness the presence of several dignitaries and a large number of participants.The Commissionerate Police has urged commuters and city residents to avoid the affected route, if possible, and plan their travel in advance to prevent inconvenience and delays. Motorists have also been advised to follow temporary traffic diversions and cooperate with traffic personnel deployed on duty.In a statement, Commissioner of Police Suresh Dev Datta Singh, appealed to the public for cooperation, stating that adherence to the traffic regulations would help maintain smooth traffic flow and ensure the successful conduct of Patha Utsav.

State-Level National Road Safety Month-2026 Inaugurated



Bhubaneswar(Correspondent):: The state-level celebrations of National Road Safety Month-2026 were inaugurated at Mahatma Gandhi Marg here today. Speaker of Odisha Assembly, Surama Padhy, inaugurated the event as the Chief Guest, calling for the expansion of road safety measures in the state.Commerce and Transport Minister Bibhuti Bhushan Jena, emphasised that the state government has given top priority to road safety. "We have taken many steps based on the message of National Road Safety Month, 'Education to Safety and Technology to Transformation'," he said. Jena credited strict law enforcement, awareness campaigns, and the successful use of technology for the reduction in road accidents in the last few years.Law and Excise Prithviraj Harichandan, Fisheries and Animal Resources Development Minister, Gokulanand Mallick, and former Minister and senior leader, Manmohan Samal, also attended the event, stressing the importance of creating awareness in the field of road safety.Eminent actor and MLA, Siddhant Mohapatra, Great International Sand Artist, Sudarshan Patnaik, and Eminent Social Worker, Dr. Shruti Mohapatra, were present as Road Safety Brand Ambassadors, urging the public to work towards reducing road accidents.The event featured the launch of the "Aam Subahaka" scheme, aimed at empowering trained women to become self-reliant by providing interest-free loans for purchasing four-wheelers. Five beneficiaries of the scheme received car keys on the occasion.Free kits were also provided to bus drivers to identify sleepiness and drunk driving, and a 'Road Safety Bulletin Dashboard' was prepared in partnership with IIT Madras. A QR-Vibrant Digital Bus Ticketing System, FASTicket, was also launched under the Odisha Yatri App.The event concluded with a mass road safety pledge and a walk organised till Ram Mandir, where a wheelchair rugby team was honoured.

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Phone No.: 022-66211000, Website: www.manappuramhomefin.com

DEMAND NOTICE

Whereas the Authorized Officer of Manappuram Home Finance Ltd., having our registered office at IV/470A (old) w/638A (new), Manappuram House, Valapad, Thrissur, Kerala-680567 and branches at various places in India (hereinafter referred to as "MAHOFIN") is a Company registered under the Companies Act, 1956 and a Financial Institution within the meaning of sub-clause (iv) of clause (m) of sub-section (1) of Section 2 of the Securitization and Reconstruction of financial Assets and Enforcement of Security Interest Act, 2002 (hereinafter referred so as the Act) read with Notification No. S.O. 3466 (E) dated 18th December, 2015 issued by the Govt. of India, Department of Financial Services, Ministry of Finance, New Delhi, inter alia carrying on business of advancing loans for construction and / or purchase of dwelling units and whereas the Borrower / Co-Borrowers as mentioned in Column No. 2 of the below mentioned chart obtained loan from MAHOFIN and whereas MAHOFIN being the secured creditor under the SARFAESI Act, and in exercise of powers conferred under section 13(2) of the said Act read with Rule 2 of the security interest (Enforcement) Rules 2002, issued demand notice calling upon the Borrowers / Co-Borrowers as mentioned herein below, to repay the amount mentioned in the notices with further interest thereon within 60 days from the date of notice, but the notices could not be served upon some of them for various reasons. That in addition thereto for the purposes of information of the said borrowers enumerated below, the said borrowers are being informed by way of this public notice.

Sr. No.	Name Of The Borrower/ Co-Borrower/Lan/Branch	Description Of Secured Asset In Respect Of Which Interest Has Been Created	Npa Date	Date Of Notice Sent & Outstanding Amount
1	Gayatri Gouda, Pramod Kumar Gouda, MHL00940011052/ Berhampur	Khata No.438/126, Plot No. 681/1232, Mouza Sunakera, Buguda Tahasil, AC. 0.008 Dec., Dist Ganjam, Odisha, Pin: 761117, East-Gharabari of Prafulla Gouda, West-Umacharana Gouda, South-Pahada, North-Road	14-12-2025	17-12-2025 & Rs.277553/-

Notice, is therefore given to the Borrowers / Co-Borrowers, as mentioned herein above, calling upon them to make payment of the total outstanding amount as shown herein above, against the respective Borrower / Co-Borrower, within 60 days of publication of this notice. Failure to make payment of the total outstanding amount together with further interest by the respective Borrower/ Co-Borrower, MAHOFIN shall be constrained to take u/s 13(4) for enforcement of security interest upon properties as described above, steps are also being taken for service of notice in other manners as prescribed under the Act and the rules made hereunder. You are put to notice that the said mortgage can be redeemed upon payment of the entire amount due together with costs, charges and expenses incurred by MAHOFIN at any time before the date of publication of notice for public auction or private treaty for transfer by way of sale, as detailed in Section 13(8) of the SARFAESI Act.
Take note that in terms of S-13 (13) of the SARFAESI Act, you are hereby restrained from transferring and/or dealing with the Secured Properties in any manner by way of sale, lease or in any other manner.

Date: 4th January 2026 | Place: ODISHA
Sd/- Authorised Officer Manappuram Home Finance Ltd

EDITORIAL

The Dangers of Artificial Light Glare

After the invention of fire in the story of development of human civilization, the invention of electric bulb was considered to be the most revolutionary. It conquered man over darkness and changed our functionality by changing the night into day. We have lit cities, illuminated houses and made our nights active as day. We call it evolution and modernity, but today this victory is becoming the cause of our biggest biological defeat. The artificial light that we had ejected for our convenience has now turned into an invisible danger, which is making the most important organs of our body especially our heart its victim. The serious danger that recent scientific studies are warning us is not only shocking, but also a big question mark on our entire modern lifestyle. This unnecessary light of the night has become a slow poison for our heart health. Most of us are completely unaware of this one danger. We associate light with safety and positivity, while darkness is fearful, but the reality from biology is exactly the opposite. Recent extensive and intensive research has confirmed that exposure to artificial light at night does not only spoil our sleep, but it is a direct and major cause of fatal heart diseases. These studies are a warning to millions of people who believe that the use of light, TV or phone at night is not harmful. has Talking about the data, the situation looks very scary. Researchers have found that people who are exposed to strong or frequent artificial lights at night, the risk of heart failure Increases up to 56 percent. Medical science has considered it dangerous. . Similarly, the risk of heart attack has been found to be up to 47 percent and the risk of stroke or other fatal conditions is more than thirty percent. These are not just paper numbers, but it is a sign of millions of lives that can be prematurely in the cheek due to their ignorance. The most worrying aspect of this research reveals that the risk was also seen equally in those who were very cautious about their health and physical activities. We often think that if we are eating good and balanced food, exercising regularly, do not smoke and alcohol From If we stay away, then our heart is completely safe. But this new study completely demolishes our misunderstanding. Scientists found that the side effects of artificial lights were also clearly seen in those who had an ideal lifestyle. This is a direct and clear meaning that night light is also a big risk. You all day No matter how much you run or no matter how nutritious diet, if you do not sleep in the dark at night, your heart is in danger. This fact establishes a new paradigm in the world of health, where darkness has now become an essential pillar of good health like vitamins and exercise. To understand this threat, we have to understand the evolutionary history of the human body and its biological structure. For millions of years, the human body has developed in harmony with the natural cycle of rotation of the earth and rising sun. Our ancestors used to do other things besides hunting in the daylight and rested in the darkness of night.

Rajkishore Nayak: The Gandhi of Patkuraand His Enduring Moral Legacy

Tapan Bihari Bhanj

There are some great personalities in the modern history of Odisha, who have remained in the pages of history not by high office, royal life or ostentatious fame, but by sheer sacrifice, integrity, and selfless service. Among them, Rajkishore Nayak is a unique name - who is from Odisha.

Rajkishore Nayak is a name that has been silently but firmly immortalized in the history of the freedom movement, rural mobilization and moral politics. Simple living, high thinking, truth, non-violence and selfless service - the combination of all these qualities established him as 'Gandhi of Patkura' in the minds of the people. It was not just a title; it was an acknowledgement of his life. His life was the living textbook of Gandhiji. Khadi clothes, few necessities, nothing for self - everything for society - this philosophy was the basis of his life. He used to say - "Leaders are not those who give orders, they do it first".

His personal life was also a reflection of his ideals. At that time - without dowry, without dowry, without palanquin, went for marriage in a very simple and unassuming way. This event was not just a memory; it was a silent message to the society - not adoration, but idealism is the beauty of life. He was not just a politician, but a moral leader who guided people through his conduct. He was an ideal teacher. Education is not limited to books. For him, education means building character, raising awareness, and creating a sense of responsibility towards society. His students remembered him not



as a guru, but as a guide of life.

During the freedom movement, he was accepted Gandhiji's call as the theme of his life. He played an active role in the Non-Cooperation, Satyagraha, and Swadeshi movements. Prison, repression, deprivation - nothing could make him go away. According to him, freedom is not only a political but also a moral, social, and psychological process. The main goal of his life was to make the villages of Patkura aware. He fought against illiteracy, untouchability, and alcoholism throughout his life. He instilled self-respect and self-respect in the minds of the people through gram sabhas', padyatras and direct dialogues.

The relationship between Rajkishore Nayak and Biju Patnaik was based on ideals, trust and respect. Biju Patnaik was deeply influenced by his integrity and Gandhian philosophy. With his guidance and blessings, He was elected twice as an MLA (Member of Legislative Assembly) on a Janata Dal ticket. Even after becoming an MLA, he never shied away from the masses - simple living, khadi clothes and the common man's language were his identity. When Rajkishore Nayak's health deteriorated, Biju Patnaik personally made all the medical arrangements in Delhi. Rajkishore Nayak was undergoing treatment at the Biju Patnaik Hospital. Biju Patnaik's wife, Gyan

Patnaik, was also present during this period. It stood as a rare example of humanity rising above political boundaries.

He gave a new impetus to the Swadeshi movement by serving as the chairman of the Odisha Khadi Board. Rural economy, cottage industry and self-reliance were his priorities. He dedicated his life for the betterment of society. Today, when the crisis of values is deepening, Rajkishore Nayak's life is a beacon for us. He has proved that there can be leadership without power and respect without position.In another chapter of humanism, the entire management of "Asureswar Go Mangal Samiti" under Nischintakoili block of Cuttack district was headed by Rajkishore Nayak. The specialty of this Go-shala lay in the care and protection of old, infirm, and lame animals. For this selfless service, she was honored with the "Lifetime Achievement Award" by Smt. Maneka Gandhi, a national recognition of her lifelong commitment and ideals. Smt. Maneka Gandhi had visited the Go-shala in 2014, Lavish praised the late Rajkishore Nayak.Incidentally, today the same Maneka Gandhi is coming to deliver the 16th Gandhi Memorial Lecture of the late hero.

His identity as "Gandhi of Patkura" is a historical fact - he earned it through his sacrifice, service and ideals. May his memory and ideals guide the coming generations on the path of truth, courage and service - this is the best tribute to him.

Bhubaneshwar
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Mother Nature by saving the green gold on earth

Badal Bhuyan

God has created the beautiful well ornamented earth decorated with green gold, but nothing to satisfy the greed of human beings. It is this greed in us that is responsible for Nature's fury in the form of famines, floods and landslides. If we want to avert such tragedies, we will have to please Mother Nature by saving the green gold on earth.

'I came; I used and I damaged' is the proud call of man. The beautiful ornaments, the green gold were all stolen away by the greedy sons of Adam. He swept off the dense forest undressing his own motherland to turn them into concrete jungles in order to get wood for various purposes. We are like that fool who is cutting the same branch on which he is sitting, ignorant of his tragic fall. Today we are depleting the forests one after the other to make beautiful furniture for our offices, hotels and houses, little realizing who will use them when the humanity will be wiped out by the fury of the nature. Why do we forget that the trees guard us against erosion of land damage to water bodies, floods and famines? They have a salutary effect on water, soil and climate. The forest cover also lowers the maximum temperature. If we want to save our planet from severity of droughts and floods, caused by the growing deforestation, further forest conversions to meet the industrial, urban and agricultural needs of the planet and unauthorized and indiscriminate felling of trees by miscreants shall have to be regulated and controlled through legislative and administrative actions. Afforestation programmes with emphasis on social and environmental forestry also need to be undertaken on large scale with active participation of local people.

By killing these trees who are actually sacrificing saints, we have made air, the very breath of our existence and the most essential element of our life, a living inferno for us. A further result of it is a staggering turn of the wheel of climate, leading to the unending problems of human life on earth. With an apparent depletion of ozone layer we live like Karna in the Kurukshretra without the protecting shield. The blue bird perching on your window pane awakens you from your deep slumber of night by melodious music and to feel the fresh and fragrant air and the rain beating on your roof top and so on. Do we have all this in our houses today? NO! These sounds have died out.

It is really surprising, shocking and shameful that man has closed his eyes towards the treasures hidden in the leaves, flowers, stems and roots of the trees through which we get medicines, beautiful flowers, tasty and juicy fruits and which are the homes of millions of friendly insects and birds who tend our crops and free them from pests and rats. The wood is for present time but the trees are forever. It is foolish to destroy our tomorrow for the sake of today.

Devoid of trees, this earth will become a hell in which we'll have to live. Can we escape? No! No exit to escape. Then, let us put our heads, hearts and hands together to improve upon the forest cover and make it safe for life. Let's awaken theconsciousness of the human beings towards the importance and necessity of trees. Industrialization, urbanization and agriculture is a must but not at the cost of our life and our planet.

Uncontested Elections vs. NOTA:The Clash of Public Will, Law, and Ethics in Indian Democracy

Kishan Bhawnani

Globally, India, proudly called the world's largest democracy, sees elections not merely as a process of choosing representatives, but as a constitutional medium for the collective consciousness, dissent, consent, and trust of the people. The soul of democracy rests on the principle that power emanates from the people, is governed by the people, and works for the benefit of the people. In this context, the question becomes extremely serious: what happens to the will, dissent, and rights of the voters when only one candidate remains in a constituency and is declared elected unopposed? This is especially relevant when the same voters have the constitutional right to express their disapproval through options like NOTA (None of the Above). Section 53(2) of the Representation of the People Act, 1951, clearly states that if the number of candidates remaining in a constituency is equal to the number of seats, the returning officer shall declare them elected without a poll. Similarly, Rule 11 of the Conduct of Elections Rules, 1961, and Forms 21 and 21B, provide legal sanction to the process of declaring the results of uncontested elections. From a legal perspective, this system was created for administrative simplicity and resource saving. However, today, when democracy is not merely a process but a symbol of publicparticipation and public consent, this provision demands a reconsideration of its justification I,Advocate KishanSanmukhdas Bhawnani, from Gondia, Maharashtra, believe that the Indian Constitution is not merely a framework of governance, but a vibrant democratic document whose soul lies in public consent, public participation, and public accountability.The basis for calling India the world's largest democracy is not just the number of elections held, but the fact that every citizen here has an equal right to political particip expression In such a scenario, when a candidate is declared elected unopposed in a constituency and voters are not given the opportunity to vote, the question naturally arises whether this system is in accordance with the fundamental spirit of the Constitution? Articles 324 to 329 of the Indian Constitution lay down the constitutional framework for elections. Although the right to vote is a statutory right, the Supreme Court has repeatedly clarified that free and fair elections are part of the basic structure of the Constitution. In a democracy, elections do not merely mean choosing representatives; they are also a means of expressing both the consent and dissent of the citizens. If a citizen is given only the opportunity to approve, but not to disapprove, then democracy remains incomplete.

Friends, if we talk about understanding NOTA, the constitutional right to dissent, then in India, the NOTA option was recognized in 2013 through a landmark Supreme Court judgment (PUCL vs. Union of India). Its objective was clear: to give the voter the right to participate in the election but not to accept any of the candidates. NOTA is a symbol of negative consent in a democracy. It is the silent voice of the voter that says, I believe in the electoral system, but not in the candidates. In such a situation, the question naturally arises: what is the purpose of NOTA when there is no election? This option is linked to the voter's freedom of expression (Article 19(1)(a)). The purpose of NOTA was to allow citizens to say, "I believe in the electoral system, but I am not satisfied with the options presented." NOTA embodies the fundamental principle of the Constitution, which grants citizens not only the right to choose their rulers but also the right to question the form of governance.

Friends, Now, let's consider unopposed elections: Section 53(2) and the constitutional dilemma. According to Section 53(2) of the Representation of the People Act, 1951, if the number of candidates remaining in a constituency is equal to the number of seats, the returning officer will declare them elected without a vote. Rule 11 and Form 21/21B of the Conduct of Elections Rules, 1961, formalize this process. This provision was created for administrative convenience and practicality, but in today's constitutional context, the question arises whether this system is consistent with the principles of popular consent, political equality, and democratic ethics. The fundamental philosophy of the Constitution is that power originates from the will of the people. When voters are not given the opportunity to vote in an unopposed election, their will, whether of support or opposition, is rendered constitutionally invisible. This situation shifts democracy from a government of the people to a government imposed by law, which is contrary to constitutional morality.

Friends, if we consider the issue of a single candidate, zero choice: Is this democracy?, when only one candidate remains for a seat and is declared the winner unopposed, the voter is left with no choice. Neither to support nor to oppose. This situation renders the fundamental principle of democracy, choice, ineffective. Even if a large section of voters believes that the candidate does not represent the public interest, the law still makes him or her the representative. This is not democracy, but a situation of legal monopoly.

Friends, if we consider the question raised in the Supreme Court: NOTA versus unopposed victory, a petition was filed in the Supreme Court by the Vidhi Centre for Legal Policy regarding this constitutional dilemma, challenging Section 53(2) of the Representation of the People Act and the Conduct of Elections Rules, 1961. During the hearing, a bench of Chief Justice Surya Kant and Justice Joymalya Bagchi commented that "this is a very interesting and important issue." The bench also asked whether voters could not be given the NOTA option in elections with only one candidate?This comment itself indicates that the judiciary is also ready to examine this system on democratic grounds. During the hearing, the Solicitor General argued that it would be appropriate to contact the government first on this matter. The court also gave the petitioner the liberty to approach the court again if the government does not consider the issue. This approach reflects the principle of separation of powers in the Constitution, where legislative reform is first expected from Parliament, and the judiciary acts as the ultimate guardian. Election Commission's stance: Rare but important The Election Commission stated in its affidavit that unopposed elections in the Lok Sabha are extremely rare. According to a senior advocate, since 1991, there has been only one unopposed Lok Sabha election, a total of six from 1971 to 2025, and only nine unopposed elections out of the 20 general elections held since 1951. While the numbers may be small, in a democracy, principles are more valuable than statistics. Even a single instance where the will of the voter is suppressed raises questions about the entire democratic framework.Friends, Regarding the debate on considering NOTA as a candidate, the Election Commission states that treating NOTA as a candidate in unopposed elections is not possible under current law. This would require legislative amendments to the Representation of the People Act, 1951, and the Conduct of Elections Rules, 1961. This admission itself shows that the problem is statutory, not constitutional, and its solution lies with Parliament. The court also made a moral observation that NOTA is a symbol of discontent. The bench stated during the hearing that NOTA is only effective when voters have serious grievances against a candidate. The Election Commission argued that if there is so much discontent, voters can field independent candidates.

Meeting held at Rameshwar Stadium to prepare for 'Mahima' Subarnapur Lok Mahotsav and Pallishree Mela

SUBARNAPUR(Correspondent) ---A meeting was held on Saturday evening to prepare for the 'Mahima'Subarnapur Lok Mahotsav, Pallishree Mela, to be held from January 7 to 11 at the Rameshwar Stadium Grounds. Officers of all departments of the district were present in this meeting and it was discussed how many stalls everyone will have in the upcoming Pallishree Mela and how the stalls can be made beautiful.Apart from this, there was a discussion on how the festival will run



smoothly, how all kinds of facilities will be provided for the people and how the stadium will be kept clean. The district administration is ready and all kinds of preparations have reached the final stage for the upcoming 'Mahima' Subarnapur Lok Mahotsav. All the stalls are being made by the ORMAS. There will be 110 stalls of women from self-help groups, 40 food stalls, 10 stalls of district administration support, 20 stalls of private organizations and companies and 10 stalls of trade from outside the state in this Pallishree Mela. Subarnapur Collector Dr. Nruparaj Sahu reviewed the drinking water system, sanitation system, parking system, security system during the mahotsav. Additional District Magistrate (Revenue) Rajendra Majhi, Additional District Magistrate (General) Anjalina Pradhan, Sonepur Sub Collector Dr. Soumyarupa Rath, CDO cum EO Zilla Parishad Aswini Kumar Meher, Chief District Medical and Public Health Officer Dr. Usharani Das and District Cultural Officer Yamuna Pradhan and other officials were present in this meeting.

Intra-Party Rift Surfaces in Jajpur BJP : Politics Over Torn New Year Greeting Banners

JAJPUR , (Correspondent) :Factional infighting within the Jajpur district unit of the Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) has now come out in the open. On the occasion of the English New Year, an incident involving greeting banners has exposed the deepening internal discord, pushing party politics to an embarrassingly low level.According to allegations, the photograph of former BJP district secretary Surajlal Samal was deliberately torn and damaged from a New Year greeting banner. Notably, the photograph of constituency leader



Gautam Ray, displayed on the same banner, was left completely untouched—clearly highlighting the internal group dynamics within the party.Shortly afterward, in the Ballavighat area, another New Year greeting banner was found vandalized, this time with the photograph of Gautam Ray also torn in a similar manner. This sequence of incidents has further exposed the retaliatory and vindictive politics brewing within the party ranks.Disputes surrounding youth leadership in the Jajpur Assembly constituency have been a subject of controversy for some time. Earlier incidents, including an attack on youth leader Sangram Patra and the vandalization of his vehicle, had already raised serious questions about party discipline. Party workers now believe that had strict action been taken at that time, such disgraceful incidents could have been avoided today.Such events have severely dented the image of the BJP in Jajpur and pushed dissatisfaction among party workers to a peak. While the incident has triggered intense discussion in political circles, all eyes are now on the district and state leadership to see how seriously the matter is addressed and what corrective steps are taken.

MLA Appalaswami Kadarka Inaugurates District-Level Fisheries and Animal Resources Fair in Rayagada

Rayagada,correspondence:The two-day district-level Fisheries and Animal Resources Fair commenced today under the chairmanship of District Collector Shri Ashutosh Kulkarni. Rayagada MLA Shri Appalaswami Kadarka attended the inaugural ceremony as the chief



guest and formally inaugurated the fair by performing Go-Pujan. On the occasion, farmers who rendered outstanding service were felicitated with certificates and cheques of ?5,000 each.Addressing the gathering through video conferencing, Fisheries and Animal Resources Minister Shri Gokulananda Mallik motivated farmers with the slogan, "Self-reliance is the core mantra of a developed India."Among the dignitaries present were Additional District Magistrate Shri Naveen Chandra Nayak, CDVO Dr. Mrunmay Kumar Panda, Deputy Director of Fisheries Shri Jitendra Behera, District Fisheries Officer Shri Sushant Goud, Ramanaguda Block Chairman Shri Ravishankar Gomango, Rayagada Block Chairperson Smt. Tuni Huika, and Zilla Parishad Members Shri Prashant Kulesika, Smt. Padmabati Mandangi and Smt. Sandhya Rani Pual.Speaking on the occasion, MLA Shri Appalaswami Kadarka highlighted the struggles and importance of farmers, stating that food production is a vital responsibility shouldered by them. Referring to the slogan "Jai Jawan, Jai Kisan," he stressed the need to give due importance to domestic animals and indigenous cows, describing them as "Gomata," and urged effective implementation of government schemes at the grassroots level.Scientist Dr. Debendranath Biswal spoke on the economic benefits of cattle rearing. The CDVO and Deputy Director of Fisheries elaborated on various government schemes and insurance facilities available for farmers. Ramanaguda Panchayat Samiti Chairman Shri Ravishankar Gomango and Rayagada Block Chairperson Smt. Tuni Huika emphasized the promotion of organic farming.ADM (General) Shri Naveen Chandra Nayak assured full administrative support.For excellence in farming, Shri Bishwanath Miniaka, Smt. Nirmala Mutika, Shri P. Appala Naidu and Shri Bijay Miniaka were awarded cheques of ?5,000 along with certificates. Prakash Chandra Muduli was also felicitated for his contribution to cultural activities.

JANA SUNANI App Fails to Deliver Relief to Citizens

KANTABANJI, correspondence :The Odisha government's Jana Sunani Grievance Hearing App, launched with the aim of providing quick and transparent solutions to citizens' problems, is facing growing criticism for failing to deliver results on the ground. Several complainants allege that while their grievances are marked as "resolved" on the app, the actual issues remain unaddressed.According to users, complaints related to basic civic amenities such as roads, drinking water, electricity, housing and social welfare benefits are being registered on the platform, but no concrete action is taken even after months or years. In many cases, the status of the complaint is updated as "resolved" without any visible improvement in the situation at the ground level.Citizens claim that the app has become a mere formality, limited to digital entries rather than real problem-solving. "Our complaints are shown as resolved on the app, but the problems still exist. This defeats the very purpose of launching such a platform," said a resident who had filed multiple grievances.Social activists and civil society members have also raised concerns, stating that the lack of accountability has eroded public trust in the system. They argue that launching an app without ensuring effective follow-up and implementation misleads citizens and creates false hope.Many have now demanded an immediate review of the app's functioning and strict monitoring of departments responsible for grievance redressal. They have warned that if genuine solutions cannot be ensured, the government should reconsider continuing the platform rather than misleading the public with unresolved promises.

Brown sugar worth 27 lakh seized, law student held

Bhubaneswar, correspondent : Excise Department officials have arrested a law student in Bhubaneswar for allegedly trafficking brown sugar.The accused, identified as Debiprasad Das, was found in possession of 265 grams of brown sugar, which officials estimate to be worth around ?27 lakh in the illegal market.Das, a student at a city-based law college, is the son of a well-known contractor.According to officials,Das has a criminal background and was previously booked in a murder case under the Airfield police limits in the capital.Investigations revealed that he was allegedly involved in drug peddling along with two associates, Sukant Nayak and Santosh Nayak. The trio is believed to have supplied brown sugar to college students, using WhatsApp and other social media platforms to contact buyers.Further investigation into the network and its links is currently underway, officials said.

Aadhaar Card issues still unsolved in Malkangiri

Malkangiri correspondent : On the one hand, the errors in the Aadhaar card cannot be corrected, on the other hand, the KYC cannot be updated in ration cards and other works. As a result, the beneficiaries are deprived of getting government facilities.In the digital era, Aadhaar card has been made mandatory for every work. Some people have their name and age wrong in their Aadhaar card, so they have to run to the Aadhaar center repeatedly to correct the errors and face a lot of problems in other government works. Many poor women have been deprived of getting money from Subhadra Yojana due to the absence of age date in their Aadhaar card. They are suffering from the inconvenience of not having one. On the other hand, they are deprived of getting ration cards if their Aadhaar card is not correct. Similarly, the e-KYC of new ration card applicants cannot be verified. Eye and fingerprints are being taken while making Aadhaar card. Even beneficiaries who have poor eyesight and cannot take fingerprints on the computer have complained. Age verification, birth certificate, original matric certificate and school certificate are required for Aadhaar. Where will the birth certificates of people above 40 come from? Since many people in rural areas are not educated, their Aadhaar cards cannot be corrected. As a result, they have complained of being deprived of government benefits. Therefore, the residents of the area have demanded that voter cards be used instead of Aadhaar.

Gambling Racket Busted at Uphar Hotel ; 9 Arrested

Sambalpur: Police raided Room No. 105 of the Uphar Palace Hotel in Sambalpur and busted a gambling racket, arresting nine individuals and seizing nearly Rs 10 lakh in cash.During the raid, officers discovered bundles of currency hidden inside the toilet flush and scattered across the bed. The operation was carried out by the Dhanupali police team around 4 PM, following a tip-off received by Sambalpur SP Mukesh Kumar Bhamu.

Plastic-Free Awareness Programme Held at Rayagada Forest Division Picnic Spots

Rayagada,correspondent:A forest division–level plastic-free awareness programme was organised by the Rayagada Forest Division at picnic spots under its jurisdiction. The programme was conducted at the Talgumma picnic spot under Gumma Section and the Haluwa picnic spot under Rayagada Section.The main objective of the programme was to create awareness on how nearby picnic spots can be made plastic-free and how environment-friendly materials can be used to protect nature. The initiative witnessed active participation from Self-Help Groups of Gumma and Haluwa Gram Panchayats, local villagers, school teachers, students, officers and staff of the Rayagada District Pollution Control Board, along with all forest staff of the Rayagada Forest Division.The programme was inaugurated by the Chief Guest, Shri Sachin Anna



Saheb Ohol, Divisional Forest Officer, Rayagada, who highlighted the importance of reducing plastic use to conserve forests and the environment. Among other dignitaries present were Shri Ripu Kumar Sahu, Officer of the Rayagada District Pollution Control Board; Shri Ashok Kumar Pradhan, Assistant Conservator of Forests; Shri Kameshwar Achari, Range Officer; the Headmaster of Haluwa School; the Headmistress of Gumma High School; and the Sarpanch of Haluwa Gram Panchayat.In their addresses, the speakers explained in detail how plastic, a highly toxic material, has become an integral part of daily life and the adverse impact it is having on human society and the environment. They emphasized practical steps that can be taken to make picnic spots plastic-free, reduce plastic usage, and adopt eco-friendly alternatives. Special focus was given on what should and should not be used at picnic spots to prevent environmental degradation.As part of the programme, all participants—including government officials, villagers from two Gram Panchayats, school teachers, and students—jointly carried out a cleanliness drive at the Talgumma and Haluwa picnic spots. Plastic waste accumulated over a long period, such as polythene bags, water pouches, sachets, foil wrappers, paper plates, and other non-biodegradable materials, was collected and removed. A pledge was administered to avoid littering plastic waste at these picnic spots in the future, and dustbins were installed at the sites to encourage proper waste disposal.The programme was successfully coordinated and managed by Shri Kameshwar Achari, Range Officer, Rayagada Forest Division.

Struggling to fall asleep?a simple diet-based hack which can promote restful, quality sleep



Struggling to fall asleep or waking up repeatedly through the night can be incredibly frustrating - and reaching for another sleeping pill often feels like the easiest fix. But before turning to medication, there may be simpler, diet-based alternatives worth trying. Certain everyday foods contain nutrients that can naturally calm the nervous system, relax the brain and support more restorative sleep, offering a gentler way to improve sleep quality without heavy reliance on pills.

Peanut butter and sleep

According to Dr Sood, there are three key reasons why peanut butter may help you fall asleep - supporting relaxation and promoting deeper, more restful sleep. He outlines the following:

Tryptophan

Dr Sood states that peanut butter contains an amino acid called tryptophan, which supports serotonin production and helps calm the brain, making it easier to relax and drift off to sleep. He explains, "Peanut butter contains tryptophan, which is a precursor to serotonin, which can have a calming effect on your brain."

Healthy fats

Peanut butter also contains healthy fats that help stabilise blood sugar levels, preventing sudden glucose spikes and crashes - a common reason why some people wake up during the night. Dr Sood highlights, "It is also high in healthy fats, which can help stabilise your blood sugar. It does this by slowing the absorption of carbohydrates. The reason you wake up at night sometimes is because of the sudden spike and crash of your blood sugar."

Magnesium

It is also rich in magnesium - a mineral known to relax the nervous system and support deeper, better-quality sleep. The physician explains, "Peanut butter also contains magnesium, which has been shown to also relax you and improve your sleep quality."

When to have it

Dr Sood recommends consuming peanut butter at least two hours before bedtime to allow the body time to digest it and maximise its sleep-supporting benefits. He also highlights that peanut butter can be effective for some people, but may not help everyone - but it is a low risk option you can try out to improve sleep.

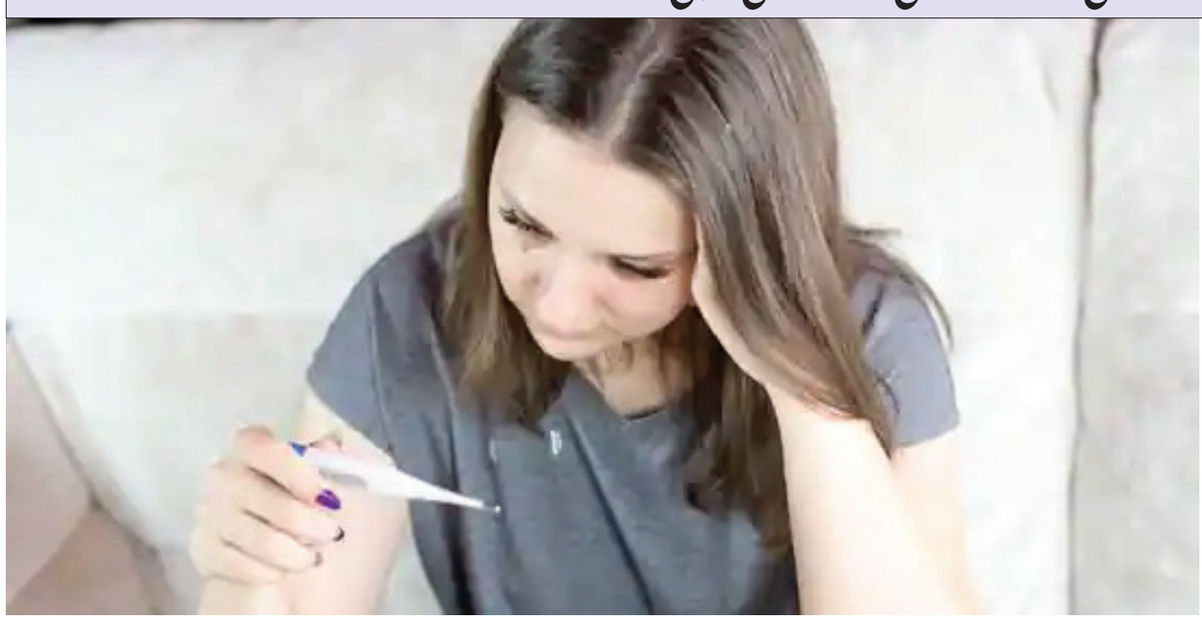
He states, "If you are going to eat prior to bed it is recommended to eat two hours prior. It is worth noting, while peanut butter may help some people sleep, it is not for everyone."

Sonu Nigam Says Being A Part Of Border 2's 'Ghar Kab Aaoge' Felt Like A Beautiful 'Homecoming'



As the makers of the much-anticipated war sequel "Border 2? released the "Ghar Kab Aaoge" track from the film on Friday, singer Sonu Nigam, who has also crooned the original track "Sandese Aate Hai", shared that being a part of the patriotic number felt like homecoming to him.Posting the track on his Instagram, Nigam pointed out that this is not just a song for him, but an emotion.Dedicating "Ghar Kab Aaoge" to the brave soldiers and their families, the singer wrote, "Some songs aren't just melodies; they are emotions that belong to the soul of our nation. Being a part of this song for Border 2 felt like a beautiful homecoming. It is rare for an artist to relive such magic, and I feel truly blessed that this journey continues. This one is for our brave soldiers and the families waiting for them (sic)."Enjoying a stellar lineup of talented singers such as Nigam, Arijit Singh, Vishal Mishra, and Diljit Dosanjh, the makers launched the song in a grand event on Friday.Originally scored by Anu Malik, the song has been reimagined by Mithoon, with new lyrics contributed by Manoj Muntashir Shukla.The original track "Sandese Aate Hai" from the 1999 war drama "Border" was sung by Sonu Nigam and Roopkumar Rathod. The lyrics of the track were provided by Javed Akhtar, and it was picturized on Sunny Deol, Suniel Shetty, Akshaye Khanna, and Jackie Shroff.Made under the direction of Anurag Singh, "Border 2" boasts an ensemble cast with Sunny Deol, Varun Dhawan, Diljit Dosanjh, Ahan Shetty, Mona Singh, Medha Rana, Sonam Bajwa, and Anya Singh in key roles, along with others.Presented by Gulshan Kumar & T-Series, in association with J.P. Dutta's J.P. Films, and backed by Bhushan Kumar, Krishan Kumar, J.P. Dutta, and Nidhi Dutta, "Border 2" will be released in theatres on January 23.

Doctor breaks down 3 common mistakes people make when dealing with a fever: 'Self medicating, ignoring red flags…'



Fever is perhaps the most common illness we experience - often brushed off as a minor inconvenience that can be "fixed" with a quick dose of paracetamol. But while many fevers are harmless and short-lived, a persistent fever or one accompanied by warning signs can signal something more serious brewing beneath the surface. Knowing when to stop self-treating and seek medical help is crucial, as delayed or incorrect management can lead to avoidable complications

Fever mistakes you should avoid

Dr Arora highlights three common yet significant mistakes that people often make when managing a fever - errors that can delay recovery, worsen symptoms, or lead to unnecessary complications if not addressed correctly. He outlines them as follows:

Self medication is a major mistake that prevents addressing the root cause and delays treatment.

Ignoring red flag signs or dismissing a fever that has persisted for more than three days is a mistake.

Relying on advice from random, non-medical sources and self-treating based on that information is a serious mistake that can do more harm than good.

Consult a doctor

Dr Arora emphasises the importance of seeking professional medical advice from a qualified practitioner when dealing with a fever, warning that self-medicating through trial and error or relying on guidance from unqualified sources not only delays proper diagnosis and treatment but can also increase the risk of avoidable complications.

He elaborates, "If you are going to seek treatment, consult a qualified professional. Otherwise, do not be afraid. You should not take a middle path - giving a couple of doses of this and then a dose of that, only to realise later that nothing is working. You should not do that. One principle should be: when you are not clear, stop; when you are clear, do not listen to anyone else."

Mira Rajput Shares Happy Picture With Shahid Kapoor: Not About Perfection But Perspective

Actress Mira Rajput rang in the New Year on a heartfelt note as she shared a happy picture with husband Shahid Kapoor, reflecting on gratitude, growth and perspective.Taking to Instagram, Mira posted a photograph with Shahid on a yacht. She is seen holding onto Shahid and the two can be seen smiling. She penned a message about the year gone by and the one ahead.She wrote in the caption: "Sailing into the new year with gratitude, strength, joy and the love of my life. So grateful for this year that gave life to my dreams, pushed me to 7th gear, made me rediscover myself and learn to be fearless about it all. It's not about perfection but perspective.""Laugh through the bumps and smile through the cruise because this year is going to be the journey that finds you! Here's to 2026, ready for you," she added.Shahid married Mira in 2015, in a private ceremony held in Gurgaon. The wedding was an intimate affair attended by family and close friends. They have two children, a daughter named Misha, whom they welcomed in 2016 and a son named Zain, who was born in 2018.Shahid is busy with his upcoming film directed by Vishal Bhardwaj. The gangster film also stars Triptii Dimri, Nana Patekar, and Randeep Hooda. It is set in Mumbai in the 1990s and is about the post-independence underworld."Arjun Ustara" is a love story set in the 1990s that is also full of action and gangsters. The film is set in the post-independence underworld of Mumbai.He was last seen in Deva, which released on the big screen on January 31, 2025. The film also stars Pooja Hegde and Pavail Gulati. The action thriller film is directed by Rosshan Andrrews, in his first Hindi film.

oats and chia pudding recipe



Struggling to poop lately? You're not alone - constipation is especially common during winter, when we tend to drink less water, move less, and lean towards heavier, low-fibre foods. While the discomfort can be frustrating, the solution doesn't always require drastic measures. Sometimes, a simple, fibre-rich breakfast can get things moving naturally - and this overnight oats and chia pudding recipe claims to do exactly that.

Ingredients

1½ cup rolled oats
¼ cup chia seeds
2 cups milk (any kind you like)
Generous sprinkle of cinnamon
2 tsp maple syrup (optional, add more or less to taste)
1½ cup frozen berries (or any fruit you like)

Method

In a bowl, combine all the ingredients except the berries and mix until well incorporated. Gently fold in the frozen berries, ensuring they are evenly distributed. Cover and refrigerate the mixture overnight to allow it to absorb moisture and swell up. This recipe yields four servings and can be enjoyed as is or topped with your favourite nut butter for added richness.

Health benefits

Oats and chia pudding are excellent for promoting good bowel movements because their high fibre content (both soluble and insoluble) adds bulk, softens stool, and helps it move through your digestive system easily, preventing constipation.

Over 1,300 Athletes To Compete In 2nd Khelo India Beach Games From Monday



New Delhi: India's coastline is set to transform into a vibrant national sporting arena as the Khelo India Beach Games 2026 return to Diu from January 5 to 10, with over 1,300 athletes from across the country competing in the event, promising an energetic celebration of beach and indigenous sports.The second edition of the Games will bring together over 1,300 athletes from across the country, representing 31 States and Union Territories, including 25 States and six UTs, reflecting the growing reach and popularity of beach-based disciplines within India's sporting ecosystem.The Games will feature competition across six medal disciplines: Beach Soccer, Beach Volleyball, Beach Sepaktakraw, Beach Kabaddi, Beach Pencak Silat, and Open Water Swimming, accounting for 786 competing athletes, including 366 women and 420 men, highlighting the inclusive and balanced participation encouraged under the Khelo India initiative.Discipline-wise, participation includes 263 athletes in Beach Sepaktakraw, 157 in Beach Pencak Silat, 156 in Beach Soccer, 96 in Beach Kabaddi, 64 in Beach Volleyball, and 50 in Open Water Swimming, underlining the scale and diversity of competition across beach and water-based sports, the Sports Authority of India (SAI) informed in a release on Saturday.In addition to the competitive events, traditional Indian disciplines such as Mallakhamb and Tug of War will be conducted as non-competitive demonstration events, featuring 336 athletes, reinforcing the Games' focus on preserving, promoting, and providing national exposure to India's rich indigenous sporting heritage.Athletes from both coastal and landlocked regions will converge on the sands of Diu, showcasing the truly pan-India character of the event, with strong contingents from states such as Maharashtra, Haryana, Uttar Pradesh, Gujarat, Tamil Nadu, Kerala, and Manipur, alongside Union Territories including Chandigarh, Puducherry, and Dadra & Nagar Haveli and Daman & Diu, the release informed.Manipur enters the Games with added confidence after emerging as the top-performing state in the previous Khelo India cycle, finishing with 14 medals, including five gold, setting the stage for high-intensity competition at this year's Beach Games. Beyond medals and podium finishes, the Khelo India Beach Games 2026 aim to build a broader sporting movement by expanding opportunities in emerging beach disciplines, encouraging youth participation beyond traditional sports and geographies, and fostering community pride, cultural identity, and sustainable sports development.As India continues to evolve and diversify its sporting landscape, the Khelo India Beach Games 2026 promise a compelling blend of competition, culture, and coastline, transforming Diu into a hub of athletic excellence and national celebration.

Hardik Pandya Slams Five Sixes In An Over To Score Maiden Vijay Hazare Trophy Century

Rajkot: India's premier all-rounder Hardik Pandya produced a sensational knock to mark his maiden List A century, continuing his golden run of form for Baroda against Vidarbha in the ongoing Vijay Hazare Trophy at the Niranjan Shah Stadium on Saturday. When Pandya came to bat, the Baroda team was struggling at 71 for five after 20 overs. Coming in at number seven, Hardik initially played cautiously, aiming to build a partnership, and eventually reached his half-century in 44 balls.Pandya then accelerated and took only 24 more balls to reach the three-figure mark. The all-rounder smashed 34 runs off the 39th over, smoking five sixes and a four in six deliveries, to complete his century, taking just 68 balls to achieve the feat. Pandya eventually fell after scoring 133 off 92 balls, with his knock including a massive 11 sixes and eight fours. Courtesy of his charismatic innings, Baroda managed to post 293 runs in 50 overs.Apart from Pandya, the other batters struggled against Vidarbha's bowling and couldn't surpass 30 runs. Yash Thakur led Vidarbha's bowlers with a four-wicket haul and was supported by Nachiket Bhute and Parth Rekhade, who picked up two scalps each.This was Pandya's first game for Baroda this season. Overall, he has played 119 List A matches, comprising 94 ODIs for India, eight for India A, and 17 for Baroda. Pandya has scored 2,300 runs in List A cricket and has also taken 110 wickets in this format.Hardik Pandya has been in excellent form lately. He made 142 runs at a strike rate of 186.84 during the India vs South Africa five-game T20I series last month, marking a remarkable comeback after recovering from his injury, which had sidelined him for over three months. With Team India set to announce their ODI squad for the New Zealand series on Saturday, Pandya's performance provides positive news for the team.

Shreyas Iyer Provided Clearance To Play Vijay Hazare Trophy Match On January 6



Mumbai: India batter Shreyas Iyer is all set to play his first competitive match since sustaining a spleen injury in October 2024. The 31-year-old star will represent Mumbai against Himachal Pradesh in the ongoing Vijay Hazare Trophy match, which will be played at the Sawai Mansingh Stadium in Jaipur on January 6.Shreyas Iyer has received conditional clearance from the BCCI's Centre of Excellence in Bengaluru, as reported by ESPNcricinfo. Iyer spent ten days at the COE for the final stretch of his rehabilitation. As part of the return-to-play protocol, he featured in a practice game on January 2. Iyer batted pain-free and went through all his drills without showing any signs of discomfort.Shreyas Iyer has a strong record in the Vijay Hazare Trophy, known for explosive centuries, including a 50-ball 114 against Karnataka in December 2024, and has led Mumbai to success, often being the top scorer in tournaments, demonstrating consistent high-impact performances in the premier Indian domestic one-day competition. He was the highest run-getter for Mumbai last season, where he scored 325 runs in just five matches.Iyer suffered a serious injury during India's third ODI against Australia at the Sydney Cricket Ground on October 25, 2025. While attempting a catch near the third-man boundary, he lost balance and landed on his rib cage, resulting in internal bleeding and spleen damage. Since then, he has missed the Syed Mushtaq Ali Trophy and the home ODI series against Australia.India's ODI squad for the New Zealand series is set to be picked on Saturday. While there is a provision to pick a subject to fitness, it is still unclear whether the selectors would pick him directly for the international challenge or want to see more of him in the domestic competition.In Iyer's absence, Ruturaj Gaikwad batted at number four and impressed with his maiden ODI century. In the ongoing Vijay Hazare Trophy, Devdutt Padikkal has also slammed four centuries in just five innings and presented a strong case for selection.

BCB To Seek T20 WC Venue Change From India After BCCI Forces KKR To Dump Mustafizur Rahman



Mumbai: With the Board of Control for Cricket in India (BCCI) directing Kolkata Knight Riders to release their player Mustafizur Rahman from a contract to play IPL 2026, the Bangladesh Cricket Board (BCB) has decided to approach ICC for a change of venue for their matches during the ICC Men's T20 World Cup that India will be hosting jointly with Sri Lanka, a news report has said.Bangladesh are scheduled to play matches against the West Indies (Feb 7, 2026), Italy (Feb 9), and England (Feb 14) at the Eden Gardens in Kolkata and Nepal (Feb 17) at the Wankhede Stadium in Mumbai.With the BCCI not allowing Mustafizur to play in India following a demand raised by some people because of the killing of Hindus by mobs in Bangladesh, the country's cricket board has expressed apprehension over the safety of its players in India and therefore sought a change of venues.A top BCB official told Telecom Asia Sport (www.telecomasia.net) that it will be putting the ball in ICC's court following the decision taken by BCCI, as tension between the two countries is mounting with each passing day."I cannot make any comment regarding the release of Mustafizur as this is their internal matter, but as far as taking part in the World Cup is concerned, it is an ICC event, and they will make the final call after taking everything into consideration," the BCB official told www.telecomasia.net.The official said the BCB will take up the matter regarding the T20 World Cup with the ICC at the earliest and pointed out that Pakistan too has decided not to play in India after India refused to travel to their country for the 2025 Champions Trophy.BCCI secretary Devajit Saikia told IANS that they have asked KKR to release Mustafizur from the IPL contract "due to the unrest that has developed across that country".

IPL 2026: KKR Release Mustafizur Rahman After BCCI Ruling



New Delhi: The Kolkata Knight Riders (KKR) have confirmed that Bangladesh pacer Mustafizur Rahman has been released from their Indian Premier League (IPL) squad following instructions from the Board of Control for Cricket in India (BCCI) to do so. The call was taken amid excessive controversy and debate surrounding the player's participation in the cash-rich event."Kolkata Knight Riders confirms that BCCI/IPL, as the regulator of IPL, has instructed it to release Mustafizur Rahman from the squad ahead of the upcoming Indian Premier League (IPL) season. The release has been carried out following due process and consultations, upon the instruction of the Board of Control for Cricket in India. BCCI will allow Kolkata Knight Riders a replacement player in line with IPL regulations, and further details will be communicated in due course," the franchise said in a statement.Earlier on Saturday, BCCI secretary Devajit Saikia confirmed that the board had asked the three-time champions to release Rahman from their squad and allowed them to look for a replacement player. "The BCCI has instructed KKR to release Bangladesh pacer Mustafizur Rahman from their squad, while also allowing the franchise to name a replacement," he told IANS.The decision was made following reports of violence against members of the Hindu community in Bangladesh in December. Additionally, critics had voiced their disapproval of Rahman's involvement in the IPL.Rahman drew significant attention after KKR acquired him for a record Rs 9.20 crore at the December mini-auction, making him the highest-paid Bangladeshi cricketer in IPL history. He was purchased from a starting bid of Rs 2 crore amid a fierce bidding war between the Chennai Super Kings and the Delhi Capitals.The 30-year-old player has claimed 65 wickets over 60 matches, maintaining an economy rate of 8.13 since his IPL debut with Sunrisers Hyderabad in 2016.

Vedanta Kalinga Lancers eye strong start in HIL

Bhubaneswar: The Vedanta Kalinga Lancers are all set to take on Ranchi Royals in their opening match of the Hero Hockey India League at the Mayor Radhakrishnan Hockey Stadium, Chennai on Sunday. Vedanta Kalinga Lancers will play two matches each in Chennai. They will face defending champions Shrachi Bengal Tigers in their second match on Thursday, January 8. Kalinga Lancers enter the new season following an intense pre-season camp, with the team spending valuable time building structure, cohesion, and match readiness ahead of the league opener. While Ranchi Royals make their debut in the Hero Hockey India League, the side features a strong core retained from the previous franchise Gonasika. Speaking ahead of the season opener, Head Coach Jay Stacy highlighted the importance of preparation and composure in the opening game. "The group has worked hard in preparation, and the focus has been on clarity in our roles and discipline across the pitch. Opening games are about settling quickly and playing smart hockey," said Stacy. "Ranchi may be new to the league, but they have a solid core and quality players, so we're expecting a tough contest. Our Indian players came in early and trained under Technical and Strategy Coach Pascal Kina, before the Australians and Belgians joined post-Christmas. The sessions in Bhubaneswar were very productive and helped us come together well as a unit."The Lancers, who finished last season as the second highest goal-scoring team, are keen to carry forward their attacking intent while also strengthening their defensive structure this year.Reflecting on the new season, Co-Captain Arthur Van Doren expressed optimism and balance in approach."We're very excited about the start of a new season and looking forward to giving our best," Van Doren said.

GRAND HOME COMING FOR 1500 SOA ALUMNIS



BHUBANESWAR, (Correspondent): It was a grand home coming for around 1500 alumnis of Siksha 'O' Anusandhan Deemed to be University here on Saturday as the former students were reunited with their former classmates, relived their relationship with teachers and walked down memory lane as they visited their alma mater.The former students visited their own institutions in the morning while an event was organised in the university auditorium in the afternoon which was graced by Dr. Debasish Dash, Director of the Institute of Life Sciences and Dr. Ramanuj Narayan, Director of CSIR-Institute of Minerals and Materials Technology. SOA's Vice-Chancellor Prof. Pradipta Kumar Nanda, presided.While Dr. Dash urged the former students to share their knowledge and experiences with the next generation of students, Dr. Narayan asked them to feel proud for having studied at such a renowned university.Dr. Dash also advised the students to keep in touch with each other. Dr. Narayan said they should ensure that the society benefitted from their learning.Prof. Nanda outlined the progress achieved by the university in recent years while urging the students to visit their respective institutions to see how the same had developed over the years.Dr. Biswa Samal, Director, Deloitte, Bhubaneswar and Dr. D.S. Arvind, Joint Director in the Health and Family Welfare department of the Odisha government, both formers SOA students, also spoke on the occasion recounting their experiences and memories. Dr. Arvind, who passed out of the university's faculty of medicine in 2018, said whatever he had achieved in life was because of the university. Dr. Samal said it was the social responsibility of former students of SOA to help the present batch of students. Prof. Prasanta Kumar Patra, Pro-Vice Chancellor (Alumni Relation) of SOA, Prof. Jyoti Ranjan Das, Dean (Students' Welfare), Dr. Sushmita Panda, Associate Dean, Alumni Cell-SOA, Mr. Ripti Ranjan Dash, Director, Corporate Relation, and Mr. Abhishek Pattnaik, Co-Coordinator and Member Secretary of Alumni Cell-SOA, also spoke. Prof. Gatha Mohanty of Institute of Dental Sciences coordinated the event.

Achyuta Samanta Conferred 70th Honorary Doctorate by JECRC University



Bhubaneswar, (Correspondent):: In yet another recognition of his tireless work in the fields of education, social transformation and humanitarian service, Dr. Achyuta Samanta, Founder, KIIT, KISS & KIMS, was conferred with Honorary Degree of Doctor of Science (D. Sc) at JECRC University, Jaipur, Rajasthan on 3rd January 2026 during its 9th Annual Convocation Ceremony.Shri O. P Agrawal, Chairperson, JECRC University handed over the Honorary Doctorate in the presence of other eminent persons to Dr Samanta. Dr. Samanta also delivered his address as chief guest on the occasion.JECRC Foundation is a 25-year-old two-winged educational institution, with over 25,000 students.his prestigious honour marks the 70th honorary doctorate awarded to Dr. Samanta by JECRC University and other universities from across the globe, reaffirming his unparalleled contribution to empowering the underprivileged through education. Dr. Samanta expressed his gratitude to JECRC University for conferring the Honorary Doctorate upon him.

TPCODL Strengthens Zero Harm Drive through Extensive Safety Training and Awareness Initiatives

Bhubaneswar, (Correspondent): TP Central Odisha Distribution Limited (TPCODL), a joint venture of Tata Power and Government of Odisha has reinforced its Zero Harm commitment by reaching out to communities across Central Odisha with large-scale electrical safety awareness initiatives during the year. More than one lakh people, including villagers, school students and electricity consumers, were engaged through structured sessions and on-ground outreach programmes. Alongside community engagement, focused safety training was conducted for the company employees and Business Associate (BA) personnel across operational areas, strengthening safe work practices and reinforcing a culture of responsibility in day-to-day power distribution activities.To take safety awareness beyond classrooms and training halls, the initiative is delivered through a robust institutional framework comprising a Management Development Centre (MDC), 5 Skill Development Centres and 13 Divisional Safety Training Centres, complemented by mobile platforms such as 'Training on Wheels' and the 'Surakhya Sachetan Rath' to reach remote and underserved communities.These initiatives are anchored in a Zero Harm philosophy that seeks to eliminate risks to people, animals and property, embedding safety as a non-negotiable element of power distribution operations.The training modules focus on building competence and confidence through hands-on learning in electrical safety, technical and behavioural skills and ethics. Delivered in half-day to two-day sessions by experienced trainers and subject matter experts, the programmes reinforce best-in-class safety practices, especially in consumer-facing roles.

Vedanta Lanjigarh Organises Voluntary Blood Donation Drive, Collects 247 Units

Kalahandi: (Correspondent) :- Vedanta Aluminium, India's largest producer of aluminium, recently organized a voluntary blood donation camp at its Lanjigarh operations in collaboration with the Odisha Blood Centre, Bhawanipatna. The initiative witnessed enthusiastic participation from employees, business partners, and community, resulting in the collection of 247 units of blood.The drive reflects the company's ongoing commitment to strengthening healthcare infrastructure and services in Kalahandi district, ensuring that community well-being remains central to its growth journey.Pranab Kumar Bhattacharyya, CEO, Vedanta Alumina Business, said, "This successful blood donation drive is a testament to our core philosophy: the health of the community is the wealth of the region. Our commitment to our community extends far beyond our operational boundaries. We are strategically invested in elevating the quality of life across healthcare, education, and infrastructure, ensuring sustainable progress for Odisha's tribal heartland."Healthcare remains a cornerstone of Vedanta Lanjigarh's community development efforts. The Vedanta Hospital in the region provides free medical care to over 67,000 people annually. Through its flagship initiative, Project Aarogya, the company conducted more than 660 Mobile Health Unit (MHU) camps in FY2024-25, delivering doorstep healthcare to over 20,500 individuals in remote villages. Complementing



treatment with prevention, 680 awareness sessions were organized on hygiene, wellness, and disease prevention, reaching 15,000 people and fostering healthier communities. Vedanta Lanjigarh continues to play an active role as a responsible development partner, driving initiatives across education, healthcare, livelihoods, and rural infrastructure. By working closely with local authorities and community stakeholders, the company ensures that its interventions lead to tangible socio-economic progress, making sustainable development a shared reality for Odisha's tribal heartland.

Ashwini Vaishnaw Inspects Vande Bharat Sleeper Train

New Delhi: Union Minister for Railways, Information and Broadcasting, and Electronics and Information Technology, Ashwini Vaishnaw, on Saturday visited New Delhi Railway Station to inspect India's first Vande Bharat Sleeper Train, which is set to transform long-distance overnight rail travel in the country.





Published by Banabihari Sarangi On behalf of Around Odisha Publications Pvt. Ltd., Plot No. 499/4262, Saktinagar, Shisupalgarh , Bhubaneswar-751002, Dist Khordha(Odisha), Printed At Mahesh Printing Press, 30,Industrial Colony, Kharavela Nagar, Bhubaneswar- 751001, Khordha Phone: 9439094123, Email:aroundodisha@gmail.com, E-paper: www.aroundodisha.com.
Editor: Bansidhar Das