

Bangladesh In 'Grip Of Fear', Says Former PM Hasina Promising Return To Country By Year-End

New Delhi: Former Bangladesh Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina on Wednesday said that the South Asian country's situation has worsened over the last two years with people continuing to live in an atmosphere of fear, insecurity and economic distress despite the Bangladesh Nationalist Party (BNP) assuming office following, what she described as, a "rigged election".

Addressing a press conference in New Delhi via an audio link, Hasina, who has been living in exile in India for the past two years, also

said that she would return to her home country by the year-end. "Even after a rigged election brought the BNP to power, the situation did not change. Bangladesh remains in the grip of fear, terror, depression, economic hardship and deep insecurity," said Hasina in her address to the media in New Delhi. Hasina broke down several times during her address. Recalling the events of the past two years, the former Bangladesh PM said she has watched her "beloved Bangladesh suffer".

Accusing organised groups of exploiting the July-August 2024 student protests to serve a political agenda, she claimed the movement was not a peaceful campaign for reform but was transformed into a tool for violence. "For the last two years, I watched my beloved Bangladesh suffer... This is not the Bangladesh we built; this is not the Bangladesh for which three million people sacrificed their lives in 1971. Let me begin with the truth about July and August 2024.

President Murmu Wraps Up Odisha Visit, Flies Back To Delhi

Bhubaneswar (correspondent): President Droupadi Murmu on Wednesday concluded her three-day visit to Odisha after offering prayers at a Shiva temple in Ganjam district. She later returned to Bhubaneswar by the Presidential Special Train before flying back to New Delhi on a special Indian Air Force (IAF) aircraft. The President began the day with a visit to a Shiva temple near the Army Air Defence College in Golabandha, where she had stayed overnight after travelling to Ganjam by train on Tuesday. The rail



journey had been planned as a precautionary measure in view of the India Meteorological Department's forecast of heavy monsoon

rainfall across Odisha. After offering prayers, Murmu boarded the Presidential Special Train to Bhubaneswar. Security was tightened at both

Berhampur and Bhubaneswar railway stations to ensure smooth movement during the President's visit. Ganjam Collector Keerthi Vasan V said elaborate security

arrangements had been put in place for the occasion. Upon reaching Bhubaneswar, the President departed for New Delhi on a special IAF aircraft from Biju Patnaik International Airport. Governor Dr Hari Babu Kambhampati, Chief Minister Mohan Charan Majhi, Chief Secretary Anu Garg, Director General of Police Yogesh Bahadur Khurania, and other senior officials were present at the airport to bid her farewell. During her three-day visit, Murmu attended a series of official and religious engagements across the state.

CM Mohan Charan Majhi To Visit New Delhi On August 6

Bhubaneswar, (correspondent): Odisha Chief Minister Mohan Charan Majhi will travel to New Delhi on August 6 to take part in a roadshow organised by the state Industries Department. As per reports, the roadshow is scheduled to be held on August 7 and August 8. Industries Minister Sampad Swain and Chief Secretary Anu Garg will accompany the Chief Minister. Majhi is expected to return to Bhubaneswar on August 8 or 9.

Meta Apologises for PM Modi Video Removal

NEW DELHI: Meta's Chief Global Affairs Officer Joel Kaplan has issued an apology after Prime Minister Narendra Modi's Facebook video was mistakenly removed for several hours. The video, in which the Prime Minister addressed students on exam controversies and paper leaks, was unavailable for 5-6 hours before being restored. The Parliamentary Standing Committee on Communications and Information Technology has demanded a formal apology from Meta CEO Mark Zuckerberg within three days, warning that his immunity and protection could be withdrawn if he fails to comply. The Committee also raised concerns about Google India, citing investor losses of over 248 lakh through

fraudulent apps, and urged government action against its leadership. Meanwhile, government sources revealed that Zuckerberg has apologised for the spread of child sexual abuse material (CSAM), deepfake content, and shortcomings in platform safety. Officials argued that Meta may not qualify for safe harbour protections under India's IT Act, as its algorithms actively amplify content rather than act neutrally. Meta admitted to spending significant sums to boost certain categories of content and expressed regret over those decisions. The company's executives have been summoned for further discussions on accountability, moderation, and compliance with Indian laws.

Supreme Court Acquits Odisha Man In Triple Murder Case After 22 Years In Jail

New Delhi/Bhubaneswar: A man from Odisha, who spent 22 years in prison after being convicted in a murder case, has been acquitted by the Supreme Court, which strongly criticised the denial of timely access to justice and directed authorities to facilitate his rehabilitation. In a judgment delivered on August 4, a Bench of Justices J.B. Pardiwala and K. Vinod Chandran allowed the appeal filed by Arjun Jani alias Tuntun against his conviction in a

murder case, observing that serious doubts existed over the prosecution's case and that the conviction was based solely on an unreliable eyewitness account. The apex court expressed concern that the appellant's jail appeal had earlier been dismissed by the Orissa High Court solely on the ground of a delay of 3,157 days, despite his having already spent over 12 years in prison at that stage.

Odisha Adds 91 Cancer Treatment Packages Under AB-PMJAY-GJAY

Bhubaneswar (correspondent): In a major boost to cancer care in Odisha, the state government has added 91 new state-specific treatment packages under the Ayushman Bharat Pradhan Mantri Jan Arogya Yojana (AB-PMJAY)-Gopabandhu Jan Arogya Yojana (GJAY) package master as part of the Mukhyamantri Cancer Care Abhiyan. The addition, approved by the National Health Authority (NHA), is aimed at ensuring timely, quality and cashless treatment for cancer patients covered under the integrated health insurance scheme in the state. The AB-PMJAY and GJAY were launched in an integrated manner in Odisha on April 11, 2025, with 2,163 treatment packages. Following



the inclusion of the 91 new cancer-specific packages, the total number of cancer treatment packages has increased to 545, while the overall treatment package count under the scheme has risen to 2,254. The state government said early diagnosis and timely treatment play a crucial role in controlling cancer, which often requires complex multi-specialty procedures. Keeping this in view, the Odisha government had launched the Mukhyamantri Cancer Care Abhiyan on the recommendation of experts and earmarked around Rs 311 crore for the initiative.

India, Sri Lanka Discuss Bilateral Ties, Regional And Global Issues Of Mutual Interest

Colombo: Foreign Secretary Vikram Misri met his Sri Lankan counterpart Aruni Ranaraja here on Wednesday and discussed ways to further deepen bilateral ties. During the meeting, the two officials discussed regional and global issues of mutual interest. "Foreign Secretary Shri Vikram Misri met Sri Lankan Foreign Secretary Ms Aruni Ranaraja during his ongoing visit to Colombo.

They discussed regional and global issues of mutual interest, and ways to further deepen close bilateral ties. India's Foreign Secretary reinforced Sri Lanka's Central role in India's Neighbourhood First Policy and in advancing Vision MAHASAGAR," the Indian High Commission in Sri Lanka posted on X. Earlier in the day, Misri held a meeting with Sri Lankan Foreign Minister Vijitha Herath in Colombo, where both

sides reviewed ongoing cooperation across priority sectors. India's High Commissioner to Sri Lanka, Santosh Jha, and other officials were present during the meeting. "Foreign Secretary Shri Vikram Misri called on the Foreign Minister of Sri Lanka, Hon'ble Vijitha Herath, during his visit to Colombo. Ongoing cooperation in key priority areas was reviewed during the meeting," the Indian mission posted on X.

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CEO ODISHA /

Four Killed In Lightning Strikes

Kolkata: Four people, including three women, were killed in lightning strikes in West Midnapore district of West Bengal on Wednesday, the police said. A man named Tapas Sabra (59) died after being struck by lightning in the Themara area of Narayangarh police station area. Sumitra Khamrui (50) died in Bargai area of Kharagpur local police station area. Kajal Naik (65) and Malati Patra (47) died due to lightning in the Radhamohanpur area of Debra police station area. Three more women were injured by lightning strike in that area. Those five people in Radhamohanpur were working on the farming land in the middle of a thunderstorm.

Rajasthan Ranks Among Top Seven States In Higher Education Enrolment

Jaipur: Rajya Sabha MP and Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) Rajasthan State President Madan Rathore on Wednesday said the Narendra Modi-led Central government has been continuously strengthening Rajasthan's education sector through comprehensive reforms, with digital education emerging as a key driver of transformation. Quoting information provided by the Ministry of Education in the Rajya Sabha, Rathore said Rajasthan currently has 1,06,445 schools, more than 1.60 crore students and around 7.93 lakh teachers. Of these, 28,452 schools have been equipped with modern facilities such as

smart classrooms, digital boards, smart televisions and virtual classrooms, reflecting the effective implementation of the National Education Policy (NEP) 2020. The information was shared by Minister of State for Education Sukanta Majumdar in the Rajya Sabha in response to a question raised by Rathore. He said that under the Samagra Shiksha scheme, 8,945 ICT laboratories and 7,698 smart classrooms have been established across Rajasthan. Between 2023 and 2026, the Central Government approved financial assistance of Rs 361.88 crore for strengthening digital education infrastructure in the state. Broadband



connectivity is also being extended to government secondary schools in rural areas through the BharatNet project to improve digital access for students. Rathore said the implementation of NEP 2020 has brought significant improvements in both

school and higher education. The Gross Enrolment Ratio (GER) in Rajasthan's higher education institutions increased from 20 per cent in 2014-15 to 29.5 per cent in 2023-24, while the female GER rose from 17.9 per cent to 30.3 per cent during the same

period. He also highlighted a steady decline in school dropout rates. Between 2023-24 and 2025-26, the dropout rate declined from 3.7 per cent to 3.6 per cent at the primary level, from 5.2 per cent to 4.6 per cent at the upper primary level,

and from 10.9 per cent to 7.5 per cent at the secondary level. India currently has 1,289 universities, 48,246 colleges and 15,221 stand-alone institutions. Rajasthan alone has 93 universities, 4,344 colleges and 791 stand-alone institutions, making it one of the leading states in higher education infrastructure. With approximately 27.37 lakh students enrolled in higher education, Rajasthan ranks among the top seven states in the country in terms of student enrolment. The state also has the fourth-highest number of colleges among all states and Union Territories. Rathore said the Central Government is implementing a range of

scholarship schemes, hostel facilities, and financial assistance programmes for students belonging to Scheduled Castes (SC), Scheduled Tribes (ST), Other Backwards Classes (OBC), and those from rural areas. He noted that 31 Eklavya Model Residential Schools have been sanctioned in Rajasthan. In addition, 2,242 hostels attached to higher educational institutions provide accommodation for more than 2.79 lakh students. Rathore said flagship initiatives such as PM e-Vidya, DIKSHA, PM-SHRI, SWAYAM and PM-USA are helping extend quality, technology-enabled education to every village.

Netflix Co-CEO Ted Sarandos Meets PM Modi, Announces 'Netflix India Storytelling Initiative'

Mumbai: Netflix Co-CEO Ted Sarandos met Indian Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi and talked about the growing influence of Indian storytelling on a global level. Reaffirming Netflix's commitment to India's creative economy, the streaming giant even announced the 'Netflix India Storytelling Initiative'. As part of the initiative, Netflix will create strategic partnerships with key Indian institutions in an attempt to build the next generation of Indian storytelling talent, equipping them with the necessary skills across the Animation, Visual effects, Gaming and Comics (AVGC) ecosystem. Shedding further light on this, Ted



Sarandos, Co-CEO, Netflix, shared, "India has always been one of the world's greatest storytelling nations. Over the past decade, we've had the privilege of seeing Indian stories connect with audiences not just across India, but around the world. As we begin our next decade

here, we believe our greatest investment is in the people who will tell India's next generation of stories." "The Netflix India Storytelling Initiative reflects our long-term commitment to strengthening India's creative ecosystem by creating more opportunities for

emerging creators, because investing in creators is investing in India's creative future," he went on to add. In phase one of the India Storytelling Initiative, Netflix will partner with The Indian Institute of Creative Technologies (IICT) to co-develop an industry-ready curriculum

in Visual Effects Mastery and Media Technology Workflows, ensuring that the students have skills that align with the evolving production needs. Over and above this, they will also be giving scholarships to Indian students towards in-person programs at IICT, such as Interactive Comics and Sequential Art, Virtual Art Department Content Creation, Art of Character Animation, E-Sports and Gaming Management. During phase two, Netflix will join forces with the National Film Development Corporation (NFDC). They will build a talent pipeline for the latest jobs created under the Prime Minister's accessibility agenda.

India's First Polymer Notes to Launch in April 2027: Rs 10 and Rs 20 Trial

NEW DELHI: The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) has announced that polymer (plastic) banknotes may enter circulation from April 2027, beginning with Rs 10 and Rs 20 denominations. Governor Sanjay Malhotra confirmed the timeline after the Monetary Policy Committee meeting, stating that the rollout depends on successful field trials. The government has already approved printing of 17 billion pieces each of ₹10 and ₹20 notes for the pilot phase. These polymer notes will circulate alongside existing paper notes, with no plan to replace or withdraw paper currency. Polymer notes are expected to last two to four times longer than paper notes, especially in



India's challenging climate and heavy cash usage environment. Starting with low-value notes minimises financial risk while testing durability. The RBI's printing arm, BRBNMPL, has floated a global tender for the special polymer substrate. ATMs and banking systems will be gradually upgraded if polymer notes expand to higher denominations later. India first considered polymer

notes over a decade ago, with a pilot planned between 2009 and 2014 that was shelved due to technical hurdles. This time, improved technology and supply chains have enabled the RBI to move forward. For the public, this means wallets will soon carry both paper and plastic notes. If trials succeed, polymer notes could eventually expand to higher denominations, but for now, Rs 10 and Rs 20 will lead the way.

Kerala Flood Volunteer Dies After Giving Life Jacket to Elderly Man

NEW DELHI: Kerala flood volunteer and swimming instructor R Rajesh lost his life after handing over his own life jacket to a 61-year-old man he had just rescued from the swollen Kariangode river near Meenthully Island. Rajesh, a native of Kalliyoor in Thiruvananthapuram, had pulled the man, identified as Benny, to safety when he was swept away by the strong current while leading him back to shore. His body was recovered the following day. Known for his



courage and selfless service, Rajesh had volunteered during the 2018 Kerala floods, the 2024 Wayanad landslide tragedy, and returned again during the 2026 floods. He was also a rappelling trainer

and swimming instructor. Rajesh is survived by his wife Lekshmi, two young sons Arshan and Abhishek, and his parents Rajasekharan and Geetha. Kerala Chief Minister V D

Satheesan paid tribute, calling Rajesh's sacrifice "heartbreaking" and noting that his courage and humanity will be remembered forever. BJP MLA Rajeev Chandrasekhar and Leader of the Opposition Pinarayi Vijayan also condoled his death, describing him as a hero of Kerala's disasters. Rajesh's final act of bravery — giving away his life jacket to save another — has etched his name into Kerala's collective memory as a symbol of ultimate sacrifice.

BRICS Anti-Corruption Working Group Agree On Network Proposed By India

Hyderabad: The second meeting of the BRICS Anti-Corruption Working Group and the BRICS Expert Network on Asset Recovery, which concluded here on Wednesday, reached an in-principle agreement on the proposed BRICS Network of Law-Enforcement Practitioners for Enhancing International Cooperation on Fugitive Offenders Sought for Corruption and Supporting Extradition.

During the two-day meeting, BRICS members made significant progress on the Indian Presidency's proposal for a BRICS network. Members held constructive discussions on the objectives, scope and operational modalities of the proposed network and reached an in-principle agreement on the initiative and decided to continue deliberations on establishing a dedicated practitioner-level platform, said an official release. The initiative is



expected to facilitate informal cooperation, support the tracing of fugitive offenders and complement existing formal mechanisms for extradition and international cooperation.

Members also welcomed the BRICS Repository on Informal Cooperation for Tracing Fugitive Offenders Sought for Corruption and Supporting Extradition. This would serve as a practical, practitioner-oriented resource bringing together information on national practices and existing channels of informal cooperation. The second

meeting of the BRICS Expert Network on Asset Recovery made substantive progress on practical deliverables aimed at strengthening direct cooperation among competent authorities. Members reached consensus on the standardised formats to facilitate timely practitioner-level information exchange during the preliminary stages of investigations while complementing formal mutual legal assistance mechanisms. The Centre's Department of Personnel and Training (DoPT) successfully hosted the meetings in line with the theme of

India's BRICS Presidency, "Building for Resilience, Innovation, Cooperation and Sustainability". Senior policymakers, experts, practitioners and representatives of anti-corruption, financial intelligence and law-enforcement agencies from BRICS member countries shared their views on various anti-corruption-related matters. The meeting was inaugurated by Rachna Shah, the Secretary, Department of Personnel and Training, who welcomed the delegations and highlighted India's policy of zero tolerance against corruption. She emphasised that integrity is fundamental to good governance, sustainable development and public trust, and underscored the importance of strong institutions, technology-driven governance, transparency, accountability and sustained international cooperation.

Bombay High Court Orders Removal of 'Vile' Posts Against Nitin Gadkari Amid E20 Fuel Row

NEW DELHI: The Bombay High Court on Wednesday ordered social media platforms, including Meta, X, Google and others, to remove allegedly defamatory posts and AI-generated deepfake videos targeting Union

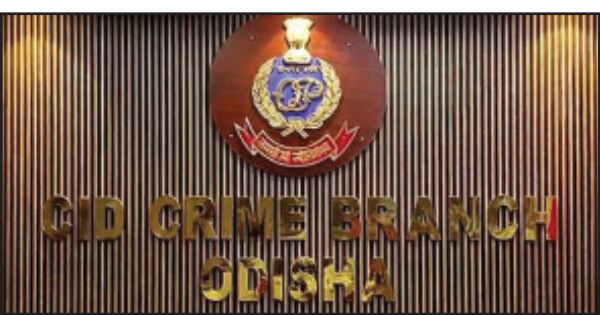
Minister Nitin Gadkari over the ethanol-blended petrol (E20) programme. Hearing Gadkari's plea, Justice Arif Doctor described the content circulating online as "vile" and "abusive" and said such material should have no place

on public platforms. The court also asked technology companies to develop a framework to remove similar content without requiring affected individuals to approach the judiciary each time.

Baliana Soumya murder case Odisha Crime Branch files chargesheet against 11 accused

Kataka(correspondent): Odisha Crime Branch filed a 767-page chargesheet against 11 accused in the sensational Baliana murder case involving GRP constable Soumya Ranjan Swain, marking a significant development in the high-profile investigation, on Wednesday. The chargesheet was submitted before the SDJM Court in Bhubaneswar following months of investigation into the murder that took place on May 7, 2026. According to the Crime Branch, the chargesheet is based

on substantial oral, documentary, scientific and other corroborative evidence collected during the investigation. The 11 accused named in the chargesheet are among the 20 persons who were arrested in connection with the case. The chargesheet has been filed under multiple provisions of the Bharatiya Nyaya Sanhita (BNS), 2023. The agency, however, clarified that no chargesheet has been filed against the remaining nine arrested persons at this stage, as investigators did not find sufficient evidence to establish their active involvement in the



assault. Officials stressed that this does not mark the end of the investigation. The probe has been kept open under the relevant provisions of the BNS to facilitate the examination of pending forensic reports, collection of additional evidence and verification of other leads. Crime Branch said supplementary

chargesheets will be filed if fresh evidence establishes the involvement of any other accused in the case. The chargesheet was filed in connection with the CID-CB Police Station case No. 06/2026 Dtd. 09.05.2026 arising out of Baliana PS case No. 221 of 2026 U/s 103(1)/3(5) of Bharatiya Nyaya Sanhita, 2023. "Upon

careful verification and evaluation of available evidence, no sufficient incriminating material could be found at this stage to establish the active participation of these nine persons in the assault. Accordingly, the evidence collected during investigation is presently insufficient to constitute a prima facie case warranting their prosecution," the Crime Branch said in a press release issued in this regard. "Detailed probe has been kept open under Section 193(9) of the Bharatiya Nagarik Suraksha Sanhita, to facilitate collection of additional

evidence, receipt and examination of pending forensic reports, and investigation of other relevant leads and clues," the anti-crime agency stated. "The probe is continuing on priority. Efforts are underway to apprehend the remaining identified persons involved in the incident and to collect further evidence. Appropriate supplementary chargesheets, if warranted by further evidence, will be submitted before the competent court in accordance with law," the official communiqué added.

Planting of trees and management committee parents meeting in PMSHri Government High School

Hindol,(correspondent): New management committee and parents meeting of PMSHri Government High School of Hindola-Dhenkanal district Hindola sub-district has been held today in the school hall. Under the chairmanship of the new management committee president Pradyumna Behera, the principal conducted the meeting and read out the previous minutes and welcomed the new committee and the parents. In addition, various problems of the school, education, discipline, student performance, good test results, safety of teachers and students, sanitation, lack of teaching staff, and discussions about the problems of teachers and students, and to take steps to remedy them, and to take steps to remedy them, and to prevent any drunken anti-social behavior in the school premises, the school and the management committee agreed to take legal measures. At the end of the school, trees were planted and an awareness message was given to the community. Today's meeting was attended by Vice President Baijyanthi Biswal, all the members of the management committee, a large number of parents and all the teachers, students, staff members of the school, while the teacher diptiranjana sahu

BGU Welcomes New Mass Communication Talent at Commencement Day 2026

Bhubaneswar, (correspondent): Birla Global University (BGU), one of eastern India's leading institutions of higher education, welcomed the new batch of students to the Birla School of Communication through its Commencement Day Programme 2026. The event marked the formal induction of students enrolled in the BAJMC 2026-30 and MAMC 2026-28 programmes, signalling the beginning of their academic and professional journey. The programme was organised by the Birla School of Communication.



The programme was also attended by Prof. Kulbhushan Balooni, Vice Chancellor, Birla Global University; Prof. (Dr.) Shiv Shankar Das, Dean, Birla School of Communication; and Tanmay Kumar Pattanayak, Registrar, along with faculty members, alumni, staff and students. Delivering the Commencement Day address, Chief Guest Mr. Abhishek Mishra stated, "While the media industry is booming, a degree alone will not guarantee success-you must define what makes you unique. With nine out of ten Indian professionals using AI, the goal is not to compete with

machines, but to master them. Learn to synthesize information, computing and data into compelling narratives. Above all, maintain clarity and truth: agree only when you can deliver and when you say no, commit to finding the way." Addressing the incoming batch, Vice Chancellor Prof. Kulbhushan Balooni highlighted, "Industry growth brings opportunity, but in a competitive market, an academic degree alone cannot define your capability. You must enrich your CV by thinking beyond academics and demonstrating extraordinary initiative."

The event was graced by Abhishek Mishra, Vice President - HR, SRV Media, Pune, as the Chief Guest, while Ranjan Satpathy, Creative Head, Odisha Television Network, Bhubaneswar, attended as the Guest of Honour.

SOA SIGNS MOU WITH KBC FOR JOINT R&D IN INDUSTRIAL BIOTECHNOLOGY

Bhubaneswar, (correspondent): The SOA Deemed to be University here on Tuesday signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with Krishibandhu CropScience Private Limited (KBC), Kolkata, with the objective of establishing a collaborative framework for research and extension of industrial biotechnology. The MoU aimed at initiating a collaborative partnership between KBC and the Centre for Industrial Biotechnology Research (CIBR) of SOA which manufactures bioagri products like biofertiliser.



both parties shall work jointly to expand market outreach, improve farmer adoption and generate scientific and commercial evidence regarding product performance including field evaluation. The MoU was signed between Prof. Pradipta Kumar Nanda, Vice-Chancellor of SOA and Mr. Saibal Mitra, Director and CEO of KBC. KBC is currently implementing the Rice Carbon Project which is operational across 5,750 hectares of rice land in West Bengal and Odisha over two annual cropping seasons for the last three years. Its primary objective is to

mitigate methane emission from irrigated rice fields while improving crop production and productivity through water management technologies like Alternate Wetting and Drying (AWD). In Odisha, the initiative covers 2,500 hectares engaging 2,209 farmers who receive an incentive of Rs. 1,000 per hectare per season to voluntarily adopt these emission-reducing technologies. KBC aims to scale this project to 80,000 hectares across Odisha within the next five years.

Jindal Foundation Organises Blood Donation Camp : 460 units of blood collected

Angul, (correspondent):: To honour the legacy of Shri O.P. Jindal Ji (Bauji), the visionary founder of the O.P. Jindal Group, employees along with their family members of Jindal Steel and its stakeholders voluntarily participated in a blood donation camp organised at Hostel-3, Jindal Nagar, Angul. The camp was inaugurated by Mr. V.R. Sharma, Managing Director, Jindal Steel, in the presence of Mr. Damodar Mittal, Executive Director – Projects, Yoga Guru Swami Satyabindu Saraswati, Dr. Satyabrata Patjoshi, In-charge, Odisha Blood Bank, DHH Angul, and



other dignitaries. Speaking to media, Mr. V.R. Sharma said, "Organising blood donation camps at regular intervals reflects the Jindal Group's commitment to serving society. Blood cannot be manufactured artificially; it can only be donated by one human being to save another.

We encourage the younger generation to donate blood regularly. Every healthy man and woman should donate blood at least once or twice a year. We particularly appeal to those below the age of 40 to donate twice annually and become active partners in this noble cause of saving

lives."Mr. Sharma also felicitated regular blood donors for their consistent contribution to the blood donation drives organised by Jindal Foundation. On the occasion, Mr. Damodar Mittal was also felicitated for his continued participation in every blood donation camp organised by the

Foundation. Expressing his gratitude, he said, "It gives me immense satisfaction to contribute to society, especially the people of Angul, through blood donation. I am proud that, as one of the district's leading organisations, we have voluntarily contributed more than 10,000 units of blood over the years. I sincerely thank all the volunteers who have supported this humanitarian initiative."The voluntary blood donation camp, organised by Jindal Foundation in collaboration with Odisha Blood Bank, DHH Angul, collected 460 units of blood, which will help save many precious lives.

AM/NS India steel powers Indian Navy's newly commissioned INS Malvan

Mumbai/Bhubaneswar, : Arcelor Mittal Nippon Steel India (AM/NS India) supplied 100% of the specialised steel required to build INS Malvan, the Indian Navy's latest indigenously built Anti-Submarine Warfare Shallow Watercraft (ASW-SWC), commissioned on 22 July 2026 at Karwar, Karnataka. Manufactured at AM/NS India's integrated steelmaking facility in Hazira, the specialised steel used in the vessel highlights the role of advanced Indian steelmaking in supporting the country's growing defence manufacturing ecosystem and maritime security. The milestone further strengthens AM/NS India's contribution to India's self-reliance journey by supplying critical materials for strategically important national programmes. Mr. Ranjan Dhar, Director & Vice President - Sales & Marketing, AM/NS India, said: "The commissioning

of INS Malvan demonstrates how advanced manufacturing in India is supporting the country's defence preparedness. Producing specialised naval-grade steel demands stringent quality standards, advanced metallurgical expertise and close collaboration with our customers. We are proud that AM/NS India steel is contributing to the next generation of Indian Navy vessels while supporting India's ambition to strengthen domestic defence manufacturing." Built by Cochin Shipyard Limited, INS Malvan is the second of eight Mahe-class ASW-SWCs and the second vessel of its class to enter service with the Indian Navy. Built with more than 80% indigenous content, the programme supports the Government of India's Aatmanirbhar Bharat and Viksit Bharat initiatives while showcasing the country's growing capabilities in naval

design, engineering, systems integration and defence shipbuilding. Designed for underwater surveillance, anti-submarine warfare, mine warfare and coastal security operations, INS Malvan will strengthen the Indian Navy's ability to safeguard India's maritime interests and operate effectively in coastal waters. AM/NS India is supplying all of the specialised steel required for the fleet of eight ASW-SWCs being built for the Indian Navy. Beyond this programme, the company has supplied specialised steel for key naval platforms including INS Visakhapatnam and INS Surat. The company has also contributed to several landmark national infrastructure projects, including the Chenab Railway Bridge, Anji Khad Railway Bridge, Bogibeel Bridge and the India-based Neutrino Observatory.

Massive Protest Held in Binjharapur

JAIPUR (Correspondent): Under the banner of the Odisha School and College Teachers and Employees Coordination Committee, a massive protest demonstration was held at 10:00 a.m. in front of the office of the Block Development Officer (BDO), Binjharapur, under the chairmanship of OSTA President Mr. Jagannath Behera. On this occasion, the teachers drew the attention of the Government to their various legitimate demands and submitted a memorandum addressed to the Government through the Block Development Officer. They also urged the Government to resolve their demands at the earliest in the interest of improving the education system and safeguarding the welfare of teachers.

Adani Group Meets Deputy CM of Odisha

Bhubaneswar, (correspondent):: Adani Group's grassroots innovation movement, Vande Bharatam, continued its outreach across states with a visit to Odisha this week. The Group representatives met Shri Kanak Vardhan Singh Deo, Hon'ble Deputy Chief Minister of Odisha, and presented a Vande Bharatam



programme kit, showcasing the initiative's

vision of fostering innovation,

entrepreneurship and grassroots talent. The initiative has received 510+ applications from Odisha. The interaction focused on how Vande Bharatam can help unlock the state's entrepreneurial potential by providing aspiring innovators with access to mentorship, industry connect and a national

platform to take their ideas forward. Mr. Deo welcomed the initiative and appreciated its role in strengthening Odisha's vibrant innovation ecosystem. Mr. Gautam Adani, Chairman, Adani Group, said, "Vande Bharatam is built on the belief that extraordinary talent exists in every corner of the country and deserves the right platform to thrive.

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.

Die to the past, every moment



Dr. Arundhati Devi

Clinging to the known is clinging to a corpse. It does not need courage to drop the clinging; it needs courage to go on clinging to a corpse. That which is familiar to you, which you have lived – what has it given? Are you not still empty? Is there not immense discontent, a deep frustration and meaninglessness? Somehow you go on managing, hiding the truth and creating lies to remain engaged, involved. This is the question: to see with clarity that everything that you know is of the past, it is already gone, it is part of a graveyard. Do you want to be in a grave, or do you want to be alive? And this is not only the question today; it will be the same question tomorrow, and the day after tomorrow.

Whatever you know, accumulate – information, knowledge, experience. The moment

you have explored them you are finished with them. Now, carrying those empty words, that dead load is crushing and burdening your life, preventing you from entering into a living, rejoicing being – which is awaiting you each moment. The man of understanding dies to the past every moment and is reborn again to the future. His present is always a transformation, rebirth, and resurrection. It is not a question of courage but of clarity, of being clear about what is what.

Secondly, nobody can give courage to you. It is not something that can be presented as a gift. It is something that you are born with, you just have not allowed it to grow; you have not allowed it to assert itself, because society is against it. Society does not want lions; it wants a crowd of sheep. Then it is easy to enslave and exploit people, do whatever you want to do with them. They don't have souls; they are almost robots. You order, and

they will obey. Courage is not a quality to be practised, it is something that is part of your life – your very breathing. It is just that society has created so many barriers against your natural growth that you have started thinking, "From where to get courage? From where to get intelligence? From where to get truth?" You have to go nowhere. You contain everything in the seed form that you want to be. Realising this and seeing the other side – what is the gain of people who live with the crowd? They lose everything. In fact they don't live at all; their whole life is a series of deaths. Just look at the whole crowd of people. It is so simple if you see it: the only way to live life is to live on your own. It is an individual phenomenon, it is independence. It is a constant unburdening of all that is dead, so that life can go on growing and is not crushed under the weight of the dead. Abridged from Beyond Psychology.

Freedom of expression or glorification of obscenity?



Priyanka Saurabh

Jantar Mantar is a public forum in democratic India where citizens gather to convey their views to the government and society. This place symbolizes the freedom of expression guaranteed by the Constitution. But when language is violated during protests, profanity is used as a tool of resistance, and obscenity is celebrated as a symbol of courage, it is natural to question: what are the limits of freedom of expression? Does protest in a democracy mean legitimizing all forms of language and behavior? Or does freedom also entail responsibility?

In recent days, the public use of highly offensive language by some protesters at Jantar Mantar became a topic of discussion. A segment of society appeared to support this, calling it a "rebellion against patriarchy" and "the voice of a fearless woman." On the other hand, many considered it a violation of social decorum, public decency, and constitutional responsibility. This debate is not about a single incident, but about the direction society is taking to redefine the boundaries of expression.

Article 19(1)(a) of the Indian Constitution guarantees every citizen the freedom of expression. However, the same Constitution, through Article 19(2), also makes it clear that this freedom is not absolute. Reasonable restrictions can be imposed on this freedom on grounds such as public order, decency, morality, defamation, contempt of court, and national security. Thus, the Constitution itself recognizes that freedom and responsibility go hand in hand. The right to protest is essential in any democracy. Criticism of the government, questioning policies, and dissent are the strengths of a democratic system. However, if the language of protest

begins to promote hatred, obscenity, or violence in society, it cannot be evaluated solely on the basis of "free speech." The language used in public life also impacts society's culture and future generations.

It's also worth considering whether, if a man were to use similar language on a public platform, would society and the law react the same way as it would against a woman? If the answer is "no," it cannot be considered consistent with the principle of equality. Equal rights also imply equal responsibility. If the law takes action against obscene or offensive expressions made by men, the same standard should apply to women. Similarly, if inappropriate language against women is unacceptable, such language against men should not be normalized.

There is a concern in social discourse today that ideological commitments sometimes trump objectivity. If an event is evaluated based on a person's views, political leanings, or gender, both justice and equality are affected. Blind support for any side undermines democratic discourse. Practices and principles, not individuals, should be the basis for evaluation. Patriarchy, gender inequality, and injustice against women are real social issues. Struggles against them are necessary. But if this struggle is conducted with dignity, logic, and constitutional propriety, its moral force is greater. Obscene language or abusive behavior cannot be justified simply because the objective is to oppose a system. The means are as important as the objective. In the age of social media, inflammatory language instantly goes viral. This often creates the illusion that the more aggressive or controversial an expression is, the more effective it will be. However, the true beauty of democracy lies in the power of ideas, not the harshness of words. History shows that lasting change comes from reason, dialogue, and moral courage, not mere in-

itement.

All citizens are equal before the law. This is the fundamental spirit of the Indian Republic. Therefore, if obscene language, indecent exposure, or statements derogatory to any class in public places constitute crimes under the law, they should be assessed based on the individual's conduct, not their identity. Equality does not mean special privileges, but equal standards.

It is also essential that a clear social and legal understanding be developed between freedom of expression and hateful or obscene speech. Courts have repeatedly stated that while dissent is the foundation of democracy, such dissent cannot become a vehicle for violence, hatred, or violation of public decorum. Therefore, if there are ambiguities in the laws, they can be addressed through widespread public debate and necessary legal reforms to provide clear guidance to citizens.

Society too must introspect. Do we want to teach our children that courage means abandoning decorum? Does boldness mean abolishing the dignity of language? Or is true courage the ability to express one's views with restraint, clarity, and firmness, even in the face of harsh circumstances?

In a democracy, dissent must be respected, but the dignity of public life is equally essential. If we talk about equality, we must also accept equal responsibility. The law should be applied according to a person's actions, not their gender, ideology, or social identity. This is the spirit of the Constitution and the basis of justice.

Ultimately, the question isn't just about a single incident at Jantar Mantar. The question is what kind of public culture we want to create in the future India. An India where expression is free but also responsible; where dissent is fearless but also modest; and where equality means equal rights and equal responsibilities for all. This is the maturity of democracy and the true spirit of the Constitution.

Big Political Messages Hidden in Small Elections



Yogesh Kumar Goyal

In democratic politics, small elections often deliver large messages. For a long time, assembly by-elections were viewed merely as a formal procedure to fill vacant seats. The prevailing belief was that whichever party held power in a state would easily win by-elections due to administrative leverage, organizational strength, and the influence of power. For this reason, the results of by-elections were rarely viewed as broader political indicators. However, over the past few years, this perception has changed rapidly. Today, by-elections do not merely decide a single seat; they also signal the immediate sentiment of the public, satisfaction or dissatisfaction with the government, organizational strength, leadership acceptance, and the future political direction.

The assembly by-elections in Bankipur (Bihar), Datia (Madhya Pradesh), and Manjalpur (Gujarat) have delivered this exact message. Out of the three seats, the BJP's

loss in two and victory in only one has compelled political analysts to consider whether these are merely the result of local circumstances or early indications of new political challenges emerging before the BJP. By-elections are not a mandate for a change of government, but they are certainly the first echo of a changing public mindset, which is why these results need to be understood seriously. The most widely discussed seat was Bankipur in Bihar. This seat was not just an assembly constituency; it was considered a symbol of the BJP's political prestige. For nearly three decades, it remained an impregnable fortress for the party. First, the father of BJP President Nitin Nabin, and later Nitin Nabin himself, won consistently from here. The seat became vacant after Nitin Nabin was elected to the Rajya Sabha, and the BJP was fully confident that its bastion would remain secure. However, Prashant Kishor, founder of the Jan Suraj Party, not only dismantled this fortress but also strengthened the possibility of a new political alternative in Bihar.

This result is seen not just as a defeat for the BJP, but also as the consequence of its strategic missteps. Confusion surrounding candidate selection until the last moment, dissatisfaction among local workers, and overconfidence hurt the party. Winning a seat continuously over a long period can sometimes breed complacency within an organization. This exact situation was visible in Bankipur. The BJP likely assumed that its traditional vote bank and organizational network would guarantee victory under any circumstances, whereas voters have become far more alert and independent in their decision-making. The Bankipur result is equally significant for Prashant Kishor. Having helped numerous parties achieve success as an election strategist, Kishor entered the electoral arena himself for the first time and succeeded. Although his party had failed completely in the general assembly elections, this victory proved that if a party remains continuously among the people and effectively raises local issues, it can challenge established political equations. This

victory also gives momentum to the possibility of a third political alternative in Bihar.

On the other hand, the Datia seat in Madhya Pradesh is a matter of even greater concern for the BJP. This defeat is not merely a success for the opposition, but is also viewed as an expression of discontent within the BJP's own organization. Following the denial of a ticket to former Home Minister Narottam Mishra, the resentment among his supporters remained a continuous topic of discussion throughout the election campaign. In electoral politics, a candidate is not just a representative of the party, but also the centerpiece of local organizational sentiment. When workers lose enthusiasm or when sabotage occurs from within, even a strong organization fails to yield expected results. The Datia outcome confirms this truth. For a long time, the Madhya Pradesh BJP was known for its extremely strong organizational structure under the leadership of Shivraj Singh Chouhan. Maintaining the tradition of dialogue developed

between the organization, government, and public with the same effectiveness following a leadership change remains a challenge for the new government. The by-elections have signaled that merely being in power is not enough; organizational unity and the acceptance of local leadership are equally essential.

In Gujarat's Manjalpur, the BJP did register a victory, demonstrating its organizational capacity; however, the shift in the victory margin indicates that the opposition is gradually trying to strengthen its ground there as well. Although the BJP's position in Gujarat remains robust, electoral figures suggest that self-satisfaction is unwise for any political party. An important facet of the discussion surrounding these by-elections was the "Gen-Z movement." The elections took place at a time when issues concerning youth—such as competitive examinations, paper leaks, employment, lack of opportunities, and administrative accountability—were at the center of the national discourse. Naturally, it is difficult to state that this

movement alone influenced the election results, as local equations, candidate popularity, and organizational strength play far more decisive roles in any by-election. Nevertheless, it must be acknowledged that growing dissatisfaction among youth impacts the broader political atmosphere. If young voters feel disappointment toward a government, its psychological effect can manifest in electoral behavior. Today's voter—especially the youth—is no longer voting solely on the basis of caste or traditional political identity; employment, education, corruption, transparency, good governance, equality of opportunity, and administrative accountability are becoming top priorities. Social media and digital communication have also made voters more aware than before. For governments, mere claims of development are no longer sufficient; concrete results must also be visible.

The biggest lesson for the BJP from these results pertains to candidate selection. Over the past few years, dissatisfaction at the

local level regarding ticket distribution has been observed across several states. Ignoring organizational input, worker sentiment, and local popularity can sometimes lead to electoral losses. If the party does not seriously address this aspect in a timely manner, similar situations could arise in future major elections. The BJP must also understand that no political bastion is permanent. In a democracy, the public changes its decisions from time to time, and the party that succeeds in the long run is the one that continuously engages in self-assessment. The by-elections have delivered the message that organizational strength, leadership credibility, and sustained dialogue with the public have become more essential than ever. However, drawing a hasty conclusion from these results that national political equations are changing entirely would be premature. The results of three assembly seats cannot be the final gauge of a government's popularity. Still, ignoring small signals in a democracy is considered unwise from a political

standpoint, as these very small signals lay the groundwork for major political shifts ahead.

For the opposition, these results carry a message of hope. But this hope will prove meaningful only if, rather than relying solely on an anti-incumbency wave, it presents credible leadership, a clear alternative policy, and a strong organization. Meanwhile, for new political parties like Jan Suraj, this is both an opportunity and a test; turning success in a single seat into broad public trust will be a far more challenging task. The most significant message of these by-elections is that the voter has become more aware, more demanding, and more independent in making decisions than before. Elections can no longer be won purely through organizational might or old political equations. The public places equal importance on leadership credibility, candidate acceptability, solutions to local issues, and a clear vision for the future. Ultimately, the greatest power in a democracy rests with the people, and the people never forget to deliver big messages—even through small elections.

Kharasrota Book Fair Committee Felicitates 15 NEET-UG Successful Students with ‘Kharasrota Medha Pratibha Samman’

J A J P U R (Correspondent): A Medha Pratibha Samman (Meritorious Talent Felicitation Ceremony) was organized today at 4:30 PM under the President ship of Mr. Padmakar Guru, President of the Kharasrota Book Fair Committee, at the Kalyan Mandap, Mallia Yajna Ground.

On the occasion, 15 students who successfully qualified in the NEET-UG examination from Binjharpur, Bari, Aul, Rajkanika, and Dasarathpur blocks were felicitated with



mementoes, trophies, and bouquets by the Chief Guest, Dr. Kshetrabasi Thatoi, and the Chief Speaker, Professor Ajaya Kumar Ojha.

The Book Fair Committee appealed to the doctors of the region to establish a Super Speciality Hospital either near Singhpur Balamukuli Haat or Binjharpur Bazaar to

improve healthcare facilities in the area. The 15 meritorious students also took a pledge that after becoming doctors in the future, they would dedicate themselves to serving their native land with commitment and sincerity. Among the distinguished guests present were the Committee's advisors Rabi Narayan Samal, Ambika Prasad

Samal, Sridhar Sahu, Santosh Kumar Beuria, Shankarshan Das, Pramod Kumar Samal, and Sarat Chandra Parida, who emphasized that the collective cooperation of all sections of society is essential for the overall development of the region. Educationist Banamali Pati recited Vedic hymns. Narayan Chandra Das, Organising Secretary of the Committee, introduced the guests, while advisor Basanta Kumar Sahu proposed the vote of thanks.

Youth dies due to medical negligence at Subarnapur DHH Protest against doctor's misbehavior, demand letter submitted to S.P. and CDM&PHO

SUBARNAPUR (Correspondent): A youth died due to medical negligence at Subarnapur District Head Quarter Hospital last Sunday night. The deceased was identified as Prashant Kumar Tripathy of Panisiali village under Sonpur police station. There was a lot of excitement there regarding this incident. Agitated by this, the family members of the deceased had abused and assaulted the doctor. On the other hand, the family of the deceased



also complained that Prashant had died due to medical negligence. However, after this incident, the doctors' association asked for immediate arrest of those who delayed the autopsy of the deceased and assaulted the doctor. In

this regard, the doctors were discussing with the S.P. in the DHH premises. At that time, some journalists were taking videos and photos of the said discussion. Intrigued by this, Dr. Mohapatra showed his finger and misbehaved with the

journalists. Which is going viral on social media. There has been a lot of dissatisfaction among the journalists and intellectuals of the district regarding this and this incident is being condemned a lot. On Wednesday, all the journalists met Subarnapur S.P. Narayan Nayak and informed him in writing to investigate the incident and take action. In this regard, they also met CDM&PHO Dr. Usharani Das and demanded immediate action.

DEVOTEE DONATES RS 5 LAKH FOR PARALA JAGANNATH TEMPLE

Paralakhemundi, (Correspondent):: The construction of the new Sri Jagannath Temple at Paralakhemundi received a major boost after a devotee donated Rs. 5.01 lakh towards the ongoing project. Former Principal of S.K.C.G. College, Paralakhemundi, Prof. Prafulla Kumar Mishra, now residing in Berhampur, made the donation to support the temple construction. Besides him, Oliva Priyadarshini of Friends Colony donated Rs. 11,050, while Arjuna Sahu, a resident near Forest Gate, contributed Rs. 10,000.

The Sri Jagannath Temple Construction Committee said devotees from different walks of life have been extending financial support for the project. Committee Secretary Durga Madhab Panigrahi and other members expressed gratitude to the donors for their generous contributions and appealed to more devotees to join the noble initiative.



Ravenshaw University wardens resign alleging ‘misbehaviour’ by MLA; legislator demands action

Kataka (Correspondent):: The standoff between Ravenshaw University Chief Warden Sudarshan Mishra and Kataka Sadar MLA Prakash Sethi intensified on Wednesday, with both sides levelling allegations against each other and demanding action. The controversy erupted after a meeting on hostel-related issues at the university, during which the chief warden allegedly faced misconduct from the legislator. Following the incident, several wardens resigned from their hostel responsibilities and submitted their collective resignation letters to the Vice-



Chancellor, expressing solidarity with the chief warden. On Wednesday, members of the Ravenshaw University Teachers' Association has also extended support to the wardens' demands. "The external interference occurring in the university needs to be stopped. Secondly, the respect and dignity of the teachers must also be protected.

Prakash Sethi apologise to the chief warden over the alleged incident. The Ravenshaw University Teachers' Association has also extended support to the wardens' demands. "The external interference occurring in the university needs to be stopped. Secondly, the respect and dignity of the teachers must also be protected.

Therefore, we appeal to the government to stop this external interference. The way the MLA came and instigated the students, and behaved indecently towards the Chief Warden, will never be tolerated," said a warden. Meanwhile, the MLA has strongly denied the allegations and has instead accused Chief Warden Sudarshan Mishra of misbehaving with him during his visit to the university. In a letter addressed to the Speaker of the Odisha Legislative Assembly, Sethi stated that he had visited Ravenshaw University in his capacity as a Senate

member and interacted with students over hostel-related issues. He alleged that the chief warden behaved inappropriately with him in the presence of others. Claiming that the conduct of the chief warden amounted to disrespect towards a public representative, Sethi urged the Speaker to initiate appropriate action against the university official. As of now, the MLA has not issued any public response to the Wardens' Association's demand for an apology. The university administration is yet to make an official statement on the developments.

Malyabanta working Journalist Association welcomed new IIC

Malkangiri (correspondent): Mr Devadatta Mallick has taken charge as new IIC of Malkangiri Sadar Adarsh police station Malkangiri Earlier, he had introduced his performance in many places as Balimela, Mathili, Rayagada PS efficiently solved many difficult cases with his intelligence and many times became a source of praise. Mr. Mallick has expressed that he will look into how to provide a safe environment to the citizens in Malkangiri while maintaining law and order. Earlier, Regan Kindo had worked as a dedicated police officer as Malkangiri Sadar Thana for many years.

Rayagada Administration, MCL Sign MoU for 10.29 Crore CSR Support to Improve Road Connectivity in PVTG Areas

Rayagada, (Correspondent): In a major step towards improving road connectivity in remote Particularly Vulnerable Tribal Group (PVTG) habitations, the Rayagada district administration on Wednesday signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with Mahanadi Coalfields Limited (MCL) for implementation of road infrastructure under the district's 'Ama Rasta 2025-26' initiative.

The agreement, signed under MCL's Corporate Social Responsibility (CSR) programme, provides financial assistance of ₹10.29 crore for the construction of rural roads in Muniguda



block. The MoU signing ceremony was chaired by Rayagada Collector Ashutosh Kulkarni. MCL CSR General Manager Jyotirmaya Sinha, Chief Development Officer-cum-Executive Officer, Zilla Parishad Akshaya Kumar Khemundu, and other district-level officials were present. Under the project, MCL has a p p r o v e d 10,29,36,200 from its CSR fund for

construction of rural roads benefiting eight remote PVTG villages—Raksarapadi, Rakata, Sutanaguni, Darda, Garata, Manda, Trahali and Sargipai—located under Siripadar and Munikhol Gram Panchayats of Muniguda block. The project is expected to directly benefit 564 PVTG residents.

The Ama Rasta 2025-26 initiative aims to provide 3-metre-wide all-weather

concrete road connectivity to remote PVTG habitations in Bissamcuttack, Gunupur, Kalyansinghpur and Muniguda blocks by linking them with the main road network. The improved connectivity is expected to facilitate ambulance movement, healthcare access, education, rural markets, mobile connectivity, transportation of PM-JANMAN housing materials and delivery of other essential government services. According to the Detailed Project Report (DPR), eight road projects will be executed in Muniguda block covering 10.30 km of concrete roads,

construction of 24 cross-drainage structures, and 2,980 metres of drainage. Special emphasis has been laid on drainage infrastructure to ensure uninterrupted road connectivity during the monsoon and enhance the durability of roads in hilly and stream-prone areas. The district administration has prepared DPRs for 45 road projects across four blocks—11 in Bissamcuttack, 10 in Gunupur, 16 in Kalyansinghpur and 8 in Muniguda. Collectively, the projects propose construction of 82.82 km of roads and 6,958 metres of drains at an estimated cost of ₹56.34 crore.

251 KG GANJA, 112 LTS ILLICIT LIQUOR SEIZED, 6 ARRESTED IN GAJAPATI

Paralakhemundi, (Correspondent):: Gajapati Police and the Excise Department achieved a major breakthrough in their ongoing drive against narcotics and illicit liquor, arresting six persons in separate operations and seizing 251.2 kg of ganja and 112 litres of illicit country liquor.

Acting under the direction of Gajapati SP Prahlad Sahai Meena, R. Udayagiri Police conducted a raid in the forest near Tabarasahi village following a specific intelligence input. A police team led by Sub-Inspector Laxman Beshra, while on patrol in the Sambalpur, Kirama, Nidhigudi and Tabarasahi areas, received information that a large quantity of ganja

had been stored in the forest. The team rushed to the spot and found two persons packing ganja into plastic bags. On seeing the police, they tried to escape but were chased and apprehended. The arrested accused were identified as Abinata Raika (44) and Yakshya Gamang (55), both residents of Tabarasahi village. Police seized 251.2 kg of ganja packed in eight plastic bags from their possession and registered R. Udayagiri P.S. Case No. 143/2026 under Section 20(b)(ii)(C) of the NDPS Act, 1985. The accused were produced before the court on Wednesday.

In another operation, the Mohana and R.

Udayagiri Excise teams, acting on the instructions of Excise Superintendent Pradeep Kumar Sahu, carried out joint raids at Antaraba and Dhadiamba villages. During the raids, officials seized 112 litres of illicit country liquor and arrested four persons, including a woman, for their alleged involvement in the illegal liquor trade. The Excise raid was led by Mohana Excise Officer Danda Sabar, assisted by Sudarshan Bisoi, N. Tirupati Rao, and members of the Excise Mobile Team. Officials said the district-wide drive against illegal ganja trafficking and illicit liquor manufacturing and sale will continue with intensified enforcement.

President returns from Ganjam: Emotional farewell at the railway station

Gopalpur 5/8 (Correspondent):- The President's two-day visit to Ganjam district has ended. After completing her two-day visit to Ganjam district, President Draupadi Murmu returned to Bhubaneswar from Berhampur railway station on Wednesday

by a special train. President Murmu, who is on a three-day visit to Odisha, arrived at Berhampur railway station on the second day of the visit by a special train from the capital Bhubaneswar. From there, she took a dip in the hot springs of the famous tourist



destination of Ganjam district and had darshan of Maa Kandhuni Devi. After spending the night at the Golabandha Army Air Defence College, she had darshan and worshipped at the famous Dhabeleshwar temple near Gopalpur early on Wednesday morning. There was an

atmosphere of excitement and joy throughout the district regarding this two-day visit of the President. The people of the district were very happy to have the first citizen of the country nearby. As per the protocol, Odisha Governor Dr. Hari Babu Kambhampati and Chief

Minister Mohan Charan Majhi, State Commerce and Transport, Steel and Mines Minister Bibhuti Bhushan Jena, Fisheries and Livestock Development and Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises Minister Gokulanand Mallick, Berhampur MLA K. Anil Kumar,

RDC Sangram Keshari Mohapatra, South Police IG Niti Shekhar, Ganjam Collector V. Kirti Vhasan, Berhampur SP Dr. Sharvana Vivek M, Ganjam SP Harish Triyakar along with senior administrative, police and railway officials were present to bid the President a fond farewell.

5 warning signs your heart is struggling silently

Before heart trouble becomes serious enough to demand urgent care, the body often drops small but important hints that something isn't right. Subtle changes in breathing, energy, sleep, or even swelling can quietly signal that the heart is under strain. Recognising these early warning signs is crucial - not just for timely diagnosis, but also for preventing more serious heart disease down the line.

“Before any major shift in health, the body sends quiet messages. Noticing these subtle cues early is what truly protects the heart.”

Shortness of breath
If simple day-to-day activities such as walking or climbing stairs suddenly leave you breathless, it could be an early warning sign that your heart is under strain. Dr Chopra explains, “Breathing heavily while climbing stairs, walking, or even lying down? Your heart may be struggling to circulate oxygen efficiently.”

Unusual fatigue
Persistent fatigue or unusually low energy levels can signal that your heart is struggling to circulate oxygen-rich blood efficiently throughout the body. The cardiologist highlights, “Feeling tired even after resting? If daily tasks suddenly feel exhausting, your heart may not be pumping efficiently enough, causing low energy levels.”

Irregular heartbeat
If you notice irregular heartbeats or fluttering sensations, Dr Chopra flags it as a sign to seek medical attention. He highlights, “Skipping beats, fluttering, pounding or sudden changes in rhythm? These subtle changes can sometimes signal underlying heart stress.”

Poor sleep or restlessness
Poor sleep quality, disturbed sleep patterns, or breathlessness when lying flat can also be warning signs of compromised heart health. The cardiologist notes, “Waking up frequently, gasping for air, or struggling to sleep flat can also be linked to cardiovascular strain.”



Tabu Moves Delhi HC For Protection Of Personality Rights

Celebrated actress Tabu has approached the Delhi High Court seeking protection of her personality and publicity rights against the alleged unauthorised use of her name, image, likeness and other identity attributes, including through artificial intelligence (AI)-generated content and digital impersonation. The matter came up for hearing before a single-judge Bench of Justice Jyoti Singh, who took note of certain discrepancies in the pleadings filed on behalf of the actress. During the proceedings, Justice Singh asked senior advocate Swathi Sukumar, appearing for Tabu, to file a fresh memo of parties after observing that the existing memo did not correctly mention details of some of the defendants.

The judge remarked that accurate particulars of all parties were necessary for proper adjudication of the case and directed that the defects be rectified. Following this, the Delhi High Court deferred further hearing in the matter and listed it for August 6. Tabu's plea is understood to raise concerns over unauthorised commercial exploitation and misuse of her identity and likeness in the digital space. The development comes amid a growing number of personality rights disputes before the Delhi High Court involving allegations of AI-generated impersonation, deepfakes, fake endorsements, and unauthorised commercial exploitation of public figures' identities. The case adds to a growing list of high-profile personalities invoking their personality and publicity rights before the Delhi High Court. In recent months, former cricketer Gautam Gambhir, former India captain Sunil Gavaskar, spiritual leader Sri Sri Ravi Shankar, actors Arjun Kapoor, Allu Arjun, Nagarjuna, Varun Dhawan, Kajol, Aishwarya Rai Bachchan, and Abhishek Bachchan, singer Jubin Nautiyal, film-maker Karan Johar, podcaster Raj Shamani, Congress MP Shashi Tharoor, and actor Naga Chaitanya have secured or sought court protection against the unauthorised use of their identity, likeness, or AI-generated imitations.



Swelling in feet or ankles

Inefficient heart function can also cause fluid to accumulate in the body, often showing up as noticeable swelling in the ankles, feet, or lower legs. Dr Chopra explains, “Fluid retention in the ankles, feet, or legs can indicate the heart is not circulating blood well, leading to fluid buildup.”



How to enjoy sweet potatoes this season with boiled, baked and air-fried cooking methods

Sweet Potatoes are one of the most consumed vegetables in the world. From appetizers to side dishes, you can make all sorts of mouth-watering preparations with potatoes. Nutrition expert Roxana Ehsani told Real Simple, potatoes are high in potassium, vitamin C, fiber, protein, and energy-dense carbohydrates. Here are some ways to cook delicious sweet potatoes.

Baked
A steamy, loaded baked sweet potato with salt and butter tastes satisfying and delicious. Although it is a simple dish, baked potatoes can be served as a side or an entree. Since baking doesn't call for any extra ingredients, it is one of the healthier ways to cook potatoes.

However, some people like

to add some olive oil and salt to potatoes before baking them. Butter, cheese, sour cream, and bacon diminish the nutritional value of this potato recipe, whereas broccoli, tomatoes, olives, and other vegetables increase it, per Real Simple.

Boiled
Roxana Ehsani, MS, RD, CSSD, LDN, recommends you boil your sweet potatoes “if you're looking for a more nutritious way to prepare your spuds”. Since water is used as the cooking medium for boiled potatoes, the end product is pure potato nutrients. And since boiled potatoes are bland on their own, you can try them with mayonnaise or cheesy casseroles. Delicious alternatives to these traditional recipes include mayo-free



German potato salad or a straightforward side dish of boiled potatoes with olive oil, salt, and pepper.

Air-Fried
The high-heat convection technique of air fryers produces consistently crispy potatoes, making cooking quick and delicious a delight. These culinary tools are special because they can accomplish these goals without using fat, resulting in an extremely healthful end product.

Benefits of sweet potatoes

In addition to being rich in potassium, vitamin C, fiber, protein, and energy-dense carbohydrates, sweet potatoes are a great source of B vitamins, iron, magnesium, phosphorus, copper, and plant compounds like flavonoids and phenolic compounds.

Together, these nutrients maintain the health of the heart, bones, immune system, gut, blood, metabolism, and brain. Potatoes' protein and fibre also contribute to increased sensations of fullness after eating, which results in more stable blood sugar and energy levels, per Healthline.

Why are sugary drinks unhealthy?

1. High in calories
A 330 ml soft drink typically contains almost nine teaspoons of sugars and has approximately 140 calories, with little nutritional value, according to the World Health Organization. Sugary drinks are calorie-dense, which means they provide a large number of calories in a small volume. “These are often referred to as “empty calories” because they contribute little to no essential nutrients like vitamins and minerals,” explains internal medicine expert Dr Ajay Nair.

2. Weight gain
For a 2012 study published in the New England Journal of Medicine, people with a genetic predisposition for obesity were chosen as participants. Researchers found that participants who consumed sugary drinks were more likely to have obesity than those who did not have such beverages. The excess calories in such drinks can make people gain body weight. Unlike solid foods, sugary drinks don't fill you up, so you might end up consuming more calories overall

without feeling satisfied

3. Increased risk of chronic diseases
“Regularly having sweetened drinks may increase your chances of developing type 2 diabetes and heart disease,” says the expert. The high sugar content in such drinks can lead to insulin resistance, which is a precursor to diabetes.

4. Dental problems
The sugars in these drinks can contribute to tooth decay and cavities if consumed regularly. Sugar can interact with bacteria in the mouth, and when that happens, it produces acid that can erode tooth enamel.

Replace sugary drinks with water
There are many healthy beverages, but water is the best alternative to sugary drinks. “It hydrates without adding calories or sugar to your diet,” says Dr Nair. If you want to make water more appealing, you can add a few slices of lemon or cucumber.

Sleeping less than 7 hours a night may shorten your life



In both high-income and low-income counties, as well as in metropolitan regions and remote rural areas, sleep deprivation was associated with shorter lifespans, reports the outlet.

Lower life expectancies were found in counties where a greater percentage of the population reported getting less than seven hours of sleep. In Oregon, life expectancy was significantly lower in counties with higher rates of sleep deprivation than in those with lower rates. The state's map displays a discernible gradient as a result of this pattern, with certain counties exhibiting noticeably better results than their neighbours.

You need a minimum of seven to nine hours of sleep

The National Sleep Foundation has found that millions of Americans report sleeping less than seven hours regularly. Senior author Andrew McHill, PhD, an associate professor at Oregon Health & Science University, was shocked to discover how life expectancy correlated with sleep.

“I didn't expect it to be so strongly correlated to life expectancy,” he said in a statement. “We've always thought sleep is important, but this research really drives that point home: People really should strive to get

seven to nine hours of sleep if at all possible,” he emphasized.

What sleep deprivation causes

The research team found that sleep insufficiency was comparable to recognised predictors when comparing many mortality risk factors side by side. Smoking rates, obesity, diabetes, physical inactivity, food insecurity, unemployment, high school graduation, lack of health insurance, and social ties were all included in the analysis.

Reduced life expectancy was most strongly associated with smoking. Obesity, diabetes, and physical inactivity were ranked lower than sleep.

Among other risks, sleep deprivation can lead you to develop type 2 diabetes, high blood pressure (hypertension), obesity, obstructive sleep apnea, vascular disease, stroke, heart attack, depression, and anxiety, per the Cleveland Clinic.



Jr Men National Hockey: Odisha, Punjab, Jharkhand And MP Storm Into Semis

Coimbatore (TN): Teams from Odisha, Punjab, Jharkhand and Madhya Pradesh emerged victorious in four exciting quarterfinal encounters as the semifinal line-up of the 16th Hockey India Junior Men National Championship 2026 – Division ‘A’ was confirmed on Wednesday. Hockey Punjab booked their place in the semi-finals with a convincing 5–2 victory over Hockey Karnataka in the third quarterfinal. Ajaypal Singh (22’), Jarman Singh (C) (24’), Sunny (32’), Amandeep (35’) and Gurwinder Singh



(60’) found the net for Punjab, while Kiran Reddy scored both goals for Hockey Karnataka in the 21st and 28th minutes. In quarterfinal 2, Hockey Association of Odisha registered an emphatic 5-1 win over

Hockey Haryana. Lelsan Minz starred with a brilliant hat-trick (15’, 20’, 46’), while Mandeep Kerketta (3’) and captain Deepak Pradhan (60’) also got on the scoresheet. Prince scored the lone goal for Hockey

Haryana in the 41st minute. The closest contest of the day saw Hockey Jharkhand edge past Uttar Pradesh Hockey in a shootout after the teams were locked at 3-3 at the end of regulation time. Satyam Pandey (28’) and Triloki Venvanshi (33’, 50’) scored for Uttar Pradesh Hockey, while Patras Hassa (26’), Bhengra Gledshan (43’) and Nicolas Topno (60’) struck for Hockey Jharkhand. In the shootout, Rohit Tirkey, Jolen Topno, Patras Hassa and Ankit Ekka converted their attempts, while goalkeeper Sahu

Prince produced crucial saves to seal a 4–3 shootout victory for Jharkhand. In the first quarterfinal, Hockey Madhya Pradesh defeated Dadra & Nagar Haveli and Daman & Diu Hockey 7–3 in a high-scoring encounter. Subhan Abid (23’, 43’), Rajveer Singh (19’, 23’) and captain Ritendra Pratap Singh (37’, 56’) each scored twice, while Aashir Aadil Khan added another in the 41st minute. Sumit Rajbhar (40’), Suraj (47’) and Moohamed Jaed (52’) scored for Dadra & Nagar Haveli and Daman & Diu Hockey.

World Championships 2026: Ayush Shetty To Face World Champion Shi Yuqi In Opening Round

New Delhi: Asian Championships silver medallist Ayush Shetty will take on defending champion and top seed Shi Yuqi of China in his opening match as the Indian hopefuls were handed a tricky draw for the BWF World Championships 2026 to be played at the Indira Gandhi Stadium from August 17-23. Among the other Indians, former world champion PV Sindhu will open her campaign against world number 141 Sophia Nobel of Ireland while 2022 world championships bronze medallist Lakshya Sen will face Collins Valentine Filimon of Austria in the men’s singles first round

and could face second seed Kunlavut Vitidsam of Thailand in the pre-quarterfinals. In the men’s doubles draw, fifth seeds Satwiksairaj Rankireddy and Chirag Shetty have a bye in the opening round and will play the winners of the match between Alexander Dunn and Adam Pringle of Scotland and Thailand’s Chaloempon Charoenkitamorn and Worrapol Thongsa-Nga. India is hosting the BWF World Championships after a gap of 17 years, and the live draw took place in the National Capital on Wednesday. Speaking on the occasion, Badminton Association of India (BAI) general secretary Sanjay Mishra said, “Over

Rs. 20 crore have been spent on refurbishing the Indira Gandhi Multipurpose Indoor Stadium for the Championships, and we are confident that the hosting of the event will set new standards for world badminton.” While India is aiming to win multiple medals on their home turf, all eyes would be on five-time world championships medallist PV Sindhu, who has struck form in the run-up to the Championships by winning the Japan Open last month. Sindhu has managed to avoid the likes of world number one An Se Young of South Korea and defending champion Akane Yamaguchi of Japan before the medal rounds.

Hockey World Cup: Accidental Goalkeeper Mohith HS Ready To Seize Opportunity For India

New Delhi: At just 24 years of age, Karnataka’s Mohith HS is set to guard the goal for the Indian national hockey team — taking over the job performed in the past by the legendary Ranganathan Francis, Shankar Laxman, Adrian D’Souza and PR Sreejesh. Mohith is set to realise a lifelong dream with his maiden appearance at the FIH Hockey World Cup 2026, which is scheduled to be played in Belgium and the Netherlands from August 15 to 30. Alongside the experienced Suraj Karkera, Mohith is one of the two goalkeepers in the Indian team, marking another

significant milestone in his remarkable journey. While Mohith may not have the same level of international experience as Suraj, the young custodian has impressed consistently in recent months, particularly during the final leg of the FIH Pro League season, where his performances reinforced the selectors’ faith in his abilities. Ironically, Mohith’s hockey journey began by chance. He was drafted into his school’s hockey team because there was no goalkeeper available, and his coach believed his height would be an advantage between the posts. What started as an unexpected opportunity soon

evolved into a promising career. Since then, Mohith has represented India at the Junior World Cup before earning his senior national call-up, steadily progressing through the ranks. Reflecting on his motivation, Mohith said, “I always had a mindset to represent India in major tournaments because when I played in the Junior World Cup, we were not able to finish on the podium; we ended up fourth. So, from that time, it was my dream to do something big for India.” Mohith also acknowledged the learnings from legendary goalkeeper PR Sreejesh, who inspires the next generation of Indian goalkeepers. “

India U31 Team Wins Bronze At World Youth Bridge Championships

Mumbai: India’s Under-31 team won the bronze medal in the Teams Event at the 9th World Youth Transnational Bridge Championships in Hefei, China, finishing third in the eight-team final round robin with 82.34 Victory Points. China’s AGOOFANS took gold (89.96 VP) and China U31 the silver (89.47 VP). India secured the medal despite visa delays and last-minute changes to partnerships. The team — Anshul Bhatt, Sagnik Roy, Sayantan Kushari, Shubham Acharya, Surajit Bar and Vidhya Patel — was captained and coached by K a u s t u b h Bendre. Chinese visas for some players didn’t arrive in time, forcing changes to the playing



combinations. Anshul, who had trained extensively with Shubham Acharya, ended up partnering Kolkata-based national player Sayantan K u s h a r i instead. Shubham partnered Vidhya Patel, who is from Raibidpura, a Madhya Pradesh village known for

producing bridge players. These new pairings held the team together until Sagnik Roy and Surajit Bar arrived from Kolkata in time to reinforce the squad. Because of the unforeseen circumstances, Anshul and Vidhya played six of India’s eight qualifying rounds. India finished

seventh in qualifying on August 3 to 4, making the cut for the eight-team final. The final was a round robin on August 5, with each team playing a seven-board match against every other finalist. On Anshul’s selection to the older age group, coach Bendre said: “Anshul has been selected

because he has earned his place, not because of his age or reputation. At 17, he already shows the discipline, composure and partnership awareness expected at the U31 level.” Anshul runs a school bridge club and Bridge Blitz boot camps that have produced other India age-group players; a Bridge Blitz-trained team reached the semifinals of the 2025 World Youth T e a m s Championships. Outside bridge, he built PawPath, a wearable sensor system that analyses dog gait using machine learning, which won an ISEF Grand Award in Animal Sciences and is being developed into a pet-health platform called Sniffi.

Sri Lanka Cricket To Host Annual Awards Ceremony In Colombo On Friday

Colombo: Sri Lanka Cricket (SLC) said that it will host the annual awards ceremony in Colombo on Friday, where they will honour the finest male and female cricketers for their outstanding performances during the 2025 season.

The prestigious event will recognize 42 outstanding performers across both international and first-class domestic cricket. The highlight of the evening will be the presentation of the highly coveted Men’s Cricketer of the Year and Women’s Cricketer of the Year awards. Other major international accolades across formats include awards for the Best Batter, Best Bowler, Best All-Rounder, as



well as the Men’s Emerging Player of the Year and Women’s Emerging Player of the Year. “We are delighted to stage the annual Sri Lanka Cricket Awards 2025, which serve as a fitting tribute to the exceptional performances of our

players during the 2025 season,” said Ashley De Silva, Chief Executive Officer of SLC, in a statement. On the domestic circuit, top performers in first-class cricket will be recognized with trophies for Best Batter, Best Bowler, Best All-Rounder, and Most

Valuable Player (MVP). The champion teams of the Major Club Three-Day Tournament, Major Club Men’s 50-Over Tournament, Major Club Women’s 50-Over Tournament, and Major Club T20 Tournament will also be felicitated during the function. In addition, SLC will

present four Lifetime Achievement Awards, honouring two cricketing stalwarts alongside two distinguished media personalities for their long-standing contribution to the sport.

Recognizing the vital role of match officials, the board will also present the Umpire of the Year award during the ceremony, which is expected to gather top administrators, former international stars, and distinguished guests under one roof. As of now, Lanka Premier League (LPL) is on in the country, even as the Test team will start its preparations for the upcoming two-game World Test Championship (WTC) series against India, starting on August 15 in Galle.

CWG Champion Dilip Gavit Targets World Records at Para Asian Games

NEWDELHI: Fresh off his historic gold medal in the 100m T47 event at the Commonwealth Games in Glasgow, Indian para sprinter Dilip Gavit has set his sights on an even bigger challenge — breaking world records at the upcoming Para Asian Games in Japan. The 23-year-old athlete, who stunned the field with a Games-record sprint, revealed his ambition to clock 10.28 seconds in the 100m, a time close to India’s able-bodied national record. Gavit, who also won gold in the 400m T47 at the Hangzhou Asian Games 2022, said his training focus would return to

the 400m to build endurance that sharpens his 100m performance. Competing in the T47 category for athletes with upper limb impairments, Gavit acknowledged the tougher competition at the Para Asian Games but expressed confidence in his preparation under coach Vaijanath Kale, to whom he dedicated his CWG triumph. “The day I won gold was Guru Purnima. I had decided that if I won, I would dedicate it to my guru,” he said. Gavit credited Kale’s mentorship since 2016, recalling how his coach provided not only

technical guidance but also personal support. “Kale sir kept me at his home, treated me like family, and gave me all the training I needed,” he added. With little time to rest, Gavit insists his focus is firmly on training. “There are more competitions ahead, and I need to be ready. Training for the 400m automatically helps with the 100m as well,” he said. If his ambitions materialise in Japan, Gavit could add world records to an already rapidly growing list of achievements, further cementing his place as one of India’s most inspiring para athletes.

2027 ODI World Cup Qualifier Set To Be Held From February 22 To March 23: Report

Dubai: The International Cricket Council (ICC) has reportedly finalised the window for the 2027 ODI World Cup Qualifier, with the 10-team tournament set to be held from February 22 to March 23 next

year, marking the final pathway to cricket’s showpiece 50-over event. While the dates have now been locked in, the host nation for the tournament is yet to be confirmed. The Qualifier will determine the final teams advancing to the

2027 ICC Men’s Cricket World Cup, which will be jointly hosted by South Africa, Zimbabwe and Namibia from October 4 to November 21. As reported by Cricinfo, the ICC has completed the scheduling of the

tournament but is still finalising the venue. The qualification pathway follows the revamped format announced by the governing body in July, introducing a new structure for the expanded 14-team World Cup. Under the

revised system, the winner of the Qualifier will progress directly to the 12-team main stage of the World Cup. The teams finishing second, third and fourth will advance to the newly introduced Super Series, the opening

phase of the tournament, where they will compete for the final place in the main group stage. The Qualifier will feature 10 teams comprising the two lowest-ranked Full Member nations in the ICC ODI rankings, excluding hosts South

Africa and Zimbabwe, as of September 30, 2026. They will be joined by the top four teams from the ICC Men’s Cricket World Cup League 2 and four teams emerging from the World Cup Qualifier Playoff. The rankings

race remains particularly significant for the West Indies, currently placed 10th in the ODI standings. The Caribbean side has only two ODIs remaining before the September 30 cut-off, both against India.

Solar Rath Flagged Off in Kataka to Promote Rooftop Solar Adoption

BHUBANESWAR,(correspondent): Strengthening its commitment to promoting clean and sustainable energy, TP Central Odisha Distribution Limited (TPCODL), a joint venture of Tata Power and the Government of Odisha, flagged off the Solar Rath from the Office of the District Collector, Kataka, to create awareness about the PM Surya Ghar: Muft Bijli Yojana and encourage rooftop solar adoption across the district. The Solar Rath was flagged off by Sri Dattatraya Bhausaheb Shinde, Collector, Kataka and Dr. Ipsita Priyadarshini Mishra, ADM (Development), Kataka, in the presence of senior TPCODL officials. The awareness



vehicle will travel across the district, educating consumers on the benefits of rooftop solar, government subsidies and the simple installation process. A dedicated Solar Sanga team will accompany the campaign to engage with consumers and address their queries. Speaking on the occasion, Sri

Dattatraya Bhausaheb Shinde, Collector, Kataka, said, "The Solar Rath campaign will help take awareness about rooftop solar directly to the people, enabling more households to benefit from the PM Surya Ghar: Muft Bijli Yojana. Such initiatives play an important role in promoting renewable

energy and supporting sustainable development." Dr. Ipsita Priyadarshini Mishra, ADM (Development), Kataka, said, "Creating awareness at the grassroots level is essential for increasing rooftop solar adoption. The Solar Rath initiative will help consumers understand the benefits of

the PM Surya Ghar: Muft Bijli Yojana and encourage greater participation in the state's clean energy transition."

Speaking on the initiative Sri Gajanan S. Kale, CEO, TPCODL, said, "The Solar Rath campaign is helping us take the benefits of the PM Surya Ghar: Muft Bijli Yojana directly to consumers. Through sustained awareness and doorstep engagement, we aim to accelerate rooftop solar adoption and contribute to Odisha's clean energy future." TPCODL continues to promote rooftop solar across its operational areas through initiatives such as 'Mo Chhata, Mo Sanchaya', Gram Sabhas and the Solar Rath campaign, making clean and affordable solar energy more accessible to consumers.

JSW Foundation Facilitates Shree Shakti Cooperative's 3rd Annual General Body Meeting

BHUBANESWAR,(correspondent): As part of its commitment to promoting women-led entrepreneurship, JSW Foundation, the CSR arm of JSW JFE Steel Limited, facilitated the 3rd Annual General Body Meeting of Shree Shakti Bahumukhi Mahila Samabaya Samiti Ltd. at Kalyan Mandap, Thelkoloi, Sambalpur. The meeting brought together 110 women members from five peripheral Gram Panchayats of Rengali Block to review progress, celebrate achievements, and strengthen the vision for sustainable women-led enterprises.

Supported by JSW Foundation in partnership with Access Development Services, the cooperative society continues to

empower rural women entrepreneurs through enterprise development, capacity building, and market linkages. The meeting served as a platform to review the cooperative's annual performance, discuss future growth strategies, and reinforce the importance of strong governance and financial discipline.

The program was attended by Mr. Vishal Raj, Head CSR, JSW Foundation (Sambalpur & Jharsuguda), Mr. Subhendu Rout, Vice President, Access Development Services, Mr. Sushil Mishra, Retd. DRCS, Ms. Sarita Sethi, Administrator, Shree Shakti Cooperative Society and Mr. Talan

Dash, Branch Manager, Sabaya Bank, Rengali, along with representatives from JSW Foundation, Access Development Services, and cooperative members.

On the occasion, the Cooperative Society's Annual Report and a Coffee Table Book documenting its journey and achievements were officially launched. The dignitaries appreciated the leadership and commitment of the women members and encouraged them to continue working collectively to strengthen their enterprises, create sustainable livelihoods, and contribute to community development and the vision of Viksit Bharat.

Brokerages Turn Bullish on Vedanta Aluminium After Record Q1 FY27 Performance

Bhubaneswar (correspondent): Fresh off an exceptionally strong first-quarter performance, Vedanta Aluminium Metal Limited (NSE: VAML) has received a broad-based endorsement from leading domestic and global brokerages, with target prices ranging from ₹520 to ₹600 against the current market price of around 445-457, implying a potential upside of 17% to 35%. Analysts believe the company's combination of capacity expansion, industry-leading cost improvements, backward integration, and strong cash generation due to increasing quantum of value-added products, positions it for a multi-year earnings upcycle. Among the most bullish is ICICI Direct, which has set a

target price of 600, implying nearly 35% upside. The brokerage believes the company is well positioned to capitalise on India's structural aluminium demand growth, supported by capacity expansion, higher value-added products and improving profitability. It described Vedanta Aluminium as a "Hidden Gem" with significant long-term earnings potential.

Kotak Institutional Equities has also given a Buy rating on Vedanta Aluminium with a target price of ₹585. Kotak believes Vedanta Aluminium is well positioned to benefit from favourable aluminium market fundamentals, supported by its backward integration strategy and expansion

pipeline. The brokerage expects continued cost reductions, alongside a supportive aluminium pricing environment, to drive stronger margins and free cash flow. Nuvama Institutional Equities also maintains a Buy rating with a target price of ₹540. Highlighting the company's earnings profile, it said: "Vedanta Aluminium is focused on expanding aluminium volumes, paring costs via backward integration and increasing its share of value-added products. These initiatives aim to reduce cost, enhance EBITDA, augment cash flows and boost earnings visibility."

Nuvama further believes: "With majority of its capex now behind and key projects nearing completion, Vedanta Aluminium is poised to

step into a supportive aluminium cycle." Motilal Oswal Financial Services, which has also initiated coverage with a Buy recommendation and a ₹540 target price, believes Vedanta Aluminium is approaching a significant inflection point.

According to the brokerage: "Vedanta Aluminium delivered a strong 1QFY27, reporting record-high EBITDA of ₹105bn, driven by firmer aluminium prices and sustained cost discipline. We believe the medium-term cost reduction story is intact, supported by higher captive alumina integration, commencement of captive bauxite and coal mines, and the BALCO expansion, which should drive margin expansion."

CEA Chairperson Reviews Progress of Stage - III Expansion Project at NTPC Talcher Thermal

Talcher, (correspondent): Shri Ghanshyam Prasad, Chairperson of the Central Electricity Authority (CEA), visited NTPC Talcher Thermal Power Station on Tuesday to review the progress of the Stage-III Expansion Project (2x660 MW), a key initiative aimed at strengthening the nation's power generation capacity.

During his visit, Shri Prasad formally inaugurated 400KV GIS Control Room in august Presence of Shri Somes Bandyopadhyay RED ER II HQ, Shri Vijay Chand, Executive Director, TTPS, Sri. Praveer Kumar, GM (Project), Shri. Ashish Ku. Sahoo, Sub-Collector, Talcher Shri. Rohit Kumar AGM



(HR) Shri. Anjan Sahoo, AGM (EMG) and senior officials of BHEL. On the occasion Shri Prasad also visited different construction site like switchyard, NDCT, MPH Boiler, Chimney etc.

On completion of site visit, Shri Prasad chaired a comprehensive review meeting with senior NTPC officials. The meeting focused on the timely completion and

commissioning of the Stage-III units to meet the growing electricity demand of Odisha and the country.

Shri Prasad appreciated the significant progress achieved in the project and commended the team for maintaining high standards of safety compliance during construction. Addressing the gathering, Shri Prasad lauded the dedication

and commitment of the employees and project team in rebuilding one of India's historic power stations into a modern, efficient and environmentally sustainable generating station. He expressed confidence that the project would make a significant contribution towards strengthening the nation's energy security and supporting future economic growth.

The visit reaffirmed NTPC Talcher Thermal's commitment to the timely execution and commissioning of the Stage-III Expansion Project, which will play a vital role in meeting the country's growing power requirements while ensuring sustainable and reliable energy for the future.

East Coast Railway to Operate One Way Special Train from Puri to Solapur



Bhubaneswar, (correspondent): To accommodate the increased travel demand from Odisha to Maharashtra and provide additional passenger convenience, East Coast Railway to operate a One Way Special train between Puri and Solapur Junction. Train No. 08445 Puri-Solapur Junction One Way Special will commence its journey from Puri at 23:45 hrs on Friday, 07th August 2026, and will arrive at Solapur Junction at 04:15 hrs on Sunday. En route, the special train will halt at Khurda Road, Brahmapur, Vizianagaram, Duvvada, Vijayawada

Junction, Guntur, Nalgonda, Secunderabad, Wadi, and Kalaburagi, providing convenient connectivity to passengers travelling to these important destinations. The special train will comprise 22 coaches, including 13 Sleeper Class Coaches, 7 General Second Class Coaches, and 2 Luggage-cum-Divyang Friendly Coaches, ensuring adequate accommodation for passengers of different travel categories. For updated train information, passengers may visit the National Train Enquiry System (NTES) or use official railway enquiry services before commencing their journey.

Department of Health & Family Welfare, Government of Odisha, Tata Steel Foundation and Kaivalya Education Foundation Join Hands to Strengthen Public Health Systems

Bhubaneswar, (correspondent): The Department of Health & Family Welfare, Government of Odisha, Tata Steel Foundation and Kaivalya Education Foundation (an entity of Piramal Foundation) have entered into a tripartite Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) to strengthen public health systems across the state of Odisha. Present on the occasion were Dr. Mukesh Mahaling, Hon'ble Health Minister of Odisha; Ms. Awasthy S. (IAS), Commissioner-cum-Secretary, Department of Health & Family Welfare; Dr. Brundha D. (IAS), Mission Director, National Health Mission, Odisha, and other senior bureaucrats and government officials. The MoU was signed at Kharavel Bhavan, Bhubaneswar, between Dr. Rabindranath Misra,

Director, Public Health, Department of Health & Family Welfare, Government of Odisha; Dr. Anuj Bhatnagar, Head of Public Health, Tata Steel Foundation, and Dr. Sunil Babu, Core Team Member, Kaivalya Education Foundation (an entity of Piramal Foundation).

The three-year collaboration aims to provide strategic, techno-managerial support to strengthen public health systems across the state, with a focus on improving outcomes in Reproductive, Maternal, Newborn, Child and Adolescent Health and Nutrition (RMNCAH+N), as well as tuberculosis and malaria. The project will work closely with the Department of Health & Family Welfare, Government of Odisha and district health systems to build



institutional capacity and promote data-driven decision-making in public health system such as service delivery, health governance, human resources for health, supply chain management and health financing. The project adopts a systems-strengthening approach using evidence-based planning, targeted implementation and community participation to strengthen governance mechanisms to accelerate

improvements in RMNCAH+N and outcomes of TB and Malaria while leveraging digital and innovative models to improve efficiency and service delivery.

Under the partnership, Tata Steel Foundation will provide strategic and technical support across 16 districts of Odisha, while Kaivalya Education Foundation (an entity of Piramal Foundation) will support the remaining 14 districts, ensuring

state-wide coverage. The project will be implemented in alignment with the priorities and phased roll-out plans of the Department of Health & Family Welfare, Government of Odisha.

Dr. Brundha D. (IAS), Mission Director, National Health Mission, Odisha, said: "The National Health Mission has consistently focused on accelerating improvements in Reproductive, Maternal, Newborn, Child and

Adolescent Health and Nutrition outcomes across Odisha. We are pleased to partner with Tata Steel Foundation and Kaivalya Education Foundation, (an entity of Piramal Foundation) whose expertise in systems strengthening and implementation support will complement our efforts. This collaboration will help accelerate RMNCAH+N outcomes through improved planning, monitoring, governance, and capacity building at both state and district levels." Adding his thoughts, Sourav Roy, Chief Executive Officer, Tata Steel Foundation, said: "This partnership with the Department of Health & Family Welfare, Government of Odisha, advances a shared commitment to addressing critical social challenges and promoting better health outcomes across the state."