

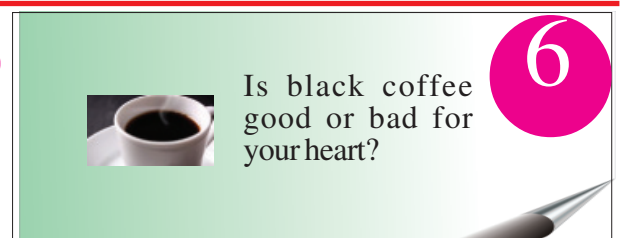
HM Amit Shah Launches 'Gramin Gyan Setu' To Connect Rural Libraries With 2.8 Lakh Books



200KGGANJA, 900KG MAHUA FLOWER SEIZED, 3400 LTS MAHUA MASH DESTROYED



Delhi To Host Afghanistan's 'Home T20I Series Against India In September



Is black coffee good or bad for your heart?

66 Police Officers, Govt Pleaders Felicitated For Successful Convictions In Odisha

BHUBANESWAR ,(correspondent): The Odisha Police on Wednesday felicitated 66 police officers and government pleaders for their outstanding contribution to investigation, prosecution and securing convictions in sensitive and important criminal cases.

The felicitation ceremony, organised by the Crime Branch at Police Bhawan here, was attended by Director General of Police Yogesh Bahadur Khurania as the chief guest. Superintendents of Police, supervising officers, government counsel and investigating officers who played key roles in successful convictions



were presented certificates of appreciation. Among those honoured were 24 investigating officers, 11 supervising officers, 23 government lawyers and eight SPs. Those who received the certificates included IGP (Home Guards and Fire Services) Uma Shankar Das; former Jharsuguda SP Smith P. Parmar; Koraput SP Rohit Barma; former Kandhamal SP Harish

B.C.; former Kandhamal SP Shubhendu Kumar Patra; Keonjhar SP Nitin Kushalkar; Brahmapur SP Saravana Vivek M.; Sambalpur SP Mukesh Kumar Bhamu; and former Baliguda SDPO Rahul Goel. Supervising officers, government counsel and investigating officers from various districts were also felicitated for their contributions to successful

prosecution of criminal cases. On the occasion, police officers and personnel who contributed to the successful organisation of the 'Nyaya Samhita Pradarshani-2026' were also recognised. The week-long exhibition, held from March 6 to 12 at the IDCO Exhibition Ground in Unit-3, Bhubaneswar, was aimed at creating awareness among the public about the new criminal laws and promoting legal literacy. The exhibition attracted more than one lakh visitors and was organised under the planning of a high-level committee chaired by the DGP and the supervision of DGP (Crime) Vinaytosh Mishra.

Odisha Cabinet Clarifies Agristack Registration Not Linked To Paddy Procurement PPAS

BHUBANESWAR ,(correspondent): The Odisha Cabinet on Wednesday clarified that farmers need not worry about paddy procurement due to their status under the Agristack farmers registry, stating that Agristack registration is not linked to registration in the Paddy Procurement Automation System (PPAS). The clarification came after the Cabinet took note of media reports about farmers facing difficulties in completing Agristack registrations, which had reportedly raised concerns over their registration in the PPAS system for paddy procurement. The



matter was discussed in detail at the Cabinet meeting, following which the government clarified that there is no linkage between Agristack farmers registration and PPAS registration for paddy procurement. "The farmers need not worry about their paddy

procurement on account of their Agristack farmers registry status," the government said. It further clarified that registration of farmers in the PPAS system for paddy procurement will continue this year in the same manner as it was

carried out in the previous year. The clarification is expected to ease concerns among farmers who were apprehensive that difficulties in Agristack registration could affect their eligibility or registration for paddy procurement.

Colombia Quake Death Toll Rises To 188

Bogota: The death toll from Monday's 7.4-magnitude earthquake in western Colombia has risen to 188, with 1,677 others injured, the Colombian Association of Capital Cities, or Asocapitales, said. Of the total, the latest tally included 95 deaths and 997 injuries reported in the city of Cali, while Pereira reported 79 deaths and 278 injuries. Colombian President Abelardo de la Espriella earlier said that the quake damaged 1,575 homes and infrastructure at six airports, where commercial flight operations have been suspended, reports Xinhua news agency. The Colombian government earlier Monday declared a state of national disaster



to respond to the impact of the earthquake. According to the Colombian Geological Service, the quake struck at 7:34 a.m. local time in western Colombia. Its epicenter was near San Jose del Palmar, in the department of Choco, at a depth of 96 km. The association said it is maintaining close contact with the capitals of affected departments and communicating with local mayors and their teams to follow the latest

developments, assess damage and identify the most urgent relief needs. Leaders across the world express solidarity and support for the people of Colombia.

French President Emmanuel Macron stated that Colombia can count on France's friendship and support and expressed solidarity. "In the face of the terrible earthquake that has struck Colombia, I extend, on behalf of France, my most sincere thoughts to the Colombian people.

South Korea, India Vow Closer Ties In Customs Affairs

Seoul: The South Korean customs agency said on Wednesday it has agreed with its Indian counterpart to bolster cooperation in customs affairs and facilitate smoother trade between the two countries. The Korea Customs Service (KCS) said it met with officials from India's Central Board of Indirect Taxes and Customs in New Delhi on Tuesday (Indian time), asking the Indian government to support smooth customs clearance for South Korean businesses, reports Yonhap news agency. During the meeting, the KCS shared cases of South Korean firms based in India facing difficulties with customs-related



issues, with the two sides also holding discussions on bilateral cooperation, including training programs. "With India being a major partner in the Asia-Pacific region, the two countries intend to bolster cooperation down the road to

address hurdles facing South Korean firms seeking to export to India," Han Min, director general for international affairs at the KCS, said in a release. Meanwhile, customs agency last month it had seized 2.1 tons of drugs in a recent

joint global operation with partners in the Asia-Pacific region.

The achievement came after the Korea Customs Service joined forces with the Regional Intelligence Liaison Office for Asia and the Pacific under the World Customs Organization

under the campaign slogan, "For a Drug-Free World." During the two-month operation with 18 other countries from May to June, customs authorities seized 2.1 tons of drugs in 785 cases, far exceeding last year's operation, in which they seized 663 kilograms of illicit drugs in 235 cases. By category, the authorities seized 633.4 kg of methamphetamine, 368.8 kg of cannabis and 57.1 kg of cocaine. The agency added it plans to strengthen cooperation with other international organisations, including the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime and the International Criminal Police Organization.

Prez Trump, PM Modi Will Settle Tariff Row: White House Adviser Peter Navarro

Washington: White House trade adviser Peter Navarro said on Tuesday that US President Donald Trump and Prime Minister Narendra Modi would work directly to resolve differences over India's purchases of Russian oil and the threat of steep US tariffs. "The President and your prime minister have a very good working relationship," Navarro told reporters at the White House. "They are going to work that out amongst themselves, and it's not for me in any gaggle to get between that." Navarro was responding to a question about legislation associated with the late



Republican senator Lindsey Graham. The measure could lead to tariffs of up to 100 per cent on countries buying Russian energy. The reporter asked whether the proposed tariff, combined with continuing trade

negotiations, could further strain India-US relations. Navarro did not address the possible tariff directly. He instead referred to an opinion article he had written for the Financial Times several months ago about India's energy

trade with Russia. Navarro said he had argued in the article that India's Russian oil purchases expanded after Moscow invaded Ukraine. "Prior to the Russian invasion of Ukraine, India was not involved in the oil trade

with Russia, but afterwards it got heavily involved," he said. Navarro also accused India of selling products linked to Russian oil and said the trade had helped finance Moscow's war effort. He offered no supporting figures during the exchange. He said the issue had since been resolved but did not explain what action had been taken or whether he was referring to India's oil purchases, the sale of petroleum products or another aspect of the trade. "And that issue has been resolved," he said. "Maybe I had a little bit to do with that with that op-ed." His remarks came as Washington

and New Delhi continued negotiations over trade. Earlier in the gaggle, Navarro defended the Trump administration's broader tariff policy. He said tariffs were encouraging foreign companies to build factories in the United States and were also stimulating domestic investment. "The signature there are the tariffs, which are bringing onshore both dollar investment from foreigners when they're building here to avoid the tariffs, but also indigenous investment here," he said. Navarro acknowledged that Americans continued to face economic hardship because of inflation.

Rajya Sabha Passes NCDC Amendment Bill

New Delhi: Following over an hour-long discussion, the Rajya Sabha on Wednesday passed the National Co-operative Development Corporation (Amendment) Bill, 2026, by a voice vote. Minister of State for Cooperation Murlidhar Mohol replied to the debate. After a few minutes of sloganeering and demands for the presence of the Union Home Minister in the House, the Opposition staged a walkout and did not participate further in the discussion. Before taking up the Bill, Deputy Chairman Harivansh Narayan Singh informed the House that Parliamentary Affairs Minister Kiren Rijiju had urged members to consider the National Co-operative Development Corporation Bill first. When the Rajya Sabha proceedings resumed after the earlier adjournment, BJP member Sushmita Dev clarified her alleged derogatory remarks against CPI(M) member John Brittas. Earlier in the morning session, soon after the listed papers were laid on the Table, Brittas had raised the issue of being targeted with the "lungiwalla" slur by the member Sushmita Dev. "If he feels I need to approach him and say something, I would be more than happy to. I love the people of Kerala, the Northeast, Karnataka...", she said. Leader of the House JP Nadda suggested that the concerned members could meet in his chamber and resolve the "misunderstanding."

"Bindumina Seva Foundation" Displays Humanity Woman's dead Body Brought Back Home to Village from Bhubaneswar

K a l a h a n d i (Correspondent):-Truly, in this world, some people are forced to leave prematurely and against their will. However, leaving behind unfulfilled responsibilities toward their families often subjects their surviving husbands and small children to immense hardship. Such a tragic incident has come to light in Kuresini village under Khaliakani Gram Panchayat of Golamunda block in



K a l a h a n d i B h u b a n e s w a r . Unfortunately, she passed away during treatment. Although her minor son and husband were present beside her at the hospital, they were completely unable to transport her dead

body back to their native village due to a severe financial crisis. In this moment of crisis, the deceased woman's son made a desperate plea for help on social media. Seeing this, local youths—Pintu Meher, Pintu Naik, Hutesh Masra, and Baishakhu Ketaki—immediately contacted Mr. Bindu Mahananda, Chairman of the "Bindumina Seva Foundation." Upon receiving the news, the Bindumina Seva Foundation reacted promptly and arranged a vehicle free of cost to transport the dead body from Bhubaneswar to Kuresini village. Thanks to the noble assistance of the foundation, the dead body arrived at the village today, and the final rites were performed with dignity at the local cremation ground. Local residents have profusely praised the foundation's noble deed and relentless commitment to humanitarian service in times of distress.

Odia Cuisine entrepreneur wins 2026 English Curry Awards in London

J a g a t s i n g h p u r, (Correspondent):- Two Odia cuisine makers, both running a restaurant called 'Chillika' in Bexleyheath, the United Kingdom, have won the 2026 English Curry Awards. The Restaurant typically serves traditional Odia cuisine, along with popular Odia street food Dahi Bara and Aloo Dum, has fascinated British food lovers who voted generously for the online competition held for the English Curry Awards 2026. The restaurant, located at Broadway in Bexleyheath, has a menu that includes authentic Odia

dish specialties such as Odia street food Dahi Bara and Aloo Dum, including tandoori, chats, biryani and mutton curry prepared in Odisha. The report said that the restaurant Chillika was inaugurated by Odisha Deputy Chief Minister Pravatī Parida in the year 2024, founded by two Odia migrants, Subhakanta Das and Partha Sarathi Panda both aim to showcase Odisha's cuisine in the United Kingdom. Subhakanta Das, an IT professional, had moved to the United Kingdom two decades ago. His journey began

with a food business initially started by preparing traditional Odia foods for family celebrations and community events in London. Partha Sarathi Panda, who hails from J a g a t s i n g h p u r, specializes in the hospitality business, joined Das; then the duo established restaurant Chillika. Due to sincere efforts by both youths, the restaurant entered into the competition for the English Curry Awards 2026 and was successfully recognized by British food lovers and won the award.

Dihakula to Aunri: Tricolour Waves Across Binjharpur, Resonating with the Message of 'Har Ghar Tiranga'

J A J P U R (Correspondent): With the aim of celebrating the 80th Independence Day with pride and patriotism, a massive public outreach march was organized by the BJP in the Binjharpur Assembly Constituency as part of the 'Har Ghar Tiranga' campaign. Through this march, people were encouraged to hoist the national flag at every home and strengthen the spirit of nationalism across the country. The procession was organized by the Singhpur Mandal of the Binjharpur Assembly Constituency in Jajpur district, beginning near the Kuleswar Temple at Dihakula and

proceeding up to the Aunri Panchayat office. The march, led by BJP Mandal Coordinator Niranjan Beuria, witnessed the participation of hundreds of women along with a large number of party office-bearers, workers and supporters. Holding the Tricolour in their hands and raising patriotic slogans, the participants created an atmosphere of patriotism throughout the area. The participants appealed to every family to hoist the national flag on the rooftop of their homes, honour and salute Mother India,

and carry forward the glorious tradition of Independence Day. On the occasion, emphasis was laid on further strengthening the unity, integrity and spirit of nationalism in the country, while inspiring patriotic feelings in the hearts of every citizen. Among those present in the march were Purushottam Behera, Sridhar Jena, S a t y a n a r a y a n Behera, Arun Mohanty, Sankarshan Panda, Shiva Prasad Dhal, Rabindra Panda and Debendra Mallik, along with many other party workers and supporters.

MGNREGA Corruption Allegations Mount, But Investigations Remain Elusive

K a n t a b a n j i , correspondence : Allegations of irregularities in the Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Act (MGNREGA) are reportedly increasing across the Kantabanji Assembly constituency, covering Turekela, Muribahal and Bangomunda blocks. Despite repeated complaints, locals allege that investigations are rarely conducted and that even when inquiries are initiated, visible action against those responsible is seldom seen. Hundreds of crores of rupees are reportedly being spent every year under MGNREGA across the three blocks. While official records show job card holders receiving wages according to the number of workdays,

several beneficiaries have allegedly complained that they did not receive payments. There are also allegations that machines are being used in place of manual labour in works meant to provide employment to villagers. Projects under horticulture, forest and watershed programmes have also attracted allegations of irregularities. Labourers have reportedly claimed that despite working on government projects, wages were not credited to their accounts. In the last two months alone, around eight MGNREGA-related complaints have reportedly surfaced from Muribahal block. In one alleged case, four information boards were found on the embankment of a single pond,

showing different works. In another instance, a board relating to one project was reportedly installed near a separate project, raising questions over the execution and recording of works worth lakhs of rupees. Recently, allegations also surfaced that payments meant for actual workers in Muribahal block were transferred to the bank accounts of other persons. Villagers reportedly approached the block administration with documents and sought an inquiry. Officials allegedly assured them that the matter would be investigated, but no visible action has been reported so far. Residents have questioned why repeated complaints are not being followed by timely investigations and recovery of

public money, if irregularities are established. They have demanded transparent verification of muster rolls, job cards, bank payments, work sites and measurement records. There is also growing discussion among locals over whether political developments could influence administrative action. However, such allegations require proper verification, and no individual or public representative should be held responsible without evidence. The increasing complaints have prompted demands for a comprehensive and independent inquiry into MGNREGA works across the three blocks, along with strict action against anyone found guilty of financial irregularities.

NIA Arrests Accused In Manipur IED Attack Case

Imphal: The National Investigation Agency (NIA) has arrested an accused in connection with an Improvised Explosive Device (IED) attack on a residential house in Manipur's Bishnupur district, the central probe agency said on Wednesday. The incident occurred at Tronglaobi Awang Leikai in Moirang under Bishnupur District, on April 7 this year and resulted in the death of two minor children

and injuries to another person. According to Manipur Police, a 5-year-old boy and his 6-month-old sister were killed, while their mother sustained serious injuries, when suspected Kuki militants hurled a powerful bomb at their home in Tronglaobi village in Bishnupur district on April 7 as the victims were asleep. An official statement said that the case was originally registered at Moirang Police Station

following an attack in which unknown militants launched an explosive device from a hillside towards Tronglaobi Awang Leikai. The explosion struck the residential wall of a house, causing serious injuries to three family members, including two minor children who later succumbed to their injuries. An unexploded improvised RPG (Rocket-Propelled Grenade) was also recovered near the site. The

investigation was subsequently taken over by the NIA, which re-registered a case on April 23 (2026) under relevant provisions of the Bharatiya Nyaya Sanhita (BNS), Explosive Substances Act, and Unlawful Activities (Prevention) Act, the statement said. During the investigation, the involvement of accused S. Palal Thadou has surfaced in the commission of the offence.

Manipur CM Asks People To Surrender Illegal Arms Within 15 Days, Warns Of Action Under Law

Imphal: Manipur Chief Minister Yumnam Khemchand Singh on Wednesday appealed to people possessing illegal weapons in both the hill and valley regions to surrender them within 15 days or face action as per the law. Addressing a function organised for the display of recovered arms, ammunition and explosives at the 1st Battalion Manipur Rifles Parade Ground in Imphal, the Chief Minister urged those in possession of illegal arms to hand them over through their respective MLAs or the District

Superintendent of Police. The display of the recovered arms, ammunition and explosives was organised as part of the government's initiatives aimed at restoring normalcy and strengthening peace and security in the state. Khemchand Singh said that those who fail to surrender illegal weapons within the stipulated 15-day period would face action in accordance with the law. The Chief Minister said the state's development had been adversely affected since ethnic violence broke out in Manipur on May 3, 2023.

HM Amit Shah Launches 'Gramin Gyan Setu' To Connect Rural Libraries With 2.8 Lakh Books

Gandhinagar: A new digital library network linking rural libraries with large central collections and mobile library vans was launched in the Gandhinagar Lok Sabha constituency on Wednesday, with Union Home and Cooperation Minister Amit Shah saying the initiative would help take reading and knowledge resources to villages. Union Minister Shah virtually launched the 'Gramin Gyan Setu' project, under which small libraries in villages of Gandhinagar, Kalol and Sanand have been stocked with around 4,500 to 6,000 books each. The initiative connects 63 rural libraries with four central libraries holding a combined 2.8 lakh books. Four mobile library vans, funded through the Member of Parliament grant, will visit villages every 15

days. They will collect old books and facilitate home delivery of new books ordered through the digital application, allowing rural readers to access a wider range of titles without having to travel to central libraries. Union Minister Shah said the books placed in village libraries had been selected with the aim of developing reading habits among children and young people. The collections include children's stories such as Aladdin's Magic Lamp and Sindbad's Adventures, along with books on the history of Gujarat and India, the 1857 freedom struggle, and material for competitive examinations conducted by state and Central governments. "For children who wish to read more, four central libraries with a vast collection of 2,80,000



books have been connected with the villages," Union Home Minister Shah said. He thanked the Chief Minister Bhupendra Patel and the Gujarat government for their cooperation in developing the system, saying around 752 libraries had been connected with the digital application within three months. Work is also under way to digitally connect

literature from institutions, including Sastu Sahitya Mandal, Gita Press, the Bhupen Hazarika Institute and Thiruvalluvar Sansthan. Union Minister Shah said that creating a reading-friendly environment in schools and villages, supported by appropriate reading habits and guidance from librarians, was necessary for developing responsible

and capable citizens. Recalling his own childhood, the Union Minister noted: "The reading habit he developed at a young age later helped him pursue his studies and contribute to public service." He also appealed to the parents and homemakers to develop reading habits themselves and encourage children to read books. Chief Minister Bhupendra

Patel, speaking at an event at Town Hall in Gandhinagar on National Library Day, described 'Gramin Gyan Setu' as an initiative to take knowledge to villages, connect technology with education and provide rural youth with greater access to learning resources. "The importance of libraries should be measured by the readers they attract rather than the size or grandeur of their buildings. The biggest beneficiaries of the new platform would be young people, as digital access could bring library resources to the fingertips of rural youth," he said. The Chief Minister added, "'Gramin Gyan Setu' will connect villages with cities, readers with libraries, students with knowledge, and traditional libraries with the digital age." Chief

Minister Patel said the state government had made a provision of Rs 100 crore for establishing a state-of-the-art 'Namo Central Library' in Gandhinagar. He also added that, under the plan to establish Bhagwan Birsa Munda Libraries in all talukas of tribal areas, the government had resolved to establish such libraries in 15 talukas this year. "Libraries across Gujarat were being connected through a digital network and linked the initiative to the wider objective of building a knowledge-based society," he said. Referring to Prime Minister Narendra Modi's emphasis on knowledge power through education, skills, research, innovation and intellectual capability, Chief Minister Patel

noted that the Centre's focus on Digital India and the digitisation of libraries under the National Mission on Libraries had strengthened access to knowledge. He also acknowledged Union Minister Shah's efforts to expand access to quality reading material for children and young people in rural areas, support preparation for competitive examinations and take digital knowledge to remote villages. Chief Minister Patel further referred to Union Minister Shah's association with Sastu Sahitya Mudranalaya and his efforts to preserve the reading culture and make quality literature accessible. He said that Gujarat was pursuing the vision of 'Viksit Gujarat to Viksit Bharat', with human resources as a key strength.

Paradip College,Paradip organized 52nd Foundation Day Celebrations

Paradip, (correspondent) :Paradip,College,Paradip organized 52nd Foundation Day Celebrations on 12th August,2026 in the college premises. Sj.PL.Haranadh,Chairman ,Paradip Port Authority,Paradip graced the occasion as Chief Guest .Sj. B a s a n t a Biswal,Chairman,Paradip Municipality,Paradip as Guest of Honour & S j . N i r a n j a n Behera,OAS(S) ,A. D.M,Paradip & H o n ' b l e President,G.B.Paradip College as Honourable Speaker . Dr. Sasmita Satapathy,Principal Paradip College



,Paradip delivered very inspiring welcome address . Dr Smita Biswal,Reader in Chemistry introduced guests .The Chief Guest and all other guests while delivering their talk reminded the students about the glory and importance of Paradip College and advised the students to excel in academics and any particular field. The toppers of University Examination as well as

A n n u a l H.S.Examination-2026 were felicitated. Endowments prize to the students having secured highest marks in English Hons,History Hons,Political Science Hons , Physics Hons, Chemistry Hons ,Botany Hons,Zoology Hons ,Mathematics Hons & Best Mannerism prize in Education Hons were also given away. Seven employees of the

college who are going to be retired before the next celebrations of Foundation Day-2027 were felicitated on the occasion. Dr.Sujata Mishra,Lect.in Physics & Mrs Saswati Pattnaik,Lect.in English coordinated the felicitation ceremony. At the end Sj.Akshaya Chandra Mishra,HOD History extended vote of thanks . The celebration was a grand success.

Irregularities in Utkal Balashram

Children eating food with worms, corruption allegations against superintendent

SUBARNAPURcorrespondence-Massive irregularities have come to light in Utkal Balashram , the only orphanage Balashram in Subarnapur district. The irregularities were discovered during a surprise visit by the Child Welfare Committee. The committee members found during their visit to the Balashram that the food served to the children was of very low quality. There were worms in the cooked rice. A large number of worms were also found in the rice kept in the store room. It is suspected that children are falling ill after eating such food.According to the complaints of the locals, there are many complaints against the superintendent of the Balashram , Malti Jena. Allegations have been made against her such as beating children, employing



children in child labour and embezzling government funds. On whose authority she has been working in this position for so long, this has raised a big question. Regarding all these issues, the Child Welfare Committee called Anjana Madam, Protection Officer of the District Social Welfare Office, to the Balashram and showed her all the irregularities. She also expressed her anger after seeing the situation and promised to immediately investigate.Seeing the attitude of Madam Malati towards orphans while there is only one Balashram in the district, there has been strong displeasure among the intelligentsia and the general public. There has been a demand for an immediate investigation and strict action against the culprits

Awareness Campaign on Breastfeeding Held at IGH

R o u r k e l a , correspondence: An awareness campaign was organised at Ispat General Hospital (IGH), SAIL, Rourkela Steel Plant, recently to mark World Breastfeeding Week. The programme aimed to sensitise parents about the importance of breastfeeding for the healthy growth and development of newborns.Dr. Jayanta Acharya, CMO I/c (M&HS), graced the occasion as the Chief Guest. Dr. Archana Behera, Head of the Department of Paediatrics and Additional CMO (M&HS); Dr. Madhimita Sahu; Dr. Punam Ekka, Senior Consultant; Dr. Bibekananda Singh, Senior DMO; Dr. Priya Kumari, Senior



Medical Officer; Mrs. Bidyut Prava Goth, Principal, NTI; and Mrs. Nabanita Jena, Vice-Principal, NTI, were present on the occasion.Students of DNB, along with more than 20 parents and their newborn babies, participated in the programme . The programme featured an interactive awareness session for parents, conducted by Dr. Bibekananda Singh and the DNB students. The session highlighted the significance of breastfeeding and

provided parents with an opportunity to interact with the medical team and seek clarification on various issues related to breastfeeding and newborn care.The programme was coordinated by Dr. Punam Ekka, while Dr. Archana Behera proposed the formal vote of thanks.The awareness campaign underscored the importance of promoting breastfeeding practices and enhancing parental awareness to ensure better maternal and child health.

IndiaFirst Life's GOLD Term Plan targets rising demand for flexible protection

B h u b a n e s w a r : (Correspondent):- IndiaFirst Life Insurance Company Limited has launched the IndiaFirst Life GOLD Term Plan, targeting evolving consumer demand for insurance products that combine financial protection with wellness support, flexibility and family-focused benefits.The plan offers a choice between Life Cover and Life Cover with Return of Premium. Under the Life Cover variant, customers can extend protection up to 99 years of age. Its Soulmate Protection feature provides additional life cover for

the spouse if the policyholder dies.The product also offers a Smart Exit Option, enabling eligible customers to exit during a specified period and receive 100% of premiums paid, subject to policy terms and conditions. Policyholders can access Health Management Services worth up to Rs. 75,000 annually. Death benefits can be paid as a lump sum, regular income or a combination of both, providing families with greater payout flexibility. Women customers can also access WomenFirst benefits and premium discounts.Varun Gupta,

Chief Distribution Officer – Bancassurance, said protection should create value throughout a customer's journey, while Sumeet Sahni, Chief Distribution Officer – Agency & Alliances, noted that term insurance adoption remains below its potential despite rising awareness.The launch comes as customers in B h u b a n e s w a r increasingly seek comprehensive financial protection, with flexible payout choices, wellness services and family-oriented benefits potentially strengthening the appeal of term insurance among urban households.

C Mechanic Dies After Falling from Three-Storey Building in Rourkela

Rourkela(Correspondent: An AC mechanic died after falling from the rooftop of a three-storey building while installing an air conditioner at Chhend Colony in Rourkela.According to preliminary information, the wall he was holding on to reportedly collapsed, causing him to fall from the building. He sustained critical injuries and died in the incident.Police investigating the circumstances surrounding the incident.



Allegations of Irregularities in PM Awas Yojana

K a n t a b a n j i , correspondence : Allegations of irregularities in the implementation of the Pradhan Mantri Awas Yojana (PMAY) have surfaced in Badbanki Gram Panchayat under Turekela block of Balangir district. According to allegations, bills were allegedly drawn in some cases without



completing the houses and even without constructing the roofs. The alleged

irregularities have raised concerns among local residents regarding the

implementation and monitoring of the housing scheme.Residents have demanded that the administration take the matter seriously and conduct a proper investigation into the allegations. They have also sought appropriate action if any irregularities are found during the inquiry.

Subarnapur Police Awareness Program for Cyber Crime Protection

SUBARNAPUR correspondence---In order to prevent the increasing cyber crime and online fraud and to make the public aware about cyber security, Subarnapur Police has organized a cyber awareness program by B i r m a h a r a j p u r , Dunguripali, Ulunda, Binika, Lachhipur, Tarbha and Rampur police stations. In the program, police officers made the students aware about the various ways of cyber fraud. Especially, they were advised not to share OTP, ATM/PIN, CVV, bank account and UPI details with anyone, not to click on unknown links and not to trust video calls, phone or messages from unknown people.



Examples were also given to create awareness about various cyber crimes like digital arrest, fake customer care, online job fraud, fake social media profiles, phishing links and UPI fraud. The police said that if you are a victim of cyber fraud, you should not panic and immediately contact the 1930 Cyber Crime Helpline and report the incident to the police.

Police officers, employees, local people, students and people from different walks of life participated in the program and gained knowledge about cyber security. With the message "Be aware, be safe – don't give a chance to cyber fraudsters", the Subarnapur police urged the public to use online services safely and consciously in the digital age.

200 KG GANJA, 900 KG MAHUA FLOWERS SEIZED, 3400 LTS MAHUA MASH DESTROYED

Paralakhemundi:(Correspondent):- Gajapati Police and the Excise Department have intensified their crackdown on illegal ganja and liquor trade, seizing 200 kg of ganja valued at over Rs 20 lakh, besides 900 kg of mahua flowers and large quantities of illicit liquor and fermented mash in separate raids.

Acting on the direction of Gajapati SP Prahallad Sahay Meena, Adava Police conducted a raid in the Denkabandh forest under Keseriguda panchayat after receiving specific information about ganja being stored for illegal transportation outside the state.



Police seized 200 kg of ganja packed in eight jute bags in the presence of a magistrate. The contraband was subsequently weighed and found to be two quintals. Those allegedly involved in the illegal trade fled into the nearby forest on seeing the police. Adava police station IIC Santosh Kumar Bisoyi said an NDPS case has been registered

against the persons involved and investigation is underway to trace them.On the direction of District Excise Superintendent Pradeep Kumar Sahu, the Excise Department has also stepped up raids against illegal liquor and ganja activities across Gajapati district. Acting on a tip-off, the Excise Mobile Team raided Katama village under Adava police station limits and seized

900 kg of illegally stored mahua flowers, allegedly meant for preparation of illicit country liquor. One person, Krisprin Behera, was arrested and forwarded to court.

In another raid in the forest near Kirimba village, the Excise team seized 3,400 litres of fermented mahua mash, which was destroyed, along with 160 litres of mahua liquor.

One person, Lulu Baliar Singh, was arrested in connection with the case and forwarded to court.

The police and Excise Department said such enforcement drives would continue across the district to curb the illegal trade in ganja and illicit liquor.

REMOTE SENSING APPLICATIONS IN CUTM AGRICULTURE DISCUSSED

Paralakhemundi:(Correspondent):- Centurion University of Technology and Management (CUTM) Paralakhemundi Campus, observed National Remote Sensing Day 2026 with an expert discussion on Remote Sensing and Geospatial Technology.

The programme, organised by the School of Engineering and Technology, focused on applications of space-based technologies in agriculture, soil management and sustainable development.

Former NRSC and ISRO scientist and engineer Dr.A.T.Jeyaselan, the chief guest, spoke on India's



space programme and Earth observation technologies. Dr.P.Raja, former ICAR chief scientist, highlighted emerging geospatial applications in agriculture and soil studies.

Prof.Dr.Prafulla Kumar Panda, Dean, SoET, spoke on the use of ISRO's Earth Observation Missions for sustainable

development. CUTM Registrar Dr Anita Patra, Dean (Administration) Dr Durga Prasad Padhi and other faculty members also attended.Faculty members, researchers and students participated in the programme, which provided insights into the practical applications of remote sensing and geospatial technologies.

EDITORIAL

Youth and Air: Symbols of Movement, Energy and Freedom

Youth is that stage of life when energy, enthusiasm, dreams and an intense desire to do something new are at their peak. Being young is not merely a matter of age; it is a mindset—the willingness to think differently, move forward, embrace change and create new paths. In this sense, youth can be compared with air. Air is dynamic and free, and it cannot be confined within boundaries for long. Air cannot be seen, but its presence and impact can be felt everywhere. It moves the leaves of trees, carries clouds across the sky and helps sustain life in the environment. In much the same way, the power of youth may not always be visible, but when young people move forward with their ideas, talent and determination, the winds of change become clearly visible in society.

Youth and the Power of Movement

Youth represents movement rather than stagnation. Young people question old methods and have the courage to search for new solutions. In technology, science, education, sports, art, entrepreneurship and social service, youthful energy opens the doors to new possibilities.

However, speed alone is not enough. When air remains balanced, it is life-giving, but excessive force can also become destructive. Similarly, youthful energy needs direction, discipline and wisdom. The greater the energy, the greater the importance of giving it the right direction.

Freedom Also Means Responsibility

Air cannot be permanently stopped. It finds its own path. In the same way, the young mind seeks freedom of thought. Young people want to ask questions, make their own choices and shape their own future. Such freedom is essential for the progress of society.

But freedom does not mean irresponsibility. True freedom means understanding responsibilities along with rights. When young people combine independent thinking with discipline, sensitivity and social responsibility, their energy can become a powerful force for constructive change.

Why Does Youthful Energy Need Direction?

Every young person possesses talent and potential, but talent does not automatically turn into success. Education, guidance, opportunities and a positive environment are essential. Families should not simply impose their expectations on young people; they should understand their interests and abilities. Schools and educational institutions should also move beyond examinations and marks and give greater importance to creativity, problem-solving, communication and life skills. If young people limit their energy only to entertainment or short-term achievements, much of their potential may remain unexplored. On the other hand, if they invest their energy in knowledge, skills, health, creativity and social service, they can transform not only their own lives but also the future of society.

THE MELODY THAT NEVER DIES: REMEMBERING TAGORE'S ARTISTIC SPIRIT



BISWARUPA RATH

The legendary poet, novelist, educational reformer, and a gem of Indian literature, Rabindranath Tagore, was born to a Brahman family on 7 May 1861 in the city of joy, Kolkata. His father, Debendranath Tagore, was a social reformer, and his mother, Sarada Devi, was a housewife.

Tagore is barely interested in the traditional schooling system; rather, he has chosen home schooling, where he gained knowledge in the fields of history, mathematics, Sanskrit, English, and others. Although in 1878, he went to England to study law, he didn't continue it. However, without any academic degree, he continued shining in the world of literature. Being born in the cultural capital of India, Rabindranath Tagore has a keen interest in poems and novels. He started writing just at the age of 8. Once Tagore visited Amritsar with his father, he was highly attracted towards the Golden Temple and its spiritual environment. He used to go there every morning and evening to listen to the melodious prayers and recitation of gurus and many other musicians. This sight escalated Tagore's interest towards culture and tradition.

Tagore was a multi-talented personality. He is not just a poet but also a philosopher, as his thought basically lies in Indian tradition and ethics, and a playwright with 40+ plays written by him, both in English and Bengali. His writing theme, which includes spirituality, love, and broad social thoughts,

captures the heart of many. Moreover, his writings achieved the best literature heights. Some of his renowned poems include Chitra, Naivedya, Purabi, Balaka, and many more, whose themes reflect his genuine thoughts and perception about love, life, mythology, and devotion. Stories like Kabuliwala, Subha, and The Postmaster have been read by many, and readers find them extremely heart-touching. His way of arranging words to create a beautiful story is something different and special. Themes of justice, mystery, and emotions engage readers to continue reading.

Gitanjali, the most famous poetry collection by Sir Tagore, was originally written in Bengali and successfully published in the year 1910. It contains 157 poems. In 1910, he published the English version of Gitanjali, which is a collection of 103 poems. Tagore's quote especially aims at providing motivation about life and truth. Through his lines, he wants to innovate human conscience and the best way to live life. His quote, "The butterfly counts not months but moments, and has time enough," demonstrates his pure vision towards life, as through this quote he wishes to convey the importance of enjoying every moment of life instead of being worried about time. "You can't cross the sea merely by standing and staring at the water" is a motivational quote that clarifies that success is not achieved just by setting a goal; rather, it needs immense dedication, patience, and hard work.

"Where the mind is without fear," a patriotic poem for the motherland, which deeply aims at revealing the fact that real freedom is not just free-

dom from British rule but also a free life, a free mind, and a free soul.

Likewise, there are many other quotes that broaden the thinking of individuals as well as act as a guiding light to success.

Tagore's contribution towards India is irreplaceable. He is not less than a magician in the world of literature. Through his writings, he inspires people to fight for India's independence, making them aware of the necessity of freedom and a guiding path to a developed country. He is the architect of "Jana Gana Mana" the National anthem of India. The song is a masterpiece as it covers the rhythm of patriotism, unity, rivers, lakes of our beautiful motherland. Tagore also wrote the patriotic song "Amar Sonar Bangla" during the Partition of Bengal, which was later adopted as the national anthem of Bangladesh in 1971. Tagore's brilliant works inspire many people. His major contributions are admired by numerous individuals. And for this, many people have given many affectionate names. The name "Gurudev" was given by the father of the nation Mahatma Gandhi as he founded several educational institutions and also teaches moral values through his writings. For his excellent collection of Gitanjali, he was named Vishwakavi and received the Nobel Prize in Literature in 1913. Health struggles never shook his spirit. Even while undergoing multiple surgeries, his genuine passion for literature stayed alive. Unfortunately, as his health took a turn for the worse, he left this world on 7 August 1941 at his ancestral home. "Poets die, but their legacy continues to inspire from generation to generation."

Tulsidas : Great Saints and Sages



Arundhati Devi

Hindu Dharma has a glorious past of great Saints and Sages. Several Saints ascended to the state of Guru and showed the path of God realisation to many. They also taught spirituality to the society through their conduct and actions. Their mission was not just limited to spirituality but they also did substantial work for the defence of nation whenever it was in difficulties. Some of the Saints traveled all over the world and disseminated the spiritual knowledge of Bharat there without any personal expectations. Millions of people abroad are getting benefit of that. For last lakhs of years, the Sages took tremendous efforts to preserve the Vedic Knowledge which is the pride of Bharat. They also created many subjects connected with the human life and made it easy. The most important thing however is that

the Saints of Bharat have donated the world the tradition of Guru-disciple.

Tulsidas (1532 – 1623) is considered to be one of the greatest of the Hindu saints of India. He is considered to be one of the most famous representatives of the Bhakti school of Hinduism. Goswami Tulsidas was a great devotee of Shri Ram. He is one of the most familiar saints in India and his version of the epic story of Shri Ram that is called "Shri Raam-charit-manas" is an extremely popular scripture. Shri Raam-charit-manas is a proof of the exalted state of devotion that this saint has achieved and the grace God has showered upon him. It is said that Shri Ram and Shri Lakshmana have appeared to Tulsidas in person on a few occasions. The story of Goswami Tulsidas is highly inspirational to aspirants in the present age; it revives faith in the Divine and proves that God can be attained through pure devotion even in this Kali Yuga.

Tulsidas was born to Hulsī and Atmaram Shukla Dube in Rajpur, Uttar Pradesh, India in 1532. He was a Sarayuparina Brahmin by birth and an incarnation of Sage Valmiki, the author of the Sanskrit Ramayana. Tulsidas is regarded as an incarnation of the great sage Valmiki. In Bhavishyottar Purana, Shiva tells Parvati how Valmiki got a boon from Hanuman to sing the glories of Shri Ram in vernacular language in the Kali Yuga.

Tulsidas once went to Brindavan to visit the temples of Shri Krishna. Seeing the statue of Krishna, he said, "How shall I describe Thy beauty, O Shri! But Tulsi will bow his head only when You take up bow and arrow in Your hands". The Shri revealed Himself before Tulsidas in the form of Shri Ram with bow and arrows. Tulsi left his mortal body and entered the Abode of Immortality and Eternal Bliss in 1623 A.D. at the age of 91. He was cremated at Asi Ghat by the Ganga in the holy city of Varanasi (Benaras).

India's New Ascent in the Commonwealth Games



Yogesh Kumar Goyal

The Commonwealth Games are not merely a competition for medals; they are a mirror reflecting a country's sports culture, talent development, sports science, training ecosystem, and long-term sports policy. The Commonwealth Games held in Glasgow, Scotland, from July 23 to August 2 concluded for India with numerous achievements, a few unfulfilled expectations, and promising possibilities for the future. The Indian contingent secured 4th place in the medal tally by winning a total of 39 medals, including 13 gold, 17 silver, and 9 bronze.

This achievement is particularly significant because several sports in which India traditionally dominates—such as shooting, wrestling, badminton, hockey, and table tennis—were not included in this edition's discipline lineup. India historically secures a large chunk of its medals

in these events. Maintaining the 4th rank despite such limited opportunities stands as a testament to the capability and resilience of Indian athletes. Australia once again dominated the standings by winning a total of 171 medals, including 70 gold. England finished second with 110 medals, and Canada came third with 62 medals. Host nation Scotland delivered an impressive performance, securing fifth place with 39 medals. While India and Scotland tied in the overall medal count, India took fourth place by virtue of winning more gold medals.

A comparison with past performances reveals an interesting perspective. At the 2018 Gold Coast Commonwealth Games in Australia, India finished third with a total of 66 medals (26 gold, 20 silver, and 20 bronze). Shooting played the biggest role in that success, contributing 16 medals

on its own, alongside strong performances in boxing, weightlifting, and wrestling. At the 2022 Birmingham Games in England, India placed fourth with 61 medals (22 gold, 16 silver, and 23 bronze), where all 12 Indian wrestlers scripted history by winning medals, complemented by notable successes in weightlifting and table tennis. Compared to these two editions, India's medal tally dropped to 39 in Glasgow 2026. At first glance, this decline might seem concerning; however, analyzing the competition program clarifies that many of India's primary medal-prospect sports were simply not contested. Therefore, evaluating performance solely on the total number of medals would be inappropriate. In reality, India utilized the available opportunities highly effectively and achieved remarkable success in the disciplines in which it participated.

Indian boxers mounted the finest campaign in the country's

Commonwealth Games history this year. India created history in boxing by winning 10 medals, including seven gold and three silver. Female boxers were particularly impressive—young athletes like Jaismine Lamboria, Priya Ghanghas, Sakshi Choudhary, and Preeti Pawar signaled a bright future for Indian women's boxing. Although Olympic medalist Lovlina Borgohain narrowly missed out on gold, her experience and performance anchored the strength of the boxing contingent. In the men's category, boxers including Sachin Siwach and Ankush delivered strong performances, contributing significantly to the medal tally. This success demonstrates that Indian boxing no longer relies on a handful of individuals, but now possesses a broad pipeline of talent. Weightlifting also upheld India's prestige. Over the past decade, Indian lifters have shown consistent progress, and their performance in Glasgow proved that India has become a formidable force on the

world stage. In judo, Indian athletes exceeded expectations and won key medals, sending a clear signal that the sport is growing rapidly in the country. However, the provisional suspension and withdrawal of judoka Tulika Maan due to missing three anti-doping "whereabouts" filings served as a setback for the contingent. This incident highlights that top-tier international competition requires complete awareness and adherence to anti-doping regulations alongside athletic skill.

India's performance in athletics became a major talking point. Gulveer Singh etched his name into the history books by winning silver in the 10,000 meters and bronze in the 5,000 meters, becoming the first Indian athlete to win two track-and-field medals in a single edition of the Commonwealth Games. India had never previously medaled in these long-distance events. This achievement reflects the changing landscape of Indian athletics and the success of scientific

training systems. In para-sports, India recorded its best-ever performance at the Commonwealth Games, securing seven medals (3 gold, 2 silver, and 2 bronze).

A deeper analysis of the contingent's performance highlights the contribution of female athletes, who secured 16 medals—including 8 gold—demonstrating growing participation and excellence among women in Indian sports. Male athletes delivered a balanced contribution with 23 medals overall. Nevertheless, it must be acknowledged that while the 2026 performance is satisfying, it is not historic. The 2010 New Delhi Commonwealth Games remain India's golden benchmark, where the nation finished second behind Australia with 101 total medals, including 38 gold. While home advantage played a role, that performance proved that with strong infrastructure, a broad base of athletes, and systematic preparation, India has the capacity to challenge the top

nations.

The most vital shift in India's sporting journey is that the country is no longer confined to a select few disciplines. Where success was once largely restricted to shooting, wrestling, badminton, and weightlifting, new athletes are now consistently emerging in boxing, judo, athletics, and para-sports. This transformation is a positive outcome of national sports policies, initiatives like Khelo India, upgraded training infrastructure, sports science, sports nutrition, and financial support for athletes. However, there remains an ongoing need to strengthen talent identification, grassroots coaching, sports medicine, mental conditioning, and international competition exposure. The eyes of the Indian sports world are now set on 2030, when Ahmedabad will host the Commonwealth Games. This event will serve not only as a sporting contest but as an opportunity for India to showcase its athletic potential, modern infrastructure, and organizational

capabilities to the world.

The Glasgow Commonwealth Games have reinforced the confidence that regardless of how challenging the circumstances are, Indian athletes possess the capability to bring honor to the nation on every stage. The key now is to view these achievements not as the final destination, but as a crucial stepping stone toward becoming a global sporting superpower. India must continue strengthening the sports where it has established world-class standing, while scaling long-term investment in athletics, swimming, gymnastics, and other core Olympic sports. If India maintains continuity in its sports policies and provides athletes with scientific training, world-class facilities, and sustained support, the day is not far when India will regularly feature among the top nations on the medal tallies of the Commonwealth Games, Olympics, and other global competitions.

HIV/AIDS Awareness Campaign Launched in Malkangiri District

Malkangiri, correspondent On the occasion of International Youth Day on 12th August, an HIV/AIDS Awareness Campaign was launched at the Malkangiri Ghadei Nursing College today. The campaign will continue till October 11. The main objective of this campaign launched by the Odisha Government is to completely eradicate HIV infection from Malkangiri district and provide long life to AIDS patients.

Dr. Saubhagya Ranjan Ransingh, Additional Chief Medical Officer, Malkangiri, was the chief guest in this



program and the nursing students explained in detail about the causes of HIV, AIDS infection and its prevention. At the same time, they also discussed in detail about the causes, symptoms and prevention of various mosquito-borne diseases, leprosy and TB. As the guest of honor, senior journalist and editor of Odisha

Union of Journalists and president of MUJ, Debaprasad Dash presented information about the number of HIV infected people and AIDS patients in Malkangiri district and the medical facilities and other assistance provided to them by the Health Department. At the same time, he also informed everyone about the various steps taken by the

government to prevent HIV infection in Malkangiri district. Honorable guests Leprosy expert Dr. NTC Behera Program Manager Pragya Paramita provided detailed information on how to get help from experts through AIDS Helpline 1097. TB Department DPC Babaji Khara conducted the program. Among others, ICTC Supervisor Sanjay Sagar, Coordinator Supriya Bain and Madhusmita Madkarni helped in the program. Finally, the Chairperson of the Nursing College, Madhusmita Bhatra, proposed a vote of thanks to everyone.

BJP holds Tiranga Yatra in Rayagada

RAYAGADA, correspondent : The Rayagada town unit of the Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) organised a Tiranga Yatra here on Tuesday under the leadership of town president Rajesh Kumar Panigrahi.

The procession began at Hotel Jyoti Mahal Square and passed through Chakaguda Road, Ring Road, VK Function Hall, Hatipathar Road and Old ITI Square before concluding in front of the Girls' High School, where participants paid floral tributes to freedom fighter Netaji Subhas Chandra Bose. A 77-foot-long and eight-



foot-wide Tricolour was carried during the procession, while participants also carried national flags. Students in Sambalpuri handloom attire were among the attractions. BJP leaders, workers and students of Oritek Computer Institute joined the yatra, which echoed with patriotic slogans and songs. Panigrahi said the yatra was organised in

response to Prime Minister Narendra Modi's call to honour the courage and sacrifices of freedom fighters. He said the Tricolour represented the nation's identity and called for its display at homes, institutions and offices. The programme also aimed at fostering patriotism among youths and students and strengthening national unity, social harmony and

the spirit of "Ek Bharat, Shreshtha Bharat". Among those present were town general secretaries Rajesh Naidu and Ajay Chulet; vice-presidents Ram Krishna Panigrahi, Devagiri Pattnaik, Jharana Pani, Sadashib Rajguru and Shiva Bhaskar; treasurer Santosh Sahu; Mahila Morcha president Rachana Sahu; SC Morcha president Jitendra Nayak; Special Development Council vice-chairperson Manjula Minyanka; State special invitee member Yala Kanda Babu; special invitee member Shiva Ullaka; Government Pleader Padmanabha Dash and several other party leaders and workers.

Subarnapur District Crisis Group Meeting held

SUBARNAPUR (Correspondent) --- Subarnapur District Crisis group Meeting was held under the chairmanship of Additional District Magistrate (General) Anjalina Pradhan. The meeting reviewed the emergency preparedness and response measures for chemical accidents and their proper management. Assistant Director Factory and Boiler (Balangir Division) explained the objective of the meeting through a visual presentation and outlined the work of the District Emergency Team. The managers/owners of small factories in the district

presented through a visual presentation what steps they have taken or what steps they will take before, during and after the disaster to manage an emergency chemical accident. Discussions were held on preparing a model operating procedure (SOP) to manage accidents involving chemicals and hazardous gases transported on roads in Subarnapur district. Discussions were held on forming a regional emergency team for the prompt management of chemical and hazardous gas accidents. Deputy Director Factories and Boilers, Rayagada, coordinated the meeting

and gave suggestions on what safety measures the factories should adopt. Finally, Chairperson Smt. Pradhan stressed on maintaining coordination among all departments and advised everyone to prevent disasters with joint cooperation. The meeting was attended by Dr. Devi Prasad Mohapatra, DPHO, Subarnapur, Rajesh Kumar Sahu, District Emergency Officer, Subarnapur, Bishwanath Nayak, District Project Officer, OSDMA, Ms. Preeti Suna, District Information and Public Relations Officer, district level members and managers/owners of small factories in the district.

POLICE FOILED ROBBERY ATTEMPT, TWO ARRESTED

Bhabanipatna (Correspondent) The police of Kalahandi has got able to save lives and properties of common people, aborting robbery attempt and in this connection two miscreants arrested and forwarded to court. The arrested were Laluchhatria and Biswmitra Naik of same village Bangamunda under the Koksara police limit. From the possession of culprits police has recovered and seized one Pistol and three live ammunitions, one M/C and other material like mobile



phone. Reportedly, about sixty kilometer away from district headquarter Bhabanipatna the Koksara police staffs have successfully foiled a robbery and apprehended two miscreants who has been hatching plan to commit robbery in the

National Highway-26 after they seized live weapons and other materials from their possession, during routine night patrolling. A case has been registered BNS U/s 172/2026 and forwarded to court, said IIC Dambarudhar Bharatia.

Bermhapur Chief District Agriculture Officer caught by vigilance taking bribe

Gopalpur (correspondent): Odisha Vigilance has arrested Bermhapur Chief District Agriculture Officer Byomkesh Mishra while he was demanding a bribe of Rs 15,000 from a beneficiary for processing the file under the mixed farming system under the Chief Minister's Agriculture Enterprise Scheme and releasing 50 percent subsidy money. The complainant was at the doorstep of the Vigilance after he did not work for the last two months despite the request of the beneficiary and later demanded an advance of Rs 15,000 and a commission. During the raid, the entire bribe money was seized and raids are underway at three places of Mr. Mishra to recover his undeclared assets.



12 stolen bikes seized, 12 arrested. Chitrakonda Police success

Malkangiri correspondent : Chitrakonda police has achieved great success against the stolen bike trade. In 25 days, the police have seized 12 bikes after investigating 7 cases related to bike theft. 12 accused involved in this transaction were arrested and produced in court today. Out of the seized bikes, 6 real owners have been identified and handed over, SP Bine Nod Patil H informed in a press release. According to the district police sources, bikes were being stolen continuously from Chitrakonda police station. The police took this seriously and started a special operation to catch the miscreants. Due to strict patrolling and continuous investigation, the bikes stolen from various places were recovered. This was. On the other hand, the owners of the stolen bikes have praised the police for their work. In this regard, Sub-Inspector Jayanarayan Khandei said that this success has been achieved due to the vigilant patrolling and coordinated efforts of the police team. Patrolling will be tightened in the coming days as well. He said that strict action will be taken against the criminals.



Cattle Menace on Kantabanji Roads Raises Accident Concerns

KANTABANJI, correspondence : Despite repeated discussions about cow protection and welfare, the issue appears to remain largely confined to paperwork and social media in Kantabanji. Stray cattle continue to roam freely on roads, both during the day and at night, creating serious risks for commuters. The presence of cattle on busy roads is increasingly being blamed for traffic disruptions and accidents. Two-wheelers and other motorists often



have to suddenly brake or change direction to avoid the animals, raising concerns over public safety. Residents allege that the administration has failed to take effective measures to control the

stray cattle menace. They have urged the concerned authorities to identify a proper shelter arrangement and take steps to prevent cattle from wandering onto roads. Meanwhile, some

social workers have also come under criticism for allegedly limiting their cow-protection activities to posting photographs on social media instead of taking sustained action on the ground. Locals have called for coordinated efforts involving the administration, civic authorities and social organisations to address the problem before a major accident occurs. Residents have appealed to the administration to take immediate and practical measures to ensure safer roads in Kantabanji.

Odisha woman 'gang-raped' by group of men in Kataka, special team formed to nab accused

Kataka correspondence: What began as a routine drive turned into a terrifying ordeal when a young woman traveling with her male friend was allegedly gang-raped by a group of six men in Odisha's Kataka district on Wednesday. The shocking incident occurred under the jurisdiction of the Nischintakoili police station. According to preliminary reports, the victim and her male friend were driving toward Kendrapara when their car was intercepted by a group of unidentified miscreants near



Sukarpada on the Kataka-Chandbali road. The attackers forcibly halted the vehicle, isolated the young woman, and gang-raped her before fleeing the scene. As news of the atrocity sparked outrage, the Kataka Rural Police initiated a high-level

investigation. A specialized team, headed by a Deputy Superintendent of Police (DSP) and a senior female officer has been deployed alongside multiple operational units to probe the crime from every angle. "In the Sukarpada incident,

based on the victim's report, a case under Sections 305 and 326 has been registered at Nischintakoili police station. Considering the seriousness of the case, a senior officer and a woman officer have been assigned to investigate the matter. Multiple teams have also been formed to investigate the incident. A serious offence has been committed against the victim, and, as I mentioned earlier, all necessary teams have been deployed to investigate the matter," informed Kataka SP, Vinit Agarwal.



GOVERNMENT OF ODISHA

25001/922/2627

OFFICE OF THE SUPERINTENDING ENGINEER,
RURAL WORK DIVISION, KENDRAPARA

2nd Corrigendum to
Tender Call Notice No- Tender Online RWD/KPD-03 of 2026-27, Dated: 31/207.2026
Due to unavoidable circumstances the change as detailed below are hereby made in the above NIT.

1. Period of availability of tenders on line /
Date of time of bidding online / Date of
opening of tender papers.

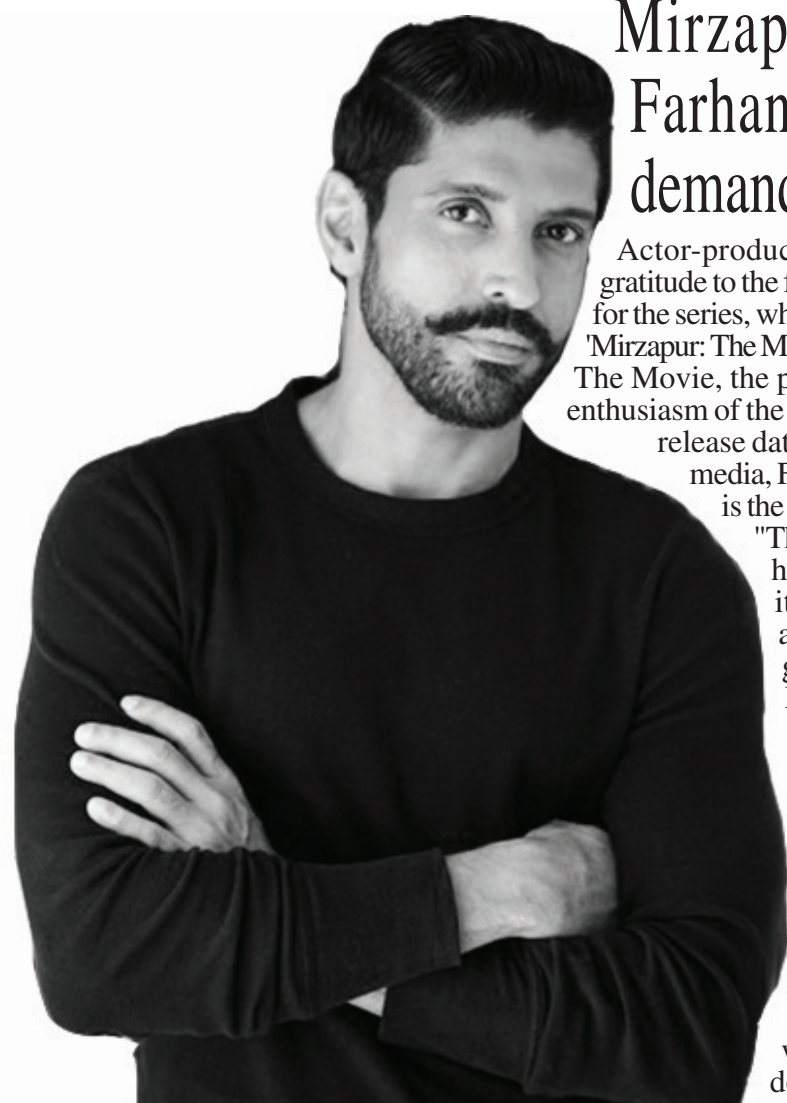
: The details are as follows

Procurement Officer	Place of Opening	Availability of tender online for bidding		Last Date/time of seeking Tender clarification	Date & Time of opening of tender	
		From	To		Technical Bid	Financial Bid
1.	2	3	4	5	6	7
SSuperintending Engineer, Rqlal Works, Division, Kendiapara	Office ofthe Superintending Engineer, Rural Works Division, Kendrapara	18.08.2026 At-11.00 A.M	28.08.2026 Up to 5.00 P.M	Up to 5.00 P.M on 27.08.2026	29.68.2026 at I 1.00 A.M	The date will be intimated to the technically qualified bidders later on.

1.All other terms and conditions of the said Tender call Notice shall remain unaltered.

OIPR-:25001/25064/1/26-27/0011

Superntending Engineer
Rural Works Division, Kendrapara



Mirzapur trailer launch: Farhan Akhtar says fans demanded this movie

Actor-producer Farhan Akhtar expressed his gratitude to the fans of Mirzapur for sharing the love for the series, which prompted the makers to produce 'Mirzapur: The Movie.' At the trailer launch of Mirzapur: The Movie, the producer Farhan Akhtar shared the enthusiasm of the fans across the world regarding the release date of the film. While addressing the media, Farhan said that the upcoming movie is the result of "demand" from the fans.

"The show is a result of fans' love. They have supported the show from the time it was first released. Amazon took it across the world. Wherever I used to go, people used to ask me, 'Ki Mirzapur kab aa rha hai?' When it was announced, people used to ask me the release date, so it is really the fans that have demanded this movie. We are very happy and grateful to have put it together with the original cast and the amazing new cast," said Farhan Akhtar. He also shared a humorous anecdote when he first heard the story pitch of Puneet Krishna, saying that his first instinct was to refer the writer to a "brain doctor" as the story took them by surprise. "When Puneet came to us for

the first time, our first instinct was to refer him to a brain doctor. Then we thought of making it into a show so that people can get into it. Guru and Puneet are the heroes of the show. Ritesh, I, Excel Entertainment, and Amazon, we are really happy that we have been there to support them through this journey and work with them," said Farhan Akhtar. The makers have released the trailer of Mirzapur: The Movie, which continues from the world of Season 1, bringing together some of the franchise's most beloved and iconic characters, including Kaleen Bhaiya, Munna Bhaiya and Guddu Pandit. At the centre of the new chapter is the race for the Gaddi, with new daawedaars entering the story and challenging the established power dynamics. As the battle gets bigger, the world of Mirzapur expands beyond Purvanchal, taking audiences into the deserts and an even more expansive cinematic landscape. The film brings back a host of familiar faces while introducing new characters to the world of Mirzapur, further strengthening the connection between the beloved franchise and its big-screen chapter.

Shraddha Kapoor, Randeep Hooda's 'Eetha' to be released on December 4

The release date of Shraddha Kapoor and Randeep Hooda-starrer 'Eetha' was announced on Tuesday evening. The film is scheduled to hit the screens on December 4. Directed by Laxman Utekar, produced by Dinesh Vijan, Laxman Utekar and Karishma Sharma, with music by Ajay Atul, Eetha "promises to bring a spirited new story to the big screen." "Eetha" is created under Maddock Films and Kathputli Creations. In the movie, Shraddha will be seen essaying the role of legendary Maharashtrian folk artist Vithabai Bhau Mang Narayangaonkar. In June, the makers released the film's teaser, offering a powerful and emotionally charged glimpse into the life of Vithabai Bhau Mang Narayangaonkar. The teaser presented a dramatic and intense portrayal of Eetha's life, centring on a defining backstage moment. In one of the most striking sequences, a heavily pregnant Eetha, played by Shraddha Kapoor, was shown going into labour during a performance setup. After giving birth, she cut the umbilical cord herself and immediately returned to the stage to perform. The narrative highlighted the character's resilience and devotion to her art form, even in life-threatening circumstances. A line from the teaser went viral across social media platforms in which Shraddha Kapoor, in the character of Eetha, said, "Padi padi mari toh bechari kehlaungi, naachte hue mari toh misaal ban jaaungi." ("If I die lying down, I will be called a helpless woman. But if I die while dancing, I will become an example.") Alongside Shraddha and Randeep, the film features an ensemble cast including Hooda, Mohammed Zeeshan Ayyub, Nana Patekar, and Siddharth Jadhav in pivotal roles. The music and background score is composed by the acclaimed duo Ajay-Atul.



Sleeping less than 7 hours a night may shorten your life



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

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

You need a minimum of seven to nine hours of sleep

The National Sleep Foundation has found that millions of Americans report sleeping less than seven hours regularly. Senior author Andrew McHill, PhD, an associate professor at Oregon Health & Science University, was shocked to discover how life expectancy correlated with sleep. "I didn't expect it to be so

strongly correlated to life expectancy," he said in a statement. "We've always thought sleep is important, but this research really drives that point home: People really should strive to get seven to nine hours of sleep if at all possible," he emphasized.

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

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

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

Is black coffee good or bad for your heart?

Black coffee is one of the most popular beverages worldwide, but many people wonder whether it supports heart health or does more harm than good. By definition, black coffee is brewed without milk, cream, or added sugar, making it a low-calorie choice that people incorporate into their morning routine. When consumed mindfully, black coffee can offer notable health benefits, including boosting metabolism and suppressing appetite. But it doesn't come without side effects for some people.

Short-term effects of black coffee on the heart

Black coffee contains caffeine, which acts as a stimulant, leading to a temporary rise in blood pressure and heart rate with the intake of 1-3 cups, according to PubMed. The rise in blood pressure due to its intake is larger for those people who don't regularly consume caffeine than in regular drinkers. Expect a brief blood pressure increase after a strong cup if you're not habituated.

Long-term effects of black coffee

Coffee contains a mix of bioactive compounds, including polyphenols, diterpenes, and antioxidants that play a role in boosting the body's metabolism. According to ResearchGate, these compounds may help stimulate thermogenesis, increase energy expenditure, enhance fat oxidation, and suppress appetite. This can lead to better metabolic efficiency and potential weight management.

The dietician says moderate black coffee consumption, which includes the consumption of about 2-3 cups a day, has been linked to better cardiovascular outcomes. Habitual coffee drinkers often develop tolerance to caffeine's blood-pressure-raising effects. Long-term intake is associated with a lower risk of heart failure, stroke, and coronary artery disease, especially when coffee



is consumed without sugar, creamers, or syrups.

How does coffee affect cardiovascular health?

Coffee contains bioactive compounds, along with caffeine and antioxidants that can influence heart and blood vessel function in both positive and negative ways.

Positive effects:

Regular use of coffee in moderate amounts can reduce the risk of hypertension, heart failure, and atrial fibrillation, as per PubMed Central.

The antioxidants and phenolic acids in coffee may help reduce inflammation, support blood vessel (endothelial) function, and improve insulin sensitivity, all of which are good for maintaining good heart health.

A moderate caffeine intake of up to 400 mg per day is considered safe for most adults, says the MDPI Journal.

Negative effects:

The American Heart Association says that in people with severe hypertension or existing cardiovascular disease, drinking large amounts may increase risk. So, moderation and medical supervision matter.

As per PubMed, boiled coffee has higher levels of compounds like diterpenes (such as cafestol and kahweol), which can raise LDL or bad cholesterol, and worsen lipid profiles.

How to drink black coffee safely?

The American Heart Association says ~2-4 cups/day (depending on strength) is safe and may be associated with the lowest cardiovascular risk for many adults. Whereas, if you have uncontrolled hypertension, certain heart conditions, or are pregnant, talk to your doctor about a safe caffeine limit. Official guidance often sets ~400 mg/day as an upper bound for healthy adults and lower limits for pregnancy, says the American Heart Association.

5 longevity habits to boost strength and metabolism

We all look for ways to live longer: a miracle pill, a superfood smoothie, or a trendy challenge. But what if the keys to a long life are just simple habits that we often forget. When it comes to sustainable wellness for healthy ageing, experts' advice is clear: you can adopt a few lifestyle habits and practise them consistently. These habits require patience, consistency, and self-discipline, but that's where their strength lies.\\

What are the 5 pillars of healthy ageing?

1. Strength training

Strength training is important for maintaining muscle health and managing metabolism as we get older. "Strength training protects muscle mass, which is central to glucose management," Dr Divya Sakhalkar, Health and Wellness Expert at OddsFitness, tells Health Shots. When we do resistance exercises, our muscles work more effectively to process blood sugar, helping reduce swings in our metabolism. A study by the American Diabetes Association shows that adults who strength train regularly have a 30-50% lower risk of developing type 2 diabetes.

2. Sugar intake

Sugar may taste good, but it can harm our bodies, especially as we get older. Dr Sakhalkar explains that "high sugar intake speeds up glycation," which can cause inflammation and, over time, lead to tissue damage and various health problems. A recent study in Frontiers in Immunology showed that cutting back on added sugar can reduce markers of inflammation by 15% in just 3 weeks.

3. Balanced activity routine

Having a good weekly activity routine is very important for your endurance, heart health, and metabolism. Dr Sakhalkar recommends "a mix of strength training, moderate cardio, and mobility work." This balanced routine helps your body

manage daily physical demands as you get older.

4. Prioritising sleep and recovery

Sleep is critical, especially for your metabolism. Dr Sakhalkar explains that "good sleep helps regulate hormones, manage hunger, and support recovery. If you stay up late and don't get enough rest, your body may struggle to recover and handle daily stress."

5. Sustainable lifestyle habits

Living sustainably helps you stay healthy in the long run. Consistency is key. Dr Sakhalkar says, "Long-term metabolic health comes from small, repeatable habits." Eating regular meals, moving your body every day, and managing stress mindfully all help create a stable foundation for your body.

FIH World Cup: Indian Team Has Quality And Depth To Achieve Top Four Finish, Says PR Sreejesh

Mumbai: Just a few days before the start of the FIH Men's Hockey World Cup, former India captain and two-time Olympic medallist PR Sreejesh has listed the Indian team as a favourite to make it to the last-four stage and termed anything better than that as "a bonus". India, winner of the 1975 World Cup, have not reached the semifinals for five decades. However, after failing to win an Olympic medal for four decades, the Indian men's team won a bronze medal in the 2020 edition in Tokyo and followed it up with a second bronze medal in Paris 2024. Sreejesh said the Indian team has the quality and depth to achieve a top-four finish in the 16th edition, which will be held in Wavre (Belgium) and Amstelveen (the



Netherlands) from August 14 to 30. "The FIH Hockey World Cup is the second biggest tournament in hockey after the Olympics, and naturally, the whole world is watching, and all eyes are on you. That brings a lot of pressure. But you cannot let that pressure affect your game. When you start thinking too much about

it, your performance drops. And when your performance drops, the pressure increases even more," Sreejesh said, speaking to JioStar. "So the key is to stay calm, focus on your role, and trust your training. Most importantly, you are playing in the World Cup. This is what you have worked for. Just enjoy the moment and

give your best on the pitch," said Sreejesh. On the performance expectations from the Indian Men's Hockey Team in the FIH Hockey Men's World Cup, Sreejesh said, "In my opinion, the way this team is set up and the progress we have made, a top four finish is the minimum we should aim for. Looking

at the pool we have been drawn in, we have the quality and the depth to achieve that. "Anything beyond that- silver, gold, or bronze- would be a bonus. The team is playing with confidence, and we have the experience to handle big games. We should not settle for less. The target is clear; we are here to compete and make our mark," he added. The FIH Men's & Women's Hockey World Cup 2026 will have 16 teams in each category. Sixteen teams will participate in the World Cups for the third time after the expansion in 2018. Germany are the defending champions after defeating Belgium 5-4 in a shootout after the match finished 3-3 in regular time in Bhubaneswar in 2023.

Squash: Tanvi Khanna, Suraj Chand In Semifinals Of PSA Challenger Tour Event In Kolkata



Kolkata: Women's top seed Tanvi Khanna and men's fourth seed Suraj Kumar Chand were the Indians who advanced to the semifinals of the HCL Squash PSA Challenger Tour in Kolkata on Wednesday. Tanvi defeated sixth-seed compatriot Nirupama Dubey in straight games in the quarterfinals and will meet Egyptian third seed Sohayla Hazem next. Chand, who won the World University Championships singles crown recently, beat eighth seed compatriot Om Semwal in four games, and will take on Egyptian top seed Mohamed Gohar in the semifinals. Earlier on Tuesday, Suraj Chand overcame Egypt's Hassan Menshawy in a 73-minute-long five-game thriller, 11-4, 8-11, 11-2, 9-11, 11-8 in

the men's pre-quarterfinals. In another engrossing five-game contest, Sandhesh Palanivel Ravikumar rallied from 2-0 down to beat sixth seed Ayaan Vaziralli 6-11, 10-12, 11-5, 11-6, 11-7 and advance to the men's quarters. In the women's section, top seed Tanvi Khanna moved to the quarters with a straight-games win over Vasundhara Nangare. Arihant K.S. defeated Switzerland's Leandro Mannhart 11-6, 9-11, 13-11, 11-4 in

the men's singles opening round on Monday. In women's first-round action, Pooja Arthi Raghu rallied to beat Kaashvi Mangal 13-15, 11-6, 11-6, 7-11, 11-9. Another Indian player, Ananya Narayanan, defeated Aahana Singh 8-11, 11-2, 11-8, 11-8, while Vasundhara Nangare got the better of compatriot Janet Vidhi 11-8, 11-5, 11-5. The event has a prize fund of \$9,000 for the men's section, while in the women's section, the prize money is \$9,000.

Delhi To Host Afghanistan's 'Home' T20I Series Against India In September

Mumbai: Delhi is set to become the stage for another chapter in the growing India-Afghanistan cricket relationship, with the two boards confirming a three-match T20I series at the Arun Jaitley Cricket Stadium in September. Afghanistan will be the host, despite all three matches being played in India. The arrangement continues Afghanistan's recent practice of staging home fixtures outside the country, with India serving as one of its principal venues. The opening T20I will be played on September 13, followed by matches on September 15 and 17. All three encounters will be held at the same venue. For Afghanistan, the series represents another opportunity to test itself against one of the leading sides in world cricket while further



strengthening its association with the BCCI. The fixtures form part of Afghanistan's Future Tours Program. "The BCCI remains committed to supporting the growth of cricket in Afghanistan and providing its players with opportunities to compete at the highest level. Bilateral cricket is an important part of this, as it allows teams to play regularly against quality opposition and gain valuable experience. We welcome the Afghanistan Cricket Board to India for this

series and look forward to working closely with them to make it a successful one. We believe there is scope to do more together and will continue to support Afghanistan cricket while strengthening the relationship between the two cricketing nations," BCCI President Mithun Manhas. The series will also complete a three-format cycle between the teams in 2026. India and Afghanistan met in a Test and ODI series in June, following their previous three-match T20I contest in January

2024. BCCI Secretary Devajit Saikia said, "The India-Afghanistan cricketing rivalry has produced some thrilling encounters over the years, with both teams boasting quality cricketers. Afghanistan's players are also quite popular among fans in India, which is a reflection of the strong bond that has developed between the two cricketing nations. India hosting Afghanistan for their historic first Test in 2018 was another significant milestone in this journey, and since then, we have continued to see regular bilateral engagements between the two teams. "We recently hosted Afghanistan for a Test and ODI series in June, and this T20I series will mean the two teams have now competed against each other across all three formats.

India Claim Five Medals On Day 3 Of Commonwealth Fencing C'ship, Overall Tally Reaches 29



Lagos (Nigeria): The Indian fencing squad delivered another masterclass on the third day of the Commonwealth Fencing Championship, sweeping three gold, one silver a bronze medals across senior individual events. Dominating the field in senior women's foil, senior men's epee, and senior men's sabre, team India's stellar Day 3 performance brings the nation's overall combined medal count to an extraordinary 29 medals, comprising eight gold, seven silver, and 14 bronze. India established immediate dominance in the senior women's foil category, securing a brilliant gold-silver victory. Kanaglakshmi captured the gold medal following a precise and controlled campaign, while teammate Joys Ashitha took silver to claim the

top two spots on the podium ahead of England's Georgia Green and Emily Goodchild, who won bronze. The success continued in the senior men's epee discipline, where Rajendran Shanthimol Sherjin put on a commanding display to secure India's second gold medal of the day. Sherjin outpointed South Africa's Kruger Pieter, who finished with silver,

while Wales' Burkhardt Marc and South Africa's Losevsky Sergey shared the bronze medals. In the senior men's sabre event, Singh Karan clinched India's third gold medal of the day with an outstanding final fight against Australia's Shim Yoongi, who took silver. Teammate Kumaresan Padma Gisho Nidhi added to the medal haul by winning bronze

alongside Nigeria's Akinyosoye Oluwafolayemi. With the championship wrapping up today, the Indian contingent turns its focus towards the final events across foil, epee, and sabre disciplines. Building on the momentum of 29 medals won over the first three days, Team India aims to maintain its dominance and finish the campaign on a high note in Lagos.

Indian Para-Cyclists Win 12 Medals at UCI Parasport Denmark Grand Prix 2026

NEWDELHI: Indian para-cyclists produced a remarkable performance at the UCI Parasport Denmark Grand Prix 2026, returning with a 12-medal haul — 2 gold, 5 silver, and 5 bronze — from the three-day event held in Odense from August 7 to 9. Seventeen-year-old Vishwa Vasani (WC3) from Gujarat impressed with four bronze medals in the 1 km Individual Time Trial, Scratch Race, 200 m Sprint, and Elimination Race. Paralympian Arshad Shaikh (MC2) emerged as India's most successful cyclist, claiming six medals — two gold, three silver, and one bronze — across multiple track events, reaffirming his consistency on the



international circuit. Sixteen-year-old Anshuman (MC1) added two silver medals, marking another promising outing for India's emerging para-cycling talent. All three cyclists train under chief coach Aditya Mehta, whose mentorship has been pivotal in developing India's para-cycling ecosystem.

Their combined effort showcased India's growing strength and depth in international para-sports. The Odense performance underscores India's rising profile in global para-cycling, blending experience and youth to deliver one of the country's most successful international outings this season.

Sri Lanka Announce 16-Member Squad for India Test; Dickwella Returns, Kusal Mendis Out

NEWDELHI: Sri Lanka Cricket (SLC) has announced a 16-member squad for the opening Test of the two-match series against India, with Dhananjaya de Silva leading the side and Kamindu Mendis named vice-captain. Veteran wicketkeeper-batter Niroshan Dickwella returns to the Test fold after Kusal Mendis was ruled out due to injury. Batter Pathum Nissanka has also been omitted from the squad for the first match. Sri Lanka squad: Dhananjaya de Silva (captain), Lahiru Udara, Nishan Madushka, Kamindu Mendis (vc), Dinesh Chandimal, Pasindu Sooriyabandara, Sonal Dinusha, Niroshan Dickwella (wk), Ramesh Mendis, Prabath Jayasuriya, Keshara Nuwantha, Milan Rathnayake, Asitha Fernando, Lahiru Kumara, Vishwa Fernando, Dilshan Madushanka. Draft an engaging news article in English. The first Test will be played at the Galle International Cricket Stadium from August 15 to 19, forming part of the ICC World Test Championship 2025-27 cycle. India, led by Shubman Gill, currently sit fifth in the WTC standings with a Points Percentage of 48.15, while Sri Lanka are sixth. With home conditions expected to favour spin, Sri Lanka will rely on experienced players like Chandimal and the returning Dickwella to challenge India's Test side.

Taniksha Khatri Wins India's First Commonwealth Fencing Gold in Lagos

NEWDELHI: Taniksha Khatri became the first Indian to win gold at the Commonwealth Fencing Championships, clinching the Senior Women's Epee title in Lagos, Nigeria. The 22-year-old from Karnal, Haryana, defeated compatriot Khushi Dabhade 15-7 in the final bout, marking a historic breakthrough for Indian fencing. Teammate Prachi Lohan shared the bronze medal with Australia's Ashley Harrison, ensuring that three of the four podium spots went to India. Khatri's journey began in 2015 at a summer camp in



Karnal, later transitioning from foil to epee under coach Mohit Ashwini's guidance. She trained in France with former world champion Nathalie Moellhausen and gained institutional support as an officer in the Indian Navy. Her career highlights include silver medals at the 2022 Commonwealth Junior Championships in London, a team silver

at the Asian Junior Championships in Tashkent, and a quarter-final finish at the 2022 Asian Games in Hangzhou — the furthest progression by an Indian fencer at the continental level. With this gold, Taniksha Khatri has firmly established herself as a trailblazer in Indian fencing, inspiring a new generation of athletes to aim for global success.

Birla Global University Welcomes New Tech & Engineering Batches at Commencement Day 2026

BHUBANESWAR, (correspondent): Birla Global University (BGU), one of Eastern India's leading institutions of higher education, welcomed a new batch of students through its Commencement Day Programme 2026, marking the beginning of their academic journey at the Birla School of Applied Sciences and the Birla School of Engineering & Technology. The programme formally inducted students of the BCA 2026-29, MCA 2026-28 and B.Tech 2026-30 programmes, offering them an opportunity to familiarise themselves



with the University's academic environment, values and aspirations as they embark on an important new chapter in their educational and professional journey. The event was graced by Himanshu Jessie Wadia, Director, PgM - AI Innovation &

Automation, Amdocs, as the Chief Guest, while Premchand Kurup, CEO, Paramount Assure, Dubai, attended as the Guest of Honour. The programme was also attended by Prof. Kulbhushan Balooni, Vice Chancellor, Birla

Global University; Dr. Sanjay Kumar Kuanar, Dean, Birla School of Applied Sciences and Birla School of Engineering & Technology; and Tanmay Kumar Pattanayak, Registrar, along with faculty members, alumni, staff

and students. Delivering the Commencement Day address, Chief Guest Himanshu Jessie Wadia said, "Knowledge is easily available, but wisdom has real value. Learn to question, think critically, and use technology wisely. Choose your surroundings carefully- they can shape your journey and take you further." Addressing the new students, Premchand Kurup advised, "In the corporate world, the potential within you matters the most. Stay focused on the process, embrace change, and never compromise on your dreams."

Tata Motors Passenger Vehicles introduces Nexon CAMO, a bold new expression of India's No. 1 SUV

M u m b a i : Celebrating a decade of Nexon and the trust of over 11 lakh customers, Tata Motors Passenger Vehicles (TMPV), one of India's leading automotive manufacturers, today announced the launch of the Nexon CAMO, starting at ₹9.99 lakh (Ex-showroom, Delhi). Available in two exclusive premium colours, Munnar Mist and Coorg Cloud, the Nexon CAMO combines bold styling with an enhanced technology package featuring the Ultra View Twin HD Digital Cockpit 31.24 cm (12.3-inch)

infotainment system by Harman™ & 26.03 cm (10.25-inch) Digital Instrument Cluster by Harman™ with embedded Navigation and an integrated dashcam recorder as part of the 360° Camera Surround View System. Complementing these additions is a strong package of premium comfort, safety and intelligent technology features, including ADAS, a voice-assisted panoramic sunroof, ventilated leatherette seats and a JBL audio system. Available across Petrol, Diesel and iCNG powertrains, with multiple transmission

options, the Nexon CAMO offers a distinctive ownership proposition for every kind of SUV customer. Over the years, the Tata Nexon has established itself as one of India's most successful and iconic SUV brands by continuously evolving in line with changing customer aspirations. From democratizing safety, advanced technology and turbocharged performance to offering unmatched powertrain choice, the Nexon has consistently redefined expectations in the compact SUV segment while building a strong legacy of innovation and customer trust.

KIMS Physician Dr Sambit Das Elected President of Endocrine Society of India

BHUBANESWAR, (correspondent) : Dr. Sambit Das, Professor and Head of the Department of Endocrinology at KIMS Bhubaneswar, has been elected as the President of the Endocrine Society of India (ESI), one of the most prestigious professional bodies in the field of endocrinology in the country. Established in 1972, the Endocrine Society of India is the largest association of endocrinologists in India. It plays a key role in advancing the



discipline through academic initiatives, research collaborations, national registries, clinical guidelines and patient awareness programmes both nationally and internationally. He is the first Odia endocrinologist in 40 years to be elected

President of the Society and also the youngest to hold the position in its history. An eminent clinician, dedicated teacher and accomplished researcher, Dr. Das has made notable contributions to endocrinology. He is currently serving as the Vice President of ESI and is also an Executive Committee Member of the South Asian Federation of Endocrine Societies (SAFES). Over the years, he has received

several national and international accolades for his work. Recently, he was honoured with the Excellence in Endocrinology and Diabetes Award by the Chief Minister of Odisha. Congratulating Dr. Das on his achievement, Founder of KIIT and KISS, Dr. Achyuta Samanta, expressed pride over his accomplishment and said his election to the prestigious post is a matter of great honour for the institution as well as the state of Odisha.

CGAI MAKES STRONG BUSINESS CASE FOR COAL GASIFICATION TO FUEL ATMANIRBHAR BHARAT

B H U B A N E S W A R , (correspondent) - The Coal Gasifiers Association of India, serving as the country's top professionally run apex body for the sector, successfully organized a major international conference titled "Challenges, Opportunities and New Technologies in Coal Gasification" in Bhubaneswar recently. Driven by India's vast domestic coal reserves and the Ministry of Coal's financial assistance initiatives under the Viability Gap Funding (VGF) scheme, the conference established a compelling business case for scaling coal gasification to achieve national self-reliance. The landmark event witnessed widespread support and participation from major industry leaders, including Coal India, Mahanadi Coalfields, Southeastern Coalfields, GAIL,

NTPC, and Jindal Steel, alongside international delegations from Sri Lanka and technical experts from Canada. Throughout the proceedings, over 25 expert speakers presented technical papers detailing modern solutions for processing high-ash Indian coal and establishing domestic production pathways for strategic chemicals to curb foreign import dependence. Industry leaders from NTPC and Jindal Steel highlighted several key initiatives aligned directly with the national objective of Atmanirbhar Bharat. As a key highlight of the event, the Coal Gasifiers Association of India organised an official field visit to Jindal Steel's flagship plant in Angul. The participants visited India's unique Coal Gasification-based

Direct Reduced Iron (CGP-DRI) facility, which uses coal gasification technology to produce high-quality steel. The Angul plant is home to India's first CGP-DRI facility for steelmaking, making it a significant example of innovative coal utilisation in the country. With advanced technologies, modern production facilities and a strong focus on efficiency and sustainability, Jindal Steel's Angul plant is among the most modern steelmaking facilities in India. The delegates appreciated the plant's operations, which include the largest blast furnace in the country, and gained first-hand knowledge of the best global practices and advanced technologies being adopted as part of the plant's ongoing expansion.

TPSODL celebrates International Youth Day

Behampur (correspondent): With technology and the world of work changing rapidly, young people must continuously upgrade their skills, embrace innovation and remain adaptable to emerging opportunities, speakers said at an International Youth Day programme held at Khetramohan Science College, Narendrapur. The interactive programme brought together students from various education institutions and representatives of TPSODL (TP Southern Odisha Distribution limited) for a discussion on the changing professional landscape and the growing opportunities available to young people in Odisha. Students were encouraged to look beyond conventional career choices and connect their interests



and passion with emerging areas of work. The interaction focused on the importance of Artificial Intelligence, digital technology, communication, creativity, critical thinking, entrepreneurship and continuous learning. The discussion assumed particular relevance in Odisha, where skill development and building a future-ready workforce have emerged as important priorities. The State's Skill Development and Technical Education Department has

articulated the vision of making "Skilled-in-Odisha" a globally recognised identity, while recent State Economic Survey findings point to improving digital skills and growing emphasis on AI capabilities. Students actively participated in the session, sharing their aspirations and seeking perspectives on careers, technology and the changing demands of the workplace. They were also encouraged to use digital resources responsibly and develop skills that can enhance

their employability and entrepreneurial potential. The programme also highlighted that today's youth are not merely the leaders of tomorrow but active contributors to society today. Their ideas, skills and willingness to learn can play an important role in shaping Odisha's future. The observance concluded with a message encouraging students to keep learning, embrace change, build relevant skills and turn emerging opportunities into meaningful contributions.

Banking sector should simplify Credit Access and CIBIL Score reforms to Boost MSME growth in Odisha: Governor Hari Babu Kambhampati

Bhubaneswar, (correspondent): The Odisha Assembly of Small & Medium Enterprises (OASME) celebrated its 41st Foundation Day and Annual Convention 2026 in Bhubaneswar, bringing together government representatives, industry leaders, entrepreneurs and stakeholders from the MSME and startup ecosystem.

Hon'ble Governor of Odisha, Dr. Hari Babu Kambhampati, graced the occasion as the Chief Guest. The event was also attended by Shri Suresh Pujari, Hon'ble Minister of Revenue and Disaster Management; Shri Sampad Chandra Swain, Hon'ble Minister of State, Industries, Skill Development and Technical Education; Shri Hemant Sharma, IAS, Additional Chief Secretary, Industries, Home and I&PR Department, Government of Odisha; Rashmita Panda, IAS, Commissioner-cum-Secretary, Micro, Small & Medium Enterprise Department Government



of Odisha, and Shri Brijendra Pratap Singh is the Chairman-cum-Managing Director (CMD) of the National Aluminium Company Limited (NALCO), and Gouri Shankar Dash, Chairman of OASME along with all the members. The convention featured the release of the OASME Souvenir 2026 and the presentation of the OASME Awards 2026, recognising entrepreneurs and enterprises for their contribution to Odisha's MSME sector. Awards were presented across several categories, including Best Medium Enterprise, Best Small Enterprise, Best Micro Enterprise, Best Women Entrepreneur, Best Service Enterprise, Best

Promising Young Entrepreneur and Best Mother Plant, among others. The Satya Swain Memorial Lifetime Achievement Award was presented to Mr. Kahnu Charan Nayak, Managing Director, Subhashree Packers Pvt. Ltd., Tangi, Cuttack, for his pioneering contribution to Odisha's packaging industry. Mr. Nayak had established Odisha's first Expanded Polystyrene manufacturing plant in 1987 and had contributed significantly to employment generation in the state. A key highlight of the event was the seminar on "Leveraging Odisha's Emerging Ecosystem for Manufacturing Innovation and Startups - Vision

2036." The session brought together experts and industry leaders to discuss the opportunities for manufacturing innovation, entrepreneurship and startup development in Odisha. Addressing the gathering, Dr. Hari Babu Kambhampati, Hon'ble Governor of Odisha, said, "MSMEs are the backbone of Odisha's economic growth and play a vital role in generating employment, promoting entrepreneurship and strengthening local industries. I commend OASME for its continued efforts towards supporting and recognising the contribution of MSMEs across the state."

Sensex, Nifty Extend Losses For 2nd Day As Firm Oil Prices Weigh On Sentiment

Mumbai: The benchmark equity indices, the Sensex and the Nifty, ended lower for the second consecutive session on Wednesday as elevated crude oil prices and uncertainty surrounding a potential deal to reopen the Strait of Hormuz kept investors cautious. The Sensex fell 187.90 points, or 0.24 per cent, to close at 77,966.35, while the Nifty shed 35.75 points, or 0.15 per cent, to settle at 24,435.95. Commenting on Nifty technical outlook, experts said that the index continues to fall after slipping below 24,400, leading to a decline towards 24,250. "On

the lower end, it found support around the 200-hour SMA before staging a recovery. On the daily timeframe, the index has managed to close above the 20EMA," an analyst stated. "A sustained fall below 24,400 on Thursday might again drag the index towards 24,180. On the higher end, 24,500 is likely to act as a crucial resistance, and a sustained move above this level might improve the trend," as per the expert. Investor sentiment remained subdued as concerns over global energy supplies supported crude oil prices, prompting caution across equity markets.