



IN FULL BLOOM: A farmer tends to his sunflower plants in a field on the outskirts of Bhubaneswar Monday
PHOTO: BIKASH NAYAK

Nidhi Tewari new private secy to PM

NEW DELHI: Indian Foreign Service (IFS) officer Nidhi Tewari has been appointed private secretary to PM Narendra Modi, a Personnel Ministry order said Monday. A 2014-batch IFS officer, Tewari is currently serving as deputy secretary at the PMO. The Appointments Committee of the Cabinet has approved Tewari's appointment as private secretary on a co-terminus basis.

IRREGULAR by MANJUL RALLY

Don't make these unbelievable promises today - people will think it's an April Fool's joke. Announce them tomorrow!

Hotter April-June: IMD

AGENCIES

New Delhi, March 31: India is expected to experience hotter-than-usual temperatures from April to June, with more heatwave days in central and eastern India and northwestern plains, India Meteorological Department (IMD) said Monday.

Most parts of the country will see higher-than-normal maximum temperatures, except for some areas in western and eastern India where the temperatures are expected to be normal. Minimum temperatures will also be above normal in most regions, IMD Director General Mrutyunjay Mohapatra said in an online press conference.

"From April to June, most parts of north and east India, central India, and the plains of northwest are expected to experience two to four more heatwave days than normal," the weatherman said.

Usually, India records four to seven heatwave days from April to June.

States likely to see above-normal heatwave days include

Imran Khan nominated for Nobel Peace Prize

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Islamabad, March 31: Jailed former PM of Pakistan Imran Khan has reportedly been nominated for Nobel Peace Prize for his efforts towards human rights and democracy.

Members of Pakistan World Alliance (PWA) - an advocacy group founded last December - who also belong to the Norwegian political party Partiet Sentrum, announced the nomination of Khan, 72.

"We are pleased to announce on behalf of Partiet Sentrum that in alliance with somebody with the right to nominate, have nominated Imran Khan, the former PM of Pakistan, to the Nobel Peace Prize for his work with human rights and democracy in Pakistan," Partiet Sentrum said on X Sunday.

In 2019, Khan was nominated for Nobel Peace for his efforts to promote peace in South Asia.

Every year, the Norwegian Nobel Committee receives hundreds of nominations after which they select the winner through a lengthy eight-month process, reports added.

Retirement row

The buzz around PM Narendra Modi's retirement, sparked by Shiv Sena (UBT) MP Sanjay Raut, has re-ignited the debate over the retirement age for politicians. Unlike civil servants (60 years) and judges (62 for High Courts and 65 for Supreme Court), India's PM has no set retirement age, with tenure based on parliamentary confidence. BJP's history shows leaders like Keshubhai Patel made way for a younger Modi in 2001, while LK Advani stepped down in 2013. Advanced age led to leaders like Sumitra Mahajan and Murli Manohar Joshi retiring post 70. Nevertheless, observers said if the speculations over PM Modi's retirement are true, it would be in line with his party's stand which he himself had implemented. Many believe politicians should adhere to a self-imposed retirement age, allowing fresh blood to emerge



dismissed the speculation about Modi's successor, asserting that Modi would continue to lead the country for many more years. "In 2029, we will see Modi as the prime minister again," Fadnavis told reporters in Nagpur.

"There is no need to search for his successor. He (Modi) is our leader and will continue," Fadnavis said. Discussing succession while the leader is active is inappropriate in Indian culture, the CM added.

"In our culture, when the father is alive, it is inappropriate to talk about succession. That is Mughal culture. The time has not come to discuss it," he said, referring to Raut's claim that Modi's successor would come from Maharashtra.

Talking to reporters Monday, Raut claimed that the RSS

wants a change in the political leadership in the country.

"He (Modi) probably went to RSS headquarters to write his retirement application in September," Raut claimed, alluding to some leaders in the ruling dispensation retiring at 75. Modi turns 75 in September this year.

Asked about Raut's claim that RSS will select PM Modi's successor from Maharashtra, Bhaiyyaji Joshi said, "I don't have any such information."

On Modi's visit to Dr Hedgewar Smruti Mandir in RSS headquarters, Joshi said, "Yesterday's programmes went well. We all are happy. His (Modi's) interest in service was evident during the COVID period."

The RSS headquarters in Mahal area and Dr Hedgewar Smruti Mandir at Reshimbagh are among the hallowed institutions of the Sangh. In his first visit to the RSS headquarters in Nagpur after becoming the Prime Minister 11 years ago, Modi Sunday described the Sangh as the 'banyan tree' of India's immortal culture.

Modi became the second sitting PM, after Atal Bihari Vajpayee, to visit the RSS headquarters in Nagpur, an RSS official said.

Rath Yatra, Bali Yatra in cultural heritage list

POST NEWS NETWORK

Bhubaneswar, March 31: Odisha's rich cultural heritage has received a significant boost with the inclusion of Puri's Rath Yatra and Cuttack's Bali Yatra in the National Inventory of Intangible Cultural Heritage by the Sangeet Natak Akademi, India's apex cultural body under the Ministry of Culture.

Sharing the news on X, Arbinda Padhee, Principal Secretary to the Agriculture & Farmers' Empowerment De-

partment and Chief Administrator of Shree Jagannath Temple Administration (SJTA), expressed his excitement over the recognition. "Very excited to learn that the Sangeet Natak Akademi has listed Ratha Jatra and Bali Jatra from Odisha in its 'National Inventory of Intangible Cultural Heritage'," he posted.

Earlier, the SJTA had submitted a nomination dossier to the Union Ministry of Culture, seeking UNESCO's Intangible Cultural Heritage of Humanity status for Rath Yatra of Lord

Jagannath in Puri, sources said.

Chief Minister Mohan Charan Majhi also took to X to express his pride, stating that the recognition highlights Odisha's vibrant cultural traditions. "This recognition will hopefully bring more attention to the state's diverse and vibrant traditions," he said.

The inclusion of these iconic festivals in the National Inventory is a moment of pride for Odisha, further strengthening its cultural legacy on the national stage.



DADLS-05

सत्यमेव जयते

**राष्ट्रपति
भारत गणतंत्र
PRESIDENT
REPUBLIC OF INDIA**

MESSAGE

I am happy to learn that the Government of Odisha is celebrating Odisha Day, on 1st April, 2025.

The celebration showcases the rich cultural heritage, history and diverse traditions of the people of Odisha and promotes a sense of unity and pride among Odia people across the world, it is an occasion to remember and pay humble tributes to the freedom fighters and makers of modern Odisha including Utkalgaurav Madhusudan Das, Utkalmani Pandit Gopabandhu Das, Maharaja Shri Krushnachandra Gajapati Narayan Deo and other great leaders. The state has made remarkable progress in various sectors including education, health, technology and infrastructure. The State government is also taking various initiatives for sustainable development, women empowerment and preservation of cultural heritage.

I am confident that the government and the people of the state will continue to work together for brighter and more equitable future for all. On this occasion, I extend my warm greetings to the people of Odisha and wish the celebrations every success.


(Droupadi Murmu)





सत्यमेव जयते

**उपराष्ट्रपति, भारत गणराज्य
Vice-President, Republic of India**

MESSAGE

The establishment of Odisha as a distinct provincial entity on April 1, 1936, was not a mere happenstance or an abrupt phenomenon. Rather, it emerged as the culmination of a deliberate and resolute endeavor, kindled by the indomitable spirit of illustrious freedom fighters, literary luminaries, and tireless activists.

We owe our profound gratitude and unwavering allegiance to the architects of modern Odisha including Shri Utkal Mani Gopabandhu Das, Utkal Gourav Madhusudan Das, Vyasa Kabi Fakir Mohan Senapati, and Karmaveer Gourishankar Ray, alongside a constellation of iconic leaders.

Today, Odisha stands as a shining example of economic growth and social progress. Its rich mineral resources fuel national development, while groundbreaking achievements in women's empowerment and industrialization is worthy of emulation by others.

On this auspicious occasion, I extend my warmest greetings to the people of Odisha and its administration. May the state continue its remarkable journey towards greater prosperity and excellence.

Jai Hind! Jai Odisha!


Jagdeep Dhankhar

OIPR-15001/13/0479/2425



Big B hops on Ghibli trend

Mumbai: Studio Ghibli-style AI edits have taken over the internet, and Bollywood stars haven't been spared either, as many are hopping on the trend. Earlier, Parineeti Chopra, Katrina Kaif-Vicky Kaushal, Arjun Kapoor, Sanjay Dutt, and others joined in, and now Amitabh Bachchan has also shared his own Ghibli edits. On March 30, Big B took to his blog to share his Ghibli-style edits from his Sunday fan meet. The actor also shared his thoughts on the trend, writing, "...and Ghibli.. invades the world... in the reality of the realm of communication .. and the making of the 'reel' .. another now popular concept .. one which demands attention .."



Rakul for appropriate attires in temples

Mumbai: Amidst the implementation of new guidelines in temples across India, actress Rakul Preet Singh has stressed the significance of dressing respectfully when visiting sacred places. With a focus on mindful fashion choices, Rakul encourages people to be conscious of their attire, ensuring it aligns with the decorum expected at such spiritual sites. The De De Pyaar De actress shared her thoughts on the importance of dressing appropriately for every occasion, especially in the public eye. Rakul emphasized the responsibility that comes with being a public figure and how it extends to one's fashion choices. Speaking on the sidelines of the ongoing edition of the Lakme Fashion Week, Rakul told this agency, "Anything you do in the public eye as a public figure, you have to take actions with responsibility, I feel. And in fashion, I always believe in dressing according to the occasion. If you're going to a temple, dress accordingly; if you're going to the gym, wear appropriate clothes; or if you're going out for dinner, you will dress accordingly. For me, I'm someone who believes in dressing for the occasion, dressing right, and enjoying your fashion within that boundary." In January of this year, Siddhivinayak Temple in Mumbai introduced a dress code for devotees, prohibiting short skirts and revealing attire. The notice issued by the Shree Siddhivinayak Ganapati Temple Trust (SGTT) stated that devotees are required to wear respectable clothing, with a preference for traditional Indian attire. In a statement, the SSGTT said, "Devotees wearing trousers with cuts or torn fabric, short skirts, or clothing that exposes body parts will not be permitted inside the temple." In many temples, especially in South India, dress codes are enforced to uphold the sanctity and respect of the holy space. These guidelines typically call for modest, full-coverage clothing and often encourage the wearing of traditional Indian attire.

IAN S

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EID 2025

Salman greets fans through bulletproof glass

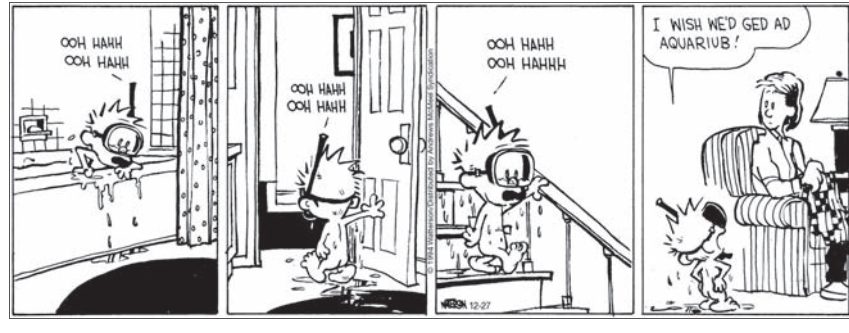
Mumbai: Despite the underwhelming response to his latest film Sikandar, Salman Khan remained committed to his annual Eid tradition, greeting his fans on the occasion of Eid-ul-Fitr. However, due to heightened security concerns, the actor greeted his fans from behind bulletproof glass rather than his balcony. On Monday, Salman spread festive cheer on Eid as he greeted his fans from his Galaxy apartment. The superstar waved to the enthusiastic crowd while standing behind the bulletproof glass he had installed earlier this year. Salman was seen wearing a white kurta-pajama as he waved to the sea of fans gathered outside his residence. With a bright smile, he wished his followers a happy Eid. He was accompanied by his sister, Arpita Khan's children, Ahil and Ayat.



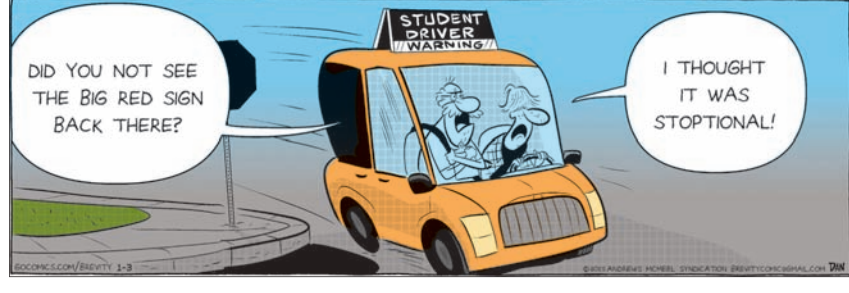
PEANUTS



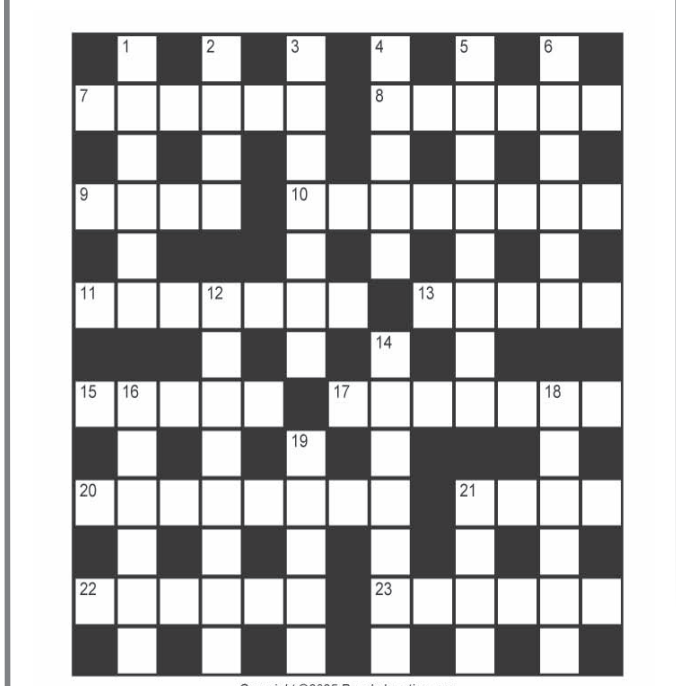
CALVIN AND HOBBS



BREVITY



FUN POST CROSSWORD



- Across**
- 7 Heavy rain
 - 8 Stereo knob
 - 9 Formally surrender
 - 10 Large indefinite number
 - 11 Forerunner of chemistry
 - 13 Fling
 - 15 Autocrats of old
 - 17 Separate abruptly
 - 20 Orator at a wake
 - 21 Toss
 - 22 Dog house
 - 23 Forest fire fighter
 - 4 Emboss
 - 5 Run-down by hard use
 - 6 The power to entice
 - 12 Fishgigs
 - 14 Hot dog condiment
 - 16 Cup holder
 - 18 Destroyed
 - 19 Streamlets
 - 21 Canine tooth
- Down**
- 1 Morning dish
 - 2 Type of bug
 - 3 Nom de plume (3,4)

SUDOKU

To solve the Sudoku puzzle, fill in the boxes in such a manner that every row, column and 3x3 box contains the digits 1 to 9, without repeating any.

5								
		2		5				1
							9	6
	3				8			
7				1				
		1	3	2	4			
4			2					
		3	6	7	9	1		
8					1			7

SOLUTIONS

CROSSWORD

T	H	E	S	S	F
T	R	U	A	N	T
A	P	A	L	H	U
O	P	A	L	I	N
U	C	K	K	T	
C	O	N	C	E	A
P	I	L	C	X	I
O	P	I	N	E	
I	N	I	T	A	T
E	I	L	M	A	N
O	N	I	O	N	S
T	N	A	N	E	L

SUDOKU

3	4	2	6	5	7	9	1	8
7	5	9	1	8	3	2	4	6
1	6	8	4	2	9	5	3	7
8	3	1	5	7	4	6	9	2
6	9	7	2	3	1	8	5	4
5	2	4	9	6	8	3	7	1
9	7	6	3	1	2	4	8	5
4	8	5	7	9	6	1	2	3
2	1	3	8	4	5	7	6	9

CHECK FOR SOLUTIONS OF THE PUZZLES TOMORROW

Devotees stand in long queues amidst scorching heat to have darshan of the holy Trinity in Puri, Monday



downtown

New Excise policy in 15-20 days: Min

AGENCIES

Bhubaneswar, March 31: The state government will come out with a new Excise policy within the next 15 to 20 days with an aim to strengthen the regulatory framework, Excise Minister Prithviraj Harichandan said Monday.

Sharing the information, Harichandan said the new policy is now in its final stage of preparation and efforts are on to unveil it at the earliest.



In order to ensure smooth regulation in the sector, the existing policy has been extended for a month and it will continue to be in force till the end of April, the minister said.

He said the new policy is in its conclusive phase of formulation and it will be enforced after due approval by Chief Minister Mohan Charan Majhi.

The revised guidelines are expected to introduce crucial changes that will strengthen the regulatory framework and address concerns related to the Excise sector.

The move to modify the Excise policy comes in the wake of ongoing efforts to modernise and streamline the sector while balancing economic and social considerations. The new measures are expected to enhance transparency and efficiency.

PLIGHT OF ODIAS ACROSS BORDERS

A relentless struggle to save language & culture

POST NEWS NETWORK

Baripada, March 31: As Odisha celebrates its 90th foundation day and prepares to celebrate the centenary year after a decade, over two million Odia-speaking people in East-West Singhbhum and Sareikela-Kharsawan districts bordering Jharkhand observe Utkal Divas as a mark of their struggle for identity. In fact, the day is an occasion to take vow to continue their efforts to preserve Odia language and culture.

This is a tale of Odias living in fragmented areas of erstwhile Utkal who are persistently struggling to preserve their mother tongue and culture. This is despite the fact that the three Jharkhand districts have a predominant Odia population.

Despite living under Bihar for 52 years, and Jharkhand for 25 years, they have not been granted autonomy over their language. Due to governmental neglect and indifference, the independence of their language and culture is not acknowledged.

After a long struggle, Odisha was formed based on linguistic identity, becoming the country's first state established on such a foundation 89 years ago first a foundation 89 years ago April 1, 1936. However, post-independence, the Central and state governments controversially annexed Garhjat areas like Seraikela-Kharsawan,



Chaibasa, Chakradharpur, Podahat, and other areas into Bihar May 18, 1948 for a period of one year.

These regions have not been returned to Odisha to this day. As a result, many Odia-speaking areas outside Odisha remain separated.

When these areas were under the undivided Bihar state, the inhabitants received some benefits. However, after the formation of Jharkhand in 2000, these areas came under Jharkhand's administration. Since then, the Odia language has gradually deteriorated. Despite numerous demands, Odia was granted the status of the second official language in Jharkhand September 11, 2011 during the tenure of then Chief Minister Arjun Munda.

"Currently, however, the state government appears to be systematically eliminating classical Odia. Instead, languages like Bengali, Sanskrit, Urdu, Mundari, Santali, Ho, Khadia, Kurukh, Nagpuri, Kudmali, Khortha, and Panchpargania are being incorporated into various examinations and syllabi, while Odia is being systematically marginalised," said opera director Barun Kumar Sahu. Seraikela resident Badrinarayan Daroga echoed the sentiments.

Even today, in their households, people continue to converse in Odia and uphold the traditions and festivals of Jagannath culture. However, keeping their language and culture alive has become a difficult struggle. "We feel isolated as neither the Jharkhand government, nor the Odisha government seem to recognise our plight," said Sanjeev Kumar Pati, adding, "If these lamenting areas were merged with Odisha, the

Opposition slams govt over 'deteriorating' law & order

PNN & AGENCIES

Bhubaneswar, March 31: The Opposition BJD and Congress Monday criticised the BJP-led Odisha government alleging that the law and order situation has deteriorated in the state.

Holding a press conference here, BJD spokesperson Lenin Mohanty claimed recent crimes across the state, including Bhubaneswar, have exposed serious lapses in the law enforcement system.

Mohanty described an incident in Bharatpur in Bhubaneswar, where youths attacked the police in an attempt to terrorise the local population.

He also referred to another incident in which a police officer who went to arrest a thief in Korei area was beaten up by a woman. The BJP leaders are manipulating the police, allowing criminals to go unpunished, thereby emboldening them to openly defy the law, the BJD leader alleged.

Mohanty asserted that the police are now failing to take action against criminals, who,

under political protection, continue to spread fear among the common people.

Citing an example, he said eight murders were reported in the state during recent Holi festival, yet no action was taken by the police against the perpetrators.

Similarly, Congress Legislature Party (CLP) leader Rama Chandra Kadam said, "We have been raising the issue of deteriorated law and order situation inside and outside the Assembly. But, the chief minister has remained silent on the issue till now."

The Congress has been demanding formation of a House Committee to probe 'rising' crimes against women.

The state government has remained silent on this demand too, he said. The recent incidents speak volumes about the law and order situation in Odisha, Kadam said. Reacting to the Opposition's allegations, senior BJP leader and Law Minister Prithviraj Harichandan said the crime rate has decreased in the state and the accused have been arrested in 90 per cent of the cases within 72 hours.

Jilted lover gets life term for murder

Puri: A local court here Monday awarded life imprisonment to Judhistr Swain, a jilted lover, for killing Sasmita Biswal of the district in 2018. First Additional District Judge Saikat Patra also slapped a penalty of Rs 10,000 on Judhistr, 35, of Kumar village under the Delang police limits, for the crime. According to the prosecution, Sasmita's father filed a missing complaint with Satyabadi police December 13, 2018 alleging that his daughter had gone to Satyabadi to attend a birthday party but did not return. Police registered a missing case, and during investigation, found that she was abducted by Judhistr on a bike. Police raided several places to rescue the girl. In the meanwhile, Judhistr surrendered before Satyabadi police and confessed that he had killed her as she refused to marry him and disposed of the body in Chandaka forest. Police recovered the severed head and torso of Sasmita and registered a case of murder and charge-sheeted Judhistr to stand trial in the District and Sessions Judge Court, Puri.



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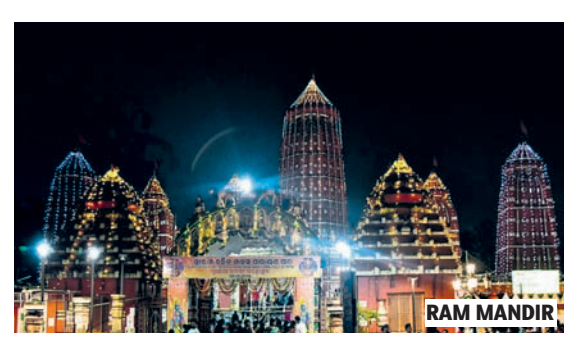
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UTKAL DIVAS TODAY



DECKED UP: Odisha Legislative Assembly, Kharavel Bhawan, Krushi Bhawan, Commissionerate Police Office and Ram Mandir beautifully illuminated on the eve of Utkal Divas in Bhubaneswar, Monday

FORTUNE FORECAST

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ARIES
 Today you will be focussed and unshakable in your work. The results will be noticeable by mid-day. In the evening you will meet one of your admirers and this will take a load off your shoulders. Ganesha predicts that if you are unmarried, you will meet someone remarkable.

TAURUS
 You are likely to find yourself at odds with people today, says Ganesha. Avoid confrontations and arguments as it may lead to serious fights. Legal issues may creep up unexpectedly. Relax and spend some time with yourself to return to your charm and cheer.

GEMINI
 You will be more emotional today and people might play with your feelings. Therefore you need to rein in your emotions today when it comes to dealing with people. However, you will meet people who will reciprocate your feelings with equal ardour, if not more, says Ganesha.

CANCER
 In all likelihood, today, you are likely to strike a balance between your professional and personal life, predicts Ganesha. The work will be interesting and stimulating, while your time with family will be peaceful and soothing.

LEO
 It is always a small world till you dream big! Ganesha foresees chances of you transcending your regular boundaries as you combine forces with people and conceive interests larger than what most people dream of. This route is not the easiest, in that it may be hard to convince people who see differently, especially conservative bosses.

VIRGO
 Ganesha foresees a strong probability that you will keep your feet firmly planted on the ground in the face of adversity. The afternoon sun may bring some good returns or much awaited results for you. Love and affection will bring tranquillity in your family life.

LIBRA
 It's not an easy ride for you today. Expect to undergo a range of emotions that might even make you feel distressed and emotional. However, your academic intelligence will bear some fruit over the course of the day. Also, your charisma will finally bedazzle that special someone in your life. Do not ignore a chance to give a facelift to your home, says Ganesha.

SCORPIO
 The planets indicate you won't look before you leap, and commit to a hasty decision at work, says Ganesha. In the afternoon, all those efforts you put in will go down the drain. Expect to catch a seat all alone on a business trip, says Ganesha. In the evening, you may walk that extra mile to please your beloved.

SAGITTARIUS
 Ganesha sees you holding the fort to safeguard the interests of your loved ones. Afternoon may be reserved for undertaking a business trip. But a fun-n-frolic outing may well be a good option too! Expect to shell out a few extra bucks though, when you opt for a cosmetic make-over.

CAPRICORN
 The backbreaking work that you've been doing can stretch out all your energy today. But, you'll still be able to cross the finishing line and successfully complete your projects, marks Ganesha. The support and cooperation of your family and friends will be like an oxygen mask for you, as they will understand the hardships you've been facing.

AQUARIUS
 Good news about a loved one will bring on a festive mood. You only need an itchy-bitsy excuse to party, and that's what you'll do today! You will make new friends, and they will prove helpful in times of need. Ganesha suggests a candlelit dinner to round up a perfect day.

PISCES
 You are likely to be sweating today at work, and it is neither the weather nor an ill-fitting suit that is the cause, says Ganesha. You will try your best to get your views across, and the post-afternoon lunch siesta is probably the best time to hammer your point home because that is when your boss will have all the energy to argue against. However, conserve some of your energy for an action-filled evening with your sweetheart. You know what all work and no play can do to a man.

Eid celebrated with religious fervour, gaiety



PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Bhubaneswar, March 31: Eid-ul-Fitr was celebrated with religious fervour and gaiety across Odisha Monday.

From the early morning, the faithful thronged mosques and designated locations across the state to offer prayers on the occasion. The young and the old attended prayers at mosques in Bhubaneswar, Cuttack, Sambalpur, Kendrapara, Bhadrak and other parts of Odisha and greeted one another.

Police made elaborate security arrangements to ensure a peaceful celebration of the festival.

Governor Hari Babu Kambhampati, Chief Minister Mohan Charan Majhi, Leader of the Opposition Naveen Patnaik

and a host of political leaders greeted people on the occasion.

The governor conveyed his best wishes and stated that the communal harmony of Odisha was an example for the nation.

"Wishing everyone a joyous and blessed #EidUlFitr! May this special occasion bring peace, happiness and prosperity to all. Let's continue to embrace love, unity, and harmony. #EidMubarak," Majhi said in a post on X.

Similarly, former CM and BJD president Patnaik extended greetings to everyone on this auspicious occasion.

"May the blessings of Allah fill our lives with happiness, prosperity, peace and strength in the spirit of love and compassion. #EidMubarak," he wrote on X.

TOSHALI MELA CONCLUDES

Handmade crafts pillars of culture: Guv

Governor Hari Babu Kambhampati urges people to support artisans by incorporating handmade products into daily lives

POST NEWS NETWORK

Bhubaneswar, March 31: Every purchase of a handmade item is more than just a transaction; it is a tribute to an artisan's dedication, an investment in culture, and a commitment to preserving traditions for future generations, said Governor Hari Babu Kambhampati.

He was speaking at the 19th Toshali National Crafts Mela, organised by the Handlooms, Textiles, and Handicrafts Department at Janata Maidan Monday.

The mela, held from March 19 to March 31 at Janata Maidan, Bhubaneswar, generated business worth around ₹30 crore.

Highlighting India's diverse handicraft traditions, the Governor cited examples such as Odisha's intricate silver filigree and Bihar's timeless Madhuba-



ni paintings. He emphasised that these crafts are more than mere products; they embody narratives of history, devotion, and ingenuity.

Stressing the importance of sustainability, he noted that in an era dominated by mechanised production, handcrafted treasures remain symbols of authenticity and elegance.

Expressing delight at the event's success, the Governor lauded the mela as a vital platform for artisans. With participation from 21 states, the event bridged the gap between rural craftsmanship and urban markets, reinforcing the significance of handlooms and handicrafts in preserving cul-

tural identity and providing sustainable livelihoods.

Odisha's rich artistic heritage was a key focus, with this year's theme pavilion, 'Shilpa Srujani,' showcasing traditional motifs in a contemporary context.

The Governor praised the intricate weaves, filigree, stone carvings, and Pattachitra paintings that highlighted the state's unparalleled craftsmanship. He also acknowledged the efforts of the Central and state governments in supporting artisans through schemes like the National Handicrafts Development Programme (NHDP), Vishwakarma Yojana, and One District One Product (ODOP).

The mela generated business worth around ₹30 crore, providing a significant boost to artisans and their livelihoods

The event highlighted diverse handicrafts from across India, reinforcing the role of handmade crafts in preserving heritage and sustainability

Additionally, the Odisha government's initiatives in financial assistance, design development, and market linkages were commended for ensuring artisans receive due recognition and opportunities.

The Governor stressed that safeguarding India's artistic traditions is a shared responsibility. He urged people to support artisans beyond such events by incorporating handmade products into their daily lives, emphasising that each purchase helps sustain this rich heritage.

Cooperation, Handlooms Textiles, and Handicrafts Minister Pradeep Bal Samanta, Commissioner-cum-Secretary Guha Poonam Tapas Kumar, Handicrafts Director Pranati Chhotray, and Textiles and Handlooms Director Prem Chandra Chaudhary were also present at the event.

Rain, thunderstorms likely in next 4 days

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Bhubaneswar, March 31: Light rainfall and thunderstorms are likely to occur in several parts of the state during the next four days, the India Meteorological Department (IMD) said Monday.

Bhubaneswar Meteorological Centre director Manorama Mohanty said thunderstorms with light rain and lightning with gusty wind of speed 30-40 kmph would occur at some places over the districts of Koraput, Malkangiri, Nabarangpur, Rayagada, Kalahandi, Nuapada, Bolangir, Kandhamal, Boudh, and Angul Tuesday.

The weather office issued a 'yellow alert' for these districts. Similar weather conditions would continue to prevail in several places of the state till April 4.

Bhubaneswar Runway Week showcases Indian art, fashion



POST NEWS NETWORK

Bhubaneswar, March 31: The 12th edition of Bhubaneswar Runway Week, organised by Addition Fashion Management under the direction of John Ajay, was a grand celebration of fashion, art, and cultural heritage. Bringing together 12 distinguished designers, the event showcased an eclectic mix of traditional weaves, contemporary silhouettes, and exquisite craftsmanship.

Mauhit Kumar Sachdeva captivated the audience with a sophisticated range of cocktail dresses, bespoke gowns, and chic evening ensembles. Arpita Samal of Label Surreal introduced ethereal summer wedding dresses and delicate outfits for toddlers, crafted to enhance grace and comfort. NIF Global Bhubaneswar impressed with shimmering metallic fabrics, structured silhouettes, and the dazzling Celestial Glimm cocktail collection.

Irani Mitra's designs embodied royalty with a monotonal colour palette, perfectly suited for the modern

bride. Label Sakshi Bindra, known for its Bollywood influence, featured breathtaking gowns and resort wear with a blend of Indian and contemporary aesthetics. As the wedding season approaches, Arvind Ampulla of Vika brand presented a mesmerising collection of traditional Indian weaves, including Kanjivaram, Paithani, Banarasi, and Khadi.

Ekta Akhouri's Wowmania Handloom seamlessly combined traditional craftsmanship with modern sensibilities through intricate handloom silk designs. Parul Khaitan's vibrant creations, Harish Akkisetty's glamorous traditional designs, and Sruti Reddy's intricate silver and gold-embellished bridal wear added to the grandeur. Soumya Shallinee's Vogue Couture collection exuded elegance, while Duhita Mandana's bridal boutique, Duhita Manav, displayed a striking array of wedding ensembles.

The event was a testament to India's evolving fashion landscape, seamlessly blending heritage with modern elegance on the runway.

CSD urges Odisha to defend FRA

POST NEWS NETWORK

Bhubaneswar: The Supreme Court will hear Wildlife First vs Union of India April 2, challenging the Forest Rights Act (FRA), 2006, which recognises the land rights of traditional forest-dwelling communities, particularly Adivasis. Ahead of the hearing, the Campaign for Survival with Dignity (CSD) in Odisha has raised concerns that the case could reverse progress in securing these rights. CSD's Convening Body Member Narendra Mohanty pointed out that the FRA was intended to rectify colonial-era injustices, but many claims for forest rights have been rejected. Over 140,000 claims were denied in Odisha as of December 2024, putting around 1.5 lakh Adivasi families at risk of eviction. CSD has called on the Odisha government to actively defend the FRA in the Supreme Court, warning that dismantling the Act could lead to mass evictions and exploitation of forest resources, undermining local communities' rights and environmental protection.

Pragyan Mishra new FICCI FLO Bhubaneswar Chair

POST NEWS NETWORK

Bhubaneswar, March 31: Pragyan Paramita Mishra has been selected as the new chairperson of the FICCI FLO Bhubaneswar Chapter. The leadership transition was officially handed over by FICCI FLO national president Poonam Sharma.

Sharma congratulated Mishra, saying, "This transition marks a significant step in the growth of FICCI FLO in the City. We look forward to the exciting initiatives and collaborations under her leadership."

Mishra's appointment is expected to bring innovative



ideas and a fresh perspective, continuing the chapter's mission to empower women entrepreneurs and professionals. With her leadership, FICCI FLO Bhubaneswar aims to further its commitment to creating new opportunities for women in business.

ECoR resumes train services

PNN & AGENCIES

Bhubaneswar, March 31: The East Coast Railway (ECoR) has successfully restored normal train operations on both tracks of the Cuttack-Nergundi Rail Section by Monday morning.

Train services were disrupted following the derailment of eleven bogies of the 12551 Bangalore-Guwahati AC SF Express Sunday at 11:54am between Kendrapara Road and Nergundi stations in the Cuttack-Bhadrak Railway Section.

At least one passenger died, and three others sustained injuries in the mishap.

ECoR's dedicated railway personnel worked tirelessly through the night under challenging conditions to restore the affected tracks.

ECoR general manager Parmeshwar Funkwal personally coordinated the restoration efforts, ensuring swift and efficient action with his continuous presence at the site.



By 7:15am Monday, the tracks were cleared and ready for train movement, and the Overhead Equipment (OHE) was fully restored by 7:40am.

The first train on the down line passed through at 9:30am, while the up line resumed service shortly thereafter.

Railway personnel, equipped with sleeper rakes, Poclain machines, tower cranes, and additional support from NDRF, ODRAF, and the district administration, played a crucial role in restoring the track by Monday morning, according to ECoR sources.

Trains resumed movement

at a reduced speed of approximately 10 km per hour as restoration work continued. Speed limits will be gradually increased as the situation stabilises.

Due to the derailment, ECoR had diverted 38 down-line trains and 17 up-line trains to alternative routes, minimising disruptions for passengers.

Throughout the incident, priority was given to ensuring the safe and prompt travel of passengers aboard the affected train.

By Sunday evening, efforts shifted towards transporting passengers to their destinations while restoration work remained the primary focus.

According to ECoR sources, the first train to pass through the affected site was a goods train at 9:30am, followed by the first passenger-carrying train, the 22823 Bhubaneswar-New Delhi Rajdhani Express, which passed the site on the down line at 10:25am.

WEATHER		
	BBSR	CTC
Max Temp	36.2°	36.0°
Min Temp	25.5°	24.5°
Humidity	79%	77%
Rainfall	Nil	Nil

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LOST

Declaration
 I, Manjulata Rout,
 W/o Judhistir Rout,
 Nua Khuban, Bhuban,
 Dhenkanal. My sale
 deed No. 433/2000
 has been lost. Matter
 reported before the P.S. -
 Bhuban.

Andhra flexes muscle, operates AWC in Gajapati's Manikapatna

POST NEWS NETWORK

Paralakhemundi, March 31: Manikapatna village under Rayagada block of Gajapati district has become a point of contention between Odisha and Andhra Pradesh, with two Anganwadi centres (AWCs), one from each state, operating in the same village.

The border panchayat of Gangabada, which has long been embroiled in territorial disputes, is witnessing intensified efforts by Andhra to establish its influence.

The neighbouring state has continued its aggressive efforts taking every possible step to win over locals through various welfare schemes. Taking advantage of administrative lapses, the Andhra administration has extended its activities into Odisha's territory, constructing and operating an Anganwadi centre despite legal and jurisdictional objections.

Local sources reveal that the Andhra government initially operated the centre from a resident's house with the help of Srikakulam administration, but later constructed a permanent structure forcibly on a disputed village land and operating it from there.

Despite Odisha's objections, Andhra remains steadfast in its activities. Previously, it had attempted to implement infrastructure projects, conduct administrative operations, and even hold elections in the region.

Though these attempts were thwarted, the state has now resorted to threats. Andhra officials reportedly issued warnings to close Odisha's operational Anganwadi centre and arrest its officials. Additionally, a former Andhra minister even threatened to demolish the existing Odisha government properties in minutes. Chat-



ters were abuzz in the whole country after the warning of the former Andhra minister was published by various sections of media.

While Odisha continues to protest these activities, Andhra Pradesh has accelerated its developmental projects in Manikapatna and nearby Gudukhudi, local sarpanch Haribandhu Karji alleged. Reports suggest that Andhra's administrative officials are planning to grant permanent land rights to residents and are collecting applications from locals to include them in housing schemes.

Karji has condemned the actions of the Andhra Pradesh government, alleging that the neighbouring state is attempting to solidify its influence by providing government benefits to residents of the disputed region. Despite the ongoing conflict, the residents of the area remain beneficiaries of schemes from both states, reflecting the complex administrative struggle over territorial control.

Residents in the border areas of Odisha are increasingly drawn to Andhra's welfare initiatives as the neighbouring state continues to strategically expand its influence. By provid-

ing consistent supplies of food, milk, and eggs through Anganwadi centres, Andhra has managed to attract the locals.

According to Karji, both state governments are implementing their respective welfare schemes in the region, and residents are benefiting from both sides. Andhra Pradesh's Anganwadi centres reportedly provide higher-quality food than those in Odisha, including daily servings of eggs and milk for children.

Furthermore, due to the lack of hostel facilities in Odisha, several students have chosen to reside in Andhra for their education, Karji said. He added that Andhra has been operating the Anganwadi centre in the area for the past 14 years, offering both education and essential amenities. Consequently, some locals are inclined to align themselves with Andhra Pradesh.

With the Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) in power both at the Centre and in Odisha, as well as in Andhra Pradesh through coalition, residents and local representatives are calling for a permanent resolution to the ongoing border dispute. They demand that both governments take necessary steps to address the conflict and ensure a stable and lasting solution.

When contacted, Additional District Magistrate (ADM) Rajendra Minz said that necessary steps will be taken soon to address this problem.

State govt plans 100-km Ring Road for Rourkela

POST NEWS NETWORK

Rourkela, March 31: A 100-km Ring Road around Rourkela is in the pipeline as Minister of Law, Works, and Excise Prithviraj Harichandan Saturday evening made significant announcements for the Steel City during a public function.

Harichandan outlined plans that are expected to bring significant development to Rourkela. "Our government is committed to the development of the state, and Rourkela remains one of our top priorities. I assure you that we will do ev-



everything possible for the city's progress," Harichandan said.

The minister highlighted the development of a 100-km Ring Road around Rourkela as one of the key initiatives. "Rourkela

will be the first city in Odisha to have a Ring Road of this scale. Currently, the city's Ring Road is akin to an inner road, but we plan to expand it," he explained. Harichandan emphasised that the Ring Road would be vital for the city's horizontal growth and expansion. "The city needs expansion, and we are working on detailed plans to make it happen," he added, expressing optimism about the real estate growth that would follow these projects.

Harichandan also touched on the beautification of Vedvyas, a significant religious and

tourist site. The project has already been included in the state gazette. "On the request of elected representatives, we are working on the development of these projects. We will construct an iconic hanging bridge across the Brahmani river, a proposal originally conceived by Union Minister Jual Oram, your MP," Harichandan said. The bridge will be a one-of-a-kind structure in India, with a glass floor allowing pedestrians to view the river below. The project is expected to cost ₹35 crores, with the foundation stone scheduled for May.

Youth stabbed to death; 2 arrested

POST NEWS NETWORK

BERHAMPUR: A spate of murders rocked Ganjam district as a youth was stabbed to death by a man and his son at Jena Sahi under Bada Bazar police limits in Berhampur late Sunday night. This is the third killing in the Silk City during the last 48-hours. The victim identified as Jagadish Panigrahi, 22, a resident of Belagan village under Hinjilicut police limits, was declared dead at Berhampur based-MKCG Medical College and Hospital. His body was handed over to his family members after a post-mortem, police said. Based on a complaint filed by the victim's brother Sachidananda Panigrahi, a case (137/25) was registered at Bada Bazar police station. The two accused, identified as Trinath Panigrahi, 73, and his son Pradeep Kumar Panigrahi, 37, residents of Beleswar Sahi in Belagaon village, were arrested. Police seized a knife, a car belonging to Trinath, blood-stained clothes of the victim and the suspects, besides collecting blood samples from the crime scene. Berhampur Superintendent of Police Saravana Vivek M, along with forensic officers and officials from Bada Bazar police station, visited the scene to conduct an investigation. The incident reportedly stemmed from a long-standing dispute. According to police, Jagadish sustained at least 10 stab wounds on his abdomen and back. Further investigations are ongoing to determine the exact motive behind the attack.

VSSUT GIRL STUDENT'S DEATH Police reinvestigate case after HC order, arrest male friend

POST NEWS NETWORK

Sambalpur, March 31: Following a fresh probe over a high court order, police Monday arrested Pritiman Dey, 27, the male friend of deceased girl student Chinmayee Priyadarshini Sahu of Veer Surendra Sai University of Technology (VSSUT) at Burla in Sambalpur district. The case was registered at the Burla police station in 2023. He was produced in the court and remanded to judicial custody following his arrest.

Sources said Chinmayee had committed suicide by jumping into the power channel when the cultural programme for the VSSUT's convocation ceremony was underway February 28, 2023. Her body was recovered the next day. She was reportedly depressed over some issue and ended her life when she had gone near the power channel bridge with Dey. Chinmayee's mother blamed Pritiman for her daughter's death.

Dissatisfied over the report submitted by the police, her family members approached the high court praying for justice. Orissa High Court heard the matter and directed the Sambalpur SP to conduct a fresh probe into the incident. The high court also directed to complete the probe within a period of two months. A fresh probe was launched and the State Forensic Science Laboratory (SFSL) conducted a lie detection test of accused Pritiman in February.

The SFSL also submitted the lie detection test report in a sealed envelope to Sambalpur police.

Accordingly, police launched a fresh probe and summoned Pritiman for interrogation to the Burla police station. He reached there from Bhubaneswar Monday and was interrogated in this connection. Police arrested him after it found evidences against him in the death of the girl student.

Vedanta to set up aluminium park in Jharsuguda

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Bhubaneswar, March 31: Vedanta Ltd Monday said it will set up a modern aluminium park in Jharsuguda, close to its aluminium smelter.

Spanning over 253 acres, the park will attract more than 100 micro, small and medium enterprises (MSMEs) and generate 2 lakh employment opportunities, the company said in a statement.

Vedanta would invest ₹1 lakh crore for setting up of the park and an aluminium plant of 3 million tonnes per annum (MTPA) capacity in Rayagada district, it said.

"Our latest investment of ₹1 lakh crore is a testament to our enduring belief in the state's potential to lead India's industrial revolution," said Vedanta Aluminium's Chief Operating Officer (COO), Sunil Gupta.

At the 'Utkarsh Odisha-Make in Odisha Conclave' held in January, the company had signed an MoU with the state government for development of the two projects.

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Electronics and Communication Engineering	MBA (Artificial Intelligence and Data Science)	HOTEL MANAGEMENT PROGRAMMES
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Electric Vehicle Technology	Master of Computer Applications (MCA)	M.Sc. Agriculture
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Computer Science and Engineering	M.Pharm.	

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- 14th in University Category
- 26th in Engineering Category
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- 09th in Dental Category
- 09th in Law Category

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- 278 in QS Asia University Ranking
- 1201-1400 in QS World University Ranking
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Sin and virtue are a game of resistance we play with God in His efforts to draw us towards perfection.

SRI AUROBINDO

Chaos in Kathmandu

A global trend being seen for some time now is the rise of Far-Right outfits taking advantage of the frustration and disenchantment of the people at large over the failure of established political parties to deliver on their promises and mitigate the economic hardships of the people. This has assumed a new form in Nepal where pro-monarchist forces are clamouring for the return of Gyanendra Shah, who was Nepal's last reigning monarch and still has a loyal following in the country, to tide over the economic crises the ruling dispensation has failed to tackle. The monarchy was abolished in 2008.

Violent pro-monarchy protests erupted in Kathmandu during the past few days. The protesters, demanding the restoration of monarchy, clashed with security personnel, resulting in a curfew being imposed in several parts of the capital city. Two people, including a protester and a video journalist, lost their lives in the violence. Several people, including security personnel, were also injured. The protesters have given the Nepalese government an ultimatum till 3 April. As the government began crackdown on the protesters and Opposition politicians, the Rashtriya Prajatantra Party (RPP), which is supporting the pro-monarchy protests, has warned the government against arresting the former king, saying that such an act would further aggravate the protests. Around 112 people, including RPP leaders Dhawal Shumsher Rana and Ravindra Mishra, have been detained by the police.

The ruling Nepali Congress has held the former king responsible for orchestrating the pro-monarchy protests in the Tinkune area. Its spokesperson said the Home Minister had presented the details of the incidents following which the government came to the conclusion that the violent activities were deliberately planned with the motive of imposing a totalitarian rule and the former king should take all the responsibility. Reports indicate the Nepalese government, led by Prime Minister KP Sharma Oli, has also reduced the security cover of the former king and revoked his passport. The strength of personnel in the former king's security has been reduced from 25 to 16. In addition to that, the Kathmandu Municipal Corporation has imposed a fine of 7.93 lakh Nepali rupees on the former king for the damage caused to public property during the violent protests.

Support for the pro-monarchy movement has surged recently as Nepal grapples with ongoing political and economic instability that has led to widespread dissatisfaction with the government. Years of the federal government's failure to improve governance, implement economic reforms—especially in the aftermath of the CoVID-19 pandemic—and its lack of tangible results have led to widespread dissatisfaction in the country. This discontent has created an opportunity for pro-monarchy supporters to advocate for the revival of the monarchical system. The pro-monarchy issue has been a fire that the Indian government has been stoking for several years, the brazen outcome was the Madhesi discontent with the new Constitution during the 2015-17 period. The economic blockade of the landlocked country by the Madhesis who live on the foothills bordering India had upset the Nepali people in general at the time.

Kathmandu witnessed two separate mass rallies late last week. While the Socialist Front Nepal, a smaller political party, held a rally in support of the republic, another rally was organised by pro-monarchy groups after the 82-year-old former king Gyanendra arrived in Kathmandu from Pokhara on 9 March amidst a massive reception by his supporters.

What added fuel to the fire was the statement of the former king that the republican system has not worked for the country and urged the people to revert to the monarchical system. The former king is being supported by multiple groups, including the RPP, a Hindu nationalist political party in Nepal that is suspected by locals to be hand in glove with the Indian establishment.

Though reports suggest nearly 90 per cent of the people in Nepal would want the country to become a Hindu Kingdom, as it was officially prior to 2008, the same level of massive support does not exist for the revival of the monarchical system. According to Nepal's constitution, a 2/3 majority can bring back the monarchy. The current protests and anger, however, are not about reinstating the monarchy. They are directed at the government for its failure to tackle the economic problems.

Interestingly China, according to Kathmandu watchers, is not comfortable with the monarchical system. China is also believed to be happy to deal with Communist parties and leaders who are in influential positions in the country compared with the monarchy.

The developments do not augur well for India after the turmoil in another neighbouring country – Bangladesh – where anti-India forces are now dominating the political landscape. India's foreign policies in the neighbourhood have been consistently failing. Even if the Nepalese Constitution is re-cast and that nation becomes Hindu and does not remain secular as it was transformed after the new Constitution was adopted, it still may not indicate better relations with India. The leanings towards China may well become more acute seeing the crude manner the Indian establishment has handled issues in the past.

WISDOM CORNER

There is nothing noble in being superior to your fellow men. True nobility lies in being superior to your former self

ERNEST HEMINGWAY

Character cannot be developed in ease and quiet. Only through experience of trial and suffering can the soul be strengthened, ambition inspired, and success achieved

HELEN KELLER

If there is anything that we wish to change in the child, we should first examine it and see whether it is not something that could better be changed in ourselves

CARL JUNG

THIS DAY IN HISTORY

- 1924:** Adolf Hitler was sentenced to five years in prison for his role in the Beer Hall Putsch; he ultimately served only nine months, during which time he wrote much of Mein Kampf ("My Struggle").
- 1939:** General Franco proclaims victory in the Spanish civil war. The dictator ruled Spain until his death in 1975. His regime was responsible for gross human rights violations, including murdering numerous political opponents.
- 1945:** US troops landed on the Japanese island of Okinawa during World War II.
- 1976:** Steve Jobs, Steve Wozniak, and Ronald Wayne formed Apple Computer Inc., and it became one of the world's leading tech companies.
- 1979:** Following overwhelming support in a national referendum, Ruhollah Khomeini declared Iran an Islamic republic; it marked the end of the Iranian Revolution.

DESTINATION ODISHA

FOCUS UTKAL DIVAS



The burgeoning interest in cultural tourism offers Odisha an opportunity to redefine itself—not as a collection of fragmented tourist spots but as a holistic and vibrant destination



Charudutta Panigrahi

ODISHA, WITH ITS IMMENSE POTENTIAL, MUST SEIZE THIS OPPORTUNITY TO ALIGN WITH THE PRIME MINISTER'S ASPIRATIONS AND CONTRIBUTE MEANINGFULLY TO INDIA'S GROWTH STORY

The descendants, true to their DNA, don't merely preserve legacies—they elevate them, inspiring the world with their vision and action. This requires a proactive approach, driven by astute policies and definitive plans. Odisha, blessed with nature's riches and cultural heritage, has yet to harness its full tourism potential on an international scale and finesse. Its extended coastline of 574.7 km remains untapped, with no cohesive master plan for development. Sri Lanka, a country less than half the size of Odisha, attracted over 2 million international tourists in 2024, while Odisha barely managed a tenth of that—a glaring disparity reflective of missing strategies or absence of concerted efforts.

Despite investment commitments of ₹8,153 crore under the 'Make in Odisha Conclave 2025,' there is less clarity on sub-sector-specific (under tourism) allocations. Hotels alone cannot sustain tourism; the sector demands a dynamic ecosystem integrating experiences, culture, and infrastructure. Unfortunately, branded hotels in Odisha operate in isolation, unconnected to the state's offerings, which themselves are underdeveloped. Globally, Bali, Vietnam and Greece are examples which exemplify sustainable tourism practices, blending cultural preservation and economic development. Odisha must craft a foundational tourism blueprint that precedes investment, lest localisation efforts falter and communities remain marginalised.

The wilful destruction of Sisupalgarh, a world-unique historical site, right under the nose of Bhubaneswar's powerful, underscores the lack of cultural appreciation and preservation. Odisha's districts—each rich in biodiversity, heritage, and unique stories—are an underutilised treasure trove. District heritage museums, li-

braries, inspection bungalows, circuit houses, municipality buildings, court building, and iconic buildings can emerge as cultural landmarks, weaving a cohesive narrative of Odisha's legacy. The state's museum gems, like palm leaf manuscripts containing ancient knowledge, can further enrich its cultural tourism tapestry. Even people in Bhubaneswar are unaware of the palm leaf collection, one of the biggest in Asia.

Taking cues from Greece, almost the size of Odisha, where cultural tourism contributes 20% to GDP and sustains about 860,000 jobs, Odisha must craft an integrated narrative. Events like the Konark Dance Festival should transform into ongoing cultural experiences, supported by trained youth cadres at the districts, capable of aligning tourism with related wrap-around industries like food, travel, and retail. Embracing technology, such as VR travel and AI-driven tools, can reshape Odisha's tourism landscape and attract global audiences.

Prime Minister Narendra Modi has consistently emphasised the need for Odisha to rise to global standards, leveraging its abundant resources to play a pivotal role in South Asia's geopolitical and economic development. His vision for a "Viksit Bharat 2047" calls for Odisha to

embrace bold, transformative strategies. Odisha, with its immense potential, must seize this opportunity to align with the Prime Minister's aspirations and contribute meaningfully to India's growth story. We need to get into a huddle and prepare a comprehensive blueprint.

By 2036, Odisha can aim to feature among South Asia's top tourist destinations, hosting grand-scale concert tourism with international artists. Iconic sites like Konark could host mesmerising performances under the moonlit sky, marrying heritage with contemporary allure. Coldplay, Yanni, Ed Sheeran can play here and live albums can be created. Such initiatives, coupled with sustainable high-end tourism practices, would help elevate Odisha's dignity on the global stage. Concert tourism is an example. There are other innovative experiential tourism plans to be explored and experimented in the state.

However, this transformation demands brutally honest introspection. Odisha must evaluate its cultural offer, independent retail and hospitality infrastructure, and accessibility for visitors. Odisha based universities and local think tanks can lead this research, fostering ownership at the community level and sidestepping the need for expensive external consultants. This

research need not be expensive and be commissioned only to Big 4 advisories. Questions around distinctive attractions, unique cultural experiences, and visitor accessibility must drive the planning phase.

Visionary efforts like creating dedicated arts or music hubs in places like Khallikote or Baripada can draw inspiration from global landmarks such as Budapest's House of Music. Smart profiling of visitors, coupled with immersive experiences, will breathe life and contemporariness into Odisha's uncarved for cultural capital. The burgeoning interest in cultural tourism offers Odisha an opportunity to redefine itself—not as a collection of fragmented tourist spots but as a holistic and vibrant destination.

Under the Odisha Tourism Acceleration Program, the youth must be encouraged to think bold and unconventional, steering clear of low-value proposals. IoT-enabled hotel experiences and AI-driven guest services are enhancing visitor satisfaction and bolstering demand generation. Odisha must prioritise high-end tourism, quality over quantity in tourism development, ensuring sustainability and dignity in its growth journey.

The time for mediocrity has passed; the civil society needs to rise and prove its worth—not by blustery boasting of its legacy but by honouring and amplifying it through thoughtful planning and bold initiatives. By embracing this vision, Odisha can secure its place among the world's top destinations, boosting economy, inspiring generations and reclaiming its status as a torchbearer of heritage and progress. On 1 April 2036, Odisha would be celebrating being on the hot-list of top destinations of South Asia, not just of India. The Government of India is supporting, but Odisha has to drive it.

The writer is a thinker and author.

SPECTRUM GAZA

When Gazans protested against Hamas

Typically, a small anti-war demonstration would not be front-page news unless it happened somewhere like Moscow, where few dare openly to oppose the Kremlin's ongoing aggression against Ukraine. In war-torn Gaza, the stakes would be even higher. Even before the current conflict, Hamas responded to any criticism of its misrule with brutal repression and torture. Yet on 25 March, hundreds of people took to the streets in Beit Lahiyah (northern Gaza) to protest not only against the war, but against Hamas. With chants of "stop war," "Hamas out," "Hamas terrorists," the demonstrators sent exactly the right message: For the war to end, Hamas – which started it – must be removed from power.

Nor were the Beit Lahiyah protesters alone. As news and videos of this extraordinary event spread on social media, similar spontaneous demonstrations erupted elsewhere in Gaza, first in Jabalia and Khan Yunis, and then in Shejaiya, one of the enclave's largest communities. While most of the protesters refused to identify themselves by name to reporters, they nonetheless showed their faces. Anti-Hamas slogans were more visible, but protesters

stressed that their main objective is for the war to end. Even Hamas-controlled media covered the event, though only after editing out statements attacking the Islamists' rule.

Though still relatively small in scale, the demonstrations clearly indicate a shift in opinion. After Israel withdrew from Gaza in 2005, Hamas took power the following year in the only free elections the Palestinians had ever had. Fatah, the secular nationalist party with majority support in West Bank, had been tainted by corruption, so more Gazans voted for Hamas, which promised not terrorism, but clean government, even running under the name "Change and Reform." But after winning the election, Hamas violently expelled Fatah from Gaza – 345 people were killed in the process – and started firing rockets at Israel. This caused a series of wars, culminating in the current one – by far the most violent yet. Neither Gaza nor West Bank has held an election in 20 years, and Hamas' rule has proved no less corrupt than Fatah's.

Meanwhile, Israeli governments – led mainly by Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu – have regarded Hamas'

totalitarian rule in Gaza as advantageous. With terrorists in power in Gaza and corrupt incompetents in Ramallah (the seat of the Palestinian Authority), the argument goes, Israel has had no legitimate counterparty with which to negotiate. Then came October 7, 2023.

In a November 2023 poll conducted by the respected Palestinian Center for Policy and Survey Research, 72% of Palestinians thought Hamas was "correct" to launch the October 7 attack, while over 90% refused to believe that civilians were killed on that day. Yet it is worth noting that support was much higher in the West Bank (82%) than in Gaza (57%), which was already enduring Israel's counterattack. Similarly, overall support for Hamas had been consistently higher in the West Bank, where it is the opposition, than in Gaza, which has suffered under its rule.

Since then, however, support for the attack and for Hamas has been systematically declining, though the difference between West Bank and Gazan attitudes remains. Last fall, only 39% of Gazans supported the attack, and in January 2025 only around 20% supported Hamas rule. This disenchantment almost certainly reflects the high cost of the

war – there have been more than 50,000 fatalities (civilian and combatant) in Gaza, according to the unverifiable data provided by Gaza's Hamas-controlled Ministry of Health – rather than a reevaluation of attitudes toward terrorism. Still, the recent demonstrations indicate that a segment of Palestinian opinion in Gaza wants the war over and Hamas out. That means it shares Israel's own stated goals. Yet Netanyahu's government, embroiled in an internal political crisis of its own making, has failed to respond to the Gaza protests. Apart from a cursory remark by the defense minister, Israel Katz, there has been radio silence. With Israel having broken the ceasefire and reignited the war, Netanyahu's claim to want peace rings increasingly hollow.

What matters is that some Gazans and some Israelis have common ground – even if their governments do not share their goals. That is unprecedented. The demonstrators in Beit Lahiyah and Tel Aviv cannot end the war. But they do represent the only possible path to a lasting peace.

The writer is a Polish journalist and author.

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Konstanty Gebert

THE DEMONSTRATORS IN BEIT LAHIYA AND TEL AVIV CANNOT END THE WAR. BUT THEY DO REPRESENT THE ONLY POSSIBLE PATH TO A LASTING PEACE

Letters

TO THE EDITOR

Readers of Orissa Post are most welcome to contribute letters (100 words), articles and columns (between 600-1000 words). Contributors are requested to send their contact numbers and full postal address/email ID. They may also send in their valuable comments, opinion and suggestions, preferably by email, to: edit@orissapost.com

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A glorious chapter

Sir, Utkal Divas is a glorious chapter in Odisha's history. It is a day of outstanding importance for Odisha and its people. On 1 April, 1936, Odisha became a separate province by the supreme efforts of our founding fathers and freedom fighters. It is a special occasion to commemorate the patriotic fervour of our freedom fighters. It is a day of introspection and reflection. Odisha is going to celebrate the centenary celebrations of its formation in 2036. Let the martyrdom of our freedom fighters not go waste. Let Utkal Divas rekindle our patriotism and love for our culture and motherland. This is a momentous occasion and a celebration of our distinct Odia identity.

Prabhudutt Dash, BHUBANESWAR

Overlooking truth

Sir, US President Donald Trump's approach to climate policy has been aggressive and dismissive of environmental regulations. He has ridiculed efforts to curb carbon emissions and significantly weakened agencies responsible for enforcing them. His Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) administrator, Lee Zeldin, has prioritised dismantling climate regulations, beginning with the agency's 2009 determination that greenhouse gases pose a public health threat. This decision underpins most federal climate policies, yet the administration seeks to overturn it, framing environmental rules as barriers to economic growth. However, this perspective overlooks a fundamental truth: climate action is not just about limiting economic activity but also about stimulating it. The Trump administration has halted new leases for wind and solar projects on federal lands, attempted to revoke billions in climate-friendly grants, and stalled investments in electric vehicle infrastructure. Furthermore, his tariffs on imports from Canada and Mexico threaten the materials needed for critical energy projects. These decisions contradict public sentiment—polls show that the majority of Americans, including many Republicans, support clean energy expansion. Meanwhile, electricity demand is expected to surge, driven by the rise of energy-intensive data centers, making an all-inclusive energy approach vital. Trump's efforts to dismantle climate regulations are not only politically risky but also impractical.

Amarjeet Kumar, HAZARIBAGH

Bolangir's cave tourism a big draw

A SINGLE HILL HOUSING 64 CAVES HAS BECOME AN ALL-TIME FAVOURITE FOR TOURISTS



RATAN KUMAR PRADHAN, OP



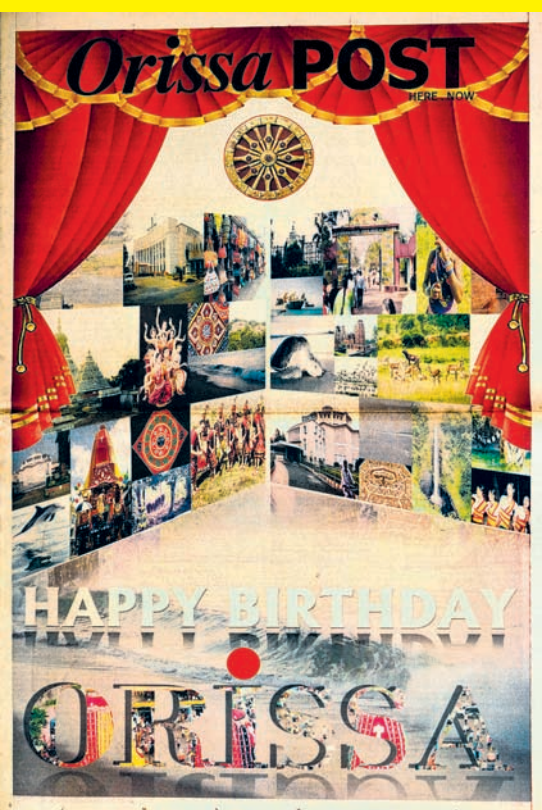
here. The Forest department has constructed designated picnic platforms and provided water facilities nearby, ensuring a comfortable experience for visitors.

Close to the park, a café run by self-help groups (SHGs) offers a variety of meals, including breakfast, lunch, and evening snacks. The café serves both vegetarian and non-vegetarian options, catering to diverse tastes and preferences. In a short span of time, Bhimadunguri has transformed into a beautiful tourist destination, drawing visitors with its natural beauty, historical significance, and well-maintained amenities. Whether you



looking for a peaceful getaway, Bhimadunguri offers something for everyone. This hidden gem in Odisha is a testament to the harmonious blend of nature and history, making it an ideal destination for those seeking a unique and enriching experience.

With inputs from Birendra Kumar Jhankar



FROM THE ARCHIVES: This day 14 years ago Orissa POST, the state's only home-grown English daily, hit stands



Nestled in the serene Bhima Hills, approximately 22 km from the district headquarters of Bolangir, lies Bhimadunguri, a burgeoning cave tourism hub in Odisha. This natural paradise, with its 64 natural caves, has garnered fame not just within the state but across India. The

sheer number of caves in a single hill makes it a standout site, attracting thousands of tourists, devotees, nature lovers, and students year-round. The historical significance of Bhimadunguri is underscored by the discovery of prehistoric rock paintings, stone tools, and iron weapons. These artefacts have piqued the interest of historians and archaeologists, making the site a focal point for further study. To date, 64 caves have been identified on Bhima Hill, though sources suggest many more remain unexplored.

At the main cave atop the hill, the tribal deity Bhimabudha is worshipped. Prehistoric artworks etched into massive rock slabs on the hilltop offer a glimpse into the area's ancient past. Visitors can marvel at these intricate carvings, which tell stories of a bygone era. Bhimadunguri is not just about history; it also offers stunning natural beauty. The hill

Discovery of prehistoric rock paintings, stone tools and iron weapons from this hill have solidified its historical significance

provides a breathtaking sunset point that captivates visitors. Crowds gather daily to witness the mesmerizing sight of the setting sun, a perfect end to a day of exploration.

At the base of the hill lies Bhimakata, a reservoir where the Forest department has arranged boating facilities for tourists. Hundreds of visitors flock to the boating site every day, enjoying the tranquil waters and picturesque surroundings. Adjacent to Bhimakata is a beautifully designed park, equipped with numerous attractions for visitors of all ages. Families and nature enthusiasts spend hours in the scenic garden, capturing stunning photographs and enjoying the serene environment.

At the foothills, a temple dedicated to Lord Bhimashankar Baba attracts a steady stream of devotees throughout the year. The temple, with its serene ambiance, offers a spiritual retreat for those seeking peace and solace. Bhimadunguri has also emerged as a popular picnic spot, with people traveling from far-off places to enjoy outings

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Forgotten delicacies of Odisha

The secret of success in life is to eat what you like and let the food fight it out inside - Mark Twain



SHASHIREKHA MAHAKUL, OP

Food is a celebration of the soul across India, with each state having its own unique culinary tradition that tells the story of its culture, history, and people. However, with the spread of urbanisation, the people of Odisha, like any other state in the country, are gradually forgetting some traditional delicacies that were once the identity and pride of the state.

Odisha's dietary heritage is a vibrant reflection of the essence of its people, with ingredients that spoke of the seasons and the resourcefulness passed down through generations. These forgotten foods are not merely meals; they are symbols of resilience, community, and family,

once cherished around the hearths of Odia kitchens. From humble, locally sourced ingredients to elaborate, festive preparations, the food of Odisha was central to both daily life and celebrations.

The list of forgotten delicacies would preferably begin with the humble but savory **Giliri phula cury** which is made with giliri flowers (an edible wild flower) cooked in a fragrant curry that captures the essence of the land.

Another item **Sarasatia** - a crispy rice flour and jaggery treat - though now rare, was once a common delicacy. Steamed dishes like **Sijha kolatha manda** - a horse gram dumpling - highlights the ingenuity of Odia cooks. Odia cuisine is also known for its cool-

ing, probiotic dishes like

Kanji pani - a fermented rice dish - that offers relief during summer heat. The variety of pithas (rice cakes) in Odisha is remarkable. **Enduri pitha**, wrapped in turmeric leaves with jaggery and coconut, is traditionally made during 'Prathamastami', while **Chitau pitha** - soft rice cakes with coconut - were once common but are now rare. **Sakara**, a sweet dish made from jaggery and flour, is another that has lost its place in modern kitchens. **Gaintha pitha** - small rice flour dumplings

soaked in thickened milk - resembles kheer and was a favorite in Odia households, yet is now not as popular. Similarly, **Nadia bara** - deep-fried coconut and black gram fritters - have vanished from everyday life, while Mugadali khiri - a dessert made from moong dal paste with milk and jiggery - is seldom prepared anymore. **Mahura**, a mixed vegetable and lentil curry, once made in temples now rarely found in Odia kitchens. Dishes like kandha mundi bhaja - made from onion stalks - and **Mahua pitha** -

a tribal pancake made from mahua flowers - are also fading away. Even kakharu patra poda - pumpkin leaves roasted over fire with salt and mustard oil - is becoming a rare sight.

Another dish is **Khuda bhaja**, made by roasting broken rice (khuda), was a popular snack among farmers and laborers. This simple yet nourishing dish was commonly enjoyed as an energy-boosting food. However, with changing times and modern snacks taking over, **khuda bhaja** has gradually faded into obscurity, now

largely forgotten. The disappearance of traditional dishes can be attributed to several factors, with urbanisation being a primary cause. As cities expand and lifestyles become faster-paced, people increasingly turn to modern, fast food options that are convenient and readily available, neglecting slower, more labor-intensive traditional meals. This shift in food preferences has led to the decline of many regional dishes. Another key factor is the decline in indigenous ingredients. Foods like

horse gram and bamboo shoots, once staples in traditional dishes, are no longer widely cultivated. Modern agriculture's focus on high-yield crops has contributed to the loss of these nutrient-rich and culturally significant ingredients. The loss of culinary knowledge also plays a role. As younger generations move away from rural areas and embrace urban life, traditional cooking techniques and recipes are not passed down, leading to the gradual fading of these dishes.



ସାମାଜିକ ସୁରକ୍ଷା ଓ ଭିନ୍ନତା ସମ୍ବଳକରଣ ବିଭାଗ, ଓଡ଼ିଶା ସରକାର Social Security & Empowerment of Persons With Disabilities Department, Government of Odisha

ଭିନ୍ନତା ଛାତ୍ରଛାତ୍ରୀମାନଙ୍କ ଶିକ୍ଷା ନିମିତ୍ତ ସହାୟତା ଓ ପ୍ରୋତ୍ସାହନ ପ୍ରଦାନ ସହ ବୈଷୟିକ, ବୃତ୍ତିଗତ ଓ ଧନ୍ୟାତ୍ମକ ଚାକିରି ପ୍ରଦାନ କରି ସେମାନଙ୍କୁ ରୋଜଗାରକ୍ଷମ କରିବା ଓ ସମାଜର ଉପଯୋଗୀ ସଦସ୍ୟ ଭାବେ ଗଢ଼ି ତୋଳିବା ବାଣୀଶ୍ରୀ ଶିକ୍ଷାବୃତ୍ତି ପରିଯୋଜନାର ମୁଖ୍ୟ ଉଦ୍ଦେଶ୍ୟ ।

ପ୍ରାଥମିକ ସ୍ତରରୁ ଉଚ୍ଚଶିକ୍ଷା ଶ୍ରେଣୀ ପର୍ଯ୍ୟନ୍ତ ଅଧ୍ୟୟନରତ ଭିନ୍ନତା ଛାତ୍ରଛାତ୍ରୀମାନଙ୍କୁ ଓଡ଼ିଶା ସରକାର ନିମ୍ନଲିଖିତ ହାରରେ ଏ ଶିକ୍ଷାବୃତ୍ତି ପ୍ରଦାନ କରୁଛନ୍ତି ।

କ୍ରମିକ ସଂଖ୍ୟା	ଶ୍ରେଣୀ	ମାସିକ ଶିକ୍ଷାବୃତ୍ତିର ପରିମାଣ
୧(କ)	ପ୍ରାଥମିକ ସ୍ତର (ପ୍ରଥମରୁ ପଞ୍ଚମ ଶ୍ରେଣୀ)	ଟ. ୪୦୦/-
(ଖ)	ମଧ୍ୟ ଇଂରାଜୀ ଏବଂ ଉଚ୍ଚ ବିଦ୍ୟାଳୟ (ଷଷ୍ଠରୁ ଦଶମ ଶ୍ରେଣୀ)	ଟ. ୫୦୦/-
(ଗ)	ଉଚ୍ଚ ମାଧ୍ୟମିକ ବିଦ୍ୟାଳୟ ଏବଂ ସ୍ନାତକ ଶ୍ରେଣୀ (+୨ ଓ +୩)	ଟ. ୬୦୦/-
(ଘ)	ସ୍ନାତକୋତ୍ତର ଶ୍ରେଣୀ	ଟ. ୭୦୦/-
(ଙ)	ବୈଷୟିକ ଏବଂ ଧନ୍ୟାତ୍ମକ ତାଲିମ	ଟ. ୭୦୦/-
୨	ରାଜ୍ୟ ବାହାରେ ଅଧ୍ୟୟନରତ ଭିନ୍ନତା ଛାତ୍ରଛାତ୍ରୀ (ପ୍ରାଥମିକ ସ୍ତରରୁ ବିଶ୍ୱବିଦ୍ୟାଳୟ ସ୍ତର ପର୍ଯ୍ୟନ୍ତ ସାଧାରଣ / ବୈଷୟିକ / ବୃତ୍ତିଗତ ଶିକ୍ଷା ଲାଭ କରୁଥିବା)	ଟ. ୭୦୦/-
୩(କ)	ପ୍ରାଥମିକ ସ୍ତର (ପ୍ରଥମରୁ ପଞ୍ଚମ ଶ୍ରେଣୀ)	ଟ. ୨୦୦/-
(ଖ)	ଦୃଷ୍ଟିବାଧିତ (ପାଠକ ଭଣ୍ଡା)	ଟ. ୩୦୦/-
(ଗ)	ଅନ୍ୟାନ୍ୟ ଶିକ୍ଷା	ଟ. ୪୦୦/-
୪	ଚଳନ ବାଧିତ (ପରିବହନ ଭଣ୍ଡା)	୭୫% କିମ୍ବା ତା'ଠାରୁ ଅଧିକ ଭିନ୍ନତାପତା ପାଇଁ

ଯୋଗ୍ୟ ଭିନ୍ନତା ଛାତ୍ରଛାତ୍ରୀମାନେ ଏହି ଶିକ୍ଷାବୃତ୍ତି ଲାଭ କରିବା ପାଇଁ <https://ssep.gov.in> ପୌର୍ଣ୍ଣିକରେ ଆବେଦନ କରିପାରିବେ ।

Chitrakarini temple: Ekamra Kshetra's hidden gem

The quaint precincts of the lesser-known Chitrakarini temple in Bhubaneswar evoke awe and spirituality. Surrounded by high walls and trees on the edges of the Papanasini pond in Old Town, the revered deity in the architectural marvel represents a celebration of women power and abundant knowledge

the contribution of women towards the creation, management and maintenance of the human cycle of life on the planet.

The temple (or temple complex), which shares its boundary with the northern compound wall of Lord Lingaraj temple, is located around 55 metres east of Papanasini pond on Ratha Road in Old

Town area of the City.

The very name Chitrakarini roughly means the 'female painter', or the 'paintress of life'. Significantly, this is the only temple dedicated to goddess Chitrakarini, a divine sub-form of goddess Saraswati - the Goddess of Knowledge. According to local folklore, the goddess establishes her identity as the goddess of cre-

ative powers.

Priest Tapas Kumar Sarangi offers a different perspective, according to which the temple has been named after the clan of painters who contributed to the designs of the various images and motifs at Lord Lingaraj temple.

"The Chitrakars had given the design of this temple, and hence their deity was called Chitrakarini," Sarangi says. However, according to the records of the Archaeological Survey of India (ASI), which maintains this 'Monument of National Importance' under the Ancient Monuments and Archaeological Sites and Remains Act, the temple is dedicated to goddess Chamunda, the presiding deity.

The temple design consists of a deul of the typical rekha order, while the jagamohan (24 feet and 7 inches square at the base) in the front has a two-tiered pidha roof.

The deities with their consorts have found their place on the deul and jagamohan walls. Erotic figures are carved profusely on the facade of the temple. It is sapta-ratha on plan, and is of the panchayatana order with four corner shrines which are in a good state of preservation. The temple, along with the subsidiary shrines, is known for the carvings in sandstone of which the temple is constructed.

The temple was built during the Eastern Ganga rule, and is datable to circa 13th century CE, i.e. mostly during the rule of King Narasimhadev I (also known as Parama Maheswara), who is believed to have ordered the construction of the world famous Sun Temple at Konark.

The subsidiary shrines in the complex are of similar construction to the main temple, with none having a jagamohan.

The Chaitya Navaratri and Saradiya Navratri are the primary festive occasions at the temple, and they are observed as per Vaishnav (not Shakta) tradition, Sarangi informs. He says the deity is a combination of Goddesses Laxmi, Chamunda and Kali (Tridevi) as three Vahanas - owl, jackal and swan - adorn the pedestal of the black granite idol.

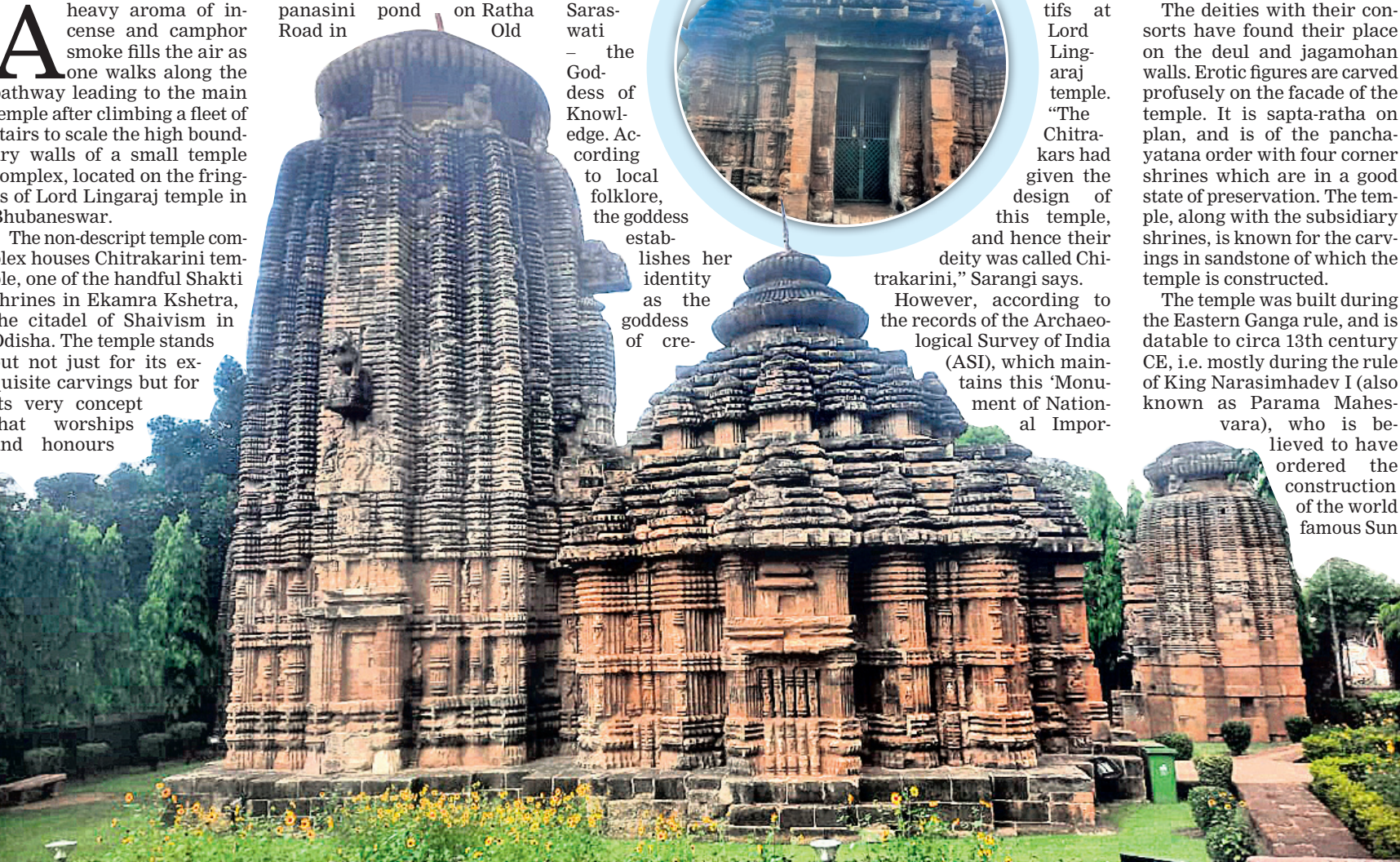
The magnificent temple complex, with its well-maintained garden and sprawling lawns, is often overlooked by tourists and locals alike. This is primarily because the low plinth level of the temple and high compound walls, and the monuments surrounding the complex, make the temple partially visible from the main road (Ratha Road).

However, the quiet garden offers an excellent escape for lovebirds or students from the outside bustle to steal a few moments.

DEBASISH PANIGRAHI, OP

A heavy aroma of incense and camphor smoke fills the air as one walks along the pathway leading to the main temple after climbing a fleet of stairs to scale the high boundary walls of a small temple complex, located on the fringes of Lord Lingaraj temple in Bhubaneswar.

The non-descript temple complex houses Chitrakarini temple, one of the handful Shakti shrines in Ekamra Kshetra, the citadel of Shaivism in Odisha. The temple stands out not just for its exquisite carvings but for its very concept that worships and honours



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ଜାତୀୟ ମତ୍ସ୍ୟ ଡିଜିଟାଲ ପ୍ଲାଟଫର୍ମରେ ପଞ୍ଜୀକରଣ

ଏଡ଼ିଗାରା ଓଡ଼ିଶାର ସମସ୍ତ ମତ୍ସ୍ୟକ୍ଷେତ୍ରରେ କାର୍ଯ୍ୟରତ ଅଣସଙ୍ଗଠିତ ମତ୍ସ୍ୟଜୀବୀ, ମାଛଧରାଳୀ, ମତ୍ସ୍ୟପାଳକ, ବ୍ୟବସାୟୀ, ପ୍ରକ୍ରିୟାକରଣକାରୀ, ମତ୍ସ୍ୟ ଉପାଦାନ ଉତ୍ପାଦନକାରୀ ଓ ଅନ୍ୟାନ୍ୟ ସମସ୍ତ ହିତାଧିକାରୀ ମାନଙ୍କୁ ଏକତ୍ରିତ କରି ଗୋଟିଏ ଜାତୀୟ ମତ୍ସ୍ୟ ଡିଜିଟାଲ ପ୍ଲାଟଫର୍ମ ମାଧ୍ୟମରେ ପଞ୍ଜୀକରଣ କରି ଏହି କ୍ଷେତ୍ରକୁ ସୁସଂଗଠିତ କରିବା ଏହି କାର୍ଯ୍ୟକ୍ରମର ଲକ୍ଷ୍ୟ ଅଟେ।

ଏଥି ନିମନ୍ତେ ମତ୍ସ୍ୟ କ୍ଷେତ୍ର ସହିତ ଜଡ଼ିତ ସମସ୍ତଙ୍କୁ ନିଜ ମୋବାଇଲ ମାଧ୍ୟମରେ ସ୍ୱୟଂ ପଞ୍ଜୀକରଣ କିମ୍ବା ଜନସେବା କେନ୍ଦ୍ର ସହାୟତାରେ ପଞ୍ଜୀକୃତ ହେବା ପାଇଁ ନିମ୍ନ ପ୍ରଦତ୍ତ ୱେବ ସାଇଟ ରେ(nfdp.dof.gov.in) କ୍ଲିକ କରି ନିଜର ଆବଶ୍ୟକୀୟ ତଥ୍ୟ ପ୍ରଦାନ କରନ୍ତୁ।

ଏଥି ନିମନ୍ତେ ଆବଶ୍ୟକ ହେଉଥିବା ବସ୍ତାବିଜ ଗୁଡ଼ିକ ହେଲା:

- ୧) ପାସପୋର୍ଟ ଫଟୋ
- ୨) ମୋବାଇଲ ପଞ୍ଜୀକୃତ ଆଧାର ନମ୍ବର
- ୩) ବ୍ୟାଙ୍କ ପାସ ବହି
- ୪) ଜାତିଗତ ପ୍ରମାଣ ପତ୍ର
- ୫) ବିବ୍ୟାଜ ପ୍ରମାଣ ପତ୍ର

ପଞ୍ଜୀକରଣ କରିବାପାଇଁ ମିଳୁଥିବା ଲାଭଗୁଡ଼ିକ ନିମ୍ନରେ ପ୍ରଦତ୍ତ ହେଲା:

- ସ୍ୱୟଂ ପଞ୍ଜୀକରଣ ସଂପୂର୍ଣ୍ଣ କଲେ ପ୍ରତି ବ୍ୟକ୍ତିଙ୍କୁ ଏକଗହ ଟଙ୍କା ଆକାଉଣ୍ଟ ମାଧ୍ୟମରେ ପ୍ରାପ୍ତ ହେବ। ଜନସେବା କେନ୍ଦ୍ର ମାଧ୍ୟମରେ ପଞ୍ଜୀକରଣ କରାଇଲେ ପ୍ରତି ବ୍ୟକ୍ତିଙ୍କୁ ଟ ୭୭.୪୦ ଟଙ୍କା ଆକାଉଣ୍ଟ ମାଧ୍ୟମରେ ପ୍ରାପ୍ତ ହେବ।
- ୨୦୨୫-୨୬ ବର୍ଷଠାରୁ ସମସ୍ତ NFDପ ପଞ୍ଜୀକୃତ ବ୍ୟକ୍ତିଙ୍କୁ GAIS ବୀମାଭୁକ୍ତ ହେବେ । ପୂର୍ବର ସମସ୍ତ GAIS ହିତାଧିକାରୀ ନିଶ୍ଚିତ ପଞ୍ଜୀକୃତ ହୁଅନ୍ତୁ ନଚେତ ସେମାନେ ଏହି ଯୋଜନାରୁ ବଞ୍ଚିତ ହେବେ।
- ମତ୍ସ୍ୟ କ୍ଷେତ୍ରକୁ ଅନୁଷ୍ଠାନିକ ବ୍ୟାଙ୍କ ରଖି ପ୍ରଦାନ, ଅଣ୍ଟା ଉଦ୍ଦେଶ୍ୟ ପ୍ରବେଶ ନିମନ୍ତେ ସହାୟତା ତଥା ଆନୁସଙ୍ଗିକ ସହାୟତା ମିଳିବାର ସୁବିଧା ପ୍ରଦାନ ।
- ଜଳକୃଷି ବୀମାକରଣ ନିମନ୍ତେ ଏହି NFDପ ପଞ୍ଜୀକରଣ ବାଧ୍ୟତାମୂଳକ ଅଟେ।
- ମତ୍ସ୍ୟଗଣ ମୂଲ୍ୟ ଶୁଳ୍କନର ଦକ୍ଷତା ବୃଦ୍ଧି ପାଇଁ ସହାୟତା ପାଇବାକୁ ହେଲେ ଏହି ପଞ୍ଜୀକରଣ ନିତାନ୍ତ ଆବଶ୍ୟକ।
- ମତ୍ସ୍ୟ ଓ ମତ୍ସ୍ୟ ଉତ୍ପାଦନ ସୁରକ୍ଷା ଓ ଗୁଣାତ୍ମକ ନିଶ୍ଚିତତା ଗ୍ରହଣ ଓ ବିସ୍ତାରର ଲାଭ ଉଠାଇବା ପାଇଁ ଏହି ପଞ୍ଜୀକରଣର ଆବଶ୍ୟକତା ପଡ଼ିବ। ଉପରୋକ୍ତ ଲାଭ ହାସଲ କରିବା ପାଇଁ ନିଜେ ପଞ୍ଜୀକୃତ ହେବା ସହ ଅନ୍ୟ ସମସ୍ତଙ୍କୁ ପଞ୍ଜୀକୃତ ହେବା ପାଇଁ ଉତ୍ସାହିତ କରନ୍ତୁ।

ମତ୍ସ୍ୟକ୍ଷେତ୍ରକୁ ସୁସଙ୍ଗଠିତ କରିବା ଓ ମତ୍ସ୍ୟକ୍ଷେତ୍ରର ଅଭିବୃଦ୍ଧିକୁ ପ୍ରୋତ୍ସାହିତ କରିବା।

ମତ୍ସ୍ୟ ନିର୍ଦ୍ଦେଶାଳୟ, ଓଡ଼ିଶା, କଟକ

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INTO THE WILD: THE CURIOUS CASE OF CATTLE ISLAND



PRATYUSH DASH, OP

where time itself seems to have slowed down. The island was once a thriving village situated on a hill called Bhujapahad before the construction of the Hirakud Dam. During the resettlement period, villagers left some of their cattle behind; when the dam construction was over in 1957, the waters of the Mahanadi rose forming what we now call the Hirakud Reservoir. The village was submerged, leaving behind remnants of human life and the cattle settled on the hilltop, subsequently named 'Cattle Island'.

From mild to wild

In the years following the creation of the dam, villagers attempted to relocate their cattle to new settlements. However, the cattle resisted, and



over time, they developed a profound fear and disdain for humans—a feeling that persists to this day.

The wild cattle now roam the island, defying human control. Their calls echo across the dense foliage, a reminder of their abandonment and

the unbroken chain of isolation they've endured. Their behaviour has shifted from domesticated to wild: swift, wary, and defensive. When a visitor steps onto the island, the first signs of life are the heads of cattle lifting from the underbrush, eyes tracking the

intruder. When approached, they kick up dust in a clear signal of their territoriality. These once-domesticated animals have returned to the wild, shedding their past to become powerful, feral creatures.

Life finds a way

Cattle Island is a fascinating example of nature's resilience. The cattle have grown larger and stronger, likely as a survival mechanism in their new environment. Unlike their domesticated cousins, these wild cattle have become formidable, their white coats standing out starkly against the green of the forest. Despite numerous attempts by locals to capture and return them to human care, the cattle remain elusive, often disappearing into the underbrush at the slightest hint of an outsider.

A tale of sorrow and survival

These wild cattle are not the docile creatures they once were—they have become symbols of a lost connection, a broken bond between human and animal. Cattle Island serves as a poignant



reminder of the delicate relationship between humans and animals. The wild cattle that roam the island are personification of abandonment, sorrow, and survival. Over decades, they shed the vestiges of domestication to become free-roaming creatures, adapting to their new world. In the

silence of Cattle Island, there is a quiet defiance, a reminder that even in the most isolated corners of the world, life continues to evolve. In that adaptation, there is an enduring mystery—a testament to the wild spirit that remains, no matter how far we stray from the natural world.

An isolated realm

As the boat glides across the tranquil waters, a sense of isolation sets in, preparing visitors for a landscape unlike any other. The island is a sanctuary for wild cattle, roaming freely through dense forests, with no trace of human life in sight. Here, the only sounds that punctuate the silence are the occasional lowing of these elusive creatures, creating an almost surreal atmosphere of solitude and natural beauty.

Hilltop-turned-island

Cattle Island is not any wildlife sanctuary. It's a place



DSPL-05



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ସମଗ୍ରା ଶିକ୍ଷା
Samagra Shiksha

ନିପୁଣ ଓଡ଼ିଶା ମିଶନର ଉପଲବ୍ଧି

ପ୍ରାଥମିକ ସ୍ତରରେ ପିଲାମାନଙ୍କର ମୂଳଦୁଆକୁ ଦୃଢ଼ କରିବା ପାଇଁ ଗୁଣାତ୍ମକ ଶିକ୍ଷାର ଆବଶ୍ୟକତା ରହିଛି । ଏହି ଆବଶ୍ୟକତାକୁ ଦୃଷ୍ଟିରେ ରଖି ରାଜ୍ୟ ସରକାର ୫ ସେପ୍ଟେମ୍ବର ୨୦୨୪ (ଗୁରୁଦିବସ)ରେ 'ନିପୁଣ ଓଡ଼ିଶା ମିଶନ' ଆରମ୍ଭ କରିଛନ୍ତି । ସମସ୍ତ ପିଲାଙ୍କ ପଠନ, ଲିଖନ ଓ ଗାଣିତିକ ଦକ୍ଷତା ବଢ଼ାଇବା ପାଇଁ ବିଦ୍ୟାଳୟ ଓ ଗଣଶିକ୍ଷା ବିଭାଗ ଦ୍ୱାରା ବିଭିନ୍ନ ପଦକ୍ଷେପ ନିଆଯାଉଛି ।

- ଉଚ୍ଚମାନର ଶିକ୍ଷଣ ସାମଗ୍ରୀର ପ୍ରସ୍ତୁତି: ଶିଶୁବାଚିକା, ପ୍ରଥମ, ଦ୍ୱିତୀୟ ଓ ତୃତୀୟ ଶ୍ରେଣୀ ପାଇଁ ଭାଷା ଓ ଗଣିତର କାର୍ଯ୍ୟପୁସ୍ତିକା, ବଡ଼ବହି, ଗଜକାର୍ଡ୍, ଚିତ୍ର ଓ କବିତାପୋଷ୍ଟର ଓ ଗଣିତ କଳିକା କିଟ୍ ପ୍ରଦାନ କରାଯାଇଛି ।
- ଶିକ୍ଷକ ପ୍ରଶିକ୍ଷଣ: ଶିକ୍ଷକମାନଙ୍କର ଦକ୍ଷତା ବିକାଶ ପାଇଁ ଅନୁଲାଇନ ଓ ଅଫ୍‌ଲାଇନ ମାଧ୍ୟମରେ ପ୍ରଶିକ୍ଷଣ ଦିଆଯାଉଛି ।
- କୂଷରସ୍ତରୀୟ ବୈଠକ: ଶ୍ରେଣୀଗୃହ ଶିକ୍ଷାଦାନର ଅଗ୍ରଗତି, ଆହ୍ୱାନ ଓ ବିଭିନ୍ନ ଶିକ୍ଷଣ କୌଶଳର ଆଲୋଚନା ପାଇଁ ପ୍ରତି ମାସରେ କୂଷର ସ୍ତରୀୟ ବୈଠକ ଆୟୋଜନ ହେଉଅଛି ।
- ଶିକ୍ଷଣ ସୋପାନ ରେଜିଷ୍ଟର: ପ୍ରତ୍ୟେକ ମାସରେ ପିଲାମାନଙ୍କର ଶୈକ୍ଷିକ ଅଗ୍ରଗତିକୁ ଲିପିବଦ୍ଧ କରାଯାଇ ସେହି ଆଧାରରେ ଆଗାମୀ କାର୍ଯ୍ୟଯୋଜନା ପ୍ରସ୍ତୁତ କରାଯାଉଛି ।
- ଆନନ୍ଦଦାୟୀ ଶ୍ରେଣୀଗୃହ (FLN Compliant Classroom): ଶ୍ରେଣୀଗୃହର ଭୌତିକ ପରିବେଶ ଓ ଛାପାଲେଖା ସାମଗ୍ରୀ ମାଧ୍ୟମରେ ପିଲାମାନଙ୍କୁ ପଠନ ଓ ଲିଖନ ପ୍ରତି ପ୍ରେରିତ କରାଯାଉଛି ।
- ନିପୁଣ ଓଡ଼ିଶା ମେଳା: ପିତାମାତା, ଅଭିଭାବକ ଓ ଗୋଷ୍ଠୀକୁ ବିଦ୍ୟାଳୟ କାର୍ଯ୍ୟକ୍ରମରେ ଯୋଡ଼ିବା ପାଇଁ ରାଜ୍ୟବ୍ୟାପୀ କୂଷର, ବୃକ୍ଷ ଓ ଜିଲ୍ଲା ସ୍ତରରେ "ନିପୁଣ ଓଡ଼ିଶା ମେଳା"ର ଆୟୋଜନ କରାଯାଇଅଛି ।



ବିଦ୍ୟାଳୟ ଓ ଗଣଶିକ୍ଷା ବିଭାଗ, ଓଡ଼ିଶା ସରକାର

OIPR-27068/13/0043/2425



NANDANKANAN

"Garden of Gods"

Amazing Animal Collection

- 3994 animals belonging to of 173 species
- 110 indigenous and 63 exotic species



State of Art Enclosures

- Glass-fronted exhibits for barrier free vision
- Themed habitat with species-specific enrichment



Unique Visitor Facilities

- Advanced amenities ensuring visitor convenience
- Boating, Ropeway, Walk through aviary, Wildlife safaris



Advanced Healthcare Facilities

- Advanced veterinary care ensuring animal well-being
- Hand Rearing Centre, Mobile Veterinary Unit, Rapid Response Team



State Botanical Garden

- Satellite gardens with diverse plant species
- Bambusetum, hydrophyte, and medicinal gardens
- QR-coded signage for floral information
- Innovative centre for botanical conservation and learning



Safety & Security

- OISF and Ex-army personnels in zoo security team
- Dedicated Residential complex for security staff
- Round the clock security to the park



Conservation Breeding Programmes

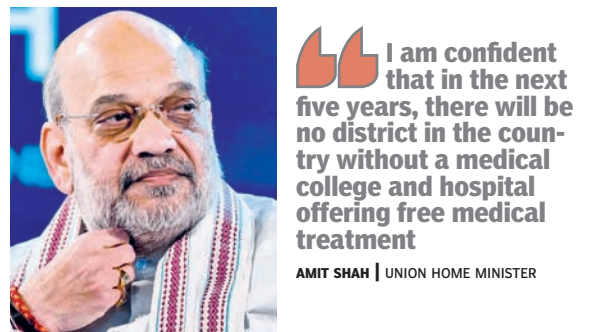
- Breeding tigers, mouse deer, vultures, gharials
- Centre for Conservation Research & Training
- World's only Indian pangolin Conservation Breeding Centre



Conservation Education Programmes

- Internships, volunteers, and outreach initiatives
- Eco days and citizen science efforts
- Educational programs engaging students and visitors





I am confident that in the next five years, there will be no district in the country without a medical college and hospital offering free medical treatment
AMIT SHAH | UNION HOME MINISTER

CYCLOTHON TO RAISE AWARENESS ON COASTAL SECURITY ENDS
A 6,553 kms long cyclothon undertaken by CISF personnel along India's east and west coasts concluded Monday with the paramilitary force spreading the message of coastal security and environmental conservation among 2.5 crore people. The 125-member rally ended at Kanyakumari in Tamil Nadu after the participants pedalled across 11 states and Union territories for 25 days



of the day quote

The present crisis is not political at its core and stems from a complex mix of challenges including the drug menace, illegal immigration, destruction of forests, and the systematic pursuit of power by select groups



Reformation, performance, and transformation are driving Arunachal Pradesh on a path of accelerated development



There is no need to search for his successor. He (Modi) is our leader and will continue



Rahul urges PM to cancel offshore mining tenders

Flagging the threat to marine life, the Congress leader said opening up offshore mining blocks to private players without any rigorous assessment of its impact was concerning



New Delhi, March 31: Leader of Opposition in the Lok Sabha Rahul Gandhi has written to Prime Minister Narendra Modi seeking cancellation of tenders permitting offshore mining along the coast of Kerala, Gujarat, and Andaman and Nicobar Islands.

Flagging the threat to marine life, the Congress leader said opening up offshore mining blocks to private players without any rigorous assessment of its impact was concerning. "I write to you to strongly condemn the central government's decision to permit offshore mining along the coast of Kerala, Gujarat, and Andaman & Nicobar," he said in his letter to the prime minister. Gandhi said coastal communities have been protesting against the manner in which tenders for offshore mining have been floated without evaluating its environmental impact. Millions of fisherfolk have expressed grave concerns about its impact on their livelihood and way of life, he said. "I wrote to PM Modi to condemn the permission granted for offshore mining in Kerala, Gujarat, and the Andaman & Nicobar Islands without consulting local stakeholders or conducting environmental studies. Offshore mining will impact the livelihoods of millions of fisherfolk and irreversibly damage our diverse marine life. The government must immediately revoke this decision," Gandhi said on his WhatsApp channel.

I write to you to strongly condemn the central government's decision to permit offshore mining along the coast of Kerala, Gujarat, and Andaman & Nicobar

RAHUL GANDHI | LEADER OF OPPOSITION IN THE LOK SABHA

The Congress leader said the Offshore Areas Mineral (Development and Regulation) Amendment Act, 2023 was met with strong objections. Opening up offshore mining blocks to private players without any rigorous assessment of its impact was concerning, he said, noting that studies point to its adverse impacts, including threats to marine life, damage to coral reefs and the depletion of fish stock. In this backdrop, when the Ministry of Mines invited tenders for grant of license for 13 offshore blocks, protests erupted against this move. Gandhi said among the 13 blocks are three blocks for mining construction sand in the coast of Kollam, a vital fish breeding habitat, and three blocks for polymetallic nodules off the coast of the Great Nicobar islands - a marine biodiversity hotspot. The former Congress chief claimed that tenders were floated without any consultation with the stakeholders or an assessment of the long term socio-economic impact on coastal communities. He also claimed that the ongoing survey of the Marine Monitoring Lab (MML) of the University of Kerala's Department of Aquatic Biology and Fisheries found that offshore mining could have a devastating impact on fish breeding, especially in Kollam.

Woman Naxalite carrying ₹45 lakh reward gunned down

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Dantewada (Chhattisgarh), March 31: A senior woman Naxalite carrying a collective reward of Rs 45 lakh in two states was killed in an encounter with security personnel in Chhattisgarh's Bastar region Monday, police officials said. Gummadiveli Renuka, the deceased cadre, was a law graduate and was active in the outlawed Communist Party of India (Maoist) since 1996 and carried a reward of Rs 25 lakh in Chhattisgarh and Rs 20 lakh in neighbouring Telangana, he said. The gunfight broke out at around 9 am in a forest along the border of Dantewada and Bijapur districts in Bastar region when District Reserve Guard (DRG) personnel were out on an anti-Naxalite operation, Dantewada Superintendent of Police Gaurav Rai said. The operation was launched in the forested hills of Nelgoda, Ikeli and Belnar villages along the border of Geedam (Dantewada) and Bhairamgarh (Bijapur) based on inputs about the presence of Naxalites, he said. The exchange of fire lasted for about two hours following which police found the body of Gummadiveli Renuka, also known by aliases Bhanu, Chaite, Saraswati and Damyanti, he said, adding she is a resident Kadvandi village in Warangal in Telangana. An Insas rifle, explosives, laptop and Maoist literature were recovered from the encounter site, the official said.

TRAITOR JIBE AT SHINDE

Mumbai cops reach Kamra's Mahim home



PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Mumbai, March 31: Stand-up comedian Kunal Kamra Monday failed to appear before Khar police in connection with the case registered for his "traitor" jibe at Maharashtra Deputy Chief Minister Eknath Shinde, while a team went to his Mahim "home" to "check" his availability. The comedian later took a jibe at the police saying the visit was a waste of time and public resources as he had not been living there for the past 10 years. Kamra was supposed to appear before Khar police during the day, an official said, adding it was the second time he was summoned. "A Khar police team went to his house in Mahim, where his family stays, to check whether he would appear in connection with the case or not. Since he did not, further course of action will be decided soon," the official said. In a post on X, Kamra said, "Going to an address where I haven't lived for the last 10 years is a waste of your time & public resources." The first notice seeking his appearance was issued last week, and the comedian's request for seven days' time was denied by police. The Madras High Court March 28 granted interim anticipatory bail to Kamra on the condition that he execute a bond to the satisfaction of the judicial magistrate at Vanur in Villupuram district in Tamil Nadu. Kamra had submitted he moved to Tamil Nadu from Mumbai in 2021 and has been "ordinarily a resident of this State (Tamil Nadu) since then" and that he feared arrest by Mumbai police. Last week, three FIRs against him at Nashik Rural, Jalgaon and Nashik (Nandgaon) were transferred to Khar police station, where a case has already been registered on the complaint of Shiv Sena MLA Murji Patel.

POST OF THE DAY

Things I learnt in my 10 years of medicine for a healthy lifestyle. Eat atleasta Egg daily multivitamins are useless
Yoga is not an exercise walkatleast 10K steps a day
Traditional medicines are not medicines
Rajma/dal - Weak protein.
Roti don't beats rice.
Mediterranean diet wins.
Keto is good
Sleep 7-8hrs,
Avoid sugar, lift weights.
@DoctorHussain96

ASHA workers cut hair in protest against 'govt apathy'



PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Thiruvananthapuram, March 31: Dozens of Accredited Social Health Activists (ASHA) intensified their protest outside the Secretariat Monday, cutting their hair and some shaving their heads in an emotional gesture of defiance against the government's alleged indifference to their demands. The protest escalated into its 50th day Monday, with demonstrators intensifying their agitation outside the administrative hub, marking a new phase in their prolonged campaign. Emotional scenes unfolded when several ASHA workers

from across the districts converged at the protest venue in the morning and cut their hair en masse, raising slogans against the government. In a display of desperation, one protester was overcome with emotion, breaking down in tears before taking the extreme step of shaving her head completely. "It's our lives that are being cut. This is our protest against the ministers who turn a blind eye to our pain and problems. How are we supposed to survive on a meagre 232 rupees/a day?" the woman said, weeping and clutching the severed hair strands in her hand. If the government refused to meet their demands, all the protesters would die here itself, she further said. "We have been staging our protest, battling scorching heat and rain, for the last 50 days. The government has not bothered to care for us," she alleged.

Congress pushes for SC/ST quotas in private colleges

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, March 31: The Congress Monday demanded that the government bring in a legislation for SC, ST and OBC quota in private, non-minority educational institutions in the country. In a statement, Congress general secretary, communications, Jairam Ramesh noted that the Parliamentary Standing Committee on Education, Women, Children, Youth, and Sports had recommended a new legislation to implement Article 15(5). Article 15(5) allows the state to make special provisions by law for the advancement of socially and educationally backward classes, Scheduled Castes, and Scheduled Tribes, including reservation in educational institutions, both public



PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

and private, except for minority educational institutions. Ramesh said the Congress had during the last Lok Sabha polls committed itself to bringing legislation to implement Article 15(5) of the Constitution in private educational institutions. "In its 364th Report on the Demand for Grants for the Department of Higher Education, the Parliamentary Standing Committee on Education, Women, Children, Youth, and Sports also recommended a new leg-

Director who gave Monalisa film role held in rape allegations

AGENCIES

New Delhi, March 31: Sanoj Mishra, the director who offered viral sensation Monalisa a role in his film during the Kumbh Mela, has been arrested in connection with a rape case. The arrest follows the rejection of his bail application by the Delhi High Court. Sanoj Mishra, aged 45, was apprehended by the Delhi Police March 30, 2024, following intelligence gathering and technical surveillance. The arrest took place in Ghaziabad, and Mishra, who resides with his family in Mumbai, was taken into custody by the Nabi Karim Police Station. The case centers around a 28-year-old woman from a small town, who alleged that Mishra repeatedly raped her over a period of four years. The woman, who aspired to become a film actress, claimed that she had been in a live-in relationship with Mishra in Mumbai during this time.

SHORT TAKES

Narcotics worth ₹27.4 cr seized
New Delhi: A joint team of the Narcotics Control Bureau and Delhi Police have seized a large cache of narcotics worth Rs 27.4 crore and arrested five persons, Union Home Minister Amit Shah announced Monday. Shah also said the government's relentless hunt against drugs trade will continue. "In line with the Modi government's zero tolerance against drugs, a major narco-network was busted in Delhi-NCR. The NCB and Delhi Police grabbed the gang by its throat and recovered methamphetamine, MDMA and cocaine worth Rs 27.4 crore and arrested five people," Shah wrote on X.

Four injured in Nagaland clash
Kohima: At least four persons were injured in a clash between villagers of two bordering districts of Nagaland, Deputy Chief Minister Yanthunga Patton said Monday. Patton said the situation is under control and appealed to people in Kiphire and Meluri districts to maintain peace and harmony. "Deeply disturbed by the recent reports of violence, reportedly among few villages under Kiphire and Meluri districts. Such incidents not only disrupt peace but also harm the bonds that hold our communities together," the Dycm who also holds the Home portfolio said in a post on X.

Youtuber held for blocking convoy
Thrissur (Kerala): A YouTuber has been arrested here for allegedly blocking the convoy of Congress general secretary Priyanka Gandhi Vadra, police said Monday. The Mannuthy police took Aneesh Abraham, a resident of Elanadu, into custody in connection with the incident and released him later on station bail, a police officer said.

A HAPPY HUNTING GROUND



Poisoned percepts betray their own patterns. Moreso when policing, like poker, degenerates into the continuation of politics by other means. The Supreme Court of India, had harsh words for the Gujarat Police which should reverberate through the uniformed force countrywide. Quashing an FIR filed against Congress MP, Imran Pratapgarhi over his social media post with a poem "Ae khoon Ke pyase baat suno", it ruled that the right of citizens to express themselves could not be trampled upon on "flimsy and fanciful" grounds. No offence is attracted and police must understand the meaning of written and spoken words before registering a case in such matters, it noted. The Apex Court March 28 said the fundamental right to free speech through poetry, theatre, stand-up comedy, and satire must be cherished. The cops had charged the Congress MP with inciting discord through his poem on "suffering injustice with love". The judgment came following an appeal filed by Pratapgarhi against the registration of a criminal case by the Gujarat Police under Section 196 of the Bharatiya Nyaya Sanhita. "Seventy-five years into our Republic, we cannot be seen to be so shaky on our fundamentals that a mere recital of a poem, or for that matter, any form of art or entertainment, such as stand-up comedy, can be alleged to lead to animosity or hatred amongst different communities. Subscribing to such a view would stifle all legitimate expressions of view in the public domain, which is so fundamental to a free society," a Bench of Justices AS Oka and Ujjal Bhuyan wrote in its verdict. The Apex Court threw a protective halo around citizens who bear the brunt of government induced or police orchestrated harassment for spoken or written words and to ensure a measure of artistic freedom. "FIRs should not be lodged blindly in a mechanical manner", the Bench ruled. The top court said free speech was an integral part of a healthy and civilised society. A person's views cannot be silenced merely because the majority does not like the sound of them. The law enforcement authorities and courts must employ the standards of reasonable, strong-minded, firm, and courageous minds, and not weak and vacillating ones who scent danger in every hostile point of view, before initiating criminal action against freedom of expression. "The poems words (posted by

the Congress MP) do not bring about or promote disharmony. It only tells the rulers of the reaction if the fight for rights is met with injustice", the judgement noted. Interestingly, the Gujarat Police had charged Pratapgarhi following a complaint by a clerk of an advocate who alleged that the poem by him on social media was offensive. The police moved fast invoking sections 197 (prejudicial imputations against national unity), 299 (intentional actions to provoke religious sentiments) and 302 (Speaking words to hurt religious feelings) of the BNS. The Gujarat High Court declined to dismiss the FIR January 17 and sought redressal from the Supreme Court. The answer from the Apex Court rings loud and clear and is an answer to many to come clean. If it was a hurt citizen who sought redressal for a social media post from the Congress MP, it was a BJP lead-

er in Gujarat who had been so hurt by a speech delivered by Congress leader Rahul Gandhi in Kolar Karnataka, that he filed a criminal defamation case in a Surat court in 2019. The Court convicted Gandhi to two years of imprisonment March 23, 2023, but suspended his sentence, granted bail and allowed him to appeal to the High Court. The Lok Sabha secretariat moved with lightning speed, and next day a notification was issued informing all concerned including the Election Commission of India. Gandhi moved the High Court which July 7, 2023 refused to stay the conviction stating that he had breached 'modesty' and his actions displayed 'moral turpitude' besides him being a habitual offender. Gandhi knocked the doors of the Supreme Court which ruled August 4, 2023 that Rahul Gandhi's criminal defamation conviction and sentencing was unjustified. "The three judge bench held that the two year jail term was excessive and devoid of reason. It was appealed by the lack of reasoning for such a strict sentence. Earlier April 20, 2022, Gujarat legislator Jignesh Mevani who was part of the Congress grouping was arrested from Palanpur circuit house in Gujarat by the Assam Police for a pur-

ported tweet against Prime Minister Narendra Modi. He was granted bail by a local court in Assam but before hearing could begin, Mevani was picked up in other cases and re-arrested by the Assam Police. He was subsequently bailed out again. For all practical purposes, Gujarat seems to be a happy hunting ground for 'honourable gentlemen' in BJP ruled states whose sentiments are 'hurt', to vent their spleen against 'targetted' Opposition leaders. Meanwhile, a nation pre-occupied by ancient history and its religious sub-divisions of all makes and sorts, has sought momentary distraction in standup comic Kunal Kamra in a shift of scene to Maharashtra. Kamra is in dock for his comments on Maharashtra deputy chief minister Eknath Shinde, with FIRs piling up against him. The Habitat studio in Mumbai, a hub for standup comedy has been vandalised by Shiv Sainiks and has indefinitely downed the shutters. The sainiks are all, ofcourse, out on bail. Kamra, a resident of Tamil Nadu has been granted interim protection from arrest by the Tamil Nadu High Court with a notice to the Khar police in Mumbai returnable by April 7. It is now the turn of standup comics to be put under notice.



From Vision to Action: Odisha's Transformational Roadmap



Empowering Women : Augmenting Progress

- More than 1 crore eligible women included in 'Subhadra' scheme so far; ₹ 9,970 crore disbursed in two installments
- Odisha ranks second in the country under 'Lakshpati Didi' initiative, more than 11.5 lakh women in Odisha now earning ₹ 1 lakh or more per annum, moving towards a secure and developed future
- 'Mukhyamantri Kanya Vivah Yojana' launched for supporting marriage ceremony of girls belonging to economically weaker sections

Enriching Education: Envisioning New Odisha

- National Education Policy, 2020 gets effective in the state for educational institutions ranging from primary level to Universities from today itself
- Godabarish Mishra Adarsha Prathamika Vidyalaya- scheme for creating one model elementary school in every GP ensuring quality education
- Students of Class-IX & X to be covered 'Midday Meal' scheme
- Government universities in the state to be autonomous as per 'Odisha University Act, 1989'

Promoting Healthcare: Propelling Development

- Odisha joins 'Ayushman Bharat-Pradhan Mantri Jan Arogya Yojana'; AB-PMJAY linked to provide cashless treatment to over 1 crore families in more than 29,000 hospitals across the country

Employment Opportunities : New Ray of Hope

- **Augmented Recruitment Drive:** targets 1.5 lakh government jobs in 5 years, 65,000 posts to be filled up in first two years.
- 10% reservation for Ex-Agniveers with relaxation of age limit of 3 years and exemption from physical fitness test for recruitment to all 'C' and 'D' category posts in uniformed services of the state
- 50,000 new employment opportunities in the textile industry in the next 2 years
- 50,000 new employment opportunities in the IT and IT enabled services sector in the next 5 years

Spearheading Farmer's Empowerment

- **Samruddha Krishak Yojana:** Purchase at ₹ 3,100 per quintal with input support of ₹ 800 on MSP for paddy; An outlay of ₹ 6,000 crore for the financial year 2025-26; About 18 lakh farmers will be benefited.
- Record quantity of about 73.44 lakh metric ton of paddy procured from 16.59 lakh farmers in the current Kharif season,
- MSP of ₹ 16,890 crore and input assistance of ₹ 5,875 crore provided to farmers
- 22.53 lakh farmers registered under Pradhan Mantri Phasal Bima Yojana for Kharif season 2024 and 1.83 lakh farmers for Rabi season 2024-25
- **PM - Kisan :** Special campaign launched to cover all eligible and excluded beneficiaries; Nearly 5 lakh new farmers have benefited in the recent past.
- **Cold Storage Policy:** In 58 sub-divisions, at least one new cold storage
- '**Mukhyamantri Kamdhenu Yojana**' to benefit the dairy farmers of the state and increase daily milk production
- Decision taken to build a modern integrated water park in Sambalpur for improved fish farming
- Hirakud Canal system to be revived after 46 years at a cost of ₹ 855 crore
- Foundation stone laid for '**Balangir Upper Lanth Irrigation Project**' with an estimated cost of ₹ 300 crore
- E-KYC verification of 3,02,24,592 beneficiaries completed to maintain transparency in ration card data

Building New Age Cities for Future

- **PM e-Bus Service:** 400 e-buses to run in Bhubaneswar, Cuttack, Sambalpur, Rourkela and Brahmapur
- **Odisha Yatri App operational:** Transforming urban transport; Accessible, safe, affordable and convenient auto/cab services to the people
- **New City, Bhubaneswar:** A pioneering scheme to build a new city on 800 acres of land



Redefining Mantra for Rural Development

- **Setu Bandhan Yojana:** to improve connectivity in rural areas, target of construction of 500 new bridges by 2029, construction of 149 bridges completed, 231 under construction
- **Bridge-cum-Weir:** 33 projects completed in the financial year 2024-2025, 71 under construction
- **PM-JANMAN:** Proposals have been sent to the Central Government for construction of 69 roads and 4 bridges, especially for the areas largely inhabited by PVTGs, 40 roads and 2 bridges approved, construction of 26 roads and 2 bridges proposed, approved projects under construction
- 813.7 km. roads and 31 bridges constructed under '**Pradhan Mantri Gram Sadak Yojana**' and 3,879.38 km. roads constructed under '**Mukhya Mantri Sadak Yojana**'
- Target of construction of 30 thousand km. roads between 2024-2029, about 4,693.08 km Roads and 180 bridges have been constructed in the financial year 2024-2025, 6,206.37 km. Roads and 1082 bridges under construction
- **Viksit Gaon, Viksit Odisha:** ₹ 2 thousand crore to ensure rural infrastructure and overall development in 2025-2026
- About 2.65 lakh houses completed under **Pradhan Mantri Awas Yojana (G)**
- **Antyoday Griha Yojana:** Government launches housing for deprived low-income families, work order given around 60 thousand beneficiaries for construction of pucca houses
- **Household Tap Connections:** Tap connections to more than 3 lakh families through a combination of large, single and solar piped water supply projects

Setting Narrative for Tribal Development

- In order to reduce the dropout rate in the state, an incentive of ₹ 5000 per annum will be given under '**Shahid Madho Singh Haath Kharcha Yojana**' to the tribal students after admission in classes 9 and 11
- '**Shahid Laxman Nayak Adarsh Vidyalaya Yojana**' to convert residential schools into modern educational institutions
- '**Grant of inhabitation rights**' to PVTGs like Juanga in Jajpur and Keonjhar districts, Chuktiya Bhunjia in Nuapada, Saura in Gajapati and Mankadia and Pahari Kharia in Mayurbhanj
- Construction of 200 Anganwadi centres completed in tribal areas

Social Security :Our Pledge for Inclusivity

- **Social Security Allowance:** Social Security Allowance for persons above 80 years of age and above 80% disabled Increased from ₹ 1,200 to Rs. 3,500
- **Minimum wage hike for various categories of workers:** Unskilled ₹ 452, semi-skilled ₹ 502, skilled ₹ 552 and highly skilled ₹ 602
- **Ex-gratia amount for construction workers:** Increased from Rs. 4 lakh to ₹ 6 lakh in case of accidental death and from ₹ 2 lakh to ₹ 3 lakh in case of natural death

Charting Roadmap for Industrial Progress

- State government's commitment for development of all districts; 593 projects proposed in over 20 sectors in '**Utkarsh Odisha-2025 Conclave**', investment target of ₹ 16.73 lakh crore, potential to create 12.88 lakh jobs for youth, covering 30 districts
- Multi-faceted MSMEs to be established in every district, rural produce to be linked to global markets

Major new initiatives in the 2025-26 Budget

- 100 model Mandis to be established at a cost of ₹ 50 crore
- ₹ 200 crore Budget each for Southern Odisha Development Council and Northern Odisha Development Council
- Establishment of Zonal ITIs and transforming ITIs into Centres of Excellence
- Launch of 'Odisha AI Mission' to adopt new age technology
- Budget of ₹ 4,124 crore for construction of stadiums in all blocks of Odisha, Sambalpur to be football hub, CM-Trophy (Under-15) Football Championship to be launched for selection and development of sports persons at grassroots level
- Budget of ₹ 100 crore for '**Odisha Poshan (Nutrition) Mission**'
- Budget of ₹ 25 crore for '**Aame Padhiba Aam Bhashare**'
- Budget of ₹ 50 crore for '**Aam Similipal Yojana**'
- A new scheme named '**Prabasi Odia o' Sampark**' to maintain continuous contact with Odia people living abroad



international



There is no need for laws that originate from the West. We will create our own laws
HIBATULLAH AKHUNDZADA | LEADER, TALIBAN

AWARD FOR PROTESTS

Women student leaders, who were "key drivers" in the protest against the Sheikh Hasina government in Bangladesh last year, are among the women from around the world who will be awarded by the Donald Trump administration for their "exceptional courage, strength, and leadership"



Le Pen convicted of graft

The French far-right leader is barred from running for president in 2027

REUTERS

Paris, March 31: French far-right leader Marine Le Pen was banned from running for public office for five years after being convicted Monday of embezzlement, a political watershed that ruled her out of the 2027 presidential race unless she can win an appeal.

The French court's ruling was a catastrophic setback for Le Pen, the National Rally (RN) party chief who has long been one of the most prominent figures in the European far right and who has been the front-runner in opinion polls for the 2027 contest.

The judge who convicted Le Pen of misappropriating European Union funds also gave her a four-year prison sentence - two years of which are suspended and two years to be served under home detention. She received a 100,000-euro (\$108,200) fine.

Le Pen, 56, will appeal, her lawyer said, and neither the prison sentence nor the fine will be applied until her appeals are exhausted. But the five-year ban from running for office starts immediately, via a so-called "provisional execution" measure requested by prosecutors.

Le Pen's right-hand man, RN president Jordan Bardella, said: "Today it



This is a seismic political event. Inevitably, it's going to reshuffle the pack, particularly on the right

ARNAUD BENEDETTI | A POLITICAL ANALYST

is not only Marine Le Pen who was unjustly convicted: It was French democracy that was killed".

But centrist lawmaker Sacha Houlié said on X: "At what point do we think that a judge will not apply the law? Is society so sick that it is offended by what is nothing more and nothing less than the rule of law?"

Le Pen has run three times for president and has said 2027 will be her final run for top office. Her hopes now lie on overturning Monday's ruling at appeal before the election. Appeals in France can take months or even years.

Le Pen had before Monday's events had described prosecutors as seeking her "political death". She left the courtroom in Paris before judge Benedicte de Perthuis read out her sentence, and without any immediate comment.

Allies in France and far-right leaders from European countries including Italy, Spain and the Netherlands joined in condemning the ruling as judicial overreach. A conviction would have "no influence on our ability to defend the French people, and to ensure the government (in a vote of no confidence) if necessary," Le Pen said on X last week.

Anger in Le Pen's party could push the hung parliament into deeper disarray

Le Pen presides over the single biggest party in the National Assembly, and will retain her parliamentary seat until her term ends. That will be in 2029 unless snap parliamentary elections are called before then.

'FULL STEAM AHEAD'

There have been increasing instances of immediate political bans in France since the passage of toughened anti-corruption laws in 2016, but Le Pen supporters accused judges of policing politics.

"We will not be intimidated, we will not stop: full steam ahead my friend!" Matteo Salvini, Italy's deputy prime minister and head of the far-right League, told Le Pen in a statement.

Hungarian Prime Minister Viktor Orban said: "Je suis Marine!"

Bardella looks set to become the RN's de facto candidate for the 2027 election.

Some opponents applauded the ruling, saying the independence of the judiciary must be respected.

Israeli army orders Rafah evacuation

ASSOCIATED PRESS

Deir Al-Balah, March 31: The Israeli military on Monday issued sweeping evacuation orders covering most of Rafah, indicating it could soon launch another major ground operation in the southernmost city in the Gaza Strip.

Israel ended its ceasefire with the Hamas militant group and renewed its air and ground war earlier this month. At the beginning of March it cut off all supplies of food, fuel, medicine and humanitar-

ian aid to the territory's roughly 2 million Palestinians to pressure Hamas to accept changes to the truce agreement.

The evacuation orders appeared to cover nearly all of the city and nearby areas. The military ordered Palestinians to head to Mawasi, a sprawl of squalid tent camps along the coast. The orders came during Eid al-Fitr, a normally festive Muslim holiday marking the end of the fasting month of Ramadan. Israel launched a major operation in Rafah, on the border with Egypt, last May,

leaving large parts of it in ruins. The military seized a strategic corridor along the border as well as the Rafah crossing with Egypt.

That plan has been universally rejected by Palestinians, who view it as forcible expulsion from their homeland, and human rights experts say it would likely violate international law. Hamas, meanwhile, has insisted on implementing the signed agreement, which called for the remainder of the hostages to be released in exchange for a lasting ceasefire and an Israeli pullout.

RACE AGAINST TIME

Myanmar earthquake toll climbs past 2,200

REUTERS

Bangkok, March 31: Survivors were pulled out of rubble in Myanmar and signs of life were detected in the ruins of a skyscraper in Bangkok on Monday as efforts intensified to find people trapped three days after a massive earthquake in Southeast Asia that killed at least 2,200. Rescuers freed four people, including a pregnant woman and a girl, from collapsed buildings in Mandalay, the city in central Myanmar near the epicentre of Friday's 7.7-magnitude earthquake

<p>Indian Bank ALLAHABAD</p>	<p>ZONAL OFFICE: SAMBALPUR At: Shyam Arcade, Khetrajpur, Sambalpur - 768003</p>	<p>APPENDIX - IV [Rule-8(1)] POSSESSION NOTICE (for Immovable property)</p>	
<p>Whereas, the undersigned being the Authorised Officer of Indian Bank under the Securitisation and Reconstruction of Financial Assets and Enforcement of Security Interest Act, 2002 and in exercise of powers conferred under Section 13(12) read with Rule 3 of the Security Interest (Enforcement) Rules, 2002, issued a Demand Notice calling upon the Borrowers/Guarantors/Mortgagor to repay the amount mentioned in the notice within 60 days from the date of receipt of the said notice. The Borrowers having failed to repay the amount, notice is hereby given to the following Borrowers/Guarantors/Mortgagor and the public in general that the undersigned has taken Symbolic Possession of the property described here-in-below in exercise of powers conferred on him/her under section 13(4) of the said Act read with Rule 8 & 9 of the said Rules. The Borrowers/Guarantors/Mortgagor in particular and the public in general are hereby cautioned not to deal with the property and any dealings with the property will be subject to the charge of the Indian Bank, Sambalpur Branch for an amount mentioned herein below with interest & other expenses thereon.</p> <p>The Borrower's attention is invited to provisions of Sub-section (8) of the section 13 of the Act, in respect of time available, to redeem the secured assets.</p>			
SAMBALPUR BRANCH / Name & Address of Borrowers/ Guarantors/ Mortgagors	Amount Payable as on specified date	Date of Demand / Possession Notice	Description of the Immovable Properties
<p>Borrower: M/s. Sai Ram Paper Works, Prop.: Mrs. Sagarika Panda, D/o.: Mr. Arjun Ranjan Panda & W/o.: Satish Hota / Guarantor cum Mortgagor: Mr. Arjun Ranjan Panda, S/o.: Late Brundaban Panda, Both are At: A.N. Guha Lane, Sambalpur, Odisha</p>	<p>₹15,51,490/- as on 09.01.2025 + interest and cost thereon</p>	<p>09.01.2025 / 25.03.2025</p>	<p>All that piece and parcel of property recorded in the name of Mr. Arjun Ranjan Panda, S/o.: Late Brundaban Panda, Mouza: Sambalpur Town Unit No.: 5 (Sakhigopinath), P.S.: Sambalpur, Dist.: Sambalpur, Khata No.: 12, having Plot No.: 563, with Area: Ac.0.09 Dec, KISSAM: Gharabari-III, Bounded by North: Plot No.: 562 & 564, South: Plot No.: 561 & 559, East: Plot No.: 565, West: Road</p>
<p>Borrower: Maa Mangala Furniture & Steel, At: Nuakata, PO.: Padiabahal, Badturing, Dist.: Sambalpur, PIN-768112 / Mortgagor: Mr. Naresh Meher, Padiabahal, Bhama, Badturing, Sambalpur, Odisha-768112</p>	<p>₹17,86,890.45 as on 24.11.2024 + interest and cost thereon</p>	<p>29.11.2024 / 25.03.2025</p>	<p>All that piece and parcel of Land and Building recorded in the name of Mr. Naresh Meher, at Mouza: Padiabahal, P.S.: Sambalpur, Dist.: Sambalpur, Khata No.: 262/329, having Plot No.: 447, with Area: Ac.0.170 Dec, KISSAM: Gharabari, Bounded by North: Plot No.: 2575/5577, South: Plot No.: 1139, East: Plot No.: 478, West: Road & Plot No.: 429</p>
<p>Place: Sambalpur, Date: 31.03.2025</p>			<p>Sd/- Authorised Officer, Indian Bank</p>

DADLS-08

State level Odisha Day Celebration and Foundation Stone Laying Ceremony of Integrated Development Project at Birth-Place of Utkal Gourav Madhusudan Das
 Place: Satyabhamapur, Cuttack, Time: 9.00AM

Chief Guest
Shri Mohan Charan Majhi,
 Chief Minister, Odisha
 Gracious Presence

Shri Prithviraj Harichandan,
 Minister, Law, Works & Excise,
 Government of Odisha

Shri Suryabanshi Suraj,
 Minister, Higher Education, Odia Language,
 Literature and Culture, Government of Odisha

Shri Bhartruhari Mahtab,
 Member of Parliament, Cuttack

Shri Baijayant Panda,
 Member of Parliament, Kendrapara

Shri Bibhu Prasad Tarai,
 Member of Parliament, Jagatsinghpur

Shri Ranendra Pratap Swain, MLA, Athagarh

Shri Prasanta Behera, MLA, Salipur

Shri Souvic Biswal, MLA, Choudwar-Cuttack

Shri Devi Ranjan Tripathy, MLA, Banki

Er. Sofia Firdous, MLA, Barabati-Cuttack

Er. Prakash Chandra Sethi, MLA, Cuttack Sadar

Shri Chhabi Malik, MLA, Niali

Shri Sarada Prasad Pradhan, MLA, Mahanga

Shri Bijaya Kumar Dalabehera, MLA, Badamba

Shri B. Prameswaran, I.A.S., RDC, Central Zone

Photo Exhibition and Cultural Programme

Odisha Day Celebration-2025
 Date: 01.04. 2025

New Delhi
 Place: Weightlifting Auditorium,
 J. L. N. Stadium
 Time: 5.00 PM

Chief Guest
Shri Mohan Charan Majhi,
 Chief Minister, Odisha
 Gracious Presence

Shri Dharmendra Pradhan,
 Union Minister, Education

Shri Gajendra Singh Sekhawat,
 Union Minister, Culture and Tourism

Shri Ashwini Vaishnav,
 Union Minister, Railways, Electronics, I.T.,
 Information and Broadcasting

Dr. P. K. Mishra,
 Principal Secretary to Prime Minister

Smt. Rekha Gupta,
 Chief Minister, New Delhi

Cultural Programme

Your gracious presence is highly solicited.

Photo Exhibition and Cultural Programme

State level Odisha Day Celebration
 Place: Jayadev Bhawan, Bhubaneswar
 Time: 6.00PM

Chief Guest
Smt. Surama Padhy,
 Speaker,
 Odisha Legislative Assembly
 Gracious Presence

Smt. Aparajita Sarangi,
 Member of Parliament, Bhubaneswar

Shri Saroj Kumar Pradhan,
 Government Chief Whip,
 Odisha Legislative Assembly

Shri Babu Singh,
 MLA, Ekamra-Bhubaneswar

Shri Ananta Narayan Jena,
 MLA, Bhubaneswar (Madhya)

Shri Sushanta Kumar Rout,
 MLA, Bhubaneswar (Uttar)

Shri Sanjay Kumar Singh, I.A.S
 Principal Secretary,
 Information and Public Relations Department

Chief Speaker,
Shri Manoranjan Panigrahy,
 Former Principal
 Chief Commissioner, Income Tax, Odisha

Photo Exhibition and Cultural Programme

Information and Public Relations Department
 Government of Odisha

Business

Recognition a basic human need: Krishna

Gitanjali Awards, established over 20 years ago, is dedicated to designing and producing high-quality trophies as token of appreciation. The brand has dominated Bhubaneswar market with wide range of awards, trophies, mementos and corporate gifts for recognition and rewarding of talent and achievements. The entrepreneur behind this successful venture is **Krishna Mohan Tata, Director** who left his corporate job to enter into the world of business. In an interaction with **Orissa POST**, he emphasises how recognition is a fundamental human need and shares his entrepreneurial journey. Excerpts...



upgrading our workshop with the requisite technologies. We maintain high standards and deliver on time always. We are constantly innovating and offering new designs.

How has your journey been so far? Do you have any expansion plans in pipeline?

On the personal front, the journey has been equally fascinating. I have always dreamt about writing and my book 'A Jar of Pebbles' was published recently. This wouldn't have been possible without the whole hearted support of my business partner Budha Prakash Mohapatra. Budha is the pillar that holds the fort of Gitanjali Awards. About 20 years ago, there were just two of us and nothing else in a tiny room. We bought a small pedal cutting machine and we started off by making tiny acrylic plaques and gifts for birthdays, friends and various occasions like Teachers Day, Valentines, Rakhi etc. And then we realised that globally acrylic was the preferred material for awards. We were one of the first people to have exclusive stores. Covid-19 hit us badly but we have bounced back and we are coming up with a new store in Shaheed Nagar. Apart from the new store and upgraded e-com portal we are gearing up to unveil a franchise operation for Gitanjali Awards all over the country. We are in the process of setting up a bigger workshop and warehouse to increase our operations. We are also now into handicrafts and gifting solutions with a focus on sustainable products.

As an entrepreneur, what advice do you have for the newcomers in this business?

Like every other business, this business has its own intricacies and anyone entering this field must work hard to create a market. To succeed in any business, one needs to have the focus, the patience, the knowledge, the positive attitude and determination.

With over 15 years of experience, what do you think is the scope of this business in the state market?

Odisha is growing. There is going to be a boom in industry, infrastructure, education, healthcare, tourism, sports, entertainment, real estate, media, events, cultural and many other sectors. We see this as a huge opportunity for the growth of Gitanjali Awards.

Can you brief us about your early life and what made you enter this business?

People like being appreciated, especially when they work hard towards a goal and when the token of appreciation is beautiful, it becomes an objet d'art. This was precisely the thought that inspired me and my friend Budha Prakash Mohapatra to venture into the awards and recognition industry. We were working in the corporate sector when the entrepreneurial bug bit us. We wanted to do something and started off by wholesaling plastic house ware. This wasn't our cup of tea and this business turned out to be a textbook definition of failure. But we didn't let this failure deter us. There was no looking back after we decided to enter the awards and recognition industry.

With the growing market base in this sector, what is your unique selling proposition?

Recognition is a basic human need and is always treasured. We at Gitanjali Awards believe that the best way to recognise performers is to present them with memorabilia which compliments their outstanding efforts. We design, manufacture and retail a wide range of awards, trophies, mementos in acrylic, wood and metal. We offer a complete solution. Our USP is the service and complete solution we offer.

What steps have you taken to safeguard the authenticity of your products and brand?

We have registered our trademark and plan to patent some of our designs. But ultimately it all boils down to the quality, speed, service. We are constantly

ଓଡ଼ିଶା ସରକାର

ବିକାଶର ପରିଭାଷା : ବିକଶିତ ଓଡ଼ିଶା

- ନାରୀ ଶକ୍ତିକୁ ଆର୍ଥିକ ସ୍ୱାବଲମ୍ବୀ କରୁଛି ସୁଭଦ୍ରା । ୫ ବର୍ଷ ପାଇଁ ୫୫ ହଜାର କୋଟି ଟଙ୍କା ବ୍ୟୟର ପ୍ରତିବନ୍ଧନ ।
- ଓଡ଼ିଆ ଅସ୍ତ୍ରା ପାଇଁ ଚଳିତ ବଜେଟରେ ୨୦୦ କୋଟି ଟଙ୍କାର କର୍ପସ ପାଣି ପ୍ରାବଧାନ ।
- ସମୃଦ୍ଧ କୃଷକ ଯୋଜନାରେ ଧାନର ସର୍ବନିମ୍ନ ସହାୟକ ମୂଲ୍ୟ ଉପରେ କୃଷିକ ପିଛା ଅଧିକ ୮୦୦ ଟଙ୍କା ପ୍ରଦାନ ।
- ଗୋଦାବରୀଶ ମିଶ୍ର ଆଦର୍ଶ ପ୍ରାଥମିକ ବିଦ୍ୟାଳୟ ଯୋଜନାରେ ପ୍ରାଥମିକ ବିଦ୍ୟାଳୟଗୁଡ଼ିକରେ ସୁନିଶ୍ଚିତ ହେବ ଗୁଣାତ୍ମକ ଶିକ୍ଷା ।
- ଆୟୁଷ୍ମାନ ଭାରତ-ପ୍ରଧାନମନ୍ତ୍ରୀ ଜନ ଆରୋଗ୍ୟ ଯୋଜନା ସହିତ ସାମିଲ ହେବ ଗୋପବନ୍ଧୁ ଜନ ଆରୋଗ୍ୟ ଯୋଜନା ।
- ୮୦ ବର୍ଷରୁ ଅଧିକ ଏବଂ ୮୦ ପ୍ରତିଶତରୁ ଅଧିକ ଭିନ୍ନଶ୍ରମିକ ପାଇଁ ସାମାଜିକ ସୁରକ୍ଷା ଭରା ୧୨୦୦ ଟଙ୍କାରୁ ୩୫୦୦ ଟଙ୍କାକୁ ବୃଦ୍ଧି ।
- ସମୟୋପଯୋଗୀ ଗୁଣାତ୍ମକ ଶିକ୍ଷା ପାଇଁ ରାଜ୍ୟରେ କାର୍ଯ୍ୟକାରୀ ହେବ ଜାତୀୟ ଶିକ୍ଷାନୀତି-୨୦୨୦ ।
- ପିଏନ-ଶ୍ରୀ ଯୋଜନାରେ ଉତ୍କଳ କେନ୍ଦ୍ରରେ ପରିଣତ ହେବ ରାଜ୍ୟର ୫୦୦ଟି ପ୍ରାଥମିକ ବିଦ୍ୟାଳୟ ।
- ନାୟୋ ସିଂ ହାତଖର୍ଚ୍ଚ ଯୋଜନା ଦ୍ୱାରା ହ୍ରାସ ପାଇବ ଉଚ୍ଚ ବିଦ୍ୟାଳୟ ଓ ଉଚ୍ଚ ମାଧ୍ୟମିକ ସ୍ତରରେ ଅନୁସୂଚିତ ଜନଜାତି ଛାତ୍ରଛାତ୍ରୀଙ୍କୁ ଉପ୍ପାଦାନ ହାର ।

- ସେତୁ ବନ୍ଧନ ଯୋଜନା: ଗ୍ରାମାଞ୍ଚଳ ସଂଯୋଗୀକରଣ ସୁଦୃଢ଼ କରିବାକୁ ନିର୍ମିତ ହେବ ୫୦୦ଟି ନୂତନ ସେତୁ ।
- ପ୍ରଧାନମନ୍ତ୍ରୀ ଗ୍ରାମ ସଡ଼କ ଯୋଜନା-୪ରେ ରାଜ୍ୟର ସଂଯୋଗବିହୀନ ଗ୍ରାମକୁ ମିଳିବ ସର୍ବକାଳୀନ ସଡ଼କ ବ୍ୟବସ୍ଥା ।
- ବିକଶିତ ଗାଁ, ବିକଶିତ ଓଡ଼ିଶା : ୧ ହଜାର କୋଟି ଟଙ୍କା ବ୍ୟୟରେ ରାଜ୍ୟରେ ଗ୍ରାମାଞ୍ଚଳ ଭିତ୍ତିଭୂମି ନିର୍ମାଣ ଓ ସାମଗ୍ରିକ ବିକାଶ ଲକ୍ଷ୍ୟ ।
- ରାଜ୍ୟରେ ବ୍ୟାପକ ନିଯୁକ୍ତି ଅଭିଯାନ: ୫ ବର୍ଷରେ ପୂରଣ ହେବ ୧.୫ ଲକ୍ଷ ସରକାରୀ ପଦବୀ, ପ୍ରଥମ ୨ ବର୍ଷରେ ୬୫ ହଜାର ଏବଂ ୨୦୨୪ ଡିସେମ୍ବର ସୁଦ୍ଧା ୨୦ ହଜାର ପଦବୀରେ ନିଯୁକ୍ତି ।
- ଓଡ଼ିଶାରେ ରେଳ ଭିତ୍ତିଭୂମି ବିକାଶ ପାଇଁ ୨୦୨୪-୨୫ ଆର୍ଥିକ ବର୍ଷରେ ୧୦,୫୮୬ କୋଟି ଟଙ୍କାର ରେଳ ବ୍ୟୟବ୍ୟୟ ।
- ସଂଯୋଗବିହୀନ ଆକାଶୀ ଓ ଜନଜାତି ବହୁଳ ଅଞ୍ଚଳକୁ ଗୁରୁତ୍ୱ । ୧୯,୦୦୦ କୋଟି ଟଙ୍କାର ୮ଟି ନୂଆ ରେଳ ପ୍ରକଳ୍ପ ଅନୁମୋଦିତ ।
- କ୍ରୀଡ଼ାର ବିକାଶ ପାଇଁ ୪ଟି ଜୋନ୍‌ରେ ପ୍ରତିଷ୍ଠା ହେବ ଅତ୍ୟାଧୁନିକ କ୍ରୀଡ଼ା ଏକାଡେମୀ ।
- ବିକଶିତ ଭାରତ@୨୦୨୭ ପାଇଁ ବିକଶିତ ଓଡ଼ିଶା@୨୦୩୬ ଭିନ୍ନ ଡକ୍ୟୁମେଣ୍ଟ ପ୍ରଣୟନ

ସୂଚନା ଓ ଲୋକସମ୍ପର୍କ ବିଭାଗ

OIPR-15001/13/0474/2425

CNG to cost more after govt hikes APM gas price

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, March 31: The government Monday raised by 4 per cent the price of natural gas produced from old legacy fields called APM - the key input used to make CNG and produce electricity and product fertiliser.

The APM price has been hiked to USD 6.75 per million British thermal units effective April 1 from USD 6.50 per MMBtu, a notification of the Petroleum Planning and Analysis wing of the Oil Ministry said.

APM gas is produced by state-owned firms Oil and Natural Gas Corporation (ONGC) and Oil India Ltd (OIL) from fields that were given to them on a nomination basis. This gas is the input that is used in the cooking gas piped to household kitchens as well as turned into CNG for running automobiles, making fertilisers and producing electricity.

This is the first increase in the APM gas price in two years and in accordance with the roadmap that was laid out by the government.

In April 2023, the Union Cabinet accepted an expert committee report to price the bulk of domestically produced natural gas at 10 per cent of the monthly average import price of crude oil with a floor of USD 4 per million British thermal unit and a

cap of USD 6.5.

In doing so, the government had tinkered with the recommendation of a USD 0.50 per mmbtu annual increase till full deregulation in 2027. The Cabinet decided that rates will not change for two years and will be increased by USD 0.25 annually thereafter.

The hike announced Monday is in line with that decision.

Petroleum Planning and Analysis Cell (PPAC) said the APM gas price for April 1 to April 30, 2025, should have been USD 7.26 per MMBtu, going by the 10 per cent indexation to the crude oil price. But this was subject to the ceiling price. The ceiling price has been raised from USD 6.50 per MMBtu to USD 6.75. This ceiling will be effective from April 2025 to March 2026 and will rise by another USD 0.25 per MMBtu in April next year.

Prior to April 2023, the price of gas produced from fields covered under the Administered Price Mechanism (APM) regime -- which accounts for 70 per cent of domestic gas production -- was determined semi-annually based on a formula that benchmarked it to average international prices at four gas trading hubs.

APM gas is provided to city gas distributors for supply to CNG and residential PNG segments, which together account for 60 per cent of their sales volume.

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Mensik shatters Djoko's dream

The 54th ranked Czech Republic teenager wins Miami Open for maiden ATP title, prevents Djokovic from his 100th title

ASSOCIATED PRESS

Miami Gardens, March 31: Novak Djokovic faced a series of obstacles in the Miami Open final: a delay of more than 5 1/2 hours before



He has the complete game. His serve is incredible, powerful, precise

You're (Djokovic) the one I idolised when I was young. I started playing tennis because of you

JAKUB MENSIK

the match, an eye infection and a slippery court due to high levels of humidity following the rain.

But the largest roadblock was the youth and power of the 6-foot-4, 19-year-old phenom Jakub Mensik, who outduelled the 37-year-old Serbian 7-6 (4), 7-6 (4) to win his first ATP title.

Ranked 54th entering the tournament, the Czech Republic teenager plowed through Djokovic with poise and a stellar 130 mph serve. He collected 14 aces and got broken only once. Mensik bashed a service winner on match point and fell on his back.

"You're the one I idolized when I was young," Mensik said to Djokovic during the ceremony after the match that lasted 2 hours, 3 minutes. "I started playing tennis because of you."

Mensik's victory spoiled the party for Djokovic, who

was seeking his 100th career title and a record seventh in the Miami Open. Djokovic will have to wait, while the teenager looks ready to join the elite.

"This is a joyous moment for him and his family — an unbelievable tournament, first of many," Djokovic said. "It hurts me to admit it, you were better. In the clutch moments you delivered the goods. For a young player like yourself, this is a great feature."

The crowd pulled hard for Djokovic, who hadn't played here since 2019. More than three-quarters of the fans stuck around despite the massive delay, chanting "No-vak!" and singing his name across critical parts of the match.

Djokovic, far from a fan favorite here earlier in his

career, saluted the fans, saying it was one of the warmest crowds he's had ever. But the men's leader with 24 Grand Slam titles seemed compromised by his eye issue, with redness seen under the eyelid. Djokovic applied eyedrops during two changeovers in the first set. It was unclear if it affected his vision. Afterward, Djokovic said he "really prefers not to talk about" his eye, but said "I didn't feel my greatest on the court."

Djokovic called it "a weird day." "It's the same for both players," he added. "You have to accept the circumstances. I tried to make the most out of what I had or was facing but, yeah, it was quite different from any other day of the tournament for me."

Mensik had lost to Djokovic in a three-setter last October at the Shanghai Masters but the youngster said before the match he had played too nervously.

Mensik was playing his first ATP 1000 final. He was not quite 2 years old when Djokovic won his first Miami Open title in 2007.

Djokovic knew Mensik's potential after inviting him to his camp in Belgrade to train when the prodigy was 16.

There was more fearlessness this time than in Shanghai. Mensik got up 3-0 with an early break but Djokovic broke back at 4-3, then held for 4-4 after fans chanted his name.

Mensik held for a 6-5 lead in a game that saw Djokovic take a tumble in the doubles alley chasing a drop shot. Mensik served it out with his seventh ace.

Barca regain 3-point lead over Madrid

ASSOCIATED PRESS

Madrid, March 31: Barcelona reestablished its three-point lead over Real Madrid at the top of the Spanish league after beating Catalan rival Girona 4-1.

Robert Lewandowski added to his league-leading tally with two second-half goals.

Lewandowski has scored nine goals in his last nine league games and has 25 goals in total in the competition, three more than Madrid's Kylian Mbappé.

"For me the most important thing is what I can do to help the team," Lewandowski said. "I know that if I score two goals, I'll be helping my team. As a striker it's important to have confidence for when the ball comes to me."

Barcelona went in front with an own-goal by Girona defender Ladislav Krejci in the first half. Ferran Torres added the fourth goal for Barcelona in the final minutes at Montjuic stadium.

On Saturday, Madrid had moved level on points with Barcelona with a 3-2 victory over Leganes at home and third-placed Atletico Madrid dropped nine points off the lead following a 1-1 draw at Espanyol.

It was Barcelona's sixth win in a row in all competitions, and 11th in its last 12 matches. Hansi Flick's team is yet to lose in 20 games this year, with its last loss coming against Atletico in December.

Easy win for MI over KKR

Ashwani's dream debut, Ricketon's fifty fuel Mumbai Indians' eight-wicket win over Kolkata Knight Riders

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Mumbai, March 31: Ashwani Kumar's record four wicket-haul on IPL debut and Ryan Rickelton's 62 not out powered Mumbai Indians to a commanding eight-wicket win over Kolkata Knight Riders here Monday.

The 23-year-old Ashwani from Punjab's Jhanjeri became the first Indian ever to take four wickets on IPL debut as he ended with figures of 3-0-24-4 to blow away KKR's star-studded batting lineup.

With only four senior T20 matches in his kitty apart from four List A games and two Ranji Trophy matches, Ashwani's rich returns heralded the domination shown by MI's seamers.

Deepak Chahar (2/19), Trent Boult (1/23) and Hardik Pandya (1/10) ensured a collective bowling performance as KKR crumbled for the lowest total of this season, rolling over for just 116 in 16.2 overs.

Even as Rohit Sharma (13) endured another forgettable outing, Ryan Rickelton (62 not out off 41 balls, 4x4s, 5x6s) made his first impact on the IPL stage as Mumbai Indians went over the line with 7.1 overs to



spare. Suryakumar Yadav hit a quick 9-ball 27 not out and ended the game with a six behind the wicket.

The left-handed South African Rickelton survived initial challenges from KKR pacers to fight back with a flurry of boundaries for his maiden half-century in the competition and helping his side record their first win of the season.

Left-arm seamer Ashwani accounted for Ajinkya Rahane (11), Rinku Singh (17), impact sub Manish Pandey (17) and Andre Russell (5) to break the Knight Riders' back after Chahar and Boult made early inroads in the powerplay.

Scorecard section with match statistics for Kolkata Knight Riders and Mumbai Indians.

Rajgir to host Men's Asia Cup 2025

HOCKEY INDIA SIGNS MoU WITH BIHAR STATE SPORTS AUTHORITY

INDO-ASIAN NEWS SERVICE

New Delhi, March 31: Rajgir, the historic city in Bihar, will host the Men's Asia Cup 2025, following the signing of a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) between Hockey India and the Bihar State Sports Authority Monday.

The tournament will take place from August 29 to September 9 at the recently developed Rajgir Hockey Stadium, marking a significant milestone in India's sports infrastructure and Bihar's emergence as a global sporting hub.

This will be the second international sporting event hosted by Rajgir, following the successful Women's Asian Champions Trophy in November 2024, where India emerged victorious. The Asia Cup Rajgir, Bihar 2025, will serve as a qualifying event for the 2026 FIH Men's Hockey



World Cup, set to be hosted by Belgium and the Netherlands. The winner of the tournament will earn a coveted spot in the World Cup.

The 12th edition of the continental tournament will witness the participation of eight teams, including India, Pakistan, Japan, South Korea, China and

Malaysia. The remaining two teams will secure their spots through the qualifying tournament the AHF Cup.

South Korea stands as the most successful team in the history of the Men's Asia Cup with five titles (1994, 1999, 2009, 2013 and 2022), followed closely by India (2003, 2007 and 2017) and Pakistan

India has always been a key pillar in the development of hockey in our continent, and the choice of Rajgir as the host city reflects the growing commitment to expanding the sport beyond traditional hubs

DATO FUMIO OGURA | PRESIDENT OF THE ASIAN HOCKEY FEDERATION

(1982, 1985 and 1989), who have each won the tournament three times.

Hockey India president Dilip Tirkey shared his thoughts and commented, "Rajgir's hosting of the Asia Cup Rajgir, Bihar 2025 marks another significant step forward for Indian hockey. With the Asia Cup serving as a qualifier for the 2026 World Cup, we anticipate high-quality matches filled with passion and skill."

Asian Games medallist Narender to lead team at World Boxing Cup

NEW DELHI: Asian Games bronze medallist Narender Berwal will headline a 10-member Indian men's boxing team at the inaugural World Boxing Cup in Foz do Iguacu, Brazil, starting Monday. This tournament marks the first event hosted by World Boxing since receiving provisional recognition from the International Olympic Committee in

February and the inclusion of boxing in the 2028 LA Olympics. Competitions will be held for both men and women, but India has sent only male boxers, as the women's National Championships concluded only Thursday. It will be the first time Indian boxers compete internationally in the new weight categories introduced by World Boxing.

Message of Hon'ble Governor of Odisha on the auspicious occasion of Odisha Divas-2025. Includes signature of Dr. Hari Babu Kambhampati.

ଓଡ଼ିଶା ଦିବସ ଅବସରରେ ମୁଖ୍ୟମନ୍ତ୍ରୀଙ୍କ ଶୁଭେଚ୍ଛା. Includes portrait of the Chief Minister and a message in Odia.