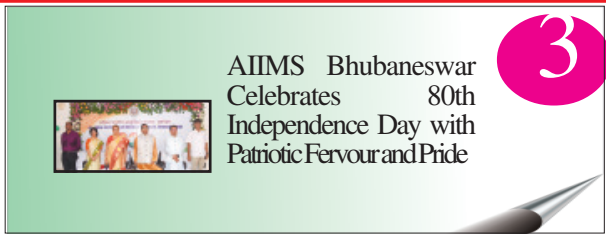


District-Level 80th Independence Day Celebrated with Grandeur in Jharsuguda



AIIMS Bhubaneswar Celebrates 80th Independence Day with Patriotic Fervour and Pride



VVS Laxman Dons Top BCCI Director of Cricket Role



East Coast Railway General Manager Highlights East Coast Railway's Achievements on Independence Day

Odisha Chief Secy Reviews Flood Situation, Directs Officials To Take Immediate Measures

Bhubaneswar (correspondent): Odisha Chief Secretary Anu Garg today reviewed the prevailing flood situation and the preparedness and response measures undertaken by various departments and district administrations as heavy rainfall continued to affect several parts of the state. At a high-level review meeting held at the office of the Special Relief Commissioner, the Chief Secretary directed concerned departments and District Collectors to



take all necessary and immediate measures to ensure the safety of people in flood-affected areas. According to the India Meteorological Department (IMD), rainfall activity in

northern Odisha is likely to intensify as a low-pressure area over the north Bay of Bengal and adjoining areas of West Bengal and the north Odisha coast is expected to strengthen over the next 24

hours. Baleshwar, Bhadrak, Jajpur, Mayurbhanj and Kendujhar have been placed under a Red Warning, while most other districts are under an Orange Warning. Some districts remain under a Yellow Warning. Rainfall is likely to continue in the affected northern districts until August 18, after which its intensity is expected to decrease. Odisha Chief Secy Reviews Flood Situation, Directs Officials To Take Immediate Measures

Odisha Flood Situation: CM Majhi Says Govt Closely Monitoring Developments

Bhubaneswar: Odisha Chief Minister Mohan Charan Majhi on Sunday said the state government is closely monitoring the flood situation in several parts of the state following renewed rains. Taking to social media platform X, Majhi said local administrations were keeping a close watch on the situation and undertaking necessary rescue and relief operations in the affected areas. Three senior and experienced officers have been assigned special



responsibility for Baleshwar, Bhadrak and Jajpur districts to ensure smooth management of rescue and relief operations, the Chief Minister said. The Special Relief

Commissioner is also continuously coordinating with district administrations and supervising the ongoing rescue and relief work, he said. "Our top priority is

to provide immediate relief to the affected people and ensure their safety," Majhi said, adding that he would visit the affected areas on Monday to take stock of the situation on the ground. The Chief Minister also urged people in affected areas to follow the instructions issued by the local administration and exercise caution. "Please follow the instructions of the administration and stay safe. The government is always with you," Majhi said.

PM Modi Thanks Jamaican Counterpart For Warm I-Day Wishes, Says India Values Friendship

New Delhi: Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Sunday thanked his Jamaican counterpart Andrew Holness for his warm wishes on Independence Day and said that India values friendship with the Caribbean nation. "Thank you, PM Andrew Holness, for your warm wishes. India deeply values its enduring friendship with Jamaica and looks forward to further strengthening our special and close ties," PM Modi wrote on X. Holness, in his Independence Day greetings, noted that Jamaica deeply values friendship with India. "Today, I extend my warmest greetings to Prime Minister Narendra Modi and to the people of India as you celebrate



your 80th Independence anniversary. Jamaica deeply values its enduring friendship with India, a relationship grounded in mutual respect, shared values, and strong people-to-people connections. On this significant occasion, I convey my sincere best wishes to Prime Minister Modi and to the people of India for continued peace, progress, and prosperity in the years ahead. Happy Independence Day to the people of India," he

wrote on X. Earlier in the day, PM Modi also thanked his Israeli counterpart, Benjamin Netanyahu, wishing for stronger growth between India and Israel. "Thank you, Prime Minister Netanyahu, for your warm wishes. May the India-Israel Special Strategic Partnership grow even stronger, unlocking new opportunities and forging deeper people-to-people connections between our nations," he wrote on X.

India Hands Over Specialised Tools To Seychelles, Improving Safety And Readiness Of Coast Guard

Victoria: India handed over specialised calibrated tools and repaired electronic units to Seychelles, strengthening defence and maritime cooperation, the Indian High Commission in Victoria said on Sunday. "Strengthening India-Seychelles Defence and Maritime Security Cooperation. 3 repaired Dornier Main Electronic Units (MEUs), 18 sets of calibrated specialised aircraft tools, 50 safety helmets and seamanship ropes were handed over by Defence Adviser Capt. Shravan Sareen to Maj. Gen. Michael Rosette, CDF, SDF," the High Commission stated on



X. According to the Indian mission, the items were repaired/calibrated at Indian Naval facilities free of cost and will enable in-house testing and faster repairs for the Dornier fleet that is used by the Seychelles Air Force for

Exclusive Economic Zone (EEZ) surveillance, CASEVAC (Casualty Evacuation), and SAR (Search and Rescue). "The safety and seamanship gear will elevate personnel safety and op readiness of the

Seychelles Coast Guard," the High Commission highlighted. On Tuesday, India's High Commissioner to Seychelles, Rohit Rathish, handed over five laser radial boats to the Seychelles Defence Force chief, fulfilling

Prime Minister Narendra Modi's announcement during his state visit to the archipelagic island nation in the Indian Ocean in June. "Strengthening Maritime Partnership India, Seychelles. Following the announcement by Prime Minister Narendra Modi during his State Visit to Seychelles, five laser radial boats were handed over today by the High Commissioner of India to the Chief of Defence Forces, Seychelles Defence Force. The boats will help build seamanship skills of SDF personnel," the High Commissioner of India to Seychelles wrote on X.

India Emerging As Leading Responder To Natural Disasters Worldwide: Report

New Delhi: Months after India sent one of its longest humanitarian aid flights to earthquake-hit Venezuela, it is now reportedly emerging as one of the leading global responders to incidents of natural disasters across the world, according to a media report. "By providing need-based and rapid assistance during emergencies, and through its efforts to develop capacities for mutual benefit, India is seen as a reliable first responder and a force for global good," former Indian ambassador to Thailand and Kenya Suchitra Duri wrote in The Jerusalem Post. She noted that the 2004 tsunami in the Indian Ocean "marked the coming of age of India's Humanitarian Assistance and Disaster Relief (HADR)

institutional capacity". Citing examples, her piece recalled one of the nation's "most complex humanitarian missions", 'Operation Neer', launched in December 2014 to supply drinking water to the Maldives after the country's only desalination plant broke down. Indian aircraft and naval ships had worked around the clock to supply over 1,500 tonnes of drinking water to the Maldives, becoming the first country to respond to its request, it said. Similarly, India had also undertaken 'Operation Maitri' within six hours of the initial tremors, when a massive earthquake hit Nepal in April 2015. It included evacuation of scores of stranded Indians and foreign nationals by air and land



routes, delivery of hundreds of tonnes of essential material, and the setting up of field hospitals. After the relief operations were completed, India launched a major rehabilitation and reconstruction package of around \$2 billion for Nepal. The country has also conducted rescue and relief operations in disaster-hit Myanmar and Sri Lanka in 2025, with Operation Brahma

and Operation Sagar B a n d h u respectively. The report mentioned that apart from setting up field hospitals, a huge tri-services combined with NDRF mission supplied over 750 tonnes of materials and equipment, including essential medicines and food aid in earthquake-hit Myanmar; while food, equipment, medicines, and other essential items were

provided, and over 1,000 tonnes of dry rations were supplied in the aftermath of Cyclone Ditwah in Sri Lanka. "Beyond its immediate neighbourhood, India also responded with alacrity to requests from Turkey and Syria when they were struck by earthquakes in 2023," Duri wrote. Emerging as the first responder, India had then launched a swift humanitarian

rescue mission 'Operation Dost', sending large search and rescue teams of more than 250 personnel, along with medical teams and dog squads to both countries as well as emergency materials. Similar operations were also undertaken in 2019 and 2023, where the country provided assistance to cyclone-hit Mozambique and Malawi, respectively. "On June 26, 2026, India undertook its most ambitious HADR initiative when 30 tonnes of humanitarian relief materials, accompanied by a 41-member team comprising experienced rescue personnel and medical professionals, arrived in two C-17s to earthquake-hit Venezuela," Duri observed in The Jerusalem Post piece.

Record Wildfire Scorches 2,000 Hectares In Belgium

Brussels: Belgium's largest wildfire on record had scorched about 2,000 hectares of vegetation in the High Fens area of eastern Belgium by Saturday evening, according to local authorities. The Walloon Public Service confirmed that the blaze had set a national record for the largest area burned by a wildfire. Firefighting operations continued nearly 30 hours after the blaze broke out at around 2 p.m. Friday, reports Xinhua news agency. Around 600 people have been evacuated from nearby communities, according to local media. About 500 residents of Sourbrodt, in the municipality of Waimes, were evacuated as a precaution, along with around 100 people in Butgenbach. The evacuation orders covered 15 streets in Sourbrodt and seven in Butgenbach. International assistance was being mobilised under the EU Civil Protection Mechanism, with two Dutch military helicopters, a Czech firefighting helicopter and two Swedish firefighting aircraft being deployed to support efforts to contain the blaze. Local authorities said winds were hampering firefighting operations and could further fuel the spread of the fire. Earlier Belgium has requested the activation of the European Union Civil Protection Mechanism for additional firefighting assistance. One helicopter and two firefighting aircraft from the EU fleet were on their way to Belgium on Saturday. The fire remained out of control on Saturday afternoon. Belgian authorities deployed three helicopters, while the military sent three Panther firefighting vehicles to reinforce operations on the ground.

80thINDEPENDENCE DAY CELEBRATED WITH PATRIOTIC FERVOUR AT IFFCO, PARADEEP UNIT

Paradeep, (correspondent) The 80th Independence Day was celebrated with great patriotic fervour at the IFFCO Paradeep Unit, with senior officials, employees, members of the Officers' Association and Employees' Union, residents of IFFCO Township, and children of IFFCO DAV Public School participating in the celebrations.

The grand ceremony commenced with the hoisting of the National Flag by the Chief Guest, Shri Anirudha Vikram Singh, Unit Head, IFFCO Paradeep, followed by an impressive parade. Addressing the gathering, Shri Singh paid tribute to the countless freedom fighters whose sacrifices secured the nation's



sovereignty and freedom. He emphasized that every citizen has a responsibility to safeguard the nation's integrity, democratic values, and unity, particularly amid the prevailing global uncertainties and evolving geopolitical scenario. Highlighting

IFFCO's commitment to the farming community, Shri Singh said that the organisation remains steadfast in serving farmers across the country while upholding its cooperative ethos. He stated that IFFCO is not merely a fertilizer-producing organisation but a vital pillar supporting the prosperity of millions of

Indian farmers, the country's food security, and national development.

Referring to the vision of Hon'ble Chairman Shri Dileep Sanghani Ji and Managing Director Shri K. J. Patel Ji, Shri Singh said that IFFCO is committed to further strengthening its position as a leading global

cooperative through technological excellence, innovation, digital transformation, energy efficiency, environmental protection, safety, and farmer-centric services. He called upon all employees to collectively translate this vision into reality.

Shri Singh also acknowledged the challenges faced by the organisation in recent months concerning the availability and supply of raw materials. He appreciated the outstanding coordination, foresight, and commitment demonstrated by the Production, Purchase, Logistics, Planning, Maintenance, and other teams in ensuring the smooth functioning of the unit despite these challenges.

Ferro Alloys Corporation Ltd. Celebrates India's 80th Independence Day with Unity, Pride and Community Spirit

BHUBANESWAR (correspondent) Ferro Alloys Corporation Limited (FACOR), a Vedanta Group company, celebrated India's 80th Independence Day with great enthusiasm across its plant and mining operations, as well as schools in the Bhadrak and Sukinda regions. The occasion brought together employees, business partners, students, and community members in a vibrant display of patriotism, unity, and shared purpose.

The celebrations began with the hoisting of the National Flag by FACOR CEO, followed by an address highlighting the significance of the day and the collective responsibility of citizens and organizations in



contributing to the nation's progress.

"Independence Day is not only a celebration of our freedom but also a reminder of our responsibility towards the nation and the communities we serve. At FACOR, we remain committed to supporting India's growth through responsible operations, community development, and creating a positive impact around us. Today's celebrations reflect the values of unity,

pride, and progress that define our journey," said Mr. Manoj Keshari, CEO, FACOR. Through a series of engaging cultural programmes, community initiatives, and employee participation activities, the celebrations reinforced the strong bond within the FACOR family while reflecting the company's enduring commitment to nation-building, social responsibility, and sustainable development.

District-Level 80th Independence Day Celebrated with Grandeur in Jharsuguda

Jharsuguda, (correspondent): The district-level celebration of the 80th Independence Day was held with great enthusiasm and patriotic fervour at Manmohan Maidan in Jharsuguda on August 16. District Collector Kunal Motiram Chhabaan attended the ceremony as the chief guest, unfurled the national flag and received the salute of the combined parade. Superintendent of Police G. R. Raghavendra was also present on the dais and paid tribute to the national flag. A total of 31 contingents participated in the parade, which was led by Police RI Anil Mukhi. In the senior



category, L. N. College (Naval Wing), Jharsuguda was adjudged the best contingent. PM SHRI Kendriya Vidyalaya, Jharsuguda emerged victorious in the junior category, while St. Mary's Convent School won in the sub-junior category. Addressing the gathering in Sambalpur, Collector Chhabaan extended his Independence Day

greetings to the people and called upon everyone to love the country, uphold the dignity of the Tricolour and Constitution, strengthen unity and brotherhood, protect nature and the environment, and extend support to the weaker and helpless sections of society. He urged citizens to discharge their responsibilities towards building a clean, healthy, safe and prosperous Jharsuguda.

Paradip Port Charts a Bold Roadmap to Become a Global "Port of the Millennium"

PARADIP, (correspondent): The 80th Independence Day was celebrated at Paradip Port Authority (PPA) with patriotic fervour, flag hoisting and a series of cultural and sporting programmes. Shri P. L. Haranadh, Chairman, Paradip Port Authority, hoisted the National Flag at Gopabandhu Stadium in the presence of officers, employees, CISF personnel, trade union representatives, media, government organisations, stakeholders, citizens of Paradip and school children. Addressing the gathering, the Chairman paid tribute to the freedom fighters and Armed Forces and highlighted the vital role of ports in the vision of Viksit Bharat. He said Paradip Port is



committed to supporting India's growth through modern infrastructure, efficient logistics, technology, sustainable development and inclusive growth. The Chairman congratulated Team Paradip Port for handling an all-time high 156.45 MMT of cargo

in FY 2025-26, registering around 4% growth over the previous year. Paradip Port ranked No. 2 among India's Major Ports, while retaining No. 1 position on the East Coast and No. 1 in Coastal Shipping, with 65.81 MMT of coastal cargo handled

during the year. He highlighted the Port's transformation over the last five years, with cargo handling rising from 114 MMT in FY 2020-21 to over 156 MMT, representing a cumulative growth of around 50 MMT. Paradip Port had also achieved the distinction

of becoming India's No. 1 cargo handling Major Port in FY 2023-24. The Port has achieved berth productivity of around 37,000 tonnes, more than twice the national average. The Chairman attributed this performance to mechanisation, system improvement, modern cargo handling systems and the dedicated efforts of Team PPA. The Chairman informed that capital dredging of the channel to 18.5-metre draft has been completed. Five additional berths capable of handling fully laden Cape vessels are nearing completion, taking Paradip Port towards becoming the first port in India with seven Cape-handling berths. The number of berths is planned to increase from 19 to 27 by 2030.

NIST University conduct orientation programme for new students

Gopalpur, (correspondent): A program was held to welcome new students at NIST University, a premier technical educational institution in South Odisha. On this occasion, NIST Founder and President Dr. Sukant Kumar Mahapatra, Vice-President Sanjita Mohapatra, Acting Vice-Chancellor Dr. P. Rajesh Kumar, Acting Registrar Dr. Bishnukar Nayak, Associate Dean Student Welfare Dr. Preeti Ranjan Sahu, Chief Administrator of Examination Center Dr. Swadhin Mishra, and Admission Dean Dr. Ashish Mohanty were



the main guests. On this occasion, Founder and President Dr. Sukant Kumar Mahapatra explained in detail about the Global Innovation Center. Vice-Chancellor Sanjita Mohapatra advised the students to prepare for the competitive environment through quality

education and to reach the pinnacle of success with the framework of age-appropriate teaching. Welcoming the students from various departments, Vice-Chancellor Dr. P. Rajesh Kumar advised them on the high quality education of the university and the values and building

their own future. He highlighted the project sanctioned by the government for the Idea Club worth about 30 lakhs. While Dr. Akankhya Patnaik conducted the meeting, the examination-related information was presented by the Chief Manager of the Examination Center Dr. Swadhin Mishra. Hostel Superintendent Dr. Sasmita Padhi gave information about the hostel regulations. Career and Development Manager Rajiv Padhi gave details on providing skills in areas such as career development and placement. Associate

Dean Student Welfare Dr. Preeti Ranjan Sahu said that we are committed to providing a supportive and inclusive environment that will promote your growth, creativity and success. Batch Coordinator Prof. Ashish Kumar Das informed the students about the first year time table and induction programme. Fourth year student Navneet Mishra and student Rajshree Padhi informed the students about the course format, discipline, various club activities and the teaching of the faculty. Finally, Registrar Dr. Vishnu Naik proposed the vote of thanks.

80th Independence Day Celebrated Across Nayagarh Police District

Nayagarh, (correspondent) : The 80th Independence Day was observed with patriotic fervour at all police stations and offices under Nayagarh Police District, including the District Headquarters at Nayagarh.

On the auspicious occasion, Nayagarh SP Subendu Patra, along with senior police officers, IICs, In-Charges of Outposts and other police personnel and staff, participated in the Independence Day celebrations at their respective places. The



celebrations reflected the spirit of patriotism and the commitment of Nayagarh Police personnel towards

maintaining peace, ensuring public safety and serving the people with dedication.

GAJAPATI CELEBRATES 80TH INDEPENDENCE DAY WITH GRANDEUR

Paralakhemundi, correspondence: : The 80th Independence Day was celebrated with patriotic fervour and grandeur at Gajapati Stadium here on Saturday. Fisheries and Animal Resources Development and Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises Minister Gokulananda Mallik attended the district-level celebration as chief guest and hoisted the national flag. Addressing the gathering, Mallik highlighted Gajapati's natural beauty and Paralakhemundi's rich

contribution to art, literature and culture. He also recalled the outstanding contribution of the late Maharaja of Paralakhemundi, Krushna Chandra Gajapati, to the formation of a separate Odisha province. Urging people to follow the ideals, sacrifice and spirit of public service exemplified by Maharaja Krushna Chandra Gajapati, the Minister called upon everyone to contribute to the development of the country and serve society.

Packaged Food Sold Without Warning Labels, Food Safety Checks Questioned in Kantabanji

Kantabanji, correspondence: : Concerns are being raised over the sale of packaged food products in the Kantabanji area of Balangir district, with allegations that several locally manufactured as

well as branded food items are being sold without proper warning or cautionary information on their packaging. Consumers and local residents have alleged that a number of packaged food and

beverage products available in the market do not carry adequate cautionary information, raising questions over compliance with food-safety and labelling requirements. Residents have also expressed

concern over the alleged lack of regular inspections by the Food Safety Department in the area. They claim that, in the absence of effective monitoring, adulterated or substandard food and beverages may be finding

their way into the local market. The issue has prompted calls for the authorities to conduct regular inspections of food manufacturing units, wholesalers, retailers and packaged products being sold in Kantabanji.

AIIMS Bhubaneswar Celebrates 80th Independence Day with Patriotic Fervour and Pride

Bhubaneswar, (Correspondent):- AIIMS Bhubaneswar celebrated the 80th Independence Day with grandeur, patriotic fervour, and collective pride, reaffirming its commitment to serving the nation through excellence in healthcare, medical education, research, and innovation. The celebration was graced by Prof. (Dr.) Ashutosh Biswas, Executive Director & CEO, AIIMS Bhubaneswar, who unfurled the Tricolour as the chief guest, marking the solemn and proud occasion.

Addressing the gathering, Dr. Biswas



paid heartfelt tribute to the freedom fighters whose sacrifices laid the foundation of an independent India. He emphasised that the true spirit of Independence Day lies in collectively contributing towards the progress and well-being of the nation. He highlighted the vital role of AIIMS Bhubaneswar in advancing healthcare, medical education, research, and innovation for the benefit of the

people.

Reflecting on the institute's journey and its contribution to nation-building, Dr. Biswas noted that AIIMS Bhubaneswar has continued to strengthen its position as a centre of excellence. The institute has been recognised as the 10th Best Medical College in India in the India Today-MDRA Best Medical Colleges Survey 2026

and 2nd among the Top 5 Most Improved Medical Colleges in the country. These achievements build upon AIIMS Bhubaneswar's 14th rank among medical colleges in India in the NIRF 2025 rankings.

As part of the Independence Day celebrations, outstanding employees were felicitated for their exceptional contributions and dedicated service.

The celebrations also featured a cultural programme, with soulful musical and patriotic performances creating an atmosphere of unity, pride, and love for the motherland.

The event was dignified by the presence of Dr.

Dillip Kumar Parida, Dean (Academic); Dr. Baijayantimala Mishra, Dean (Research); Dr. Manaswini Mangaraj, Dean (Examination); Dr. Prabhakar Ranjan Tripathy, Medical Superintendent; and Lt. Col. Abhijit Sarkar, DDA, along with senior faculty, officers, staff members, and students.

Delivering the vote of thanks, Lt. Col. Abhijit Sarkar, DDA, expressed gratitude to everyone who contributed to the successful organisation of the Independence Day celebrations and emphasised the importance of collective commitment and service in building a healthier and stronger nation.

MCL celebrates 80th Independence Day with patriotic fervour

Sambalpur (Correspondent):- Mahanadi Coalfields Limited (MCL) celebrated the 80th Independence Day with patriotic fervour and pride.

Shri Uday Anant Kaole, Chairman-cum-Managing Director, MCL, hoisted the Tiranga and took the salute of the marching contingents at the company headquarters. Shri Kaole, in his address, paid solemn tribute to the freedom fighters and highlighted MCL's role in ensuring energy security in the nation and continued efforts towards the communities in and around its operational areas through various CSR and welfare initiatives.

He appreciated the dedication of team MCL in achieving a hatrick of 200MT coal production in the last three Financial years. CMD Shri Kaole, on this occasion, extended greetings to all the stakeholders and MCL Parivar. Shri Sanjay Kumar Jha, Director (Technical), Shri Sambeet Saurav Nayak, Chief Vigilance Officer, former Directors, senior



officials, vice president and members of Jagruti Mahila Mandal, employees & their families and other stakeholders of the company. Vibrant dance performances from school students added patriotic colours to the celebrations. The dignitaries felicitated the Top achievers of class 10th & 12th of DAV Public School, Burla for their outstanding academic performance

in board exams. The dignitaries also felicitated the best marching contingents and best cultural performances. Similarly, independence day celebrations were organised across all operational areas of MCL, reflecting the spirit of "Nation First", reaffirming its contribution towards a self-reliant nation through responsible mining, energy security and inclusive growth.

District-Level 80th Independence Day Celebrated with Grandeur

Baripada, (correspondent):- The district-level 80th Independence Day was celebrated with joy, enthusiasm, and dignity at the Reserve Police Ground in Baripada. District Collector and District Magistrate Hemakant Say, the chief guest, hoisted the National Flag and took the salute at the combined parade. Addressing the gathering, Shri Say paid tribute to the immortal sacrifices of India's freedom fighters and emphasized the active role of every citizen in building a developed India. He said that education, skill development, employment, tourism, green energy, cleanliness, and women's empowerment are being prioritized for the overall and inclusive development of Mayurbhanj. He also appealed to the people to actively participate in building a strong, self-reliant, clean, and green Mayurbhanj.

80th Independence Day Celebrated in Nayagarh

Nayagarh, (Correspondent):- The 80th Independence Day was celebrated with great enthusiasm and patriotic fervour at the Police Training School (PTS) ground in Nayagarh on Saturday. The day-long celebrations began early in the morning with the playing of Ramdhun through loudspeakers by the District Information and Public Relations Office.

OPGC Ltd. Celebrates 80th Independence Day with Patriotic Fervour

IB Thermal, (Correspondent):- Odisha Power Generation Corporation Ltd. (OPGC) celebrated the 80th Independence Day with patriotic fervour and enthusiasm at IB Thermal Power Station. Director (Operations) Sri Anjana Ranjan Dash unfurled the National Flag and took salute of the parade. In his speech, Director Sri Dash reflected on the recent achievements of OPGC and development of future expansion project. The National Flag was also unfurled the Plant premises and



IB Thermal Club premises.

The main celebration witnessed an impressive March Past by contingents of Security Staff, Scouts, Guides and civilian troupes of IB Thermal DAV Schools. The event was marked by vibrant patriotic song and dance performances

by school children, who enthralled the gathering comprising OPGC employees, their families, parents, teachers and members of the local community. The occasion also provided an opportunity to recognise and encourage excellence. Students

who excelled in academics as well as extracurricular activities were felicitated for their outstanding achievements. Outstanding employees were also recognised with the Employee of the Quarter and Employee of the Year awards for their exemplary performance and contribution to the organisation. The celebrations reflected the spirit of patriotism, unity and excellence that defines the OPGC family and its commitment towards contributing to the progress of the nation.

80th Independence Day Celebrated at KIIT and KISS

Bhubaneswar, (Correspondent):- The 80th Independence Day was celebrated on Saturday across various campuses of KIIT-DU and at KISS with patriotic fervour and enthusiasm. At KISS, eminent Kannada journalist and Editor-in-Chief of the Kannada daily Vishwavani, Vishweshwar Bhat, attended the Independence Day celebration as the chief guest. He hoisted the National Flag and addressed the students.

Addressing the gathering, Bhat said, "Now, we have to attain freedom from poverty, freedom from illiteracy, and freedom through education." Appreciating the work of Dr. Achyuta Samanta, Founder of KIIT and KISS, he said, "I always remember Dr. Samanta for his great dedication and inspiration. He has inspired generations and generations to come.



Your future is in the best hands, very safe hands, and you are receiving the best care." Addressing the students, Dr. Samanta said, "Until you progress, we will not feel

happy or satisfied. The nation will progress when you progress. You will have an important role to play in building the India that is going to become a developed

nation." He added that KISS has been functioning successfully for the past 35 years and assured that efforts would continue to make the institution even better. Among others, KISS Secretary R. N. Dash; Pro-Vice-Chancellor Prof. Raju K. D.; Registrar Jnyana Ranjan Mohanty; Senior DG Dr. Debashish Bandyopadhyay; and KISS University Registrar Dr. Prashant Routray were present on the occasion. At KIIT, VC Prof. Saranjit Singh hoisted the National Flag, while at KIMS, Pro-Vice-Chancellor Prof. C. B. K. Mohanty performed the flag-hoisting ceremony. At KIIT International School, Principal Dr. Sanjay Suar, and at KIIT Public School, Principal Dilip Kumar Tripathy, also hoisted the National Flag. The celebrations concluded with a student parade, followed by a colourful cultural programme.

80th Independence Day in Hi-tech Education and health will reach every home: Dr. Tirupati Panigrahi

Bhubaneswar, (Correspondent):- The 80th Independence Day was celebrated with great pomp and show in front of Hi-tech Medical College and Hospital in Bhubaneswar with thousands of students. He has made a firm promise to reach education and health to every home and extend a helping hand and cooperation to the common man of the middle class and lower class of the society. Trustee Smt. Pushpanjali Panigrahi, Managing Trustee and CEO Suresh Panigrahi,



Trustee Dr. Rakesh Panigrahi, Trustee Savitri Panigrahi, Trustee Engineering Madhusmita Panigrahi, Trustee Ankita Panigrahi, Trustee Raj Panigrahi, Trustee Dharani Moksha dhriti Panigrahi were present while Administrative Officer Dr. Gopeshwar Acharya conducted the

function. Students of Hi-tech Public School, Hi-tech Science College, Nursing College, Dentist College and Paramedical School performed patriotic dances and were awarded based on the achievements of various departments.

Awareness Campaign Against Corruption to be Held in All Districts

Bhubaneswar, (Correspondent):- With the objective of eliminating corruption from society and creating awareness among the general public about transparent and clean administration, the Indian Anti-Corruption Intelligence Committee (ACIC) will launch extensive public awareness programmes in various districts. Speaking at the core committee meeting held at Hotel Kalinga Ashok in Bhubaneswar, ACIC All India Secretary Dr. Bipin Bihari Mishra said that the organisation is giving importance to developing ordinary citizens into vigilant guardians against corruption. Presiding over the meeting, Dr. Mishra stated that just as the anti-corruption efforts of the Odisha Government are earning



appreciation, similar awareness campaigns should be conducted in all states. For this purpose, he stressed the need to form district-level committees consisting of eminent social workers and dedicated individuals. He also appealed to the office-bearers and members to encourage people to become aware of their rights and to report corruption-related incidents to the concerned authorities through lawful and proper channels. Lingaraj Sahoo, Legal Advisor of ACIC

Odisha and a member of the Supreme Court Bar Association, said that many common people would benefit through ACIC. Among those present at the meeting were State Vice-President Ashok Kumar Mohapatra, Sabyasachi Mahala, Asit Mohanty, Biswajit Kanungo, Jayashree Dash, Puri District Secretary Shaktiprasad Mohapatra, Khordha District Secretary Ramesh Chandra Pattnaik, K. N. Rao, advocate Shyamsundar Mohanty, Manas Das, and several other office-bearers.

Advanced Medical Facilities Inaugurated at Central Hospital, Bhubaneswar

Bhubaneswar, (Correspondent):- On the occasion of the 80th Independence Day, Shri Parmeswar Funkwal, General Manager, East Coast Railway, inaugurated a range of advanced medical equipment at Central Hospital, Bhubaneswar, further strengthening healthcare services for Railway beneficiaries. The newly commissioned facilities include an Automated

Biochemistry & Immunoassay Analyser, 4K Laparoscopy System, Non-Contact Tonometer and ETO Steriliser. These state-of-the-art facilities will enhance diagnostic capabilities, support advanced minimally invasive surgical procedures, improve ophthalmic services and strengthen infection control practices at the hospital. The Principal Chief Medical Director (PCMD), other PHODs, senior railway officers, doctors and officials were present on the occasion.



EDITORIAL

The Unsung Young Heroes of India's Freedom Struggle

India's freedom struggle was not the achievement of a few famous leaders alone. Behind the widely remembered names were thousands of ordinary people who gave their youth, energy, courage and, in many cases, their entire lives to the cause of freedom. Among them were countless young men and women whose names never found a permanent place in textbooks or public memory. Their contribution, however, was an important part of the movement that ultimately ended British colonial rule in 1947.

Youth has always been associated with energy, idealism and the courage to challenge injustice. During India's freedom struggle, these qualities found a powerful expression. Young people participated in demonstrations, boycotted foreign goods, spread nationalist ideas, distributed literature, organized meetings, joined revolutionary groups, supported underground activities and encouraged ordinary citizens to resist colonial rule. Many abandoned education, careers and personal ambitions because they believed that the freedom of the country was more important than their individual futures.

The Spirit of Young India

The beginning of the twentieth century witnessed the emergence of a politically conscious Indian youth. Universities, schools, literary societies and public organizations became important centres for discussion about nationalism and self-rule. Students read newspapers and political literature, debated the condition of the country and became increasingly aware of economic exploitation and political discrimination under colonial rule.

The partition of Bengal in 1905, for example, generated widespread opposition. Young people became active participants in the Swadeshi movement. They encouraged the use of Indian-made products and rejected foreign goods. For many young Indians, nationalism was not simply a political idea; it became a way of life.

The Non-Cooperation Movement launched by Mahatma Gandhi in 1920 brought another generation into the national movement. Students left government-controlled educational institutions, volunteers organized public meetings and young people helped spread the message of non-cooperation and self-reliance. Although many participants remained unknown outside their towns and villages, their collective effort strengthened the movement considerably.

Youth in the Civil Disobedience Movement

The Civil Disobedience Movement of 1930 created another wave of youth participation. The Salt March led by Gandhi inspired people across the country to challenge unjust colonial laws. Young volunteers organized marches, distributed nationalist literature and participated in peaceful protests.

In towns and villages, young people often served as the bridge between national leaders and ordinary citizens. They carried messages, organized meetings and encouraged people to participate in boycotts. Their work was particularly important in places where national leaders could not personally reach large numbers of people.

Many young activists faced arrest, imprisonment and social pressure. Yet their determination demonstrated that the freedom movement had moved beyond the leadership of a small political elite and had become a mass movement.



Bishnu Prasad Das

As the fourth pillar of democracy, the media's responsibility is not limited merely to publishing news. Its key duties also include illuminating the dark corners of society, raising a voice against injustice, awakening public consciousness, and courageously bringing the truth to light. Columnists, writers, and social thinkers play a vital role in this endeavour.

However, the question often arises: How fair is the attitude of newspapers towards these writers? Regrettably, one often hears complaints that, for some editors, a writer's identity, connections, influence, and personal preferences carry more weight than the quality of the writing itself. Some individuals exercise their official positions and editorial authority in such a way that a newspaper appears to be run at the behest of a particular group. Quality writing by new or unknown authors is overlooked, whereas even mediocre pieces by established writers easily find a place on the editorial page.

This is not merely an injustice to the writer; it is also an injustice to the reader. Repeatedly neglecting a writer is akin to undermining their talent and discouraging their craft. The questions, protests, and dreams within them—along with their desire to speak up for society—gradually fall silent. This is precisely how a columnist is silenced.

The media must break free from the age-old mindset that condones the actions of the privileged—similar to the notion that "a scholar's son commits no wrong, even if he kills a monkey." The yardstick for merit should be the same for every-

one. An editor may have personal preferences, but there should be no room for bias in editorial decisions. Editors must reach out to the grassroots. They need to discover new talent among young people and ordinary citizens in both villages and cities. It is the quality of the writing that should earn appreciation, not merely the author's name. This is the hallmark of a healthy and responsible media.

An editor's single "No" can silence a writer's pen forever, while a single "Opportunity" can herald a new dawn in the writer's life. Therefore, let talent be respected rather than favouritism; let merit, not connections, be the yardstick. Only then will readers' trust in the media remain unshaken, and only then will the fourth pillar of democracy be able to uphold its true dignity and fulfil its responsibilities to society.

Life amidst potholes, open manholes and broken roads – when will citizens be safe?



Priyanka Saurabh

Death is unknown when, where, and how it will come. In our lives, even as the seemingly ordinary are increasingly fraught with dangers, the extraordinary are rife with potholes. Roads are riddled with potholes, uneven roads and streets, unsealed drains, unopened sewer manholes, and damaged roads and bridges. In some areas, school roofs collapse on children, while hospital roofs or slabs collapse on patients and staff. School buses overturn, vehicles coming from the opposite direction suddenly swerve, turning streets into death traps for children. Animals roam the streets and harass elderly pedestrians. After heavy rains, children become stranded on a normal road, turning it into a death trap.

The death of an eight-year-old boy in Rohtak, who drowned in waterlogging after nearly six inches of rain, has once again raised a worrying question: What is the value of a citizen's life? The monsoon season comes once a year. Cities are flooded every year. Drainage and sewerage systems, drains, and roads remain a perennial problem. Officials claim they are prepared and improvements are made every year. However, just a few hours of rain are enough to expose the truth of these claims, as administrations fail to manage them, and rainwater overflows onto the roads. This isn't just a case of one child's death. This is a system where preventable tragedies are often dismissed as accidents, mere coincidences, "fate," and the blame is placed "elsewhere." This is a system where preventable tragedies are often dismissed as "an accident," "It wasn't our fault," or "What else could we have done?"

It's not just the failure of civic infrastructure, but the manner in which it's failing that's deeply worrying. The change is that citizens now accept failure as natural. There's a pothole in the road, and people say it's "always been there." There's a pothole on the sidewalk, and people say, "Be careful." There's waterlogging, and people say,

"This happens after rain." Cattle are straying on the road, and people say, "What can anyone do?" A school building is clearly unsafe, and people think the authorities should address it. There's a government hospital in poor condition, and people say, "This is how government hospitals are." This attitude is dangerous because it becomes the norm and a way of life. If citizens begin to accept risk as a normal part of their lives, the pressure on the administration to improve also decreases.

We must stop treating any preventable tragedy as an accident. When people die because of a pothole that has existed on a road for months, the question isn't just what happened, but why the road remains a hazard. If authorities are aware of an open manhole but fail to take steps to secure it, and a child falls into it, it's not appropriate to call it "misfortune." The unnecessary collapse of a school building shouldn't be considered just a bad incident. The same applies to hospital safety, the condition of school buses, bridge maintenance, drainage systems, and road quality, as well as stray animal control in schools. These are not administrative matters, but matters of public safety and people's lives. But the tragedy of our public discourse is that we repeatedly turn a blind eye to these real questions. Any statement with a religious connotation can spark outrage in society. This results in thousands of social media posts, hours of TV studio debates, and political rhetoric. Issues of hurt sentiments, identity, and national honor are discussed. However, the sustained public outrage over accountability for the death of such a child is missing. Why? Does religious controversy diminish the value of an ordinary person's life? Is a child drowning in an open sewer merely local news? Is the death of a farmer, laborer, elderly person, or student on an unsafe road merely a matter of misfortune? Does it seem that challenging the country to demand answers from the government is forcing it to respond to their demands?

Absolutely not. The government is accountable to the public. People pay taxes and expect safe roads, clean cities, quality healthcare, safe schools, efficient transportation, and basic civic infrastructure. These

are not luxuries. They are fundamental factors necessary for a dignified life. Patriotism is not an excuse to conceal any government mistakes. Nationalism does not mean labeling everyone who exposes the country's shortcomings as anti-national. A responsible citizen is one who wants to see the country progress and therefore raises tough questions. Not demanding the repair of a broken road is not anti-national. Demanding that an unsafe school be made safe is not an insult to the nation. Not questioning the safety of a hospital is not anti-establishment. Any criticism of corruption and administrative negligence is not evidence of a foreign conspiracy.

Unfortunately, serious civic issues are becoming divided between political camps. Praising the government is labeled patriotism, while any criticism is labeled opposition or negative voices. Negativity threatens democracy because it leads to a lack of criticism and accountability, essential elements of good governance. The media also plays a major role in this. It is not just a platform to celebrate successes; it should also examine areas where ordinary citizens suffer due to government mismanagement. We all know how much time television channels devote to political debates. They could also devote meaningful time to other issues like road safety, failing drainage systems, school infrastructure, hospital buildings, and civic services. The true nature of a city is not reflected in advertisements or official statements; it is revealed on its streets when it rains.

Development isn't just about building. Maintenance is also a crucial component. Road construction isn't enough; ensuring road safety is essential. Bridge construction isn't enough; regular inspections are essential. Constructing drains is important, but their cleanliness and safety are also essential. Building schools isn't enough; the safety of children in schools is crucial. We can't completely prevent accidents, but many tragedies caused by negligence can be avoided. Accountability is essential for this. When was the road last repaired? When did the pothole form? Why was the manhole open? What caused the drainage system to malfunction?

Accident on the highway, crowds of onlookers and ambulances unresponsive



Kishan Bhawnani

Only national highways are not just roads connecting cities and states; they are the economic lifeline of every country. But when these lifelines fail to provide timely medical care to the injured after a road accident, the issue of road safety is not limited to traffic discipline but directly becomes a national issue of human life, administrative accountability, and healthcare. I, Advocate Kishan Sanmukhdas Bhawnani, Gondia, Maharashtra believe that the scene of an injured person writhing in pain on the roadside after an accident, the crowd standing nearby, people filming with their mobile phones, pedestrians retreating out of fear of police and legal action, and the delayed arrival of an ambulance all of this demonstrates that the delay in receiving medical treatment is often more fatal than the injury itself. Against this backdrop, the National Highways Authority of India (NHAI) implemented stricter

service-level standards for emergency services on national highways in the second week of August 2026. Under the new system, ambulances must reach the accident site within a 10-kilometer radius within a maximum of 10 minutes after the ticket is accepted.

Friends, if we consider the ten-minute clock: understanding the accountability of every moment from accident to hospital, the most important aspect of NHAI's new standards is that it will no longer be enough to simply assume ambulance service is available; every stage of its response will be timely and digitally measured. The new system requires emergency tickets to be accepted within one minute, ambulances to be dispatched within two minutes, and arrival at the accident site within 10 kilometers within a 10-minute limit. For cases exceeding 10 kilometers, the time allowed will increase according to the distance. A one-hour limit has been set for transporting the injured to the nearest hospital.

This means that the entire journey from accident information to the accident scene and then to the hospital will no longer be based solely on human judgment, but on measurable service standards. This change is significant because, under the old system, the question often revolved not around whether an ambulance was available, but rather when it arrived, when it departed, when it arrived, and when the patient reached the hospital. Now, these questions can be answered using GPS and the digital records of the NHAI Care System. NHAI has reported deploying approximately 3,000 ambulances and approximately 1,000 patrol vehicles and cranes on national highways, covering approximately 50,000 kilometers of highway network.

Friends If we consider the penalty for delays: the excuse of being stuck in traffic will no longer be accepted, the new system's greatest strength lies in its accountability architecture. Failure to reach the accident scene within the stipulated time is punishable by a

penalty of up to ₹10,000. If the emergency ticket is delayed by more than one minute, a penalty of ₹5,000 per minute or fraction thereof can be imposed. Similarly, if the ambulance fails to depart within two minutes of the ticket being accepted, a penalty of ₹10,000 per incident is also imposed. Failure to transport the injured person to the nearest hospital within the stipulated one hour can also result in a penalty of ₹10,000. This means that now, instead of verbal explanations like the ambulance received a call but the driver was unavailable, the location was not found, there was heavy traffic, or the call was received late, digital records will be crucial. The NHAI Care dashboard and GPS can record when a ticket was generated, when it was accepted, when the vehicle was driven, the distance traveled, and when the hospital was delivered. This is the transformation that transforms a government or contracted service from a mere convenience to an accountable public service.

Friends, if we consider GPS, AIS-140, and mobile data: Highway ambulances

now under digital surveillance, the second important pillar of this entire system is technology. According to NHAI, its on-road units have been installed with AIS-140 complete GPS devices. Ambulances, cranes, and patrol vehicles are equipped with Android-based mobile data terminals and LONT SIMs. The purpose is not only to track vehicle locations but also to provide real-time data to the incident management system. This means that the entire incident can be digitally recorded as soon as a highway accident is reported. NHAI's 1033 helpline system has already been developed as a 24x7 system for receiving information about accidents and other problems on national highways. According to official NHAI documents, upon receiving information about an accident through 1033, the relevant Incident Management Control Center can dispatch assistance such as ambulances, patrol vehicles, and cranes. Therefore, the most important message for any highway traveler is simple: if you see an accident, report it

to 1033, provide the exact location, and safely monitor the situation until help arrives.

Friends, the golden hour is truly the difference between life and death. The first hour after a road accident is considered crucial for both medical science and road safety policy. According to the Ministry of Road Transport and Highways, a large number of road accident victims could be saved if they received timely medical assistance; the Ministry's Good Smartian information also indicates that providing medical assistance within the first hour after an accident can be crucial. This is where the true significance of the NHAI's new system becomes apparent. If the ambulance arrives at the scene within 10 minutes, and the injured is transported to the hospital within the stipulated time, the medical system has a better chance of stabilizing the patient, stopping bleeding, administering oxygen, stabilizing the fracture, and initiating necessary life-saving treatment. Therefore, 10 minutes is not just an administrative

number, but a life-saving strategy.

Friends, the issue isn't just about ambulances, but also about proper access to hospitals. To understand this, another major problem after an accident has been that the injured person isn't always transported to the nearest suitable hospital. The new system's goal of delivering the injured person to the nearest hospital within one hour of ticket acceptance addresses this very issue. This can reduce unnecessary long distances, delays in choosing a private hospital, or time wasted due to other non-medical reasons. However, it's important to understand that the "nearest hospital" and the "suitable trauma center" are not always the same thing. Therefore, in the future, hospitals will also need to be digitally categorized based on trauma capacity, ICU, operation facilities, blood availability, and specialist doctors. Simply transporting patients to hospitals quickly is not enough; the real goal should be to quickly transport the right patient to a hospital with the right capacity.

Friends, if we understand that negligence is not solely the responsibility of ambulances, but also of infrastructure, then attributing accidents on national highways solely to driver error or ambulance delays would be an incomplete analysis. Problems such as road design, black spots, poor lighting, illegal parking, wrong cuts, lack of service roads, congestion at toll plazas, heavy vehicles parked on the roadside, and inadequate mobile network also impact emergency response time. Even if an ambulance arrives within 10 minutes, but trucks are parked on the route, toll plazas are blocked, or the accident location is unclear, achieving the target will be difficult. Therefore, NHAI's new policy must be implemented as a combined model of road engineering, traffic management, and emergency medical response. The goal of road safety cannot be achieved by merely penalizing ambulances. Public fear should also not become the cause of death.

Mayurbhanj District Collector Visits Flood-Affected Areas

Baripada.(correspondent):Heavy rainfall caused by a strong low-pressure system over the past two days has led to severe flooding in Mayurbhanj district. The worst-affected areas under Badasahi Block include the flood-hit villages and panchayats of Shalgaon, Mangobindpur, Cheliak, Patisari, and Patulipura, where floodwaters have inundated large areas. To tackle the disaster, the district and block administrations have remained on high alert. Relief materials are being provided to stranded residents, and



people living in low-lying areas have been shifted to nearby flood and cyclone shelters for safety. Floodwaters flowing over the Nakhara Bridge on the Baripada-Baishinga main road have disrupted transportation. The administration has also arranged boats to deliver dry food and cooked meals to people trapped by floodwaters. The Mayurbhanj District Collector stated that all necessary arrangements have been made to ensure the safety, health, and food supply of affected residents.

National Flag Hoisted at Bhapur Press Club

Bhapur.(correspondent)::The 80th Independence Day was celebrated with patriotic fervour at the Bhapur Press Club office in the Bhapur headquarters area of Nayagarh district. The programme was organised under the chairmanship of Press Club President Ranjan Kumar Mahapatra. Khandapada MLA Er. Dushmant Kumar Swain attended the event as the chief guest and hoisted the national flag. Bhapur BDO

Sarada Prasanna Panda, MP's district representative Gayadhar Parida, Bhapur Fire Station Officer Nilakantha Mahanty and fire personnel, Bhapur Traders' Association President Kartik Chandra Nayak, Secretary Sanatan Sahu, BJP Social Media President Shashibhushan Routray, Bhapur Senior Citizens' Association Secretary Prabhakar Sahu, social worker Prafulla Kumar Sahu and Bimbadhar Barik were among those present as guests.

New Rayagada railway division marks first Independence Day with strong operational push

RAYAGADA,(correspondent)::The newly created Rayagada division of East Coast Railway marked its first Independence Day on Friday, with Divisional Railway Manager Amitabh Singhal unfurling the National Flag at the Railway Playground and reviewing a parade by RPF, Bharat Scouts & Guides and NCC cadets. The division, which came into existence on June 1, 2026, has registered significant operational, financial and infrastructure gains in its first two months, Singhal said, calling for greater emphasis on safety, efficiency and



passenger services. He said "Dedication, Diligence and Determination" would be the guiding principles for the division. Operationally, the division has formed 219 long-haul trains, attended to 526 wagons at Kirandul, examined 65 rakes and 105 steel-coil rakes at NMAG/Nagarnar, and commissioned a WILD

system between Singpur Road and Rayagada on June 29. Safety and passenger-security measures resulted in 1,338 cases involving unauthorised elements, with 5.62 lakh realised as fines. Railway personnel also seized 34.232 kg of ganja valued at about 8.11 lakh in four narcotics cases, rescued 13 minor

OSCPCR files its own case in Utkal Balashram incident

SUBARNAPUR (correspondent)--- The incident of a female cook of Utkal Balashram being removed from work for serving food laced with worms to the inmates has sparked public outrage. Many discussions and questions are being raised about this. Why is only a female cook being taken action against the chairperson of "mar mar bhandariaku mar"? Is only the lower-level employee, the

cook, responsible? For how many months had the inmates been eating food laced with worms? What was the inmate of the Utkal Balashram doing there? Did he know all these things or not? Did he inform the higher-ups after knowing or not? Why did the higher-ups keep quiet even though they knew? How many times did the Social Welfare Officer and the District Child Protection Officer visit and supervise? Isn't the Collector

himself responsible for this? How many times did the Collector visit and supervise? If the officers were regularly visiting the Utkal Balashram and supervising, how could they not know? Then who was responsible for the care, health and safety of the children, father and mother? Or were they responsible for the cook? Then why is Mar Bhandaria's policy? Amidst these questions and discussions, the common people are waiting

for justice. On the other hand, the Odisha State Commission for Protection of Child Rights (OSCPCR) has registered a case (case no. 127/2026 on its own. The commission has sought answers from the District Social Welfare Officer and the District Child Protection Officer (Letter no.1314/OSCPCR dt. 14/08/2026) It has been ordered to submit an investigation and action report by the 25.08.2026.

Odisha HC orders panel to tackle Kataka traffic crisis

Kataka.(correspondent):The Orissa high court has stepped in to address Kataka's worsening traffic congestion, directing the constitution of a high-level committee to recommend ward-wise measures to ease snarls, clear road and drain obstructions and prevent their recurrence. A special bench of Justices KR Mohapatra and V Narasingh issued the direction on Thursday while hearing an ongoing PIL on multiple civic issues in the city. The bench has been receiving assistance from an advocates committee, headed by the president and secretary of the High Court Bar Association (HCBA). The issue of traffic and parking was highlighted before the court by members of the HCBA, who pointed to the "chaotic state of traffic in Kataka. They attributed the problem, among other factors, to the mushrooming of unauthorised commercial activities n

streets and in the city's by-lanes, allegedly in violation of zoning regulations wherever applicable. Taking judicial notice of the situation, the bench said traffic congestion in Kataka "has ceased to be a mere inconvenience" and has instead become "a chronic headache". The court accordingly ordered the formation of a committee headed by the DCP, Kataka, keeping in mind the duties imposed on police officers under Section 181 of the Orissa Urban Police Act, 2003. Besides the DCP, the panel will comprise a district administration officer not below the rank of additional district magistrate, the deputy commissioner of Kataka municipal corporation and an officer of equivalent rank from the Kataka Development Authority. The committee has been tasked with suggesting ward-wise measures to ease congestion,

ensure roads and drains remain free from obstruction and prevent fresh encroachments or obstructions after their removal. The bench directed that the committee's recommendations be placed before it along with the matter on Aug 27. The court observed that traffic jams were clogging the "arteries of the city, delaying emergency services and infringing upon citizens' fundamental right to free movement. In a literary reference, the judges quoted Charles Dickens' 'A Tale of Two Cities' and said, "It was the best of times, it was the worst of times..." The court added that for citizens of the millennium city "it is certainly the worst to be trapped in gridlock that mack the problems of urban governance" Emphasising the need for immediate intervention, the bench said, "It is time that the issue is tackled head on and the time to set it right is now."

Senior IPS officer Vinaytosh Mishra takes charge as Interim DGP of Odisha

Kataka(correspondent): Senior IPS officer Vinaytosh Mishra, the DGP, CID, Crime Branch, on Sunday took charge as the Interim Director General of Police (DGP) (Head of Police Force) of Odisha. Vinaytosh Mishra of 1993-batch officer of Indian Police Service (IPS) took the additional charge of DGP from the outgoing DG PYB Khurania, who retired from the post today. Mishra will continue to be the Interim DGP of Odisha until further order of the state government or the appointment of new DGP. It is to be noted here that Odisha Chief Minister Mohan Charan Majhi on August 14 had approved the proposal to appoint him as the Interim DGP of Odisha. Vinaytosh, an Odisha cadre IPS officer of the 1993 batch, is currently working as the



DG of the CID Crime Branch. He joined the Indian Police Service on September 5, 1993. During his more than three decades of service, Vinaytosh has held many important positions in police administration, modernization, crime investigation and other areas. He took charge as ADGP Modernization in 2018 and later served as ADGP Police Headquarters. Vinaytosh also served as the Director

of the State Crime Records Bureau in 2020. Prior to this, he held various positions in the Odisha Fire Service, Home Guard and Civil Defence, along with the IG Railways. Later, Vinaytosh was promoted to the rank of DG and was appointed as the DG of the CID Crime Branch from January 2025. In terms of educational qualifications, he has a BSc in Engineering and a Master's degree in Police Management.

17 Families Forced to Take Shelter on Road After Rukuda Dam Releases Water

Rourkela/Banai: (correspondent) Following the release of water from Rukuda Dam in Banai, 17 families in Ghatposh village under Sishadihi Gram Panchayat have been affected by flooding. With floodwater entering their homes, the affected families were forced to leave their houses and take shelter on the roadside along with their children and belongings. Two more houses remain surrounded by floodwater, leaving the residents stranded. The administration has launched rescue and relief operations in the affected area. Local authorities are continuing to monitor the situation and assist the affected families.

PARALAKHEMUNDI MLA STEPS IN TO HELPAILING 3-YRS-OLD CHILD

Paralakhemundi: (Correspondent):-Paralakhemundi MLA Rupesh Kumar Panigrahi has extended a helping hand to a three-year-old child suffering from a serious undiagnosed illness, offering support for the child's advanced medical treatment. The matter came to the MLA's attention during a public grievance hearing at Bebe village, located in a remote hilly area of Gumma block in Gajapati district. The child's poor family was reportedly facing difficulties in arranging proper medical treatment due to financial constraints. Moved by the plight of the family, Panigrahi assured them that lack of funds would not prevent the child from receiving treatment. He promised to provide all possible assistance for advanced medical care and said that, if necessary, he would take steps to arrange treatment for the child at a major hospital in Bhubaneswar.



The MLA's gesture was welcomed by the child's family and villagers. His visit to the remote hilltop village to hear people's grievances and his intervention on behalf of the ailing child have brought renewed hope to the family and the local community.

Doctor's House 10 Lakh Theft Case: One Arrested, Two Absconding

Rourkela (Correspondent) :: Police have arrested one person in connection with the theft of ?10 lakh in cash and gold ornaments from the residence of a doctor at Chhend Colony in Rourkela in March this year. Two other accused persons involved in the crime are reportedly absconding.

According to police, the incident occurred when Dr. Rajat Kumar Das and his family members were away from home. The miscreants allegedly broke open the door of the house and decamped with ?10 lakh in cash along

with gold jewellery. During the investigation, police traced and arrested an accused identified as Mohammad Kosar, a resident of the Malgoddown area. Police said the accused had allegedly used the stolen money to purchase a car and a scooter. Both vehicles have been seized as part of the investigation. Police further stated that the stolen ?10 lakh was allegedly divided among four accused persons. Efforts are underway to apprehend the remaining accused and recover the stolen property. Further investigation into the case is underway.

The 80th Independence Day Celebrated in Ranpur

Ranpur: (Correspondent):-The 80th Independence Day was celebrated with great dignity and enthusiasm at Panchudola Ground under the jurisdiction of Ranpur Notified Area Council (NAC). On this occasion, Hon'ble Speaker of the Odisha Legislative Assembly, Smt. Surama Padhy, attended as the Chief Guest, unfurled the National Flag, and took the salute of the parade. An impressive parade was conducted under the leadership of Shri Bhagyadhar Swain, NCC Training Instructor of Ranpur College. The disciplined



and well-coordinated performance of the parade captivated the audience. On the occasion, the dignitaries paid floral tributes at the statues of the brave martyrs Raghunath Mahanti and Dibakar

Parida, expressing deep respect and homage to the great heroes who sacrificed their lives for the freedom of the nation. The programme was attended by Ranpur NAC Chairperson Smt.

Rangin Mohanty, Executive Officer Shri Samant Bishwambar Mahapatra, Tahasildar Arya Kumar Sarvadaman, Officer-in-Charge Shri Ashishdeb Sahu, along with many distinguished guests, public representatives, officials, teachers, and local residents. To make the Independence Day celebration more colourful and attractive, students presented patriotic and cultural programmes. Filled with the spirit of patriotism, sacrifice, and nationalism, the celebration created an atmosphere of joy and festivity throughout the area.

80th Independence Day Celebrations Held at Uditnagar Parade Ground in Rourkela

Rourkela (Correspondent): The 80th Independence Day was celebrated with patriotic fervour at the Uditnagar Parade Ground in Rourkela. Rourkela Additional District Magistrate (ADM) Smt. Dina

Dastagir, IAS, attended the occasion as the Chief Guest, unfurled the National Flag and received the ceremonial salute. During the occasion, talented individuals from Rourkela were felicitated

for their outstanding contributions in various fields. Prizes were also presented to the winners of different competitions organised earlier for school students. Rourkela Superintendent of

Police Nitesh Wadhwani, Rourkela Divisional Forest Officer Ravi Meena and Sub-Collector Chandrakant Mallik were among those present on the occasion.

A Celebration of Freedom, Pride and Unity at NTPC Kaniha

K A N I H A ,: (Correspondent) NTPC Talcher-Kaniha celebrated the 80th Independence Day with patriotic fervour, enthusiasm and a strong spirit of unity. The celebrations commenced at the Dr. B.R. Ambedkar Stadium with a soulful rendition of Vande M a t a r a m , commemorating 150 years of the iconic national song and honouring its enduring legacy in India's journey of national pride. The celebrations continued with the hoisting of the National Flag by Shri Ajay Singh Yadav, Head of Project, NTPC Kaniha, followed by the National Anthem. The ceremonial parade inspection added grandeur to the occasion, as the participating contingents displayed exemplary discipline, coordination and



pride. Addressing the gathering, Shri Yadav highlighted the remarkable journey and achievements of NTPC and NTPC Kaniha, appreciating the collective efforts, commitment and dedication of employees that continue to drive the organisation towards

excellence. Following the dispersal of the parade, a symbolic balloon release added colour and vibrancy to the celebrations. Smt. Archana Yadav, President, Tanvi Sangam, along with Shri Samarпита Dewasi, GM (Project), Dr. Tapan Kumar Ray, GM (O&M) In-charge, Shri Navneet Kumar, GM (HR) and other senior officials and members of the NTPC Kaniha family were present on the occasion. The award distribution ceremony was another highlight of the occasion, recognising excellence and dedicated contributions across various spheres and celebrating individuals whose efforts have brought pride to the organisation. As part of the welfare initiatives undertaken by Tanvi Sangam Ladies Club under the guidance of Smt. Archana Yadav, kitchen utensils and sanitary items were distributed among beneficiaries.

TPWODL Celebrates 80th Independence Day by Honouring 90 Rooftop Solar Champions Across Western Odisha

B u r l a , (Correspondent): TP Western Odisha Distribution Limited (TPWODL), a joint venture of Tata Power and Government of Odisha, celebrated the 80th Independence Day by honouring 90 standout rooftop solar beneficiaries across Western Odisha under the PM Surya Ghar: Muft Bijli Yojana (P M S G M B Y) , reaffirming its commitment to nation-building, service excellence, and sustainable development. The celebrations commenced with the unfurling of the National Flag by Shri Parveen Verma, Chief Executive Officer, TPWODL, in the presence of employees and senior officials. Addressing the gathering, Shri Verma highlighted



the importance of commitment, dedication and service excellence in strengthening TPWODL's role as a key contributor to the State's development. On the occasion, TPWODL felicitated 90 beneficiaries under the Pradhan Mantri Surya Ghar: Muft Bijli Yojana

(PMSGMBY) in recognition of their adoption of rooftop solar across its nine-revenue district of Western Odisha. Five beneficiaries from each of TPWODL's 17 Electricity Divisions, along with five beneficiaries from the Corporate Office, were felicitated. Speaking on the

occasion, Shri Parveen Verma, Chief Executive Officer, TPWODL, said, "Independence Day reminds us of our shared responsibility to build a stronger, more sustainable and self-reliant nation. Our consumers who have adopted rooftop solar embody this spirit through their commitment to clean energy. By recognising these beneficiaries, we hope to inspire many more households across Western Odisha to embrace renewable energy. TPWODL remains committed to delivering reliable power while supporting Odisha's clean energy journey." At the Corporate Office in Burla, Mr. Lalit Mohan Pradhan, Mr. Goutam Bhuyan, Mr. M. Shyam Sundar, Mr. Rabindra Kumar Sahoo and Mr. A. Siba Prasad Dorawere felicitated by Shri Parveen Verma, Chief Executive Officer, TPWODL.

East Coast Railway General Manager Highlights East Coast Railway's Achievements on Independence Day

BHUBANESWAR, (Correspondent): On the occasion of the 80th Independence Day, General Manager, East Coast Railway, Shri Parmeshwar Funkwal highlighted the major achievements of ECoR in safety, passenger services, freight loading, infrastructure development and employee welfare. East Coast Railway retained its position as the Highest Loading Zone of Indian Railways for the ninth consecutive year, recording a historic freight loading of 286.26 million tones, registering a growth of 10.42% over the previous year. Passenger traffic



increased to 97.71 million, while originating revenue rose to 32,837.67 crore. ECoR achieved a CAPEX utilisation of 12,221.81 crore, or 105.80% of the Budget Grant. Its Operating Ratio of 55.14% was the second-best among all Zonal Railways. During the current financial year up to July 2026, ECoR

has loaded 88.36 million tones of freight, carried 30.49 million passengers and generated revenue of 8,228.86 crore. To meet seasonal passenger demand, ECoR operated 463 special trains and augmented 1,501 coaches. Sixteen pairs of new trains were introduced, including the Puri-Koraput-Puri Express via Sambalpur.

NTPC Talcher Thermal Celebrates 80th Independence Day with Patriotism and Passion

Talcher Thermal, (Correspondent): NTPC Talcher Thermal celebrated the 80th Independence Day with great enthusiasm, patriotic fervour and pride at the TTPS Township Ground on 15 August 2026. The programme commenced with the garlanding of the statues of Mahatma Gandhi and Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel by the Chief Guest, Shri Vijay Chand, Executive Director, Talcher Thermal Power Project. The Chief Guest, Shri Vijay Chand, has joined the gathering in singing Vande Mataram, evoking a strong sense of patriotism and national pride and unfurled the National Flag, followed by the National Anthem and Salami by CISF



Addressing the gathering, Shri Vijay Chand highlighted the significant role of NTPC in nation building and strengthening India's energy security. He spoke about the achievements of NTPC Talcher Thermal and highlighted the progress being made in the 2x660 MW Talcher Thermal

Stage-III expansion project, reiterating the commitment of NTPC towards excellence, sustainable development and reliable power generation. The celebration was attended by Shri Praveer Kumar, GM (Project); Shri R.C. Yadav, DC, CISF; Smt. Vibha Aggarwal, President, Sagarika Ladies Club; Shri Rohit

Kumar, AGM (HR); Smt. Bharti Singh, CMO; Heads of Departments; representatives of Unions and Associations; Principals and teachers of DAV Schools; students, employees, CISF personnel, family members and other stakeholders. The celebrations featured vibrant and colourful cultural performances by children of Bal Bhawan, GEM girls and students of DAV schools, which added enthusiasm and patriotic spirit to the occasion. An award ceremony was also organised to recognise and appreciate excellence and outstanding performance.

Meritorious Awards were presented to deserving employees, while Best Student Awards were conferred upon students of DAV Thermal School and DAV Public School for their academic achievements and overall performance. On the occasion, Shri Vijay Chand released tricolour balloons, symbolising the spirit of freedom, unity and national pride. He also distributed NTPC Utkarsh Merit Scholarships to meritorious students from surrounding village schools, reaffirming NTPC's commitment towards education and the development of the local community.

Khurda Road Division Celebrates 80th Independence Day

Khurda Road, (Correspondent): Khurda Road Division of East Coast Railway celebrated the 80th Independence Day with patriotic fervour and enthusiasm at the Playground, Retang Colony, near Sri Sathya Sai Samiti, Khurda Road. On the occasion, Shri D. Sunil, Divisional Railway Manager, Khurda Road, unfurled the National Flag and took the Guard of Honour presented by contingents of the Railway Protection Force (RPF), Civil Defence, Bharat Scouts & Guides, and school children from PM SHRI Kendriya Vidyalaya, Srijan Kunj, and Mixed Higher Secondary School, Khurda Road. The ceremonial parade comprised two RPF platoons—one women's platoon and one men's platoon—along with a platoon of Bharat Scouts & Guides and Civil Defence personnel, accompanied by the band team. Students and children from Mixed Higher Secondary School, Khurda Road, and PM SHRI Kendriya Vidyalaya, Srijan Kunj, also participated in the celebrations, adding colour and enthusiasm to the occasion.



The celebrations were enriched by vibrant cultural performances by students of PM SHRI Kendriya Vidyalaya, Srijan Kunj, Mixed Higher Secondary School, Khurda Road, and Bharat Scouts & Guides, showcasing patriotism, unity and national pride. Addressing the gathering, Shri D. Sunil extended his warm greetings to all railway employees and their families on the occasion of Independence Day. He highlighted the significant achievements of Khurda Road Division during the year and appreciated the officers and staff for their continuous hard work, dedication and commitment.

Jindal Steel Celebrates 80th Independence Day at Anugola

Anugola, (Correspondent): Reaffirming its commitment to nation-building and the vision of a stronger, self-reliant India, Jindal Steel marked the 80th Independence Day at its Anugola steel making facility with a flag-hoisting ceremony and a series of patriotic performances. Chief Operating Officer of Jindal Steel Mr. Rajiv Kumar hoisted the National Flag at Jindal Nagar in the presence of senior leadership, employees and their families, schoolchildren and members of the local community. In a message Hon'ble Member of Parliament and Chairman of Jindal Steel Mr. Naveen Jindal said, "As



we celebrate Independence Day, we reaffirm our commitment to nation-building and a stronger, self-reliant India. Guided by our vision and inspired by the values of our Founder Chairman, Shri O.P. Jindal, Jindal Steel is not merely producing steel; we are contributing to the foundations of a stronger India." He also paid profound tributes to the freedom fighters and

martyrs whose immense sacrifices and unwavering resolve paved the way for India's independence. In a passionate appeal to all citizens regarding the National Flag, he added "let us pledge to draw inspiration from the tricolour and do our work with utmost honesty, building the 'Developed India' of our dreams. Do not limit the

nation's sacred symbol, the tricolour, to just August 15th or January 26th. Display it with respect every day". The programme came alive with patriotic performances by students of O.P. Jindal School, who enthralled the audience and reflected the spirit of national pride and patriotism. Mr. Damodar Mittal, Executive Director-Iron Zone; Mr. Hridayaswar Jha, Executive Director-Special Projects; Yoga Guru Swami Satyabindu Saraswati; senior functional heads; employees and their families; schoolchildren; and community members attended the programme.

80th Independence Day celebrated at OHPC



BHUBANESWAR, (Correspondent) OHPC joined the nation in celebrating 80th Independence Day with great enthusiasm and patriotic fervour at its Corporate Office, Training Centre & Units on 15th August 2026. At the Corporate Office, the National Flag was hoisted by Sri Pranab Kumar Mohanty, Director (Finance) in presence of Sri Sandeep Patnaik, Director (HR) and Sri Amiya Kumar Mohanty, Director (Operation), officers & staff. Sri Sandeep Patnaik, Director (HR) hoisted the National Flag at the OHPC Training Centre, Chandaka. On this occasion, hand Flags and Tri-colour badges were distributed among the employees.

DEPUTY CM KANAK VARDHAN SINGHDEO :HOISTS TRI-COLOUR FLAG IN BHAWANIPATNA

B h a w a n i p a t n a (Correspondent) The Deputy Chief Minister of Odisha Kanak Vardhan Singhdeo has said in his speeches we got independence, because it was possible only with the tireless effort and sacrifice of our martyrs,

hoisting, tri-colour flag as chief guest. In 80th independence day celebration at Bhabanipatna's Lalbahadur Shastri Stadium. Further he attributed, irrespective of caste, colour and creed upholding the integrity of the nation we



have to work together towards development of our Nation as like our freedom fighter as Rendo Majhi of Kalahandi's soil, in his speech. As well as he extended his greeting joining different program of this district Kalahandi. Except, in

the district headquarter Bhabanipatna across the district with flag hastings program "Harghar Triranga, mural painting, memorial day on horror of partition were organised with the spirit of national fervour.

‘Probably My Last Year’: Cristiano Ronaldo Hints At Retirement From Football

New Delhi: Cristiano Ronaldo has given his clearest indication yet that his glittering football career could come to an end after the current season, with the Portugal captain admitting that this is “probably my last year” in the sport. The 41-year-old man, whose agreement with Al Nassr, the club in the Saudi Pro League, is set to last until June 2027, has in the past admitted that his retirement is near but has not specified a definite timeline for his playing career. Yet in an interview with Vogue which was published on Sunday, Ronaldo stated that he might be reaching the last stage of his career. “This is probably my last year of football, and I want to leave a spectacular legacy,” Ronaldo said in an interview with Vogue. Last November the five-time Ballon



d’Or winner had stated that he expected to keep playing for “one or two years” and stressed that the 2026 World Cup would be his last appearance at the tournament. Portugal were knocked out by Spain in the sixteen-finals last month, during which Ronaldo scored three goals. He then didn’t give a definite retirement date, but his most recent remarks indicate that the end of his playing career might

now be a great deal nearer. Ronaldo has already begun to think about his life after football and says that he is looking forward to spending more time with his family and pursuing hobbies outside of football. “I have my future all mapped out,” Ronaldo told Vogue. “I have so many things to keep me busy that to tell you just one thing is hard. “Because football could leave a big hole, you have to fill your time

in various ways, not just one. And also have more fun, travel more, watch and play padel, which I really like, and continue to enjoy what I’ve earned — what we’ve earned. “Because after all it’s been 25 years with a lot of sacrifice.” The remarks were made during an interview which took place five days prior to Ronaldo getting married to his long-term partner Georgina Rodriguez in Cascais, Portugal, thus adding

another important point to a time of major personal and professional change. Retirement would mean that an extraordinary career would come to an end. Ronaldo started his professional career at Sporting CP, then went to Manchester United, Real Madrid and Juventus, before joining Al Nassr in January 2023. The nine years he spent at Real Madrid were the most successful part of his career with the club. In 438 appearances for the Spanish giants he scored a club record of 450 goals and thus became one of the most decorated and influential players in the history of football. His most recent remarks about retiring also follow on from earlier this week, when his long-time rival Lionel Messi expressed doubt about whether he would continue to play for long after the death of his father, Jorge.

Hockey WC: India Women Hold Favourites China To 2-2 Stalemate In Opener

Amstelveen: India women held reigning Olympic silver medallists China to a hard-fought 2-2 draw in their opening match of the Hockey World Cup 2026 on Sunday. Navneet and Deepika scored for India as they had a lead twice in the game, but ultimately salvaged a point in the clash at the Wagner Hockey Stadium in Amstelveen. India started well with Lalremsiami giving them a penalty corner in the fifth minute. Navneet went for the shot, but she was denied. However, she opened the scoring sheet in the eighth minute when she tapped one into the goal after a pass from Neha. The Paris Olympic silver medallists then achieved parity when Zhang Ying converted a penalty stroke after India’s Shilpi Dabas was penalised for a foul inside

the circle. India got back into the lead when Deepika converted a PC in the 25th minute. The Salima Tete-led Indian side had a chance before too in the 21st minute when it earned a PC but was denied. However, four minutes later, Deepika stormed from the right flank to earn a PC and smashed it into the goal. The goal was referred to the video umpire after a Chinese defender was struck by the drag-flick from Deepika; however, the goal was allowed. India headed into the half-time with a 2-1 lead and a chance to stun the favourites. But the Chinese returned with aggression and tested India’s defence in the third quarter, with a few of their runs threatening parity again. They achieved it ultimately in the 39th minute when Ma Ning sounded the board

with a penalty corner to beat the Indian goalkeeper and make it 2-2. Things remained intense for the remainder of the quarter as India were forced to defend, and they managed it well. The fourth one saw the two sides battling for the winner, but neither could find one. Navneet produced a strong pass in the 51st minute across the Chinese goal, but India were denied when Lalremsiami remained a little away from the ball. Chinese player Zou Meirong was shown a green card in the 53rd minute as they were down to 10 players for two minutes, but India could not score. China had another chance in the 57th minute through a PC. The first attempt went in vain before they got another PC. Fan Yunxia went for the hit, but it was away, as the two teams ended the match 2-2.

VVS Laxman Dons Top BCCI Director of Cricket Role

NEW DELHI: Indian cricket administration is entering a structured era as VVS Laxman prepares to step into the newly created role of BCCI Director of Cricket. This elevation establishes a direct operational bridge between grassroots development, selection panels, and the senior national dressing room. Under the revised management tree, Laxman will hold supervisory authority that sits above national head coach Gautam Gambhir and chief selector Ajit Agarkar. BCCI officials plan to extend Laxman’s contract at the Centre of Excellence (CoE) for two additional years. His remit broadens significantly beyond youth coaching, rehabilitation programs, and



emerging player pathways. Going forward, the former Indian international will oversee key coaching and support staff appointments across all formats. This setup mirrors high-performance director models seen in Australia and England, modernising how talent moves from domestic circuits to international squads. Speculation regarding sudden leadership changes has been clarified by board insiders. Both Ajit Agarkar and

Gautam Gambhir will remain firmly in their current positions through the 2027 ODI World Cup. While Agarkar’s original term faced a formal review in September, board officials prefer operational continuity during this transition. Gambhir also retains complete control over senior team tactics, though overall red-ball and white-ball performance reviews will now align directly under Laxman’s strategic oversight.

‘Discussed With Coaches To Improve On Things’: Sindhu Reveals Work Behind Her 2026 Consistency

New Delhi: PV Sindhu’s improved consistency in 2026 has been the product of work away from the spotlight as much as of what she has produced on court, with the Indian revealing that her sports-science, strength and conditioning and physiotherapy teams have played a central role in preparing her for the World Championships in New Delhi. After dealing with the physical demands of a long professional career, Sindhu said her team has focused on understanding what her body requires, when she can push herself and when recovery needs to take priority. “I’ve had the sports science, the physio and the trainer. We all came together. We sat down and noted down what is required and what is needed. We



discussed it with the coach and had to improve on those things. And all of that together played a very major role. It’s not just the tournaments or people seeing us when we play a match, but it’s behind the scenes what we do, what is required, and how smartly we adapt. “Because sometimes your body might not cooperate

when you’re playing, and you have to make sure you get that rest. So, we need to take those decisions very carefully to make sure that you’re at your 100% peak at the right time. So, we’ve been doing this correctly and rightly, and that’s what made this difference and this change,” Sindhu said in the pre-match press conference

at the Indira Gandhi Stadium on Sunday. The approach has been built around prevention as much as recovery. Sindhu said modern monitoring tools have helped her team assess fatigue and physical readiness before deciding how much load she should take. “Yeah, as I mentioned, it was very important for me to have

a sports science team around me, including the S&C and physio, and, of course, the coach is always there. He heads the strength and conditioning, so it’s very important to build around that. Sometimes your body isn’t at 100%, but you still push at times, right? And injuries don’t tell you when they’re coming; they just happen. So, before that, what precautions do you take, and how do you adjust smartly? “You have all these gadgets now to record your strength, how tired you are, and whether you can push yourself or not. So, these are metrics you use to make sure, maybe tomorrow it’s a different kind of training you do. These are the small things you change, and that’s what helped me.

Hockey World Cup: Harmanpreet Brace Powers India To 3-1 Win Over Wales In Campaign Opener

Amstelveen: Captain Harmanpreet Singh scored twice from penalty corners as India began their campaign in the FIH Men’s Hockey World Cup 2026 with a convincing 3-1 victory over Wales in their Pool D opener at the Wagener Hockey Stadium in Amstelveen on Saturday. Sanjay Rana had earlier put India ahead before Harmanpreet doubled the advantage in the opening quarter. The Indian captain struck again in the third quarter to put his side firmly in control, while Wales managed a consolation goal in the final quarter. India, playing in their new saffron jersey, were tested early as Wales made an



aggressive start. Goalkeeper Suraj Karkera was called into action in the opening exchanges and responded well as Wales looked to put pressure on the higher-ranked Indians. India gradually settled into the contest and earned two penalty corners in quick succession. Sanjay converted the second opportunity in the ninth

minute to break the deadlock. India then earned another penalty corner, and Harmanpreet made no mistake, unleashing his trademark drag-flick to make it 2-0 shortly after. Wales had an excellent opportunity to reduce the deficit early in the second quarter when Pritchard found himself one-on-one with the Indian goalkeeper.

He managed to get around the keeper, but his effort struck the near post, allowing India to escape. India continued to control possession and create openings, with Rajinder coming close late in the second quarter after a swift counter-attack. His shot from the edge of the circle, however, went wide as India took a 2-0 lead into half-time. The third quarter saw India remain largely untroubled, with their defence dealing effectively with Wales’ attempts to penetrate the circle. Harmanpreet then added his second goal of the evening in the 13th minute of the quarter. Another penalty corner presented the opportunity, and the

skipper produced a precise drag-flick from the left to extend India’s lead to 3-0. India entered the final quarter in complete control, but Wales continued to search for a way back into the match. Indian goalkeeper Mohith HS produced an excellent save from a powerful penalty-corner drag-flick by Gareth Furlong, keeping Wales scoreless. Wales finally found the net in the 11th minute of the final quarter after a scramble in front of the Indian goal. The ball appeared to have been stopped initially, but Wales recovered it and pushed it over the line. A video referral confirmed the goal, reducing India’s lead to 3-1.

Bangladesh Script History with Stunning Nine-Wicket Win Over Australia in Darwin

NEW DELHI: Bangladesh created history on Sunday, defeating Australia by nine wickets to register their first Test victory on Australian soil. The triumph makes Bangladesh only the third Asian team after India and Pakistan to win a Test in Australia, and the fastest to do so — achieving the milestone in just their third Test in the country. Chasing a modest target of 57, Bangladesh sealed the win comfortably in the second session of Day Four, with Mominul Haque (30)* and Shadman Islam (25)* guiding the team home. The victory was built on a strong first-innings total of 426, highlighted by Tanzid Hasan’s maiden century (101) and crucial



contributions from Najmul Hossain Shanto (84) and Mehidy Hasan Miraz (65). Bangladesh’s bowlers then took charge. Hasan Mahmud claimed nine wickets across the match, including a six-wicket haul in Australia’s first innings. Mehidy Hasan Miraz, named Player of the Match, bagged five wickets in the second innings, dismantling Australia’s batting lineup despite Cameron Green’s valiant 104.

Australia, bowled out for 198 and 284 in their two innings, failed to defend their home dominance against Asian sides. Bangladesh’s win marks their second Test victory in a SENA country, following their 2022 triumph over New Zealand in Mount Maunganui. With this emphatic result, Bangladesh take a 1-0 lead in the two-Test series, cementing one of the greatest moments in their cricketing history.



TPNODL Celebrates 80th Independence Day Across Its Office Premises

20 Consumers felicitated as 'Solar Champions' for green energy advocacy

BALESHWAR, (correspondent) - TP Northern Odisha Distribution Limited (TPNODL), a joint venture between Tata Power and the Government of Odisha, commemorated India's 80th Independence Day honouring the valour and sacrifices of the nation's freedom fighters with patriotic fervour at its corporate office and across all DISCOM key office establishments. The ceremonial proceedings commenced at the corporate office in Baleshwar with the hoisting of the National Flag by Mr. Dushyant Kumar Tyagi, Chief Executive Officer of TPNODL, in the presence of the executive leadership



team, employees, consumers, and key stakeholders. Addressing the gathering, Mr. Dushyant Kumar Tyagi extended his warm wishes to all attendees and emphasized the importance of honouring the legacy of freedom fighters by contributing toward an inclusive, just and prosperous future. He highlighted that

TPNODL remains steadfast in driving regional and national growth through reliable power delivery, uncompromising safety standards, advanced technology integration, and a dedicated consumer-first ethos. Furthermore, Mr. Tyagi underscored that widespread solar energy adoption represents a strategic

imperative for long-term environmental sustainability and consumer energy independence. In alignment with the Government's vision for clean energy, TPNODL felicitated 20 consumers across five electrical circles as "Solar Champions" for their advocacy of green energy adoption through rooftop solar

installations under the PM Surya Ghar: Muft Bijli Yojana and the ULA Model. During the occasion, employees driving the initiative at the grassroots level were also awarded for their dedication to advancing rooftop solar adoption across the utility's operational areas.

The event concluded with TPNODL employees taking a collective pledge to uphold the core organizational values of integrity, safety, and customer-centricity, reaffirming the company's resolve to power Northern Odisha with reliable, safe, and sustainable energy solutions.



Vedanta Iron and Steel (VISL) marked Independence Day with the hoisting of the National Flag at IOO, and all other locations across states, reaffirming commitment to the nation's growth and progress

UAIL Observes 80th Independence Day with Patriotic Spirit



Rayagada, Tikiri, (correspondent) :- Utkal Alumina International Limited (UAIL), an Aditya Birla Group company, observed the 80th Independence Day with patriotic fervour at its Doraguda plant in Tikiri, Rayagada district.

The celebration was held at the Helipad Ground of Nuapada Township, where Unit Head Rabi Narayan Mishra unfurled the National Flag, followed by the National Anthem. He inspected the parade and received the ceremonial salute from contingents comprising UAIL security personnel, employees and NCC cadets. Students of the local community and Aditya Birla Public School presented

patriotic cultural programmes. Addressing the gathering, Mishra paid tribute to the freedom fighters, soldiers and national leaders whose sacrifices secured the country's independence. He highlighted the role of industries in economic development, employment generation and national prosperity, and said UAIL's Abhyudaya Project was helping the organisation prepare for future industrial and technological needs. He also highlighted UAIL's CSR initiatives in peripheral villages, stressing that the development of surrounding communities is essential for sustaining an industry's social acceptance. He further

referred to Hindalco Industries' initiatives in green energy, sustainability and electric-vehicle components. Following the address, parade contingents of SSTF, SIS, SLV and NCC were felicitated, with the best-performing contingent receiving an award. Senior officials and employees, including Uttam Giri, Narayan Mitra, Viswajit Jowardar, Gurudatta Rath, Devi Prasad Sahoo, Paul Gupta and Kiran Nayak, along with other leadership team members and families, attended the programme. Meanwhile, the 80th Independence Day was also observed at Baphlimali Mines, where Mines Head Vijay Chauhan unfurled the National Flag.

IMFA Therubali Celebrates 80th Independence Day with the Spirit of Safety, Unity and Nation-Building

Rayagada : (Correspondent) :- IMFA Therubali celebrated the 80th Independence Day with immense pride, patriotic fervor, and a strong sense of commitment towards the nation. The celebration reflected the collective spirit of the IMFA family and its dedication to safety, discipline, excellence, and sustainable growth.

The National Flag was hoisted by Mr. G.V. Rakesh, Unit Head & EIC, Therubali, amidst the presence of Mrs. Laxmi Pattnaik, President, IMFA Ladies Club, senior officials, employees, and members. The flag hoisting ceremony was



followed by the National Anthem, and Vande Matram Song creating a profound atmosphere of patriotism, unity, and national pride.

Addressing the gathering, Mr. G.V. Rakesh emphasized that safety must always remain the highest

priority. He underlined that "Safety starts at home" and urged employees to carry the same culture of safety from their homes to the workplace and into every aspect of daily life. He stressed that every individual has a responsibility to remain alert, follow

safe practices, and ensure the safety of colleagues, families, and the community. He further called upon employees to go beyond individual development and actively contribute to the growth of the organization and the nation. He highlighted the importance of discipline, teamwork, integrity, responsibility, and collective progress, encouraging everyone to uphold these values in both personal and professional life.

The programme was hosted by Mr. Kshitish Chandra Mohapatra, DGM - HR & Administration, who also delivered the vote of thanks. He

expressed heartfelt appreciation to the dignitaries, employees, IMFA Ladies Club members, Security team, PR team, and all those who contributed to the successful celebration. The celebration was well organized by Mr. Sudhanshu Sekhar Sahu, In-charge, Security Department, along with his team, and coordinated by Mr. Dipak Kumar Ojha, Assistant Manager - PR, along with the PR team. Their meticulous planning and coordinated efforts ensured the smooth and dignified conduct of the programme. "Safety Begins at Home, Excellence Begins with Us, and Nation-Building is Our Collective Responsibility."

TPCODL Celebrates 80th Independence Day Felicitates 'Solar Warriors' for Advancing Green Energy

Bhubaneswar, (Correspondent): TP Central Odisha Distribution Limited (TPCODL), a joint venture of Tata Power and the Government of Odisha, celebrated the 80th Independence Day with patriotic fervour and enthusiasm at its Corporate Office premises in Bhubaneswar.

Shri Gajanan S. Kale, Chief - Odisha Distribution Business and CEO, TPCODL, graced the occasion as the Chief Guest and hoisted the National Flag, marking the beginning of the celebrations. Employees and stakeholders joined the ceremony with a strong sense of national pride and commitment towards the progress of the nation.

Addressing the gathering, Shri Kale



paid tribute to the freedom fighters whose sacrifices laid the foundation of an independent India. He urged everyone to uphold the values of the nation's freedom struggle and contribute towards building a stronger, more prosperous and sustainable India.

As part of the celebrations, TPCODL also felicitated 'Solar Warriors' - consumers, solar vendors and other stakeholders who have made significant

contributions towards advancing rooftop solar adoption and supporting the implementation of the PM Surya Ghar: Muft Bijli Yojana. Their efforts were recognised for helping accelerate the adoption of clean energy and contributing to Odisha's transition towards a greener and more sustainable energy future.

The felicitation underscored TPCODL's commitment to empowering

consumers, strengthening its partnership with solar vendors and supporting the Government's vision of expanding renewable energy adoption across the state.

The Independence Day celebration concluded with a renewed commitment by TPCODL employees and stakeholders to contribute to the nation's development while advancing the shared vision of a cleaner, greener and energy-secure India.

80th Independence Day Celebrated at Talabira II & III OCP

Sambalpur (Correspondent) :- The 80th Independence Day was celebrated with patriotic fervour at NLC India Limited's Talabira II & III OCP, Sambalpur, with employees, workmen and stakeholders participating in the celebrations. The programme commenced with the felicitation of Shri Jagadish Chandra Mazumdar, Executive Director & Project Head, Talabira II & III OCP, followed by the hoisting of the National Flag by him. The National Song and National Anthem were thereafter rendered. Shri Subrat Kumar Biswal, DGM & Head of HR, welcomed the gathering and highlighted the significance of Independence Day and the values of unity, integrity and collective responsibility. Shri Raghunath Behera, CGM (R&R & Civil), Talabira II & III OCP, read out the



Independence Day message of Shri Sanoj Kumar Jha, IAS, Chairman-cum-Managing Director (Additional Charge), NLC India Limited. The message emphasised NLCIL's contribution to the nation's energy

security and the importance of safety, operational excellence, sustainability and inclusive development. Addressing the gathering, Shri Jagadish Chandra Mazumdar extended Independence Day greetings to all employees

and workmen and appreciated their collective efforts towards the progress of Talabira II & III OCP. He emphasised continued focus on safety, productivity, operational excellence, environmental protection and responsible mining, along with maintaining harmonious relations with local communities. He also called for continued commitment towards R&R, CSR and community development initiatives, contributing to the overall development of the region.

The programme concluded with a vote of thanks, followed by a group photograph and breakfast.

The celebration reflected the spirit of patriotism, unity and collective responsibility, with the Talabira team reaffirming its commitment to nation-building, energy security, sustainable development and the continued growth of NLC India Limited.