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CBI Arrests Ex-RCom Group MD Amitabh Jhunjhunwala in Rs 19,694 Crore Bank Fraud Case



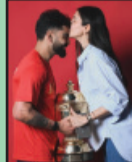
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Trump Seeks To Modify US-Iran Deal To End War

Washington: US President Donald Trump is planning to modify the terms of the agreement with Iran to end the war, even as Tehran prepares to introduce new elements, an American media outlet has reported. In an endless ping-pong, the White House awaits a new response from Iran in a negotiation that, as three sources told The New York Times, risks starting from a more backward square. According to one of the officials interviewed by the newspaper, Trump would like to accelerate negotiations by putting more pressure on the counterpart, but has to deal with the complex Iranian hierarchy, reports Adnkronos news agency. Final approval, in Tehran, rests with Supreme



Leader Mojtaba Khamenei. Any modification to the memorandum of understanding, which forms the basis of the agreement, inevitably prolongs the negotiation times. After Trump's re-launch, in any case, Iran will seek to introduce new amendments to the draft agreement, as reported by the Tasnim news agency. Trump, according to information gathered by Axios, would like to

make more detailed provisions regarding the management of 60 per cent enriched uranium stockpiles still held by Tehran and the modalities for reopening the Strait of Hormuz to maritime traffic. The draft agreement currently includes Iran's commitment not to pursue the development of nuclear weapons and a 60-day period, during which the two countries would negotiate Tehran's nuclear obligations and

the fate of the accumulated fissile material. The US President, a source reports, intends to insert more precise indications on the timing and methods by which the United States would acquire such material. "The only guarantee I need to have is that there will be no nuclear weapons. They have accepted this," Trump's certainty expressed to Fox News. "Initially, they said: 'We will not develop a nuclear weapon'. I replied: 'Okay, but what happens if you buy a nuclear weapon?' So now the text says: 'We will not develop or acquire a nuclear military weapon in any way'. It's a big difference," Trump stated, adding, "They are very tough negotiators, and it takes a long time, but I'm not in a hurry."

Odisha Reviews Measures To Speed Up Mining Block Clearances

BHUBANESWAR, (Correspondent): The Odisha government on Monday reviewed measures to expedite the clearance process for auctioned mining blocks as part of efforts to accelerate growth in the state's mining sector. A high-level review meeting was held at Lok Seva Bhawan with Union Minister of Coal and Mines G. Kishan Reddy, Chief Minister Mohan Charan Majhi, Chief Secretary Anu Garg, Additional Chief Secretary (Industries) Hemant Sharma, Additional Chief Secretary (Steel & Mines) Deorajan Kumar Singh, senior officials of the Ministry of Mines, and other dignitaries attended the



meeting. The deliberations focused on speeding up the sanctioning and operationalisation of auctioned mining blocks in the state, along with improving the efficiency of regulatory approvals. The meeting also discussed the allocation of select mining blocks to State Public Sector Undertakings (PSUs) to enhance state

participation in mineral development. Infrastructure development, including the strengthening of rail and port connectivity for efficient mineral evacuation, also figured prominently in the discussions. The stakeholders further reviewed plans for the environmentally sustainable redevelopment of abandoned mines through

modern technologies. The meeting emphasised the integrated development of mining regions using District Mineral Foundation (DMF) and Corporate Social Responsibility (CSR) funds. It was decided to implement various developmental programmes under a "saturation mode" approach through the 'CM Sampada' scheme.

Bhavesh Patra Among Top 30 In JEE Advanced, Odisha Students Excel

Bhubaneswar: Students from Bhubaneswar have delivered a strong performance in the JEE Advanced examination, with Bhavesh Patra securing an All India Rank (AIR) of 29. Two other students from the city, Aryasaman Pradhan and Dibyanshu Mohapatra, also secured impressive ranks of AIR 314 and AIR 951 respectively. All three students, who are studying in a private CBSE school in Bhubaneswar, have expressed their aspiration to join the Indian Institutes of Technology (IITs) for higher education. Their results reflect consistent preparation, disciplined study routines and sustained academic guidance. Bhavesh Patra, who emerged among the top 30 candidates in the examination, said his performance was the result of two years of focused preparation and strict discipline. He had earlier secured AIR 13 in JEE Main 2026 Session 2, emerging as one of the top performers from Odisha. "I feel extremely happy. This result is the outcome of the efforts I put in during the last two years. I used to study for more than 10 hours every day and would only sleep after completing my daily targets. My mentors guided me throughout and helped me set goals. I stayed away from social media during this period, except WhatsApp, which I used to stay in touch with my teachers," he said. Aryasaman Pradhan, who secured AIR 314, said he was satisfied with his performance and now aims to pursue Electrical Engineering (EE) at IIT Bombay.

SC Declines To Shift NEET-UG 2026 Re-Exam To Computer-Based Format

New Delhi: The Supreme Court on Monday declined to direct the National Testing Agency (NTA) to conduct the NEET-UG 2026 re-examination in a computer-based test (CBT) mode, observing that such a direction could not be granted at this stage when authorities were already engaged in conducting the fresh examination scheduled for June 21. A Bench of Justices P.S. Narasimha and Aravind Kumar expressed disinclination to entertain the plea seeking an immediate shift from the existing pen-and-paper format to CBT for the re-test and posted the matter



for hearing in July. The apex court's decision effectively means that the re-examination will proceed as scheduled under the current format. Admit cards for the re-test are expected to be released by June 14. The petition, filed by advocate Satyam Singh Rajput, sought urgent directions for conducting

the June 21 re-examination through CBT, contending that repeated paper leak allegations and security lapses had exposed vulnerabilities in the pen-and-paper examination system. During the hearing, the Justice Narasimha-led Bench observed that there was "no question" of granting

such relief at the present stage, observing that the examination had already been cancelled once and was being reconducted. The Supreme Court said that the issue could be considered on the next date of listing, tagging the matter along with other pending pleas seeking reforms in the functioning of the NTA. The plea argued that despite recommendations made by a high-level committee headed by former ISRO Chairman K. Radhakrishnan following the 2024 controversy, NEET-UG 2026 was conducted under the same pen-and-paper framework involving

physical printing, storage and transportation of confidential examination material. Last week, while hearing a batch of petitions on examination reforms, the Supreme Court stressed the need to fix individual accountability within the NTA and observed that recurring controversies would continue unless specific responsibility was assigned to officials handling different aspects of the examination process. The Centre had informed the Justice Narasimha-led Bench that Prime Minister Narendra Modi was personally monitoring the situation following the NEET-UG 2026 controversy.

Abhijeet Dipke Rejects US Job Offers, Announces Return to India for Student Protest

NEW DELHI: Cockroach Janta Party (CJP) founder Abhijeet Dipke has said he rejected several job offers in the United States and decided to return to India to raise concerns about issues affecting students and young people. In a video message shared on social media, Dipke announced that he will arrive in India on June 6 and participate in a peaceful protest at Jantar Mantar in New Delhi. The demonstration is expected to focus on concerns surrounding examination-related controversies, including NEET and CBSE-related issues. Explaining his decision, Dipke said he chose public engagement over professional opportunities abroad because he wants to contribute to India. "I received several job offers in recent days, but I decided not to accept them. I want to return to India because I love my country and want to do something meaningful for it," he said. Dipke added that citizens have a responsibility to participate in issues that affect society and future generations. According to Dipke, the planned gathering will follow democratic and constitutional principles.

Myanmar Vital To India's Neighbourhood First, Act East And Indo-Pacific Policies: PM Modi

New Delhi: Myanmar is vital to India's policies of 'Neighbourhood First', 'Act East', and Indo-Pacific, Prime Minister Narendra Modi said on Monday after meeting Myanmar President U Min Aung Hlaing in New Delhi. "Had a productive meeting with President U Min Aung Hlaing of Myanmar. We in India are honoured that he has chosen India for his first foreign visit as President. Equally gladdening is the fact



that he began the visit from Bodh Gaya with the blessings of Lord Buddha. We

reviewed the full range of India-Myanmar relations. Myanmar is vital to

India's policies of 'Neighbourhood First', 'Act East' and Indo-Pacific," PM Modi wrote on X after the meeting. "Our talks covered ways to deepen cooperation in trade, rare earths, healthcare, connectivity, heritage restoration and capacity building. We also agreed to work closely in areas such as maritime security, cybersecurity and more," he added. During the meeting, President U Min Aung Hlaing reiterated his

country's assurance that its territory would not be permitted to be used against India's security interests, the joint statement released following the meeting detailed. PM Modi reiterated India's support for the sovereignty and territorial integrity of Myanmar. He expressed support for Myanmar-led efforts towards achieving peace, stability, national reconciliation and socio-economic development. He also offered continued

assistance and cooperation, based on mutual respect and friendly relations between India and Myanmar. President Hlaing expressed appreciation for India's constructive support and cooperation. President Droupadi Murmu also held a meeting with her counterpart from Myanmar at the Rashtrapati Bhavan, expressing India's steadfast support for Myanmar's pursuit of peace and reconciliation. Highlighting the shared Buddhist heritage and the

centuries-old people-to-people bonds during the meeting, President Murmu stated that Myanmar is India's gateway to Southeast Asia. "President Droupadi Murmu received President U Min Aung Hlaing of Myanmar at Rashtrapati Bhavan. The President said that the shared Buddhist heritage and centuries-old people-to-people bonds lend a unique warmth to India-Myanmar relations," the President's Secretariat posted on X.

Aditya Aluminium Lapanga inaugurates Jal Chatra at Bomaloi under Women Empowerment Initiative

Sambalpur (Correspondent): Aditya Aluminium Lapanga, a unit of Hindalco Industries Limited, successfully organized the inauguration of a jal chatra at Bomaloi village, reinforcing its commitment to community welfare and sustainable development. The programme was inaugurated by Sarpanch Mrs. Saraswati Padhan, alongside Ex-Sarpanch Mr. Sesa Dev Padhan, samiti member Mrs. Anjali. The event also witnessed the presence of Deputy Manager CSR Mr. Manoranjan Behera, and representatives from Aditya Aluminium, Ms. Jyoti Muduli and Ms. Samiya Mahanty. The newly established jal chatra will be operated by a Self-Help Group (SHG) from Naikpada



village, under Aditya Aluminium's women empowerment and livelihood initiative. This model ensures that the project is community-driven, empowering women to take leadership roles in managing local resources. Around 50 SHG members from Bomaloi village actively participated in the event, reflecting strong community engagement and enthusiasm. The initiative is expected to

provide safe drinking water facilities during this heat summer while simultaneously promoting livelihood opportunities for women in the region. Speaking on the occasion, CSR representatives emphasized that Aditya Aluminium remains committed to fostering inclusive growth by supporting grassroots initiatives that enhance quality of life and empower local

communities. About Aditya Aluminium Lapanga, part of Hindalco Industries Limited, is dedicated to sustainable industrial practices and community development. Through its CSR programmes, the company continues to invest in education, healthcare, women empowerment, and livelihood initiatives across Odisha.

Value-Based Journalism Crucial For Nation's Growth: Maha CM

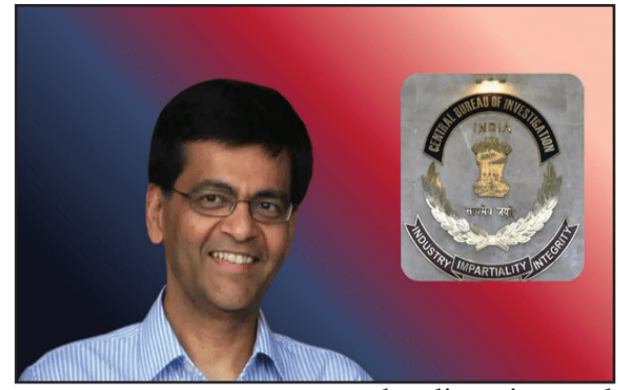
Mumbai: Chief Minister Devendra Fadnavis on Monday said that education in one's mother tongue, the preservation of Indian languages, and value-based journalism play a highly crucial role in the overall development of the country. He emphasised that knowledge, culture, and the legacy of values are most effectively passed down to future generations through the mother tongue and native Indian languages. CM Fadnavis was speaking as the chief guest at an event organised by the Mumbai Hindi Patrakar Sangh (Mumbai Hindi Journalists Association) to commemorate the historic 200th anniversary of Hindi journalism. Highlighting the cognitive benefits of native-language education, CM Fadnavis noted that when education is acquired through the mother tongue, knowledge can be absorbed far more effectively. He

added that mastering one's native language opens the door to better understanding and encouraged individuals to also acquire proficiency in other sister Indian languages to foster broader cultural integration. Reflecting on the press's monumental journey, the Chief Minister paid tribute to its historical roots. "Hindi journalism has a rich and glorious history. It has played a massive role in raising public awareness during India's freedom struggle," said CM Fadnavis. He recalled how the journey, which began with Udat Martand, the first Hindi-language newspaper published in India, successfully shaped the nation's social and political discourse. He further noted that numerous leaders of the independence movement actively used journalism as a powerful tool to awaken and

sustain a fierce spirit of nationalism across the country. Referring to the cultural and historical ties between Maharashtra and Uttar Pradesh, CM Fadnavis said the two states have shared strong ties for centuries through knowledge, tradition, and culture. Both Hindi and Marathi have evolved from the Sanskrit tradition and share a natural proximity due to the Devanagari script. Commenting on the changing nature of journalism, the Chief Minister said that the expansion of print, electronic, digital, and social media has transformed the dissemination of information. However, he stressed that the accuracy and credibility of a news story are far more important than the speed of its broadcast.

CBI Arrests Ex-RCom Group MD Amitabh Jhunjunwala in Rs 19,694 Crore Bank Fraud Case

NEWDELHI: The Central Bureau of Investigation (CBI) on Monday arrested Amitabh Jhunjunwala, former Group Managing Director of the Reliance Communications (RCom) group. Jhunjunwala, who oversaw critical functions including Corporate Finance, Banking Relations, and Fund Utilisation, was formally arrested after being produced before a special CBI court in Mumbai. He was previously in judicial custody in a related Enforcement Directorate case at Delhi's Tihar Jail. Following medical clearance from AIIMS, he was brought to Mumbai, where the



CBI effected his arrest. He has now been remanded to judicial custody at Arthur Road Jail, with his police custody remand scheduled for Tuesday. According to the CBI, Jhunjunwala played a central role in securing massive loans from a consortium of public sector banks and was instrumental in directing how those funds were utilised. The agency alleges that, due

to the diversion and misuse of these funds, banks incurred substantial wrongful losses. He reportedly acted on instructions from the promoters and directors of the RCom group companies. The case traces back to term loans sanctioned to Reliance Communications Ltd by a consortium of 11 banks led by State Bank of India. SBI alone flagged a loss of

Rs 2,929.05 crore, while the total exposure across 17 PSU banks reportedly reached a staggering Rs 19,694.33 crore. Overall losses to the banking consortium are estimated at over Rs 6,015 crore. This arrest comes days after the CBI filed its first chargesheet on May 29, 2026, naming 16 accused — including RCom, five senior executives, and ten bank officials. The agency has registered at least seven FIRs against RCom entities and associated companies based on complaints from multiple banks and LIC. The Supreme Court is closely monitoring the investigations.

Manipur: Assam Rifles Promotes Heritage Conservation At Khongjom War Memorial

Imphal: Assam Rifles undertook a series of initiatives to promote historical awareness and heritage conservation at the Khongjom War Memorial in Manipur's Kakching district, reaffirming the importance of preserving the state's rich cultural and historical legacy, officials said on Monday. A Defence spokesman said that as part of the initiative, Assam Rifles, in coordination with the district administration, conducted a joint review of the memorial to assess restoration requirements and identify measures for its beautification and upkeep. The review was followed by a Historical Awareness Programme,

during which students were educated about the historic Battle of Khongjom of 1891, a defining chapter in Manipur's history that symbolises bravery, sacrifice, and patriotism. A total of 114 students participated in the programme, including 64 NCC cadets, 20 students from Slopeland Higher Secondary School, Kakching, and 20 students from Assam Rifles Public School, Kakching. Through interactive sessions and discussions, the participants were sensitised to the significance of preserving the legacy of Manipuri warriors and understanding the historical importance of



the Khongjom War Memorial. The initiative culminated in a Heritage Cleanliness Drive on Monday (1 June), during which Assam Rifles personnel joined students and NCC cadets to clean the memorial complex, the spokesman said. He added that the drive covered pathways, public areas, and surrounding

landscapes, contributing to the preservation and beautification of the historic site. Senior officials of Assam Rifles stationed in Kakching interacted with the participants and emphasised the importance of understanding the history of the motherland and preserving heritage sites with care, responsibility, and respect.

Govt Launches Rs 200 Crore MAHA Water Mission To Support Startups

New Delhi: The Anusandhan National Research Foundation and the Ministry of Jal Shakti will jointly run a MAHA Water Mission, a Rs 200 crore programme launched on Monday, to support startups in the water sector. Dr Jitendra Singh, Union MoS for Science & Technology, Earth Sciences launched the mission which will provide up to Rs 20 crore to select multidisciplinary consortia. The funds can be used for technology development, field assessment, validation and deployment of high impact water solutions. The consortia can consist of universities, national laboratories, research organisations, startups, MSMEs and industry partners. The MAHA Water Mission has been conceived as a national platform to accelerate innovation in the water sector by connecting science, entrepreneurship, industry, academia and grassroots action.

CJI Kant To Administer Oath To Five New SC Judges ToDAY

New Delhi: Chief Justice of India (CJI) Surya Kant is set to administer the oath of office to five new judges of the Supreme Court on June 2, following the Centre's approval of their elevation to the apex court. According to a circular issued by the Supreme Court Registry, the swearing-in ceremony of Justices Sheel Nagu, Shree Chandrashekhar, Sanjeev Sachdeva, and Arun Palli, along with senior advocate V. Mohana, will be held at 10.30 a.m. on June 2 in the Auditorium on the third floor of the Administrative Buildings Complex (ABC) of the Supreme Court. The Registry has made special



arrangements for the ceremony and notified officers, staff members, and coordinating agencies, including the Supreme Court Security and the CPWD. In view of the event, parking of vehicles — except those of Registrars — will not be permitted in the

Administrative Buildings Complex on the day of the ceremony. Acting on the Supreme Court Collegium's recommendations, the Centre cleared the appointments of the four High Court Chief Justices and senior advocate

Mohana as judges of the top court. Earlier in the day, Union Minister for Law and Justice Arjun Ram Meghwal, in a post on X, said that the President, after consultation with the Chief Justice of India (CJI), had appointed Justices Sheel Nagu, Shree Chandrashekhar, Sanjeev Sachdeva, and Arun Palli, along with senior advocate V. Mohana, as judges of the Supreme Court. The Supreme Court Collegium, in its meetings held on May 22 and May 27, had recommended the elevation of Justice Sheel Nagu, Chief

Justice of the Punjab and Haryana High Court; Justice Shree Chandrashekhar, Chief Justice of the Bombay High Court; Justice Sanjeev Sachdeva, Chief Justice of the Madhya Pradesh High Court; Justice Arun Palli, Chief Justice of the Jammu and Kashmir and Ladakh High Court; and senior advocate V. Mohana. Justice Nagu was appointed as a judge of the Madhya Pradesh High Court in May 2011 and became Chief Justice of the Punjab and Haryana High Court in July 2024.

BJP Is Now Trying To Break Trinamool: Mamata Banerjee

Kolkata: After winning the recently concluded West Bengal elections through various unfair means, the Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) is using the state police to break the Trinamool Congress from inside, alleged Mamata Banerjee on Monday. She claimed that many MLAs were first receiving threat calls from the police, warning them to refrain from party-related activities or face cases under the Arms Act and the Narcotics Act. "After that, the same MLAs are receiving calls from different BJP offices and are asked to break Trinamool Congress from inside," Mamata Banerjee alleged in a live social message on Monday. She went live on social media soon after Trinamool Congress announced the expulsion of two legislators, Sandipan Saha from Entally constituency in North Kolkata and Ritabrata Banerjee from Uluberia (Purba) in Howrah district, on charges of anti-party activities. Although she did not name Saha and Banerjee directly, she said those lacking moral ethics had no place in the Trinamool Congress.

India-Oman CEPA To Boost Exports, Jobs And Shared Prosperity: PM Modi

New Delhi: Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Monday shared an article written by Union Commerce and Industry Minister Piyush Goyal, highlighting the benefits of the India-Oman Comprehensive Economic Partnership Agreement (CEPA) for Indian exporters, farmers and job creation. Sharing the details on the social

media platform X, the Prime Minister's Office said the trade agreement offers Indian exporters an opportunity to diversify markets, boost employment generation, safeguard farmers' interests and foster shared prosperity between India and Oman. "In this article, Union Minister Piyush Goyal highlights how the

India-Oman CEPA offers Indian exporters an opportunity to diversify markets, boost job creation, safeguard farmers' interests and foster shared prosperity between the two countries," the PMO said on X. The Prime Minister's Office further noted that the government's efforts to sign trade agreements

with developed countries are aimed at improving the lives of every Indian. The development comes as the India-Oman Comprehensive Economic Partnership Agreement came into force on Monday. Union Minister Piyush Goyal described the agreement as a major milestone in Prime Minister Narendra Modi's vision of creating

global opportunities for students, artisans, women, farmers, fishermen and MSMEs. According to Goyal, the agreement will help open new markets, boost exports, attract investments and accelerate job creation across sectors. Under the CEPA, Oman will provide immediate 100 per cent duty-free market

access to 98 per cent of tariff lines covering 99.38 per cent of India's exports to the country. Earlier, only 15.3 per cent of India's exports enjoyed zero-duty access. Goyal said Indian goods that currently face a 5 per cent import duty in Oman, accounting for nearly \$3.64 billion worth of exports, will now become more competitive in the

Gulf market. The minister said labour-intensive sectors such as textiles, gems and jewellery, leather, footwear, sports goods, engineering products, pharmaceuticals, medical devices and automobiles are expected to benefit significantly from the agreement.

Illegal blasting plan: Two vehicles with huge explosives seized and three arrested

SUBARNAPUR (Correspondent)--- While planning an illegal blasting, the Tarbha police have seized two vehicles with huge explosives and arrested three people involved in it and brought them to court, according to the police. According to the information received from the Tarbha police of Subarnapur district, while patrolling under the leadership of the IIC, the police received information from a special source that some people were blasting stones on a hill near a particular crossroad on the road going from Brahmani RD road to Talpadar village via Pandirapita. After receiving the information, the police immediately reached the spot and made all the



arrangements for stone blasting. They arrested three people and brought them to the police station. They seized the pickup van vehicle number OD-15 L 3152 and OR-15 R 9252 containing explosives and conducted an initial investigation. During the investigation, Tarbha police seized 225 packets of explosives weighing 25 kg each, 15

bundles of detonators and 9 shells, totaling 5625 kg. In this regard, Tarbha police registered a case and arrested Dhruba Charan Sahu (56) of Talpali, Sambalpur, Bikash Padhan (32) of Langabahal village and Sachindra Bhoi (24) of Talpali. The accused, who were blasting on the instructions of Harekrushna Das of Talpadar village under

Tarbha police station, informed the police on behalf of the Bruhani Explosive Company in Sambalpur. In this regard, Tarbha police registered a case no. 192/31/05/2026 under Section 288/61(2)9 b (1), (A) B of the BNS, Tarbha IIC Dolamani Nayak, who appeared in court today for the hearing, informed the reporters. SI Prasannajit Behera, who has taken

charge of further investigation into this case, informed the IIC. There are more than 6 crushers in the Tarbha tehsil area. The media representative tried to contact the mining officer to find out whether the stone blasting is being done with permission or by following the rules and regulations or illegally, but it was not possible. It has been informed that a comprehensive investigation will be conducted by the police in the coming days. It is suspected that an interstate racket is active in such explosive transactions. It is being said that if such transactions are cracked down on in a large scale, the government's revenue will increase.

Accused arrested for installing a spy camera in DRDA office women's washroom

Jagatsinghpur, (Correspondent). The Tirtol police on Sunday arrested the main accused, Sanjay Adhek [35] in connection to the installation of a spy camera in DRDA office women's washroom, reported on May 26. The alleged accused Adhek works as a junior revenue assistant in the DRDA office police extracted during investigation, said Jagatsinghpur SP Ankit Verma. Meanwhile, police recovered a black-colored spy camera, a hard disk, a mobile phone, a pen drive, and a cash memo relating to the accused's purchase of the spy camera, SP revealed. Briefing media persons SP Verma informed that based on an FIR lodged at Tirtol police



station soon after the incident on May 25, an investigation team led by IIC Tirtol Raghunath Tudu and officers from district cyber cell pressed into the probe. During the investigation, cops examined the CCTV footage, electronic device analysis and interrogation with a few DRDA office employees and the suspected accused Adhek, a junior assistant likely involved with the incident. While police presumption found the true accused Adhek found visiting the women's

washroom corridor several times later he confessed the crime and revealed that he had allegedly procured the spy camera through online and had clandestinely installed it inside the women's washroom with the motive of capturing private activities of the women employees. He had learnt technical aid from the YouTube platform and installed an App V380 to enable linking his mobile phone, he admitted before the police. Based on the available digital documents, technical evidence, accused person's confession, the police arrested Adhek and registered a case against him under several sections of the BNS and IT Act 2000, and later forwarded to the court, informed SP.

CM Majhi To Attend BRICS Disaster Risk Reduction Meeting In Puri As Chief Guest

Bhubaneswar (Correspondent):. Odisha Chief Minister Mohan Charan Majhi will attend as the chief guest at the inaugural session of the Second Technical Meeting of the BRICS Disaster Risk Reduction (DRR) Working Group, which will be held in Puri from June 3 to 5, Revenue and Disaster Management Minister Suresh Pujari said on Monday. Addressing reporters here, Pujari said Odisha was chosen to host the prestigious international event in recognition of its globally acknowledged achievements in disaster preparedness, cyclone management and early warning systems. The inaugural

session of the meeting will be held on June 4 and attended by representatives, policymakers and disaster management experts from BRICS member and partner countries, along with delegates from various Indian states. The three-day meeting will be organised under the theme, "Enhancing Disaster Resilience through Innovation, Cooperation and Sustainability." Pujari described the event as a matter of pride for Odisha, particularly for Puri, saying it would provide an opportunity to showcase the state's successful disaster management model before the international community while strengthening

cooperation among BRICS nations in the field of disaster risk reduction. BRICS, a major international grouping of emerging economies, comprises Brazil, Russia, India, China, South Africa, Saudi Arabia, Egypt, the United Arab Emirates, Ethiopia, Iran and Indonesia. Together, these countries account for nearly half of the global population and over one-third of the world's GDP. According to the minister, the first technical meeting of the BRICS DRR Working Group was held virtually on April 29-30 this year under the chairmanship of India's National Disaster Management Authority (NDMA).

Odisha Guv Urges Vice-Chancellors To Protect University Land From Encroachment

Bhubaneswar (Correspondent) : Odisha Governor Dr. Hari Babu Kambhampati on Monday called upon Vice-Chancellors across the State to take proactive measures to protect university land from encroachment, stressing that safeguarding institutional assets is essential for the long-term growth and development of higher education institutions. Speaking at the valedictory session of the two-day Conference of Vice-Chancellors of State Public and Private Universities at New Abhishek Hall in Lok Bhavan, the Governor said that many institutions were facing challenges related to encroachment. He urged university



authorities to remain vigilant and to establish effective mechanisms to prevent fresh encroachments. "The Government will do its part in reclaiming encroached land, but it is equally the responsibility of institutions to ensure that no further encroachment takes place," he said. The Governor also emphasised the importance of building

sustainable and self-reliant campuses through the adoption of renewable energy. Referring to Prime Minister Narendra Modi's call for economic self-reliance, he encouraged universities to utilise available rooftop spaces for solar power generation and to meet part of their electricity requirements through clean energy sources. Kambhampati

suggested that universities explore Corporate Social Responsibility (CSR) funding and adopt the Renewable Energy Service Company (RESCO) model, under which third-party developers finance, install, own, and maintain solar power systems, eliminating the need for significant upfront investment by institutions. He said such initiatives could help

universities undertake green transformation even in the face of financial constraints. He further advocated a gradual transition to electric vehicles, citing Lok Bhavan's fully electric vehicle fleet and its emergence as a net-zero energy destination as examples of sustainable practices. Highlighting the need for environmental sustainability, the Governor urged universities to make plantation drives a regular feature of campus life and to utilise unused land to expand green cover. He also encouraged institutions to explore carbon credit mechanisms as a potential source of additional revenue while contributing to environmental conservation.

Odisha Reviews Housing, Sports Facilities For Persons With Disabilities

Bhubaneswar (Correspondent):. The State Commissioner for Persons with Disabilities (SCPD), Odisha, on Monday reviewed key issues related to the distribution of affordable housing and development of sports facilities for persons with disabilities (PwDs) during the latest edition of "Sakhyama - an Ability Talk" held in the capital city. The meeting focused on two major themes— implementation of rural housing schemes for PwD beneficiaries and strengthening of infrastructure and support systems for para-athletes in the state—in line with the provisions of the Rights of Persons with Disabilities (RPwD) Act, 2016. The session was organised in collaboration with the Panchayati Raj & Drinking Water Department and the



Sports & Youth Services Department, Government of Odisha. Founder of Radio Udaan, Danish Mahajan, participated virtually and highlighted recent developments and issues concerning the rights and welfare of persons with disabilities. During the discussion, the SCPD noted that the Commission has been receiving multiple grievances from PwD associations and individuals regarding

delays in allotment of houses under rural housing schemes despite repeated representations. Concerns were also raised over inadequate infrastructure support for para-athletes in rural areas and gaps in the timely provision of aids and appliances required for participation in national and international sporting events, including the Paralympics. The Commissioner stated that the objective of the meeting was to identify

bottlenecks in the implementation of welfare provisions under the RPwD Act and to explore actionable solutions to address them. The Additional Secretary, Panchayati Raj & Drinking Water Department, provided an overview of housing allocation for PwD beneficiaries based on surveys conducted since 2011. She informed that beneficiaries have been covered under schemes such as the Pradhan Mantri

Awas Yojana (PMAY), with door-to-door surveys also undertaken to identify households living in kutcha and thatched houses. She further said that provisions have been made for allotment of land to landless beneficiaries to facilitate house construction, and efforts are ongoing to ensure coverage of all eligible PwDs as per Government of India guidelines. The Additional Secretary, Sports & Youth Services Department, said that para-athletes who have achieved success at national and international levels, including the Paralympics, are being recognised with awards for their performance. She added that the government is working to strengthen sports infrastructure at the district level to support training for

para-athletes and improve their participation in competitive events. Efforts are also underway to enhance funding for sports hostels and physical education institutions to promote inclusive sports development. The CDO-cum-CEO, Zilla Parishad, Khurda, outlined the implementation of rural housing schemes such as PMAY (G) and Antyodaya Gruha Yojana in the district. He said the district administration remains committed to ensuring housing for eligible beneficiaries, including landless PwDs, through land allocation and construction support. Participants at the meeting also raised suggestions for improving service delivery and ensuring timely resolution of issues faced by persons with disabilities.

Odisha CM Urges Caution As Heatwave Intensifies Across State

Bhubaneswar (Correspondent):. Odisha Chief Minister Mohan Charan Majhi on Monday urged citizens to remain cautious as an intense heatwave continues to grip the state, warning that rising temperatures and humidity levels are posing serious health risks. Taking to the social media platform X, the Chief Minister expressed concern over the prevailing weather conditions and appealed to people to take necessary precautions to avoid heat-related illnesses. He advised citizens to stay hydrated by drinking water regularly, even if they do not feel thirsty, and to consume traditional cooling beverages such as torani, bela pana, mandia peji, coconut water, and lemon juice. Majhi also urged people to avoid stepping out during peak afternoon hours unless absolutely necessary. Those who need to go outside were advised to carry sufficient drinking water and use protective measures such as umbrellas, hats, and wet cloths to reduce heat exposure. Special attention was drawn to vulnerable groups, including children, pregnant women, and elderly persons, who have been advised to remain indoors during extreme heat conditions. The Chief Minister further asked families and caregivers to closely monitor symptoms of heat stress such as excessive sweating, dry skin, dizziness, and reduced urination, and to seek immediate medical assistance if required. Highlighting social responsibility, Majhi called upon citizens to support daily wage workers and others engaged in outdoor labour under harsh conditions. He also urged people to provide drinking water to pedestrians wherever possible and contribute to community efforts aimed at reducing heat stress.

EDITORIAL

The Science of Sweat: Your Body's Natural Cooling System

Sweat is something most of us experience every day, especially during hot weather, exercise, or moments of stress. While many people view sweating as an inconvenience, it is actually one of the body's most remarkable survival mechanisms. Without sweat, humans would struggle to regulate body temperature, maintain physical performance, and survive in warm environments. Understanding the science of sweat reveals how the body works tirelessly to keep us healthy and balanced.

The human body functions best at a temperature of around 37°C (98.6°F). Everyday activities such as walking, running, or even digesting food generate heat. External factors like high temperatures and humidity can also raise body temperature. If this heat is not removed, the body's internal systems can become disrupted, leading to overheating and potentially dangerous conditions such as heat exhaustion or heatstroke. This is where sweat comes into play. The skin contains millions of sweat glands that produce a watery fluid composed primarily of water, along with small amounts of salts, minerals, and other substances. When sweat reaches the skin's surface and evaporates into the air, it carries heat away from the body. This process, known as evaporative cooling, is one of the most efficient methods of temperature regulation in nature. Humans possess two main types of sweat glands: eccrine and apocrine glands. Eccrine glands are distributed across most of the body and are primarily responsible for regulating temperature. They produce the clear, watery sweat that appears during exercise or hot weather. Apocrine glands, found mainly in the armpits and groin, become active during emotional stress, anxiety, or excitement. Their secretions contain additional organic compounds that can contribute to body odor. Contrary to popular belief, sweat itself is nearly odorless. The characteristic smell associated with sweating occurs when bacteria living on the skin break down compounds present in sweat. Different individuals host different communities of skin bacteria, which is why body odor varies from person to person. Sweating also plays a role in maintaining the body's fluid and electrolyte balance. Along with water, sweat contains sodium, potassium, and other minerals. During prolonged exercise or exposure to extreme heat, substantial amounts of these substances can be lost. This is why athletes and people working outdoors are encouraged to stay hydrated and replenish electrolytes when necessary.

“Neither This One, Nor That ...”



SYAMA PRASAD MISRA

It happened about a year ago. One morning, around eight o'clock, I was buying vegetables.

A luxury car stopped nearby, and a well-dressed lady, wearing a lot of gold ornaments, got down. She looked quite rich and respectable.

The vegetable seller I was buying from also had some small raw jackfruits for sale — the kind that are great for making curry or fritters. To help his wife, the lady's husband also got out of the car.

The lady asked, “How much for one jackfruit?” “Twenty rupees each, madam,” the seller replied. “Give me two big ones,” she said. The seller picked two and handed them over.

Immediately, the lady said, “Not these ones. The two over there look a bit bigger. Give me those.” The vendor handed her those, too.

Then she said, “Wait, I'll pick them myself.” “Yes, madam,” said the seller politely, and went back to his work.

The lady started checking one after another — almost thirty jackfruits and finally chose the two that she and her husband thought were the biggest. She paid forty rupees and was about to sit in the car, when she suddenly turned back again and said, “Oh wait! Not these two. The ones beside them look even bigger. Give me those.”

The seller smiled and quietly handed her those two. This is not just a story about a woman choosing

jackfruits. It is something that happens to almost every single of us. In every situation, we often question ourselves, standing in confusion between two options:

“Is it this one or that one? Hmm... okay, maybe this one.”

Then after a while we think again, “No, no, not this one — that one. Yes, that one looks better.”

We take that one, but again feel, “Not this either. That another one must be the right choice!”

We feel disappointed when we see that someone else — maybe a neighbour or a rival — seems to have something better. Even if theirs is only slightly bigger or better, we start feeling that we made the wrong choice. That is human nature. We are never satisfied.

That's why people say, “Human wants are unlimited.”

In truth, it's our endless desires mixed with jealousy that make our minds restless and depressed. We want others to grow and succeed — but still remain under our control or influence.

Think of a little child in a toy shop. Even after buying the biggest, most expensive toy, he doesn't feel happy. Instead, he feels gloomy about the other toy he couldn't buy — much to his father's frustration.

It's a psychological fact and deep-rooted habit of the human mind — to be sorrowful about the small part we lost, rather than be delighted and satisfied about the larger part we already have.

A few days ago, a video went viral on social

media. In it, a man sitting in his car saw someone boarding an airplane and thought,

“Ah, how lucky he is! Will I ever be able to fly on a plane someday?”

Similarly, a biker envied the man in the car.

A cyclist envied the biker. A person walking envied the cyclist. And finally, a differently-abled man on a tricycle looked at the person walking and thought, “If only I had legs that worked... I would be so lucky and happy. I wouldn't have to depend on anyone.” But people in better positions never think like that.

Such is this strange world, and even stranger is human nature — always melancholic, always comparing, always discontented.

As if some magician has waved his wand and quietly stolen away the reason for our happiness.

Dear friends, If we learn to be glad and contented with what we have, and look at those who are less fortunate than us,

we will realize that there are many people living in situations far worse than ours.

They face countless hardships, while we are much better off than them. But instead of being grateful, we keep comparing ourselves with those above us — and make ourselves unhappy.

So let's thank that invisible power — call it God or destiny —

for keeping us in the position we truly deserve, for giving us enough to live well. Once we do that, we will never feel ourselves inferior again, and we will never have to sigh and say,

“Hmm... neither this one, nor that ...”

Prana Krushna Parija : Plant Physiologist



Arundhati Devi

Prana Krushna Parija was a professor of botany. His research work comprised mainly

fundamental and applied aspects of plant physiology, experimental plant morphology, and ecological studies of plant environment. He studied water hyacinth and other aquatic weeds, respiration in leaves and apples, transpiration and heat resistance in plants, rice and algae and storage of aples.

He served as a vice chancellor of Utkal University. He worked as a principal in Ravenshaw University (formerly Ravenshaw College), Cuttack Pro Vice-Chancellor of Banaras Hindu University, Varanasi and Vice-Chancellor of Utkal University, Bhubaneswar. The “Parija Library” of the university is named after him. He was President of the Indian Science Congress Association in 1960. He was an elected member of the first Odisha Legislative Assembly.

Dr. Parija always kept an open mind to scientific discoveries in other branches of science

and it was amazing to note in him up-to-date information, not only in subjects like Botany, but also in other sciences. He said that his mind should be an open door to all truth, and that a successful teacher should be an assiduous student throughout his life. Thus when he was called upon to take over the responsibilities of the Director of Agriculture for a couple of years, he brought to bear his wide knowledge derived from various sources in ensuring effective administration in the department for the improvement of agricultural products.

He had disciplined himself in life from his student days and thus could face the vicissitudes in life with equanimity and steadiness. Discipline characterised him as a teacher, as a research scholar, and as a citizen. He often bewailed the present indiscipline among students. Politics has become an obsession with most students. Politics is not the only aspect of our life. Any one who has politics as his primary interest or agitation as a career is not necessarily a student being enrolled as a student just as a pram being placed in a motorgarage does not necessarily turn out to be a motor car or an automobile. As the scripture

says - “a little leaven leavens the hole lump.” The great scientist Albert Einstein when asked by the research student of the Harvard University for a piece of single advice which should guide them in future, readily answered, “Young men, devote an hour each day to examine your pre-conceived notions or what you have learnt and the time thus used would be most rewarding.” A well regulated life is the hall mark of a student and in fact of any one who would be of any worth in this life. Dr. Parija had that worth as a man. As a friend he was genial, to his opponent he was Polite, as a good teacher he stooped to lift up the least among the taught, as a preceptor he was rich in counsel, in his sufferings he suffered heroically, as

a father set an example of simplicity and self-denying love and among the common people he became a commoner with simplicity in manners and habits. He brought a sense of dedication to the cause of science, education and the welfare of his countrymen whom he served. His place is void is now. This can only be filled by men endowed with a sense of dedication and loyalty to duty in the spheres of work they have been called to accomplish.

Children, Teachers and Summer Vacation



Bijaya Kumar Parhi

Summer vacation is the most awaited long period of holidays reserved for rest and recreation in an

academic session. When days become hotter and hotter around the months of April-May, schools remain closed, so that children get respite from scorching heat of the sun. But this month-long vacation is not a mere escape from the heat wave, it's a golden opportunity for students and teachers to renew the exhausted life in the midst of excess academic pressure, reevaluate the meaning of education and rebuilding the core values of life and life skills. This vacation is not meant for physical comfort, it's an exclusive time for the development of creativity, spending ideal hours with family members- grandparents, uncles, aunts, cousins and siblings etc. and it provides a scope for acquisition of new knowledge and develops a creative hobbies or upkeep these if one has developed over the years. A good number of children are grappling with a disconnected narrative of darkness, agony and suffering. A lot of them feel and experience that life is very painful, traumatic and difficult. When children feel exasperated, they need some people who love them and can understand their feelings. These people can teach the young minds how to soothe themselves and remain optimistic despite all oddities. This can happen when they start living among family members keeping themselves away from academic pressure. Toddy's working-class

parents, especially living in towns and cities have no time for children. If the children belong to nuclear families, the situation is worsened. They leave for schools early in the morning and attend coaching classes in the evening, but the vacation works as a bridge to bring parents and children closer. It facilitates children spending time with parents, gossiping freely and parents enquiring about their children's personal problems, difficulties and observing their daily routine, friends circle etc. During vacation visiting to village and developing intimacy with nature and natural surroundings are biggest attractions for children. The extracurricular activities like singing, dancing, painting and swimming can be developed beyond the regular academic text books. But it's a matter of regret that today's children remain overburdened with the completion of holiday home work on different subjects assigned by schools. The volume of home work is designed in such a way that the vacation comes to an end by completing the work only. The vacation time is indirectly being snatched from the teenagers and as a result today's children feel low and go in to the state of depression and frustration. The delicate lives of children are sacrificed in the race of scoring marks and grades. That's why Sri Aurobindo felt the necessity of Integral education, which involves the integration of teaching and learning of the theory and praxis of physical, mental, emotional, social and spiritual aspects of human life. He was very critical about the nature of education imparted in schools, colleges and universities as this education system is mainly based upon materialistic and devoid of the joys of the spirit. According to Radhakrishnan, the purpose of education is to teach that life has a meaning; to awaken the innate ability to live the

life of the soul. Children are at their creative best- the most creative they could ever be in their entire life, because perceptions are honest and pure, unpolluted by preconceived notions. They are free thinkers, absolutely free in spirits. Give kids freedom to explore, experiment and engage instead of overburdening them. Children need love and care, but at the same time, we shouldn't forget to discipline them. Addiction to smartphones is adversely affecting children's mental health, interpersonal relationships and productivity. Parents are required to monitor each activity of children and engage them in a joyful learning exercise during vacation. For children family is the first school, the place of learning is the second school and the third and the foremost important school is the environment or surroundings they live or grow in. The best education takes place in the best environment. The parents, teachers and above all the present education system hardly understand the significance of vacation for children. This is the ideal time for children to keep themselves engaged in reading, writing, certainly not the textbooks and playing some outdoor games to maintain physical fitness and mental robustness. When the habit of reading is disappearing fast, this is the time for reading stories, fictions, biographies, autobiographies of phenomenal personalities, spiritual books, science journals and other forms of literature which expand the children's horizon of knowledge. Needless to say, reading different genres of books deepens one's thought process and brings novelty in mind and widens outlook of the readers. Such enriching experience is not possible through academic textbooks which are only flooded with information. So, vacation time brings such an opportunity when optimum educational development of children is possible without

academic pressure. Besides, children should take part in different social activities like plantation, environmental protection, cleanliness drive, rendering service to the local helpless and the needy and adult education program during vacation. All these activities not only develop social responsibility, create moral values, but also help children grow as conscious and ideal citizens when they grow up. They learn the values like kindness, compassion, charity Teachers are the second parents as the school is a home away from home. They are entrusted with the responsibility of building nation through shaping the characters and personality of children. They are the role models, best guides, mentors and philosophers of children. The more they become efficient in the classrooms, the better outcomes are resulted in their teaching. For teachers the vacation has an equal weightage. Teachers achieve their goal not merely by imparting factual and disconnected pieces of information in isolation. Logical and passionate analysis of the given information and synthesis in the context of the current state of knowledge is also very essential. They can successfully do so by continuously refreshing knowledge and skills and keeping themselves abreast with new knowledge and persistently engage in the research. They remain busy in different works like making question papers, evaluating answer scripts and preparing report cards during the academic periods. So, the summer vacation ideally finds some time for them when they should be engaged in the fruitful experience of reading and writing. It goes without saying that summer vacation is the best productive period for both teachers and learners to prepare, produce and resume an academic session with renewed vigor, interest and enthusiasm.

Joint review of 'Setu' and 'Model Village Mission' of Swaviman area

Malkangiri, correspondent : As an important step towards the Developed Odisha Vision 2036-47, a joint and high-level review meeting of the 'Model Village Mission' and the ongoing 'Setu' scheme for the development of Swaviman area has been held. The meeting, chaired by District Collector Prathmesh Rajashirke at the District Council Conference Hall, prepared a detailed profile of the overall development and transformation of the entire district. On this occasion, Chief Development Officer cum Executive Officer Dasarthi Sarabu gave detailed information about the implementation of the Model Village Mission. The target is to set up model villages in 111 gram panchayats of the district, including 18 gram panchayats in Chitrakonda block and Nakamamdu gram panchayat in Korukunda block. The collector said this scheme will bring about a comprehensive transformation of rural Odisha and take it to new heights.

Ananya Malla's unique Odissi dance at Raipur Agriculture College

Bhubaneswar: (Correspondent):- At the 66th convocation of Raipur Agriculture College at the Kisan Hall of Indira Gandhi Agriculture University, Raipur, Chhattisgarh, Anusuya Patra, a teacher of Cuttack CDA and the only daughter of renowned



music guru Bibhudatta Malla. Ananya Malla mesmerized thousands of young students and educators by performing Odissi dance. While classical and folk dances from various states have been performed all over India since the year, Ananya's "Ahe Nilashaila" Odissi dance has captivated the audience with Jagannath culture and Bibhuchetna. Vice-Chancellor Professor Dr. Girish Chandel praised and praised Ananya's dance. Ananya, a national scholarship holder, is studying in her final year of graduation from an agricultural college and has developed an interest in Odissi dance since childhood.

Cuttack fire horror: Fish market destroyed

Cuttack (Correspondent) : A massive fire that broke out at the fish market near Press Chhak in Cuttack, Odisha late on Sunday night caused extensive damage to the market complex, destroying several shops and severely impacting a branch of Bank of India located within the premises. Firefighters battled the blaze for more than six hours amid dense smoke and extreme heat as efforts to completely extinguish the fire continued. According to preliminary reports, the fire spread rapidly through the market, engulfing one shop after another before emergency teams could bring the situation under control. By the time fire service personnel reached the spot, a substantial portion of the market had already



been gutted. The Bank of India branch operating within the market complex was among the worst-affected structures in the fire. Sources said the branch was completely charred in the blaze. Initial estimates suggest that cash exceeding ₹50 lakh stored inside the bank was destroyed. Apart from cash, several important documents, records and other materials kept in the branch were also reportedly burnt. However, the exact extent of the loss is yet to be officially assessed. Fire officials said dense smoke posed a major

challenge during the firefighting operation. According to officials, the ground floor of the affected structure contained plastic materials, paint containers, tarpaulin sheets and other highly combustible items, which intensified the blaze and generated thick smoke. The operation was further complicated by the presence of only a single access route into the affected building. Officials said the combination of dense smoke and intense heat made it difficult for firefighters to enter certain sections and

contain the fire quickly. DCP Cuttack Rishikesh Khilari said, "The ground floor housed a colour depot, which contained inflammable materials. Despite the challenges, our firefighting teams have done an excellent job in controlling and containing the blaze. Some isolated pockets are still burning, but the situation is expected to be brought completely under control within the next few hours." With temperatures inside parts of the structure remaining dangerously high, fire officials pressed a robotic firefighting machine into service. Authorities said the robotic system was deployed in areas where conditions were too hazardous for firefighters to enter directly. The machine enabled fire personnel to access high-

temperature zones and continue firefighting operations in a safer manner. Several fish stalls, storage units and commercial establishments suffered extensive damage in the incident. Traders fear losses running into several lakhs of rupees, although an official assessment is yet to be conducted. For many vendors operating in the market, the affected establishments serve as their primary source of livelihood, making the incident a major economic setback. The exact cause of the fire remains unknown. Authorities are expected to launch a detailed investigation after firefighting and cooling operations are completed. DCP Cuttack Rishikesh Khilari said, "The ground floor housed a colour depot, which

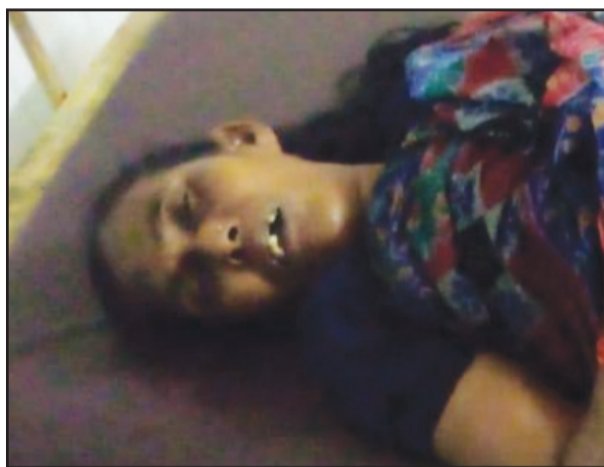
contained inflammable materials. Despite the challenges, our firefighting teams have done an excellent job in controlling and containing the blaze. Some isolated pockets are still burning, but the situation is expected to be brought completely under control within the next few hours." No casualties have been reported so far. However, the scale of destruction has once again raised concerns over fire safety preparedness in crowded commercial establishments and market complexes. Officials are likely to examine whether adequate fire prevention and emergency response measures were in place at the market complex.

Third degree complaint incident in barangay police station; Barangay police station IIC changed

Cuttack : Third degree complaint against Rakesh Behera in Cuttack baranga police station. Baranga Thana IIC Niranjan Behera replaced. Purighata police station officer Biswa Ranjan Naik will now be in charge of baranga police station IIC. On the other hand, the seriously injured Rakesh Behera alias Muna is being treated at the Cuttack General Hospital. His health condition has improved. On this day, Rakesh came to the baranga police station to file a complaint about his disappearance. On the 22nd, a dead body of a woman was found on the banks of the river. The police called Rakesh to the police station to identify the body.

Woman dies in lightning strike

SUBARNAPUR (Correspondent) : -- Tulsi Suna (58), wife of Sanishchar Suna of Dunguripali village under Kutasingha panchayat of Agalpur block of Balangir district, has been reported to have died in a lightning strike during the Kalbaisakhi. According to reports, Tulsi Suna had gone to her mother's house in Dunguripali village under Dunguripali block of Subarnapur district on some work a few days ago. Last Saturday night at around 8/9 pm, a strong lightning, thunder, and wind struck the house and plunged it into darkness. At that time, Tulsi Suna fell down and became unconscious due to the



lightning strike. The people of her mother's house called an ambulance and took her to Dunguripali hospital. The doctor declared her dead there. After hearing the news of the death, a shadow of grief spread in the mother's house area and the mother-in-law's house area. Later, the doctor

informed the police and sent Binika for an autopsy. After the autopsy, the police handed over the body to the family. Later, it was taken to her village Dunguripali and buried in the village Cremation ground in the presence of hundreds of people including friends and relatives. The

deceased Tulsi Suna's son Birendra Suna, son-in-law, younger daughter Khira, son-in-law Mithun, grandson Rakesh, Rahul, grandchildren along with brothers Durjan, Sarjan, Sadananda, brother-in-law Jharana, Damayanti, Bayanti, nephews Mukesh, Rupesh, Harishchandra, Chandini and others were present. The elder daughter-in-law could not reach her as she had gone to a remote place in Tamilnadu. In such a situation, the locals are demanding that the government provide immediate assistance to the family of the deceased Tulsi Suna.

Joint Public Grievance Hearing Camp Held at Zilla Parishad Conference Hall, Jajpur

JAJPUR (Correspondent) : A Joint Public Grievance Hearing Camp organized by the Jajpur district administration was held at the Zilla Parishad Conference Hall, Jajpur. District Collector Shri Ambar Kumar Kar attended the camp and heard various grievances and complaints from the public.



The Collector stated that departmental officers would examine the complaints and suitable action would be taken to resolve the issues of eligible applicants as far as possible. A total of 311 complaints were registered during the

hearing camp. Out of these, 255 were related to individual grievances, 6 to group issues, 46 applications sought assistance from the Chief Minister's Relief Fund, and 4 applications were related to the Red Cross Fund. Immediate disposal was made in 116 cases. The camp was attended by Jajpur Superintendent of Police Shri Yashpratap Shrimall,

Chief Development Officer cum Executive Officer of Zilla Parishad Shri Debi Prasad Mohanty, Sub-Collector Shri Tapas Ranjan Dehury, Jajpur BDO Shri Brahmananda Behera, Tahasildar Shri Rabinarayan Padhi, along with district-level, regional and block-level officials, who participated in hearing and addressing public grievances.

Rayagada District Collector Conducts Joint Grievance Hearing

Rayagada, (Correspondent): A Joint Grievance Hearing Camp was conducted by the district administration at the Zilla Parishad Sadbhavana Hall in the district headquarters of Rayagada on Monday.



The hearing was chaired by Rayagada Collector Ashutosh Kulkarni and attended by Superintendent of Police Raj Prasad, Divisional Forest Officer Sachin Annasaheb Ohal, Chief Development Officer-cum-Executive Officer Akshay Kumar Khemundu, Chief District Medical and Public Health Officer Dr. Prashant Mishra, Sub-Collector Ramesh Kumar Jena, Project

Administrator-cum-Integrated Tribal Development Agency (ITDA) Officer Chandrakanta Majhi, along with officials from various departments. The officials heard and reviewed grievances submitted by members of the public.

A total of 65 grievances were received during the hearing. Of these, 50 were individual petitions, while 10 were collective grievances submitted by villagers. The Collector

also approved financial assistance of ₹76,000 from the Red Cross Fund for five beneficiaries.

During the camp, 18 grievances were resolved on the spot, while the remaining cases were forwarded to the concerned departments for detailed inquiry and necessary action. The Collector directed departmental officials to investigate the pending complaints and ensure prompt resolution.

Deputy Chief Minister Lays Foundation Stones for Mine Stadium Projects

Nimapada, (Correspondent) : Under the Utkarsh Nimapada 2.0 initiative, on the occasion of Seva Diwas, Odisha Deputy Chief Minister and Nimapada MLA Pravati Parida visited Balanga on Monday and participated in several programs. She first joined the Swachh Bharat Mission program at the Balanga Community Health Centre, where she personally took part in cleaning waste and garbage from the hospital premises. During the visit, local residents expressed dissatisfaction over the absence of a doctor at the health centre and demanded the appointment of a permanent doctor. Responding to their concerns, the Deputy Chief Minister assured them that



a doctor would be appointed before the Raja festival.

Later, under the "Ek Ped Maa Ke Naam" campaign, she planted saplings within the hospital campus. She also inaugurated a toilet facility equipped with a sanitary napkin vending machine and incinerator at the Balanga Ayushman Mandir, aimed at promoting cleanliness and providing better facilities

for patients visiting the hospital.

Subsequently, at the Balanga Government High School playground, she laid the foundation stone for the construction of a sports complex and spectator gallery, as well as the development of the school playground, at an estimated cost of ₹18 lakh. Among those present on the occasion were Nimapada BDO Dr. Abhijit Sadangi, local

Sarpanch Anjali Pradhan, Balanga Mandal President Debashish Acharya, MP representative Minalata Mohanty, Jachindra Swain, Prasanna Kumar Das, Farmers' Morcha Vice-President Arjun Baral, Saroj Kumar Sahu, Balanga Mandal President Prabhakar Nayak, Dhanua Mandal President Santosh Parida, along with many men and women from different mandals.

OJS exam application moved on July 5 Prelims

Cuttack (Correspondent):- Odisha Judicial Service from Odisha Public Service Commission (OPSC) (OJS)-2025 exam application process has been postponed. Aspirants can apply to other countries. Also, there will be no preliminary examination

to be held on July 5. A notification has been released by OPSC on Saturday that the aspirants will be informed after the new date is fixed. It is worth noting that last April 30, the notification for OJS examination for the posts of 78 Civil Judges (Junior Division) was

published by OPSC. Out of the total posts for 32 unreserved category candidates, 9 in SEBC category, 13 in Scheduled Tribes, 13 in Scheduled Tribes category, 18 and 3 posts are reserved for disabled aspirants. A total of 26 posts from various categories have

been reserved for women aspirants. The notification stated that the application process for this recruitment test will start from May 8 and will continue till June 8; But according to the order of the Supreme Court, the application period has been extended by OPSC.

EAST COAST RAILWAY
EXPRESSION OF INTEREST FOR EMPANELMENT OF SERVICE PROVIDERS FOR IMPLEMENTATION OF THE REFORM FOR BETTER ON-BOARD SERVICES
EOI Notice No. ECoR/EnHM/Empanelment/2026/Onboard-2
EMPANELMENT OF SERVICE PROVIDERS FOR IMPLEMENTATION OF THE REFORM FOR BETTER ON-BOARD SERVICES IN EAST COAST RAILWAY.
Last date & time for submission of documents : 23.06.2026 (till 17:00 Hrs.).
Validity of Empanelment : The empanelment shall be valid for a period of 2 years from the date of publication of the empanelment list.
Address for submission of application : Office of the Principal Chief Mechanical Engineer, 3rd Floor, South Block, Rail Sadan, Bhubaneswar-751017.
Bidders are advised to regularly check our website : www.eastcoastrail.in/indianrailways.gov.in for any corrigendum / amendments.
PR-206/R/26-27 Principal Chief Mechanical Engineer / Bhubaneswar

'Maa Behen': Madhuri dixit calls her character Rekha an "antithesis of the mother"

Ahead of the release of Netflix's upcoming crime-comedy 'Maa Behen', producer-director Suresh Triveni and cast members Madhuri Dixit, Tripti Dimri and Dharna Durgaa shared insights into the film's unconventional story, characters and family dynamics. Produced by Abundantia Entertainment in association with Opening Image Films and directed by Suresh Triveni, 'Maa Behen' follows a dysfunctional mother-daughter trio who find themselves trying to hide a dead body while navigating unpredictable chaos, nosy neighbours and their unconventional family relationships. Speaking about the film's title and central theme, Triveni said the story originated from the relationship between a mother and her daughters. "The story is about a mother and her two daughters. So, it started from there. And of course, a title matters a lot," he said in an interview with ANI. "And we have treated it with seriousness. And at the same time, with entertainment. So, you will enjoy it, but you will be forced to think a little. So, if there is a title, it has been kept responsibly. And that's what I want to say. I think a title is very important in a film. So that the public gets that curiosity." Madhuri Dixit described her character as a far cry from the conventional mothers often portrayed on screen. "The mother is very naughty. Like, she is not a typical mother. Like they show in films. They keep the mother on a pedestal. She is not like that," Madhuri said. "She is a very different mother. There is chaos in her life. She is basically a human. She is a human. We keep her on a pedestal a lot. She also has feelings. She also has some desires in life. She also has some emotions of her own," Madhuri said. Calling the character an "antithesis of the mother," the actor added that audiences can expect plenty of entertainment."



Kailash Kher's energetic performance at IPL 2026 final wins hearts

Singer Kailash Kher performed a mid-innings performance at the final of the Indian Premier League (IPL) at Narendra Modi Stadium in Ahmedabad on Sunday. The singer performed the song Babam Bam during his performance. It was supported by a large group of background dancers that elevated the overall celebration of the night. Kailash Kher won the hearts of spectators with his energetic performance. The IPL shared the glimpses from the performance of the singer on his X handle. IPL wrote, "Grooving to unmatched energy. A magical Mid-Innings performance by Kailash Kher in Ahmedabad."



"Coming to the match, a half-century from star batter Virat Kohli helped Royal Challengers Bengaluru (RCB) make history, successfully defending their Indian Premier League (IPL) title, getting their overall second title, beating a valiant Gujarat Titans by five wickets at Ahmedabad's Narendra Modi Stadium on Sunday. Put to bat first

by RCB, GT scored just 155/8 in 20 overs, with Washington Sundar (50* in 37 balls, with five fours) and Nishant Sinhu (20 in 18 balls, with three fours) being the only one to cross the 20-run mark. Rasikh Dar Salam (3/27), Bhuvneshwar Kumar (2/29) and Josh Hazlewood (2/37) took wickets regularly. RCB started off well with a 62-run stand between Venkatesh Iyer (32 in 16 balls, with four boundaries and two sixes) and Virat Kohli. GT showed some fight, reducing RCB to 132/5 at one point, but Virat (75* in 42 balls, with nine fours and three sixes) guided RCB to a win with two overs left. This is RCB's second IPL title win and overall their fourth Indian franchise cricket trophy, including two Women's Premier League (WPL) titles.

7 Mistakes Stopping You From Making The Ultimate Shikanji



Summer can be quite harsh with all the heat, humidity and constant sweating. However, it is also this time of the year that we enjoy some deliciously refreshing beverages, such as Shikanji - the classic Indian lemonade. Shikanji is a spicier upgrade to regular lemonade, with the additional kick of roasted jeera powder, black salt and so on. Making that perfect glass of shikanji is all about striking the right balance in every ingredient you use. If you fail, your shikanji could be too sweet, too salty, too tangy or even too bland. Here are some common mistakes to avoid to make that ultimate glass of shikanji.

7 Mistakes Standing Between You And That Glass Of Perfect Shikanji:

1. Using The Wrong Lemon-To-Water Ratio: The key to a perfect shikanji is balancing lemon juice with water. Too little lemon makes it flat, while too much makes it overly sour. The ideal ratio is one medium-sized lemon per glass of water for that perfect tang.
2. Not Using Chilled Water: Shikanji is best served ice-cold, but many people make the mistake of adding room-temperature water. Always use chilled water or ice cubes to bring out those refreshing flavours.
3. Skipping Black Salt: A crucial ingredient in traditional shikanji, black salt (kala namak) enhances the tanginess and gives it that street-style punch. Regular salt won't give you the same depth of flavour. For the ultimate shikanji, use both black salt and regular salt.
4. Overlooking Roasted Cumin Powder: One of the biggest flavour boosters in shikanji is roasted cumin

powder (bhuna jeera powder). Skipping this ingredient makes the drink taste flat instead of the well-rounded, slightly smoky flavour that gives it a special edge.

5. Adding Sugar Incorrectly: Perfecting the sugar can be a game-changer. If the sugar isn't dissolving properly, you'll have sugar crystals at the bottom of your salty-tangy drink. Either dissolve sugar crystals in warm water first or use powdered sugar for quick mixing. Again, do not go overboard with sugar. Add a little first, dissolve it properly, and then add more if necessary.
6. Not Stirring Or Shaking Well: Shikanji isn't just about adding ingredients to a glass - it needs proper mixing. Stir thoroughly or shake it in a bottle to ensure the salt, sugar, and spices blend evenly.
7. Forgetting Fresh Mint Leaves: While not always included in traditional recipes, mint leaves add a refreshing touch. Lightly crushing them before adding enhances the flavour. Use fresh mint leaves instead of any dry or wilted ones stored in your refrigerator.

Avoid these common mistakes and your homemade shikanji will be the ultimate summer drink - tangy, refreshing, chilled and full of flavour.



Want A Summer Glow? This 10-Minute Spinach-Orange Salad Is All You Need

Our skin reflects what we eat, and nourishing it from within is just as important as external skincare. With summer here, rising temperatures and pollution can take a toll on our skin, leading to dullness, dehydration, and breakouts. While sunscreens and serums help, a simple yet effective way to maintain healthy skin is through diet. Hydrating and antioxidant-rich foods can work wonders, promoting a natural, healthy glow. If you are looking for a fun way to achieve that summer glow, try this expert-recommended spinach-orange salad recipe. This vibrant, nutrient-packed dish does not just taste good but is also loaded with skin-loving nutrients. What Makes Spinach-Orange Salad A Must-Have? This quick and easy salad recipe stands out for its simple yet highly

nutritious ingredients. Here is how they benefit your skin:

1. Spinach - Blanched spinach, one of the star ingredients, is packed with iron, improves blood circulation, and helps prevent hair fall.
2. Oranges - Juicy oranges are rich in vitamin C, which enhances iron absorption. They can also help reduce dark spots and brighten the skin.
3. Almonds and Sunflower Seeds - Both almonds and sunflower seeds contain healthy fats like Omega-3, which are essential for deep skin nourishment and maintaining a clear complexion.
4. Lemon Juice and Apple Cider Vinegar - These ingredients help detoxify the skin and improve digestion. A healthy digestive system is key to clear, smooth, and elastic skin.



Salad In Advance? While you can prep the ingredients beforehand, it is best to avoid making and storing the salad too early. The combination of lemon juice and oranges can cause the salad to turn bitter or sour over time. Instead, prepare the ingredients the night before and assemble the salad when you are ready to eat. This way, the salad retains its crunch, freshness, and delicious flavour while supporting your skin health. How To Make Spin-

ach-Orange Salad For Glowing Skin This spinach-orange salad is quick to prepare, requiring only a few pantry staples and a few minutes of your time. Nutritionist Leema Mahajan shares this easy recipe on Instagram. 1. Prepare the Spinach: Take one cup of spinach, wash it well, and blanch it. Transfer it to a bowl of cold water with some ice. After a few seconds, remove and place it on a plate. 2. Prepare the Oranges: Peel and cut one

medium-sized orange into bite-sized pieces, removing the seeds. Roast almonds and sunflower seeds, then chop them into small pieces. 3. Make the Dressing: Mix together one tablespoon of honey, apple cider vinegar, lemon juice, peri-peri seasoning, jeera masala, salt, and chaat masala. Set aside. 4. Assemble the Salad: In a bowl, combine the chopped oranges, blanched spinach, roasted nuts, and dressing. Toss well and enjoy fresh!

Pistachio Jam Rock Cookies Recipe

Ingredients

1/2 cup Sugar 1/2 cup Butter (soften) 1 Egg 1 tsp Vanilla essence 1 1/2 cup Refined flour Egg wash: 1 egg (beaten) For Pistachio Jam: 1/2 cup American Pistachios (grounded) Sugar: 1/2 cup 1/2 cup Sugar 2 tbsp Butter 1 tsp Glucose syrup 1/4 cup Cream For Garnish: 2 tbsp Pistachio powder

How to



Make Pistachio Jam Rock Cookies

For Cookies 1. Cream sugar and butter. Add

egg and vanilla essence. Mix in refined flour to form a dough. Roll and cut out cookies. Use half to create indentation cookies. Brush with egg wash. Bake at 180°C for 12-15 minutes. For Pis-

tachio Jam: 1. Melt sugar in a pan until caramelized. Add butter and mix. Stir in glucose syrup, followed by cream. Finally, add grounded American pistachios and cook to a jam-like consistency. Assemble: 1. Fill whole cookies with pistachio jam. Place indentation cookies on top. Garnish: 1. Dust pistachio powder in the cookie center for a perfect finish!



India Register Dominant 4-1 Win Over Korea In Men's U-18 Asia Cup

Kakamigahara (Japan): Captain Ketan Kushwaha, Varinder Singh, and Shahrukh Ali scored a goal each as the Indian U-18 Men's Hockey Team produced a dominant 4-1 victory against Korea in their third Pool A match in the U-18 Asia Cup 2026 in Kakamigahara, Japan, on Monday. Kushwaha scored in the 3rd and 36th minutes, Varinder Singh struck in the 5th, and Shahrukh Ali sounded the board in the 54th minute for India, while Korean captain Yun Jaehyeok (21') scored his team's lone goal. India started the first quarter strongly, securing an early two-goal lead. In the third minute, India earned the first penalty corner of the match and successfully converted it into the opening goal. Rahul Yadav played an incisive pass to captain



Kushwaha (3'), and although his initial shot was saved by the Korean goalkeeper, the ball rebounded to him, and he slotted it into the net. India built on the momentum and secured the second goal in the fifth minute. Gaze Khan showed great vision to find Varinder (5') unmarked next to the goal, and he delivered a

calm finish to extend India's lead. Korea slowed the tempo for the remainder of the first quarter in an attempt to regroup. The second quarter saw end-to-end action from both sides, but neither team created meaningful chances inside the circle. In the 21st minute, Korea received a penalty corner that captain

Jaehyeok (21') successfully converted to reduce the deficit in the first half. India started the third quarter on the front foot, converting yet another penalty corner in the 36th minute. Although the Korean backline stopped the initial shot at goal, they failed to clear the ball in time, and Kushwaha (36')

pounced on the opportunity to score his second goal of the evening. Both teams secured penalty corners towards the end of the third quarter, but neither side converted. In the 53rd minute, Korea came teasingly close to scoring when Kim Doyun deflected the ball toward the goal, but Indian goalkeeper Ayush Rajak made a great save with his stick. The very next minute, India replied with a fourth goal courtesy of Shahrukh (54'), who struck a powerful shot to sound the board and seal his team's victory. The win put India level on six points with Korea and Japan. The top two teams from each of the two pools will qualify for the semi-finals. India will next face Chinese Taipei on June 3 at 1:30 PM IST in their final Pool A match.

IPL 2026: David Fined 50% Match Fee, To Miss 2027 Season Opener After Collecting Two Demerit Points

Ahmedabad: Royal Challengers Bengaluru's (RCB) big-hitting batter Tim David has been fined 50 per cent of his match fee and will miss the opening game of the 2027 Indian Premier League (IPL) season after collecting two demerit points for a Level 1 Code of Conduct breach during the five-wicket win over Gujarat Titans in the 2026 final at the Narendra Modi Stadium. David, who hit 24 off 17 balls in the final, was found guilty of breaching Article 2.9 of the Code of Conduct, which relates to "throwing a ball (or any other item of cricket equipment such as a water bottle) at or near a Player, Team Official, Umpire, Match Referee or any other third person in an inappropriate and/or dangerous manner during a Match." The incident occurred in the 10th over of the first innings when, following the fall of a wicket, David threw an

ice bag aggressively in the direction of on field umpire Nitin Menon. The Match Referee, former India pacer Javagal Srinath, imposed the sanction after David admitted to the offence and accepted the punishment. This was David's third Level 1 offence of the season. He had earlier committed breaches in Match 20, for which he was docked one demerit point, and in Match 54, which resulted in two demerit points. With the latest sanction, David has now accumulated five demerit points in total. As per the IPL's Code of Conduct regulations, accumulation of five demerit points triggers a one match suspension. Accordingly, David, who made 305 runs in 16 games this season, will miss RCB's opening fixture of the next IPL season or, if he represents another franchise in the first game of IPL 2027, RCB defeated Gujarat Titans

by five wickets in the final to secure their second consecutive title, but David's suspension means the franchise will begin their title defence next year without one of their experienced finishers. The win in Ahmedabad saw RCB become only the third team in IPL history to successfully defend their crown after Chennai Super Kings (2010-11) and Mumbai Indians (2019-20). Overall, RCB are now the fourth franchise with multiple titles, alongside MI and CSK, who have five each, and Kolkata Knight Riders, who have three wins. Rajat Patidar added himself to the record books by becoming the first captain to win the IPL in each of his first two seasons. He is only the third skipper to secure back to back IPL triumphs after MS Dhoni (2010 and 2011) and Rohit Sharma (2019 and 2020).

Anushka Sharma Celebrates RCB's IPL Win With A Sweet Kiss On Virat Kohli's Forehead

Mumbai: The Royal Challengers Bengaluru lifted the IPL trophy for the second time on Sunday after a stunning victory against the Gujarat Titans. Actress Anushka Sharma decided to share the historic moment with her cricketer husband Virat Kohli with an adorable social media post. On Monday, the 'PK' actress took to her official Instagram handle and published a picture of lovingly planting a kiss on Kohli's forehead while he held the trophy. Anushka simply dropped a fingers-crossed, a red heart, and a folded hands emoji as the caption. Earlier, she uploaded a photo of Virat with his back towards the camera on social media after RCB's five-wicket win over Gujarat Titans in the final at Ahmedabad's Narendra Modi Stadium.



We could also see former RCB player and batting coach Dinesh Karthik as part of the celebration. "One felt nice, you did it twice," read the text on the post. The 'Band Baaja

Baaraat' actress was unable to contain her excitement from the stands as Kohli's unbeaten 75 guided RCB to register their second win in IPL.

ICC Moves Women's Champions Trophy 2027 To Feb, Approves Emerging Nations Trophy And T20 World Cup Qualification Pathway

Ahmedabad: The International Cricket Council (ICC) on Monday made a major change to the schedule of the inaugural ICC Women's Champions Trophy 2027. The tournament will now take place from February 14 to 28, 2027, instead of June-July. This decision is part of several measures to strengthen women's cricket worldwide. The Board also approved a new Women's Emerging Nations Trophy and set the qualification pathway for the ICC Women's T20 World Cup 2028. The Women's Champions Trophy will debut in February, providing a new window in the international calendar. This change is expected to help with scheduling and ensure better



conditions for the tournament. In another important development, the ICC confirmed it will launch the Women's Emerging Nations Trophy 2026, featuring ten teams to give greater international exposure to developing nations. The tournament will have five Full Member countries and five Associate Member

teams, chosen based on rankings and past T20 World Cup qualifications. This initiative aims to widen competition in women's cricket and support emerging nations. ICC Chairman, Mr Jay Shah, said, "Our discussions in Ahmedabad have reinforced the ICC's commitment to

governance, administration, and the growth of cricket globally. From women's cricket and emerging nations to the management of franchise competitions, today's discussions and decisions aim to ensure that cricket remains fair, competitive, and exciting for fans worldwide." The ICC

Board also approved the qualification system for the Women's T20 World Cup 2028, which will be hosted by the Pakistan Cricket Board (PCB), with India's matches held at a neutral venue. The 2028 edition will include 12 teams. Ten teams will qualify automatically, including the top eight from the 2026 Women's T20 World Cup, the host nation if it is not already qualified, and the next highest-ranked teams in the ICC Women's T20I rankings as of July 6, 2026. The last two spots will be filled through a 10-team Global Qualifier, supported by regional qualifying tournaments. Plans for regional qualification spots are expected to be finalized in the ICC's July meetings.

A Reflection Of Determination & Excellence: PM Modi Lauds India's 19-Medal Haul At U20 Athletics C'ships

New Delhi: Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Monday lauded the Indian U20 athletics contingent for their 19-medal haul, including 10 gold, at the U20 Athletics Championships, calling it a reflection of the determination and excellence of young athletes. The Indian contingent wrapped up their campaign in style by adding three gold medals to their tally on the final day and overall finished second with 19 medals. Besides 10 gold medals, the Indian team also won five silver and four bronze medals. "Congratulations to the Indian contingent at the 22nd Asian U20 Athletics Championships for winning 19 medals,



including 10 golds. This outstanding performance reflects the determination and excellence of India's young athletes. May these achievements inspire many more young Indians to pursue sports in the years to come," PM Modi shared on X. Based on the total number of medals, it was not India's best-ever return at the competition, but the benchmark remains the

2024 edition in Dubai, where India won 29 medals, including seven gold, 11 silver and 11 bronze. On the final day, after Muskan won the women's 5000m in 16:53.08, Nishchay took silver in the men's discus throw with a national U20 record of 60.10m, and Mogali Venkatram Reddy won the men's 800m gold in 1:48.27. Neeru Pathak anchored the Indian 4x400m women's team to

gold. Other members of the victorious Indian 4x400m women's relay squad that clocked 3:38.07 seconds to better the meet record were Bhumika Sanjay Nehate, Tahura Khatun and Sehnoor Bawa. The previous meet record of 3:38.20 was set by Japan in 2018. The Indian men's 4x400m relay team also improved the meet record of 3:07.38 but finished third with a time of 3:05.54. The team members were Piyush Raj, Sayed Sabeer Sayed Sabeer, Ranjith Kumar S and Mohammed Ashfaq. The women's 4x100m relay also won silver with a time of 45.05 seconds. The team members were Kajal Hirabhai Vaja, Bhavana G, Aarti and Nipam.

ICC Approves Pink Ball Trial to Combat Bad Light Disruptions in Test Cricket

NEWDELHI: The International Cricket Council (ICC) has approved a significant trial aimed at reducing one of Test cricket's most persistent challenges — play being halted because of poor light. The decision was announced following ICC Board meetings held in Ahmedabad alongside the IPL 2026 final. The governing body also unveiled several reforms related to governance, women's cricket, playing conditions and the future of franchise cricket. To maximize playing time during periods of anticipated bad light, the ICC has



approved a trial allowing the use of a pink ball in Test matches. The trial will only proceed when both participating teams agree before the start of a match or series. The initiative is designed to reduce interruptions and ensure more overs are completed when natural light conditions

deteriorate. Bad light has long been a source of frustration for players, spectators and broadcasters, particularly in traditional day-time Test matches. The ICC has also approved the use of Hawk-Eye data by match officials when assessing potentially illegal bowling actions. In addition, the

governing body will partner with the Marylebone Cricket Club (MCC) to research improved lighting technology for stadiums and officiating systems. The objective is to reduce unnecessary stoppages caused by poor visibility. Several new playing condition updates have been approved: Head coaches and designated team staff can communicate with players during scheduled drinks breaks. A mandatory 15-minute interval will be introduced in T20 Internationals. The experimental leg-side wides rule has now been adopted permanently.

Paradip Port Authority Secures Top Honours at Sagar Aankalan Awards

P A R A D E E P, (Correspondent): Paradip Port Authority (PPA) has achieved a major national distinction by securing top rankings at the prestigious Sagar Aankalan Awards, organized by the Ministry of Ports, Shipping and Waterways. The achievement reaffirms Paradip Port's position as one of India's best-performing ports and highlights its excellence in cargo handling, operational efficiency, and logistics performance. The awards were presented during a special ceremony held yesterday evening in Mumbai, where Shri P. L. Haranadh, IRTS, Chairman, Paradip Port Authority, received the



prestigious Sagar Aankalan Awards from the Hon'ble Union Minister for Ports, Shipping and Waterways, Shri Sarbananda Sonowal. The ceremony brought together senior dignitaries from the maritime sector. The recognition reflects Paradip Port Authority's outstanding performance in cargo handling, operational efficiency, and logistics excellence, reinforcing its position among India's leading ports. Under the Sagar Aankalan Certificate for Logistics Port Performance, issued by the Ministry of Ports, Shipping and Waterways, Paradip Port Authority secured 1st Rank in recognition of its outstanding overall performance in handling Dry Bulk Cargo in the category of ports handling greater than or

equal to 5 Million Tonnes of cargo. This distinction underscores Paradip Port's leadership in bulk cargo operations and its vital contribution to India's industrial and energy supply chains. Adding to this achievement, Paradip Port Authority also secured 3rd Rank under the Sagar Aankalan Certificate for Logistics Port Performance for its outstanding overall performance in handling Container Cargo in the category of ports handling less than 0.5 Million TEUs. The recognition reflects the port's growing capabilities in container operations and its commitment to delivering efficient and reliable services across diverse cargo segments. During the

event, the Hon'ble Union Minister launched the Logistics Port Performance Index (LPPI), a comprehensive national benchmarking framework developed under the Sagar Aankalan initiative to assess and improve the competitiveness, efficiency, and service standards of Indian ports. The awards recognize ports that demonstrate excellence in operational efficiency, cargo handling performance, infrastructure utilization, turnaround time, logistics facilitation, and customer service. Paradip Port's strong performance in both dry bulk and container cargo categories reflects its sustained focus on modernization, digital transformation, and operational excellence.

Professor Dr. Sitaram Mohapatra appointed as new Director of Hi-tech Medical College

Bhubaneswar (Correspondent) :- Senior medical doctor and professor of the Department of Pathology, Dr. Sitaram Mohapatra has been appointed as Director Administration and Medical Superintendent at Hi-tech Medical College and Hospital, Bhubaneswar. Dr. Sitaram Mohapatra has many years of experience in the field of medicine as well as administration. Earlier, Dr. Mohapatra has worked with dedication in many important positions in the state government. Currently, he is working as the Dean and Chairman of Maharaja Jajati Keshari Medical College and Hospital, Jajpur. Dr.



Sitaram Mohapatra has a reputation as a renowned medical doctor and administrator. Earlier, he was able to bring many changes in the examination and educational structure by working as the Director and DMET of OJEE. The founder chairman of Hi-tech Group is Dr. Tirupati Panigrahi, Managing Trustee

Suresh Panigrahi, Paralakhemundi MLA Engineer Rupesh Panigrahi, Doctor Rakesh Panigrahi, Director Madhusmita Panigrahi welcomed the appointment of Dr. Sitaram Mohapatra and hoped that Professor Dr. Mohapatra's tenure at Hi-tech Medical College and Hospital will definitely double the reputation of Hi-tech.

New Railway Division Set to Unlock South Odisha's Untapped Economic Potential

Bhubaneswar, Correspondent: The Rayagada Railway Division of East Coast Railway is set to commence functioning from 1st June 2026, ushering in a new era of railway led infrastructure growth and regional development in South Odisha and adjoining areas. The new division is expected to strengthen railway operations, improve project monitoring, enhance infrastructure planning and accelerate execution of development initiatives across the region. With a dedicated Divisional Railway Manager (DRM) stationed at Rayagada, coordination with State Government agencies, district administrations, industries and local communities is expected

to become faster and more effective. Administrative Strengthening and a New Engine of Local Economy Basic infrastructure required for commencement of operations has already been put in place, while development of the divisional headquarters, office buildings and staff facilities is progressing in phases. The division will be headed by a DRM and supported by around 40 officers and nearly 600 railway employees, making Rayagada a key railway administrative and operational centre in South Odisha. The establishment of the divisional headquarters is expected to provide a significant boost to the local economy through increased demand for housing, transportation, education, healthcare

and commercial services, creating new opportunities for local businesses and entrepreneurs. Tapping Untapped Freight Potential Strategically located in one of India's most mineral rich regions, the Rayagada Division is poised to emerge as a major freight growth centre within Indian Railways. Iron ore from the Kirandul-Bacheli mining belt will continue to dominate freight traffic, while movement of alumina, bauxite, steel products, slag, fly ash and other industrial commodities is expected to increase steadily.

The division is projected to handle more than 40 million tonnes of freight annually, underlining its growing importance as a logistics and freight hub.

NEW RAILWAY ERA BEGINS IN SOUTH ODISHA AS RAYAGADA DIVISION STARTS FUNCTIONING

Bhubaneswar, Correspondent: The newly created Rayagada Railway Division of East Coast Railway commenced functioning from today, 1st June 2026, marking a significant milestone in strengthening railway administration and operations across South Odisha and adjoining regions. With the operationalisation of the division, all designated administrative, operating and technical functions have been formally taken over by the new divisional set up. Train Control offices, control boards and associated operational monitoring systems have become functional, enabling independent control and regulation of train operations within the



jurisdiction of the division. The transfer of operational, technical and administrative responsibilities from the parent divisions has been completed smoothly, ensuring seamless continuity of train services. The division is headed by Shri Amitabh Singhal, an Indian Railway Service of Electrical Engineers (IRSEE)

officer of the 1995 batch and a graduate in Electrical & Electronics Engineering from NIT Tiruchirappalli. During his distinguished railway career, he has been associated with several landmark rolling stock initiatives, including the Vande Bharat Express (Train-18) project. He has also been honoured with various awards and

recognitions for his professional excellence and contributions to Indian Railways. He will lead the new division with the support of officers and railway staff in strengthening operations, infrastructure development and service delivery across the region. The establishment of Rayagada Division brings railway administration closer to field units and operational centres, facilitating quicker decision making, enhanced monitoring of train operations, improved asset management and more effective coordination with State Government agencies, industries and other stakeholders. Strategically located in an important mineral, industrial and tribal

region of the country, the division is expected to play a vital role in strengthening freight transportation, improving connectivity and accelerating the execution of railway infrastructure projects across its jurisdiction.

The operationalisation of Rayagada Division reflects Indian Railways' commitment to decentralised administration, improved operational efficiency and infrastructure led regional development. The new division is poised to contribute significantly towards enhancing rail services and supporting the economic growth of South Odisha and adjoining areas.

TPSODL Steps Up Reliability Efforts in Jeypore

Jeypore, Correspondent: Amid a sharp rise in electricity demand and frequent weather-related disruptions, TP Southern Odisha Distribution Limited (TPSODL) has intensified efforts to ensure reliable and quality power supply in Jeypore. With power demand increasing significantly in recent years, frequent and back-to-back Kalabaisakhi incidents recorded during this summer, the company has strengthened its network, deployed advanced monitoring systems, and enhanced emergency response mechanisms to maintain service reliability. Over the last few years, electricity demand in Jeypore has witnessed a steady increase, driven by rapid urbanisation, expanding commercial activities, growth in the service sector, increasing use of



electrical appliances, and rising consumer expectations for uninterrupted power supply. As one of the key economic centres of Southern Odisha, the city continues to experience growing energy requirements from residential, commercial, institutional, and small industrial consumers. Demand is particularly high during evening and night-time peak hours, placing additional pressure on the

distribution network. Adding to the challenge, the region has experienced frequent weather-related disruptions. During this summer, the Jeypore Circle has witnessed 53 Kalabaisakhi incidents, impacting power infrastructure and affecting electricity supply across large areas. Despite these recurring disturbances, TPSODL has ensured prompt restoration of power supply through

dedicated field teams, round-the-clock monitoring, and robust contingency planning. During the same period, the circle has also recorded a 13 per cent increase in power demand compared to the previous financial year. To maintain reliability under these challenging conditions, TPSODL has deployed dedicated maintenance teams, ensured adequate availability of critical materials, and

strengthened its fault response mechanisms. The company has also urged consumers to report electricity-related issues promptly to facilitate quicker resolution and improve service delivery. Jeypore city currently receives electricity through four Primary Substations — Old Control Room PSS, New Bus Stand PSS, Dangaguda PSS, and Randapalli PSS. Together, these substations provide sufficient transformer capacity to meet the city's growing energy requirements. In addition, dedicated N-1 contingency arrangements have been established to ensure alternative power supply routes during emergencies, maintenance activities, or unforeseen outages, thereby enhancing reliability and reducing supply interruptions.

TPWODL Deploys War-Footing Restoration with Over 7500+ Personnel Across 9 Districts

Burla, Correspondent: Western Odisha is facing one of the most severe Kal Baisakhi seasons this year. The frequency and intensity of thunderstorms this year have been far higher than normal, with violent squalls hitting the region almost every evening for the past two weeks. In the last fortnight alone, consumers across Sambalpur, Bargarh, Jharsuguda, Sundargarh, Bolangir, Sonepur, Kalahandi, Nuapada and Deogarh districts have been severely impacted. The relentless storms have caused catastrophic damage to the power distribution infrastructure. Preliminary assessment indicates that more than 1000 electric poles have been uprooted, Approx 2500+ kilometers of 33kV, 11kV and LT lines



snapped, and distribution transformers damaged or toppled due to fallen trees and flying debris. TPWODL's Operations & Maintenance and Projects teams have been working round-the-clock under extremely hostile weather conditions to restore supply. Over 7863 linemen, officers, and business associates have been deployed across the five districts. Apart from above manpower approx. 1000 nos of manpower

have been engaged in restoration work from project. In areas where massive trees blocked access to fault locations, TPWODL is actively coordinating with ODRAF and Fire Services teams for tree clearance and road access. 65 nos Hydra, 62 nos pole-master, 30 nos dewatering pumps, tree pruners 876 nos and 338 nos vehicles have been mobilized for rapid pole erection and line stringing.