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CM Majhi: Odisha Resolved To Become Completely Drug-Free, Campaign Will Run For 100 Weeks

Bhubaneswar (correspondent): Chief Minister Mohan Charan Majhi on Saturday announced that the Odisha government has taken a firm resolve to make the state completely drug-free, declaring that the newly launched 'Nasha Mukti Yuva – Viksit Bharat Sankalp Abhiyan' will run as a comprehensive social movement for the next 100 weeks. "This campaign is not a one-day event, but a continuous mass movement that will continue for two years," the Chief Minister said while addressing youth at Kalinga Stadium. The national program was addressed by Prime Minister Narendra Modi and organized by 'MY Bharat' under the Union Ministry of Youth Affairs and Sports. It was



watched virtually at Kalinga Stadium by Governor Dr. Haribabu Kambhampati, Chief Minister Mohan Charan Majhi and Sports and Youth Affairs Minister Suryavansi Suraj along with hundreds of students. Governor Dr. Kambhampati administered the oath of 'Nasha Mukti Yuva – Viksit Bharat Sankalp Abhiyan' to all those present. Describing youth as the main pillar of nation building, Governor Dr. Kambhampati gave a clarion call to build a

drug-free society and urged young people to choose sports, fitness, yoga, education and social service as alternatives to addiction. He said that as Odisha has emerged as a major sports hub, youth should showcase their talent in sports halls and classrooms instead of falling into addiction. The Governor emphasized that a drug-free society is possible only as a people's movement with parents, teachers, social institutions and youth acting as messengers.

Drug Trade Part Of Hostile Nations' Terror Agenda: PM Modi

New Delhi: Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Sunday asserted that hostile nations are attempting to weaken India by pushing drugs into the country and targeting its youth, describing the illegal drug trade as part of an enemy's "terror agenda". Addressing young people during the launch of the 'Nasha Mukti Yuva for Viksit Bharat Sankalp Abhiyan', the Prime Minister urged them to stay away from addiction and play a leading role in building a developed India by 2047. Speaking at the launch of the nationwide campaign, PM Modi said, "When a young person falls prey to drug addiction, it is not just that individual who loses; a dream is lost."



He said that the consequences of addiction extend beyond individuals and families, affecting the nation's overall strength. "The national strength also weakens and hostile countries conspire to leave no stone unturned to drag our youth into the trap of addiction," he said. Describing narcotics trafficking as a deliberate strategy to harm India, the Prime Minister added, "Profiting from supplying drugs and aiming to destroy a nation like ours is also part of their terror

agenda. Hence, we need to save every youth from addiction. You need to protect your potential by staying away from drugs." Warning youngsters about the long-term consequences of substance abuse, he remarked, "Drugs give you a high for a while, but they destroy your family." Calling upon the youth to shoulder the responsibility of shaping the country's future, PM Modi said, "In the next 20-25 years, you will

give a direction to your lives. You will be the ones who will take India towards the resolution of Viksit Bharat till 2047, and you will be the ones sitting at the top of the peak, fully savouring the fruits of that achievement. The country needs your energy, creative imagination and talent. Hence, for the country and your own lives, keep yourselves away from drugs." He stated that the commitment of the new generations towards eradicating the problem of drug addiction from society has reaffirmed his belief that the youth of India is "aware, socially conscious, and serious about their duties". The Prime Minister stressed that the next 100 Sundays will mark 100 strong steps towards a drug-free India. He also mentioned that the activities under

this initiative will include sports events, walkathons, meditation sessions, cultural programmes, awareness campaigns, etc. "As an MP from Kashi, I am happy that last year, this project was launched from the holy land of Kashi as a pilot project. Therefore, in addition to scientific clarity, it also possesses spiritual energy, the blessings of saints, and cultural heritage. It also embodies the cultural dedication that has rejected addiction for centuries. This is why the country's 125 spiritual organisations are working tirelessly to serve millions of citizens," he mentioned, adding that all these institutions adopted the Kashi Declaration — a 5-year roadmap for a drug-free India adopted in July 2025, at the Youth Spiritual Summit in Varanasi.

India To Chair BRICS Heads Of National Statistical Offices Meet At Lucknow

New Delhi: The meeting of Heads of National Statistical Offices (NSOs) of BRICS countries—Brazil, Russia, India, China, South Africa, Egypt, Ethiopia, Indonesia, Iran, Saudi Arabia, and the United Arab Emirates (UAE)—is scheduled to be held under India's Chairship from August 3 to 4 in Uttar Pradesh's Lucknow, according to an official statement issued on Sunday.

India's BRICS Chairship in 2026 is guided by the overarching theme "Building for Resilience, Innovation, Cooperation and Sustainability (BRICS)." Within the BRICS Statistics track, India has adopted the theme "Quality Statistics as Driver of Change", reflecting an unwavering commitment to data quality, innovation, effective dissemination, and people-centric statistical systems that are responsive to rapid technological advancements, the growing demand for high-frequency and granular data, and the increasing reliance on official statistics to support evidence-based, sustainable, and inclusive development, the statement said. Modern BRICS policymaking relies on robust statistics to track development, guide decisions, and build mutual understanding. Since 2010, member countries have published the Joint Statistical Publication (JSP) and Snapshot BRICS JSP (introduced in 2020) to offer accessible, harmonised data. Over time, BRICS statistical cooperation has evolved from basic data collection

into deeper alignment on data standards, harmonisation, and innovation for policymakers, researchers, and the public. Two main events on statistical matters are held every year, along with side events that include a technical meeting of NSOs and a meeting of heads of NSOs. The technical meeting was held during April 16-17, 2026, primarily to facilitate discussions on the chapters of the BRICS JSP and Snapshot BRICS JSP. The discussions were focused on developing a mutually agreed framework for the JSP and Snapshot 2026, as well as determining the allocation of responsibilities and establishing timelines for contributions from each NSO.

Odisha Steps Up Security Ahead Of Prez Murmu's 3-Day Visit From ToDAY

Bhubaneswar (correspondent): Odisha has stepped up security arrangements across Bhubaneswar, Kataka and Brahmapur ahead of President Droupadi Murmu's three-day visit to the state beginning on Monday. Multi-layered security has been put in place at all venues on the President's itinerary, with police intensifying surveillance and route sanitisation to ensure a smooth and incident-free visit. According to the official itinerary, President Murmu will arrive in Bhubaneswar on Monday afternoon before proceeding to Damapada in Kataka district, where she will inaugurate Jagadguru Kripalu Maharaj University, a 100-acre eco-conscious campus. After the event, she will return to the state capital and stay overnight at Lok Bhavan. On the second day of her visit, the President will travel by train from Bhubaneswar Railway Station to Brahmapur in Ganjam district. She is scheduled to offer prayers at the Maa Kandhuni Devi shrine near the Taptapani hot spring in Sanakhemundi block before returning to Bhubaneswar later in the day. The President will conclude her visit by departing for New Delhi aboard an Indian Air Force aircraft after returning to the state capital.



Five Dead, 41 Missing After Vessel Catches Fire In Indonesia's Java Sea

Jakarta: Five people were killed, and 41 others remained missing after the Mutiara Santosa 2 caught fire in the Java Sea north of Madura Island in Indonesia's East Java province, the National Search and Rescue Agency said Sunday. A total of 225 people had been evacuated, the agency said. The vessel, operating on the Surabaya-Makassar route, was carrying 271 people, including 232 passengers and 39 crew members. The vessel departed from Surabaya, East Java, for Makassar on Sulawesi Island on Sunday morning, according to the Surabaya Search and Rescue Office. Authorities said the vessel was about 19 nautical miles (35.2 km) offshore when it was almost completely



engulfed in flames, with passengers gathering on the bridge and at the bow as they waited to be evacuated, Xinhua News Agency reported. Several nearby vessels took part in the rescue operation, while a joint search and rescue team deployed additional vessels and personnel to evacuate survivors and search for the missing. The search operation remains underway, and the cause of the fire is under

investigation. In June, Indonesian search and rescue authorities suspended an operation for 14 people still missing after the KM Nurul Salsa passenger boat sank off South Sulawesi province. The National Search and Rescue Agency said the operation was temporarily closed after a 10-day search yielded no new leads, despite all designated search areas being thoroughly covered.

Heavy Rain Lashes Kerala; Schools Shut In Nine Districts As IMD Puts State On Yellow Alert

Thiruvananthapuram: Widespread rainfall continued to lash Kerala on Sunday, leaving several low-lying areas waterlogged and prompting district administrations to declare a holiday for educational institutions in nine districts on Monday as a precautionary measure. With rain continuing across large parts of the state, the district administrations of Kasaragod, Kannur, Kozhikode, Wayanad,

Malappuram, Thrissur, Idukki, Kottayam and Pathanamthitta announced that all educational institutions would remain closed on Monday. The decision was taken considering the prevailing weather conditions and the possibility of further rainfall. The holiday will apply to schools, colleges and other educational institutions covered by the respective district administration

orders. Authorities have advised students, parents and educational institutions to follow official announcements as local restrictions could be modified depending on rainfall and ground conditions. In Alappuzha district, the administration announced a holiday for students of schools and colleges that are currently functioning as relief camps. A broader closure has been ordered in the flood-



prone Chengannur and Kuttanad taluks, where all educational institutions will remain shut on Monday. The closure in Chengannur

and Kuttanad will cover schools, colleges, professional colleges, anganwadis and tuition centres. The two taluks are among the areas particularly vulnerable to flooding and waterlogging during periods of sustained monsoon rainfall. Several parts of Kerala continued to experience rain on Sunday, adding to concerns in areas already affected by waterlogging and flooding. Authorities are closely watching river

levels and conditions in low-lying and hilly regions as further rainfall could increase the risk of localised flooding and landslips. The India Meteorological Department (IMD) has placed all 14 districts of Kerala under a yellow alert for Monday, indicating the possibility of isolated heavy rainfall. According to the forecast, rainfall ranging between 7 cm and 11 cm could be recorded at isolated places within a 24-hour period.

Mega health camp in Kumbhiragadia by Jindal Stainless

Jajpur,(correspondent): Reinforcing its commitment to improving access to quality healthcare in rural communities, Jindal Stainless Foundation, the CSR wing of Jindal Stainless, organised a Health Camp at Kumbhiragadia village in Jajpur district. Around 310 people from the local communities of Tikara, Kumbhiragadia, Jagadihi, and Damodarpur availed themselves of comprehensive healthcare services free of cost. The camp offered villagers access to specialist medical consultations, diagnostic laboratory tests, and essential medicines, enabling them to receive quality healthcare services closer to their homes. A team of four specialist doctors from the departments of General Medicine,



Pediatrics, Gynecology, and Ophthalmology, supported by experienced paramedical professionals, provided medical consultations, diagnosis, treatment, and counselling to patients across age groups. The initiative is part of Jindal Stainless' ongoing efforts under Niramaya, its healthcare programme aimed at strengthening rural healthcare access and addressing critical health needs in communities surrounding its

are committed to strengthening access to quality healthcare for neighbouring communities and addressing critical healthcare gaps. The success of this camp reinforces the importance of taking healthcare services closer to people, and we will continue to invest in initiatives that create a lasting positive impact on community health." As part of its CSR programme, Jindal Stainless provides free healthcare services to 15 surrounding villages through its Static Health Clinic at Hudisahi, Danagadi, supported by Mobile Healthcare Units that regularly reach remote communities. The company also conducts health awareness campaigns throughout the year, focusing on preventive healthcare and other key

public health concerns. Earlier, similar health camps were organised in Bambilo and Damodarpur villages in Sukinda Block, benefiting nearly 700 villagers through free healthcare services delivered at their doorstep. The health camp was inaugurated by Mr Binod Kumar Dalei, Sarpanch of Kumbhiragadia Gram Panchayat, in the presence of local representatives Mr Laxmiballav Samal, Mr Prasanta Kumar Jena, and Mr Balarama Aich, along with Mr Sukanta Rath, Head CSR, Jindal Stainless. The event also saw active participation from members of Women Self-Help Groups (SHGs) of Kumbhiragadia and trainees from the village tailoring centre run by Jindal Stainless Foundation.

Anirudha Vikram Singh Assumes Charge as Unit Head of IFFCO Paradeep

Paradip,(correspondent):: - Anirudha Vikram Singh has assumed charge as Unit Head of IFFCO Paradeep Unit with effect from August 1, 2026. Prior to assuming charge as Unit Head of IFFCO Paradeep Unit, Shri Singh served as Unit Head of IFFCO Kandla Unit. A Mechanical Engineering graduate, Mr. Singh began his career with IFFCO as a Graduate Engineer and has been associated with the organization for nearly three decades. Over the years, he has built extensive expertise in project execution, plant commissioning, operation, and maintenance of complex fertilizer manufacturing



facilities. As Senior General Manager, Mr. Singh will head the Complex Fertilizers Production Unit at IFFCO Paradeep. His vast experience and proven leadership are expected to further strengthen operational excellence, plant reliability, safety, productivity, and sustainable growth at one of India's largest integrated phosphatic fertilizer complexes.

Notably, The Indian Farmers Fertiliser Cooperative Limited (IFFCO) Paradeep Unit is an integrated phosphatic fertiliser complex with an annual production capacity of 1.92 million MT of DAP/ NP/NPK grade fertilisers. The unit also houses the world's largest single-stream phosphoric acid plant and sulphuric acid plants, serving as backward integration facilities for fertiliser production.

UAIL's Women-Led Enterprises Drive Change Around Baphlimali Mines

Bhubaneswar (correspondent) : As part of its commitment to inclusive and sustainable development, Aditya Birla Group's Utkal Alumina International Limited's (UAIL) CSR initiatives have set in motion a series of women-centric livelihood programmes aimed at promoting economic self-reliance and entrepreneurship at the grassroots level. These initiatives have been taken to provide support to women in the peripheral and mining-affected villages of Kashipur and Thuamul Rampur blocks in Rayagada and Kalahandi districts. Says Kailash Pandey, Mining Business Head of Hindalco Industries Limited, "At Hindalco, we believe true development begins when communities become active partners



in progress. Through our women-led livelihood initiatives around Baphlimali Mines, we are creating income opportunities and nurturing entrepreneurship, confidence and long-term self-reliance. Empowered women are the strongest catalysts for sustainable community transformation. We remain committed to supporting their journey towards economic independence. Under Project Shakti and Project Gramya Shakti, UAIL has empowered nearly

200 rural women across Andirakanch, Paikakupakhali, Naringjodi and Jogiparitunda villages by promoting sustainable entrepreneurship and income-generation opportunities. Implemented in collaboration with SCR NGO and ASSA NGO, the initiatives have supported women through skill development in incense stick (agarbati) and paper plate manufacturing, appliqué work, jute and canvas products, nightwear, phenyl production, and

millet-based food processing. The women have received comprehensive support, including training, machinery, equipment, raw materials and technical guidance to establish and manage their enterprises. Producer groups have been formed to streamline production, improve access to resources and strengthen collective entrepreneurship. Marketing linkages facilitated by the partner NGOs and UAIL, along with participation in district- and block-level fairs, exhibitions and other marketing platforms, have enabled the women to expand their market reach, enhance their entrepreneurial capabilities and generate sustainable livelihoods. The initiatives have significantly contributed to fostering self-reliance and economic empowerment among rural women in the project villages.

TPCODL crossed 50,000 Rooftop Solar Installations Under PM Surya Ghar Scheme

Bhubaneswar (correspondent):: TP Central Odisha Distribution Limited (TPCODL) has achieved a significant milestone in Odisha's clean energy journey by becoming the first power distribution company in the state to facilitate over 50,000 Rooftop Solar (RTS) installations under the PM Surya Ghar: Muft Bijli Yojana. The achievement reflects the growing adoption of rooftop solar across its license area and reinforces TPCODL's commitment to promoting Distributed Renewable Energy. Khordha and Cuttack Districts have emerged as the leading contributors in achieving this milestone. Khordha has recorded 13,358 rooftop solar installations, while Cuttack has 12,165



installations, together accounting for a significant share of TPCODL's overall rooftop solar progress. The milestone has been driven by TPCODL's sustained consumer awareness initiatives, including the 'Mo Chhata, Mo Sanchaya' campaign, Surya Ghar Gram Sabhas and the ongoing Solar Rath campaign across various districts, creating widespread awareness about rooftop solar and encouraging greater participation in the PM Surya Ghar: Muft Bijli Yojana. As part of the Solar Rath campaign, 'Solar Sanga' is educating consumers about the benefits of rooftop solar, available financial support from Central and State Governments, eligibility criteria, the application process and solar installation process for 1 kW RTS under ULA Model and the 3 kW RTS System, helping them choose the option best suited to their energy needs. Apart

from these initiatives, TPCODL is implementing several other awareness and outreach campaigns to encourage more consumers to opt for rooftop solar systems. Speaking on the achievement, Gajanan S. Kale, CEO, TPCODL, said, "Crossing the milestone of over 50,000 rooftop solar installations under the PM Surya Ghar: Muft Bijli Yojana is a proud achievement for TPCODL and Odisha's clean energy mission. It reflects the trust of our consumers and the collective efforts of our employees, Business Associates and State Government Administration and all other stakeholders. We remain committed to accelerating rooftop solar adoption and supporting Odisha's vision of a greener and energy-secure future."

Odisha Guv Urges Youth To Lead Campaign For Drug-Free India

Bhubaneswar (correspondent): Odisha Governor Dr. Hari Babu Kambhampati on Sunday urged the youth to become the driving force behind the nation's fight against drug abuse, saying that a healthy, disciplined and responsible young generation is essential for realising the vision of Viksit Bharat 2047. Addressing the 'Drug-Free Youth Awareness and Youth Empowerment Campaign for a Viksit Bharat' at Kalinga Stadium here, the Governor said the future of India would be shaped not only by government policies and infrastructure but also by the values, character and sense of responsibility of its youth. The Governor said the nationwide campaign,



launched virtually by Prime Minister Narendra Modi, reflects the country's collective resolve to build a healthy, confident and drug-free India. Commending the Prime Minister's leadership, he said the 'Nasha Mukta Bharat' initiative recognises the youth as the nation's greatest strength and places them at the

centre of India's development journey. Warning against the growing menace of substance abuse, Dr. Kambhampati said addiction silently destroys the dreams and aspirations of young people, weakens their ability to make sound decisions and deprives them of opportunities for

a brighter future. He said drug abuse not only affects individuals but also causes emotional and financial distress to families while weakening society and the nation. Describing the fight against addiction as a shared responsibility, the Governor called upon parents, teachers, educational institutions and society to work together

in creating a drug-free environment. He urged young people to embrace sports, fitness, yoga, culture, innovation and volunteerism as positive alternatives to substance abuse. Highlighting Odisha's achievements in sports, the Governor appealed to the youth to choose sports over addiction, education over substance abuse and social service over self-destruction. He also urged them to become ambassadors of the campaign by spreading awareness and encouraging others to remain drug-free. Chief Minister Mohan Charan Majhi, who also addressed the gathering, described the youth and the 'Gen-Z' generation as key stakeholders in building a developed India by 2047.

RPF rescued two minor boys from the station and handed them over to the Child Helpline

Rourkela (correspondent): Under 'Operation Nanhe Farishte', the RPF rescued two minor boys from the station and handed them over to the Child Helpline (Rourkela) for further action in accordance with CWC guidelines. Shift Officer ASI A.K. Pandey was conducting a round of checks on Platform No. 1 of Rourkela Railway Station. During the inspection, at approximately 01:30 AM, he spotted a minor boy wandering aimlessly near the Jharsuguda end of the platform. Upon being spoken to gently, the boy revealed his name and address: Dev Vaishnav, son of Ashwini Vaishnav, aged approximately 12 years, resident of the area near the 'Boi Factory' and Bus Stand, Bilaspur

(Chhattisgarh). He further explained that he had run away from home after being scolded by his parents and did not possess a travel ticket. Subsequently, the minor boy was brought to the RPF Post in Rourkela, where he was provided with food and drinking water. After completing all legal formalities, the rescued minor was handed over to the Child Helpline (Rourkela) for further action as per CWC guidelines. Similarly, Shift Officer ASI A.K. Pandey, accompanied by Rourkela RPF Post staff, conducted a round of checks near the main gate area of Rourkela Railway Station. During this inspection, at approximately 04:00 AM, Shift Officer ASI A.K. Pandey and Constable Kaushal Kumar spotted

another minor boy wandering aimlessly near the main gate. Upon being spoken to gently, the boy revealed his name and address: Kartik Kumhar, son of Raghubir Mahto, aged approximately 13 years, resident of Kemang, under the jurisdiction of Bishra Police Station, Sundargarh district (Odisha). He further stated that his father had left him and gone to Goa, and he did not possess a travel ticket. Subsequently, the minor boy was brought to the RPF Post at Rourkela, where he was provided with food and drinking water. After completing all legal formalities, the rescued minor was handed over to Child Helpline Rourkela for further action in accordance with the guidelines of the Child Welfare Committee (CWC).

Sambalpuri Day Celebrated at Jharsuguda District Collector's Office

J h a r s u g u d a , (correspondent): Sambalpuri Day was celebrated with great enthusiasm and joy at the premises of the Jharsuguda District Collector's Office today. On the occasion, all officers and employees of the Collector's Office attended the programme wearing traditional Sambalpuri attire, showcasing their respect for the glorious language, art, literature, culture and traditions of western Odisha. They also paid tribute to the memory of late Guru Satyanarayan Bahidar, a distinguished practitioner and pioneer of the Sambalpuri language, literature and culture. Jharsuguda District Collector Kunal



Motiram Chhabaan, Additional District Collector (General) Brajabandhu Bhoi, Project Director, Rehabilitation and Resettlement (R&R) and in-charge Additional District Collector Lalit Soreng, along with officers and employees from various departments, were present at the

programme. The presence of officers and employees dressed in traditional Sambalpuri attire added a vibrant and attractive look to the office premises. The unique weaving patterns, vibrant colours and traditional designs of Sambalpuri textiles made the occasion even more appealing. On the occasion,

District Collector Chhabaan said that the main objective of celebrating Sambalpuri Day is to protect and promote the rich folk art, handloom, language, literature and cultural heritage of western Odisha. He extended his warm greetings to everyone on the auspicious occasion of Sambalpuri

Day. All officers of the District Collector's Office, Deputy Collectors, Assistant Collectors, senior and junior revenue assistants and other employees were present at the programme. The celebration strengthened the sense of unity, cultural awareness and regional pride among the participants. As per the direction of the District Collector, Sambalpuri Day was also observed at all district-level offices, block offices and tehsil offices across the district. Officers and employees at these offices wore traditional Sambalpuri attire to mark the occasion and express their respect for the rich cultural heritage of western Odisha

Mahanadi swells at Mundali after Hirakud water reaches Kataka

K a t a k a : (correspondent) Water level of the Mahanadi River is gradually rising at Mundali in Kataka on Sunday following the arrival of floodwater released from the Hirakud Dam in Sambalpur. The discharge, released through 22 sluice gates, reached the Mundali barrage after travelling downstream for nearly 40 hours. The 22 gates at the Hirakud Dam were opened in phases on Friday to release excess water accumulating in the

reservoir. As of 9:00 am today, floodwater was flowing through Mundali at a rate of 573,475 cusecs. Official measurements recorded the water level at 89.10 feet on the upstream side and 86.50 feet on the downstream side of the barrage. River monitoring indicated that the water level in the Mahanadi has been rising steadily again since around 3:00 am late Saturday night. Dam authorities opened the gates two days ago due to water accumulating in

the reservoir from rainfall in upper catchment areas. The gates were opened in a phase-wise manner to control the flood situation and avoid further damage downstream. As of 6:00 am on July 31, the water level in the Hirakud Reservoir stood at 623.52 feet against its full storage capacity of 630 feet. Continuous inflow following heavy rainfall pushed water into the dam, with reports confirming an inflow rate of 369,322 cusecs into the reservoir.

Students of Uttam Maalik College participated in virtual program of PM's 'Drug-Free Youth for a Biksit Bharat'

M a l k a n g i r i correspondent : The Hon'ble Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi addressed the youth across the country virtually as part of the 'Drug-Free Youth for a Developed India' campaign on 2nd August 2026. The campaign is a nationwide initiative of the Ministry of Youth Affairs and Sports, which aims to mobilize the youth against drug abuse and promote a healthy, responsible and drug-free lifestyle. The program is part of the 'Drug-Free Youth for a Developed India' campaign launched to encourage youth-led action against drug abuse through awareness, community



participation, sports, culture and positive social interaction. On behalf of My Bharat Sangathan Malkangiri, students at Uttam Maalik Group of Institution listened to Prime Minister Modi's virtual address and were inspired to take a pledge to build a drug-free Malkangiri and sensitize others. My Bharat Sangathan Mr Hanith

Kumar Dist Youth officer, Mr Rajnish Pandey DIO NIC Malkangiri joined the program and encouraged the students. My Bharat Coordinator Santosh Patra, Uttam Maalik college Lect Mr Kishore Kumar, Nikita Gand and Staff Naresh Sarkar contributed to success the program.

F O R M E R GAJAPATI DFO SUSPENDED IN ACF SOUMYA DEATH CASE

Paralakhemundi:(Correspondent):- A Senior Indian Forest Service (IFS) officer and former Gajapati DFO Sangram Behera has been suspended by the Odisha Government in connection with the high-profile death case of ACF Soumyaranjan. The suspension was ordered on the directions of Chief Minister Mohan Charan Majhi to facilitate a fair and impartial investigation. Behera had surrendered before the SDJM Court, Paralakhemundi, on July 27. After his bail plea was rejected, he was remanded to judicial custody and is currently lodged in the Paralakhemundi Sub-Jail. The case has remained one of Odisha's most closely watched investigations. Armed Attack and Loot at Ganesh Dhaba in Boudh District

B O U D H :(Correspondent):- In a shocking incident, around 18 armed miscreants allegedly stormed Ganesh Dhaba at Badla under Purunakatak in Boudh district late on Friday night. According to the complaint lodged by the owner of Ganesh Dhaba, the attackers vandalised the hotel, causing extensive damage to valuable property. They also damaged several vehicles parked on the premises, allegedly looted around ?20 lakh in cash, and brutally assaulted three employees of the dhaba, leaving them seriously injured. Following the incident, the police, along with a scientific investigation team, visited the spot and have launched a detailed investigation to identify and apprehend those responsible.

SOUTH EASTERN RAILWAY :RUNNING OF EXAMINATION SPECIAL TRAINS

Kolkata: It has been decided to run Examination Special Trains for extra rush during the period of RRB Examination as per given schedule: 08601/08602 Ranchi-Sabaur-Ranchi Examination Special: 08601 Ranchi-Sabaur Special will leave Ranchi from 03.08.2026 to 06.08.2026, 09.08.2026 to 14.08.2026 and 17.08.2026 to 21.08.2026 at 19:00 hrs and will reach Sabaur at 08.00 hrs the next day. In the return direction, 08602 Sabaur-Ranchi Special will leave Sabaur from 04.08.2026 to

07.08.2026, 10.08.2026 to 15.08.2026 and 18.08.2026 to 22.08.2026 at 09:50 hrs and will reach Ranchi at 22.45 hrs the same day. The Special train will have stoppages at Barkakana, Hazaribagh Town, Koderma, Tilaiya, Nawadah, Warisliganj, Seikhpura, Luckeesarai, Kiul, Abhaipur, Jamalpur, Sultanganj and Bhagalpur Stations enroute. 08183/08184 Rourkela-Ramgarh Cantt.-Rourkela Examination Special: 08183 Rourkela-Ramgarh Cantt. Special will leave Rourkela from

03.08.2026 to 06.08.2026, 09.08.2026 to 14.08.2026 and 17.08.2026 to 21.08.2026 at 20:30 hrs and will reach Ramgarh Cantt. at 02.15 hrs the next day. In the return direction, 08184 Ramgarh Cantt.-Rourkela Special will leave Ramgarh Cantt. from 04.08.2026 to 07.08.2026, 10.08.2026 to 15.08.2026 and 18.08.2026 to 22.08.2026 at 05:15 hrs and will reach Rourkela at 11.30 hrs the same day. The Special train will have stoppages at Bano, Hatia, Ranchi and Muri stations enroute.

BSP to Lay Siege to Bissamcuttack Excise Office on August 13

R a y a g a d a , correspondent : The Bahujan Samaj Party (BSP), Bissamcuttack Unit, has announced a gherao of the Excise Office at Bissamcuttack in Rayagada district on August 13, alleging large-scale irregularities in the functioning of the Excise Department and its failure to curb the alleged illegal liquor trade in the region.

BSP Rayagada district president Purna Chandra Takri said the demonstration would be led by the party's Odisha State In-charge Jitu Jakashika, District In-charge Ram Das Takri, tribal leader and former Sarpanch Dinjo Jakasika, besides state office bearers and a large number of district and block level leaders and workers.

While the party has not officially disclosed its



charter of demands, Jakashika said the protest would expose what he described as the "administrative lapses, institutional weaknesses and serious irregularities" in the functioning of the Excise Department.

The proposed agitation follows Jakashika's recent public campaign against the alleged liquor mafia operating in Bissamcuttack. In a video message addressed to the R a y a g a d a

Superintendent of Excise, he had urged the department to initiate decisive action against the alleged rampant illegal transportation, storage and distribution of Indian Made Foreign Liquor (IMFL) within the block.

He further alleged that while influential operators involved in the liquor network continued to enjoy protection, enforcement actions were largely confined to small traders in what he termed a "selective and cosmetic

exercise." The decision to organise the gherao, he said, was taken after receiving repeated complaints from local residents regarding the department's alleged inaction.

According to the party, prior intimation of the proposed demonstration has been submitted to the Inspector in Charge of Bissamcuttack Police Station, while the local Excise authorities have also been formally informed. Takri said a courtesy meeting with the District Superintendent of Excise is also being planned to apprise the department of the proposed agitation.

The BSP alleged that the only authorised IMFL retail outlet and the country liquor outlet sanctioned for B i s s a m c u t t a c k

headquarters have remained closed, causing a substantial loss of excise revenue to the State. Despite the closure of licensed outlets, liquor continues to be easily available across the region, raising questions over the effectiveness of enforcement, the party claimed.

He also expressed suspicion over the alleged involvement of a licensed liquor outlet bearing Shop ID No. 28/2019/0032, located in a neighbouring block, in supplying liquor to Bissamcuttack through unauthorised channels.

Although officials reportedly conducted inspections at several locations after the video went viral, no significant seizure or breakthrough was reported.

PANCHAYAT OFFICER RETIRES, GIVEN FAREWELL

Paralakhemundi:(Correspondent) :- Gram Panchayat Development Officer (GPDO) of Gosani Block, Ashok Kumar Patra, was accorded a warm farewell to his retirement at a function organised by the block administration.

The programme was presided over by BDO Gourachandra Patnaik, while Block Chairman N. Veeraraju attended as the chief guest. Assistant Executive Engineer Sasmita Kumari Jena and Block Finance Officer Gajendra Behera were present as guests of honour. Employees of the block, elected representatives and Panchayat Executive Officers (PEOs) also attended the event.

Speakers praised Patra for his sincere service and significant contribution to the development of Gosani Block over the past two years. They highlighted his role in ensuring the smooth implementation of government welfare schemes and resolving administrative issues through his experience and guidance.

Patra was felicitated with a citation and mementoes before being accorded a grand farewell. The function concluded on an emotional note, with many colleagues becoming visibly moved while bidding him goodbye.



Patient Transported on Stretcher After Railway Department Blocks Main Road

R o u r k e l a / S u n d a r g a r h : (Correspondent): An incident occurred in Thiteitangar village (under Laikera Panchayat, Hemgir Block, Sundargarh district) where a patient had to be transported on a stretcher. The Railway Department was supposed to construct an overbridge on the

road leading to the village but instead blocked traffic by installing iron pillars in the middle of the road, causing significant inconvenience to residents. When an ambulance could not reach a critically ill patient that morning due to this obstruction, the patient had to be carried on a stretcher



across the railway tracks to reach the main road. Since the railway line cuts across the

village road, residents had demanded an overbridge—a project the Railway Department

had promised to undertake. However, the department abruptly blocked traffic by erecting iron pillars on both sides of the road, making vehicular access to the village difficult. According to reports, Savitri Dhruva (65) of Thiteitangar developed a fever, and her condition became critical. Her family

summoned an ambulance to take her to the Hemgir Group Health Center; although the ambulance arrived, it could not proceed because the path was blocked by the Railway Department's iron pillars. Consequently, the family carried the elderly woman on a stretcher to the main road, and after

crossing the railway tracks, she was taken to the hospital by ambulance. Villagers have complained that the Railway Department installed the pillars illegally on the village road and have urged the administration to look into the matter, as the obstruction is hindering essential movement.

EDITORIAL

Building a Skilled Generation for the Digital Economy

The world is witnessing one of the greatest economic transformations in history. Just as the Industrial Revolution changed the way people lived and worked, the Digital Revolution is re-shaping every aspect of modern life. Artificial intelligence, automation, robotics, cloud computing, cybersecurity, data science, blockchain, and the Internet of Things (IoT) are redefining industries and creating entirely new career opportunities. In this rapidly evolving landscape, the true wealth of any nation will not merely be its natural resources but the skills of its people. Building a skilled generation has therefore become the most important investment for a thriving digital economy.

The digital economy is no longer limited to software companies or technology firms. Agriculture is becoming smarter through precision farming and drones. Healthcare increasingly relies on telemedicine, wearable devices, and AI-assisted diagnosis. Manufacturing is adopting smart factories powered by automation and robotics. Education has expanded beyond classrooms through digital learning platforms. Banking, retail, logistics, entertainment, and government services are all undergoing digital transformation. Consequently, digital literacy and technological competence are becoming essential for nearly every profession.

This transformation demands a fundamental shift in education. For decades, education systems focused primarily on memorization, examinations, and theoretical knowledge. While academic foundations remain important, employers today seek individuals who can solve problems, think critically, communicate effectively, collaborate in teams, and adapt to changing technologies. The future belongs to learners who can continuously acquire new skills rather than depend solely on degrees earned years earlier.

Schools play a crucial role in preparing students for this future. Digital literacy should begin at an early age, enabling children to use technology responsibly, safely, and creatively. Coding, computational thinking, financial literacy, media literacy, and environmental awareness should complement traditional subjects. Equally important are creativity, curiosity, ethics, and emotional intelligence—qualities that machines cannot easily replicate.

Teachers themselves need continuous professional development. As technology evolves rapidly, educators must be equipped to integrate digital tools into teaching while preserving the human values that define meaningful education. Artificial intelligence can personalize learning, provide instant feedback, and automate administrative tasks, but it cannot replace the inspiration, empathy, and mentorship that dedicated teachers provide. Higher education institutions must also strengthen their partnerships with industry. Universities should regularly update curricula to match emerging technologies and labour market needs. Internships, apprenticeships, live industry projects, innovation labs, and entrepreneurship programmes help students bridge the gap between classroom learning and workplace expectations. Industry participation in curriculum design ensures that graduates possess relevant and employable skills.

Vocational education deserves equal recognition alongside academic education. Skilled technicians, electricians, healthcare assistants, machine operators, digital marketers, cybersecurity analysts, renewable energy technicians, and AI support professionals are increasingly in demand. A modern economy requires both highly qualified researchers and highly skilled technical professionals. Respect for vocational careers is essential for balanced national development.

Foundational Learning Study 2026



Er. Prabhat Kishore

Foundational learning forms the bedrock of a child’s educational journey and lifelong

development. In a rapidly evolving global landscape, it is imperative to measure not only what students know, but also what they are able to do at different stages of their schooling.

Competency-based assessment is the core of meaningful educational reforms. Assessing Foundational Literacy and Numeracy (FLN) competencies at the early grades is essential for building a strong, equitable and future-ready education system.

The Foundational Learning Study (FLS)-2026 is a significant national initiative in this direction, aligned with the transformative vision of the National Education Policy (NEP) 2020 and the national priority of achieving universal Foundational Literacy and Numeracy (FLN).

NEP 2020 emphasizes universal attainment of foundational skills as a national priority. Regular and competency-based assessment at the end of grade 3 enables us to understand whether children are acquiring the essential reading, writing and numeracy skills necessary for further learning.

Performance Assessment, Review, and Analysis of Knowledge for Holistic Development (PARAKH) has been established as a constituent unit of NCERT. Foundational Learning Study

(FLS) 2026 has been conducted in collaboration with the National Assessment Centre

– PARAKH to assess the Foundational Literacy and Numeracy (FLN) competencies of students at

the end of grade 3. The Foundational Learning Study 2022 was conducted as a baseline assessment in Paper-Pen (OMR-based) mode. FLS 2026 has been administered through a tablet-based digital platform, aimed at strengthening data quality, operational efficiency, and timeliness of reporting.

The key objectives of FLS 2026 are as follows:-

(1) Assessment of Foundational Skills – To evaluate children’s literacy and numeracy skills at the foundational stage through developmentally appropriate, one-on-one oral assessments capturing true learning levels beyond surface-level proficiency.

(2) Identifying Learning Gaps - To provide granular diagnostic insights into reading and numeracy, enabling targeted interventions for teachers, schools and education administrators.

(3) Monitoring Progress Over Time - To benchmark results against the FLS 2022 baseline, track

improvements in FLN outcomes and measure the effectiveness of initiatives and teaching practices in achieving NEP 2020 goals.

(4) Child-centric and Developmentally Appropriate Assessment – To provide a non-threatening,

interactive assessment experience suitable for young learners, minimising cognitive and reading burden while reflecting actual learning levels.

(5) Global Benchmarking with Local Relevance - To align with international frameworks like the Early Grade Reading Assessment (EGRA) and Early Grade Mathematics Assessment (EGMA), contextualized for Indian classrooms and to support comparability with global proficiency standards such as the Global Proficiency Framework for Reading/Mathematics and UNESCO’s

AMPL framework.

(6) Support Policy and Planning – To generate actionable evidence for policy formulation, resource allocation, teacher training, curriculum development and early-grade interventions.

(7) Complementing PARAKH Rashtriya Sarvekshan - To focus specifically on foundational skills in the early grades, complementing the system-level, end-of-stage assessments provided by

the PARAKH Rashtriya Sarvekshan 2024 and enabling a holistic understanding of student progress and systemic effectiveness.

Assessment Areas :- The study assessed Grade 3 students in key Foundational Literacy and Foundational Numeracy domains.

“Foundational Literacy” includes- Oral Language Comprehension /Listening comprehension,

phonological awareness, decoding letters/ words/non-words, reading and comprehension, oral

reading fluency (ORF) with comprehension and writing.

“Foundational Numeracy” includes – Number identification, Number discrimination, Number operations (addition, subtraction, multiplication and division), Word problems (addition, subtraction), Measurements, Fractions, Patterns and Data handling.

Furthermore, contextual information has been collected through structured questionnaires to better understand factors influencing student learning. These include - Schools Questionnaires (SQ), Teacher Questionnaires (TQ) and Pupil Questionnaires (PQ), as applicable.

Internationally recognized technical standards and best practices have been followed in the design, sampling, administration and analysis of FLS – 2026 to ensure reliability, credibility and comparability of results.

The Foundational Learning Study (FLS)– 2026 has been implemented through a clearly defined multi-tier structure to ensure uniformity, transparency and effective coordination across all States and UTs. At the national level, the National Assessment Centre PARAKH under the National Council of Educational Research and Training (NCERT), functioning under the Ministry of Education, led the study. At the State/UT level, the State Implementing Agency of Samagra Shiksha, SCERTs/SIEs and DIETs provided guidance and oversaw district-level implementations.

For FLS-2026, the Indian Institute of Technology (IIT) Delhi provided technical support for

application development and study implementation, especially for the tablet-based digital

platform and associated data systems. The Study covered large and diverse sample of over 10000

schools and over 100000 students across 776 districts in 36 States/UTs including Government (Central and State), Government-aided, and Private schools within the sampled framework.

Health tips for the rainy season



Dr. Jyotiranjana Champatiray

No sooner the monsoon arrives we start fearing about the risk of catching on various diseases like cold and flu, dengue, malaria typhoid etc. Many of these diseases remain undiagnosed until they reach the complication level. So let’s talk about how to prevent and take necessary precautions: Top of the list is to have a healthy well–balanced diet to have a strong immune system to fight out the infection and increases the body’s resistance.

As prevention, it is better to watch out the source of drinking water. It should be safe, hygienic and free from any contamination. So, therefore avoid street food or consumption of raw fruits and vegetables to prevent other water-borne diseases like diarrhoea, cholera or typhoid etc. Another disease like dengue or malaria which is transmitted by mosquitoes. Dengue mosquitoes breed in stagnant water, so avoid an accumulation of water in any place. Also, wear full sleeves while going out especially during the day.

Another common condition is viral fever which is due to a sudden change in temperature which can be contagious so it’s important to build upon one’s immunity by taking vitamin-rich foods, green leafy vegetables and maintain proper hygiene. Gastroenteritis is also very common in monsoon season as due to high humidity the growth of bacteria is rapid which can lead to food poisoning. To prevent it it’s important to take precautions about hygiene, proper sanitation and also avoid outside mainly street food and cut raw fruits and vegetables from outside as the possibility of contamination is high which can trigger the condition.

So overall general health tips to prevent the above-mentioned diseases would be: Consume safe drinking water, Avoid outside and street food, Avoid cut raw fruits/vegetables or uncooked foods from outside, Consume fresh foods and dispose of foods which are kept out for long hours especially, Maintain proper hygiene and sanitation, Stay away and avoid coming in contact with an infected person. Take necessary precautions like covering our mouth or wearing a mask or even

avoid using same hand towels etc., Build upon one’s immunity by taking vitamin C rich foods, green leafy vegetables along with a healthy well-balanced diet, Use mosquito repellent creams or spray and hand sanitizers, Wear full sleeves while going out to avoid mosquito bites and also avoid crowded places, theatres etc.

Monsoon is that time of the year when families love the refreshing showers and a respite from the sun, though it also poses challenges in terms of health, especially for children. You can help protect the health of your child by being aware of the possible threats that are common in this season. Some of the important ways include maintaining proper hygiene by making them put on monsoon wear for kids, consuming safe drinking water, and eating good food. Using monsoon kids shoes, ensuring dry feet, and organising some indoor activities, will further help protect them from common monsoon ailments. Following these rainy season precautions, you and your child can have a hearty enjoyment in the monsoon months without fear of any hassles.

The Bicycle: A Simple Solution to Modern Problems



SUBRAT KUMAR DAS

There was a time when bicycles were an essential part of everyday life. Almost every family owned one. People rode bicycles to school, college, work, markets, and nearby villages. Children looked forward to learning how to ride, and receiving a new bicycle was a moment of great happiness. For many people, the bicycle was not only a means of transport but also a symbol of freedom, independence, and joy.

As technology advanced, our lifestyles changed. Motorcycles, scooters, and cars gradually replaced bicycles. Even for very short distances, people began using fuel-powered

vehicles. Riding a bicycle slowly became less common, and many bicycles were left unused in garages or forgotten in the corners of homes.

While modern transport made travel faster and more comfortable, it also reduced our daily physical activity. People started walking less and exercising less. Today, many spend long hours sitting in offices, driving vehicles, or using computers and smartphones. This lack of movement has become one of the biggest health challenges of our time.

As a result, lifestyle diseases have increased rapidly across the world. Obesity, diabetes, high blood pressure, heart disease, back pain, and stress have become

common among both adults and young people. Many people now search for expensive fitness programmes, gym memberships, and medical treatments to improve their health. Yet one of the simplest and most affordable solutions has always been within our reach—the bicycle.

Cycling is one of the best forms of exercise because it is easy, enjoyable, and suitable for people of almost every age. It strengthens the heart, improves blood circulation, builds stronger muscles, and increases stamina. It also burns calories, helps maintain a healthy weight, and reduces the risk of many chronic diseases.

The benefits of cycling are not limited to physical health. It also improves mental well-being. A peaceful ride in the morning or evening can

reduce stress, refresh the mind, and improve mood. Regular cycling helps people sleep better, think more clearly, and feel more energetic throughout the day. In today’s fast-moving and stressful world, cycling offers a simple way to reconnect with both nature and ourselves.

The bicycle is one of the simplest inventions in human history, yet it remains one of the most powerful tools for building a healthier, happier, and greener world. Cycling is also good for the environment. Unlike motor vehicles, bicycles do not require petrol or diesel. They produce no harmful smoke, no greenhouse gases, and almost no noise pollution. Every bicycle on the road means cleaner air and a healthier environment. As the world faces climate change and rising pollution, choosing a bicycle for short trips is a

responsible step towards protecting our planet.

Another important advantage of cycling is its affordability. Rising fuel prices have made transportation increasingly expensive. A bicycle requires no fuel, very little maintenance, and is far less costly than any motor vehicle. It helps families save money while encouraging a healthier lifestyle. For students, workers, and people living in both rural and urban areas, cycling remains one of the most economical ways to travel.

Many countries have already realised the value of cycling. Nations such as the Netherlands and Denmark have created bicycle-friendly cities with dedicated cycling lanes, safe parking spaces, and public awareness campaigns. As a result, millions of people choose bicycles every day, not

because they cannot afford cars, but because cycling is healthy, convenient, and environmentally responsible. India is also witnessing a renewed interest in cycling. Morning cycling groups, bicycle rallies, and fitness campaigns are becoming more popular. Schools, colleges, and community organisations are encouraging young people to cycle regularly. This growing awareness shows that society is slowly recognising the importance of an active lifestyle.

Parents and teachers also have a significant role to play. Instead of allowing children to spend too much time on mobile phones, television, or video games, they should encourage outdoor activities. Learning to ride a bicycle gives children confidence, discipline,

balance, and independence. It also helps them develop healthy habits that can last a lifetime.

Governments and local authorities can further support this movement by developing safe cycling lanes, improving road safety, providing bicycle parking facilities, and organising public awareness programmes. Creating bicycle-friendly communities will encourage more people to choose cycling as part of their daily routine.

The bicycle teaches us an important lesson: simple choices can create big changes. Choosing to cycle for short distances instead of using a motor vehicle may seem like a small decision, but when millions of people make the same choice, the impact becomes enormous. We reduce pollution, save fuel,

improve our health, and make our communities more sustainable.

Today, more than ever before, we need to return to healthy habits. Cycling is not a step backward; it is a step forward towards a healthier, cleaner, and more balanced future. It combines exercise, economy, environmental protection, and personal well-being in a way that very few other activities can. So, let us bring bicycles back into our daily lives. Let us ride to school, to work, to the nearby market, or simply for the joy of cycling. Every turn of the pedal is a step towards better health, cleaner air, and a brighter future.

A healthier life does not always begin with expensive equipment or complicated fitness plans. Sometimes, it simply begins with two wheels, a pair of pedals, and the decision to ride.

Accused arrested for attacking a youth with a sword in front of a dhaba.

Gopalpur, (Corresp ondent): The police today arrested an accused in the gang attack on a youth in front of a dhaba in Kanishi under Golanthara police station and produced him in court. The accused is Subash Das (25) of Haladiapadar. While the police have announced that the others involved in the incident are absconding, they will be arrested soon. On the night of the 29th, Jogeya of konisi along with three other friends were returning from a dhaba when they were confronted by Subash of Haldiapadar and others. Due to which Subash and his group youths chased Jogeya and his friends with swords. While the other three managed to flee the scene, Jogeya was attacked. Jogeya suffered serious injuries on both hands and both legs. Jogeya's mother had lodged a complaint at the Golanthara police station regarding the incident. Based on the complaint, the police registered a case and examined the CCTV footage from the scene. Today, Subhash was arrested and produced in court.

Liquor hidden in water tank!

Kataka (Corres pondent):: Odisha Excise Department officials seized multiple jars of illicit liquor hidden inside a rooftop overhead water tank during raids in Koranga village, under Athagarh police station in Kataka district on Sunday. The operation, which also targeted a nearby cashew forest, led to the recovery of country liquor and the destruction of fermented wash. During the raid at the residence of an alleged liquor dealer, officials discovered liquor jars concealed within the house's overhead water tank. Simultaneously, a joint team comprising personnel from the Athagarh Excise Department, Banki Excise Station, and Narsinghpur Excise Department conducted searches in the neighbouring cashew forest. Officials seized a total of 2,345 litres of country liquor and destroyed 25,200 litres of fermented wash during the operation. As per reports, the accused fled the scene before officials could apprehend him. Police reportedly registered five cases regarding the incident. An investigation was lauched into the matter and efforts were underway to trace the suspect.

Kharasrota College Extends Relief to Flood Victims; Distributes 250 Dry Food Packets

JAJPUR (Corresp ondent): Kharasrota College, one of the leading educational institutions in Binjharpur Block, has set a remarkable example of humanity by extending support to flood-affected people. The Principal, faculty members, and staff of the college translated the motto "Service to Humanity is Service to God" into action by collectively coming forward to help those affected by the floods. Responding to the appeal of the Principal,



Dr. Sudhanshu Kumar Das, all members of the college voluntarily contributed funds for the relief effort. With the collected amount, 250 dry food packets were prepared and distributed among

flood-affected families in Phalpur and Haldidihi villages. The relief team first distributed food packets to waterlogged families in Phalpur village. Later, with the assistance of the

ODRAF team, they reached the remote and completely inundated Haldidihi village, where dry food packets were distributed among the stranded flood victims. The participants expressed satisfaction at being able to extend support to people in distress during such difficult times.

The relief programme was led by Principal Dr. Sudhanshu Kumar Das, along with faculty members Purnachandra Samal and Meenaketan

Tripathy, who actively participated in the distribution of relief materials.

The humanitarian initiative undertaken by the Kharasrota College family has been widely appreciated across the local community. By demonstrating social responsibility and compassion during a time of crisis, the college has once again reaffirmed its commitment to serving society, earning widespread praise for its noble and selfless efforts.

34th Science and Technology Fair Saraswati Sishu Vidya Mandir Paradwip 2026-27

Paradeep, (Corresp ondent): On 01/08/2026, the 34th Science and Technology Fair of Saraswati Sishu Vidya Mandir, Paradip, was held. In this, 400 students participated in the Science Department, 145 in the Mathematics Department and 120 in the Cultural Department. 16 judges and all the teachers and servants of the school participated in the program. At the beginning of the program, welcome music and personal songs were performed by the sisters of the school. The chief guest was the Honorable Shri Niranjan Behera, Additional District Collector, Paradip. . The President of the Management Committee, Shri Niranjan Khuntia, was present with him, Editor Shiyukt Digambara Khuntia, Vice President Shri Ranjan Kumar Dhal, Shri Susanta Kumar Samal and the guest was introduced by the Principal of the school, Dharani Dhar Parida. The program was conducted by the Head of Science of the school, Shri Susanta Kumar Sahu. The ceremony and award distribution ceremony was attended by the representative of the Minister of Industries, Shri Sarveshwar Dhalayarsingh.

AI to be used in administrative services

SUBARNAPUR (Correspondent--- Subarnapur District Administration, Odisha Computer Application Center (OCAC) and Odisha Knowledge Corporation Limited (OKCL) jointly organized a program on "AI Tools for Operational Excellence" at the Collectorate Conference Hall. Collector Dr. Nruparaj Sahu, ADM (Revenue) Rajendra Majhi, ADM (General) Anjalina Pradhan were present at the program and inaugurated the workshop. The Collector said that through the proper use of Artificial Intelligence (AI), administrative work can be made cleaner, more efficient and faster. He urged all the officers to make practical use of AI to further increase the utility of AI in delivering government services. Officers from various departments of the district attended the workshop and were made aware about the use of Artificial Intelligence (AI) and its application in government work.

The workshop focused on making daily administrative work simpler, faster and more efficient through AI and practical demonstrations of various AI tools. The usefulness of AI in preparing government letters, creating reports, analyzing data and preparing presentations were also discussed.

Electoral Roll Observer Reviews Progress of Post-Draft SIR-2026 in Anugola District

Anugola : (Correspondent): - A review meeting on the ongoing post-Draft activities of the Special Intensive Revision (SIR)-2026 of Electoral Rolls was held on 30.07.2026 at the Conference Hall, Circuit House, Anugola, under the chairmanship of Shri Sudhansu Mohan Samal, IAS, Electoral Roll Observer-cum-Revenue Divisional Commissioner, Central Division, Cuttack.

A detailed presentation highlighting the progress of the Special Intensive Revision in Anugola District was made before the Electoral Roll



Observer. The review covered the status of claims and objections, document verification, hearing and disposal of applications, movement of eligible electors to "Parked for Final Publication", engagement of Booth Level Officers (BLOs) and Booth Level Agents (BLAs), SVEEP

activities, and other key post-Draft SIR activities. The meeting was attended by the Hon'ble Members of the Legislative Assembly (MLAs): District Election Officer-cum-Collector, Anugola; Addl. District Election Officer-cum-ADM, Anugola; Dy. District Election Officer,

Anugola; all Electoral Registration Officers (EROs); district-level officials;; and representatives of recognized political parties. The representatives of the recognized political parties shared their views and suggestions regarding the ongoing revision process. The Electoral Roll Observer reviewed the overall progress in detail and emphasized the timely disposal of all pending claims and objections, expeditious completion of document verification and hearings, and strict adherence to the timelines prescribed by the Election

Commission of India. He also stressed the importance of maintaining the accuracy, transparency, and inclusiveness of the electoral rolls by ensuring that every eligible elector is enrolled while eliminating ineligible entries.

The District Election Officer assured the Electoral Roll Observer that all necessary measures are being taken to complete the Special Intensive Revision in a transparent, time-bound and efficient manner in accordance with the instructions of the Election Commission of India.

Gautam Adani Visits Rayagada Amid Buzz of IMFA Plant Takeover?

Rayagada, (Correspondent): -In a move that has sent ripples through the core sector market, Adani Group Chairman Gautam Adani, accompanied by Adani Enterprises Managing Director Karan Adani, made an unannounced visit to Odisha's mineral-rich Rayagada district on Sunday. High-level administrative meet sparks intense market speculation over Adani's ?1.08 lakh crore Odisha aluminium footprint?The duo landed via helicopter at the Therubali facility of Indian Metals & Ferro Alloys Limited (IMFA), India's largest integrated ferroalloys producer, holding a closed-door meeting that lasted just over an hour. ?The high-stakes meeting was attended by senior state administrative and police officials, including Rayagada District

Collector Ashutosh Kulkarni and Superintendent of Police Raj Prasad. The strict media exclusion and heavy security ring thrown around the facility have fueled intense local and industry speculation regarding a potential takeover or structural alliance between the Adani Group and IMFA.

Following the boardroom discussions, Mr. Gautam Adani conducted an aerial survey of the district, focusing heavily on the Kashipur block. The move comes on the heels of the Adani Group securing critical bauxite mining rights in the region.

?Industry analysts view the visit as a tactical boots-on-the-ground push to integrate raw material access with manufacturing infrastructure. The Adani

Group operates in the district via its subsidiary, Kalinganagar Aluminium Limited. However, its initial efforts to clear approximately 1,700 acres of land in the neighbouring Kolnara block have hit roadblocks, primarily due to a high ratio of private holdings that has complicated local displacement and rehabilitation frameworks.

The 1.08 Lakh Crore Ambition The surprise executive visit follows the mega-investment Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) signed between Adani Enterprises and Abu Dhabi-based International Resources Holding (IRH) to establish a 50:50 joint venture. The proposed \$11.5 billion (?1.08 lakh crore) greenfield project aims to build an

integrated aluminium manufacturing ecosystem in Odisha.

The mega-project framework includes: A 4 million tonnes per annum (MTPA) alumina refinery. A 2 MTPA aluminium smelter. A 1 MTPA downstream industrial manufacturing park. A 4,000 MW captive power plant integrated with green energy.

While IMFA's Therubali plant is historically anchored in ferroalloy and chrome production, its established footprint, captive power capabilities, and strategic logistics positioning in Rayagada make it an attractive asset for a conglomerate looking to fast-track its primary metallurgy ambitions.

Fertiliser Shortage Sparks Road Blockade in Nabarangpur

umarkot, (corres pondent) Acute shortages and delays in fertiliser distribution triggered protests by hundreds of farmers in Nabarangpur district, forcing the administration to introduce a token-based distribution system after a road blockade in Raighar block. Hundreds of farmers, including a large number of women, gathered outside the Local Agricultural Marketing and Primary Cooperative Society (LAMPCS) office in Raighar from early morning, waiting for hours to procure essential fertilisers, particularly urea, for the ongoing cultivation season. The situation turned tense when many farmers failed to receive fertilisers due to inadequate stocks and slow distribution. Agitated over the scarcity, they staged a raasta roko, blocking the main road and disrupting vehicular movement for several hours while demanding immediate supply of fertilisers and better management of distribution.

Police personnel and local administrative officials rushed to the spot after being informed of the protest. Following discussions with the agitating farmers, officials assured them that additional steps would be taken to streamline fertiliser distribution and address the shortage. The protest was withdrawn after the assurance, and the administration immediately introduced a token system outside the LAMPCS office to regulate the distribution process and prevent further overcrowding and unrest.

Security review for the visit of the Honorable President to Ganjam district

Gopalpur (corres pondent) A comprehensive security review meeting was held today at the conference room of the S.P in Berhampur to ensure the safe and smooth completion of the visit of the Honorable President to Ganjam district. The meeting, chaired by the Berhampur S P Dr. Shrawan Vivek M, was attended by Ganjam S P Harish Tritiya, Berhampur Deputy Collector Avinash Kumar and senior officers of the police, administration and various departments, who discussed various aspects of security preparedness. It is worth noting that the Honorable President will arrive at Platform No. 4 of the Berhampur



Railway Station at around 11:10 am on the 4th or Platform No. 3 as the situation warrants. He was welcomed there through a cultural program and instructions were given to ensure all security arrangements during his short stay. In view of the President's visit to Taptapani from Berhampur and return

by the same route, special emphasis was laid on the rehearsal of the carcade, deployment of police at various places along the route, traffic management, issuance of traffic advisories, keeping the fire brigade, ambulance and other emergency services on alert. Keeping in mind the possibility of the

President meeting and interacting with the public on his way to his destination, a detailed review was made regarding barricades at possible locations, additional police deployment, declaration of a 'no-fly zone' in the airspace and the highest level of security measures. During the temple visit at Taptapani,

security, vehicle parking, traffic management and return of the carcade were discussed in detail and it was decided to take necessary remedial measures. Similarly, it was decided to restrict the issuance of car passes, VVIP passes and identity cards as much as possible from the security point of view. In view of the President's visit, 50 platoons of police force have been deployed to strengthen the overall security arrangements.

In view of the possible visit of the Hon'ble Governor and Hon'ble Chief Minister, special security arrangements, overnight stay at Army AD College and related ancillary arrangements were also discussed.



Kangana reacts to Hrithik Roshan's comment on viral 'apology' post

Actor and BJP MP Kangana Ranaut has spoken out amid the online discussions, with many dragging the name of actor Hrithik Roshan in connection with her recent remarks. Kangana, in her Instagram story, stated that she feels happy about Hrithik's current relationship with Saba Azad, adding that he should "condemn all those harassing and bullying" her on the internet. "Dear Hrithik, I am happy that you have found your perfect match, Saba Azad and you both look great together, you are in a committed relationship and it doesn't suit you to tease a woman like this. Instead, you should condemn all those who are harassing and bullying me using your name. Stop adding fuel to fire and embarrassing your partner. Hope better sense prevails and you stop making unreasonable comments," she wrote. The reaction came on the heels of Hrithik Roshan's comment on a post shared by a social media influencer who stated that "the world owes an apology to Hrithik Roshan." Taking to the comments section, the 'Krrish' star wrote, "My friend, siding with 'A' just cause you don't like 'B' anymore is a small part of the larger systemic issue plaguing our society. I'll wait, for when the context to it is the right one, and motivated by facts. That would be fair. But then again, who cares anymore right?" Kangana Ranaut has been hogging headlines lately over the remarks about the student protests. Kangana shared a series of posts on her Instagram Stories, calling the protest videos "puke-inducing." The BJP MP also criticised the protesters' style and language. "Never in my life have I seen so much ugliness in one place. These reels from Gen Z protests are puke-inducing. The way they speak and the kind of language they are using... never in my life have I seen everything in each and every frame so jarring and so crass all at once," she wrote. "Ewww, who is birthing and raising them?" she added.

The Alliance: Salman Khan makes emotional reunion with brother Sohail

Bollywood superstar Salman Khan is all set to make a power-packed appearance on the reality show 'The Alliance', with the latest promo offering a glimpse of an emotional reunion between the actor and his younger brother, Sohail Khan, who is currently a contestant on the show. The newly released promo begins with Salman making a grand entry into the show, instantly leaving the contestants stunned. As the Bollywood icon walks in, the house erupts in excitement, with participants visibly surprised by the unexpected visit. The highlight of the promo is Salman's heartwarming reunion with Sohail. The brothers are seen embracing each other in an emotional hug, with both appearing overwhelmed by the moment. While the promo keeps much of the interaction under wraps, it hints at an episode filled with laughter, nostalgia, and heartfelt conversations. Salman is also expected to interact with other contestants. The promo has already generated considerable buzz among fans on social media, with viewers eagerly awaiting the full episode to witness the Khan brothers' emotional reunion and Salman's interactions with the contestants. The promo came shortly after Salman Khan was recently spotted on the sets of 'Alliance'. He even posed for the shutterbugs before heading inside to shoot for the episode. Salman was seen dressed in an all-denim outfit paired with a cowboy hat. On the work front, Salman will be seen headlining 'Maatrubhumi: May War Rest In Peace'.



5 Unique Ways To Use Green Chutney While Cooking

1. Elevate pakoras using green chutney Use green chutney to make your pakoras more exciting. For instance, make paneer chutney pakoras instead of regular paneer pakoras. Spread green chutney between two paneer pieces and sandwich them together before coating with besan batter (read full recipe here). You can use the same logic for bread pakoras, aloo pakoras, mixed veg pakoras, fried bread rolls, etc.
2. Add green chutney to the stuffing of different snacks Whether you're making samosas, stuffed patties, double-layered cutlets or any similar snack, green chutney can be your secret ingredient for extra flavour. Simply mix green chutney with the ingredients of the stuffing - they could be potatoes, paneer, chicken, minced meat, etc. This will enhance



the taste and texture of the filling, while giving the dish a unique twist.

3. Mix green chutney with mayo to make a unique spread Green chutney is a wonderful spread, dip and salad dressing by itself. But mix it with mayo and

the results will be magical. You can use this mayo-chutney combination for sandwiches, wraps, rolls, salads, chaat, chip-and-dip platters and much more. You can even use it as a unique desi pizza sauce. The key is to nail the exact ratio of mayo to chutney. Add too much mayo, and you will get a diluted result. Add too much chutney and it may become too spicy or lumpy

4. Coat fish/chicken in green chutney before cooking Need a last-minute marinade? Use green chutney with a little lime juice. Not only does it make the fish/chicken more tender, but it will also give it a yummy masala coating. For chicken, you can also add a little dahi (curds) to the marinade. This hack can be used for grilled, baked or pan-fried dishes.

5. Make green chutney pulao Want a quick way to upgrade your pulao? Add green chutney to it. This hack is so simple, you might wonder why you didn't consider doing it before. And those who have already tasted chutney pulao are familiar with its deliciousness! Just ensure the rice, veggies and chutneys are evenly mixed. Otherwise, you'll end up with unpleasant chunks of chutney while eating. How To Make Green Chutney At Home: Green chutney is very easy to make at home. You only need a handful of ingredients to make this classic Indian treat. Every household may have its own version of this chutney. Common elements are coriander leaves, mint leaves, lemon juice and green chillies. The rest you can customise based on your needs and preferences. Here's an easy recipe for green chutney to get you started. While making this coriander chutney, avoid these common mistakes to get the perfect result.

Which Foods Help With Constipation? This Dahi And Flaxseed Remedy Works



Be it summer, winter or any other season, constipation is one of those health issues that can strike at any time. It can catch you off guard, leaving you feeling bloated, heavy and extremely uncomfortable. Sure, there are medicines and quick-fix powders available at pharmacies, but sometimes your body does not need another pill – it needs nourishment. Treating digestive troubles through simple, natural food remedies can go a long way in keeping your gut comfortable and functioning well. And honestly, when it comes to gut health, a bowl of dahi with a spoonful of flaxseeds might be exactly what your body needs. This quick and easy

combination could help keep digestion smooth and constipation away. How? Let us break it down. 5 Health Benefits Of Eating Dahi For Digestion: 1. Rich In Probiotics Dahi contains live cultures that help increase the good bacteria in your gut. These probiotics support smoother digestion and can help reduce issues such as bloating and constipation. 2. Calms The Stomach The cooling nature of dahi helps soothe acidity and reduces inflammation in the stomach lining. This makes it especially helpful for anyone with a sensitive gut. 3. Aids Nutrient Absorption Fermented foods like dahi help your body absorb essential nutrients better – especially

calcium and B vitamins, which play a key role in digestive and overall health. 4. Supports Immunity A healthy gut is closely linked to a stronger immune system. Regular consumption of dahi can help build this link and support better immunity. 5. Eases Digestion The enzymes present in dahi assist in breaking down lactose and proteins more efficiently, making it easier to digest, even for those with mild lactose sensitivity. 5 Health Benefits Of Flaxseeds For Constipation Relief:

1. High In Dietary Fibre Flaxseeds are an excellent source of both soluble and insoluble fibre. This helps add bulk to the stool, making bowel movements more regular and easier. 2. Improves Gut Motility The mucilage in flaxseeds acts as a natural lubricant for your intestines, which helps waste move through the digestive tract more smoothly. 3. Reduces Digestive Inflammation Thanks to their omega-3 fatty acid content, flaxseeds help calm inflammation in the digestive tract – a common issue in people with gut discomfort or irritable bowels. 4. Keeps You Feeling Full The fibre in flaxseeds also helps you feel fuller for longer, reducing the chances of overeating and promoting healthier digestion. 5. Feeds Good Gut Bacteria Flaxseeds work as a prebiotic, feeding the beneficial bacteria in your gut.

This contributes to a balanced microbiome and stronger digestion over time. How To Eat Dahi And Flaxseeds Together Should You Use Whole Or Ground Flaxseeds? You can add flaxseeds either whole or in powdered form to your dahi. The expert recommends lightly roasting the seeds and then grinding them into a fine powder for better digestion and nutrient absorption. Also Read: Does Eating Banana Cause Or Relieve Constipation? Here's What Experts Say Best Time To Eat Dahi-Flaxseed Mix For Digestion The dahi-flaxseed mix can be consumed as a mid-morning snack, as per the expert's advice. However, if you miss this window, you can still eat the combination at any time of the day. The key is consistency – regular consumption can help ease digestive discomfort effectively. Can You Eat Dahi With Flaxseeds Every Day? Yes, the combination of dahi and flaxseeds is generally safe for daily use when consumed in moderation. However, if you are lactose intolerant or have ongoing digestive issues, it is advisable to consult your doctor. Also, make sure you drink enough water when increasing your fibre intake to avoid worsening constipation.



Emma Finucane Creates Commonwealth Games History With Fourth Track Cycling Gold

Glasgow: Welsh cycling star Emma Finucane etched her name into Commonwealth Games history by becoming the first sprint cyclist to win four track gold medals at a single edition of the Games after clinching the women's keirin title in Glasgow on Sunday.

At the Sir Chris Hoy Velodrome, the 23-year-old achieved a remarkable clean sweep by winning the keirin gold alongside the titles she had previously gained in the team sprint, the individual sprint and the 1,000m time trial, a feat accomplished over four consecutive days.

Finucane came in first, ahead of Ellesse Andrews from New Zealand, the reigning Olympic champion, who had to content



herself with silver as she tried to defend the Commonwealth keirin title that she won in Birmingham in 2022.

Achieving her most recent victory, Finucane has now overtaken Anna Meares and Andrews, who had previously held the record for the most track cycling gold

medals won at a single Commonwealth Games, with both of them having won three medals in 2010 and 2022 respectively. This Welsh rider also became the first woman from Wales to win four gold medals at a single Commonwealth Games and took over from para-sprinter Olivia

Breen to become Wales' most successful female athlete in the history of the Games. This fourth gold medal brought Wales' total number of medals at the Games to 31, consisting of nine gold, ten silver and twelve bronze. Finucane's achievement was also the greatest number of

gold medals won by any athlete at a single Commonwealth Games since Aaron Gate of New Zealand had won four gold medals at the Birmingham 2022 Games, winning three of them on the track and then securing the title in the road race. Even though she has had a historic success, David Morgan, the weightlifter, is still the most decorated athlete to have taken part in the Commonwealth Games for Wales, having won nine gold and three silver medals over his career. The unforgettable campaign she carried out in Glasgow has firmly established Finucane as the top track cyclist at the Games, setting new records by winning four gold medals in the sprint events.

CWG 2026: Gulveer Makes History By Adding 5000m Bronze To 10,000m Silver

Glasgow: India's top male distance runner Gulveer Singh won a bronze medal in the Men's 5000m, becoming the first Indian to win two medals in track and field competitions in a single edition of the Commonwealth Games in Glasgow on Saturday. Gulveer clocked 13:24.95 in the final to secure a bronze medal in the Men's 5000m. He had earlier won a silver medal in the Men's 10,000m with a timing of 27:49.78, achieving a historic first for the country in the Commonwealth Games 2026. In the 5000m final on Saturday, Gulveer finished behind Mathew Kipchumba Kipsang of Kenya, who won gold in 13:23.61, and Australia's Ky Robinson, who claimed

the silver medal in 13:24.70. Gulveer ran a tactical race, racing to the finish line with a brilliant kick in the final lap, moving from equal-fifth position to third and claiming the bronze medal in 13:24.95. Gulveer, the 28-year-old Armyman from Atrauli in Uttar Pradesh, remained tucked in the eighth position at the end of the first lap (400m), covering the distance in 1:10.6. He picked up a bit of speed in the second 400m, completing it in 1:06.4, moving to the fourth position at the 1000m mark. He fell back to seventh as he covered 2400m, nearing the halfway stage. He was fifth going into the final lap and then produced a nice sprint to eventually finish third in 13 minutes

24.95 seconds.

The 2022 Asian Games bronze medallist in 10,000m, Gulveer has won a double in the 2025 Asian Championships in Gumi, South Korea. Gulveer's running journey began on village roads and farmland trails in his native village as he prepared for recruitment into the Indian Army. After joining The Grenadiers Regiment in 2018, he steadily rose through the ranks of Indian athletics to become the country's premier distance runner.

Gulveer made his international breakthrough with a bronze medal in the 5000m at the 2023 Asian Athletics Championships and followed it up with a bronze medal in the 10,000m at the 2022 Asian Games.

CWG 2026: Sachin Siwach Wins Men's 60kg Boxing Gold After Thrilling 3-2 Split Decision

Glasgow: India's Sachin Siwach clinched the men's 60kg boxing gold medal at the Commonwealth Games 2026 after edging Namibia's Tryagain Morni Ndevelo by a razor-thin 3-2 split decision in a gripping final in Glasgow on Saturday. In one of the closest bouts of the boxing competition, Sachin displayed remarkable composure and tactical discipline to overcome the Namibian in a contest in which every round was fiercely contested. The judges' scorecards reflected the intensity of the battle, with three judges awarding the bout to the Indian boxer while two favoured Ndevelo. The Indian started strongly and matched his



opponent punch for punch throughout the three rounds. Despite the bout remaining too close to call until the final bell, Sachin maintained his composure under pressure and did enough to convince the majority of the judges. The victory capped an impressive campaign for the Indian boxer, who remained unbeaten en route to the title and added another gold medal to India's growing tally at the

Glasgow Games. Sachin's triumph also underlined India's continued dominance in Commonwealth Games boxing, with the country's pugilists once again delivering on the biggest stage. The gold medal is expected to further boost India's medal haul as the boxing competition reaches its business end. With the win, Sachin Siwach etched his name among India's Commonwealth Games champions,

producing a performance that combined grit, skill and resilience when it mattered the most. Sachin's gold is the eighth medal — six gold, two silver — that India has won in boxing on Saturday. Sachin Siwach, Arundhati, Priya, Sakshi, Preeti, and Jaismine won the gold medals while Lovlina and Jadumani Singh won the silver medals. The rich haul in boxing propelled India, and a 1-2 finish in Men's Shot Put F57 and a bronze in judo helped India surge up to the fourth spot in the medals tally with 35 medals. India has so far won 11 gold, 16 silver and eight bronze medals. India can expect a few more gold medals in boxing as 10 pugilists from the country have qualified for the final.

CWG 2026: Lovlina Joins Elite Group Of Indian Boxers By Winning Silver In Glasgow

Glasgow: Olympic bronze medallist Lovlina Borgohain on Saturday became only the third Indian boxer after Mary Kom and Vijender Singh to claim a medal in every major tournament after she bagged a silver at the Commonwealth Games in Glasgow. Lovlina won silver in the women's 75kg category after losing to Australia's Emma-Sue Greentree in the final. She got a bye directly into the semifinals and reached the final by winning her first bout in Glasgow 2026 on Thursday. This was Lovlina's third appearance at the Commonwealth Games and ends her long wait for a medal at the multi-sport event.

She has previously won a silver at the Asian Games, bronze at the Olympics and also has



a gold and two bronzes at the World Championships, having had success in both the 69kg and 75kg weight categories.

Lovlina suffered a 4-1 defeat to Australia's Emma-Sue Greentree in a hard-fought final in the women's 75kg boxing at Glasgow. Lovlina displayed her trademark composure and technical ability in a closely contested bout, but Greentree did enough to convince the majority of the judges

and claim the gold medal. According to the judges' scorecards, the Australian boxer won by a 4-1 split decision after edging several closely fought rounds. Lovlina stayed in the contest throughout and landed some clean punches, but the judges favoured Greentree's aggression and ring control. Despite missing out on the top podium spot, the silver medal marks another significant achievement for the Assamese

boxer, who has consistently delivered on the international stage. The medal adds to her growing list of accolades, which includes an Olympic bronze, World Championship medal and Asian Championship success. Lovlina's campaign in Glasgow once again showcased her experience and resilience as she battled through the draw to reach the final. Although she fell short in the gold medal bout, her silver further strengthens India's boxing campaign at the Commonwealth Games. The result also underlines India's continued dominance in boxing at the Games, with Lovlina contributing another medal to the country's tally in Glasgow.

MP Govt Announces Rs 25 Lakh Cash, Govt Jobs Each To Athletes Yamini Maurya, Ajay Babu

Bhopal: Amid the outstanding performance of Indian athletes at the Glasgow Commonwealth Games 2026, players from Madhya Pradesh have also shone brightly on the international stage. Judo player Yamini Maurya from Sagar and weightlifter Ajay Babu brought laurels to the state by securing silver medals in their respective events. Chief Minister Mohan Yadav and Sports and Youth Welfare Minister Vishvas Kailash Sarang have congratulated the duo on their remarkable achievement and announced that both athletes will be awarded Rs 25 lakh each along with government jobs



as per the rules. Minister Sarang clarified that under the state's sports policy, athletes who win silver medals at the Commonwealth Games are entitled to an incentive of Rs 25 lakh each and are provided with

government jobs. He personally spoke to Yamini Maurya via video call to congratulate her on the silver medal and expressed hope that she would go on to win gold in future competitions. Chief Minister Mohan Yadav

extended his best wishes to all Indian medal winners at the Commonwealth Games. He remarked that the discipline, dedication, and hard work shown by the athletes serve as a powerful inspiration for millions of young

people across the country. The Chief Minister specifically congratulated Neeraj Chopra for winning silver and Yashvir Singh for securing bronze in the men's javelin throw, as well as Tejaswin Shankar for claiming bronze in the decathlon. He noted that these athletes have significantly enhanced India's prestige on the global stage through their stellar performances. Sarang emphasised that the Madhya Pradesh government is committed to providing world-class sports facilities, modern training infrastructure, and comprehensive support to athletes, enabling them to excel consistently at both

national and international levels. Sports Minister Vishvas Kailash Sarang further stated that the success of Madhya Pradesh's athletes is a matter of immense pride for the entire state. He highlighted Yamini Maurya's outstanding performance that earned her the silver medal in the women's 57 kg judo event. Ajay Babu also delivered a strong showing to clinch silver in weightlifting. Sarang expressed confidence that athletes from Madhya Pradesh would continue to produce excellent results in upcoming international competitions.

CWG 2026: Ankush Strikes Gold In Men's 80kg Boxing, Beats England's Shittu Dimeji In Final

Glasgow: India's Ankush Panghal produced a composed and clinical performance to win the gold medal in the men's 80kg boxing event at the Commonwealth Games 2026, defeating England's Shittu Dimeji by a 4-1 split decision in the final in Glasgow on Saturday. His gold is the ninth medal — seven gold, two silver — that India won in boxing on Saturday. Sachin Siwach, Arundhati, Priya, Sakshi, Preeti, and Jaismine were the others to win gold while Lovlina and Jadumani Singh bagged silver medals. Ankush recovered strongly after dropping the opening round on most judges' scorecards, taking control of the contest with aggressive combinations and sharp counter-attacks in the second and third rounds. His consistency and ring awareness impressed the judges, with three of them scoring the bout 29-26 in favour of the Indian boxer, while the remaining two judges returned close verdicts of 28-27, one for each boxer.

The victory capped a memorable campaign for Ankush, who maintained his composure under pressure to outclass the home favourite and secure the top spot on the podium. The gold medal further strengthened India's boxing campaign in Glasgow, adding another major success to the country's medal tally at the Commonwealth Games. Ankush's triumph also highlighted India's growing depth in amateur boxing, with the nation's pugilists continuing to deliver on the biggest international stages.

Coal India Strengthens Post-Retirement Care Through Comprehensive Welfare and Pension Reforms

Bhubaneswar: (Correspondent):- Coal India Limited (CIL) has significantly strengthened its post-retirement welfare ecosystem through a series of reforms aimed at enhancing pension administration, healthcare access, grievance redressal and social security for its retired employees. These initiatives have improved the quality of life of over 4.5 lakh retired employees and pensioners, reaffirming the company's commitment to the welfare of those who have contributed to the nation's energy security. In a major social security initiative, the minimum pension under the Coal Mines Pension Scheme was enhanced to ₹1,000 per month with effect from 8 March 2024, benefiting around 40,000 pensioners. The



measure has provided greater financial support to retired mine workers and their families. CIL, in collaboration with the Coal Mines Provident Fund Organisation (CMPFO), has also accelerated the digital transformation of pension administration through the C-CARES platform. As a result, the average settlement time for retirement claims has been brought down from 30 days to just 10 days. Further

digital modules are under development to facilitate online pension revision and issuance of revised Pension Payment Orders (PPOs), paving the way for a seamless and paperless pension lifecycle. To ensure a hassle-free transition into retirement, the C-CARES portal enables issuance of PPOs and settlement of CMPF dues on the day of retirement, while gratuity is released in

accordance with statutory provisions. The introduction of revised PPOs has also simplified the commencement of family pension by incorporating details of the eligible spouse, enabling pension-disbursing banks to process routine family pension cases without requiring separate approval from CMPFO. CIL has further strengthened its support system through

dedicated Post Retirement Benefit Cells (PRBCs) at its headquarters and subsidiaries, serving as a single-point contact for retired employees.

Healthcare remains a key pillar of CIL's post-retirement welfare framework. Around 1.13 lakh retired employees enrolled under the Contributory Post Retirement Medicare Scheme (CPRMS) have access to cashless treatment at 532 empanelled hospitals across the country. The scheme provides medical coverage of up to ₹25 lakh for retired executives and ₹8 lakh for retired non-executives, while treatment expenses for specified critical illnesses remain outside these financial ceilings, ensuring enhanced protection during serious medical emergencies.

Prime Minister Calls Upon Youth to Build a Drug-Free Society and a Developed India

Gunupur: (Correspondent):- As part of the nationwide "Nasha Mukh Yuva – Viksit Bharat Sankalp Abhiyan" launched by MY Bharat under the Ministry of Youth Affairs and Sports, GIET University, Gunupur, organized a special programme to promote the vision of a drug-free India and a developed nation by 2047. The campaign aims to create awareness among the youth and inspire them to actively contribute towards building a healthy, responsible, and progressive society. On the occasion, the Hon'ble Prime Minister of India, Shri Narendra Modi, addressed the youth of the nation through a virtual platform, urging them to take an active role in creating a drug-free society and realizing the vision of Viksit Bharat 2047. More than one crore young people



participated in the programme, both physically and virtually, from nearly 10,000 locations across the country. GIET University, Gunupur, was among the 125 selected educational institutions across India chosen to host the programme. The event was attended by Dr. Chandra Dhvaj Panda, Vice President, GIET University; Prof. (Dr.) Goutam Ghosh, Vice Chancellor; Prof. (Dr.) A. V. N. L. Sharma, Pro Vice Chancellor; Prof. (Dr.) Balakrishna Tripathy, Pro Vice

Chancellor; and Dr. N. V. J. Rao, Registrar. Representing the district administration, Shri B. Kishore Kumar, District Youth Officer, and Shri Naveen Lohan, District Information Officer, coordinated the programme. During the event, students, faculty members, and staff of the University collectively administered the "Nasha Mukh Yuva Pledge", reaffirming their commitment to leading a drug-free life and encouraging others to do the same.

DRM Rayagada inspects the Bacheli-Jeypore Railway Section

Bhubaneswar: (Correspondent):- The Divisional Railway Manager (DRM), Rayagada Division, Shri Amitabh Singhal conducted a detailed inspection of Bacheli-Jeypore section and review the progress of Goods shed at BDXX, JDB & JYP. He directed the officials of concerned departments viz. Engineering, Commercial and Electrical to expedite the construction of pending works at these locations. Construction of goods shed shall enable the merchants to load and unload various commodities such as iron ore, rice, fertilizer, food grains etc more efficiently and expeditiously. Sh. Amitabh Singhal mentioned that, Goods sheds under construction shall have various facilities such as a building comprising separate rooms for labour,



merchants and FOIS with toilet facilities, concrete wharf, parking for trucks & CCTV cameras. Various pollution control measures shall also be incorporated viz. sprinklers, dust screens and sedimentation tank. Also the entry and exit roads for smooth transportation of consignment shall be constructed. Shri Singhal also carried out inspection of the arrangements done across the section to avoid water stagnation on the tracks which occur due to heavy rainfall. He

mentioned that, at critical locations, catch water drains, side/longitudinal drains and retaining walls have been constructed and at a few locations are under construction. He also inspected LHS (Limited Height Subway) near Khadapa and directed the Railway staff to get the work completed on priority. The construction of this subway shall not only eliminate the manned LC gate but also enable smooth and hassle free movement to the residents of nearby villages.

TPWODL Strengthens Balangir's Power Network with 28 New DTR Projects, Enhancing Supply for Nearly 11,000 Consumers

Balangir: (Correspondent):- Continuing its efforts to strengthen power infrastructure across Western Odisha, TP Western Odisha Distribution Limited (TPWODL), a joint venture between Tata Power and Government of Odisha, has commissioned 28 new Distribution Transformer (DTR) projects across Balangir district. Executed with an investment of over ₹4.15 crore, the projects have added 6800 KVA of transformation capacity, significantly improving the district's power distribution network and enhancing the quality and reliability of electricity supply for nearly 11,000 consumers across urban and rural areas. The newly



commissioned transformers, ranging from 25 KVA to 500 KVA, have been installed at strategically identified locations including CID Office, Dumping Yard, Talpalipada, Junadih,

Rajinagar, Rugudipada, Rampur, Saharapada, Sonepur Road, Jamunapali, Mahulpati, Palsapada, Dangia, Jamki, Luxminagar, Phuguda, Punjipathar, Sanbanki, Gaintala, BBMCH

Chowk, Surya Nagar, Tulsinagar, Salepali, Children's Park, Indranagar, Blossom school, Barpalipada. The capacity augmentation has been undertaken to meet growing electricity demand, address low-voltage issues and enhance the resilience of the distribution network. Speaking on the development, Shri Parveen Verma, CEO, TPWODL says "At TPWODL, our focus is on building a future-ready and resilient power distribution network that keeps pace with the evolving needs of our consumers. The commissioning of these DTR projects reflects our continued commitment to enhancing service reliability, improving

voltage quality and delivering a superior customer experience. We will continue to invest in modernising our network infrastructure to ensure safe, reliable and uninterrupted power supply across Western Odisha." Several of these localities had been experiencing voltage fluctuations and increasing load due to rapid residential and commercial growth. The newly installed DTRs will improve voltage stability, strengthen supply reliability and enhance service quality, ensuring uninterrupted electricity for households, commercial establishments, educational institutions, markets and other public utilities, particularly during peak demand periods.

Powering a Sustainable Future TPNODL Expands Northern Odisha's Solar Footprint with 36 MW Rooftop Installation

Baleshwar: (Correspondent):- TP Northern Odisha Distribution Limited (TPNODL), a joint venture between Tata Power and the Government of Odisha, recorded transformative growth in solar adoption across Northern Odisha during the first quarter of FY 2026-27. Through the concerted rollout of the Central Government's PM Surya Ghar: Muft Bijli Yojana and the pioneering Utility-Led Aggregation (ULA) Model, TPNODL facilitated 18,415 new

rooftop solar installations, adding 36.18 MW of green power capacity to the regional grid from April to June in FY27, taking overall green energy capacity to 90.25 MW. The surge highlights a rapidly expanding appetite for sustainable energy among domestic consumers. Monthly adoption rates maintained a continuous upward trajectory throughout the quarter, rising from 4,512 installations in April to 6,233 in May, and culminating in 7,670 installations in June. The



quarter's capacity addition of 36.18 MW was anchored by 26 MW generated through 8,235 installations under

the PM Surya Ghar scheme, supplemented by 10.18 MW from 10,180 installations under the ULA Model.

This balanced dual-model strategy has significantly simplified access to renewable infrastructure, enabling

wider participation across all socio-economic segments in the region. Progress was reported across all five operational circles within TPNODL's mandate. In Q1 FY27, Baleshwar Circle spearheaded the region's solar transition by securing 6,449 installations accounting for 13 MW of added capacity. Baripada Circle followed with 3,939 installations adding 7 MW, while Jajpur Circle achieved 3,293 installations generating 7.46 MW. Bhadrak Circle

recorded 2,702 installations totalling 4.6 MW, and Kendujhar Circle rounded out the quarter with 2,032 installations representing 4.12 MW of new solar power. Commenting on the milestone, Mr. Dushyant Kumar Tyagi, CEO of TPNODL, stated that the rapid momentum in rooftop solar adoption under PM Surya Ghar Muft Bijli Yojana reflects the utility's steadfast commitment to accelerating Northern Odisha's clean energy transition. He emphasized that by

combining government initiatives with streamlined execution, TPNODL empowers local communities with affordable power while transitioning to long-term regional sustainability with clean and green energy. The widespread adoption of rooftop solar has yielded substantial economic relief for local households. In June 2026, a total of 10,715 consumers across TPNODL's distribution areas registered Zero-Unit Billing, effectively reducing their monthly electricity expenditures.