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FIND US ON

Odisha To Construct 30,000 Km Of Roads And 500 Bridges In 5 Years Scheme. For the



Bhubaneswar(KCN): Odisha Chief Minister Mohan Charan Majhi has set an ambitious target for the Rural Development Department to construct 30,000 kilometres of roads and 500 bridges in the next five years. This goal was outlined during a review meeting of the department's programs at Lok Seva Bhawan. Majhi emphasised the importance of utilising 100% of the available

funds to provide highquality transport facilities to the people of Odisha. The Chief Minister and bridge construction, directing the department to take action against contractors and officers who fail to meet

standards. He also

advised constructing

good-quality roads in hilly

Elder Brother Prem Patnaik Visits

Prem Patnaik, the elder admitted to a private Minister Narendra

received treatment from

a specialised medical

team. He recovered fully

on Wednesday night and

was discharged from the

hospital. After his

discharge, senior BJD

leaders visited him at his

residence to meet the

party supremo.

Naveen Amid Health Concerns

Bhubaneswar(KCN): Naveen Patnaik was

brother of Biju Janata hospital last Sunday due

Dal (BJD) President and to dehydration and

training programs to improve the skills of contractors.

Under the Pradhan stressed the need for Mantri Gram Sadak strict quality control in Yojana, Odisha has secured the fourth position in India by constructing 70,711.24 km of roads out of the 73,984.88 km approved. The fourth phase of the scheme focuses on tribal-dominated areas, aspirational blocks, and areas and conducting Naxal-affected areas,

During his visit, Prem

Patnaik not only

discussed Naveen's

health with him but also

spoke with the doctors

Naveen Patnaik's health

had raised concerns

among party members

and supporters. Several

prominent leaders,

including Prime

Modi, AICC president

Mallikarjun Kharge,

Odisha Governor Hari

Babu Kambhampati,

Chief Minister Mohan

Charan Majhi, and

Dharmendra Pradhan,

PCC President Bhakta

Charan Das had

prayed for his speedy

Union

recovery.

Minister

treating him.

with a proposal to construct 942 roads and 8 bridges for 1,021 unconnected public settlements.

The Rural Development Department has made significant progress in recent years. In the financial year 2024-25, 4,500.30 km of roads were constructed under the Chief Minister's Road Scheme, and 186 bridges were built under the Bridge Construction

roads and 300 bridges. The department is also working on improving rural infrastructure, including the construction of hostels, college

financial year 2025-26,

the department plans to construct 5,000 km of

houses, government offices, storm and flood shelters, and welfare pavilions. In 2024-25, 451 buildings and structures were completed, and provision has been made to complete 1,229 construction works in 2025-26.

This push for rural development is part of the state's broader vision, as outlined in the "Viksit Gaon, Viksit Odisha" scheme, which aims to develop rural infrastructure improve the socioeconomic condition of rural areas with a ?5,000 crore investment.

Hirakud Dam To Open Gates Today



Bhubaneswar(KCN): Hirakud Dam authorities have issued a warning due to the rising water level in the reservoir caused by heavy rainfall upstream. The dam will open its gates tomorrow to release excess water, and caution is in place to mitigate potential flood risks. Residents in downstream areas are advised to remain alert and avoid entering the Mahanadi River.

District administrations in Sambalpur, Sonepur, Nayagarh, Cuttack, Jagatsinghpur, and Kendrapara are taking necessary precautions to ensure public safety. The Sambalpur district administration is closely monitoring the situation and is prepared for any eventuality.

Residents in the downstream have been warned to stay away from the river.

Odisha DGP Orders Crackdown On **Illegal Donations Ahead Of Festival**



Cuttack(KCN): Ahead of the festive season, Odisha's Director General of Police (DGP) Yogesh Bahadur Khurania has issued strict directives to all district Superintendents of Police (SPs) to enforce a complete ban on illegal donation often collections conducted under the guise of festival celebrations. The DGP has ordered stringent action against individuals engaging in such activities and emphasized grassroots-level implementation to ensure compliance.

The announcement was made during a review meeting held at the State Police Headquarters in Cuttack on August 22, 2025, chaired by DGP Khurania.

The meeting focused on ensuring public safety and security during the upcoming festival season. Comprehensive security measures were outlined, including

patrolling, strict checking protocols, and proactive steps to prevent any untoward incidents.

The DGP stressed the need for constant vigilance and advance intelligence gathering to address potential challenges swiftly.

To counter rumors and misinformation, DGP Khurania directed district cyber cells to conduct 24/ 7 monitoring of social media platforms. He also instructed SPs to strengthen security in sensitive areas through police increased patrolling, installation of CCTV cameras, and action against habitual offenders.

Coordination with puja committees, community groups, and local representatives was emphasized to ensure smooth festival operations. Robust arrangements were mandated at puja venues and during immersion processions to safeguard the public.

heightened police The DGP further ordered Range IGs, and DIGs.

strict action against illegal cattle trafficking and unauthorized firecracker sales during the festive season. Additionally, he directed officials to inspect venues hosting festival-related fairs to review administrative arrangements and ensure public safety.

The meeting saw participation from senior officials, including Additional DGP (Crime Branch) Vinaytosh Mishra, Additional DGP (Modernization) Soumendra Priyadarshi, Additional DGP (Law and Order) Sanjay Kumar, Additional DGP (HRPC) Yatindra Koyal, IGP Satish Gajabhiye, IGP (Crime Branch) Safeen Ahmad, IGP (Crime Branch) Dr. Sarthak Sarangi, DIGP (Provisioning) Charan Singh Meena, DIGP (Personnel) Jugal Kishore Kumar Banoth, SP Vineet Agrawal, and virtually by Intelligence Director R.P. Koche, along with all district SPs,

Weather Alert: Low Pressure Develops Over Gangetic West Bengal

Bhubaneswar(KCN):: and The India Meteorological Department (IMD) on Friday evening announced the formation of a low-pressure area over Gangetic West Bengal and its neighbourhood, triggered by an upper air cyclonic circulation over the region

adjoining northwestwards across Bangladesh.According to the IMD bulletin issued at 8:30 pm (based on observations at 5:30 pm), the associated cyclonic circulation extends up to 7.6 km above mean sea level, tilting southwestwards with height. The system is expected to move west-

Jharkhand during the next 24 hours and weaken gradually thereafter. Weather officials will continue to monitor its movement closely, as such systems typically bring widespread rainfall to eastern and central India.

Centre Clears Names Of 14 Top IAS Officers For Key Posts In Jumbo Rejig

New Delhi(KCN): The Punhani has been Appointments appointed the Chief Committee of the Cabinet (ACC) on Friday approved a major toplevel bureaucratic reshuffle of as many as 14 Secretary-rank IAS officers across various ministries and departments of the a 1991 batch officer of Centre.

Leader of Opposition

Naveen Patnaik, visited

his brother at Naveen

Niwas today. Prem

Patnaik arrived in

Bhubaneswar after

getting news of

Naveen's illness and met

with him to discuss his

The appointments, which include several officers on special duty (OSD) who are taking charge of posts to replace incumbent officers who are retiring, will see new faces in top positions of the Central government. As part of the reshuffle, Atish Chandra, an IAS officer of the 1994 batch of the Bihar cadre, has been elevated to the rank of Special Secretary in the Prime Minister's Office (PMO).

Senior bureaucrat Rajit AGMUT cadre, will

Executive Officer of the Food Safety & Standards Authority of India (FSSAI) and will replace Ganji Kamala V. Rao, a 1990 batch officer of the MP cadre, who is superannuating. Punhani, Bihar cadre, is currently the Skill Development and Entrepreneurship Secretary.

Alka Upadhyaya, a 1990 batch officer of the MP cadre, who is currently the Secretary of the Department of Animal Husbandry and Dairying, has been shifted to a new role as Secretary of the National Commission for Minorities, under the Ministry of Minority Affairs.

Debashree Mukherjee, a 1991 batch officer of the

take over as the new Secretary for the Ministry of Skill Development Entrepreneurship to fill the post that has fallen Development,

vacant with Punhani's transfer. She was previously the Secretary of the Department of Water Resources, River Ganga Rejuvenation. Vijay Kumar, a 1992

batch officer of the Tamil Nadu cadre, when AGMUT cadre and the current Chairman of the Inland Waterways Authority of India (IWAI), has been appointed as Officer on Special Duty (OSD) in the Ministry of Ports, Shipping, and Waterways. He will

Ramachandran, a 1991

succeed

T.K.

कर्तव्य भवन ३

he retires on September 30.V.L. Kantha Rao, a 1992 batch officer of the Madhya Pradesh cadre, has been laterally shifted from the Ministry of Mines to the Department of Water Resources, River Development, and Ganga Rejuvenation, taking over charge from Mukherjee. batch officer of the Sukriti Likhi, a 1993

batch Haryana cadre officer and Chairperson of the National Authority for Chemical Weapons Convention, is the new OSD in the Department Ex-Servicemen of Welfare, Ministry of Defence. She will succeed Niten Chandra, a 1990 batch Odisha cadre officer, who superannuates October 31.

Rannjana Chopra, a 1994 batch Odisha cadre officer, has been appointed as OSD in the Ministry of Tribal Affairs. She will take over from Vibhu Nayar, a 1990 batch Tamil Nadu cadre officer, on October 31.

Naresh Pal Gangwar, a 1994 batch Rajasthan cadre officer, has been named Secretary of the Department of Animal Husbandry & Dairying, replacing Upadhyaya.\

Achievement Announcement

It is a moment of great pride that Mr. Satva Gopal Das. hailing from Keonjhar, has been conferred the Doctor of Philosophy (Ph.D.) degree by Maharaja Sriram Chandra Bhanja Deo University.

His doctoral research was carried out on the topic: "Assessment of Corporate Social Responsibility

Measures and Quality of Life of Beneficiaries: A Study on the Mining Units of Keonjhar District in Odisha." The research was successfully completed under the esteemed guidance of Dr. Sandeep Patnaik, Kumar Retired Reader and Principal Commerce, with the



valuable co-guidance of Dr. Sitaram Das, Assistant Professor.

Mr. Das is the beloved son of Mr. Satya Brata Das and Mrs. Rajeshree Das. He is also the proud nephew of eminent social workers Mr. Pradyumna Mohanty and Mrs. Susmita Mohanty, who have been a constant source of inspiration.

On this academic milestone, Mr. Das extends his deepest gratitude to Lord Jagannath for divine blessings and expresses heartfelt thanks to his friends, colleagues, and well-wishers for their continuous encouragement and support throughout his scholarly journey.

'Classroom-to-Community' Initiative by Department of Social Work, Fakir Mohan University

Balasore, 8(Krushna Kumar Mohanty) :The Department of Social Work, Fakir Mohan University, organized a field-based initiative titled 'Classroom-to-Community Engagement', led by postgraduate students of the department.

The primary objective of the program was to bridge theoretical learning with grassroots realities by engaging directly with community groups. As part of the initiative, first- and second-year students visited Makhapada village under Nilgiri Block, where they conducted awareness campaigns on health, hygiene, and social inclusion. These were

presented through street plays and interactive discussions with villagers.

The awareness activities

covered crucial issues such as seasonal health challenges during monsoons, sanitation and cleanliness, use of mosquito nets, first-aid practices for snakebites and reptile encounters, the importance of consulting doctors rather than relying superstition, preventive measures like using phenyl, bleaching powder, and DDT for maintaining a clean environment.

Guided by departmental faculty, the students adopted a 'learning by doing' approach, linking classroom insights to problemreal-life



solving. The initiative is expected to serve as a bridge between education and social

service while nurturing empathy, leadership, and problem-solving skills among students them into socially Villagers responsible citizens.

In addition, the students carried out a villagelevel cleanliness drive, for their efforts. removing garbage, Speaking on weeds, and stagnant occasion, the Vicewaste to promote a Chancellor remarked healthier environment. that such initiatives not Special emphasis was only benefit the placed on raising community but also awareness about dengue enhance the skills and prevention and snakebite confidence of students.

management. The program was expressed its intent to implemented under the organize guidance of Vice-Chancellor Prof. Santosh Kumar Tripathy between academic and supervised by learning and social faculty members Ms. transformation. Rashmirekha Raut and

with ultimately shaping Ms. Supriya Raut. welcomed the initiative and expressed their gratitude to the students

> The Department has similar programs regularly, strengthening the bond

Odia Bhasa Bikasha Andolana (OBBA) Organizes 'Youth Leadership and Skill Development' Discourse

Balasore, Kumar (Krushna Mohanty): India, compared to all other nations of the world, has the largest youth force. If this force is properly guided and channelized, India's aspiration of becoming Vishwaguru (world leader) can be fulfilled. Parents should not impose their own will on the youth but rather give them the freedom to shape their own future. Only then can they bring out their hidden talents. Youth are the backbone of the nation. If they do not go astray and instead take leadership in different fields, the country's future will certainly be bright. This was the opinion expressed by Dr. Geetashree Ray, retired Professor of English, and Dr. Debadatta Das. Assistant Professor of Fakir Mohan University, while participating as guests in the discourse on "Youth Leadership and Skill Development" organized by Odia

Bhasa Bikasha Andolana



(OBBA).

Presiding over the Dr. function, Dr. Choudhury Satyabrata Nanda, in his address, cited various examples and said that if the youth wish, they can Shanti Bishi, Pushpalata make the impossible Chakraborty, Kavita possible.

Speaking during the and Jumarnath Patra. introductory session, Dr. In conclusion, Joint Lakshmikant Tripathy, Secretary Shantilata General remarked that irrespective of thanks. Among others of age, anyone who present were Niranjan carries the passion and Raut, enthusiasm of youth in Chatterjee, Tapan Ray, their heart can be called

The program began with Shirishchandra Jena,

a chorus composed by Tripathy and musically arranged by Kalyani Nanda, performed by Archana Kar, Truptirani Patra, Jena, Prabhakar Sahu,

Secretary, Panda delivered the vote Pradeep Deepak Bose, Dr. Ramakant Nayak, Dr.

Sarat Kumar Mohapatra, Dr. Laxman Biswal, Gagan Dalai, Bidyadhar Sahu, Rajendra Raut, Lakshmikant Behera, Sanjay Kumar Panda, Dr. Hemamala Dash, Benudhar Debasish Singh, Uday Shankar Parida, Hemendra Mohapatra, Mamata Mohanty, Dr. Randhakar Purnachandra Nayak, Nityananda Manmath Kumar Sahu, Dr. Samarballabh Bhoei, Archana Nandi, and Karunakar Sa among

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Preparatory Meeting Held for Blood Donation Camp and Tree Plantation to Mark Centenary of Baleswar Mahavir Akhada Sangha



Aug 22 (Krushna Kumar Mohanty) :At the premises of Mathasahi Landa Goswami Matha, a preparatory meeting was held yesterday under the chairmanship of Gopinath Satapathy to mark the centenary celebrations of the

Mahavir Akhada Sangha. It was decided in the meeting that a tree plantation program would be organized this coming Friday near Harganga pond, and on Sunday a Lenka, blood donation camp would be held at the Blood District Headquarters Januar

Hospital. Those present at the meeting included Secretary Manoj Das, Vice-President Manoj Raut, Padmalochan activists Rameswar Behera, Debabrata Panigrahi, Bank of the Baleswar Archana Nandi, Sek Husein,

Lambodar Behera, Srimanta Majhi, Ashrita Tarei, Hemalata Das, Bailochan Dash, Basanti Nayak, Bharat Bhushan Das, Rajendra Das, Simon Das Mahapatra, Bijaya Palei, Satyendra Das, Rabindra Behera, Debendra Das, among others.

Breaking joint families and disintegrating society



The soul of our society resides in the family. The biggest strength of the society has been the joint family system. Living together of three generations, taking care of the elderly, inculcating values in children and acceptance among the family was the axis on which our culture and society rested but unfortunately today this strong foundation is crumbling. Joint families are breaking down rapidly and are being replaced by small, nuclear families. As a result, relationships are replaced by mobile getting weaker, the elderly are forced to struggle with loneliness and the new generation is getting away from experiences of real life.

OPINION

We have always said with pride that our biggest asset is our family. And the family did not only consist of parents and children but also of grandparents, uncles, aunts, and the entire clan of brothers and sisters, which was called a joint family. This system kept us going even in the most difficult times. Today all this is changing.

People of my generation who have seen seventy springs of life have seen and lived the golden era of joint families. That was the time when we used to listen to stories while sitting on grandmother's Stories lap. Ramayana Mahabharata, stories of Panchtantra became our sanskaar in childhood. But now they have been screens. Children are growing up in the virtual world of cartoons and

games, away from the

In joint families, children grew up under the care of elders. If someone was weak in studies, uncles would help him, if someone fell ill, aunts would immediately come forward to serve him. This cooperation was not limited to the family only but also got embedded in the thinking of children. They would learn to take everyone along and these values would strengthen

the society. The big question is why did our joint families gradually disintegrate? There are many reasons behind this. The biggest reason is consumerist culture. The market wants every family to be divided into small pieces so that a separate TV, separate fridge, separate car can be sold for every house. When a family is divided into four parts, consumption increases four times. This is the strategy of the market.

joint families. The second reason is blind imitation of western culture. Media and films have we lost in the

Prof. Mahesh Chand Gupta

have created the image that joint families are the root of quarrels and small families are the symbol of modernity. The youth started feeling that there is no freedom in joint families, but a burden. Slowly, this notion has taken root in the society.

The third reason is the

changing lifestyle. In cities, the pressure of jobs, the race for career and the thought of socalled freedom have also pushed the family backwards. Now the young generation has become limited to 'me and my family'. The fourth reason is the unnecessary interference of many people in the in-laws' house of their daughters. Due to this, the peace there is disturbed. Sons and daughters-in-law get separated. This is also becoming a big reason for the disintegration of

But think, how much

meantime? Joint family was not just a structure to live in but it was a school of living. Grandparents would teach values to children through stories, parents would discipline them and patience would be developed among brothers and sisters through cooperation and sacrifice. Elders were given respect and protection. Children used to learn values not only from their parents but from the entire family. Responsibility towards the

environment, respect for elders, the feeling of 'Atithi Devo Bhava' were the gifts of the joint family.

Can anyone deny that India's great life values like service, sacrifice, tolerance were born in joint families. This is the reason why we survived for thousands of years despite attacks, crises and changes.

On the contrary, the picture of today's small

family is different. Children struggle with loneliness. When parents are busy in jobs, mobile and internet become the support of children. Elders are either neglected or are being pushed into old age homes. Closeness in relationships has decreased selfishness is increasing. Institutions like marriage are weakening. Options like live-in relationships are increasing. Instability is replacing stability in relationships. The result is that mental stress, depression and insecurity are increasing rapidly in the society.

How sad it is that we talk about the unity of the nation but are unable to save the unity of our own family. The fabric of society has become loose due to the disintegration of joint families. There is no warmth in relationships, there are no values in children and there is no respect for elders. When

Federalism on Trial!

Asit Mohanty

servants,

suspended upon arrest.

who are

detention—and

families break, society also breaks and when society breaks, the unity of the nation also comes under threat.

It is a matter of happiness organizations like Rashtriya Swayamsevak Sangh are trying to unite families through Kutumb Prabodhan Abhiyan, but this is not the work of any organization but of the entire society. We ourselves have to decide what kind of India we want to hand over to the next generation? The big question is also how do we move forward? First of all, we have to consider joint family as our cultural property and not a burden. We have to understand that modernity does not mean breaking away from tradition. Real modernity is that in which there is a balance between tradition and progress. Uniting families, giving respect

to elders and giving values to children, this is the path by which we can make our society strong again. We have to think that if families break, society will also disintegrate and if families are strong, the country will also be strong. The breakdown of joint

families is not just a social change but the erosion of Indianness. It would be the biggest crime to leave the coming generations to loneliness and consumerism. The disintegration of the family is the first step towards the disintegration of society and the nation. The need is to revive the feeling of belongingness and collectivism that made India the oldest and strongest stream of civilization. Remember if the family is united, the country will also be united.

(The author is a renowned educationist, thinker and speaker.)

Gandhi. Apart from this,

A Lost Human Being In The Midst of Modernity

MEERA BEURA



Elizabeth Gilbert is a American novelist, playwright, and actress who has written many books. Her book Eat, Pray, Love sold millions of copies at that time and gained immense popularity. She described many incidents from her life regarding love in it.

Yes, friends, one thing is most surprising — that today's man can fly in the sky like a bird, swim in water like a fish, see the whole world with a mobile phone in the palm of his hand, and also maintain good relationships, but he cannot learn to live in harmony like a human being. The most surprising thing is that even in human harmony, man is not safe. Sometimes we see a person, instead of getting affection, love, respect, and care from his fellow man, falling prey to jealousy, hatred, and despair, and in a state of great helplessness, he does not hesitate to take extreme decisions like suicide.

To be honest, today's modern man — as much as he reaches the peak of progress — encounters sorrow and despair every moment. There is no such field in which he has not been able to achieve success. But the sorrow is only that the more a person climbs the ladder of progress, the more he invites sorrow, misery, and despair. It would not be

wrong to say that a person has become a machine. He is searching for happiness and finding

sorrow like a killer. The definition of happiness has taken a different form in his consciousness. He is running forward and forward every moment. Today, although the death rate has decreased due to

preventive vaccinations,

on the other hand, the

death rate due to suicide is increasing — especially the among young generation. Love, marriage, then cheating, then divorce, and finally the ultimate decision like suicide — every day, many such incidents are happening before our eyes like a movie. As the body is disease-free, life has become more and more difficult. The happier one seems on social media, Instagram, and WhatsApp statuses, he is not as happy as he seems. Only that person can tell how helpless a person is in reality — defeated in the battle of life, fighting with

death by collecting blood

and tears. On the one hand, we have achieved so much in commerce, agriculture, science, art, culture, etc., and on the other hand, we are forgetting the art of living. Today, every youth suffering from depression and related diseases of apathy. They forget that concentration is the main secret of a healthy, beautiful, and peaceful life. A life without concentration is a worthless life. Small joys can no longer give us joy. have gradually forgotten the meaning of gratitude. We are not happy with what we have, but we are chasing after

some unattainable things

and destroying the

happiness we already have in our hands.

Who knew that a student who repeatedly failed in history would one day make history — not only in India but also in the whole world? A simple salt campaign could bring so much Swaraj to the country. How much struggle did J.K. Rowling go through to gain a research has revealed popularity overnight by writing the book Harry Potter? How many defeats did former U.S. President Abraham Lincoln suffer before becoming the President of the United States — 17 times after repeated failures? How much struggle did A.P.J. Abdul Kalam go through? How much struggle did Lal Bahadur Shastri face? How much struggle did Thomas Edison go through to invent the electric bulb? All of them struggled to achieve success in life whose history is a mystery. How much struggle does a simple insect go through to become a beautiful butterfly? Today, families are

gradually shrinking and there are gaps in relationships. What is the meaning of love? The definition of love is becoming hateful for many. They are only confusing material, physical happiness with love. If only breathing, heartbeat, and blood flow are called life, then this is a life of hardship — where there is no love, affection, respect, care, or cooperation. Today's man is gradually becoming person-centered instead of society and familycentered. Everywhere, people are sitting on the fence. Despite having everything, man today has become self-centered. Intellectual consciousness

is getting lost.

Here I remember the words of Mother Teresa — she used to say that if you waste time looking at people's faults and weaknesses, then you will not have time to love them. Lord Chesterfield also said that making others happy is a gift, and it is a great social power.

Information obtained from that the number of deaths aue to expensive, unhealthy, and excessive food-related diseases is more than the number of deaths due to malnutrition. So it is clearly proven that lack of money can never be the cause of mental depression. It is the lack of true brotherhood, love, and faith that creates depression-related disorders in the minds of the youth and encourages them to commit suicide. The definition of love has changed today. Real love is not in pleasure but in renunciation. They need to know this. Appropriate steps should be taken in this direction in every school and college, and there should be a counseling system by experience d

psychologists. Love is the most powerful. Love is such a great medicine that makes animals, birds, wild creatures, plants, and humans live together. The greatest weapon in this world is love, which solves all problems. It dissolves all bitterness in an instant. Love is eternal, true, beautiful. and pure. Pure, eternal, selfless love is more powerful than a nuclear bomb.

Raghunathjiu Deulasahi, Tulsipur, meerabeura74@gmail.com Phone 7846921400

automatic removal from office. Destabilization of

The Parliament has been bills introduced by Home Minister Amit Shah on August 20, 2025. The among them is the Constitution (130th Amendment) Bill, 2025, which proposes that any sitting Prime Minister, Chief Minister, or Minister whether at the Union or State level—can be removed from office if they are arrested and held custody for 30 consecutive days on charges punishable by five years or more in prison. Why the Chaos? The bill sparked intense protests, with opposition MPs tearing up copies of the legislation, shouting slogans, and accusing the government of trying to undermine democracy. The uproar was so severe that the Lok Sabha had to be adjourned multiple times. Key Concerns Raised by Critics:Here's why many believe this bill could erode democratic principles: Presumption of Innocence Undermined -The bill effectively punishes elected officials before a court has found them guilty. Critics argue this violates the foundational legal principle: innocent until guilty. proven Weaponization Investigative Agencies -

Opposition leaders fear that central agencies like the College ED or CBI could be used to target political rivals. A Cuttack fabricated or exaggerated charge could lead to a 30-

Elected Governments - By allowing removal without a conviction, the bill could be used to topple governments that the ruling party cannot defeat electorally. This raises alarms about federalism and the separation of powers. Executive Overreach -The bill gives disproportionate power to unelected officials and central authorities, potentially allowing them to controversial override the will of the electorate. Historical Irony - During the debate, Congress leader K.C. Venugopal pointed out that Amit Shah himself was arrested in 2010 while serving as Gujarat's Home Minister. Shah responded that he had resigned on moral grounds before his arrest—a move critics say the bill would now mandate. What Happens Next? The bill has been referred to a Joint Parliamentary Committee, which includes members from both Houses. They're expected to submit a report by the Session Winter November. The political motive behind the Constitution (130th Amendment) Bill, 2025, as interpreted by many

> strategic blend of perception management, power consolidation, preemptive control over opposition-led states. Let's unpack the layers: Official Justification by the Ruling Party - The government claims the bill is a moral corrective to the "declining standards in public life." According to the bill's preamble, it aims to: Ensure constitutional morality and good governance. Prevent ministers from continuing in

> office while facing serious

criminal charges. Align

elected officials with civil

analysts and opposition

leaders, appears to be a

Underlying Political Motives (As Alleged by Critics) - 1. Perception **Battle Ahead of Elections** -The BJP may be using the bill to project itself as a party of integrity, especially ahead of the 2026 general elections. By framing the bill as an anti-corruption measure, it seeks to corner opposition leaders who are charges. 2.Destabilizing Opposition Governments - The bill allows removal of ministers based on custody without conviction, which critics say could be weaponized to topple governments in states ruled by opposition parties. Leaders like Arvind Kejriwal and Hemant Soren—who continued in office while in jail—are seen as direct triggers for this legislation.3. Expanding Central Control - By enabling governors (often aligned with the Centre) to remove state ministers, the bill could erode federal autonomy and centralize power. This aligns with broader patterns of executive overreach seen in recent years. 4. Creating a Chilling Effect -The threat of automatic removal may deter dissenting voices and discourage political activism, especially among regional parties and grassroots movements. Actually this bill has been brought in the House at a time when the Vice President election is near

and the candidate of India

Alliance is from Andhra

Pradesh. It may happen

that the Telugu Desam

Party, whose leader is

Chandrababu Naidu, the

ally of NDA, supports the

candidate of India Alliance,

B Sudarshan Reddy.

Because it is said that

Chandrababu Naidu has

had secret talks with Rahul

Rahul Gandhi is now doing the Voter Rights Yatra in which a huge crowd is gathering. The Election Commission has been exposed in front of the whole country due to the certified fact of Rahul Gandhi regarding vote theft. Internally BJP is in a state of discord. On the other hand, Bihar politics is going against BJP. It is said that the future of the NDA government at the center depends on the Bihar elections. In such a situation, BJP has tried to instill a kind of fear in its ally parties through this bill. Because Chandrababu Naidu has been found guilty in many cases. Due to which he was also in jail for 6 months. The case against him has not been withdrawn. If he does any wrongdoing, he will be immediately sent to jail. Secondly, this is also an attempt to divert people's attention from Rahul Gandhi's Voter Rights Yatra. But now people have understood that BJP is taking anti-life and anti-democracy steps to save its chair.

The Constitution (130th Amendment) Bill, 2025, cloaked in the rhetoric of moral reform, risks becoming a constitutional Trojan horse—inviting executive overreach under the guise of accountability. While the aspiration to uphold integrity in public office laudable, mechanism proposed bypasses due process, undermines federalism, and opens the door to politically motivated detentions. In a democracy, the ballotnot the baton-must determine leadership.

Convener, Odia Language **Protection Campaign** Sujanpur, Jajpur Cell - 9437288028

Contaminated Fish Consumption in Kolkata

Saikat Kumar Basu



Fish remain a vital component of local diets, but multiple studies underscore the persistent risks from mercury, lead. pesticides, and pathogenic microbes in Kolkata's supply. While fish from designated wetlands managed under monitoring frameworks may be considered safer, consistent vigilance, safer sourcing, and proper hygiene practices are essential to minimize health hazards.

Metals Heavy Contaminations: NGO studies from 2009-2012 at major Kolkata markets (e.g., Gariahat) found methyl-mercury levels often over 100% above international limits, affecting species

pabda, and tangra. Weekly intake thresholds were exceeded in many samples—alarming even for adults and worse for children. A GSI-led study in 2017 revealed concentrations up to ~17.8 mg/kg in fish sold in street markets significantly above the

2.5 mg/kg Microplastics: A multiinstitutional survey (2018–2019) of fish from Kolkata's waters detected microplastics—mostly fibres—in nearly 50% of fish guts, raising concerns about longterm ingestion risks in

Indian regulatory limit of

human diets. Microbial and Pesticide Contamination: A

 $2 \ 0 \ 1 \ 9 \ - \ 2 \ 0 \ 2 \ 0$ assessment of fish from peri-urban wholesale and retail markets (e.g., Baghajatin, Garia) found pathogens including Salmonella, Malathion in Ganga- muscle tissue contained indicated that lead atmospheric lead—

like katla, bhetki, chital, Listeria, Clostridium, caught fish often above metal levels well within and Staphylococcus aureus, and presence of

(MRLs)

maximum residue limits WHO/FAO safety thresholds, except in

accumulation

sediment and cadmium emissions—settles into in sediment and organs street-sold fish and raw may exceed aquatic life



Recommendations Favor Fish Sources Carefully: Fish from heavily polluted areas (e.g. Ganga, inner city wetlands) have higher risk—opt for suppliers whose fish come from better-monitored water bodies.

Limit High-Risk Fish: Katla, bhetki, chital, pabda, and tangra should be consumed sparingly—especially by pregnant women,

in largely from diesel children, and heavy consumers—due to mercury and lead concerns. Ensure Proper Handling:

Buy from vendors who use clean potable water for ice and maintain hygienic storage. Avoid roadside shops with questionable cleanliness. Avoid Monsoon Purchases: Bacterial contamination rises during monsoon season. Freshness declines faster; risk waterborne pathogens is higher

Advocate Monitoring: Encourage local authorities to conduct regular heavy metal testing at fish markets, especially during seasonal changes.

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and water samples indicative of poor hygiene practices. Earlier surveys (2001– 2005) showed residual pesticides like total-НСН, DDT, Endosulfan, and

Kolkata Wetlands): A contamination. Overall, 2023 field study across fish from EKW were EKW measured metals—such as Cd, As, monitored. Pb, Hg—in fish and complementary analysis sediments. Most fish of sewage-fed pond fish

Aquaculture (East m o d e r a t e sites considered safe for heavy consumption if regularly

muscle tissue metal levels remained within WHO/FAO humanconsumption. Driving Factors

guidelines, though

Contamination

Air Pollution: High

"Election Commission: Public trust or political pressure"

"Trust in the eyes of the public, responsibility on the shoulders of the commission"

The Election Commission of India was once considered the strongest foundation of democracy. But in recent years, serious questions have been raised about its impartiality and transparency—names missing from voter lists, delays and inconsistencies in voting percentage, limitations of EVM-VVPAT matching, and political influence on the appointment of commissioners. Double standards are also visible in the enforcement of the code of conduct. The biggest crisis is that public trust has started to waver. The existence of democracy depends not only on machines, but on the trust of citizens. The biggest challenge for the Commission is to save this trust.

Dr. Priyanka Saurabh



Election Commission of India was once considered the most trusted watchdog of democracy. But recent controversies have raised questions on its credibility—names missing from voter lists, doubts over the transparency of voting percentage, questions being raised on the appointment process. The biggest challenge for the Election Commission now is not to make rules or send notices, but to return the trust of the people. Because democracy does not run only on voting machines, but on the trust of the people. If trust is shaken, elections will remain a mere ritual and democracy will lose its true meaning.

Democracy is a game. The playing field is the public, the players are the political parties and the referee is the Election Commission. The question is, how fair will the game remain when the referee himself enters after several days the doubt has been raised again and again in recent times.

It seems as if the matter

of removing names from the voter list has become a new government fashion. The voter sits at home and thinks that he has an existence in democracy, but when he goes to the polling booth on the day of voting, he finds out that he has already been "made to disappear". Just like a magician brings out a rabbit from a hat, the **Election Commission** shows the art of deleting names. And when you go to complain, you are told - "Fill an affidavit, testify, prove that you are alive." That is, the biggest proof of citizenship in this country is no longer that you are breathing, but that the Commission has ticked your name with a pencil. state transparency of the **Election Commission is** like the mirror placed on the groom's horse - it is visible to everyone, but gets blurred as soon as one goes close to it. The announcement of the voting percentage is also like the trailer of a Bollywood film - first a

glimpse is shown, then

the field wearing the actual figures come, and jersey of one team? This sometimes the second trailer turns out to be longer than the first. The public asks that when the votes are counted immediately at the booth, then why does it take a week to declare the percentage? The Commission's answer is - "Everything was on our app." But the public thinks, when the photo goes live on social media before the wedding card is printed, then why does

the data of the vote counting hang? Now let us come to EVM and VVPAT. The Commission's argument is that the machines are absolutely safe. The public says, "We also have faith, but please show the slip." The Commission says, "Five booths are enough." This is like a shopkeeper weighing only five grains out of every hundred kilos of flour and saying, "Look, they are whole, now trust the rest." The Supreme Court said that 100 percent matching is not necessary, but the question is that in democracy, trust does not come only from the machine, trust comes from the eyes of the public. If the public wants to see, then show

it, after all, what is there



to hide?

The situation of appointment commissioners is even more interesting. Earlier it was said that this appointment should be impartial. Then a new law came and the Chief Justice of the Supreme Court was removed. Now the Prime Minister, the Leader of the Opposition and a Minister will decide who will sit in the Commission. That is, the teacher who checks the exam papers will himself get his favourite candidate passed. What impartiality! The presence of the Leader of the Opposition is just formal, just like a distant uncle who comes in the wedding procession – he is just there for show, the rest of the game is taken care of by the big

The commission has its "vision" in implementing the code of conduct. If a leader makes a small comment, a notice is immediately sent. But if the same thing is said by a leader from the ruling party, the commission first goes into a deep meditative state, then into yogic sleep and finally into amnesia. The public says that the commission should take action against everyone equally, but the commission seems to take action against the DJ dancing at a wedding only if it is from neighbouring the neighbourhood, whether the baraatis of the house burst crackers or play loudspeakers, everything acceptable.

The decisions on election symbol and

party division are also amazing. In the case of Shiv Sena and NCP in Maharashtra, commission's decisions seemed as if the script had already been written. The public quipped that the commission has now become the "propertydivision officer" of political parties, not of elections. Who will get the party name, who will get the election symbol - all this was decided like the division of a family's property. The only difference is that now the commission is sitting in place of the court and the public knows in advance in whose favor the decision will go. The real crisis is not

whether the commission is doing right or wrong. The real crisis is that the public has now started

perception is the biggest reality. If the public is convinced that casting vote is just a formality, then it will leave the celebration democracy and start watching cricket matches in its room. And if the queues for casting votes start getting shorter, then the foundation democracy will automatically shake. There is a lot of talk

about reform, but the

reality is that the need

for reform lies more in the thinking of the commission than in itself. If it is necessary to remove a name from the voter list, then do it with double confirmation. If the voting percentage can be declared within the stipulated time, then make a rule. If EVMs are safe, then why fear showing the slip? If the appointments are fair, then why exclude the judiciary? If the code of conduct applies to everyone, then why does the colour of the notice change according to the power?

Democracy is a magical word. It shines only as long as the public trust remains intact. If the trust

believing that the is broken, the lamp of commission is not democracy will also be impartial. In democracy, extinguished. It is time for the Election Commission to save its image. Because institutions derive their power not from power but from the people. Power is temporary, but the people are permanent. If the Commission loses the trust of the people, it will remain only a seal in constitutional the framework.

Today, the biggest question before the commission is this—is it really a referee of democracy or a baraabaaz of power? If the referee does not blow the whistle at the right time, the game will not be decided on the field but in history. And history never forgives those who put the sanctity of democracy at stake.

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PM Modi Defends Constitutional Amendment Bill,

Guru Gobind Singh College of Management & Technology, Gidderbaha, Shines in BCA 6th Semester Results



KOLKATA,(KCN):The atmosphere at Guru Gobind Singh College of Management Technology, Gidderbaha was filled with pride and celebration as the results of the BCA 6th Semester Examination were declared. The students once again showcased their remarkable dedication, perseverance, and academic brilliance, reaffirming the institution's long-standing tradition of excellence in

higher education.

Principal Prof. (Dr.) R.K. Uppal extended his warm congratulations to the toppers, all successful students, and the dedicated faculty members. He praised the relentless commitment of the teachers in guiding the learners and encouraged students to pursue higher academic and professional goals with the same determination and Dr. Uppal emphasized that such remarkable results are a

reflection of the college's strong focus on quality education, holistic development, academic excellence. The management, staff, and parents also expressed immense pride in the students' outstanding achievements. This resounding success marks yet another milestone in the journey of Guru Gobind Singh College, further strengthening its reputation as a hub of academic brilliance and professional growth.

BOBBY CHAKRABORTY'S 468TH ANTI ADDICTION CAMPAIGN WILL INSPIRE STUDENTS OF ST.NICHOLAS PUBLIC SCHOOL-WEST MEDINIPUR, TO WALK TOWARDS LIGHT



KOLKATA(KCN): Renowned Actor/Activist/Teacher of Method Acting from Kolkata-India will motivate students of the 7th-11th grade from St.Nicholas Public 25th School, on August, Monday, 11am onwards, with his global, free of cost, award winning awareness program for the youth, titled 'I am The King of My Mind'. This will be around 670 students gentleman and a socially his 468th session globally.

This much talked about, interactive session empowers a child to fight against all sorts of addiction (smoking, alcoholism, smart

social trends (abusive language, online obscenity to gain popularity, online gambling through games, bullying etc.).

St.Nicholas Public School

is a CBSE affiliated senior secondary school located at Garhbeta(falls in the territory of Jangal generation learners. There are hundreds who don't have basic resources for better education and employability. The

phones) and harmful enterprising Chairman, a President's award winner and eminent educationist, Dr. Dhananjoy Pan, established this school with the motto to impart better academic facilities to the rural and marginalised children of the community.

The dynamic Principal Mahal) in the district of Mr. Soumyabrata West Medinipur. It caters Chakraborty, a perfect among whom more than responsible individual, is 20% students are first elated to host Bobby's life changing session at his school. He thanked Bobby profusely, for his relentless work towards the betterment of the children who really need it.

Says Jailed Ministers Can't Hold Office Kolkata(KCN): Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Friday defended the

130th Constitutional Amendment Bill and asserted that jailed ministers cannot hold office.

Addressing a public meeting at Dum Dum Central Jail ground, PM Modi lambasted the INDIA bloc parties, including Trinamool Congress, for opposing the bill and shielding corrupt leaders.

"We decided to bring in a law that will not allow a corrupt chief minister, or even the Prime Minister, to hold office, if he or she spends 30 days in jail. But when we brought in such a law, 'INDI' bloc parties like Congress and Trinamool Congress started opposing it. They got angry because they don't want to be punished for their crimes," said the Prime Minister.

At the same time, he also took a dig at former Delhi Chief Minister Arvind Kejriwal. "It is a shame that even a chief minister, after going to jail, has been running the government from there." Shifting his focus to Trinamool Congress, PM Modi said even after going to jail, two TMC ministers refused to step down from their posts. "Two TMC ministers, even after going to jail on corruption charges, were not willing to give up their posts. Cash worth crores was recovered from the house of one such minister. It was in plain sight the kind of corruption they were part of. Yet they want to hold on to their post. Should they be allowed to carry on? Shouldn't they be put behind bars? Those who arrested corruption charges, how can they be part of the government and remain in their posts? Modi will not allow this," the PM said.

It was an apparent reference to former state education minister Partha Chatterjee, who was

arrested in connection with the teachers' recruitment scam, and Jyoti Priya Mallick, who was arrested in the ration distribution scam.

"For the past 11 years, the country has been waging a determined battle against corruption. In this regard, we have taken a significant step forward by introducing an anticorruption Bill in the Lok Sabha. Under existing laws, if a government employee is caught and incarcerated without securing bail within 50 they hours, automatically suspended from their position. But no such provisions exist for a chief minister, a prime minister, or a minister," he said.

On Wednesday, Union Home Minister Amit Shah introduced the Constitution (130th Amendment) Bill, 2025, which seeks to remove a Central or State Minister who is facing allegations of corruption or serious offences and has been detained for at least 30 days or over an offence that carries a jail term of five years or more, even if not convicted.

Prime Meanwhile, Minister Narendra Modi on Friday launched a scathing attack against the Trinamool Congress by saying crime and corruption have become the identity of the Mamata Banerjee-led

party and asserted that only the BJP can bring 'asol paribartan' (real change) in West Bengal. Addressing a public meeting at Dum Dum Central Jail ground near

Kolkata, PM Modi said, "There is only one cry in Bengal now. TMC ke sorao, Bangla ke bachao (remove TMC to save Bengal). Today, crime and corruption have become the identity of TMC. Unless TMC is removed from power, the real change cannot take place. Real change means providing security to women, putting corrupted leaders in jail and not in ministry and improving the lives of the people."

The Prime Minister also accused the Mamata Banerjee government of amassing central funds meant for the welfare of the people.

"There is a need to have a BJP government in West Bengal to usher in overall development of the state. Funds sent for development projects are being looted here by the TMC. The fund is not used for the welfare of That's why West Bengal is lagging behind in development. People are now saying that 'TMC Jabe, BJP asbe'. (BJP will come, once TMC is ousted)," he said.

The Prime Minister also criticised the TMC government for creating roadblocks before the Centre in implementing development projects.

"TMC has become an enemy of development. The TMC government has refused to be part of the Centre's smart-city mission. TMC's mission is to stop the BJP here and its government's schemes. Will this kind of politics help Bengal prosper? Will this help anyone? Give the BJP a chance in Bengal. We will usher in overall development in the state," he said. He further criticised the

Banerjee

Mamata

government for supporting infiltrators in the state due to its appeasement politics and asserted that only the BJP can stop infiltration in Bengal."We want to give employment to our citizens. We want to help them. But we won't allow infiltrators who are torturing our people to live in the country. But it is unfortunate that TMC, areas," he said.

The Prime Minister said those who are living in the country by making false

South India:

leave the country. "For that, TMC needs to go from power, as it supports such people," he said.

Earlier in the day, PM Modi inaugurated and laid the foundation of projects worth Rs 5,200 crore, including three new stretches of the Kolkata Metro, and an elevated corridor in adjacent Howrah. PM Modi visited the

Jessore Road Metro Station, where he flagged off the Noapara-Jai Hind Bimanbandar Metro service. In addition, through video conferencing, he also flagged off the Sealdah-Esplanade Metro service and the Beleghata-H e m a n t a Mukhopadhyay Metro service. He also undertook a Metro ride from Jessore Road Metro Station to Jai Hind Bimanbandar and back. "It is a matter of pride that India boasts the thirdlargest Metro network in the world. Remarkably, prior to 2014, the country had only 250 km of Metro along with INDI alliance routes. Today, that figure partners, are supporting has exceeded 1,000 km. the people. But the same the infiltrators for their This marks a big step is used on TMC cadres. appearement politics. towards improved urban Demography is being mobility and seamless changed in border connectivity... Cities like Kolkata are a rich identity of both India's history and our future," the PM said, after the foundation identity cards will have to stone-laying ceremony.

Empowering Fishers for a Sustainable Ganga: Awareness on Hilsa and Gangetic Dolphin under NMCG



KOLKATA,(KCN): Bringing communities to the forefront for riverine conservation sustainable fisheries, ICAR-Central Inland Fisheries Research Institute, Barrackpore, organized an awareness programme on the conservation of the Gangetic Dolphin and Hilsa under the National Mission for Clean Ganga (Phase III) at Gadakhali, South 24

Parganas, West Bengal, on 20 August 2025. The initiative, led by Dr. B.K. Das, Director, ICAR-CIFRI and Principal Investigator of the NMCG project, along with other project members, highlighted the ecological importance of Hilsa and the endangered Gangetic Dolphin, while emphasizing the need for community participation sustainable management of the

Ganga River ecosystem.

A total of 45 local fishers took part in the programme, where they were sensitized to the importance of preserving aquatic biodiversity, particularly the Gangetic Dolphin, India's National Aquatic Animal, and adopting responsible fishing practices. Key messages included adherence to seasonal fishing bans during breeding periods, the use of eco-friendly fishing gear, and avoiding the

capture of juvenile Hilsa. Dr. Das underscored the campaign's core objective of educating fishing communities on sustainable practices that safeguard Hilsa populations while ensuring long-term livelihood security.

One participating fisher for noted, "Earlier, we struggled to catch enough fish to sustain our families. But now, we are seeing better

availability, and it's helping us earn more." By engaging fishers, women, and even children, the Dolphin and Hilsa conservation campaign fosters inclusive participation in conservation. The initiative strengthens collective responsibility protecting biodiversity, ensuring that environmental sustainability goes hand in hand with the economic well-being of future generations.

New Delhi: The current situation in Bangladesh

HuT Eyes

has not only made the country chaotic, but has also given several terror groups a breather. This fresh lease of life given to these terror groups will be directed against India, as that is their larger agenda.

With security deteriorating, the Indian agencies have on multiple occasions flagged the threat that is posed by the Jamaat-e-Islami, Harkat-ul-Jihadi Islami or Ansarullah Bangla Team (ABT). While these terror groups are focused on West Bengal and the northeastern states, the name of another terror group has kept the agencies on their toes.

The Hizb-ut-Tahrir (HuT), which has a major base in Bangladesh, is now trying to focus its operations in South India. Intelligence agencies have already picked up chatter that suggests that the HuT is involved in brainwashing, radicalising recruiting people from the southern states. The focus is on Tamil Nadu, Telangana and Andhra Pradesh.

There is a lot of material relating to Palestine that is in circulation. This is being used to recruit youth and also to paint a picture that India is not supportive of the Palestinian cause. The HuT is, however, not the first outfit to use this issue. Almost all terror groups do the same.

The HuT is not an outfit that can be taken lightly. It has managed to build a base strong Bangladesh and also has its presence in India. It was the HuT that had first plotted to topple Sheikh Hasina in 2015. The plan, however, did not go through

During that operation, the HuT had roped in 16 army officers of the

Radicalisation With Palestine Narrative Bangladesh army.

Fuels

Today, the HuT seems to be having a free run in Bangladesh, and this only adds to India's worry. In India, the outfit has managed to create a support base. Its base mostly comprises students. However, its supporters are part of proxy groups, and they have organised seminars in New Delhi and other parts of the country. The topic of discussion has only been the Israel-Palestine conflict.

Another incident that suggests that the HuT has a big base in India is when around 1,000 members of the group's proxy came out in protest against the Battle House encounter in 2010.

Investigations into the group's activities have also revealed that it wants to set up hit squads. These hit squads would fall under their newly created Sharia courts.

Odisha Govt To Recruit 44,433 Teachers In Three Years, Announces CM Majhi

government will fill 44,433 teacher posts over the next three years, with nearly 15,000 recruitments annually, Chief Minister Mohan Charan Majhi announced Thursday. He said the

move is aimed at addressing vacancies and strengthening primary education in line with the National Education Policy (NEP) 2020.

Chairing a review meeting of the School and Mass Education Department at Lok merge the Board of

Bhubaneswar(KCN): Seva Bhawan, Majhi Odisha said regularization of schematic primary school teachers and creation of additional posts are priorities for the state's education roadmap.

> Currently, Odisha has 45,292 primary schools with 1,60,319 sanctioned teacher posts. As per NEP 2020 requirements, 39,366 more posts will be created, while 5,067 vacancies expected by December 2025

> In a major structural reform, government decided to



Secondary Education aimed at improving (BSE) and the Council of efficiency Higher Secondary governance. Education (CHSE) into a Majhi also announced

single education board, that free textbooks will

be provided to all Class 9 and 10 students, hostels, Auxiliary extending the benefit Nurse beyond SC/ST students. To strengthen appointed, with one

Midwives (ANMs) will be multi-purpose health and Training (SCERT) worker for every 300 will be revamped in line students.

teaching tribal children Directorate in their mother tongue Textbook Publication and directed steps to establish a multilingual be strengthened. education center in The meeting was Koraput collaboration with Mass SCSTRTI. Additionally, B.Ed.-qualified teachers will be Manoj Ahuja, Principal appointed as resource Secretary to the CM persons for differentlyabled children.

The approval process Secretary Sanjeev for private schools will Mishra, School and be fully digitized, while Mass the State Council of Secretary Shalini Pandit, Educational Research and senior officials.

with the NCERT The CM emphasized framework. and Marketing will also

> in attended by School and Education Minister Nityananda Gond, Chief Secretary Saswat Mishra, Finance Principal Education

Chief Secy Manoj Ahuja Stresses On Robust Monitoring For Viksit Odisha Vision



Bhubaneswar(KCN): The Odisha government recently organised a State-level workshop on Performance Indicator (KPI) Development for "Viksit Odisha – Vision 2036 & 2047" at the State Convention Centre, Lok Seva Bhavan, in Bhubaneswar. The workshop aimed to collaboratively finalise a comprehensive KPI framework, a crucial step in implementing the Vision Document unveiled by the Prime Minister of India.

Ahuja emphasised that the Vision Document lays out an ambitious path for Odisha to emerge as a growth engine for India by 2047. He highlighted the importance of a growth mindset, shared understanding, accountability, and robust monitoring in achieving the vision. A high-frequency, datadriven Chief Minister's Dashboard will track progress, with the determined by the strong KPI framework.

quality and relevance of KPIs.

The workshop featured a detailed presentation on a four-tier KPI framework, including Outcomes, Outputs, Processes, and Sub-processes, and demonstrated the KPI Development Toolkit. Three-member teams from each department, comprising Departmental Secretary, Nodal Officer, and a Senior Officer, will ensure strategic leadership and technical success of the Vision inputs for developing a

Senior officials, including Additional Chief Secretaries, Principal Secretaries, and Commissioner-cum-Secretaries, stressed departmental ownership, convergence, collaboration in KPI development s u c c e s s f u l implementation. The Strategic Support Unit (SSU) the presentation and KPI discussion on finalisation integration into the Chief

Odisha Strengthens Global Tourism Position With Three Key MoUs



Bhubaneswar(KCN): state. According to In a significant step towards establishing Odisha as a premier global tourism destination, the state government has signed three Memoranda of Understanding (MoUs) with renowned institutions. The MoU signing ceremony took place at Lok Seva Bhavan, attended by Deputy Chief Minister Pravati Parida, Minister of Odia Language, Literature & Culture Department Suryabanshi Suraj, and Chief Secretary Manoj Ahuja.

The MoUs aim to promote heritage conservation, adventure tourism, and Buddhist pilgrimage circuits in the

Parida, these agreements represent Odisha's comprehensive vision to conserve its rich heritage, diversify tourism offerings, and expand its global presence. emphasized the need to implement these projects efficiently to achieve meaningful outcomes.

The three partnerships are with the Indian Institute of Technology, Madras (IIT-M), the National Institute of Water Sports (NIWS), Goa, and the Light of Buddhadharma Foundation International (LBDFI). Here's a breakdown of

each MoU

Odisha will utilise advanced scientific techniques for structural audits and conservation of heritage monuments through its partnership with IIT-M. This collaboration includes detailed documentation, material testing, geotechnical investigations, and preparation of project reports, as well as sustainable reuse plans and project management consultancy support.

The partnership with NIWS, Goa, aims to introduce globally accepted safety standards, safety audits, and capacity-building programs for adventure tourism operators, lifeguards, and service providers. With Odisha's extensive coastline and

abundant resources. the government sees immense potential for developing adventure tourism, creating livelihood opportunities for the state's youth.

The MoU with LBDFI focuses on reviving Odisha's Buddhist heritage and pilgrimage tourism. Key initiatives include organizing annual prayer ceremonies at prominent Buddhist sites like Ratnagiri, Udayagiri, Lalitagiri, and Dhauli. The partnership will also enhance visitor amenities, develop digital e n g a g e m e n t infrastructure, and curate cultural and academic programs showcasing Odisha's Buddhist



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NILD Observes Swachhta Pakhwada



(KCN): National Institute for Locomotor Disabilities (Divyangjan), Kolkata observed "Swachhta Pakhwada" from July 16 to 31, 2025 under the Swachh Bharat Mission. Swachhta Pakhwada started on July 16, 2025 by taking a pledge of cleanliness. During the Swachhta Pakhwada, various cleanliness were programmes organised to keep the institute clean and green

environment: awareness play on cleanliness by students, poster-slogan competition, special cleanliness drive in the campus, a workshop on cleanliness and health was also organised in collaboration Baranagar Municipality. The students of the institute staged an inspiring awareness play that highlighted the importance of cleanliness and health. Through their energetic performance, they conveyed the message of keeping the environment around them clean and motivated people to take responsibility for a healthy environment.

With the aim of making the institute campus a special clean, cleanliness drive was organised in the campus on July 30, 2025, in which Dr. Lalit Narayan, Director, NILD and the staff of the Institute actively participated.

Experience the best-in-class customer services at 11 new Alpha Service Centers across India

Bhubaneswar: Sony Imager cleaning and India is expanding its Alpha Service Network across 11 cities in India including Mumbai, Coimbatore, Jaipur, Pune, Hyderabad, Ahmedabad, Trivandrum, Chennai, Indore, Bhubaneshwar and Guwahati. This is expansion for Alpha Camera body and lens repairs facilities is a testament to the brand's continued dedication to customer satisfaction. Sony now has the widest service network of after sales support for Digital Imaging products with 8 service centers for lens repairs, 18 service centers for Alpha their products. The friendly Camera Body repair, customer care staff at 40+ service centers these service centers will which can offer basic

firmware updates and 220+ collection centers pan India.

The service centers

are equipped with

necessary jigs and tools to deliver best quality repair of Alpha camera body, Camera Lens, Professional Cameras and other digital imaging products like Digital Still Cameras Camcorders. Customers can also avail instant services for basic supports like CCD Imager cleaning and getting the latest firmware update to enjoy best performance from help customers to register services like CCD their in-warranty products

on Sony Alpha Community portal to enable them avail free of cost additional one year warranty applicable products.

Speaking on the occasion, Mr. Mukesh Srivastava, Head of Digital Imaging Business at Sony India, said, "By supporting and assisting partners in local markets, Sony aims to ensure customers receive exceptional service and satisfaction along with quicker and faster turnaround at all outlets across the country. The new service centers will offer customers a seamless experience across multiple touchpoints to provide a consistent experience that surpasses expectations.'

ATLAS OF AFFLUENCE - INDIA'S FIRST EVER WHITE PAPER ON LUXURY LAUNCHED AS A YEARLY FEATURE

Mumbai: Amidst leading luminaries of industries spanning across the (AOA) 2022 has been launched in Mumbai. Created by The Voice of Fashion (TVOF), a India spiked during the division of Reliance two years of the Brands Limited, the daily digital magazine that tracks and leads fashion, design, crafts and through a specially

that dissects consumer luxury.

A collective reflection on what affluence means in post-pandemic market retail, AOA 2022, is the commissioned study

first such wide and deep across six cities and white paper from India markets of India, AOA 2022 has been published business of luxury, the behaviour studied as a book with Atlas of Affluence through the prism of exclusively commissioned artworks. This study uses the time graph of "pre-pandemic" and "post-pandemic" months to specify a pandemic. Charting the comparative matrix. It also helps debunk longand the clearly altered held ideas about what conversations on Indian consumer mindset affluence and luxury have meant to Indians.

SBI now offers Real Time **Xpress Credit on YONO app**

Mumbai: With an aim to digitally empower customers and offer additional convenience, the country's largest lender, State Bank of India (SBI) has announced the introduction of Real Time Xpress Credit (RTXC) on YONO. The bank's flagship personal loan product for salaried customers – Xpress Credit has a Digital Avatar now. Customers can now avail RTXC from the comfort of their homes through YONO – which is going to be 100% paperless and digital. The end-to-end 8 step journey would be easy and instant for the customers.

UnderReal Time Xpress Credit, Central/ State Government and Defence salaried customers of SBI will no longer be required to visit the branch for availing a personal loan. The credit checks, eligibility, sanction & documentation will now be done digitally in real-time.

Shri Dinesh Khara, Chairman, SBI said, "We are pleased to introduce Real Time Xpress Credit (RTXC) Loan facility for our eligible salaried customers on YONO. The Xpress Credit product will enable our customers to experience adigital, hasslefree, and paperless loan process. We at SBI constantly endeavour to offer technology-led enhanced digital banking experience to the customers in order to simplify banking."The digitalization of Xpress Credit delivery will also help the bank to do away with theneed to handle and store enormous paperwork.

Blenders Pride Fashion Nights arrives in Bhubaneswar

Bhubaneswar: Blenders Pride Fashion Nights, a unique travelling experiential property, arrived in the City of Temples – Bhubaneswar – celebrating the authentic sprit of the city through fashion and style. A spirit that echoes with Pride and inspires the creators of today to become icons of tomorrow.Bhubaneswar's 'Made of Artistic Flair' edition for Blenders Pride Fashion Nights, brought together an eclectic evening that blended fashion, culture and dance, celebrating a symbolic amalgamation of homegrown artistry and the unwavering spirit of local talent.

Exemplifying the region's signature weave through a curated evening at the majestic Vivanta, Bhubaneswar, DC Square was Odia designer Sabyasachi Satpathy, whose intricately crafted ensembles drew inspiration from the multicultural city and its colourful history. In a true celebration of Odisha's distinct and masterful craftsmanship, the show was elevated with a captivating performance by the Prince Dance Group– from the small Odisha town of Berhampur – widely lauded for their artistry. The show drew to a finale with none other than actor Diana Penty, who captivated the audience in a beautiful ensemble by the designer. The "Made of Artistic Flair" edition of Blenders Pride Fashion Nights was a beautiful embodiment of the rich craft and cultural heritage of the city in a modern and contemporary setting.

Taking us on a 'Jatra' – The Journey of a Young Woman – the show encapsulated the journey of a woman from post adolescence to her nuptials. navigating the various challenges, trials and significant moments that come her way. The enigmatic journey was captured through the array of colours and textiles that Odisha Bandha/Ikkat offers. Truly encapsulating the spirit of 'Made of Pride', the designer made use of Odisha weave, which is sustainable, hand-woven, organic and a homegrown initiative of design, painstakingly woven by the weavers of Odisha. The upbeat set was a composition designed to narrate the spirit of Bhubaneswar along with the flair of the designer. The evening was attended by the city's Alisters& influencers. The fashion walk truly left the guests mesmerized and engaged.

Through this unique showcase of Pride encompassing diverse talent across creative fields, Blenders Pride Fashion Nights 2022, encourages everyone, especially youth at large to celebrate &take pride in their authentic and individual journeys. The evening spotlighted individuals whotake Pride in their choices, are comfortable in their skin and, most importantly, embrace their authentic selves – truly living a life that is 'Made of Pride'.

JSW BPSL Becomes First in Indian Steel Sector to Launch SPEED - Initiative for Energy Efficiency & Sustainability

Sambalpur: KCN(Sudhansu Sekhar Moharana) JSW BPSL has launched its flagship initiative - SPEED (Sustainability Planning for Energy Efficiency and Decarbonization) at its Sambalpur Works. The program unique&one of its kind in India's steel sector to adopt a structured, theme-based roadmap for energy efficiency and decarbonization.

The initiative was inaugurated by Shri Umesh Rai, Chief Operating Officer, JSW BPSL, in the presence of senior leadership team, including



Shri Prakash Sapa, Sr. VP-Operations, Shri J.P. Singh, VP &Head HR, Shri Manoj Patwari - VP, Shri Vikas Jain – VP and Shri Manoj Kumar Singh - VP along with departmental heads and employees.

Speaking at the launch, Shri Rai emphasized that SPEED would serve as a structured roadmap to drive energy efficiency, optimize resource utilization, reduce emissions& embed sustainability practices across operations.

As the first step, JSW BPSL, in collaboration with Forbes Marshall as Knowledge Partner, conducted a Workshop on Steam Energy Conservation— the first

theme under SPEED for the month of August 2025. The session focused on improving steam generation and utilization, reducing thermal losses, and adopting modern technologies to enhance efficiency. An additional awareness session was held for engineers, boiler operators, maintenance teams to encourage wider participation.

SPEED will run from August 2025 to March 2026, with each month dedicated to a key theme energy sustainability. The initiative has been designed and is being led by the Energy Management Team at JSW BPSL, ensuring a structured approach supported by active employee involvement. By covering critical areas of energy use through focused monthly themes, the program aims to significant deliver reductions in both energy consumption and carbon footprint.

With SPEED, JSW BPSL reaffirms its commitment to responsible and sustainable steelmaking, while setting new benchmarks for energy efficiency in the Indian steel sector.

Bank of Baroda and FSSAI Sign MoU to Launch **Customised Web-Based Payment Solution**

New Delhi, (KCN): Bank of Baroda (Bank), one of India's leading public sector banks, has signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with the Food Safety and Standards Authority of India (FSSAI) to provide a customised web-based payment solution -'FSSAI Payment Solution'.

The MoU was signed by Cdr Sharad Aggarwal, Director, FSSAI, and Ms. Mini TM, Chief General Manager & Zonal Head, New Delhi Zone, Bank of Baroda, in the presence of Ms. Rachna Mishra, General Manager, Govt Relationship, Shri M.V.S Sudhakar, DGM (Business Development), Shri Baljeet Singh, DGM, Govt Relationship, New Delhi, Shri Samir Kumar Ojha, DGM & Regional Manager, South Delhi Management Region and Shri Manish Information System



Kumar Mishra, Deputy

Director, FSSAI. This collaboration aims to promote ease of doing business by streamlining the digital payment interface with various stakeholders engaging with FSSAI. The solution will simplify and automate the disbursement of grants, vendor payments. and

FSSAI and its affiliated agencies to manage grants and payments efficiently. It will also ensure effective monitoring and control over the Nodal Account, including seamless fund flow to State Child Accounts and District Sub-Child Accounts for improved financial oversight and transparency.

(MIS) functionalities. The

implementation of this IT-

based platform will enable

realme launches the Stylish realmenarzo 60 Series 5G and the revolutionary realme Buds Wireless 3 storage variants: 8GB +

Bhubaneswar(KCN): realme, the Most Reliable Smartphone Service Provider in India, unveiled its latest offerings today, the realmenarzo60 Series 5G and realme Buds Wireless 3. These newest additions to realme's legacy of innovation are crafted to provide users with an unrivaled experience. The realmenarzo 60 Series 5G introduces two standout smartphones: the realmenarzo 60 Pro 5G and the realmenarzo 60 5G, accompanied by the cutting-edge realme Buds Wireless 3 for an immersive experience.

The realmenarzo 60 Series 5G is the first and only smartphone in the 1TB storage. The realmenarzo 60 Series 5G is a groundbreaking lineup that revolutionizes the smartphone industry with its cutting-edge features. realmenarzo 60 Pro 5G is equipped with up to 12GB + 12GB of dynamic RAM and is the only smartphone in the segment with 1TB of ROM storage. It runs on the Dimensity 7050 5G chipset and boasts a massive 5000mAh battery with 67W SUPERVOOC charging support. The realmenarzo 60 Pro 5G comes in two stunning colors: Mars Orange,

priced at INR 23999, 12GB + 256GB priced at INR 26999 and 12GB + 1TB priced at INR 29999. realmenarzo 60 5G also showcases a Premium Vegan Leather and Martian Horizon design. The device offers a remarkable 90Hz Super

AMOLED Display with 20,000-level auto brightnessadjustment. The 64MP Street Photography Camera, equipped with 2X insensor zoom, DIS Snapshot, and 20X digital zoom, capturing stunning images with ease. Powered bу the Dimensity 6020 5G Chipset, thenarzo 60 5G gives you a worthwhile 60 5G comes in two stunning colors: Mars Cosmic Orange, Blackand two storage variants: The 8GB + 128GB is priced at INR 17999 and the 8GB + 256GB is priced at INR 19999. Buyers can avail bank

offers of INR 1500 on the realmenarzo 60 Pro 5G with 6 months No Cost EMI and 18 month warranty on pre-booking starting from 6th July 1 PM on Amazon.in. and realme.com. Users can also avail bank offers of INR 1500 therealmenarzo 60 Pro 5G with 6 months No Cosmic Black andthree Cost EMI on first sale

128GB which will be realme.com. realmenarzo 60 5G, buyers can avail a coupon of INR 1000* and No Cost EMI for up to 6 months and 18 month warranty on prebooking starting from 6th July onrealme.com Amazon.in. Users can also avail coupons worth INR 1000 and No Cost EMI for up to 6 months on first sale Amazon.in realme.com.

Introducing the realme

Buds Wireless 3, designed to elevate your audio experience with a 13.6 mm Dynamic Bass driver. Enjoy uninterrupted music with its 40-hour long battery life. Immerse yourself in segment to come with experience. The narzo crystal-clear sound with active cancellation. Indulge in a captivating journey with the 360degree spatial audio effect. The realme Buds Wireless 3 comes in three stunning colours: Bass Yellow, Vitality White and Pure Black and is priced at INR 1799. Users can avail a special first sale day offer on realme Buds Wireless 3 on 12th July,

onwards. Therealme Buds Wireless 3 will be available on realme.com, amazon.in, flipkart.in and offline stores near

Jindal Stainless signs MoU with SCTEVT, Odisha to train future-ready stainless steel professionals

State Council for G (IAS) and Unit Head, Vocational Training (SCTEVT) today signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with Jindal Stainless to promote technical education in the field of stainless steel and its various applications. Under this MoU, stainless steel courses will be introduced in all the Polytechnic colleges in Odisha from June 2022. The MoU was signed by Vice Chairman,

Technical Education & Jindal Stainless Limited (JSL), Shri Deepak Agrawal. Dignitaries present at the ceremony includedChairman, SCTE&VT and Principal Secretary Government, Skill Development Technical Education (SDTE) and Industries Departments, Shri Hemant Sharma (IAS); Additional Secretary, SDTE, Govt of Odisha, Shri Tapan Satpathy (OAS); Resident

Director, JSL, Mr SS

Bhubaneswar: Odisha's SCTE&VT, Shri Reghu Upadhyay, and General Manager, Sales & Distribution, Mr Ranit Rana.

> Commending development, Chairman, SCTEV&T and Principal Secretary to Government, SDTE and Industries Departments, Shri Hemant Sharma (IAS) said, "This collaboration with Jindal Stainless will enhance the learning experience for students and faculty both, as it will give them insights about and practical exposure to the stainless steel industry.

The Shreyas Iyer selection conundrum

New Delhi: Shreyas member squad. Iyer's omission from the The relevant clause in the Indian team for the Asia Cup has triggered a particularly on social media, which is abuzz team officials. The with memes, cryptic touring squad from any posts and direct criticism. So much so, even his therefore comprise father, Santosh Iyer, twenty questioned Ajit Agarkar's selection committee Agarkar's defence was decision. Even R Ashwin and Irfan Pathan have Shreyas, I mean, we'll joined the chorus, asking how both Iyer and can replace. Again, no

and legitimate posers moment he will have to considering the rules of wait for his chance," the the Asia Cup. The Asian chief selector said, Cricket Council (ACC), explaining the omission of in its guidelines to the Iyer from the Asia Cup participating teams, says, squad.

Yashasvi Jaiswal could

be ignored.

Asia Cup guidelines says: "Each squad will uproar, comprise seventeen (17) players, and eight (8) participating country will five individuals."

this: "With regards to have to tell you who he fault of his, nor is it ours. It's just that we can only Those, indeed, seem fair pick 15 and at the

leaving out Jaiswal was: "With regards Yashasvi, it's just unfortunate. With Abhishek Sharma... what he has done over the last few months or a year or so that he has been with the team, plus that he can bowl a little bit. (That) gives us some options if required by the captain. One of these guys will always be going to miss out. It's just unfortunate that Yashasvi might have to wait for his chance." With such a clause in place, does Agarkar's "no fault of his, nor is it ours. It's just that we can only pick 15..." justification really hold? Much as the selectors' contention sounds tenable, the backlash could still, a side can have a 17- His explanation for perhaps, have been



avoided.MSK Prasad offered a perspective on the issue. "My issue is not just about Iyer, but Mohammed Siraj too. Unless he has been

rested as part of workload management, he should have been in the squad. He was the Player of the Match in the last Asia Cup (50over) final.

"When they had the option of taking 17, they could have gone with the full-strength. I would have included two of the

three - Iyer, Siraj and Jaiswal. That said, I can also understand why they may have avoided picking 17. Having too many players on the bench puts pressure on the XI," the former chief selector told Cricbuzz.

A BCCI source said since all bases were covered, the selectors felt there was no need to pick 17. Not every participating country has announced their sides but Pakistan and Hong Kong have confirmed that they will field 17-member squads.

Former India spinner Pragyan Ojha has been appointed to the technical committee of the Asia Cup. As a member of the panel, he will help adjudicate cricketing disputes, including decisions on approving or rejecting mid-tournament replacements.

The technical committee, in fact, is in charge of running the tournament. The panel also will be in charge of appointing the match officials. It ensures the rules of the game are fully adhered to. There would be representatives from a few other countries as well, if not from all eight participating nations.

Ojha (38), a respected former international with 24 Tests, 18 ODIs and six T20Is to his name, has also served on the IPL Governing Council and represented the Indian Cricketers' Association (ICA).

India cleared for Asia Cup participation, Cox, Curran power Invincibles in big chase but no bilateral cricket with Pakistan

NewDelhi: The Government of India has drawn a firm distinction between bilateral and multilateral cricketing ties with Pakistan, making it clear that the national team will participate in the upcoming Asia Cup despite the growing clamour for boycott and withdrawal. But there will continue to be no bilateral engagement with Pakistan.

"India's approach to sports events involving Pakistan reflects its overall policy in dealing with that country," the Ministry of Sports and Youth Affairs said in a statement on Thursday (August 20).

events in each other's country are concerned, Indian teams will not be participating in competitions in Pakistan. Nor will we permit Pakistani teams to play in India. With regard to international and multilateral events, in India or abroad, we are guided by the practices



bodies and the interests our sportspersons."

The clamour to 'boycott Pakistan and the Asia avoid playing Pakistan. "So far as bilateral sports Cup' grew louder after By drawing a clear line the BCCI announced the between bilateral and 15-man India squad on multilateral Tuesday. The precedent engagements, had been set after the ministry has paved the Legends tournament in way for Indian teams to England earlier this compete in global summer, when the India tournaments that also Champions pulled out of feature both their group fixture including ICC and ACC and semi-final against competitions. It also Pakistan Champions. ensures that Pakistani

withdrew support, and the episode reignited the debate around whether India should completely Pakistan, like teams will be able to multilateral events when hosted in India. Even the visa processes for the push forward their bid of hosting the Olympics.

"To position India as a preferred destination for hosting international sporting events, the visa process

sportspersons, team officials, technical personnel, and officebearers of International Sports Governing Bodies

shall be simplified," the statement further said. "In respect of officebearers of International Sports Governing Bodies, a multi-entry visa shall be granted on priority basis for the duration of their official tenure, subject to a maximum period of five years."It is also relevant to take into account India's emergence as a credible venue to host international sports events. Accordingly, Indian teams and individual players will take part in international events that also have teams or players from Pakistan. Similarly, Pakistani players and players and match teams will be able to officials is set to be participate in such relaxed as India look to multilateral events hosted by India.

The government's stand should clear the uncertainty over the Asia Cup and India's participation in the matches against Pakistan in the eight-nation continental championship, scheduled from September 9 to 28 in the UAE.

NewDelhi:In a battle of the top two sides, the Oval Invincibles came up trumps in a game for the history books over the Trent Rockets. Jordan Cox (58) and Sam Curran (54) starred with halfcenturies to completely smash the Rockets out of the game. The Invincibles needed 102 off the last 40 balls but Cox's and Curran's blitzkrieg knocks sealed the game with 11 balls to spare.

In the chase, the opening bowlers of the Rockets kept the scoring down in the first four sets. Just when Tawanda Muyeye began to find some timing with back-to-back boundaries off David Willey, he was deceived by a slower ball from the leftarm seamer. Rehan Ahmed picked up Will Jacks who struggled in a 15-ball innings of 9 runs. With the innings going nowhere, the Invincibles' fortunes changed when they picked off 19 runs in Willey's set with Curran hitting two maximums. It continued to rain sixes as a whopping 32 runs came off Sam Cook's set which followed Willey's - the

most expensive one in the



Men's Hundred. Curran went 6,4,6,6 which

also included a no-ball and six wides to bring the equation hurtling down to 51 off 30 balls. Curran then smashed a six and a four to get to his 50 off George Linde before Rehan got Curran to hole out in the deep. Cox brought up his 50 with a single after smashing Marcus Stoinis for a four and a six before the legspin of Nathan Donovan continued the onslaught of Root brought up his sixes with a brace to end second 50 in the Stoinis' set of 25 runs. Cox to urnament. Root finished the game in style with two boundaries as the Rockets didn't know what hit them.

Earlier, the Rockets innings was lit up by Joe Root (76 off 41). He began with two boundaries in the first set to get off to a flier. He then 7 at the Oval.

Andreeva.

battered Saqib Mahmood to the fence thrice as the Rockets flew to 28 after 10 balls. Root continued to be the aggressor with three more boundaries in the next three sets.

Rashid Khan picked up Tom Banton but Rehan came in with two quick boundaries before smashing Rashid for a six and a four before falling to Ferreira Sowter. In between this, continued to impeccably time his way to boundaries before Rashid cleaned up his stumps. Linde then smashed three sixes and a four in a cameo of 25 off 8 to take the Rockets to a competitive 171 for

US Open 2025: Alcaraz handed tough draw despite avoiding Sinner's half

New Delhi: Carlos through at least one of starts against Alejandro Alcaraz has been these in-form contenders. Tabilo. handed a tricky path at Djokovic, meanwhile, The draw also threw up Jannik Sinner's half of Serbian veteran, a fourcould face a high-value 5-3 head-to-head lead progress as expected. Alcaraz, who opens his year. campaign America's tough quarter featuring Czech player Vit Kopriva showdown winner Ben Shelton, and Draper in the quarters. draw, 2022 finalist Casper Third seed Alexander champion

quarter-finals earlier this

the 2025 US Open begins against Learner intriguing first-round despite staying clear of Tien and sits on the same matches: 11th seed defending champion half as Alcaraz. The Holger Rune faces Botic van de Zandschulp, who the draw. The Spaniard, time US Open winner stunned Alcaraz here last chasing a second crown chasing a record 25th year, while 2014 at Flushing Meadows, Grand Slam title, holds a champion Marin Cilic meets Alexander Bublik. semi-final against one of over the Spaniard. He Alcaraz enters New York his familiar opponent, beat Alcaraz in four sets with six titles and a Tour-Novak Djokovic if both in the Australian Open leading 54 wins this season but will need to navigate a demanding against On the other side of the road if he wants another Reilly draw, Sinner begins his shot at the trophy — and Opelka, has landed in a title defence against possibly, a final 2021 champion Daniil and could meet last Sinner. When it comes to Medvedev, Toronto year's semifinalist Jack the women's singles defending Aryna Ruud. To reach the last Zverev, a potential semi- Sabalenka now has a four, he may have to get final opponent for Sinner, challenging path as she Andreeva, and Jasmine 19th



against Switzerland's Rebeka Masarova. The world No. 1 finds herself in a stacked top half that Pegula,

begins her campaign Paolini. A possible thirdround clash with 2021 Leylah finalist Fernandez awaits, while the round of 16 could pit also includes Jessica her against either 14th Mirra seed Clara Tauson or seed Elise

Mertens. Should she progress further, Sabalenka might have to face Paolini or ninth seed Elena Rybakina in the quarter-finals before a potential semi-final meeting with Pegula or

On the opposite side of the draw, second seed Iga Swiatek opens her campaign against Colombia's Emiliana Arango as she targets a second US Open crown and seventh Grand Slam title. The 2022 champion and current Wimbledon winner could run into 13th seed Ekaterina Alexandrova in the last 16, followed by a projected quarterfinal showdown with Wimbledon runner-up Amanda Anisimova. A semi-final clash with third seed Coco Gauff looms as the headline matchup from the opening round, 28 bottom half if results follow the seedings. Gauff, who won the US as a teenager.

Open in 2023, begins against Australia's Ajla Tomljanovic before a potential second-round test against Donna Vekic or Jessica Bouzas Maneiro. The American could face 15th seed Daria Kasatkina or four-time Grand Slam champion Naomi Osaka in the last 16, with a quarter-final meeting against Australian Open winner Madison Keys also on the cards. Adding to the drama, Venus Williams, playing what might be her final US Open, faces 11th seed Karolina Muchova in the years after her first Flushing Meadows final