

Odisha Assembly's Winter Session ends days ahead of its scheduled conclusion

Bhubaneswar(KCN): The Winter Session of the Odisha Assembly was adjourned sine die Wednesday, days ahead of its scheduled conclusion.

Speaker Surama Padhy adjourned the House sine die for an indefinite period.

The session which began November 26, was scheduled to continue till December 31. However, it ended with just 12 working days. During the remaining period, there are a few holidays.

BJP MLA Ashok Mohanty said the



House was adjourned sine die since there was no official work left. BJD legislator Pradip Disari, however, claimed: "The BJP government closed the House out of fear. They ran away from the Assembly fearing the Opposition." During the session, the House passed a total of

three bills including the Appropriation Bill. The session had begun on a stormy note on the very first day with the Opposition members creating a ruckus over absence of 'secular' and 'socialist' from the preamble of the Indian Constitution displayed in the Assembly complex on

the occasion of the Constitution Day. The issues of shortage of potatoes and Polavaram dam were also raised by the opposition Congress and BJD several times. Chief Minister Mohan Charan Majhi's statement on the alleged sale of government jobs during the previous BJD administration created a ruckus in the House. The House Tuesday witnessed noisy scenes with the Opposition protesting against alleged non-payment of salaries to around 60,000 women supporting staffers under the

'Mission Shakti' scheme. On the last day of the session, issues like the Centre's move to delink the Waltair division from the East Coast Railway Zone also led to a war of words between the members of both treasury bench members and opposition MLAs. Senior BJD member Ranendra Pratap Swain, however, objected to closing of the session before a discussion on the Odisha Universities (Amendment) Bill, 2024, which was introduced in the House.

Union Education Minister Pradhan urges Nadda to set up national pharmacy institute in Odisha



Bhubaneswar(KCN): Union Education Minister Dharmendra Pradhan Wednesday urged Health and Family Welfare Minister JP Nadda to set up a National Institute of Pharmaceutical Education and Research (NIPER) in Odisha. The Sambalpur MP wrote to Nadda, highlighting that such an initiative would greatly benefit the pharmaceutical and biotech sectors across

Eastern India. In his letter, Pradhan emphasised that the Odisha Bio-Tech Park in Bhubaneswar is the first-of-its-kind in Eastern India, offering key resources like water, electricity, effluent treatment, and other essential facilities needed to support biotechnology industries. He described it as an ideal location for the establishment of NIPER. Pradhan also pointed out

that the proposed NIPER would help bridge gaps in pharmaceutical education and research, foster innovation, and create a skilled workforce, ultimately boosting India's global competitiveness in the pharmaceutical industry. Moreover, Pradhan noted that setting up NIPER in Odisha would support the production-linked incentive scheme in the pharmaceutical sector and contribute to the goals of Atmanirbhar Bharat.

Pradhan urged Nadda to consider Odisha as the next location for NIPER, which would be a significant step forward in advancing pharmaceutical education and research in the country.

RS chairman's partisan behaviour led us to move notice for his removal as VP: Opposition parties



New Delhi(KCN): Several Opposition parties Wednesday said Rajya Sabha Chairman Jagdeep Dhankhar's "partisan" conduct prompted them to move a notice for his removal as vice president and accused him of being the "biggest disrupter" whose conduct in the House has harmed the country's dignity.

Alleging that politics has taken precedence over rules in the Upper House of Parliament, Congress president Mallikarjun Kharge said the chairman's conduct has been contrary to the dignity of the high post he holds.

Addressing a press conference at the Constitution Club here, Kharge alleged that Dhankhar is working as a government spokesperson and acting like a school headmaster, often sermonising experienced opposition leaders and preventing them from speaking in the House.

He also claimed that Dhankhar himself is responsible for the

disruptions in the House, adding that the chairman openly encourages and provokes the members of the treasury benches to make outrageous comments against the opposition, undermining the dignity of the House. "The Rajya Sabha chairman's conduct has been contrary to the dignity of the post he holds. He targets opposition leaders and often praises the government," Kharge said. "Politics has taken precedence over rules in the Rajya Sabha and the chairman has indulged in partisan behaviour," he alleged. "The Rajya Sabha chairman's conduct in the House has harmed the country's dignity," Kharge also alleged. "We have no hesitation in

saying that the biggest disrupter in the Rajya Sabha is the chairman himself," he said, adding, "His loyalty is towards the ruling party, instead of the opposition, undermining the dignity of the House.

"The Rajya Sabha chairman's conduct has been contrary to the dignity of the post he holds. He targets opposition leaders and often praises the government," Kharge said. "Politics has taken precedence over rules in the Rajya Sabha and the chairman has indulged in partisan behaviour," he alleged. "The Rajya Sabha chairman's conduct in the House has harmed the country's dignity," Kharge also alleged. "We have no hesitation in

giving the notice for his removal," he said. "This (behaviour) is not just a breach of protocol but a betrayal of the Constitution and the people of India," Kharge added.

He said the opposition parties have nothing against Dhankhar, "but he left us with no option but to go ahead with the notice for his removal".

"We appeal to the people of India to understand that this notice has been filed after thorough consideration and deliberations, with the sole purpose of safeguarding the Constitution and protecting the integrity of our parliamentary democracy," Kharge said.

Kharge was backed by other opposition leaders, who said they have never witnessed such partisan behaviour from the chairman. DMK leader Tiruchi Siva said there is a blatant attack on the country's democracy in Parliament by the ruling Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) and added that opposition



President of India pays floral tributes to Shri Pranab Mukherjee on his birth anniversary

New Delhi,(KCN): The President of India, Smt Droupadi Murmu paid floral tributes to Shri Pranab Mukherjee, former President of India, on his birth anniversary today (December 11, 2024) at Ashok Mandap, Rashtrapati Bhavan.



Odisha govt approves seven renewable energy projects worth Rs 1,386 crore

Bhubaneswar(KCN): The Odisha government Wednesday approved seven renewable energy projects worth Rs 1,386.09 crore. The single-window committee (SWC) of the Energy Department headed by Principal Secretary Vishal Kumar Dev approved these projects with a cumulative capacity of

192.41 megawatt (MW) aimed at strengthening Odisha's sustainable energy infrastructure, an official statement said. The approved projects include a 99 MW wind power project, five ground-based solar projects of 91.77 MW and one rooftop solar project of 1.64 MW, it said. These projects will leverage Odisha's natural

potential for renewable energy generation, emphasising the state's commitment to achieving its renewable energy goals under the Odisha Renewable Energy Policy-2022, the department said. Speaking on the occasion, Dev emphasised the importance of renewable energy in driving sustainable economic growth. He reiterated the government's commitment to facilitating investments and ensuring timely implementation of approved projects.

So far, the SWC has given approval for investment proposals worth Rs 9,781.47 crore for a total capacity of 1,441.79 MW in the renewable energy sector.

Lok Sabha passes Railways Amendment Bill

New Delhi(KCN): The Lok Sabha Wednesday passed a bill to amend Railway laws with the government insisting that it will not lead to the national carrier's privatisation. Responding to a debate on the Railway Amendment bill, Railway Minister

Ashwini Vaishnaw said in the Lower House that a fake narrative was set afloat that the amendment would privatise railways. "Their (opposition) fake narrative on Constitution has failed... now this will also fall flat," he asserted. The Bill was passed by a

voice vote after debate which could not be held earlier due to frequent disruptions of House proceedings during the last week.

"A few members have said the Bill will lead to privatisation of railways, an attempt has been made to set a fake narrative about the Constitution has already failed,"



Vaishnaw said. The Railways (Amendment) Bill 2024 which seeks to enhance the functioning and independence of the Railway Board was introduced in the Lok Sabha during the previous Parliament session.

I am indebted to everyone, want INDIA to stay well: Mamata on leaders backing her in heading bloc



Digha (WB): West Bengal Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee

to stay well," Banerjee said.

The Trinamool Congress supremo refused to speak more on the issue. Banerjee last week expressed her dissatisfaction with the functioning of the INDIA bloc and signalled her intent to take charge of the alliance if given an opportunity. Leaders of several of its constituents backed her, saying she should be allowed to lead the INDIA bloc.

Leaders such as NCP (SP) chief Sharad Pawar and RJD president Lalu Prasad, backed her. While Pawar called her a 'capable leader', Prasad said that Banerjee should be allowed to head the INDIA bloc.

YSRCP Rajya Sabha MP Vijayasai Reddy has also said that the TMC supremo could better handle INDIA bloc parties

"I am indebted to everyone for the respect they have shown to me. I pray for their good health. I want them as well as their party to stay well. I also want INDIA to stay well," Banerjee said.

Life Is Over

Can't leave without you,
I can't bear the sadness
The day is changing to peace
My heart is burning with peace
My question is like an arrow,
I know why this
Mind of mine still shows me
your soul drunk with pride.



I thought that many things can be out,
But the relationship can't be cut,
thinking about hope and fear
thinking about whether the relationship will break
is easy to add a long offer,
it is the season of love .

When I heard your despairing song
I was filled with sorrow
and I felt in a great sorrow
when it ends in grief
by forgettable of love in deep emotions
life goes by without help
I can't hold your bones.

That's what I got
I hope so
give love to me
from birth to birth
otherwise life will be over.

The original composer- Dr Alekh Prasad maharana
The original composition- Odia
Translated by - Bandana Sahoo(Shibangi Dhara)

Ahalya

(Shibangi dhara), Bandana Sahoo

No more bites today
the darkness of the night,
and the body of mine is not damaged
I don't hang around anymore in tears,
I am now dressed like a stone
waiting for some peace.



No, I don't breathe in my nostrils
now I am a soulless being
I don't get wet anymore
in the touch of your unrequited love.

If you ever feel me
in your cursed sky of the new moon
You will see me once in the breath of the soul
drink the begging peace of mine
Your half laughs in a thirsty voice.

No, I am longing for your return
my body is shaking
In the fear of being called Ramachandra in Kali Yug.

I will be crushed and rewarded
If I will not stand again at your touch
Here I am in the sky of emptiness
and will burn myself for the shake of liberation.

I am not wet anymore in full moon light
What will the soul wake up on stone?
I will be destroyed in this stone
toothed body of mine.

I am Ahalyaa in kali yug sinner's body
Love is a sin here
for a moment there is a sigh
In the naked pain of separation.

Jajpur
7205550713

Moon-The Symbol of Beauty:

Shayan ahmad

O silver orb in velvet skies,
A beacon where the dreamer flies.
Your light a song, so soft, serene,
A timeless muse, night's gentle queen.



Scarred yet whole, you softly glow
A tale of beauty, scars bestow.
Eternal watcher, calm and wise,
You hold the secrets of the skies.

Everything created by Allah S.W.T has got its own uniqueness. The Moon, referred as the symbol of beauty has inspired many poets, artists and dreamers. It embodies the ethereal charm of nature. Its brightness and contrast make it stand out, creating an awe-inspiring scene that captures our attention.

Yet, the Moon is a symbol of imperfection. Its surface has craters from ancient impacts and its shape constantly changes(waxing and waning). These "imperfections" mirror the human condition-flawed yet beautiful. Imperfection is beauty. Undoubtedly, "everyone wants to be as pretty as Moon but no one wants spots." But why? The answer is because of the beauty standards(ideals and perceptions of beauty) we, humans have created. The Moon reminds us that imperfection is not a flaw to hide but a unique story to embrace, making it all more captivating.

The allure of the Moon lies in its unattainability. The phrase "reaching for the Moon" embodies the pursuit of something extraordinary. The Moon is far from us and if it is achieved, it might lose the very essence that makes it special. When something rare becomes commonplace, its value diminishes. The Moon reminds us that not everything in life needs to be owned. Its true value is its ability which inspires us. Perhaps some things are meant to stay just out of reach, so they can continue to fuel our imagination and aspirations.

RICE WATER FOR WINTER BEAUTY

SHAHNAZ HUSAIN



healthy, beautiful skin during winters. Rice water contains the nourishing antioxidant ferulic acid, as well as allantoin, an organic compound that helps soothe and heal the skin during freezing temperature. Rice water has inositol, a carbohydrate that can repair hair damaged due to extreme weather conditions and dryness during winters. It can strengthen the roots, make it smooth and silky by combating the losses due to natural atmospheric conditions.

It is commonly available in every home in India. From ancient times, when cosmetics were not available, such natural ingredients were used for beauty care.

Rice water is a natural skin toner which promotes cell growth, stimulates blood flow and keeps the skin smooth and bright in chilly weather conditions .

You can use rice water cubes to boost collagen and nourish, refresh skin. Put rice water into the ice tray and freeze it. Add cucumber too. Apply these ice cubes onto the face and uncovered areas around the face, neck and uncovered area around face etc as a toner. Rice water is great to keep the skin glowing and hydrated during



winters .

You can use rice water for reducing dark patches or achieving fair complexion by mixing rice powder with raw milk to form thick paste .

Apply thick paste on your face and uncovered skin and leave it for few minutes and wash it with clean fresh water. Repeat it once in a week to achieve amazing results .

Although many beauty companies have launched soaps, toners, and creams etc containing rice water but it is always advisable to go for herbal homely products .

Rice water acts as excellent hair conditioner. You can add a few drops of essential oils like rosemary, lavender or tea tree oil and apply it on hair to balance PH level on the scalp and act as an excellent hair conditioner.

After shampooing, you can also prepare



apply rice water to your hair along with a few drops of lavender essential oil or rosemary essential oil. Let the rice water dry on hair in a natural environment for 15-20 minutes and then rinse with normal fresh water.

Fermented rice water is rich in vitamin B which also happens to promote melanin production for hair.

Fermented rice water protects the skin from UV rays and sun tan. Leave your boiled rice water out on your kitchen in open space for 48 hours. When it starts to smell slightly sour, bottle it up and store it in your fridge.

You can use fermented rice water in the same ways you can use regular rice water. Using rice water is also an effective remedy in treating sunburns. Applying it on sun-damaged skin can help the burns heal faster.

rice water with fermentation. In a glass jar put some rice and water (twice the quantity of rice). Keep it at room temperature for a day or two. Strain the mixture and keep the water in the fridge.

Rice wine increases the collagen in the skin, which keeps your skin supple and helps prevent wrinkling.

Rice is part of India

beauty legacy which contains ferulic acid, a power antioxidant and allantoin which contains anti-inflammatory properties.

So, whether you eat rice or not, use it in your face pack for glowing skin. The starch in rice water is said to soothe the skin in conditions like eczema. Dip a clean washcloth into the rice water, then apply it over the affected area. After 2 to 3 minutes, allow the skin to dry by itself. In fact, acne-prone skin

or even skin with acne eruptions can be washed with rice water to soothe and heal the skin. It also helps to tighten the pores and refine the skin.

Rice water may be applied on the face with cotton wool and then massaged for a few minutes to revitalize the skin. In fact, rice water has an astringent effect and helps to prevent pimples and acne.

Mix corn starch powder and rice powder in 1:2 ratios.

Apply the powdery material evenly on the face by using makeup brush and wash with clean water after few minutes for silky smooth skin.

Rice powder or rice flour can be used as a facial scrub. It is ideally suited to oily skin and is effective as a facial scrub. It helps to deep cleanse the skin and unclog the pores, discouraging and dislodging blackheads. It

water after 45 minutes for smooth, soft and lustrous hair.

Mix honey and rice powder and apply the thick paste on face and open areas. Leave it to dry in natural atmosphere and wash after it has dried completely.

Cook a cup of rice. Remove the water and grind it to a thick paste with honey and milk . Apply a thick layer of this paste on the face and neck and let it to dry before washing it off with lukewarm water.

Add yoghurt to the mixture of sugar and rice. Apply the paste on face and wash your face with fresh water after half an hour to get flawless, fair and attractive complexion.

It is preferable to use organic rice, clean filtered water, and rinse the rice thoroughly before use to get rid of any topical pollutants and pesticides.

White rice is preferred over brown or red rice – since the water from the former has more extensive benefits .

Transcending the boundaries of food, rice offers a plethora of benefits for your skin and hair, a rather surprising beauty staple that's been used across the world.

The author is an international fame beauty expert and is called herbal queen of India

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Akshay Kumar starts shooting for 'Bhoot Bangla', to release April 2, 2026



Hindi film star Akshay Kumar Monday shared that he is excited to be on set with his favourite director Priyadarshan as he started shooting for his next Bhoot Bangla, which he revealed is set to hit the screens April 2, 2026. Akshay took to his Instagram, where he shared a new poster of the film and captioned it: "Beyond excited to be on set with my favourite @priyadarshan.official as we begin the shoot of our horror comedy #BhootBangla today." "Yeh darr aur hasi ka double dose aapke liye ready hoga 2nd April, 2026 ko! Tab tak ke liye aapke best wishes chahiye," he added.

Along with Akshay, actors Paresh Rawal, Asrani and Rajpal Yadav will be seen in the upcoming horror comedy "Bhoot Bangla" by filmmaker Priyadarshan. The film is set to begin production in early 2025, with a theatrical release planned by the end of the year. The casting process is still ongoing, with three female lead roles yet to be filled. Akshay has previously

worked with Paresh in films such as "Hera Pheri", "Phir Hera Pheri" and "Garam Masala". The "Khiladi" star shared screen space with Rajpal in "Bhool Bhulaiyaa" and "Bhagam Bhag". Asrani and the "Khel Khel Mein" actor worked together in "Khatta Meetha".

On his 57th birthday on September 9, Akshay announced that he is joining forces with director Priyadarshan once again after 14 years for the film.

Akshay took to X, formerly called Twitter, where he shared the motion poster of the film. In the image, Akshay could be seen holding a bowl filled with a black cat standing on his shoulder.

"Thank you for your love on my birthday, year after year! Celebrating this year with the first look of Bhoot Bangla! I'm beyond excited to join forces with Priyadarshan again after 14 years," wrote the actor, who last

worked with the filmmaker in 2010 in the film Khatta Meetha.

"This dream collaboration has been a long time coming... can't wait to share this incredible journey with you all. Stay tuned for the magic!"

Akshay and Priyadarshan have given several blockbusters together including Hera Pheri, De Dana Dan, Bhool Bhulaiyaa, Garam Masala and Khatta Meetha to name a few.

Pragya Jaiswal shares teaser of Nandamuri Balakrishna's 'Daaku Maharaaj'



Actress Pragya Jaiswal has teamed up again with Nandamuri Balakrishna for the upcoming film NBK 109, which is now titled Daaku Maharaaj. The duo has earlier worked together in the action-drama Akhanda." On Friday, the makers unveiled the much-awaited title teaser of the film. Sharing the same on her Instagram handle, Pragya wrote in the caption, "Witness the God of masses like never before!! Presenting the one and only #NandamuriBalakrishna Garu as #DaakuMaharaaj. Here's the much-awaited

title teaser Brace yourselves for the ultimate power-packed experience Jan 12, 2025 in Cinemas Worldwide." In the poster, Nandamuri is seen sitting on a horse during a high-octane action stunt.

The teaser delivers stunning visuals, offering fans a glimpse of Balakrishna's character. With its captivating music, striking visuals, and impactful dialogues, it has significantly heightened anticipation. While the plot remains under wraps, the teaser hints at a period drama. Meanwhile, Daaku Maharaaj directed by

Bobby Kolli and produced by Naga Vamsi, the Telugu action drama also stars Bobby Deol, who will take on the role of the antagonist.

Speaking about her role in the film, Pragya shared, "I am thrilled to be reuniting with Nandamuri Balakrishna sir and working under the direction of Bobby Kolli. 'NBK 109' is a fantastic project, and such a talented ensemble with Bobby Deol and Nandamuri Balakrishna sir. I can't wait for the audience to see what we have in store."

Ammy Virk, and Fardeen Khan in the upcoming film Khel Khel Mein. Scheduled for release August 15, Independence Day, the

film will face a box-office clash with the highly anticipated horror-comedy sequel Street 2. The trailer of the film was released in August, and during the trailer launch event, Jaiswal mentioned that she's always heard positive rumours about herself and hopes they turn out to be true. When asked if any rumours had caused a stir at her home, Pragya replied, "I have never heard any negative rumours about myself. All the rumours I've encountered have been good and positive, which makes me hope that they are indeed true."

Aditi Rao Hydari: 'Been told I'm fragile like glass'



Actor Aditi Rao Hydari is one of the few actors in Indian film industry who has worked with numerous maestros. She has been a Mani Ratnam heroine as well as a Sanjay Leela Bhansali heroine, both depicting a side to her that had never been explored. In SLB's 'Heeramandi', she plays Bibbo Jaan, a sweet woman whose purpose in life is beyond the walls of Heeramandi. In an exclusive chat with IndiaToday.in, Aditi spoke about being perceived as a 'delicate darling' and her looks being used as an excuse to perhaps not cast her sometimes.

Speaking about how she felt almost liberated playing Bibbo Jaan, Aditi said, "I am perceived in a particular way because

of the way I look or the way I am or the parts I have played, usually the fragile, feminine, petite girl. Often people say, 'oh, she will just blow away.' Or 'oh she is like glass, if you touch, she will break.' Today, I own it and I am what I am. It is not a burden for me, but if it is for you, then you need to figure it out. Secondly, my vulnerability is my strength."

Aditi then elaborated on why she feels Bhansali manages to show women with their flaws, strength and vulnerabilities alike: "I also feel it is also about directors who bring that out in an actor. To have a vision and say that there are different kinds of strengths. I'm so happy that I lived this life of Bibbo Jaan because it was literally like 'here is a girl who

is so kind, so feminine, and artistic.' She sings and dances. She is celebrated for her beauty, but beneath that, she has this simmering purpose, courage and fearlessness. I feel that fearless belief is so inspiring, and they are not mutually exclusive. You can be both. I relate to it."

Aditi also spoke about

questioned why many in the industry fail to look at an artist as an artist: "I have 100 per cent been told that you are too beautiful for this role. But I am a person. I am a sum total of many things."

Aditi quipped, "Also, why is this a problem? You don't tell somebody that 'you act too well'. It doesn't make sense. But that is also being heard now, oh 'that girl is too good an actor, she will outshine the others.' It has not been told to me, but I have heard this as well. It just doesn't make sense. It means your intentions aren't pure."

'Heeramandi' is currently streaming on Netflix. It also features Manisha Koirala, Sonakshi Sinha, Sanjeeda Shaikh, Richa Chadha and Sharmin Segal in pivotal roles.

Police register cases on complaints by Mohan Babu, son Manoj

Police have registered cases on complaints by veteran Tollywood actor Mohan Babu and his actor son Manchu Manoj in the bitter fight over family assets.

On a complaint made by Mohan Babu in a letter to Rachakonda Police Commissioner, a case was registered against Manoj and his wife Monika at Paladhi Shareef Police Station.

The case has been registered under the Bharatiya Nyaya Sanhita (BNS) Sections 329 (house-trespass) and 351 (criminal intimidation). The same police station also booked a case on a complaint by Manoj that about 10 people assaulted him at his residence Sunday.

A case under 329, 351 and 115 (voluntarily causing hurt) against Vijay and others has been registered. Manoj had Monday lodged a complaint with the police but did not name his father or any other family member. He stated that around 10 unidentified miscreants attacked him at his house at Jalgali. He named two persons who took away the CCTV footage of the attack.

Manoj visited a hospital in Banjara Hills Sunday night. According to the medico-legal record, Manoj sustained multiple injuries on neck, right thigh and abdomen.

Mohan Babu lodged a complaint against son Manoj and daughter-in-law Monika and sought police protection. Mohan Babu complained to Rachakonda Commissioner that his younger son Manoj along with some anti-social elements employed by him caused a disturbance Sunday at his house 'Manchu Town' in Jalgali in Rangareddy district.

The former MP also sought protection for himself and his properties saying there was a threat from Manoj, his wife, and anti-social elements.

When asked if any rumours had caused a stir at her home, Pragya replied, "I have never heard any negative rumours about myself. All the rumours I've encountered have been good and positive, which makes me hope that they turn out to be true."

When asked if any rumours had caused a stir at her home, Pragya replied, "I have never heard any negative rumours about myself. All the rumours I've encountered have been good and positive, which makes me hope that they are indeed true."

Letter to Editor

Dear Editor

In purely colloquial and socio-cultural terms, jealousy is understood as a mix of emotions—often involving insecurity, envy, or fear—that arises when someone perceives a threat to something they value, such as a relationship, status, or possession. It is closely tied to comparisons with others and often reflects societal expectations and insecurity. Jealousy is often described as "feeling protective" or "possessive" over something or someone. It can also be shorthand for envy when people want what others have, even though envy and jealousy are distinct in more formal definitions.

Jealousy is often linked to romantic relationships, where it is viewed as a natural but potentially destructive emotion when one feels insecure or threatened by a third party. In some cultures, jealousy may stem from disparities in wealth, success, or beauty, highlighting societal pressures to achieve certain benchmarks. It can also manifest in friendships, families, or workplaces, often shaped by cultural norms about loyalty, fairness, or competition. In individualistic cultures, jealousy might be more tied to personal achievements or romantic exclusivity. In collectivist societies, it may stem from maintaining group harmony or fulfilling familial expectations. It is both an universal emotion and one deeply influenced by the context and values of the culture in which it occurs.

From a mental health perspective, jealousy is a complex emotional response that typically arises from feelings of insecurity, fear, or concern over losing something of value—often related to relationships, status, or personal identity. It can have both adaptive and maladaptive aspects, depending on its intensity and how it is managed. Individuals with low self-worth may be more prone to jealousy as they feel less secure in their relationships or achievements. Insecure attachment (e.g., anxious or avoidant attachment) can fuel jealousy in romantic relationships. Trauma, betrayal, or infidelity in previous relationships can make someone more sensitive to potential threats. Negative thought patterns, such as assuming the worst about a partner or comparing oneself to others, can amplify jealous feelings.

Different types of jealousy has been documented. One of the most common type is regarded as Romantic jealousy, that involves fear of losing a partner to a real or perceived rival. The second one is referred to as Social jealousy that includes envy of another person's friendships, achievements, or social standing. The third one is regarded as 'Pathological jealousy'; which is a more intense, irrational form that may involve delusions or obsessive thoughts, often seen in conditions like obsessive-compulsive disorder (OCD) or delusional jealousy.

severe cases, jealousy can take a pathological form (e.g., Othello syndrome), where it becomes delusional and is often associated with mental health disorders like schizophrenia, bipolar disorder, or substance abuse. These cases require professional intervention, including therapy and sometimes medication. By simply understanding the underlying causes and addressing them in healthy ways, individuals can transform jealousy into an opportunity for self-growth and stronger relationships.

Jealousy is reported to have significant implications upon mental health with both short-term and long term impacts being clinically reported in the literature. The most common short term impacts reported are jealousy that can trigger a fight-or-flight response, causing emotional distress. Excessive and uncontrollable jealousy can lead to arguments, mistrust, and even breakups. The long-term impacts include chronic jealousy that can erode self-esteem and lead to feelings of hopelessness. Furthermore, unmanaged jealousy can result in unhealthy behaviors, including controlling or abusive tendencies. Recurrent jealous thoughts may contribute to obsessive patterns that disrupt daily life.

Recognizing and acknowledging jealousy as a natural emotion can help reduce shame and facilitate growth. The Cognitive-

Behavioral Therapy (CBT) helps identify and challenge distorted thinking patterns that fuel jealousy. The Couples Therapy addresses communication issues and builds trust in relationships. Developing a sense of self-worth independent of external validation can reduce feelings of jealousy. Practices like meditation or journaling can help individuals manage emotional triggers more effectively. Open and honest conversations with loved ones can reduce unprovoked misunderstandings and insecurity.

Thanking you
Sincerely yours

Saikat Kumar Basu

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Women's education and rights in Afghanistan: Protecting shared humanity and fundamental values.

Gajendra Singh



The tears of female medical students in Kapisa province reflect the grim reality of Afghan women under Taliban Islamic rule. The orders coming one after the other for women of Taliban regime not only deprive them of medical education but also crushes the dreams and hopes of women. This is not just a denial of education, but a deep blow to gender equality and human rights.. This situation is particularly tragic given Afghanistan's historical past. This is the same country where women have made significant contributions to governance, education,

and healthcare. To comprehend the depth of the current situation, we must go further into Afghanistan's history, the consequences of the Taliban's policies, and the worldwide responsibility to protect Afghan women.

Afghanistan was not always a place of oppression for women. History is witness to the fact that women here were respected as intellectuals, leaders and social reformers. During the Kushan Empire (1st to 3rd centuries), women participated in trade, education, and religious activities. Monuments such as the Bamiyan Buddha symbolize the cultural progress of the time and a society that valued education. The progressive reforms of King Amanullah Khan and Queen Soraya Tarzi in the 20th century proved to be a milestone in the upliftment of women. Queen Soraya supported girls'

education, opposed the purdah system, and called for gender equality. "Don't think that our country needs only men. Women have to contribute too. The Afghan Constitution of 1964 gave women the right to vote. Institutions like Kabul University became centres of co-educational learning and gave strength to the hopes of modern Afghanistan.

It was only with the rise of the Taliban in the 1990s that a dark chapter began for women. During the Taliban rule from 1996 to 2001, women were completely deprived of public life, education and work. There was little relief in women's rights after the US intervention in 2001, but the Taliban's return to power in 2021 again erased two decades of progress. Today, the Taliban's policies exclude women from education, work and public life. Restrictions on

secondary and higher education confine girls to homes. In particular, the ban on medical education undermines not only the individual aspirations of women, but also the health system of the entire country.

In addition to violating human rights, the Taliban's policies are catastrophic for Afghanistan's social and economic structure. The nation's Gross Domestic Product (GDP) would fall and society will continue to be mired in a cycle of ignorance and poverty if women are excluded from education and the workforce.

Although the Taliban's policies have been denounced by the world community, words alone will not resolve the issue. Support for Afghan women and girls must be implemented in a tangible way. Humanitarian aid, such as scholarships, online learning platforms, and support for underground schools,

should prioritize women and girls.

Negotiations should take place while placing diplomatic pressure on the Taliban to give women's rights. Economic incentives for progressive changes and targeted penalties for Taliban commanders could be implemented. Other countries should provide Afghan women activists, educators, and students with protection and help so that they can continue fighting for their rights and education in a secure environment.

Despite difficult circumstances, Afghan women continue to struggle for their rights. Women activists and clandestine schools continue to advocate for equality and education. Organizations such as Women for Afghan Women and the Malala Fund have helped to promote global solidarity for Afghan women's rights. The crisis in Afghanistan is not just a national issue.

It is a test of global commitment to equality, justice and human rights. History is witness that Afghan women contribute as leaders, professionals and social reformers when given the opportunity. It is the responsibility of every country, organization and individual to stand with Afghan women, listen to their voices, restore their rights and not let their dreams die. This fight is not only for Afghan women, but it is a fight to protect our shared humanity and fundamental values.

Declaration:-
This piece of writing is my own unique work, and it has not yet been made public or submitted to any publishing entity for consideration.

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Climate change hits women more

Amit Baijnath Garg



Women are facing the most problems caused by the climate crisis, over-consumption of resources and air pollution. Research revealed that women and unborn babies suffer the most in the first and last months of pregnancy.

A recent women-based report by the United Nations states that by the year 2050, more than 158 million women and girls may go into poverty due to climate change. More than 236 million women and girls may face food insecurity. According to an estimate, 130 million girls around the world are deprived of the right to education every year and the climate crisis further aggravates this problem. In such difficult times, girls are more likely to get married early, because they are first taken out of school to help with the needs of the house. Women are facing the most problems caused by the climate crisis, over-consumption of resources and unfathomable air pollution.

Due to climate change and increasing air pollution, even the babies growing in the mother's womb are not safe all over the world. Doctors say that heavy metals scattered in the air are harming the unborn children through the mother's breath. Air pollution is fatal for the heart, brain and lungs of newborns. When breathing in a polluted environment, pollution is reaching the fetus through the placenta. Pollution prevents nutrients from reaching the baby through the blood. Due to this, the brain and lungs of the

baby are not able to develop properly. Children also suffer from heart problems, congenital respiratory diseases, adverse effects on neurodevelopment, and the maturity of the lungs. Problems of autism and intellectual disability have also been seen in many children. The worrying thing is that pollution particles are being found in the fetus in the initial examination of pregnancy. If the child remains in contact with this pollution for a long time, then he also remains at risk of getting cancer.

Research was conducted in China's Guangdong province on premature delivery caused by pollution. 687 women included in this had premature delivery and 1097 women had low-weight babies. They were compared with 1766 women who had healthy births. It is worth noting that this province of China has less pollution than the average of the whole country. In China, like North India, air pollution starts increasing from September-October and decreases in summer. This research revealed that women and the unborn child suffer the most from pollution in the first and last month of pregnancy. Pollution is the reason for three percent of the total premature births in America. The number of such children is 16 thousand. According to

PLOS Magazine, about 60 lakh children are being born prematurely due to pollution worldwide. Half of these children are underweight.

A study was done by Lancet on the effect of air pollution on pregnancy in India, Pakistan and Bangladesh. It was revealed that pollution caused 29 percent pregnancy loss in all three countries. Out of this, 77 percent pregnancy loss happened in India alone, while 12 percent cases were reported in Pakistan and 11 percent in Bangladesh. 34,197 women were included in this study, out of which 27,480 women suffered miscarriage and 6,717 stillbirths (loss of baby's heartbeat). The research said that with the increase in pollution, the risk to human health has also increased. The data clearly shows that air pollution remains the world's biggest external threat to women's health.

Experts say that a large global fund is invested every year for HIV-AIDS, malaria and TB, but this is not the case with air pollution. In fact, due to climate change and dangerous levels of air pollution, women are suffering from respiratory and heart problems, cancer and other diseases. However, it affects everyone. Doctors say that women have to face some unique problems.

More cases of breast cancer have been found among them. Activities like cooking on wood stoves increase the risk to women's health. Indoor air pollution is not only caused by cooking, but also by heating and light. It has increased significantly due to deforestation and urbanization. Women are more affected due to their physical structure, childbearing, not having a balanced diet, spending more time in the kitchen and not being financially independent.

WHO says that climate change and air pollution have become a global crisis in the last two decades. It is a major environmental factor contributing to poor health, causing millions of deaths annually in the world.

The COVID pandemic has shown that in emergencies, healthcare resources can be diverted to fight new threats and services considered less important. Climate change increases the frequency of emergencies, meaning sexual and reproductive health and rights services may be cut. However, even if sexual and reproductive health and rights services can continue, they are often not accessible to displaced women and girls. This can lead to an increase in unintended pregnancies and sexually transmitted infections. In Mozambique, more than

20,000 women of reproductive age were at risk of unwanted pregnancies due to lack of access to contraception after the cyclone. In Honduras, 180,000 women of reproductive age did not have access to family planning services. Loss of crops due to climate change also affects sexual and reproductive health.

Women and girls are disproportionately affected by climate change, as they are among the majority of the world's poor, who are highly dependent on local natural resources for their livelihoods. Women and girls in rural areas are often responsible for gathering food, water and wood for their families. In times of drought and erratic rainfall, rural women work harder, walk longer and spend more time gathering income and resources for their families. This also exposes them to an increased risk of gender-based violence, as climate change exacerbates existing conflicts, inequalities and vulnerabilities. Weather-related disasters make women and children 14 times more likely to die than men. Four out of five people displaced by the effects of climate change are women and girls. These disasters also disrupt essential services, including sexual and reproductive health care, further

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PRESIDENT OF INDIA PRESENTS NATIONAL PANCHAYAT AWARDS

New Delhi, (KCN): The President of India, Smt Droupadi Murmu conferred the National Panchayat Awards upon 45 awardees, selected across various categories, recognizing their exemplary contributions to the themes of sustainable and inclusive development, in New Delhi today (December 11, 2024).

Speaking on the occasion, the President said that about 64 percent of the population of our country lives in villages. Therefore, the development and empowerment of villages and villagers is important to make India a developed nation. She was happy to note that in the past one decade the government has made

serious efforts for empowerment of panchayats, which aims to achieve concrete results.

The President said that the foundation of a developed India could be laid only on the basis of self-reliant and capable local bodies. Panchayats should try to become self-reliant by developing their own sources of revenue. This self-reliance will provide self-confidence to the Gram Sabhas and strength to the country.

The President congratulated all the winners of the 'National Panchayat Awards'. She said that this award is testimony of their dedication and efforts. She expressed confidence that this honour will encourage



them to do even better work and inspire other Gram Panchayats to make meaningful efforts towards village development.

The President said that Panchayati Raj institutions are empowering women politically. It is a matter of happiness that women representatives are playing an important role in bringing about positive changes at the grassroots

level. She urged them to discharge their duties as elected representatives in the Panchayats fearlessly and with all their efficiency. She highlighted that the tendency of family members of women Panchayati Raj representatives performing their duties still exists at a few places. She told women representatives to eradicate such practices

and establish themselves as independent leaders. The President said that elections make the public representatives responsible towards the people. Therefore, it is very important that Panchayat elections take place timely and fairly. She pointed towards the instances of electoral violence during and even after the elections. She said that the election process should always be conducted in a cordial atmosphere. It should be remembered that the villagers are choosing their own representatives from among themselves, for their own good.

The President said that the objective of the Panchayati Raj system is to make the public representatives and officials accountable and to increase transparency in the administration. She said

that voters choose their representatives with great trust. Therefore, it is the duty of the elected representatives to maintain this trust through their conduct and actions.

The President said that across the country most of the disputes in villages are such that they can be resolved at the local level. Going to court not only wastes their money and time but also increases unnecessary pressure on the court and the administration. She urged all the elected representatives to make efforts to resolve the disputes among the villagers at the Panchayat level itself. She said that they have the right to do this and

16 days activism to end Gender Based Violence -By Radio Sampark



BHUBANESWAR, (KCN): The 16 Days of Activism against Gender-Based Violence is international civil society led campaign. It commences on 25 November, the International Day for the Elimination of Violence against Women, and ends on 10 December, Human Rights Day, highlighting that violence against women is the most pervasive breach of human rights worldwide. Globally, an estimated 736 million women—nearly one in three—have experienced physical and/or sexual

violence by an intimate partner, non-partner sexual violence, or both at least once in their lives. In the past year alone, 1 in 8 women and girls aged 15-49 has faced intimate partner violence. The campaign was launched by Women's Global Leadership Institute in 1991, and has since mobilized individuals and organizations, including the United Nations and partners worldwide to campaign for the prevention and elimination of violence against women and girls (VAWG). The

Radio Sampark 89.6, an initiative of People's Cultural Centre (PECUC), a leading voluntary organization in Odisha, organized 16-day activism campaign in Nischintakoli, Mahanga block of Cuttack in collaboration with SMART, to raise awareness about gender-based violence. The campaign started on 25th Nov and ended on 10th Dec 2024. This initiative aimed to sensitize communities about the prevalence and impact of violence and promote collective action for prevention. The

Padmasri Saroj Gupta Lifetime achievement award presented



Kolkata (PARTHA ROY): Padmshri Dr. Saroj Gupta lifetime achievement award presented to Mr Jayanta Chatterjee, President, SGCCRI on

95th Birth Anniversary (51st Founder's Day) of Dr. Saroj Gupta on 5th December, 2024 in the hospital premises of SGCCRI. Blood Donation camp was organised by staffs of the institute for the Cancer patients especially children in presence of Mrs Ila Gupta.

Eminent Actor Shri Sabysachi Chakraborty was Chief Guest at Dr Saroj Gupta Cancer Institute and Research Institute, (SGCCRI).

Ms. Manju Mitra inaugurated renovated OT complex. Ms. Manju Mitra funded the renovation. Mrs. Ila Gupta, wife of the Founder, was honoured by SGCCRI President for her unstinted support from early days of the hospital. Mrs. Gouri Mitra, the only surviving Founder Member was also present. The award

campaign featured diverse activities, including awareness rallies, community meetings, creative messaging through rangoli art and songs, poem, slogan, narrowcast sessions in schools & colleges, one act play and other innovative approaches to engage community in these activities. This campaign reached to around 50000 people. These efforts emphasized the importance of building a safe and equitable society for all, encouraging active participation from community members to challenge and eliminate gender-based violence in their everyday lives. The campaign was facilitated by Sushree Shailani Suman, Gayatri Tripathy, Subhalaxmi Panda, Jagatmohini Dash and Bhabani Sankar Patra of Community Radio Station -Radio Sampark.

New Delhi & Kolkata (PARTHA ROY): Two days Indian Maritime Heritage Conference (IMHC) inaugurated by Shri Sarbananda Sonowal, Union Minister of Ports, Shipping & Waterways, Government of India at Yashobhoomi, Dwarka,

Heritage Conference is being organised by Ministry of Ports, Shipping and Waterways. Vice President Shri Jagdeep Dhankhar addressing a special session said, "India stands today as an emerging maritime

growth for all in the region, we are fostering robust international partnerships and ensuring regional stability across the Indo-Pacific. Rule-based order is quintessence, and India is taking initiatives and lead to ensure that there is larger subscription to sustainable innovation".

Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi highlighted that with a strategic location in the Indian Ocean and a legacy of trade and cultural exchange, India is poised to strengthen its maritime framework. The development of the

rule-based regime on seas. I am quite confident and optimistic that this two-day Maritime Heritage Conclave 2024 renews our collective dedication to honouring our maritime legacy while advancing towards



New Delhi on 11th December 2024. Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi in his message stated "IMHC to Draw Up Blueprint to Make India a Global Hub and As A Leading Maritime Nation".

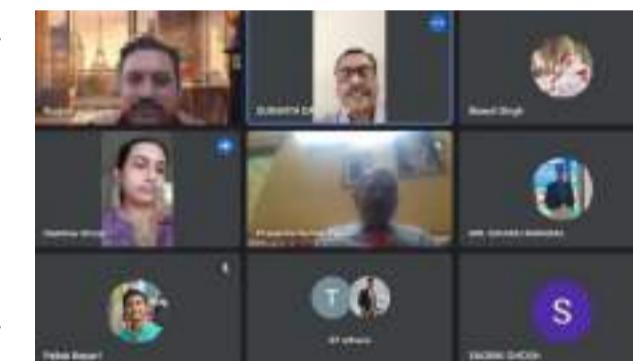
Indian Maritime

powerhouse, strategically leveraging our geographical location and advanced infrastructure to spearhead global maritime initiatives. Through sophisticated maritime diplomacy, particularly initiatives like Sagar, security and

National Maritime Heritage Complex at Lothal, coupled with initiatives like the India-Middle East-Europe Economic Corridor, reflects India's growing role in global maritime affairs. The Conclave offers a platform to

it is their duty too. The National Panchayat Awards 2024 include categories such as the Deen Dayal Upadhyay Panchayat Satat Vikas Puraskar, Nanaji Deshmukh Sarvottam Panchayat Satat Vikas Puraskar, Gram Urja Swaraj Vishesh Panchayat Puraskar, Carbon Neutral Vishesh Panchayat Puraskar, and Panchayat Kshamta Nirmaan Sarvottam Sansthan Puraskar. These awards aim to recognise and encourage Panchayats for their efforts in poverty alleviation, health, child welfare, water conservation, sanitation, infrastructure, social justice, governance, and women empowerment.

The Consequential Celebration of World Soil Day-2024



Kolkata, (KCN): It is an exclusive "Day" of absolute "Global Significance", which really fosters the awareness regarding "Soil Health and ensures the needful sustainability of Soil Management". The entire scholarly unit of "Faculty of Agriculture, JIS University" organized an exclusive event virtually on the existent occasion of "World Soil Day-2024" on 5th December, 2024 in a very befitting manner. This celebration has had the most fascinating sequential journey not only to understand the concept of "Soil Health and its Sustainable Management" but on the contrary, Respected Dr. Sukanta Dasgupta, Dean-School of Agriculture, JIS University has delivered about the occasional significance and the essence of "World Soil Day", which was

followed by the very prompt address of Dr. Deblina Ghosh, Assistant Professor, Soil Science, School of Agriculture JIS University. She discussed about the overall acceptance of this very day along with the urgency of "Soil Management". On the other hand, our "Chief Guest" was Respected Prof. Prasanta Kumar Patra, Retd. Professor and Former Associate Dean, Bidhan Chandra Krishi Viswavidyalaya, who has shared his most expressive thoughts based upon "Soil Health: Need for a Paradigm Shift".

All the most eminent and distinguished "Speakers" have ensured about the worthy importance of this "Day" thorough various "Statistical Data and different Global Instances" respectively. This imperative celebration of learning has got a remarkable shape through our very aspiring students. Such as:

1. Ankita Das from 1st Semester has delivered about "Soil Pollution and Remediation".
2. Sanan Mukherjee from 3rd Semester has shared

her beautiful thoughts about "Climate Change and Soil Health".

3. On the contrary, Shyam Sundar Das from 5th Semester has established his matured observation based upon "Artificial Intelligence for Sustainable Soil Management".

4. In fine, Avay Roy from 7th Semester has thrown some lights upon "National and Global Soil Management Policies and Implications". Therefore, all the 4 presentations were well justified and they all have had the true initiatives in favour of the prompt educational participations just not only to recognize the day but we have significantly acquired the "Collective Learning" about "Soil Science" and its impactful "Scientific Consequences" at the same point of time quite successfully.

Two days Indian Maritime Heritage Conference inaugurated with thrust on "Vikas Bhi, Virasat Bhi" in Delhi

celebrate this heritage while charting a path toward realizing India's vision of becoming a leading maritime hub by 2047. Inauguration ceremony was attended by Union Ministers Dr. Mansukh Mandaviya, Shri Gajendra Singh Shekhawat, Union MoS



Shri Shantanu Thakur, Bihar Dy CM Shri Vijay Kumar Sinha, Goa Minister Shri Aleixo Sequeira, Arunachal Pradesh Minister Shri Biyram Wahge, UP Minister Shri Daya Shankar Singh and Andaman & Nicobar Islands LGAdmiral (Retd) DK Joshi.

Special squads to check loot of minor minerals

Jajpur(KCN): Special squads have been formed to check loot of minor minerals in the state, sources said here Tuesday. They added that to stop the illegal trade of minor minerals in Odisha, the Department of Steel and Mines has formed sub-divisional and tehsil-level committees under the government's directives. These committees will report monthly to the district-level task force and the Director of Mines, focusing on actions like raids on illegal quarries and reviews of unauthorised mining activities.

The sources informed

that the Additional Chief Secretary issued a notification in this regard, December 4, 2024. The sub-divisional committees will be chaired by the sub-collector and include members from SDPO, ACF, range officer, tehsildar, police inspector and a mining officer as convener. Earlier, an armed force was established in this district to counter illegal mining and transportation of minor minerals. It provided support to revenue officials. The district collector had issued instructions to this effect. Special task



forces have been formed earlier in this district, specifically in tehsils like Jajpur, Dharmasala, Darpan,

Danagadi and Vyasanagar to address illegal lifting and trading of black stone, sand, murram, laterite stones and unauthorised crusher units. However, efforts to curb illegal mining have not been fully successful. It was alleged that some departmental

colluded with the mining mafia and aided in the loot of minor mineral resources.

Sources said illegal transportation of black stone and murram from areas like Barada, Aruha, Bajabati, and Dankari continue unabated. Unauthorised sand mining is also rampant at certain ghats of the Baitarani and Brahmani rivers. The recently-formed committees have been entrusted with the responsibility of safeguarding minor minerals, sources said. Whether the step will be successful will be clear in the days to come. The Revenue Secretary directed the formation of task forces comprising

district collectors and SPs in each district to curb illegal mining activities in December 2018. The then-district collector Ranjan Kumar Das and SP here took prompt action by conducting night raids in sand quarries and leased (sairat) areas. However, in regions like Darpan and Dharmasala, illegal mining operations continued unabated. Former Jajpur district collector Chakravarti Singh Rathore had issued instructions to shut down illegal crushers, February 26, 2021. Approved crushers were mandated to install

CCTV cameras and maintain a register to record the details of raw materials received. Tehsildars were tasked to examine these registers and CCTV footage every 15 days and submit their reports. If any discrepancies were found, strict action was directed against owners of the concerned crusher units. When contacted over the alleged illegal mining of minor minerals, Jayaprakash Nayak, Deputy Director of the department stated that various measures have been taken to address these issues. He asserted that the department had achieved considerable success in controlling illegal mining activities.

Lack of docs, equipment plague Hatigada CHC

Jaleswar(KCN): With healthcare services severely affected owing to a host of impediments, the Hatigada Community Health Centre (CHC), located in Raibania under the Jaleswar block of Balasore district, is in dire straits. The CHC, which along with its nine Primary Health Centres (PHCs), caters to the needs of a population over 150,000, has been plagued by severe shortage of doctors, healthcare staff, and medical equipment. According to reports, the facility lacks basic infra, including a mortuary, while the doctors' chambers are in pitiable condition. Daily around 300 patients, who visit the centre, have to stand in long queues since morning hours waiting for their turn to arrive for consultation. However, with many staff positions vacant for years, the centre is struggling to meet patients' needs. The lack of infrastructure is further exacerbated during power outages, as there is no backup generator. This forces doctors to attend to patients using candlelight. The Hatigada CHC serves 12 nearby panchayats—Chamar Gaon, Dipipur, Khudiamajhi Sahi,



Kalama, Kalika, Khuada, Raibania, Makidia, Olamara, Sardarbandha, Baradiha, Shyamnagar, and Srirampur—as well as patients from neighboring West Bengal. Despite its large coverage area, the centre is severely understaffed. Only one specialist, a gynecologist, is available at the CHC, while key positions for pediatricians, surgeons, and general physicians have been lying vacant since the last 12 years. Although four MBBS doctors and one AYUSH practitioner are posted, their competence levels are far below government norms, leaving the facility incapable of meeting the needs of patient load. Patients with serious conditions are often referred to other hospitals due to the lack of specialist doctors.

Many poor patients, unable to afford referrals, face severe challenges. Additionally, the CHC lacks essential grade-IV staff, such as dressers, sweepers, and office attendants, with four such posts remaining vacant. Another critical issue is the delay in issuing birth and death certificates, which is handled by the CHC. Staff shortage in this department has caused unrest among locals. Similarly, one of the two approved pharmacist posts has remained unfilled for an extended period, while the centre lacks crucial diagnostic equipment. The nine PHCs under the Hatigada CHC at Bada Bazar, Sikharpur, Lakhmananath, Nampo, Chhamouja, Jamalpur, Salabani, Khuada, and Olamara

face similar challenges. Many are short on pharmacists and grade-IV staff. At Khuada PHC, the doctor reportedly visits only twice a week, further affecting services. Moreover, deputation of staff to other centres has worsened the situation. Local social activists, including Ashish Ghosh, Sukumar Ghosh, Sanat Sahu, Sujit Das, Sapan Bindhani, Badal Soren, and Dibyendu Dey, have demanded immediate action to address these critical issues plaguing the healthcare facility. Meanwhile, when reminded of the state of affairs at the CHC, Balasore District Collector Suryawanshi Mayur Vikas said he will soon take a review and initiate actions to address the issues.

Strawberry farming halts in Niyamgiri as aid flow dries up

Rayagada(KCN): Strawberry farming has come to a halt on Niyamgiri hills in this district. This has happened after the Odisha PVTG Empowerment and Livelihoods Improvement Programme (OPELIP) closed down its activities in the area, locals said. OPELIP was providing financial assistance and technical know-how to the tribal community for strawberry cultivation. In a promising initiative last year, Lakunu Jakasika, a resident of Kurli panchayat under Bisamcuttack block in this district, cultivated strawberries for the first time on Niyamgiri hills. His efforts yielded profitable results. OPELIP which was assisting the Dongria Kondh Development Agency provided comprehensive support,



including technical know-how and resources for the cultivation to Jakasika. However, due to the shutdown of OPELIP, Jakasika did not receive any assistance this year and was forced to abandon strawberry farming. Last year, Jakasika invested 3.5 lakh on strawberry farming, which included costs for saplings, fertilizers, drip irrigation and labour. After the harvest, he marketed the

produce under the 'Niyamgiri' brand name, and earned approximately 7 lakh. The strawberries were sold in markets across this district and even at the Adivasi Mela (Tribal Fair) in Bhubaneswar. This initiative marked a significant milestone for the Dongria Kondh tribal community, helping them embrace modern farming practices. However, the closure of OPELIP in September



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Rizwan leaves it late as Linde, Miller put South Africa 1-0 up

New Delhi: Just a day after sealing the Test series against Sri Lanka, South Africa fielded a completely different XI to overcome Pakistan in Durban in the opening T20I. David Miller's 40-ball 82 that saw him smash 8 sixes and George Linde's allround efforts - 48 with the bat followed by a four-wicket haul - were instrumental in South Africa's tight 11-run win. From a Pakistan perspective, the result could have turned out to be different had skipper Mohammad Rizwan not left it too late in the run chase.

Pakistan's powerplay in the chase was a tale of two halves. Babar Azam opened the batting alongside Rizwan but was sent packing by young Kwena Maphaka for a four-ball duck. But from 19/1 after 3.3 overs, the visitors raced

to 55/1 by the end of the powerplay following a stunning assault from Saim Ayub. In that little period, Ayub managed to find the boundary seven times to move to 31 off just 13. Unfortunately for Pakistan, he couldn't keep going and was dismissed in the first over after the powerplay.

Pakistan were dented further before the halfway mark as Usman Khan failed to make the most of his reprieve and mistimed one to get caught. But for most part of it, the story of the chase was Rizwan's scratchy innings. The Pakistan captain struggled to bat with freedom, batting on 24 off 32 balls at one point. That strike rate went past 100 only in the 17th over when he hit two sixes off Maphaka by getting rid of Rassie van der Dussen for a

half-century. While he could have still made amends, a three-wicket over from Linde derailed Pakistan just when they were building momentum. That over changed the game around completely as Rizwan was now suddenly left with too much to do in the final two overs. Needing 31 off 12, the opener still found the boundary thrice to keep his side in the hunt but Pakistan's hopes vanished when he mistimed a slower delivery off Maphaka with his side needing 18 off 5. The youngster then closed out the game in perfect fashion to give South Africa the series lead.

Earlier in the evening, a see-saw innings from South Africa saw them put up 183/9 on the board. Shaheen Afridi made an eventful start to the game by getting rid of Rassie van der Dussen for a

golden duck before finding the outside edge of Matthew Breetzke that just fell short. Two balls later, Breetzke smashed a six off Abrar Ahmed before hitting one straight to backward point off the very next delivery. Despite the two early setbacks, Miller made quite a start to his innings by picking apart



Shaheen for back-to-back boundaries. However, Pakistan were completely on top in that powerplay with Abrar adding to his wicket tally. This time, it was Reeza Hendricks who failed to read a googly and ended up seeing his stumps rearranged.

Desperately in need of

a partnership, Miller and Heinrich Klaasen joined forces together with the former looking in excellent touch. Miller went on a six-hitting spree as he cleared the ropes thrice in the space of six deliveries to boost the run rate. But everytime South Africa looked dangerous, Pakistan managed to

strike back and this time, it was the big wicket of Klaasen as Abbas Afridi opened his account. That still didn't deter Miller though as he put on a spectacle by smashing a hat-trick of sixes off Abrar in the very next over to breeze past his fifty.

The assault continued as Miller looked in ominous touch, picking apart every single bowler to race to 80 off just 37. Amidst this, he lost Donovan Ferreira at the other end but found an able partner in Linde. At the end of the 13th over, South Africa already had 131 on the board. But with five batters already in the pavilion, there was always an element of risk heading into the slog overs. And those fears surfaced when Shaheen managed to get rid of Miller for 82 in the following over. Abrar

and Shaheen then added one more wicket each in the next two overs to reduce South Africa to 141/8 with four overs remaining.

At that point in time, the hosts were in real danger of failing to bat out their overs, let alone post a fighting total. However, Linde and Maphaka sprung a surprise in the slog overs with a flurry of boundaries. Linde in particular managed to clear the ropes thrice in the final over to give South Africa complete momentum once again before scripting that turnaround with the ball as well.

Brief scores: South Africa 183/9 in 20 overs (David Miller 82, George Linde 48; Shaheen Afridi 3/22, Abrar Ahmed 3/37) beat Pakistan 172/8 in 20 overs (Mohammad Rizwan 74; George Linde 4/21) by 11 runs

Jayden Seales, Brandon King secure series win for West Indies

New Delhi: West Indies cruised to a comfortable 7-wicket victory, following Jayden Seales's career-best 4 for 22, to wrap up their first bilateral ODI series win over Bangladesh in 10 years. Seales struck thrice in his opening spell to reduce the visitors to 64/4 inside 11 overs 54/3 inside the powerplay, from where Bangladesh could only muster 227. Brandon King anchored the chase as the hosts overhauled the modest target with 13.1 overs to spare. Their decision to bowl first in St. Kitts was vindicated when Seales had Soumya Sarkar, Litton Das and Bangladesh skipper Mehidy Hasan Miraz walking back to the pavilion cheaply inside the powerplay despite the Tanzid Hasan counterattack at the other end. The opener batted beautifully and struck four boundaries and a couple of sixes in his 33-ball stay for 46 before Justin Greaves sent him back, leaving the visitors at 64/4.

A brief recovery ensued as Mahmudullah

dropped anchor and, together with Afif Hossain, put on a 36-run stand. However, Gudakesh Motie joined the party and sent back Afif and Jaker Ali in succeeding overs to leave the visitors reeling at 104/6 in 21 overs. Rishad Hossain's eight-ball duck only made matters worse.

Mahmudullah then found company in Tanzim Hasan Sakib and together the pair stitched a defiant 92-run stand for the eighth wicket to lend some respectability to the Bangladesh total. The senior batter took charge initially while Sakib took nine deliveries to open his account. Mahmudullah didn't hold back when the ball was in his hitting arc, and even slammed a couple of sixes to make the best of the bad balls on either side of a Romario Shepherd maiden over. Sakib put Bangladesh past the 150 mark with a six off Motie, who finished an excellent spell with 2 for 36, and grew in confidence with every shot thereon.

Mahmudullah reached



his fifty in 84 balls - his fourth at the venue in six innings - and soon after took his team past 200 with a six and a four off Greaves in the 43rd over. However, Roston Chase took an excellent return catch in his followthrough to deny Sakib a fifty by just five runs. Mahmudullah was dismissed soon after as Seales returned to the attack and struck immediately. It was Shoriful Islam's 4,4,6 in an eight-ball cameo of 15 that gave Bangladesh a respectable 227 before they were eventually bowled out in the 46th over. Chasing a below-par

228, West Indies were served well by an opening stand of 109 between King and Evin Lewis. King was the aggressor initially as Lewis struggled to find his rhythm, but the duo ensured the home team had a solid base to build the chase on. Batting on 6 off 23 at one point, Lewis took on Sakib with a 4,6,4 in the ninth over to shift gears as well as bring up the fifty for his team. At the end of the first powerplay, West Indies were comfortably placed at 54 without loss. Lewis clubbed Mehidy down the ground for a couple of sixes and even got a life in between, but

Imane Khelif most searched athlete on Google in 2024, Hardik Pandya in top 10



NEW DELHI: As 2024 comes to a close, Google has revealed its list of the most-searched athletes, with Algerian boxer and Paris Olympics gold medalist Imane Khelif leading the rankings. Joining her in the top 10 are prominent figures like India's all-rounder Hardik Pandya and Spanish football sensation Lamine Yamal, each making headlines for their achievements and controversies throughout the year.

Imane Khelif became

the centre of global attention after a gender-row controversy during her Paris Olympics campaign. Disqualified from the 2023 World Boxing Championship by the International Boxing Association (IBA) due to the presence of XY chromosomes, she was later deemed eligible by the International Olympic Committee. The drama intensified when Italian boxer Angela Carini and Spanish football sensation Lamine Yamal, each making headlines for their achievements and controversies throughout the year. Despite the controversy, Khelif triumphed, securing gold in the women's 66kg boxing category. Former heavyweight champion Mike Tyson captivated the world with

his boxing return after 19 years, facing YouTuber-turned-boxer Jake Paul. Though Tyson lost, the bout garnered massive attention, becoming one of 2024's most-watched sporting events and reigniting the legend of "Iron Mike." Seventeen-year-old Spanish football star Lamine Yamal stunned the world with his performance in Spain's Euro 2024 victory. Becoming the youngest player to play and score in European Championship history, Yamal was pivotal in Spain's triumph in Germany, cementing his status as a rising star.

Marcus Stoinis named permanent captain for Melbourne Stars

New Delhi: Melbourne Stars have named Marcus Stoinis as their next permanent captain, succeeding fellow allrounder Glenn Maxwell who stepped down from the role at the end of last season. Stoinis will be Stars' seventh full-time skipper.

Stoinis, who led in a game in Maxwell's absence last year, was grateful for the role and responsibility bestowed upon him going forward. "I had a little bit of a taste

of captaining the side in 'Maxi's' absence last year and loved the opportunity, so to be given the role full time is a great honour," Stoinis said. "The Stars have been such a constant in my life every summer for the last 10 years and I truly believe with the group we have assembled this season both on and off the field we can bring some long overdue success to the club," he added.

Maxwell took over as



captain of the Stars ahead of the 2018-19 season and led them to two finals - where they finished runners-up on both occasions. They were on course to push for a finals berth last season too but had a late drop off to not make the playoffs. Maxwell led the Stars for five seasons - he missed the 2022-23 season through injury. He has played the most matches for the team - 103 - and lead the most too - 65. Stoinis too has been a

long-term Stars player, just two appearances away from becoming only the second player to feature in 100 games for the team. Stoinis, who signed a three-year extension at the end of last season, is also the team's all-time leading run-scorer (2656 runs). "I want to acknowledge and thank Maxwell for all his efforts in leading the side over the past five seasons and he will continue to be a wonderful resource for everyone at the club,"

Stars general manager Blair Crouch said. "Marcus demonstrated his leadership ability last year and has been a part of our leadership for a long time. It's wonderful to have someone who has been at the Stars almost from our inception lead our club in BBL|14," he added. Stoinis's full-time reign will kick-off with the season opener against Perth Scorchers at the latter's home on December 15.