

President Droupadi Murmu Arrives In Odisha On Three-Day Visit

Bhubaneswar (correspondent): President Droupadi Murmu arrived in Odisha on Monday for a three-day official visit, during which she is scheduled to attend a series of programmes in Kataka and Ganjam districts. The President landed at the Biju Patnaik International Airport in Bhubaneswar in the afternoon, where she was received by Governor Hari Babu Kambhampati, Chief Minister Mohan Charan Majhi and other senior dignitaries. Following her arrival, the President proceeded to Raj Bhavan before leaving for Kataka later in the day to inaugurate the Jagadguru Kripalu University. On Tuesday,



the President is scheduled to travel from Bhubaneswar to Brahmapur by train. From there, she will proceed by road to Taptapani hot spring in Ganjam district's Sanakhemundi block to perform darshan and aarti at Maa

Kandhuni Devi Temple and Shiva Temple. The President will stay overnight at the Army AD College in Golabandha, Ganjam, before concluding her Odisha visit. She is scheduled to return to New Delhi on August 5.

Odisha CM Announces Rs 110 Cr Initial Flood Relief Package

Bhubaneswar: Chief Minister Mohan Charan Majhi on Monday announced an initial flood relief package of ₹110 crore for people affected by the ongoing floods in Odisha, directing officials to ensure the immediate release of assistance while assuring that additional financial support would be provided after the final assessment of damages. The announcement came after the Chief Minister conducted an aerial survey of the flood-hit regions and assigned ministers to monitor relief, rescue and rehabilitation operations in different affected districts. The state government said flood management activities are continuing on a war



footing with the highest priority, with the administration working round the clock to restore normalcy. The government said gratuitous relief would continue to be provided to all eligible families in flood-affected areas until the situation returns to normal. Under the State Disaster Response Fund (SDRF) norms, families whose houses have been completely damaged will receive ₹1.20 lakh for repairs. Assistance of

₹6,500 has been announced for partially damaged pucca houses, ₹4,000 for partially damaged kutchha houses, ₹8,000 for damaged thatched houses and ₹3,000 for cattle sheds. For crop and horticulture losses, small and marginal farmers will receive compensation of ₹8,500 per hectare for non-irrigated land, ₹17,000 per hectare for irrigated land and ₹22,500 per hectare for perennial crops. The state

government also announced ex gratia assistance for the families of six persons who lost their lives in the floods. The next of kin of each deceased will receive ₹24 lakh in accordance with SDRF norms. Compensation has also been approved for livestock losses, including ₹37,500 for each milch animal such as a cow or buffalo, ₹32,000 for each draught animal, ₹20,000 for each calf, donkey or mule, and ₹4,000 for every goat or sheep lost in the floods. According to the government, the floods have affected 85 blocks, 15 urban local bodies, 656 gram panchayats and 1,458 villages across 22 districts. Around 8,63,909 people have been impacted, while 2,67,301 persons have

been shifted to safer locations as a precautionary measure. A total of 529 relief camps and 31 animal camps are currently operational. Relief materials distributed so far include about 41 quintals of rice, 1,115 quintals of flattened rice (chuda), 496 quintals of jaggery, 3,869 polythene sheets and other essential supplies. Additionally, 1,816 metric tonnes of cattle feed have been supplied to support livestock owners. Rescue operations are being carried out by 199 teams comprising 20 Odisha Disaster Rapid Action Force (ODRAF) teams, seven National Disaster Response Force (NDRF) teams and 172 Fire Service teams.

Prashant Kishor Gives Jan Suraj Its Maiden Victory By Bagging Bankipur; BJP Accepts Public Mandate In Bypoll

Patna: The counting of votes for the Bankipur Assembly bye-election has concluded after 31 rounds, with Jan Suraj founder Prashant Kishor emerging as the clear winner in the counting trends. This is the first poll victory for the party which is still in the nascent stage in Bihar. Prashant Kishor secured 63,203 votes, while BJP candidate Neeraj Kumar Sinha received 44,250 votes. RJD candidate Rekha Gupta finished third with 14,085 votes. Kishor's winning margin over Neeraj Sinha stood at 18,953 votes. However, at the time of the latest update, the result had not yet been formally declared by the



Election Commission, meaning the official declaration is still awaited. Reacting to the outcome, Bihar minister and senior BJP leader, Vijay Kumar Sinha said the party respects the democratic mandate and would accept the people's decision. He emphasised that the BJP does not blame the Election Commission or Electronic Voting

Machines (EVMs) when it loses an election. According to Sinha, the party has complete faith in democracy and constitutional institutions and will accept whatever verdict the electorate delivers. He said the Bankipur result would be thoroughly reviewed at the organisational level to identify shortcomings and

understand why the party failed to retain the seat. Sinha also pointed out that the NDA had won 202 seats in the 2025 Bihar Assembly elections, arguing that the latest result should be viewed in that broader context. He said the party continues to have the people's support and will move forward with renewed determination. BJP Bihar state President Sanjay Saraogi also acknowledged the importance of the public mandate. "Whatever the result, the BJP will accept it with humility. In a democratic system, the people's decision is supreme, and our party fully respects it," Saraogi said. Saraogi

said that the BJP will conduct a detailed organisational review to determine why Bankipur voters shifted away from it and what shortcomings need to be addressed. He maintained that significant development work had been undertaken in Bankipur before and after the BJP government came to power. Nevertheless, he said, the party would respect the electorate's verdict and seek to understand the expectations of voters. Saraogi also stated that the BJP's commitment to the development of Bankipur would continue regardless of the election outcome.

Ravenshaw Univ East Hostel Students Launch Indefinite Hunger Strike, Seek Dy Warden's Resignation

Kataka: Student unrest intensified at Ravenshaw University on Monday as boarders of the East Hostel continued an indefinite hunger strike and dharna for over 24 hours, demanding the resignation of Deputy Warden Rabiul Ansari over allegations of arbitrary action against hostel inmates. Hundreds of students joined the agitation outside the East Hostel, holding placards and ringing a gong as part of their protest. The agitation has also disrupted normal functioning of the hostel, with students claiming that the hostel mess has remained virtually non-functional since Sunday. The protest

began after the Deputy Warden allegedly locked two hostel rooms following a Friendship Day celebration organised by boarders on the night of August 1. Students alleged that one boarder was deliberately harassed, his room was locked, and he was directed to vacate the hostel. They further claimed that the Deputy Warden was pressurising other residents to testify against the student, triggering widespread resentment among boarders. The protesting students accused the Deputy Warden of acting arbitrarily by entering the hostel without notice, forcing students out of their rooms and locking them at will. They have vowed to continue the

agitation until their demand for his resignation is met. University authorities held discussions with the protesting students on Sunday night and again on Monday, but the talks failed to break the deadlock. Chief Warden Sudarshan Mishra acknowledged that the hostel room had indeed been locked and assured students that an inquiry would be conducted into the incident before further action is taken. However, the students rejected the assurance, insisting on immediate action against the Deputy Warden. They continued their indefinite hunger strike and round-the-clock sit-in outside the hostel.

Odisha Govt Announces Monthly Stipend For OUAT PG, Ph.D. Students

Bhubaneswar: In a major initiative to strengthen agricultural education and research, the Odisha government has announced a monthly stipend for postgraduate (PG) and Ph.D. students of Odisha University of Agriculture and Technology (OUAT). According to an official statement issued by the Department of Agriculture, the decision was taken to provide financial assistance to students pursuing higher studies in agriculture and allied disciplines, with the initiative being facilitated through the efforts of Deputy Chief Minister and Minister of Agriculture & Farmers' Empowerment and Energy, Kanak Vardhan Singh Deo. Under the scheme, regular PG students enrolled in agriculture and allied courses at OUAT will receive a stipend of Rs 10,000 per month for a period of two years. Ph.D. scholars will be provided Rs 15,000 per month for up to three years. The financial assistance aims to encourage quality research, promote innovation in the agriculture sector and motivate meritorious students to pursue advanced studies without financial constraints. "Investing in our young researchers means securing the future of Odisha's farmers. With this assistance, our students can focus on new innovations and research without financial worries," Singh Deo said.

Lok Sabh passes Supreme Court Amendment Bill aims to increase number of judges of Apex Court

New Delhi: Lok Sabha has passed the Supreme Court (Number of Judges) Amendment Bill, 2026. The bill aims to further amend the Supreme Court (Number of Judges) Act, 1956, for increasing the number of Judges of the Apex Court from the present 33 to 37 (excluding the Chief Justice of India). In May this year, President Droupadi Murmu had promulgated an ordinance to increase the number of Supreme Court Judges from 33 to 37. The House adjourned till 11 AM tomorrow.

When the House met after the second adjournment at 2:00 PM, Union Minister of Law and Justice Arjun Ram Meghwal moved the Supreme Court (Number of Judges) Amendment Bill, 2026. He said that under the visionary leadership of Prime Minister Narendra Modi, the mantra of Reform, Perform and Transform is being effectively implemented. The Minister said that the Bill is an important step in that ongoing reform process within the judicial sector. Mr Meghwal said, the bill has been brought in view



of the rising number of pending cases in the Supreme Court and to make the judicial system more efficient and effective. He said, this step will further

strengthen judicial capacity, expedite the effective disposal of cases, and mark an important milestone in ensuring timely justice for citizens. Our

correspondent reports the volume of litigation in the Supreme Court has constantly been on the rise due to a persistent gap between institution and final

disposal of cases in the Court. As on 1st of January this year, over 92 thousand cases are pending in the Supreme Court. Even while working at near-full sanctioned capacity of 34 Judges since 2019, the Supreme Court recorded institution of 75 thousand 410 fresh matters last year against a disposal of more than 65 thousand cases. A persistent gap between the institution and final disposal of cases underscores the continuing challenge of docket management, particularly with respect to older pending matters and cases requiring adjudication by larger Benches.

Shivakumar Rules Out Rift With Siddaramaiah, Promises Cabinet Berth For Women

Bengaluru: Seeking to quell speculation over differences within the Congress following the Cabinet expansion, Chief Minister D.K. Shivakumar on Monday asserted that Siddaramaiah was “not dissatisfied” and that the party leadership was working as one team. He also assured that women would soon be accommodated in the State Cabinet, saying the Congress “cannot exist without women.” The remarks came after Shivakumar chaired the first Cabinet meeting following the swearing in of 19 new

Ministers earlier in the day. After the meeting at Vidhana Soudha, Shivakumar said the Congress leadership had consciously provided opportunities to several new faces despite having many senior and deserving legislators. He stated that while the party had many experienced leaders, it had chosen to induct new faces, adding that every legislator was qualified and the decision was collective. Addressing criticism over the absence of women in the newly expanded Cabinet, Shivakumar



assured that the issue would be addressed soon. He said there were only 33 ministerial berths available under the constitutional limit, but a Cabinet berth would be given to a woman. “Our party has always given priority to women, and our party

cannot exist without women,” he said. Rejecting reports of differences with Siddaramaiah, Shivakumar said the Cabinet expansion had been finalised after consultations with the former Chief Minister. He added that

Siddaramaiah was not dissatisfied, noting that they had discussed the expansion together and arrived at the decision collectively.

“Today is his birthday, and he has been occupied with visitors. I have spoken to him five times. All 139 Congress MLAs are working as one team. We are united and will continue to work together,” he said. On Congress MLC Gayathri Shanthegowda not taking the oath despite her name figuring in the announced list, Shivakumar said certain technical issues

remained and maintained that only the list submitted by him to the Governor was official. Asked whether ministerial portfolios could still change, he said the Congress high command would take the final decision. On legislators unhappy over missing Cabinet berths, Shivakumar said disappointment was natural. “They are hurt, and that is understandable. Even G. Parameshwara and I experienced disappointment in the past. Opportunities come with patience,” he said.

Gujarat: 37 Institutes Identified For Data & AI Labs Under ‘IndiaAI Mission’

Ahmedabad: Thirty-seven technical education institutes in Gujarat have been identified for the establishment of Data & AI Labs under the Centre’s ‘IndiaAI Mission’, with 20 Industrial Training Institutes (ITIs) and 17 Polytechnics selected to strengthen artificial intelligence education and workforce development in the state. The information was provided by Minister of State for Electronics and Information Technology, Jitin Prasada, in a written reply to questions on artificial intelligence raised by Rajya Sabha MP Parimal Nathwani.

According to the Minister, the Data & AI Labs will be set up under the ‘IndiaAI FutureSkills’ pillar and will provide training in artificial intelligence, data annotation, data curation and applied data science.

The initiative is intended to equip students with industry-relevant AI skills and help build a skilled AI workforce. The Minister also informed the House that Gujarat has been allocated two Artificial Intelligence Centres of Excellence (AI-CoEs) under the ‘IndiaAI Startup Financing’ pillar. The centres are expected to strengthen the state’s AI innovation ecosystem and provide focused support to startups, micro, small and medium enterprises (MSMEs) and academic institutions.

ECI Seeks Papers From Sunetra Pawar Over Party Constitution Amendments

New Delhi/Mumbai: The Election Commission of India (ECI) has issued a notice to Nationalist Congress Party (NCP) president Sunetra Pawar, seeking valid documentation and formal resolutions approving amendments made to the party’s constitution. According to the ECI, communications sent by Sunetra Pawar on March 10 and April 7, 2026, informed the Commission of modifications to Articles 6, 7, 12, 18(i), 32 and 36 of the party’s constitution.

However, scrutiny revealed that the compliance documents submitted contained only the resolution passed during the National Executive meeting on February 26, 2026, which

pertained exclusively to Article 18(i).

In its directive dated July 27, 2026, the Commission said formal proposals and resolutions approving changes to Articles 6, 7, 12, 32 and 36 have not been received. It directed the NCP leadership to furnish the missing supporting documents at the earliest to meet regulatory requirements. Party functionaries confirmed receipt of the ECI’s letter and said a reply would be sent after consultations with Sunetra Pawar. The Commission’s scrutiny follows objections raised regarding the procedure of Sunetra Pawar’s appointment. A party activist had earlier challenged her election as national president, alleging that it did not

strictly adhere to constitutional provisions. The ECI’s observations have intensified internal and legal scrutiny surrounding the validity of decisions taken by the current leadership. The organisational changes came after the split in the original NCP, followed by the death of Maharashtra Deputy Chief Minister Ajit Pawar in a fatal aircraft crash near Baramati Airport on January 28, 2026. The NCP convened a National Executive convention in Mumbai on February 26, 2026, where Sunetra Pawar was elected national president. The Commission noted that competing communications were sent regarding party authority and constitutional amendments.

DMDK MP Meets PM Modi, Raises Mekedatu And Cauvery Issues

Chennai: Desiya Murpokku Dravida Kazhagam (DMDK) Treasurer and Member of Parliament L.K. Sudhish met Prime Minister Narendra Modi in Parliament on Monday and submitted a memorandum highlighting key issues concerning Tamil Nadu, including the proposed Mekedatu dam and the release of Cauvery water to the State. According to a statement issued by the DMDK, Sudhish urged the Prime Minister to intervene and prevent the Karnataka government from proceeding with the proposed Mekedatu balancing reservoir project across the Cauvery river. He said the project could have serious implications for Tamil Nadu, particularly farmers in the Cauvery delta who depend heavily on the river for irrigation. The DMDK



leader sought the Centre’s intervention to safeguard Tamil Nadu’s established rights over Cauvery water and ensure that no project affecting the State’s share of river water was allowed to proceed. Sudhish also raised the issue of Cauvery water releases from Karnataka and requested the Prime Minister to take steps to ensure that Tamil Nadu receives adequate water in accordance with its

requirements.

The demand comes amid continuing concerns in Tamil Nadu over water availability for agricultural operations in the delta districts. The Cauvery and Mekedatu issues have remained major points of contention between Tamil Nadu and Karnataka.

Tamil Nadu has consistently opposed Karnataka’s proposed reservoir at Mekedatu,

maintaining that the project could affect the flow of Cauvery water to the lower riparian State. Karnataka has maintained that the project is intended primarily to meet drinking water requirements and generate electricity. Apart from the inter-State water dispute, Sudhish placed before the Prime Minister a demand close to the

DMDK’s political legacy. He requested the Union government to confer the Bharat Ratna, India’s highest civilian honour, posthumously on DMDK founder Vijayakanth. Popularly known as “Captain” among his supporters and the film fraternity, Vijayakanth had a long career in Tamil cinema before entering politics and founding the DMDK in 2005. He later emerged as a prominent Opposition leader in Tamil Nadu. Sudhish said Vijayakanth, who was earlier honoured with the Padma Bhushan, deserved the Bharat Ratna in recognition of his contributions to public life and society. The DMDK said the meeting provided an opportunity to place these demands concerning Tamil Nadu directly before the Prime Minister.

K’taka: 19 Ministers Sworn Into Shivakumar’s Cabinet

Bengaluru: Nineteen legislators were sworn in as Cabinet Ministers in the Congress government led by Chief Minister D.K. Shivakumar at a ceremony held at the Glass House in Lok Bhavan on Monday, marking the long-awaited expansion of the State Cabinet. Although Congress MLC Gayathri Shanthegowda’s name figured in the list of ministers announced by the party, she did not take the oath. Congress insiders said the party high command has kept her



berth vacant following strong opposition and rebellion over the Cabinet reshuffle. The swearing-in ceremony commenced with the rendition of Vande Mataram, followed by the National Anthem. The State

Anthem was also rendered before the oath-taking ceremony. The programme concluded with the rendition of Vande Mataram, followed by the National Anthem and the State Anthem. Governor

Thaawarchand Gehlot administered the oath of office and secrecy to the new ministers in the presence of Chief Minister D.K. Shivakumar, Deputy Chief Minister G. Parameshwara and other

dignitaries. Former Chief Minister and Congress Working Committee (CWC) member Siddaramaiah remained absent. Three-time MLA Ajay Singh, son of former Chief Minister late N. Dharam Singh, took the

oath in the name of God. An MBBS graduate, Ajay Singh represents the Jewargi Assembly constituency in Kalaburagi district. Five-time MLA H.C. Balakrishna, a close associate of Chief Minister Shivakumar, took oath in the name of God. He represents the Magadi constituency in Ramanagara district.

First-time MLA K.S. Basavanhappa, representing the reserved Mayakonda constituency in Davangere district, took oath in the name of Jagajyothi Basaveshwara.

‘Cannot Be Dismissed As Technical Error’: Parliamentary Panel Pulls Up Meta Over PM Modi’s Post Removal

New Delhi: The Parliamentary Standing Committee on Communications and Information Technology on Monday expressed serious concern over the temporary removal of Prime Minister Narendra Modi’s official Facebook post related to the NEET examination, describing the incident as one that raises important questions about the functioning and accountability of global social media platforms. During a meeting to examine the subject “Social and Digital Platforms and Their Regulation”, the Committee, chaired by BJP MP Nishikant Dubey, sought detailed explanations from representatives of Meta, Google, YouTube, Snapchat, X as well as officials of the Ministries of Home Affairs and Electronics and Information Technology (MeitY), sources said. According to sources, the Chairperson asked the ministries and social media companies to submit written replies to unanswered questions within 10 days, saying the inputs would help the Committee prepare its report on regulating digital platforms while ensuring transparency, accountability and public confidence. The Chairperson said the temporary disappearance of the Prime Minister’s official Facebook post was a “highly serious issue” that could not be dismissed as a mere technical error. He said the Committee wanted to know why the post was removed, how long it remained unavailable, and what safeguards existed to prevent similar incidents affecting official government communications in future. The Committee observed that if such an incident could occur with the Prime Minister’s official account, it raised concerns about the protection available to ordinary users. It asked Meta to provide the complete audit trail from the reporting of the content to its eventual restoration, explain whether the removal resulted from a system failure or deliberate action, and clarify the role of its automated content moderation and recommendation systems.

Punjab Assembly Passes Motion Against Repeated Paper Leaks

Chandigarh: Signalling it stands firmly with Gen Z and raising its voice against what it termed as atrocities on the country’s youth, the Punjab Assembly on Monday passed a censure motion against repeated paper leaks across the country. The motion was passed by a voice vote. Winding up the debate on the motion and

later addressing the media, Chief Minister Bhagwant Mann said repeated paper leaks under the BJP-led Union Government had shattered the aspirations of crores of students, while those seeking justice were met with tear gas shells, pellet guns, and police action instead of accountability. The Chief

Minister said the state government would forward the censure motion to the Prime Minister’s Office, the Union Ministry of Education and the Union Ministry of Home Affairs, urging the Centre to take stringent measures to prevent paper leaks and restore the credibility of the country’s education

system. The main opposition Congress, however, walked out of the House during the debate on the motion. In the House, CM Mann said: “Those who have been claiming to make the country a Vishwaguru have made a mockery of the education system by failing to check the repeated paper leaks

across the country. Paper leaks, or in other words the selling of examination papers, shatter the dreams of the aspirants.” “A reflection of this is that 22 candidates of the NEET examination committed suicide. From 2014, ever since the BJP regime assumed charge of office, 93 paper leaks have taken place in the country.”

May news and reporters be the guides of the society - Dr. Tirupati Panigrahi

Bhubaneswar(Contributor): May the media be the guides of the society. In the current era of social media, both print and electronic media should be closer to the people by providing accurate and unbiased news, said Speaker Smt. Surama Padhi on the occasion of the launch of the Bhubaneswar edition of Financial News. Hi-tech Group Chairman Dr. Tirupati Panigrahi emphasized on the economic analysis along with the development of the state, and said that healthcare is an integral part of development, a healthy society is the



messenger of a healthy economy. If a person decides in life that he will never lose or retreat, then such a person is evergreen and ready to face all situations, said Dr. Panigrahi. Humans

are always free, but situations always remind them of their limits. PIB ADG Akhal Kumar Mishra said that while enjoying one's freedom, one should also be aware

of one's duties and responsibilities. Press Council of India member Sudhir Kumar Panda said that Financial News will soon become a household name in

Odisha. Similarly, Financial News Editor Ashok Kumar Panda said that the credibility and transparency of the media are its real assets. Creating its own uniqueness among many newspapers will definitely be a challenge and his team is always ready for this. Professor Dr. Sitaram Mohapatra, Chairman and Administrative Director of Hi-tech Medical College and Hospital, participated in the program and gave a speech on how good health affects a person's personality.

MLA HEARS PUBLIC GRIEVANCES, ORDERS PROMPT ACTION

Paralakhemundi:(Correspondent) :- The first public grievance hearing of the month was held on Monday at the Ramnagar office of Paralakhemundi MLA Rupesh Panigrahi, where he heard complaints and demands from residents across the constituency and directed the concerned departments to take immediate action.A major demand came from representatives of Kurlanda village under Gumma Block, who sought construction of a dam wall. The MLA assured them that steps would be taken for an early resolution.Residents from different panchayats and urban areas also raised issues related to roads, drinking water, electricity, social security, education, healthcare and other civic amenities. The MLA reviewed each grievance and instructed officials to ensure prompt redressal. Speaking on the occasion, the MLA said the objective of the monthly grievance hearing is to maintain direct contact with the public and resolve their problems efficiently.Gajapati Zilla Parishad President Gabara Tirupati Rao, local representatives, party workers and a large number of citizens attended the programme

Odisha HC grants interim protection to 4 in textbook error case, bars action till next hearing

Kataka: The Orissa High Court on Monday granted interim protection to four persons in connection with the alleged errors in state textbooks. The court directed that no coercive action shall be taken against them until the next hearing of the case. The High Court has also asked the Crime Branch to file an updated case diary. Those granted interim relief are Dilip Kumar Sahu, Kishore Kumar Kar, Anupam Ghosh and Ashish Kumar Ghosh, members of a private publishing firm. The textbooks in question were published by the Directorate of Teacher Education and SCERT, Odisha. The case was registered to fix responsibility and initiate legal action over errors found in school textbooks. Following this, the four accused filed anticipatory bail petitions in the High Court seeking protection from arrest. The matter will come up for next hearing next week. All eyes are now on what decision the High Court will take then. The interim relief granted to the accused marks an important stage in the legal process of the textbook error case.

Four Arrested for Alleged Attack on Police in Kantabanji

Kantabanji, correspondence : Kantabanji Police have arrested four accused in connection with the recent alleged attack on police personnel during a law enforcement operation. The accused have been produced before the court after being forwarded by the police.The arrested persons have been identified as Gobinda Suna (37) of Dhamandanga near K.V. College, Sanjeeb alias Roshan Kuroof (33), Rudra Kumar (22) of Railway Colony, and Johnsana Suna (18+) of Ashrampada, all under Kantabanji Police Station limits in Balangir district.Police have registered a case against the accused under various provisions of the Bharatiya Nyaya Sanhita (BNS), including charges related to unlawful assembly, assault on public servants, obstruction of official duty, rioting, criminal intimidation, and other offences. The case has also been booked under Section 3 of the Prevention of Damage to Public Property (PDPP) Act, 1984, and Section 27 of the Arms Act.Police said further investigation into the incident is underway, and efforts are continuing to ascertain the involvement of any other persons in the attack.



IIC EFFICIENCY CRACKS RS 5 LAKH DAYLIGHT ROBBERY IN 2 HOURS

Paralakhemundi:(Correspondent) :- In a remarkable display of prompt policing, Prasant Kumar Bhupati, the IIC Model Police Station, Paralakhemundi, solved a Rs. 5 lakh daylight robbery case within two hours of the crime, arresting two interstate accused and recovering the entire stolen cash. The robbery took place on August 1 when M. Surya Rao (58) of Sailada village withdrew Rs. 5 lakh from the SBI Main Branch, Paralakhemundi. A four-member gang, travelling on two motorcycles, cleverly distracted him by scattering currency notes near his parked motorcycle before



snatching the cash bag and fleeing.Immediately after the complaint was lodged, IIC and his team registered a case and launched an intensive investigation. CCTV footage from the bank and nearby areas was examined without delay, enabling police to identify the

suspects and circulate their photographs and vehicle details to neighbouring police stations and district borders.Acting swiftly on the alert, Garabandha Police intercepted one of the motorcycles during naka checking around 5 p.m. Two accused were

arrested, while two others managed to escape. Police recovered the entire robbed amount of Rs. 5,00,000 in sealed bank bundles, besides seizing the motorcycle and other incriminating materials.The arrested accused have been identified as Petla

Devadhanam alias Deva (40) and Goddeti Salman (54), both from Andhra Pradesh. Investigation revealed that the gang had come to Paralakhemundi with a pre-planned strategy to target bank customers carrying large sums of cash. Police suspect their involvement in similar crimes in Odisha and neighbouring states. The two accused have been forwarded to court, while efforts are underway to apprehend the remaining absconding gang members.The swift detection of the case has earned appreciation for the prompt action, coordinated investigation, and professional efficiency of the Paralakhemundi police.

SOUTH EASTERN RAILWAY REGISTERS RECORD SERAP DISPOSAL PERFORMANCE - LEADS ALL ZONAL RAILWAYS

Rourkela (Correspondent) : South Eastern Railway has continued its outstanding performance in scrap disposal during the current financial year by achieving a record scrap sale of ₹201.20 Crore during the first four months (April-July 2026). This is the highest-ever scrap sale achieved by South Eastern Railway during the April-July period of any financial year. The revenue earned from scrap disposal is 31.85% higher than that achieved during the corresponding period of the previous

financial year and 57.80% above the proportionate target for the period. With this achievement, South Eastern Railway is presently leading among all Zonal Railways in scrap disposal revenue and has become the first and only Zonal Railway to cross the 2200 crore mark during the first four months of the current financial year. Scrap disposal is a priority area for Indian Railways as it not only generates substantial revenue but also supports the Government's Swachhta Abhiyan by ensuring cleaner railway premises, better utilization of railway assets

and improved operational efficiency. This remarkable achievement has been possible under the guidance of General Manager, South Eastern Railway, Shri A. K. Jain, who has consistently emphasized the vision of achieving "Zero Scrap" across South Eastern Railway by October 2026. In line with this vision, the Stores Department has undertaken a comprehensive zone-wide mapping and mopping exercise to identify segregate and dispose of accumulated scrap lying in depots, workshops, sheds and other

railway establishments. As a result of these sustained efforts, South Eastern Railway has already achieved "Zero Scrap" status at 15 scrap-generating units up to July 2026. South Eastern Railway remains committed to sustaining this momentum and achieving its target of making all identified scrap-generating units scrap-free by October 2026. These initiatives will continue to strengthen operational efficiency, improve housekeeping standards, optimize asset utilization and contribute significantly to the revenues of Indian Railways.

Patient dies due to doctor's wrong injection

SUBARNAPUR (Correspondent)----It has been alleged that a patient died due to a doctor's wrong injection. There has been a stir in the Subarnapur District Head Quarter Hospital(DHH)due to this. The family of the patient has complained that the

patient died due to a doctor's wrong injection. There was a stir in the hospital after the death. Such a strange incident was witnessed at the Subarnapur District Head Quarter Hospital on Monday. According to the complaint, the body of Prashant

Tripathy of Panisiali village was brought to the Subarnapur District Head Quarter Hospital after he fell ill last night. Prashant died while undergoing treatment there. The family has alleged that the patient died due to a doctor's wrong injection in the hospital

Rourkela Forest Department Steps Up Night Patrols to Monitor Elephant Movement

Rourkela: The Rourkela Forest Department has intensified monitoring of elephant movements in areas falling under the Banki and Panposh forest ranges. As a precautionary measure, the department has ramped up night patrols and tracking operations to closely observe the activities of elephant herds. A joint inspection



was conducted to assess the situation in the Mundajhor-Dalakudar beat, Kusumtola village, and the adjacent

Sonaparvat Reserve Forest. The patrol was led by Divisional Forest Officer (DFO) Ravikant Meena and included

Panposh Sub-Collector Chandrakanth Mallick, the Assistant Conservator of Forests, Range Officers, and other forest department staff. The department has urged residents living near the forest not to venture into the woods at night, to immediately inform the authorities if elephants are sighted, and to strictly adhere to

safety guidelines. Officials stated that the objective of this monitoring and awareness campaign is to prevent human-elephant conflict while ensuring the safety of local residents and the conservation of wildlife. This special surveillance and patrol operation will continue in sensitive areas until the situation returns to normal.

Tamil Nadu Government Acts After Death of 14 Juang PVTG Women

Kantabanji, correspondence : The Tamil Nadu Government has taken strong action following the deaths of 14 Juang PVTG women from Odisha's Keonjhar district in an ammonia gas leak at a seafood processing factory in Tiruvallur district. According to the Action Taken Report submitted to the National Commission for Scheduled Tribes (NCST), criminal cases have been registered against the factory owner and management, a labour supplier has been arrested, the factory has been sealed, and its power supply disconnected after serious violations of industrial safety and labour laws were found.

NOTICE

This is to inform the general public that **Bank of Baroda, Manisahu Chhak Branch, Cuttack** intends to accept the under mentioned property standing in the name of **Mr. Navin Agarwal, S/o: Ved Prakash Agarwal, Chakuleswar, PS: Banki, SRO: Dampada, Dist: Cuttack**, as a security for a Loan/Credit Facility requested by **M/s. GD Industries**. In case anyone has got any right/title/interest/Claims over the undermentioned property, they are advised to approach the Bank within **10 days** along with necessary proof to substantiate their claim.

If no response is received within **10 days**, it is presumed that the property is free of any charge/claim/encumbrance and Bank shall proceed with the mortgage.

Details of Property-1: (along with Survey No./extent/boundary) Equitable mortgage of below mentioned Factory Land & Proposed Building situated at Mouza: Chakuleswar, P.S.: Banki, SRO: Dampada, Dist: Cuttack in the name of promotor **Mr. Navin Agarwal, S/o: Ved Prakash Agarwal, Valued Rs. 413.10 Lakh, Factory land details:** Khata No.: 269/246, 1. Plot No.: 1286, Area: Ac.0.300dec., 2. Plot No.: 1289/1616, Area: Ac.0.140dec., 3. Plot No.: 1282/1612, Area: Ac.1.250dec., 4. Plot No.: 1290/1617, Area: Ac.0.320dec., 5. Plot No.: 1287, Area: Ac.1.900dec., 6. Plot No.: 1288/1615, Area: Ac.0.080dec., 7. Plot No.: 1283/1613, Area: Ac.2.060dec., 8. Plot No.: 1285/1614, Area: Ac.1.460dec., **Total one Khata eight plots, Ac.7.510dec.** Boundary by East: Road, West: Govt. Land corresponds to hal khata No.: 174, Plot No.: 1282,1283,1285,1286,1287,1288,1289 and 1290 Respectively North: Vendor Land, South: Land of Village: Kuspangi, **Property-2:** Extension of Equitable Mortgage of Property standing in the name of **Mr. Navin Agarwal** (Purchased Vide Regd. Sale Deed No.: 1398 dated 11.08.2008) situated at P.S.: Choudwar, P.S. No.: 30, Mouza: Nuapattna, S.R.O: Jagatpur, Tahasil: Tangi Chowdar, Kissam: Gharbari/Residential, Dist: Cuttack, Khata No.: 229, Plot No.: 311/964, Area: Ac.0.93Dec., Boundary by East: Santosh Agarwal, West: Road, North: Nrusingha Deo, South: Gochara, **Property-3:** Extension of equitable mortgage of factory land and building in the name of **R.K. Agro Industries** (Purchased Vide Regd. Sale Deed No.: 1236 dated 17.10.2003) represented through Proprietor- Navin Agarwal described below at Mouza: Kuspangi, PS: Gurudijhatia No: 90, TS: Athagari, No-209, Kissam: Gharbari/Residential, Dist: Cuttack, Khata No.: 265/254, Plot No.: 1086/1608, Area: Ac.2.230Dec., Boundary by East: Proposed Road, West: Plot No.:1076, North: Part Plot No.: 1086, South: Part Plot No.:1086, **Property-3:** Extension of equitable mortgage of factory land and building standing in the name of **Mr. Navin Agarwal** (Purchased Vide Regd. Sale Deed No.: 544 dated 26.04.2010) at Mouza: Kuspangi, PS: Gurudijhatia No-90, Kissam: Gharbari/Residential, SRO: Athagari No-209, Dist: Cuttack, Khata No.: 265/304, Plot No.: 1086/1672, Area: Ac.1.060dec., Boundary by East: Proposed Road, West: Road, North: Proposed Road, South: Part Plot No.: 1086, **Property-4:** Extension of equitable of factory land and building in the name of **Mr. Navin Agarwal, S/o: Ved Prakash Agarwal**(Purchased Vide Regd. Sale Deed No.: 1463 dated 27.09.2010) at Mouza: Kuspangi, PS: Gurudijhatia, No-90, Kissam: Gharbari/Residential, SRO: Athagari No: 209, Dist: Cuttack, Khata No.: 265/313, Plot No.: 1086/1594/1685, Area: Ac.0.300dec., Boundary by East: Vendors Road, West: Nuapattna Village Boundary, North: Navin Agarwal, South: Vendor (Dr. Rajkumar Santuka), standing in the name of **Mr. Navin Agarwal, Branch: Bank Of Baroda, Manisahu Chhak Branch, Cuttack, Contact No.: 8249441823, Advocate Name: Dipika Shukla, Mob.: 9438301446**

EDITORIAL

National Pride and Democratic Rights

A nation's true strength lies not only in its military power, economic progress, or geographical boundaries, but also in the values upheld by its citizens. National pride and democratic rights are often portrayed as opposing ideas, yet they are, in reality, complementary pillars of a healthy democracy. A nation flourishes when its citizens enjoy their constitutional freedoms while also respecting the dignity, unity, and integrity of their country.

India, the world's largest democracy, is founded on the principles of justice, liberty, equality, and fraternity. The Constitution guarantees every citizen fundamental rights, including freedom of speech and expression, equality before the law, freedom of religion, and the right to education. These rights empower people to participate in governance, express their opinions, question policies, and contribute to public discourse. However, every right is accompanied by a corresponding responsibility. Freedom is meaningful only when exercised with wisdom, respect, and accountability.

National pride is much more than symbolic acts such as saluting the national flag or singing the national anthem. It reflects a deep commitment to the nation's constitutional values, cultural diversity, democratic institutions, and collective progress. Citizens demonstrate genuine patriotism by obeying the law, protecting public property, paying taxes honestly, preserving the environment, and contributing positively to society.

One of the cornerstones of democracy is the freedom of expression. The ability to express different opinions, debate public issues, and offer constructive criticism strengthens democratic governance. Constructive criticism helps governments improve policies and become more accountable. At the same time, freedom of expression should be exercised responsibly. Speech that promotes violence, hatred, misinformation, or threatens national security undermines both democracy and social harmony.

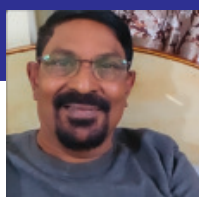
In today's digital era, social media has amplified every citizen's voice. While digital platforms have expanded opportunities for participation and awareness, they have also made the spread of misinformation, fake news, and divisive content easier than ever before. Responsible digital citizenship requires verifying information before sharing it, engaging respectfully in discussions, and using technology to promote knowledge rather than conflict.

National pride is also reflected in the everyday contributions of citizens. Students who pursue excellence in education, scientists who make groundbreaking discoveries, entrepreneurs who create employment, artists who preserve cultural heritage, athletes who represent the country internationally, and volunteers who serve their communities all contribute to enhancing the nation's reputation. Patriotism is demonstrated through actions that improve society and inspire future generations.

Educational institutions and families play a crucial role in nurturing both democratic values and national pride. Young people should be taught not only about their constitutional rights but also about their fundamental duties. Respect for diversity, tolerance, critical thinking, civic responsibility, and peaceful dialogue are essential qualities of responsible citizens. These values strengthen democracy and foster national unity.

India's greatest strength lies in its diversity. People of different languages, religions, cultures, and traditions coexist within one democratic framework. This diversity should not be viewed as a challenge but as a source of strength. Respecting differences, resolving disagreements through dialogue, and working together for the common good reinforce both democratic ideals and national solidarity.

Great Language Is Not Necessary to Create Great Literature



TRILOCHAN SAHU

The beauty of its language has long been used to judge literature. Flowing sentences, rare words, and elegant phrasing often receive praise, while simple language is sometimes dismissed as plain, even ordinary. Yet this assumption is incomplete. Great literature is not created by language alone. It is created by insight, honesty, imagination, emotional depth, and the power to reveal human life memorably. Language is the vehicle, but literature becomes great because of the mind and heart behind it.

Many readers confuse linguistic ornament with literary value. A writer may use elaborate metaphors and still produce a hollow text. Another may write in direct, unadorned sentences and still leave a lasting mark on history. The difference lies not in verbal decoration but in literary force. When a story or poem speaks clearly to fear, love, loss, injustice, memory, or hope, it enters the realm of lasting literature. Greatness, therefore, is not measured by the complexity of vocabulary but by the depth of human truth the work carries.

The history of world literature supports this idea. Some of the most respected works in the world are not admired because they are difficult. They are admired because they are alive. Folk tales, epics, oral traditions, prison writings, letters, diaries, and translated classics have all shaped literary culture. Their power often comes from voice, rhythm, conviction, and authenticity rather than polished literary display. Even in modern scholarship, the relationship between literature and language is treated as a shared one, where language is the medium and literature is the artistic transformation

of that medium.

The claim becomes clearer when we consider that language itself does not guarantee meaning. A sentence can be grammatically perfect and still feel empty. By contrast, a rough or simple sentence can cut deeper than polished prose if it carries genuine emotion or sharp observation. Readers remember not only beautiful wording, but also unforgettable moments - a mother's grief, a child's fear, a nation's injustice, a lonely person's silence. These experiences do not need fancy language to become powerful. They need accuracy, feeling, and honesty.

This is why translation matters so much in literature. Readers around the world often encounter great works through translation rather than the original language. If literary value depended only on a single language's elegance, translated works would lose their power. Yet they do not. Their themes, imagery, moral vision, and emotional intelligence continue to move people across cultures. That is evidence that literature is larger than language alone. It can survive linguistic change because its core strength lies in human meaning.

At the same time, this argument should not insult language. Language still matters deeply. Weak or careless writing can damage a strong idea. Style gives literature its texture, music, and rhythm. But style is not the master; it is the servant. A truly skilled writer understands when to be poetic and when to be plain. Sometimes the most effective sentence is not the most beautiful one, but the most exact one. In literature, precision can be more powerful than ornament. Silence can be more powerful than explanation. Simplicity can be more powerful than display.

This principle is especially important in journalism, essays, memoirs, and socially engaged writing. A writer who wants to tell the truth about society often

needs clarity more than embellishment. Readers trust writing that sounds sincere and direct. When language tries too hard to impress, it may lose credibility. When it speaks plainly but thoughtfully, it often gains authority. That is why many serious writers prefer disciplined language over decorative language. They are not avoiding art; they are protecting it.

The best literature, then, is not language dressed up to look important. It is experience shaped into meaning. It may be written in simple words or refined prose, in formal style or conversational tone. What matters is whether the work enlarges the reader's understanding of life. If it does, it is literature worth remembering. Great language can enhance great literature, but it is not the only path to greatness. Sometimes the simplest words carry the deepest truth. In the end, literature should be judged by endurance, insight, and human resonance. A work that remains alive in memory does so not because its vocabulary was impressive, but because its vision was unforgettable. The finest writing does not merely sound good. It means something, and it means it honestly. That is why great language is not necessary to create great literature; great substance, truth, and artistic intention are enough to make language extraordinary.

Publication angle

For magazine publication, this piece can be positioned as a reflective literary essay with a modern relevance angle. The title may be kept as it is, or slightly sharpened to: Why Great Literature Does Not Depend on Great Language.

Literary greatness is not born from ornament; it is born from truth, vision, and the courage to say something that matters.

In literature, language is the instrument; meaning is the music.

The time has come to abolish reservation



Dr. Jyotiranjana Champatiray

Recently, a Supreme Court Justice made a significant observation regarding reservation. She questioned why the children of educated, well-earning parents holding good jobs should receive reservation benefits. She stated that the objective of reservation was to uplift the backward sections of society, not to extend benefits to every family member across generations. If an individual in a family secures a government job and the family's economic status improves, why should other members continue to receive reservation? Following this remark, the debate on reservation has reignited, and demands for its complete abolition are gaining momentum. Opponents argue that the system has become entirely irrelevant and should be uprooted completely. Recently, the 'Cockroach Janta Party' (CJP) staged a protest at Jantar Mantar against paper leaks. They demanded the resignation of Education Minister Dharmendra Pradhan—a demand that was eventually met. During the protest, some students called for the removal of reservation, but their voices went unheard. CJP leaders were chanting "Jai Bhim," making it clear that they would not speak against reservation. Meanwhile, a woman who threw ink at CJP founder Abhijit Dipke stated that reservation is the biggest issue facing students. She argued that it hinders talented students from securing seats in government colleges even after clearing the NEET exam with good marks; therefore, reservation should be completely abolished. Separately, some students raised demands for the total abolition of reservation during debates on TV channels, asserting that the system has crushed the future of many students. They have not even been able to secure admission to a government college.

The reservation in independent India is considered to have begun around 1950. Following the implementation of the Constitution of India, reservation in education and government jobs was granted to Scheduled Castes (SC) and Scheduled Tribes (ST) under Articles 15(4) and 16(4). Subsequently, in 1990,

based on the recommendations of the Mandal Commission, the then government implemented a 27 percent reservation for Other Backward Classes (OBC). In 1992, the Supreme Court, in the 'Indra Sawhney' case, capped the total reservation limit at 50 percent and introduced the concept of the "creamy layer" within the OBC category. Since the inception of reservation, successive governments have consistently sought to increase its scope—a move driven largely by vote-bank politics. No political party wanted to risk losing SC and ST votes; indeed, parties were willing to risk the nation's interests to secure this support.

Recently, a high-ranking retired army officer made strong remarks regarding reservation. He questioned whether someone who had faced past exploitation should continue to receive reservation benefits for the next 700 or 7,000 years. Would such a person only pursue education and secure employment if reservation were available? Is it right to implement a flawed system—such as reservation in promotions—even after a person has already secured a job? How long should such injustice be allowed to persist? It is worth noting that there is no reservation system in the Indian armed forces—a fact that has earned them global respect and recognition for their prowess. Here, any individual can rise from the rank of a soldier to an officer through education and merit, provided they meet the army's established criteria; there is absolutely no reservation involved in this process. Experts state that reservation was not implemented in the army because it posed a risk of weakening the force. This raises the question: why, then, was reservation implemented across the country? Was there no risk of the nation itself being weakened?

What has the country gained from reservation? Ambedkar had advocated for reservation in the name of social justice. Initially, the provision was made for reservation to last for 10 years, subject to a subsequent review. While reservation was implemented, that review has never taken place; instead, political parties have consistently extended it. Reservation applies to both politics and government jobs in the country, yet today, these are the very sectors in the driest state. Due to reservation, the country is largely run by weak

politicians and an incompetent bureaucracy, while educated individuals are forced to remain mere spectators. The state of the healthcare system is even worse; a global health organization has stated that over 56 percent of doctors in India are unqualified—lacking both proper education and adequate clinical practice. These 56 percent are individuals who became doctors through reservation or by paying hefty donations.

The biggest question is: how can reservation be abolished? Firstly, the time to review the reservation system—a review that never actually took place—has long since passed. Secondly, there is no longer any scope for tweaking the way reservation is implemented; the only option now is to completely abolish all forms of reservation. The only measure that should be taken is to provide free education to any student from a disadvantaged background, regardless of their caste or social class. No other concessions should be granted. There should be no reservation of any kind in politics, employment, or any other sector. It is essential to make the country free from reservation. How long will we remain witnesses to the injustice faced by talented individuals and the resulting brain drain? The Constitution speaks of equality and equal opportunities; however, both were undermined the moment the constitutional provision for reservation was introduced.

It is now imperative to completely abolish all forms of reservation. Any delay in doing so will only cause further harm to the country. To achieve this, we must organize large-scale, peaceful protests and movements. There must be no room for violence in these efforts. We need to save the country, and this can be done peacefully. By adopting the path of 'Satyagraha' (peaceful resistance), we must compel the government to formulate rules for abolishing reservation. This must happen as soon as possible. We must understand that saving the country is far more important than preserving any specific caste. Whether a caste survives or not, the nation must endure. To ensure the country's progress and safeguard its talent, we must envision and realize an India free from reservation. For this, each of us must contribute in our own way—no matter how small the effort—towards this goal.

Why is it necessary to take action against “fake religious leaders”?



Dr Satywan Saurabh

India has always been known as the land of saints, sages, and spiritual wisdom. For centuries, holy men and women have inspired others to live lives of compassion, truth, self-discipline, and service. The principles of various reformers and saints have profoundly influenced Indian society, inspiring people to rise above ignorance, superstition, and social constraints. Faith holds a paramount place in the lives of millions of Indians, for it is purity that is the ultimate reality.

But the country has seen the rise of individuals who exploit religious sentiments to satisfy their personal needs, labeled "religious gurus." They leverage so-called "spiritual language" to establish empires of wealth, influence, and unquestioned power. In numerous cases in India, such

women have been accused or convicted of serious crimes such as sexual exploitation, defrauding property owners, illegal land acquisition, intimidation, and other crimes. This not only makes these practices illegal but also tarnishes the reputation of those who practice spiritual practices religiously.

Therefore, any action taken by any authority against someone who uses religion as a cover for criminal acts should be considered part of justice and the rule of law, not an act of persecution against someone's religion. In a constitutional democracy, no citizen is above the law. There should be no free rein for wrongdoing, and no one should be exempt from the law based on their religious identity.

The Constitution of India recognizes the right of all its citizens to practice religious faith, religious customs, and their propagation as a privilege. This freedom is also subject to

other constitutionally recognized limitations of public order, morality, and health. The Constitution provides for religious freedom, but does not permit criminal activities under the guise of religion. Therefore, the government has a constitutional duty, not an obligation, to ban the activities of most unauthorized spiritual leaders, self-proclaimed or "spiritual" leaders, and to investigate cases of financial irregularities or other illegal conduct in their activities.

Religious exploitation poses one of the greatest threats to people by hypocritical religious leaders. Suffering from serious illnesses, struggling with emotional or mental stress, or facing financial hardship, unsuspecting individuals are drawn to charismatic figures who promise miraculous cures, sudden wealth, and miraculous, supernatural solutions to life's problems. This exploitation can result in financial loss, emotional distress, or worse, lifelong suffering for victims and their families.

Unfortunately, people

aren't the only ones who spread superstition. Society, in fact, is also responsible for fostering a reluctance to question and think critically. Faith is not opposed to reason. True spirituality fosters humility, empathy, and introspection, while blind obedience stifles critical thinking. The problem with a healthy democracy is that it requires citizens who are discerning when it comes to spiritual guidance and manipulation.

This has become even more difficult with modern technology. Nowadays, a self-proclaimed religious leader can garner millions of followers on social media, who fall prey to carefully crafted stories, emotional manipulation, and absurd claims. Many people equate popularity with credibility. Videos, testimonials, and sensational content can create the illusion of divinity without any evidence or testimony. Therefore, digital literacy, along with traditional education, is becoming increasingly important to protect citizens from being fooled.

The media bears a tremendous responsibility. Over the past few years, investigative journalism has played a crucial role in exposing several high-profile cases of abuse of power by self-proclaimed spiritual leaders. At the same time, media organizations must exercise extreme caution in presenting fair, balanced, and emotion-free reporting. When journalism is based on evidence rather than speculation, it further strengthens public trust.

The police must also be impartial and neutral. All allegations must be investigated, and every accused has the right to due process of law. Public pressure and politics should not influence action; it should be based only on credible evidence. Similarly, innocent religious leaders and religious institutions should not be attacked or harassed simply because of their beliefs and popularity. There must be a balance between punishing the guilty and protecting the innocent.

It is also noteworthy that thousands of religious and

spiritual organizations in India are doing commendable work in areas such as education, healthcare, disaster management, environmental protection, and helping the underprivileged. They have established schools, hospitals, community kitchens, and charitable programs that benefit millions. These are valuable contributions and deserve recognition. This is not a fight against religion or spirituality—it is a fight against crime and exploitation in the name of religion or spirituality.

Schools have a significant responsibility to inculcate scientific temper, constitutional values, and moral values ??in children. Indonesia and India have included scientific temper as one of the fundamental duties of citizens in their respective constitutions. Encouraging critical thinking does not cast doubt on any religion; rather, it increases sensitivity to selfish and distorted individuals who misuse religion for their own selfish ends.

Civil society organizations,

responsible spiritual teachers, religious scholars, community leaders, and others can also play a vital role in ensuring greater transparency, accountability, and integrity in spiritual organizations. Greater openness, better regulation, and increased income will increase trust and maintain the authenticity of genuine spiritual organizations.

In any case, the problem is not limited to hypocritical "religious leaders." It is a broader issue involving faith, freedom, accountability, and the rule of law. A tolerant and constitutionally conscious society is better, broader, and stronger. On the other hand, if crime is fueled by the spiritual activities of believers and these believers are allowed to become criminals, both democracy and faith are weakened.

India's spiritual heritage has endured for ages because it is based on truth, compassion, and moral accountability, not fear, deceit, and cult of personality. Preserving this heritage is

essential, and it requires the courage to challenge those who derive personal power from the misuse of sacred symbols.

Its purpose should never be to destroy faith, but rather to preserve its sanctity. This is nothing to be proud of or afraid of, as legitimate investigations are never appropriate for a true saint or spiritual leader. On the contrary, strict action should be taken against fraudulent individuals, thereby protecting the authenticity of religious traditions and giving religious institutions credibility among the public.

A healthy democracy must not only make it clear to the public that their religion is held in the highest regard, but also clearly communicate to them that the rule of law must prevail. In a just society, where everyone is treated equally regardless of social status, political power, or religious belief, both democracy and spirituality will flourish. Therefore, India must continue on this journey.

Mass Maha Rudrabhishek Organised with Great Devotion in Bhubaneswar

Bhubaneswar :-(Correspondent):- A grand and spiritually enriching Mass Maha Rudrabhishek was successfully organised at Terapanth Bhawan, Bhubaneswar, under the joint aegis of Shree Harisatsang Samiti and FTS Mahila Samiti. The event witnessed the enthusiastic participation of a large number of devotees and yajmans. The programme commenced with Vedic



rituals and sacred chanting, followed by the Maha Rudrabhishek of Lord Shiva under the guidance of learned priests. The atmosphere resonated with Vedic

hymns, Shiva stotras and chants of "Har Har Mahadev," creating a deeply devotional ambience. The organisers ensured smooth arrangements for the rituals, seating of devotees, and distribution of Prasad and Mahaprasad. The committees expressed gratitude to all devotees, priests, donors, volunteers and supporters for making the event a grand success. The programme was conducted under the leadership of Mr. Lalchand Mohita, President of Shree Harisatsang Samiti, and Mrs. Shweta Agrawal, President of FTS Mahila Samiti.

World Commerce Day Celebrated at Kharasrota College

J A J P U R (Correspondent): World Commerce Day was celebrated with great enthusiasm by the Department of Commerce of Kharasrota College, Singhpur.

On this occasion, the meeting was presided over by the Principal of the college, Dr. Sudhanshu Kumar Das. The founding faculty member of the Department of Commerce and retired Professor, Ashok Kumar Panda, attended as the Chief Guest and highlighted the necessity,



importance, and relevance of commerce in the global context. Former faculty member of the department and retired Professor Dr. Kirtan Bihari Samal, who attended as the keynote speaker, emphasized that the economic progress of

anation is closely linked with the development of commerce. He stated that the stronger a country's commercial system, the more prosperous and developed that nation becomes. The Guest of Honour, Apurba Ranjan Rout Ray, Manager of

Odisha Gramya Bank, advised the students to contribute to the nation's progress while giving priority to developing their professional skills. Head of the Department, Kailash Chandra Mishra, introduced the guests and elaborated on the significance of World Commerce Day. Head of the Department of Sanskrit, Prof. Purna Chandra Samal, and Head of the Department of Chemistry, Prof. Meenaketan Tripathy, also spoke on the importance and relevance of the day.

Success students felicitated on the occasion of World Trade Day

Malkangiri correspondent :The World Trade Day was celebrated with great pomp and show by the Department of Commerce of Malkangiri College under the chairmanship of the college principal Dr. Chittaranjan Barik. Suresh Somani, President of Malkangiri District Trade Association, was the chief guest and expressed his opinion that it is impossible to live without trade. Vinod Kumar Bisoi, Chief Manager of State Bank of India, Malkangiri branch, was the chief speaker and delivered a

speech that the relationship between banks and trade is very close. Debendranath Das, Finance Officer, All India Education Mission, Malkangiri, was the guest of honor and, as an old student of the Department of Commerce, he praised all the students present. The purpose of celebrating the first Monday of August as International Trade Day is to honour the officers and employees working in the commerce department, strengthen the economy of India and promote trade. Main Objectives of the Day The program was started

under the leadership of the Head of the Department, Dr. Ranjan Kumar Swain and he delivered the welcome speech and introduced the guests. Ipsita Das conducted the stage while Dhalrekha Mishra, Manas Kumar Padhi assisted. More than 300 commerce students participated in the program and made the program a success. At the beginning of the program, Chinmayi Bhuniyasang the welcome song. A lamp was lit by offering garlands to the photo of Mahalakshmi. A food festival was organized by the students on this occasion.

KALAHANDI :JOINT PUBLIC GRIEVANCE AND REDRESS CAMP HELD

Bhabanipatna :-(Correspondent) With the joint effort of Kalahandi Collector and Superintendent of Police public grievance and redress camp was held on Monday the first week August 2026 at Bhabanipatna and various cases on different issue were resolved. Literally, aftermath of monsoon mayhem, as the camp carries most important and high values for the people of this district. On this parameter the camp was conducted accordingly. Attending, the redress camp- apart from Collector and



Superintendent of Police various district level officers has resolved several issues related different interest related matter. As per the information revealed from the source of held joint public grievance and redress camp- the data indicates that

around 168 petition on different interest was registered and 17 number of cases was disposed on the spot. Among registered total 168 cases 132 are personal interest in nature rest 24 are common interest related that to rural

problems. The data shows, no, such cases were registered seeking financial help from the fund of Red Cross Assistance figure shows except 17 needy persons seeks monetary help from Chief Minister Relief Fund (CMRF).

Thousands Throng Umerkote as Pendrani Yatra Celebrates Tribal Faith and Heritage

U M A R K O T , (Correspondent) Thousands of devotees from across Odisha and neighbouring Chhattisgarh converged on Umerkote in Nabarangpur district on Monday to take part in the two-day annual Pendrani Yatra, one of the region's most significant religious and cultural festivals. The festival, dedicated to Goddess Pendrani, commemorates the courage and sacrifice of a woman revered in local folklore for laying down her life while resisting injustice. Over the years, she came to



be worshipped as a deity, symbolising justice, bravery and the triumph of righteousness over oppression. A major attraction of the yatra was the unique ritual in which male devotees dressed as Goddess Pendrani and took part in colourful

ceremonial processions accompanied by traditional music and dance. The age-old custom, rooted in the tribal traditions of the region, is considered a mark of reverence for feminine power and continues to draw large crowds every year. The temple and its surroundings were adorned with elaborate decorations as devotional songs, cultural performances and folk dances created a vibrant festive atmosphere. Devotees offered prayers seeking peace, prosperity and good health for their

families and communities. The district administration, in coordination with the police, put in place extensive arrangements for security, crowd control, traffic regulation, drinking water, sanitation and medical assistance to ensure the smooth and peaceful conduct of the festival. Beyond its religious significance, Pendrani Yatra remains a vital cultural celebration that showcases the rich tribal heritage, folklore and traditions of Umerkote while attracting devotees and visitors from across the region.

Odisha flood impact: Vegetable prices continue to rise in Kataka

Kataka Correspondent): Vegetable prices continue to remain high across Odisha, leaving consumers worried as household expenses keep rising. Despite expectations of a rate drop, there has been no relief over the past several days. In most retail markets, almost all commonly used vegetables are selling above Rs 50 per kilogram. Consumers at Chhatra Bazaar in Kataka are feeling the pinch as vegetable prices continue to remain high. Most vegetables are being sold above Rs 50 per kg, with staples such as beans, pointed gourd, capsicum and tomatoes witnessing a sharp rise in retail prices. Consumers

visiting these markets are expressing concern over the soaring prices, saying they are finding it difficult to buy vegetables in the same quantity as before. Many families have started reducing their purchases and are buying only essential vegetables to manage their monthly expenses. According to vendors, the sharp increase in prices is mainly due to a fall in supply. Recent heavy rainfall and floods in several parts of Odisha have damaged standing vegetable crops, affecting production and reducing the arrival of fresh vegetables in wholesale markets. Transportation disruptions have also slowed the movement of goods, adding to the

shortage and pushing up retail prices. Vegetables such as tomato, brinjal, okra, pointed gourd, beans, bitter gourd, green chilli and capsicum are among those witnessing a major rise in prices. A vendor from Kataka's Chhatra Bazar said, "Customers think vendors are increasing the prices, but that is not the case. We are getting vegetables at higher prices from the wholesale market. Transportation has also become expensive due to the flood situation. If the supply improves in the coming days, prices are expected to come down." With no immediate drop in prices, both buyers and sellers expect the situation to continue for the next few days.

Youth dies due to electrocution in Golanthara

G o p a l p u r , correspondent): A complaint has been filed at the Golanthara police station regarding the death of a youth due to electrocution in Harijan Sahi of Golanthara village under Golanthara police station. The deceased has been identified as Sanatan Das (40) of Harijan Sahi, police said. According to the information received, it started raining on Monday at 3 pm when the deceased Sanatan was at home. While Sanatan was taking out clothes that were drying outside the house, he came in contact with electricity and fell unconscious due to electrocution. Some people from street rescued him and admitted him to the MKCG Hospital. The doctor declared Sanatan dead there. After the deceased Sanatan's nephew Akash Das filed a complaint at the Golanthara police station, the police registered a case at Police Station . Investigating officer Gunanidhi Rout informed that a case of unnatural death was registered on 31/26 and is investigating the incident.

Paradip Rotary Club celebrates Silver Jubilee & 26th Foundation Day

Paradip (Correspondent) - The Rotary Club of Paradip recently celebrated its 26th Foundation day Ceremony and Silver Jubilee at Hotel Mayfair. Retired IAS Officer and District Governor (District 3262) Rtn. Anil Kumar Samal attended as the Chief Guest, alongside IPDG Rtn. Manoj Kumar Tripathy and First Lady Subrata Samal as Guests of Honour. During the event, outgoing President Rtn. Susant Kumar Bag handed over charge to incoming President Rtn. Akshaya Chandra Sutar,



while outgoing Secretary Rtn. Biplab Kumar Jena handed over the responsibilities to Rtn. Er. Kali Prasad Mishra. A total of 11 new members were also included into the club. The subsequent Silver Jubilee session was graced by Paradip Port Authority Chairman P.L. Harnadh, Niranjan B e h e r a , A D M ,

Paradip, Ajinkya Baburao Mane (IPS), ASP and Basanta Biswal, Chairman, Paradip Municipality. All the guests praised the club's humanitarian social work and released the commemorative Silver Jubilee souvenir, "Paradipika," while felicitation was extended to all past presidents. All the events were

coordinated by Rtn. Dr. Surendra Mohan Mishra and vote of thanks proposed by Rtn. Dr. Prasant Kumar Mohapatra. Silver Jubilee Chairman Rtn. Sutar shared his vision for the coming year. The historic event was made successful through the generous support and efforts of Dr. Durga Prasad Sethy, Capt. Alekh Ch. Sahoo, Capt. Sushanta Bag, Biplab Jena, Deepak Kumar Sarangi, Harihar Dash, Dr. Alok Lenka, Pratap Ch. Mathan, Sudarsan Swain, and other club members.

State Tourism Department Principal Secretary visits Harishankar, reviews proposed development projects Visited the water spring

Patnagarh - (Correspondent) State Tourism Department Principal Secretary Balwant Singh visited Harishankar, a major holy area and tourist destination of Khaprakhol block in Balangir district, on Monday. On this occasion, Harishankar visited the temple complex, parking area, seating area for devotees, berrigating, water spring etc. Similarly, Harishankar supervised and reviewed the proposed projects for development around the temple. He emphasized on the need to start the work immediately and spoke about the protection and cleanliness of natural beauty. During the visit, Forest Department



Bhawanipatna Regional Chief Conservator of Forests santosh kumar Joshi, ADM Dr. Vijayanand Sethi, District Tourism Officer Talina Pradhan, Patnagarh Deputy Collector Sunil Kumar Meher, Kantabanji Construction Division Inspection Engineer E. Gyan Ranjan Naik, BDO

Bibekanand Sarangi, Tehsildar Satya Sundar Rautray, Debottar Committee Member Shashi Pujari, Abhay Tripathi, Padma Kumar Singh Bariha, Police SI Narayan Sahu, ACF Arvind Naik, forester Sudhir Kumar Jena, Construction Department Junior Engineer Amit

Kumar Samal, Temple Manager Gupteshwar Kuanr and other officers and employees of various departments were present.

EAST COAST RAILWAY

Tender Notice No.: ST-OT-TELE-BLOGS-KUR-580, Dt.: 30.07.2026

Name of Work: TELECOM RELATED WORKS IN CONNECTION WITH CONSTRUCTION OF CREW LOBBY, RPF POST, OFFICE BUILDINGS, CONFERENCE HALL-CUM-OFFICERS' REST HOUSE, TRAINING FACILITIES AND SSE/RD/VEHICLE DEPOT AT KHURDA ROAD (KUR) UNDER KHURDA ROAD DIVISION.

Tender Value: ₹95,63,544.89, **EMD:** ₹1,91,300/-.

Bidding Start Date: 07.08.2026, **Tender Closing Date and Time:** at 1100 hrs. of 21.08.2026.

No manual offers sent by Post/ Courier/ Fax or in person accepted against such e-tenders even if these are submitted on firm's letter head and received in time. All such manual offers shall be considered invalid and shall be rejected summarily without any consideration.

Complete information including e-tender documents of the above e-tender is available in website: www.epc.gov.in

Note: The prospective bidders are advised to revisit the website 15 days before the date of closing of tender to note any changes/ corrigenda issued by this tender.

Sr. Divisional Signal & Telecom Engineer, PR-342/R/26-27 Khurda Road

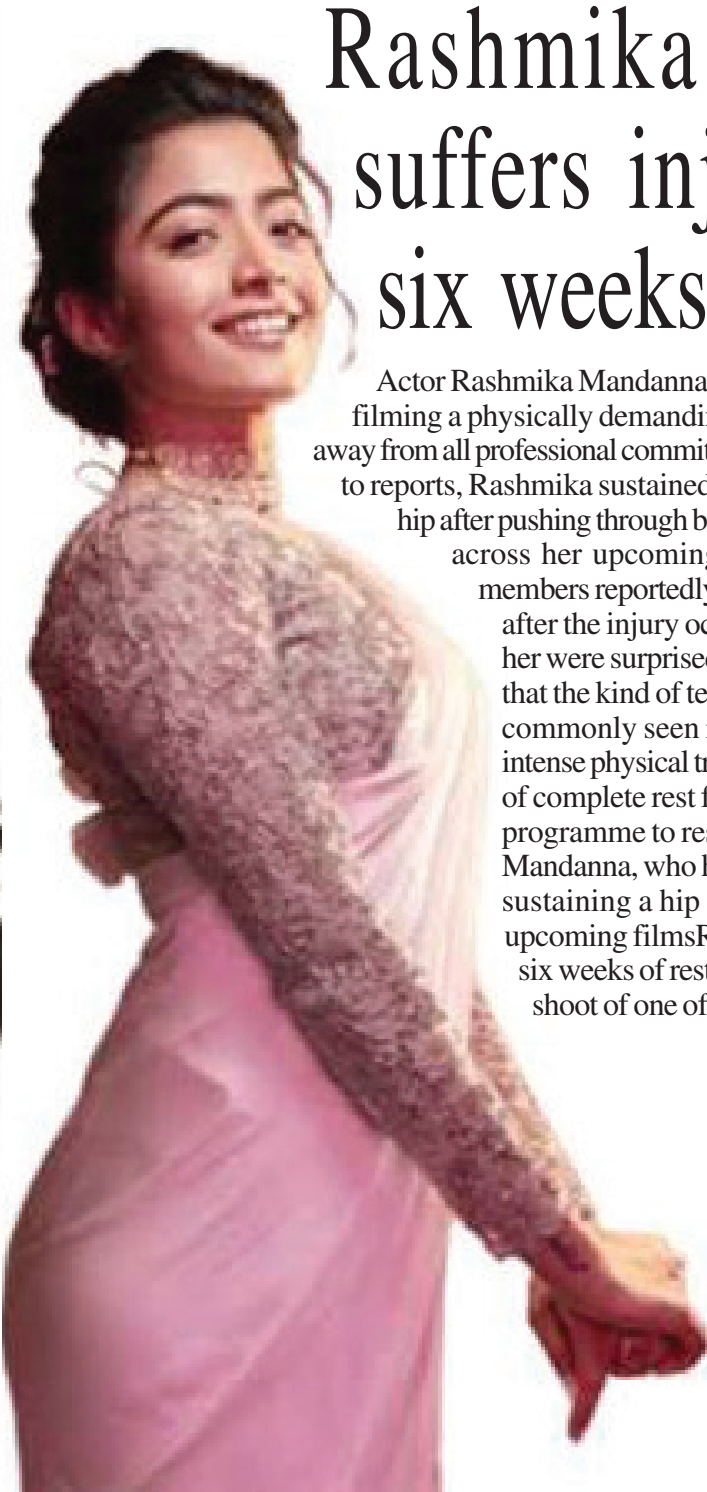
Alliance: Riteish Ki Naukri Khatre Mein: Salman Khan takes playful dig

The highly-awaited episode of Alliance is set to get a star-studded twist as Salman Khan finally makes a special appearance on the reality show to support his younger brother, Sohail Khan. Even before the episode has aired, a newly released promo has grabbed fans' attention, especially for Salman's funny remark that many believe was a playful dig at 'Lock Upp 2.' The promo begins with Sohail Khan looking upset after a difficult day inside the house. He is seen kicking a door, leaving fellow contestant Kushal Tandon worried. Moments later, the house is shaken by a "System Breached" alert before Salman Khan walks in, surprising all the contestants. Salman warmly hugs Sohail, who admits that the day had been overwhelming. Sohail says, "I freaked out today." Trying to lighten the mood, Salman turns to the contestants and jokingly asks, "Koi stress to nahi de rahe ho na?" However, it was Salman's next comment that quickly became the biggest talking point. In a humorous moment, he joked, "I think Riteish Deshmukh ki naukri khatre mein lag rahi hai. (Riteish Deshmukh's job seems to be in danger)." The remark soon led many fans on social media to believe that Salman was taking a light-hearted swipe at 'Lock Upp 2,' which is hosted by Riteish Deshmukh and Farah Khan. Although Salman did not mention the show by name, viewers were quick to connect the joke with the ongoing competition between the two reality shows. 'Alliance' and 'Lock Upp 2' premiered around the same time and are currently streaming on different platforms. While Alliance is available on Amazon Prime Video, 'Lock Upp 2' is streaming on Netflix.



Rashmika Mandanna suffers injury, advised six weeks of rest

Actor Rashmika Mandanna has suffered a serious hip injury while filming a physically demanding dance sequence, forcing her to step away from all professional commitments for the next six weeks. According to reports, Rashmika sustained a complete tendon detachment in her hip after pushing through back-to-back action and dance schedules across her upcoming films Ranabaali and Mysaa. Crew members reportedly rushed Rashmika to a nearby hospital after the injury occurred on set. Doctors who examined her were surprised by the severity of the damage, stating that the kind of tendon detachment she suffered is more commonly seen in professional athletes who undergo intense physical training. She has been advised six weeks of complete rest followed by a structured rehabilitation programme to restore strength and mobility. Rashmika Mandanna, who has been advised six weeks of rest after sustaining a hip injury during the shoot of one of her upcoming films Rashmika Mandanna has been advised six weeks of rest after sustaining a hip injury during the shoot of one of her upcoming films.



Choosing between chemical vs. physical sunscreens: Understanding the difference



One of the most crucial pieces of advice in this weather is using sunscreen. Sun protection is not just about preventing sunburn; it's about safeguarding your skin against harmful UV radiation, which can lead to premature aging, skin cancer, and other dermatological issues. However, with the multitude of sunscreen options available on the market, choosing the right one can be overwhelming. Let's break down the differences between physical and chemical sunscreens to help you make an informed decision.

Chemical Sunscreens:

Chemical sunscreens contain organic compounds like avobenzone and oxybenzone, which absorb UV radiation and convert it into heat, preventing it from penetrating the skin. These sunscreens offer excellent cosmetic appeal, as they blend seamlessly into the skin and can be combined with moisturizers and makeup. They are also water-resistant, making them ideal for outdoor activities. Some individuals may experience skin sensitivity to chemical

sunscreens, particularly those with reactive or allergy-prone skin. There have been concerns about the absorption of chemical sunscreen ingredients into the bloodstream, although many of the compounds used today have been deemed safe by regulatory agencies.

Choosing the Right Sunscreen:

When selecting a sunscreen, it's essential to consider your specific needs and preferences. For individuals engaging in water activities or sports, a water-resistant chemical sunscreen may be the best option. Those with sensitive skin may opt for a physical sunscreen to minimize irritation.

Many sunscreens now offer a combination of physical and chemical properties, catering to a wide range of needs. These hybrid formulas provide the best of both worlds, offering broad-spectrum protection while addressing concerns like white cast and skin compatibility.

Sunscreen is a vital component of any skincare routine. Whether you choose a physical, chemical, or hybrid formula, the most crucial factor is consistency in application. Remember to apply sunscreen generously and reapply every two hours, especially when outdoors. By

Indians are eating too much salt and it's quite harmful; experts on what to eat and avoid for reducing intake

Indians are consuming 8g of salt per day exceeding the recommended daily intake limit of 5g said a study published in the journal Nature Portfolio. The high salt diet may be putting us at a high risk of many health disorders from high blood pressure, stomach ulcers to cardiovascular issues. Excessive salt intake can also affect kidney function. While some amount of salt is important for important function of the body, too much of it on a regular basis may lead to many chronic diseases. It is important to cut salt from the diet and consume home-cooked food instead of store-bought as packaged food like namkeens, canned vegetables, pickles, biscuits, potato chips have high amounts of sodium which could be harmful to health. High sodium foods that can be harmful to health Dr Agarwal says it's not just savoury dishes that can contribute significantly to your daily sodium intake, baked goods may also do the damage."Take a closer look at

your favourite bread or pastry recipe ingredients and you'll likely find added salt to enhance taste and texture. Even whole wheat bread can harbour high levels of sodium due to added preservatives. Namkeens, canned vegetables, pickles, biscuits, potato chips, and even flavoured popcorn often come packed with excessive amounts of salt for increased flavour appeal. These snacks make it effortless to consume large quantities of sodium without realizing it and contribute heavily to your overall intake throughout the day," says Dr Agarwal. "One often overlooked source of hidden sodium is condiments, Sauces, Ketchup, Barbecue sauce,

Prasad recipe of Sabudana Khichdi

Ingredients:

For Soaking
Sabudana (sago) – 1 cup
Water – 1 cup
Salt – a generous pinch
Peanuts (skinless) – ½ cup
Ghee – 2 tbsp
Cumin seeds – 1 tsp
Green chilli Chopped – 1 no
Ginger chopped – 2tsp
Tomato chopped – ½ cup
Potatoes boiled, diced – 1 cup
Curry leaves – 1 sprig
Salt – to taste
Black Pepper powder – to taste
Lemon – ½ no
Coriander chopped – Handful

Method:



Wash the sabudana and soak in water with salt for about four to five hours. Then dry roast the peanuts and coarsely crush them in a blender. In a pan, heat ghee, add jeera, green chillies, ginger, tomatoes and diced potatoes and saute everything. Add curry leaves and the roasted crushed peanuts. Add soaked sabudana, pepper and salt and squeeze lemon juice and cook until the sabudana turns transparent. Add freshly chopped coriander leaves on top and serve hot.

Tips to maintain a healthy diet during office hours

- 1. Drink Adequate Water:** Start your day by drinking a glass of water, and aim to continue sipping water throughout the day. Staying hydrated aids in digestion, helps control appetite, and keeps you energised.
- 2. Healthy Snacking:** Instead of reaching for unhealthy snacks, keep a small box of nutritious options handy. Some good choices include a mix of almonds, dates, and raisins. These provide protein, fiber, and essential nutrients to keep you satisfied.
- 3. Limit Caffeine:** While a cup of coffee or tea can provide a quick energy boost, excessive caffeine can lead to hyperacidity and jitters. Consider switching to healthier alternatives like herbal teas or fresh fruit juices.
- 4. Pack a Balanced Lunch:** Prepare your lunch at home whenever possible. Include a variety of foods from different food groups: lean proteins, whole grains, vegetables, and fruits. This balanced meal will provide sustained energy throughout the day.
- 5. Healthy Cravings:** When you're craving a snack, opt for healthier options. Carry small packets of flavored Makhana (fox nuts) or protein bars. These choices are low in unhealthy fats and sugars

Hockey Ace Foundation Duo Strike Gold as India Wins

Bhubaneswar, (correspondent): Hockey Ace Foundation (HAF), a joint initiative of Tata Steel and Tata Trusts, celebrated a proud milestone as its cadet Ashish Tani Purti and Abhijeet Hazary, Video Analyst at the Odisha Naval Tata Hockey High-Performance Centre (ONTHHPC), played key roles in India's title-winning campaign at the Men's Youth Hockey5s Asian Championship, held in Muscat, Oman, on July 25, 2026. India defeated arch-rivals Pakistan 3-1 in a thrilling final to clinch the championship, completing an unbeaten campaign after topping the Elite Pool standings. With the victory, India also secured qualification for the inaugural FIH Youth



Hockey5s World Cup, marking another milestone in the country's growing success in the Hockey5s format. The triumph is yet another testament to Hockey Ace Foundation's high-performance ecosystem, which continues to nurture talented players and technical professionals capable of excelling on

to developing world-class young hockey talent. Abhijeet Hazary, Video Analyst at the Odisha Naval Tata Hockey High-Performance Centre, a joint initiative of the Government of Odisha, Tata Steel & Tata Trusts, made a significant contribution through tactical analysis and match preparation that supported India's unbeaten campaign. He has previously served as Video Analyst for the gold medal-winning Indian team at the Asia Cup in Japan and the bronze medal-winning Indian Women's team, further reinforcing his credentials at the international level. Congratulating the duo, Mr. Gurmeet Singh Rao, Project Director, Hockey Ace Foundation, said, "This

achievement reflects the strength of our high-performance ecosystem. Ashish and Abhijeet have made us proud with their contribution to India's gold medal-winning campaign and qualification for the inaugural FIH Youth Hockey5s World Cup. We wish them continued success." The success of the Naval Tata Hockey Academy, Jamshedpur, and the Odisha Naval Tata Hockey High-Performance Centre underscores Hockey Ace Foundation's commitment to strengthening Indian hockey through world-class coaching, scientific training, and holistic player development, while producing elite players and support professionals for the global stage.

Sports Minister Mandaviya Lauds India's 39-Medal Haul At 'Trimmed-Down' CWG 2026

New Delhi: Union Minister of Youth Affairs and Sports Mansukh Mandaviya has lauded India's fourth-place finish with 39 medals in the Commonwealth Games 2026 in Glasgow, a trimmed-down edition that featured just 10 sports, nine fewer than at Birmingham 2022, where India won 30 medals. India's Glasgow 2026 campaign concluded with 39 medals – 13 gold, 17 silver and nine bronze. "Bharat signs off from the Commonwealth Games 2026 with a commendable 4th-place finish. Despite Glasgow 2026 being a trimmed-down edition without several disciplines where India traditionally excels,

Team India improved from 30 medals in the comparable disciplines at Birmingham 2022 to 39 medals this year. "Under the leadership of Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi Ji, the growing depth and strength of Indian sport is clearly visible. Proud of every athlete, coach and support staff who gave their all for the Tricolour," Mandaviya posted on X. The Commonwealth Games 2026 officially came to a close in Glasgow on Sunday as India took over as hosts of the centenary edition of the Games, set to be held in Ahmedabad in 2030. "As India prepares to host the Centenary Commonwealth Games 2030, we are committed to delivering

one of the greatest editions in the history of the Games," he added. The closing ceremony brought the curtain down on 11 memorable days of sporting action before officially ushering in a new chapter for the Commonwealth movement. The symbolic handover of the Commonwealth Games flag to Gujarat Deputy Chief Minister Harsh Sanghavi marked the beginning of India's journey towards hosting the landmark centenary edition of the Games in Ahmedabad in 2030. India then launched their journey to Ahmedabad 2030 with a cultural showcase led by acclaimed singer-composer Shankar Mahadevan and former Miss World Manushi Chhillar.

Indian-Origin Neel Patel Named In Australia U19 Squad For India Tour

Melbourne: Indian-origin cricketer Neel Patel has been named in Australia's Under-19 men's squad for a multi-format tour of India, with fast bowlers Will Byrom and Kasey Barton will spearhead the 16-member team for the subcontinent tour next month. The tour will include three 50-over matches and two four-day matches against India Under 19s in Rajkot and Ahmedabad. Representing the University of New South Wales (UNSW) Cricket Club, Neel became one of the youngest players to score more than 1000 runs in Sydney Premier Cricket First Grade in a calendar year at the age of 16. Byrom and



Barton, meanwhile, are the only two members of the squad to feature at the U19 World Cup earlier this year in Zimbabwe. The then-17-year-old Byrom starred with 10 wickets at 10.50, while Barton took four wickets as the Aussies ultimately lost to England in the semi-final by 27 runs. "We are really pleased to provide the opportunity

to some of Australia's best young players to continue their development as part of our pathways program," Sonya Thompson. Touring India and playing against high-quality opposition in challenging conditions will be a valuable experience and test the players technically and mentally across formats," Cricket Australia Head of National Development, said in a statement. A CA Development squad landed in Chennai on Saturday for the now annual MRF Academy Program, with a host of state regulars and recent Australian T20I debutant Joel Davies among the 12-strong squad. Meanwhile, CA Development squad landed in Chennai on Saturday for the now annual MRF Academy Program, with a host of state regulars and recent Australian T20I debutant Joel Davies among the 12-strong squad, cricket.com.au reports.

ICC Chairman Jay Shah Inaugurates Tanzania's First Approved Cricket Arena

Dar es Salaam: International Cricket Council (ICC) Chairman Jay Shah officially inaugurated the Tanzania Cricket Association (TCA) Cricket Arena at the University of Dar es Salaam (UDSM) on Monday, hailing it as a transformative step for the sport in the region. The venue stands as the first ICC-approved cricket arena in the nation and also marked the first time a Chairman of cricket's global governing body has officially inaugurated a facility in Tanzania. "Congratulations to @crickettanzania on the opening of the Tanzania Cricket Arena – a landmark moment for cricket in Tanzania and across Africa. It was an honour to officially



inaugurate this terrific new facility, the first ICC-approved cricket arena in the country. The venue is a testament to the vision, dedication and hard work of everyone involved in growing the game in Tanzania," wrote Shah on his social media accounts on Monday. Alongside Shah, TCA Chairman Balakrishna Sreekumar and Kanu Rathod, Founder and Group Leader of Cricket

Legends of Tanzania and TCA Country Coordinator for the UK and Europe, were also present. Serving as the national high-performance centre, the new venue will accommodate training for Tanzania's men's, women's, and Under-19 national teams, while driving grassroots and elite development programs across the country. Tanzania's cricketing community currently stands at 27

dedicated facilities and is supported by 119 active coaches and 75 umpires. The cricketing participation has surged by 70 percent since 2024 – reaching over 158,000 active players, with near-equal representation between male and female participants, largely fueled by school-level engagement. It's also helped by the fact that Tanzania qualified for this year's ICC Under-19 Men's Cricket World Cup. While the primary phase of the venue was completed in just 16 months, the facility is already slated to host two international tournaments this month. Construction on the remaining infrastructure, including spectator stands and specialised athlete amenities, is set for completion by the end of the year.

Lovlina Borgohain Dedicates CWG Boxing Silver Medal To Assam's Flood-Hit People

Dergaon (Assam): Commonwealth Games Silver medallist Lovlina Borgohain has dedicated her hard-earned medal to the flood-affected people of Assam, triggering widespread celebrations across her home district and the state's sporting fraternity. The Indian boxer, who secured the silver medal at the ongoing Commonwealth Games in Glasgow, on Sunday chose to share her moment of glory with those battling the devastating floods that have displaced thousands of people and caused widespread damage across Assam. Her gesture has been widely appreciated as a mark of solidarity with the affected communities during a difficult time for the state. After her remarkable achievement, a festive



atmosphere has gripped Lovlina's home district. People from all walks of life have come out to celebrate the success of their local hero, expressing pride in her accomplishment on the international stage. The news of her dedication of the medal to the flood victims has further strengthened the emotional connect between the champion and the people of Assam. Assam Boxing Association Organising Secretary, Dev Baruah, expressed immense joy and pride over Lovlina's success and congratulated the "daughter of Assam" on winning the silver medal and bringing laurels to the state. Speaking to IANS, Baruah said, "She (Lovlina Borgohain) has devoted the medal to the flood-affected people of Assam. Unfortunately, she could not come here before the people as she was in

long nurtured Lovlina's talent and watched her rise through the ranks to become one of India's most consistent performers in the boxing ring. Her silver medal at the Commonwealth Games adds another significant chapter to her illustrious career and brings further recognition to Assam's growing contribution to Indian boxing. The celebrations in Lovlina's home district underline the deep sense of ownership and pride that Assamese people feel towards their sporting icons. Despite the ongoing challenges posed by the floods, the news of Lovlina's achievement has provided a much-needed boost to public morale. As Lovlina continues her stay in Glasgow, the people of Assam await her return to personally congratulate her and share in the joy of her success.

PM Modi's Commitment To Sports Reflected In India's 2026 CWG Success: Harsh Sanghavi

Glasgow: Crediting Prime Minister Narendra Modi's sustained push for sports development, Gujarat Deputy Chief Minister Harsh Sanghavi said India's medal-winning success at the Commonwealth Games reflected the government's commitment to athletes, pointing out that while Indian sportspersons were bringing home medals in Glasgow, the Centre had increased the sports budget eightfold to strengthen the country's sporting ecosystem. "I would like to thank Prime Minister Narendra Modi ji. On one hand, the sons and daughters of our country were winning medal after medal at the 2026 Commonwealth Games. On the other, Prime Minister Modi increased the budget for sportspersons eightfold. This clearly shows his commitment," Harsh Sanghavi told IANS. He

also said Ahmedabad is rapidly building world-class sporting infrastructure for the 2030 Games, asserting that the facilities will serve aspiring athletes from across India and not just Gujarat. "Ahmedabad is fully preparing world-class, international-grade sporting infrastructure to fulfil the dreams of all the youth of India. This infrastructure will not remain limited to Ahmedabad or Gujarat. Every young athlete from across the country can consider Ahmedabad as their home to achieve their dreams," Sanghavi said. His remarks came as India prepares to host the 2030 Commonwealth Games in Ahmedabad. The state is speeding up the development of venues that meet international standards and facilities focused on athletes for this centenary edition of

the Games. The Deputy Chief Minister of Gujarat made these comments during the Glasgow Commonwealth Games, where India achieved one of its best performances in multiple disciplines. As the Games are about to conclude, Harsh Sanghavi expressed confidence that the closing ceremony would showcase India's rich cultural heritage while celebrating the team's outstanding campaign. "The Glasgow 2026 Commonwealth Games closing ceremony will begin shortly. It will be a historic event. The Indian team is fully prepared, and the world will see our culture during the closing ceremony today. Our athletes have performed excellently in Glasgow over the past few days," he said.

Jindal Stainless announces financial results for the quarter ended June 30, 2026

B H U B A N E S W A R , (correspondent): The Board of Directors of Jindal Stainless Limited (JSL) today approved the financial results for the quarter ended June 30, 2026. The company reported a resilient operating and financial performance in Q1FY27, despite supply chain pressures due to ongoing geopolitical disruptions. The Q1FY27 net revenue stood at INR 11,279 crore, marking a 10.5% year-on-year (YoY) increase. EBITDA was reported at INR

1,329 crore, while Profit After Tax (PAT) rose to INR 769 crore, registering a YoY growth of 1.5% and 7.6%, respectively. The consolidated net debt was at INR 2,950 crore, while the net debt-to-equity ratio was at 0.14x. The company's robust performance was underpinned by healthy demand across key end-use sectors including mobility, infrastructure, manufacturing, and consumer sectors. The automotive segment remained a strong growth driver while

special-grade volumes also rose in Q1FY27. Sales to the white goods segment and metro rail projects witnessed healthy growth during the quarter. With Indian Railways' enhanced coach production plans, demand from the railway sector remained steadfast. The Company also secured orders for specialised stainless steel grades across the power, oil and gas sectors. Sales through Special Product Division, which includes mint, blade steel, precision strips and coin blanks, also continued to grow sequentially.

Sensex, Nifty Rally For 4th Straight Session As Lower Crude Oil Price Boosts Sentiment

Mumbai: Indian benchmark equity indices extended their gains for a fourth consecutive session, supported by improved investor sentiment after a sharp decline in crude oil prices amid reports of potential talks between the United States and Iran. The Sensex surged 544.39 points, or 0.7 per cent, to close at 78,639.03. Meanwhile, the Nifty recorded a stronger advance, ending at 24,774.30, up

391 points or 1.6 per cent, following the introduction of the new Closing Auction Session (CAS). Commenting on Nifty technical outlook, experts said that the 24,600 zone now acts as the immediate resistance area, where the index has repeatedly faced supply. "A decisive and sustained breakout above this band could strengthen bullish momentum further and pave the way for an advance towards the

24,800 mark," an analyst stated. "On the downside, the 24,500-24,400 region is expected to provide immediate support. Holding above this zone will be crucial to preserve the ongoing recovery, while a break below 24,400 could trigger short-term profit booking towards the 24,300-24,200 support zone," a market expert mentioned. Buying was seen across several heavyweight stocks,

with InterGlobe Aviation, Infosys and Tata Consultancy Services emerging as the top gainers in the Nifty index. The rally in information technology stocks played a key role in lifting the broader market. The positive momentum also extended to the broader market segments. The Nifty MidCap index settled 1.21 per cent higher, while the Nifty SmallCap index gained 1.29 per cent.

Rayagada Division Records Strong Freight Growth in July

Rayagada, (correspondent) — Rayagada Railway Division of East Coast Railway posted robust freight growth in July 2026, with notable increases in both commodity and rake loading compared with July 2025. The division handled 787 rakes in July 2026, up from 707 rakes a year earlier — an increase of 80 rakes, or 11.32%. Total commodity loading rose to 3.12 million tonnes (MT) from 2.75 MT in July 2025, a gain of 0.37 MT (13.45%). Iron ore remained the division's principal commodity, with loading of 2.28 MT — an increase of 0.40 MT (21.3%) over July 2025. Bauxite loading also climbed from 0.17 MT to 0.19 MT, a rise



of 11.8%. In addition to freight milestones, Rayagada Division ran 20 Train-on-Demand (TOD) special coaching trains during the month, improving passenger convenience and operational flexibility. The division completed important non-interlocking (NI) works on two stretches: Kamlur (KMLR)-Bhansi (BHNS) (12.428 km) and Baiguda (BGUA)-Kakriguma (KKGM)

(12.385 km). Officials said these upgrades will strengthen infrastructure and support future capacity expansion. Divisional Railway Manager Amitabh Singhal congratulated officers and staff for the performance, praising their coordination with freight customers and focus on operational excellence. He urged the team to sustain the momentum and continue enhancing efficiency and customer service.

National Terminology Meetings Begin at KIIT, KISS to Promote Indian Languages in Higher Education

Bhubaneswar, (correspondent): Six parallel national terminology meetings, organised by the Commission for Scientific and Technical Terminology (CSTT), Department of Higher Education, Ministry of Education, commenced at KIIT and KISS Universities today. The five-day programme, running till August 7, aims to accelerate the development and standardisation of scientific and technical terminology in Indian languages in line with the National Education Policy (NEP) 2020. More than 100 subject and language experts from universities and research institutions across Odisha are participating in the meetings, which are



expected to prepare and finalise standardised terminology resources for higher education, research and governance in Indian languages. Addressing the inaugural session, Er. J. S. Rawat, Assistant Director, CSTT, said the meetings is an important step towards implementing NEP 2020 by enabling quality higher and technical education through Indian languages. He said

standardised terminology is essential for teaching, learning, research, translation, innovation and knowledge dissemination. He informed that expert committees would review and develop thousands of Odia technical terms in Electronics, Broadcast, Telecommunication, Economics, Commerce and Political Science during the five-day deliberations. Prof. J R

Saranjit Singh, Vice-Chancellor, KIIT, said the National Education Policy has created new opportunities for delivering quality education through Indian languages. He said that standardised technical terminology is vital for research, innovation and inclusive education, and assured KIIT's continued support for initiatives that strengthen higher education in Indian languages. Prof. J R

Mohanty, Registrar, KIIT, said collaboration between academic institutions and national organisations such as CSTT plays a crucial role in strengthening India's knowledge ecosystem. He expressed confidence that the discussions would produce valuable terminology resources for students, teachers, researchers and professionals. Dr. Prashant Kumar Routray, Registrar, KISS said promoting education in Indian languages is essential for ensuring inclusive and equitable access to knowledge. He reaffirmed KISS's commitment to supporting initiatives that encourage multilingual education and wider dissemination of knowledge.

SOA UNIVERSITY HOSTS ALLYSHIP++ 2.0 AT CHENNAI

Bhubaneswar, (correspondent): Over sixty industry leaders, HR professionals, academicians and professionals attended Allyship++ 2.0 organised by the SOA Deemed to be University at Chennai on Friday which focused on industry-academia collaboration.

A distinguished panel of speakers from the corporate world graced the event which had 'Practicing Allyship' as its theme. The program included a fireside chat with eminent athlete Premanand J., a high-performance athletics coach and former international sprinter who trained the Indian national sprint team for the Paris Olympics. He shared inspiring insights on



leadership, resilience, discipline and the transformative power of mentorship. It was followed by a thought-provoking panel discussion moderated by Ms. Archana Grover, Global Head- Capabilities, Transformation and Culture, Standard Chartered, focusing on how organisations could meaningfully practice allyship to create inclusive, high-performing and

future-ready workplaces. The other members of the panel comprised Ms. Suganya Veeraraghavan, Assistant Vice-President, Rocket India, Mr. Suresh Aade, Head, Human Resources, Foodhub, Ms. Archana Mukunthan, Senior Manager, Nordex Group, Mr. R.K. Ramachandran, Global Talent Head, KaarTech and Mr. M.D. Joshua David, India Campus Head, Mphasis.

The panelists emphasized that allyship was not merely an initiative but a leadership responsibility which drove innovation, trust and sustainable organizational success. Prof. Pradipta Kumar Nanda, Vice-Chancellor of SOA Deemed to be University, who was present, emphasized the significance of industry-academia collaboration in building future-ready workplaces.

Awareness camp by Hindalco Industries Limited on the occasion of world breast feeding week

S a m b a l p u r : (Correspondent):- Hindalco Industries Limited HiraKud under its CSR initiative in association with Project Partner – PCI has started the Project Bitiya for the overall welfare of the girls having age group 0-18. In continuation to this world breast feeding week will be celebrated in 8 Anganwadi centers. Awareness and rally will be taken during the session. The first event was today at Nuajamuda Anganwadi center. Breastfeeding is one of the key health and nutrition indicators under the Project. The project promotes Early Initiation of Breastfeeding (within one hour of birth), Exclusive Breastfeeding for the first



six months, and Continued Breastfeeding along with timely Complementary Feeding as essential interventions for improving maternal and child health outcomes. Every year, World Breastfeeding Week is observed globally from 1-7 August to raise awareness about the importance of breastfeeding and promote optimal infant and young child feeding practices. The

Government of India also commemorates the week through nationwide awareness campaigns led by the Ministry of Health & Family Welfare and the Ministry of Women & Child Development. In alignment with these national efforts, the BITIYA project proposes to organize a series of community-based activities to reinforce key breastfeeding messages, encourage positive

behaviour change, and strengthen community support for breastfeeding. To strengthen govt campaign we are collaborating, the BITIYA Project will organize a five-day Social Behaviour Change (SBC) Campaign from 3-7 August 2026 across 8 Anganwadi. Through the active engagement of Village Volunteers and convergence with Anganwadi Workers (AWWs), ASHAs, SHG members and community leaders, the campaign aims to improve awareness, dispel myths and misconceptions, and encourage families to adopt recommended breastfeeding practices.

AIIMS Bhubaneswar Shines on National Platform

New Delhi/ Bhubaneswar, 03/08/ 2026: AIIMS Bhubaneswar has been conferred the prestigious "Emerging Government Institution in Organ Transplantation" award during the 16th Indian Organ Donation Day (IODD) celebrations held in New Delhi today. The event was organised by the

National Organ and Tissue Transplant Organization (NOTTO) under the Ministry of Health & Family Welfare, Government of India. The award was presented by Smt. Anupriya Patel, Hon'ble Union Minister of State for Health & Family Welfare and Chemicals & Fertilizers, in the august presence of Smt.



Punya Salila Srivastava, Secretary, Ministry of Health

& Family Welfare; Dr. Loveneesh G. Krishna, Director General of Health Services (DGHS); Shri Vijay Nehra, Additional Secretary, Ministry of Health & Family Welfare; and Dr. Anil Kumar, Director, NOTTO. The honour was received on behalf of AIIMS Bhubaneswar by Dr. Anita Saxena, President; Dr. Ashutosh Biswas, Executive

Director & CEO; Dr. Prabhakar Ranjan Tripathy, Medical Superintendent; and Dr. Bramhadatta Pattnaik, Associate Professor & Head, Department of Surgical Gastroenterology. AIIMS Bhubaneswar was recognised for its remarkable progress in organ transplantation, particularly the significant increase in

transplant procedures, from 16 transplants in 2024 to 63 transplants in 2025, reflecting the institute's rapid growth and unwavering commitment to providing advanced transplant care. Notably, AIIMS Bhubaneswar is the only AIIMS in the country to receive this prestigious recognition, underscoring its leadership in the field of organ transplantation.

Expressing his gratitude on the occasion, Dr. Ashutosh Biswas, Executive Director & CEO, AIIMS Bhubaneswar, said "This national recognition reflects the unwavering commitment, multidisciplinary teamwork, and relentless dedication of our transplant teams, intensive care specialists, nursing staff, transplant coordinators, and support personnel.