



Delhi HC Gives Kejriwal, Sisodia 4 Weeks To File Replies On CBI Plea Against Discharge In Excise Policy Case

2



RSP honours innovators under Maiden Motivational Scheme

3



Hockey World Cup: Indian Men Go Down Fighting 2-4 To England

7



How To Make Amla Haldi Kanji, The Immunity-Boosting Detox Drink You Need This Winter

6

Over 7.85 Lakh People Affected By Floods In Six Odisha Districts

Bhubaneswar (correspondent): Over 7.85 lakh people have been affected by floods across six districts of Odisha, with more than 1,300 villages hit and relief and rescue operations intensified in the affected areas, according to the latest status report released by the Special Relief Commissioner (SRC) on Monday. The report said 7,85,199 people have been affected in Baleswar, Bhadrak, Jajpur, Kendujhar, Mayurbhanj and Kendrapada districts. In all, 1,304 villages, 448 gram panchayats, 66 blocks and 10 urban local bodies have been affected by the floods. Baleswar has emerged as one of the worst-affected districts, with more than 2.03 lakh people affected.



The district has reported flooding in 453 villages and 97 gram panchayats. As many as 61,418 people have been evacuated, while 103 relief camps have been opened to provide shelter and assistance to those affected. In Bhadrak, around 1.96 lakh people have been affected across 134

villages and 39 gram panchayats. The district administration has evacuated 1,07,773 people and opened 90 relief camps. Jajpur has also reported extensive flood impact, with 2,02,672 people affected across 270 villages and 117 gram panchayats. Around 77,680 people have

been evacuated, while 191 relief camps have been opened in the district. In Kendrapada, around 1.44 lakh people have been affected, with 134 villages and 63 gram panchayats reporting flood-related impact. As many as 2,085 people have been evacuated from affected areas. The floods have also caused extensive damage to agricultural land across the affected districts. According to the consolidated report, crops over 42,216.7 hectares have been affected. The flooding has also damaged residential houses. A total of 941 houses have been reported damaged across the six districts, while polythene sheets have been distributed to 1,079 affected people/families as part of relief measures.

Odisha Floods: Over 2.77 Lakh People Shifted To Safety, 99 Rescue Teams Deployed

BHUBANESWAR (correspondent): Over 2.77 lakh people have been shifted to safer locations in flood-affected areas of Odisha as the state government continued rescue and relief operations on a war footing, Chief Minister Mohan Charan Majhi said on Monday. According to an update posted by Majhi on his X handle, 2,77,655 people had been evacuated to safe places by 6 PM on August 17. As many as 531 relief camps and cooked food centres are currently functioning across the affected areas. The government has also supplied 782.8 metric tonnes of fodder for cattle, while 99



rescue teams have been deployed to carry out evacuation and relief operations. "In the flood situation, the highest priority is being given to the safety of people and immediate assistance. Rescue and relief operations are

continuing on a war footing," Majhi said. He said emphasis was being placed on delivering relief materials, food, drinking water and essential healthcare services to affected areas. The Chief Minister said the situation was

being continuously monitored and immediate steps were being taken according to requirements. He added that the state government was making all efforts to ensure assistance reaches people affected by the floods.

BJP President Nitin Nabin Unveils New Team Baijayant Panda Among Vice Presidents, Sambit Patra NE Coordinator

New Delhi: In a major organisational reshuffle aimed at strengthening the Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) ahead of key electoral battles, party president Nitin Nabin on Monday announced a new team of national office-bearers, elevating senior Odisha leader Baijayant Jay Panda as a national vice-president and appointing BJP national spokesperson Dr Sambit Patra as the party's North East coordinator.



former Tripura chief minister Biplab Kumar Deb were appointed national general secretaries. The overhaul is being seen as Nabin's first major organisational exercise after taking over as BJP president, with the new team reflecting a mix of experienced leaders, former chief ministers, Union ministers and regional faces from across the country. For Odisha, the

elevation of Baijayant Jay Panda to the post of national vice-president is significant. A former MP and one of the BJP's prominent national faces from the state, Panda has been entrusted with a key leadership role in the party's central organisation. Dr Sambit Patra, another senior BJP leader from Odisha and one of the party's best-known national

spokespersons, has been appointed North East coordinator. The responsibility is considered strategically important as the BJP seeks to consolidate and expand its organisational network across the eight northeastern states, where it has emerged as a major political force over the past decade. The party retained B.L. Santhosh as National General Secretary

(Organisation), underscoring continuity in the BJP's organisational structure. Shiv Prakash and Saudan Singh will continue as National Joint General Secretaries (Organisation). Union Minister Piyush Goyal has been brought back as the party's national treasurer. The list of national general secretaries includes Smriti Irani, Biplab Kumar Deb, Vinod Tawde, Sunil Bansal, Satish Poonia, Gajendra Patel, Harish Dwivedi and Sanjay Bhatia. Apart from Panda, the BJP named D. Purandeshwari, Rekha Verma, Varshaben Narendrabhai Doshi, Bharti Pravin Pawar, Manpreet Singh Badal, Lal Singh Arya, M. Nagaraja, Prof Tariq Mansoor and Madhuchandra Kar as national vice-presidents, besides Vasundhara Raje, Tirath Singh Rawat and Ram Madhav.

Ashok Dham Stampede: 7 Dead, 25 Injured; Rs 4 Lakh Compensation Announced

Patna: The death toll in the Ashok Dham temple stampede in Lakhisarai has been confirmed at seven, while 25 devotees were injured in the incident on the third Monday of the Sawan month. The district administration has identified all seven deceased and the injured and released a complete list of those affected. The deceased have been identified as Manmala Devi, Rinku Devi, Hemlata Devi, Lalita Devi, Savita Devi, Saroj Devi and Savitri Devi.

The injured individuals have been identified as Renu Devi, Ragini Kumari, Savita Devi, Moni Kumari, Vimla Devi, Reena Kumari, Muskan Kumari, Sandhya Kumari, Khushi Kumari, Pinki Kumari, Kanti Devi, Amerika Devi,



Luto Devi, Rampari Devi, Mamata Devi, Kumkum Devi, Moni Kumari, Shivani Kumari, Gunjan Kumari, Mausham Kumari, Kamla Devi, Tuptup Kumari, Tannu Kumari, Anita Devi and Gayatri Devi. According to the administration, the stampede was triggered by a rumour that a fallen electric pole had caused an electric current to spread among the

devotees. The rumour sparked panic and a sudden rush among the large gathering, resulting in deaths and injuries. Of the 25 injured devotees, three are reported to be in critical condition. They received initial treatment at Lakhisarai Sadar Hospital before being referred to Patna Medical College and Hospital (PMCH) for further treatment.

Trump Urges Iran To Raise 'White Flag'

Washington: US President Donald Trump has urged Iran to raise the "white flag of surrender" as a 60-day ceasefire understanding expires, while signalling that he is in no hurry to set a deadline for Tehran.

Trump told Fox News in an interview that American naval pressure on Iran would continue. The US President also issued a stark warning to Oman over its parallel talks with Tehran concerning control of the Strait of Hormuz. "I have no time schedule. I'm not in a hurry," Trump was quoted as saying in a telephone interview with Fox News chief foreign correspondent Trey Yingst. The US President said Iran should raise the "white flag of surrender". He described Iranian

officials as good poker players but said the country was "dying", according to Yingst. Trump also rejected suggestions that the US midterm elections were shaping his Iran policy. The 60-day Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) expires on Monday. However, Trump's remarks indicated that he did not regard the deadline as binding. The US naval blockade was continuing to exert economic pressure on Iran, Yingst reported. He said it was costing the Iranian government hundreds of millions of dollars each day. More US Treasury sanctions were also expected this week. Trump was particularly blunt when asked about talks between Iran and Oman over control of the Strait of Hormuz. "If

Oman gets in the way, we'll bomb the S out of them," Trump said, according to Yingst. The US President also confirmed that Washington has a back channel with Iran's Islamic Revolutionary Guard Corps, or IRGC. US officials were speaking directly with IRGC representatives even as tensions remained high, the report said. Trump said preventing Iran from acquiring a nuclear weapon remained Washington's top priority. On US military preparedness, Trump said the weapons used so far amounted to "peanuts". He said the United States had many mid-level weapons available, but claimed that several advanced systems had been given to Ukraine by former President Joe Biden.

Tarapith Hotel Fire: Death Toll Rises To 8, Five From Same Meghalaya Family

Kolkata: The death toll in the hotel fire at Tarapith in Birbhum district of West Bengal on Monday rose to eight, police confirmed. Among the victims, five were members of the same family from Meghalaya who had come to the holy town to offer Puja at the iconic Goddess Tara temple. According to police, the five family members were staying on the fifth floor of the hotel building, where the fire had not reached.

However, in panic, they rushed down the staircase to the ground floor, where the blaze was critical. "All five were engulfed in fire and ultimately died," a district police officer said. The deceased include five adult males, one woman and two minors. The five family members from Shibbari village in South Garo Hills, Meghalaya, were identified as Rajendra Nath, Asha Nath, Buran Modak, Oushonath

Modok and Shibraj Modak, aged eight and ten. The other three victims were Kamal Roy, Amit Paul and Subir Saha, all residents of Alipurduar district in North Bengal. Administration sources said 28 people were safely evacuated from the hotel, while seven are undergoing treatment at Rampurhat Government Medical College Hospital. Meanwhile, police arrested hotel owner Kalyan Paul of

'Bideshini'. Investigators are probing whether the hotel's firefighting system was functional and if fire safety rules were followed. Residents alleged that an exit door at the back of the hotel was closed, preventing escape. Paul countered that panic prevented residents from locating the exit, leading them to rush through the reception area where many were burnt. Police are investigating these claims and counterclaims.

Khandapada Police Execute NBW Against Wanted Accused

Nayagarh,(correspondent): Khandapada Police have intensified their efforts to maintain law and order and take action against wanted accused persons.Under the leadership of SDPO Saroj Kumar Sahu and IIC Khandapada Krutibash Harichandan, the police team successfully executed a Non-Bailable Warrant (NBW) against Pratap Kumar Samantaray.The warrant was executed in connection with GR No. 48/2022, registered under Sections 302, 307, 114 and 120(B) of the IPC, read with Sections 3/4 of the Explosive Substances Act. The records also mention GR No. 223(A)/2019 and ICC No. 05/2020.The police action highlights the continued efforts of Khandapada Police to maintain law and order, prevent criminal activities and ensure that wanted accused persons are brought within the legal process.

High-Level Review of Flood Management in Mayurbhanj

Baripada, (correspondent) A high-level review meeting was held to assess the flood situation, damage, rescue operations, relief distribution, and restoration work in Mayurbhanj district following the recent heavy rainfall. The meeting took place in the conference hall of the District Collector's Office under the chairmanship of Housing & Urban Development and Public Enterprises Minister Dr. Krushna Chandra Mahapatra.The meeting reviewed the condition of flood-affected families, relief distribution, infrastructure damage, restoration of communication facilities, and post-flood rehabilitation measures. Special attention was given to the situation in Badasahi, Betanati, Rasgovindpur, and other affected blocks. The Minister directed officials to give priority to converting kutcha houses into pucca houses in flood-prone areas in a phased manner. He stressed ensuring housing security for flood-affected people and immediately including eligible damaged families under government housing schemes.he also instructed that proper drainage systems must be incorporated during road construction. Departments were warned to ensure that faulty road construction or poor drainage does not lead to waterlogging or human-made flood situations, and to take necessary corrective measures.The Minister advised all concerned line departments, including the Rural Works Division, Rural Water Supply and Sanitation Department, Irrigation Department, and Minor Irrigation Department, to restore roads, drinking water supply, irrigation facilities, and other essential infrastructure quickly and with quality.

Independence Day Hoardings Spark Controversy in Kantabanji Over Absence of Ambedkar's Portrait

KANTABANJI, correspondence : Controversy has erupted in Kantabanji over the Independence Day greeting hoardings installed by the Kantabanji Notified Area Council (NAC) at various locations across the town.The hoardings feature portraits of several prominent freedom fighters, including Mahatma Gandhi, Netaji Subhas Chandra Bose and Bhagat Singh. However, the absence of Dr. B.R. Ambedkar's portrait has drawn sharp criticism from local citizens and youths.Large hoardings have reportedly been installed near the Girls' High School and Thana Chhak. Local youths Chaitanya Hans and Pintu Suna expressed disappointment over the omission, saying that Dr. Ambedkar was not only a national leader but also one of the principal architects of modern India and the Constitution.

They alleged that leaving Dr. Ambedkar out of official Independence Day hoardings amounted to disrespecting the Constitution and the principles of social justice. "If the principal architect of the Constitution under which we live is forgotten during Independence Day celebrations, what is the meaning of such a celebration?" a college student questioned.The youths further alleged that the NAC had deliberately ignored Dr. Ambedkar and demanded clarification from the authorities. They said Independence Day should be an occasion to remember all freedom fighters, national leaders and nation-builders who contributed to the country.Citizens have urged the Balangir district administration to take the matter seriously and seek an explanation regarding the design and selection of portraits for the official hoardings.

Joint Public Grievance Hearing Camp Held in Kirmira

Jharsuguda (Kirmira),correspondence :- A Joint Public Grievance Hearing Camp was held at the Kirmira Panchayat Samiti office premises under the chairmanship of Jharsuguda District Collector Kunal Motiram Chhabaan.Superintendent of Police G. R. Raghavendra, Zilla Parishad Development Officer-cum-Chief Executive Officer Biswa Ranjan Nayak, Sub-Collector Sabyasachi Panda, District Public Health Officer Shakti Prasad Padhi, Kirmira Block Development Officer Abinash Lakra, the local Tahasildar, Assistant Collector (Grievance) Mrutyunjay Sabar, and officials from various departments were present at the camp and heard the grievances of the people.A total of 29 petitions were received during the camp, including 23 individual complaints and 6 applications concerning collective issues.

Total Area Sown In India's Current Kharif Season So Far Crosses 1,016 Lakh Hectares

New Delhi: The total area sown under kharif crops in the current season across the country so far is estimated at 1016.57 lakh hectares as on August 14 this year, compared with the corresponding figure of 1037.52 lakh hectares in the same period last year, data released by the Ministry of Agriculture and Farmers Welfare on Monday showed.The official figures show that the area under rice is 379.07 lakh hectares so far this year, compared with 393.44 lakh hectares during the same period last year. The 14.37 per cent decline in the area sown so far is attributed to the deficient monsoon this year following the adverse impact of the El Nino weather pattern.The area under pulses such as urad and moong has held steady at 108.14 lakh



hectares compared with 108.49 lakh hectares during the same period last year as the crop requires less water.The area covered under coarse cereals or millets such as jowar, bajra, and ragi has been estimated at 172.96 lakh hectares during the current season so far, which has fallen from 177.13 lakh hectares in the same period of the

previous year.The area under sugarcane, which is an annual crop sown earlier, touched 58.31 lakh hectares so far compared to the corresponding figure of 58.62 lakh hectares for the same period of the previous year.The area sown under cotton during the current kharif season so far has been estimated at 107.30 lakh hectares, which is

about the same as 108.26 lakh hectares sown in the previous year.The Cabinet Committee on Economic Affairs (CCEA), chaired by Prime Minister Narendra Modi, had approved an increase in the Minimum Support Prices (MSP) for 14 Kharif Crops for Marketing Season 2026-27 to ensure remunerative prices to farmers.The

increase in MSP for Kharif Crops for Marketing Season 2026-27 is in line with the Union Budget 2018-19 announcement of fixing the MSP at a level of at least 1.5 times the all-India weighted average cost of production. The expected margin to farmers over their cost of production is estimated to be highest in case of moong (61 per cent) followed by bajra (56 per cent), maize (56 per cent) and tur/arhar (54 per cent). For the rest of the crops, the margin to farmers over their cost of production is estimated to be at 50 per cent, according to an official statement. In recent years, the government has also been promoting the cultivation of crops other than cereals, such as pulses, oilseeds and nutri-cereals, by offering a higher MSP for them.

Education Minister Holds NTA Review Meet

New Delhi: After renewed issues surfaced over some examinations conducted by the National Testing Agency (NTA), Union Education Minister Pralhad Joshi held a high-level review meeting on Monday over its functioning and directed it to conduct a comprehensive audit of all examination processes. The agency is required to review every stage of the examination system, identify any shortcomings, and prepare a report on the measures taken to rectify them, the Ministry of Education said in a statement. The Secretary of the Department of Higher Education, Director General of the NTA and other senior officials were present in the meeting.

Nitin Nabin Congratulates New BJP Team

New Delhi: BJP national president Nitin Nabin congratulated the party's newly appointed national office-bearers on Monday and voiced confidence that they will take the 'Developed India' Mission forward and take the nation-building efforts to new heights. Almost seven months after Nitin Nabin took charge as the BJP national president, the party announced a major organisational overhaul with the restructuring of party leaders under the incumbent chief's team. Nitin Nabin, taking to X, wrote, "Heartiest congratulations and best wishes to all the newly appointed office bearers of the Bharatiya Janata Party's National Team." "With a blend of experience and energy, this team will give new momentum to the organisation under the guidance of Hon'ble Prime Minister Narendra Modi," he added. The BJP chief further said that he was confident that every member, with the spirit of a dedicated karyakarta, will further strengthen the organisation to take forward the resolve of a 'Viksit Bharat' and the commitment to nation-building to new heights.

Delhi HC Gives Kejriwal, Sisodia 4 Weeks To File Replies On CBI Plea Against Discharge In Excise Policy Case

New Delhi: The Delhi High Court on Monday gave four weeks to former Delhi Chief Minister and AAP National Convenor Arvind Kejriwal, former Deputy CM Manish Sisodia and others to file replies on CBI's application challenging their discharge in the alleged excise policy corruption case. Calling it a last chance to file replies, Justice Manoj Jain posted the matter for next hearing on October 5 and 6, adding that arguments will be heard in one go on that occasion and no



further adjournments will be granted.

Solicitor General Tushar Mehta, appearing for the Central Bureau of Investigation (CBI), opposed the AAP leaders' plea for more time to file their

response, calling the tactic childish. Sisodia, in his petition, said the CBI filed its petition "without a second thought" within 4 hours of the trial court's verdict. The petition did not specify which evidence was ignored against which

accused. In a judgment running to more than 1,100 paragraphs, delivered on February 27, the trial court discharged all accused in the corruption case lodged by the CBI, holding that the now-scrapped excise policy was the outcome of a consultative and deliberative process and that the prosecution failed to establish any overarching conspiracy. In its revision plea before the High Court, the CBI alleged that the excise policy introduced by the then AAP-led Delhi

government was manipulated to favour select liquor traders in exchange for kickbacks. The matter came before Justice Jain after it was reassigned from the Bench of Justice Swarana Kanta Sharma, as criminal contempt proceedings were initiated against several AAP leaders, including Kejriwal, Sisodia, and Sanjay Singh, over the alleged circulation of "vilifying and defamatory" material targeting the judiciary in connection with the excise policy case.

Northern Army Commander Reviews Operational Preparedness In J&K's Poonch

Jammu: Udhampur-headquartered Northern Command chief, Lt General Pratik Sharma, on Monday visited forward locations in J&K's Poonch district and reviewed the operational preparedness of the formation. "Lt Gen Pratik Sharma #ArmyCdrNC, visited forward locations in #Poonch and reviewed the operational preparedness of the formation. During the visit, he was briefed on the prevailing security situation, operational readiness and the challenges of deployment in the rugged terrain", the Northern Command said on its X handle. It said that the army commander interacted with troops serving in forward areas and appreciated their resilience in maintaining mission-readiness despite the demanding terrain and weather conditions.

EC Gyanesh Kumar Calls For Familiarising Students With Electoral System

Patna: Launching Electoral Literacy Clubs (ELC 2.0), Chief Election Commissioner Gyanesh Kumar on Monday underlined the need to familiarise students and young electors with India's electoral system, democratic values and the functioning of ECI. Speaking at a conference on the "Electoral Literacy Clubs and ECINet" held at Gyan Bhawan in Patna, CEC Gyanesh Kumar said that educational institutions can play a big role in strengthening trust in

electoral processes, boosting electoral literacy and promoting informed democratic participation. The CEC also shed light on how elections in India are held strictly as per the Constitution, law and instructions issued by ECI and conducted transparently under the concurrent audit of political parties, candidates and their representatives at all stages. He said there is a need to familiarise students and young electors with India's electoral system, democratic values,

electoral registration, polling and counting processes, and the role and functioning of the ECI. Emphasising the importance of engaging young citizens, CEC Gyanesh Kumar said that their trust and informed participation in the electoral process is an investment in the future of democracy.

A new logo of the Electoral Literacy Club (ELC) was also unveiled on the occasion, said an official statement. The new tagline, "Learn Democracy.

New Electronics Parts Manufacturing Projects Poised To Create 75,000 Jobs: Vaishnaw

New Delhi: Union Electronics and Information Technology Minister Ashwini Vaishnaw said on Monday that the 106 projects that have now been approved under the country's Electronics Components Manufacturing Scheme (ECMS) are expected to generate direct employment for 75,000

persons. Once these units start production, the total job potential across the electronics ecosystem would go up to 2.5 lakh persons, Vaishnaw said. The minister handed over the approvals for 31 applications under the ECMS scheme on Monday, which are expected to lead to an additional investment of Rs 7,877 crore and the creation of 9,500 fresh

jobs. The applications are related to the manufacturing of products including Acetylene Black, speakers and microphones, optical transceivers, capacitors, and coils. He urged the industry to achieve full design capabilities in India and build a domestic supply chain for components and sub-components.

ଓଡିଶା ଗୌରବ ପ୍ରସିଦ୍ଧ, ଓଡିଶା ଗୌରବ Housing & Urban Development Department, Govt. of Odisha ଓଡିଶା ଗୌରବ ପ୍ରସିଦ୍ଧ, ଓଡିଶା OFFICE OF THE MUNICIPAL COUNCIL: JATANI ଘର- ଓଡିଶା, ଡିସ୍ଟ- ଖୋର୍ଦ୍ଧା, ୭୫୧୦୦୫ At/Ps- Jatani, Dist-Khordha (Odisha), Pin-752050 E-mail - municipalityjatni@gmail.com , Phone. No. 0674- 2490826		13001/1555/2627
No. ୧୫୭୨ /Jatani, Date- ୧୮/୦୮/୨୦୨୬ "E" PROCUREMENT NOTICE		
Bid documents consisting of work, estimated cost, cost of tender paper, EMD, time of completion, class of contractor and the set of terms & conditions of contract and other necessary documents can be seen in Govt. website i.e https://tendersodisha.gov.in .		
1. Tender Reference No.	EO/JMC/ 93/2026-27	
2. Tender I.D No.	2026_ORULB_138311	
3. Name of the Work	Civil construction works as mentioned in website	
4. No. of works	02 nos.	
5. Estimated cost	Rs. 2576483.16 to Rs.4255962.43	
6. Period of completion	180 days	
7. Date and time of bidding	10.00 AM of 17.08.2026 to 5.30 PM of 07.09.2026	
8. Last date and time for receipt of bids in the portal	07.09.2026 upto 5.30 PM	
9. Bids received online shall be opened on	08.09.2026 at 11.00 AM	
10. Name and address of the Officer inviting Bid	Executive officer, Jatani Municipality	
Futher details can be seen from the procurement portal i.e https://tendersodisha.gov.in .		
OIPR-13001/13041/1/26-27/0021		Executive officer Jatni Municipality

Odisha Climbs to 7th Nationally in Rooftop Solar, Emerges as a Model for PM Surya Ghar Adoption

Bhubaneswar, (Correspondent): Odisha has emerged as one of India's fastest-growing rooftop solar markets, climbing from 13th to 7th position nationally in rooftop solar installations under the PM Surya Ghar: Muft Bijli Yojana, according to data available on the Ministry of New and Renewable Energy (MNRE) portal. The State has crossed the landmark 1.5 lakh installation milestone, with ~1.74 lakh rooftop solar systems installed, reflecting the rapid acceleration of residential solar adoption across Odisha. The State has also crossed 3.1 lakh

applications, with 3,12,527 applications received under the scheme. Odisha's rise in the national ranking comes as the State combines strong government financial support, utility-led execution, an expanding vendor ecosystem, consumer facilitation and sustained grassroots mobilisation to convert consumer interest into rooftop solar installations. The State has moved ahead of Madhya Pradesh and Assam, reinforcing Odisha's emergence as a significant contributor to India's decentralised clean-energy transition. Odisha's rooftop solar programme has

witnessed sharp acceleration in recent months. Applications have increased from 1,95,513 to 3,12,527, while installations have risen from 72,538 to ~1.74 lakh. This represents approximately 60% growth in applications and more than 130% growth in installations, while the application-to-installation conversion has improved from 37.1% to 53.4%. The improvement reflects strengthening capacity across the customer journey, from application and approvals to installation, inspection, metering and commissioning. A major driver of adoption has been

the State's additional financial support over and above the Central subsidy available under PM Surya Ghar. Eligible residential consumers can receive combined Central and State assistance of up to ₹1.38 lakh for a 3 kWp rooftop solar system, subject to applicable capacity, consumer category and scheme guidelines. Odisha has set an ambitious target of 3 lakh rooftop solar installations by 2027. The strong subsidy proposition, combined with increasingly streamlined implementation, is helping make rooftop solar more accessible to households across urban, rural and semi-urban areas.

The development of the country is in the hands of the youth - Preeti Moksha Panigrahi

Bhubaneswar: (Correspondent):- Even now, in most parts of the country, people are far away from the real taste of freedom, and many people are not aware of environmental protection, so they have to face various disasters. The most important thing is that everyone is dependent on the government, blaming the government for everything and everyone is silent. But in reality, people are forgetting that our responsibility and sense of responsibility are the foundation of building a developing nation. Now Gen Z is focused on major reforms in education, but there are many problems in



the country that can only be solved if the current youth wants to. Moksha, who became a prominent figure in the movement for ecological balance and survival of trees, is participating in the Independence Day program of a daily newspaper and expressing her views. Moksha, who follows her ideals, tells Dr. Tirupati Panigrahi, founder and director of Hi-tech Group,

that taking a vow to never lose in life will ensure victory. Recently, Preeti Moksha Panigrahi was honoured with the prestigious 'Pride of India 2026' award, currently she is an active member of Earth Again Movement', 'The Child Movement' and 'CTBTO Youth Group', creating environmental awareness across the country. Moksha is the eldest daughter of Shri Rupesh Kumar Panigrahi, Honorable MLA from Paralakhemundi, Gajapati District and Smt. Madhusmita Tripathi, Director and Trustee of Hi-tech Medical College and Hospital.

Motorola launches moto g max

Bhubaneswar: (Correspondent):- Motorola, a global leader in mobile technology and India's leading AI smartphone brand, has announced the launch of the all-new moto g max, the most complete smartphone in the segment, designed for consumers who demand premium design, exceptional durability, pro-grade photography, powerful performance, and long-lasting battery life. Combining a Luxury Satin-inspired Finish in stunning PANTONE™ curated colours, the Segment's Leading 50MP Sony LYTIA™ 600 Camera System, the powerful Snapdragon® 6s Gen 4 processor, an

immersive 6.72-inch 120Hz Full HD+ Display, and a massive 7000mAh Silicon-Carbon Battery, the moto g max delivers a complete smartphone experience. Built to keep up with modern lifestyles, the smartphone also features Corning® Gorilla® Glass 7i, MIL-STD-810H certification, IP64 Water-resistant Design, Dolby Atmos® Stereo Speakers, and the latest Android™ 16 experience. The moto g max combines premium craftsmanship with a refined Luxury Satin Finish, for the first time in any G-series smartphones delivering an ultra-premium look and feel while resisting

everyday fingerprints and smudges. Available in stunning PANTONE Stargazer, PANTONE Alaskan Blue, and PANTONE Malaga colour options, the smartphone brings together globally curated colours with Motorola's premium design philosophy, giving the device a distinctive and sophisticated appearance. Mr. T.M. Narasimhan, Managing Director, Motorola India, said, "With its distinctive luxurious design, segment-leading features and exceptional value, we believe moto g max sets a new benchmark for a smartphone that looks as good as it performs."

RSP honours innovators under Maiden Motivational Scheme

Rourkela, (Correspondent): During the grand Independence Day celebrations organised by Rourkela Steel Plant (RSP) at Ispat Stadium on 15th August 2026, Mr. Alok Verma, Director In-charge, presented trophies, Certificates of Merit and gift vouchers to the awardees under the maiden Motivational Scheme for Employees of the Steel Plant. Introduced from the Financial Year 2026-27, the scheme aims to foster creativity, innovation and continuous improvement among employees and encourage their contributions towards improvements in Safety, Maintenance and Digital

Innovation. The scheme covers RSP employees up to the E-7 level and considers them zone-wise. The Plant has been divided into six zones, namely Iron, Steel, Mills, Services, Maintenance and Non-Works, with separate Executive and Workman categories. The Best Innovator and Second-Best Innovator from each zone were presented gift vouchers of Rs. 10,000 and Rs. 5,000 respectively, along with a Certificate of Merit and a trophy. The awardees for the first quarter of 2026-27 from the Iron Zone were Mr. Vikil Deorao Malwe, AGM (B&TO), CPP-I, who received the Best Innovator Award in



the Executive category and Mr. Santanu Kumar Mohanta, DGM, SP-II, who received the Second Best Innovator Award in the same category. In the Workman category, Mr. Sourav Kumar, OCT (T), Coke Ovens, received the Best Innovator Award, while Mr. Soubhagya R. Satrusal, Jr. Engineering

Associate, Blast Furnaces, received the Second-Best Innovator Award. From the Steel Zone, Mr. Ashwani Kain, AGM, Flux & Refinery, received the Best Innovator Award in the Executive category. From the Mills Zone, Mr. Naveen Rajavarapu, AGM, New Plate Mill, received the Best Innovator

Award, while Mr. Rashmi Ranjan Mohanty, DGM, Hot Strip Mill-2, received the Second Best Innovator Award in the Executive category. In the Workman category, Mr. Ansuman Mishra, Jr. Engineering Associate (Cranes), Roll Shop, received the Best Innovator Award. From the Services Zone, Mr. Bighnesh Sahoo, Engineering Associate, Digitalization, received the Best Innovator Award in the Workman category. From the Non-Works Zone, Mr. Vivek Kumar Yadav, Senior Manager, Projects, received the Best Innovator Award in the Executive category.

Rotary Connect 360 Web Application Launched at OKCL AI Capacity-Building Programme for Rotary Leaders Begins

Bhubaneswar, (Correspondent): The Rotary Connect 360 Web Application, developed as part of the collaborative initiative between Odisha Knowledge Corporation Limited (OKCL) and Rotary International District 3262, was formally launched on 17 August 2026 at the OKCL Head Office, Bhubaneswar. The launch marked an important milestone in the ongoing Rotary-OKCL collaboration aimed at strengthening digital connectivity, coordination and technology-enabled engagement across Rotary Clubs. The web application was formally launched by Rtn. Anil Kumar Samal, District Governor, Rotary International District 3262, jointly with Dr.

Manoranjan Puthal, Managing Director, Odisha Knowledge Corporation Limited (OKCL). The platform is intended to provide a structured digital interface to facilitate effective coordination, communication and engagement among participating Rotary Clubs. The inaugural session commenced with context setting by PDG Sibabrata Dash, followed by an address by Dr. Manoranjan Puthal, Managing Director, OKCL, who highlighted the importance of digital transformation and capacity building in strengthening institutional capabilities and enabling technology-driven collaboration. Addressing the gathering, Rtn. Anil



Kumar Samal, District Governor, Rotary International District 3262, spoke on the significance of the initiative and the opportunities it creates for strengthening digital engagement across the Rotary network. PDG Jayashree Mohanty spoke at length on the potential of Artificial Intelligence to enhance efficiency and productivity, and emphasised how

Rotarians can take these learnings beyond their organisations and extend the benefits of AI to rural and grassroots communities. She highlighted the potential for Rotary leaders to play an important role in promoting wider technology adoption and digital empowerment at the community level. Following the formal launch, an orientation session on the Rotary Connect 360 Web

Application was conducted for participating Rotary representatives. The session provided an overview of the application's key features, functionalities and usage, followed by an interactive discussion and Q&A to facilitate better understanding and adoption of the platform. The programme also marked the commencement of the AI Capacity-Building component of the Rotary-OKCL initiative. The sessions covered Generative AI and AI-Assisted Productivity Tools, Intelligent Automation and Emerging Business Applications, and practical use cases of AI for organisational efficiency and competitiveness.

Rayagada celebrates Independence Day with patriotic fervour

Rayagada, (Correspondent): The 80th Independence Day was celebrated across Rayagada district with patriotic fervour and traditional gaiety. The district-level function was held at the PM Shri GCD High School ground, where Collector Ashutosh Kulkarni unfurled the national flag as the chief guest. Superintendent of Police Raj Prasad was present as the guest of honour. Mr. Kulkarni inspected the parade, in which nearly 40 platoons of the CRPF, Odisha Police and other contingents participated. Reserve Inspector Dinesh Kumar Sahu coordinated the parade. The ceremony also recognised achievers in education, sports, public service, environmental

protection and acts of bravery. Among those honoured for their service to the nation were Debi Prasad Panigrahi of the Indian Army, Laxminarayan Padhi of the Indian Air Force and Thakur Prasad Jena of the Indian Navy. Social worker Anadi Garada and environmentalist T. Gauri, a Prakriti Bandhu awardee, were also felicitated. Three residents of Kalyansinghpur — Balam Bag of Bhaleri, Purusho Hikaka of Intaliguda and Ramachandra Palaka of Binishpur — were honoured for acts of bravery and humanitarian service. National-level throwball medallists Mausumi Majhi and Swapna Huika, who won bronze medals, were also

felicitated. After the parade, Mr. Kulkarni visited the District Headquarters Hospital and the district jail, where he distributed fruits among patients and inmates. District Information and Public Relations Officer Debaraj Takri and officials of the district administration, police, R&B, municipality, PHD and other line departments coordinated the celebrations. The administration thanked public representatives, officials, teachers, students and residents for their cooperation in making the Independence Day programme a success.

EAST COAST RAILWAY
Tender Notice No. 14-SBP-TRD-OT-2026-27, Dtd. 12.08.2026
Name of work / TRD RELATED WORK IN CONNECTION TO THE WORK OF "CONSTRUCTION OF S & T SERVICE ROOMS AT 07 NON-INTERLOCKED LEVEL CROSSING GATES UNDER THE JURISDICTION OF DIVISIONAL ENGINEER / EAST & DIVISIONAL ENGINEER / CENTRAL".
Approx. Cost: ₹ 34,03,090.41, EMD: ₹ 68,100.00, Period of Completion : 12 Months.
Date & time of tender closing : At 1530 hrs. on 03.09.2026.
No manual offers sent by Post/ Courier/Fax or in person shall be accepted against such e-tenders even if these are submitted on firm's letter head and received in time. All such manual offers shall be considered invalid and shall be rejected summarily without any consideration.
Complete information including e-tender documents of the above e-tender is available in website www.ireps.gov.in.
The tenderers / bidders must have Class-III digital Signature certificate and must be registered on IREPS portal. Only registered tenderer/ bidder can participate on e-tendering. All relevant paper must have to be uploaded at the time of participating, on e-tendering as per instruction.
Note : The prospective tenderers are advised to revisit the website fifteen days before the date of closing of tender to note any changes/ corrigenda issued for this tender.
Sr. Divisional Electrical Engineer (TRD)/ PR-369/R/26-27 Sambalpur

NTPC Darlipali Celebrates 80th Independence Day with Patriotic Fervour

Darlipali, (Correspondent): NTPC Darlipali celebrated the 80th Independence Day with patriotic fervour and enthusiasm at Utkarsh Bhawan, bringing together employees and their families to commemorate the occasion and reaffirm their commitment to the nation. The celebrations were graced by Shri Faiz Taiyab; Head of Project (HoP), Darlipali. The

Independence Day commenced by singing National song followed by hoisting of the National Flag and rendition of National Anthem. A CISF Guard of Honour and release of tricolour balloons further added to the patriotic spirit of the occasion. Addressing the gathering, Shri Faiz Taiyab, HoP, extended his Independence Day greetings and highlighted the importance of collective commitment, excellence and



responsibility in contributing to the nation's progress. A major highlight of the programme was the

recognition of excellence and contribution across the NTPC Darlipali fraternity. HOP Meritorious Awards, Manveeyata Puraskar and

Power Excel Awards were presented, along with recognition of outstanding performers from Employees of NTPC Darlipali, Bal Bharati Public School, CISF, Security and associate staff. The occasion also witnessed the launch of the Masala Sales initiative by Abhilasha Ladies Club, headed by Smt. Tazeen Jawed; President, reflecting the continued efforts towards encouraging self-reliance

and community participation. The celebrations were further enlivened by a vibrant cultural programme, showcasing the spirit and diversity of India. Adding a meaningful dimension to the occasion, bicycles were distributed to meritorious GEM students, supporting their educational journey and encouraging them to pursue their aspirations. On this special occasion a miniature model of the

NTPC Darlipali Plant was inaugurated by Shri Faiz Taiyab, HoP in the presence of GM (O&M), GM (Projects), GM (Maint. & ADM), CMO and other senior NTPC officials. The Independence Day celebrations concluded with a vote of thanks, leaving the gathering with a renewed sense of patriotism, pride and collective responsibility towards nation-building.

EDITORIAL

Library: A Symbol of Community Unity and Knowledge

A library is much more than a collection of books. It is a cornerstone of intellectual growth, cultural preservation, and social development. Libraries bring people together regardless of their age, background, profession, or economic status, making them powerful symbols of community unity and lifelong learning.

In today's digital world, information is available at the touch of a button. Yet, the importance of libraries has not diminished. Instead, their role has evolved. Modern libraries provide access to books, newspapers, journals, digital resources, research materials, and online databases. They encourage curiosity, inspire creativity, and promote the habit of reading—qualities that are essential for building an informed and responsible society.

One of the greatest strengths of a library is its inclusiveness. It welcomes everyone equally. Students preparing for examinations, researchers seeking knowledge, teachers enhancing their skills, children discovering the joy of reading, senior citizens pursuing lifelong learning, and job seekers improving their careers all find a place within its walls. In this way, libraries promote equality and strengthen the social fabric of a community.

Public libraries, in particular, serve as vibrant community centers. They host book exhibitions, author interactions, storytelling sessions, reading clubs, science talks, career guidance workshops, and cultural events. These activities create opportunities for people to meet, exchange ideas, and learn from one another. By encouraging dialogue and cooperation, libraries foster understanding and mutual respect among diverse groups of people.

For children, libraries are gateways to imagination and discovery. Storybooks, educational resources, and interactive activities help develop language skills, creativity, and critical thinking from an early age. Young readers who develop a love for books are more likely to become lifelong learners and responsible citizens.

For young adults, libraries provide essential resources for academic success, competitive examinations, skill development, and career planning. Access to reliable information and a peaceful study environment can make a significant difference in their educational journey. Libraries also help bridge the digital divide by providing internet access and digital learning facilities to those who may not have them at home. Senior citizens also benefit greatly from libraries. They offer opportunities to continue learning, participate in community activities, and remain socially connected. Reading, discussion groups, and educational programs contribute to mental well-being and help combat loneliness.

The Role of Hard Work and Discipline in Achieving Success



Sanjay Kumar Dash

Success represents the pinnacle of an infinite force, a monument built upon a vital foundation that often lies somewhere between the known and the unknown. In a student's life, navigating this uncertainty can be overwhelming, leaving them confused about their path and uncertain about their future. The single, straightforward solution to this challenge is relentless hard work.

Hard work is the master key capable of opening the most formidable doors. It unveils fresh possibilities, instills newfound hope, and ultimately fosters growth and prosperity.

When tireless efforts are made despite endless hopes and apprehensions, achievement inevitably

turns into success—with hard work serving as its core foundation.

Key Pillars of the Journey

* **The Farmer's Dedication:** Just as a farmer looks toward the growth and yield of his crops, his peace of mind relies entirely on twelve months of unyielding labor.

* **The Essence of Discipline:** Discipline is a true blessing. The agony of a captive life is best understood by a caged bird-lacking freedom, independence, and experiencing only pain. Just as maintaining queues during travel or prayers ensures smooth order, discipline acts like a tonic, keeping the mind focused and alert.

* **Guidance and Wisdom:** Proper education, sound direction, the ideals of great mentors, and a sense of order are the key components of discipline.

A Hand of Help, A Heart of Humanity



SUBRAT KUMAR DAS

World Humanitarian Day, observed every year is a reminder of this simple but powerful truth: humanity is our greatest identity.

A person is not truly great because of wealth, power, position or success. The greatest quality of a human being is humanity. To understand another person's pain, to help someone in need and to stand beside a helpless person in difficult times are the real signs of being human.

Human life is full of challenges. Natural disasters, wars, poverty, hunger, disease and other crises can suddenly change the lives of millions of people. During such difficult times, people need more than food, shelter or medicine. They need someone to stand beside them and tell them, "You are not alone." This feeling of care and support is the true spirit of humanitarianism.

Humanity Means Helping Others. Humanity does not always require great acts or large donations. Sometimes, a small act of kindness can bring great hope to someone.

Giving food to a hungry person, helping an injured person reach a hospital, donating blood, supporting a poor family, helping an elderly person cross the road or simply listening to someone who is going through a difficult time—these are all acts of humanity.

We may not be able to change the whole world, but we can certainly make a difference in the life of

one person. A helping hand, a kind word or a little support at the right moment can give someone the courage to move forward.

The real test of humanity comes when people are in crisis. During floods, cyclones, earthquakes, wars and other disasters, humanitarian workers and volunteers often work in difficult and dangerous conditions to save lives and support affected communities.

They provide food, water, medicines, shelter and other essential services. Many of them risk their own safety while helping others. Their work shows us that humanity has no boundaries. It does not ask about a person's religion, language, caste, nationality or social status. It simply sees a person in need and reaches out with a helping hand.

This is also a lesson we have seen many times in disaster situations. During cyclones and floods, ordinary people, volunteers, rescue workers, doctors, social workers and government agencies often come together to help those affected. Such moments show the strength of human compassion and unity.

We live in a world of rapid scientific and technological progress. We have modern cities, advanced technology and artificial intelligence. Yet, all these achievements lose their meaning if we lose compassion for one another.

A society cannot be truly developed only through buildings, roads and technology. It becomes truly developed when people care for the weak, protect the vulnerable and help those who are suffering. Today, people are becoming increasingly connected

* **The Role of Educators :** In a learner's life, teachers step in like parents to provide the right direction and guidance, nurturing enlightened thoughts and consciousness.

Success is a long road where travelers march forward to fulfill their dreams through intense effort, willing to endure physical strain just to reach their destination. As the journey nears its end, a guiding voice offers reassurance:

"Where you stand today is made possible solely by your hard work and structured discipline. Your future is bright and clear. Your dedication has reached its culmination, opening a new chapter where every page is ready to be put into action."

This profound truth strengthens a student's resolve and leads them forward on a path filled with wisdom and joy.

through technology, but sometimes they are becoming emotionally distant from one another. We may quickly share a post about someone's suffering, but real humanity begins when we go beyond words and take action.

World Humanitarian Day is not only about humanitarian organisations or professional workers. It is a reminder for every one of us.

We do not need to be rich to help someone. We do not need a high position to show kindness. We only need a caring heart and the willingness to help. Our responsibility begins around us—with our family, neighbours, colleagues and community. If someone is hungry, help them. If someone is helpless, support them. If someone is lonely, listen to them. If someone is in danger, do not simply stand and watch.

Humanity begins with small acts, but their impact can be very large.

World Humanitarian Day should not remain just a day on the calendar. It should inspire us to make compassion a part of our everyday life.

The true message of this day is simple: stand with people in pain, help those in need and never allow another person to feel alone in their time of crisis.

At the end of our lives, people may not remember how much money we earned or what position we held. But they will remember the kindness we showed, the hands we held and the lives we touched. Therefore, let us remember: Being born as a human is a matter of life; being humane is a matter of choice. And humanity is the greatest identity of a human being.

Gramin Dak Sevaks: Civil Posts, Unequal Rights



Bruhaspati Samal

Globally, India has a strange and painful irony. There are people who spend their entire working lives serving the Government, carrying out its responsibilities, delivering government schemes to every village and becoming symbols of public trust, yet the Government does not fully recognise them as its own employees. They carry the responsibilities of the State, but their own lives remain marked by uncertainty, insecurity and deprivation. This is not the story of an individual; it is the story of nearly three lakh Gramin Dak Sevaks (GDS) across India—the silent soldiers of India Post who represent the Government of India in the remotest and most inaccessible parts of the country, while waiting for justice for more than seventeen decades. Recently, Union Minister of State for Communications Dr. Chandra Sekhar Pemmasani stated in Parliament that the GDS system is a form of government service combining the job security associated with government service with the incentive structure of private employment. This acknowledgement is welcome. But it makes the fundamental question even sharper: If GDS is

a government service, why are GDS personnel not recognised as Central Government employees? If they perform government duties and work under government control, why are they given "engagement" rather than appointment like regular employees? Why are they officially engaged for a minimum of three and a maximum of five hours while often performing duties far beyond those prescribed hours? And why do they remain outside the regular Central Government service structure, with limited access to pension, medical facilities, LTC, social security and other benefits available to regular employees?

According to the Department of Posts Annual Report 2025–26, India has 1,64,999 post offices, of which 1,49,385, or 90.41 per cent, are in rural areas and 15,614, or 9.59 per cent, in urban areas. These include 25,091 departmental post offices and 1,39,908 Branch Post Offices, making India Post the world's largest postal network. Against 1,95,754 departmental employees of all categories, there are 2,78,633 GDS. Thus, out of a total workforce of 4,74,387, departmental

employees constitute only 41.26 per cent, whereas GDS constitute 58.74 per cent. Their role in keeping the world's largest postal network alive and dynamic is therefore undeniable. Every day, GDS personnel deliver letters and parcels and provide banking, insurance, pension, financial inclusion and welfare services at the doorstep of rural citizens. They are no longer merely postmen or letter carriers; they are bankers, insurance facilitators, social-security providers and the living bridge between the Government and rural India.

Today, when India Post Payments Bank has expanded banking facilities into the remotest villages, when financial inclusion is projected as a major achievement and when rural India is being connected with Digital India, the contribution of GDS at the foundation of these achievements cannot be ignored. When an elderly villager receives a pension, when a farmer deposits his savings, when a woman withdraws money from her account or when a beneficiary receives a government payment, the trusted face in the village is often the GDS. During the COVID-19

pandemic, when the country was largely confined to its homes, GDS personnel continued to deliver cash, pensions, essential medicines and other vital services in villages. They performed these duties not for awards or applause, but out of a profound sense of responsibility, often putting their own lives at risk. Yet those who delivered security and certainty to millions themselves continue to live with insecurity.

The greatest contradiction is that those entrusted with crores of rupees in financial transactions and with the delivery of essential government services are still officially "engaged" for only three to five hours. In reality, many work throughout the day, but legally they remain outside the category of full-time regular employees. The Department of Posts originally treated them as Extra-Departmental Agents (EDAs). Under the Posts and Telegraphs Extra-Departmental Agents (Conduct and Service) Rules, 1964, they were governed by a formal service framework. In 2001, the nomenclature changed from EDA to Gramin Dak Sevak and the 1964 Rules were replaced by the GDS (Conduct and Employment) Rules, 2001. Subsequently

came the GDS (Conduct and Employment) Rules, 2011 and the 2020 Rules. Thus, over time, the language itself shifted from "appointment" and "employment" to "engagement". A worker who performs continuing government functions has consequently been placed in a separate legal category, officially described as outside the regular civil service.

Yet the law itself has never treated GDS as ordinary private or casual workers. In Superintendent of Post Offices v. P.K. Rajamma (1977), the Supreme Court held that Extra-Departmental Agents, the predecessors of today's GDS, hold civil posts under the Union and are entitled to constitutional protection under Article 311 in appropriate circumstances. The Supreme Court subsequently reiterated the civil-post character of GDS in its jurisprudence. In Chet Ram v. Jit Singh (2008), the Court also considered GDS to be government servants holding civil posts. More importantly, in Vinod Kumar Saxena & Others v. Union of India, on 9 December 2014, the Supreme Court expressly treated

GDS as holders of civil posts and permitted the petitioners to pursue their remaining grievances before the Central Administrative Tribunal. These judgments establish an important legal foundation: GDS may be outside the regular civil service, but they cannot simply be equated with ordinary private workers or contractors.

The pension question subsequently became a major judicial issue. On 17 November 2016, the Principal Bench of the Central Administrative Tribunal, New Delhi, in the Vinod Kumar Saxena batch of cases, granted significant pensionary relief. It directed that, for GDS who had been absorbed as regular Group 'D' employees, their entire GDS service should be counted for pensionary benefits. For those who retired as GDS without absorption into regular Group 'D', the Tribunal directed pension under the CCS (Pension) Rules, 1972, with 5/8th of their GDS service being counted, and directed consequential amendment of the relevant GDS Rules. It is important, however, to set the record straight: this was a CAT judgment, not a Supreme Court

judgment. Moreover, the Tribunal rejected the broader claim of complete parity in pay, allowances and other benefits with regular employees.

The legal journey did not end there. In Union of India v. Gandiba Behera, the Supreme Court examined whether GDS service could be counted towards the qualifying period for pension after a GDS employee subsequently entered regular postal service. The Court held that GDS service, governed by a separate set of rules and having different employment characteristics, could not automatically be added to regular service for satisfying the qualifying-service requirement for pension. The judgment also recorded the distinction between GDS civil posts and regular civil service. Thus, the Supreme Court did not grant a blanket pension entitlement to all GDS. Subsequently, on 31 October 2025, the Delhi High Court, while deciding Buta Ram & Others v. Union of India & Others, set aside the CAT's 2016 directions relating to pension for GDS who retired as GDS. The present judicial position is therefore more complex than the popular claim that "the

Supreme Court has granted pension to GDS". But the legal controversy also exposes a deeper constitutional question. Article 14 guarantees equality before law and equal protection of laws; Article 16 guarantees equality of opportunity in matters of public employment; and Article 21, through its expansive judicial interpretation, protects the right to life with dignity. The question is therefore not merely whether GDS are technically regular employees. The larger question is whether the State can depend upon the continuous labour of a workforce for decades, subject it to government control and discipline, entrust it with public money and essential governmental functions, and yet deny that workforce meaningful retirement and social security merely because it is placed under a separate nomenclature. The Constitution does not merely protect labels; it embodies the principles of equality, fairness and dignity.

The anomaly becomes even more glaring when the history of the Central Pay Commissions is considered. GDS were excluded from the purview of the Seventh Central Pay Commission. This is not merely an assertion of employee organisations; the Government itself confirmed it in Parliament.

(continue in next)

Irregularities Alleged in PACS in Kantabanji Constituency Demand for Vigilance Probe into Paddy Procurement, Stock Records and Government Funds

Kantabanji, correspondence : Allegations of irregularities have surfaced in several Primary Agricultural Cooperative Societies (PACS) operating under Turekela, Muribahal and Bangomunda blocks of the Kantabanji Assembly Constituency. Questions have been raised particularly over paddy procurement, maintenance of stock records, transportation of paddy to rice millers and utilisation of government funds. The issue has gained further attention following the recent arrest of two PACS secretaries in Balangir district by the Vigilance Department in connection with alleged irregularities. The developments have raised demands for a thorough examination of the functioning and financial records of other PACS in the district. After alleged irregularities came to light at Tusra PACS, demands have intensified for an independent Vigilance investigation into other

PACS across Balangir district. Complainants have urged authorities to examine records relating to paddy procurement, stock registers, dispatch of paddy to millers and utilisation of government funds for the past several years. They said a detailed verification of procurement and stock records could reveal the actual extent of any alleged irregularities. There are also demands for checking whether the quantity of paddy procured and dispatched to millers matches the official records.

Demand letter submitted to the Chief Minister through the Collector on behalf of Cookers and Asha workers

SUBARNAPUR correspondence --- Bharatiya Mazdoor Sangha has submitted a demand letter to the Chief Minister regarding various demands of cooks and ASHA workers. Bharatiya Mazdoor Sangha held a protest in front of the Collector's office regarding cooks and



ASHA workers. Hundreds of cooks and ASHA workers from different blocks of Subarnapur district joined this protest. They have demanded that the government look into this matter.

One seriously injured in shooting incident over ganja trade

SUBARNAPUR correspondence --- A shooting incident over ganja trade took place in Guhiraghat under Tarbha police station in Subarnapur district on Sunday. A youth named Sudeep Sahu of Guhiraghat village has been reported to be seriously injured in this shooting incident. According to the information received, on Sunday evening, a youth from Kantamal in Boudh district was being chased by nine youths sitting on three bikes from Gunjimunda. The youth had entered a house in Guhiraghat to save his life, when the youths who were chasing him entered the house. When the villagers reached there and wanted to know about the incident, one of the youths fired a bullet, hitting a youth from Guhiraghat, Sudeep Sahu in the left side of his stomach. Sudeep, who was seriously injured, was first taken to Kantamal Hospital and then shifted to Balangir Bhima Bhoi medical college & hospital after primary treatment. Although no complaint has been filed in this regard at Tarbha police station, Tarbha police has started its own investigation. A police team including IIC Dolamani Naik and SI Prasannajit Behera of Tarbha police station reached the spot and started investigation.

2 arrested in Jagatpur series theft case, 600 grams of gold and silver ornaments seized from accused

Kataka correspondence : Several thefts in Kataka Jagatpur police station area were an open challenge for the police. The police have lifted the curtain on the series thefts while investigating a theft case that occurred on 11th of this month. Today (Monday), Jagatpur police station police arrested two accused. About 600 grams of gold and silver ornaments stolen from them have been seized. The two accused arrested are Rabindra Patra (30) of Bagpatia village under Tamka police station in Kendujhar district and Krishna Das (27) alias Sanbuturu of Laxminagar under Jajpur Road police



station in Jajpur district. There are 26 criminal cases pending in various police stations under the name of Sanbuturu, while there are 12 cases in the name of Rabindra. Bhaskar Padhi filed a written complaint at

Jagatpur police station. According to the complaint, the police registered a case under Sections 331(4), 305(a) of the IPC in case No. 529/2026 and started investigation. According to Bhaskar, on the

morning of the 11th, he went to his shop. Taking advantage of his absence, the miscreants entered the house and stole gold and silver ornaments kept in the cupboard. Earlier, several similar house burglaries had taken place in the Jagatpur police station area. Regarding the incident, the Jagatpur police station IIC said that as soon as the case was registered, a detailed and multi-pronged investigation was started. With the help of the Jagatpur police team and the district forensic team, a thorough inspection of the scene was carried out and crucial evidence was collected. The CCTV footage of all possible

routes of entry and exit was carefully examined. The suspects were identified and their movements and the details of the vehicles used were analyzed. The investigation team coordinated with the RTO and other relevant agencies. Further, extensive digital analysis was conducted to ascertain the identity and location of the professional/habitual criminals involved in such crimes. This joint effort resulted in the arrest of the habitual criminals. During intensive interrogation, the accused confessed their involvement in the crime and helped the police in recovering the stolen gold and silver ornaments.

PDS DISTRIBUTION HIT BY POWER DISCONNECTION

Paralakhemundi, correspondent: PDS rice and other ration commodities have reportedly remained unavailable to beneficiaries in Damadua panchayat under Mohana block of Gajapati district for the past three days following disconnection of power supply to the panchayat office. The electricity connection was reportedly disconnected over pending bills amounting to lakhs of rupees. With no power, the server system and PDS machine are not functioning, preventing distribution of government rice and ration items.



Residents from different villages under the panchayat have reportedly been returning without receiving their allocated rice, causing resentment among beneficiaries. Locals have demanded immediate restoration of power supply to the panchayat office and resumption of PDS distribution.

Block level Collector & S. P. joined grievance hearing camp held at Dunguripali

SUBARNAPUR (Correspondent) --- A joint grievance and redressal camp of the Collector and Supdt. Of Police was held at the Panchayat Samiti office in Dunguripali of Subarnapur District. Additional District Magistrate (Revenue) Rajendra Majhi and Subarnapur Additional Addl. Supdt. Of Police Smt. Lilima Lalita Barala attended the camp and listened to various grievances and problems of the public. A total of 44 grievance redressal applications were received, out of which 31 were individual and 13 were collective applications and one application was resolved immediately. All other applications have been sent to the concerned departmental officers for resolution within the stipulated time frame. Chief Development Officer and Executive Officer, Zilla Parishad Subarnapur Aswini Meher, Block Chairperson Smt. Ahalya Sahu, Additional Tehsildar Rohit Bagh were the chief guests on this occasion.

GAJAPATI DISTRICT SESSIONS COURT AWARDS LIFE TERM FOR WIFE'S MURDER

Paralakhemundi, (Correspondent) : A District and Sessions Court in Paralakhemundi has sentenced a 62-year-old man to life imprisonment for murdering his wife at Kudingda village under Seranga police limits in Gajapati district. District and Sessions Judge Jagadish Prasad Mohanty convicted Ilama Dalabehera under Section 302 of the IPC and imposed a fine of Rs 15,000. According to the

prosecution, the incident took place on October 23, 2022, following an argument between Ilama and his wife Budi Dalabehera. Budi reportedly questioned her husband for not taking her ill daughter to hospital. During the ensuing altercation, Ilama allegedly assaulted Budi, dragged her outside the house and attacked her with a kati, killing her on the spot. The victim's daughter Jinanti Dalabehera, who was the

informant in the case, lodged the FIR at Seranga police station on the same day. Inspector Ashok Kumar Hansdah conducted the investigation, while Public Prosecutor I/c Rajesh Kumar Mishra represented the prosecution. The court examined 12 witnesses and admitted 25 documents in evidence before delivering the verdict. Case No. 85/2022 was registered at Seranga police station in connection with the murder.

Odisha CM Reviews Flood Situation in Jajpur, Directs Officials to Ensure Relief and Healthcare

J A J P U R (Correspondent) : Odisha Chief Minister Mohan Charan Majhi today visited Jajpur district and inspected flood-affected areas under Kasapa and Tarapada Gram Panchayats of Dasarathpur Block. He reviewed the prevailing flood situation and relief operations in the district. During his visit, the Chief Minister interacted with flood-affected residents of Ramachandrapur, Balada and Dhovabil villages and enquired about their problems, requirements and the prevailing situation. At a flood relief shelter, the Chief Minister inspected the quality of cooked food being provided to



the affected people. He directed officials to ensure timely and adequate relief assistance, safe drinking water and uninterrupted healthcare services for all flood-affected

families. He also instructed the administration to maintain round-the-clock monitoring of the flood situation. Revenue and Disaster Management Minister

Suresh Pujari, Higher Education, Sports and Youth Services and Odia Language, Literature and Culture Minister Suryabanshi Suraj, Cooperation, Handloom, Textiles and Handicrafts Minister Pradeep Bal Samant, Jajpur Lok Sabha MP Dr. Rabindra Narayan Behera and Rajya Sabha MP Manmohan Samal were present during the visit. Among the legislators present were Binjharpur MLA Pramila Mallik, Barchana MLA Amar Kumar Nayak, Korei MLA Akash Das Nayak, Dharmasala MLA Himanshu Sekhar Sahu and Jajpur MLA Sujata Sahu. At the

administrative level, Special Relief Commissioner Rajesh Prabhakar Patil, Excise Commissioner P. Anevesha Reddy, IAS, who has been assigned special responsibility for Jajpur district, Jajpur Collector Ambar Kumar Kar, Superintendent of Police Yash Pratap Shrimal, Additional Collector Judhisthir Naik and senior state- and district-level officials were present. BDOs, tehsildars, field-level officials, social workers, intellectuals, local public representatives and a large number of residents also participated in the Chief Minister's visit and flood review programme.



34001/642/2627

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OFFICE OF THE SUPERINTENDING ENGINEER
KATAKA (R&B) DIVISION NO.I: KATAKA

GOVERNMENT OF ODISHA

(oe' PROCUREMENT NOTICE)

Bid Identification No. S.E. CTC(R&B)-19 of 2026-27

TENDER CALL NOTICE

1. The Superintending Engineer, Kataka (R&B) Division No.I, Kataka on behalf of Governor of Odisha invites on Percentage rate basis bid in Single cover system in ONLINE MODE from eligible contractor for Building works as mentioned below.

2. No" of Work

: o2 NoS.

3. Nature of work

:Building works

4. Class of Contractor

: -D" & C" and rC., &..8., Ctass

5. Tender Paper Cost

: - Rs.6000/- (Online)

6. Available of bid documents in the :-

From 20I08/2026 to 5PM of OL/09/2026 website

7. Date of Opening of Bid :-

1IAM of 02/09/2026

8. The Bidders have to participate in ONLINE bidding only. Further details can be seen from the website https://tendersodisha.gov.in. Any addendum/ corrigendum/ cancellation of tender can also be seen in the said website.

Superitending Engineer
katak(R&B) Division No.I

OIPR-:34001/34012/1/26-27/0025

32001/687/2627

OFFICE OF THE EXECUTIVE ENGINEER
GROUND WATER DEVELOPMENT DIVISION-IHP BUILDING UNIT-8, DELTA SQUARE, BHUBANESWAR-751012 [Phone No.2561040(O), email:executiveengineerhpbbsr@gmail.com]

"e" Procurement Notice No953 of 2026-27 Dt-12.8.26
Bid Identification No. GWD DIV-1BBSR-08/26-27

Executive Engineer, GWD Division-I, Delta square, Unit- 8, Bhubaneswar on behalf of Hon'ble Governor of Odisha invites on-line percentage-rate tender through "e" Procurement in Single cover system for execution of the following work.

1. Name of work	: Civil Work
2. Name of the Work:	: Construction of 10nos of Recharge shafts under ARUA scheme in Bolagarh block ph-IV of Khordha district for the FY 2026-27.
3. Approximate amount put to tender	: Rs.16.55 Lakh
4. Period of Completion	: 2 (Two) Calendar Months
5. Class of Contractor	: "C" & "D" Class Contractor
6. Date & time of Availability of Bid document in the portal:	: Dt. 21.08.2026 at 11.00 AM to 01.09.2026 up to 11.00 AM
7. Last date & time of receipt of Bids in the Portal	: Dt. 01.09.2026 up to 11.00 AM
8. Date, time & place of opening of Technical/ Financial Bid/s	: - Dt. 01.09.2026 at 11.30 AM in o/o the EE GWD Divn-1
9. Name & address of the officer inviting Bid	OFFICE OF THE EXECUTIVE ENGINEER GROUND WATER DEVELOPMENT DIVISION-I HP ADMINISTRATIVE BUILDING UNIT-8, DELTA SQUARE. BHUBANESWAR-751012

Further details can be seen from the Govt. website www.tendersodisha.gov.in. Any addendum/corrigendum/cancellation of tender can also be seen in the said website.

Executive Engineer
GWD division

OIPR-:32001/32331/1/26-27/0002

Shah Rukh Khan, Ajay Devgn, Tiger Shroff receive FDA notices over pan masala-linked brand ad

The Maharashtra Food and Drug Administration (FDA) has issued notices to Bollywood actors Shah Rukh Khan, Ajay Devgn and Tiger Shroff over their advertisement for a chewing elaichi brand, saying it may violate provisions of the Food Safety and Standards Act, 2006 and its amended rules. The notices were issued on Friday (August 14), with the three actors being asked to explain their role in the advertisement and their association with the brand. According to the FDA, the advertisement could amount to indirect promotion of a brand linked with pan masala. The notices were sent to Devgn at his residence in Juhu, Khan at Mannat in Bandra and Shroff through his production house, Tiger Shroff Productions LLP. The action comes as the Maharashtra FDA has stepped up its checks against gutka and pan masala products containing tobacco or nicotine. According to the FDA, the advertisement creates an association with the a brand, which it said is mainly linked with pan masala. The regulator also referred to a Maharashtra government order that prohibits the manufacture, storage, transportation, distribution and sale of the product in the state for one year from the date specified in the order issued on July 13, 2026. The latest action is part of the FDA's wider enforcement drive across Maharashtra. The department has been carrying out inspections and seizures over several food safety issues, including adulterated milk, food served at restaurants, junk food sold in and around schools, and the manufacture and sale of banned gutka and tobacco-containing pan masala.



How To Make Amla Haldi Kanji, The Immunity-Boosting Detox Drink You Need This Winter

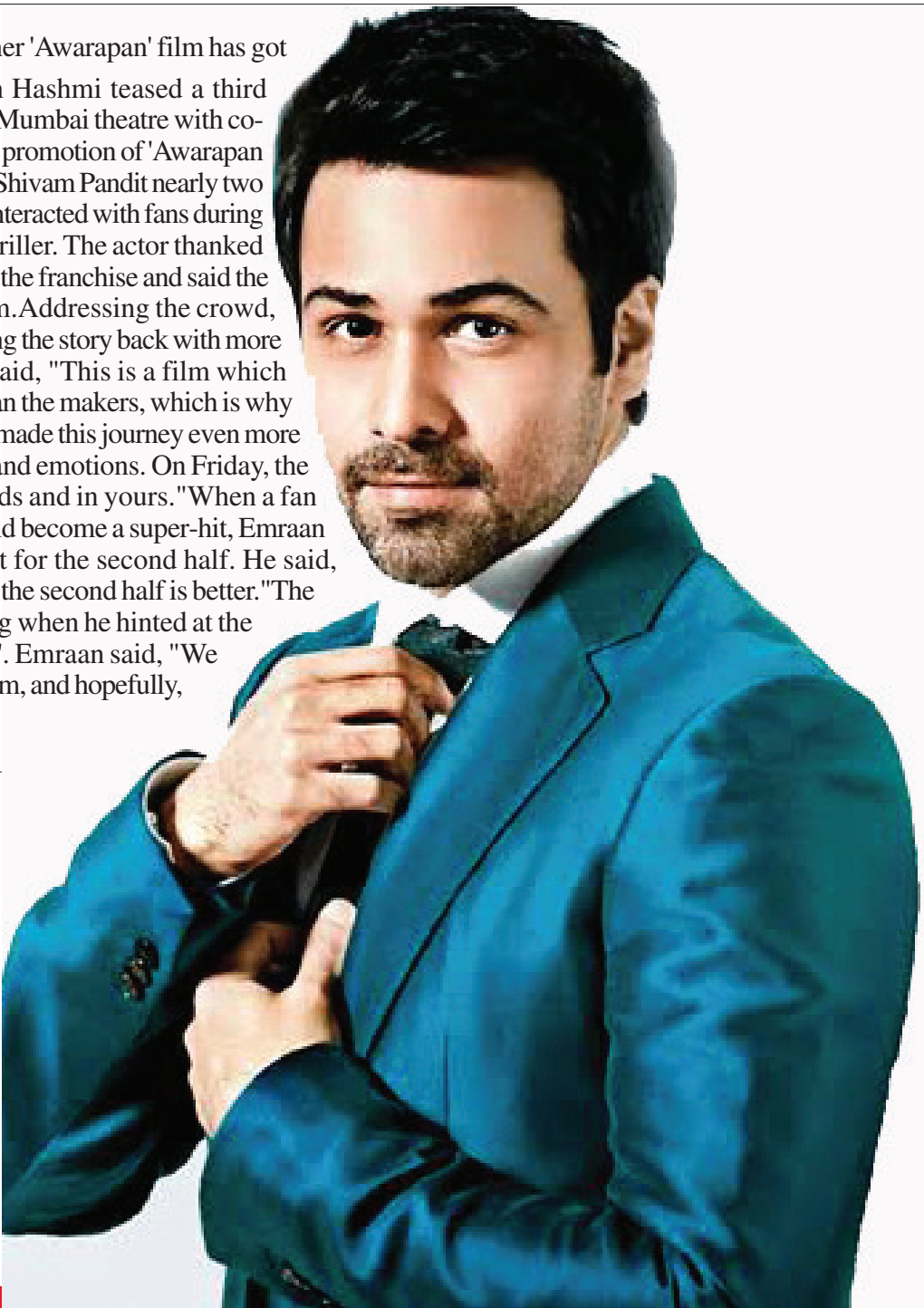


Amla Haldi Kanji brings together two ingredients that have long been valued for their healing properties, amla and kachi haldi benefits. The drink is inspired by the traditional winter kanji prepared in North Indian regions, where natural fermentation was used to make gut-friendly beverages. Research shows that Amla has deep roots in Ayurvedic history, often described as a fruit that supports vitality, Amla juice for hair, and immunity due to its naturally high Vitamin C content. Studies show that raw turmeric, or kachi haldi, is known for its earthy taste and strong association with detox and inflammation support. The fermentation process enhances the bioavailability of nutrients, allowing the body to absorb antioxidants more efficiently. This makes Amla Haldi Kanji useful during the winter months, when the body benefits from foods that strengthen immunity and digestion. The combination of amla juice benefits and turmeric for immunity creates a drink that aligns with seasonal needs without relying on complex preparation methods. Studies also highlight that regular intake of fermented foods supports gut bacteria, which play a key role in overall wellness. Different regions prepare kanji using varied ingredients, black carrots in Punjab, mustard seeds in Uttar Pradesh, and even beetroot in some modern adaptations. The amla-turmeric mix adds a newer dimension to this tradition, blending old techniques with ingredients that suit contemporary wellness habits. This version requires minimal steps and still retains the essence of a classic detox drink. Amla Haldi Kanji fits naturally into winter routines because of its cultural roots, easy preparation, and nutrient-rich profile. Its ability to bring together seasonal produce and traditional techniques makes it an appealing immunity booster for daily use. How To Make Amla-Turmeric Kanji, An Immunity-Boosting Probiotic Drink Amla Haldi Kanji blends fermented amla and raw turmeric, inspired by traditional North Indian

kanji made during winter. This amla–turmeric mix supports digestion, immunity, and detox, using a method rooted in age-old fermentation practices. The drink remains simple to prepare and aligns well with seasonal wellness needs. Ingredients (Serves 4–5) 1 cup chopped amla (Indian gooseberry) 2 tablespoons grated raw turmeric (kachi haldi) 4 cups water 1 teaspoon mustard seeds (crushed) 1 teaspoon black salt ½ teaspoon regular salt 1 tablespoon jaggery (optional) Instructions Add chopped amla and grated raw turmeric to a clean glass jar. Pour in water and mix well. Add crushed mustard seeds, black salt, and regular salt. Stir thoroughly to dissolve the salts. Cover the jar with a muslin cloth and secure with a rubber band. Leave the jar in sunlight for 2–3 days to ferment. Stir the mixture once daily. Taste after 48 hours; ferment longer if you prefer a stronger flavour. Strain the kanji and store it in the refrigerator. Serve chilled or at room temperature.



The possibility of another 'Awarapan' film has got fans excited after Emraan Hashmi teased a third instalment while visiting a Mumbai theatre with co-star Disha Patani during the promotion of 'Awarapan 2'. Emraan, who returned as Shivam Pandit nearly two decades after the first film, interacted with fans during the interval of the action thriller. The actor thanked the audience for supporting the franchise and said the film now belonged to them. Addressing the crowd, Emraan spoke about bringing the story back with more action and emotions. He said, "This is a film which belongs to the fans more than the makers, which is why we have returned. We have made this journey even more thrilling with more action and emotions. On Friday, the film will be out of our hands and in yours." When a fan predicted that the film would become a super-hit, Emraan asked the audience to wait for the second half. He said, "The movie is not over yet; the second half is better." The actor then left fans cheering when he hinted at the possibility of 'Awarapan 3'. Emraan said, "We hope you enjoy the entire film, and hopefully, Awarapan 3 very soon."



'Awarapan 3' on the way? Emraan Hashmi drops big hint

Nutritionist shares 5 foods and drinks to reduce chronic acidity:

Chronic acidity is a common issue many people face. Immediately after eating, some may experience a burning sensation in the chest or heaviness near the abdomen. It can be very uncomfortable and make even simple tasks a big challenge, disturbing daily activities. So you need to address the real root cause of acidity, and one of them is diet. Rectifying your diet and adding foods and drinks that soothe the stomach, improve digestion, and make a very big difference in managing acidity.

Why do you need to take care of acidity? Annie shared her observation based on her clinical experience, "Acidity is one of the most common complaints I see in the clinic, and contrary to what most people believe, it is rarely caused by 'too much acid.'" So you need to stop taking antacids as the go-to measure for chronic acidity and try to put things on your plate that actually support your digestion.

The nutritionist also pointed out that factors like poor digestion, low stomach acid, sluggish bile flow, stress, overeating or an H. pylori infection are some of the common triggers. This is where a diet which is 'targeted', as per Annie, helps to calm the stomach, improve motility, and reduce symptoms significantly. Other gut problems, like constipation, are associated with acidity.

5 foods and drinks that help control acidity

So to control acidity, you need to soothe the stomach and ease the inflammation that comes from a disrupted gut. Annie shared these foods and drinks that aid in curbing acidity:

1. Ginger water

A proven anti-inflammatory that soothes the stomach lining and improves motility. Frequency: 1–2 cups/day, especially after meals. 2. Coconut water Naturally alkaline and rich in electrolytes, it helps neutralise acid and reduce irritation. Frequency: 1 small glass/day, ideally mid-morning.

3. Aloe Vera juice / cabbage juice

Clinically shown to soothe gastritis and help repair the mucosal lining. Frequency for aloe juice: 30 ml diluted, once daily on an empty stomach. Frequency: Cabbage juice; as often as needed, contains bicarbonates, which soothe acidity gently 4. Oatmeal A gentle, soluble-fibre-rich breakfast that absorbs excess acid and stabilises digestion. Frequency: Once daily as breakfast or a light dinner, include lean protein and vegetables for a complete meal

5. Bananas

A natural antacid containing pectin, which helps move food smoothly through the digestive tract. Frequency: 1 banana/day, preferably as a mid-meal. But avoid if suffering from small intestinal bacterial overgrowth until treatment. When to seek help? The nutritionist revealed when to seek help, covering certain warning signs: Acidity daily or several times a week Persistent bloating or indigestion Burning despite antacids Nausea, burping, or unexplained fatigue According to the nutritionist, these could potentially point to suspected H. pylori infection. In the end, she reminded that acidity is treatable. But here's the catch, most of the time, people focus on neutralising the acid in the stomach by consuming antacids. But as per Annie, addressing the root cause is essential. And here the root cause is the entire digestive system.



Hockey World Cup: Indian Men Go Down Fighting 2-4 To England

Amstelveen: The Indian men's team suffered a 2-4 defeat against England in their second Pool D match of the FIH World Cup 2026 at the Wagener Hockey Stadium in Amstelveen on Monday. Nicholas Bandurak scored twice for England, while Stuart Rushmere and Henry Croft added one each as England overturned a 1-2 deficit to secure victory, which confirmed a top-two finish in the pool for Zachary Wallace's team. For India, captain Harmanpreet Singh converted a penalty corner, while Dilpreet Singh finished off a well-worked move in the second quarter. The contest began at a frantic pace before both sides settled into their

structures. India created the first clear opportunity in the seventh minute when Jarmanpreet Singh found himself with almost the entire goal in sight, five yards inside the circle, but his hurried effort went wide as goalkeeper Oliver Payne dived across. England earned a penalty corner in the 10th minute after a referral, but Manpreet Singh produced an excellent stick block to deny the flick. England broke the deadlock in the 14th minute. A brilliant aerial caught the Indian defence napping, leaving Mohith with a 2 vs 1 situation, and Bandurak finished clinically to make it 1-0. India responded almost immediately,



with Dilpreet testing Payne, but the England goalkeeper palmed the effort away. India drew level two minutes into the second quarter. After winning a penalty corner, Harmanpreet stepped up and unleashed a rocket of a

flick into the top-left corner, giving the goalkeeper no chance. England threatened again through Bandurak, who narrowly missed from close range, before India completed their comeback in the 25th minute to take the

lead. The goal came after Hardik Singh worked the ball along the baseline to Abhishek, who sent a bouncing pass towards the far post. Dilpreet was perfectly placed and needed only a simple touch to put

India 2-1 ahead. India entered half-time with the lead and had enjoyed the better attacking numbers, registering eight shots on goal compared to England's three. England, however, continued to build patiently after the interval, while India's defensive structure initially remained difficult to penetrate. The visitors found the equaliser in the 39th minute against the run of play. Following a long slap-push from the right, Rushmere got a half-touch with his reverse stick inside the circle, sending the ball past Mohith to make it 2-2. England then turned the game around. In the 43rd minute, another aerial ball allowed England to

enter India's 23-metre area, with Rushmere again involved in the build-up. Croft took a quick hit and beat Mohith to score his maiden World Cup goal and give England a 3-2 advantage. India pushed for a response in the final quarter. Jarmanpreet earned a penalty corner in the 47th minute, but Harmanpreet's attempt to find a deflection from an Indian stick was kept out by an alert Thomas Sorsby. Abhishek then went close with a tomahawk in the 50th minute, but the ball travelled across the face of goal. England sealed the result in the 55th minute. After India conceded a penalty corner following a goalmouth melee,

Bandurak stepped up and produced a superb low-flying flick to the left of goalkeeper Suraj Karkera, completing his brace and making it 4-2. Despite India's efforts to fight back, England's efficiency in the second half proved decisive as they converted their opportunities to claim all three points in Pool D. The win put England on top of the pool with six points from two wins in two matches, which means they have qualified for the next phase. India, with a win and a loss, are in second position and will play Pakistan in their last pool game, which is now a must-win fixture for Harmanpreet & Co to finish in the top two and remain in contention for a place in the semi-finals.

College Can Wait, Olympic Chance May Not Come Again: Anahat On Putting Harvard Plans On Hold

New Delhi: India's rising squash star Anahat Singh has put her plans for Harvard on hold to give herself the best possible chance of making history at the 2028 Los Angeles Olympics, with the 18-year-old acknowledging that the opportunity to compete at squash's Olympic debut may not come around again. Anahat, who recently became the first Indian to win the World Junior Squash Championship, said the decision to delay college was not easy, but the uniqueness of the Olympic opportunity ultimately made her choice relatively straightforward. "I mean, of course, it was a bit difficult, but I knew that this year was really important for me squash-wise. And, you know, I can go to college next year, but the chances of coming into the Olympics may not happen again," Anahat told IANS. "So I think just, I mean, thinking about it in that aspect, it wasn't that hard," she added. Squash will make its Olympic debut at the Los Angeles 2028 Games, and Anahat has already identified qualification as her immediate priority. The Indian teenager sees the upcoming Asian Games as her first major opportunity to move closer to that goal, while remaining aware that there are other qualification routes available. Despite already being spoken of as one of India's potential medal hopes for LA 2028, Anahat is keen to keep her focus on the qualification process rather than look too far ahead. "I'd say it's motivating."

‘At Home, World Championship Debut, World No. 1 — It’s A Special Win’, Says Ayush Shetty After Shi Yu Qi Win

New Delhi: India's Ayush Shetty described his stunning victory over world No. 1 Shi Yu Qi as the "top one" of his career, saying beating the defending champion on his World Championships debut at home made the achievement particularly special. "I would like it as the top one. At home, World Championship debut, world number one, I think it's a special win and I'm super happy today," Ayush said after producing one of the biggest upsets of the opening day. In the men's singles first-round match held at the Indira Gandhi Indoor Stadium on Monday, the 20-year-old Indian beat the top seed and defending champion Shi, winning the game 21-14, 13-21, 21-19, and thus



achieved his first win against the Chinese player in their four previous encounters. Although Ayush had lost all three of his earlier matches against Shi, including their most recent one in the final of the Badminton Asia

Championships, he did have a clear tactical plan and carried it out under heavy pressure. "Yeah, I think we analysed the matches well; tactically I was much better today. I think the last time we played, he outplayed me, but I was prepared

for the game, and I think I was super prepared and happy," he said. The Indian began strongly, securing a 3-0 lead and being ahead by 11 points at the interval. He kept up his intensity after the break and won the first game 21 to 14. In the second game, Shi

reacted by entering into a series of rapid exchanges with Ayush and ultimately secured the advantage to win 21-13, thereby forcing a final match. However, Ayush took the last game early on, moved ahead 6-3, extended his lead to 9-4 and had an impressive 11-5 advantage when the interval came. After the exchange of ends, it seemed that the Indian player had taken the lead with a score of 16-5. But the world No. 1 would not give in and managed to make a comeback as Ayush started to feel the pressure of securing his biggest victory yet. Ayush eventually took a lead of 20 to 15, but Shi managed to save four match points. The Indian at last controlled

himself to win the deciding point and thus achieved the upset. When asked what was going on in his mind as Shi took on his comeback, Ayush admitted that he had become desperate to complete the match. "Yeah, I think he was intriguing in his shots, but I think I was also a bit desperate to win it. I was a bit close to the finish line, and I think it was a bit of a mess-up on my side. Also, he's world number one; he's never going to give you easy points. And after 4-5 points, I took the risk in the end," he added. The Indian also had to deal with a medical issue during the contest, taking a medical timeout after suffering bleeding from his finger.

‘Asian Games Is The Most Important Tournament Of My Life’, Says Squash Champ Anahat Singh

New Delhi: Fresh from becoming the first Indian to win the World Junior Squash Championship, teenager Anahat Singh has already shifted her focus to the next major challenge, the 2026 Asian Games, which she describes as the "most important tournament" of her life, with Olympic qualification also at stake. The 18-year-old, who ended Egypt's long-standing dominance of the World Junior women's singles event with her historic triumph in Canada, is now preparing for the continental showpiece, where she will face a field packed with Asia's leading players. "I think it's just the most important tournament of my life coming up. So I'm just going to give it my all in the next few months,"



Anahat said at a felicitation event organised by the Squash Federation of India in partnership with HCL Squash. Squash will make its Olympic debut at Los Angeles in 2028, making the Asian Games an important opportunity for Anahat as she looks to put herself in contention for a place at the historic first Olympic squash competition. "Making it to the Olympics is every athlete's dream. And being the first squash player

ever to do it would be something that would make me the happiest in the world," she added. Anahat, currently ranked among the world's top 20, is under no illusion about the challenge awaiting her in the Asian Games. The field is expected to include several high-ranked players from Malaysia, Hong Kong and Japan, making the continental event a stern test for the young Indian. "There are a lot of other players from Malaysia, Hong Kong, and Japan, who are all

in the top 10 in the world, top 20 in the world, and they're also really big competitors," Anahat told IANS. Despite the high stakes and the quality of opposition, Anahat is keen to avoid getting caught up in the bigger picture. Instead, she wants to approach the competition one match at a time. "And I think just, you know, taking it match by match and, you know, I don't even know who I'm playing yet. So I think just focusing on, you know, who I'm going to be playing in the events and take it from there," she added. The Indian teenager also wants to use the remaining time to make the necessary improvements before the Asian Games. "If I'm able to train really hard for the next few months and, you know, really improve and play my best game in the Asian

Games, then it would be amazing. And this is, as we said, just the beginning," she said. Anahat has already experienced the Asian Games, having competed at the previous edition, and the memories from that campaign have given her another reason to look forward to returning to the continental event. "Going into the Asian Games, people would expect me to be really stressed out because of the high stakes going into the event. But I'm just looking forward to being there. Last time I played the Asian Games, I'd say they were the two best weeks of my life. I had so much fun, and it was just an amazing experience being at the village and getting to see so many of the top athletes," she said.

Badminton WC: Sindhu Makes Winning Start With Clinical Opening-Round Victory

New Delhi: Former winner PV Sindhu began her latest World Championships campaign emphatically, brushing aside Ireland's Sophia Noble 21-7, 21-11 in just 29 minutes in the 2026 edition at the Indira Gandhi Indoor Stadium on Monday to move into the women's singles Round of 32. The fifth-seeded Irish debutant, ranked 141st in the world, found herself under pressure almost immediately against the World No. 9. Sindhu, who raced through the opening exchanges and established an 8-0 advantage before Noble could settle into the contest. The gulf in experience was evident as the 31-year-old Sindhu, who won the World Championship in 2019 in Basel, controlled the rallies and kept the 21-year-old Irishwoman from building any sustained momentum. Noble eventually opened her

account, but the early damage had already put the opening game firmly in Sindhu's grasp, with the Indian closing it out 21-7. Noble returned for the second game with greater composure and managed to stay within striking distance through the first half. She went into the interval only three points behind the Indian, offering signs that the contest could become more competitive. Sindhu, however, quickly stamped her authority back on the game. The Indian shifted gears after the interval, winning 10 of the next 13 points to pull decisively away and leave Noble with no route back into the contest. The 31-year-old Indian, who won silver in 2016 and bronze in the 2020 editions of the Olympic Games, completed a straightforward 21-11 second-game win to wrap up her 10th World Championships

campaign with an assured opening performance. For Noble, the match marked her first appearance at the World Championships. Sindhu, by contrast, arrived with five medals from the event already on her résumé and the experience of having been a world champion. The Indian will now face a more demanding test in the Round of 32, where she will meet Canada's World No. 49 Wen Yu Zhang. Sindhu was one of three Indian winners on the opening day so far. Earlier, top women's doubles pair Treasa Jolly and Gayatri Gopichand also advanced in women's doubles after defeating Spain's Paula Lopez and Lucia Rodriguez 21-9, 21-13. The Indian pair will next face the 16th-seeded American combination of Lauren Lam and Allison Quynh Lee.

BemisALBharat: Vedanta Aluminium Marks India's 80th Independence Day, Celebrating a Nation in the Making

BHUBANESWAR, (correspondent): On the occasion of India's 80th Independence Day, Vedanta Aluminium, India's largest aluminium producer, celebrated the country's nation-building journey through its campaign #BemisALBharat – In the Making, highlighting how aluminium, technology, skills, and people are shaping a stronger, more self-reliant, and future-ready India. Built around the thought 'India in the Making, Turning Possibility into Reality,' the campaign draws a parallel between the transformation of alumina into aluminium and India's ongoing evolution into a globally competitive



manufacturing and economic powerhouse. At the heart of #BemisALBharat is a celebration of the people, ideas and innovations shaping India's future. Through stories of manufacturing excellence, skill development, livelihood and the growing participation of women, the campaign highlights the many forces driving the nation's progress. Speaking on

the occasion, Rajesh Kumar, CEO, Vedanta Aluminium, said, "India's growth story is being shaped by the ambition, talent and enterprise of its people. Through #BemisALBharat, we celebrate the ideas, innovations and collective effort that continue to propel the nation forward. As a foundational material for infrastructure, mobility, energy and manufacturing, aluminium

plays a vital role in enabling India's development. At Vedanta Aluminium, we are committed to helping build the foundations of a Viksit Bharat through responsible manufacturing, innovation and sustainable growth. The spirit of #BemisALBharat resonated across Vedanta Aluminium's operations in Jharsuguda, Lanjigarh, Bhawanipatna, Rayagada and BALCO, bringing together employees, students and neighbouring communities in a shared celebration of India's 80th Independence Day. At Lanjigarh, the occasion was marked by the inauguration and hoisting of a High-Mast National Flag by Mr. Pranab Kumar

Bhattacharyya, CEO, Alumina Business, VAML, followed by a ceremonial parade and the felicitation of exemplary workers and security personnel. The celebrations extended to DAV Vedanta International School, where students showcased patriotic and cultural performances in the presence of senior leadership, while the Har Ghar Tiranga initiative reached over 250 households across six neighbouring villages. In Bhawanipatna and Rayagada too, flag-hoisting ceremonies, cultural programmes and community engagements fostered a spirit of national pride and collective celebration.

Rangatulee-2026 Showcases Creativity of 500+ Young Artists from 100+ Schools in Bhubaneswar

Bhubaneswar, (correspondent): The Rotary Club of Bhubaneswar Meadows organised the fifth edition of its flagship inter-school art competition, Rangatulee-2026, at the Rail Auditorium, Chandrasekharpur, with participation from more than 500 students representing over 100 schools across Bhubaneswar. The competition brought together students from Classes V to X and was conducted in two categories. Students of Classes V to VII participated on the theme "Say No to Plastic Pollution", while students of Classes VIII to X explored "Digital India - My Smart Village." The inaugural



ceremony was attended by Smt. Aparajita Sarangi, Hon'ble Member of Parliament, Bhubaneswar, as the Chief Guest, while Rtn. Anil Kumar Samal, IAS (Retd.), District Governor, Rotary International District 3262, was present as the Special Guest. The young participants showcased their imagination and artistic talent through colourful artworks highlighting environmental responsibility, digital transformation and their vision for a better future. The themes

encouraged the students to understand contemporary issues and communicate their ideas creatively through art. The prize distribution ceremony was graced by Smt. Sulochana Das, Hon'ble Mayor, Bhubaneswar Municipal Corporation, as the Chief Guest, along with District Governor Rtn. Anil Kumar Samal, IAS (Retd.), as the Special Guest. Cash prizes totalling 1 lakh, along with certificates and mementos, were presented to the winners.

Recordent establishes dedicated credit registry for Section 8 MFIs

Bhubaneswar (correspondent): Recordent, a leading credit risk and collections platform, has rolled out a dedicated credit registry for Section 8 Microfinance Institutions (MFIs) to improve credit visibility and strengthen risk assessment. The MFI Credit Registry will enable participating institutions to share and access borrower loan data through a common platform, helping lenders improve underwriting, monitor borrower indebtedness and make more informed credit decisions. The initiative comes amid efforts to strengthen credit

information sharing and risk assessment across the microfinance ecosystem. According to the Microfinance Insights Report (February 2026) by Equifax—a leading global data and credit analytics company—the sector's portfolio outstanding stood at Rs 3.2 lakh crore across 10.5 crore active loans. Designed exclusively for the Not-for-Profit MFIs, the registry functions as a shared credit information infrastructure, allowing participating institutions to upload and access borrower data while combining it with bureau insights through a unified

credit report. The platform will address a key challenge around credit visibility for Section 8 MFIs by enabling lenders to gain a comprehensive view of borrower exposure and repayment behaviour. It will provide a more accurate borrower profile by consolidating repayment histories across participating MFIs through shared access to credit history data. The registry has been developed using the architecture of Recordent's existing B2B credit registry platform in discussion with Sa-Dhan, the RBI-appointed self-regulatory body for MFI's.

UAIL Organises Mega Blood Donation Camp, Collects 235 Units of Blood

Rayagada, (correspondent): Utkal Alumina International Ltd. (UAIL), a subsidiary of Hindalco Industries under the Aditya Birla Group, organised a mega blood donation camp through its CSR Department at the Nuapada Township Club House in collaboration with the District Headquarters Hospital, Rayagada, to mark the 80th Independence Day. With the noble objective of spreading the message that "Blood Donation is a Great Donation," the camp witnessed enthusiastic participation from members of the local



community and company employees. A total of 235 units of blood were collected

during the camp. The camp was formally inaugurated by UAIL Unit Head Mr. Rabi

Narayan Mishra. Members of the senior management team, CSR Head Ms. Lopamudra Mishra, Plant CSR Department Head Mr. Diganta Mohanty, and other members of the CSR team were present on the occasion. CMO of Utkal Hospital Dr. Ranjan Kumar Lenka, Dr. Rajendra Mandal, and AVP, Refinery Engineering, Mr. Girija Panda were also present and monitored the proceedings of the blood donation camp. CSR team members Mr. Sudhir Kumar Nayak, Mr. Rupen Patnaik, Mr.

Soumya Ranjan Swain, Mr. Gajendra Naik, Ms. Satyabhama Nayak, Mr. Kartikeswar Sahoo, Ms. Mohini Naik, Mr. Gouri Sankar, Ms. Sasmita, Mr. Kamdev, Mr. Badal, Ms. Liza, Ms. Hemalata, Ms. Nirupama, and Ms. Devi played an active role in ensuring the smooth and successful conduct of the camp. The initiative reflected UAIL's continued commitment to community welfare, social responsibility and humanitarian causes, while encouraging greater awareness and participation in voluntary blood donation.

AM/NS India observed Independence Day with patriotic fervour across Odisha locations

Bhubaneswar, (correspondent): ArcelorMittal Nippon Steel India (AM/NS India) commemorated the 80th Independence Day with pride and enthusiasm across its Odisha operations. At the Paradeep Pellet Plant, Shri U.S.R. Raju, Head-Odisha Operations, AM/NS India, unfurled the National Flag in the presence of employees and villagers. The celebrations highlighted India's unity and integrity through cultural performances by girls from neighbouring villages and security staff. The event also included the felicitation of community members and an award ceremony honouring employees and security personnel for their exemplary service. In his address, Shri USR Raju, Head-Odisha Operations, AM/NS India, said, "Our Nation's destiny is shaped by the collective spirit of unity, resilience, and innovation. Let us move forward with determination, honouring



our heritage and creating a future filled with promise for generations to come." At AM/NS India's Beneficiation Plant in Dabuna, Keonjhar, Shri Jaiwardhan Paroha, Plant Head, Beneficiation Plant, Dabuna, AM/NS India joined as Chief Guest and led the celebrations. Commencing with the flag hoisting, the event witnessed a parade by the security personnel, floral tribute to the Amar Jawans followed by march Past by participating teams. In the Ghoraburhani Sagasahi mine of AM/NS India, Shri Satyakam Dash, Mines Manager, AM/NS

India hoisted the tricolour flag in the presence of Shri Ratnesh Prasad, Head- Project, AM/NS India along with Shri Manoj Kumar, General Manager, Thriveni Earthmovers and other employees and partners. At AM/NS India's Thakurani Mine, Shri Indrakant Saha, Mines Manager, hoisted the national flag in the presence of employees and Mines Developers & Operator [MDO] followed by an award ceremony for security personnel. The CSR team supported sixteen schools and Twenty-six Anganwadi centres in Paradeep in celebrating

Independence Day. A series of events such as essay writing, debate, and drawing competitions were organised in the community to mark the occasion. In a ceremony held at Maa Ambika High School, prizes were awarded to the winners of the various competitions. At Dabuna, the CSR team celebrated with students of Indira Smruti Bidyapitha School, Govt Primary School and Shree Guptheswar High School engaging more than 150 students in the joint celebrations. AM/NS India supported schools and Anganwadi centres near Thakurani and Sagasahi mines in

celebrating Independence Day. In Sagasahi, the CSR team extended its support to the Mahakal Youth Club, Kalmang, by assisting in the grand Independence Day celebration. The event featured various competitions for students, including song, debate, dance, and drawing. Prizes were distributed to the winners in recognition of their enthusiasm, creativity and talent. AM/NS India supported ten schools, eight Anganwadi centres, and Gram Panchayats in these areas by, awarding prizes, providing sweets, demonstrating its ongoing commitment to the local community and Nation building.

Kendrapada Collector Flags Off TPCODL's Solar Rath to Promote PM Surya Ghar: Muft Bijli Yojana

Kendrapada, (correspondent): TP Central Odisha Distribution Limited (TPCODL), a joint venture of Tata Power and the Government of Odisha, today flagged off its Solar Rath from the Office of the District Collector, Kendrapada, to promote awareness and adoption of rooftop solar under the PM Surya Ghar: Muft Bijli Yojana. The Solar Rath was flagged off by Sri Raghuram R. Iyer, IAS, Collector, Kendrapada, in the presence of senior TPCODL officials. It will travel across Model Solar Villages and other villages in the district, educating consumers on rooftop solar, government subsidies, eligibility and the installation process. The Solar Sanga team will also engage with consumers and address their queries. Earlier, a District Level Committee



(DLC) meeting chaired by the Collector selected 10 villages for the Model Solar Village Competition under the PM Surya Ghar scheme. The villages will compete to achieve the highest number of rooftop solar installations within 90 days, with the winning village eligible for Central Financial Assistance of ₹1 crore as a Renewable Energy Development Grant. Speaking on the occasion, Sri Raghuram R. Iyer, IAS, Collector, Kendrapada, said, "The

Solar Rath will take awareness about rooftop solar directly to the people and help more households benefit from the PM Surya Ghar: Muft Bijli Yojana. Such initiatives will promote renewable energy and sustainable development in the district. "Through initiatives such as 'Mo Chhata, Mo Sanchaya', Gram Sabhas and Solar Rath, TPCODL continues to strengthen awareness and make clean, affordable solar energy more accessible to consumers.