

# Mahila Courts Soon

Vice President Jagdeep Dhankhar, Prime Minister Narendra Modi, Defence Minister Rajnath Singh, Union Law Minister Arjun Ram Meghwal and former CJI JS Khehar were among those present on the occasion, besides Justice Chandrachud. Justice Khanna, who served as a Supreme Court judge since January 2019, has been part of several landmark judgments such as upholding the sanctity of EVMs, scrapping the electoral bonds scheme, upholding the abrogation of Article 370 and the granting of interim bail to

the poor Muslims and to give its benefits to marginal sections of society," he said. Saikia said the JPC will submit its report to the Lok Sabha Speaker whether the opposition members take part in the meetings or not. Similarly, another member of the panel, Aparajita Sarangi said that Lok Sabha Speaker Om Birla has continued a 31-member JPC to examine the proposed 44 amendments to the Waqf Act, 1995 in the Bill. "About 38 lakh acres of land is under the control of Waqf boards in India. We need to rectify the governance system and administration," she said. Prior to Bhubaneswar, the panel visited other major cities, including Mumbai, Ahmedabad, Chennai, Hyderabad, Bangalore and Guwahati, where discussions covered a range of issues surrounding Waqf property management and proposed amendments to the Waqf Act, 1995. From Bhubaneswar, the committee will leave for Kolkata, and then is scheduled to visit Patna and Lucknow, official sources said.

victims to narrate their stories without hesitation or shame before the prosecutors and judges. Sometimes, it is also seen that when a male assistant public prosecutor asks the exact way of molestation from the women victims then due to hesitation or shame, they keep mum, due to which the entire justice delivery systems get affected and it results in acquittal of the case, said a senior lawyer. So, the proposal of the State government will definitely help women victims to get speedy justice.

some houses and a nearby CRPF camp, following which the gunfight broke out, they added. Five civilians were still missing, officials said, adding that it was not clear whether they were kidnapped by the retreating militants or were in hiding after the attack began. The bodies of those killed were brought to the Borobekra police station, they said. The condition of one of the two injured CRPF personnel was stated to be serious, they said.

will be white. They are also required to wear a 'Scrub Suit' for ICU/OT/Labour Room. Females in the general



wards will be seen in sarees while males will be wearing shirts along with deep navy blue colour formal trousers. It said the collar neck portion of the white apron will be bordered in Deep Purple Sambalpur for all. These apart, there will be white half sleeve aprons for all

salwar and kameez for general wards and casualty services while the DNS and NS cadres have been asked to wear saree only for such duty. A full sleeve apron will be provided for all ANS/DNS/NS in general wards while all officers of the cadre irrespective of the rank will have their name and designation inscribed on their uniform, according to the letter. Earlier, the BJP government had decided to paint the government buildings and offices across the state to shades of orange and red. It has also changed the colour of the school uniforms of students studying in classes 9 and 10 of the government and aided schools with a combination of light brown, chocolate and clay-baked yellow colours.

The central government has allocated a total of Rs 5,000 crore under the National Disaster Response Fund (NDRF) for 'Expansion and Modernisation of Fire Services' in the states.

Minister Shivrav Singh Chouhan and Vice Chairman NITI Aayog Suman K Bery as members.

To fulfil Prime Minister Narendra Modi's vision of a disaster-resilient India, the Ministry of Home Affairs under the guidance of Home Minister Shah has taken several initiatives to ensure effective management of disasters in the country, the release said. A number of steps have been taken to prevent any extensive loss to life and property during disasters by strengthening the disaster risk reduction system in India.

Proposals of 15 states with a total outlay of Rs 2,542.12 crore had already been approved. More than Rs 21,026 crore has already been released to the states during this year for various disaster-related aspects. This includes Rs 14,878.40 crore from the State Disaster Response Fund (SDRF) to 26 states, Rs 4,637.66 crore from the National Disaster Response Fund (NDRF) to 15 states, Rs 1,385.45 crore from the State Disaster Mitigation Fund (SDMF) to 11 states and Rs 124.93 crore from the National Disaster Mitigation Fund (NDMF) to three states, the release said.



# DC-cum ACS, DoWR visits OIIPCRA projects in Ganjam

**Bhubaneswar (KCN):** Smt. Anu Garg, IAS, Development Commissioner-cum-Additional Chief Secretary, Department of Water Resources, Odisha visited sustainable irrigation projects in Ganjam district on Sunday. She interacted with the members of Radhakrishna Pani Panchayat under Ittagadia Bandha MIP of Chhatrapur block, improved under the Odisha Integrated Irrigation Project for Climate Resilient Agriculture (OIIPCRA) and heard from the benefits

they are reaping from adoption of climate resilient practices and technologies. The head works of the tank has been improved and canal and field channel constructed for efficient use of water. Solar Bore Wells have also been installed to ensure conjunctive use of water.

Besides, demonstrations have been done on Green Manuring; Mechanized Direct Seeded Rice (DSR); Improved package and practices of Ragi, Green Gram and Sunflower. Custom



Hiring Centre (CHC) has been developed to make the farm implements available at Pani Panchayat

level at affordable prices. Further, Women SHGs have been empowered by setting up Mini Dal

Mills, Small Oil Extraction Units and Millet Processing Units.

The area under

hybrid vegetables cultivation has been expanded and income of small and marginal farmers has been

augmented by setting up of Mushroom and Vermicompost Units. Preservation Units and Pack Houses have also been developed to minimize post-harvest losses. It may be noted that, the project seeks to intensify and diversify agricultural production and enhance climate resilience in the command area in Minor Irrigation (MI) tanks of the 15 districts. The project hinges broadly on components such as climate smart intensification and diversion of production covering

agriculture, horticulture and fisheries sectors; improving access to irrigation and water productivity covering water sector; institutional capacity strengthening etc. The project activities include tank system improvement to augment water availability and provide assured irrigation supply; demonstration of Climate Smart Agriculture practices to the stakeholders, mainly the Pani Panchayats; building the capacity of the farmers and other non-farmers, marketing of farm produce etc.

## N'Kanan Opens Exotic Primate Complex



**Bhubaneswar (KCN):** Forest, Environment and Climate Change Minister Ganesh Ram Singh Khuntia today inaugurated Exotic Primate Complex here at Nandankanan Zoological Park. PCCF Wildlife Susanta Nanda graced the Occasion. Minister Shri Singh Khuntia inaugurated state-of-the-art exotic primate enclosure complex under World of Primate thematic display. "Nandankan now has the distinction of having

an exclusive exotic primate enclosure, the only in India, inaugurated by Honourable FE&CC Minister today. Cotton Top & Golden Handed Tamarin, Siamang, Black Tufted Marmoset, Common Marmoset, Geoffroy's Marmoset and Squirrel Monkey will welcome u," tweeted Principal Chief Conservator of Forests (PCCF) Wildlife, Susanta Nanda. This naturalistic enclosure complex is designed to house seven species of primates from

around the world, including Cotton Top Tamarin, Golden Handed Tamarin, Siamang, Black Tufted Marmoset, Common Marmoset, Geoffroy's Marmoset and Squirrel Monkey. Notably, four of these species – Cotton Top Tamarin, Siamang, Common Marmoset, and Geoffroy's Marmoset – are new additions to the park's animal collection, zoo officials said. SNM Group Director

Pragati Kumar Mohanty presented the list of new found species. These new species have been collected through SNM Group, Barbil, Konjhar. Minister Shri Singh Khuntia appreciated the efforts of SNM Group, which is actively promoting Green Initiatives. The enclosure complex, developed over an area of 13665.20 sq. ft. featuring seven nature-simulating enclosures with species-specific enrichment, 18 feeding cells, and 10 back kraals, meticulously designed to mimic the natural habitat of these fascinating creatures at an expenditure of Rs 1.75 crores, they said. Additionally, the visitor facilities have also been upgraded with addition of stretchable tensile fabric canopy, glass fronted viewing area, water fall, landscaping and stamp concrete roads to enhance the overall visitor experience.

## Odisha govt removes women's commission chief Minati Behera

**Bhubaneswar (KCN):** The Odisha government has removed Minati Behera from the post of Odisha State Commission for Women (OSCW) chairperson. The Women and Child Development Department has issued a notification removing Behera from the post Saturday. The matter, however, came to light Monday. Behera, a former president of Biju Janata Dal's women's wing,



was appointed as chairperson of the OSCW in September 2022 by the previous BJD government. According to the

notification, the department had earlier issued a show cause notice to Behera for her "unsatisfactory performance during her

tenure. "After thorough and careful examination of the show cause reply submitted by the OSCW chairperson, it is observed that the reply is inadequate and does not justify the unsatisfactory performance of the Commission," the department said. In view of facts and circumstances, the state government ordered the removal of Behera, it said.

## School with 4 teachers for 3 students raises eyebrows

**Rayagada (KCN):** Call it the outcome of a lopsided education policy or misallocation of human resources, at least six schools in Kolnara block in Rayagada district have more teachers than what is required, with a strange instance of one school having as many as four teachers for three students. This has raised serious eyebrows, as many schools suffer from a shortage of teachers. According to sources, at Dangar Lekapai Primary School, four teachers have been assigned to teach just three students. This school previously had three

teachers while a fourth one was recently appointed, setting the chatters abuzz about the inefficient use of human resources under the School and Mass Education department. Similarly, three teachers are responsible for seven students at Podapai Primary School, three teachers for 17 students at Dumukupadu Primary School, four teachers for 20 students at Pedaguda Primary School and three teachers for 14 students at Paradiguda Primary School. Education experts have questioned how such a disproportionate allocation of teachers could

occur, especially since schools with fewer than 20 students are subject to closure under existing rules. Additionally, concerns have been raised about the possible misreporting of student count to secure more funds. Reports indicate that some schools falsely list students on attendance records to claim grants for mid-day meals, study materials, and uniforms, even though these students reside in hostels of various Sevashram Schools and do not attend the schools in question. Meanwhile, parents and locals have called for an

impartial probe into the gross misallocation of resources, believing it could expose some education officials, staffers and a few teachers. Recently, Rayagada MLA Apalswami Kadarka raised the issue in a Zilla Parishad meeting, expressing dissatisfaction that more than 60 schools in the district operate with a single teacher while others in Kolnara block are overstaffed. In response, district education officer Basanta Nayak stated that the matter would be brought to the Collector's notice and action will be taken as per rules.

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# Involvement of officials in crime and protecting criminals

*These days we see that cases of some high-ranking officers in the country getting involved in corruption and sexual crimes and their involvement in protecting the criminals are increasing, which is not a good sign for the country and society. After all, what is the reason that high-ranking personalities (not all) are bent on carrying out these heinous acts themselves instead of stopping them? In such a situation, people start disregarding the involved officer by talking negatively about him. Disregard leads to distrust towards the officer. In the case of the interview of gangster Lawrence Bishnoi in police custody, the Punjab and Haryana High Court found that the police officers allowed the criminal to use electronic devices and provided studio-like facilities for the interview, which is like glorifying the crime.*



When officers engage in unethical conduct, public trust in law enforcement is eroded, leading to a breakdown of trust in institutions. Transparency International's report cites police corruption as a major cause of distrust in India's public institutions. When law enforcement protects criminals, it creates a two-tier justice system

where the powerful escape consequences. The Vohra Committee Report (1993) exposed collusion between criminals, politicians, and the police, compromising the integrity of law enforcement. Officials involved in protecting criminals contribute to the denial of justice to victims, perpetuating the cycle of impunity. Recent high-profile cases in Bihar and UP have seen police involvement in protecting influential criminals and delaying justice. Such unethical behavior fosters a culture of corruption within the police force, potentially leading to

Priyanka Saurabh

institutional crime. Corruption scandals within the Mumbai Police exposed how criminals are protected for financial gain. Public knowledge of police protection of criminals leads to chaos and social unrest, weakening governance. Violent protests broke out in Uttar Pradesh after reports of police providing protection to local mafia groups emerged. Introducing value-based training programs for police officers can inculcate ethical behavior and integrity in them, thereby reducing corruption. The second ARC recommends ethical modules in police training to promote professional accountability. Strengthening internal monitoring and external bodies such as the Police Complaints Authority ensures accountability for unethical behavior. The Prakash Singh case (2006) led to police reforms that focused on establishing independent accountability mechanisms. Ensuring whistleblower protection allows officers to report unethical behavior without fear of retribution, thereby promoting transparency. The Whistleblowers Protection Act (2014) provides safeguards for public servants who expose corruption. Imposing stringent legal

penalties for officers who protect criminals acts as a deterrent, ensuring adherence to ethical standards. In 2023, the UP Police dismissed several officers for involvement in criminal conspiracies, indicating a zero-tolerance approach. Implementing technology-driven solutions such as body cameras and automated surveillance can prevent police misconduct by providing real-time monitoring. States such as Tamil Nadu and Maharashtra are adopting body cameras to increase police accountability. Strengthening community-police partnerships promotes trust and allows communities to hold officers accountable for their actions. The Janamaithri Suraksha Project in Kerala promotes better police-community relations, thereby reducing cases of corruption. Building ethical integrity in law enforcement requires institutional reforms, accountability mechanisms, and strong legal frameworks to prevent misconduct. A culture of ethics supported by training and community engagement is critical to restore public trust and ensure justice. Depending on one's level of knowledge, rationality, and dedication to ethical excellence. Anything less than ideal ethical conduct can be

disastrous for the department, the community, and the entire nation. While officers are only humans and will make mistakes, ethical misconduct cannot be tolerated. To ensure the ethical behavior of their officers, agencies must have three basic principles. First, they must have a policy that clarifies their ethical mission and sets standards that officers must adhere to. Second, strong and ethical leadership must be present and enforced. These officers set the tone for the department and lead by example, never choosing the easy path over the ethical one. Third, agencies must ensure they hire ethical people and deal fairly with those who are not ethical. An ethical organization will require "faithful adherence to existing policies and standards, the ability to detect any individual or group pattern of performance that falls short of that expectation, and the courage to deal with those who are responsible for those failures."

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# Increasing distance from books

Vijay Garg



The desire to learn something as soon as possible makes human beings different from other living beings. The things that play the most important role in this continuous journey of intellectual development are books on spirituality, science, music, literature, art etc. There have been times when it was believed that books will gradually disappear from this world. For example, when radio, television, internet came, it was said who will read books now? Now all the information is present on your screen, the demand for books remains the same but the availability of books may disappoint us all. Smartphones and internet are accessible to the masses in the country. The young generation is reaping the benefits of this revolution. During the corona epidemic, there was a rift between teachers and students, people were imprisoned in their homes, no social relations were taking place. Then people were connected to each other through smartphones but when this item of our need became our habit, it is not known that the younger generation started playing games, started wasting their time in watching videos, chatting

etc. This is a concern for all of us. The important thing it took away from us is Patience As we progress along the path of development, our patience is waning. It usually takes a week to finish a single book. Due to waning patience, a large section has stopped reading books and In the early days when I started watching movies, Hindi movies used to be two and a half to three hours long. Then the filmmakers kept decreasing the audience Due to tolerance, the films have been shortened further, now the films are completed in a maximum of two hours But people's patience is no longer witnessing watching a two-hour movie. A large section has started watching fifteen to twenty-minute videos on YouTube. is just a one-minute video A step ahead of entertainment reels in a minute, the 'meme' trend has emerged, an image created in such a way that it can make people laugh in just a few minutes. Entertainment in seconds It's better to spend a week reading a book than laughing at a meme in seconds. Who is responsible for this? We are always in a hurry. In this age of competition, we don't have time to read books. We are still running. For example, spending time with the elderly, gardening, going for morning walks, talking to the young children of the area, etc. are the most important aspects of today's era. In, far from reading a book, people don't even want to buy a book The condition of Hindi literature is even worse.

English is the language of business, so people are forced to study Hindi, Punjabi is the language of love, so large population is ignoring it, popularity of Hindi Punjabi newspapers is also decreasing among the youth. People of the Hindi belt are also reading English newspapers in the process of getting out of the competition. Why is this happening? Why is the young generation turning away from Hindi books and newspapers? Decreasing patience Also, is there any other part that needs to be worked on? Readers are declining Need a discussion on how to bring them back The internet will trap people in its network even if they don't want to Your time on the internet will be wasted in such a way that you will start to enjoy instead of guilt What Is this pleasure possible through books and newspapers? Can't knowledge on the internet be made easily available through books and newspapers? It is not only the responsibility of the writers and editors, but more of them Readers too We should all take a vow that we will read at least two books in a month Knowledge takes time Patience is the key to knowledge Of course, one should be entertained by watching the dance in Reels. Can, but the knowledge that is obtained from books, it is impossible to get elsewhere, so it is important to love books

**Retired Principal Educational Columnist MALOUT punjab**

# Usha Chilukuri Vance's roots in a remote hamlet Vadhuru in Andhra Pradesh



The journey from the small village of Vadhuru in Andhra Pradesh to the United States was a fortuitous one for the parents of Usha Chilukuri Vance, now wife of U.S. Vice President-designate JD Vance. Nearly half a century ago, Usha's parents, C. Radhakrishna and Lakshmi, emigrated to the U.S., where Usha later earned a law degree from Yale University—an institution known for its politically influential alumni, including figures such as Bill and Hillary Clinton, Clarence Thomas, Samuel Alito, and Brett Kavanaugh. With the recent electoral victory of Donald Trump and his running mate JD Vance in the 2024

U.S. presidential election, Usha and JD Vance are set to shape the nation's future, bringing further prominence to Yale's alumni legacy. In Vadhuru, Usha's ancestral village, there is great pride and excitement surrounding the election results. Chilukuri Santhamma, Usha's paternal grandmother, expressed deep joy over the family's connection to such a historic event. Santhamma, who is related to Usha through her husband C. Subramanya Sastry, noted that the Chilukuri family lineage makes this achievement particularly meaningful. Subramanya Sastry's eldest brother, C. Rama Sastry, was Usha's grandfather, strengthening this family connection to the new Vice President's office. The villagers of Vadhuru, which lies about 3 kilometers from the town of Tanuku in West Godavari district,

celebrated JD Vance's victory with enthusiasm. P. Srinivasa Raju, a former village panchayat president, described the celebrations: "We commemorated Usha's husband's victory with prayers and fireworks, beginning with offerings at the local Sai Baba temple for JD Vance's success." Sweets were also distributed to mark the historic occasion, as Usha is expected to take on the role of the Second Lady of the United States. Interestingly, several temples in Vadhuru, including the Sai Baba Temple, Lakshmi Narasimha Swamy Temple, and Goddess Bala Seeta Temple, were constructed on land donated by Usha's family—a contribution that continues to benefit the village and strengthen the enduring ties between Usha's heritage and her ancestral home. According to C. Shantamma, a 96-

Dr. Ravi Chaturvedi



Usha Chilukuri Vance & JD Vance, Vice Presidential candidate during election campaign



Usha Chilukuri Vance's family in Vadhuru village, West Godavari District, Andhra Pradesh. Usha's paternal grandfather

year-old emeritus professor of physics from a private university in Vizianagaram, Usha Vance's family hails from the village of Vadhuru near Tanuku in the verdant West Godavari district of Andhra Pradesh. Shantamma, who is related to Usha through her husband, C.

Subramanya Sastry, explained to a local news channel, "Usha is the granddaughter of my brother-in-law, who served as an IIT professor." Subramanya Sastry's eldest brother, C. Rama Sastry, was Usha's grandfather. Usha's parents, C. Radhakrishna and Lakshmi, emigrated to

the U.S. in the early 1980s. JD Vance's recent election victory holds particular significance for the local community, as Usha, a Telugu woman, will serve as the U.S. Second Lady for the first time. The nonagenarian professor, who continues to teach, expressed her delight at

Usha's achievements and extended her heartfelt congratulations to the accomplished attorney and Yale graduate. Vijaya Oosuri of the Indo-American Association and Bay Area Telugu Association, said, "Usha is not just highly educated and independent, but also proud of her Indian heritage. Her Telugu identity holds special significance for us." Usha, now 38, is the daughter of Indian immigrants who moved to the U.S. in the late 1970s. A practicing Hindu with an impressive academic background, she attended Yale and Cambridge, clerked for U.S. Chief Justice John Roberts, and later worked as an attorney at Munger, Tolles & Olson LLP. Her husband, JD Vance, has credited her influence as a practicing Hindu for helping him deepen his own Christian faith. Shantamma noted that many members of the

Chilukuri family are well-versed in ancient Hindu texts like the Upanishads and Vedas, with Shantamma herself having authored a book on verses from the Bhagavad Gita. Education is a core value in the family, with Usha's father and grandfather both associated with the Indian Institute of Technology (IIT). "Education has always been a top priority in our family," Shantamma emphasized. The Chilukuri family originally hails from Vadhuru, but relocated to Chennai when Usha's grandfather, Ramasastry Chilukuri, joined IIT in 1959. His legacy endures at the institute, where a student award is named in his honor, commemorating his contributions as a physics educator at this esteemed institution.

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# Non-Conventional Energy Resources: Future Potential, Challenges and the Pathways Ahead



Saikat Kumar Basu

What are Non-conventional energy resources? Non-conventional energy resources, also known as renewable or alternative energy resources, are energy sources that are not derived from fossil fuels. They include: Solar Energy: Energy from the sun harnessed using solar panels or other solar technologies. Wind Energy: Energy generated by wind turbines that convert the kinetic energy of wind into electricity. Hydropower: Energy produced from moving water, usually harnessed by dams on rivers. Biomass Energy: Energy derived from organic materials like plants, agricultural waste, and animal manure Geothermal Energy: Energy extracted from the heat stored beneath the Earth's surface. Ocean Energy: Includes tidal energy, wave energy, and ocean thermal energy conversion. These resources are considered more sustainable and environmentally friendly compared to conventional fossil fuels like coal, oil, and natural gas. Fundamental differences between conventional and non-conventional energy resources The fundamental differences between conventional and non-conventional energy resources include: Source and Availability: Conventional Energy Resources: These include fossil fuels like coal, oil, and natural gas, as well as nuclear energy. They are derived from finite sources that are depleting over time. Non-Conventional Energy Resources: These include renewable resources like solar, wind, geothermal, hydro, and biomass. They are

derived from natural processes that are replenished constantly. **E n v i r o n m e n t a l Impact:**Conventional Energy Resources: Generally have a higher environmental impact due to greenhouse gas emissions, air and water pollution, and habitat destruction. Non-Conventional Energy Resources: Typically have a lower environmental impact. They produce little to no greenhouse gas emissions and often have minimal pollution. Cost and Technology: Conventional Energy Resources: Often have lower upfront costs due to established infrastructure and technology. However, costs can be volatile due to resource scarcity and geopolitical factors. Non-Conventional Energy Resources: Often have higher initial costs due to the need for new technology and infrastructure. However, costs are decreasing as technology improves and scales up. **E n e r g y Security:**Conventional Energy Resources: Dependence on finite resources can lead to energy security concerns, especially for countries without their own supplies. Non-Conventional Energy Resources: Enhance energy security as they can be harnessed locally and are not subject to depletion. **Energy Density:**Conventional Energy Resources: Generally have higher energy density, meaning they can produce more energy per unit of fuel Non-Conventional Energy Resources: Often have lower energy density and may require larger areas or more technology to harness the same amount of energy. Scalability and Deployment: **Supply Chains:**Conventional Energy Resources: Typically have well-established supply chains and infrastructure, making them easier to deploy at large scales. Non-Conventional Energy Resources: Require development of new infrastructure and supply chains, but they offer more

flexibility in terms of location and scale. Why are non-conventional energy resources extremely important now from the perspective of remediation of Climate Change? Non-conventional energy resources, such as solar, wind, geothermal, and hydropower, are crucial for mitigating climate change for several reasons: Reduction of Greenhouse Gas Emissions: Non-conventional energy sources produce little to no greenhouse gases (GHGs) during operation. This significantly reduces the overall carbon footprint compared to conventional fossil fuels like coal, oil, and natural gas, which release large amounts of CO2 and other harmful emissions. Sustainability: These energy sources are renewable and abundant. Unlike fossil fuels, which are finite and depleting, renewable energy can be harnessed continuously without the risk of running out, ensuring a sustainable energy supply for future generations. Energy Independence: Increasing reliance on renewable energy can reduce dependence on imported fossil fuels, enhancing national energy security. This can also stabilize energy prices and reduce economic vulnerabilities to global energy market fluctuations. Environmental Benefits: Renewable energy technologies generally have a lower environmental impact compared to fossil fuel extraction and use. They often require less water, produce less waste, and avoid many of the ecological disruptions associated with mining and drilling. Economic Growth and Job Creation: The renewable energy sector has the potential to create numerous jobs in manufacturing, installation, maintenance, and research and development. This can stimulate economic growth and support the transition to a green economy Technological Innovation: Investment in renewable energy drives technological advancements and innovation, leading to more efficient,

affordable, and scalable solutions. This can further accelerate the adoption of clean energy technologies and reduce costs over time. Adaptation and Resilience: Renewable energy systems, particularly decentralized ones like rooftop solar, can enhance the resilience of energy infrastructure to extreme weather events, which are becoming more frequent and severe due to climate change. By transitioning to non-conventional energy resources, we can address the root causes of Climate Change, reduce environmental degradation, and build a more sustainable and resilient energy future. Is non-conventional more expensive to afford in comparison to conventional energy resources? Non-conventional (or renewable) energy sources like solar, wind, and geothermal have historically been more expensive to develop and deploy than conventional energy sources like coal, natural gas, and oil. However, this trend has been changing over recent years due to several factors: T e c h n o l o g i c a l A d v a n c e m e n t s : Improvements in technology have significantly reduced the cost of renewable energy infrastructure. Economies of Scale: As production scales up, costs come down. This is true for both the manufacturing of renewable energy equipment and the deployment of renewable energy projects. Government Incentives: Many governments offer subsidies, tax credits, and other incentives to promote renewable energy. Environmental and Health Costs: Conventional energy sources often carry hidden costs related to environmental damage and public health, which are not reflected in their market prices. Today, in many regions, renewable energy sources can be competitive with or even cheaper than conventional energy sources. The affordability depends on the specific technology, local

conditions, and policies in place. Which part of world has most successfully developed non-conventional energy systems and why? The First World countries of the world like the USA, Canada, Australia, New Zealand, Japan, South Korea, United Kingdom and Europe Union member nations, particularly countries like France, Germany and Denmark, have been highly successful in developing non-conventional energy systems. Several factors contribute to their success: Government Policies and Incentives: Strong governmental support through subsidies, tax incentives, and favourable regulations has encouraged investment in renewable energy. Technological Innovation: Continuous research and development in renewable energy technologies have led to more efficient and cost-effective systems. Public Support and Awareness: High levels of environmental awareness and public support for green energy initiatives have driven demand for renewable energy. Infrastructure Investment: Significant investments in infrastructure, such as smart grids and energy storage solutions, have facilitated the integration of renewable energy into the grid. European Union Policies: EU-wide policies and targets for renewable energy adoption have provided additional motivation and funding for member states to develop renewable energy systems. These factors combined have enabled European countries to lead in the transition to non-conventional energy sources. What are the major limitations of the developing and under developed nations of the world in successfully implementing non-conventional energy resources? Developing and underdeveloped nations face several major limitations in successfully implementing

non-conventional energy resources: High Initial Costs: The upfront investment required for renewable energy infrastructure, such as solar panels, wind turbines, and bioenergy plants, is often prohibitively expensive for these countries. Lack of Technological Expertise: There is often a shortage of technical skills and expertise required to install, operate, and maintain renewable energy systems. Inadequate Infrastructure: Many developing nations lack the necessary infrastructure, such as grid systems and transportation networks, to support the deployment of renewable energy. Financial Constraints: Limited access to financing and investment capital makes it difficult for these countries to fund large-scale renewable energy projects. Policy and Regulatory Barriers: Inconsistent or non-existent policies and regulatory frameworks can impede the development and integration of renewable energy projects. Political Instability: Political instability and corruption can deter investment and disrupt the implementation of renewable energy projects. Resource and Land Availability: Competing land uses and limited natural resources can pose challenges to the deployment of certain renewable energy technologies. Public Awareness and Acceptance: A lack of public awareness and understanding of the benefits of renewable energy can lead to resistance and slow adoption. Maintenance and Sustainability: Ensuring the long-term sustainability and maintenance of renewable energy systems can be challenging due to financial and technical constraints. Addressing these limitations requires a multifaceted approach, including international cooperation, capacity building, financial assistance, and the development of supportive policies and regulatory frameworks. What does the realistic future

of the non-conventional energy use and applications at the ground level looks like under our current perspective? The future of non-conventional energy use and applications at the ground level is promising and multifaceted. Here are some key aspects to consider: Solar Power: Solar energy is becoming increasingly accessible and affordable. Advances in photovoltaic technology and storage solutions are expected to make solar power a primary energy source for households and businesses. Rooftop solar panels and community solar projects will likely proliferate, supported by government incentives and falling costs. Wind Energy: Wind power is also expected to expand, especially with the development of more efficient turbines and offshore wind farms. Small-scale wind turbines could become more common in rural and suburban areas, contributing to localized energy production. Energy Storage: Improved battery technology will play a crucial role in integrating renewable energy sources into the grid. Energy storage systems will allow for the storage of excess energy generated during peak production times, ensuring a stable and reliable power supply even when renewable sources are not producing energy. Electric Vehicles (EVs): The adoption of EVs will continue to rise, driven by advancements in battery technology, increased charging infrastructure, and government policies aimed at reducing carbon emissions. EVs will not only reduce reliance on fossil fuels but also act as mobile energy storage units, potentially feeding energy back into the grid. Smart Grids: The development of smart grids will enhance the efficiency and reliability of energy distribution. These grids will use advanced technology to manage energy flow, integrate renewable sources, and

respond to real-time demand changes, making the energy system more resilient and adaptive. Microgrids: Localized microgrids, which can operate independently or in conjunction with the main grid, will become more common. These microgrids will be particularly valuable in remote areas or during emergencies, providing a reliable energy supply and reducing dependence on large, centralized power plants. Bioenergy: Bioenergy, derived from organic materials, will continue to be an important part of the renewable energy mix. Innovations in biofuel production and waste-to-energy technologies will enhance the sustainability and efficiency of bioenergy systems. Policy and Regulation: Government policies and international agreements will significantly influence the adoption of non-conventional energy. Continued support through subsidies, tax incentives, and regulations promoting renewable energy will be crucial in accelerating the transition. Public Awareness and Participation: Increased public awareness of climate change and the benefits of renewable energy will drive consumer demand and support for sustainable energy solutions. Community-driven initiatives and grassroots movements will play a pivotal role in the widespread adoption of renewable technologies. Overall, the future of non-conventional energy at the ground level is likely to be characterized by a diversified mix of renewable sources, advanced storage solutions, and smarter energy management systems. These developments will contribute to a more sustainable, resilient, and decentralized energy landscape.

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# Why Claridges Hotel went to Tata

Vivek Shukla



Claridges Hotel, possibly the first luxury hotel in Delhi or the country after independence, opened in 1952 on APJ Abdul Kalam Road (formerly Aurangzeb Road) in the capital. Four years later, the Ashok Hotel opened in 1956, followed by the Oberoi Intercontinental Hotel in 1965. Claridges Hotel is currently in the news. The reason is that its management will be overseen by Indian Hotels Company Limited (IHCL), a company of the Tata Group. It also manages all the Taj Hotels. It can safely be said that before Claridges Hotel, only Imperial (Janpath) and Oberoi Medins (Shamnath Marg) existed in the capital. When did Nanda buy Claridges?

Claridges Hotel was bought by businessman Suresh Nanda in 2003. Suresh Nanda's father, S.M. Nanda, was an Admiral in the Indian Navy during the 1971 Indo-Pak war. Suresh Nanda's son, Sanjeev Nanda, was in the news for the widely publicized BMW hit-and-run case. It is said that Suresh Nanda had earned a lot of money as a middleman in the buying and selling of weapons. He was also in the Navy like his father. He used to have a Lambretta scooter back then. Some insiders have said that Suresh Nanda handed over the management of Claridges to the Tata Group because his son Sanjeev Nanda has been living in Dubai for a long time. He rarely comes to India. He is also married. Suresh Nanda's daughter Sonali is married to industrialist Peter Punj. She lives in Malcha Marg. Therefore, there is no one in the Nanda family who directly oversees the Claridges Hotel. Suresh Nanda is also turning 84 years old.



**The Grace of the Colonial Era** Upon entering the Claridges Hotel, located in the heart of Lutyens Delhi, one experiences a unique feeling. It is as if you have entered a different world. Since Claridges Hotel was built just a few years after British rule in India, its architecture combines the grace of the colonial era and modern elegance. Its interior is stunning. Its wooden panels, furniture, and vibrant artwork create a grand and luxurious ambiance. Dr. Bhai Mohan Singh, the founder chairman of Ranbaxy Pharma, used to say that whenever he

felt restless at home, he would sit in one of the restaurants at Claridges. The hustle and bustle here generated new energy within him. Bhai Mohan Singh lived a short distance from the hotel. **How many hotels does Tata have?** The Tata Group has signed an agreement to take over the management of Claridges Hotel for the next 25 years, starting from April 1, 2025. However, the Tata Group's Taj Hotels in the capital were established in 1978 on Man Singh Road and in 1980 on Sardar Patel Marg. Both are at the pinnacle of luxury. On one side, paintings by

M.F. Husain, Manu Parekh, and Jamini Roy are displayed. The Taj Man Singh's scaffolding and Chinese restaurant have carved out a niche for themselves from the very beginning. Before Claridges Hotel, the Tata Group had also taken over the management of the Ambassador Hotel. **The favorite 'Dhaba' of the affluent Punjabis** There is hardly an affluent Punjabi family in the capital who has not come to their Dhaba restaurant and enjoyed the vegetarian and non-vegetarian dishes in a proper manner. The whole atmosphere here is designed like a highway Dhaba. The

dishes served here are something else. During the wedding season, Claridges Hotel is abuzz with weddings. The Dhaba was started in 1986. People say that after its opening, Claridges Hotel came out of its royal image. Then, the nouveau riche society also started coming here in large numbers. It is also true that after Dhaba, several restaurants offering excellent Punjabi dishes opened in Pandara Road, West Delhi, etc. All these are no match for Dhaba. Claridges also has some other excellent restaurants like The Concord, The Long, and The Garden Café, which are Continental and Chinese restaurants. Meanwhile, the government is seriously considering to sell capital's Ashok Hotel to some private player. Notwithstanding the fact that Ashok Hotel ( The Ashok since 2006) does not host head of the states or big ticket celebrities any longer, yet it is second to none in terms of its regal architecture. “ I

have not seen such a spacious hotel with massive lobby, big rooms, huge convention hall. Ashok has a touch of royalty. It is unreliable that such grand hotel came up almost six decades ago,” says Pt. JP Sharma ‘Trikha’, a noted author and an acclaimed Vaastu expert. After it was came up way back in 1956, Prof. E.B. Doctor designed structure remained as the monarch among luxury hotels in capital for decades together. There is a fascinating story behind the making of Ashok hotel. It is said the then Prime Minister Pt. JawaharLal Nehru was attending the UNESCO summit in Paris in 1955. There he requested the governing body of the summit that India would like to host the next year meet in New Delhi in 1956. That offer was accepted there without opposition. When Pt. Nehru returned from Paris, his advisors told him that New Delhi has no worthwhile hotel to accommodate several head of the states. That

was the time when Pt. Nehru asked his staff to identify vacant spaces for new hotel without any delay in New Delhi area. Without delay, the search committee selected and entrusted Prof. E.B. Doctor of JJ College, Mumbai, to design new hotel in national capital. And he designed arguably the first grand building of capital post independence of the country. And it was a challenge for Doctor to create a hotel on the 25 acres of space. Those were the days when entire Chankayapuri was a jungle with thick bushes all- around. There was virtually no life in entire area. Undeterred, the Parsi architect had created a masterpiece in a very short period. Impressed with the work of the likes of Edwin Lutyens and Harbert Baker, Doctor had given space for Jharokhas and jaali-work in Ashok Hotel. He created an absolute regal building.

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# Dr Swarna Khuntia Gold Medal 2024 at IIFT, New Delhi

**New Delhi(KCN):** 11th Nov 2024, during its 57th Convocation of Indian Institute of Foreign Trade (IIFT) presented its prestigious DR SWARNA KHUNTIA Gold Medal to Ms Kamalini Mukherjee (a trained Bharatnatyam Dancer and qualified JRF, UGC) for the best all round performance. Honourable Mr Piyush Goyal, the Minister of Commerce and Industry, Govt. of India addressed in virtual mode due his preoccupation while the Chancellor of IIFT and the Commerce Secretary, Ministry of Commerce & Industry Mr. Sunil Barthwal presided the event and the chief guest Dr. Jayen Mehta, Managing Director, Gujarat Co-operative Milk Marketing Federation Ltd. (Amul) delivered the keynote address. Dr. Swarna Khuntia was born in a family of musicians at Cuttack Odisha, and completed her Bachelor of Music, Master of Music and



Doctor of Music from Banaras Hindu University, Varanasi during the 1990s (with a Gold Medal) under the able guidance of the illustrious and world-renowned classical violinist Padmabhushan Dr Smt. N. Rajam Ji. Her initial training in violin was from Guru Shri Prafulla Ray. Dr Swarna Khuntia's illustrious career in classical music over two and half decades includes as a renowned solo violin artist, a loving Guru, a brilliant teacher and a researcher. Her music concerts in India and abroad were well appreciated by the top

musicians. Her solo violin performance in most of the major music concerts include Sankatmochan Music Festival, ITC Music Festival, Salt Lake Music Festival, Uttarahdhar Music Festival, Saptak Music Festival, Konark Dance & Music Festival; Rajarani Music Festival, Prayag Sangeet Samitee Music Program, Swar Sadhna Samiti and Sangeet Sankalp Music Concert, Purbacharya Smruti Sangeet Samaroh and many more. Dr. Swarna Khuntia was a graded artist of All India radio and Doordarshan and recipient of many awards & tiles like "Sur-

Mani", "Kalashree"; "Sangeet Shiromani", "Atul Memorial Music Award", "Laya Jyoti" title and many more. In 2006, Dr Swarna Khuntia joined as a Faculty (Violin) in Faculty of Performing Arts, BHU, Varanasi and she was most popular among the students, researchers, faculty members and music lovers. Many of her students & PhD scholars are already established in the field of music as experienced violin players, scholar, university teachers etc. Dr Swarna Khuntia has authored a book titled "Violin and Violinists in Hinustani Classical

Music" an initiative for the violin lovers and students for better understanding about violin and its techniques. To honour and recognise the outstanding performance and contribution of Dr Swarna Khuntia in Hindustani classical Music, Indian Institute of Foreign Trade, New Delhi (M/o Industry and Commerce, Govt. of India) has instituted the prestigious 'Dr. Swarna Khuntia Gold Medal' for best all round performance of students to promote and courage classical music among youth.



# DAV, KALINGA NAGAR CELEBRATED ER. BC PATTNAIK'S 97th BIRTHANNIVERSARY



**Bhubaneswar, (KCN):-** DAV Public School, Kalinga Nagar celebrated the 97th birth anniversary of its founder Chairman and one of the forerunners of DAV movement in Odisha Late Er. B.C. Patnaik in its premises today. In a meeting organised on this occasion, the Principal of the school Sri Balaram Mahapatra and teachers offered their floral tribute

as a mark of their respect to the great lover of institutions. In his address to the gathering, the Principal highlighted the sincerity, dedication of Late Er. B.C. Patnaik and related the audience about his remarkable contributions in bringing up the DAV institutions of Odisha and in giving them their present status. As a sacred spark, a holy Hawan was organized in

the school premises. Twenty-eight participants from fourteen DAV Schools of Odisha participated in this competition. The winners were felicitated with certificate and memento at the end of the competition. The entire programme was smoothly organised with the whole-hearted cooperation of all members of the staff.

# WAVES to Bolster India's Media & Entertainment Industryand Extend its Global Influence

**Kolkata, (KCN):**The Government of India is gearing up to host the World Audio Visual & Entertainment Summit (WAVES) during February 5-9, 2025 to bolster India's Media & Entertainment (M&E) industry and extend its global influence. WAVES would be the first-ever global summit covering the entire gamut of the M&E industry. WAVES is going to be a key forum for promoting discussions, collaboration, and innovation in this industry. The event will bring together industry leaders, stakeholders, and innovators to discuss prospects, challenges, promote trade to India, and influence the sector's

future. The summit will also cover diverse areas including animation; augmented, extended and virtual reality; gaming; generative AI; films; broadcasting; radio; emerging technology; advertising; social media; and music. India is positioned to become a prominent hub for high-quality, cost-effective content development. Our country has a lot of talent, ranging from compelling actors and directors to competent technicians and animation professionals. World-class pre and post-production facilities, together with our back-office operational competence and solid

networking infrastructure, form a formidable ecosystem that will catapult India's M&E sector to the world stage. WAVES is aimed at amplifying India's voice as a global powerhouse; promoting knowledge exchange, dialogue and collaboration between India and global stakeholders; connecting participants with new markets; diversifying revenue streams; prioritising job creation, skill development and economic growth in the M&E industry; providing a platform for embracing new technologies and promoting entrepreneurial spirit within the industry.

# Delhi Reports 5-Year Record High In Chikungunya, Malaria Cases



**New Delhi(KCN):** Delhi registered a record high number of Chikungunya and Malaria cases in the past five years, while dengue cases declined, according to official data. As of November 9 this year, 728 malaria cases and 172 chikungunya cases were reported in the city. In 2020, there were 228 malaria cases, in 2021, 167 cases, in 2022, 263 cases, and in 2023, 426 cases. The tally includes 19 cases reported in the week leading up to

November 9, according to the Municipal Corporation of Delhi's weekly report on mosquito-borne diseases. The number of chikungunya cases in 2020 stood at 111, in 2021, there were 89 cases, in 2022, 48 cases, and in 2023, 65 cases. This year, as of November 9, the number of chikungunya cases was 172. Meanwhile, 4,533 dengue cases were reported in Delhi in 2024, including 472 cases in November. In comparison, there were 9,266 dengue cases

reported in 2023. The number of dengue cases has sharply declined since last month, when it doubled to 2,431 cases from 1,052 cases in September. The highest number of chikungunya cases were reported from the Shahdara South zone with 87 cases, while the highest number of malaria cases were reported from the City SP zone with 104 cases. The highest number of dengue cases were reported from the Central Delhi zone with 490 cases.

# Nearly 250 Pilgrims Died During Chardham Yatra In 2024



**Dehradun(KCN):**More than 240 pilgrims have died this year due to health-related issues during the Chardham pilgrimage in Uttarakhand, with the fatality rate being the highest among devotees visiting the Himalayan temples by helicopter. The Yatra this year has reached its fag end with Kedarnath, Gangotri and Yamunotri already closed for the winter and Badrinath scheduled to close on November 17. High altitude sickness, oxygen deficiency and cardiac arrest are the most common reasons behind the deaths of pilgrims. According to data released by the State Emergency Operation Centre here, a total of 246 deaths have occurred so far during the Chardham yatra this year out of which 65 died in Badrinath, 115 in Kedarnath, 16 in Gangotri and 40 in Yamunotri besides 10 at the Sikh shrine of Hemkund Sahib. There has been a slight increase in the number of deaths of pilgrims due to health reasons this year as the figure last year stood at 242, the Uttarakhand State Disaster Management Authority (USDMA) said. Pilgrims die due to health factors every year during the Chardham yatra but the number of such deaths has gone up in recent years. The death rate is the highest among yatri who reach the high altitude temples in helicopters as they directly come into contact with the harsh weather conditions at those heights without going through an acclimatisation process, CEO of Six Sigma Dr Pradeep Bhardwaj said.

# Ganga Aarati gives message for making Pollution free Ganges



**Kolkata, (KCN):** Concern for Calcutta in association with Calcutta Citizens' Initiative organised a unique program at Baja Kodomtola Ghat on Sunday 10.11.24. Devottar Jai Chandi Thakurani Trust presented Ganga Aarati,

and Students of BDMI staged a mime presentation on Water Pollution followed by a dance performance "Namami Durga" by Srita's Ramyani. The Chief Guest was Shri Sandeep Ranjan Bakshi, MMIC, KMC and Guests of Honour

were Ms. Katerina Tyurina, Vice Consul, Russian Consulate, Kolkata and Mrs. Natalia Gerasimova, the Consul General's wife. The program was graced by CC President Mr O P Jhunjhunwala, Chairman of the Program Committee

Narayan Jain, Past President Mr. Deepak Jain, K. N. Gupta (Secretary CCI), Gopeshwar Agrawal, Lekha Sharma, Pushpa Agarwal, Alok Jhunjhunwala, Soumi Banerjee, Tinku Gupta, Preeyam Budhia, Dr. Anjula Binaykia and

other distinguished members. More than 4000 people watched the program and it was well coordinated by Mrs. Joeeta Basu. Secretary of CC. KN Gupta Secretary of Calcutta Citizens Initiative profusely thanked all.



# First time Odisha Gears up to Host UDBHAV

**Bhubaneswar(KCN):** Odisha is all set to host 5th EMRS National Cultural and Literary Festival & Kala Utsav- 'UDBHAV' from 12th to 15th of November 2024. This unique festival is being organised by Department of STSC Development & M&BCW Dept Govt of Odisha and is funded by National Educational Society for Tribal Students (NESTS). Hon'ble Minister of Tribal Affairs Shri Jual Oram, Honble Minister of State of Tribal Affairs Shri Durgadas Uikey & Minister of STSC

Development M&BCW Dept Shri Nityananda Gond has given their kind consent to grace the opening ceremony of the event.

More than 1300 students & 250 teachers from Ekalavya Model Residential Schools (EMRS) of 22 states are going to participate in this cultural extravaganza. The event is organised in Sikhya O Anusandhan University of Bhubaneswar. This year's event is observed as a tribute to 150th Birth Anniversary of

Bhagwan Birsa Munda, the pride of the nation.

Best efforts have been put in place to give participating students vivid and unique experiences. Students will be competing with each other in 47 events such as storytelling, music, dance, singing, debate, elocution etc. Innovative and creative workshops are also planned in which students can learn new skills and sharpen their existing ones. Winners of these events will be awarded and each student will get a participation



certificate for this purpose. Every day two hours will be dedicated in the evening for cultural events, whereby renowned artists of the State will perform various art forms exclusively for the students.

Apart from the above, fun zones are also planned whereby students will unwind and relax. Students have started arriving in the city and they are put in different hotels of Bhubaneswar. They will commute to venue through dedicated vehicles

Students will be served breakfast, lunch and dinner at the venue itself. The pan Indian menu also includes cuisines from Odisha. This four daylong event is likely to give students a platform, on which students from the entire country come together, to celebrate the spirit of learning, competition, and cultural celebration amidst fun-fare.

Previous editions of this EMRS National Cultural & Literary festival and Kala Utsav was organised in Deheradoon (2023), Bengaluru (2022), Udaipur (2019), Jamshedpur (2018).

## Dalit women not allowed to perform ritual of offering milk to deity in Odisha temple

**Kendrapara(KCN):** Several Dalit women sat on dharna in front of a temple in Odisha's Kendrapara district Saturday after they were allegedly denied to perform the ritual of offering milk to the deity in the holy month of Kartik, police said. The women accused the

temple priests and a group of upper caste people of not allowing them to perform the religious ritual at the Siddheswari Ramachandhi Shakthi shrine at Garajanga village under Marsaghai block of the district. The protesters lodged a complaint with

Marshaghai police station on Saturday demanding action against those who stopped them from offering milk to the deity.

"We have received a complaint in this connection. Attempts are being made to amicably settle the issue. Talks are with senior members

both from the upper caste and dalits. Police are closely monitoring the situation with deployment in the village to thwart any possible breach of peace. The situation is, however, under control as of now", Inspector-In-Charge of Marshaghai police station, Purna Chandra Pattayat said.

## In a first, jumbo, tiger census to be conducted twice this year



**Bhanjanagar(KCN):** The state government is undertaking the census of elephants and tigers twice annually for the first time this year from November 14 to November 16. The headcount will be conducted across all 51 Forest Divisions in the state during that period. Preparations will be taken up for the purpose November 13. The matter came to the fore after a training camp was conducted in this regard at Lalsingh Nursery within the Ghumusar North Forest Division at Bhanjanagar in Ganjam district, Thursday. During the event,

Divisional Forest Officer (DFO) Himanshu Shekhar Mohanty led the training of forest personnel for the elephant census. The forest division has set up 75 units for this purpose. Among others, Assistant Conservator of Forests (ACF) Bibek Das and Ranger Bimbadhar Sahu addressed the gathering. It is noteworthy that the Central government usually conducts an elephant census once every two years. However, due to the COVID-19 outbreak, no census has been conducted since 2019. In the meantime, a state-level elephant census

was conducted in March this year. Now, steps are being taken to count elephants twice a year. This initiative aims to properly monitor jumbo population growth and behavioral patterns. Similarly, from October last year to January this year, a tiger census was conducted in the state. Sources said preparations are now underway for another headcount of the big cats which will span over a month. Preparations are also ongoing for the elephant census in the Ghumusar South Forest Division. This process is being closely supervised by DFO Binod Acharya.

Multiple units have been formed within the forest division for this purpose. During the census, Forest Protection Committee members will assist the counting staff. On the other hand, the tiger census is being conducted under strict confidentiality. Trap cameras have been installed in order to spot and catch poachers who are roaming freely in the forests. Forest personnel are reportedly monitoring these cameras around the clock. Furthermore, departmental authorities have directed the staff to ensure that no information is leaked during the census.


## Woman loses palms in blast; husband critical

**Nayagarh / Sarankul(KCN):** A woman lost both her palms while her husband sustained critical injuries in a cracker blast at Golagaon village under Sarankul police limits in Nayagarh district, Saturday. The injured couple was identified as Sansari Sethy, 70, and his wife Nishamani Sethy, 65. The

couple was preparing crackers in their backyard when a sudden blast ripped off both the palms of the woman and left her husband critically injured. Locals rushed the injured couple to the Nayagarh district headquarters hospital. There the doctors administered them primary treatment and

shifted them to the All India Institute of Medical Sciences (AIIMS) in Bhubaneswar for advanced treatment. Locals said that Sansari was initially selling crackers after purchasing them from wholesalers. Later, he learnt the art of making crackers and started preparing those in his backyard. His wife

Nishamani used to assist him. The villagers had urged them several times in past to refrain from this hazardous business but they refused to listen and went on making crackers. Sarankul IIC Jyoti Prakash Swain reached the spot with police personnel and launched an investigation.



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# Fino Bank launches “Gullak” account aimed at improving household savings

**Bhubaneswar :** Having made banking easy, simple and convenient, Fino Payments Bank is now focusing on making customers save more. Continuing its efforts towards creating value for customers, Fino Bank has today announced the launch of a new savings account “Gullak” aimed at improving savings by offering a range of benefits designed to meet the unique needs of customers. One can open Gullak account at any of Fino Bank’s around 16500 merchant points spread across the state of Odisha and enjoy the benefits. With a minimal account balance of Rs 1000, Gullak account holders need not pay any annual plan fee, get to make cash deposits without any charges, avail 7 free ATM transactions in non-metro locations and enjoy offers on Rupay debit card. An exciting proposition is the waiver of the minimum account balance on meeting certain criteria. These include, five UPI transactions through FinoPay mobile app in a month valued at Rs 500 or booking a one-year Fixed Deposit of at least Rs 5000 issued by Fino’s partner bank or credit of any government welfare scheme benefit in the account. If customers meet any one of the three criteria, then



even if the account balance is less than Rs 1000 there will not be any charges for non-maintenance of minimum balance. Gullak (Piggy Bank) assumes significance in

today’s context where majority of people withdraw all or most of the money from their bank accounts, thereby losing the opportunity to save and invest. Announcing the launch

of Gullak savings account Mr. Atul Trivedi, Senior Divisional Head, Fino Payments Bank said, “Customers need to aim towards higher savings to create a corpus for future

expenses as well as any emergency requirements, avoiding the need to take loans. Our endeavor with Gullak is to help account holders develop a savings first mindset,

with focus on safety and growth. Higher deposits allow customers to earn attractive interest rates going up to 7.75% annually. With a minimum balance of Rs 1000 in the account customers get an instant, HaathoHaath debit card with up to Rs 2 lakh insurance cover along with access to multiple benefits including monthly payout of interest.” With Gullak savings account Fino Bank aims to target customers with the ability to keep higher balances and value savings based growth. Primarily they could be young professionals, small entrepreneurs, working women as well as self-

employed. Customers with the potential to save more than Rs 2 lakhs can do so with Gullak, wherein the excess of Rs 2 lakh gets deposited in a sweep account of a partner bank offering a higher interest rate. With Gullak, Fino’s neighbourhood banking services aim at increased engagement and financial well-being of customers. Further, Fino’s neighbourhood points are open for extended hours where any bank’s customer can transact, do deposits, withdrawals, money transfer and access third party products such as life, health, and motor insurance, referral loans, and pay utility bills. #Hamesha!

## CM Naveen Launches 32 Industrial Projects Worth Rs 6,993 Cr, To Generate 24,508 Jobs

**Bhubaneswar (KCN):** In a significant milestone in the journey of Odisha’s economic advancement, Chief Minister Naveen Patnaik today inaugurated nine industrial projects and performed a ground-breaking ceremony of 23 industrial units. These Inaugurations & Groundbreaking are statements of the Chief Minister’s vision for faster conversion of investment intents to grounding. These projects with a total investment of Rs 6,992.94 Crore and employment potential of 24,508 are spread over

14 districts i.e., Bolangir, Boudh, Cuttack, Ganjam, Jajpur, Jagatsinghpur, Jharsuguda, Keonjhar, Khurda, Puri, Rayagada, Sambalpur, Subarnapur & Sundergarh. Speaking on this occasion, the Chief Minister said, “Our industrial portfolio is expanding with the inclusion of new age and employment-intensive sectors such as green energy equipment manufacturing, textiles, tourism, etc. The continuous improvement in the Ease of Doing Business ranking of the state, coupled with a

business-friendly environment, world-class industrial infrastructure, and highly sought-after skill development initiatives, has been instrumental in attracting investments to Odisha. Highlighting the fact that the 32 projects are spread across 14 districts, the Chief Minister expressed his pleasure in the broad-basing of industrialization in the state. The ceremony was held through Video conferencing in the presence of the Minister Industries, MSME & Energy, senior government officials and representatives of these Industries.

## Dalmia Bharat Celebrates Empowerment of 18000 women on International Day of Rural Women

**Bhubaneswar, (KCN):** Dalmia Bharat Group, India’s leading conglomerate with businesses in cement and sugar, announces the successful empowerment of 18000 women on International Day of Rural Women. Through the establishment of Self-Help Groups (SHGs), these women are provided essential skill training and access to vital resources for sustainable livelihood development. In collaboration with various organisations like NRLM, NABARD, etc. Dalmia Bharat organizes various training initiatives like micro-enterprise development, handicraft production and others in both farming and non-farming sectors. All these activities are conducted in communities settled around their regions of operation across 12 states in India. These initiatives aim to upskill rural women to empower them, diversify their income sources and provide access to formal credit systems. Two notable initiatives in Odisha include Project Hastakala – upskilling women artisans and enterprise development via mushroom cultivation in communities surrounding its facilities in

Cuttack, Rajgangpur, and Lanjiberna Mines. Dalmia Bharat has enabled over 10,000 women in Odisha to become financially independent earning a monthly income ranging from Rs.4000 to Rs8000, significantly improving their individual well-being and the ability to support their families. Commenting on the company’s initiatives on International Day of Rural Women Mr. Ashok K. Gupta, CEO, Dalmia Bharat Foundation said, “Rural women in developing countries play a vital role in food security and economic development but face severe marginalization, including limited land ownership, higher illiteracy rates and unequal earnings compared to men. Dalmia Bharat is dedicated to uplifting marginalized rural women through holistic programs that bolster their income while managing household responsibilities. Our commitment aligns with UN Sustainable Goals, promoting self-reliance and gender equality for an inclusive and sustainable India, where empowered women drive community and national development.” Project Hastakala is an ‘earning with joy’ skill

development programme where women are trained in the unique tie & dye batik products. This project is conducted in tribal areas of Jhagarpur & Katang panchayat in Odisha. After witnessing immense success at national exhibitions, Dalmia Bharat introduced the SADRIe brand for promoting the handmade batik products like bedsheets, handkerchiefs, scarves etc. through multiple marketing platforms. Another successful initiative includes enterprise development through mushroom cultivation. Dalmia Bharat actively facilitates training programs and market linkage support for SHG women, equipping them to earn an additional monthly income of Rs. 5000 by establishing their own cultivation units. International Day of Rural Women, observed annually on 15th October, celebrates the vital role of rural women in agriculture, food security, and rural development. It highlights the need to empower them, address inequalities, and aligns with global goals for gender equality and sustainable development.

## Airtel Xstream Fiber unlocks its NEW All-in-One plans

**Bhubaneswar:** To serve the needs of premium households who want the next generational connectivity and entertainment experience, Bharti Airtel (“Airtel”), India’s premier communications solutions provider, has once again raised the bar in the home broadband segment with the launch of three new all-in-one plans built for the evolving entertainment needs of today’s connected homes. Vir Inder Nath, CEO – Homes, Bharti Airtel had this to say: “Our new plans are built for India’s emerging entertainment needs. Through these bundle offers we plan to offer our discerning customers great value, convenience and unlock a multi-faceted digital experience.”

Increased broadband consumption in Indian homes has given rise to the phenomena of hybrid viewing, where families are looking to consume OTT content on the TV screen along with linear TV without the hassle of managing multiple subscriptions and devices. Airtel’s plans are the first of their kind in terms of catering to the evolving entertainment needs of the whole family and come with: Subscription to 17 premium OTTs to go with unlimited data. This includes Netflix, Amazon Prime, Disney+ Hotstar and Airtel Xstream Premium (SonyLiv, Lionsgate, Hoichoi and 11 more OTTs). 350+ TV channels covering the best of linear TV. Airtel 4K Xstream TV Box\* that allows you to enjoy OTT and linear TV content with a single device and single remote.

## WHEC recognizes Amrita Vishwa Vidyapeetham as excellence worldwide in Gender Equality

**Barcelona:** Amrita Vishwa Vidyapeetham was invited to the UNESCO World Higher Education Conference (WHEC), which recently took place in Barcelona, Spain. UNESCO recognized Amrita as one of five universities of excellence worldwide for its performance in gender equality. The WHEC aims to reshape ideas and practices in higher

education to ensure sustainable development for the planet and humanity, as well as to define and prepare a roadmap for a new era of higher education. As the world comes out of COVID-19, the WHEC’s goals and strategic scope remain, and the new timeframe represents an opportunity to deepen and expand common efforts of knowledge production,

policy dialogue, exchange, and networking. Swami Amritaswarupananda Puri, President of Amrita Vishwa Vidyapeetham, participated in a round table called “Universities’ Contribution to Gender Equality: A global perspective”. Adding to his views Swami Amritaswarupananda expressed how Amrita is

making a difference in terms of gender equality and which policies have been put into place at the university level. Gender equality is number five in the United Nations’ list of 17 Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). He explained how the culture of gender equality is not implemented only in terms of policies within Amrita, but also practiced in spirit.

The round table included Dr. Gloria Bonder, UNESCO Chair on Women, Science and Technology; Dr. Ricardo Vilanueva Lomeli, Rector General, University of Guadalajara; Ms. Elizabeth Shepherd, Leader of the Consultancy team, Times Higher Education; and Dr. Victoria Galan-Muros, Chief of Research and Analysis,

businesses with innovative, cloud-native solutions,” said Rajesh Chandiramani, Chief Executive Officer at Comviva. “By combining our expertise in customer experience and data monetization with AWS’s unparalleled capabilities in SaaS and AI, we are poised to reduce risks, optimize costs and drive unprecedented value for our clients globally.” “As Comviva embarks on its journey to becoming a truly SaaS organisation, AWS is excited to collaborate with the company as its preferred cloud,” said V.G. Sundar

Ram, Head of Business Development, AWS India and South Asia. “This association aligns with our commitment to helping organisations accelerate their digital transformation journeys by providing scalable, secure, and innovative technology solutions.” Comviva’s core platforms across DigiTech, MarTech, RevTech and FinTech are set to leverage Amazon Bedrock to elevate product experiences with a variety of AI and GenAI-driven use cases tailored to its customers. This integration extends to

Comviva’s service management platform, empowering service desk agents with AI-powered operations, ultimately delivering faster and more efficient service resolution. Additionally, Amazon Q is being explored to boost developer productivity by seamlessly embedding within diverse development environments. Comviva has been collaborating with AWS APN partners for over three years, driving infrastructure governance and accelerating modernization efforts across its cloud ecosystem.

## EXCEPTIONAL EXPERIENCES AWAIT SINGAPORE AIRLINES CUSTOMERS

**Singapore:** Airlines (SIA) today unveiled its all-new flagship SilverKris and KrisFlyer Gold lounges at Singapore Changi Airport Terminal 3, following a \$550 million re-design, upgrade, and expansion project. This will further enhance the on-ground customer experience at the Airline’s main hub, and comes as the demand for international air travel from and through Singapore takes off once again.

The Private Room, the First Class section of the SilverKris Lounge, the Business Class section of the SilverKris Lounge, and the KrisFlyer Gold Lounge can collectively accommodate around 1,150 customers within

their 6,100 square-metres, translating to 30% more seats and space. This also doubles the capacity that was available during the pandemic while the upgrading works were going on. The Airline has created a sanctuary that has been thoughtfully designed to enhance the comfort and convenience of diverse groups of travellers, and meet their evolving needs in the coming years. Customers will be able to enjoy world-class products and services, as well as enticing food and beverage options, around the clock at the lounges before their flight.

Mr Goh Choon Phong, Chief Executive Officer, Singapore Airlines, said: “Extensive customer

engagement and research have gone into the design of the new SilverKris and KrisFlyer Gold lounges. Customers will enjoy thoughtfully curated product offerings and experience the signature Singapore Airlines hospitality, all within a comfortable and restful environment, ensuring that they are refreshed and ready for their journey.

“Opening these lounges at this time signals our commitment to SIA’s premium brand and growth strategy. It reinforces our position as Changi Airport’s anchor airline, and reflects our confidence in Singapore’s future as a pre-eminent global air hub.”



leaving West Indies at 126/7 after 18 overs. The last two overs turned out well for West Indies as Sam Curran conceded 17 runs and Mousley gave away 15, with Shepherd and Matthew Forde coming up with useful cameos. However, the total proved insufficient against a rampaging Buttler who put England in a good position to clinch the series. Brief scores: West Indies 158/8 in 20 overs (Rovman Powell 43, Romario Shepherd 22; Saqib Mahmood 2-20, Liam Livingstone 2-16) lost to England 161/3 in 14.5 overs (Jos Buttler 83, Will Jacks 38; Romario Shepherd 2-42) by 7 wickets.

(Captain), Shadman  
Islam, Mahmudul Hasan  
Joy, Zakir Hasan,  
Mominul Haque,  
Mahidul Islam, Litton  
Das (WK), Jaker Ali,  
Mehidy Hasan (Vice  
Captain), Taijul Islam,  
Shoriful Islam, Taskin  
Ahmed, Hasan Mahmud,  
Nahid Rana, Hasan  
Murad