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Gujarat: Seven Killed As Two Maharashtra ST Buses, Tractor Collide In Surat

Surat: At least seven people were killed and around 15 others injured after a major road accident involving two Maharashtra State Transport (ST) buses and a tractor near Uva-Manekpor village in Bardoli taluka of Gujarat's Surat district on Tuesday, officials said. According to preliminary information, a Maharashtra ST bus travelling from Dhule to Surat via Navapur collided with a tractor moving ahead of it on the highway. The impact caused the bus to cross the central divider and crash head-on into another Maharashtra ST bus approaching from the opposite direction. One of the buses carried about 25 to 26 passengers, while



the other had about 33 to 35. The collision caused one of the buses to overturn multiple times before bursting into flames. The bus then rolled down an embankment after the crash. Authorities said a number of passengers became trapped inside the vehicle after flames engulfed it, complicating rescue efforts. Officials have so far confirmed seven deaths in the

accident. However, authorities fear the toll could rise as some of the injured are reported to be in serious condition. Around 15 injured passengers were rescued from the wreckage and shifted to various hospitals for treatment. Emergency teams continued to assess the condition of those involved while authorities worked to identify all passengers

travelling on the buses. Fire brigade personnel, police officers, and ambulance teams rushed to the scene and launched a large-scale rescue and relief operation. Firefighters battled the blaze while rescue workers evacuated passengers and searched the damaged vehicles for anyone trapped inside. The accident also triggered a lengthy traffic jam on the highway, with vehicular movement affected for several hours as emergency services cleared the site and conducted rescue operations. Police have begun an investigation to determine the exact cause of the accident.

Prez, PM To Attend Majhi Govt's 2-Year Celebration In Rairangpur On June 20

BHUBANESWAR, (Correspondent): Chief Minister Mohan Charan Majhi on Tuesday chaired a high-level meeting to review preparations for a major programme scheduled to be held in Rairangpur of Mayurbhanj district on June 20 to mark the completion of two years of the BJP government in the State. Officials informed the meeting that both the President of India and the Prime Minister have consented to attend the event, making it one of the most significant government functions to be held in the state this year. Reviewing the arrangements at Lok Seva Bhawan, the Chief Minister directed officials to ensure comprehensive security



measures at the venue, adequate facilities for the public attending the programme, and proper parking arrangements. Emphasising the importance of the event, Majhi said special attention should be given to its smooth and successful conduct, considering the

participation of the President and the Prime Minister. The meeting was also informed that several major projects related to Odisha's development would be inaugurated and foundation stones laid during the programme by the two dignitaries. Chief

Secretary Anu Garg, Development Commissioner D.K. Singh, Additional Chief Secretary (Home) Hemant Sharma, Additional Chief Secretary to the Chief Minister Saswata Mishra, and other senior officials attended the review meeting.

India's RudraM-II Missile Clears Flight Tests From Airborne Platform

BHUBANESWAR, (Correspondent): Defence Research & Development Organisation (DRDO) and the Indian Air Force (IAF) have conducted the successful flight-tests of RudraM-II Air-to-Surface Missile from an airborne platform. The tests were conducted under extreme release conditions with critical trajectory establishing the capability of all subsystems. The missiles after release were guided to a predefined target with pin-point accuracy. All the test objectives were fully met as confirmed by the flight data captured by various range instruments deployed by Integrated Test Range (ITR), Chandipur. Rudram-II has been indigenously developed by Research Centre Imarat, Hyderabad as the nodal DRDO laboratory in collaboration with other sister labs such as Defence Research and Development Laboratory, High Energy Materials Research Laboratory, Armament Research & Development Establishment & ITR. Along with the Development cum Production Partners (DcPPs), agencies like Hindustan Aeronautics Limited, Regional Centre for Military Airworthiness, Missile System Quality Assurance Agency and many other industries have contributed significantly towards achieving this goal. Defence Minister Rajnath Singh has lauded the effort of DRDO, IAF, DPSUs, DcPPs and the industry for the successful flight-tests. He stated that the tests have demonstrated the growing maturity of indigenous defence technologies, contributing significantly to Aatmanirbharta in advance weapon systems. Secretary, Department of Defence R&D and Chairman DRDO has congratulated all the teams associated with the test for the commendable achievement.

OSM Controversy: Centre Names Lokhande Sitaram As CBSE Chairperson, Varun Bhardwaj Secretary

New Delhi: In a major administrative reshuffle amid mounting controversy over the Central Board of Secondary Education's (CBSE) On-Screen Marking (OSM) system, the Central government on Tuesday appointed senior IAS officer Lokhande Prashant Sitaram as the new CBSE Chairperson and named Varun Bhardwaj as the board's new Secretary. The appointments came just hours after the Centre ordered a high-level inquiry into the procurement and implementation of the digital evaluation system. According to an order approved by the Appointments Committee of the Cabinet, Lokhande Prashant Sitaram, a 2001-batch AGMUT



cadre IAS officer currently serving as Additional Secretary in the Ministry of Home Affairs, will take charge as CBSE Chairperson in the rank of Additional Secretary. He replaces Rahul Singh, a 1996-batch Bihar cadre IAS officer, who has been transferred as Additional Secretary in the Department of

Agriculture and Farmers Welfare. The government has also appointed Varun Bhardwaj, a 2008-batch Indian Information Service officer and Director in the Department of Higher Education, as the new Secretary of CBSE. Bhardwaj succeeds Himanshu Gupta, an AGMUT

cadre IAS officer of the 2012 batch. He will serve in the position until September 19, 2027, under the Central Staffing Scheme. The leadership overhaul comes amid growing criticism of the OSM system introduced this year for Class 12 board examinations. Under the digital evaluation framework, examiners

assessed scanned copies of answer sheets instead of physical answer books. However, students and parents have raised concerns regarding technical glitches, payment issues, delays in re-evaluation processes, and alleged irregularities in the implementation of the system. In response to the controversy, the Centre has constituted a one-member inquiry committee headed by S. Radha Chauhan, Chairperson of the Capacity Building Commission. The committee has been tasked with examining the procurement of OSM services and investigating allegations that procurement norms may have been relaxed to favour a particular vendor.

Southwest Monsoon to Reach Kerala Around June 4

NEWDELHI: The India Meteorological Department (IMD) announced that the southwest monsoon is expected to set in over Kerala around June 24, marking the official onset of India's rainy season. IMD reported favourable conditions over the southwest and southeast Arabian Sea, Lakshadweep Islands, parts of Kerala and Tamil Nadu, and sections of the Bay of Bengal. The department said the monsoon will advance into these regions by June 4. The monsoon typically reaches the Andaman and Nicobar Islands in May before moving toward the mainland. The official onset date for Kerala is June 1, but this year's arrival has been delayed. IMD forecasts below-normal rainfall at 90% of the Long Period Average, raising concerns about the impact of El Niño. Farmers welcomed the news of the monsoon's approach, as the rains are crucial for kharif crop sowing. India receives nearly 75-80% of its annual rainfall during the four-month southwest monsoon season, making it vital for agriculture and the economy. The kharif season, beginning in June, accounts for more than half of India's foodgrain output.

Rubio Warns China, Cites Tensions Near Philippines

Washington: Voicing concerns over China's activities in the South China Sea, Secretary of State Marco Rubio on Tuesday reaffirmed U.S. support for the Philippines, describing Manila as a critical partner in the Indo-Pacific amid growing regional tensions. Testifying before the Senate Foreign Relations Committee, Rubio said he had raised concerns about Chinese actions

near the disputed Scarborough Shoal in multiple engagements with Chinese officials and warned against efforts to alter the status quo. "We're very concerned about recent activity, once again, near Scarborough," Rubio said. He added that the issue had been raised during his first meeting with Chinese officials and in subsequent diplomatic exchanges. Rubio's remarks came during

an exchange with Senator Bill Hagerty, who highlighted the Philippines' strategic importance due to its location along key maritime trade routes in the Indo-Pacific. The secretary described the Philippines as "a critical partner" and pointed to expanding defence and economic cooperation between Washington and Manila. "I spoke to President Marcos on Sunday," Rubio told

lawmakers, referring to Philippine President Ferdinand Marcos Jr. He said the two countries were working together on defence cooperation, military interoperability, technology development, and economic diversification. Rubio cited a new agreement involving a former U.S. military facility in the Philippines that will support joint activities in artificial intelligence

and advanced technologies. He also highlighted ongoing military cooperation, including joint exercises and defence commitments designed to strengthen deterrence in the region. The secretary's comments underscored the Trump administration's growing focus on the Indo-Pacific amid intensifying strategic competition with China. Rubio warned

that Beijing continues to exert pressure on countries across the region and expressed concern about efforts to negotiate a South China Sea code of conduct that could legitimise Chinese territorial claims. "A bad code of conduct agreement is worse than no code of conduct agreement at all," Rubio said. He argued that any regional agreement must avoid creating precedents

that undermine freedom of navigation or weaken the position of U.S. allies and partners. The comments came as lawmakers questioned Rubio about broader U.S.-China relations. Earlier in the hearing, the secretary said that Washington and Beijing must maintain channels of communication despite deep disagreements over security, trade, and technology.

Annamalai Meets BJP Top Brass; TN BJP Chief To Arrive In Delhi ToDAY

Chennai: Former Tamil Nadu BJP president K. Annamalai on Tuesday held a series of meetings with the party's top leadership in New Delhi amid continuing speculation over his future role within the BJP and reports of his dissatisfaction with recent developments in the state unit. Annamalai met BJP National President Nitin Nabin, National General Secretary (Organisation) B.L. Santosh, and Union Home Minister Amit Shah. The discussions, which concluded on Tuesday, reportedly focused on the political situation in Tamil Nadu and Annamalai's future course within the party. According to sources, Annamalai briefed the senior



leadership on recent political developments in the state and explained the reasons behind his reported contemplation of stepping away from the party. He is understood to have shared his concerns regarding recent organisational developments in the Tamil Nadu BJP and outlined his assessment of the party's political

challenges in the state. The BJP leadership, sources said, advised Annamalai not to take any immediate decision and asked him to wait until further consultations are completed. Senior leaders are believed to have assured him that the issues he raised would be discussed internally before the party communicates its

position. The meetings assume significance amid growing political speculation over Annamalai's future role after he stepped down as Tamil Nadu BJP president earlier this year. Although rumours regarding his dissatisfaction have intensified in recent days, neither Annamalai nor the BJP leadership has made any public

statement on the details of the discussions. Sources indicated that Annamalai is expected to remain in New Delhi until Wednesday evening, raising the possibility of additional meetings with senior leaders before his return to Chennai. Meanwhile, the current Tamil Nadu BJP president, Nainar Nagenthran, is scheduled to arrive in the national capital on Wednesday morning. Party sources said Nagenthran is expected to hold separate meetings with senior BJP leaders during his visit. The timing of Nagenthran's visit, immediately after Annamalai's meetings with the central leadership, has triggered considerable political interest in Tamil Nadu.

Siddaramaiah's Exit Leaves AHINDA At Crossroads, BJP Looks To Make Inroads

Bengaluru: With D.K. Shivakumar all set to assume the Chief Minister's post and Siddaramaiah stepping down as Karnataka Chief Minister, political attention has shifted to the future of the AHINDA coalition and the battle to inherit the influential social justice plank long associated with the veteran Congress leader. The leadership transition has also created an opportunity for the Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP), which is attempting to expand its support among backward classes, Dalits, and other communities traditionally aligned with the Congress. AHINDA, an acronym for minorities, backward classes, and Dalits, has been regarded as the Congress's core support base in Karnataka, with Siddaramaiah emerging over the years as its most prominent political

face. While Siddaramaiah has clarified that he has relinquished the Chief Minister's post rather than retired from politics, concerns have emerged within sections of the AHINDA constituency about the leadership transition.

The Congress faces the challenge of ensuring continuity of Siddaramaiah's social justice agenda even as D.K. Shivakumar prepares to take charge. Political observers believe the transition has opened up a debate over who could eventually emerge as the next leader capable of commanding support across the AHINDA spectrum. The discussion gained momentum after Congress MLC Yathindra Siddaramaiah identified former minister Satish Jarkiholi as a potential successor to carry forward Siddaramaiah's legacy.

Jarkiholi, a senior leader from North Karnataka hailing from a Scheduled Caste community, is widely seen as a mass leader with influence among backward and marginalised communities. However, analysts point out that replacing Siddaramaiah's stature and statewide appeal would be a formidable task. Political observers note that recent controversies, including the Karnataka government's decision regarding dress code regulations in educational institutions and the debate surrounding the withdrawal of cases linked to the Aland riot incident, have provided the BJP with issues to mobilise support and sharpen its criticism of the Congress government with the new CM.

SC Sets Aside Bail Order In NDPS Case, Terms Drug Supply War Against Nation

New Delhi: The Supreme Court on Tuesday set aside a Punjab and Haryana High Court order granting bail to an accused in a commercial quantity of heroin recovery case, observing that the sovereignty of the country must prevail over personal liberty when a "war" is being waged against the nation through the supply of drugs. A Bench of Justices Sanjay Karol and N. Kotiswar Singh allowed an appeal filed by the Punjab government against the grant of regular bail to Balraj Singh alias Billa, who was arraigned as an accused in a case involving the recovery of 1.465 kg heroin. In its

judgment, the apex court stressed that in cases involving commercial quantities of narcotic drugs, courts are bound to strictly comply with the twin conditions prescribed under Section 37 of the Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances (NDPS) Act before granting bail. "Should there be any conflict between the sovereignty of a country and personal liberty, undoubtedly, the former shall prevail, particularly when a war is waged against the nation, be it in the form of supply of drugs, which vitally affects the national economy and health of the people," the Justice Karol-led Bench observed. The case

arose from an FIR registered in January 2024 after police recovered 1.465 kg of heroin from two persons travelling in a vehicle in Punjab's Tarn Taran district. During the investigation, the respondent was implicated on the basis of disclosures allegedly made by the co-accused, who claimed that he had directed them to collect and store the contraband for further supply while being lodged in Central Jail, Goindwal Sahib. According to the prosecution, the respondent was operating a drug trafficking network from inside the jail using illegal mobile phones.

Dalai Lama To Get Grammy Award Formally On Wednesday In Dharamsala

Dharamsala: The Grammy Award won by Tibetan spiritual leader, the Dalai Lama, at the age of 90 for the album "Meditations: The Reflections of His Holiness the Dalai Lama" will be formally presented to His Holiness at the office of His Holiness here on Wednesday. The award-winning album is a unique collaboration between the Dalai Lama and the internationally renowned Sarod maestro Ustad Amjad Ali Khan, together with his sons — Amaan Ali Bangash and Ayaan Ali Bangash. The album brings together His Holiness' reflections on compassion, peace, mindfulness and the oneness of humanity with the rich tradition of Indian classical



music. Ustad Amjad Ali Khan, accompanied by Amaan Ali Bangash and Ayaan Ali Bangash, will arrive at the office of the Dalai Lama at 9:30 a.m. to officially present the Grammy Award to him. The collaboration reflects the shared belief that music, wisdom and compassion can help promote inner peace

and greater understanding among people across the world. The Dalai Lama won his first Grammy Award in February for Best audio book, "Narration, and Storytelling Recording". The Nobel Peace laureate competed against Milli Vanilli's Fab Morvan,

US Supreme Court Justice Ketanji Brown Jackson, show host Trevor Noah, and actress Kathy Garver. Rufus Wainwright had accepted the award on the Dalai Lama's behalf during the ceremony streamed on YouTube. "Meditations: The Reflections Of His Holiness The Dalai

Lama" is the entry from the world's foremost Tibetan Buddhist, an album of innovative collaborations with Hindustani classical influences. Sixty-six years ago, the 14th Dalai Lama, disguised as a soldier, left Norbulingka Palace in Tibet, a Third Pole, and escaped into exile in India after his challenging 14-day journey. Since then, the longest, most respectable staying guest of the Indian government, who often says he is enjoying every possible liberty, has been toying a path of promoting human values, religious harmony, besides preserving Tibetan language and culture, the heritage receive from the masters of India's Nalanda University.

New Era For Youth Will Begin In K'taka: Shivakumar

New Delhi/Bengaluru: Karnataka Chief Minister-designate D.K. Shivakumar on Tuesday said a "new era for youth" would begin in the state under his leadership, while acknowledging that the responsibilities ahead would not be easy. Shivakumar is scheduled to take oath as the Chief Minister of Karnataka at 4.05 p.m. on Wednesday, June 3, at the Glass House in Lok Bhavan, Bengaluru. Speaking to the media in New Delhi ahead of his swearing-in ceremony, he described his elevation to the top post as a victory for Congress workers and pledged to work with dedication for the people of Karnataka. "The party has allowed a worker, not a leader. I am deeply obliged by the faith and confidence reposed in me. I know the road ahead will not be easy,

and there will be difficult times, but I have to manage them and continue working hard," he said. Shivakumar said the people of Karnataka had placed their trust in him and that he would strive to discharge his responsibilities with sincerity and commitment. "The world has seen India through Bengaluru. Karnataka is a very important state, and wherever I go, people tell me how significant it is. Therefore, I must take every section of society along with me," he said. Emphasising inclusive governance, he said his government would work for farmers, women, youth, and all sections of society. "I will take every section of society together, from farmers to women and youth. A new era for the youth will begin in Karnataka," he added. Reflecting on his political journey, Shivakumar described



his rise to the Chief Minister's post as the result of perseverance and hard work. "It has been a tough journey. Though it was delayed, it was not denied. This is not about Shivakumar alone; it is about every Congress worker who stood by the party and believed in its democratic traditions," he said. He expressed gratitude to the Gandhi family, saying their trust and support had played a significant role in his

political career. Recalling his long association with the Congress leadership, he said he had named his theatre after former Prime Minister Indira Gandhi as a mark of respect and commitment to the party's ideals. "That reflects the commitment I have always had towards the Gandhi family. They believed in me and gave me opportunities. It is my bounden duty to remain loyal to them," he

said. Praising Congress Parliamentary Party Chairperson Sonia Gandhi and Leader of the Opposition (LoP) in Lok Sabha Rahul Gandhi, Shivakumar said their sacrifices for the party and the nation had inspired him. "Sonia Gandhi could have become Prime Minister, but she chose not to. Rahul Gandhi could have become Prime Minister as well, but he did not seek the position.

Kerala HC To Decide On Bail Plea In Kidnapping Case Linked To Viral Kumbh Mela Sensation

Kochi: The Kerala High Court on Tuesday reserved its verdict on the anticipatory bail plea filed by Kumbh Mela social media sensation Monalisa Bhosle and her husband, Mohammed Farmaan Khan, in a case that has evolved from an interfaith marriage into a complex legal and political controversy spanning two states. Justice Kausar Edappagath indicated that orders are likely to be pronounced on Wednesday after a hearing marked by sharp exchanges over the legality of the marriage, the age of the bride and allegations of persecution faced by the couple. The proceedings took a dramatic turn when the Court orally observed that the couple appeared fortunate to be in Kerala amid allegations that they were facing threats in Madhya Pradesh over their marriage. "Lucky that you are in Kerala," the

judge remarked, prompting counsel for the couple to respond, "That is the only reason why we are alive now." Monalisa, who shot to national fame after videos of her selling bead necklaces at the 2025 Kumbh Mela went viral, married Farmaan Khan in Kerala earlier this year. Their marriage subsequently triggered a storm after allegations surfaced that she was below the legally permissible age for marriage.

Representing the couple, advocate M. Sasindran argued that both fundamentalist groups and sections of the Madhya Pradesh administration were attempting to invalidate the marriage by falsely portraying Monalisa as a minor. According to the couple, she had already attained majority when the marriage was solemnised, and official

records were subsequently manipulated to suggest otherwise. The Madhya Pradesh government, represented by Additional Solicitor General S.V. Raju, strongly opposed the plea. He argued that the marriage itself was legally unsustainable as it had been performed under Hindu customs despite the groom being a Muslim. He further contended that Monalisa's actual date of birth was December 2009, making her a minor at the time of marriage and potentially attracting provisions of child protection laws. The State also informed the court that forgery-related charges could be added to the kidnapping case registered against Khan, alleging that false documents had been used to secure birth and marriage certificates.

Adani Foundation at ACC Bargarh Helps 81-Year-Old Cancer Patient

Bargarh Correspondent: ACC, the cement and building materials company of the diversified Adani Portfolio, along with the Adani Foundation, through its Meri Sangini, Meri Magdarshika (MSMM) Programme in Bargarh, Odisha, is ensuring that government healthcare entitlements do not just remain on paper, but reach the people who need them most, when they need them most.

Murli Mehar is 81 years old. He lives in Bargarh, Odisha, on a pension that barely covers his basic requirements. When his health began to deteriorate despite initial treatment at a government hospital, his family found themselves facing the question of how to pay for any



adverse situations. He was diagnosed with Basal Cell Carcinoma. The prognosis without proper treatment was

bleak. And the cost of care at a private facility was entirely beyond their reach. It was at this point that the Adani

Foundation's Sangini stepped in. A community health facilitator operating under the MSMM Programme, Sangini did what the healthcare system ignored; she sat with the family, understood their situation, and helped them identify a clear path forward. While Murli had an Ayushman card, he lacked the knowledge of how to use it, along with the support required to navigate the documentation that stood between him and the cashless treatment he was entitled to. The Sangini provided both. With her guidance, Murli was admitted to a private hospital and received the full course of treatment he needed. The total cost

of Rs. 1.18 lakh was covered entirely under the Ayushman scheme, without a single rupee of out-of-pocket expenditure for the family. For an 81-year-old man on a fixed pension, and for a family that had braced itself for the worst, this was not a small feat. It was the difference between life and an impossible choice. Murli's story is a reminder that a availability of healthcare in India does not mean it is always understood and accessible to people. People usually need someone to help them find it. In Bargarh, that someone is Adani Foundation's Sangini. And for Murli Mehar and his family, that made all the difference.

Jindal wins British Safety Council and ICC Leadership Awards

Kalinganagar, (Correspondent): A Jajpur-based Jindal Stainless Limited (JSL) has once again made Odisha proud at the national and international stage by demonstrating continuous excellence in industrial safety, workplace safety culture and zero accident target. This year, the company has once again proven its excellence in the field of safety by winning the prestigious British Safety Council Distinction Award and the Indian Chamber of Commerce (ICC) Leadership Award. The awards ceremony for the year 2025-26 was held at the 3rd Leadership Summit of the Indian Chamber of Commerce held at Lemon Tree Hotel in Bhubaneswar on 29 May 2026. On this occasion, in the presence of Hon'ble Speaker of Odisha Assembly Smt. Surama Padhi, Hon'ble Minister of State for Fisheries and Livestock Development Shri



Gokulananda Mallick and senior officers of the Factories and Boilers Department, Jindal Stainless, Jajpur was presented with the ICC Leadership Award in the Large Scale Industries Sector. Similarly, at the British Safety Council International Safety Awards ceremony held at the ZW Marriott Sahar Hotel in Mumbai on 21st May 2026, Jindal Stainless, Jajpur was presented with the Distinction Award, one of the highest honours for the metals and mining sector, by the Chairman of the Board of Trustees Peter McGetterick and Chief Executive Mike Robinson. On the occasion of receiving these two prestigious awards, the Head of

Safety Department dedicated this achievement as the result of the collective efforts of all the employees, associates and partners. He expressed the hope that the strong commitment to safety and the continuous pursuit of excellence will take Jindal to new heights in the days to come. This success of Jajpur Jindal is not only an achievement of a company, but also a matter of pride and inspiration for the industrial world of Odisha. The consensus in the industry is that the coordination of safety, discipline and responsibility is the main basis of this success.

Puri Temple To Halt Darshan Today For Banak Lagi Ritual

Bhubaneswar (Correspondent): General darshan at Shree Jagannath Temple will remain closed on Wednesday, June 3, 2026, for Banak Lagi rituals.

The Shree Jagannath Temple Administration has informed about the temporary suspension. The Banakalagi Niti of the Holy Deities will be performed on Jyeshtha Krushna Mala Trutiya Tithi. Public darshan will be suspended from 6:00 PM to 10:00 PM on Wednesday. The restriction will begin after the completion of the Second Bhog Mandap offering. Darshan will resume for devotees once the ritual is completed.

Democracy Reaches Niyamgiri Hills: SIR-2026 Awareness Drive Conducted in Fakery Village

Rayagada, (Correspondent): In a significant step towards ensuring inclusive democratic participation, the Rayagada district administration has successfully carried the message of the Special Intensive Revision (SIR)-2026 to the remote Fakery village in the Niyamgiri hills, inhabited by the Dongria Kondh Particularly Vulnerable Tribal Group (PVTG). Despite geographical challenges such as rugged hills, dense forests and language barriers, the administration reached the village under the 139-Bissam Cuttack Assembly Constituency to conduct voter



awareness activities and distribute enumeration forms as part of the ongoing SIR-2026 exercise.

The awareness campaign was led by Additional District Magistrate Naveen Chandra Nayak and attended by K. Singhpur Block Development Officer Manisha Dash, Assistant Collector Shiva Prasad Sahu and K. Singhpur PEO

Swetambar Pradhan. During the visit, the village Sarpanch interacted with residents in the Dongria Kondh language, explaining the objectives, importance and procedures of SIR-2026. Enumeration forms were also distributed and assistance was provided to facilitate their completion.

The initiative has helped strengthen the

connection between the tribal community and the democratic process by ensuring that crucial electoral information is communicated in the people's native language. The effort has generated greater awareness, interest and participation among the villagers regarding the voter list revision process. Reaffirming its commitment to the principle that every voter matters and every voice counts, the Rayagada district administration continues to take proactive measures to ensure the participation of all sections of society in the SIR-2026 process, including those living in the most remote and inaccessible regions.

Coal Minister Shri G. Kishan Reddy visits Odisha, reviews performance of MCL

Bhubaneswar Correspondent: Shri G. Kishan Reddy, Hon'ble Union Minister of Coal and Mines, visited Odisha on Monday and chaired a comprehensive review meeting to assess the performance of coal and mining sector entities operating in the state. Shri Bibhuti Bhusan Jena, Hon'ble Minister, Commerce & Transport, Steel & Mines, Government of Odisha, joined the inaugural session of the review meeting. During the visit, the Union Minister undertook a detailed review of the performance of Public Sector Undertakings (PSUs) and private



industry establishments in Odisha under the administrative purview of the Ministries of Coal and Mines, Government of India. Shri Sanoj Kumar Jha, Additional Secretary, Ministry of Coal and other senior officials from the

ministry were present on this occasion. In the presence of Shri B. Sairam, Chairman, Coal India Limited, Shri Uday Anant Kaole, Chairman-cum-Managing Director, MCL, made a detailed presentation before the

Hon'ble Coal Minister on the company's operational performance, ongoing initiatives and infrastructure development plans aimed at supporting future growth and enhancing coal production capacities. The presentation highlighted MCL's efforts towards improving operational efficiency, strengthening logistics infrastructure and contributing to the nation's energy security. The review meeting focused on enhancing coal production, improving evacuation infrastructure,

accelerating project implementation, diversification into clean energy and ensuring sustainable mining practices in line with the Central Government's vision of strengthening the nation's energy security. Earlier, during his visit, Shri Reddy also interacted with members of MCL's Women Mines Rescue Team and appreciated their courage, professionalism and dedication towards strengthening mine safety and emergency response preparedness. He commended the team for setting an inspiring example of women's participation in critical mining operations.

Hindol Forester Suspended

Bhubaneswar: The Forest Department has taken action in the case of an elephant being electrocuted and buried at a farm in Hindola. Hindola Forester Diptiranjana Acharya has been suspended in connection with the incident. Angul RCCF has also issued a show cause notice to Hindola Ranger Trilochan Dehuri. Acharya has been asked to not to leave Dhenkanal DFO office without approval. Meanwhile, the bail plea of farm owner Pramod Raj was rejected. The Forest Department has sent him to Hindola Jail. JCB driver Sudhir Bhutia and farm ranger Rajiv Chaudhary have also been sent to jail. Four people have been arrested in total. The department has sealed the farm house. The JCB machine used to bury the elephant was seized from the Narasinghpur area. Two bikes have also been seized by the Hindola Forest Department. Officials said more people may be involved in the incident.

SIR Awareness Walk

Nabarangpur: (Correspondent)- On the instructions of the Election Commission, an awareness walk was organized by the district administration to make the SIR program a success in Nabarangpur district. The walk was flagged off by MLA Gauri Shankar Majhi and the District Collector. Officers, employees, students and common people of various departments participated enthusiastically in it. From next 30th, all the booth level officers or BLOs of the district will go door to door and distribute voter verification forms. During this time, citizens can check their name, address and other details and fill the form for necessary corrections. According to the district administration, through this special correction process, eligible voters will be included in the voter list and the names of deceased, transferred or ineligible voters will be excluded. The administration has expressed hope that a clean, accurate and updated voter list will be prepared as a result and everyone has been requested to participate in it.

HUD Minister's Consultation Meet: ITPI Presents Blueprint For Odisha Urban Planning Overhaul

Bhubaneswar: (Correspondent):- The Odisha Chapter of the Institute of Town Planners, India (ITPI) has proposed a comprehensive framework for strengthening the state's

urban planning ecosystem, emphasizing the urgent need for large-scale recruitment of professional town planners and institutional reforms to support Odisha's rapidly expanding urban

landscape. The recommendations were presented during a high-level consultation held at Kharabela Bhawan under the chairmanship of Dr. Krushna Chandra Mahapatra, Minister, Housing &

Urban Development Department. The meeting was attended by Usha Padhee, Additional Chief Secretary, Housing & Urban Development Department; Satrugna Kar, Director, Town

Planning; representatives of the ITPI Odisha Chapter; and other senior officers of the Department. Presenting its vision for Odisha's urban future, ITPI highlighted that the

state is projected to witness a dramatic increase in urbanization, with the urban population expected to rise from around 17 percent in 2025 to nearly 60 percent by 2047.

STEEL AUTHORITY OF INDIA LIMITED
Rourkela Steel Plant
Rourkela - 769 011, Odisha, India

Ref. No.: CSR/2026-27/25 Date: 15/05/2026

NOTICE

In order to provide a dignified, healthy, secure and good quality life to the separated employees of SAIL/Rourkela Steel Plant and their spouses, Rourkela Steel Plant has up a Senior Citizen Care Home (SAKSHYAM) in Rourkela. Applications are invited from senior citizens having the following eligibility criteria:

The applicant must be:

- An ex-employee or spouse of ex-employee of RSP or other units of SAIL.
- Must have completed 60 years of age. Widows of ex-employees must have completed 55 years of age.
- The applicant(s) must have physical/mental self-sufficiency.
- The applicant must not be suffering from any contagious/infectious disease.
- If selected, the applicant shall not occupy any alternate place of residence (rented, owned, leased, as licensee etc.) in & around Rourkela. In case the applicants have alternate residence at present (i.e. before the occupation of the rooms at SAKSHYAM, they shall submit the required declaration as per existing rules.)

2. Documents to be submitted:

- Application Form duly signed by applicant.
- Undertaking to be signed (provided with application form set).
- Self-attested copies of service certificate / Superannuation Order.
- Self-attested copies of Valid Medical Cards, Aadhar Card & Mediclaim Policy of self and spouse along with the application form.
- Two nos of passport size photo of the applicant.
- Affidavit (containing Point No.11,12 & 14 of Rules and Regulations)
- Declaration for point 'V' above to be given along with application.

Application form, Guidelines, Rules & Regulations shall be available at office of GM I/c (CSR), IPD Building, Sector-20, Rourkela-769005/RSP Portal/Sampark Portal/ SAIL website.
Contact No.: **8895501293 & 8895504747.**
E Mail ID: **rajeews.bara@sail.in & sk.sukula@sail.in**

The applications should reach to the office of GM I/c (CSR), IPD Building, Sector-20, Rourkela-769005 on or before dated: **15.07.2026 (Tuesday).**
CBC 40109/12/0001/2627 GM I/c (CSR)

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EDITORIAL

A Summer Rewritten: Hostels, Heat and Re-NEET

For over twenty lakh medical aspirants in India, the grueling journey to becoming a doctor does not merely test their grasp of physics, chemistry, and biology. It has increasingly become a test of human physical endurance. Following the National Testing Agency's (NTA) sudden cancellation of the May 3, 2026, National Eligibility-cum-Entrance Test (NEET-UG) over widespread paper leak allegations, a nationwide re-examination has been slated for June 21, 2026.

This scheduling pivot has inadvertently dropped millions of students directly into a perfect storm: fighting for a lifetime career opportunity in the middle of a historic, record-shattering heatwave while crammed back into the claustrophobic, resource-strained hostel ecosystems of major coaching hubs like Kota and Sikar.

The Migration Back to the Furnace: Hostel Realities

When the initial exam ended in May, thousands of exhausted students Packed their bags, checked out of their commercial hostels, and headed home to celebrate a hard-fought freedom. The paper cancellation shattered those plans instantly. Now, students are trickling back into coaching hubs to regain the "momentum of focus" they say is impossible to find at home.

However, returning to a student hub in late May and June means walking straight into an environmental crisis.

The Resource Crunch: Hostels that had prepared for a quiet, low-occupancy off-season are suddenly re-refilling. Air conditioning and cooler units are running 24/7, overtaxing local power grids and leading to frequent, erratic electricity outages.

Living in 45°C Rooms: When power grids fail in small, single-occupancy concrete hostel rooms, indoor temperatures quickly climb past 45°C. For an aspirant trying to memorize dense NCERT chapters for 12 hours a day, the physical toll manifests as heat exhaustion, persistent headaches, and dehydration.

The Financial Strain: Unplanned trips back mean paying double security deposits, brokerage fees, and short-notice monthly rentals, placing a severe economic burden on middle-class families already stressed by coaching expenses.

Zoonotic Infection : Leptospirosis



Dr. Subhashri Mishra

Leptospirosis is a worldwide zoonotic infection

with a much greater incidence in tropical regions and has now been identified as one of the emerging infectious diseases. The epidemiology of leptospirosis has been modified by changes in animal husbandry, climate, and human behavior. Leptospirosis is an infectious disorder of animals and humans. It is the most common zoonotic infection in the world. It is easily transmitted from infected animals through their urine, either directly or through infected soil or water. It can cause a self-limiting influenza-like illness or a much more serious disease. It is known as Weil disease, and it can progress to multiorgan failure with the potential for death.

Leptospira can invade nonintact skin and mucous membranes. The infection is acquired by coming into contact with infected animals or their infected urine or

body tissues. Sometimes Leptospira can even be acquired after contact with contaminated soil and water. Historically, exposures were primarily from recreational water, but more recently the United States has seen an upswing in occupational exposures from agricultural workers. When the organism is shed in the infected animal's urine, it can survive in freshwater for up to 16 days and in soil for almost 24 days. They can then enter the human host through open wounds, mucous membranes, or the lungs if infected water is inhaled. It can also be transmitted across the placenta if an infected human is pregnant, leading to a miscarriage in the first two trimesters. If infected during the third trimester, pregnancy can result in stillbirth or intrauterine death. Once within the body, the bacteria goes into the lymphatics and then into the bloodstream. From the bloodstream, the infection can spread to the entire body but tends to settle in the liver and kidneys. It usually takes between 1 to 2 weeks for the infected person to

begin to show symptoms, but could take up to a month.

The treatment of leptospirosis depends on the severity. Most experts suggest withholding antibiotics in mild cases. These individuals will benefit from fluids as well as pain and fever control. In outpatient cases, antibiotics that may be used include doxycycline, amoxicillin, or ampicillin. If the infection is severe, one may use intravenous penicillin G, third-generation cephalosporins, or erythromycin. Patients with icteric leptospirosis usually need intensive care unit admission as multiple organs can be involved and decompensation can occur rapidly. In the presence of renal failure, corticosteroids may be helpful, but their use is controversial. Respiratory distress due to lung involvement may require mechanical ventilation. Additional therapies include the use of ophthalmic drops, diuretics, and inotropic agents including renal dosed dopamine. The mild form of leptospirosis is rarely fatal, but the severe form or Weil disease does carry a high mortality rate.

The Crisis of Attention: Are We Losing Deep Thinking in the Age of Short Videos?



Manasij Das

Today, more than money, there is one thing that has

become truly valuable — "attention." "Our minds, our time, our concentration — everything has slowly become a commodity in the marketplace. The moment we wake up in the morning, our hands reach for the mobile phone. "Who sent what on WhatsApp, who uploaded new photos on Facebook, which short video is trending on Instagram — only after checking these does the day seem to begin.

If someone visits Puri, the first thought is often, "Did I upload the photos?" "At birthdays, people open their phones before cutting the cake. "When it rains, poetry no longer comes to mind first; instead, we think of posting a picture with a clever caption. We have become more

interested in "showing" life than actually experiencing it.

Earlier, people could sit for hours reading a book. "Today, even a three-minute video feels too long. "The moment we see a lengthy article, our fingers automatically begin scrolling down. "It feels as though our minds have lost the ability to stay patient. With the rise of artificial intelligence, this habit has only grown stronger. "We no longer read complete news reports; we read summaries. "We no longer search deeply; we accept ready-made answers. "Convenience has made us faster, but not deeper.

The bigger question is this — if today's children grow up getting everything through shortcuts, will they ever learn the value of hard work? "If every answer appears at the press of a button, how will curiosity survive? "If everything becomes easy, where will patience, effort, and focus come from? The greatest achievements in life are

always built slowly. "A tree does not grow in a single day. "A book is not completed in one page. "A person too cannot truly grow only by consuming endless short videos.

Today, large companies are no longer competing merely for our money — they are competing for our attention. "They want us to spend a few more minutes in front of the screen. "Because our attention itself has become their business model. Slowly, we are moving toward a society where people know many things, yet understand very little deeply. "Information is increasing, but reflection is declining. "Connectivity is growing, but meaningful conversation is disappearing. Perhaps the greatest strength in today's world is the ability to sit quietly and think deeply. "The patience to finish a book. "The habit of keeping the phone aside and spending time with oneself. Because in the future, the rarest resource may not be money — it may simply be the ability to pay attention.

From White Revolution to Dairy Innovation: Reimagining India's Milk Future



Dr. Simant Kumar Nanda

India's dairy sector is one of the most remarkable success stories of independent India. From a milk-deficient nation dependent

on imports in the decades following independence, India has emerged as the world's largest milk producer. This transformation was made possible by the White Revolution, a movement that not only increased milk production but also reshaped rural livelihoods, empowered millions of small farmers and strengthened the country's nutritional security.

The foundation of this transformation was laid through the cooperative movement led by visionary leaders such as Verghese Kurien. Through Operation Flood, launched in 1970, milk producers were connected directly to consumers through an extensive network of village cooperatives. The model ensured fair prices for farmers, reduced the role of intermediaries and created a sustainable framework for dairy development. Over time, the cooperative approach became a powerful instrument of rural development, especially for small and marginal farmers.

Today, the achievements of the White Revolution are evident across the country. India produces more than 248 million tonnes of milk annually, accounting for nearly a quarter of global milk production. Per capita milk availability has risen significantly to around 485 grams per day, reflecting both increased production and improved access. Dairy has become one of the largest agricultural sectors in the country, providing regular income to millions of rural households. Unlike seasonal crop cultivation, dairy farming generates daily cash flow, making it an important source of economic stability.

The success of the dairy sector rests largely on

the contributions of smallholder farmers. A substantial proportion of India's milk is produced by households owning only a few animals. Dairy farming enables rural families to diversify income sources, reduce vulnerability to crop failures and enhance household resilience. It is also one of the few agricultural activities that allows women to play a central role in production, animal care, milk collection and cooperative management. In many regions, dairy has become an important pathway for women's economic participation and social empowerment.

Yet the sector now stands at a critical juncture. The challenges confronting dairy production today are markedly different from those faced during the era of Operation Flood. Climate change is affecting fodder availability, water resources and animal health. Rising temperatures and extreme weather events are reducing productivity and increasing management costs. At the same time, urbanization is shrinking grazing lands and altering rural labour patterns. These pressures require innovative solutions that go beyond the traditional focus on increasing milk volumes.

The future of Indian dairying will depend increasingly on scientific innovation and technological transformation. Advances in genetics, reproductive technologies and animal nutrition are helping farmers improve productivity while maintaining animal health. Artificial insemination programmes, genomic selection and disease surveillance systems are enhancing breeding efficiency and reducing losses. Precision livestock farming, supported by sensors and digital monitoring tools, is enabling farmers to track animal health, feeding behaviour and milk yield in real time.

Digital technologies are also reshaping the dairy value chain. Mobile applications now provide farmers with information on animal health, feeding practices, weather forecasts and market prices. Digital payment systems have increased transparency and efficiency in milk procurement. Emerging dairy technology enterprises are developing innovative solutions for herd

management, veterinary services and supply-chain optimization. Such developments have the potential to make dairy farming more knowledge-intensive, productive and profitable.

Government initiatives are supporting this transition. Programmes such as the Animal Husbandry Infrastructure Development Fund are encouraging investment in dairy processing and value addition. The National Digital Livestock Mission seeks to integrate digital technologies into livestock management, while the Pashu Aadhaar programme is creating unique digital identities for millions of animals, facilitating better health monitoring, traceability and service delivery. These initiatives reflect a broader shift towards data-driven and technology-enabled livestock development.

Sustainability has become another defining priority for the dairy sector. Global concerns regarding greenhouse gas emissions have intensified attention on livestock production systems. Methane emissions from dairy animals contribute to climate change, making environmental efficiency an important policy and research objective. Scientists are exploring improved feeding strategies, better manure management practices and climate-resilient livestock systems to reduce emissions while maintaining productivity. The challenge is not simply to produce more milk but to produce it with lower environmental impact.

Innovation is also expanding beyond production to encompass value addition and consumer preferences. Growing demand for high-quality dairy products, functional foods and specialized nutritional products is creating new market opportunities. Advances in processing technologies are improving food safety, shelf life and product diversification. From probiotic dairy products to fortified milk and artisanal cheeses, the sector is increasingly responding to changing consumer expectations. At the same time, dairy development must remain inclusive.

Technological progress should not widen disparities between large commercial farms and smallholders. Innovations must be affordable, accessible and adaptable to local conditions. Strengthening cooperatives, farmer producer organizations and extension services will be essential to ensure that the benefits of modernization reach all sections of the dairy community. The principles that guided the White Revolution — equity, participation and farmer empowerment — remain as relevant today as they were decades ago.

The next phase of India's dairy journey will therefore require a delicate balance between productivity, profitability and sustainability. Scientific advances can improve efficiency, but they must be accompanied by policies that support small farmers. Digital technologies can enhance decision-making, but they must be accessible to rural communities. Environmental stewardship can reduce ecological impacts, but it must not compromise farmer livelihoods. Success will depend on integrating these objectives into a coherent vision for dairy development. The story of Indian dairying is often told as a story of production growth. Yet its deeper significance lies in its contribution to human well-being. Dairy has nourished families, generated livelihoods, empowered women and strengthened rural economies. It has transformed villages and connected millions of producers to national markets. These achievements provide a strong foundation for the future.

As India moves forward, the central question is no longer whether the country can produce enough milk. The challenge is whether it can build a dairy sector that is innovative, environmentally responsible, technologically advanced and socially inclusive. The White Revolution demonstrated what collective action and institutional innovation could achieve. The coming era of dairy innovation must demonstrate how science, sustainability and social commitment can work together to create a resilient and prosperous future for farmers and consumers alike.

New BDO Chhabi Rani Sahoo Takes Charge in Binjharpur Block

J A J P U R (Correspondent) : With the objective of further strengthening the administrative system of Binjharpur Block, Chhabi Rani Sahoo formally assumed charge as the new Block Development Officer (BDO) on Monday. Before taking charge, she visited the presiding deity of Jajpur, Maa Biraja, and Baba Baruneswar at Arei and offered prayers seeking blessings. Later, she reached the Panchayat Samiti office and formally took over the charge from the in-



charge BDO, Akash Pattanaik. Following her joining, officials from various departments of the block, staff members, and employees extended a warm welcome and conveyed their best wishes to the new BDO. Members of the Binjharpur Journalists' Union also met her at the

office and greeted her on the occasion. It is worth mentioning that Chhabi Rani Sahoo previously served as BDO of Gop Block, where she gained administrative experience in governance and development work. Notably, the BDO post in Binjharpur Block had remained vacant for nearly seven months, which had created some obstacles in the implementation and management of several administrative and development activities. In this context, her joining has generated expectations among the

public that the block's development process will regain momentum. After assuming charge, Sahoo stated that her top priorities will be the proper and effective implementation of all government schemes in the block, speedy resolution of public grievances, and making public services more efficient, transparent, and people-oriented. She also emphasized coordinated efforts to further accelerate administrative efficiency and development activities in the block.

Skill Development and Higher Education Counselling Camp: 11 students apply for hotel management course

SUBARNAPUR (Correspondent) --- A Skill Development/ Higher Education Counselling Camp and immediate admission program was organized by the District Child Protection Department on Tuesday. In this, a total of 11 +2 and +3 students filled the forms for admission in various courses of hotel management. These students will be admitted to the State Hotel Management Institute, Balangir with the financial support or sponsorship of the district administration. A total of 156 students and their parents participated in the



program. On this occasion, Additional District Magistrate (General) Anjalina Pradhan, State Hotel Management Institute, Balangir Trainer Yudhishtir Pradhan, Assistant Conservator of Forests Giridhaari Nag and District Information and Public Relations Officer Ms. Preeti Suna were

present and addressed the students. Nitesh Kumar Barik, who secured 8th rank in Odisha Civil Services-2024, advised the aspiring students for civil services. On this occasion, he was felicitated by the district administration. Additional District Magistrate (General) Anjalina Pradhan boosted the

morale of the students by saying that no task is impossible and if one wants, one can definitely achieve his goal. In his speech, Nitesh advised the students to take the Odisha Civil Services Examination and take lessons with interest and enjoy it. The program was conducted by District Child Protection Officer (DCPO) Chaturbhuj Das, while Prashant Mahakud, Thabir Kalsa, Mrutyunjaya Sahu, Anil Mahala, Sarita Suna, Jitendra Mandal, Goutam Mohapatra, Rudraprasanna Mishra of the Child Protection Department contributed significantly.

22 Newly Appointed Teachers Receive Posting Orders in Rayagada

Rayagada, (Correspondent) : Posting orders were issued to 22 newly appointed Trained Graduate Teachers (TGTs) and Physical Education Teachers (PETs) for schools functioning under the District Welfare Department of Rayagada at a programme held in the new conference hall of the Collectorate on Tuesday. Addressing the newly recruited teachers, Rayagada Collector Ashutosh Kulkarni urged them to discharge their responsibilities with dedication and commitment.

Shri Ashutosh Paikaraya takes charge as Deputy Director, Central Region

Cuttack, (Correspondent) : Shri Ashutosh Paikaraya has taken charge as Deputy Director (Central Region) of Information and Public Relations Department. Along with this, Shri Paikaraya will also be handling the additional responsibility of Information and Public Relations Officer, Anti-Corruption Directorate. Starting his professional life as a 1997 batch Odisha Information Service Officer, he first joined as Information and Public Relations Officer, Angul Sub-Division. Later, he served as Information and Public Relations

Officer, Nilgiri, Balasore, Cuttack Districts and as Information and Public Relations Officer, Balasore District for a long time. Later, he also worked as Research and Reference Officer, Information and Public Relations Department, State Headquarters and as Information Officer, Housing and Urban Development Department, Law Department. Drawing on his long administrative experience, expertise in disseminating government information and extensive

experience in the field of public relations, he said that he would give priority to strengthening the information and public relations system in 10 districts of the Central government and further strengthening the flow of information between the public and the administration. He advised the district information and public relations officers on wide dissemination of government information, especially through the use of digital media. He also said that he would work towards maintaining stronger coordination with journalists.

Rakesh Behera in Third Degree Case: HRPC Investigation Continues

Cuttack (Correspondent) : On the night of the 22nd, the Human Rights Protection Cell (HRPC) has started an investigation into the third degree case of Rakesh Behera, a youth from the local area, at Barang police station in Cuttack district. Today, the HRPC team is going to the SCB Hospital, the victim's house and the Barang police station for questioning. Meanwhile, it is suspected that the police are trying their best to make the third degree case against Rakesh look like an accident. The report and the DCP's response do not match. Rakesh's family has alleged that the police are going to do it on the basis of the bike accident theory. HRPC officials are investigating the whole matter. Before Rakesh Behera was admitted to a private hospital, the MLC report says that he had a bike accident on the 23rd. He was admitted to the hospital at 12:45 am on the 24th. At that time, his health condition deteriorated and he was shifted to SCB. He is now being treated there. Then the question arises, how did Rakesh go on a bike while he was with the police? Where did the bike come from? Who was riding the bike? Where and how did the accident happen? All these facts raise

many doubts. Rakesh has been accused of third degree assault. His father Kartik Behera has alleged that an attempt is being made to make it look like a bike accident. Not only that, on the day of the police station round-up in Rakesh's case, DCP Rishikesh Khilari said that Rakesh was called to Barang police station on the 24th and that he was taken away on the same day. Meanwhile, Rakesh's MLC report says that Rakesh was undergoing treatment in a private hospital that day. That is, Rakesh was in critical condition in the private hospital. How did he come to the police station on the 24th? So, there is no consistency between the MLC report given by Rakesh's private hospital to the Sadar police station and the statement of the DCP. There is no consistency between the report and the statement of the Cuttack DCP. Rakesh's mother-in-law has alleged that the police are lying. Additional SP Subha Laxmi Patnaik and the investigating officer DSP will question Rakesh and his family at the Shaha Barang police station and are going to his house to investigate. Rakesh will be called to the police station and the Harok team is investigating how the bike accident happened.

Torchlight Rally Demands Arrest of Accused in Chandahandi Yadav Assault Case

UMARKOTI (Correspondent) : Public outrage continues to intensify over the alleged torture of members of the Yadav community and tribal and Dalit Bengali farmers in Nabarangpur district, with hundreds of youths taking out a torchlight procession in Chandahandi on Monday night demanding the immediate arrest of the accused. The incident reportedly occurred on May 21 at Lodhuapada under Chandahandi police limits when several Yadav community members and tribal and Dalit Bengali farmers were transporting their cattle to their village. The victims allegedly came under attack by a group of youths claiming to be members of a cow protection outfit. The alleged assault has since triggered widespread



condemnation across the district and the state. More than eleven days after the incident, protesters alleged that police inaction has further aggravated public anger. Earlier, members of the SC, ST and OBC communities had staged a demonstration in front of Chandahandi police station, while fact-finding teams from both the Congress and BJD visited the area and demanded immediate action against those responsible. On Monday, hundreds of youths belonging to SC, ST and OBC communities marched with torches

from Ambedkar Chowk to Chandahandi police station, raising slogans and demanding the arrest of all accused persons. The protesters described the alleged assault as "barbaric and inhuman," claiming that the victims were subjected to severe physical torture, forced to crawl and move on their knees under extreme summer heat, and subjected to other degrading treatment. They said such acts have no place in a civilized society and called for exemplary punishment for those involved. Congress leader Khemraj Bagh

alleged that despite repeated demands, police have failed to make significant progress in the case. He further claimed that some accused persons have already approached the High Court seeking anticipatory bail. Warning of intensified agitation, Bagh said that a district-wide bandh may soon be called cutting across party lines if justice is delayed. Among those present during the torchlight rally were Khemraj Bagh, Lachhman Majhi, Bhimasen Dongri, Rajat Jagat, Chakra Chauhan, S.M. Idris, Chandan Jagat and several other community leaders and activists. The incident has emerged as a major socio-political issue in the region, with growing pressure on the administration to ensure a fair and speedy investigation.

Awareness chariot launched for Special Intensive Revision (SIR)-2026 in Subarnapur

SUBARNAPUR, (Correspondent) : A public awareness chariot was launched in Subarnapur district today to make the public awareness program related to Special Intensive Revision (SIR)-2026 more comprehensive and effective. On this occasion, Subarnapur DEO cum Collector Dr. Nruparaj Sahu, Additional District Magistrate (Revenue) Rajendra Majhi and Additional District Magistrate (General) Anjalina Pradhan were present and flagged off the awareness chariot. Active participation of the public is very important to ensure the accuracy and



completeness of the voter list under the Special Intensive Revision (SIR)-2026 program. Keeping this goal in mind, the awareness chariot launched will travel to various blocks and villages of the district and provide information related to the revision of the voter list. Through this,

people will be called upon to actively cooperate in the revision of the voter list. The district administration has appealed to all citizens to play their active role in preparing an accurate voters' list by cooperating in the Special Intensive Revision (SIR)-2026 programme.

Preetichanda becomes Cuttack District Women Congress President

Cuttack, (Correspondent) : Preetichanda Keivalya Nayak, a woman from Kalyanpur village under Mahanga block, Khunda panchayat, Cuttack district, has become the Cuttack District Women Congress President. Earlier, she worked as the General Secretary of District Women Congress and Odisha Pradesh Women Congress. It is reported that the All India Women Congress President Alaka Aini has given this appointment based on qualifications. After the appointment announcement, there was a wave of happiness in the Cuttack District Congress workers' quarters. Preeti, who lives in the Pota Pokhari area of Cuttack, has started receiving congratulations from various quarters. Preeti has expressed gratitude to the District Congress President, State President, State Women Congress President and above all the National Women Congress President for the appointment.

Paradip Port Authority Organizes 2nd Special Cultural Meet Featuring Acclaimed Odia Play "Sunya Panjuri"

Paradip : (Correspondent) Paradip Port Authority (PPA) successfully organized the 2nd Special Cultural Meet at Jayadev Sadan, Paradip, celebrating the rich cultural heritage of Odisha through

theatre, music, and dance. The highlight of the evening was the staging of the acclaimed Odia play "Sunya Panjuri", which received an enthusiastic response from the audience. The play, conceived and

written by Shri Ratnakar Sahu and directed by Shri Vikram Prakash, captivated viewers with its compelling narrative, thought-provoking social message, and powerful performances by the artists.

25001/292/2627

GOVT. OF ODISHA
OFFICE OF THE SUPERINTENDING ENGINEER,
RURAL WORKS DIVISION-II, NAYAGARH
E-mail- nayagarh2@yahoo.in

No- 2180 Date- 25/5/26

1st corrigendum to Bid Identification No: Online-Division-II, Nayagarh-02/2026-27

In partial modification to this office Tender Call Notice No. Online-Division-II, Nayagarh-02/2026-27 invited vide this office No. 2016 dt.18.05.2026, for 5 nos of work, the online availability of tender as mentioned below have been re-scheduled as follows due to non-publication of tender notice by I & PR Deptt., Odisha.

Procurement Officer	Bid Identification No.	Availability of tender On-line for bidding		Now Availability of Tender on-line for bidding is rescheduled		Last Date & Time of seeking Tender	Date & Time of Opening	
		From	To	From	To		Technical Bid	Financial Bid
1	2	3	4	5	6	7		
Superintending Engineer, Rural Works Division-II, Nayagarh	No:-Tender - Online - Divn.-II NAYAGARH - 02/2026-27	25.05.2026 at 10.00 A.M.	08.06.2026 upto 5.00 P.M.	01.06.2026 at 10.00 A.M.	16.06.2026 upto 5.00 P.M.	Dt. 16.06.2026 upto 5.00 P.M.	17.06.2026 at 10.00 A.M.	To be intimated later on

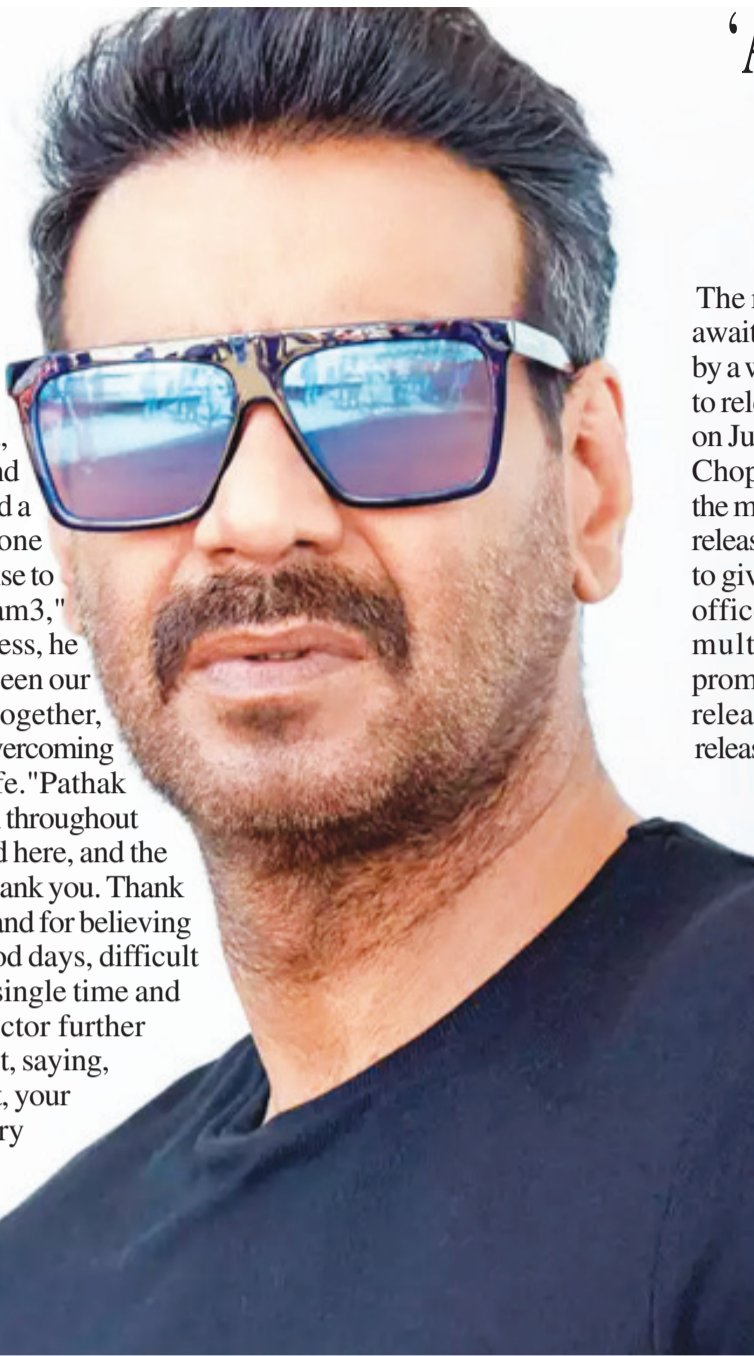
All other terms and conditions remain unchanged.

Superintending Engineer
Rural Works Division-II, Nayagarh

OIPR-25001/25144/1/26-27/0003

'Drishyam 3' shoot wrapped: Abhishek Pathak confirms film enters post-production

The filming of 'Drishyam 3' has officially been completed, with the highly anticipated thriller now moving into post-production ahead of its theatrical release on October 2, 2026. Director Abhishek Pathak announced the wrap-up on social media, marking the end of what he described as a long and intensive production journey. The filmmaker shared a heartfelt note thanking the cast, crew and everyone involved in bringing the next chapter of the franchise to life. "And that's a wrap on the shoot of #Drishyam3," Pathak wrote. Reflecting on the filmmaking process, he added, "For the past many months, this film has been our world. We've spent countless days and nights together, chasing scenes, solving problems, sharing laughs, overcoming challenges, and slowly bringing this story to life." Pathak expressed gratitude to the team for their dedication throughout the production schedule. "To everyone I've tagged here, and the many other incredible people behind the scenes, thank you. Thank you for your trust, your hard work, your patience, and for believing in this film every step of the way. There were good days, difficult days, and crazy days, but you showed up every single time and gave it everything you had," he wrote. The director further highlighted the collective effort behind the project, saying, "This film carries a piece of all of you. Your effort, your passion, and your heart can be found in every frame." "I'm incredibly grateful to have shared this journey with such amazing people. Thank you for helping me tell this story," he added. Featuring Ajay Devgn, Tabu and Shriya Saran, 'Drishyam 3' continues one of India's most successful suspense-thriller franchises.



'Alpha' to hit theatres a week earlier, release advanced to July 3

The release of Bollywood actress Alia Bhatt's much-awaited action entertainer 'Alpha' has been advanced by a week. The film, which was originally scheduled to release on July 10, will now arrive in theatres on July 3. According to reports, producer Aditya Chopra decided to prepone the release after the makers of 'Dhamaal 4' shifted their film's release date to July 17. The move is expected to give 'Alpha' a wider window at the box office. The film has already witnessed multiple delays during production, prompting the makers to look for an ideal release slot. With no major Bollywood release lined up for July 3, the production house believes the date offers the perfect opportunity for a grand theatrical opening. Interestingly, 'Alpha' will release between two comedy entertainers—Welcome to the Jungle, slated for June 26, and Dhamaal on July 17. The makers are optimistic that audiences will welcome a high-octane action thriller amid the comedy-dominated release calendar. Part of the Yash Raj Films Spy Universe, 'Alpha' stars Alia Bhatt in the lead role, alongside Bobby Deol in a pivotal character. The film is produced by Aditya Chopra and directed by Shiv Rawail. Notably, 'Alpha' will be the first female-led film in the YRF Spy Universe, marking a significant milestone for the blockbuster franchise.



Want a slimmer face? Try these 7 easy exercises

Fish face pose

Want to slim down your face naturally? These 7 simple face exercises can help tone muscles, reduce fat, and give you a more defined look—no equipment needed!

Fish face pose: Suck in your cheeks and lips to make a fish face. Hold for 10 seconds and repeat 10 times to tighten cheek muscles.

Jawline lift

Tilt your head back and push your lower jaw forward. Hold the stretch for 10 seconds, repeating 5 times to define your jawline.

Cheek puff exercise

Fill your cheeks with air, then push it from one side to the other. Repeat for 30 seconds to tone cheek muscles and reduce fat.

Chin lift

Lift your head and look at the ceiling. Pucker your lips as if blowing a kiss. Hold for 10 seconds, repeat 5 times

to target double chin.

Tongue stretch

Stick out your tongue as far as possible and hold for 10 seconds. Repeat 10 times to stretch neck and jaw muscles.

Smile exercise

Smile as wide as you can while keeping your lips closed. Hold for 10 seconds and repeat 10 times to work the cheek muscles.

Neck roll

Slowly rotate your head in a circular motion. Do 5 rotations in each direction to relax the neck muscles and reduce fat buildup.

8 ways Yoga can be a complementary approach for managing piles

1. Improved Blood Circulation: Yoga emphasises controlled breathing and specific postures that enhance blood circulation throughout the body. Poses like Legs Up the Wall (Viparita Karani) and Child's Pose (Balasana) can help reduce congestion in the rectal area, promoting better blood flow and reducing the risk of hemorrhoid development.

2. Stress Reduction: Chronic stress is linked to the exacerbation of piles. Yoga incorporates relaxation techniques such as meditation and deep breathing, which can significantly reduce stress levels. Practicing mindfulness and being present in the moment can help manage stress and prevent it from contributing to the worsening of piles.

3. Pelvic Floor Strengthening: Specific yoga poses target the pelvic floor muscles, helping to strengthen and tone this area. A strong pelvic floor provides better support to the rectal and anal regions, potentially reducing the pressure on blood vessels and preventing the formation of hemorrhoids. Poses like Malasana (Garland Pose) and Bhujangasana (Cobra Pose) can be beneficial in this regard.

4. Improved Digestion: Yoga encourages a healthy digestive system, addressing issues such as constipation, which is a common factor in piles. Poses like Pawanmuktasana (Wind-Relieving Pose) and Trikonasana (Triangle Pose) can stimulate digestion and ease bowel movements, reducing the strain on the rectum.

5. Mind-Body Connection: The mind-body connection promoted by yoga is crucial for overall health, including the management of piles. Being

aware of bodily sensations and responding to them can prevent the aggravation of symptoms. Mindful movement in yoga fosters a holistic approach to health, making individuals more attuned to their bodies and potential signs of discomfort

6. Gentle Exercise: Yoga offers a low-impact form of exercise suitable for individuals dealing with piles. Engaging in gentle yoga routines can enhance overall fitness without putting excessive strain on the body. This is particularly beneficial for those who may be hesitant to engage in more intense physical activities due to their condition

7. Soothing Inflammation: Certain yoga poses have anti-inflammatory effects that can be beneficial for individuals with piles. Poses like Supta Baddha Konasana (Reclining Bound Angle Pose) and Uttanasana (Standing Forward Bend) may help soothe inflammation in the rectal area, providing relief from discomfort.

8. Awareness of Body Posture: Maintaining proper posture is crucial for preventing and managing piles. Yoga cultivates awareness of body alignment and encourages individuals to sit, stand, and move with mindfulness. Improved posture can alleviate pressure on the rectal area, reducing the risk of hemorrhoids. In conclusion, incorporating Yoga into a comprehensive approach for managing piles can bring about positive changes in both physical and mental well-being. However, it's essential to consult with a healthcare professional before starting any new exercise regimen, especially if you have pre-existing medical conditions. Yoga, when practiced mindfully and with consideration of individual needs, can be a valuable tool in the holistic management of piles.

Saturated fatty acids play vital role in brain's storage of memories: Research

Researchers at the University of Queensland have demonstrated the vital role that saturated fatty acids play in the brain's storage of memories. A new cure for neurodegenerative illnesses may now be possible, thanks to research conducted by Dr Isaac Akefe of the Queensland Brain Institute at the University of Queensland. He has also discovered the genes that underlie the process of memory creation. The findings were published in the EMBO Journal.

"We've shown previously that levels of saturated fatty acids increase in the brain during neuronal communication, but we didn't know what was causing these changes," Dr Akefe said. "Now for the first time, we've identified alterations in the brain's fatty acid landscape when the neu-



rons encode a memory. "An enzyme called Phospholipase A1 (PLA1) interacts with another protein at the synapse called STXBP1 to form saturated fatty acids." The brain is the body's fattiest organ, with fatty compounds called lipids making up 60 per cent of its weight. Fatty acids are the building blocks of a class of lipids called phospholipids. The work done in Pro-

fessor Frederic Meunier's laboratory has shown that STXBP1 controls the targeting of the PLA1 enzyme, coordinating the release of fatty acids and directing communication at the synapses in the brain. "Human mutations in the PLA1 and STXBP1 genes reduce free fatty acid levels and promote neurological disorders," Professor Meunier said. To determine the im-

portance of free fatty acids in memory formation, we used mouse models where the PLA1 gene was removed. We tracked the onset and progression of neurological and cognitive decline throughout their lives. We saw that even before their memories became impaired, their saturated free fatty acid levels were significantly lower than control mice. This indicates that this PLA1 enzyme, and the fatty acids it releases, play a key role in memory acquisition."

The research has important implications for understanding of how memories are formed. "Our findings indicate that manipulating this memory acquisition pathway has exciting potential as a treatment for neurodegenerative diseases, such as Alzheimer's," Professor Meunier said.



Do vitamin deficiencies cause hair loss?

Nutrients like biotin and vitamin D are needed for healthy hair. If you don't get them much, you may experience hair loss. Know the vitamin deficiencies that cause hair loss. Seeing a few strands of hair on the floor is pretty common, so don't get alarmed. But if it is too much, you need to find the root cause of hair loss. Hormonal imbalances or scalp conditions such as dandruff can contribute to it. You also need to pay attention to vitamins like D, B12, B6, and B7 (biotin). There are vitamin

deficiencies that cause hair loss too. These nutrients are essential for maintaining healthy hair follicles, promoting cell growth, and improving blood flow to the scalp. While protein is essential for healthy hair, you also need to give importance to vitamins. "It occurs when a person loses more than 100 hair strands in a day, exceeding the normal range of 50 to 100 strands," shares dermatologist and cosmetologist Dr Ashini Bhatt. While some hair loss is part of the normal renewal process, excessive loss can be a sign of underlying health or lifestyle issues.

Indonesia Open 2026: PV Sindhu, Arjun-Hariharan Advance With Opening Round Wins

Jakarta: Back in the top 10 of BWF world rankings, PV Sindhu kicked off her Indonesia Open 2026 with a 25-23, 21-16 win over Thailand's Busanan Ongbamrunphan at the Istora Senayan stadium in Jakarta on Tuesday. The former world champion had to push herself, finally winning with scores of 25-23 and 21-16 in 51 minutes. She won the closely contested first game with her aggressive playing style and carried that energy into the second game to secure a straight-sets victory. Sindhu now faces a tough challenge in the second round, where she is likely to meet reigning Olympic champion and world No. 1 An Se-young. Sindhu trails 0-9 in their head-to-head record



and lost to the Korean in the Singapore Open quarterfinals last week. Also advancing to the next round was the men's doubles combination of Hariharan Amsakarunan and MR Arjun, who registered a straight games victory

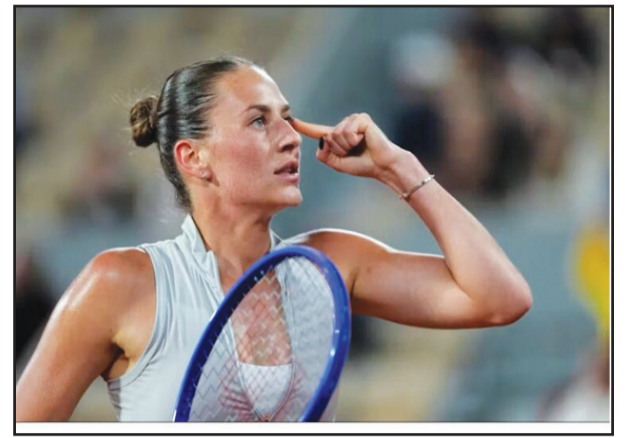
over Malaysia's 2016 Olympic medallist Tan Wee Kiong and his current partner Nur Mohd Azriyan. India's ace shuttler Sindhu, who entered the world top-10 for the first time since 2023, opened her campaign with an 11th successive win against

the Thailand shuttler. Sindhu now leads the head-to-head record against Busanan 21-1. She will now face the winner of the match between top seed An Se Young of Korea and Neslihan Arin of Turkey. Later, Hariharan and Arjun outplayed the

experienced Malaysian duo 21-18, 21-10 in just 33 minutes. Meanwhile, Lakshya Sen lost to home favourite Alwi Farhan 21-19, 21-16. Alwi had defeated World No 1 Shi Yu Qi at the Singapore Open last week. On the other hand, it was a tough day for India's doubles teams. The women's doubles pair of Treesa Jolly and Gayatri Gopichand, playing together for the first time in over two months, lost 14-21, 12-21 to the Indonesian team of Febriana Dwi Putri Kusuma and Meilysa Trias Puspitasari. In mixed doubles, Dhruv Kapila and Tanisha Crasto were beaten 11-21, 10-21 by the sixth-seeded Chinese pair of Guo Xin Wa and Chen Fang Hui.

French Open: Kostyuk Creates History With Win Over Svitolina, Reaches First Grand Slam Semis

Paris: Marta Kostyuk made history in Ukrainian tennis on Tuesday by defeating her fellow countrywoman Elina Svitolina 6-3, 2-6, 6-2 in the first all-Ukrainian Grand Slam quarterfinal of the Open Era. This win secured her place in her first major semifinal at Roland Garros. The 23-year-old, seeded 15th in Paris, triumphed over the seventh-seeded Svitolina in one hour and 49 minutes. She finished strong, winning 13 of the last 14 points to clinch her spot in the semifinals. With this victory, Kostyuk extended her impressive clay-court winning streak to 17 matches, having already won titles in Rouen and Madrid this season. The event held meaning beyond tennis. It came less than 24 hours after a tragic Russian attack across Ukraine that reportedly killed at least 18 people. During an emotional on-court interview, Kostyuk dedicated her historic win to her country. "I want to start with this historic match that we played today with Elina," Kostyuk said. "We had a very



difficult night again in Ukraine, especially in Kyiv. So many people are dead. I want to give this match to the Ukrainian people and to their resilience." With this win, Kostyuk became the first Ukrainian woman in the Open Era to reach the Roland Garros semifinals and only the third Ukrainian player to advance to a Grand Slam semifinal, following Elina Svitolina and Dayana Yastremska. For Svitolina, who is considered the most accomplished Ukrainian player in WTA history, the loss marked a disappointing sixth defeat in Paris quarterfinals, bringing her record to 0-6. Despite a strong 10-2 record against fellow Ukrainians on tour

before this match, she could not stop Kostyuk's momentum. The match was thrilling. Kostyuk took the first set 6-3, but Svitolina responded by winning the second set 6-2 to level the match. However, the younger player elevated her game in the final set, dominating the closing stages and securing a memorable victory. This result also improved Kostyuk's head-to-head record against Svitolina to 2-1. Their rivalry began at the 2018 Australian Open, where a 15-year-old Kostyuk lost to Svitolina in her Grand Slam debut. Since then, Kostyuk has steadily closed the gap, with Tuesday's win mirroring her earlier 6-2, 2-6, 6-2 victory over Svitolina in Toronto in 2024.

FIFA World Cup: Ghana Names Squad Without Injured Kudus; Sadio Mane In Senegal Squad

Accra/Dakar: Ghana and Senegal, two of the top countries from Africa, named their 26-man squads for the upcoming 2026 FIFA World Cup on Tuesday, confirming the presence of some of the Continent's big names in the mega event. Ghana head coach Carlos Queiroz on Tuesday announced a 26-man squad for the 2026 FIFA World Cup, picking a balanced group with experienced and young players. The squad, which contains few surprises, features three goalkeepers, nine defenders, seven midfielders, and seven forwards, with most of the Black Stars' key players included alongside several young talents recently called up. Mohammed Kudus and Alexander Djiku are the two notable absentees, with both



missing out through injury. Making its fifth World Cup appearance, Ghana has been drawn in Group L with Panama, England, and Croatia. The Black Stars will open their campaign against Panama on June 17 before facing England and Croatia. Ghana reached the quarterfinals in 2010 but failed to advance

beyond the group stage in their last two World Cup appearances, in Brazil and Qatar. Sadio Mane in the Senegal squad Former Liverpool and Bayern Munich forward Sadio Mane will be the top attraction in Senegal's 26-member squad shortlisted for the upcoming FIFA World Cup 2026. The 34-year-old Mane plays as

a left winger for Saudi Pro League club Al-Nassr. The 26-man shortlist includes three goalkeepers, eight defenders, seven midfielders, and eight forwards. Senegal will compete in Group I alongside France, Norway, and Iraq. The following 26 men will comprise the Senegal squad picked by head coach Pape Thiaw for

the 2026 FIFA World Cup.

Goalkeepers: Edouard Mendy, Mory Diaw, Yehvann Diouf. Defenders: Kalidou Koulibaly, Moussa Niakhate, Mamadou Sarr, Abdoulaye Seck, Krepin Diatta, Antoine Mendy, Ismail Jakobs, El Hadj Malick Diouf. Midfielders: Idrissa Gana Gueye, Lamine Camara, Pape Gueye, Pape Matar Sarr, Habib Diarra, Bara Sapoko Ndiaye, Pathe Ciss. Forwards: Sadio Mane, Ismaila Sarr, Iliman Ndiaye, Nicolas Jackson, Cherif Ndiaye, Bamba Dieng, Ibrahima Mbaye, Assane Diao. The 2026 FIFA World Cup will be the first edition to feature 48 teams, including a record 10 African representatives.

Linsey Smith Crowned New No. 1 Bowler Ahead Of Women's T20 WC

Dubai: England's left-arm spinner Linsey Smith, who was fighting for a regular place in her side's T20I setup less than two years ago, has now climbed to the summit of the ICC Women's T20I Bowling Rankings for the first time in her career on the eve of the Women's T20 World Cup. The 31-year-old England spinner moved ahead of Pakistan's Sadia Iqbal to become the world's top-ranked T20I bowler following a string of impressive performances against New Zealand and India. Smith's rise comes after a standout Player of the Series display against the White Ferns and

another influential outing in England's recent victory over India in Bristol. The achievement caps a remarkable journey for Smith, who made her international debut in 2018 before spending several years on the fringes of the national side. Having re-established herself as a regular member of England's T20I squad only late last year, she now enters the World Cup as the highest-ranked bowler in the format. England's strong run has also been reflected elsewhere in the bowling charts. Fast bowler Lauren Bell climbed one place to third, while stand-in captain Charlie Dean gained two

spots to move into fifth position. India's emerging spinner Shree Charani was among the biggest movers in the latest update. Her three-wicket performance against England helped her leap seven places to fourth, underlining the increasingly competitive nature of the rankings. With only 39 rating points separating the top 10 bowlers, the race for supremacy remains wide open heading into the World Cup. In the batting rankings, Australia opener Georgia Voll retained her position at the top, though several players outside the top 10 made significant gains.

MPL 2026: Rajat Patidar-Led Gwalior Cheetahs Challenge Ujjain Falcons In Opener

Gwalior: Having successfully guided the Royal Challengers Bengaluru (RCB) to back-to-back IPL crowns, Rajat Patidar is set to begin a new chapter closer to home as he returns to lead Gwalior Cheetahs in the Madhya Pradesh League (MPL) T20 Scindia Cup 2026. Patidar will captain a side eager to make a breakthrough after reaching the semifinal in 2025 but narrowly missing out on a place in the final. Gwalior Cheetahs will feature in the opening match of the 2026 season when they face Ujjain Falcons on Wednesday at the Holkar Stadium in Indore. One of the most

accomplished cricketers to emerge from Madhya Pradesh in recent years, Patidar has enjoyed a remarkable rise through domestic and franchise cricket. From playing a pivotal role in Madhya Pradesh's historic Ranji Trophy triumph to establishing himself as a leader on the IPL stage, the right-hander now returns to familiar surroundings with the ambition of guiding the Gwalior Cheetahs to their maiden title. The team representing Gwalior will enter the new season with a balanced squad featuring a mix of experienced campaigners and promising young talent. Among them is Mangesh Yadav, the leading

wicket-taker from the 2025 edition with 14 wickets, while the side will continue to benefit from the guidance of head coach Aditya Srivastava, under whose captaincy Madhya Pradesh ended a 69-year wait for the Ranji Trophy title in 2022. Speaking ahead of the campaign, Patidar said, "It's always a special feeling to come back and play in Madhya Pradesh. The last couple of months have been memorable, but every new tournament brings fresh challenges and fresh motivation. The MPL has become an important platform for cricket in the state, and I'm excited to once again represent the Gwalior Cheetahs."

BCCI Appoints Sairaj Bahutule As India's Spin Bowling Coach

Mumbai: The Board of Control for Cricket in India (BCCI) on Tuesday announced the appointment of former India all-rounder Sairaj Bahutule as the spin bowling coach of the senior men's national team. He will guide India's next generation of spinners across formats. "The Board of Control for Cricket in India (BCCI) is pleased to announce the appointment of Mr Sairaj Bahutule as the Spin Bowling Coach of the Indian Cricket Team (Senior Men)," BCCI said in a statement. Bahutule, who played for India in two Tests and eight One-Day Internationals, steps into



this role after gaining extensive coaching experience in domestic, pathway, and international cricket. The former Mumbai player had a notable first-class career lasting nearly two decades, during which he scored 6,176 runs and

took 630 wickets, earning a reputation as one of the best all-rounders in the domestic circuit. Reacting to his appointment, Bahutule expressed pride in getting another chance to serve Indian cricket. "It is a tremendous honour to be

appointed as the Spin Bowling Coach of the Indian Men's Cricket Team. Representing India as a player was a matter of immense pride, and the opportunity to contribute to Indian Cricket once again in a coaching capacity is

deeply special. I look forward to working with the players and supporting the team's pursuit of excellence across formats," he said. After retiring, Bahutule became one of Indian cricket's most respected coaches. He held head coaching positions with Vidarbha, Kerala, Gujarat, and Bengal. He also served as a spin-bowling coach for IPL teams like Rajasthan Royals and Punjab Kings. His work in developing talent has been significant, including his role as bowling coach during India's successful ICC Under-19 Men's Cricket World Cup campaign in 2022 and as part of the coaching staff for the 2024 edition.

NBBL Marks One Million E Challan Transactions on Bharat Connect

Cuttack (Correspondent): NPCI Bharat BillPay Limited (NBBL), a wholly owned subsidiary of the National Payments Corporation of India (NPCI), today announced a significant milestone for its e-challan category under Bharat Connect, which has successfully processed over one million transactions, amounting to a total value of over INR 600 million. E-challan payments via Bharat Connect is currently live across multiple states including, Andhra Pradesh, Telangana, Gujarat, Himachal Pradesh, and Delhi. The e-challan category on Bharat Connect enables citizens to seamlessly view and pay for traffic challans through a safe, interoperable, and accessible platform. This



milestone highlights the growing adoption of digital payment solutions for civic utilities, further advancing India's journey towards a fully digital economy. Among the live states, Andhra Pradesh has shown the strongest adoption, processing over 700,000 transactions since its launch, followed by Telangana and Gujarat. While Delhi and Himachal Pradesh have recently come on

board, Bharat Connect's e-challan network is poised for national scale with more states expected to follow soon. Speaking on the development, Dr. Noopur Chaturvedi, MD & CEO, NBBL, said, "The E-challan category on Bharat Connect is becoming increasingly popular, having crossed the milestone of one million transactions. This achievement reflects the

trust people place in our platform and signals a clear shift in consumer behaviour towards digital-first public services. We will continue to work closely with ecosystem partners to deepen our reach and enhance accessibility to civic payments for citizens across the country." The success of e-challan category represents an important step towards digital governance, bringing state-level traffic enforcement into India's Digital Public Infrastructure (DPI). Its growing adoption in Gujarat, Andhra Pradesh, Telangana, Himachal Pradesh and Delhi further strengthens the case for a scalable and replicable framework, enabling other states and transport authorities to onboard quickly and offer similar services to citizens.

TPNODL Announces Dushyant Kumar Tyagi as New CEO

Baleswar, (Correspondent): TP Northern Odisha Distribution Limited (TPNODL), a joint venture between Tata Power and the Government of Odisha, has appointed Mr. Dushyant Kumar Tyagi as its new Chief Executive Officer (CEO). Mr. Tyagi brings over three decades of extensive experience in the power distribution sector, having held senior leadership roles in several reputed electricity distribution



companies in India. He is an alumnus of Delhi College of Engineering and holds a postgraduate degree in management from IMI Delhi. Prior to this appointment, Mr. Tyagi served in several

leadership positions in TPCODL, Tata Power DDL and TPNODL in wide sphere of areas like operation services, commercial, CSR, network engineering and inventory management etc. Speaking on his appointment, Mr. Tyagi said, "TPNODL is committed to delivering quality and reliable electricity services to consumers. By leveraging advanced technology and innovative management practices, our goal is to

continuously enhance customer experience and achieve operational excellence in the region." Mr. Tyagi succeeds Mr. Gajanan Kale, who has been transferred as CEO of TPCODL and Chief of the Odisha distribution business. TPNODL currently serves nearly 9.7 million people, with around 19.86 lakh registered consumers across Balasore, Bhadrak, Mayurbhanj, Keonjhar, and Jajpur districts, covering an area of 27,920 square kilometres.

Gajanan S. Kale Takes Charge as CEO of TPCODL

Bhubaneswar, (Correspondent): TP Central Odisha Distribution Limited (TPCODL), a joint venture of Tata Power and the Government of Odisha, has appointed Gajanan S. Kale as its new Chief Executive Officer (CEO). He will also continue to serve as the Chief of Odisha Distribution Business for Tata Power. A veteran power sector professional with over 34 years of experience, Mr. Kale brings extensive expertise in power distribution and utility management. He holds a Master's degree in Electrical Engineering



from NIT Nagpur and a management qualification from IIM Ahmedabad. Over the course of his career, Mr. Kale has held several key leadership roles across Tata Power's distribution businesses. His experience spans operations and maintenance, customer service, commercial operations, network engineering, inventory

management and corporate social responsibility. Prior to this appointment, he served as CEO TPNODL, CEO TPDDL, CEO TPADL and CEO TPWODL. Speaking on his appointment, Mr. Kale said, "I am honoured to take on this responsibility. Together with our employees and stakeholders, we will continue to strengthen power distribution services, enhance customer satisfaction and contribute to Odisha's development journey." Mr. Kale succeeds Arvind Singh, under

whose leadership TPCODL made significant strides in improving operational performance, customer service and network reliability. TPCODL serves a population of approximately 1.36 crore and caters to a consumer base of 32.96 lakh across a distribution network spanning 29,354 square kilometres. Its service area covers the districts of Khurda, Puri, Cuttack, Dhenkanal, Angul, Nayagarh, Jagatsinghpur, Kendrapara, and parts of Jajpur in Odisha.

AM/NS India's Daksh Academy student achieves 49th rank in Odisha Civil Services

Bhubaneswar, (Correspondent): Rashmi Ranjan Barik, a student of ArcelorMittal Nippon Steel India (AM/NS India)'s Daksh Academy at Paradeepgarh in Jagatsinghpur district, has secured 49th rank in the prestigious Odisha Civil Services (OCS) examination conducted by OPSC (Odisha Public Service Commission). His achievement stands as a testament to the transformative impact of AM/NS India's flagship CSR initiative 'Daksh', which empowers local youth through free, high-quality coaching for competitive examinations. Hailing from Balikuda in Jagatsinghpur, Rashmi's journey reflects perseverance and resilience. A master's degree holder in Physics from Ravenshaw University, he joined Daksh Academy to



pursue his aspiration of serving society through public service. Guided by experienced faculty and mentors, he received academic support, strategic guidance, and personality development training that helped him remain focused and confident. On his achievement, Rashmi was felicitated by Shri Alok Mehta, Director - Mining & Strategic Projects, AM/NS India in the presence of senior officials of the company including Dr. Vikas Yadvendu, Head - CSR,

and Shri Suraj Mishra, Director & Founder, Gurukul Foundation in AM/NS India's Bhubaneswar office. The leadership commended his achievement as a shining example of perseverance, dedication, and commitment to the public service. On his success, Rashmi said, "I am deeply grateful to my family, mentors, and the nurturing environment at Daksh Academy. The institution's structured approach and constant

encouragement provided a crucial platform in my journey to success. This achievement would not have been possible without their guidance and support. "Congratulating Rashmi, Shri Ashutosh Telang, Director & Vice President - HR & Administration, AM/NS India, said, "Rashmi's achievement is a proud moment for all of us. It demonstrates how educational initiatives like Daksh Academy can create opportunities for talented youth to achieve extraordinary success. His accomplishment will inspire countless aspirants to believe in themselves and pursue their dreams. This achievement also strengthens AM/NS India's resolve to expand opportunities, nurture academic excellence, and empower local youth through sustained CSR initiatives."

NTPC Talcher Kaniha Celebrates 38th Foundation Day

Kaniha, (Correspondent): NTPC Talcher Kaniha celebrated its 38th Foundation Day with great enthusiasm on 2nd June 2026, marking nearly four decades of excellence in power generation and nation-building. With an installed capacity of 3,010 MW, NTPC Talcher Kaniha continues to be Odisha's largest power station and the third-largest power station of NTPC. The celebrations commenced with the hoisting of the NTPC flag by Shri Ajay Singh Yadav, Head of



Project, followed by a ceremonial salute by CISF personnel, and a cake-cutting ceremony. Addressing the gathering, Shri Ajay Singh Yadav highlighted the remarkable journey and achievements of NTPC Talcher Kaniha

in power generation and operational excellence. He appreciated the dedication and collective efforts of employees and stakeholders and encouraged everyone to work together to overcome future

challenges and capitalize on emerging opportunities. The programme was attended by Shri Sumit Kumar Kundu, GM (O&M); Shri Samarjita Diwasi, GM (Projects); Shri Dr. Tapan Kumar Ray, GM (Operation & FM); Shri Alok Pandey, DC (CISF); Shri Navneet Kumar, Head of HR; Heads of Departments, Section Heads, employees, representatives of Unions and Associations, CISF personnel, and other NTPC employees.

Tata Steel's Young Astronomer Talent Search Winners from Odisha Explore Space Science at ISRO's Sriharikota Space Centre

Bhubaneswar, (Correspondent): For a group of young astronomy enthusiasts from Odisha, a dream turned into reality as the winners of Tata Steel's Young Astronomer Talent Search (YATS) 2025 returned from an immersive educational visit to the Satish Dhawan Space Centre (SDSC-SHAR), Sriharikota, the launch hub of the Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO). Organised by Tata Steel in collaboration with the Pathani Samanta Planetarium under the Department of Science and Technology, Government of Odisha, the four-day exposure visit provided students with a rare opportunity to witness India's space programme up close and interact with some of the minds driving the country's space



ambitions. During the visit, the students engaged with ISRO scientists and engineers, gaining valuable insights into India's space missions, launch operations and emerging technologies. One of the highlights was learning about Vyommitra, ISRO's AI-powered humanoid designed for future human spaceflight missions. The students interacted with Ch Venkata Ramana, Deputy Division Head, ISRO Telemetry, Tracking and Command Network (ISTRAC-

SHAR) and Deputy Project Director (Telemetry), who explained the intricacies of launch vehicle assembly and the extensive preparations that take place before a rocket launch. They also met Amitav Mohanty, Head, EP & FMD, SDSC SHAR, and N Kumar, Library Officer, SDSC SHAR, who offered insights into ISRO's scientific ecosystem and research activities. Beyond the technical interactions, the students explored key facilities at the spaceport,

including the Mission Control Centre, First Launch Pad and Second Launch Pad. ISRO scientists introduced them to the organisation's fleet of launch vehicles, including SSLV, PSLV, GSLV and LVM3, as well as the upcoming Human-Rated Launch Vehicle (HRLV) being developed for the Gaganyaan Mission. Demonstrations of the launch vehicles and discussions on safety systems planned for India's human spaceflight programme further enriched the experience.

Nifty, Sensex End Higher As IT Shares Rally

Mumbai: Indian benchmark indices ended higher on Tuesday, supported by gains in information technology, metal, and consumer durable stocks, even as investors remained cautious ahead of key trade negotiations between India and the United States. The Nifty settled 100.95 points, or 0.43 per cent, higher at 23,483.55, while the Sensex advanced 382.50 points, or 0.52 per cent, to close at 74,649.84. Commenting on Nifty technical outlook, experts said that the 23,500-

23,550 region remains an important immediate resistance zone. "A sustained breakout above this range could improve market sentiment and pave the way for a recovery toward the 23,750-23,800 levels," an analyst stated. "On the downside, the 23,300-23,250 zone continues to serve as a crucial support area," as per the expert. Buying interest in heavyweight IT stocks lifted the market, with Tata Consultancy Services, Infosys, and HCL Technologies emerging as the top gainers on the Nifty index.