



STAY FIT

People practice morning yoga at Mausi Maa Temple at Old Town in Bhubaneswar Thursday

PATRIOTIC EVENT

Artistes dedicate a patriotic song to Indian soldiers at the Mera Bharat Mahan event at Rabindra Mandap in Bhubaneswar Thursday



FORTUNE FORECAST

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ARIES



Today you will go overboard trying to spruce up your looks. You attempt to imbibe new looks. A very desirable date will raise high expectations in you and will keep you on the edge of your seat. Ganesha advises you to take it easy as real relationships are not measured by outward expressions.

TAURUS



Your romantic relationship will be working on an overdrive today, says Ganesha. You will discover answers to the finer aspects of your love life. Overall, you will have a refreshingly creative outlook all through the day. It is a favourable day for those who cherish unrequited love, says Ganesha.

GEMINI



An extremely profitable and progressive day awaits you. You may come into a handsome inheritance. Your responsibilities will increase along with a possible promotion at work. However, do not let your success go to your head, says Ganesha.

CANCER



You will try to improve ties with beloved ones. Your devotion and dedication will reap benefits for the future. You will have physical and mental happiness. You will keep your future in mind. This will boost your self-confidence. Ganesha's blessings are with you.

LEO



You will be confused with issues relating to the work-place today. You need to accept your present circumstances for what they are, and work towards resolving your immediate concerns to find your way ahead in life. This period of doubt will pass very soon, says Ganesha.

VIRGO



Your beloved will not only give you a surprise today but also demand one, says Ganesha. There may be some good news on the business front. Ganesha says own up to your old mistakes so that you don't repeat them, and chalk out the plans for the future. There is no need to shy from taking the advice of a loved one, as it will only benefit you, and later in the day, you may spend some good time together.

LIBRA



Ganesha says you will learn a lot from your past experiences for a shining future. You will be slightly possessive about some costly item that you own. There will be small concerns during the day about different matters, which will give you mental stress. On the whole the day will pass by nicely.

SCORPIO



You may bump into people with different tastes and temperaments, says Ganesha. Some may surprise you, while some may just shock you. Sometimes, it is difficult to understand when people react indifferently to your success. Handle it with smartness and diplomacy.

SAGITTARIUS



Settling for a new, better employment will help you fast-track your career growth. A telephonic interview might ring in a new offer. A lucrative deal with an MNC would serve well. Your dedication and devotion to work will also peak today, says Ganesha.

CAPRICORN



Mounting pressure of work and responsibilities during the day may drain your energy, but not your enthusiasm, feels Ganesha. The second half of the day will be tiring, as you will be fighting a tough battle with your competitors. You'll come out triumphant from the fight as you perform smartly and get your acts right.

AQUARIUS



You speed up your pace and try to do everything in order to complete your targets, but you won't be able to complete the tasks on time. Don't lose hope as tomorrow will be a different day, says Ganesha. Give yourself some time to relax and unwind. You have worked very hard and Ganesha assures that your efforts will not go unnoticed.

PISCES



You need to concentrate more on your personal life, and seriously think about the changes you need to make. You are guided more by your heart in these matters. However, there is nothing to worry about, as this is a golden period for you. Today should be a progressive day that will bring a lot of positive changes in your life, says Ganesha.

THRUST ON BETTER PLAN FOR MINING AFFECTED DISTRICTS

EXPERTS SAY FUNDS FOR AFFECTED PEOPLE IN MINING AREAS ARE NOT BEING UTILISED EFFICIENTLY; CALL FOR EMULATING JHARKHAND AND TELANGANA MODEL

POST NEWS NETWORK

Bhubaneswar, Dec 8: A New Delhi based think tank that works for environment-development issues in the country organised a forum in the Capital Thursday that discussed the betterment of people living in mineral rich districts of Orissa with the funds provided by the mining companies.

The discussion – attended by renowned environmentalists, social activists and NGOs working in related fields – was organised by Centre for Science and Environment (CSE), which talked about the proper usage of funds that were released under District Mineral Foundations (DMFs).

Those entitled to the benefits are communities living in areas affected by mining activities, who have legal or occupational rights over the land.

DMFs are statutory bodies, instituted under the Mines and Minerals (Development and Regulation) Amendment Act, 2005, established in the districts affected by mining activities. The meeting – chaired by the deputy director Chandra Bhushan and Sreshtha Banerjee, the programme manager, Environmental Governance, CSE – discussed in great de-



tail the faults in DMFs.

The duo claimed that people living in such areas were deprived of their rights and benefits, which they were very much entitled to. "They (DMFs) are strictly meant to serve the communities in the mining affected areas," said the deputy director.

This year Orissa has topped in the funds collection under the DMFs.

The bodies' work is to identify the affected areas and the people living there. A DMF should constitute board of trustees and executive committee, headed by the district collector, local representatives to the Assembly and Parliament, and members of Zilla Parishad and Panchayat.

The officials from the think tank said the District Mineral Foundations in Telangana and Jharkhand were performing better than Orissa

However, DMFs in the state were not using the funds the way they should for the welfare of the affected, the officials from the think tank stated.

Banerjee said, "As per the rule, all the information related to schemes under DMFs should be made public and

must be published in a website." The affected can also file grievances and complaints with the local gram sabha and the court, she added.

Banerjee stated that DMFs in Telangana and Jharkhand were working well and Orissa should implement the scheme in a proper manner to benefit the needy.

Chandra Bhushan said that his organisation was in talks with the state and had even intimated the matter to the Prime Minister and Chief Minister asking them to take quick action on the matter. He informed at the event that the state mining department has collected ₹1600 crore under DMFs this year to be used for the welfare projects.

Plywood meets its perfect replacement



POST NEWS NETWORK

Bhubaneswar, Dec 8: Manufacturer Visakha Industries is exhibiting its latest produce 'VBoard', which it claims to be a perfect substitute for plywood that is used for home decoration, at an ongoing event in Bhubaneswar Thursday.

The fiber cement board is put on display at 'Interior Show-2016', organised by the monthly magazine, The Neptune Glitz.

Soumya Ranjan Sahu from Visakha Industries said, "Vboard" is as strong as cement and better than wood. It is quick, affordable and durable. We can say the product is future."

The company claims that the product has several advantages as compared to plywood.

Some of the upsides of the material are: It is asbestos free, energy efficient, termite resistant, weather resistant, water resistant and eco friendly.

The product is available in different variants: Vpremium, Vplank, V-Oceanic, V-Ply, V-Fire Resistant

Board and V-Tiles Backer Board. "The price for one square feet of the boards range between ₹65 and ₹70," Sahu added.

The exhibition-cum-sale event also witnessed other interior and home décor products like furniture, modular kitchen and chimney lighting items, and water purifiers among others.

The five-day long exhibition, which kicked off Wednesday, aims to promote well-designed architecture and interior décor items.

About 70 stalls are set up at the venue. Many companies and artisans are taking part at the event to showcase their products.

"This is the 15th edition of our exhibition that has been organised to provide an opportunity for the visitors to witness such products at one place. They can purchase the ones they desire for. One also gets a chance to meet famous interior designers and architects here," said N K Singh, the editor of the magazine.

The exhibition, which is witnessing good footfalls, will conclude December 11.

HEALTHY HEART

Cycle ride to New Delhi to promote bicycling



POST NEWS NETWORK

Bhubaneswar, Dec 8: A state-based organisation is planning to hold a cycle marathon from Bhubaneswar to New Delhi this month to raise awareness about clean environment. The riders representing Roots of Odisha will start their journey December 17 from Bindu Sagar Lake in city and end it December 31 after reaching the national capital.

The event, Konark International Cyclathon, will witness bicyclists covering Puri, Konark and Bhadrak in Orissa. They will also cross Allahabad, Varanasi and Agra before reaching their final destination. The information was released at a press meet organised by the group at a city-based hotel Thursday.

"Our primary objective is to en-

courage people to use bicycle as a mode of communication, which will reduce air pollution to a major extent," said Sudhir Kumar Das, the founder of the group.

India is home to 19 most polluted cities in the list of 100. The marathon will culminate in New Delhi and not in Konark, where most of such events in the state ends. It is because the Capital is the most polluted city in the world, the organiser said.

"To promote the event, a rally will be organised December 10 starting from Bindu Sagar," said Dilip Srichandan, the president of Prernah, a co-sponsor of the event.

Cyclists from USA, Canada, Japan, Kenya and Bangladesh will take part in the cycle marathon along with local counterparts.

Painting exhibition features young talent from overseas

POST NEWS NETWORK

Bhubaneswar, Dec 8: More than 2,000 paintings by children from across the country and abroad are being exhibited at the five-day art exhibition 'Shilpi Divas' inaugurated Thursday on the premises of Orissa Khadi and Village Industry Board in Bhubaneswar. The expo is being organised by Orissa Modern Art Gallery.

Paintings by children from eight countries including UK, China, Malaysia, Canada, Japan and US are to be included in the exhibition. 140 select paintings are going to be awarded at the end of the event.

Paintings by young artists from countries like UK, China, Malaysia, Canada, Japan and US are to be included in the exhibition

"We celebrate Shilpi Divas every December to give school children an opportunity to



showcase their creative work. Our motive is to give them a bigger platform and to appreciate their talent," said Tarakanta Parida, the founder of the gallery.

"This year we received several entries but selected 2,000 of them," he added. The founder also informed that a workshop

for children was going to be held during this time.

Top 10 entries will be awarded gold, silver and bronze medals.

Besides, artist Adwaita Gadanayak will be felicitated in recognition of his appointment as the head of the National Gallery for Modern

Art, New Delhi.

On the occasion, the minister of skill development and technical education Sanjay Das Burma, MLA Prashanta Kumar Muduli, Chairman of the Khadi board Tejeshwar Parida, and Prashant Kumar Hota from Jindal Steel Private Limited were present.

Graphic paintings in public toilets campaign for ODF

POST NEWS NETWORK

Bhubaneswar, Dec 8: The city civic body in collaboration with a not-for-profit organisation has started an initiative to paint public toilets with cartoon characters and other graphic images to encourage the public not to defecate in the open.

In a first, two public toilets near Janata Maidan have been painted by the artists of Bakul Foundation, a group that has dedicated itself to work for the noble cause. A plan to paint 53 such toilets in city is under process.

"We have a plan to paint 27

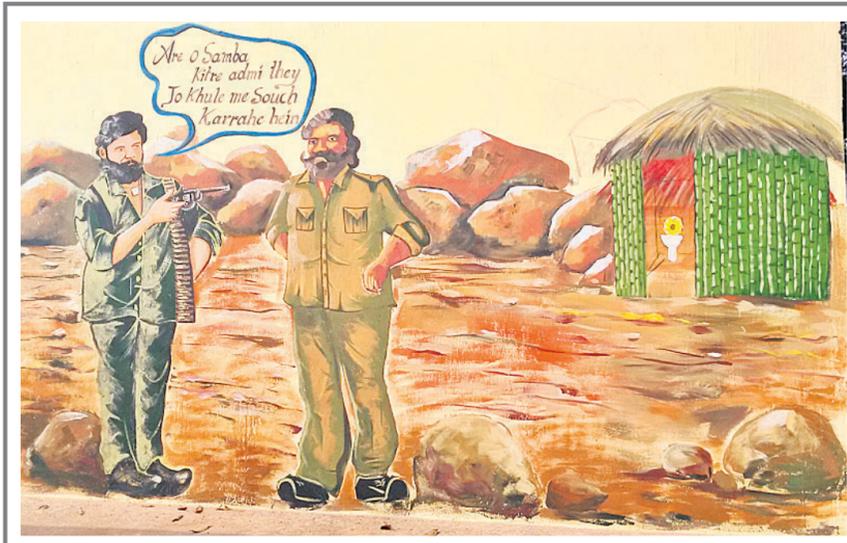
Two public toilets near Janata Maidan have been painted by the artists of Bakul Foundation, which is working for the noble cause

public and 26 community toilets, which are in the pipeline to make the city look cleaner and greener. Illustrative images in 53 yet-to-be built toilets are also to be painted," said Deputy Commissioner Srimanta Mishra, who is in-charge of the Swachh Bhubaneswar

Abhiyaan Cell.

In one such toilet, an image of the popular villain from a Hindi film, Gabbar Singh, is painted. He is seen to be asking Sambha with a gun pointed at him, "Kitne aadmi the jo khule mein souch kar rahe the (how many were defecating in the open)?"

Sujit Mohapatra from the Foundation said, "What we wanted to do was to make each toilet look like a work of art. But we were clear that we did not want it to be didactic with heavy messages and slogans. We wanted the message to be delivered with a touch of subtlety in it."



One of the two paintings at public loos near Janata Maidan that features Gabbar Singh and Sambha

OP PHOTO