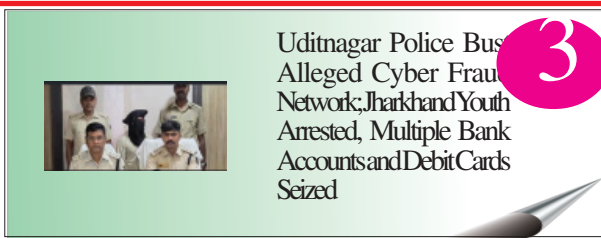


Assam CM Appreciates Vedanta Chairman Anil Agarwal's 7 Crore Contribution Towards Flood Relief



Uditnagar Police Bus Alleged Cyber Fraud Network, Jharkhand Youth Arrested, Multiple Bank Accounts and Debit Cards Seized



IOC Publishes Online Abuse Report, Seeks Better Protection Of Athletes



7 amazing benefits of adding a glass of carrot juice to diet daily for your heart, immunity, and energy levels

US Court Blocks Trump's \$400-Mn White House Ballroom Project

Washington: A divided federal appeals court in Washington on Friday ordered the US President Donald Trump administration to stop the construction of a massive 400-million-dollar new ballroom at the White House, while pausing the ruling for 14 days to allow the administration to seek Supreme Court review. "Each President is a temporary tenant, not the owner, of the White House and its Executive Residence. The President has no — and claims no — constitutionally assigned authority over that property, which is designed and maintained for the use of all Presidents, current and future, and for the American people," according to



the 2-1 ruling by the US Court of Appeals for the District of Columbia Circuit. "We are aware of no instance in American history in which a President unilaterally and using privately collected funds demolished substantial portions of the White House that Congress authorised to be built and American taxpayers paid for. Until now," the ruling said, Xinhua News Agency reported. The ruling, which sided with the National Trust for

Historic Preservation, noted that over just three days in October 2025, "without undertaking promised consultations or obtaining Congress's permission," Trump bulldozed the entire East Wing in order to construct a massive, 90,000-square-foot ballroom paid for by private funds with "no congressional oversight." The ruling added that "we will stay this decision for fourteen days to allow the Defendants, if they choose, to seek Supreme Court review."

Odisha Secures Rs 43,437 Cr Investment Proposals At Food Pro 2026 Roadshow In Delhi

New Delhi: Odisha received investment proposals worth ₹43,437 crore with the potential to generate more than 43,000 jobs on the opening day of its first sector-specific food processing investment roadshow, Odisha Food Pro 2026, held in the national capital on Friday. Led by Chief Minister Mohan Charan Majhi, the event marked Odisha's first dedicated investment outreach focused exclusively on the food processing sector and showcased the state's strategy to integrate agriculture, food processing, exports and industrial growth under a unified development framework. As part of the roadshow, the state government signed 27 Memorandums of Understanding (MoUs) involving proposed investments of ₹41,748



crore. These projects are expected to create around 35,252 employment opportunities. In addition, the government received 12 Investment Intent Forms (IIFs) worth ₹1,689 crore, with the potential to generate another 8,064 jobs. Together, the proposals amounted to ₹43,437 crore and an estimated 43,316 employment opportunities. Addressing industry leaders, Majhi said food processing is a key driver of farmers'

prosperity, rural transformation and industrial development. He said Odisha aims to emerge as India's preferred destination for food processing by creating value for farmers while expanding employment, exports and manufacturing. The Chief Minister said the government envisions food processing as an instrument of economic transformation that directly benefits farmers, fishermen, women entrepreneurs, Self-Help

Groups, Farmer Producer Organisations and rural enterprises. He stressed that the state's focus is to ensure that a larger share of Odisha's agricultural and marine produce is processed within the state, thereby increasing producer incomes and creating sustainable employment for youth. Highlighting Odisha's advantages, Majhi said the state offers abundant raw materials, ten agro-climatic zones, a 575-kilometre coastline, a

strong fisheries sector, expanding port infrastructure, improved logistics and an investor-friendly policy environment. These strengths, he said, provide industries with a complete ecosystem from sourcing and manufacturing to exports and access to global markets. The Chief Minister also outlined a long-term roadmap for the sector built around five priorities—developing specialised food processing clusters, expanding integrated cold-chain and warehousing infrastructure, strengthening food quality and certification systems, integrating Farmer Producer Organisations, MSMEs and women-led Self-Help Groups with organised industry, and creating a globally competitive skilled workforce.

BRICS Nations Adopt 5-Point Education Declaration As India Calls For United Response To Global Challenges

Bhubaneswar: Union Education Minister Pralhad Joshi on Friday urged BRICS countries to tackle education challenges collectively, saying resilience, innovation and sustainability cannot be achieved in isolation. Chairing the 13th BRICS Education Ministers' Meeting, Joshi said India's chairship of BRICS in 2026 is guided by four key principles: resilience, innovation, cooperation and sustainability. The meeting concluded with the adoption of a five-point BRICS Education Ministers' Declaration. "More of us can meet these challenges, but none of us can address them in isolation," Joshi said.



"The knowledge we create, the technology we develop and the institutions we strengthen must serve not only the present generation but also the generations to come." The minister said education systems must be resilient enough to withstand disruptions from pandemics,

economic uncertainties, climate change and rapid technological change. He added that innovation is essential for education to keep pace with a fast-changing world and to prepare young people for jobs and opportunities that do not yet exist. At the same time, he stressed that education must

remain rooted in human values, with learners, teachers and researchers at the centre of policymaking. Joshi also underlined the importance of preserving traditional and indigenous knowledge systems. "The rich civilisational traditions of BRICS nations present

a unique opportunity to preserve traditional knowledge, study it rigorously, and pass on its value to future generations," he said. Reaffirming India's commitment to a 'people-centric' and 'humanity-first' approach, he described education as the foundation of inclusive growth and shared prosperity. The declaration outlines five priority areas for BRICS cooperation: First, strengthening Early Childhood Care and Education and Foundational Literacy and Numeracy. Member nations agreed to promote universal access to quality ECCE, improve school readiness, and use age-appropriate digital tools for early learning.

Nuakhai 2026: Auspicious 'Lagna' finalised, Nabanna offering on September 15

Balangir, (correspondent): The auspicious 'Lagna' for Nuakhai 2026, the prominent harvest festival of western Odisha, has reportedly been finalised by the Raj Purohit at Shailashree Palace in Balangir. According to reports, the Nuakhai Lagna has been determined after considering the Rashi and Nakshatra of Maa Patneswari, Maa Samaleswari and the King of Patana in Balangir. The festival's rituals are traditionally observed according to the prescribed auspicious timing. Nuakhai is celebrated on the fifth day of the bright fortnight of Bhadrapada

month as per the Hindu calendar. This year, the festival will be observed on September 15. As per the reported schedule, the auspicious time for Nabanna Arpana, the offering of the newly harvested crop to revered Goddess Maa Patneswari, has been fixed between 9:36 AM and 10:06 AM. The announcement of the Lagna marks the beginning of preparations for one of western Odisha's most significant cultural and agricultural festivals, when people come together to offer the season's first harvest and celebrate prosperity and community traditions.

Two Dead, 14 Injured In Houthi Attack On Yemen's Central Marib Province

Sanaa: Two people died and 14 others were injured after a Houthi attack in Marib on Friday, the country's Ministry of Public Health and Population said in a statement.

"The Ministry of Public Health and Population condemns in the strongest terms the shelling carried out by the terrorist Houthi militia today, Friday, against residential neighbourhoods and displacement (IDP) camps in the city of Marib, which — according to a preliminary toll — left two civilians dead and 14 others wounded with injuries of varying severity," read the statement.

PM Modi Assures NDA MPs, Trinamool Rebels of Support; Calls for Smooth Parliament Functioning

NEW DELHI: Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Friday urged National Democratic Alliance (NDA) Members of Parliament (MPs) to actively participate in parliamentary debates and stressed the importance of ensuring the smooth functioning of Parliament during the ongoing Monsoon Session. Addressing a breakfast meeting with around 45 NDA Lok Sabha MPs, the Prime Minister described Parliament as the

"supreme temple of democracy" and expressed concern over repeated disruptions that, according to him, have limited opportunities for newly elected MPs to contribute to debates. PM Modi urges MPs to strengthen parliamentary debates during the interaction, PM Modi encouraged MPs to study the history and functioning of Parliament to improve the quality of their participation in



legislative discussions. "There is a wealth of historical material in Parliament. Read, learn and use it to

prepare for debates," he told the lawmakers, according to sources. The Prime Minister also underlined

the connection between state and national development, saying the country's progress depends on the growth

of individual states. He urged MPs to focus on development initiatives in their respective constituencies and maintain close contact with citizens. "No need to worry, I'm with you" The meeting was attended by MPs from several NDA allies, including representatives from the Shiv Sena, the National Citizens Party of India (NCPI), the Nationalist Congress Party (Ajit Pawar faction), and Trinamool Congress rebels. Addressing

concerns among some newly aligned leaders, PM Modi assured them of the alliance's support. "The NDA is a family. Every individual will be respected and given opportunities. I am with every MP of the NDA. You do not need to worry about anyone," he said, according to sources. His remarks were seen as a reassurance to Trinamool Congress rebels and former Shiv Sena (Uddhav Balasaheb Thackeray faction) MPs who

recently joined the Eknath Shinde-led Shiv Sena. Focus on constituency development The Prime Minister also encouraged MPs to engage directly with the Prime Minister's Office (PMO) to expedite development projects in their constituencies. He advised them to regularly interact with farmers, labourers and other sections of society to better understand local concerns and deliver effective governance.

AGM Housing Group & Harshpriya Group Launch 'QALA' - A Landmark Luxury Residential Development in Bhubaneswar

Bhubaneswar, (correspondent): AGM Housing Group, in collaboration with Harshpriya Group, today announced the launch of QALA, an exclusive luxury residential project that aims to redefine premium urban living in South Bhubaneswar. The grand unveiling will be held at Mayfair Convention, Bhubaneswar, marking the beginning of a new chapter in the city's evolving luxury real estate landscape.

Conceived as more than just a residential address, QALA has been envisioned as a lifestyle destination where contemporary architecture, intelligent planning, expansive green spaces, and premium amenities come together to create an elevated living experience. Strategically located near ITC Welcome Hotel, the project offers seamless connectivity to the city's



leading healthcare, hospitality, transportation, and commercial hubs. Spread across 2.38 acres, the development comprises three premium residential towers housing 296 thoughtfully designed apartments in 3 BHK and 3.5 BHK configurations. As part of the first phase, bookings have commenced for 188 residences across two towers, offering homebuyers an opportunity to own a home in one of Bhubaneswar's most promising luxury developments.

Speaking on the occasion, Binod Agrawal, Chairman, AGM Housing Group said, "QALA represents our vision of creating a landmark residential community that seamlessly blends luxury, connectivity and thoughtful design. Our objective is to build more than homes, we aspire to create a lifestyle that offers comfort, convenience, sustainability and enduring value for generations. Through our partnership with Harshpriya Group, we are confident that QALA will become one of

Bhubaneswar's most distinguished residential addresses." Mr. Chetan Tekariwal, Founder & Managing Director, Harshpriya Group, said "Our partnership with AGM Housing Group for Project QALA brings together two organisations that share a common vision of creating thoughtfully planned, high-quality residential communities. By combining AGM Housing Group's expertise with Harshpriya Group's strong

understanding of Odisha's real estate landscape, we are confident of delivering a development that sets new benchmarks in design, connectivity and lifestyle. Project QALA reflects our commitment to creating homes that offer lasting value while fostering a vibrant and future-ready community for homebuyers in Bhubaneswar."

One of QALA's defining strengths is its strategic location, offering residents excellent accessibility to key destinations across the city. The project is situated just 3 minutes from ITC Welcome hotel, 5 minutes from AIIMS Bhubaneswar, 7 minutes from Manipal Hospital, 15 minutes from Biju Patnaik International Airport, and 25 minutes from Bhubaneswar Railway Station, making it an ideal choice for professionals, entrepreneurs and families alike.

District-Level Training on Dowry Prohibition Act Held in Nayagarh



Nayagarh, (correspondent): A district-level training programme on the Dowry Prohibition Act, 1961 was organised by the District Social Welfare Office (DSWO) at the Sadbhavana Conference Hall of the Nayagarh Collectorate on Thursday. The programme was presided over by District Collector and Magistrate Madhumita Rath.

Senior district officials, including Additional District Magistrate Rosina Das, CDO-cum-EO Lagnajit Rout, Sub-Collector Karnadev Samadar, DLSA Secretary Anjali Machhakunda, Deputy Collector Tapti Raj, DSWO Jayashree Patnaik, PO-cum-PO Sanjulata Panigrahi and District Coordinator of the District Hub for Empowerment of Women (DHEW) Soumya Ranjan Das, attended the programme.

Nearly 60 participants, including CDPOs, Lady Supervisors (LS), DSOs, DPOs, DSSOs and officials from various departments, participated in the training session.

The programme focused on the provisions of the Dowry Prohibition Act, 1961, its amendments, legal procedures, complaint registration, protection of women, public awareness and the role of government agencies in preventing and eliminating the dowry

system. Addressing the participants, Collector Madhumita Rath described dowry as a social evil and called for coordinated efforts by all departments to eradicate the practice. She stressed that effective enforcement of the law, coupled with public awareness and community participation, is essential to build a dowry-free society.

The programme concluded with a vote of thanks by the District Social Welfare Office. Officials said the training would strengthen the implementation of the Act and enhance awareness on preventing dowry-related offences across the district.

Assam CM Appreciates Vedanta Chairman Anil Agarwal's 7 Crore Contribution Towards Flood Relief

Bhubaneswar, (correspondent): Assam Chief Minister Dr. Himanta Biswa Sarma has appreciated Vedanta Chairman Anil Agarwal and the Vedanta Group for contributing 7 crore towards relief and rehabilitation efforts for communities affected by the devastating floods across Assam.

In a post on X, the Honourable CM said, "Shri @AnilAgarwal_Vedji has long been a passionate advocate of Assam's growth story, with the Vedanta Group making significant investments in our State. As Assam faces this devastating



flood, Vedanta has once again stepped forward with a contribution of 7 crore towards relief and rehabilitation efforts. We are deeply grateful to Shri Anil Agarwal and the Vedanta Group for standing with the people of Assam. This generous gesture reflects his enduring belief in giving back to the society." The

contribution of 7 crore will be used to support immediate relief measures, including food, shelter, clean drinking water, and medical assistance as well as long-term rehabilitation. The Vedanta Group has a long standing presence in Assam through its oil and gas operations. End

SAIL, Rourkela Steel Plant promoting Odisha's Handloom Heritage through Deepika Hast Kargha

Rourkela, (correspondent): As the nation observes National Handloom Day on 7th August, SAIL, Rourkela Steel Plant (RSP) is reaffirming its commitment to preserving India's rich handloom heritage while creating avenues of skill development and livelihood for women through its sustained CSR initiative, Deepika Hast Kargha. Established on 2nd October, 2012 at Deepika Mahila Jagriti Sansthan, Sector-2, Deepika Hast Kargha is a unique initiative that brings together tradition, skill and women's empow



erment. The handloom weaving centre was set up by RSP under its CSR initiative and is being nurtured by Deepika Mahila Sanghati, a leading socio-cultural organisation of Rourkela. For over a decade, the centre has been providing young women, particularly

from nearby rural areas, an opportunity to learn the traditional craft of handloom weaving and develop skills for sustainable livelihoods. Many of the trainees who joined the centre had limited educational opportunities and little or no prior technical exposure. Through

structured training and hands-on practice, they have gradually acquired expertise in various aspects of weaving. The training covers the complete handloom process, beginning with preloom activities such as thread winding and preparation, and progressing to weaving on frame and pit looms. The trainees learn to create a range of handloom products, including intricately designed cotton and silk sarees and fabrics, thereby gaining both traditional craftsmanship and practical production

skills. At present, there are 11 trainees in the centre who are learning the nuances of weaving. The initiative goes beyond training by providing a supportive environment where women can build confidence, develop economic independence and explore opportunities associated with the handloom sector. During the training period, the women are also provided a monthly stipend, helping them pursue the programme while developing their skills.

Jindal Steel Celebrates Shri O.P. Jindal's 96th Birth Anniversary

Angul, (correspondent): Jindal Steel Angul marked the 96th birth anniversary of its founder, Shri O.P. Jindal (Bauji), with a series of social initiatives and the inauguration of the O.P. Jindal Football Tournament 2026. Addressing the gathering, Jindal Steel Managing Director Mr. V. R. Sharma recalled Shri O.P. Jindal's contribution to India's steel industry. He said Bauji began his entrepreneurial journey with a pipe-making unit and went on to build a major steel enterprise. He also inspired his family members to join the business and carry forward his vision. "Bauji's journey is a remarkable chapter in India's industrial history. From a modest beginning in pipe manufacturing, he built a steel enterprise with a strong focus on nation-building and employment generation," Sharma



said. He added that the O.P. Jindal group today produces more than 50 million tonnes of steel and provides employment to around two million people in India and abroad. The Executive Director, Iron Zone, Jindal Steel Angul, who began his career with Shri O.P. Jindal, shared his experiences of working with him. He recalled Bauji's vision of a self-reliant India based on the use of indigenous resources and production of quality steel. "Bauji believed that industrial growth must go hand in hand with the development of local communities. We are committed to carrying forward his vision and values through our work," he said. Executive Director and Location Head, Angul, Mr. P. K. Biju Nair; Executive Director, Special Projects, Mr. Hridayaswar Jha; Yoga Guru Swami Satyabindu Saraswati; and other dignitaries and community

representatives attended the programme. They pledged to uphold Shri O.P. Jindal's values and contribute to the realisation of his vision for the nation. The O.P. Jindal Football Tournament 2026 was also inaugurated in Angul. Twelve teams from across Odisha are participating in the tournament. Dr. Sanjay Swain, IFS, Regional Chief Conservator of Forests (RCCF), inaugurated the event in the presence of Mr. Akshay Seth, District Sports Officer, Angul. Mr. Khirud Kumar Barik, Vice-President, HR & ES, and Mr. Jayant Mohanty, GM-CSR, along with other dignitaries, attended the inaugural ceremony. The final of the tournament will be held on August 18, 2026. As part of the anniversary celebrations, Jindal Foundation distributed dry ration to elderly care homes, destitute women's care homes and institutions for visually impaired persons. Cattle feed was also provided to several gaushalas in Angul district. The celebrations extended to O.P. Jindal School, DAV Savitri Jindal School, Naveen Jindal Skill Centre, Shramveen Palace and other locations, where various programmes were organised to commemorate the life and legacy of Shri O.P. Jindal.

A public EV charging station is set to come up in Rourkela soon, and the RMC is pushing for the early completion of the project

Rourkela, (correspondent): As a step towards strengthening electric vehicle infrastructure, a public EV charging station is being constructed near the food court on Mahtab Road in Rourkela. Construction work is currently underway and is expected to be completed soon. Rourkela Municipal Corporation (RMC) Commissioner Dina

Dastagir reviewed the project's progress on Friday and directed officials to expedite the work so that the charging station could be made operational as soon as possible. While the number of electric vehicles in the city has steadily increased in recent years, the lack of a dedicated public charging facility has remained a major challenge for EV owners. The upcoming station is

expected to address this gap by providing convenient charging facilities for electric two-wheelers and four-wheelers. This initiative is part of the RMC's efforts to promote clean and sustainable urban mobility. Once operational, the facility is expected to encourage greater adoption of electric vehicles and provide a reliable charging option for commuters and residents across the city.

RMC Commissioner inspects Mahtab Road Food Court; focus on food safety during the monsoon

Rourkela (correspondent): The risk of food-borne illnesses increases during the monsoon season. Consequently, the Rourkela Municipal Corporation (RMC) has intensified inspections of roadside food stalls across the city to ensure cleanliness and food safety. As part of this drive, RMC Commissioner Dina Dastagir conducted a surprise inspection of the Mahtab Road Food Court on Friday. She visited several food stalls and assessed cooking methods, the quality of ingredients

used, kitchen hygiene, waste management systems, and the overall cleanliness standards for customers. During the inspection, vendors found operating in unhygienic conditions or failing to maintain cleanliness were immediately directed to improve their hygiene standards. They were also instructed to serve only fresh, clean, and high-quality food to customers, particularly given the heightened risk of infection during the monsoon season.

MLA Should Apologise for Misbehaviour: BJD

Only Big Claims, Investment Ground Reality is Zero: BJD

BHUBANESWAR, (correspondent): The agitation condemning the alleged misbehaviour of Cuttack Sadar MLA Shri Prakash Sethi towards the Chief Warden of Ravenshaw University has been intensifying. However, the MLA has not accepted his mistake or misconduct. Condemning the incident, the Biju Janata Dal held a press conference at Sankha Bhawan. Biju Chhatra Janata Dal State President Ipsita Sahoo, State Executive President Shri Chinmay Das, and Cuttack District President Shri Suman Behera were present on the occasion. Ipsita Sahoo stated that the controversy surrounding the historic Ravenshaw University has now moved beyond the university campus and reached the streets. Instead of taking appropriate action, the State Government has



remained silent. A drinking water-related problem had arisen inside the campus of the prestigious Ravenshaw University, over which the students had staged a protest. A discussion was subsequently held between the students and the university authorities to resolve the issue. However, without being invited, MLA Shri Prakash Sethi entered the meeting venue and created unnecessary controversy. During the discussion on resolving the issue, the MLA allegedly misbehaved

with the Chief Warden. Such conduct from an elected legislator is completely unacceptable. His behaviour and choice of words were such that instead of helping resolve the matter, they further aggravated the situation. She further said that after FM University and Rama Devi University, the BJP Government is also responsible for the controversy at Ravenshaw University. Despite the developments, the Vice-Chancellor of

Ravenshaw University has remained silent. Instead of taking steps to safeguard the academic environment of the university, the State Government has also chosen to remain inactive. The controversy has now led to continued protests by students as well as members of the teaching faculty. She further alleged that Shri Prakash Sethi has been made a Senate Member of Ravenshaw University solely because he is a BJP MLA. Shri Chinmay Das said that

Ravenshaw University is a landmark institution in Odisha's education system. As an alumnus of the university, the behaviour of MLA Shri Prakash Sethi has deeply hurt him. Ravenshaw University represents the pride, glory, heritage, and Odia identity of the State. Ironically, the BJP Government, which claims to protect Odia identity, has itself brought disrepute to this prestigious institution. Instead of ensuring the university's progress, the BJP Government has presided over its decline. Various problems continue to persist due to the Government's failure to address the university's issues. He further stated that it is completely unacceptable for MLA Shri Prakash Sethi to enter the campus without invitation during the students' protest and allegedly misbehave with the professors and faculty members.

Bhubaneswar, (correspondent): While Chief Minister Shri Mohan Charan Majhi invited investors to invest in Odisha at the Odisha Food Pro programme in Delhi, the Biju Janata Dal has alleged that despite organising investors' meets in various cities across the country, as well as in Singapore and Japan, over the past two years to attract investment, the State Government has failed to achieve any significant success. The BJD stated that after every investors' meet, the Government has made tall claims, but these have not translated into actual investments on the ground. In a press statement issued by the Biju Janata Dal, the party's Spokesperson and Media Coordinator, Dr. Lenin Mohanty, said that over the past two years, the State Government has



organised investors' meets in Delhi, Mumbai, Kolkata, Hyderabad, Bengaluru, Gujarat, as well as in Singapore and Japan, with the objective of attracting investors to Odisha. Besides this, Utkarsh Odisha was organised in Bhubaneswar in January 2025, during which the Government claimed to have received investment proposals worth ₹16.73 lakh crore, out of which Memoranda of Understanding (MoUs) worth ₹12.89 lakh crore were signed. Similarly, after the Hyderabad

Investors' Meet, the Government claimed to have received investment proposals worth ₹67,000 crore. After every investors' conference, the Government has claimed that proposals worth thousands of crores of rupees have been received. However, even after two years of the BJP Government assuming office, there is no account of how much actual investment has materialised in Odisha. It is gradually becoming evident that the Government's tall claims are merely rhetoric.

Unsafe school building forces 80 students to study at Anganwadi centre in Katak

katak (correspondent): In an unfortunate incident, the Utkalmani Memorial Government Upper Primary School at Khan Nagar in Odisha's Kataka has been left in a poor and unsafe condition, raising serious concerns over the safety of the students. As per reports, plaster from the classroom ceilings has started falling off, while several walls have developed wide cracks, creating a constant threat to the children studying inside. With the classrooms becoming unsafe for regular lessons, students have been forced to leave the school building and take shelter in a nearby Anganwadi centre. More than 80 students from Class I to Class VII are now attending classes together in a single room of the Anganwadi centre due to the deteriorating condition of their school. Parents have expressed deep concern over the pathetic situation, fearing that the unsafe school infrastructure could put their children's lives at risk.

They have urged the authorities to take immediate steps for the repair and renovation. Class VI student said : We are being taught in only one classroom at the Anganwadi centre near our school. We are facing many problems while studying because our teachers are unable to teach us properly in such conditions. Water leaks from the roof, and plaster is also falling from the ceiling. We are scared and worried about our safety," said a Class VI student of the school. "We have taken some steps in this regard. We met the MLA and requested funds for the construction of a new building. Although he had assured us of support, no further development has taken place so far. Meanwhile, I have provided the ward office for the children to continue their studies. We have also approached the Collector and BLO regarding the issue, and they have assured us of necessary assistance," said the local Corporator.

Ravenshaw University dispute to be resolved soon, informs vc

katak (correspondent): Ravenshaw University Vice-Chancellor Prof. Arka Kumar Das Mohapatra has expressed confidence that the ongoing dispute surrounding the institution will be resolved soon, stating that the academic environment of the university has not been affected. The Vice-Chancellor said that regular classes are continuing in a disciplined manner and all faculty members are attending their duties as usual. He also clarified that there are no issues

in any of the university hostels and that the situation is being closely monitored from the VC's office. The VC further stated that he had tried to contact the concerned MLA for discussions, but the communication could not be established. Regarding the formation of the university's Senate body, the Vice-Chancellor said that a letter has been received from the state government mentioning the MLA as a Senate member. However, the Senate body has not yet been constituted at

Ravenshaw University, and the process of forming it is currently underway. He added that discussions have been held with the Governor's office and the Higher Education Department regarding the matter. The Vice-Chancellor said that all stakeholders want a solution and expressed hope that the issue will be resolved shortly. "The situation is fully normal inside Ravenshaw University, and classes are being held regularly. No classes have been

dropped. The hostel is also functioning normally. We have no reports of any problems so far. The hostels are jointly being operated by the VC office and Registrar's office," said Ravenshaw University Vice-Chancellor Prof. Arka Kumar Das Mohapatra. "We had tried to contact the concerned MLA for discussions, but the communication could not be established. We are trying our best to solve the issue soon," he added.

NO TAPS ON PIPELINES, MLA RUSHES TO STOP DRINKING WATER WASTE

Paralakhemundi, (correspondent): Large-scale wastage of drinking water due to the absence of taps on supply pipelines has triggered a concern at Batsirpur village under Madhusudanpur Gram Panchayat in Gosani Block of Gajapati district. Residents alleged that water gushes onto the road during every supply cycle as the pipelines lack taps, leading to massive wastage of potable water while also damaging the village road.

On receiving information about the problem, Paralakhemundi MLA Rupesh Panigrahi visited the spot and inspected the drinking water supply system. He interacted with local residents, assessed their grievances, and discussed the issue with officials of the concerned department.

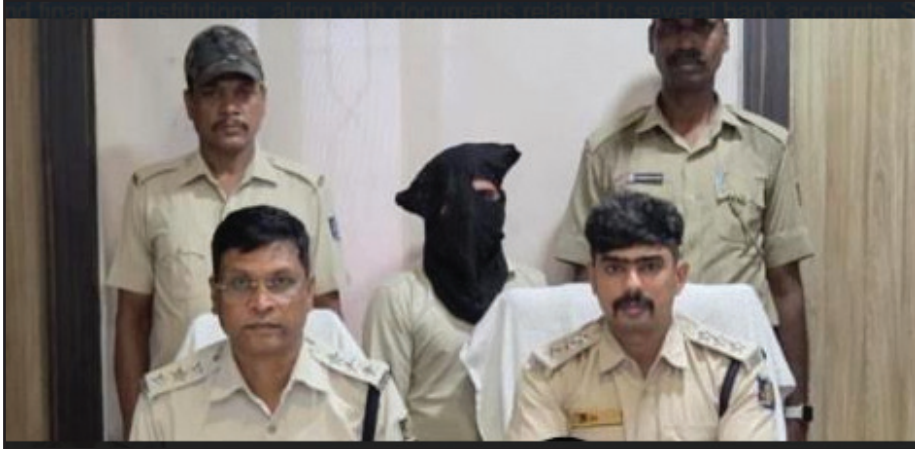
The MLA stressed the need for installing taps at the required locations, ensuring proper closure of pipelines after water supply, and taking immediate steps to prevent water wastage. He also emphasized improving the water supply system to ensure efficient water management and avoid future scarcity. Local residents urged the authorities to take prompt action to stop the continuous flow of water and prevent further damage to the road. Gosani Block Chairman N. Veeraraju, senior leader Gajapati Rao, local public representatives, and officials of the concerned department accompanied the MLA during the inspection.



Uditnagar Police Bust Alleged Cyber Fraud Network; Jharkhand Youth Arrested, Multiple Bank Accounts and Debit Cards Seized

Rourkela (correspondent): Acting on reliable intelligence, Uditnagar Police in Rourkela have arrested a 25-year-old man from Jharkhand for his alleged involvement in a cyber fraud network that operated through multiple bank accounts and fraudulent digital transactions.

The accused, identified as Jyotish Prasad Verma (25), son of Tilak Mahto, is a native of Giridih district in Jharkhand and was residing near City Super Bazar at Punjabi Gali



under Uditnagar police limits in Rourkela. According to police, the operation was detected on August 6 at around 8.35 p.m. during an intelligence-

based investigation. Preliminary findings revealed that the accused allegedly purchased goods from various shops in Rourkela by making

payments through QR codes. However, the amounts credited to the merchants were subsequently placed under lien by police stations in different parts

of the country after they were linked to cyber fraud complaints. During the investigation, police examined several bank accounts allegedly operated by the accused in Urban Co-operative Bank, State Bank of India, Punjab National Bank, Bank of India, ICICI Bank and Bank of Baroda. Investigators reportedly found suspicious high-value inward and outward transactions matching the modus operandi commonly associated with organised cyber fraud syndicates.

NIT Rourkela Inspires Young Girls to Pursue STEM Careers through VigyanJyoti Programme

Rourkela, (correspondent): The National Institute of Technology (NIT) Rourkela hosted a one-day exposure visit for around 50 Class XI girl students under the VigyanJyoti Programme, providing them with first-hand exposure to higher education, scientific research, and state-of-the-art laboratory facilities. The

programme was organised in collaboration with JawaharNavodayaVidyalaya, Sundargarh, the nodal school for implementing the VigyanJyoti Programme in the district. As the Knowledge Partner, NIT Rourkela facilitated the visit to encourage young girls to explore opportunities in Science, Technology, Engineering and

Mathematics (STEM). The inaugural session was graced by Prof. K. Umamaheshwar Rao, Director, NIT Rourkela, Prof. Rohan Dhiman, Registrar, NIT Rourkela, Mr. T. K. Chattopadhyay, Principal, JawaharNavodayaVidyalaya, Sundargarh, Prof. Surya Narayan Dash, Department of Physics and Astronomy and Nodal Officer of the

VigyanJyoti Programme at NIT Rourkela, along with escorted teachers, research scholars and students. Welcoming the participants, Prof. S. N. Dash highlighted that the VigyanJyoti Programme, an initiative of the Department of Science and Technology (DST), Government of India, aims to motivate young girls to pursue higher education and

careers in STEM by providing meaningful exposure to premier academic and research institutions. He encouraged the students to interact with faculty members and researchers and make the most of the opportunity to experience the Institute's laboratories and research ecosystem. Addressing the gathering, Mr. T. K. Chattopadhyay urged the

students to utilise the opportunity to learn from the advanced laboratory facilities and interactions with academicians, expressing hope that the visit would ignite their passion for science and inspire many of them to pursue higher studies at institutions like NIT Rourkela. Speaking on the occasion, Prof. Rohan

Dhiman, Registrar, NIT Rourkela, emphasised the importance of providing early exposure to institutions of national importance. He noted that such interactions help students develop clarity about their academic aspirations and career goals while encouraging them to dream beyond conventional boundaries.

EDITORIAL

Monsoon: A Season of Memories and Emotions

Among India's many seasons, the monsoon— or Sawan—holds a special place in people's hearts. It is much more than a period of rainfall; it is a season that awakens memories, deepens emotions, celebrates nature, and strengthens cultural traditions. The first drops of rain do not merely quench the thirst of the earth; they also revive cherished moments hidden deep within our hearts. The fragrance of wet soil, lush green landscapes, melodious folk songs, colorful swings, and gentle showers create an atmosphere that is both refreshing and nostalgic.

One of the greatest attractions of Sawan is its breathtaking beauty. After months of scorching summer heat, dark clouds gather in the sky, and rain transforms the landscape. Dry fields become green, rivers and ponds fill with water, birds sing joyfully, and the entire environment comes alive. This transformation does not only delight the eyes but also brings peace and happiness to the human mind. Nature seems to celebrate life in its purest form.

Sawan is also a season of memories. Many people fondly remember their childhood days of playing in the rain, sailing paper boats through puddles, laughing with friends, and listening to grandparents' stories while enjoying hot tea and crispy snacks at home. As people grow older, these memories become even more precious. A single shower can transport us back to those carefree days, reminding us that happiness often lies in life's simplest moments.

The monsoon is deeply rooted in India's cultural and spiritual heritage. The month is considered sacred for the worship of Lord Shiva, with millions of devotees visiting temples, observing fasts, and participating in pilgrimages. Festivals such as Hariyali Teej, Nag Panchami, and Raksha Bandhan are celebrated during this season, bringing families and communities together. These festivals are not merely religious occasions but also opportunities to strengthen relationships, express gratitude, and preserve age-old traditions.

In Indian literature, music, and art, Sawan has always symbolized love, longing, hope, and reunion. Poets have described the monsoon as a messenger of romance as well as separation. Folk songs celebrate the joy of swinging beneath green trees, the excitement of meeting loved ones, and the beauty of rain-soaked landscapes. For centuries, artists and writers have found endless inspiration in the sights and emotions of the rainy season.

Transport Dept's Journey from mere enabler to major growth catalyst

D.C Swain

As Odisha Prepares to celebrate 100 years of statehood in 2036 and india marches towards the centenary of independence in 2047, the state Government has set an ambitious vision of building a “Samrudha Odisha for Viksit Bharat”. At the heart of this transformation is the Commerce and Transport Department, which has evolved from being a regulatory authority into a key driver of economic growth, infrastructure development, employment generation and sustainable mobility.

Blessed with abundant natural resources, a 575-km coastline, rich cultural heritage, thriving tourism destinations and strategic positioning on india's eastern seaboard, odisha enjoys a unique geographical advantage. its connectively to major cities across the country makes it an attractive destination for investment and trade. Recognising this potential, the state is leveraging its transport ecosystem as a catalyst for inclusive development.

Unlike most states, odishas commerce and transport department is responsible for all major modes of transport, road, rail, waterways and aviation and coordinates with five union ministries on transport-related matters. while regulating road transport through licensing, permits, public transport and road safety, the department is also facilitating railway expansion. Although railway infrastructure is a central subject, odishas long standing aspiration to extend rail connectivity to all 30 districts has gained momentum, with several new railway lines, doubling projects and station modernisation works progressing alongside record financial allocations from the Government of india.

The transformation is backed by robust policy framework designed to provide longterm direction. The state has already notified the Odish Electric vechile Policy 2021 odisha port policy,2022, Odisha Logistic Policy, 2022 and odisha civil Aviation policy, 2022 while a revised Electric Vechile policy and the odisha civil aviation policy, 2026 are in the pipeline. The new destinations policy, 2024 further supports airlines through Viability Gap Funding to improve air connectivity to emerging destinations.

One of the departments most ambitious interventions is in the maritime and inland waterways sectors. odisha has announced two mega projects worth 34,900crore, aimed at transforming the state into a major maritime hub.

The first project involves the establishment of a national level shipbuilding cluster at the mouth of the mahandi river in kendrapada district. A special purpose vechile formed by the odisha maritime board and paradeep port authority will develop the world class shipyard with an investment of Rs

22,700 crore and an annual capacity of 1.2 millions gross tonnage. The land assessment has been completed the acquisition process is underway.

Complementing this is the operationalisation of national waterways-5, being jointly implemented by the inland waterways Authority of india, paradip port authority and odisha maritime board. The project, involving and investment of Rs 12,000 crore, will develop three cargo terminals to improve inland water transport and logistic efficiency. Together, these initiatives are expected to generate large-scale employment, promote ancillary industries and substantially reduce logistics cost, ushering in a new era for odisha's coastal economy.

Parallelly, the odisha state road transport corporation (OSRTC) has emerged as a model of institutional transformation. The corporation has introduced a 100 per cent cashless ticketing system, eliminating cash transactions while increasing its consumer base by 75 percent. The implementation of a zero cancellation policy has improved payload from 49 percent to 65 percent, while an integrated Transport management system has enhanced operational efficiency through technology-driven monitoring.

OSRTC has also diversity its revenue streams through logistics services, advertisements and commercial utilisation of assert, resulting in a six-fold increase in non-operational revenue. Plans are underway to develop 45 modern depots across the state for better fleet management.

sustainability has become a defining feature of OSRTC's reforms. The corporation is implementing 100 per cent solarisation of its asserts.while 965kw of on-grid solar capacity has already been installed, work on an additional 6.2mw capacity is in progress. As part of odisha's green mobility agenda,400 electric buses- nearly 30 percent of the fleet-are planned for induction, with the first 100 buses already procured and set to become operational.Simultaneously, Ev charging stations are being established at 327 locations, creating both a stronger electric mobility ecosystem and additional revenue opportunities.These financial and operational reforms have enabled OSRTC to register a net profit in 2025-26.

Beyond infrastruture, the department has placed strong emphasis on livehood creation and social empowerment.Under the Atmanirbhar Mahil Suvahak (AMA suvahak) scheme. women are being supported with interest-free loans of up to 10lakh to purchase commercial vechiles, encouraging enterpenureship and financial independence.

The suvahak residential training programme has trained more than 17,000 Heavy Motor vechile drivers across four institutes of Driving Training and Research(IDTRs) with nearly 1,500 candi-

dates securing employment during the past six months. Reinforcing this effort, a mega job mela at IDTR Chatia connected aspiring drivers with major transport companies, state agencies and international recruiters from japan and Germany

Road saftey has emeged as another key pillar of the departments trasformation. In collaboration with IIT bhubaneswar, odisha has piloted india's first ghat warning system at kalinga ghat to alert motorists negotiating dangerous blind curves and fog-prone strches. The Mukhya Mantri Sadak Surakhya samman has introduced a star-rating mechanism to promote road safety standards in educational institutions, while the integrated Enforcement Management System(IEMS) has expanded its coverage to 1,715 km across the state. Automated Testing stations(ATS) and Automated driving Testing systems(ADTS) are also replacing manual process, enhancing transparency and efficiency in vechile fitness certification and driving licence testing.

Recognising the the importance of freight movement in economic growth, the department is developing 24 modern truck terminals in collaboration with the national Highways Logistics Managemet Limited(NHML).These facilities will provide parking, accomodation, healthcare service and eateries for truck drivers while reducing congestion along major highways.

Odisha has simultaneously emerged as one of india's fastest-growing electric mobility destinations. with more than 600 EV charging stations planned across bus terminals, Regional Transport Officers and Highways, the state has achieved an impressive 18 percent EV adopation rate, significantly higher than the national average of 12 percent.

The aviation sector too is witnessing renewed attention. The department plans to upgrade existing airstrips and runways to accommodate larger aircraft and expand regional connectivity. it also intends to lease aviation infrastructure to private operators for establishing flying training organisations(FTOs), cadet pilot training institutes and aviation ground handling skill development centres, creating new employment oppertunities in the aviation ecosystem.

The commerce and transport departments vision extends beyond improving connectivity.It seeks to integrate road, rail, waterways and aviation into a unified transport network that supports trade, investment, tourism and employment.with major policy reforms, record infrastructure investments, technology-driven governace and a strong commitment to sustainability, the department has sucessfully repositioned itself from being merely an enabler of transport services to becoming a powerful engine of odisha's economic transformation, said NBS Rajput, principal secretary, commerce and Transport

A Contemporary Analysis of Technological Innovation, Human Rights Protection, the POCSO Act, Digital Platform Accountability



Kishan Bhawnani

The global digital revolution has opened up opportunities for commerce, education, health, and social interaction for human civilization that were unimaginable even a few decades ago.Today, billions of people rely on social media platforms like Facebook Instagram, and WhatsApp every day. From personal communication to government programs, business transactions, education, judicial processes, and global diplomacy, the role of digital media has become extremely important. But I, Advocate Kishan Sanmukhdas Bhavani, Gondia, Maharashtra, believe that as digital access has grown rapidly, so too have serious challenges like cyber crime, misinformation, deepfakes, online fraud, data privacy concerns, and child sexual abuse material (CSAM). This is

why the question is now being raised prominently across the world: whether technology companies can only provide platforms or whether they must also bear moral and legal responsibility for crimes committed on their platforms. Recent developments have further intensified this debate. On Friday, August 7, 2026, the National Human Rights Commission took a historic and extremely strong step towards legal and human rights protection on this issue. Taking suo motu cognizance of the matter, the Commission issued detailed notices to the Directors General of Police of Meta India and eight major Indian states (Delhi, Punjab, Telangana, Maharashtra, Odisha, West Bengal, Haryana, and Bihar). The NHRC has shared 50 specific internet links with law enforcement agencies and META for investigation. The Commission firmly believes that the continued presence of

child sexual abuse material on digital platforms is a continuing violation of the dignity, privacy, and fundamental human rights of children. This action is being taken primarily under the stringent provisions of India's Protection of Children from Sexual Offences (POCSO) Act, 2012. Under Section 19 of the POCSO Act, any person or intermediary (such as Meta) is mandated to immediately report information about sexual offenses against children or the dissemination of such material. Viewing, storing, or disseminating child sexual abuse material is a serious and non-bailable offense under this law. The NHRC has clarified in its directives that cybercrime units and special juvenile police units of the respective states should thoroughly investigate these links, file FIRs against the perpetrators, and if deliberate negligence or violation of rules is found on the part of Meta, criminal prosecution should also be initiated against them under the POCSO Act and the Information Technology

Act. This approach demonstrates that in the future, digital companies' accountability will not only be commercial, but also social and constitutional. Friends, another important reality of the present times is that humans have become unprecedentedly dependent on digital systems. Family, business, banking, medical, educational, and administrative functions are now conducted through mobile applications and social media platforms. In such a situation, if a user's account suddenly goes under review or is temporarily suspended without prior notice due to a technical issue, their normal life is disrupted. The recent incident where WhatsApp placed several accounts under review for approximately 24 hours made it clear that automated artificial intelligence-based security systems, while preventing criminals, can sometimes impact innocent users. This further raises the question of how to balance citizens' rights and technical flaws while ensuring digital security. On the other hand, the

proliferation of pornographic content, fake advertisements, and child sexual abuse material on social media platforms has prompted governments and regulatory bodies to take a tough stance. Investigative reports revealed allegations that some paid advertisements were indirectly serving as a medium for accessing illegal content. If a digital advertising system can be exploited by criminals in an organized manner, it becomes not just a technical weakness of the platform but a public safety issue. This is likely why the Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology sought an immediate explanation from Meta and ordered the removal of such advertisements. The message is clear: economic gains from digital advertising cannot trump social responsibility.

Friends, the most important aspect of this entire issue is the protection of child rights. India's POCSO Act, 2012, is considered one of the world's most stringent laws for the protection of children

from sexual offenses. Its various sections declare the creation, storage, dissemination, or commercial use of child sexual abuse material a serious crime. It also requires that any digital intermediary that becomes aware of such material should immediately inform law enforcement agencies. Thus, the law is not limited to punishing offenders but also entrusts digital platforms with the responsibility of being active partners. Therefore, if negligence is proven on the part of any company, strict action may be possible against it under the Information Technology Act and the POCSO Act. The National Human Rights Commission's issuance of notices to the police chiefs of eight states is not merely an administrative formality but a sign of a coordinated national strategy. The Commission has directed the relevant agencies to provide suspicious internet links and conduct a detailed investigation, cyber forensic analysis, IP address tracking, and, if

necessary, file an FIR. The role of special juvenile police units and cyber crime branches will be crucial in this case, as digital crimes often operate through interstate and international networks. Therefore, not only technical investigations but also international cooperation, data sharing, and preservation of digital evidence will be essential. Friends, this entire controversy has also sparked a new debate about the safe harbor protections provided under Section 79 of the Information Technology Act. There is a growing view that if a social media company repeatedly fails to curb illegal content on its platform or does not comply with regulatory directives, it should not automatically enjoy legal protection. The proposed IT rules are being considered to include provisions such as mandatory removal of misleading content, deepfakes, and child sexual abuse material within a specified timeframe, KYC verification of advertisers, a more transparent content

moderation system, and algorithmic accountability. If these reforms are effectively implemented, India could take significant steps towards global leadership in digital regulation. Friends, a similar trend is evident internationally. The European Union's Digital Services Act, increased parliamentary oversight of Big Tech companies in the US, online safety laws in Australia and the UK, and the United Nations' continued guidance on children's digital safety are proof that the global community now expects greater transparency, accountability, and proactive safeguards from social media companies. The era when tech companies absolved themselves of all responsibility by calling themselves mere "intermediaries" appears to be coming to an end. The principle that where technological power exists, social responsibility must also be essential is gaining ground in global democracies.

Assistance from 'Bindumina Seva Foundation' in Golamunda Panchayat: Umbrellas and Slippers Distributed to 658 People

K a l a h a n d i : (Correspondent) :- A noble service program was held in the Sadar Gram Panchayat under Golamunda block of Kalahandi district. The social organization "Bindumina Seva Foundation" provided assistance to the poor elderly, widowed mothers, differently-abled, and helpless individuals of the region. A total of 658 beneficiaries were distributed umbrellas and slippers by the organization. Bindu Mahanand, the chairman of the foundation, personally attended the distribution



program and stated that serving the poor and helpless people is the core objective of the organization. Senior BJP leader Manoj Meher, Jayanta Singh, Baishakhu Ketaki,

Bhagyaban Bag, Manoj Agrawal, Pramod Pradhan, Ananta Sahu, Chandra Ketaki, Mahendra Mangaraj, Bishikesan Jotish, Ashwin Mallick, and Jagujiban Sethia

attended the event and praised the foundation's work. On the other hand, Basanta Chalan, Ganga Bishnu Mund, Milan Mund, Pratap Sipka, Upendra Sipka, Dushmanta Senapati, Subas Naik, Bhupendra Majhi, Gajindra Bihari, Radhe Nag, Bhagaban Sunani, Bhurshaba Naik, Chunilal Agrawal, Shyam Agrawal, Murali Majhi, Raja Bihari, Vishal Bihari, Rahas Mangaraj, and Jaga Mangaraj from the Golamunda Gram Panchayat extended their support to the Seva Foundation and helped successfully coordinate the distribution program.

Senior State Ranking Badminton Tournament Inaugurated in Angul

A n g u l : (Correspondent) :- The 3-day Senior State Ranking Badminton Tournament was inaugurated at the local Biju Patnaik Indoor Hall with the joint support of Odisha State Badminton Association, District United Badminton Association and District Administration. The function was organized under the chairmanship of Angul United Badminton Association President Shri Shiv Prasad Das. District Planning Board Chairman and Honorable Pallahara MLA Shri Ashok Kumar



Mohanty attended the function as the chief guest and inaugurated the program by lighting the lamp. He said that "Sports are the main helper in building the character and health of the youth" and advised the players to play with

discipline. Additional District Collector Shri Uday Kumar Mahapatra, District Sports Officer Shri Akshay Kumar Seth, Match Referee Shri Vijay Kumar Bagh, Tournament Director Shri Ajit Mohanty and other workers and

sports enthusiasts were present in this program. Finally, Editor Shri Sudhir Kumar Mishra proposed the vote of thanks. This competition is being played in singles, doubles and mixed doubles categories for both men and women.

Totadapalli woman dies in snake bite

G o p a l p u r , (correspondent): A woman from Totadapalli village under Golanthara police station died of a poisonous snake bite while undergoing treatment at the Berhampur MKCG Medical College. The deceased woman is K. Bhanu (50), wife of K. Dharma of Totadapalli village, police said. According to the information, the deceased Bhanu was bitten by a poisonous snake at 4 am on Friday while she was sleeping at home. The family members immediately admitted her to the Berhampur MKCG Hospital for treatment. The doctor declared her dead at around 9 am while undergoing treatment.

District-Level National Children's Science Congress-2026 Training Camp Held

J A J P U R (Correspondent): A district-level training programme for science teachers was organized by the District Education Office, Jajpur, on the premises of the Government Girls' High School, Jajpur Town, in connection with the National Children's Science Congress (NCSC)-2026. A total of 50 science teachers from 10 blocks of the district participated in the training programme. The programme was formally inaugurated by Additional District Education Officer Surama Mahapatra. The Headmistress of the Government Girls' High School, Suprabha Parida, attended as the



Guest of Honour, while Dr. Akshaya Kumar Panda served as the resource person.

During the training session, Dr. Panda provided detailed guidance to the participating science teachers on the preparation of project proposals for the National Children's Science Congress. He also explained the

registration process for science teachers and students participating in the programme.

In her inaugural address, Mrs. Mahapatra guided the teachers on identifying local problems and developing scientific solutions to address them. Mrs. Parida encouraged the teachers to inspire students to solve various social

issues through a scientific approach. District Coordinator and District Science Inspector Kumar Sen Senapati coordinated the programme and highlighted its objectives and goals. He urged the science teachers to encourage more students to participate in district-level science projects.

The programme was successfully conducted with the support of senior Headmaster Atal Behera, Ganeshwar Behera, Jitendra Sahu, Satyabrata Pani, Bijaya Kumar Sahu, Bishnu Charan Sahu, and other science teachers. Anita Panigrahi, Monalisa Panda, and the staff members of the host school also extended their cooperation in organizing the event.

MOTHER, SON DIE OF SNAKEBITE

Paralakhemundi: (Correspondent) :- A mother and her seven-year-old son died after being bitten by venomous snakes while asleep at Kadamatal village under Rayagada block in Gajapati district on Thursday night.

The deceased were identified as Lalita Badarait and her son, Amit. Lalita's husband, Ajay Badarait, and their one-and-a-half-year-old daughter had a narrow escape. According to reports, Lalita woke up screaming after being bitten by a venomous snake. Hearing her cries, Ajay rushed to her and found two



venomous snakes inside their house. With the help of neighbours, he immediately shifted Lalita and their unconscious son to the Rayagada Community Health Centre. As their condition deteriorated, doctors referred them to the District Headquarters Hospital at Paralakhemundi.

However, both succumbed during treatment. The double tragedy has plunged Kadamatal village and the surrounding area into mourning. After post-mortem examination, the bodies were taken to their native village, where the last rites were performed amid grief.

Same Land, Two Cass, One Verdict: Rayagada Court Convicts Both Factions in Cross-Attacks

R a y a g a d a , (Correspondent): In an unusual verdict, the Chief Judicial Magistrate (CJM), Rayagada, Ms. Aparna Mohapatra, on Thursday convicted six persons in two cross-criminal cases arising out of a long-standing land dispute between two neighbouring villages. All six were found guilty under Section 323 of the IPC for voluntarily causing hurt and were released on probation under the Probation of Offenders Act, 1958. The cases—K. Singhpur PS Case Nos. 8/22 and 10/22—arose from two incidents that took

place within 48 hours in January 2022, with each faction accusing the other of assault over the same disputed land.

According to the prosecution, on January 10, 2022, Gopa Himirika of Kandhakatipadu village was allegedly assaulted by Gopinath Pitaka, Shrima Himirika and Mukunda Himirika near Lomigouda Chhaka while returning home. The accused allegedly opposed the construction of a Panchayat office on the disputed land and demanded that the work be stopped.

Two days later, on January

12, Hari Himirika of Homigouda village was allegedly assaulted by Gopa Himirika, Taudu Himirika and Ramsingh Himirika near Lokotiguda Kudia. The rival group allegedly opposed the construction of a house on the same land, insisting that a Panchayat office be built instead.

Both cases were investigated by SI Siba Prasad Sahu of K. Singhpur Police Station, who identified the land dispute as the root cause of the violence.

After examining the evidence and witnesses, the court held all six accused

guilty only under Section 323 IPC and acquitted them of the remaining charges, including wrongful restraint, obscenity and criminal intimidation.

Considering the presentence report submitted by Probation Officer Dibakar Behera, the court granted all six convicts the benefit of probation instead of imprisonment.

While the criminal cases have now concluded, the civil dispute over ownership and use of the land remains unresolved and is yet to be decided by the competent court.

N a y a g a r h , (Correspondent): Superintendent of Police (SP), Nayagarh, Subendu Patra, on Friday reviewed the progress of pending departmental proceedings and directed Enquiry Officers (EOs) to expedite the inquiries and submit their findings at the earliest.

During the review meeting, the SP assessed the status of ongoing departmental cases and issued necessary instructions for their timely and effective disposal. He emphasised the



importance of completing inquiries without undue delay to ensure transparency, accountability and administrative efficiency within the police department. The meeting was

attended by senior police officers, the DSP-cum-Nodal Officer and Enquiry Officers, who discussed the progress of pending cases and measures for their early conclusion.

Collector visits CHC, expresses dissatisfaction over cleanliness

SUBARNAPUR (Correspondent)-- Subarnapur Collector visits Dunguripali Community Health Centre (CHC) after visiting proposed additional tehsil office. First, he reached the maternity ward. Seeing the number of patients, it seemed like it was the district head quarters hospital. Dr. Saroj Seth, an expert in the women and obstetrics department, was showing around the various wards. Especially, the Collector expressed dissatisfaction over the dirty, power outages, and water shortage in the CHC toilets. RWSS, PHD During the Collector visit to the hospital, he expressed dissatisfaction over the cleanliness. He called the departmental officer and ordered him to fix all the

problems in the CHC. He directed the CDM&PHO to keep the hospital's necessary staff, medicines, and the hospital premises clean inside and outside. The Collector was surprised to see so many patients for treatment in various wards of Dunguripali, including critically ill patients and children's wards. Dr. Sanjaya Kumar Padhan published a list of outdoor patients, which exceeded 400 in various departments. Seeing so many patients coming to a CHC, the Collector thanked the doctors. But expressed dissatisfaction with the cleanliness. During the CHC visit, the Collector saw the deplorable condition of the accessible toilet. The Collector ordered the Additional Tehsildar to

demolish it and open a trauma center there and to demolish the encroached shops attached to it. Toilet

The Collector Community Health Centre Visit, Expressed Dissatisfaction with the Cleanliness

Seeing people playing shota in the premises, the Collector informed the police and ordered them to register a case against them. The Collector People thanked the Collector for bringing the game of shota to the people by raiding the place where the gambling was being played. During the CHC visit, conscious citizens Gopal Barik, Bipracharan Sahu, Ashok Satpathy, Nitai Pal, MP representative Birendra Kathar, Bikash Hati and CHC staff were present

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GOVERNMENT OF ODISHA, DEPARTMENT OF WATER RESOURCES	
<u>Office of the Engineer-In-Chief, Water Resources, Secha Sadan, Bhubaneswar</u>	
Email Address: cemech.eicwr.od@gmail.com	
e-Procurement Notice- Bid Identification No.- CEM/MDS-01/2026-27	
1. Name of work	: Mechanical Gate Works
2. No of work	: 01 (One)
3. Category of executors	: SSI Units registered under DIC/ NSIC/ MSME for Irrigation Shutters / Hydro mechanical gates.
4. Bid Identification No.	: CEM/MDS-01/2026-27
5. Estimated Cost	: Rs. 23,39,040.00
6. Period of Completion	: - 60 (Sixty) calendar days
7. Date & time of availability of bid documents in the Portal	: - From dt. 11.08.2026 (10.00 AM) to dt. 24.08.2026 (5.30 PM)
8. Last date/ time for receipt of bid In the Portal	: dt. 24.08.2026 (up to 5.30 PM)
9. Date and Place of opening of Bid	: dt. 25.08.2026 (12.00 Noon onwards in the O/o the undersigned
10. Name of the Officer inviting bid	: Chief Engineer, Mechanical, O/O the E.I.C., Water Resources, Odisha, Bhubaneswar
Further details can be seen from the e-procurement portal https://tendersodisha.gov.in . Any further issue of Addenda/ Corrigenda/ Cancellation Notice shall be uploaded in the aforesaid website only.	
Chief Engineer, Mechanical O/o- Engineer-In-Chief, Secha Sadan, Bhubaneswar	
OIPR - 32001/32520/1/26-27/0008	

www.behindwoods.com

The Paradise teaser: Nani stars as fierce Dhagad ahead of September release

After months of anticipation, the makers have finally unveiled the explosive teaser of Nani starrer 'The Paradise'. The teaser packs a punch from start to finish, with Srikanth Odela crafting a power-packed glimpse filled with high-octane action and drama. Set against the backdrop of the slums, the film follows the story of a prostitute's son. Nani appears in a fierce and powerful avatar, while Raghav Juyal emerges as a menacing antagonist, promising a massive showdown. The makers have also announced the film's release date with the teaser. In 'The Paradise', Nani plays the character Dhagad. When filming commenced on June 21, 2025, the makers unveiled a first-look image from the sets, showing the actor in character wearing green leather shoes and a distinctive anklet. The film centres on a marginalised tribal community that has long been denied basic rights. Their struggle for justice gains momentum when a new leader emerges to challenge a system that has oppressed them for generations. The ensemble cast features Kayadu Lohar as the female lead, alongside Mohan Babu, Raghav Juyal, who portrays the antagonist, and Sampurnesh Babu in pivotal roles. Helmed by acclaimed filmmaker Srikanth Odela, the film marks Nani's much-awaited reunion with Odela after the blockbuster 'Dasara'. As per a press release, the makers have reportedly approached Hollywood star Ryan Reynolds to present 'The Paradise' across international markets. Produced by SLV Cinemas, 'The Paradise' is slated for a massive theatrical release on September 24, 2026, in eight languages: Hindi, Telugu, Tamil, English, Spanish, Bengali, Kannada, and Malayalam.

Mani Kandan's upcoming film titled 'Makkal Kavalan', first look poster unveiled

The title of actor Mani Kandan's upcoming film is finally out, along with the first look poster of the movie. Mani Kandan's upcoming film is titled Makkal Kavalan. The movie is directed by Santhosh Kumar. In the first look poster of the movie, Mani Kandan was seen dressed in a cop uniform. The tagline of the film reads, "Heroes are not born. They are made." The caption of the poster reads, "One badge. One man. One battle against power. Here's the First Look of Makkal Kaavalan." The film's music is composed by Nivas K Prasanna. The first look poster of the movie was unveiled by the director Mari Selvaraj. While sharing the poster, Mari Selvaraj wrote, "The first look of #MakkalKaavalan is here! It looks intense and powerful. Yet another promising film from @NeelamStudios and @BirlaStudios. My heartfelt wishes to everyone behind it. Congratulations, Manikandan. This feels like a role that's going to stay with people. My best wishes to the entire team of Makkal Kaavalan on this endeavour!!" The film is produced under the banner of Neelam Studios.

Know what a 20-year study of older men reveals about milk, stroke, and heart disease

Milk has long been at the center of diet debates, praised by some and blamed by others for heart trouble. A long-running study out of South Wales offers another take. Tracking older men over two decades, researchers found no convincing evidence that drinking milk increases the risk of heart disease or stroke. The research comes from the Caerphilly cohort, a representative population sample of men living in South Wales who were between 45 and 59 years old when the study began in the late 1970s and early 1980s. What the numbers actually showed Out of the men approached, 665 returned diet diaries that met the study's standards, representing 87 per cent participation. The researchers split participants based on milk intake, comparing those who drank at least the median amount of milk with those who drank less.



After adjusting for other factors, men with higher milk consumption showed a lower risk of ischaemic stroke. Their relative odds were 0.52, with a confidence range of 0.27 to 0.99. In plain terms, they experienced about half the stroke risk of lower milk drinkers over the study period. For ischaemic heart disease, the pattern leaned in the same direction but was less clear-cut. The relative odds came in at 0.88, with a confidence range of 0.56 to 1.40. That result did not show a strong or definitive effect either way. Deaths from all causes looked nearly identical

between the two groups. The relative odds stood at 1.08, suggesting no meaningful difference in overall mortality tied to milk intake. What this means The researchers were careful with their conclusions. The findings do not support claims that milk drinking raises the risk of vascular disease. If anything, the data suggest a reduced risk of ischaemic stroke among men who consumed more milk, and possibly a modest benefit for heart disease as well. The results also line up with earlier research. The authors noted

agreement with a previous overview of 10 large, long-term cohort studies that relied on food frequency questionnaires rather than weighed diet records. Still, the study does not argue that milk is protective in all cases, nor does it suggest people should increase intake for heart health. It simply challenges the idea that milk, on its own, is a cardiovascular risk. For a topic often driven by fear and headlines, the takeaway here is restrained. Milk, at least in this group of older men, did not do the damage it is sometimes accused of.

Carrot juice is a delicious and healthy drink that can do wonders for your body. Packed with vitamins, minerals, and antioxidants, it is an easy way to support overall health. Here are seven benefits of drinking fresh carrot juice daily:

Health benefits of carrot juice

1. Boosts antioxidant levels According to the National Library of Medicine, carrots are rich in carotenoids like β -carotene and α -carotene. Drinking carrot juice increases your body's antioxidant capacity, helping fight harmful free radicals that can damage cells and cause heart problems.
2. Reduces fat breakdown in the body Carrot juice helps lower malondialdehyde, a substance that indicates fat oxidation. This can protect your blood vessels and reduce the



provides a concentrated source of nutrients without extra calories or chemicals.

7. Supports overall wellness

Carrot juice is high in fiber, antioxidants, and beneficial plant compounds. These nutrients can help reduce inflammation, boost energy, and promote long-term heart health. While carrot juice alone won't fix all health issues, it is a simple and tasty way to improve antioxidant levels, support heart health, and add essential nutrients to your diet. For best results, combine it with a balanced diet and regular exercise.



Matar Kachauri

Ingredients

- 1 cup green peas (coarsely ground)
- 2 cups all-purpose flour
- 2 tablespoons oil
- 1 teaspoon cumin seeds
- 1 teaspoon ginger-garlic paste
- 1 teaspoon garam masala



Salt to taste
Oil for frying

Instructions

1. Mix all-purpose flour, coarsely ground green peas, oil, cumin seeds, ginger-garlic



paste, garam masala, and salt to form a firm dough.
2. Divide the dough into small balls and roll them into small discs.
3. Heat oil for frying and deep fry the discs until they puff up and turn golden brown.
Making Time: Approximately 40-50 minutes

Self-care tips to prioritise yourself and your mental health

According to the National Health Program of the Ministry of Health and Family Welfare, 1 in 5 Indians has some emotional and mental ailments while around 6-7 crore people in the country suffer from some kind of mental illness. To overcome such a situation and compete in this fast-paced world, it is important to prioritise self-care. Some essential self-care tips to prioritise yourself and safeguard your mental health - Mindful Moments: Dedicate a few minutes daily to mindfulness exercises. Focus on your breath, observe your thoughts, and embrace the present moment. Mindfulness enhances self-awareness and reduces stress. Quality Sleep: Adequate sleep is a cornerstone of mental health. Establish a consistent sleep routine, create a calming bedtime ritual, and ensure your sleep environment is comfortable and conducive to rest.

AIFF, IASD-IDA Sign Three-Year MoU To Strengthen Oral Healthcare In Indian Football

Bengaluru: The All India Football Federation (AIFF) and the Indian Academy of Sports Dentistry-Indian Dental Association (IASD-IDA) on Friday signed a three-year Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) at the Centre for Sports Excellence in Bengaluru to strengthen oral healthcare support for players across Indian football. The partnership aims to integrate structured oral healthcare into the football ecosystem through preventive care, education, and referral support. The MoU formalises a collaboration that has already moved into implementation. At the

AIFF-FIFA Telangana Talent Academy, athletes with identified oral health concerns have been referred for treatment through a designated dental institution. This week, a team of IASD-IDA sports dentists is on a visit to the AIFF-FIFA Odisha Talent Academy in Bhubaneswar to conduct pre-competition dental assessments, identify unmet oral health needs, triage athletes, and facilitate referrals, treatment and follow-up through an identified dental institution. The initiative has been designed as a continuum of care rather than a one-time screening exercise. Through



IASD's flagship Krida Danta Suraksha – Champions' Winning Smiles programme, the partnership will combine dental assessments with oral health education, dental trauma and avulsion management, Basic Life Support training, preventive

guidance and structured referral pathways. Over the three years, the programme will progressively expand across AIFF academies, national team camps and other football initiatives. It will also support coach and staff education, the

deployment of trained sports dentists at selected events, the development of standard operating procedures for dental emergencies, research, and evidence-based best practices for oral healthcare in football. AIFF deputy

secretary general M Satyanarayan said, "Player welfare extends far beyond the football pitch, and oral health is an important component of overall athlete wellbeing and performance. Through this partnership with IASD-IDA, we are taking another meaningful step towards providing our players, especially young girls, with access to specialised healthcare, while also building awareness and preventive practices across the Indian football ecosystem. We look forward to working together to establish a structured and sustainable oral healthcare programme for our academies, national teams and other football initiatives."

Chess: Praggnanandhaa Clinches St. Louis Rapid And Blitz Title

St. Louis: Indian grandmaster R. Praggnanandhaa has clinched the Grand Chess Tour St. Louis Rapid and Blitz title with a round to spare.

A draw between Praggnanandhaa and Javokhir Sindarov in their final head-to-head secured the title for the Indian Grand Master. The 20-year-old India secured the championship after finishing with 23 points out of a possible 35. Sindarov claimed second place with 22 points after a fantastic tournament, while Wesley So finished third on 20.5. Levon Aronian took fourth with 19, and Fabiano Caruana, Leinier Dominguez, and Jorden van Foreest shared fifth place on 17. He earned USD 50,000 and 13 Grand Chess Tour points for winning outright, avoiding a playoff. The result moved Praggnanandhaa into second place in the Grand Chess Tour standings ahead of the Sinquefeld Cup. Fabiano keeps leading the overall Grand Chess Tour standings. raggnanandhaa maintained the lead throughout the five-day event, while Sindarov mounted a strong challenge in the final stages but fell short, finishing runner-up with a 1.5-point deficit. In June, Praggnanandhaa scripted history by becoming the first Indian to win the prestigious Norway Chess title. The 2026 Saint Louis Rapid & Blitz brought ten elite grandmasters to the Saint Louis Chess Club from July 31 to August 7. Across five days of play, the field contested nine rapid rounds and eighteen blitz rounds; 135 games in all, with critical Tour Points on the line before the Sinquefeld Cup and GCT Grand Finals.

Indian Army Ice Hockey Team Crowned Champions Of The Inaugural Challengers' Cup

Leh (Ladakh): The inaugural Challengers' Cup delivered a fitting finale as the Indian Army Ice Hockey Team survived a stirring challenge from Leh Kings, securing a 6-5 victory to lift the tournament's first-ever title at the Nawang Dorjay Stobdan (NDS) Stadium in Leh. Representing the best emerging talent from the Ice Hockey League, Leh Kings matched the nation's most accomplished ice hockey side stride for stride in a breathtaking contest before eventually falling to a late winner, underlining the strength of the developmental pathway created under the social mission. Padma Namgail struck the

decisive goal in the closing moments, finishing off a pass from Phuntsog Namgail to cap a pulsating final played before a packed crowd. Leh Kings made the brighter start, with Tsering Angchuk opening the scoring after converting Mushtaque Ahmad Giri's precise assist. The Indian Army Ice Hockey Team responded almost immediately as Dorjay Angchuk restored parity from Phuntsog Namgail's pass before Jigmath Kunzang scored another for the institutional side, converting Padma Namgail's assist for a 2-1 lead, placing them ahead for the first time by the end of the opening period. They

stretched their advantage early in the second period when Rigzin Norboo finished off a move created by Stanzin Namgail to make it 3-1. Leh Kings, however, refused to back down. Inspired by Stanzin Angchok, who struck twice in quick succession with assists from Stanzin Lotus and Mushtaque Ahmad Giri, the Ice Hockey League side battled back to draw level at 3-3. Rigzin Norboo restored the lead for the Indian Army Ice Hockey Team with his second goal of the evening, only for Leh Kings to respond once again as Chamba Tsetan converted Tsering Angchuk's assist to send the teams into the final period locked at 4-4.

IOC Publishes Online Abuse Report, Seeks Better Protection Of Athletes

Geneva: The International Olympic Committee (IOC) on Friday published the Online Abuse and Sport report from the Paris 2024 Olympic Games and Milano Cortina 2026 Olympic Winter Games, seeking better protection of athletes and safeguarding of the online communities. Marking Safe Sport Day on August 8, the IOC published the findings from its Cyber-Abuse Protection Service (CAPS), identifying nearly 25,000 abusive messages from 4.3 million posts and comments across the two Games. After monitoring around 20,000



accounts and 45 languages during Paris 2024, and more than 6,000 accounts and 56 languages at Milano Cortina 2026, AI flagged approximately 242,000 posts and comments as potentially abusive for human review, and subsequently verified around 24,700 abusive posts and comments, Xinhua reports. "Online abuse is a

significant safeguarding issue across sport and, while it takes place online, it does not remain confined to digital spaces and can cause real and lasting physical, psychological, reputational and economic harm," the IOC announced. Although the content doesn't meet thresholds for platform removal or criminal prosecution, IOC said, these harmful

online behaviors are still "lawful but awful". "It can still cause real and lasting harm. This emphasizes the need for prevention strategies, education and digital literacy, and response mechanisms that recognize the broader impact of online abuse," IOC said. Overall, AI flagged approximately 242,000 posts and comments as potentially abusive for human review, including 152,000 during Paris 2024 and around 90,000 during Milano Cortina 2026. Analysts subsequently verified around 24,700 abusive posts and comments, including 10,200 at Paris and 14,500 at Milano Cortina, and

identified approximately 18,900 unique accounts responsible for abusive messages (8,900 at Paris; ~10,000 at Milano Cortina), the IOC said in a statement. Content confirmed as abusive following human review prompted a coordinated response. The Cyber team engaged with the platform concerned, investigated the source of the abuse, and provided a report to support the affected person in determining potential next steps. In parallel, the IOC Safeguarding team activated the relevant procedures, prioritising severe abuse cases within 24 hours, and offering psychosocial support,

Jadeja, Suthar, Kuldeep Pick Two Wickets Each As SLC XI Make 363/8 Against India

Colombo: Indian spin attack of Ravindra Jadeja, Manav Suthar and Kuldeep Yadav picked two wickets each as Sri Lanka Cricket XI reached 363/8 in 90 overs at stumps on Day 1 of their three-day warm-up fixture at the Nondescripts Cricket Club ground here on Friday. With KL Rahul leading the charge in the absence of regular captain Shubman Gill due to him suffering a right ring finger injury, the troika of Jadeja (2-64), Suthar (2-48) and Kuldeep (2-76) extracted substantial turn from a flat surface that offered very little to the quicks earlier in the day. Tall pacer Gurnoor Brar chipped in with a wicket, even as Mohammed Siraj and Prasidh Krishna had no scalps. Opting to bat after winning the toss, the hosts enjoyed a flying start as openers Nishan Madushka and



Ravindu Rasantha dominated the morning session by stitching a century stand for the opening wicket. Playing with plenty of intent, Madushka looked in sparkling touch, dispatching the Indian pacers to all parts of the ground before a tragic miscommunication led to a tame run-out for him to fall for 66. Siraj and Krishna lacked early discipline on a benign track with a faint green tinge that provided little lateral movement. Jadeja,

returning to action for the first time after IPL 2026, finally broke the second-wicket resistance post-lunch by castling Pasindu Sooriyabandara with a delivery that skidded through rapidly to hit the stumps. Suthar then showcased his flight and turn, and drew Rasantha into a reckless charge down the track to break another dangerous partnership. Brar bowled an impressive spell with high pace and bounce, and eventually

removed Pavan Rathnayake just before the tea break. The evening session saw India assert greater control over proceedings as the pitch began aiding the spinners. Kuldeep dismissed Ahan Wickramasinghe after the batter top-edged an ambitious sweep to Brar in the deep, before deceiving Anjala Bandara via lbw to break Sri Lanka's middle-order spine. Captain Sonal Dinusha waged a

brave counter-attack by compiling a fluent half-century to push the home team past the 300-run mark. But Jadeja returned to trap Ramesh Mendis lbw with a straight delivery, before Suthar ended Dinusha's knock on 52 with a sharp arm ball. Late entrant, off-spinner Saransh Jain, bowled a long spell without reward, as the entire bowling contingent got plenty of bowling practice ahead of the opening Test against Sri Lanka starting on August 15 in Galle, though they will be concerned with conceding over 360 runs on the opening day of a practice game. Brief Scores: Sri Lanka Cricket XI 363/8 in 90 overs (Ravindu Rasantha 71, Nishan Madushka 66; Manav Suthar 2-33, Ravindra Jadeja 2-64) against India.

Head Wins Allan Border Medal For Second Consecutive Year, Starc Named Test Player Of The Year

Brisbane: Australia's dynamic left-handed opener Travis Head has won the prestigious Allan Border Medal for a second consecutive year following an outstanding 2025/26 international season. At a Cricket Australia awards function held on Friday, Head took the top honour after scoring 1,437 runs across 30 matches in all three formats. His dominant season featured a match-winning 123 off 83 balls in the Ashes series opener in Perth and a high score of 170 in the Adelaide Test. Head edged out South Australian teammate and wicketkeeper-batter Alex Carey by a single vote – polling 153 votes to the latter's 152. Carey compiled 1,079 runs in 24 matches and registered 28 dismissals during Australia's successful Ashes defence. Left-arm fast bowler Mitchell Starc finished third in the medal tally with 150 votes and claimed the

Shane Warne Men's Test Player of the Year award. Starc, who was named Player of the Series in the Ashes triumph, bagged 57 wickets at an average of 24 in 11 Tests, including career-best figures of 7-58. In the white-ball categories, T20I captain Mitchell Marsh won the Men's ODI Player of the Year after scoring 304 runs in six matches. Power-hitter Tim David claimed the Men's T20I Player of the Year award, highlighted by his 37-ball unbeaten 102 against the West Indies – the fastest T20I century by an Australian male batter. "Congratulations to all of tonight's award winners, including back-to-back Allan Border Medallist Travis Head. Travis had a fantastic season with some memorable knocks that left lifelong memories for the fans lucky to watch him. Mitch Starc has moved into the realm of the world's great fast bowlers while Mitch Marsh and Tim David

starred in the white ball formats." "The Australian Men's Team had a big 2025-26 summer which featured retaining the Ashes in front of record-breaking audiences. They have a huge year of cricket to come, starting with the two-Test series against Bangladesh in Darwin and Mackay," said James Allsopp, Cricket Australia Chief of Cricket. Head joins an elite group of players as the sixth cricketer to win the Allan Border Medal multiple times, alongside Ricky Ponting, Michael Clarke, Shane Watson, Steven Smith, and David Warner. Commending the achievements, Brendan Drew, Australian Cricketers' Association (ACA) General Manager Member Services & Cricket Operations, said, "Congratulations to the winners of tonight's awards, and to all involved in Australian Men's Teams across the three formats over the last year."

OKCL Organises Leadership AI Capacity Building Workshop for Industry Consortium Leaders Across Odisha

Bhubaneswar (correspondent): In a significant initiative to strengthen AI readiness among industry leaders, Odisha Knowledge Corporation Limited (OKCL) organised a Leadership AI Capacity Building Workshop for representatives of leading Industry Consortia from across Odisha at its Corporate Office in Bhubaneswar.

The workshop witnessed enthusiastic participation from senior representatives of prominent industry bodies, including Mr. Sanjay Das, President, Balasore Chamber of Industries & Commerce (BCIC); Mr. K. Srihari Patra, Assistant Director, Federation of Indian Chambers of



Commerce & Industry (FICCI); Mr. Kamalakanta Sahoo, Head, Federation of Indian Export Organisations (FIEO); along with representatives from the Indian Chamber of Commerce (ICC), Federation of Trade & Industry of India (FTII), Hotel & Restaurant Association of Odisha (HRAO) and other leading industry consortia across

the State.

The programme was inaugurated by Dr. Manoranjan Puthal, Managing Director, Odisha Knowledge Corporation Limited (OKCL), who highlighted the growing importance of Artificial Intelligence in shaping the future of industries, enterprises, and leadership. He emphasised that AI has evolved beyond a technology tool to

become a strategic driver of innovation, productivity, informed decision-making, and business competitiveness. He encouraged industry leaders to proactively adopt AI-driven approaches to enhance organisational efficiency and prepare their workforce for the rapidly evolving digital economy. The workshop featured hands-on demonstrations of leading AI tools and practical use cases covering leadership, business operations, workplace productivity, decision-making, and organisational transformation. Participants also deliberated on the responsible adoption

of Artificial Intelligence, highlighting the importance of ethics, governance, and sustainability while integrating emerging technologies into business processes.

The participants appreciated the practical orientation of the workshop and actively engaged in discussions on AI adoption, digital transformation, and collaborative opportunities to strengthen Odisha's industrial ecosystem. The programme also served as an effective platform for knowledge sharing and fostering stronger partnerships between industry and OKCL for future capacity-building initiatives.

Celebrating 77 Years of Fragrance Excellence, Cycle Pure Agarbathi Unveils Festive Innovations in Bhubaneswar

Bhubaneswar, (correspondent): Celebrating 77 years of fragrance excellence, Cycle Pure Agarbathi, the world's largest manufacturer of agarbathi, today unveiled its new festive product portfolio at a press conference held at Taj Vivanta, Bhubaneswar. The new range was unveiled by Mr. Arjun Ranga, Managing Director, Cycle Pure Agarbathi, reaffirming the company's commitment to serving consumers in Odisha with innovative products rooted in India's rich spiritual traditions. The company introduced its latest festive innovations, including Bamboo-less Solid Dhoo in Dasara, Yagna and Woods variants, and Medini Judwa Cup Sambrani,



featuring the soothing fragrances of Rose and Jasmine. Designed to elevate everyday prayers and festive celebrations, the new products blend authentic traditions with modern fragrance innovation. Speaking at the launch, Mr. Arjun Ranga, Managing Director, Cycle Pure Agarbathi, said "For 77 years, our journey has been guided by a simple philosophy to honour tradition while continuously innovating for changing consumer needs. Fragrance has always been at the heart

of our identity, and our in-house fragrance expertise enables us to create products that resonate deeply with consumers across generations. Odisha is an important market for us, not only from a business perspective but also as a key part of our manufacturing and sourcing ecosystem. We have manufacturing units in Balasore and Soro, and we work closely with local vendor partners to procure raw agarbathi, puja-related products and coconut husk.

JSW Steel Odisha Mines Division Pays Tribute to O.P. Jindal on his 96th Birth Anniversary

Rourkela / Barbil (correspondent): JSW Steel's Odisha Mines Division paid rich tributes to its revered founder, Shri Om Prakash Jindal (fondly remembered as Bauji), on his 96th birth anniversary by organizing a series of commemorative events, including a blood donation camp and the inauguration of a new gym facility for employees. The initiatives reflected his enduring legacy of leadership, service and nation-building while reaffirming the values and vision he championed. The commemorative event witnessed enthusiastic participation from employees across all mine locations and other



business locations, reaffirming their shared respect for the visionary leader. At the Barbil office, Business Head Shri Prasanna Panda, Head HR Shri Chittaranjan Bahinipati, Head of Operations & Projects Shri Ram Shankar Sharma, Head, Finance Shri Ankur Dokania, along with other colleagues, paid floral tributes to Shri Jindal and

reflected on his inspiring life, values and immense contributions to the nation. As part of the observance, the blood donation camp was organised in collaboration with the District Headquarters Hospital, Keonjhar, and the Keonjhar Blood Bank. The initiative received an overwhelming response from employees and members of the local

community, resulting in the collection of 163 units of blood, which were handed over to the blood bank to support patients in need. The camp was led by Dr. Ganesh Panda, Chief Medical Officer, Odisha Mines Division, along with Dr. Soubhagya Samal and Dr. Manumangat Marand from DHH, Keonjhar Blood Bank. Further reinforcing the organization's commitment to employee well-being, a new gym facility at the JSW Residential Complex. The facility is expected to promote fitness and encourage a healthier lifestyle among employees and their families.

Dhamra Port Handles First Commercial Vessel Through New Mechanized Loading System

Dhamra (correspondent): Dhamra is one of the deep draft ports of India which can accommodate super cape-size vessels. It is an all-weather, multi-user, multi-cargo port poised to become the largest and most efficient port in the east coast of India. Dhamra Port is in close proximity to the mineral belt of Orissa, Jharkhand and West Bengal offers deepened hinterland connectivity and operational efficiency. Dhamra Port is one of the fastest growing port in eastern India with an aim to be 100 MMT port by 2030. Dhamra Port Successfully Handles First Commercial Vessel



Through Mechanized Loading System at Export Terminal - B4. The vessel was loaded with Thermal Coal for Tamil Nadu Generation and Distribution Corporation (TANGEDCO) using the state-of-the-art mechanized ship loader, marking the commencement of commercial operations at the facility by mechanized loading. This milestone

underscores Dhamra Port's commitment to enhancing operational efficiency, improving cargo handling capabilities, and delivering superior service to its customers. The mechanized loading system is expected to enable faster vessel turnaround times, increase loading efficiency, and strengthen Dhamra Port's position as a leading bulk cargo gateway on the East Coast of India. The successful operation represents another step forward in Dhamra Port's journey toward world-class infrastructure, operational excellence, and customer-centric logistics solutions.

EAST COAST RAILWAY GENERAL MANAGER INSPECTS SAMBALPUR-BALANGIR SECTION

Sambalpur: (correspondent): Shri Parmeshwar Funkwal, General Manager of East Coast Railway, conducted a comprehensive inspection of the Sambalpur-Balangir Section today. The inspection focused on reviewing the safety measures, traffic facilities, passenger amenities and the ongoing infrastructure works across several stations in the section. During the inspection, Shri Funkwal thoroughly reviewed the status of various traffic facility works, passenger amenities and infrastructure development projects at key stations along the route. The General Manager emphasized the importance of ensuring safe and smooth train



operations and directed officials to take necessary precautions. Shri Funkwal also reviewed the progress of several ongoing infrastructure projects aimed at enhancing passenger facilities. These include improvements in parking areas, circulating areas, and landscaping at stations. He focused on the progress of station redevelopment works under the Amrit Station Scheme,

which aims to elevate passenger experience across the network. The General Manager stressed upon timely completion of these critical projects, underscoring their significance in improving overall service quality for passengers. Shri Subash C Chaudhary, Divisional Railway Manager, Sambalpur and other senior officials from Railways were present during the inspection.

KIIT & KISS celebrate 12th National Handloom Day, reiterates commitment to promoting traditional weaves

Bhubaneswar, (correspondent): The 12th National Handloom Day was celebrated at KIIT-DU on Friday. The day marked the celebration of KANCHI 2026 to promote and encourage the use of handloom. Addressing the gathering as the chief guest, Odisha Minister of State (Independent Charge) for Co-operation and Handlooms, Textiles & Handicrafts, Shri Pradeep Bal Samanta said National Handloom Day is observed to promote India's handloom sector, encourage the use of eco-friendly clothing and inspire the younger generation to adopt handloom in their daily lives. Describing weavers as the soul of the handloom sector, he said the State



Government remains committed to their welfare. Referring to Prime Minister Narendra Modi's "Vocal for Local" initiative, the Minister urged people to wear handloom garments at least once every week to strengthen the country's traditional weaving community. Speaking on the occasion, Dr. Achyuta Samanta,

Founder of KIIT, KISS and KIMS, said India possesses a rich handloom tradition, with Odisha occupying a special place in the country's textile heritage. He said Prime Minister Narendra Modi instituted National Handloom Day in 2015 to honour millions of handloom weavers and bring greater recognition to their contribution. Owing to sustained

efforts, Indian handloom products have today gained popularity across the world, he added. Prof. Samanta said he has been promoting Odisha's handloom tradition globally for nearly three decades. As part of this effort, around 15,000 handloom sarees are distributed every year to support weavers and strengthen their livelihoods, popularise

the craft and create market opportunities for artisans. He noted that KANCHI is being organised by the KIIT Student Activity Centre (KSAC), while the KIIT School of Fashion Technology is also actively observing National Handloom Day through various initiatives to celebrate and promote India's rich weaving traditions. Debjani Deghuria, joined the function as celebrity guest and encouraged one and all to use handloom in a big way. KIIT VC Prof Saranjit Singh and Prof. Jnyana Ranjan Mohanty, Registrar also spoke on the occasion. Earlier during the day, KISS also organised an event to observe the day where handloom entrepreneurs shared their thoughts about promotion of weavers and taking Odisha handloom to the world stage.