



PM Modi Outlines Opportunities For Japan To Partner Indian Companies, Start-Ups In Defence Sector

2



BJP Welcomes New Karmas Kartain Laxmipur

3



Badminton WC: Treasa-Gayatri, Satwik-Chirag Keep India's Medal Hopes Alive As Sindhu, Ayush Crash Out

7



Pomodoro technique: How 25-minute work bursts can crush your stress

6

## Ex-Congress MP Sajjan Kumar dies at 80

NEW DELHI: Former Congress MP Sajjan Kumar died at the age of 80 at Delhi's Safdarjung Hospital on Thursday, August 20, news agency PTI reported, citing hospital sources. Kumar was serving a life sentence following his conviction in a 1984 anti-Sikh riots case. The hospital has not yet disclosed the cause of his death. Kumar, a prominent Congress leader and three-time Lok Sabha MP, represented the Outer Delhi constituency during his political career. The former MP was sentenced to life imprisonment by the Delhi High Court in December 2018 for his role in a case linked to the killing of five Sikhs and the burning of a gurdwara during the 1984 anti-Sikh riots. His conviction marked a major development in one of the long-running cases related to the violence that followed the assassination of then Prime Minister Indira Gandhi in 1984.

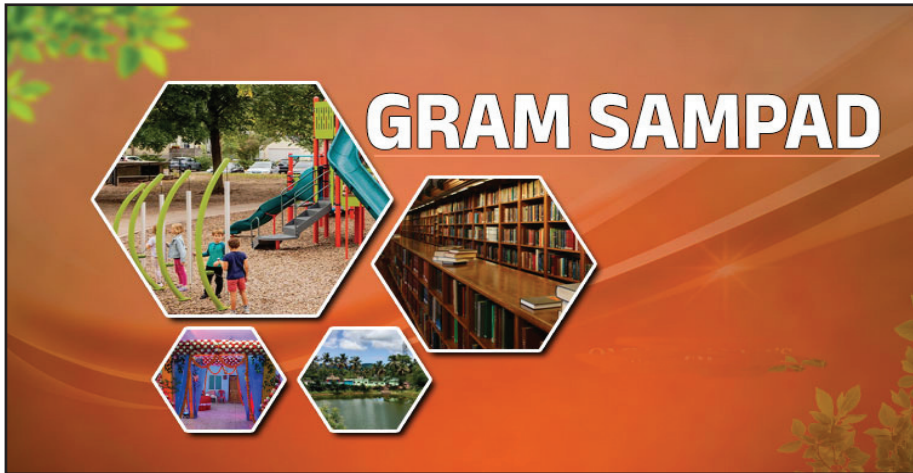
## Supreme Court Sets Up Panel to Probe Police Action, Violence During NEET Protests

NEW DELHI: The Supreme Court of India has constituted a High-Powered Committee (HPC) headed by former SC judge Justice R Subhash Reddy to probe allegations of police excesses and violence during last month's student protests against the NEET paper leak at Delhi's Jantar Mantar. The five-member panel includes Justice Ravi Shankar Jha (former Punjab & Haryana HC Chief Justice), Justice Shalinder Kaur (former Delhi HC judge), Rishi Kumar Shukla (former CBI Director), and LR Bishnoi (former Meghalaya DGP). The Court said the committee was chosen for its expertise, experience, and diversity, and will conduct continuous

assessments with interim reports to guide judicial directions. The HPC will prioritise complaints of targeted violence, harassment, and molestation of female protesters, and examine allegations of grievous injuries caused by police and paramilitary forces. Specific issues under scrutiny include the use of pellet guns, electric batons, lathi charges, and tear gas, as well as whether force was used lawfully and proportionately. The committee will also probe whether police personnel wore proper uniforms and nameplates, assess surveillance measures against protesters in light of privacy rights, and consider interim compensation for both injured protesters and police personnel.

# Odisha Launches 'GRAM SAMPAD' To Create Model Community Assets In Every Panchayat

BHUBANESWAR (correspondent): The Odisha government on Thursday announced a new rural infrastructure initiative, 'GRAM SAMPAD', aimed at creating durable and community-oriented public assets in villages, with each Gram Panchayat expected to receive around Rs 3 crore annually for development-related works. The initiative, whose full name is Green, Resilient and Accessible Model of Sustainable Assets for Multi-sectoral Panchayat Amenities and Rural Development, seeks to strengthen rural infrastructure by ensuring the creation of at least one model community asset in every Gram Panchayat. Under GRAM SAMPAD, the government plans to pool resources from the VB-GRAM G scheme with various Central and state



programmes and funding sources, including BGBO, CFC, SFC, CSR, DMF and MLALAD. The convergence is intended to provide financial resources, technical support and institutional assistance for developing assets based on local requirements. The proposed community assets include model rural parks, panchayat libraries, marriage mandaps, playgrounds, ponds and other water

bodies, rural haats and crematoriums. These facilities are envisaged to address rural needs related to recreation, education, sports, water security, livelihoods, social functions and environmental protection. The Gram Panchayats will have a key role in identifying local requirements and appropriate sites, preparing plans through community participation, executing projects,

maintaining records and ensuring the upkeep and management of the assets. The government has also formulated Standard Operating Procedures covering planning, design, cost estimation, implementation, quality control and maintenance of the model assets. Under the convergence approach, each participating scheme will finance only its permissible components to avoid duplication and

ensure effective utilisation of resources. According to the GRAM SAMPAD information booklet, the estimated construction cost of a model playground is Rs 65.75 lakh, while a model marriage mandap is estimated at Rs 49 lakh. A model pond or water body would cost around Rs 34 lakh, followed by a model crematorium at Rs 22 lakh and a model rural park at Rs 20 lakh. The estimated cost of a model rural haat has been pegged at Rs 16.50 lakh, while a model panchayat library would require around Rs 10 lakh. The government said the success of GRAM SAMPAD would not be measured merely by the number of assets created, but by their actual utilisation, maintenance, community ownership and contribution to improving the quality of life in rural areas.

## Amit Shah urges CMs to show 'greater sensitivity' towards rape of women, children; flags school dropouts, malnutrition

Mahabalipuram (Tamil Nadu), August 20: Union Home Minister Amit Shah on Thursday urged Chief Ministers of southern states to demonstrate "greater sensitivity" towards crimes against women and children, while calling for concerted efforts to address school dropouts and malnutrition among vulnerable sections of society. He raised the issues with special emphasis while chairing the 31st meeting of the Southern Zonal Council and pointed out that the swift investigation of cases of rape against women and children, and the early disposal of



rape and Protection of Children from Sexual Offences (POCSO) cases through the implementation of Fast Track Special Courts (FTSC) are very sensitive issues. "These issues need to be viewed with great sensitivity at the level of the Chief Ministers," Shah addressed while chairing the meeting. He also

mentioned, "After the introduction of the new criminal laws, many tools have become available to us for accelerating the entire process." The Home Minister said that malnutrition, stunting and the school dropout ratio are very important for our future generations, and that "we should not be satisfied with anything less than 100

per cent in addressing the school dropout ratio." Shah said that currently the school dropout ratio for the entire country stands at 9.5, and if all states make even incremental improvements, we can bring it down below three per cent. The Home Minister further said, "If the national dropout ratio goes

below three per cent, children will become educated citizens and a conducive environment will be created in the country for implementing the spirit of the Constitution in its true sense down to the grassroots." "The Home Minister said that we must also pay special attention to malnutrition," the Ministry of Home Affairs said in a statement quoting Shah. In a way, Shah said nutrition schemes are also linked to the school dropout ratio. He further said that we are moving towards an even more dangerous problem of stunting, that is, stunted growth.

## Mirza Fakhrul Islam Alamgir Elected Bangladesh's 23rd President

Dhaka: BNP candidate Mirza Fakhrul Islam Alamgir was elected as the 23rd President of Bangladesh on Thursday after defeating Oli Ahmed, the candidate backed by Jamaat-e-Islami-led 11-party alliance, local media reported. Fakhrul secured 255 votes, while Ahmed could manage only 88 of the 343 valid votes cast in the presidential election held on Thursday afternoon in the national Parliament under the supervision of Chief Election Commissioner (CEC) and Returning Officer A M M Nasir Uddin. The new President is scheduled to take the oath of office

at Bangabhaban on Friday, according to the Chief Whip. Announcing the result, the CEC said, "Mirza Fakhrul Islam Alamgir was elected to the post of President properly as he got the highest votes," the CEC said, Bangladeshi media outlet UNB reported. Reports suggest that among the 349 eligible voters, six lawmakers did not cast their ballots in the presidential election. Those who did not vote include BNP lawmakers Mirza Abbas and Mostafa Kamal Pasha, independent lawmaker Rumeen Farhana, Jamaat lawmaker Gazi Nazrul Islam and Islami

Andolan Bangladesh lawmaker Oli Ullah. The presidential election marks the first "ballot battle" in more than three and a half decades, breaking the longstanding practice of electing Presidents unopposed, a trend that continued since 1991. The last presidential election decided through voting in Parliament was on October 8, 1991. Following the resignation of Bangladesh President Mohammed Shahabuddin on July 24, Speaker of the National Parliament Hafiz Uddin Ahmed was serving as the country's acting President.

## Over 100 Killed In Gold Mine Collapse On Cameroon-CAR Border

Yaounde: More than 100 miners were killed Tuesday after a gold mine caved in at a border village between Cameroon and the Central African Republic (CAR), Cameroonian officials and local media have said. Gregoire Mvongo, governor of Cameroon's East Region, which borders CAR, said Wednesday that the collapse happened around 2:00 p.m. local time in the village of

Zamboye. "Zamboye is a border village, but the mine collapsed on the CAR side. About three to five Cameroonians died. We are doing everything possible to rescue victims," Mvongo told Xinhua by phone. Cameroon's state media CRTV put the death toll at over 100. Other local outlets reported that 107 bodies had already been recovered from the debris. Meanwhile, in a recording obtained by Xinhua on Thursday,

CAR Minister of Mines and Geology Rufin Benam-Beltoungou confirmed 49 deaths. "We visited the site where the tragedy occurred. We counted 49 deaths, including 34 CAR nationals, 13 Cameroonians, and two Chadians. In a meeting we held, some managers acknowledged the indiscipline of the miners," Benam-Beltoungou told reporters in CAR after visiting the site on Wednesday.

## India, Japan Reaffirm Commitment To Deepen Bilateral Defence Cooperation

Tokyo/New Delhi: India and Japan on Thursday welcomed the steady strengthening of bilateral defence cooperation, including engagement between their respective ministries and services, based on shared strategic perspectives under the 'Japan-India Special Strategic and Global Partnership' which constitutes one of the pillars for peace, stability and prosperity in the Indo-Pacific. In a joint statement issued after the Japan-India Defence Ministers' Meeting between Rajnath Singh

and his Japanese counterpart, Shinjiro Koizumi, in New Delhi, the two sides stressed the importance of sharing assessments of the regional and international security environment amid heightened global tensions. They also expressed their strong opposition to any unilateral actions that impede freedom and safety of navigation and overflight, as well as to any attempts to change the status quo by force or coercion. Recalling the Japan-India Joint Statement issued in July

2026, both Singh and Koizumi affirmed their commitment, under their leadership, to further deepen defence cooperation to realise a free and open Indo-Pacific. The two ministers agreed to deepen operational cooperation in the field of maritime security in a practical and effective manner. They accordingly affirmed their commitment to strengthening Maritime Security Cooperation and signed the Memorandum of Arrangement on Maritime Security Cooperation.

"The Memorandum provides a framework for further advancing cooperation between the two countries in the field of maritime security. Specifically, it includes the strengthening of cooperation between the Japan Maritime Self-Defense Force and the Indian Navy, including information sharing in the field of Maritime Domain Awareness (MDA), as well as enhanced cooperation in areas such as Search and Rescue (SAR) and Humanitarian Assistance and Disaster Relief (HADR)," read the

joint statement. "The two Ministers affirmed that they would strengthen coordination between both sides for the protection of Sea Lines of Communications through mutual visits by naval ships and units, joint exercises, personnel and Subject Matter Expert (SME) exchanges and logistical support including use of ports, maintenance and repair facilities. Such cooperation is vital not only to Japan and India, but also to the region and the international community," it added

# Aircraft to fly from Malkangiri airport: District administration reviews preparations

Malkangiri, correspondent: Preparations for the launch of commercial air services from Malkangiri airport have reached the final stage. While the service is to be formally inaugurated by the Hon'ble Chief Minister of Odisha, an important virtual meeting has been held under the chairmanship of the Principal Secretary of the Commerce and Transport Department. In this context, all related arrangements have



been ensured by the district administration under the direct supervision of Malkangiri District Magistrate Prathmesh Arvind Rajeshirke. To make the air services smooth and well-

organized, Additional District Magistrate (Revenue) Vedavar Pradhan and Deputy Collector Swayam Siddh Raut and other senior officials were present and reviewed the ground-level

preparations and coordination. In the initial phase, non-scheduled commercial air services will start from here under the RCS Udan scheme. Indian Air will operate a 9-seater flight. A special cell is being set up in the Collectorate premises for ticket booking and assistance to passengers. The administration has expressed hope that this flight service will bring a big change in the communication, business and tourism sectors of the district.

# District Collector Makes Surprise Visits to Rice Godowns

Jharsuguda, correspondent:- District Collector Kunal Motiram Chhabaan made surprise visits to the Odisha State Warehousing Corporation rice godown at Badmal and the Food Corporation of India godown near Bombay Chowk. During the inspection, the Collector reviewed the stock position of foodgrains, storage and maintenance arrangements, as well as the supply process. He directed the concerned officials to complete the lifting and



distribution of rice allotted for July and August under the Pradhan Mantri Garib Kalyan Anna Yojana

(PMGKAY) and Mukhyamantri Annapurna Yojana within the stipulated time. The Collector

instructed officials to ensure that no eligible beneficiary is deprived of receiving rice on time. He also warned that strict disciplinary action would be taken against anyone found violating rules or showing negligence in the discharge of duties. District In-charge Supply Officer Pitambar Sethi, Procurement Inspectors, L-2 transport contractors and other officials and employees of the concerned departments were present during the inspection.

## Nia Arrests Absconding Accused In Muzaffarpur Ak-47 Case

Patna: The National Investigation Agency (NIA) has arrested absconding accused Bhairav Tripathi in connection with the seizure of an AK 47 assault rifle, its lens and live ammunition in Muzaffarpur, Bihar. Tripathi, son of Jagat Narayan Tripathi and a resident of Sahebganj in Muzaffarpur, was arrested on Wednesday, August 19, 2026.

The case is linked to NIA Case No. RC 11/2024/NIA/DLI, which originated from the recovery of an AK 47 rifle, a scope and live ammunition in the Fakuli police station area of Muzaffarpur.

## PM Modi Congratulates Hakainde Hichilema On Being Re-Elected As Zambia President

New Delhi: Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Thursday congratulated President Hakainde Hichilema on being re-elected as the President of Zambia and noted that India values its partnership with Zambia. "Heartiest Congratulations to President Hakainde Hichilema on being re-elected as the President of Zambia. India greatly values its multifaceted partnership with Zambia, and I look forward to working together to further strengthen our relations under his leadership," Prime Minister Modi said on social media platform X. On Tuesday, the Electoral Commission of Zambia (ECZ) announced that Hichilema has won re-election in Zambia's Presidential poll.

## Gujarat Spurious Liquor Death Toll Rises To 8

Bhavnagar: The death toll in the spurious liquor case has risen to eight, with all 13 accused arrested so far being remanded in police custody for 10 days until August 31, as the State Monitoring Cell (SMC) continues its investigation into the supply and distribution of the poisonous liquor.

# PM Modi Outlines Opportunities For Japan To Partner Indian Companies, Start-Ups In Defence Sector

New Delhi: Prime Minister Narendra Modi outlined his vision for further strengthening the Special Strategic and Global Partnership between India and Japan as Japanese Defence Minister Shinjiro Koizumi, who is on an official visit to India, called on him on Thursday. During the meeting, Prime Minister Modi recalled his detailed discussions with his Japanese counterpart Sanae Takaichi when she visited India recently for the 16th India-Japan Annual Summit in July, and appreciated the steady momentum in defence collaboration between India and Japan. "Pleased to receive Defence Minister of Japan



Shinjiro Koizumi. Had an excellent conversation on deepening defence and security ties between India and Japan. Our Special Strategic and Global Partnership is an important anchor for peace, stability and prosperity in the Indo-Pacific and beyond," PM Modi posted on

X. Prime Minister Modi also outlined his vision for further strengthening the Special Strategic and Global Partnership between India and Japan and highlighted the importance of India-Japan defence and security cooperation in furthering peace, stability and prosperity in the Indo-Pacific and

beyond. "Prime Minister outlined opportunities for Japan to partner with Indian companies and start-ups in the defence sector, particularly for co-development and co-production under the aegis of 'Make in India.' Defence Minister Koizumi briefed the Prime Minister about the

progress in bilateral defence cooperation and reaffirmed the Government of Japan's continued commitment towards deepening ties with India," read a statement issued by the Prime Minister's Office (PMO) after the meeting. Koizumi, who met Defence Minister Rajnath Singh earlier in the day, said that he will devote all his efforts to turning discussions into concrete outcomes. "When the meeting concluded, Minister of Defence Singh put his arm around me and expressed his delight, saying, 'It was a very fruitful meeting.' We were able to make a new start in accelerating Japan-India defence cooperation.

## 10 Acres Of Chamarajanagar Reserve Gutted

Chamarajanagara (Karnataka): Around 10 acres of forest land in the Shilubepura forest range of Kollegal taluk in Chamarajanagar district were gutted in a fire on Thursday, with forest officials suspecting that the blaze may have been deliberately set following the recent action in which three poachers were killed in self-defence by Forest Department staff after they came under fire from the hunters. Officials suspect that the fire could have been a retaliatory act aimed at creating fear among forest department personnel and disrupting anti-poaching operations in the region. The blaze was reported in the Shilubepura forest area, where anti-poaching camps were also allegedly targeted. The incident comes days after forest department personnel allegedly shot dead three suspected poachers during an encounter in the Hanur forest range. The encounter has triggered demands from the Opposition and local groups for an impartial investigation into the deaths. Forest officials are examining whether the fire and the attacks on anti-poaching camps are linked to the operation. They are also investigating the possibility that the incidents were intended to intimidate forest personnel and disrupt anti-poaching operations. The incident has raised further concerns after gelatin explosives were allegedly used to target anti-poaching camps (APCs) in the Cauvery Wildlife Sanctuary following the killing of the three suspected poachers.

# Govt Allows Import Of 1 Million Tonnes Of Sugar To Rein In Prices

New Delhi: The Centre on Thursday allowed imports of 1 million tonnes of raw sugar at nil duty to bring down surging prices in the domestic market, which are adding to the inflationary pressure in the economy. According to an official notification issued, the imports will be permitted till October 31, 2026. A customs duty of 100 per cent was being levied on raw sugar imports. Data compiled by NCDEX showed that spot sugar prices in major markets across India touched a 16-year high of Rs 5,530 per quintal.

Retail sugar prices have climbed about 13



per cent year-on-year to Rs 52.30 a kg as on August 18, from Rs 46.34 a year ago, according to data gathered by the Consumer Affairs Ministry. Demand for sugar normally rises between August and November, as demand firms up in the country in the run-up to major festivals, such as

Ganesh Chaturthi, Dussehra, and Diwali. The imports are aimed at easing the burden on consumers. The government has also cracked down to check hoarding and black marketing and imposed a stockholding limit on bulk consumers of sugar. The crackdown also included a strict

diktat from the government to all mills to furnish mill-wise and buyer-wise details of sugar sold between August 17-19. Food Minister Pralhad Joshi, in a social media post, announced that bulk consumers using more than 10 tonnes of sugar a month will not be allowed to hold stock beyond what they would consume in 15 days. The Food Ministry has notified the Sugar (Stockholding Limit of Bulk Consumers) Order, 2026, which covers confectioners, soft drink manufacturers, food processing units, sweetmeat sellers, and

other institutional buyers. The order will come into force from September 1 and remain in effect till November 30. India's actual net sugar production in the 2025-26 season that started on October 1, 2025, is around 27.9 million tonnes after accounting for 2.4 million tonnes of ethanol. The opening stock in 2025-26 is close to around 4.7 million tonnes. Senior officials are of the view that even if prices come down by Rs 500 per quintal, Indian mills will still be in a profitable position as their production cost is around Rs 4,200-4,300 per quintal.

# SC Hears Plea To Recognise Right To Sports As Fundamental Right; Petitioner Opposes 'Physical Literacy'

New Delhi: The Supreme Court on Thursday heard a Public Interest Litigation (PIL) seeking recognition of the Right to Sports as a Fundamental Right under Article 21A of the Constitution, with petitioner Dr Kanishka Pandey urging the court not to dilute the larger constitutional question concerning access to sport into the narrower concept of 'physical literacy'. During the hearing, the court observed: "This is a laudable request. This is absolutely essential. And now in

this digital age, children are totally getting away from fields."

The PIL, originally filed by Pandey, seeks constitutional recognition of sport on the premise that participation in sport is integral to the holistic development of children and citizens and should not remain dependent merely upon individual privilege, institutional discretion or competitive excellence. After the PIL was filed, the Supreme Court appointed an Amicus Curiae to assist the court. A report was later

submitted before the court in 2022. The petitioner, however, raised objections to some key aspects of the report, especially its focus on "physical literacy" instead of the broader concept of 'sports'. The petitioner submitted that sports, physical education and physical literacy are three different concepts and should not be treated as the same. He argued that replacing the Right to Sports with physical literacy would change the original purpose and scope of the PIL. The petitioner

also said that sports should not be viewed mainly through elite performance, medals, competition, and sporting success. According to the petition, sport has a wider social and developmental character and can contribute to physical and mental well-being, personality development, discipline, leadership, confidence, resilience, teamwork and character building. It can also play an important role in addressing stress, anxiety, negativity and social isolation, while

creating stronger communities and encouraging social interaction, inclusion and cohesion. Sport can therefore operate simultaneously as an instrument of education, public health, youth development, community building, social development and nation building, the petitioner submitted. Pandey told the court that before arriving at recommendations on a matter of such far-reaching constitutional significance, it was important to first understand sport in its entirety and examine its multiple dimensions.

## Kataka raid: nearly 70 quintals of adulterated paneer seized

Kataka (correspondent): An adulterated paneer sale racket busted by the Kataka Municipal Corporation has sounded an alarm bell over the general food safety scenario of the city in Odisha. A number of complaints regarding sale of fake paneer by hoteliers, restaurants and also by vendors in markets had been reported. Following which, health and food safety teams of the Corporation carried out simultaneous raids in different parts of the city. The inspectors of two separate teams seized a huge volume of suspected

adulterated paneer in the process which after sampling has been sent to laboratory for quality and compositional testing. Later it was dumped at sati chaura dumping yard by the civic body to prevent it from reaching the consumers. As per the inspection committee, high-end hotels are selling paneer wherein 40 percent pure milk is allegedly being used. Wheat flour is being used to thicken the paneer. And there are allegations of the use of parasitic powder in the products for which purpose

production cost and manufacturing time is being reduced. Besides the team seized about one quintal of suspected adulterated paneer from a vehicle near link road, it also claimed it had signs of chemical adulteration from test reports. Fake paneer and chhenas are being brought to Kataka from places like Niali, added reports. The buyers are advised to buy from reputed sources and remain cautious while buying the products from shops that offer a lot too little to come true.

## Block Programme Manager arrested, taking a bribe in the tune of Rs 20K

Jagatsinghpur, (correspondent) The vigilance sleuths on Thursday arrested Kujanga block programme manager Manoj Ranjan Nayak while taking a bribe of Rs 20K from a health worker [Ashakarmi], threatening to prepone her retirement dues owing to an error in the date of birth in the Aadhaar card. The Vigilance press release revealed that the victim, Ashakarmi, had two more years of service based on the date of birth mentioned in her school leaving certificate, which she had furnished at the time of appointment. Still, she later submitted an Aadhaar card showing a different date of birth. Taking pleas of incongruous date of birth block programme manager Nayak had been blackmailing her and threatening to end her service. However delinquent programme manager had asked the victim Aashakarmi to pay him an amount

of Rs 20K as a consequence he will correct the date of birth in service record. Victim Ashakarmi had negotiated with the programme manager to reduce the claim amount but he refused to oblige her. Finding no other option Ashakarmi had reported the matter to vigilance authority, who acted promptly, a trap was conducted on Thursday at the conference room located under the building of Kujanga CHC where programme officer Nayak was trapped taking Rs 20K from the victim Aashakarmi and vigilance sleuths seized the entire bribe money under his possession. Meanwhile the programme manager Nayak has been arrested, a simultaneous searches have been launched on the resident and office of the Nayak and further investigation is on, vigilance release informed.

## BJP welcomes new Karma Karta in Laxmipur

Laxmipur(Correspondent) :- 20 workers who left BJD and Congress parties joined the Bharatiya Janata Party at the office of Koraput MLA and District Planning Board Chairman Raghuram Machha and were welcomed in Laxmipur today. We are inspired by the leadership of Prime Minister Narendra Modi and the development work of the state government. Therefore, we have decided to strengthen the hands of BJP together and have joined the Bharatiya



Janata Party, said the new worker. At the felicitation ceremony organized at the PWD Bungalow Laxmipur Mandal President Ajay Khara, Yuva Morcha General Secretary Dev Kumar Khara, District General Secretary Uday Hikka,

Kumbariput Mandal In-charge Anant Hikkaa, Laxmipur Mandal General Secretary Patra Pillenti, and senior BJP worker Babula Maharana were present and welcomed them to the party by presenting them with party uttariya and caps.

## Bheem Bhoi Disability Empowerment Camp Held in Gunupur

Rayagada / Gunupur, (correspondent): A Bheem Bhoi Bhinnakshama Samarthya Camp was organised at the Town Hall here on Thursday by the District Administration, Department of Social Security and Empowerment of Persons with Disabilities (SSEPD) and the Gunupur Municipality to facilitate access to healthcare, disability certification and welfare assistance for persons with disabilities. Gunupur Municipal Council



Chairperson Mamata Gouda, councillors, Rayagada District Social Security Officer Elizabeth Gorada, Sub-Divisional Social Security Officer, Rayagada, Srikanta Kumar Panigrahi, and Sub-Divisional Social Security Officer, Gunupur, Ranjita

Behera, were present at the camp. As many as 238 persons with disabilities were registered during the camp. Five beneficiaries were provided with customised cerebral palsy (CP) chairs, while two others received walking sticks. A total of

131 persons underwent medical examinations by a team of specialists from the District Headquarters Hospital. The medical team included specialists in ophthalmology, medicine, orthopaedics, psychiatry and ENT, besides a senior pharmacist. Based on the

medical assessments, eligible beneficiaries will be provided with official disability certificates in the coming days, helping them access various government welfare and social-security schemes. The camp was coordinated by Gunupur Executive Officer Santosh Kumar Nayak, Senior Assistant B. Kiran and Accountant Bhaskar Pradhan. Employees of the Gunupur Municipal Council extended support in organising and conducting the camp.

## Nayagarh Police Take Pledge Against Drug Abuse

Nayagarh, (Correspondent): To mark the 6th anniversary of the Nasha Mukta Bharat Abhiyan (NMBA), Nayagarh Police observed the National Pledge against Drug Menace across the district on August 18. Nayagarh SP Subendu Patra, along with senior police officers, IICs and other police personnel, took a mass pledge against drug abuse at their respective offices and police posts, including the District Police Headquarters at Nayagarh.



The pledge programme was organised to reaffirm the commitment of the police towards preventing drug abuse and creating awareness about the harmful consequences of narcotic substances. Police personnel also resolved to contribute towards building a drug-free society and protecting the younger generation from the menace of addiction.

The observance highlighted the importance of collective efforts by the police, administration and the public in combating drug abuse and making the Nasha Mukta Bharat Abhiyan a success.

## AZAD REACHES HOME AFTER 15 YRS IN JAIL, ALLEGES LOST YEARS DUE TO POLICE ACTION

Paralakhemundi, (Correspondent): After spending nearly 15 years in jail, former top Maoist leader Keshab Rao alias Azad has returned to his native home in Andhra Pradesh after being acquitted by the Special Court at Paralakhemundi. Azad was released from Jharpada Jail in Bhubaneswar following the court's acquittal order. His return was marked by an emotional reunion with family members, relatives and friends. Speaking after reaching home, Azad alleged that police action had deprived him of several valuable years of his life. He claimed that two days after surrendering before the Andhra Pradesh Police, he was taken into custody by the Odisha Police and questioned by senior officers, Crime Branch

personnel and AIT members at the OMC Guest House in Keonjhar. Though he was reportedly told that he would be released after two days, he was subsequently arrested and lodged in Jharpada Jail. He alleged that his name was later linked to several cases, resulting in his prolonged incarceration. Azad said he continued his studies while in prison and obtained a degree. He also helped other inmates pursuing their studies. "After spending so many years in jail, the outside world feels new to me," Azad said. He added that he would now live as an ordinary citizen and devote the remaining years of his life to his family and the welfare of people in his area.

## Illegal Drug Trade on the Rise in Kantabanji Youth Increasingly Falling Prey to Ganja and Other Narcotic Substances

Kantabanji, correspondence : Allegations of an increasing illegal drug trade in Kantabanji town have raised serious concern among local residents and intellectuals. They fear that the growing availability of narcotic substances is pushing some minors and young people towards

addiction and, in turn, criminal activities. According to allegations, ganja, cough syrup and other intoxicating substances are being sold openly in several localities of the town. Residents claim that the easy availability of such substances is having a negative impact on young people and creating concerns over public

safety. Locals have urged the police and administration to intensify patrolling, identify those involved in the illegal trade and take strict action against drug peddlers. They have also called for awareness programmes and counselling initiatives to prevent youths from falling into addiction.

**JAGATSINGHPUR MUNICIPALITY**  
**e- Procurement Notice**  
No. 5439 Dt. 11-08-2026  
JSPURM-EO-Tenden-01/2026-27

Letter No. 4568

Date: 20/08/2026

On behalf of the Municipal Council, Jagatsinghpur Municipality, Executive Officer Jagatsinghpur Municipality invites Item Rate Bids from the eligible bidders for Supply of Sanitation Material to Jagatsinghpur Municipality as per BOQ through e-Procurement in conformity with the terms and conditions of the Detailed Tender Call Notice (DTCN) in Single Bid system from intending bidders fulfilling the eligibility criteria mentioned in the DTCN. Each bid should be submitted online through the website [www.tendersodisha.gov.in](http://www.tendersodisha.gov.in) by eligible bidders.

1. Date and Time of Availability of Bid document in the portal: From 10:30 A.M. of 08/08/2026 to 05:00 P.M. of 08/09/2026
2. Last date/Time of submission of bids in the portal: 05:00 P.M. of 8/9/2026
3. Date of opening of Bids from Portal: 10/9/2026 (11:00 A.M. onwards)

Further details can be seen from the e-Procurement portal <https://www.tendersodisha.gov.in>. Any addendum/corrigendum/cancellation of also be seen in the said website.

OIPR-:13001/13087/1/26-27/0007

**Executive Officer**  
**Jagatsinghpur Municipality**

## Devastating Flood in Kani River 46 Villages Across 20 Panchayats of Dasarathpur Block Affected

JAJPUR (Correspondent) : The devastating flood in the Baitarani River and two breaches in the embankment of its branch river, Kani, have caused extensive damage in Dasarathpur block. Kasapa, Tarapada and Mallikapur gram panchayats have suffered the maximum damage, while Kayan, Kamardihi, Duduraanta, Sushua, Mangalpur, Nizampur, Kanikapada, Dattapur and Thalakudi panchayats have also witnessed severe flooding. According to official sources, 46 villages under 20 gram panchayats of Dasarathpur block have been affected by the flood. Hundreds of houses have been damaged, while two persons have lost their lives. Thousands of hectares of agricultural land have been submerged, resulting in extensive crop damage. Several roads and communication routes have also been

damaged. Repeated flooding, with the area witnessing four flood episodes, has increased the worries of both flood-affected residents and the administration. The measures taken by the administration before and after the flood have been appreciated, and flood management this year has been considered satisfactory compared to previous years. The Collector's continuous visits to flood-affected areas have kept subordinate officials alert and responsive. Following directions from the state government, Excise Commissioner and former Jajpur Collector P. Anevesha Reddy has also been closely monitoring the flood-affected blocks of the district. She has reviewed flood management, relief operations and repair of breached embankments and has assisted in taking appropriate measures. For the first time, the Chief Minister, Deputy Chief

Minister, three ministers, BJP MLAs and the State BJP president visited the flood-affected areas of Dasarathpur and took stock of the situation. Their visits, according to BJP leaders, have conveyed to the affected people that a people's government is functioning in the state. The Chief Minister and Revenue Minister also assured hundreds of flood victims that they would not have to face such flooding again. Meanwhile, the BJP has urged the Jajpur Collector to give greater attention to health and sanitation in areas that have remained waterlogged for several days. Since floodwater has affected tube wells, ponds and other water sources at several places, there is a possibility of the spread of various water-borne and infectious diseases due to contaminated water. BJP leader Goutam Ray urged Jajpur Collector Ambar

Kumar Kar to take preventive measures, stating that people who remain surrounded by floodwater for prolonged periods due to repeated flooding in the Kani River may be vulnerable to fever, diarrhoea, vomiting, skin diseases and other infections. Mr. Ray also demanded regular mosquito-control measures, bleaching and other sanitation activities, as the risk of mosquito-borne diseases increases after floods. He urged the district administration to deploy medical teams in the affected areas for regular health check-ups, ensure the supply of essential medicines and emergency medical services, and disinfect drinking-water sources. The BJP also requested special attention to sanitation facilities, toilets and safe drinking water at relief camps and flood shelters.

**ଘୋରପରିଷଦ କାର୍ଯ୍ୟାଳୟ, ଫୁଲବାଣୀ** 13001/1617/2627  
**Office of the Municipal Council, Phulbani, Kandhamal**  
**Tel.No. 06842-253619, Fax. 06842-253619**  
E-mail: [municipality.plb@rediffmail.com](mailto:municipality.plb@rediffmail.com)

Letter No. 4568

Date: 20/08/2026

**Quotation Call Notice**

Sealed quotations are invited from eligible Manufacturers, Fabricators, Authorized Dealers, Suppliers, Firms, Proprietorship Firms, Partnership Firms, Companies and other Agencies for the following work.

**Schedule of Works:**

| S1. | Name of Work                                                                                                                   | EMD (1%) (Rs)      | Tender Cost (Rs) | Completion |
|-----|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|--------------------|------------------|------------|
| 1.  | Supply and installation of Inverter Four-Way Ceiling Cassette Air Conditioner in Gandhi Smriti Bhawan of Phulbani Municipality | 1% of Quoted value | 5,000            | 30 Days    |

**Time Schedule:**  
Issue/Publication of Notice: 22.08.2026  
Sale of Tender Paper: From the date of publication during office hours  
Last Date & Time for Submission: 02.09.2026 at 05:00p.m  
Date & Time of Opening: 03.09.2026 at 11:00a.m.  
Venue of Opening: Municipal Conference Hall, Phulbani Municipality

**Important Conditions:**  
◆ Tender paper (₹5,000/- Non-refundable) and EMD @ 1% of quoted rate to be submitted in shape of Demand Draft (DD) drawn in favour of Executive Officer, Phulbani Municipality or Money Receipt (MR).  
◆ Bidders must submit valid GST Registration Certificate, PAN Card, Udyam/MSME Certificate (if available), Manufacturer's Authorization Certificate, and signed copy of Quotation Call Notice as token of acceptance.  
◆ Quotation shall be submitted in a sealed cover superscribing: "Quotation for Supply and installation of Inverter Four-Way Ceiling Cassette Air Conditioner in Gandhi Smriti Bhawan of Phulbani Municipality."  
◆ The authority reserves the right to accept or reject any or all bids without assigning any reason.

OIPR-:3001/13195/1/26-27/0009

**Executive Officer,**  
**Phulbani Municipality**

## EDITORIAL

### Are You a ‘Book Hoarder’?

Do you ever walk into a bookstore saying, “I’m only going to look,” and walk out carrying three books? Then, weeks later, you discover that the books are still sitting untouched on your shelf. If that sounds familiar, you are not alone. I confess—I have done it too.

There is something strangely irresistible about books. Even when we have a pile of unread books at home, a new title can make us feel that we simply must have it. Perhaps it is the subject, the cover, the author, or just the thought: “I’ll read this when I get some free time.”

The Japanese have a wonderful word for this habit: *tsundoku*—acquiring books and allowing them to accumulate unread. It captures something many readers experience: the pleasure of owning possibilities that we have not yet explored. Recent psychological discussion suggests that anticipation itself can be rewarding; an unread book represents a future experience, not merely an unfinished task.

We are not always buying a book—we are buying a possibility

When I buy a book, I am not necessarily promising myself that I will read it tomorrow. Sometimes I am buying the possibility of learning something new.

A book on science may introduce a new idea. A book on history may open a forgotten chapter of the past. A book on education may challenge the way I think about teaching. A novel may transport me into another world.

The unread book therefore does not always represent failure. It can represent curiosity waiting for its moment.

There is also an emotional dimension. Books become connected with our memories, interests and identities. A personal library can tell the story of a person’s intellectual journey—even through books that have not yet been read.

The guilt of the unread shelf

Of course, there is another side. Sometimes I look at my shelves and feel a little guilty. “When will I read all these?” A new book arrives, while ten others are still waiting. The pile grows faster than my available reading time.

Modern life makes this especially easy to understand. Work, family responsibilities, phones, messages and countless daily commitments compete for our attention. Buying a book takes only a few minutes; reading it may require several quiet hours. And yet, strangely, the unread pile can still make us happy. An unanswered email feels like an obligation. An unread book feels like an opportunity. That difference matters. Is a book hoarder really a hoarder? We should be careful with the word hoarder. Loving books, collecting books or having many unread books does not automatically mean someone has hoarding disorder. Clinical hoarding involves persistent difficulty discarding possessions that leads to significant clutter, distress or impairment in everyday life.

For most book lovers, having too many books is simply a harmless—and sometimes expensive—expression of curiosity. The real question is not, “How many books do you own?”

It is, “Do your books enrich your life?”

My candid confession

I sometimes buy books knowing perfectly well that I may not read them immediately.

Why? Because I like having them around.

They remind me that there is always something more to learn. They represent questions I have not yet asked, subjects I have not yet explored and ideas I have not yet encountered.

A shelf full of books is, in a way, a shelf full of unfinished conversations. And perhaps that is why I find it difficult to walk past a good book. Read them—or simply keep them? There is no universal rule. Some books should be read immediately. Some can wait. Some may remain unread for years. And occasionally, we discover that the book we bought with great enthusiasm is no longer relevant to us.

## Renewable Energy: The Golden Journey of Energy Independence



MANOJA KUMAR SATAPATHI

“Look deep into nature, and then you will understand everything better.” — Albert Einstein

Einstein emphasized the necessity of studying the laws of nature to understand the fundamental truths of the universe. Renewable energy (such as solar and wind) is nature’s most powerful gift. When scientists deeply studied these movements of nature, innovative technologies like solar cells and wind turbines could be discovered.

“When energy sources come safely and sustainably from the lap of nature, both the nation’s economic backbone and the environment remain intact.”

Celebrated on August 20, ‘Indian Akshay Urja Day’ (Indian Renewable Energy Day) is not merely an annual festival, but a divine pledge to lift human civilization out of energy dependency and create new horizons of self-reliance. While the limitations of fossil fuels and heavy dependence on imports have become a matter of concern for the entire world today, renewable energy has emerged as its sole scientific and sustainable solution.

1. India’s Petrol and Crude Oil Requirements and Import realities : To understand the country’s energy demand and economy, important information is provided by the Ministry of Petroleum and Natural Gas alongside international data: ?

India’s Dependence on Imports: According to official data, India’s import dependency on crude oil reached a peak of 88.7 percent in the 2025-26 financial year. This means India has to import nearly 90 percent of its total oil requirements from

abroad.

Domestic Production and Declining Reserves: Crude oil production within the country has continuously dropped to about 28.0 Million Metric Tonnes (MMT) per year, primarily due to the natural depletion lifecycle of older and mature oilfields.

Volume of Imports from Abroad: India consumes roughly 5.5 million barrels of oil daily, heavily depending on countries like Iraq, Russia, Saudi Arabia, and the UAE to fulfill this. This massive import bill places tremendous economic pressure on the nation’s foreign exchange reserves.

2. What Should Be Done for Energy Alternatives and Which Energy Sources to Rely On? :To escape this economic burden of oil imports and protect the environment, future strategies must involve:

Widespread Expansion of Solar and Wind Energy: To meet the Government of India’s target of achieving 500 gigawatts of non-fossil fuel capacity, decentralized solar energy systems must be adopted across every village and city.

Green Hydrogen Mission: Through India’s ‘National Green Hydrogen Mission’, future industries, transportation, and heavy vehicles are being steered away from petrol-diesel toward green hydrogen fuel.

Scientific Grid Integration: Due to the intermittent nature of renewable energy, it must be integrated with smart grids and advanced battery storage systems to ensure uninterrupted power supply.

3. New Innovations, Scientific Discoveries, and Recent Research :

Unprecedented progress in science has revo-

## A New Picture of India's Energy Future



Yogesh Kumar Goyal

Conventional sources of energy on Earth are available in very limited quantities. Under such circumstances, a danger looms that if these traditional sources continue to be exploited in this manner, a serious problem will arise once they are exhausted. This is why the need to promote non-conventional energy sources began to be felt worldwide, leading to efforts aimed at meeting energy requirements through renewable energy sources. Renewable means that which is never depleted; thus, renewable energy is truly an unlimited and infinite energy option and, in today’s time, serves as a major pillar of any nation’s sustainable development. For the past few years, keeping environmental concerns in mind, efforts are being made to develop energy and technologies that can offer the world some relief from the mounting problem of global warming. To develop any nation today, there is also a need for the proper utilization of pollution-free renewable energy sources. To create awareness regarding the development and use of renewable energy in the country, ‘Renewable Energy Day’ has been celebrated every year on August 20 since 2004.

Today, not only India but the entire world faces limited natural resources to meet vital energy needs like electricity, alongside serious challenges such as environmental imbalance and displacement. According to the acclaimed book Pradushan Mukta Saansein, renewable energy is an excellent alternative to tackle these grave problems and challenges, proving effective in meeting energy needs while addressing environmental issues. However, several challenges stand in the path of renewable energy as well. There are many small renewable energy generation units across the country, and bringing them onto a single grid is an extremely challenging task, which affects the quality of power. India possesses an immense repository of diverse renewable energy sources, but

most of the equipment used to generate energy from them is imported from abroad. According to the Ministry of New and Renewable Energy (MNRE), a few years ago, around 90 percent of solar energy equipment was imported from abroad, which significantly increased the cost of power generation. Even now, most of India’s demand for solar cells and modules is met through imports. Although in recent years, due to ALMM regulations and the PLI scheme, this dependence has been declining. In 2023–24, 53 percent of solar cells and 63 percent of modules imported into India came from China. The gap between energy demand and supply in the country is also widening rapidly. A major portion of the total installed power generation capacity in the country now comes from renewable energy, which includes solar power, wind power, bio-power, and small hydro projects. Additionally, renewable energy is being generated from larger hydroelectric projects and nuclear power. The share of renewable energy in total power generation is now continuously increasing, placing India among the leading nations in the world. Energy consumption in India is also rising rapidly. The International Energy Agency (IEA) estimates that by the year 2040, India’s total energy demand will nearly double compared to the present. The demand for energy, particularly in the form of electricity and fuel, is constantly increasing not only in the domestic and agricultural sectors but also in industrial sectors. Industrial sectors alone consume about 55 percent of key energy sources such as electricity and petroleum.

Have we ever thought about the immense cost at which we obtain the electricity used to light up our homes, shops, or offices, or the electricity, petroleum, and other energy sources used to propel the country on the path of development through agriculture or industries? This cost weighs heavily on every living creature on Earth, not only financially but also environmentally. Thermal power stations in India consume about 1.8 million tonnes of coal daily to generate electricity. Even today, more than 70 percent

lutionized the renewable energy sector:

Perovskite Tandem Solar Cells: Compared to traditional silicon panels, these new perovskite-based cells have succeeded in boosting sunlight-to-electricity conversion efficiency to over 30 percent.

Solid-State Battery Technology: To overcome energy storage challenges, ongoing research into safer, longer-lasting, and fast-charging ‘solid-state batteries’ instead of lithium-ion has established a new milestone in the global energy market.

Ocean Thermal Energy Conversion (OTEC) and Biofuels: Generating electricity by utilizing temperature differences between deep and surface ocean water, alongside producing ‘second-generation bio-ethanol’ from agricultural waste, has yielded high-level scientific success.

4. Awareness, Educational Perspectives, and Human Values: Energy conservation is not merely a government policy; it is the sacred moral duty of every citizen. Every unnecessary unit of electricity we waste or fossil fuel we burn shortens the lifespan of our planet. Nature has definitive limits of resource provision, and protecting and respecting nature is a responsibility we all share. The Sunrise of a Green and Self-Reliant India :To counter the economic challenge of 88.7 percent oil importation, renewable energy stands as our ultimate national security shield. Guided by solar energy, wind energy, green hydrogen, and cutting-edge scientific innovations and discoveries, we must build a pollution-free, self-reliant, and sustainable India. Let us pierce the darkness of carbon emissions and join an immortal expedition toward solar illumination.

of the country’s electricity is generated from coal, with the remaining power coming from renewable energy sources, hydro, gas, and nuclear power sources.

Globally, power generation accounts for about 75 percent of carbon emissions in the energy sector. This is why renewable energy sources such as solar energy and wind energy are now being given special importance. According to the International Renewable Energy Agency, if special focus is placed on renewable energy and energy efficiency, global greenhouse gas emissions can be reduced by up to 70 percent by the year 2050. India has also pledged to achieve 500 gigawatts of non-fossil fuel-based energy capacity by 2030 and to attain the target of net-zero emissions by the year 2070. Promoting the use of renewable energy sources will bridge the gap between our energy demand and supply, directly and indirectly improving the standard of social life. Steps such as the Green Hydrogen Mission, smart grids, battery storage, and electric mobility are now being rapidly advanced in India, making renewable energy practical and sustainable. Under the Green Hydrogen Mission, a target of 5 million metric tonnes of production has been set by the year 2030, through which India will not only meet its own energy needs but also emerge as an exporting country. In the true sense, renewable energy today is the primary alternative for energy needs in various forms in India, being eco-friendly as well as sustainable. India is moving forward in this direction, albeit gradually, and today it is time that—rather than remaining dependent on traditional energy sources like thermal, hydro, and nuclear power at the cost of financial distress and severe environmental destruction—we rapidly advance on the path of developing relatively much cheaper, carbon-free, and eco-friendly energy sources on a large scale. Along with this, we must also adopt energy-saving habits, because the prudent use of energy alone will lead us toward a secure, prosperous, and clean future.

## Havelis of Barwa: Living testimony to history, art and cultural heritage



Dr. Satywan Saurabh

The village of Barwa in south-west Haryana transcends a simple rural settlement, becoming a living heritage site with its havelis, murals, ponds, and folk memories. Its architectural tradition reflects layers of folk art, social history, Rajasthani influences, and rural prosperity, giving it a unique place on Haryana’s cultural map. Barwa village, nestled in the dry, scorching land of south-west Haryana, is not just a rural settlement but a living document of memories, architecture, folk

art and social history, preserved even today by its mansions, ponds, wells, umbrellas and murals. Located in the Siwani area of Bhiwani district, this village, with its historical buildings and painted walls, can be counted among those rare heritage settlements where the buildings are not just structures of brick and stone but become silent witnesses telling the story of time. Barwa’s most prominent landmark is its old mansions. Nearly a dozen historic mansions are considered particularly

noteworthy, though local estimates suggest even higher numbers. The mansions associated with Seth Parshuram, Seth Hukumchand, Lala Sohanlal, and Seth Lakshmi Chand hold particular architectural and mural significance. These buildings showcase the use of lakhori bricks, lime, wood, heavy and sturdy doors, carved windows, interior courtyards, and chhatris. Their architectural language reflects the shared cultural traditions of Haryana and Rajasthan. The Thakur’s Garhi, also known as Bransa Bhawan, is considered a key center of Barwa’s historical identity. According to

local tradition, the ancestors of Thakur Bagh Singh, belonging to the Tanwar Rajput clan, migrated from the Jeetpura region of Rajputana approximately six centuries ago and established their social roots in the region. Local accounts place the construction of the current Garhi around 1938. According to a popular local legend, construction was initiated during a period of rainfall shortage and agricultural crisis, providing employment to the villagers. In this sense, the Garhi may have been not only a symbol of power, prosperity, and social prestige, but also a structure integral to the local economy of the time.

The fort’s massive main gate, sturdy iron plates, wooden structures, large living quarters, storage spaces, and elephant stables reflect its grandeur. Despite the ravages of time, its structure still offers glimpses of Barwa’s past architectural prowess and feudal lifestyle. The true uniqueness of these mansions is reflected in the murals adorning their walls and ceilings. These paintings depict the Radha-Krishna Rasleela, Vishnu-Lakshmi, Sherawali Mata, kings and queens, horsemen, elephants, chariots, soldiers, animals, birds, and

numerous scenes from folk life. Some exhibit Shekhawati-style decoration, others Rajasthani and Kota influences, while others reflect Mughal and Nathdwara traditions. The blend of these styles points to the cultural exchange that occurred within the region. The paintings in Seth Parashuram’s mansion are particularly noteworthy. According to local accounts, artisans were brought from Pilani to decorate it. Along with religious narratives, scenes depicting kings and queens, chariot processions, music, animals, birds, and social life are also found here.

The red, yellow, blue, and green colors used in these paintings reveal the color sensibility and aesthetic sense of the artists of the time. These paintings are not merely decorative elements, but visual documents of the religious consciousness, social structure, and cultural imagination of that era. The depiction of an elephant, a king, and a queen at the main entrance of Seth Hukumchand-Lala Sohanlal’s mansion is a particular attraction. The elephant is depicted in a decorated state, and scenes from royal life are engraved on it. Paintings depicting Vishnu-

Lakshmi, Sherawali Mata, and Radha-Krishna are also found in the mansion. These paintings reflect influences of Rajasthani, Mughal, and Kota styles. Lakshmi Chand’s paintings at Kathare are also significant for their breadth of subject matter. They depict scenes of chariot processions, maids, horsemen, and gods and goddesses. One depicts Lord Krishna braiding Radha’s hair. This scene connects religious narratives with human empathy, love, and folk beauty. The paintings display a blend of Rajasthani and Mughal influences in the depiction of clothing, jewelry, crowns, and vehicles.

# District-level task force formed to make Subarnapur child marriage free

SUBARNAPUR, (correspondent) -- A district-level coordination meeting was held on Thursday at the Subarnapur Collectorate conference hall on the 'Beti Bachao, Beti Padhao' scheme. Organized by the District Social Welfare Department, a task force has been formed with various district-level officers to prevent child marriage in this meeting.

First, District Social Welfare Officer Binapani Mishra delivered the welcome speech.

In the meeting, the concerned departments briefed about their



responsibilities, steps taken so far and future work plans. The main objective of the meeting was to make Subarnapur district child marriage free and ensure that every girl can get an education and become self-reliant. The steps being taken by the Health Department to bring

opportunities for children of Utkal Balashram abroad and various schemes and initiatives of the government to make children self-reliant. District Information and Public Relations Officer Preeti Suna also spoke about how to bring about a positive change in the public's mindset regarding child marriage through social media and folk art. The meeting was moderated by District Social Welfare Department Security Officer Anjana Kisan. Officers and representatives of the concerned departments were present in the meeting.

# Flood affected more times due to heavy rainfall

Baripada: (correspondent): Repeated flooding of the Gangahar and Budhabalanga rivers, which flow through Badasahi block of Mayurbhanj district, has caused widespread devastation in the region. Poor-quality construction of the embankment along the Gangahar River has led to repeated breaches, resulting in thousands of acres of agricultural land in Mangobindpur, Shalgan, Chandanpur, Manatri, and other panchayats being completely



submerged and destroyed. Demanding a permanent solution to the recurring flood problem and financial assistance for the affected farmers, the Regional Flood Control Committee submitted a memorandum to the Mayurbhanj District Collector.

The committee's key demands include immediate temporary repair of the breached portions of the Gangahar embankment, construction of permanent protection walls on both sides of the river to safeguard

the area from future floods, and a proper assessment of crop losses followed by full compensation to the affected farmers.

The committee also warned that if the district administration fails to address these issues promptly, it will launch an agitation in the coming days.

# Kalyanapur Saraswati Sishu Vidya Mandir Management Council formed

Kataka (correspondent): The Management Council of the Saraswati Sishu Vidya Mandir located in Kalyanapur under Mangarajpur Gram Panchayat of Tangi Chaudwar Block Kataka District has been formed. This council will function for the next three years. The council was formed in the presence of Tushar Ranjan Dash, North Eastern Sambhag Coordinator of Kataka Shiksha Bikas Samiti, and

Bansidhar Kandi, Sankula Chief of Chaudwar, as observers. Nine members have been elected to this committee. Debjit Prasad Singh Deo has been elected as the President, while Sanjay Parida has been elected as the Vice President. Hemant Kumar Raut has been elected as the Editor, Pramodini Khatua as the Co-Editor, Mohan Charan Jena as the Treasurer, and Dr. Sushmita

Singh and Lawyer Saroj Kumar Baral have been elected as members. As per the rules, the Principal Acharya Anita Sahu and the Principal Representative Ramakant Ojha of Saraswati Sishu Vidya Mandir have been placed. Former President Vinod Kumar Baral and Founding Member Jayant Kumar Patra joined the meeting and shared the experiences of the past day. Founding Member

Basant Kumar Behera, Sarpanch Debendra Nath Pandav, Divya Jyoti Pani, Jayant Kumar Patra, Vinod Kumar Baral, Saroj Kumar Khatua, Narendra Behera have been elected as the Advisory Board. The program was held under the chairmanship of Chairman Shri Singh Deo and was conducted by Principal Acharya Anita Sahu, while Sanjay Parida proposed the vote of thanks.

# Fategarh Police Arrest Accused for Sharing Victim's Nude Video on Facebook

Nayagarh, (correspondent) : Fategarh Police arrested a 28-year-old man for allegedly sharing and circulating a nude video of a victim on Facebook. The accused has been identified as Babul alias Tutu Nayak (28), son of Bulu Nayak of Gobardhanpur village under Badamba Police Station in Cuttack district. In



this connection, been registered. Fategarh PS Case No. 261/2026 has direction of Fategarh

IIC Ajaya Sahoo, a police team took immediate action and apprehended the accused.

The accused was subsequently forwarded to the Hon'ble Court today. Police said prompt action was taken against the accused in connection with the alleged cyber offence and violation of the victim's privacy.

# Truck caught fire in accident

SUBARNAPUR (correspondent)---- Sonepur-Binika-Rampur-Dunguripali National Highway 126 (A) Binika Police Station Papakshay Gate Near Hari Om Hero Showroom, a 14-wheeler truck carrying chicken feed with registration number OD 02 AV 8608, went over the divider and was crushed for about 20 meters, as a result of which the vehicle overturned and caught fire. Fortunately, the driver survived with minor injuries. Information revealed that the truck was from Nayagarh and was going to Bargarh district from Khordha district with chicken feed. The truck was coming at a fast speed after seeing the deserted road in the middle of the night. The driver saw the divider built near Papakshay Chhak, the beginning of Binika town. The driver



of the truck overturned on the right side of the road and the truck caught fire. The truck was severely damaged and the driver suffered minor injuries. On receiving the information, the fire brigade reached the spot and doused the fire. This busy road, which is a single lane from Rampur and Sonpur areas, has become two lanes near Davla Chhak of the Binika Notified Area Council (NAC) and near Papakshay

such small and big accidents happen, but by the grace of God, no one has lost their life till date. No. Despite such frequent accidents due to the contractors' negligence and substandard work and low-quality work, the Public Works Department and the district administration are not taking any steps. The public of the area are condemning the silence of the administration. Perhaps, after the loss of some lives, the administration's deaf ears will break their sleep. The people of the area have demanded that this area be declared an accident-prone area and a permanent solution. On receiving the information, the Binika police reached the spot, cleared the road, seized the truck and are investigating.

# Chief Minister's announcement: SCB new building to be inaugurated next December

Kataka (correspondent): The expanded new building of Kataka SCB Medical College will be inaugurated next December. The Chief Minister's review meeting has decided that it will be functional in January. Along with this, four new clinical and one residential block will be constructed. However, completing the work by December will be a big challenge. The Chief Minister has reviewed the ongoing redevelopment projects of Sriram Chandra Bhanja Medical College and Hospital to upgrade and develop its infrastructure and transform it into a universal healthcare center.

It was decided in a high-level meeting held at Lok Seva Bhawan yesterday that the SCB new building will be inaugurated next December. It will be fully functional from January. In addition, the areas adjacent to the hospital will be beautified, wide roads will be built and beautified to create a pleasant environment. The Chief Minister has directed the departmental officers to complete the work of the multi-car parking lot under construction in the first phase and the traffic corridor connecting the Taladanda Canal road within the stipulated time. Four new clinical and one residential

block will be constructed in SCB. The clinical blocks will be completed by June next year. Work is in full swing as the expanded building of the medical center is to be inaugurated next December. Now, about 70 percent of the work of the new building has been completed. But the big thing is that there are still four months left. Completing the work of the medical center within four months will be a big challenge. Thousands of patients will benefit if the expanded building of SCB Medical Center is inaugurated and put into operation.

# Brahmapur Police and Army Air Defence Team played a Friendly Football Match inside AAD campus

Goplapur (correspondent): A spirited friendly football match between the Brahmapur Police team and the Army Air Defence (AAD) team was held today. The Brahmapur Police emerged victorious with a 3-1 scoreline in an engaging contest that highlighted sportsmanship, camaraderie, and inter-service goodwill. The match, organised as a gesture of friendship and mutual respect between the two forces, witnessed enthusiastic participation from both sides. Senior police officers and army officers graced the



occasion with their presence, underscoring the strong bonds of cooperation and camaraderie shared by the Brahmapur Police and the Army Air Defence unit. The football encounter was marked by competitive yet fair play. Brahmapur Police displayed strong attacking coordination and defensive

resilience to secure a well-deserved 3-1 win. The Army Air Defence team put up a determined fight and scored once, ensuring an entertaining spectacle for all present. Speaking on the occasion, senior officers from both the police and army expressed appreciation for the initiative. They noted that

such friendly sporting events not only promote physical fitness and team spirit but also strengthen the cordial relationship between the civil police and the armed forces. The presence of senior officers further elevated the significance of the event and encouraged the players. The match concluded on a positive note with both teams exchanging handshakes and words of appreciation, reaffirming the spirit of unity and mutual respect. Officials present described the event as a successful step towards fostering greater understanding and collaboration between the two organisations.

The Brahmapur Police and Army Air Defence leadership conveyed their commitment to organising more such friendly sporting interactions in the future to further enhance inter-agency harmony and morale.

# Mamata Rani Tripathy Assumes Charge as New Chief District Agriculture Officer of Baragada

Padam pur (correspondent): Mamata Rani Tripathy has taken charge as the new Chief District Agriculture Officer of Baragada district. She formally assumed office at the District Agriculture Department on Wednesday. Her appointment has raised hopes for more farmer-centric initiatives and effective implementation of agricultural programs in the district. Agriculture forms the backbone of Bargarh's economy. Known as the "Rice Bowl of Odisha," farmers of the district have earned a distinct identity for paddy cultivation and production

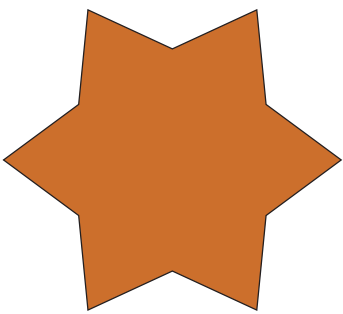
of various other crops. However, challenges such as irrigation issues, weather uncertainties, pest and disease control, timely availability of quality seeds and fertilizers, fair crop prices, and access to farm machinery continue to pose difficulties for farmers. Against this backdrop, the role of the new Chief District Agriculture Officer gains importance. Ensuring that benefits of various government agriculture schemes reach eligible farmers on time will require better departmental coordination and strong monitoring at the grassroots level. Key

focus areas will include spreading awareness about modern and scientific farming practices, increasing crop production and productivity, promoting crop diversification, and raising farmers' income.

Tripathy stressed the need for direct interaction with farmers to understand their problems and address grievances promptly. She also highlighted the importance of providing farmers with accurate information on agricultural inputs, technology, and government support to further strengthen the agriculture sector.

## Sunita Ahuja withdraws divorce case against Govinda, manager confirms

Govinda's wife, Sunita Ahuja, has withdrawn her divorce petition against the Bollywood actor, Govinda's manager Shashi Sinha confirmed on Wednesday. Sunita Ahuja along with her son, Yashvardhan Ahuja, was spotted at Mumbai's Bandra Family Court here today. According to Govinda's manager, Shashi Sinha, she has withdrawn the divorce case. She had filed for divorce two years ago, added Sinha. "It has been going on for two years, but it's finally over now. Today, Sunita Ji submitted a petition for withdrawal at the family court in Bandra," Shashi Sinha told ANI. When asked about Govinda's reaction to this, Sinha said that "Govinda has been neutral since the start of the case. Today, also, he remains the same." Sunita Ahuja was spotted exiting the Bandra Family Court with her son. She was seen wearing a striped shirt and trousers as she left the family court with son Yashvardhan, who was guiding her to the car. Without mentioning the reason for her visit, she told paps, "Birthday manane aaye hai (I came to celebrate birthday)" before getting into her car. Govinda and Sunita Ahuja's marriage troubles have been creating headlines on social media lately. Recently, Govinda shared a video appealing to his wife to refrain from making statements that, according to him, could affect his reputation, career and standing in the industry. The actor recalled how he had supported Sunita's professional commitments in the past, including her involvement in shows like 'Laughter Chefs' and 'Lock Upp'. "When you were doing your own work, whether it was a food show or Lock Upp, you asked Tina (their daughter) to do both the shows.



## CM C Joseph Vijay's Jana Nayagan to stream on OTT platform from August 21

Tamil Nadu Chief Minister C Joseph Vijay starrer 'Jana Nayagan' is set to stream on Tamil Zee5 on August 21. It will also be available in Telugu, Malayalam, and Kannada languages. Despite being a blockbuster at the box office, 'Jana Nayagan' holds a defining place in CM C Joseph Vijay's cinematic journey, marking his first release after entering politics and his final theatrical appearance on the big screen. Zee5 Tamil shared the announcement on its Instagram handle on Wednesday. Directed by H Vinoth, 'Jana Nayagan' follows the protagonist Vetri Kondan, an upright former police officer who takes a stand against corruption and injustice. As he finds himself drawn into a larger battle against powerful forces, Vetri evolves into a people's hero and a symbol of hope and leadership, as per the press note by Zee5. The film also features an ensemble cast including Bobby Deol, Pooja Hegde, Mamitha Baiju, Prakash Raj, Gautham Vasudev Menon, Priyamani, Nassar and Narain. On the digital release of the film, Lloyd C Xavier, Business Head, Tamil, Telugu & Malayalam, Zee 5 said, "Jananayagan is a film that carries immense emotional and cultural significance for audiences, especially the millions of fans who have followed Honourable Chief Minister C. Joseph Vijay's journey over the decades. As his final feature film, it represents a landmark moment for Tamil cinema and offers audiences an opportunity to celebrate the star, the performer, and the legacy he leaves behind. With its blend of action, emotion, family values, and social themes, the film serves as a fitting and spectacular farewell for fans across generations. We are beyond proud to bring this magnum opus to our platform and give millions of viewers the opportunity to revisit and cherish this historic cinematic milestone for years to come.

## small steps to improve mental health every day

**Establishing a Consistent Sleep Routine:**  
Adequate sleep is paramount for mental health. Consistent sleep patterns regulate mood, cognition, and emotional stability. Aim for 7-9 hours of quality sleep each night, maintain a regular sleep schedule, and create a calming bedtime routine. **Mindful Breathing and Relaxation Techniques:**  
Mindful breathing reduces

stress, anxiety, and promotes a sense of calm. It activates the parasympathetic nervous system, fostering relaxation. Encourage practices such as deep breathing, progressive muscle relaxation, or guided imagery to manage stress and enhance mental well-being. **Physical Activity for Mental Health:**  
Regular exercise releases endorphins, which act as natural mood lifters. Physical activity is linked to improved cognitive function and reduced symptoms of depression and anxiety.

Advocate for at least 30 minutes of moderate-intensity exercise most days of the week, tailored to individual preferences and abilities. **Nutrition and Brain Health:**  
Nutrient-rich diets positively impact brain function and mental health. Certain vitamins and minerals play crucial roles in neurotransmitter synthesis. Promote a balanced diet rich in fruits, vegetables, whole grains, lean proteins, and omega-3 fatty acids to support cognitive function and emotional well-being. **Social Connection and Support:**  
Social relationships are vital for mental health. Strong connections reduce feelings of isolation and contribute to emotional resilience. Encourage individuals to maintain and nurture

relationships, engage in social activities, and seek support when needed. **Limiting Screen Time and Digital Detox:**  
Bringing his expertise to the same, Dr Achal Bhagat, Senior Consultant Psychiatrist and Psychotherapist at Indraprastha Apollo Hospitals, shared, "Taking care of your mental health is crucial for overall well-being and even small daily habits can make a significant difference. Incorporating these simple steps into your routine can help you cultivate a healthier mindset, reduce stress and improve your overall quality of life." He recommended - **Start your day with mindfulness:** Begin each morning by taking a few deep breaths and practicing mindfulness meditation, even if it's just for five minutes. This simple exercise can help you cultivate a sense of calm and clarity, setting the tone for a more centered and focused day. **Engage in physical activity:** Regular exercise has been proven to boost mood and reduce symptoms of depression and anxiety. Aim for at least 30 minutes of moderate physical activity daily, whether it's going for a brisk walk, doing Yoga, or hitting the gym.

## Staying hydrated before the fast to avoiding overeating later, follow 4 rules for healthy fasting



Karwa Chauth fasting holds immense cultural significance for married women, who observe a day-long fast to pray for their husband's long and healthy life. This ritual represents the deep commitment between married couples. The fast is broken at the end of the day upon sighting the moon. This year, Karwa Chauth falls on October 20. Stay hydrated before the fast. Karwa Chauth's fasting refrains from water as well. Dr. Goyal highlighted the importance of hydrating the day before the fast. He elaborated, "It's essential to drink plenty of water and fluids the night before and in the morning (before sunrise). Hydration helps prevent dehydration, headaches, and fatigue during the fast. Coconut water, lemonade, and fresh fruit

juices can also be taken in the morning for additional hydration and nutrients." Eat a balanced pre-dawn meal (sargi) Before beginning the fast, Dr. Goyal pointed out that the pre-dawn meal, called sargi must be nutritious and healthy. He recommended including a mix of proteins (like yogurt or paneer), complex carbohydrates (such as whole grains or oats), and healthy fats (like nuts and seeds) in the sargi. These foods offer long-lasting energy and help to feel 'full' for longer duration. Dr. Goyal warned against fried or sugary food, as they can plummet energy levels later in the day. **Avoid overeating after breaking the fast** To stave off the day-long hunger, many often overeat. Dr. Goyal advises avoiding this as it negatively affects health. He recommended something light like fruits or a glass of water immediately after breaking the fast in the evening. He explained, ". After fasting for the whole day, the digestive system may be sensitive, so it's best to avoid a heavy, oily meal immediately. Gradually introduce easily digestible foods like soups, salads, and home-cooked meals. Eating mindfully can prevent indigestion and discomfort."

## Study finds 3% of schoolchildren exhibit symptoms of both autism and ADHD

**What is autism?**  
Autism is a neurodevelopmental disorder that affects a person's communication, speech, learning, and behavioral patterns. It's also known as Autism Spectrum Disorder. Some common signs and symptoms include difficulty with eye contact, communication, social interaction, and sensory

difficulties. **What is ADHD?**  
Attention-deficit/hyperactivity disorder, or ADHD, is one of the most common neurodevelopmental disorders detected early in childhood. The symptom of this disorder includes hyperactivity, impulsiveness and difficulty in paying attention.

## Pomodoro technique: How 25-minute work bursts can crush your stress



Mental health experts insist that learning the art of managing your time well is a great and effective strategy for stress relief where all you have to do is organise and divide your time between different activities. Being able to manage your time properly is an excellent approach to deal with stress and meet deadlines without getting overwhelmed. In an interview with HT Lifestyle, Dr Ashish Bansal, MD, consultant psychiatrist and co-founder of House of Aesthetics in New Delhi, said, "For time management, you have to begin your day by identifying the most important tasks throughout the day. You

(Pomodoros) and take 5-minute breaks in between. After 4 Pomodoros, you have to take a long break of 15-30 minutes. This approach helps to keep you more focused without overtaxing your body. Don't forget to include self care in your to-do list as taking out certain time for yourself and doing any form of physical activity or observing your daily hobby is also a crucial part of your day management." From to-do lists to mindfulness Bringing his expertise to the same, Aamish Dhingra, Mental Health Coach and Founder of Cocoweave International Coaching, recommended, "One of the most effective techniques for relieving stress is mindfulness meditation, having its roots in Buddhism. It basically involves the practice of living in the present moment without judgment and without being reactive about what's happening near you. This practice makes you more aware about your thoughts, emotions and outside environment. The best way to practice it is to find a quiet place lacking external disturbances where you can take a comfortable seated position." He said, "Sit with closed eyes and take your focus towards your breath, exhaling and inhaling. Breathing is a natural and rhythmic process where you can easily put your attention. Whenever you feel your focus is wavering, bring back your focus on your breath. Begin this practice for 5-10 minutes a day and then gradually increase its duration. It calms the wandering mind and reduces the stress levels in the body. Also it makes you more attentive and increases concentration span when you focus on your breath. All you have to be careful about is to be patient while meditating. You might get easily distracted initially, but these feelings diminish over time."

# *Hockey World Cup:* Indian Women’s Team Holds England To A Draw, Stays In Race To Semis Spot

Amstelveen: The Indian women’s hockey team held its nerves under sustained pressure to secure a goalless draw against England in their concluding Pool D match of the FIH Hockey World Cup 2026 in Amstelveen on Thursday. The result saw them finish second in the pool and advance to the next round with five points to keep their semifinal chances alive. The equation was straightforward before the contest: India, with four points, needed at least a draw to stay in the top two, while England, on three points, had to win. China topped the pool with seven points after beating South Africa 5-1 earlier in the day, while England and

South Africa will now compete for classification places. Progressing to the next round from Pool D, both India and China will take one point with them after their pool-stage draw and will be clubbed with the Netherlands and Australia. India will take on world No. 1 and hosts the Netherlands on Friday (Aug 21), followed by Australia. The match produced no goals, but it was far from short of drama, particularly after the interval when England launched wave after wave of attacks. India ultimately had to withstand 28 English circle entries and defend 12 penalty corners, with goalkeepers Bichu Devi, Savita and an increasingly resolute defensive unit proving

crucial in preserving the result. India made the more assertive start despite both teams looking slightly nervous in possession. Sunelita Toppo produced an incisive run into the circle in the fourth minute to win India’s first penalty corner, but Navneet Kaur’s direct attempt struck an Indian striker in the way. Three minutes later, sustained Indian pressing earned another opportunity, with Navneet dragging her effort wide. India earned a third penalty corner in the eighth minute, but Deepika’s flick also missed the target. England responded with their first penalty corner in the 10th minute, though India defended it comfortably. Sophie Hamilton then fired



narrowly wide as the opening quarter ended 0-0, with India having created the better opportunities. The second quarter became an end-to-end affair. Sushila Chanu produced a timely tackle to deny England, while India almost capitalised on a

turnover in the 21st minute, only for Ishika to be crowded out by the goalkeeper. Salima Tete then saw her shot palmed away by the goalkeeper before England immediately countered, but to no avail. India earned another penalty corner in the 26th minute after

Lalremisiami was stick-checked, but Deepika’s dragflick was saved. England responded with two penalty corners of their own, with Bichu Devi producing an excellent save to deny Darcy Bourne. Another Bourne opportunity was blocked by an

Indian stick before Tessa Howard was shown a yellow card in the 30th minute. At half-time, the teams remained locked at 0-0. India began the third quarter with a numerical advantage because of Howard’s suspension and immediately won another penalty corner. Navneet’s effort was blocked, while a follow-up led to another PC, which was ruled out after the direct hit rose above the height of the board. From there, England increasingly took control. Savita made a fine save from an English penalty corner in the 38th minute and then kept out another effort moments later. India were forced deeper into their defensive structure and were reduced to 10 players when Ishika

Chaudhary received a green card in the 42nd minute. England used the numerical advantage to earn successive penalty corners, but India repeatedly brought their sticks into the path of danger. Salima produced a vital block on another penalty corner just before the end of the third quarter. The final quarter was largely played in India’s half. England earned another penalty corner in the 50th minute after India’s referral failed, while a subsequent English referral resulted in another PC. Yet India’s defence refused to crack. England then removed their goalkeeper with under five minutes remaining, knowing only victory would take them through.

## Badminton WC: Treesa-Gayatri, Satwik-Chirag Keep India’s Medal Hopes Alive As Sindhu, Ayush Crash Out

New Delhi: Treesa Jolly / Gayatri Gopichand upset seventh seeds Rin Iwanaga/Kie Nakanishi of Japan to become the first Indian women’s doubles pair to reach the BWF World Championships quarterfinals in 11 years, while two-time bronze medallist Satwiksairaj Rankireddy/Chirag Shetty eked out a thrilling win even as PV Sindhu and Ayush Shetty crashed out at the Indira Gandhi Stadium on Thursday. World No. 39 Treesa/Gayatri were clearly the better of the two pairs in action as they registered a 21-16, 21-12 win to set up a last-eight clash against fourth seeds Jia Yi Fan/Zhang Shi Xian of China. Later, Satwik/Chirag held their nerves after losing a close



opening game to beat Junaidi Arif/Yap Roy King of Malaysia 21-23, 21-19, 21-17 to reach the last eight, where they will face Chinese third seeds Liang Wei Keng and Wang Chang. However, Sindhu’s hopes of a sixth World

Championships medal were shattered after she went down 21-11, 15-21, 21-17 against third seed Wang Zhi Yi of China, and giant-killer Ayush Shetty’s campaign ended with a 21-19, 21-11 loss against Alwi Farhan of Indonesia. On either

side of the singles losses, the two doubles combinations kept hopes of India continuing its medal streak that started in 2011 alive with contrasting victories. Treesa and Gayatri, who had broken into the world

top-10 before injuries pegged them back, took the initiative from the start against their Japanese opponents and mixed things up with Treesa willing to charge to the net and create openings despite being a predominantly back-court player. The home favourites opened up a 13-9 lead in the opening game before Iwanaga and Nakanishi began engaging them in longer rallies and inducing errors. The Japanese won seven consecutive points, and it looked like they could run away with the opening game. But Treesa and Gayatri not only regrouped well but also won the next eight points to pocket the opening game, levelling the scores at 17-17 and then grabbing the next four points to seal a quarterfinal berth.

## Badminton WC: Sindhu’s Run Ends As Wang Survives Late Drama

New Delhi: P.V. Sindhu’s pursuit of a record sixth World Championships medal came to a painful halt on Thursday as China’s Wang Zhi Yi prevailed 21-11, 15-21, 21-17 in a gripping Round-of-16 contest at the Indira Gandhi Indoor Stadium in New Delhi. The defeat also ended a remarkable streak for two-time Olympic medallist Sindhu at the global event. The Indian shuttler had beaten Chinese opponents on eight previous occasions at the World Championships, but Wang became the first to overcome her on this stage. The opening game offered little indication of the drama to come. Both players were intent on avoiding cheap mistakes, forcing each other into long, patient exchanges.

Wang found success by making Sindhu work around the front court, while the Indian repeatedly denied her opponent clean opportunities to unleash her attack. Wang entered the interval 11-8 ahead. The contest then tilted sharply in her favour as Sindhu began to leak points through unforced errors and a misjudgement. Wang needed little invitation, using her accurate drops and attacking strokes to close out the game 21-11. With the home crowd desperate for a response, Sindhu changed her approach in the second game. She began with greater patience and immediately established a four-point cushion as Wang struggled to maintain the same consistency. The Chinese shuttler tried to

drag Sindhu into longer rallies, but the Indian countered with delicate dribbles and drops. Even after Wang levelled the game at 15-15, Sindhu found another gear. She reeled off six points in succession, mixing winners with the pressure created by Wang’s errors, to force a decider. Sindhu appeared in control again at the start of the third, moving 3-0 ahead and later opening up an 8-4 lead. Wang, however, refused to let the match slip. A run of three errors from Sindhu helped the Chinese player move ahead, although the Indian still held an 11-10 advantage at the interval. The final stretch produced the contest’s most dramatic moment. At 16-16, Wang took a heavy fall and required a medical timeout.

## ‘Takes A Lot Of Effort To Stay For Long’: Jadeja Reflects On Memories Of Galle 2017 Win

Galle: Veteran left-arm spin bowling all-rounder Ravindra Jadeja has expressed deep gratitude for his ongoing decade-plus stint with the Indian team, adding that sustaining a long career at the highest level requires immense hard work and perseverance. Jadeja took four wickets in India’s recent 165-run win over Sri Lanka at the Galle International Stadium, which propelled the visitors to take a 1-0 lead in the ongoing two-game series. He was in the reflective tone when shown a picture of him being a part of the Indian team winning the 2017 Galle Test, where



he grabbed a six-for match haul. “Yes, it’s from here. Barring the colour which has changed, the rest is the same. The last series we played here was in 2017. Obviously playing for India for 10 years means a lot because it takes a lot of effort to stay for a longer

period of time. “I think I’m feeling blessed and thanks to God that I’m still playing for India and doing what I’ve been doing for India since so many years,” said Jadeja in a video posted on BCCI’s social media accounts on Thursday. In what was also India’s 600th Test match,

young left-arm spinner Manav Suthar picked a career-best first-ever ten-wicket haul to make the landmark game a memorable one. Left-handed while top-order batter Devdutt Padikkal posted 167 and 44 in the game, after batting at number three in place of injured B Sai Sudharsan and was adjudged Player of the Match. The win also meant India’s points percentage in the World Test Championship (WTC) standing rose to 53.33 from 48.14, though they are still at fifth spot. Both India and Sri Lanka will now head to Colombo for the second Test match, starting on Sunday at the Sinhalese Sports Club.

## India, Iran Women’s Kabaddi Team Trains Together At SAI Sonapat Ahead Of Asiad

Sonapat: Iran women’s kabaddi team took part in a series of practice matches against the Indian side at the Sports Authority of India (SAI) Sonapat centre ahead of the upcoming Asian Games 2026. The purpose of the six-day practice camp was to ensure a valuable cross-border learning ground for both nations, looking forward to strong performances at the games in Aichi-Nagoya. The Iranian team arrived in Sonapat on August 13, playing practice games against the Indian women’s kabaddi team as well as other local sides at the SAI campus. The practice games, while primarily intended to prepare Iran for the Asian Games, also provided Indian players with the opportunity to test themselves against an international side and gain experience of different playing styles and tactics. Iran women’s team head coach Gholamreza Mazandarani said the camp had been particularly useful for his

young squad, with more than 80 per cent of the team changed since the previous Asian Games. “For us, it is a very good chance to play friendly matches, improve the players and improve our team tactics. We want to show a better team in the Asian Games. It has been a good experience for our team because our team is very young now and we have changed maybe more than 80 per cent of the team from the last Asian Games,” Mazandarani told SAI Media. Mazandarani added the sheer depth of India’s kabaddi ecosystem gives Indian players a major advantage, with athletes getting far more competitive matches during the year than their Iranian counterparts. “In Iran we have around 3,000 to 4,000 kabaddi players in men and women. But here, I feel maybe you have more than 10 million kabaddi players. This is a very big number,” he added. “One kabaddi player in India, whether a teenager, junior or senior,

maybe has more than 50-60 matches in a year. This is a big point for them. They can improve their skills during the matches,” Mazandarani continued. India women’s kabaddi team coach Naveen Kumar remarked that the experience of playing practice games against Iran would stand out to be very beneficial for the girls. “Most of our new players are at the junior level, and they got an opportunity to learn a lot from playing against the Iranian team. They got to understand how Iran plays, and it also gave us an idea of how our young squad needs to prepare for the future. The matches were very good, and we are very happy with the experience,” the Indian coach told SAI Media. “The Iranian team also had players who have featured in three Asian Games, so they have a lot of experience. Their fitness, strength and explosive power are very good, and our young players can learn a lot from them.

# Vedanta Aluminium Launches Advanced Metals for Automotive Industry at AutoEdge 2026

BHUBANESWAR, (correspondent): The AutoEdge 2026 conclave brought together leading companies across India's automotive sector, and featured engaging panel discussions, technical presentations, and expert insights into future industry trends. Bhubaneswar, 20 August 2026: Vedanta Aluminium (BSE: 544780 | NSE: VAML), India's leading aluminium producer, today expanded its automotive solutions portfolio with the launch of two advanced offerings under its best-selling Primary Foundry Alloy (PFA) range. These include the Copper-Doped Alloy, developed for high-performance automotive applications, and the Vedanta Foundry Alloy



(VFA), a versatile material for enhanced durability, developed in collaboration with IIT Delhi. The two innovations represent a new frontier in the development of next-generation automobiles, enabling lighter, safer, and more efficient vehicles and fuelling new possibilities in the automotive sector. The two offerings were unveiled to top representatives from India's leading automotive companies and advanced

component manufacturers at AutoEdge 2026, Vedanta Aluminium's exclusive conclave for the automotive industry. Now in its second edition, the conclave featured a series of engaging panel discussions, technical presentations, and expert insights into future industry trends. Vedanta Aluminium is poised to become the world's largest primary billet producer with a

capacity of 1.25 million tonnes per annum (MTPA), on completion of the ongoing capacity expansion at the BALCO plant in Korba, Chhattisgarh. The company is also India's largest PFA producer with an existing capacity of 380 kilo tonnes per annum (KTPA). Its automotive portfolio comprises of PFA offerings used in alloy wheels, cylinder heads, engine components and other automotive

castings, along with specialised billets for HVAC applications and crash-resistant engineering applications. In addition, it is expanding the share of value-added products in its portfolio to 90%, driven by the increasing demand for high quality, sustainably produced aluminium in India and globally. Rajesh Kumar, CEO, Vedanta Aluminium, said, "India's automotive industry is rapidly evolving, creating demand for lighter, stronger and more sophisticated material solutions. Aluminium is uniquely positioned to meet these parameters through its versatile combination of lightweighting, strength, durability, resistance to corrosion, and high recyclability."

# KIMS Doctors Successfully Remove Pointed Metallic Pin from 10-Month-Old Baby's Food Pipe

Bhubaneswar, (correspondent): A 10-month-old baby from Rourkela, who had accidentally swallowed a metallic pin with sharp pointed ends, was successfully treated at KIMS, Bhubaneswar, after the object became lodged in his food pipe. The baby was brought to KIMS on August 18 after developing repeated vomiting. Investigations and imaging revealed that the metallic pin was stuck in the upper part of the food pipe, close to the throat. The presence of the sharp-pointed pin made the case particularly challenging. If the object had pierced the wall of the food pipe, it could have caused serious internal injury and potentially become life-threatening. The medical team therefore had to carefully plan the



procedure to remove it without causing further damage. A multidisciplinary team comprising specialists from the ENT, Gastroenterology and Anaesthesiology departments successfully removed the foreign object under general anaesthesia. Using an advanced endoscopic procedure, the doctors carefully pushed the pin into the stomach and then retrieved it through the mouth using a flexible endoscope passed through the food pipe.

The procedure was completed without complications. Following the removal, the baby was taken off the breathing support safely and kept under observation in the Paediatric Intensive Care Unit (PICU) for a day. The procedure was carried out through the coordinated efforts of Dr. Kabikanta Samantaray, Dr. Manas Ranjan Rout, Dr. T. Rajmohan Rao, Dr. Dibyalochan Praharaj and Dr. Sneha, along with the supporting medical and nursing teams.

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

Jagatsinghpur, (correspondent): TP Central Odisha Distribution Limited (TPCODL), a joint venture of Tata Power and the Government of Odisha, flagged off its Solar Rath from the Office of the District Collector, Jagatsinghpur, to accelerate awareness and adoption of rooftop solar under the PM Surya Ghar: Muft Bijli Yojana. The Solar Rath was inaugurated by Shri J. Sonal, IAS, Collector & District Magistrate, Jagatsinghpur, in the presence of senior TPCODL officials. The awareness vehicle will travel across the district, including the selected Model Solar Villages, educating citizens about rooftop solar, government subsidies, eligibility criteria and the installation process. The



Solar Sanga team will also interact with consumers and provide on-the-spot guidance. Earlier, the District Level Committee (DLC), chaired by the Collector, selected 10 villages to participate in the Model Solar Village Competition under the PM Surya Ghar scheme. The villages will compete over a 90-day period to achieve the highest number of

rooftop solar installations, with the winning village becoming eligible for ₹1 crore in Central Financial Assistance as a Renewable Energy Development Grant. Speaking on the occasion, Shri J. Sonal, IAS, said, "The Solar Rath will carry awareness about rooftop solar directly to the people and enable more households to benefit from the PM

Surya Ghar: Muft Bijli Yojana. This initiative will strengthen renewable energy adoption and support sustainable development across Jagatsinghpur." Through initiatives such as Mo Chhata, Mo Sanchaya, Gram Sabha outreach programmes and the Solar Rath campaign, TPCODL continues to make clean, affordable and sustainable solar energy accessible to households across its distribution area.

# IMS & SUM HOSPITAL-2 INTRODUCES ADVANCED MODIFIED ECT SERVICES FOR PSYCHIATRIC CARE

Bhubaneswar, (correspondent): In a significant boost to the regional mental healthcare infrastructure, the Department of Psychiatry at IMS and SUM Hospital-2 at Phulnakhara has successfully launched Modified Electroconvulsive Therapy (ECT) services. The commencement of the new facility was marked by the successful administration of the first Modified ECT on a patient diagnosed with schizophrenia, hospital sources confirmed. Dr. Bhabani Shankar, Head of the Department of Psychiatry, expressed his immense satisfaction over the development. "Modified ECT remains one of the most effective and critical treatment



modalities for acutely disturbed psychiatric patients. We are thrilled to successfully introduce this vital service in our campus," he said. Unlike traditional methods, Modified ECT is performed under general anaesthesia and muscle relaxation ensuring maximum safety and comfort for the patient, Dr. Shankar said adding the successful rollout of the procedure was the

result of seamless teamwork and excellent coordination with the hospital's Department of Anaesthesia. Dr. Shankar also extended his profound gratitude to the Medical Superintendent of IMS and SUM Hospital-2 Prof. (Dr.) Rajesh Kumar Lenka and Dean Prof. (Dr.) Snigdha Prava Mishra crediting their constant support, visionary leadership and guidance for making the

establishment of this advanced therapeutic facility a reality. Dr. Lagnajit Dash, Associate Professor With the department, informed that the unit was now fully equipped and had become operational with this crucial intervention. The hospital was now offering enhanced care and rapid recovery outcomes for those battling severe mental health conditions, he said.

# Ancient Wisdom Meets Modern Science SOA Workshop Focuses on Modern Infection Control Strategies for Safer hospitals

Bhubaneswar, (correspondent): A workshop on 'Breaking the Chain: Modern Infection Control Strategies for Safer Hospitals' was organised by the Department of Hospital Administration of the Institute of Business and Computer Studies, faculty of management sciences of SOA Deemed to be University here on Monday. The workshop focused on the critical question in healthcare-- how can hospitals systematically prevent infections by identifying and breaking every link in the chain of infection? It aimed to strengthen awareness that infection control



was not the responsibility of microbiologists alone but a shared responsibility of hospital administrators, doctors, nurses, support staff and every stakeholder involved in patient care. The technical sessions were led by eminent infection-control experts, Dr. Purabi Baral, Head of Department of

Microbiology and Hospital Infection Control Officer, SUM Ultimate Medicare, and Dr. Pragnya P. Jena, Infection Prevention and Control Officer, Biosafety Officer and Associate Professor, Department of Microbiology, Institute of Medical Sciences and SUM Hospital, who shared their expertise on modern

infection-control practices and strategies for breaking the chain of infection. Prof. (Dr.) Ayasa Kanta Mohanty, Dean of IBCS, delivered the welcome address while Dr. Preeti Y. Shadangi, MHA Program and Workshop Coordinator explained the workshop theme. Prof. (Dr.) Manoranjan Dash, Associate Dean, IBCS,

who delivered the keynote address, emphasized the integration of microbiology, infection control and hospital management to effectively break the chain of infection. He drew an insightful connection between modern infection control and Odisha's rich cultural heritage highlighting the 'Anasara' tradition of Lord Jagannath as a metaphor for seclusion, protection and prevention, thereby linking ancient wisdom with contemporary scientific practices. He spoke on the common principles of protection, restricted exposure and prevention for infection control.

# Govt Imposes 15-Day Sugar Stock Limit On Bulk Consumers Amid Price Surge

New Delhi: The Centre has tightened sugar stockholding limits for bulk consumers amid a sharp rise in prices ahead of the festive season and directing those consuming more than 10 metric tonnes a month to hold inventories for no more than 15 days. According to a notification issued by the Ministry of Consumer Affairs, Food and Public Distribution, the new restriction will come into effect from September 1 and remain in force until November 30. Under the order, no bulk consumer using or consuming more than 10 metric tonnes of sugar a month as raw material for production, consumption or use can hold stocks exceeding 15 days of such

consumption. The government has defined bulk consumers to include confectioners, soft drink manufacturers, food processing industries, sweetmeat sellers and other institutional buyers consuming at least 10 metric tonnes of sugar a month on average during the last one year, excluding the current month. However, institutions belonging to the central or state governments, Union Territory administrations and local bodies have been exempted from the order. In addition, the government will verify the monthly quantity of sugar sold by each sugar mill to bulk consumers either directly or through dealers. While sugar

consumption will be determined with reference to Goods and Services Tax (GST) returns filed by sellers or buyers using the relevant Harmonised System of Nomenclature (HSN) code for sugar. The government's decision comes after it directed dealers to hold sugar stocks for no more than 30 days in an effort to improve market supplies. Despite the earlier stockholding restrictions on dealers, sugar prices have risen sharply. The average retail price of sugar rose 13 per cent year-on-year to Rs 52.30 per kg on August 18 from Rs 46.34 per kg, according to the government data.