

Dumani Mail

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Govt prohibits manufacture, Sale and Distribution of 16 Fixed Dose Combinations



New Delhi: The government has banned the manufacture, sale and distribution of 16 fixed-dose combination (FDC) drugs for human use with immediate effect. The move follows a Supreme Court-directed review by an expert committee set up by the Drugs Technical Advisory Board, which found the drug combinations lacked therapeutic justification and could pose health risks. The banned products include certain dermatological, pain-relief, antispasmodic and antibiotic-based medicines. The Ministry of Health and Family Welfare said the action aims to ensure only safe, effective and scientifically validated medicines remain available. State drug regulators and enforcement agencies have been directed to strictly implement the ban.

PM Modi joins President Murmu in Odisha to inaugurate projects worth over Rs 47,600 crore

New Delhi: Prime Minister Narendra Modi today offered prayers at the revered Santhali Jahera, Goshani Peeth and Ho Jahera sacred groves in Pahadpur village of Odisha's Mayurbhanj district. He was accompanied by President Droupadi Murmu.

The Prime Minister also explored exhibits showcasing the rich tribal heritage, traditional crafts and indigenous products of the region and interacted with local residents to learn more about the vibrant cultural traditions of the tribal communities of Mayurbhanj. Odisha Governor Dr Hari Babu Kambhampati and Chief Minister Mohan Charan Majhi received the Prime Minister on his arrival at Pahadpur.

In a significant outreach to Odisha's tribal heartland, President Droupadi Murmu today accompanied Prime

Minister Narendra Modi on a visit to her village, Pahadpur, in Mayurbhanj district. The Prime Minister offered prayers at the revered Santhali Jahera and Ho Jahera sacred groves and interacted with members of the local tribal community, gaining insights into their rich cultural traditions and way of life.

The Prime Minister also visited the Skill Development Centre and the SLS Memorial Residential School, where he engaged with students and encouraged their pursuit of education, skill enhancement and self-reliance. He later toured exhibition stalls showcasing tribal products and indigenous crafts of the region and interacted with local residents and tribal youth.

The visit assumed special significance as the Prime Minister joined President



Murmu in her village on the occasion of her 68th birthday. The engagements reflected a shared commitment to tribal empowerment, educational

advancement and inclusive development. The President and the Prime Minister are now attending a major public function at Dandbose in Rairangpur, marking two years

of the Odisha Government. Development projects worth over Rs 47,000 crore across key sectors are being inaugurated and dedicated to the nation.

VP Radhakrishnan, PM Modi extend birthday wishes to President Murmu

New Delhi: Vice President CP Radhakrishnan, Prime Minister Narendra Modi, and Union Home Minister Amit Shah have extended their greetings to President Droupadi Murmu on her birthday today. In a social media post, Mr Radhakrishnan said that President Murmu has consistently championed the cause of the underprivileged and devoted herself to the service of the nation. The Vice President said that her remarkable commitment to inclusive growth and social welfare continues to motivate people across the country. He noted that her life and public journey, marked by simplicity, humility and an unwavering commitment to public service, serve as a source of inspiration for the citizens.

In a social media post, Mr. Modi said that the President's journey, marked by courage, simplicity, humility and an unwavering commitment to public service, continues to inspire people across the



country. The Prime Minister said that during her years in public life, President Murmu has served the nation in an outstanding manner and has been particularly committed to the welfare of the underprivileged and marginalised sections of society. He added that her steadfast dedication to

India's development is very motivating. Mr Modi wished President Murmu a long and healthy life in the service of the nation.

In a social media post, HM Amit Shah said that during her tenure, the country has achieved numerous accomplishments in

the fields of women's honour, public welfare, and national service. He said that President Murmu's life filled with struggle, dedication and patriotism, is a source of inspiration for women's strength, youth, and every citizen. Mr Shah wished her a healthy and long life.

Health Minister Chairs High-Level Virtual Review Meeting of TB Mukht Bharat Abhiyan with all States and UTs

New Delhi: Union Minister of Health and Family Welfare J.P. Nadda chaired a high-level review meeting with all States and Union Territories yesterday to assess the progress of the TB Mukht Bharat Abhiyan and chart the way forward towards achieving a TB-free India. Mr Nadda emphasised that the second phase of the intensified 100-day TB Mukht Bharat Abhiyaan, scheduled to conclude in the first week of July, represents a critical last-mile effort to identify every missing tuberculosis case and ensure that no vulnerable individual is left behind.

He informed that the country's TB incidence has declined to 187 cases per lakh population in 2024 compared to the figure of 243 cases per lakh in 2014. He further said that TB mortality has also witnessed a significant reduction and stands at 21 per lakh of the population in 2024 compared to 34 per lakh in 2014.

Mr Nadda called upon the States to actively engage their MPs and MLAs to review TB elimination efforts in their respective constituencies through Jan Bhagidari. He urged the State Health Ministers to conduct district-level analysis to identify gaps and ensure timely corrective action.

Ghaziabad: NEET aspirant dies by suicide, cites repeated failures



Ghaziabad: A 22-year-old NEET aspirant died by suicide at his house in Vijay Nagar on Friday and left a video message saying he could not clear the examinations for the past six years, police said.

According to the police, they received information about the incident on Friday morning. A police team reached the spot and found the man dead. He went to his room on Thursday night and was found dead the next morning.

"In the video recovered from his mobile, he said he was preparing for NEET examination for the past six years and could not clear it. He was under depression. He did not hold anyone responsible for his death," Upasana Pandey, ACP of Vijay Nagar circle told HT.

Police said the body was sent for autopsy. "His family told the police that the deceased went to his room on the first floor where he used to study for hours. They said he also appeared for the NEET-UG exam in May which went well. He was preparing for

"In the video recovered from his mobile, he said he was preparing for NEET examination for the past six years and could not clear it. He was under depression. He did not hold anyone responsible for his death," Upasana Pandey, ACP of Vijay Nagar circle told HT.

the re-exam," Dharampal, SHO of Vijay Nagar police station told media. The ACP said the death was not linked to the recent NEET paper leak. The National Eligibility cum Entrance Test (Undergraduate) (NEET-UG) 2026 was conducted on May 3 and later got cancelled by the National Testing Agency (NTA) on May 12 over a paper leak scandal. The re-exam is scheduled on June 21 for over 2.2 million candidates across the country.

Cleanliness, patient safety, critical care: MCD charts hospital upgrade roadmap



New Delhi: Delhi's municipal hospitals are set to undergo a quality upgrade this year, with the MCD bringing nine facilities under the Centre's Kayakalp programme and expanding critical care infrastructure, officials said on Saturday.

The initiative is part of the civic body's broader effort to align its healthcare facilities with national quality benchmarks through improvements in cleanliness, infection control, waste management, patient safety, infrastructure, and service delivery, they said.

"Hospitals will be required to secure more than 80 per cent marks under the Kayakalp assessment framework to qualify for incentive," an official told PTI.

Man beaten to death by fellow passengers after scuffle over boarding train at Delhi's Shahdara railway station

A railway protection force (RPF) constable is seen in the clip attempting to rescue the man by pushing the alleged attackers away. The man can then be seen collapsing on the platform, after which the alleged attackers pick up their luggage and leave the scene. The RPF constable and another man are also seen dragging him across the platform. Dumani Mail could not independently verify the authenticity of the clip.



New Delhi: A passenger died after a group of fellow passengers allegedly kicked and punched him following a disagreement over boarding a train at platform number 3 of Shahdara railway station in northeast Delhi, the railways police unit of Delhi police said on Saturday.

The incident was captured on onlookers' mobile phones. A 52-second video clip that surfaced on social media shows a man, whose face is not clearly visible, being surrounded and assaulted by five to six people on a platform where a train is stationed.

A railway protection force (RPF) constable is seen in the clip attempting to rescue the man by

pushing the alleged attackers away. The man can then be seen collapsing on the platform, after which the alleged attackers pick up their luggage and leave the scene. The RPF constable and another man are also seen dragging him across the platform. Dumani Mail could not independently verify the authenticity of the clip.

Deputy commissioner of police (railways) B Bharat Reddy said police received information about a violent scuffle at platform number 3 of Shahdara railway station at the Old Delhi Railway Station (ODRS) police police station. The investigating officer (IO) found that the victim, Pankaj

Dhama, a resident of Baghpat in Uttar Pradesh, had been severely assaulted with punches and kicks by fellow passengers while attempting to board the Yoga Express.

"Dhama was rushed to Guru Teg Bahadur (GTB) Hospital, where doctors declared him dead. A case of culpable homicide not amounting to murder is being registered under section 105 of the Bharatiya Nyaya Sanhita (BNS) at the police station. Further legal procedure is underway," said DCP Reddy.

Police have not disclosed any information on the alleged attackers or clarified whether they managed to flee the station or were apprehended.

BJP national president Nitin Nabin to attend Yoga Day event in Punjab on June 21

New Delhi: BJP national president Nitin Nabin will attend an International Day of Yoga programme in Punjab on June 21. In a statement, Rajya Sabha MP and Lovely Professional University Chancellor Ashok Kumar Mittal said around 12,000 people are expected to participate in the event.

This year's International Day of Yoga is being observed globally under the theme "Yoga for Healthy Ageing", highlighting yoga's role in promoting physical vitality, mental well-being and quality of life across all age groups, the statement said.

Mittal said the event will be organised at Lovely Professional University in Punjab's Phagwara around the "12-12-12" theme, commemorating 12 years of the International Day of Yoga, 12 years of Prime Minister Narendra Modi's global yoga movement and 12,000 participants.



GED (JE) trapped by Vigilance

Jagatsinghpur, GED (JE) Soma Das trapped by Vigilance while taking bribe of 15000 rupees from the executant to prepare estimate for GP Street light. As per information of Vigilance the executant received letter from GP for street light work worth of rupees 15 lakhs on 8/5/26. In spite of regular approach of the executant concerned JE demanded bribe of 15000 to prepare the estimate. Finally the executant made complain before Vigilance authority and as per plan the executant paid the bribe amount rupees 15000 on 19/6/26 and the Vigilance authorities trapped the JE with cash in presence of two witness. Vigilance raid made upon her house at CDA, Cuttack and at Office. Finally the JE arrested by Vigilance and forwarded to Court.



Chennai Radha holds mega blood donation camp for its founder's birthday



Paradip, (DMS) : The employees of Chennai Radha Engineering Ltd. operating at Paradip Port, celebrated the 81st birthday of the founder and head of the company S. Venkateshan, with great fanfare. On this occasion, on Saturday, starting from worshipping at the temple, planting trees, the employees voluntarily donated blood. More than 200 units of blood were collected from this blood donation camp organized at the Paradip Madhuban cyclone shelter. Paradip Chennai Radha Engineering Ltd. Paradip unit Head A Ramesh, Hrishikesh Mandal, P. Senthil Kumar, Balabhadra Sahu, Ameresh Swain, Pranab Jena along with all the officers and employees of the company were present and contributed to the success of the program.

Leadership School training for slum-level Human Rights Defenders



Bhubaneswar : A two-day Leadership School training for slum-level Human Rights Defenders (HRDs) was organized by the ActionAid Association in collaboration with the Centre for Child and Women Development (CCWD) at Red Cross Bhawan. The programme focused on constitutional rights, women's rights, and housing rights. Shri Debabrata Patra, Associate Director, and Shri Sadasiv Swain, Centre Coordinator, highlighted the role of HRDs in the present context. The training sessions were facilitated by state-level trainer Shri Manmath Kumar Bhanjajdeo, while the welcome address was delivered by Ms. Snigdha Das. Lastly Shiba Sahoo proposed a warm vote of thanks to all.

Vedanta Aluminium Promotes Traditional Craftsmanship Through VedKala Initiative in Jharsuguda

The project aims to empower rural women through comprehensive training on traditional crafts, creating sustainable livelihood opportunities



Jharsuguda : Several women beneficiaries associated with Vedanta Aluminium's VedKala Project participated in the District Level Outreach Programme (DLOP) organized by the Government of Odisha in Jharsuguda, where they showcased a diverse range of handcrafted Saura art, bamboo craft and sabai grass products. The exhibition provided a valuable platform for the rural women artisans to promote their products, expand market access and demonstrate the significant impact achieved by the VedKala initiative in creating sustainable livelihood

opportunities through traditional crafts.

The exhibition attracted several distinguished visitors, including Shri Kunal Motiram Chavan, District Magistrate & Collector, Jharsuguda; Shri Tankadhar Tripathy, Hon'ble MLA, Jharsuguda; representatives from Odisha Rural Development and Marketing Society (ORMAS) and other government officials. The dignitaries interacted with the artisans, appreciated the quality and craftsmanship of the products on display and commended the efforts being undertaken by Vedanta to preserve indigenous art forms and strengthen women-led

enterprises.

Speaking on the occasion, C Chandru, CEO - Vedanta Aluminium, Jharsuguda said, "Sustainable development is rooted in creating meaningful livelihood opportunities for our communities. Through VedKala, we are enabling women artisans to transform traditional skills into sustainable sources of income while preserving Odisha's rich cultural heritage. Platforms such as these provide valuable market exposure and help strengthen the entrepreneurial journey of rural women, fostering greater economic independence and confidence."

Sharing her experience,

Rashmita Sunani, a VedKala artisan from Sriapali Village, said, "Participating in the exhibition gave us an opportunity to showcase our work before government officials, buyers and visitors. The support received through VedKala has helped us improve our skills, increase our earnings and gain confidence in taking our products to larger markets. It is encouraging to see our traditional craft being recognized and appreciated."

VedKala is among Vedanta Aluminium's key livelihood generation initiatives in Jharsuguda, focused on reviving traditional art forms, strengthening artisan capabilities

and creating sustainable income opportunities for rural communities. Through structured training, product development support, design interventions and market linkages, the programme is helping women artisans enhance product quality, access new markets and build resilient micro-enterprises. The initiative also contributes to the preservation of Odisha's unique cultural traditions by promoting indigenous crafts among wider audiences.

In FY26, Vedanta Aluminium's community development efforts in Jharsuguda positively impacted the lives of more than 7 lakh people across 61 villages, ensuring sustainable, inclusive growth. Through targeted interventions in education, healthcare, livelihoods, women's empowerment, rural infrastructure, and grassroots arts and sports, the company is working to improve the quality of life of local communities. These initiatives are guided by a commitment to shared value creation, ensuring that development is both meaningful and enduring.

RAILWAY PROJECTS WORTH OVER RS.732 CRORE DEDICATED

Bhubaneswar : In a significant milestone towards strengthening Railway infrastructure and enhancing operational efficiency two important multi-tracking railway projects worth over Rs.732 crore were dedicated to the Nation during a function at Rairangpur today where Hon'ble President of India and Hon'ble Prime Minister of India graced the occasion.

The two capacity enhancement projects developed under East Coast Railway will significantly increase line

capacity, reduce congestion and facilitate smoother movement of passenger as well as freight trains. These projects will further strengthen the railway network of Odisha and support the State's growing industrial and economic activities.

The Jakhapura - Jajpur Keonjhar Road - Baitarani Road Multi-tracking Project, completed at a cost of Rs.323 crore over a length of 19 KM, has been developed as a part of the larger Bhadrak - Nergundi Multi-

tracking Project. The project will enhance capacity on the heavily loaded Howrah-Chennai main line, reduce congestion, improve punctuality and ensure faster movement of passenger and freight trains.

The project will also facilitate seamless transportation of coal and other bulk commodities, providing stronger logistical support to nearby ports, industries and commercial centres, thereby contributing to the economic development of the

region. Similarly, the Hindol Road - Meramandali Multi-tracking Project, completed at a cost of Rs.409 crore over a length of 27 KM, forms part of the important Budhapank - Salegaon Multi-tracking Project. The project will significantly increase train handling capacity, remove operational bottlenecks and support smooth movement of coal, steel, power-sector inputs and other industrial commodities.

The additional capacity created through these projects will

enable operation of more passenger and freight trains, improve connectivity, strengthen industrial logistics and contribute significantly to the overall growth and development of Odisha.

These projects reflect the Government of India's continued commitment towards developing modern, efficient and future-ready railway infrastructure. The dedication of these projects marks another major step towards realising the vision of Viksit Odisha and Viksit Bharat.

JK Paper Organises Blood Donation Camp on 93rd Birth Anniversary of Late Hari Shankar Singhanian; 166 Units Collected

Rayagada: On the occasion of the 93rd birth anniversary of late Hari Shankar Singhanian, former Chairman of JK Paper, a voluntary blood donation camp was organised in collaboration with the Rayagada Blood Bank.

The camp was formally inaugurated by Mr. Vinay Dwivedi, Executive Vice President (Personnel), JK Paper. Employees of the paper mill and their family members participated enthusiastically in the camp, reflecting a strong spirit of social responsibility and humanitarian service.

A total of 166 units of blood were collected during the camp. The organisers appreciated the voluntary donors for their valuable contribution, noting that blood donation can help save many lives in times of emergency.

The inaugural programme was attended by Mr. Biswajit Dwivedi, Vice President (Commercial); Mr. Sandeep Pandey, General Manager, Human Resource Development; Dr. K. V. R. Rao, Chief Medical Officer, JK Dispensary; and Dr. K. Srikant.

From Rayagada Blood Bank, Dr. Sudipta Kumar Ram, Dr. K. Naveen, assistant Umakant



A total of 166 units of blood were collected during the camp. The organisers appreciated the voluntary donors for their valuable contribution

Mishra, Jagan Raj Pattnaik and Usha Rani Behuria were present and supervised the blood collection process.

The programme was coordinated by the Welfare Department of JK Paper. Mr.

Ranjit Kumar Das, Deputy General Manager; Mr. Shivprasad Rath, Assistant Manager; and Mr. Shivankar Panda, Senior Officer, played key roles in the smooth conduct of the event.

The blood donation camp, organised in the memory of late Hari Shankar Singhanian, served as a meaningful tribute to his legacy and highlighted JK Paper's continued commitment to community welfare and life-saving humanitarian initiatives.

Dissatisfaction Starts Against Model Jail.

MLA Bari Holds Press Meet @ Erabank

Jajpur :- Supporting the locals Bari MLA Biswa Ranjan Mallick on Saturday holds a Press Meeting against the illegal construction of Model Jail at Erabank's Chhatrapatia in Jajpur district.

MLA Bari argues that the land currently serves as a vital community space used for a playground. For the domestic animals and many activities. Students also depend on their daily physical activities in here. As per information villagers

have been actively demonstrating since last one week against the construction of a jail in their area. Reports indicate that more than hundreds of residents, including women also have expressed their dissatisfaction and requested their beloved MLA to support them.

Mallick strictly warns if the administration not support in this regard they will entire protest against the construction.



Mahima Alekh Monk's murder accused arrested, police did scene recreation

Nareish Chandra Pattanayak: TNN Keonjhar : Keonjhar Police have arrested the accused involved in the brutal murder of a Mahima Alekh Monk Shrikant Mahakud (60). The incident was took place in Amuni village of Banspal block of Keonjhar district in the morning on the 19th of May.

The arrested person is identified as Pateswar Barik (26) of the said Amuni village.

After the incident, the police have initiated investigation after registering a murder case in Sadar police station, after receiving a complaint from family members.



Police said that Srikant workshops at Binida Alekh Mahami Mutt near Mahakud village. Like every day, on Friday morning at

about 5am, he went to take bath in a pond near his house and was killed. The body was seized and sent to medical for postmortem

and expedited the investigation. The accused found him alone pelted a brick on his head and killed and fled. After the incident there was a lot of excitement in the village and local demanded arrest of the accused.

After the arrest, he confessed to the murder and showed a crime recreation scene of how he killed the police, said IIC Sadar Police Station Amit Kumar Bhuyan. After the murder, the police seized the brick used in the murder from under a tree on Binida Road. Pateswar confessed to the police that he had killed him over a land dispute, police said.

Bhubaneswar Tea Orders Grow 64% YoY, Among India's Fastest-Growing Tea Cities

Bhubaneswar: Bhubaneswar is brewing up one of India's biggest tea success stories. With tea orders growing 64% year-on-year, the city has emerged as India's fastest-growing tea market on Instamart. Traditional favourites such as plain black tea, chai and Assam tea continue to lead consumption, but growing demand for Peach Tea, Kombucha, Green Tea and wellness-focused brews signals a new wave of experimentation. The trend highlights how Bhubaneswar's tea lovers are balancing long-standing chai rituals with an appetite for modern flavours and convenient

new formats.

At a national level, Adrak chai continues to be India's go-to cup, followed by black tea, elaichi tea, green tea and masala chai. While traditional tea continues to dominate overall consumption, newer formats such as Ready-to-Drink teas are reshaping the category, growing 109% year-on-year. All insights are derived from an analysis of Instamart orders placed between June 2025 and June 2026 across 130+ Indian cities. All metrics are indexed or relative; no absolute order volumes are disclosed.

Tea experimentation is no longer limited to cafés and

specialty stores. Peach Tea emerged as India's fastest-growing tea flavour, recording more than 62x growth year-on-year. Other fast-rising favourites included Blue Pea Tea, Kombucha, Tulsi Tea and Green Tea, signalling growing interest in functional beverages, wellness-led consumption and globally inspired flavours. The biggest winner has been convenience. Ready-to-Drink Tea grew 109% YoY, making it the fastest-growing tea segment on Instamart as consumers increasingly reach for grab-and-go formats that fit into busy lifestyles.

District-Level Orientation and Awareness Workshop Held Towards a Child Labour-Free Odisha

Khordha : In a significant step towards ensuring a safe future for children and building a child labour-free odisha, the khordha district administration, in collaboration with the labour department, organized a district-level orientation and awareness workshop. The programme was aimed at creating awareness about the provisions of the child and adolescent labour (Prohibition and Regulation) Act, 1986, strengthening its implementation, and promoting collective action against child labour. The workshop was held at the Jayee Rajguru Conference Hall in the Collectorate premises and was chaired by Additional District Magistrate (Administration) Pratap Chandra Beura. Senior officials from the state and district administration,

representatives from various government departments, labour organizations, social activists, and members of voluntary organizations participated in the event and discussed strategies for the eradication of child labour. Addressing the gathering, speakers emphasized that a "Child Labour-Free Odisha is our collective commitment." They highlighted the importance of ensuring every child's right to education and bringing children into the mainstream educational system. The participants stressed that eliminating child labour is not merely a legal obligation but also a moral and social responsibility of every citizen. Among those present were District Labour Officer Prabhakar Biswal, Divisional Labour Commissioner Ajaya Kumar



Pradhan, Joint Labour Commissioner Pranab Kumar Patra, State Resource Officer Dr. Bhaktabandhu Acharya and Deputy Collector (Emergency) Sritapa Mishra. The speakers noted that child labour remains a serious social concern that deprives children of their childhood, education, and opportunities for a better future. The officials reiterated that employing children below the age of 14 years in any

occupation or process is a punishable offence under the law. Similarly, engaging adolescents between 15 and 18 years of age in hazardous occupations or industries is strictly prohibited. Citizens were urged to report any incidents of child labour to the nearest Labour Office, Police Station, District Child Protection Officer, District Administration, Child Helpline 1098, or the toll-free Labour Assistance Number

1800-34567-03. In his address, ADM Pratap Chandra Beura said that children are the future of the nation and that providing them with access to education, healthcare, and protection is essential for building a prosperous society. He emphasized that coordinated efforts by government departments, social organizations, and the public are necessary to achieve the vision of a child

labour-free Odisha. Assistant Labour Officer, Bhubaneswar, Kaliputra Kuldeep Prasad delivered a detailed presentation on the provisions of the Child and Adolescent Labour Act, 1986. He explained the legal consequences and penalties applicable to individuals and institutions found employing children illegally. State Resource Officer Dr. Bhaktabandhu Acharya addressed various queries raised by participants and shared valuable insights on government initiatives and programmes aimed at preventing child labour and protecting children's rights. He underscored the importance of community participation and awareness in achieving long-term success in child labour eradication efforts. The workshop was attended by

Additional District Education Officer Bijaya Kumar Behera, District Social Welfare Officer Kusum Kumari Praharaj, District Child Protection Officer Banishree Pattnaik, District Information and Public Relations Officer Laxman Kumar Behera, along with officials from different departments, NGO representatives, labour leaders, and social workers. Prior to the workshop, a awareness rally against child labour was taken out from the Collectorate premises. The rally passed through Ambedkar Marg and Palla Chhak, spreading awareness among the public about the harmful effects of child labour and the importance of education for every child. To further strengthen public outreach, an awareness mobile van

carrying messages on child labour eradication and school enrolment was flagged off by ADM Pratap Chandra Beura. The van will travel across the district to educate communities about child rights and the legal provisions against child labour. The programme concluded with a vote of thanks proposed by Assistant Labour Officer, Balugaon, Soumyaranjan Kar.

The workshop reaffirmed the district administration's strong commitment to protecting children's rights, promoting education, and eliminating child labour. Participants expressed confidence that sustained awareness, effective enforcement of laws, and collective social responsibility would help realize the dream of a Child Labour-Free Odisha in the near future.

International Yoga Day Message: "Equanimity is Yoga"

Puri : Marking International Yoga Day, a yoga demonstration programme was organised at the premises of SAI Smart School, Nagapatna, under the joint aegis of Yoga Bharat, the Indo Amateur Go Association, and the Cycle Polo Federation of India.

Senior advocate and National Vice-President of the Indo Amateur Go Association and Cycle Polo

Federation of India, Binay Nrusingha Mahapatra, attended the event as the chief guest. Among the distinguished guests were physician Dr. Deeptismita Ray, journalist Laxminarayan Pattnaik, law college sports coach Raj Kishore Mohanty, SAI Smart School Vice-Principal Priyadarshini Pani, and Roja Priyadarshini, head of a pharmacy college.

Addressing the

gathering, the speakers highlighted the significance of yoga in achieving physical, mental and spiritual well-being. Referring to the Bhagavad Gita, they said the concept of "Samatva" (equanimity) occupies a central place in the philosophy of yoga, adding that "equanimity itself is yoga".

The speakers noted that while there is no definitive written record regarding the

origin of yoga, it is widely believed to have originated in India. They also referred to the ancient Yoga Sutras authored by sage Patanjali over 2,000 years ago, describing them as a comprehensive guide to controlling the mind, regulating thoughts and fostering spiritual growth.

Yoga postures and practices, they said, help strengthen the connection between knowledge,

consciousness and the inner self through meditation and self-discipline. They further observed that yoga has been found beneficial in managing lifestyle-related ailments such as diabetes and hypertension, besides aiding recovery from physical injuries and chronic pain.

The programme was coordinated by Amar Kumar Das and Santosh Behera.



Teachers' Orientation Programme Held at Paradip Bethany Convent School

Paradip, (DMS):- Bethany Convent School of Paradip organized a one-day Teachers' Orientation Programme on June 20, 2026, in the school auditorium. The programme was held from 9 a.m. to 2:30 p.m., centered on the theme of "Classroom Management" and aimed at enhancing the professional competencies of teachers. The programme commenced with a warm welcome to the dignitaries and participants. The ceremonial lighting of the lamp was led by the Resource Person, Mr. Ashok Kumar Patnaik, Counselling Psychologist, along with Rev Fr Nihar Ranjan Parichha, Manager, Rev. Fr. Sunil Lakra, Principal, Sr Anu Jyoti, Vice Principal and Mrs. Moni, Secretary of the Teachers' Cabinet. This was followed by a prayer song, invoking God's blessings for the



fruitful conduct of the programme.

The resource person was formally introduced and felicitated by the Manager and the Principal. Addressing the gathering, Rev. Fr. Sunil Lakra, Principal highlighted the significance of continuous learning and professional development for educators in an ever-evolving educational landscape.

Under his able leadership, the orientation programme was thoughtfully organized to provide teachers with a

meaningful platform for professional growth, skill enhancement, and the exchange of innovative teaching practices. His vision and commitment to academic excellence created an environment conducive to learning, reflection, and collaboration among the faculty members.

The highlight of the programme was the enriching orientation session conducted by Mr. Ashok Kumar Patnaik. Drawing from his vast experience as a Counselling

Psychologist, he shared valuable insights on effective classroom management, positive discipline, student motivation, emotional well-being, and fostering healthy teacher-student relationships. Through practical examples and interactive discussions, he equipped teachers with strategies to create a positive and productive classroom environment.

The session was highly engaging and encouraged teachers to reflect on their classroom practices while

exploring new approaches to address contemporary educational challenges. Participants appreciated the relevance and practicality of the ideas shared during the programme.

The event concluded with a heartfelt Vote of Thanks proposed by Mrs. Moni, Secretary of the Teachers' Cabinet. She expressed sincere gratitude to the Resource person, Management, Principal and all the teachers for their active participation and valuable contributions, which made the programme a grand success. The orientation programme proved to be an enriching and inspiring experience, reaffirming Bethany Convent School's commitment to nurturing competent educators and promoting excellence in teaching and learning.

Hon'ble President of India to dedicate Railway Projects worth over Rs.732 crore to the Nation at Rairangpur on 20th June 2026

- Dedication of Jakhapura – Jajpur Keonjhar Road – Baitarani Road Multi-tracking Project
- Dedication of Hindol Road – Meramandali Multi-tracking Project
- Projects to provide major boost to train handling capacity, industrial logistics and regional connectivity in Odisha

Bhubaneswar : In a major boost to Railway infrastructure, operational efficiency and connectivity, Hon'ble President of India on 20th June 2026 will dedicate two important multi-tracking railway projects worth over Rs.732 crore to the Nation at Rairangpur in the august presence of Hon'ble Prime Minister of India.

The two projects developed under East Coast Railway will significantly enhance line capacity, reduce congestion and facilitate smoother movement of passenger as well as freight trains. These projects will strengthen the railway backbone of Odisha and support the State's growing industrial and economic activities.

The Jakhapura – Jajpur Keonjhar Road – Baitarani Road Multi-tracking Project

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The additional capacity created through these projects will enable operation of more passenger and freight trains, improve connectivity, strengthen industrial logistics and contribute significantly to the overall growth and development of Odisha.

These capacity enhancement projects reflect the Government of India's continued commitment towards creating modern, efficient and future-ready railway infrastructure. The projects will go a long way in strengthening the vision of Viksit Odisha and Viksit Bharat.

Major Crackdown on Fake Pilgrim Facilitators in Srimandir Premises; 11 Arrested

Puri: In a major operation against fraudulent activities targeting devotees, Puri police have arrested 11 persons posing as "Yatri Gumastas" (pilgrim facilitators) in and around the Srimandir premises over the past five days.

Thousands of devotees visit the revered Shri Jagannath Temple every day. According to police, some anti-social elements were exploiting pilgrims by falsely claiming they could arrange special or expedited darshan in exchange for money.

Acting on credible intelligence, police from Singhadwar Police Station launched a special surveillance drive in the

temple area. Personnel in plain clothes were deployed to monitor suspicious individuals and gather evidence.

During the operation, five alleged fake facilitators were arrested on June 18 under Singhadwar Police Station Case No. 149/26 and later produced before a court. On June 19, three more accused were arrested in connection with Case No. 151/26 for allegedly collecting money from devotees on the pretext of arranging special darshan.

Police said that a total of 11 fake "Yatri Gumastas" have been arrested in the last five days. The action was based on CCTV footage,



intelligence inputs and field investigations.

The arrested persons include Shankar Biswal, Arun Patra, Babuni Mahapatra, Sarbeswar Raut, Ranjit Samantaray, Vikram Pradhan,

Ajay Kumar Jena and Umakanta Padhi, among others.

Police seized ₹2,620 in cash and three mobile phones from the accused. Investigators suspect that

more individuals may be linked to the racket, and further investigation is underway.

Advisory for Devotees Puri police have urged devotees not to fall prey to anyone offering special darshan, quick entry or other temple-related services in exchange for money. Pilgrims have been advised to immediately report such individuals to the nearest police personnel, the Singhadwar Police Station or the Puri Police Control Room.

Police reiterated their commitment to ensuring the safety, convenience and smooth darshan experience of all devotees visiting the temple.

Brushstrokes of Well-Being: 7th-Grade Student Depicts the Power of Yoga for Healthy Ageing

Bhubaneswar : On the eve of International Yoga Day, Shantanu Shantiswarup, a seventh-grade student of Saraswati Shishu Vidya Mandir Bhitangi Bhubaneswar, has captured everyone's attention with a beautiful painting created through his colorful brushstrokes. The artwork is thoughtfully based on the specific theme, "Yoga for Healthy Ageing". The painting vividly portrays an elderly woman effortlessly performing a yoga posture, sending a powerful message of vitality and energy even in

The surrounding elements of the painting highlight the close relationship between humans and nature, featuring green vegetables essential for a healthy body, as well as components symbolizing the protection of the brain and the spine. Additionally,

old age. Through this artistic creation, Shantanu has flawlessly depicted four core pillars of life: vitality, knowledge, balance, and universal connection.

The surrounding elements of the painting highlight the close

relationship between humans and nature, featuring green vegetables essential for a healthy body, as well as components symbolizing the protection of the brain and the spine. Additionally, a scene showing a family practicing yoga together serves as an inspiration for society to adopt a healthier lifestyle. This unique artwork is expected to be highly successful in generating widespread awareness about the immense benefits of yoga across society.

Fiction for Understanding Society

BhaskarParichha

RaagDarbari: Polity as Fiction, Fiction as Reality is an insightful and intellectually stimulating study that revisits one of the most celebrated works of modern Hindi literature, RaagDarbari by Shrilal Shukla. Rather than treating the novel merely as a literary text, Satyajit Singh explores its significance as a profound commentary on governance, democracy, bureaucracy, and development in post-independence India. The result is a compelling interdisciplinary work that bridges literature and the social sciences with remarkable clarity.

The book argues that RaagDarbari was among the earliest and sharpest critiques of the developmental state in India. Through its portrayal of village life, local power structures, and administrative dysfunction, the novel exposed the gap between democratic ideals and everyday realities. Singh demonstrates how Shukla's satire remains

strikingly relevant even decades after its publication. The institutions that the novel scrutinized—local governments, educational bodies, bureaucracies, and political networks—continue to shape the experiences of citizens across the country.

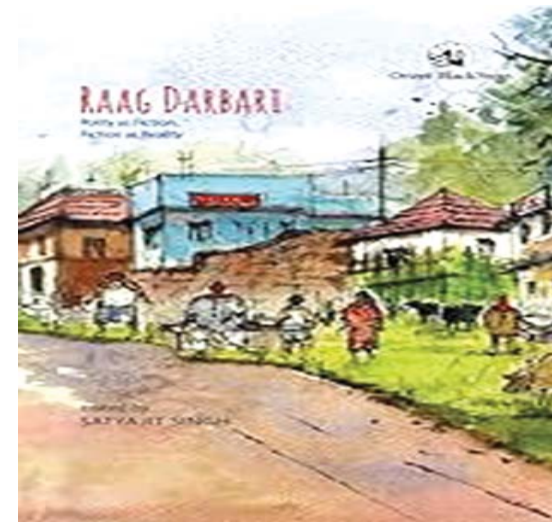
The strength of the book lies in its ability to connect fiction with political science and public administration. Singh convincingly shows that literary narratives can offer insights that conventional academic studies often overlook. The informal practices, personal relationships, and local power dynamics depicted in RaagDarbari reveal how governance functions in practice rather than in theory. This perspective enriches our understanding of development and administration by bringing ordinary citizens and their lived experiences to the forefront.

Also, it raises important contemporary questions about welfare delivery, corruption, and institutional effectiveness.

By revisiting the world of RaagDarbari, Singh encourages readers to reflect on whether India has overcome the challenges identified in the novel or merely witnessed their transformation into new forms. His analysis is thoughtful, accessible, and grounded in both literary interpretation and social-scientific inquiry.

The book is a valuable contribution to the study of Indian politics, governance, and literature. It demonstrates the enduring relevance of Shrilal Shukla's masterpiece and makes a persuasive case for the use of fiction as a serious tool for understanding society. Scholars, students, and general readers interested in politics, development, and literary studies will find this book both illuminating and rewarding.

RaagDarbari
Satyajit Singh
Orient BlackSwan
Hyderabad



Informative and Thought-provoking

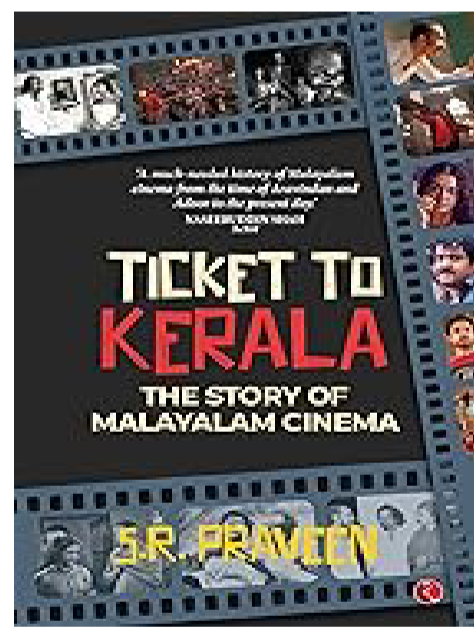
Dharma Raj

Ticket to Kerala: The Story of Malayalam Cinema is a richly researched and engaging account of one of India's most dynamic cinematic traditions. Written by S. R. Praveen, the book traces the remarkable journey of Malayalam cinema from its fragile beginnings to its current status as one of the most admired film industries in the country. More than a simple chronological history, it is a cultural narrative that explains how a regional cinema evolved into a creative force with national and global resonance.

The most compelling features is its opening exploration of the tragic origins of Malayalam cinema. Praveen recounts the struggles of the pioneers whose efforts were often met with social prejudice, financial hardship, and institutional neglect. These stories of loss and perseverance provide a powerful backdrop against which the later achievements of the industry can be understood. By beginning with these forgotten histories, the author underscores the resilience that has characterized Malayalam cinema throughout its evolution.

The book excels in situating cinema within Kerala's broader social and cultural landscape. Praveen examines the growth of film societies, the emergence of parallel cinema, the development of middle-of-the-road filmmaking, and the rise of iconic stars, showing how each phase contributed to a distinctive cinematic culture.

Particularly insightful is his discussion of the 1970s and 1980s, a period that produced films whose artistic sensibilities continue to influence contemporary



filmmakers. The author demonstrates that today's celebrated Malayalam cinema did not emerge suddenly but is rooted in decades of experimentation, intellectual engagement, and storytelling innovation.

Another strength of the book is its accessibility. While informed by extensive knowledge of film history, it avoids academic jargon and remains engaging for both casual readers and serious students of cinema. Praveen's prose is clear and enthusiastic, reflecting his deep appreciation for the subject without sacrificing critical perspective. He effectively explains how Malayalam cinema gradually expanded its reach beyond Kerala, eventually attracting audiences across India through its emphasis on strong narratives, nuanced characters, and creative risk-taking rather than large budgets or spectacle.

The book's most valuable contribution is its effort to broaden contemporary discussions about Malayalam cinema. At a time when attention is largely focused on recent successes, Praveen reminds readers of the long historical processes that made these achievements possible. He encourages audiences to look beyond current trends and appreciate the rich legacy that underpins the industry's present acclaim.

An informative, affectionate, and thought-provoking study, the book serves as both an introduction for newcomers and a rewarding exploration for longtime admirers, offering fresh insights into the history, culture, and enduring appeal of Malayalam cinema.

Ticket to Kerala
S. R. Praveen
Rupa Publications
New Delhi

The Power of Self-examination

Arun Mishra

The Ashes Are Warm: Memories of a Lifetime Spent with UG Krishnamurti is a deeply intimate and unsettling memoir that transcends the conventions of spiritual autobiography. Compiled from the private journals of filmmaker Mahesh Bhatt and shaped into a coherent narrative by Sunita Pant Bansal, the book offers readers an unguarded glimpse into a life marked by emotional turbulence, existential questioning, and relentless self-examination. Rather than presenting a polished account of wisdom gained, it chronicles a painful process of dismantling illusions and confronting uncomfortable truths.

At the centre of the narrative stands UG Krishnamurti, a thinker renowned for his rejection of organized spirituality, gurus, and the promise of enlightenment. Bhatt portrays UG not as a mentor dispensing answers but as a disruptive presence who challenged every certainty and exposed the fragility of

inherited beliefs. Their relationship forms the emotional and philosophical core of the book, illustrating how genuine transformation often emerges not from comfort or guidance but from confrontation and doubt.

Drawn from diary entries written in moments of anger, confusion, vulnerability, and grief, the narrative possesses an immediacy that few autobiographical works achieve. Bhatt appears not as the celebrated filmmaker known to the public but as a flawed and searching individual grappling with questions of identity, love, loss, and meaning. This willingness to reveal personal weaknesses lends the memoir a rare authenticity and emotional power.

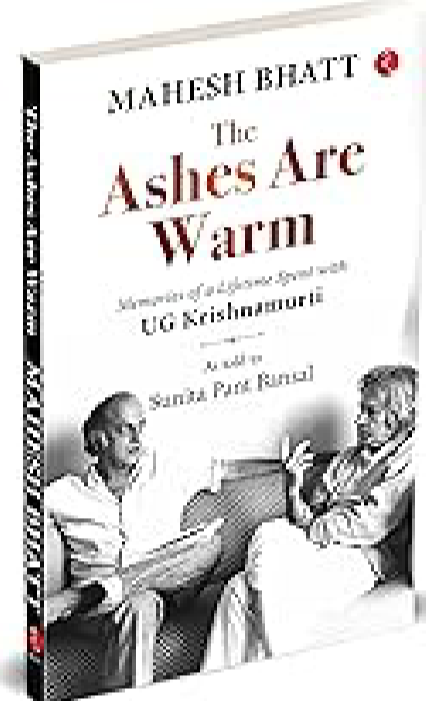
Bansal deserves considerable credit for transforming fragmented journal entries into a readable and engaging narrative while preserving their emotional intensity. Her editorial role ensures that the memoir retains its spontaneity without sacrificing coherence. The result is a work that feels both deeply personal and universally

resonant, inviting readers to reflect on their own assumptions and self-deceptions.

The book's refusal to offer easy conclusions may challenge readers expecting conventional spiritual wisdom. There are no comforting lessons, formulas for happiness, or triumphant declarations of enlightenment. Instead, it suggests that self-understanding often begins with the collapse of certainty. Its emphasis on honesty over consolation distinguishes it from many contemporary spiritual memoirs.

The book is a courageous and thought-provoking work that explores the complexities of inner transformation with uncommon candour. Combining personal confession, philosophical inquiry, and emotional vulnerability, it stands as a compelling testament to the enduring power of self-examination and the difficult search for truth.

The Ashes Are Warm
Mahesh Bhatt/ Sunita Pant Bansal
Rupa Publications
New Delhi



A Broader Cultural Perspective

BhaskarParichha

ZubeenGarg: The Voice That Bridged Worlds is a heartfelt and engaging biography that celebrates the life, music, and cultural significance of ZubeenGarg, one of Northeast India's most beloved artistic icons. Written by ProsenjitNath, the book goes beyond the conventions of celebrity biography to present a nuanced portrait of an artist whose voice became inseparable from the aspirations, emotions, and identity of an entire region.

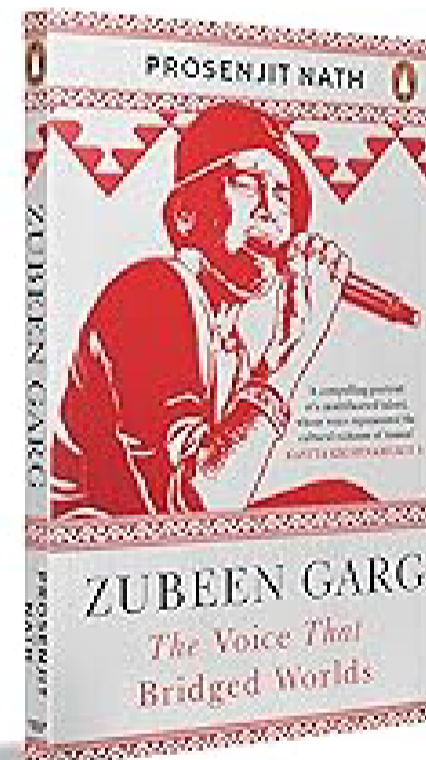
The narrative traces ZubeenGarg's remarkable journey from his childhood in Tura to his emergence as a transformative force in Assamese music and cinema. Nath skillfully chronicles the formative influences that shaped the singer's artistic sensibilities, including his early fascination with music, rigorous classical training, and determination to forge a unique creative path. These experiences are presented not merely as milestones in a successful career but as the foundations of an enduring cultural legacy.

One of the book's greatest strengths lies in its exploration of the relationship between

music and identity. Nath demonstrates how ZubeenGarg revitalized Assamese popular culture by blending traditional musical forms with contemporary styles, thereby attracting new generations of listeners while preserving a deep connection to regional heritage. The biography effectively captures the artist's ability to move effortlessly across genres and languages, making him a rare figure whose appeal transcended geographical and linguistic boundaries.

The book is equally successful in portraying the personal dimensions of Zubeen's life. Rather than presenting him as an untouchable legend, Nath reveals a passionate, determined, and sometimes unconventional individual whose commitment to his homeland remained unwavering despite opportunities for wider commercial success elsewhere. This emphasis on rootedness becomes one of the biography's central themes, highlighting how Zubeen's artistic choices were shaped by a profound attachment to Assam and its people.

What distinguishes this work from many



musical biographies is its broader cultural perspective. Nath situates ZubeenGarg within the historical and social context of Northeast India, illustrating how his music became a medium through which regional voices gained visibility on a national stage. In doing so, the book becomes not only a study of an artist but also a reflection on cultural representation, belonging, and the power of music to bridge divides.

ZubeenGarg: The Voice That Bridged Worlds is a moving and well-crafted tribute to a singular artistic talent. Combining biographical detail, cultural insight, and genuine admiration, ProsenjitNath has produced a work that will appeal to music lovers, cultural historians, and anyone interested in the rich artistic traditions of Northeast India. It is a fitting celebration of a voice that resonated far beyond borders while remaining deeply rooted in its homeland.

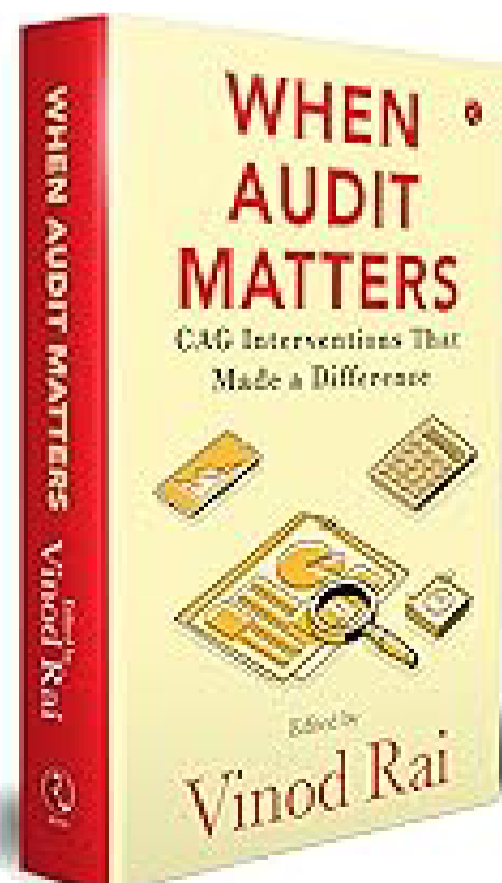
ZubeenGarg
ProsenjitNath
Penguin Random House
Gurugram

Understanding of the Role of Auditing

BhaskarParichha

When Audit Matters: CAG Interventions That Made a Difference is a timely and illuminating contribution to the literature on public administration, governance, and accountability. Edited by VinodRai, the volume challenges the widespread perception of auditing as a purely technical or fault-finding exercise. Instead, it presents public audit as a dynamic institution capable of strengthening governance, improving administrative systems, and enhancing democratic accountability. Through a collection of carefully selected case studies and analytical essays, the book demonstrates how evidence-based audits can serve as powerful instruments of institutional reform.

One of the book's most significant achievements is its effort to redefine the role of public audit in contemporary governance. Rather than focusing exclusively on irregularities, financial lapses, or procedural violations, the contributors highlight how audit interventions have led to constructive outcomes. These include improvements in administrative procedures, stronger internal controls, greater transparency, and more effective policy implementation. By shifting attention from blame to institutional learning, the volume offers a more nuanced



understanding of the value that audit institutions bring to public life.

The case studies form the core strength of the book. Drawn from sectors as diverse as infrastructure, finance, environmental management, social welfare programmes, and public service delivery, they provide concrete examples of how audit findings can influence decision-making and drive reform. The contributors, many of whom possess extensive experience within government auditing systems, combine professional expertise with practical insight. Their accounts reveal the often-overlooked role of auditors as facilitators of better governance rather than merely watchdogs of compliance.

Another notable feature of the volume is its accessibility. While the subject matter is rooted in public finance and administrative practice, the essays avoid excessive technical jargon. This makes the book valuable not only for auditors and public finance professionals but also for students, researchers, policymakers, and general readers interested in the functioning of democratic institutions. The contributors succeed in explaining complex governance processes in a manner that is both rigorous and

engaging.

The book is particularly relevant in an era marked by growing public scrutiny of government performance and institutional credibility. It reminds readers that accountability mechanisms are most effective when they contribute to problem-solving and institutional improvement rather than simply exposing deficiencies. In doing so, the volume presents a compelling case for viewing public audit as an essential component of state capacity and democratic governance.

When Audit Matters is an insightful and persuasive work that broadens our understanding of the role of auditing in public administration. By showcasing real examples of audit-driven reform, it demonstrates that accountability, when pursued with professionalism and integrity, can become a force for positive and lasting change. The book is an important resource for anyone interested in governance, public policy, and the continuous improvement of public institutions.

When Audit Matters
VinodRai
Rupa Publications
New Delhi

Delhi Metro Services To Start At 4 Am On International Yoga Day

New Delhi,20/6: A day ahead of International Yoga Day, the Delhi Metro Rail Corporation (DMRC) announced that train services on Sunday will start at 4 a.m. to facilitate the movement of those taking part in yoga events across the national capital region. In a post on X, DMRC said: "Begin Your Yoga Day Journey with a Timely Ride! Celebrate the International Day of Yoga with DMRC's special early morning services for a smooth start to your day." "Delhi Metro services will commence from 04:00 am from all originating stations of each Line on 21st June 2026 (Sunday) to facilitate the movement of yoga enthusiasts on the occasion of International Day of Yoga, 2026," it added. However, DMRC stated that the first train from Kirti Nagar to Brig. Hoshiar Singh metro station will leave at 04:10 am, and



the first train from Dwarka to Dhansa Bus Stand at 04:15 a.m. It further said that train services will be available at an interval of 30 minutes till 06:00 a.m., followed by regular services as per the Sunday timetable. Meanwhile, preparations are in full swing across the country for Yoga Day, with political leaders, yoga

practitioners, diplomats, and citizens coming together to celebrate the ancient Indian practice that has evolved into a global wellness movement. From Kolkata and Hyderabad to Jodhpur and New Delhi, large-scale yoga events and awareness programmes were organised on Saturday ahead of the

nationalwide celebrations on June 21. In Kolkata, where Prime Minister Narendra Modi is scheduled to lead the main International Yoga Day event, Director of the Morarji Desai National Institute of Yoga, Prof. Kashinath Samagandi, said the Prime Minister would perform yoga alongside thousands of participants. Highlighting yoga's global recognition, BJP leader Prakash Reddy in Hyderabad said Prime Minister Modi's vision played a key role in securing international support for Yoga Day at the United Nations. In Andhra Pradesh, Chief Minister N. Chandrababu Naidu joined renowned yoga guru Baba Ramdev at the historic Undavalli Caves in Amaravati to participate in Yoga Day celebrations.

India To Host BRICS National Security Advisers' Meeting On June 22-23

New Delhi: India will host the BRICS National Security Advisers' Meeting on June 22-23 under its chairship, bringing together top security officials from member countries to deliberate on evolving global security challenges and strengthen cooperation on key strategic issues. According to a Ministry of External Affairs (MEA) press release, the meeting will be chaired by National Security Adviser Shri Ajit Doval and will see participation from National Security Advisers and heads of delegation from BRICS member states.

The MEA stated that during the two-day meeting, delegates will exchange views on the theme "Non-traditional security challenges confronting the world today." The discussions are expected to focus on the rapidly changing security landscape and the growing impact of emerging

technologies on global and national security. "During the meeting, the National Security Advisers/Heads of Delegation of BRICS Member Countries will exchange views on the theme 'Non-traditional security challenges confronting the world today,'" the ministry said in its statement. The participants will also discuss "the rapidly evolving nature of national security challenges, as well as the role of new technologies in emerging security threats," highlighting concerns over cybersecurity, digital vulnerabilities, artificial intelligence-driven risks and other non-conventional security issues confronting nations. In addition, the National Security Advisers will review the outcomes of the recently concluded BRICS Joint Working Groups on Counter-Terrorism and on Security in the Use of Information and the Communication Technologies.

The review is expected to help shape future cooperation among BRICS nations in addressing transnational threats and strengthening collective security mechanisms. The meeting assumes significance as India continues to steer discussions within BRICS on global governance, security cooperation and technological challenges. The grouping has increasingly expanded its focus beyond economic issues to include strategic and security-related concerns affecting member nations. Meanwhile, Chinese Foreign Minister Wang Yi is scheduled to attend the meeting, marking his first visit to India since August 2025. Wang, who also serves as China's National Security Adviser in his capacity as Director of the Office of the Central Commission for Foreign Affairs, will visit India on June 22-23 at the invitation of NSA Ajit Doval.

CPGRAMS, Digital Life Certificates Driving Transparency And Citizen-Centric Governance: Dr Jitendra Singh

New Delhi,20/6: Union Minister of State Dr Jitendra Singh on Saturday said that initiatives such as CPGRAMS and Digital Life Certificates are transforming governance in India by enhancing transparency, improving service delivery and making public administration more citizen-centric. During talks with Republic of Korea Interior and Safety Minister Yun Hojung, he highlighted India's digital governance achievements and called for deeper cooperation between the two countries in areas such as e-governance, artificial intelligence and public administration. The minister made these remarks during a meeting with Republic of Korea Minister of Interior and Safety Yun Hojung, who is currently on an official visit to India. The two leaders, accompanied by their respective delegations, held extensive bilateral discussions lasting over an hour on strengthening cooperation in digital governance, public administration, capacity building and citizen services. Welcoming the Korean

delegation, Dr Singh said India and the Republic of Korea share a Special Strategic Partnership rooted in democratic values, innovation and a common commitment to good governance. He referred to the Joint Strategic Vision Statement finalised during the visit of Republic of Korea President Lee Jae Myung to India earlier this year, describing it as a roadmap for expanding bilateral cooperation. Highlighting India's progress in digital governance under the leadership of Prime Minister Narendra Modi, Dr Singh said technology-enabled governance platforms have significantly improved service delivery and grievance redressal mechanisms. He noted that initiatives such as CPGRAMS and Digital Life Certificates have enhanced transparency, reduced procedural hurdles and brought governance closer to citizens. The minister said India and the Republic of Korea are vibrant democracies with shared values, cultural links and a



commitment to the rule of law. He added that both countries, as major Asian economies, share a partnership that is historic as well as future-oriented. Dr Singh also recalled the historical ties between the two nations, referring to the marital connection between Princess Suriratna of Ayodhya and King Suro of the ancient Gaya confederacy, which continues to hold cultural significance in both countries. He appreciated Yun Hojung's contribution to strengthening India-Korea relations, particularly in his role as Chairman of the Korea-India Parliamentary Friendship Group, and expressed confidence that the visit would further deepen bilateral cooperation.

Less Confident Than Last Time': NEET Aspirants Ahead Of June 21 Re-Exam

New Delhi,20/6: With just a day left for the NEET-UG re-examination on June 21, aspirants across the country are engaged in last minute preparations, however, some of them told IANS that despite studying hard they are less confident about their preparation this time as compared to the May 3 exam. A student in Jammu and Kashmir said that she initially thought the paper leak news was a "prank." "It was big news as the exam is conducted at the national-level. Initially I did not take it seriously thinking that it would be taken care of but when finally, realisation hit me, I started preparing for the re-examination again," she said. According to her, the re-exam questions will be tough. "When I started preparing again, one could only revise, because with so much stress it was not possible to study something new. Honestly, I still don't think I am well prepared this time," she added. Urging for transparent examinations, she emphasised:



"The efforts of lakhs of students should not go waste." Describing her preparations for the exam, another student Mariam said: "I had started taking coaching to appear for NEET from class 11 itself since I wanted to appear for the exam along with my class 12th boards. My (May 3) exam went really well." "But after getting to know that we have to again appear for a re-examination

many students got very stressed, which impacted their health. Many of us are mentally not prepared, last time I was confident enough but now preparing amidst so much of stress is difficult," she added. Meanwhile, Mariam praised the government's measure of bringing in the Air Force for airlifting question papers to exam centres, in view

of time constraints, saying "Hopefully this time the exam will be conducted safely." In Karnataka's Dharwad, an aspirant Brijesh S.H. said: "I had appeared for the NEET examination in 2024-25 but did not achieve the expected marks. After that I decided to join a science college on the advice of my friends and teachers." Mentioning that his teachers guided him well, Brijesh said he had scored 610 in his last NEET attempt. "I was happy for this improvement in my score as before this it was 430," he said. Regarding the struggles of preparing for the NEET re-exam, he said: "Being a doctor is not easy, so our struggles start from here itself. We accepted it as a challenge though the preparation has in itself been a struggle." However, he too admitted that compared to last time, his preparation is not up to the mark for the re-exam. "Still, I hope I will clear the exam," he said.

BJP's Birthday Gift Jab At Rahul, After Shashi Tharoor's Praise For Modi Govt's Diplomacy

New Delhi,20/6: The Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) on Saturday took potshots at Rahul Gandhi and the Congress, calling out their propaganda over India's diplomacy in the conflict-ridden West Asia and said that they stand exposed after their own MP Shashi Tharoor's admission of the Indian gov't's clear and unambiguous stance against American 'misadventurism' in the Strait of Hormuz. A BJP spokesperson said that instead of giving gifts to Rahul on his birthday, they chose to 'puncture' his claims. Congress has been training guns on the Modi government over the killing of three Indian sailors in a recent US strike on a merchant vessel in the Gulf of Oman, accusing it of staying silent and not confronting the United States. They also mocked the Prime Minister over his recent meeting with US



President Donald Trump on the sidelines of the G-7 Summit. However, Tharoor's support for PM Modi's plain speaking during a meeting with Trump and also concerns about the safety of Indian sailors gave the BJP fresh ammo to target the Congress. Shashi Tharoor, speaking to IANS on Friday, said that PM Modi was right in raising

the security of Indian sailors with the US President and stating that civilian sailors must not become collateral victims of wartime situations. "Prime Minister Narendra Modi was particularly able to convey a message that we would all agree with, namely that commercial shipping should not be targeted in a war. These are civilian sailors, as you know,

pretty much every ship, whatever country's flag is flying, has Indian crew on board," Tharoor told IANS.

He added that PM Modi conveyed a fair message surrounding the safety of seafarers in the shipping lanes of the Persian Gulf. Tharoor also said that even if Americans claim that they have no idea what crew is in the ship, the fact remains that these are civilian ships and civilian crew, and they should find a non-lethal way to deal with it. Citing Tharoor's support for the Indian government, BJP spokesperson Pradeep Bhandari said, "Shashi Tharoor has exposed Rahul Gandhi. Congress leaders are praising the Narendra Modi gov't's diplomacy." Further slamming the Congress MP, he said, "When it comes to protecting India's national interest, PM Modi comes first, when it comes to speaking

against India's national interest, Rahul Gandhi leaves everyone behind." BJP spokesperson Shehzad Poonawalla called it an embarrassment for the LoP Rahul, stating that the Congress leaders didn't give birthday gift to him on his birthday and rather chose to debunk his claims. "Tharoor didn't give birthday gift to Rahul Gandhi yesterday, rather he punctured his propaganda against the Modi government's silence before the US President on the killing of Indian sailors in the Persian Gulf," Poonawalla said. "Tharoor said that PM Modi articulately presented India's position before Donald Trump, stressing India's concern over the closure of the shipping lanes in the Strait of Hormuz and also the targeting of civilian sailors in American attack. This shows that even party leaders are not with him on the issue," the BJP spokesperson added.

Rajasthan Emerges As Hub Of ISI Spy Recruitment Through Family Pressure

New Delhi,20/6: The Inter-Services Intelligence (ISI) is increasingly exploiting the Pakistan-based relatives of Indian citizens to blackmail and force individuals into its espionage networks, intelligence sources have revealed. The strategy primarily targets residents in the border districts of Rajasthan and Jammu and Kashmir to extract sensitive information about the Indian armed forces. An official said that in several recent cases, Indian nationals recruited by the ISI tried to withdraw from spying activities after facing heightened scrutiny from Indian security agencies. "To counter this, the ISI has reportedly turned to family members of Indian recruits living in Pakistan. These relatives are allegedly coerced into pressuring the recruits to continue their spying activities," the official

said. An Intelligence Bureau official said that the Pakistani agency has specifically identified relatives of Indians residing in Pakistan as a vulnerable group that can be used for recruitment and retention purposes. "The relatives themselves are often under pressure. For their own safety and security in Pakistan, they are forced to cooperate with the ISI and assist in influencing or recruiting their family members in India," the official said. Another senior official said that Pakistan is willing to employ every possible method to strengthen its espionage network in India. "The intention is to gather as much information as possible about the Indian armed forces," the official said, adding, "This explains the emphasis on recruitment efforts in Rajasthan and, to a lesser extent, Jammu and Kashmir."

Centre Bans 16 Fixed Dose Combination Drugs Over Safety And Efficacy Concerns

New Delhi,20/6: In a major move aimed at strengthening patient safety and ensuring the rational use of medicines, the Ministry of Health and Family Welfare on Saturday said that it has prohibited the manufacture, sale and distribution of 16 Fixed Dose Combination (FDC) drugs for human use across the country. The ban has been imposed under Section 26A of the Drugs and Cosmetics Act, 1940, and has come into effect immediately. The decision follows

directions issued by the Supreme Court, which had called for a comprehensive review of Fixed Dose Combinations available in the Indian market. Acting on these directions, the Drugs Technical Advisory Board (DTAB) constituted an Expert Committee to examine various FDCs and assess their safety, efficacy and therapeutic value. After conducting a detailed scientific evaluation, the Expert Committee concluded that 16 FDCs lacked adequate therapeutic justification

and that their continued use could pose potential health risks. Based on these findings, the government decided to prohibit these combinations, stating that the risks associated with their use outweighed any potential benefits. The banned medicines belong to different therapeutic categories, including certain dermatological products, pain-relief and antispasmodic drugs, as well as some antibiotic-based formulations. The Ministry said that these combinations were

found to be irrational and not supported by sufficient scientific evidence. The Health Ministry emphasised that the action is part of the government's ongoing efforts to ensure that only safe, effective and scientifically validated medicines are available to the public. It noted that similar actions have been taken in the past against irrational drug combinations following extensive scientific reviews. With the latest notifications now in force, the manufacture for sale, sale,

distribution and supply of the identified 16 FDCs for human use stand prohibited nationwide with immediate effect. The Ministry has directed all State Drug Controllers, regulatory authorities and enforcement agencies to strictly implement the ban and ensure compliance. Manufacturers, importers, distributors and other stakeholders have also been advised to take necessary steps to align with the provisions of the law and discontinue the affected



products. The government said the move reinforces its commitment to evidence-based

healthcare and patient safety while promoting the rational use of medicines in the country.

Bolivian President Declares State Of Emergency To Restore Road Traffic

La Paz, 20/6: Bolivian President Rodrigo Paz announced early Saturday the implementation of a state of emergency aimed at restoring road traffic across the country after weeks of nationwide blockades related to protests. Since early May, road blockades in several parts of Bolivia have disrupted the transportation of fuel, food and medical supplies, causing shortages in some cities and dealing a heavy blow to economic activity, Xinhua news agency reported. In a message posted on social media, Paz said Bolivians could no longer remain "hostages" to road blockades that prevent people from working, studying, receiving medical care, obtaining essential goods and supporting their families. "This state of emergency is not intended to take away normality, but to restore it," the president said. Paz also stressed that the government's doors would remain open to all those willing to engage in good-faith dialogue. "Meanwhile, Bolivia needs to recover its roads,



guarantee supplies and return to normality," he said. On Thursday, the Bolivian government signed an agreement with the trade union federation Bolivian Workers' Central, a key participant in the protest movement, committing both sides to address pending demands through dialogue. The agreement has been viewed as an important step toward resolving the country's social unrest, which has lasted for about 50 days. However, some farmers and indigenous groups continue to maintain road blockades, and

transportation networks across the country have yet to fully return to normal. The protests were initially launched by the trade union group, farmer organisations, and indigenous groups over issues including fuel shortages and rising living costs. Earlier this month, President Paz enacted a new law regulating states of emergency, as continuous protests and road blockades have led to disruptions in supplies, transport and the economy. Law 1740 allows the president to declare a state of

emergency through a supreme decree in situations involving threats to state security, external threats, internal unrest or natural disasters. The decree must be sent to the Plurinational Legislative Assembly, Bolivia's national legislature, which has 72 hours to rule on it. Speaking at the government headquarters in La Paz, Paz said the law is aimed at protecting the majority of Bolivians, defending the constitutional order and restoring economic normality. The president said dialogue would remain the main tool of his government, but warned groups he described as violent and linked to "narcoterrorism" that the state would act firmly under the law. The 27-article law regulates states of emergency under Bolivia's Constitution, guarantees fundamental rights during their implementation and defines the roles of the police, armed forces and prosecutors. Paz said the measure has institutional backing and was approved by a qualified majority in the Plurinational Legislative Assembly.

Nepal's Central Zoo Closed After Confirmation Of Bird Flu

Kathmandu, 20/6: Nepal's Central Zoo in the Kathmandu Valley has been closed indefinitely since Friday after bird flu was detected in more than a dozen birds and animals. The zoo, home to a wide variety of wildlife, is one of the major attractions for holidaymakers, students, and tourists visiting the Valley. Issuing a notice late Friday, the Central Zoo authorities said the facility has been closed until further notice to protect the health and safety of the general public and visitors following the detection of avian influenza (bird flu) infections among birds and animals inside the zoo premises. The National Trust for Nature Conservation is responsible for operating the Central Zoo. Although human-to-human transmission of bird flu is rare, there are instances where people in daily contact with infected birds have contracted the virus. Ganesh Koirala, an information officer at the Central Zoo, told IANS that the zoo has been closed for disinfection



following the detection of bird flu. "The zoo is expected to remain closed for at least one week, and it may be prolonged depending on the risk," he said. According to him, more than a dozen animals — mostly birds, along with a few mammals such as leopard cats, jungle cats, and civets — have been found infected with the virus. The zoo authorities, however, have not made any plan to carry out wholesale culling of birds, unlike in poultry farms. Animals housed at the zoo were infected as the disease spread

in the Kathmandu Valley in recent days after it was first detected in eastern Morang district of Koshi Province on March 18 this year. Since then, at least 55 poultry farms in 10 districts have been affected, forcing authorities to destroy a total of 479,156 birds and 694,193 eggs, according to the Department of Livestock Services. Likewise, 182,775 kg of animal feed was also destroyed, it said. "The outbreak appears to be contained and remains under control in Koshi Province. However, the increasing number

Iran Says New Meeting With US Being Planned For 'Coming Days'

Tehran, 20/6: Iran's Foreign Ministry spokesman Esmail Baghaei said that a scheduled meeting between Iranian and US delegations in Switzerland has been postponed, and planning is underway for another one in the coming days. Speaking to reporters, Baghaei explained that consultations for the next phase of talks are ongoing through mediators, and a new date will be announced once conditions are set, according to a statement by the Iranian Foreign Ministry. He noted that under the recently signed memorandum of understanding (MoU) between Iran and the United States, the start of negotiations depends on the implementation of those provisions, including an end to the war and military operations on all fronts, including Lebanon, the

removal of US naval blockade, the reopening of the Strait of Hormuz for vessel passage free of charge for 60 days, US issuance of waivers for Iran's exports of crude oil, petroleum products and derivatives, and the release of Iranian frozen assets, Xinhua news agency reported. Baghaei said that Friday's meeting was originally intended for signing the MoU and discussing arrangements for talks on the final agreement. However, it became "non-urgent," he explained, after Iranian President Masoud Pezeshkian and his US counterpart Donald Trump electronically signed the document early Thursday. Baghaei denied reports that Iran had invited the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) to inspect its nuclear facilities,

saying that under the MoU, negotiations on Iran's nuclear program are scheduled to take place within 60 days, provided prerequisites are met. He said that under the MoU, Iran will maintain its current nuclear status quo, limiting IAEA inspections to facilities like the Bushehr Nuclear Power Plant. Access to sites previously denied due to the US and Israeli attacks will hinge on the negotiation process and its outcome, he added. Iran, the United States, and Pakistan early Monday announced the finalisation of the MoU on ending the war in the region on all fronts, including Lebanon, following weeks of negotiations. On February 28, Israel and the United States launched joint attacks on Tehran and other Iranian cities.

Israeli Airstrike Hits Lebanon After Ceasefire Takes Effect

Beirut, 20/6: An Israeli airstrike targeted the Jabal al-Rafee area near the southern Lebanese town of Sajd, shortly after a ceasefire between Lebanon and Israel took effect, according to Lebanon's National News Agency. The ceasefire took effect at 4:00 p.m. on Friday (local time), Xinhua news agency reported. Hezbollah leader Naim Qassem said on Friday that the group would confront Israel with weapons if attacked, stressing that threats of death would not deter its members. "The project to eliminate Hezbollah and entrench the occupation has failed, and the Israelis will withdraw from every last inch of our land," Qassem said in a televised speech on al-Manar local TV channel. He added that Lebanon was facing "the most



dangerous stage" and an "American-Israeli project" targeting the future of the country, accusing Israel of seeking to turn Lebanon's political authority against the resistance movement and of obstructing

reconstruction efforts in areas affected by the conflict. Qassem also said Hezbollah's weapons are directed solely against Israel and called on Israel to respect Lebanon's sovereignty and territorial

integrity. His remarks came as an Israeli airstrike targeted the Jabal al-Rafee area near the southern Lebanese town of Sajd on Friday, shortly after a ceasefire between Lebanon and Israel that took effect at 4:00 p.m. local time, according to Lebanon's National News Agency. Earlier in the day, Ibrahim al-Moussawi, a member of Hezbollah's parliamentary bloc "Loyalty to the Resistance," said that the group would continue to abide by the ceasefire agreement provided that Israel also respects its terms. Meanwhile, Lebanon's Public Health Emergency Operations Center said the cumulative toll from Israeli attacks since March 2 had risen to 3,980 people killed and 12,001 injured.

Trump Expects Iran To Agree To Final Deal Within 60 Days

Washington, 20/6: US President Donald Trump said that he expects Iran to agree to a final deal within 60 days of the signing of the memorandum of understanding (MoU). If no deal is reached within 60 days beginning Thursday, "we will do things that won't make them happy," Trump said at Joint Base Andrews in Maryland on Friday. "But I don't think it's going to get to that." The text of the MoU states that the two sides commit to negotiating and achieving the final deal in maximum 60 days, extendable with mutual consent, Xinhua news agency reported. US-Iran talks scheduled in Switzerland was postponed, with neither side offering an official explanation. Multiple media reports said that Iran withdrew from the talks in response to the latest Israeli strikes in Lebanon. Earlier on Friday, Trump told NBC News that he had spoken with Israeli



leaders and urged them to agree to a ceasefire with Hezbollah. "It's a positive," Trump said in the phone interview. "It's a little icing on the cake." Meanwhile, the US State Department said that a new round of talks between Israel and Lebanon will be held in Washington, DC next week. Earlier, in a statement,

Switzerland's Federal Department of Foreign Affairs stated, "The Planned talks between the US, Iran, Qatar and Pakistan have been postponed. Switzerland remains ready to facilitate these talks. The relevant preparatory work at Burgenstock is continuing. No further information can be provided at

present." The talks between the US and Iran were planned to move from a political framework agreement to detailed negotiations on implementation, verification and compliance. On Thursday night, the White House announced that US Vice President JD Vance's planned departure for technical negotiations with Iran has been postponed. However, it said preparations for the talks continue and both sides remain focused on launching the next phase of discussions aimed at implementing the recently signed memorandum of understanding. "As the Vice President said at his press conference, the plans for the upcoming technical talks have not been finalised, and the US delegation has been prepared to depart at the first available opportunity," a White House spokesperson said late Thursday night.

Trump Calls PM Modi 'Great Leader', Lists Him Among World Leaders He Most Admires

Washington: US President Donald Trump praised Prime Minister Narendra Modi as a "great leader" and a "very tough cookie", placing him among the world leaders he most admires during an interview with Axios in which he reflected on power, diplomacy and global leadership. During the interview, Trump repeatedly highlighted PM Modi while discussing the qualities he believes define effective leadership, pointing to the Indian Prime Minister's longevity in office, political strength and international standing. Reflecting on leaders he encountered at the recent G7 summit, Trump recalled PM Modi's presence among the invited world leaders. "(PM) Modi of India, great guy," Trump said while describing the gathering of heads of government and state leaders. Later, when asked how he defines a great leader, Trump cited PM Modi as an example of political stability in a country that had previously seen frequent changes in leadership. "All my life I've watched India, they just kept changing, changing, changing. Somebody would there, be there for six months and then a year. And then all of a sudden, Prime Minister Modi ends up there. He's been there for more than 12 years, very solid," Trump said. Trump said PM Modi combines calmness with political toughness. "He does it through, like, there's a great calmness and



yet he's not a calm person. He's a very tough guy. I know him very well," he said. The US President later named PM Modi among the global leaders he most respects when asked which figures stand out for their ability to exercise power and leadership. "Well, I think (PM) Modi is — very good. Yeah," Trump said. "(PM) Modi's a great leader." He also referred to India's growing global weight and demographic importance. "He's, uh, 1.5 billion people. He's actually the biggest. India's actually the biggest," Trump said. Trump noted that he described as India's recent economic performance and credited PM Modi's approach to international affairs. "They've had some very good numbers announced," he said. "He stays out of wars, which is smart." The President also offered a more personal assessment of the Indian leader. "I've seen, you know, I

know the, the real PM Modi is a very tough cookie," Trump said. During the wide-ranging conversation, Trump also praised Chinese President Xi Jinping, calling him "great", and cited both Xi and PM Modi as examples of influential leaders who command respect in their respective countries. The interview covered a broad range of topics, including the G7 summit, China, Iran, artificial intelligence and US foreign policy. Throughout the discussion, Trump argued that leaders who rise to the highest offices tend to possess uncommon abilities and resilience. "Look, they're all smart. You can't get to that level without being smart," he said. "To be in these positions, you have to be smart, you have to be tough." PM Modi has served as India's Prime Minister since May 2014 and is among the longest-serving elected leaders of a major democracy.

Yoga Day Draws Large Crowd In Washington

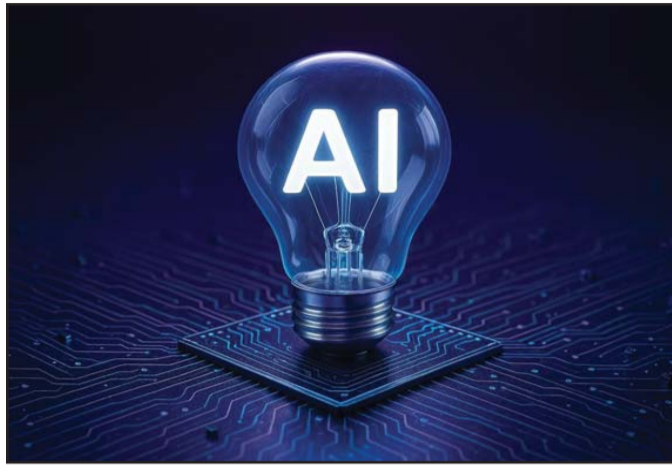
Washington: Hundreds of yoga enthusiasts gathered at the Lincoln Memorial on Friday morning as the Embassy of India marked the 12th International Day of Yoga, turning one of Washington's most iconic landmarks into a sprawling open-air yoga arena overlooking the National Mall. Against the backdrop of the Lincoln Memorial and the Washington Monument, participants spread colourful yoga mats across the memorial plaza and moved through a series of breathing exercises, stretches and meditation sessions. The crowd

included members of the Indian diaspora, local residents, yoga teachers, health enthusiasts and first-time participants, many wearing commemorative T-shirts bearing the theme of this year's observance, "Yoga for Healthy Ageing". Addressing the gathering, India's Ambassador to the United States, Vinay Mohan Kwatra, highlighted yoga's journey from an ancient Indian tradition to a globally embraced practice. "This morning at Lincoln Memorial, we are celebrating the 12th International Day of Yoga," Kwatra said. "The

International Day of Yoga was declared by United Nations in 2014 through a resolution, through a UN resolution, which was supported by about 175 countries all over the world," Kwatra told IANS. Describing yoga as part of India's civilisational heritage, the ambassador said the practice transcends borders, faiths and cultures. "It is a celebration of ancient Indian heritage yoga, which is universally adopted and widely practised across different geographies, different societies, different beliefs, different religions," he said.

India's Data Centre Pipeline Reaches 8.33 GW Driven By AI Adoption, Data Localisation

New Delhi, 20/6: India's data centre development pipeline has surged to 8.33 GW, more than five times the country's current live operational capacity of 1.6 GW, a report said on Saturday. The rapid growth of the data centre development pipeline is due to accelerating artificial intelligence adoption, cloud growth and data localisation requirements, the report from Knight Frank India said. India is emerging as one of the world's most attractive destinations for hyperscale digital infrastructure investments and currently has 0.32 GW of data centre capacity under construction, while another 2.92 GW has reached the committed stage, the report said. Additionally, 5.41 GW of capacity is in the early stages of development. The scale of the pipeline reflects growing confidence among hyperscalers, cloud providers, AI infrastructure



operators and institutional investors, who continue to expand their presence in India to cater to rapidly rising digital demand. The significant share of early-stage developments—representing nearly two-thirds of the total pipeline—demonstrates strong confidence in India's long-term digital economy

prospects. "While Mumbai continues to anchor hyperscale deployments owing to its connectivity advantages, Hyderabad is emerging as a preferred AI infrastructure destination," said Viral Desai, International Partner, Senior Executive Director- Occupier Strategy & Solutions, Industrial

& Logistics, Capital Markets & Retail, Knight Frank India. Mumbai accounted for the largest share of future capacity development with a total pipeline at 3.75 GW. Hyderabad became India's second-largest future data centre market with a total development pipeline of 1.93 GW. Chennai is strengthening its role as a strategic gateway for international data traffic from the east, Desai added. Vizag has rapidly emerged as one of India's most active greenfield data centre markets, attracting gigawatt-scale development proposals backed by government support, availability of sizeable land parcels and planned subsea cable connectivity. The National Capital Region (NCR), Pune and Bengaluru are also witnessing sustained development activity as operators diversify capacity across multiple markets.

India Launches Anti-Dumping Probe Against Chemical Exported By China, Japan

New Delhi, 20/6: India has launched an anti-dumping investigation against imports of a chemical, used in tyre and rubber products, from China and Japan which are allegedly being exported by these countries at prices that are below the fair market value of these goods, according to a notification issued by the Ministry of Commerce on Friday. The investigation follows a complaint lodged by Atul Limited to the Directorate General of Trade Remedies (DGTR) which alleged the flood of cheap imports of 'Resorcinol' are causing significant harm to India's domestic industry. The DGTR's notification said: "On the basis of the duly substantiated application filed by the applicant and having satisfied itself, on the basis of the prima facie evidence submitted by the applicant, regarding dumping of the subject goods... the authority hereby initiates an anti-dumping investigation." The investigation targets dumped shipments of Resorcinol, an intermediate compound used for bonding rubber to tyre cords and in specialised



resins. The World Trade Organisation rules provide for anti-dumping investigations by countries so that they can protect their indigenous industries from the flood of cheap imports by imposing a higher duty on them in order to check the unfair trade practice. The DGTR has previously investigated and monitored finished automotive tyre imports (such as new pneumatic radial tyres from China and Thailand) as well as raw tyre components like synthetic Halobutyl Rubber (HIR) imported from the US and China. The Directorate will examine the existence,

scale and impact of the alleged dumping by exporters from both countries. If the directorate confirms that the imported goods are being sold below fair market value and have caused "material injury" to Indian producers, it will recommend anti-dumping duties on these goods to ensure a level playing field for India's domestic industry. While the DGTR determines the extent of dumping, the Ministry of Finance holds the final authority to officially levy and enforce these duties to check the flood of cheap foreign goods.

Strong Economic Fundamentals Helped India Withstand West Asia Crisis: RBI MPC Minutes

Mumbai, 20/6: The minutes of the Reserve Bank of India's (RBI) Monetary Policy Committee (MPC) meeting, released on Friday, show that India has been able to withstand the disruptions of the West Asia crisis because of the strong fundamentals of the economy. MPC member Nagesh Kumar said: "The Indian economy entered the West Asia crisis with much stronger macroeconomic fundamentals than most previous economic crises (including the global financial crisis, the taper tantrum, or Covid-19). Before the conflict started at the end of February, the Indian economy was enjoying a 'Goldilocks moment' of robust growth and very benign inflation. Healthy foreign exchange reserves of nearly \$700 billion covering about 11 months of imports, and a moderate current account deficit, underpinned by resilient merchandise exports, and buoyant services exports and invisibles. Reservoir levels holding above 20 per cent higher water than the 10-year average could help to mitigate the possible shortfalls in the monsoon. In any case, over time, Indian agriculture has tended to be less affected by monsoon fluctuations with growing resilience." "Emphasis on fiscal consolidation over the past years



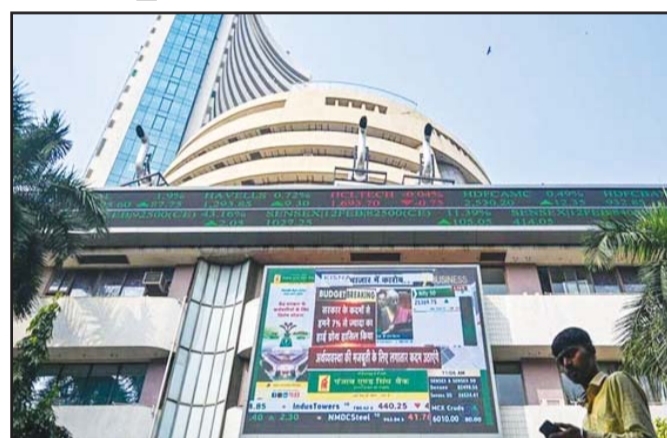
has helped in bringing down the fiscal deficit from 6.5 per cent of GDP in 2022-23 steadily to 4.4 per cent by 2025-26. This provides some fiscal space to address the challenges posed by the West Asia crisis, including through supporting economic growth by sustaining and even enhancing public investment to mitigate any weaknesses in private consumption due to rising costs and to absorb rising subsidies for absorbing the high crude prices," he added. The Central bank said the inflation outlook remains vulnerable to prolonged supply-chain disruptions arising from the conflict in West Asia and uncertainty over

the spatial and temporal distribution of the Southwest monsoon. According to the central bank's latest meeting minutes, headline consumer price index (CPI) inflation inched up to 3.4 per cent in March and 3.5 per cent in April, primarily due to higher food inflation. Fuel price inflation had remained subdued as the retail price hike had not yet percolated into the system. The RBI expects inflation to accelerate throughout the quarters, with CPI projections at 4.2 per cent for Q1, 5.2 per cent for Q2, 5.9 per cent for Q3, and then 5.4 per cent in the final quarter. MPC member Ram Singh stated: "RBI's analysis indicates a

Nifty, Sensex Post Nearly 1.7 PC Weekly Gain Over Hopes Of US-Iran Peace Pact

Mumbai, 20/6: The Indian equity benchmarks posted second consecutive week of strong gains, over investor optimism about improved geopolitical situation following the US-Iran peace agreement, and decline in Brent crude prices. Nifty added 1.65 per cent during the week and lost 0.64 per cent on the last trading day to reach 24,013. At close, Sensex was down 607 points or 0.78 per cent at 76,802. It added 1.69 per cent during the week.

Domestic markets witnessed consolidation on the last trading day of the week largely dragged by a sharp sell-off in IT stocks after recent three sessions of benchmark gains. Brent crude, which dipped below the \$80 per barrel level on hopes of a potential US-Iran peace agreement, saw a sudden halt in price decline after abrupt cancellations of peace talks and profit booking toward the close of the week. The rupee strengthened by roughly 79 paise during the week to around 94.35



per dollar. The improved geopolitical backdrop is expected to lend support to market sentiment next week, analysts said. A 14-point US-Iran MoU signed during the week included the reopening of the Strait of Hormuz, removal of the naval blockade and restoration of commercial shipping. On the sectoral front, consumer durables, real estate, pharma and defence were notable gainers. Defence sector rallied 6.6 per cent over the

past week, supported by strong underlying fundamentals, market participants said. IT emerged as the biggest laggard, with the Nifty IT index plunging 6.5 per cent after Accenture lowered its FY26 constant-currency revenue growth guidance and issued a weaker-than-expected outlook. On the monetary policy front, the US Fed maintained a cautious, data-dependent stance with limited forward guidance, reinforcing a higher-for-longer rate

UPI.

– A wallet with insufficient balance will not show a negative balance.

Why some active PhonePe users may still receive notifications. Some users have reported receiving inactivity notifications despite using PhonePe regularly for QR-code payments, bill payments, or money transfers. This happens because wallet activity and UPI activity are tracked separately. A customer may actively use PhonePe every day through UPI while their PhonePe Wallet remains unused for months or years. In such cases, the wallet can still be classified as inactive even though the user continues to use the PhonePe app. Advance Notification and User Choices. According to PhonePe, affected users are notified 15 days in advance before any inactivity fee is deducted from the wallet balance.

PhonePe's Wallet Inactivity Notifications: What Users Need To Know

New Delhi: Recent wallet inactivity notifications from PhonePe have led to increased consumer interest in digital wallets and how they function. One of the key observations from these discussions is that many users continue to assume that their PhonePe account, UPI account, and PhonePe Wallet are the same. In reality, these are different payment instruments that operate independently and serve different purposes.

As digital payments become increasingly common in everyday life, understanding how wallets work and how they differ from UPI can help consumers make informed decisions and better understand the products they use. Understanding the difference between UPI and wallets. When you make a payment through UPI on PhonePe, the money is debited directly from your linked bank account. A PhonePe Wallet, on the other

hand, is a prepaid payment instrument (PPI) where money is stored separately from your bank account. This distinction is important because the inactivity fee applies only to the PhonePe Wallet and not to UPI-linked bank accounts. Understanding how wallet inactivity charges work. One of the concerns raised by users is whether PhonePe can deduct the inactivity fee from their bank account if their wallet has no balance. The answer is no. If a user's PhonePe Wallet has a zero balance and has remained inactive for an extended period, the inactivity fee will not be recovered from the user's linked bank account or through UPI. Similarly, the wallet balance will not become negative. In other words:

- No deduction will be made from a linked bank account.
- No deduction will be made via

Northeast Can Lead India's Growth Story Through Organic Agriculture: Nirmala Sitharaman

Shillong, 20/6: Union Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman said on Friday that the Northeast has the potential to emerge as India's next growth powerhouse by leveraging its strengths in organic farming, sustainable agriculture and premium-quality produce, asserting that the region could lead the country's development journey in the years ahead. Addressing a gathering after inaugurating the Northeast's largest organic spice processing plant at Bhoirymbong in Meghalaya's Ri-Bhoi district, Sitharaman said the future of agriculture lies in quality, traceability and consumer trust rather than sheer volume of production. The newly inaugurated facility, established by the Eastern Ri-Bhoi Organic Farmer Producer Company Limited, is expected to significantly boost value addition, processing capacity and market access for farmers cultivating high-value crops such as Lakadong turmeric, ginger and black pepper. "The future belongs not to those who produce the most, but to those who produce the best—cleaner, more traceable, trusted and premium products," the Union finance Minister



added. Highlighting Meghalaya's growing prominence in the organic agriculture sector, Sitharaman said the state enjoys a unique advantage as global consumers increasingly seek environmentally sustainable and ethically produced food products. She noted that trust has become a critical factor in international markets and said Meghalaya's traditional farming practices, community-driven agriculture and ecological heritage position it favourably in the emerging global economy. "The world is entering an age where trust commands a premium, and Meghalaya possesses that trust rooted in nature and generations of ecological wisdom," she said. Emphasising the need for environmentally responsible

growth, Sitharaman added that economic development and conservation must go hand in hand. "We have to live and cohabit with nature," she remarked. Referring to India's vision of becoming a developed nation by 2047, the Union Minister said the goal of a "Viksit Bharat" can only be achieved through the participation of every region, with the Northeast playing a pivotal role. She also stressed the importance of empowering farmers, particularly women, through value addition, stronger producer cooperatives and access to global markets, enabling them to build internationally recognised brands around the region's organic products.



Vikram Bhatt announces next instalment in 1920 horror franchise, titled '1920: Cold Winter'

Mumbai, June 20: Filmmaker Vikram Bhatt is set to direct the next instalment of the 1920 franchise titled '1920: Cold Winter.' '1920 Cold Winter' will be produced by Anand Pandit and is written and directed by Vikram Bhatt. It is co-produced by Roopa Pandit and Rahul V Dubey. Vikram Bhatt shared the first look poster of the movie on his Instagram handle. While sharing the poster, he wrote, "The Anand Pandit-Vikram Bhatt partnership continues its winning streak. Following the massive success of 1920, the duo is already creating buzz with Haunted 3D: Echoes of the Past and is now all set to bring audiences 1920: Cold Winter, the next chilling chapter in the iconic franchise."

The first instalment of the franchise was released in 2008. It was written and directed by Vikram Bhatt. Set in the year 1920, the film starred Rajneesh Duggal and Adah Sharma as a married couple who moved into a haunted manor where the wife got possessed by an evil spirit. The sequel to the film was released in 2012, which was titled '1920: The Evil Returns'. It starred Aftab Shivdasani, Tia Bajpai, Vidya Malvade and Sharad Kelkar. It was directed by Bhushan Patel. Meanwhile, Vikram Bhatt's recent directorial was titled 'Haunted 3D'. It starred Mimoh Chakraborty, Chetna Pande, Shruti Prakash, Gaurav Bajpai, Praneet Bhatt and Hemant Pandey. The film was produced by Anand Pandit and Rakesh Juneja, with co-producers Roopa Pandit, Dilip Jaiswal, Rahul V Dubey, Manish Bhushan Mishra and Sanjay Singh. It is presented in association with Promoedge Media Company Pvt Ltd and will be distributed worldwide by Anand Pandit Motion Pictures. The film hit theatres on June 12, 2026.



Samay Raina announces India's Got Latent Season 2; to stream on Netflix, YouTube

The much-awaited Samay Raina's comedy show 'India's Got Latent' is finally returning with its second season, but with a twist. The comedian announced that the second season of the show will stream on Netflix and YouTube as well. After gaining immense popularity in season one, the fans of Samay Raina have been eagerly waiting for the next instalment of the show. Originating from YouTube, Samay's show is set to debut on Netflix. In the

announcement video, Samay Raina, along with his friend Balraj Singh, shared that the episodes of the second season will stream on Netflix and YouTube simultaneously without a difference in duration. As per the video, the show is expected to be unfiltered. Netflix shared the announcement on their Instagram handle. Content creator Ashish Chanchlani also took a humorous dig at the announcement by recalling the controversy regarding the show's first season. In the comment section, Chanchlani requested the inclusion of a disclaimer from Samay to fight the upcoming probable legal battles easily. "Is baar disclaimer daal dena please case ladne mein easy hota hai (Please put disclaimer this time please. It helps in fighting cases)" wrote Ashish Chanchlani. Meanwhile, Samay Raina recently made a strong comeback after more than a year away from the public eye following the 'India's Got Latent' controversy, with his latest comedy special achieving a major global milestone online. Raina released his debut stand-up special titled 'Still Alive' on YouTube, which crossed 53.4 million views. According to a release, it has emerged as the most-watched full-length stand-up comedy special in the world from a single upload. With this achievement, Raina has reportedly become the first comedian to hold the record for the highest-viewed stand-up special globally on a single video platform upload. 'Still Alive' also marks Raina's first official stand-up special. In the 1-hour and 21-minute-long performance, he speaks candidly about the 'India's Got Latent' controversy, his one-year break from public appearances, personal and financial struggles, childhood bullying, his Kashmiri Pandit identity, mental health and the support he received from fans and close friends.

SPORTS

Kohli To Undergo Fitness Test Ahead Of England Odis Selection, Hardik Begins Light Training

New Delhi, 20/6: Virat Kohli is set to undergo a fitness assessment at the BCCI's Centre of Excellence ahead of the Ajit Agarkar-led selection committee convening to select India's squad for the upcoming ODI series in England, to be played from July 14-19 in Birmingham, Cardiff and Lord's. It is understood that the selectors will meet in the coming week to decide the squad. Chief selector Agarkar was seen in Sri Lanka keeping an eye on India 'A' team playing the 50-over tri-series. Kohli missed the ongoing ODI series against Afghanistan due to a hamstring injury sustained in the IPL 2026 final in Ahmedabad, where he hit a match-winning 75 not out for Royal Challengers Bengaluru. Since then, Kohli has been doing rehab while being in London. "It has emerged that Kohli is expected to report to the BCCI CoE for his fitness assessment and clearance very soon. It can happen anytime after his One8 brand does its first-ever Global Premiere event in Yashobhoomi, New Delhi, on Sunday. If all goes well, then Kohli can be included for ODIs against England," said a source



tracking the development to IANS on Saturday. Seam-bowling all-rounder Hardik Pandya, meanwhile, has resumed light training at the CoE facility in Bengaluru as he works his way back to full fitness after a late leg niggle kept him out of ODIs against Afghanistan. Pandya was at the CoE since June 2 to get

fitness clearance after a back niggle saw him miss a couple of games for Mumbai Indians in IPL 2026. It is understood that Pandya has resumed light training at the CoE 4-5 days back, after taking a week's break. "The intensity of his training will increase slowly in the next two days. His medical report will be submitted to the BCCI through

the CoE medical team and on that basis, the selectors will probably take a call on his availability for ODIs in England. "Basically, it's upto the selectors and team management to decide - like will they wait for him to be fully match fit or not take him to England so that he builds up full fitness needed to play an ODI game," added the source.

3rd ODI: Prasidh, Harsh, Nitish Return For India As Afghanistan Elect To Bat First

Chennai: India have included Prasidh Krishna, Harsh Dubey and Nitish Kumar Reddy in their playing eleven as Afghanistan won the toss and elected to bat first in the third and final ODI at the MA Chidambaram Stadium on Saturday. India have already taken a 2-0 lead in the three-game series after a massive 170-run win in Lucknow. Another win in Chennai will hand them a 3-0 series sweep. Afghanistan captain Hashmatullah Shahidi said they have four changes, with Mohammad Nabi, Azmatullah Omarzai, Zia Ur Rahman Sharifi and Fareed Ahmad Malik coming



in. "We want to bat first today. It's always hot in India in this month. Wicket also looks good.

It's dry and hard. Hopefully we have a good start in the batting. In last two games we missed some

areas and didn't play the way we have played in the past. Hopefully we recover today and have good partnerships and bowl in the right areas," he said. For India, with Prasidh, Harsh and Nitish returning, Arshdeep Singh, Kuldeep Yadav and KL Rahul sit out of the match. Nitish had missed the clash in Lucknow due to soreness in left thigh and now returns in Chennai, with Ishan Kishan set to take up keeping duties. "Looks like a very good wicket. Would've batted first as well. Was pretty hot in the last match and it's going to be no different here.

Grammy Adds New Categories To Its Awards Line-Up



Los Angeles: The Grammy Awards have added 5 new categories after deliberation with its members. The organising committee updates rules and adds to their categories in response to proposals from the members every year. The next show, taking place on February 7, 2027, will see 5 new categories, including in the Latin, Asian Pop and R&B genres, and several key updates, including the Best New Artist and Best album categories, reports 'Variety'. The latter two moves are the most far-reaching, as they see the maximum number of times an artist may be submitted increased from three to four; and the "threshold of new recordings required on an eligible album is lowered from 75% to

66% to reduce the exclusion of entries that are widely recognized throughout the music industry as new albums". As per 'Variety', Best new artist is traditionally the most controversial award, inevitably, as the concept of who considers the artist to be new is always a judgement call, and this year will see multiple artists getting an unexpected fourth shot at being nominated, including Ella Langley, who was reportedly submitted in three past years, but whose Hot 100 No. 1 single "Choosin' Texas" and the album "Dandelion" have led her star to rise dramatically. Likewise, as the concept of what constitutes a new album has changed, some that featured, say, four new songs but included

remixes or live versions of previously released songs inspired the 75% threshold, but apparently that was determined to be excessively high. In a related move that extends recognition for songwriters, contributors to winning albums in most genre album categories will now receive Grammy statuettes and Achievement Certificates, which producers and engineers already receive. Songwriters and Composers of new material on the winning albums in most genre album Categories will now receive Grammy statuettes and Achievement Certificates in parity with the recognition currently afforded to Producers and Engineers in those categories.