



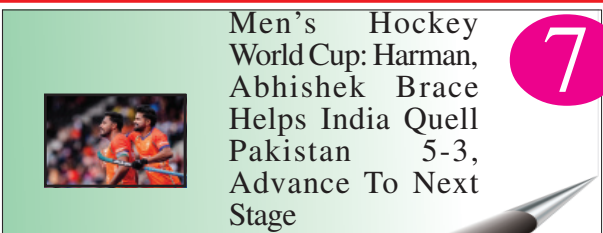
Congress Flags Key National Issues, Announces Nationwide Student Outreach

2



Six people in court for battery theft

3



Men's Hockey World Cup: Harman, Abhishek Brace Helps India Quell Pakistan 5-3, Advance To Next Stage

7



Tandoori Chicken

6

Odisha Electoral Roll Revision: Claims, Objections Deadline Ends; Final Roll On September 21

Bhubaneswar (correspondent):: The special intensive revision of the electoral rolls in Odisha has entered its final stage, with the deadline for filing claims and objections ending on Wednesday, while the process of deciding the pending cases and completing the notice stage is scheduled to conclude by September 17. According to the office of the Chief Electoral Officer, the final electoral roll will be published on September 21 after completion of hearings, verification and disposal of all claims and objections. As part of the revision exercise, notices have so far been issued to 58,36,430 voters, of which 58,36,374 notices have been successfully served. Hearings of voters who received notices have been

completed in a large number of cases, with 54,21,872 voters retained in the electoral roll following the process. At present, 3,09,71,941 eligible voters have been considered for inclusion in the final electoral roll. As the hearing and verification process is still underway, the number is likely to increase after the remaining cases are disposed of, the CEO's office said. Names of voters who fail to furnish valid documents or provide correct information during the verification process will be deleted from the electoral roll, officials said. The revision exercise has also witnessed significant participation from eligible new voters and young citizens. A total of 2,79,315 applications have been received through Form-6 for

inclusion of names in the electoral roll. Another 53,625 applications have been submitted through Form-7 for deletion of duplicate entries, including cases where a voter is registered at more than one place, as well as for removal of names of deceased persons. For correction of details such as name, address and age, and for requests to keep members of the same family attached to a common polling station, 1,97,952 applications have been received through Form-8. The detailed verification of applications and notices is continuing at the level of Assistant Electoral Registration Officers. Chief Electoral Officer R. S. Gopalan has directed officials to ensure that no eligible citizen is left out of the electoral roll while preventing the retention of ineligible names.

CM Majhi Reviews SCB Redevelopment, Directs Speedy Completion Of Clinical Blocks And MLCP

BHUBANESWAR, (correspondent): Chief Minister Mohan Charan Majhi on Monday reviewed the ongoing mega redevelopment project of SCB Medical College and Hospital in Cuttack aimed at transforming it into a world-class healthcare center through upgradation and infrastructure development. In the meeting it was informed that the construction of four new clinical blocks and one residential block in the SCB Medical Complex is progressing at a rapid pace. While the residential block is almost complete, officials said the clinical blocks are scheduled to be completed by June next year. The Chief Minister directed that another Medicine block



should also be constructed and asked the concerned department to identify a suitable site and submit a proposal at the earliest.

The progress of the Multi-Level Car Parking facility being built in the first phase and related infrastructure development works of the hospital were also discussed in detail. The

CM said the main objective of the parking facility is to ease movement and parking for patients, their relatives and doctors visiting the medical campus. He directed that construction of the new infrastructure for clinical blocks be expedited to ensure modern medical services for thousands of patients visiting SCB. He further instructed

that the areas on both sides of the Taladanda Canal adjacent to the hospital should be developed with wide roads and beautification to create a pleasant environment. The Chief Minister asked departmental officers to complete the MLCP and the Taladanda Canal connected traffic corridor under the first phase within the

stipulated time frame while maintaining quality.

Officials informed that the parking system under the project will help alleviate traffic problems for patients and attendants visiting SCB and the nearby Acharya Harihar Cancer Institute. The integrated development and beautification work of Bose Engineering School, Biju Patnaik Film and Television Institute and Odisha State Maritime Museum, which are located adjacent to the medical college, have also been coordinated with the project. The meeting also reviewed the development of Hanuman Vatika, a well-known religious and tourist destination in Rourkela, and the transformation of its surrounding areas.

400 Cabs, Autos Identified In Bhubaneswar Violence, Permit Cancellation Process Begins

Bhubaneswar (correspondent):: The Odisha Transport Department has initiated action against around 400 app-based cabs and auto-rickshaws allegedly identified in connection with violence and damage to public property during recent disturbances in Bhubaneswar, a senior official said on Wednesday. Additional Transport Commissioner Samarendra Patnaik said the department has begun the process of cancelling the permits of vehicles found to have been involved in the incidents. The department is also examining the possibility of cancelling the registration certificates



(RCs) of the vehicles concerned. Officials are considering measures to prevent such vehicles from operating anywhere in Odisha in the future, Patnaik said. Action is also being contemplated against the driving licences of

drivers allegedly involved in the disturbances. Patnaik said the department would proceed with cancellation of the licences if the required approval is granted. The transport department's action comes amid a

wider crackdown on those allegedly involved in creating disorder, attacking police personnel and vandalising public property in the state capital. Meanwhile, the Comprehensive Region Urban Transport (CRUT) said more than

15 Ama Buses were reportedly vandalised during the violence. Several buses suffered damage to their glass panels, including windshields, along with other parts. CRUT estimated the cost of repairing the damaged buses at around Rs 10 lakh and condemned the vandalism of public transport vehicles. The agency said damage to public transport infrastructure causes financial loss to public property and also disrupts the mobility and convenience of commuters. CRUT has urged the Odisha Police to take necessary action against those responsible for the vandalism.

SC Reprimands Odisha Govt Over Delay In Dara Singh Remission Plea

Bhubaneswar (correspondent): The Supreme Court has reprimanded the Odisha government for not taking a decision on the remission plea of Ravindra Pal alias Dara Singh, who is serving life sentence for the murder of Australian missionary Graham Stuart Staines and his two minor sons in 1999. As per reports, Singh has sought release on the grounds of having spent nearly 26 years in jail. The court gave the Sentence Review Board a final opportunity and adjourned the matter to September 2. The Board has not yet taken a decision, and the court has adjourned the hearing several times earlier. It noted that the



matter has been adjourned time and again to enable the authority to take a decision on the plea of remission of sentence given to Singh, who has been incarcerated for a period exceeding 26 years. The bench observed that when the matter was adjourned on July 14, the State Sentence Review Board was in the process of taking a decision on

Singh's plea. It said the counsel representing the state has now placed before it a letter of the Directorate of Prisons and Correctional Services addressed to the lawyer and stating that a report from the Keonjhar district jail is yet to be received. While posting the matter for September 2, the bench said the board should take a decision and apprise the court.

New Multi-Tracking Projects To Boost Rail Infrastructure Across 4 States: PM Modi

New Delhi: Prime Minister Narendra Modi said on Wednesday that four multi-tracking projects that have been approved by the Cabinet will provide a major boost to railway infrastructure and connectivity across Andhra Pradesh, Odisha, Tamil Nadu and West Bengal. These projects will have many benefits, like strengthening passenger and freight movement, reducing congestion and greater logistics efficiency. The better connectivity will also facilitate commerce and tourism in these states, PM Modi said in a post on X. The multi-tracking projects will add important capacity to the Indian Railways network and benefit lakhs of people, he added. The projects,

which entail a total investment of Rs 9,450 crore, will be completed by 2030-31. The projects include the Kharagpur – Bhadrak (Ranital) 4th Line across a stretch of 173 km covering West Bengal and Odisha; the second project is a 4th line from Bhadrak to Haridaspur across 75 km in Odisha, while the third is the Gummidipundi – Gudur 3rd and 4th line extending across a distance of 90 km in Andhra Pradesh and Tamil Nadu. The fourth project is the Cuttack to Paradeep (Badabandha) 3rd and 4th lines to cover a 72 km route in Odisha. The projects are in line with the Prime Minister's vision of a New India, which will make people of the region "Atmanirbhar"

by way of comprehensive development in the area, which will enhance employment opportunities, a statement said. The projects are planned on the PM-Gati Shakti National Master Plan with a focus on enhancing multi-modal connectivity and logistics efficiency through integrated planning and stakeholder consultations. These projects will provide seamless connectivity for movement of people, goods and services. The four projects covering eight districts across West Bengal, Odisha, Tamil Nadu and Andhra Pradesh will increase the existing network of Indian Railways by about 410 kms. The proposed multi-tracking projects will enhance connectivity to

approximately 6,448 villages with a population of about 60 lakhs. The proposed capacity enhancement will improve rail connectivity to several prominent tourist destinations across the country, including Kuldiha Wildlife Sanctuary, Bhitarkanika National Park, Maa Bhadrakali temple, Maa Dhamarai temple, Panchalingeswar Temple, Talsari-Udaypur and Chandipur Beach, Pulicat Lake, Nelapattu Bird Sanctuary, Lord Veeraraghava Perumal Temple, Gada Kujanga Jagannath Temple, Sarala Temple, Dhableswar Temple and Lalitgiri, a Buddhist site. The proposed projects are essential routes for transportation of commodities such as coal, iron ore, cement, iron and steel, containers, automobiles and food grains.

Nine Killed As Massive Fire Breaks Out At Hotel In Kolkata

Kolkata: At least nine persons, including a child and a woman, were killed as a major fire broke out at a hotel on Mirza Ghalib Street in central Kolkata early Wednesday morning. After the fire broke out, the fire tenders from the fire services department station, which is located near the hotel on the same street, rushed to the spot and brought out the nine bodies from the hotel. A major part of the hotel building was largely affected by the fire by then. The deceased include a woman and a child, confirmed a fire services department official present at the spot. Six other persons have been shifted to a nearby hospital. Their condition is reported to be serious. Besides the personnel from the state fire services department, the cops from the local New Market Police Station and the personnel from the state disaster management team reached the spot after receiving the information.

FULL SCALE ON-SITE EMERGENCY MOCK DRILL CONDUCTED AT IFFCO PARADEEP UNIT

Dr Ashutosh Parida to Receive 47th Sarala Puraskar for 'Bishwas De Pruthwi'

Paradeep, (correspondent): As per the directive of the District Administration, Jagatsinghpur, and the schedule issued by the District Crisis Group (DCG), IFFCO Paradeep Unit conducted a Full-Scale On-Site Emergency Mock Drill today, based on the simulated scenario of liquid ammonia leakage from an 8-inch transfer pipeline connecting the NH? storage area to the DAP Plant. The exercise commenced with a pre-mock drill briefing, during which the emergency scenario, response

mechanism and responsibilities of various departments and participating agencies were explained in detail. During the simulated emergency, the IFFCO Fire & Safety Department evacuated the affected area and initiated necessary precautionary measures. The leakage was brought under control through water spraying and the creation of a water curtain around the simulated leakage point. Fire & Safety, Medical, Maintenance, Production and other concerned personnel responded promptly and

demonstrated coordinated emergency-handling capabilities. The mock drill also witnessed an effective demonstration of the Mutual Aid Scheme, with fire tenders and emergency response teams from IOCL Refinery, PPL, CISF Fire Wing, Paradip Port Authority, AM/NS reaching the IFFCO incident site to assist in controlling the simulated emergency. Chief Guest Shri Niranjan Behera, Additional District Magistrate, Paradip, appreciated the successful conduct of the

mock drill and emphasized the importance of active participation of all DCG members in such exercises for mutual learning and strengthening emergency preparedness. He also stressed the need to create greater awareness among township residents and nearby communities regarding industrial emergency preparedness. Shri C. S. Behera, Assistant Director, Factories & Boilers, Paradeep Zone, advised that regular emergency-awareness training should be

provided to contract agencies and their personnel so that they are adequately prepared to respond during emergencies. He also emphasized the scope for AI-based monitoring of emergency equipment and vehicles to facilitate faster response during critical situations. Shri Brijendra Kumar, Additional Assistant Director, Dock Safety, Paradip, highlighted the importance of training local communities and creating awareness regarding ammonia safety and appropriate emergency-response measures.

Bhubaneswar, (correspondent): The prestigious 'Sarala Puraskar', given annually by the Indian Metals Public Charitable Trust (IMPACT), the charitable arm of Indian Metals & Ferro Alloys Ltd (IMFA), for the best literary achievement, will be presented this year to noted Odia poet, essayist, and former scientist at CSIR-IMMT, Dr Ashutosh Parida for his poetry collection 'Bishwas De Pruthwi', published by Prabha Publication in year 2024. The award ceremony will take place in Bhubaneswar on

October 25, wherein the writer will be presented with a citation, copper plaque and award amount of Rupees Seven Lakhs. Seven books that made it to the final round of judging were 'Aparna Mohanty ka Payeen Kabita' by Aparna Mohanty, 'Dahana Pada Bama Pada' by Padmaja Pal, 'Bishwas dey Pruthi' by Ashutosh Parida, 'Sita' by Archana Nayak, 'Mayabarta' by Bijay Nayak, 'Mokhya Mudra' by Prakash Mahapatra and 'Kabi ka Naam Bedbyash' by Ramesh Prasad Panigrahi. The selections for 2026 span a rich range of literary

forms - poetry (Kabita), stories (Galpa), novels (Upanyasa), short stories (Khyudra Galpa), and drama (Natak) reflecting the diversity and depth of this year's literary offerings. The Book Shortlisting committee comprised of Dr Indira Dash, Mrs. Pratiksha Jena, Shri Amiya Bej, Shri Pradip Kumar Panda and Shri Abhay Nayak; while the esteemed panel of Jury comprised of Dr Sucheta Mishra, Dr Hrushikesh Mallick, Shri Sangram Jena, Mrs Swapna Mishra, Prof. Dr. Natabar Satapathy, Dr. Sarojini Sahoo and Shri Ajay Kumar Mohapatra.

Two held in bike-stealing case, 3 stolen bikes recovered

JAGATSINGHPUR (correspondent). Two persons were arrested in connection with a bike-theft case, and three more stolen motorbikes were seized from their possession during a police raid, informed Jagatsinghpur SP Ankit Kumar Verma at a press conference held on Wednesday. The alleged bike lifter was identified as Biswajit Swain, a resident of Talapada village under Tirtol area, and one Ranjan Behera, who hails from Aruaha village under Dhamrasala police limits in Jajpur district, who had purchased the stolen bike from lifter Biswajit Swain. The police investigation was begun based on a complaint filed by one Pradeep Kumar Khatua, a resident of Balikuda area, following his Hero Honda bike was stolen from the district headquarters hospital premises on August 10, 2026.

Potato and Onion Prices Rise in Rourkela Retail Market

Rourkela (correspondent): Prices of potatoes and onions have increased in Rourkela's retail market, putting pressure on household budgets. Potatoes are currently being sold at around ?16 to ?20 per kg in retail markets, while onions are priced at ?45 to ?50 per kg. In the wholesale market, onion prices are reportedly ranging between ?35 and ?42 per kg. Amid the price rise, the Supply Department conducted inspections at retail shops in the Daily Market and Traffic Gate areas of Rourkela on Wednesday to monitor prices and prevent unreasonable hikes. Officials checked the retail outlets and cautioned traders against charging excessively high prices for potatoes and onions. Shopkeepers were directed to keep retail prices stable and under control and ensure that consumers are not overcharged. The inspection comes as part of efforts by the authorities to keep essential commodity prices in check and provide relief to consumers.

From Classroom Observation to Academic Review

Ranpur, (correspondent): An academic team comprising Ramesh Chandra, Academic Manager, Language and Learning Foundation (LLF), India; Kattik Chandra Schoo, State Manager, Odisha, LLF; Tanmyee Das, Central Square Foundation; Manas Kumar Sahoo, Teacher Trainer, DIET Nayagarh; and ABEO Laxmi Dei visited Pampada Primary School to monitor the teaching-learning process. During the visit, the team observed the FLN classroom teaching-learning process, implementation of Shikshan Sopan, classroom practices and student assessment. The team also interacted with students to assess their learning levels and participation. A review meeting was subsequently held with CRCC Susil Kumar Rana, Headmistress Madhuchhanda Mohanty, Senior Teacher Ajay Kumar Sahoo and Bhagabat Jena. The team reviewed various academic activities and appreciated the efforts of the school, giving positive remarks on the teaching-learning process and FLN implementation. Later, the team visited DIET, Nayagarh, Rajsunakhala, where a review meeting was held with DIET Principal Bijay Kumar Tripathy, Senior Teacher Trainer Manoranjan Das and 20 Senior Teachers. Discussions focused on FLN implementation, teaching-learning practices, student assessment and strengthening academic support for teachers. The visit and review programme provided valuable academic feedback and guidance for further strengthening Foundational Literacy and Numeracy (FLN) and improving learning outcomes among students.

Congress Flags Key National Issues, Announces Nationwide Student Outreach

New Delhi: The Congress Working Committee (CWC) on Wednesday discussed several major national issues, including students' unrest over paper leaks, alleged theft of donations at the Ram Temple in Ayodhya, alleged Chinese incursions, delimitation and the "shuddhikaran" of a venue in Haldwani where Congress President Mallikarjun Kharge had addressed a public meeting.

The four-hour CWC meeting in New Delhi was attended by 88 members, including Congress Parliamentary Party Chairperson Sonia Gandhi, Congress President Mallikarjun Kharge, Leader of Opposition in Lok Sabha Rahul Gandhi and four Congress Chief Ministers. Briefing the media, Congress General Secretary



(Organisation) KC Venugopal, party's General Secretary Jairam Ramesh and party's Media and Publicity Chairman Pawan Khara outlined the key decisions. Vande Mataram issue was also discussed. Jairam Ramesh said the Congress remained committed to the 1937 CWC resolution limiting the singing of "Vande Mataram" to its first two stanzas. The CWC expressed concern over students' protests

against repeated examination paper leaks and problems in the education system. It praised Rahul Gandhi's student outreach initiatives, including the "Chhatron ki Goonj" programme. The party decided to organise such programmes in 800 cities across the country, with Rahul Gandhi expected to participate in several of them. Congress Chief Ministers were also asked to prepare education and

examination reform blueprints within a month after consulting students and other stakeholders. The CWC also decided to intensify protests over what the Congress described as "Chanda Chori" at the Ram Mandir in Ayodhya. State Congress units have been directed to take the campaign to the village level. On national security, the CWC expressed concern over alleged Chinese incursions in Arunachal

Pradesh and developments in Ladakh. Jairam Ramesh accused the Union government of pursuing a failed foreign policy and alleged repeated compromises with the US and China. On delimitation, the Congress reiterated its demand to freeze the number of Lok Sabha seats at 543 for the next 25 years, while providing 33 per cent reservation for women within the existing strength. The CWC strongly condemned the "shuddhikaran" of the Haldwani venue following Kharge's speech and demanded an apology from Prime Minister Narendra Modi. It also reviewed the ongoing "Sangathan Srijan Abhiyan", which aims to strengthen the party organisation from booth to state level by October 31.

Delhi Court Sends AAP's Satyendar Jain To Judicial Custody

New Delhi: A Delhi court on Wednesday sent Aam Aadmi Party (AAP) leader and former Delhi Minister Satyendar Jain to judicial custody in a case pertaining to alleged irregularities in the Delhi Jal Board (DJB). Jain and former Delhi Jal Board (DJB) CEO Udit Prakash Rai, an IAS officer, were among six people arrested by the Delhi government's Anti-Corruption Branch (ACB) on Tuesday in connection with an alleged corruption and tender-manipulation case involving the augmentation and upgradation of sewage treatment plants (STPs) of the Delhi Jal Board.

The other four accused arrested in the case are Ankit Srivastava, a former contractual consultant with the DJB; Nagendra Yadav, proprietor of M/s AN Enterprises; Raja Kumar Kurra, owner of M/s Euroteck Environment Private Limited; and Pankaj Verma, proprietor of M/s Srijanhar.

MP: Scindia Ensures Bina-Ruthiyai MEMU Departs After Indore-Kota Express

Guna: The Bina Ruthiyai MEMU train will depart from Ruthiyai at 8:30 pm from August 20, providing an onward rail connection to passengers arriving by the Indore Kota Express, according to a railway notification issued on Wednesday. The Indore Kota Express reaches Ruthiyai at around 8:20 pm. The revised timing will allow passengers to board the MEMU for onward travel towards Guna, Ashoknagar, Mungaoli, Bina and adjoining areas. The development followed intervention by Union Minister Jyotiraditya Scindia after the Railways' revised MEMU timing, decided on August 11, was not being implemented.

Tejashwi Yadav Released After Detention In Patna, Vows To Continue Agitation

Patna: Rashtriya Janata Dal (RJD) National Working President and Bihar Leader of Opposition Tejashwi Yadav was released from the Secretariat police station after being detained during the party's Raj Bhavan march in Patna on Wednesday. Speaking to the media after his release, Tejashwi said the RJD's agitation would continue until the Chief Minister Samrat Choudhary accepted responsibility for the situation and strict action was taken against

those responsible. He said the RJD would continue fighting for justice for students, accountability in the Siwan firing case and resolution of unemployment-related concerns. He accused the Bihar government and administration of attempting to suppress the voice of young people, asserting that the RJD would continue raising students' issues both on the streets and inside the Bihar Assembly. The march had been organised primarily over the

alleged use of an AK-47 during student protests in Siwan, along with concerns over examination irregularities, unemployment and recruitment. The police Constable accused of firing the weapon was suspended, while Siwan Superintendent of Police Puran Kumar Jha was transferred on August 18. During Wednesday's march, protesters crossed barricades at Dakbungalow Crossing before being stopped near the Income Tax Roundabout.

ECI Extends Key Deadlines For Maharashtra SIR; Final List To Be Out On Nov 4

Mumbai: The Election Commission of India (ECI) on Wednesday revised the schedule for the Special Intensive Revision (SIR) of electoral rolls in Maharashtra, pushing the publication of the final electoral roll by nearly a month to November 4 from October 7. The poll panel, in an order dated August 19, said the revised schedule was issued after considering a request from the Maharashtra Chief Electoral Officer. Under the new schedule, rationalisation and re-arrangement of polling stations will be completed by August 24, while the draft electoral roll will be published on August 31. The ECI's decision is important as Congress and NCP (SP) had demanded more time to avoid the exclusion of voters in a big way. The document collection

process in Maharashtra ended on August 17. The exercise involved house-to-house visits by Booth Level Officers (BLOs) and collection of enumeration forms from electors. The process had earlier been extended, with the Election Commission allowing additional time for completion of the exercise. The revised schedule now provides voters with a period from August 31 to September 30 to file claims and objections against the draft electoral roll. This is 26 days later than the earlier schedule, under which the draft was to be published on August 5, and claims and objections could be filed until September 4. The notice phase and disposal of claims and objections will also run from August 31 to October 29. Under the original schedule, this process was

to be carried out from August 5 to October 3. The final electoral roll will be published on November 4, according to the revised schedule. The earlier deadline was October 7, meaning the final publication has been pushed back by 28 days. The revised dates also defer the rationalisation of polling stations. It was originally scheduled to be completed by July 29 but will now be completed by August 24. The original SIR schedule had provided for preparation, training and printing from June 20 to June 29, followed by house-to-house visits by BLOs from June 30 to July 29. These stages have now been completed, with the document collection process concluding on August 17. The ECI said all concerned officials and officers should be

informed about the revised schedule and that it should be widely publicised through all available media. Political parties are also to be informed about the modified schedule in writing. The SIR is being undertaken with October 1 this year as the qualifying date for Maharashtra. The ECI's statement on revised schedule comes a day after the Office of the Chief Electoral Officer (CEO), Maharashtra, announced on Tuesday that approximately 2.07 crore voters—representing 21.15% of the state's total electorate—are set to be excluded from the upcoming Draft Electoral Roll following the completion of the major first phase of the Special Intensive Revision (SIR) 2026 on August 17.

MAOIST LEADER AZAD FREED AFTER 14 YEARS

Paralakhemundi:(Correspondent):- Top Maoist leader Azad was released from Jharpada Jail in Bhubaneswar after nearly 14 years in custody following his acquittal in the last case pending against him. The Paralakhemundi Special Court on Tuesday acquitted Azad in the 2008 Swami Laxmananda Saraswati case, citing lack of sufficient evidence. Additional District and Sessions Judge and Special Court Judge Satyanarayan Patra, after examining the evidence and testimonies, observed that the prosecution had failed to establish Azad's involvement beyond reasonable doubt.

The court also held that a conviction cannot be based merely on suspicion. Since the case was the last one pending against Azad, he was released from Jharpada Jail following the court's order.

Senior advocate Swarup Kumar Pal of Paralakhemundi represented Azad in the case



KALAHANDI DISTRICT PLANNING COMMITTEE ALLOCATED RS 4319 CRORE BUDGET FOR FY 26-27

Bhabanipatna (Correspondent) Popularly known as underdeveloped district of Odisha's Kalahandi has set to paddle for progress with the expected financial capacity around Rs 4319 crore rupees for financial year 2026-27, that budget was approved in the meeting, chaired by the chairperson of District Planning Committee (DPC) the debut MLA Sudhir Ranjan Pattajoshi. On the tabled budget of DPMU Joint-Director Shrikanti Dalei with an allocation Rs 4319 crore for 2026-27 FY, chairing, the first planning committee meet MLA Shri Pattajoshi has approved the development



plan of this district stretching from health, education to various sectors with a budget allocation of Rs 4318.65, which was held at Bhawbhipatna on Wednesday. Including the Dharamgad MLA Shri Pattajoshi Narla Constituency MLA Manorama Mohanty, respectively Zilla Parishad Chairman and Vice-Chairperson Puspendra Singh Deo and

Sudhira Meher, ADM Tanmaya Kumar Darwan, CDO - Soumya Ranjan Pradhan members of Planning nad others joining the meet has extended their valuable suggestion for timely proper implementation of allocated budget for the sake of district developmental activities. Notably, if in the fate of Kalahandi had huge amount of allocation of

finance in previous financial year it has come to fore in the form of news, the deplorable road condition which was the cause of suffering. Subsequently the remarks of Narla MLA in the meet has corroborated that lack of good conditioned road across the district if huge amount money had been earmarked was reason of sufferings, revealed through sources.

Workshop on "Usage of Square Mesh and TED in Fishing Vessels in Odisha"

Paradeep, (Correspondent): A workshop on "Usage of Square Mesh and Turtle Excluder Device (TED) in Fishing Vessels in Odisha" was organized today, 19 August 2026, by MPEDA-NETFISH with financial support under the Paradeep Port Authority (PPA) CSR Fund.

The programme was attended by the Secretary, Paradeep Port Authority, Deputy Director of Fisheries (Marine), District Fisheries Officer, Jagatsinghpur, Deputy Director and Assistant Director, MPEDA, State Coordinator, NETFISH, representatives of the Odisha Marine Fishing Producers Association (OMFPA), trawler owners, fishing vessel operators and other stakeholders.

The workshop focused on creating awareness among fishing vessel owners and fishers regarding the proper usage and benefits of Square Mesh Codend and TED, particularly for improving responsible fishing practices, reducing the capture of juvenile and non-target species, and promoting marine turtle conservation. The participants were also sensitized on the importance of proper installation, operation and maintenance of these conservation devices in fishing vessels. The officials and stakeholders appreciated the initiative of MPEDA-NETFISH and Paradeep Port Authority under the CSR support and emphasized the need for continued awareness programmes and wider adoption of Square Mesh and TED among fishing vessels operating along the Odisha coast.

The programme concluded with a commitment from the stakeholders to promote sustainable, responsible and turtle-friendly fishing practices in Odisha.

High-level meeting for state-of-the-art healthcare in Brajrajnagar area

Jharsuguda (Correspondent):- A comprehensive roadmap has been prepared for the collective development of Jharsuguda, Brajrajnagar and the surrounding areas. A high-level meeting was held at Brajrajnagar MCL Guest House to ensure the collective development of the lower and middle class people, mainly tribals, Dalits, backward classes, and the economic, social and health development. The meeting, chaired by Revenue and Disaster Management Minister Suresh Pujari, was attended by senior officers of various departments and eminent persons working in various fields. Minister Suresh Pujari said that all these regions of Western Odisha are very developed from an economic point of view,



there is a need for a long-term plan to solve the health problems of the people along with the economic growth of the people. Although the government is taking considerable steps in this direction, there is still a lot to be done, so this will be taken forward in collaboration with MCL, various stakeholders and the state government. During the Corona pandemic, Shri Pujari, who was then an MP, served the people

day and night, in which government hospitals along with high-tech medical colleges and hospitals cooperated fully. Giving utmost importance to the health sector, a hundred-bed ICU, state-of-the-art diagnostic centers, test labs, MRI, CT scan machines were installed in this region along with senior Specialist doctors will be appointed. Minister Pujari said that this work will start this year and this modern health service will

be used in the interest of the people in the next two years. In today's meeting, Revenue and Disaster Management Minister Suresh Pujari, Hi-tech Group Founder Chairman Dr. Tirupati Panigrahi, Lakhanpur Video, District Collector Kunal Motiran Chavan, Deputy Collector Amrita Acharya, Jharsuguda Municipality Chairperson Rina Hati, Brajrajnagar Municipality Chairperson Krishnagopal Sithani, Executive Officer Chandramani Swain, MCL Technical Director Sanjay Jha, Lakhanpur Area General Manager Abodha Kumar Pandey, IB Veli Area General Manager Jitendra Tiwari and Jharsuguda Tehsildar SK Kumbhar were prominently present.

SC Collegium approves proposal for appointment of 4 Judges in Odisha High Court

Kataka (Correspondent): The Supreme Court Collegium in its meeting held today has approved the proposal for appointment of four Advocates as Judges of the High Court of Orissa. As per the proposal, which got the Supreme Court Collegium nod today, senior Advocates Sasmita Tripathy, Aditya Narayan Das, Rajjeet Roy, and Gautam Misra will be appointed the Judges of Orissa High Court. The sanctioned strength of judges of the Orissa High Court is 33. Currently, there are 17 judges working in the High Court. Out of these 17, the Collegium has already recommended the transfer of Justice



Manash Ranjan Pathak and Justice Krushna Ram Mohapatra to two other High Courts. Justice Pathak has been recommended for transfer to Gujarat High Court and Justice Mohapatra to Chhattisgarh High Court. As a result, if these two transfers are implemented, the strength of judges in the Orissa High Court will

come down to 15. After this, if the four new judges recommended today are appointed, the strength will reach 19. This means, 14 posts will remain vacant as compared to the sanctioned posts of 33. Despite the assurance of four new appointments amid the shortage of judges, the problem of vacancies in the High Court

Six people in court for battery theft

Laxmipur (Correspondent) :- The Tutugaon police have uncovered a case of battery theft worth lakhs of rupees from Jio towers located in different areas of Tutugaon and Narayanpatna blocks of Koraput district. Six people involved in this were arrested and produced in court and 46 batteries including six mobile phones, two bikes, a pickup van and a Bulero vehicle were recovered from them. This was informed by SDPO Manoj Behera in a press conference. In the past few days, 148 batteries were stolen from Jio towers.



Suna Mudi Sunil, a technician of Jio Tower, has filed a complaint with Tutugaon police station, IIC Sindhu Sarka is publishing. Based on the complaint, the police are continuing the investigation and have arrested six people

today. They stole all the batteries and hid some of them under a bush near the under-construction Ekalavya Vidyalaya in Tutugaon block, while giving some to a man from San Sarpli village. It is learnt that he is currently absconding.

One week Arms training program organised at Malkangiri Forest Dept.

Malkangiri, (Correspondent A 7-day arms and ammunition training program has been organized by Malkangiri Forest Department to enhance the capacity of the frontline personnel engaged in forest protection and forest security work and to ensure safety at work. Forest guards, forest guards, forest officers and ACFs have participated in this



training camp organized in three phases. The training has been given to the

employees on safe use of arms, ammunition management, security

and how to take steps in various emergency situations. The main objective of this training is to increase the performance and safety of the employees during forest protection, wildlife protection and forest crime control, informed Malkangiri DFO Sai Kiran DN. The Forest Department hopes that this will further strengthen the forest security system.

PARALA MLA SEEKS UPGRADATION OF BN PALACE AND RS 80-CR FOR BUS STANDS

Paralakhemundi, (Correspondent): Seeking a major push to tourism, transport and connectivity in Gajapati district, Paralakhemundi MLA Rupesh Kumar Panigrahi has demanded the upgradation of Brundaban Palace, Rs 80 crore for three bus stand projects and new OSRTC bus services linking Paralakhemundi with Puri, Cuttack and Tirupati. Panigrahi raised the demands at the fourth meeting of the Odisha Legislative Assembly's Committee on Papers Laid on the Table for 2026-27,



held at the Assembly building in Bhubaneswar on Tuesday. Emphasising Paralakhemundi's rich tourism and cultural heritage, Panigrahi sought the upgradation and modernisation of

Brundaban Palace to strengthen the town's tourism infrastructure and attract more visitors. The MLA demanded Rs 40 crore for a new bus stand at Paralakhemundi, Rs 20 crore for the

Kasinagar bus stand and another Rs 20 crore for the Gosani bus stand. The three projects together require Rs 80 crore, he said, urging the concerned authorities to make the necessary allocation. During the discussion on the Transport Department and OSRTC, Panigrahi urged the government to introduce new bus services from Paralakhemundi to Puri, Cuttack and Tirupati. He said the proposed services would improve connectivity for people of Gajapati and southern Odisha, particularly those

travelling to major cities and religious destinations. The meeting also reviewed delays in annual reports and the finalisation of pending accounts of the Odisha Tourism Development Corporation and OSRTC. Committee chairman Dushmant Kumar Swain and members Chhabi Malik, Abhimanyu Sethi, Laxman Bag, Pratap Chandra Pradhan, Rupesh Kumar Panigrahi and Satyajit Gamango, among others, attended the meeting.

702 KG GANJA WORTH OVER RS 1 CRORE SEIZED IN GAJAPATI

Paralakhemundi, (Correspondent): In a major crackdown on illegal ganja trafficking, Gajapati police seized 702 kg of ganja valued at over Rs 1 crore from a forested area near Atapada village under Adava police station limits on Tuesday. The contraband was allegedly stored for smuggling outside the state. Acting on the directions of Gajapati SP Prahlad Sahay Meena, police have intensified patrolling and raids against the illegal trade in ganja and illicit liquor across the district. A police team led by the Adava police station IIC was patrolling the Antaraba, Chudangpur, Atapada and adjoining areas when it noticed 28 plastic cans lying abandoned near Atapada village. On suspicion, the team conducted a search and recovered 7 quintals and 2 kg of ganja.

The contraband was recovered from a forest area under Antaraba panchayat. No one was found at the spot and no arrest has been made so far.

Police have registered a case at Adava police station and launched an investigation to identify and apprehend those involved in the trafficking network.

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.

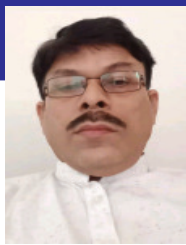
For children, libraries are gateways to imagination and discovery. Storybooks, educational resources, and interactive activities help develop language skills, creativity, and critical thinking from an early age. Young readers who develop a love for books are more likely to become lifelong learners and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

In an era when misinformation spreads rapidly through social media and online platforms, libraries serve as trusted sources of authentic and verified information. Librarians play an important role in guiding users toward credible resources and teaching information literacy, enabling people to distinguish facts from misinformation. This function has become increasingly important in today's knowledge-driven society. The rise of digital libraries has expanded access to knowledge beyond physical buildings. E-books, online journals, virtual archives, and digital repositories allow readers to access information anytime and anywhere. However, physical libraries continue to hold unique value because they provide quiet spaces for study, face-to-face interaction, community engagement, and cultural exchange. Libraries also preserve the literary, historical, and cultural heritage of a nation. Rare manuscripts, historical documents, local history collections, and regional literature ensure that valuable knowledge is passed on to future generations. They safeguard collective memory while promoting appreciation for cultural diversity.

Transmigration Into Animal



Dr. Sarada Prasad Kar

Humans were once animals. Our obedient follow up of the conclusions of scientific studies declare humans as ex-monkeys. Ancient Assyria-Babylonia and today's Egypt, where half human and half animal lived in dense forests, are still in an inchoate state. The idea of ?? "Wemic", half lion and half human has root to Greek mythology. May be the incarnation of Vishnu's Narasimha avatar is a humanoid form of animal according to Indian mythology. Rig Veda verse chants- "Surya Pashurasit, Soma Pashurasit, Indra Pashurasit, Pashobo Deva". Sun, Moon, Indra and other gods and demi gods were once animals, and the idea of ?? animals becoming gods is still beyond the reach of the common man. The Nandi bull lying in front of the Shiva temple is in the real story a 'zoo-anthropomorphic' or a humanoid form.

The fourth incarnation of Vishnu, Narasimha, was born as an alternative to cleave the demon Hiranyakashipu had lion-like hands, feet, face and the rest of the body was human. Similarly, the "Meena incarnation" was taken to rescue the "Chaturvedas" captured by Sankhasura, a demon in conch shape and the furious Hiranaksha's death was possible by assuming the form of a fierce wild Boar. The monkey Hanuman, the eleventh form of Shiva and in the forest, Bali, Sugriva, Angada, Nala, Nila were born in the great ape lineage and Brahma putra Jambavan born with the body of a bear. Rishi Bhringi (bumblebee) became a human skeleton getting cursed by Parvati. It's believed, many of the Shiva devotees who are responsible in Shivpur take the form of animals, birds, insects or ghosts.

The horse-faced Hindu god Hayagriva is considered as an incarnation of Vishnu like the

Markat Mukh Swayambhunath temple in Kathmandu. During 'Kukur Tihar' celebration in Nepal, dogs are worshipped with offerings along with 'tilak' on their foreheads. Like India and Nepal the ancient Greeks, Egyptians and Zoroastrians also worshipped cows. The Bible describes sheep as the holy spirit. The face of the god 'Sphinx' worshipped in the Karnak temple in Egypt is like a sheep. There is a 'Maha Zataka' mention that Siddhartha Gautama entered his mother's womb as a white elephant. Ancient Roman beliefs say, the goddess 'Luperca' is a form of a female wolf. Evidence is that Native Americans worshiped wolves and hawks. Garuda, the vehicle of Vishnu has the face of a bird, large wings, bird claws and human-like limbs.

Whether through curses or blessings, even gods have become associated with animals. According to the Smriti Shashtra- "the sage Kesha was born from the owl, the sage Kapila was born from the cow Kapila, the sage Teetiri was born from the bird Teetiri and the sage Achal was born from the hand of a deer." The eternal sleep of Vishnu is on the last serpent, the serpent Lord, the king of the underworld, Vasuki. Therefore, it is not permissible to see the God and demi-gods in the form of human only, they can be seen in the animal body also. Mahabharata excerpt - Yudhishthira was led through the way to heaven by Yama, Yamaraj had an animal body of a black dog. Maharishi Rusyashringa was born to a deer. It articulates, even an animal womb can give birth to a goddess or a human being.

Kakmukha Mahakaala, In Bhutanese, "Jarang Danchen" is the chief guardian deity of the land. In Shinto, "Chinjugu" is a "kami" or chief protector, just as in Hinduism, the Kshetrapala is a guardian deity of a specific place in various settings. Damra Kua (raven) on the royal crown is the national symbol of Bhutan, is considered sacred, powerful, and the protector of the dy-

nasty. Bhutan is called the "Land of Thunder Dragons" or "Drak" in the native language. According to the story of the South-East Australian aboriginal people 'Yul', half emu bird and half human was once descended from the sky and gave the inhabitants of this place land and a code of law. As big as the sky, with two arms wide and eyes sparkling white, the imagination of such a god is the imagination of man and animal.

The mind entered the consciousness of the swan. Later, the swan became the vehicle of Goddess Saraswati. In a fierce battle, Ganesh defeated Gazmukha which later ran away in the form of a mouse. Ganesha beat him and asked for forgiveness. In another story, the mouse described in the Puranas is none other than Yamaraj. There was no bitterness in relationship between the master and the beast, between gods and animals. Mahavishnu had to fight for thousands of years in the form of Varaha, in wild boar form to lift the earth with his teeth.

The Greek word "Paan" meaning "all" and "theas" meaning "God". Come together they form 'Paantheas', which is in a simple language mean all gods and goddesses. The inhabitants of the south-eastern coast of the Mediterranean Sea worshipped about ten gods with animal bodies. While the inhabitants of Egypt worship the sky god 'Horus' in the form of a falcon, the goddess 'Sekhmet' with the face of a lion is worshipped as the master in battlefield. In Hindu belief, Maheshwar as the Lord of the Beasts, is said 'Pashunam Pati'. From the footprints left on the sand during death rituals, it is determined whether a person has a re-birth as an animal or human. If our age old scriptures are the mouth piece of our great seers then we humans have to believe metamorphosis into animals one day at a higher level of intellectual attainment.

Along with job, preparation for life is also important



Priyanka Saurabh

“A government job is an important part of life, but it shouldn't be everything. While salary, position, promotions, and government benefits are nice, having a good family, health, financial security, personal growth, and preparing for your future after retirement are just as important. First, plan your home. Whether in the countryside or the city, having your own home provides a sense of stability and self-reliance. While government housing is a good thing, it shouldn't become the foundation of your life. Having your own home will significantly ease the situation for you and your family in the event of a job loss. Be honest and dedicated to your work, but don't devote your entire life to the workplace. Don't think that the company can't function without you. Someone else can fill each of these roles, but you can never get back those moments spent with your loved ones. Enjoy your holidays and vacations, relax or spend quality time with family and friends, take care of yourself, travel, learn, and enjoy life. Don't make promotion the sole criterion for success. Practice and develop your abilities, increase your knowledge, and achieve excellence in everything you do. Take advantage of a promotion if it comes your way. If it doesn't come your way, don't let disappointment lower your self-esteem. Personal development is far more important than a position. Stay away from office gossip, politics, and negative conversations. Respect your superiors, but don't make flattery your profession. Pleasing powerful people may bring temporary respect, but it doesn't bring lasting honor. Maintain your self-respect, self-

esteem, and self-determination. Don't always compare yourself to others, but instead compete with yourself. A level of healthy competition is good for improvement, but if it's driven by a desire to beat someone, some people become unnecessarily stressed. You should compete with yourself tomorrow, not anyone else.

The ability to manage your finances is equally important. Don't rely solely on your salary and expect it to be everything for you. Create savings and investment plans based on your income, liabilities, and risk tolerance. When considering a second income or business, ensure it complies with service regulations and your professional duties. Develop a habit of regular savings. Avoid unnecessary debt and unnecessary lifestyle expansion. While borrowing to fund education, purchase a profitable asset, or fund a planned venture is acceptable, borrowing to maintain your desired lifestyle is not.

Don't share personal matters. Personal relationships, financial matters, family issues, and marriage should not be discussed in the office. Respect your coworkers, colleagues, and employers not by what you share about your personal life, but by your conduct, professional attitude, and honesty. Plan for your retirement early in your career. Retirement doesn't always happen at age 40 or 50. In fact, retirement means being financially, mentally, and emotionally prepared for the days when work, whether good or bad, ends. Plan hobbies and activities to make life meaningful after retirement. This could be writing, teaching, farming, running a small business, social work, traveling, reading, or any other fulfilling activity. Gradually doing something while you work will give you experience and help you see if it's possible and feasible. Don't wait until retirement to establish

your daily routine. After decades of working, adjusting to life after retirement can be difficult because there's no longer a regular routine or purpose. Retirement should be a new phase of life, not a sudden void.

Make the most of your vacation. Read a book, learn a new skill, start a personal project, travel with family, stay healthy, or take up a hobby. How you spend your time reflects how you will live your life in the future.

Don't forget to save for retirement and pensions. First and foremost, these savings should protect your health, dignity, independence, and your needs in old age. It's important to make good financial decisions after retirement, taking into account future expenses for healthcare, home and personal care needs, and emergency expenses. When you retire, don't retire from life. This can be a time to focus on all the things you missed while working. Spend a morning drinking tea, reading a book in the sun, traveling, spending time with family, doing things you love, serving society, or even running a small business.

Remember that the workplace isn't safe. Jobs can change, offices can change, and sometimes even offices can be moved. All you have left is your potential, your savings, your relationships, your health, your reputation, and your life.

The most important thing is to enjoy your work, but don't let it dominate your life. Work honestly and know your rights and responsibilities, take care of your family, protect your health, build financial security, and plan for the future in a timely manner. Being successful at work isn't just about having a career that provides a good work life. A successful career is one that helps you build a good life – both while you're working and after you leave work.

Congress and CJP: Two perspectives on the same issue



Amit Baijnath Garg

Students in Ranchi, the capital of Jharkhand, have been protesting for the irregularities of competitive examinations held for government jobs. Neha Bora of the AISA attempted to divert the issue; consequently, students removed her from the stage. One student threw ink at her face. Bora had been raising slogans against the BJP and RSS on stage. It is worth noting that the government in Jharkhand is led by Chief Minister

Hemant Soren, with the JMM supported by the Congress (part of the INDIA alliance). Similarly, Junaid—who had provided food during the 'Cockroach Janata Party's (CJP) protest in Delhi—also tried to infiltrate this demonstration. When the media questioned him, he appeared eager to evade them. These incidents indicate that individuals with no genuine interest in student welfare sought to hijack the student protests in Ranchi. However, the students made it clear that they would neither allow

anti-national rhetoric nor permit such slogans to be raised during the demonstration.

The students' protest in Ranchi against alleged irregularities and mismanagement in the JPSC and JSSC examinations began last month. Many students are even observing a hunger strike. Yet, no one raised slogans demanding 'Azadi' (freedom) or engaged in political discourse. The primary reason for this is that the movement in Ranchi is driven by students themselves, whereas the protest at Delhi's Jantar Mantar involved more anarchic elements than actual

students. Their apparent objective was to oppose the BJP and hurl abuse at PM Narendra Modi under the pretext of the paper leak issue. The involvement of Leftist organizations and political parties like the Congress gave their protest a political hue.

In contrast, both the Congress and the CJP have kept their distance from the students' protest in Ranchi. The CJP is essentially the 'B-team' of the Aam Aadmi Party; its goal is to oppose the BJP and PM Modi under the guise of various movements. For them, students are merely a pretext. They even got Sonam Wangchuk to undertake a hunger strike

in the name of their movement but later failed to support him. Education Minister Dharmendra Pradhan resigned following the protest organized by CJP against the NEET paper leak. By doing so, the BJP has set a flawed precedent, the consequences of which will become apparent later. In fact, this resignation should have taken place much earlier; demands for it had been raised for quite some time across various media outlets and platforms.

During the students' protest at Jantar Mantar, vehicles were vandalized, and police personnel were assaulted. Reports indicate that over 2,800

miscreants—identified by the Delhi Police—had infiltrated the protest. While one section of the media ignored the incident entirely, another highlighted it extensively. Journalists faced intense heckling and were obstructed from covering the event. Although CJP attributed these actions to "anarchic elements" who had infiltrated the protest, the organizers must ultimately bear responsibility for the event. At the conclusion of the event, Neha Bora stated that the world would remember this protest as the beginning of the end for BJP rule; this statement alone speaks volumes

about the true intent behind the demonstration.

The previous government in Rajasthan was led by the Congress party's Ashok Gehlot, with Govind Dotsra serving as the Education Minister. During this administration, over a dozen paper leaks occurred, sparking student protests. Students participating in these protests faced lathi-charges and the use of water cannons, resulting in severe injuries to many. When questioned about this, Dotsra made two points: first, that he does not conduct the exams—agencies do—and therefore, he is not responsible for the leaks;

and second, he asked why the police shouldn't lathi-charge protesting students. Notably, this issue escaped Rahul Gandhi's attention; no party demanded the Education Minister's resignation, nor was the Gehlot government subjected to any vitriol.

Is their activism selective? Do they only protest in states governed by the BJP, while refraining from doing so in states with non-BJP governments? Is CJP protesting at the behest of opposition parties? They lack sincerity regarding student issues; it is essential to question them and hold them accountable.

160 kg of ganja seized from two separate places

SUBARNAPUR (correspondent):The Sonpur Excise Department of Subarnapur district has raided two separate places and seized 160 kg of ganja. About 1 quintal of ganja in 4 bags was seized from a Suzuki Brezza vehicle near Bisimunda, Sonpur police station, while the mafia has been arrested. Similarly, 60 kg of ganja was seized from a courier vehicle near Nalini Chhak in Sonpur town and one person has been arrested. A case has been registered at the Sonpur Excise Police Station in this regard and further investigation is underway, said the Excise OIC Shantanu Kumar Patnaik.



Ambulance Service Under Fire After Two Women Reportedly Die Following Delayed Emergency Care

Nayagarh (correspondent): Emergency healthcare services at the Nuagadiasahi Community Health Centre (CHC) under Khandapada block have come under criticism following the reported deaths of two women from Singhapada village. Their families and local residents have alleged that the women did not receive timely ambulance services during medical emergencies. According

to reports, Darpani Naik (60), wife of Bharat Naik, and Ahilya Behera (61), both residents of Singhapada village, suddenly fell ill on Wednesday. Their family members reportedly sought ambulance assistance to take them to the health centre. However, they alleged that the ambulance service was not available on time, forcing them to make alternative arrangements. Darpani Naik was eventually

brought to the Nuagadiasahi Community Health Centre in a critical condition. She reportedly died while undergoing treatment at the health centre. Her death has left her family in distress and triggered strong resentment among local residents over the alleged poor emergency healthcare and ambulance services. In another incident, Ahilya Behera, who was also reportedly seriously ill,

allegedly failed to receive timely ambulance assistance. Her family members and local residents have claimed that the delay in transportation worsened the situation and raised concerns over the availability of emergency medical services in the area. Residents of the surrounding areas have reportedly been demanding a dedicated ambulance service at the Gadia-sahi Community Health Centre for several

years. They have expressed disappointment over the alleged lack of attention to the issue by the district health authorities and administration. The reported incidents have sparked concern among local residents and intellectuals, particularly regarding emergency healthcare facilities in tribal-dominated and remote areas. They have urged the State Health Department, senior health authorities, the

Nayagarh district administration and the Khandapada MLA to intervene immediately and ensure a permanent ambulance facility at the health centre. Residents have also demanded an inquiry into the alleged ambulance delays and the circumstances surrounding the two cases. They said timely emergency transportation and medical care are essential to prevent avoidable loss of life in remote areas.

15 lakh fraud in the name of providing jobs; Main accused arrested

Gopalpur (correspondent): Gosani Nuagaon police has arrested a 61-year-old accused for cheating a person of Rs 15 lakh by promising to provide fake government jobs. The accused has been identified as Shyam Sundar Patna of Gudipada, Golasahi, Sarankula police station, Nayagarh district. According to police, Priyaranjan Patra (33) of Jaleswar Bihar filed a complaint with the police station on May 6. Shyam Sundar first took Rs 1 lakh on the pretext of family medical needs. Later, Priyaranjan was allegedly taken another Rs 15 lakh through online NEFT by promising to get a job as a junior assistant and t



Panchayat Executive Engineer to his wife M. Roja Patra. To instill confidence, the accused prepared a fake OSSSC merit list and gave papers with the names of the complainant, his wife and his sons. After demanding a refund for not getting a job, the accused abused him, kidnapped him and threatened to kill him. In this regard, a case was

registered under sections 318(4), 296, 351(3), 336(2), 336(3), 338, 340(2) and 3(5) of the Indian Penal Code under Gosani Nuagaon Police Station Case No. 161, dated 06.05.2026. During the investigation, the accused was arrested on June 18. The police said that he confessed to the crime during interrogation. Bank transaction

receipts, fake OSSSC merit list and a stamped contract have been seized from him. The police have informed that there is a case in his name in the Odgaon police station. The accused was produced in the court of the Berhampur Sub-Divisional Judicial Magistrate on Wednesday and sent to judicial custody. The Berhampur police have warned the general public not to give advance money to any person in the name of providing a job. The police have requested to check the information related to government recruitment only from the government website and authorized recruitment portals and to immediately report such fraud to the nearest police station or 112.

Star Air flights suspended from Jharsuguda Airport from dt. 17 agust to october 24

Jharsuguda, (correspondent): In a disappointing development for air passengers travelling from Veer Surendra Sai Airport, Jharsuguda, Star Air has temporarily suspended its flight operations on certain routes. According to information, Star Air has informed the airport authorities in writing that, citing operational reasons, all its flights from Jharsuguda will remain suspended from



August 17 to October 24. The suspension has particularly affected the flight services operating

between Hyderabad-Jharsuguda and Jharsuguda-Bhubaneswar. Following

the development, the airport authorities discussed the matter with Station Manager Upendranath Dhundia and directed that efforts be made to restore the services at the earliest. According to the Airport Director, keeping passenger convenience in mind, higher authorities have also been informed of the matter and immediate steps are being taken for restoration of the services.

Woman Dies of Snakebite in Khandapada

Nayagarh (correspondent): A 63-year-old woman, identified as Kum Naik of Harisubuddhi Patana village under Khandapada block, died after being bitten by a venomous snake.



According to reports, the incident occurred at night when Kum Naik was sleeping at home after having dinner. A venomous snake reportedly bit her while she was asleep. As she developed severe pain and symptoms of poisoning, her family members immediately rushed her to the Nayagarh District Headquarters Hospital

for treatment. As her condition deteriorated, doctors advised shifting her to Capital Hospital in Bhubaneswar. She was subsequently taken there by ambulance. However, she succumbed to her condition while undergoing treatment at the hospital, family

sources said. Her untimely death has cast a pall of gloom over the local area. Residents have urged the Khandapada Tahasil administration and Nayagarh district administration to provide appropriate government assistance to the bereaved family.

MLA, meets Collector demanding permanent solution to Bayapada Ghat road problem

Malkangiri, (correspondent) Chitrakonda MLA Mangu Khuli, the residents of the local area, led by the local MLA, on Monday met District Collector Prathmesh Arvind Rajshirke and submitted a letter of demand regarding the problem of landslides on the Bayapada Ghati road under Chitrakonda block of Malkangiri district due to which the road is blocked due to landslides. Every year during the rainy season, the common people are facing immense problems due to landslides on the Ghati road. Especially, the residents of villages like Bayapada, Jholaguda, Naringihola, Muduliguda and Vanguguda are facing many problems in travelling to the panchayat headquarters. The locals have demanded the intervention of the district administration for an immediate and permanent solution to this problem. District Magistrate Pratesh Arvind Rajshirke has informed that as an immediate step, a JCB machine has been deployed by the RD department to clear the road and restore normal traffic. Similarly, the District Magistrate has assured that necessary steps will be taken soon to solve the problem permanently.

Independence Day Celebrated at Mayurbhanj Senior Citizens Forum

Baripada, (correspondent): 6: The 80th Independence Day was celebrated at the permanent auditorium of the Mayurbhanj Senior Citizens Forum under the chairmanship of its General Secretary, Dr. Shyamsundar Das. In the presence of forum members, the programme began with the group singing of Vande Mataram. The national flag was then hoisted by the chief guest, Sukeshini Sethi, Councillor of Ward No. 1.



an address. He highly appreciated the Forum's active and constructive activities. Following the flag hoisting, a special meeting was held to remember and pay tribute to the great personalities and freedom fighters of Mayurbhanj. During the programme, the councillor took note of the poor condition of the road and drainage system from the front of Chhaupadiya to the

District Planning Office. She acknowledged that waterlogging had caused an unhealthy and unpleasant environment in the area and assured the members that the matter would be brought to the attention of the Municipal Council.

Dr. Sushant Patra, Saroj Mishra, Kaibalya Mahapatra, Basanti Mahapatra, Dr. Rajkumar Mishra, Debashish Das, Swarup Kumar Mishra,

Barendra Mahanty, Murali Dhar Behera, Komal Lochan Mahakud, Sudhamayi Das, Pradip Das, Sabita Mishra, Santosh Kumar Pattnaik, Urmila Kamila, Ratnaprabha Behera, Ananta Krishna Behera, Narendra Mohan Senapati, Manjali De, Jyotsnamani Jena, Rabindranath Mahapatra, Harchand Giri, Dr. Shashidhar Biswal, Swarup Basha and Taramani Das, among others, actively participated in the Independence Day celebration with enthusiasm. At the end of the programme, Kumar Ranjan Panda proposed the vote of thanks.

Cabinet approves four multitracking projects covering eight Districts in West Bengal, Odisha, Tamil Nadu and Andhra Pradesh

Rourkela (Correspondent): The Cabinet Committee on Economic Affairs, chaired by the Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi, today has approved Four projects of Ministry of Railways with total cost of Rs. 9,450 crore approximately. These projects include: Kharagpur – Bhadrak (Ranital) 4th Line – 173 km (West Bengal and

Odisha) Bhadrak – Haridaspur 4th Line – 75 km (Odisha) Gummidipundi – Gudur 3rd and 4th Line – 90 km (Andhra Pradesh and Tamil Nadu) Cuttack – Paradeep (Badabandha) 3rd and 4th Line – 72 km (Odisha) The increased line capacity will significantly enhance mobility, resulting in improved operational

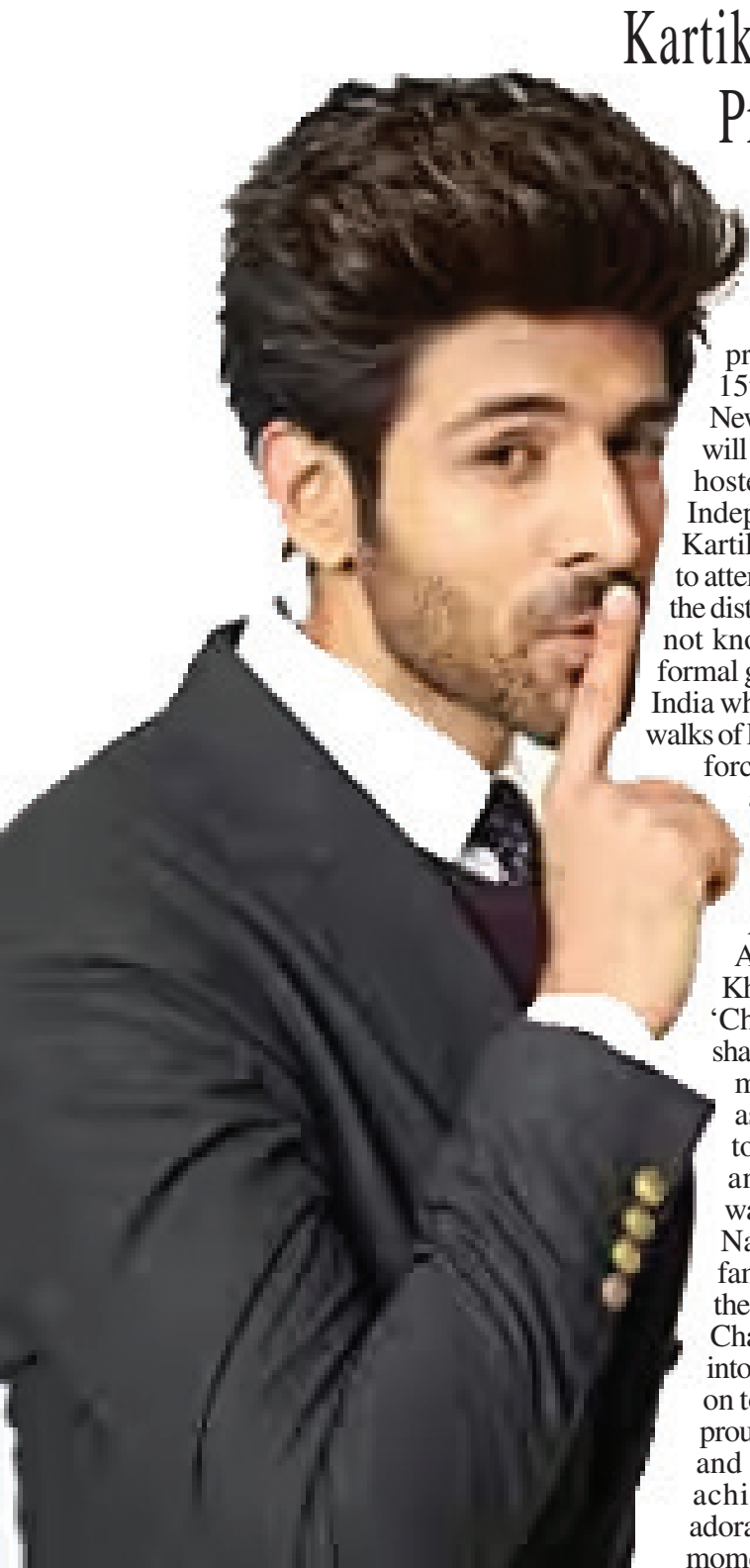
efficiency and service reliability for Indian Railways. These multitracking proposals are poised to streamline operations and alleviate congestion. The projects are in line with the Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi's Vision of a New India which will make people of the region "Atmanirbhar" by way of comprehensive development in the area which will enhance their

employment/ self-employment opportunities. The projects are planned on PM-Gati Shakti National Master Plan with focus on enhancing multi-modal connectivity & logistic efficiency through integrated planning and stakeholder consultations. These projects will provide seamless connectivity for movement of people, goods, and

services. The 04 (Four) projects covering 08 Districts across the states of West Bengal, Odisha, Tamil Nadu and Andhra Pradesh, will increase the existing network of Indian Railways by about 410 Kms. The proposed multi-tracking projects will enhance connectivity to approximately 6,448 villages, which are having a population of about 60 lakhs. The proposed capacity

enhancement will improve rail connectivity to several prominent tourist destinations across the country, including Kuldiha Wildlife Sanctuary, Bhitarkanika National Park, Maa Bhadrakali Temple, Maa Dhamaraitemple, Panchalingeswar Temple, Talsari-Udaypur and Chandipur Beach, Pulicat Lake, Nelapattu Bird Sanctuary, Lord

Veeraraghava Perumal Temple, Gada Kujanga Jagannath Temple, Sarala Temple, Dhableswar Temple, Lalitgiri (a Buddhist site), etc. The proposed projects are essential routes for transportation of commodities such as coal, iron ore, cement, iron and steel, container, automobile, food grains, etc. The capacity augmentation works will result in additional freight traffic of magnitude 76

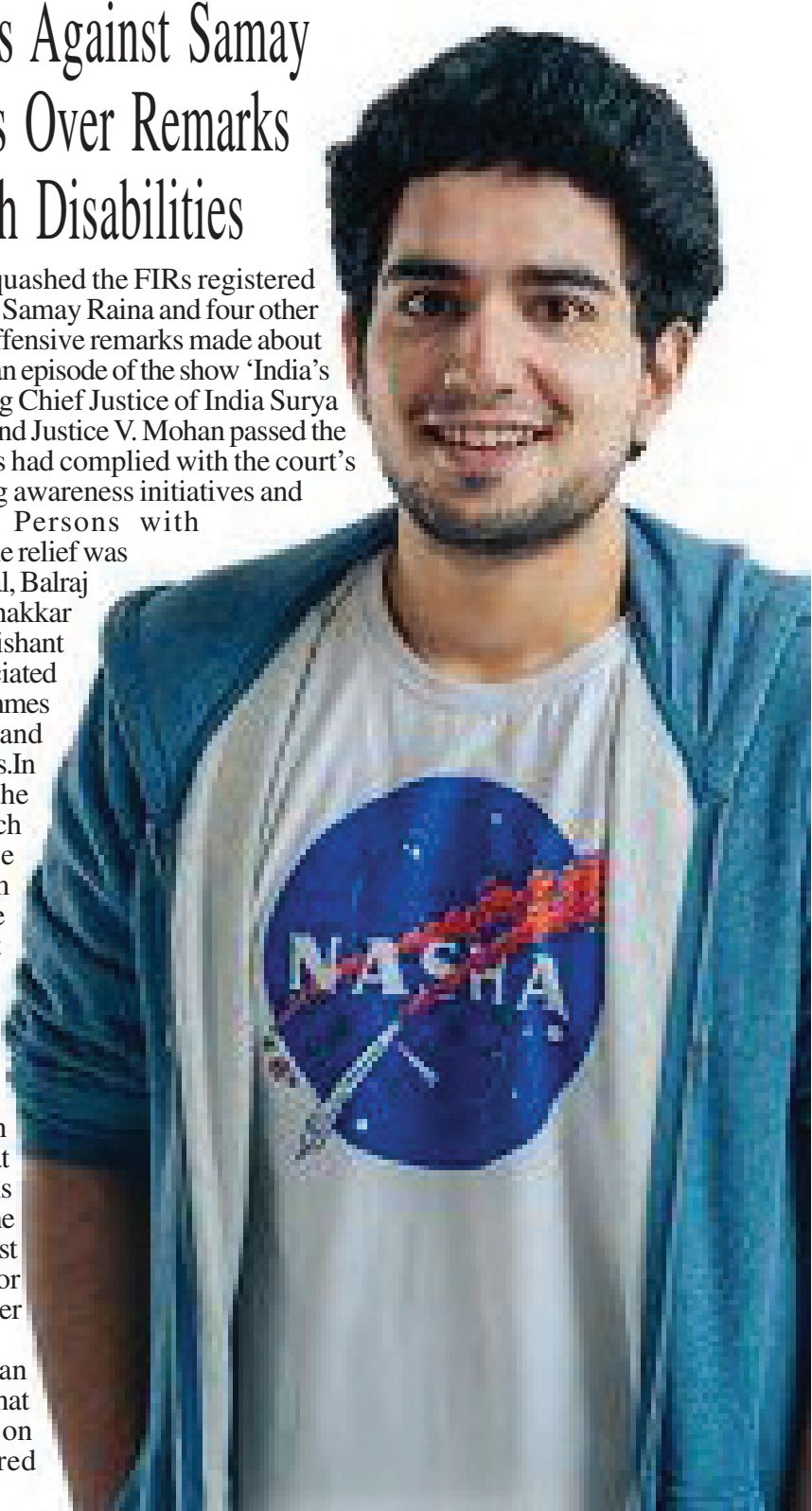


Kartik Aaryan Invited By President Murmu For ‘At Home Reception’

Bollywood actor Kartik Aaryan has been invited by President Droupadi Murmu to attend the prestigious ‘At Home Reception’ on 15th August at Rashtrapati Bhavan in New Delhi. The ‘Bhool Bhulaiyaa 3’ actor will be a part of the high-profile gathering hosted by the President during the 80th Independence Day. It must be noted that Kartik is the only actor from Bollywood to attend the prestigious gathering, joining the distinguished invitees. For those who do not know, the ‘At Home Reception’ is a formal gathering hosted by the President of India where prominent names from various walks of life, including national leaders, armed forces personnel, sportspersons, artists and notable achievers, come together under a single roof. This invitation for Kartik has come after he was recently honored with the ‘Best Actor’ title at the 72nd National Film Awards for his performance in Kabir Khan’s much-appreciated sports drama ‘Chandu Champion’. In July, Kartik shared a special family moment on social media when his name was announced as the winner of a National Award. He took to his official Instagram handle and uploaded a video of himself watching the live announcement of the National Film Awards alongside his family. As his name was announced as the winner for ‘Best Actor’ for ‘Chandu Champion,’ Kartik immediately broke into a scream of joy. The clip further went on to show Kartik’s parents sharing the proud moment with their son by hugging and congratulating him on his latest achievement. Kartik’s mother even adorably planted a kiss on his cheek, in a moment of pure joy.

SC Quashes FIRs Against Samay Raina, Four Others Over Remarks On Persons With Disabilities

The Supreme Court on Friday quashed the FIRs registered against YouTuber and comedian Samay Raina and four other comedians in connection with offensive remarks made about Persons with Disabilities during an episode of the show ‘India’s Got Latent’. A Bench comprising Chief Justice of India Surya Kant, Justice Joymalya Bagchi and Justice V. Mohan passed the order, noting that the comedians had complied with the court’s earlier directions by undertaking awareness initiatives and fundraising activities for Persons with Disabilities. Apart from Raina, the relief was granted to comedians Vipul Goyal, Balraj Paramjeet Singh Ghai, Sonali Thakkar alias Sonali Aditya Desai, and Nishant Jagdish Tanwar. The court appreciated their efforts in organising programmes aimed at promoting awareness and supporting persons with disabilities. In view of their compliance with the directions issued earlier, the Bench ordered the quashing of the criminal cases lodged against them over the insensitive remarks. However, the top court said it would continue hearing the matter to consider suggestions from Persons with Disabilities and other stakeholders on mechanisms to prevent the dissemination of such content in the future. The court indicated that it may issue appropriate directions on the broader issues involved. The court last month had imposed a cost of Rs 3 lakh on the comedians for failing to comply with their earlier undertakings to make amends. The controversy stems from an episode of ‘India’s Got Latent’ that was recorded at Khar Habitat on November 14, 2024, and aired subsequently.



Self-care for mental health

Embrace the uniqueness

Every human being is comprised of three important paradigms i.e. Mind, Body and Soul. This unique composition of human beings makes every-one unique and different from one another. One should personalise the self-care ritual based on mind, body and soul. One such method of personalisation can be designed based on traditional knowledge systems such as Ayurveda, Astrology among others.

Sleep to wake up

A good night's sleep is essential to mental health. It's when the body heals itself, the mind reviews what it learned that day, the soul connects to the cosmic universe and emotions are processed. Inadequate or disrupted sleep can cause mental fatigue, irritation, and an exaggerated reaction to stress by leaving the mind's complex functions unfinished. Regularly getting good sleep can act as a protective barrier against the ups and downs of mental instability..

Declutter your mind and space

If we pour tap water into the glass, it acquires the shape of the glass and, if we pour the same water into the bowl, it will change its shape and acquire the shape of the bowl. Similarly, the environment (space) wherein one lives impacts our wellbeing especially mental wellbeing and self-care rituals must include proper space management as well. Decluttering is a self-care process that has advantages that go well beyond the visual attractiveness of having a tidy house or office.

Practise gratitude and forgiveness

Gratitude and forgiveness practices can be life-changing steps on the path to mental health. These methods have their roots deep in the rich soil of emotional freedom, personal development, and psychological resilience. Accepting thankfulness means adopting a perspective on life that makes the good things in it bigger and the bad things smaller. The goal of forgiveness is to set oneself free from the corrosive bitterness that can destroy inner serenity, not to support cruel behaviour.

Channelise your emotions (Energy in Motion)

Emotions are ‘Energy in Motion’ and stopping their free flow is detrimental to mental wellbeing. Self-care rituals must incorporate a practice which takes care of emotions and journaling can be a great way for the same. Your mental health self-care toolset should include affirmations and manifestations.

How to eat Kodo millets for weight loss, lowering cholesterol

With millets in spotlight across the world, their different varieties, nutritional benefits and ways to consume them have gained popular interest. Kodo millet, an ancient grain, has been making its way to the contemporary kitchen in the form of soups, flatbreads, porridge, cookies, salads and other snacks. Originated in tropical Africa, Kodo millet also known as cow grass, rice grass, ditch millet, and Native Paspalum has been in use in India for 3,000 years. Millet consumption in the country dates back to thousands of years. No wonder the grains find mention in various ancient texts such as Yajurveda and other scriptures. As the nutritional benefits of millets are recognised world-over, the trend of its increased consumption is seen in India and be-



how these grains found their way into ancient kitchens:

Versatile culinary use: Ancient cultures embraced Kodo millets for their versatility. These grains were transformed into nourishing porridges, hearty stews, and wholesome flatbreads. The adaptability of Kodo millets made them an indispensable part of daily meals.
Reliable food source: Kodo millets were revered for their ability to thrive in different environmental conditions. This reliability made them a consistent and accessible food source for communities, ensuring sustenance even in challenging times.

Ways to eat Kodo millets

1. Nutty porridge: Begin your day with a nutritious millet porridge using milk or water. Add fruits and nuts for a delightful and healthy breakfast.
2. Flavourful pilafs: Substitute rice with Kodo millets in your favourite pilaf recipe. Enjoy the enhanced nutty taste and nutritional benefits.
3. Millet salad: Create a refreshing salad by mixing cooked Kodo millets with colourful vegetables and herbs. Drizzle with a zesty dressing for a quick and light lunch option.

Who shouldn't have Kodo millet

1. Potassium sensitivity: It is important for individuals with kidney issues or potassium sensitivity to exercise caution. Kodo millets contain potassium, and excess intake may not be advisable.
2. Consultation advised: Before incorporating Kodo millets into the diet, especially for those with health concerns, seeking advice from a healthcare professional is wise. Individual health needs should be considered for a tailored approach.

Tandoori Chicken

Ingredients:

1 Whole Chicken, cut into halves	2 tbsp Degi Red Chilli Powder
1 tbsp Ginger Garlic Paste	½ tsp Crushed Shahi Jeera (Caraway Seeds)
Salt to taste	¼ tsp Cardamom Powder
½ tsp Lime juice	A pinch of Cinnamon Powder
Second Marination:	½ tsp Black Pepper Powder
1 tbsp Mustard Oil	½ tsp Coriander Powder
	½ cup Hung Curd

10 gms Soft Cheese

½ tsp Lime juice

Salt to taste

½ tbsp Roasted Gram Flour

Method:

1. Take a whole chicken cut into half, lightly slit the breast and leg part.
2. Marinate the chicken with ginger

garlic paste, lime juice and refrigerate for 1 hour.

3. In a mixing bowl, add mustard oil, degi red chilli powder, shahi jeera, cardamom powder, a pinch of cinnamon powder, coriander powder and mix well.

4. Add hung curd, soft cheese and mix well. Add lime juice, salt to taste and roasted gram flour and mix them well.

5. Remove the chicken from the refrigerator and marinate with the second marinade, mix well and place on a greased tray and rest for 2 hours.

6. Bake it for 35 minutes at 170°C.



Badminton WC: Ayush, Sindhu Sail Into Pre-Quarters; Lakshya, Unnati Suffer Heartbreak

New Delhi: On a mixed day for the hosts, former champion PV Sindhu and giant-killer Ayush Shetty had little trouble overcoming their second-round challengers while Lakshya Sen and Unnati Hooda crashed out of the BWF World Championships 2026 at the Indira Gandhi Stadium in New Delhi on Wednesday. Sindhu, seeded ninth, defeated Canada's Zhang Wen Yu 21-16, 21-17 in the women's singles second round, while Ayush needed just 26 minutes to pack off Sri Lanka's D u m i n d u Abeywickrama 21-8, 21-10 to advance to the men's singles pre-quarterfinals. In the Round of 16, Sindhu will face third seed Wang Zi Yi of China, who defeated Malaysia's K a r u o a t h e v a n



Letshanaa 21-16, 21-9 earlier in the day. Ayush also set up a pre-quarterfinal clash against Indonesia's 11th seed Alwi Farhan. The 2023 world junior champion had sailed through his second-round match against Joakim Oldorff of Finland 21-12, 21-9. Two-time world championships bronze

medallist Satwiksairaj Rankireddy and Chirag Shetty also advanced to the Round of 16 without even entering the court after their Scottish opponents gave them a walkover due to an injury to Alexander Dunn. While Sindhu and Ayush had little trouble in their second-round clashes, there

was heartbreak for Lakshya and Unnati. Lakshya, seeded 14th, was undone by 18-year-old Garret Tan of the USA in a bruising battle, 19-21, 21-19, 21-17 in an hour and 13 minutes, while Unnati failed to convert two match points against 13th seed Michelle Li of Canada

and lost 11-21, 21-9, 23-21 in her world championships debut. Lakshya bagged the opening game against Tan, but the American took the fight to the home favourite with his big, booming smashes. Lakshya came back in the second game by saving four game points but could not avoid a decider. In the third and final game, Lakshya again trailed 4-11 before fighting back to 16-17, but a couple of errors and an aggressive Tan put paid to his hopes of turning things around. Earlier, Unnati came close to creating an upset as she earned two match points against Li. But on both occasions, her pushes went out on the side, and Li then grabbed the opportunity to close out the match with a down-the-line smash.

Badminton WC: Lakshya Sen Suffers Shock Second-Round Exit

New Delhi: India's Lakshya Sen suffered a shock second-round exit at the BWF Badminton World Championships 2026, going down to USA's 18-year-old Garret Tan in a three-game thriller at the Indira Gandhi Indoor Stadium in New Delhi on Wednesday. Sen, who was the 14th seed and had won a bronze medal at the 2021 World Championships, won the first game but could not keep up his pace as Tan, the world No. 92, fought back to win 19-21, 21-19, 21-17 in their first appearance at the World Championships, the match lasting 73 minutes. Lakshya managed to keep his composure in the closely fought first game, but the Chinese-American rookie Tan took control of the second from the



beginning. Although the Indian star, who narrowly missed winning the bronze medal at the Paris Olympics in 2024, had four game points, he was unable to stop the American from forcing a deciding game. In the last game, Tan kept bothering Lakshya with his reliable net play and powerful smashes. At the change of ends, the American had built up a lead of seven points, leaving Lakshya with a huge amount to make up. However, the Indian

shuttler responded brilliantly by scoring six consecutive points, which reduced the deficit to just two points, 10 to 12, and gave a new impetus to his challenge. When Tan was leading 17-15, he received medical attention for a possible concussion. The pause seemed to disturb Lakshya's flow, and the Indian was able to win only two of the next six points as the American secured a memorable win.

1st Test: Suthar And Padikkal Are Long-Term Prospects For India, Says Gill After Galle Win

Galle: Indian captain Shubman Gill lavished praise on young left-arm spinner Manav Suthar and left-handed batter Devdutt Padikkal following their standout performances in India's commanding 165-run victory over Sri Lanka in the opening Test here on Wednesday. Chasing a target of 372, Sri Lanka were bowled out for 206 on day five, with Suthar taking 6-55 to finish with a match haul of 10 for 101, securing a 1-0 lead for India in the two-match series. Padikkal, who came in at number three due to B Sai Sudharsan's right foot injury, also had a great contribution by making a magnificent 167 in first innings and 44 in second essay. "He (Suthar) has been bowling magnificently, even in the first match that he played in India (vs Afghanistan), and in this match. He looks like a very promising guy and someone who can

play for India for a very long time. He (Padikkal) was magnificent to watch. "It's important to get hundreds, but even after getting a hundred, how he carried on and got a big one for us, that's the difference between being in a competitive match and being in a comfortable position. And his knock in the second innings as well, the way he played and the way he dominated the spinners was a treat to watch," said Gill in the post-match presentation ceremony. Quizzed on how special this win was, considering it was the 600th Test for India, Gill stated, "It's great. It's really special to win the 600th Test match for your country. Yes, special indeed. A very satisfying win for us. I think we were in a comfortable position. "But to be able to come here, not sure if the match is going to go because of the weather,

we were put under a bit of pressure. But I think the team responded really well. That (playing in the World Test Championship final) is the ultimate goal. Test wins do not come easy and this one is delightful." Gill further felt a collapse in the second innings, where India made 193, is not too much concerning in his opinion. "Honestly, not really. We were wanting to get around 400 in the third innings (when) we were batting. The wicket wasn't easy to score runs at will. "And we were looking to play a little bit more aggressively in the third innings because we wanted that many overs (in the final innings), and we were not sure how many overs we'd be able to bowl on Day 4 and 5. So, that was the thought process and in that process, we lost some early wickets.

Men's Hockey World Cup: Harman, Abhishek Brace Helps India Quell Pakistan 5-3, Advance To Next Stage

Amstelveen: Skipper Harmanpreet Singh and Abhishek scored a brace each as India maintained their dominance over neighbours Pakistan with a 5-3 win in a hard-fought encounter in their final league match in the FIH Men's Hockey World Cup 2026 and secured a place in the next stage of the competition at the Wagener Hockey Stadium in Amstelveen on Wednesday. Harmanpreet scored via penalty corners in the 5th and 21st minutes while Abhishek sounded the board via field goals in the 11th and 24th minutes as the Indians established early dominance in what was their third match in Pool D. Pakistan fought back and scored twice through Hannan Shahid (22nd-pc, 46th-pc) and once via Sufyan Khan



(24th-pc) to reduce the margin. But every time they scored, the Indians went on to absorb some pressure in the last quarter to secure a comprehensive victory. Hardik Singh (35th-PS) scored the fifth goal for India as the 1975-winner restored the margin by scoring right back after their opponents had reduced

the gap. The victory saw India finish second in the pool and keep their hopes of reaching the semi-finals alive. England topped Pool D with three consecutive wins, while Pakistan and Wales will now compete in the classification phase. India have dominated archrivals Pakistan in the last decade and have

beaten them in all matches at the senior and junior levels since 2016. India made a blistering start and established control early, particularly through attacks down the left flank. Pakistan repeatedly threatened to make a comeback in the second half, but India maintained their composure when it

mattered most. India opened the scoring in the fifth minute after sustained pressure around the Pakistan circle. A ricochet off Abhishek's reverse effort was deemed dangerous, earning India a penalty corner. Harmanpreet's first drag-flick struck the rusher's foot, resulting in a retake. The Indian captain made no mistake with the second attempt, sending a powerful flick to goalkeeper Ali Raza's left to put India 1-0 ahead. India continued to press aggressively. Shilanand Lakra earned another penalty corner in the sixth minute, but Harmanpreet's low effort was comfortably kept out by Ali Raza. Aditya also produced a promising solo run from the right, although his final pass could not find an Indian stick inside the circle.

Devdutt Padikkal Breaks Silence on Sai Sudharsan Battle for India's Test No. 3 Spot

NEW DELHI: Devdutt Padikkal has opened up about the competition with Sai Sudharsan for India's No. 3 spot in Test cricket after strengthening his case with a maiden century against Sri Lanka in the first Test in Galle. Padikkal produced an impressive performance in the opening Test of the two-match series, following scores of 167 and 44 with a century in the first innings. His consistent run of form has put him firmly in contention for a regular place in India's Test XI. However, his position could have been different had Sai Sudharsan been available for the Sri

Lanka series. The Tamil Nadu batter was ruled out before the first Test, leaving Padikkal with the opportunity to establish himself. Padikkal on 'musical chairs' with Sai Sudharsan Padikkal was asked about the competition with Sudharsan and the perceived "musical chairs" for India's No. 3 position. The Karnataka batter played down the situation, stressing that players have to make the most of opportunities whenever they come their way. "That's how it goes, to be honest. Cricket has its injuries, and things like that happen. Sai has been doing well

for us over the last few games, and he's a very talented player," Padikkal said. He added that whoever gets an opportunity must focus on contributing to the team. "At the end of the day, whoever gets that opportunity, it's important that we take that opportunity and try to help the team win. And as long as we're doing that, I think everyone's happy," he said. Padikkal refuses to look too far ahead. Despite his impressive performances, Padikkal said there have been no discussions about his position in the Test XI

beyond the Sri Lanka series. The 25-year-old explained that he does not spend much time worrying about securing a guaranteed run of matches. "It's important that whenever you get that opportunity, you just take it. I don't really go looking for those conversations," Padikkal said. He added that modern cricket is highly performance-driven, meaning players must continually justify their selection. "It's a highly result-driven business. I think whenever you go out there, you're expected to perform," he said.

India Crush Sri Lanka by 165 Runs in Galle Test; Take 1-0 Series Lead

NEW DELHI: Riding on a scintillating spell of 6-55 from young left-arm spinner Manav Suthar, India wrapped up a dominant 165-run victory over Sri Lanka in the opening Test at the Galle International Stadium on Wednesday. Playing in just his second Test, Suthar claimed six wickets in the second innings to finish with a match haul of 10-101, as Sri Lanka were bowled out for 206 in 77.4 overs in Galle's 50th Test match. The resounding result gave India a 1-0 lead in the two-match series and secured 12 crucial World Test Championship points



in what was also their milestone 600th Test match. Sri Lanka's Sonal Dinusha, who had scored a century in the first innings, fought valiantly with an 84, but Suthar's devastating triple-wicket maiden in the

76th over turned the contest decisively in India's favour. India's victory was also anchored by Devdutt Padikkal's magnificent 167 in the first innings, which set up a 178-run cushion, while Rishabh Pant's 66 in

the second innings ensured the bowlers had enough runs to exploit the turning surface. With the win, India head into the second and final Test in Colombo on Sunday with momentum firmly on their side.

Kalinga Global Photography Festival 2026 Inaugurated at KIIT

BHUBANESWAR,(correspondent): The Kalinga Global Photography Festival 2026 was inaugurated at KIIT on the occasion of World Photography Day. Organised by the KIIT School of Film and Media Sciences, the festival brought together students, young photographers, filmmakers, faculty members and photography enthusiasts. Gokulananda Mallik, Minister for Fisheries and Animal Resources Development, attended the inaugural ceremony as the Chief Guest and delivered an inspiring message to students and young photographers. He said photography is not merely an art form but also a powerful medium to preserve time and memories. “No one



can hold time, but photographers can capture moments through their cameras and preserve them as memories,” he said. Praising the contribution of Dr. Achyuta Samanta, Founder, KIIT & KISS, Mr. Mallik said KIIT has established a distinct identity at both the national and

international levels due to Dr. Samanta’s sustained efforts and dedication. Addressing the younger generation, he said the present era is driven by technology and artificial intelligence. He urged young people to make effective use of science and technology to develop the state and the country. He expressed

hope that students would play a significant role in realising the vision of Developed Odisha 2036 and Viksit Bharat 2047. Renowned Odia film actress Barsha Priyadarshini, who attended the event as the Guest of Honour, said, “A photograph taken today becomes history tomorrow.” She

observed that true photography is about capturing an image that conveys more than words can express. She also praised Dr. Achyuta Samanta’s efforts to shape students’ futures and help them grow into responsible, good human beings. Among those present at the inaugural ceremony were Prof. Jnyana Ranjan Mohanty, Registrar, KIIT DU; Prof. Debashish B and op adhyay, Director General; Dr. Rajiv Kumar Panda, Dean, KIIT School of Media, Fashion Technology and Film; and festival Convenor Prof. Sushant Bahinipati. Several eminent photographers, filmmakers, faculty members and students also attended the event.

Crompton Unveils Its New Master Brand Identity and Expands its Branded Platforms to Accelerate its Premiumization Journey

Mumbai: Crompton Greaves Consumer Electricals Ltd., one of India’s leading consumer electrical companies, today unveiled its new Master Brand identity, marking the next chapter of Crompton 2.0; the company’s strategic transformation into an innovation-led consumer-centric business. Over the last decade, Crompton has strategically expanded beyond its core categories through sustained investments in technology and product innovation. The new brand identity reflects this business evolution, creating a unified platform while supporting the company’s next phase of innovation, premiumisation and long-term growth. At the heart



of Crompton’s refreshed identity is “Cephyr” (pronounced SAF-FYR), the Crompton Greaves Consumer Electricals Ltd.’s new emblem and primary visual expression. The name Cephyr draws inspiration from two powerful sources, the deep, enduring blue of sapphire and the gentle breeze of Zephyrus, the Greek wind. It reflects care, quality, refinement and timelessness with effortless grace and quiet

energy. Cephyr, is symbolic of Crompton’s transformation into a design-forward brand, where fluidity, adaptability, and aesthetic sophistication define every touchpoint. The emblem carries deep meaning: The ‘C’ stands for Consumer, Customer, Care, Connectivity and Crompton, highlighting the brand’s commitment to consumer-centric innovation and connected living experiences.

ONTHHPC Cadet Engil Harsharani Minz Selected for India's Junior Women's Hockey Team

Bhubaneswar, (correspondent): Engil Harsharani Minz, a goalkeeper from the Odisha Naval Tata Hockey High Performance Centre (ONTHHPC), has been selected in the 20-member Indian Women’s Junior Hockey Team for the AHF (Asian Hockey Federation) Women’s Junior Asia Cup 2026, to be held in Moqi, China, from August 30 to September 13. Engil’s selection marks another significant achievement for ONTHHPC and adds to the Centre’s growing contribution to India’s national hockey teams. The young goalkeeper has



impressed with her composure, agility and consistency, steadily developing her game through the Centre’s high-performance training programme. The AHF Women’s Junior Asia Cup is a major continental tournament for junior hockey, bringing together leading teams from across Asia. The

championship will provide the young Indian squad with an important platform to gain international experience and compete at the highest level of junior hockey. Congratulating Engil on her selection, Gurmeet Singh Rao, Project Director, ONTHHPC, said, “Engil’s selection to the Indian team is a proud moment for all of us at ONTHHPC. Her journey reflects her hard work, discipline and determination. It also demonstrates the importance of providing young athletes with the right training and competitive exposure. We wish Engil and the

Indian team the very best for the tournament and hope they have a successful campaign.” Engil’s selection reinforces ONTHHPC’s role in developing young hockey players and creating a pathway from high-performance training to national-level competition. As part of Hockey Ace Foundation (HAF), a joint initiative of Tata Steel and Tata Trusts, ONTHHPC, in partnership with the Government of Odisha, works alongside the Naval Tata Hockey Academy in Jamshedpur to identify and nurture promising hockey talent.

TPWODL Sets New Rooftop Solar Record with Over 8,000 Installations in July

Burla, (correspondent): TP Western Odisha Distribution Limited (TPWODL), a joint venture between Tata Power and the Government of Odisha, has achieved its highest-ever monthly rooftop solar installation of 8,298 units in July 2026, marking a significant milestone in the adoption of clean energy across Western Odisha. The July achievement comprises 3,395 rooftop solar installations under the PM Surya Ghar: Muft Bijli Yojana and 4,903 installations through the Utility-Led Aggregation (ULA) model. Together, the two schemes have enabled TPWODL to record its



previous monthly high of 5,373 rooftop solar installations, achieved in May 2026. The company also achieved a new record in terms of monthly performance under its Utility-Led Aggregation (ULA) Model, installing 4,903 rooftop solar installations in July. The accomplishment comes in after a previous record of 3,518 rooftop

solar installations achieved in May 2026, proving the effectiveness of the ULA model in facilitating rooftop solar installation. Speaking about the achievement, Shri Parveen Verma, CEO, TPWODL, said, “Achieving 8,298 rooftop solar installations in a single month is a significant

milestone for TPWODL and reflects the growing confidence of consumers in rooftop solar. This achievement is the result of strong consumer participation and the sustained efforts of our field teams, Renewable Energy Officers and partners. More importantly, the growing number of consumers benefiting from zero electricity bills demonstrates the tangible value that rooftop solar can deliver to households. We will continue to simplify adoption and support more households across Western Odisha in becoming part of India’s clean energy transition.”

TPSODL Strengthens Power Network in Chhatrapur with Underground Cabling

Berhampur (correspondent): TP Southern Odisha Distribution Limited (TPSODL), a joint venture of Tata Power and the Government of Odisha, has completed a 3.4 km underground cabling project in Chhatrapur. This project provides stronger and more reliable power for the district headquarters of Ganjam. The new 11kV underground power network ensures reliable, uninterrupted, and storm proof electricity for key government and administrative offices. Institutions now connected include the Ganjam Collectorate, SP Office, and the Sub Divisional Hospital in Chhatrapur. In addition to serving public administration offices, the new underground network delivers safer and more reliable electricity to nearly



1,000 residents in Chhatrapur. It also strengthens power supply for prominent commercial hubs across the town. Major areas benefiting from this project include High School Road, Karini Sahi, Fish Market Road, Chhatrapur Main Road, Nilakantha Sahi, Kapila Sahi, and Patra Sahi. A major technical highlight of

this project is the improved interconnection between the Lower Bus Stand Feeder and the Upper Bus Stand Feeder. Both feeders are powered by the Chhatrapur Primary Substation. By linking them through underground cabling, TPSODL can now reroute electricity more efficiently. This

makes it easier to manage power during maintenance or emergency breakdowns. As a result, the entire town receives continuous electricity without long interruptions. Speaking on this milestone, Mr. Amit Kumar Garg, CEO, TPSODL, said: “Modernizing our distribution network with strong and safe

underground infrastructure is a major goal for TPSODL. Chhatrapur is the administrative center of Ganjam district, and securing uninterrupted power supply for key offices like the Collectorate, SP Office, and the local hospital is essential for smooth public services and emergency response. This 3.4 km underground cabling project not only protects our power network from severe weather but also enhances safety and reliability for over 1,000 local residents and shopkeepers on busy commercial roads.” TPSODL remains committed to upgrading power infrastructure across Southern Odisha to deliver continuous, safe, and quality power to all its consumers.

Cabinet approves four multitracking projects covering eight Districts in West Bengal, Odisha, Tamil Nadu and Andhra Pradesh

Bhubaneswar, (correspondent): The Cabinet Committee on Economic Affairs, chaired by the Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi, today has approved Four projects of Ministry of Railways with total cost of Rs. 9,450 crore approximately. These projects include: Kharagpur – Bhadrak (Ranital) 4th Line – 173 km (West Bengal and Odisha) Bhadrak – Haridaspur 4th Line – 75 km (Odisha) Gummidipundi – Gudur 3rd and 4th Line – 90 km (Andhra Pradesh and Tamil Nadu) Cuttack – Paradeep (Badabandha) 3rd and 4th Line – 72 km (Odisha) The increased line capacity will significantly enhance mobility, resulting in improved operational efficiency and service reliability for Indian Railways. These multi-

tracking proposals are poised to streamline operations and alleviate congestion. The projects are in line with the Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi’s Vision of a New India which will make people of the region “Atmanirbhar” by way of comprehensive development in the area which will enhance their employment/ self-employment opportunities. The projects are planned on PM-Gati Shakti National Master Plan with focus on enhancing multi-modal connectivity & logistic efficiency through integrated planning and stakeholder consultations. These projects will provide seamless connectivity for movement of people, goods, and services. The 04 (Four) projects covering 08 Districts across the states of West Bengal, Odisha, Tamil Nadu and

Andhra Pradesh, will increase the existing network of Indian Railways by about 410 Kms. The proposed multi-tracking projects will enhance connectivity to approximately 6,448 villages, which are having a population of about 60 lakhs. The proposed capacity enhancement will improve rail connectivity to several prominent tourist destinations across the country, including Kuldiha Wildlife Sanctuary, Bhitarkanika National Park, Maa Bhadrakali temple, Maa Dhamarai temple, Panchalingeswar Temple, Talsari-Udaypur and Chandipur Beach, Pulicat Lake, Nelapattu Bird Sanctuary, Lord Veeraraghava Perumal Temple, Gada Kujanga Jagannath Temple, Sarala Temple, Dhabaleswar Temple, Lalitgiri (a Buddhist site), etc.