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Kenya: Indian Mission Confirms Seafarers Safe After Somalia Hijack

Nairobi: The High Commission of India in Kenya on Friday confirmed the safety of 22 Indian seafarers on board two foreign-flagged vessels which pirates off the coast of Somalia reportedly hijacked. "We have taken up the matter of Indian seafarers on board vessels MT Sibul (Eritrea-flagged) and MV Lutuf (Cameroon-flagged) with the concerned authorities in Somalia. It is understood that there are reportedly 16 Indian seafarers onboard MT Sibul and 6 Indian seafarers onboard MV Lutuf. All Indian seafarers are reportedly safe. We attach the

highest importance to the safety and welfare of the Indian seafaring community," the Indian High Commission in Kenya stated on X. The Eritrea-flagged oil products tanker MT Sibul, carrying 20 crew members – including 16 Indian nationals, one Syrian, one Sudanese and one Iraqi – was reportedly hijacked on Thursday by six armed pirates in the Gulf of Aden, roughly 30 nautical miles off the coast of Yemen. Another vessel, MV Lutuf, with 10 sailors on board, including six Indians, was seized off the coast of Somalia's Puntland region. Earlier in the day, the Ministry of External

Affairs (MEA) noted that it is in touch with the relevant authorities on this matter to ensure the safety and well-being of Indian seafarers. "These are two ships flagged abroad, meaning they are flying the flag of another country. There are 22 Indian citizens on board- 16 on one ship and six on the other. So far, we have learnt that all 22 of our citizens on board are safe. We are in touch with the relevant authorities on this matter so that we can ensure the safety and well-being of our people," MEA spokesperson Randhir Jaiswal said during a bi-weekly media briefing in New Delhi on Friday.

Laxmanananda Saraswati Birth Centenary: Odisha CM Majhi Assures Justice For His Killing

Bhubaneswar: Odisha Chief Minister Mohan Charan Majhi on Friday launched a scathing attack on the previous Biju Janata Dal (BJD)-led state government over its alleged failure, negligence and appeasement politics in connection with the brutal killing of Vishva Hindu Parishad leader Swami Laxmanananda Saraswati in 2008, which had shocked the entire state. The Chief Minister made the remarks while addressing a special programme held at Gurjang in Talcher area of Anugola district, on Friday to mark the birth centenary of Swami Laxmanananda Saraswati. In his



address, Chief Minister Majhi also alleged, "the disappearance of the reports and files of the Justice Mahapatra Commission and Justice Naidu Commission, constituted to investigate Swamiji's murder, from Lok Seva Bhavan was a deliberate conspiracy to shield the perpetrators." The Chief Minister also gave a firm assurance to the four-

and-a-half crore people of Odisha, saying that every drop of Swamiji's blood would get justice and that the truth would certainly be brought to light. On the occasion, the Chief Minister announced that the Swamiji's native village of Gurjang, associated with his memory, will be developed as a 'Heritage Village', while the Gurjang panchayat will

be developed as a 'Model Panchayat'.

Addressing the gathering, Chief Minister Majhi said, "Swami Laxmanananda Saraswati was not merely an individual, but an embodiment of a great ideal, a divine institution and a radiant guide of Sanatan Dharma. In this modern era, he (Swamiji) renounced worldly comforts and lived in the remote and dense forests of Kandhamal, dedicating his life to the service of helpless tribal people."

Majhi also added that Swamiji established the Chakapad and Jalespata ashrams and a Kanya Gurukul there, empowering tribal girls through Sanskrit

education and values. "The seeds of culture sown by him have now grown into a mighty tree, while the awareness he initiated against religious conversion has emerged across the state as an awakened Sanatani resolve. Swami Laxmanananda Saraswati is the 'Guru, Granth and Garima' (Teacher, Sacred Text and Pride) of our society," CM Majhi said. Finally, the Chief Minister called upon the Gen Z to reconnect with their roots, education, culture, Vedas, Sanskrit, cow protection and Sanatani traditions, and participate in nation-building with patriotism and courage.

Jharkhand students protest HC stay on JPSC exam cancellation, clash with police in Ranchi

Ranchi (Jharkhand): Hundreds of students gathered at Gandhi Maidan in Ranchi on Friday to protest the Jharkhand High Court's stay on the cancellation of JPSC examinations and appointments, with the demonstration turning tense after police seized an effigy of Chief Minister Hemant Soren. The protest was organised following a call by the JPSC-JSSC Reform Forum, which had appealed to students to burn effigies of the Chief Minister across all 24 districts of Jharkhand in protest against the High Court's decision. Students gathered at Gandhi Maidan carrying an effigy of Soren as part



of the protest. In view of the demonstration, the district administration deployed a large police contingent at the spot. Several senior officials, including a Deputy Superintendent of Police (DSP), were present, while water cannons and women police personnel were also kept on standby. Tension escalated when the

students moved forward with the effigy and police personnel seized it from them. Scuffles broke out between the protesters and police, following which the police resorted to a lathi-charge and began dispersing the protesters from Gandhi Maidan. Police faced difficulties in controlling the demonstrators due

to the large size of the ground, as students repeatedly regrouped at different locations and continued their protest. Several students remained inside Gandhi Maidan and attempted to continue the demonstration even as police personnel chased them away and maintained a heavy presence in the area. Reacting to the Jharkhand High Court's order, BJP spokesperson Pratul Shahdeo accused the Hemant Soren-led government of misleading the protesting students. "Everything here is happening just as the state government had scripted.

Delhi Police Register FIR Against Unknown Persons On Pellet Gun Complaint

New Delhi: Following the sit-in staged by Leader of the Opposition (LoP) in the Lok Sabha Rahul Gandhi, Delhi Police on Friday lodged a First Information Report (FIR) against unknown persons on a complaint by a purported pellet-gun victim, Sahil Lochab. Gandhi had been staging the sit-in outside the office of the Deputy Commissioner of Police at Delhi's Parliament Street Police Station, protesting the alleged refusal of the police to register an FIR on Lochab's complaint. Addressing reporters after the FIR was lodged, Lochab expressed gratitude to the LoP, saying: "I am



thankful to Rahul Gandhi ji who sat here for eight hours following which this FIR was registered. His team has been in touch with me for the last one month, and he (Gandhi) himself had been enquiring about my health." Stating that he didn't plan to come in front of the media, he said: "Yesterday when he (Gandhi) had called, I told him that my FIR was not being

registered. He immediately asked me to meet him today and assured me that he would get my FIR lodged. I thank him for this." He also thanked the public for praying for his recovery because of which he could again stand on his feet despite "200 pellets being lodged in his body". "This is a victory for justice," he asserted. However, the

student said that he is upset that despite the Leader of Opposition and the complainant being present, "it took eight hours for the police to register an FIR". "In fact, the FIR might not have been lodged if the LoP had not helped me. From August 14, I have been making frequent visits (to the police station) to lodge an FIR, but it has been registered now, after seven to eight days," he added. Further, Lochab said that he had faith that the LoP's presence would ultimately lead to the filing of the FIR. His mother also thanked LoP Gandhi for assisting him in getting the FIR registered.

IPS Resuffle: imansu Kumar Lal To Head EOW

Bhubaneswar: The Odisha government on Friday effected a major reshuffle in the senior IPS cadre. Six senior IPS officers have been assigned new responsibilities across the state police and intelligence wings.

According to a notification issued by the Home Department on Friday, 2003 batch IPS officer Himansu Kumar Lal, presently Inspector General of Police, Northern Range, Sambalpur, has been posted as Inspector General of Police, Economic Offences Wing (EOW), Bhubaneswar, with additional charge of the Special Task Force (STF).

Similarly, 2004 batch IPS officer Satyabrata Bhoi, presently IG of Police, Northern Central Range, Talcher, and holding additional charge as Principal, Police Training College (PTC), Anugola, has been posted as IG of Police, Intelligence.

Besides, 2005 batch IPS officer Jai Narayan Pankaj, currently IG of Police, Intelligence, Odisha, Bhubaneswar, has been transferred as IG of Police, Southern Range, Brahmapur.

Further, 2007 batch IPS officer Niti Shekhar, presently IG of Police, Southern Range, Brahmapur, has been posted as IG of Police (Provisioning), Police

Headquarters.

Again 2009 batch IPS officer Charan Singh Meena, currently DIG of Police, Provisioning, has been posted as DIG of Police, Northern Range, Sambalpur.

Moreover, 2010 batch IPS officer Ashish Kumar Singh, who joined the Home Department following repatriation from central deputation, has been posted as DIG of Police, Northern Central Range, Talcher, with additional charge of Principal, PTC, Angul.

The transfers and postings were ordered by the Home Department with the approval of the Governor of Odisha.

Hasina Calls 2004 Dhaka Grenade Attack One Of Bangladesh's 'Most Brutal, Shameful' Chapters

Dhaka: Marking the 22nd anniversary of the 2004 deadly grenade attack on an Awami League rally at Bangabandhu Avenue in Dhaka, former Bangladesh Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina described the tragedy as one of the most "brutal and shameful" chapters in the country's history. The Awami League mentioned that during the attack, twenty-four leaders and activists of the party and its associate bodies were killed, while over 300 others suffered splinter injuries. Among those killed were Ivy Rahman, then Mohila Awami League chief and also the wife of former Bangladesh President Zillur Rahman. According to the party, many of those injured became crippled for life, while Hasina, then opposition leader, narrowly escaped the attack with ear injuries, from which she continues to suffer. The Awami League alleged that the "barbaric attack" on August 21, 2004, was carried out by terrorist group Harkat ul Jihad (HuJI) at the behest of the then Bangladesh Nationalist Party-Jamaat-e-Islami coalition government. In a

statement shared by the Awami League on its social media platform X, Hasina recalled the attack, saying it was aimed at destroying democratic politics in Bangladesh. "The attack sought to destroy our democratic politics and once again bring the politics of confrontation into the mainstream – a trajectory that had begun with the assassination of Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman and his family on August 15. We are subjected to propaganda claiming that we were responsible for destroying democracy in Bangladesh," Hasina stated. Urging the younger generation to examine Bangladesh's history objectively, she said, "I want to tell the new generation: study history objectively. Look at who carried out the August 15 assassination. Who killed the four national leaders inside a secured prison? Who seized state power illegally by establishing military rule? Who enacted the Indemnity Ordinance? Who formed the so-called 'King's Party'? Who sought to eliminate political opponents through grenade

attacks in an attempt to consolidate their grip on power? The former Prime Minister further alleged that the forces favouring an anti-independence political agenda had regained ground in Bangladesh following August 5, 2024. "Those who have repeatedly sought to steer Bangladesh along an anti-independence political trajectory re-emerged on the political stage after August 5, 2024. Deceiving the people and conspiring to assassinate me and destroy the Awami League were the principal objectives of August 5. Further evidence of this is the killing of numerous leaders and activists of our party across the country since August 5, along with physical attacks and baseless cases brought against them," Hasina mentioned. She reaffirmed that the Awami League would remain steadfast in their determination to overcome all obstacles and build the "Sonar Bangla" envisioned by Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman – "a secular, modern, and welfare-oriented Bangladesh."

Political Decisions Must Transform Nation To Serve Both Present And Future: PM Modi

New Delhi: Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Friday said that true national progress is driven by decisions whose impact is felt on the ground and which balance the needs of both the present and the future, rather than short-term announcements aimed at electoral gains. Speaking at the World Leaders Forum organised by The Economic Times, the Prime Minister noted that in politics, headlines are often dominated by decisions whose effects last only a day or so. Earlier governments, he said, frequently made announcements before the electorate that risked dividing the nation. In contrast, lasting change comes from policies that deliver visible results while securing the country's long-term interests. Highlighting two flagship schemes



launched by his government as examples, PM Modi pointed to the PM-KUSUM Yojana and the PM Surya Ghar Muft Bijli Yojana. Under PM-KUSUM, farmers have been relieved of the constant worry of electricity for irrigation, he said. The PM Surya Ghar scheme, he said, has brought significant benefits to the middle class by turning household rooftops into

sources of free power. "We had planned to place a sun on the roof of every house," the Prime Minister said, adding that more than 50 lakh families are now associated with the scheme. The government has provided over Rs 22,000 crore to these households for installing solar systems. Beneficiaries are not only generating their

own electricity for daily needs such as washing machines and televisions but are also earning by selling surplus power to the grid. As a result, their electricity bills have become zero while additional income has started flowing in. PM Modi observed that the scheme has fulfilled the dreams of ordinary citizens by ending power cuts that once spoiled milk and

disrupted studies of school-going children. Free or affordable appliances have become a reality for many families. He underlined that the benefits of rooftop solar will continue to expand businesses and improve quality of life, irrespective of electoral cycles. Reaffirming his government's commitment, the Prime Minister said work would continue with full dedication to take the country forward at a faster pace. With confidence that India would play a major role in shaping the world's future, he expressed the belief that a stronger, safer and more capable India would emerge to contribute meaningfully on the global stage. The address concluded with a call for sustained efforts rooted in long-term vision rather than temporary political gains.

UPSSSC Declares Junior Assistant Results, 50 Selected

Lucknow: The Uttar Pradesh Subordinate Services Selection Commission (UPSSSC) on Friday announced the final results for the recruitment of Junior Assistants in the Industrial Development Department. A total of 50 candidates have been selected based on the Junior Assistant Main Examination. The selection process was completed strictly in accordance with prescribed rules, merit and reservation norms. The Commission initially invited applications for 62 posts. After the department submitted a revised requisition, the number of vacancies was reduced to 54. Against these, the Commission finalised the selection of 50 candidates. Of the selected candidates, 34 belong to the Unreserved category, seven to Other Backward Classes, five



to the Economically Weaker Sections, three to Scheduled Castes and one to Scheduled Tribes. The Commission adjusted candidates entitled to horizontal reservation within their respective vertical categories. The Commission fully complied with provisions for women, persons with disabilities, and other horizontal categories. In categories where suitable candidates were not available, the posts have been carried forward as per rules. Category-wise cut-off marks have also been released. The cut-off

stands at 65 marks for the Unreserved category, 62.50 for OBC, 63.75 for EWS, 50 for Scheduled Tribes and 26.75 for Scheduled Castes. Under horizontal reservation, the cut-off is 54.75 marks for the ASD/HH/DE/OH disability category and 44.25 for other disability categories. The cut-off for women candidates is 42 marks. The Commission has clarified that the final selection remains subject to the outcome of related petitions pending before the High Court.

CBI Arrests Proclaimed Offender Absconding For 23 Years

New Delhi: The CBI on Friday arrested a Proclaimed Offender (PO) who had absconded for nearly 23 years in connection with a case involving the criminal misappropriation of goods worth Rs 9 lakh from trucks carrying them to customers. Roop Singh was arrested on Friday after sustained efforts by the probe agency, according to a statement issued by the CBI. Earlier, co-accused Arjun Singh was arrested on November 7, 2025, after remaining absconding for nearly 22 years. The CBI case originated from Case No. 178/1998 dated October 4, 1998, registered at Amalner Police Station,

Maharashtra, regarding the alleged theft and misappropriation of goods, including ghee and mung, loaded in two trucks. It was alleged that on September 27, 1998, two truck drivers, Babu Khan and Aslam Khan, stole and misappropriated the goods. The High Court of Judicature of Bombay at Aurangabad, vide its order dated February 25, 2002, in Criminal Writ Petition No. 547/2000 dated November 27, 2000, directed the transfer of the investigation of the instant case to the CBI. Accordingly, the CBI re-registered the case on April 5, 2002, as RC-4(S)/2002-CBI, SCB, Mumbai, against Babu Khan, Aslam

Khan and others. After the investigation, the CBI filed a chargesheet on December 19, 2003, before the Court of the JMFC, Amalner, against Roop Singh, Arjun Singh, Babu Khan and Aslam Khan for offences relating to criminal misappropriation, conspiracy and abetment, the CBI said. The CBI said the investigation revealed that Roop Singh and Arjun Singh, in furtherance of a criminal conspiracy with the two truck drivers, criminally misappropriated goods intended for delivery to another party. During the course of trial, accused Roop Singh and Arjun Singh were released on bail and subsequently absconded.

India Rolls Out ICT Track Theme At BRICS Meet

Pune: Union Communications Minister Jyotiraditya M. Scindia on Friday introduced the theme of 'Innovate, Cooperate and Transform (ICT) for a Resilient Future', and its four pillars — sustainable and resilient digital and ICT ecosystems; cybersecurity and trustworthy ICT; digital skilling and capacity building; and innovation, startups and entrepreneurship at the BRICS ministerial meeting here. In his address on the occasion of the 12th BRICS Communications Ministers Meeting, Scindia said: "India assumed the Chairship in 2026; we do so with humility and a shared commitment to our theme: building resilience, innovation,



cooperation and sustainability reflected in the ICT Track theme Innovate, Cooperate and Transform for a Resilient Future." "Today, the world stands at the cusp of a profound technological transformation. AI, Next Gen Networks, SATCOM, Cloud Computing and advanced Digital Infrastructure are reshaping economics and societies. We must ensure that innovation remains secure, inclusive, sustainable

and people-centric," the minister added. The Heads of Ministerial delegations of BRICS countries also delivered their speeches in the meeting. India extended its appreciation to all member countries for their engagement during the Chairship year and its support to the incoming Chair. Addressing a press briefing, the minister outlined the key outcomes and global impact of the 12th BRICS Communications Ministers Meeting. "We

have prepared comprehensive discussions and priorities that will shape our future ICT cooperation within BRICS. Eight pillars in particular: — Universal and Meaningful Connectivity, Resilient Public Infrastructure, Trusted, Secure, and People-Centric Ecosystems, Digital Public Infrastructure, Artificial Intelligence and Future Network Technologies, Innovation Startups and Entrepreneurship and Digital Scaling and

Enhanced Cooperation amongst our BRICS countries. BRICS has a growing role to play in the global forum, considering half of humanity lies in this region, and two-fifths of the world's economy lies in this region," Scindia said. "India's transformation led by Prime Minister Narendra Modi over the last decade has been monumental," he remarked. The ministers later visited the Digital BRICS Forum Expo, exploring interactive showcases and cutting-edge telecom solutions presented by domestic and international tech enterprises. The event concluded with an official excursion for the visiting delegates, highlighting Pune's rich cultural heritage.

India-Russia Discuss Ways To Increase Armed Forces Interaction At Working Group Meeting

New Delhi: A meeting of the Working Group on Planning of the Russia-India Intergovernmental Commission on Military and Military-Technical Cooperation was held in New Delhi, during which both sides discussed ways to expand interaction between armed forces. "On August 20-21, a meeting of the Working Group on Planning of the Russia-India Intergovernmental Commission on Military and Military-Technical Cooperation was held in New Delhi. The sides reviewed the results of the joint activity plan for the current year, outlined measures for 2027 and discussed ways to expand interaction between the



armed forces of the two countries," the Russian Embassy in India stated on its official Telegram channel. Earlier this month, India and Russia reaffirmed their commitment to

enhance mutual trust and advance defence industrial and technological cooperation during the fifth India-Russia Army Land System Sub-Group (ALSSG) meeting in New Delhi. The four-day

engagement from August 4-7 was held under the aegis of the India-Russia Intergovernmental Commission on Military and Military Technical Cooperation (IRIGC-M and MTC), aims to further

strengthen the longstanding bilateral defence partnership between the two nations. Lt Gen Rahul R Singh, DCOAS (CD and S), led the Indian delegation. Maj Gen Tufekchi Aleksandr, Deputy Head of the Main Armoured Directorate, Ministry of Defence of the Russian Federation, headed the Russian delegation. At the 12th Session of the India-Russia Working Group on Modernisation and Industrial Cooperation under the Intergovernmental Commission on Trade, Economic, Scientific, Technological and Cultural Cooperation on August 7, India

and Russia agreed to strengthen bilateral cooperation in railway transport, unmanned aerial vehicles (UAVs), SJ-100 regional planes, and critical minerals. New areas of cooperation in railway transport such as infrastructure facilities, the Vande Bharat train project, and signalling equipment were taken up for discussion. Moreover, cooperation in Unmanned Aerial Vehicles (UAVs), 3-D printing, production of the Russian regional aircraft SJ-100, which is a narrow-body jet capable of carrying 103 passengers, and aero-engines were also discussed.

Jharkhand: Scuffle Breaks Out Between Protesters And Police

Ranchi: A scuffle between student protesters and the police broke out in Ranchi on Friday as the former attempted to burn an effigy of Chief Minister Hemant Soren in protest after the High Court stayed the state government's order cancelling the 11th to 13th Jharkhand Public Service Commission (JPSC) examinations and related appointments. The agitators claimed that an "agent" of the JMM-led government mingled with the crowd and attempted to misbehave with a female who was carrying the effigy. Speaking to IANS, student leader Ravindra Paswan said: "We have come here to burn an effigy while raising slogans, at Albert Ekka Chowk. Meanwhile, JMM sent its agent, who came and tried to snatch the effigy from us. He also tried to misbehave with the girl who was carrying the effigy and tore her clothes... The Jharkhand government should be ashamed of this." "They (government) have stooped to this level to protect their 'dalal' (brokers) and thieves. The youth of Jharkhand will never tolerate this. We will give them a befitting reply. That person has been caught and handed over to the police. We demand the death penalty for him," he asserted. While maintaining that staging a protest is a constitutional right, Leader of Opposition in Jharkhand Assembly and BJP leader Babulal Marandi alleged: "The way even JMM leaders were seen with sticks at various places of the state, it reflects that the government doesn't intend to restore peace." "It seems they only want anarchy and conflict in the state. This is not good either for JMM or for the state," he added.

Odisha Vigilance Unearths 5.74 Lakh Cash, Properties and Valuables During Searches Linked to Lathikata Tahasildar

Rourkela:(correspondent) Further investigations by the Odisha Vigilance into alleged possession of disproportionate assets by Muralidhar Urmal, OAS, Tahasildar-cum-Sub-Registrar of Lathikata, have led to the seizure of an additional ₹5.74 lakh in cash during searches conducted at locations in Sundargarh and Rourkela.Urmal was intercepted by Vigilance officials on Thursday while allegedly carrying 5 lakh in



suspected ill-gotten cash. With the latest recovery, the total cash seizure so far stands at ₹10.74 lakh.During the searches, Vigilance officials have also unearthed several other

assets and valuables, including:A double-storeyed building measuring approximately 3,700 sq ft at Karmdihi in Sundargarh.Six high-value plots located on

the outskirts of Sundargarh and Rourkela towns.241 grams of gold jewellery and 635 grams of silver ornaments.Bank, postal and insurance deposits amounting to ₹66.10 lakh.One Hyundai Grand i10 Sports four-wheeler and three two-wheelers.The searches are still continuing at various locations. The Vigilance Department is expected to conduct further verification and assessment of the assets and financial transactions.

In Boudh , 8-Foot Python Trapped Inside House After Swallowing Chicken

B O U D H :(Correspondent) :- An eight-foot-long python entered a house in search of food, swallowed a chicken and later found itself trapped inside the chicken coop. The unusual incident occurred at the residence of Punnachandra Sahu in Adenigarh village under Harabhanga block of B o u d h district.According to reports, the python entered the house during the night while looking for



prey. It made its way into the chicken coop, caught a chicken and swallowed it. However, after consuming the chicken, the python became too bulky to pass through the narrow opening and was unable to escape from

the coop.The family discovered the huge snake the next morning and were left frightened. They immediately contacted a snake rescue team for help.After receiving the information, the

rescuers reached the spot and carefully began the rescue operation. Following considerable effort, the eight-foot-long python was safely brought out of the chicken coop.News of the snake rescue soon spread through the locality, attracting a crowd of curious residents who gathered to see the giant python.The rescue team later released the snake safely into a nearby forest, ensuring that it suffered no harm.

Three Killed as Coal-Laden Truck Runs Over Scooter in Sundargarh

R o u r k e l a / Sundargarh:(Correspondent): A three-year-old child and mother , grandmother were killed in a horrific road accident near Bhasma police station in Sundargarh district on Thursday evening.The accident occurred in front of a petrol pump along the Biju Expressway when a coal-laden truck allegedly ran over a scooter carrying the victims. The deceased have been identified as a three-year-old child from Gaijor village under Sadar police station, the child's mother, Mita Singh, and another elderly woman.Mita Singh's sister, Lisa, sustained critical injuries in the accident and was rushed to a hospital for treatment.

Tribal Suraksha Manch Makes Major Proposal on Preservation of Indigenous Faith

B a r i p a d a :(Correspondent) :The Tribal Suraksha Manch on Friday issued a press statement calling for the preservation of the identity, traditions, culture and indigenous faith of tribal communities across India. The organisation described its initiative as an effort to strengthen tribal society and urged people not to be influenced by what it termed misleading campaigns promoting foreign religions.

According to the statement, tribal communities have, since ancient times, maintained their distinct cultural identity by worshipping nature—including trees, rivers, mountains, water and air—as sacred elements that sustain life. The organisation said these



natural elements are regarded as their revered deities and form the foundation of their traditional belief system.

The Manch alleged that some people mislead poor, innocent and uneducated members of tribal communities in the name of religion and encourage them to adopt foreign religions. It said it strongly condemns and opposes such activities. The organisation further

demand that tribal people who have adopted Christianity or any other religion should not receive Scheduled Tribe reservation benefits or other government facilities meant for ST communities. It claimed that this demand is in accordance with Article 342 of the Constitution and urged the government to implement it.

The Manch also appealed to members of

the tribal community to remain aware, reject foreign religions, and return to what it described as their original Sarna faith, while staying away from those who allegedly mislead people in the name of religion.

The press statement concluded with a call to "Jag Hindu, Jag Sanatani," asserting that the Sarna faith is the true path for tribal communities to live peacefully.

Among those present were Dr. Rajkishore Hansda, National Coordinator; Dr. Chandan Murmu, former Chief District Medical Officer and State Convener; Fakira Singh, District Coordinator; and Bhim Charan Majhi, State Vice-President of the Tribal Suraksha Manch

For Shri Baladevjiu, Sister Subhadra will send a Rakhi from Srikshetra

Bhubaneswar:(Correspondent) :- Preparations have begun for Mother Subhadra's Rakhi to go to Tulsi Kshetra from Srikshetra to meet her elder brother B a l i a r a b h u j a R e v a t i k a n t Baladevjiu. Shri Jagannath Pataseva Vikas Parishad N u a b a z a r P o t a p o k h a r i , Cuttack, Hi-tech Group President Dr. Tirupati Panigrahi, Mother Subhadra's Badagrahi Daitapati S e b a y a t Ramachandra Das Mahapatra, and Jagannath Pataseva Vikas Parishad Senior Member Himanshu Shekhar Sahu said in a press release that on the 23rd at 1:30 pm, Hi-tech Group Managing Trustee and CEO Suresh Kumar



Panigrahi and Himanshu Kumar Sahu will reach Puri Govardhan Pitha Shankaracharya and receive the holy guard from there, and at 4:15 pm, Hi-tech Medical It will reach the Ganesh temple opposite. After that, it will travel and spend the night at the Dhakulri Peetha in Pratap Nagari. The next morning at 9 am, Subhadra's Badagrahi Ramachandra Das Mahapatra and Suresh Panigrahi will both start the yatra from the Dhakulei Peetha in a decorated chariot and will reach the

Pataseva Vikas Parishad in Nuabajar at 10 am. After thousands of devotees pay their respects to this magnificent procession at Shikharpur Chowk, Rakshi will be offered at the Bada Bhai Sribaldevjiu Temple in Kendrapara at 12:30 pm. This Rakshi Yatra has been organized for 22 years and lakhs of people will visit this spiritual yatra from Puri to Kendrapara, said Hi-tech Group Chairman Dr. Tirupati Panigrahi and Senior Daitapati Shri Ramachandra Das Mahapatra.

Mahanadi Water Dispute: CWC Forms Technical Panel To Examine Odisha, Chhattisgarh Data

Bhubaneswar: (Correspondent) :: The Central Water Commission (CWC) has constituted a technical committee to examine and analyse data submitted by Odisha and Chhattisgarh as efforts continue to find an amicable solution to the long-standing dispute over sharing of Mahanadi river water, Odisha Advocate General Pitambar Acharya said.The committee is undertaking a technical assessment of the information furnished by both states concerning their water requirements, demands and other related issues,



Acharya said.Both Odisha and Chhattisgarh have submitted detailed data to the CWC outlining their respective requirements and claims relating to the Mahanadi river. The technical scrutiny is expected to provide an objective assessment of the issues involved in the water-

sharing dispute.The development comes ahead of the next hearing of the Mahanadi Water Disputes Tribunal, scheduled for September 17.Acharya said the proceedings of the tribunal are being closely monitored as both states continue to present their respective positions on the

dispute.He expressed hope that a solution could emerge through c o n s t r u c t i v e discussions and a forward-looking approach by the Chief Ministers of Odisha and Chhattisgarh.“ Discussions and mutual understanding would go a long way” in paving the way for resolving the long-pending Mahanadi water-sharing issue, Acharya said.The Mahanadi water dispute has remained a contentious issue between the neighbouring states, with both sides maintaining their respective claims over the river's water resources.

350 Kg Of Adulterated Milk Products Seized In Berhampur

Bhubaneswar: Food safety officials in Berhampur have launched a crackdown on adulterated dairy products, seizing and destroying over 350 kg of paneer, cheese, khoa and rabri from shops, lassi stalls and restaurants across the silk city in the last two days.

The drive began on Thursday with inspections in Aga Street and Khapsa Street. Officials of the Berhampur Municipal Corporation seized around 60 kg of adulterated paneer, chhena and khoa from five outlets. They also destroyed 25 expired milk packets of 500 ml each that were found during the checks.

Brown Sugar Worth Over Rs 20 Lakh Seized In Bhadrak, Two Arrested

Bhadrak: Excise officials seized 210 grams of brown sugar, allegedly valued at more than Rs 20 lakh, during surprise raids in the Serapur and Dolasahi Bazar areas of Tihidi block in Bhadrak district, officials said on Friday.Two persons were arrested in connection with the seizures and were s u b s e q u e n t l y forwarded to a court, they said.The raids

were conducted by two special teams under the leadership of District Excise Inspector Mamata Das. Following the operation, separate cases were registered at the Bhadrak Range and Tihidi Excise Station.The operation was carried out on the direction of Excise Superintendent Narottam Mishra and under the supervision of Excise Deputy

Superintendent Sucharita Mishra.Tihidi Excise Officer-in-Charge Sima Kerei, Bhadrak Officer-in-Charge Srikant Murmu, District Mobile SI Natabar Mallik, ASI Kshirod Patra and other excise personnel participated in the r a i d s . F u r t h e r investigation into the source and intended distribution of the seized contraband is underway, officials said.

Odisha Chief Secy Reviews Welfare Schemes With Centre's Social Justice Secretary

Bhubaneswar: Odisha Chief Secretary Anu Garg on Friday reviewed the implementation of various Central and state welfare schemes with Secretary of the Union Department of Social Justice and Empowerment Sudhansh Pant, with discussions focusing on social inclusion, education, livelihood generation and empowerment of vulnerable sections.The meeting examined programmes being implemented through the Scheduled Castes, Scheduled

Tribes Development, Minorities and Backward Classes Welfare Department and the Social Security and Empowerment of Persons with Disabilities Department. Commissioner-cum-Secretary of the SC, ST and MBC Department B Parameswaran made a presentation on initiatives aimed at the socio-economic development of Scheduled Castes, Scheduled Tribes, minorities and backward classes.Under the Pradhan Mantri Adarsh Gram Yojana, 2,033 villages across

all 30 districts have been selected for 2025-26 and 2026-27, of which 1,519 have been declared model villages. The programme focuses on rural development, livelihood generation and skill development.The Income Generation Scheme for SC women self-help groups is providing support through bank loans and subsidies for livelihood activities in agriculture, horticulture, animal husbandry, fisheries, industry, services and business. Under the Pradhan Mantri Anusuchit

Jati Abhyudaya Yojana, the state is also implementing skill development, income-generation and infrastructure initiatives.The meeting was informed that 4,628 persons have received skill development training with employment-linked assistance, while 168 hostels are currently functional for SC students from remote areas.In the education sector, post-matric scholarships were provided to 2,38,109 SC students and pre-matric scholarships to nearly one lakh students during 2025-26.

13001/1589/2627

OFFICE OF THE
BARIPADA MUNICIPAL COUNCIL, BARIPADA
Phone:- 06792-252703, Fax:- 06792-252703, Email:- baripadam.hudnic.in
Website:- www.baripadamunicipality.in
No: 1370 Date: 18-08-2026

DTCN PART-I (TECHNICAL BID) SECTION-II
COMPETITIVE BIDDING THROUGH 'e' Procurement

The Executive Officer on behalf of Baripada Municipality, Baripada invites percentage rate bids in single cover system in **ONLINE MODE** only in conformity with Detailed Tender Call Notice (DTCN).
Bid Documents consisting of Work, Estimated Cost, Cost of Tender Paper, EMD, and time of completion, Class of contractors and the set of terms and conditions of contract and other necessary documents can be seen in Govt. website i.e. www.tendersorissa.gov.in

Tender Reference No: BPDM- 06 of 2026-2027		Tender I.D No : 2026_ORULB_	
Sl. No.	Description	Critical Dates	
1	Procurement Officer – Publisher / Tender Inviting Authority / Bids	Executive Officer, Baripada Municipality, Baripada.	
2	Name of the Work	As per DTCN	
3	Nos. Of Work	As per DTCN	
4	Tendered cost of the works	As per DTCN	
(i)	Period of availability of tenders on-line for bidding	From Dt. 20/08/2026 (01.00 P.M.) to Dt. 25/08/2026(5.00 P.M.)	
(ii)	Last date and time of bidding on-line (Submission of Bids)	Dt. 29/08/2026 (5.00 P.M.)	
(iii)	Date and time of opening of the Bids received on-line	Dt. 31/08/2026 (11.30 A.M. onwards)	

Detail Tender Call Notice (DTCN) may also be seen from the 'e'-procurement portal i.e. www.tendersorissa.gov.in and Baripada Municipality Website i.e. www.baripadamunicipality.in
Corrigendum or Addendum if any will not be published in newspapers and can be seen in e-procurement portal as well as in Baripada Municipality web site.

Executive Officer'
Baripada Municipality

OIPR-:13001/13078/1/26-27/0007

EDITORIAL

A Painless Test: Could Saliva Help Detect Oral Cancer?

Cancer diagnosis has traditionally depended on clinical examination, imaging, laboratory investigations and, when necessary, tissue biopsy. While these methods have transformed cancer care, researchers are continuously searching for diagnostic approaches that are simpler, less invasive, affordable and easier to use. One such promising area of research is saliva-based testing for oral cancer.

The possibility sounds remarkably simple: instead of relying only on an invasive procedure, could a small sample of saliva provide clues that a person may have oral cancer?

The answer is potentially yes—but with an important qualification. Saliva-based oral-cancer testing is an active and promising field of research, and some tests are being investigated for detecting biological changes associated with the disease. However, saliva testing should not yet be regarded as a universal replacement for professional oral examination or biopsy.

Why Is Early Detection Important?

Oral cancer can affect the lips, tongue, gums, inner cheeks, floor of the mouth, palate and other parts of the oral cavity. Like many cancers, its outcome is generally better when it is detected and treated at an early stage.

The difficulty is that some early changes may be painless and may not immediately attract attention. A persistent mouth ulcer, unusual patch, unexplained lump, difficulty swallowing, persistent soreness or a change that does not heal should therefore be evaluated by a qualified healthcare professional.

Early detection is particularly important because people may sometimes ignore seemingly minor changes in the mouth. A convenient screening or diagnostic tool could potentially encourage earlier medical consultation.

What Makes Saliva Interesting?

Saliva is not simply water. It contains thousands of biological molecules, including proteins, enzymes, nucleic acids, metabolites and other substances. Some of these molecules can reflect processes occurring in the oral cavity and, in certain circumstances, changes associated with disease.

Researchers are studying whether oral cancer produces measurable molecular signatures in saliva.

Will Congress Undo Its Blunder?



Bruhaspati Samal

Dear Shri Rahul Gandhi Ji,
History does not merely remember those who committed mistakes; it also remembers those who had the courage to correct them. Today, more than two decades after the Old Pension Scheme (OPS) was dismantled, millions of Central and State Government employees, pensioners and their families continue to bear the burden of a political decision that has robbed them of financial security in old age. The time has come for the Indian National Congress, under your leadership, to acknowledge its share of responsibility and lead the national campaign to restore justice.

The assault on pension security began on 22 December 2003, when the then NDA Government abolished the Old Pension Scheme through an executive order and imposed the market-linked National Pension System (NPS) with effect from 1 January 2004. It was one of the most far-reaching decisions affecting public servants since Independence. But the story did not end there. When the Congress-led UPA Government came to power in 2004, millions expected the decision to be reversed. Instead, the Government introduced the PFRDA Bill in 2005, which ultimately became the PFRDA Act, 2013, with the support of the BJP in Opposition. Thus, the two principal national parties—though political rivals—became equal partners in replacing a guaranteed pension with a contributory market-based system.

This was not merely a policy shift. It was a historic mistake. Today, that mistake deserves a historic correction.

For twenty-one years, employees and pensioners have struggled relentlessly for restoration of OPS. Their demand has never been for privilege; it has always been for dignity. Pension is not a welfare measure. It is deferred wages earned through decades of dedicated public service. Instead of restoring OPS, the Union Government constituted a committee in 2023 and eventually announced the Unified Pension Scheme (UPS) in August 2024, promising "Assured Pension", "Assured Family Pension" and "Assured Minimum Pension." However, the Gazette Notification issued in January 2025 quietly substituted the word "pension" with "payout." That single change exposed the entire exercise. What was projected

as social security became nothing more than another financial product.

Employees understood the deception immediately. Significantly, out of more than 26 lakh NPS subscribers, only about 1.22 lakh employees (around 4.5%) opted for UPS, indicating widespread dissatisfaction. No stronger democratic verdict could have been delivered. The overwhelming majority refused to exchange guaranteed lifelong pension for an uncertain market-linked payout. Yet, instead of listening to this unprecedented rejection, the Government chose to defend the indefensible. The argument repeatedly advanced is that OPS is "fiscally unsustainable." But can fiscal prudence be invoked only when the beneficiaries are retired employees?

India's GDP has grown by approximately 165 percent between FY 2014-15 and FY 2025-26, while combined tax revenues have increased by about 205 percent during the same period. Yet expenditure on salaries, allowances, and pensions constitutes only about 12 to 15 percent of total government expenditure. If India has become the world's fourth-largest economy with a GDP of nearly 4.3 trillion dollars, and if government revenues have increased substantially over the last decade, then the fruits of that growth must also reach the employees who implement government policies and the pensioners who built the nation's administrative foundations. In addition, during the last decade, the Union Government wrote off corporate bad loans running into lakhs of crores and extended massive tax concessions to large industries. If the nation can afford enormous relief for corporate India, how can it plead financial helplessness when it comes to the men and women who spent their lives serving the Republic? This is not fiscal discipline. It is fiscal discrimination.

The contradiction becomes even sharper when several States including Chhattisgarh, Himachal Pradesh, Jharkhand, Punjab and Rajasthan resolved to restore OPS and sought return of their accumulated NPS corpus. Citing the PFRDA Act, the Centre denied refund of thousands of crores belonging to these States, effectively frustrating the democratic decisions of elected State Governments. This is no longer merely a pension dispute. It is a serious question of federalism. And now comes perhaps the gravest concern. Through the Finance Act, 2025, Parliament has retrospectively validated pen-

sion rules and empowered the Government to classify pensioners on the basis of retirement dates and other criteria. In effect, the law legitimises unequal treatment among pensioners who rendered identical service. This strikes at the heart of Article 14 of the Constitution. The Supreme Court, in the celebrated D.S. Nakara judgment, unequivocally held that pension is a deferred portion of compensation and that pensioners under the same scheme constitute one homogeneous class. Arbitrary classifications based on cut-off dates were declared unconstitutional. Yet the Finance Act, 2025 attempts to reopen precisely that door which the Supreme Court had firmly closed. If equality before law is diluted in retirement, it weakens equality itself.

Shri Rahul Gandhi Ji, this is where history now places a unique responsibility upon your shoulders. The Congress cannot erase the past, but it can certainly correct it. The Party that once helped institutionalise the PFRDA regime now has an opportunity to lead the movement for restoring the Old Pension Scheme, repealing the discriminatory provisions introduced through the Finance Act, 2025, and ensuring equal treatment for every pensioner irrespective of retirement date. Such a stand would not merely be an electoral promise. It would be an act of moral accountability. Millions of employees, pensioners and their families are waiting for a national leader who is willing to admit that mistakes were made and who possesses the courage to rectify them. History rarely offers political leaders a second opportunity to correct a national wrong. This is one such opportunity when the Govt is shortly going to take many major decisions on pay and pension through the recommendations of 8th CPC which is functional now.

The Congress has already demonstrated in several States that restoration of OPS is both politically and administratively possible. Now the nation expects the same commitment at the national level. Raise this issue forcefully inside Parliament. Demand repeal of the discriminatory pension provisions. Stand with employees, pensioners and senior citizens. Let the Congress not merely criticise the injustice committed by the present Government, but also acknowledge and rectify its own contribution to the dismantling of pension security.

“NEP 2020 For Holistic Education



Jayadeba Sahoo

This Sanskrit dictum, of Hitopadesha encapsulates the civilizational vision of Indian education. Historically, education in India was not merely a process of information transfer but a sacred journey of self-discovery, wisdom cultivation, ethical refinement, and social responsibility (Radhakrishnan, 1953). Education therefore becomes an inward journey of self-elevation rather than mere external certification. Prologue: Education Beyond the Architecture of Information The twenty-first century has become an unprecedented age of information abundance but an equally alarming era of emotional impoverishment. Humanity has mastered artificial intelligence while often remaining strangers to authentic self-intelligence. Educational institutions produce graduates equipped with remarkable technical competence but frequently underprepared for ethical dilemmas,

emotional resilience, and spiritual equilibrium. Against this backdrop, India's National Education Policy (NEP) 2020 emerges not merely as an educational reform but as a profound civilizational renaissance, seeking to harmonize scientific inquiry with ethical consciousness, innovation with integrity, and professional excellence with enlightened citizenship (Government of India, 2020). Modern education has often become synonymous with examinations, credentials, employability, and technological proficiency. Although these remain indispensable, they represent merely the external architecture of learning. Genuine education must illuminate the inner sanctuary of human consciousness.

Rabindranath Tagore envisioned education as the harmonious cultivation of intellect, aesthetics, morality, and spirituality (Tagore, 1917). Swami Vivekananda similarly declared that education

is "the manifestation of the perfection already in man" (Vivekananda, 1897). Their vision remarkably resonates with NEP 2020's emphasis upon holistic, multidisciplinary, value-based, and competency-driven education (Government of India, 2020). The distinction between information and transformation is fundamental. Information changes what individuals know; transformation changes who they become. The National Education Policy (NEP) 2020 heralds one of the most transformative educational paradigms in independent India, envisioning education not merely as an instrument of economic productivity but as a catalyst for human flourishing, ethical citizenship, and holistic development. Moving decisively beyond examination-centric and content-heavy pedagogies, the policy aspires to nurture intellectually vibrant, emotionally resilient, spiritually awakened, socially responsible, and environmentally conscious learners. Parallel to these developments, the educational philosophy

of the Brahma Kumaris World Spiritual University (BKWSU) presents a spiritually grounded framework emphasizing self-awareness, value inculcation, character formation, emotional resilience, peace education, and holistic personality development. Education has always been regarded as the noblest instrument of civilizational progress. Ancient Indian sages envisioned education not merely as the transmission of information but as the awakening of wisdom. Swami Vivekananda described education as: "The manifestation of the perfection already in man" (Vivekananda, 1897). The contemporary educational landscape, however, is increasingly dominated by examination-oriented learning, career anxieties, technological distractions, and competitive pressures. While learners possess unprecedented access to information, many struggle with emotional instability, declining ethical sensitivity, and existential uncertainty (UNESCO, 2021). Recognizing these challenges, the National Education Policy (NEP) 2020 seeks to

transform Indian education from rote learning toward holistic human development (Government of India, 2020). The policy envisions education that develops not only cognitive skills but also character, ethics, creativity, critical thinking, and constitutional values. Remarkably, many of these aspirations resonate deeply with the educational philosophy propagated by the Brahma Kumaris World Spiritual University. For more than eight decades, the Brahma Kumaris have emphasized education as a process of awakening inner consciousness, cultivating values, and realizing one's highest spiritual potential.

Education has historically been regarded as the illumination of human consciousness rather than the mere accumulation of information. The ancient Indian dictum—"Sa vidya ya vimuktaye"—"That alone is education which liberates." beautifully encapsulates the essence of Indian educational philosophy and authentic learning. The National Education Policy (NEP) 2020

resurrects this timeless civilizational wisdom by redefining education as the comprehensive development of the learner's intellectual, emotional, physical, ethical, artistic, social, and spiritual capacities. The policy explicitly seeks to produce "good human beings" endowed with compassion, scientific temper, resilience, creativity, constitutional values, and ethical character. Such an educational vision resonates profoundly with the philosophy of the Brahma Kumaris World Spiritual University, which views every learner as an eternal soul endowed with innate virtues including peace, purity, love, wisdom, joy, and power. According to Brahma Kumaris teachings, education achieves its highest purpose when it transforms consciousness, enabling individuals to become self-leaders who contribute positively to society.

Holistic Education: Beyond Academic Degree NEP 2020 rejects fragmented disciplinary learning and advocates multidisciplinary, experiential, competency-based, inquiry-driven

education. Its vision encompasses Intellectual excellence, Emotional intelligence, Physical well-being, Ethical sensitivity, Aesthetic appreciation, Vocational competence, Constitutional values, Global citizenship, Environmental stewardship and Lifelong learning. The policy specifically recommends reducing rote memorization while encouraging critical thinking, creativity, collaboration, communication, and experiential learning. The Bhagavad Gita (6.5) reinforces this integrated educational philosophy: "Uddhared Atmānāṁ? Nātmānāṁ Avasādayet"—"Let one elevate oneself through one's own higher consciousness." Education therefore becomes an inward journey of self-elevation rather than mere external certification.

The verse emphasizes personal responsibility, stating that the mind and self can act as either one's greatest friend or one's worst enemy, depending on how it is disciplined and directed. Value-Based Education: The Moral

Heart of NEP 2020 One of the most remarkable features of NEP 2020 is its unequivocal emphasis on value-based education. The policy explicitly recommends nurturing universal human values including: Truth (Satya), Righteous Conduct (Dharma), Peace (Shanti), Love (Premā), Non-violence (Ahimsa), Constitutional morality, Scientific temper, Service (Seva), Citizenship and Environmental responsibility. These values are envisioned not as isolated moral science lessons but as integral components of curriculum, pedagogy, institutional culture, and community engagement. This reflects the Upanishadic (Taittiriya Upanishad, 1.11.1) ideal: "Satyam vada. Dharmam cara." - "Speak the truth; practice righteousness." This famous ethical maxim originates from the Taittiriya Upanishad (1.11.1) and serves as a fundamental guideline for living an honest and moral life. Brahma Kumaris Perspective: Education as Inner Awakening The Brahma Kumaris present an educational paradigm rooted in spiritual anthropology.

Demand letter to Tahsildar for shifting of local liquor distillery near temple

Narayanpatna, (correspondent): The Sarpanch has written a complaint to the local Tahsildar opposing the Bihari local liquor distillery being set up near the temple. This year, a notification was issued by the government for country liquor distillery in Narayanpatna block. On 14/7/26, the District Excise Department letter No. 2122 of Bhaisali district of Bihar, the government had obtained a license for the liquor distillery. This liquor distillery is being



constructed on a leased land near Baba Jageswar Shaiv Peetha near Hajabati river near Palaput. Since this distillery is located near the road and at the entrance to the temple, it will cause

inconvenience to the devotees. The foul smoke of the liquor will come out and pollute the temple premises. The liquor produced from the distillery The Hajambati river will be sad if it joins the river.

It will cause problems in the movement of devotees. Therefore, the local Sarpanch Revati Kundaria has written a complaint to immediately cancel the said lease land and shift it to another place. In this regard, she has requested the District Collector, Excise Superintendent, District Security Superintendent, and Excise Commissioner to take appropriate steps through Tehsildar Parvathy Jhadia. The image of the temple will be damaged and the

environment will be polluted due to the stench of liquor kilns when devotees go to and from the temple. In this regard, Tehsildar Parvathy Jhadia has said that an investigation will be conducted into this matter. How far is the temple from the kiln? If there is a problem in the image of the devotees, the lease land will be canceled after the report of the Revenue Inspector comes. Such a decision of the Sarpanch is being widely appreciated.

Sreyansi Aiswarya Mesmerizes Audience with Odissi Performance

NAYAGARH, (correspondent) The three-day 'Mahar-2026' Classical Dance and Music Festival, organized by Nupur, Bhubaneswar, concluded with great enthusiasm at Rabindra Mandap, Bhubaneswar. Held from August 20 to 22, 2026, the cultural festival showcased a rich variety of classical dance and music performances.

Agriculture Minister visits eggplant farm in Bahal Bhatli village, talks to farmers

Patnagarh (Correspondent) Eggplant farming in Bahal Bhatli village and Tengerapathar village of Luhasingha panchayat of Khaprakhol block of Balangir district has now provided self-employment to many laborer families. In Bahal Bhatli village, young farmer Susanta Meher has cultivated eggplant on about 25 acres of land using modern technology, drip irrigation, use of fertilizers in irrigation, and grafting.



While he has been cultivating various vegetables for some years, he has cultivated eggplant on all 25 acres of land during the year. More than 50 laborers work in the farm throughout the year and

earn wages. Deputy Chief Minister and Agriculture Minister Kanak Vardhan Singh Deo visited the Bringal farm of a highly educated young farmer a few days ago. He also talked to the farmer and bought

some bringal. The minister expressed his happiness that many workers have become self-employed and thanked the farmers. On this occasion, the minister visited the bringalfarm of Chhapadia Krishi Farm on 52 acres of land in Tengerapathar village and discussed the sale price of the produced bringals, profit, and employment of laborers. The minister asked the youth to become entrepreneurs for such horticulture.

Turmeric cultivation is changing the image of Maoist Garh

Malkangiri, correspondent : The image of Chitrakonda now changed, which was once famous for Maoist activity and ganja cultivation .now which has become a self-sufficient area, has joined the trend of development. It has acquired a new identity. Hundreds of families in the area have now become self-sufficient by cultivating turmeric. Annual production is 6 thousand metric tons of turmeric. There is a business worth about Rs



20 crores. After the Maoist agitation subsided, the people of the area have returned to their main source of self-sufficiency. They have given up ganja cultivation and given priority to turmeric and other cash

crops. After the inauguration of the important bridge, the government announced a package of Rs 1 crore for the overall development of the area. Various development works have been started.

Turmeric was being cultivated in the area. Only a hundred tons were being collected annually. Now it has reached 6 thousand metric tons. Turmeric is being cultivated on about 2 thousand acres of land. There is a possibility of further expansion of its scope. Hundreds of tribal families have been able to stand on their own feet. Their economic condition has changed, informed the District Project Manager, Biswanath Mishra.

World Senior Citizens Day celebrated

SUBARNAPUR (Correspondent) Senior citizens are the guiding lights of the society. Creating awareness about their health, safety and rights is the main objective of celebrating World Senior Citizens Day, said the guests at the Birmaharajpur office on Friday. The program was presided over by the president of the organization, Dayanidhi Hota, while Subarnapur Collector Dr. Nruparaj Sahu was the chief guest, and Supdt. Of Police Narayan Nayak was the special guest. Former president of the organization, Dr. Prafulla Rath, was the guest of honor and delivered a felicitation message. On this occasion, senior members of the organization, Krishnachandra Padhi, Dhanu Pradhan and Bhimsen Panigrahi, were felicitated with certificates and medals. Similarly, identity cards were distributed to 30 senior citizens on behalf of the police administration. In this, the security forces including Birmaharajpur IIC Jajati Keshari Sahu cooperated. The chief guest unveiled the air conditioner donated to the institution by Block Vice Chairman Narayan Luha and senior member Satya Narayan Nayak. The book My Prison Life written by freedom fighter Late Ramachandra Satapathy was presented to the guests by his son Prashant Satapathy.

Winners of Rourkela Steel Plant level RAN NITI 2026 Director Personnel Cup to compete in the Finals in Ranchi

Rourkela correspondent: A two-day business simulation competition, RAN NITI 2026 – Director Personnel Cup, was conducted on 18th and 19th August 2026 at the Learning & Development (L&D) Centre to select the teams from Rourkela Steel Plant (RSP) for participating in the finals to be held at Ranchi. Organised by SAIL, in collaboration with the All-India Management Association (AIMA), the programme aimed at enhancing strategic



thinking, cross-functional collaboration and managerial decision-making capabilities through an experiential business simulation. The programme witnessed enthusiastic participation

from 34 teams comprising 102 executives. During the simulation rounds, the participants assumed key managerial roles and took strategic decisions concerning pricing, marketing, operations

and financial management while competing with other teams in a dynamic simulated business environment. The simulation enabled the participants to gain insight into the interdependence of various business functions and understand the impact of managerial decisions on overall organisational performance. The teams displayed a high degree of enthusiasm, teamwork, analytical ability and competitive spirit throughout the programme.

BJD Launches ‘Save Education’ Stir in Nabarangpur

Umarkot, correspondent The Nabarangpur district unit of the Biju Janata Dal (BJD) on Friday launched a ‘Save Education’ agitation, with its youth and student wings staging a massive rally against what they described as serious lapses in the state’s school education system. The protesters marched from Chaunria Guda Square through the town to the Nabarangpur Collectorate, where they held a public meeting and submitted a

memorandum addressed to the Governor through the district Collector. The BJD leaders alleged that the newly introduced school textbooks contained a large number of factual, grammatical and contextual errors. The controversy has already drawn statewide attention, with reports identifying 1,678 errors in textbooks, including questionable references to songs and cultural material.

Block-Level Bhim Bhoi Disability Empowerment Camp Held in Sukinda

J A J P U R (Correspondent): A block-level Bhim Bhoi Disability Empowerment Campaign camp was organised at the Sukinda Block premises in Jajpur district. Hon’ble Handlooms, Textiles and Handicrafts Minister Pradeep Bal Samant attended the programme as the chief guest and inaugurated the camp. Speaking on the occasion, the Minister said the primary objective of the camp was to bring persons with disabilities into the mainstream of society and ensure access to government social security schemes. He said persons with disabilities are an integral part of society and are not inferior to anyone in any respect. He emphasised the need to provide proper guidance to their confidence and talents and empower them socially and economically. He further said the camp was not merely an initiative for distributing assistance, but also a sincere effort to bring hope and self-reliance into the lives of persons with disabilities.

Officer (DSSO) Janaki Hembram, Vyasagar Tahasildar Manas Ranjan Tripathy, Sanjit Kumar Mohanty and Ramani Ranjan Bal Samant attended the programme as distinguished guests and extended their cooperation for the successful conduct of the camp. A total of 290 beneficiaries with disabilities from different parts of Sukinda block participated in the camp and registered their names. Of them, 157 were registered under the Orthopaedically Handicapped (OH) category, 62 under the Hearing Impaired (HI) category, 35 under the Mentally Retarded/ Cerebral Palsy (MR/ CP) category, 31 under the Visually Impaired (VI) category and 5 under the Multiple Disability (MD) category.

Peace Committee Meeting Held at Kantabanji PS



Kantabanji, correspondence : A peace committee meeting was held at Kantabanji Police Station ahead of the upcoming Eid Milad-un-Nabi festival. Police officials, peace committee members and representatives of different communities attended the meeting. The meeting focused on maintaining peace, communal harmony and law and order during the festival. The police appealed to everyone to celebrate the occasion peacefully and cooperate with the administration. Participants assured their full support for maintaining harmony and a peaceful atmosphere in Kantabanji.

13001/1630/2627

KATAK MUNICIPAL CORPORATION

e-Procurement Notice

Tender Call Notice No.8061 (PW)

Date.21.8.2026

Tender ID: 2026_ORULB_132333

Date and Time Schedule:

Start	End	Opening
11.00 AM on on dt. 21.08.2026	5.00 PM on dt. 29.08.2026	11.00 PM dt. 31.08.2026

Tender Details: can be seen from the procurement portal: www.tendersorissa.gov.in

Executive Engineer
City Division-III, KMC

OIPR-13001/13031/1/26-27/0056

HOMI BHABHA CENTRE FOR SCIENCE EDUCATION

TATA INSTITUTE OF FUNDAMENTAL RESEARCH

National Olympiad Programme 2026-2027

in Astronomy, Biology, Chemistry, Physics, Junior Science

All students wishing to participate in the programme must appear in corresponding National Standard Examinations (NSEs) (for science subjects) on November 21 and 22, 2026, conducted by the Indian Association of Physics Teachers (IAPT).

Qualification in NSE is the first step towards participation in the corresponding International Olympiads of 2027.

To enroll:
NSEs: <https://www.iapt.org.in> (Aug 21 - Sep 14, 2026)

For more details: <https://olympiads.hbcse.tifr.res.in>
<https://www.iapt.org.in>

cbc48143/11/0005/2627

Over 1 Lakh Farmers Register In Single Day For Kharif Paddy Procurement In Odisha

Bhubaneswar correspondent: Odisha has seen a massive response to Kharif paddy registration with more than 1 lakh farmers enrolling in a single day. According to the Food Supply and Consumer Welfare Department, over 7.18 lakh farmers across the state have registered so far for the Kharif paddy harvesting and marketing season 2026-27. The registration drive began on August 6 and will continue till August 31. Officials said farmers are registering enthusiastically at Primary Agricultural Cooperative Societies, Large Area Multipurpose Cooperative Societies and Pani Panchayats. The process is currently underway in 2,912



PACS and 4 Pani Panchayats across the state. District-wise, Bargarh has recorded the highest registrations with around 75,000 farmers, followed by Balasore with 50,000. Kalahandi and Ganjam have registered about 49,000 farmers each, while Bolangir has seen around 31,000 registrations. The registration is being carried out jointly by the Food Supply and

Consumer Welfare Department, Cooperation Department, Agriculture and Farmers Empowerment Department and Revenue and Disaster Management Department. The department has urged all eligible farmers to complete their registration at the earliest to ensure smooth procurement.

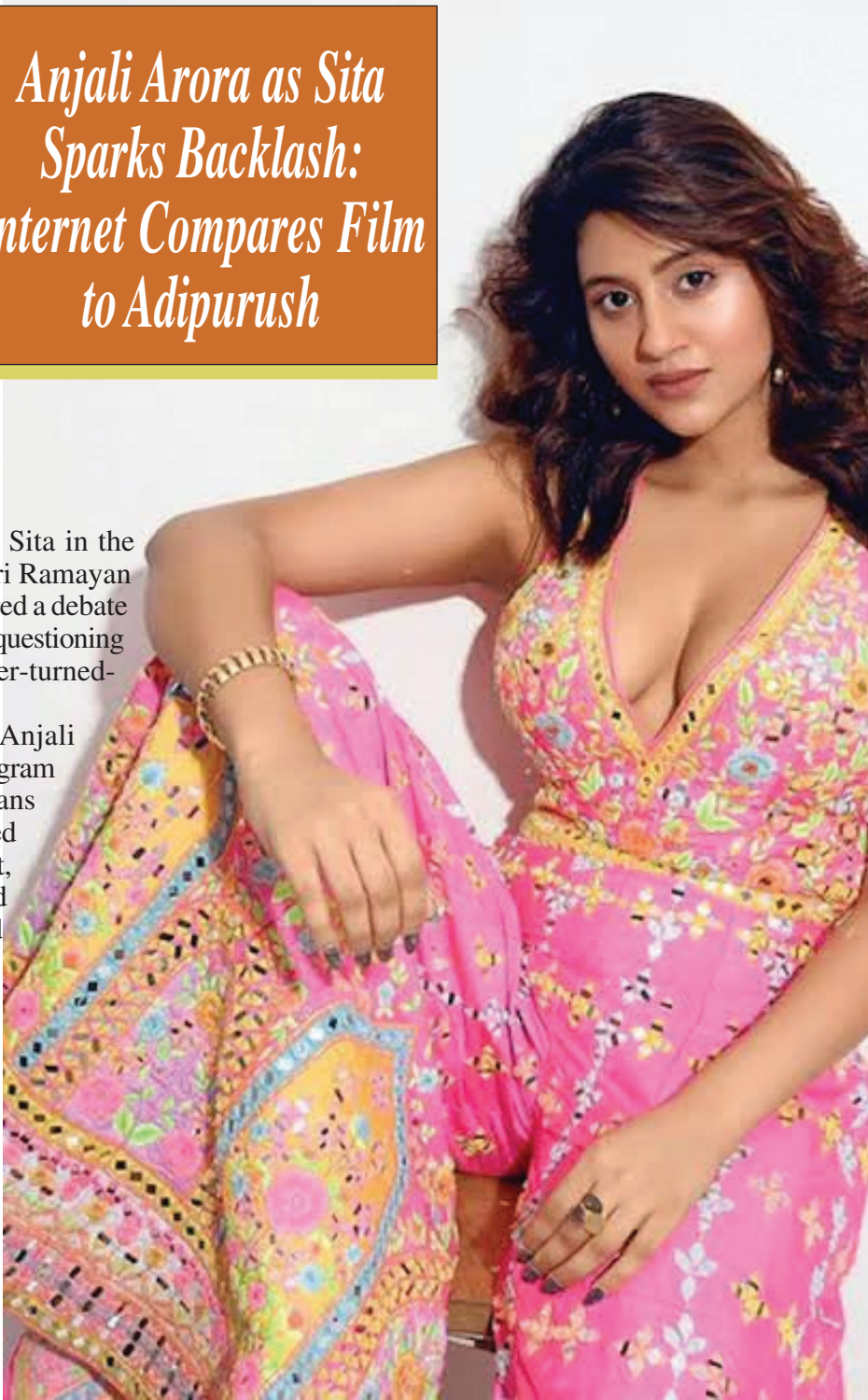
In the show’s sixth episode, Mallika was seen chatting with Shweta and Rhea Chakraborty in the billiards room. During the conversation, Mallika revealed that she had promised to find Shweta a European partner. “I have promised her I am going to set her up with a nice European man. Who is going to cherish you, celebrate you,” Mallika told Rhea. When Rhea asked whether European men were better to date than Indian men, Mallika appeared surprised and replied, “Is that even a question to ask? Are you out of your mind? Yes.” She then added that she would find someone for Shweta. Shweta laughed and asked Mallika, “Mere piche kyu par gaye (Why are you after me)?” The conversation comes after Shweta made a candid remark about her past relationships in the show’s opening episode. When Karan asked her whether she was good at spotting liars, Shweta responded, “Apne patiyon ko cheat karte huye maine hi pakda tha (I caught my husbands cheating on me).” Shweta was previously married to Raja Chaudhary. The couple separated in 2007 after nine years of marriage. She later married Abhinav Kohli in 2013, but their relationship ended amid allegations of domestic discord and harassment. The two actors have emerged as one of the more noticeable friendships in the early episodes of The Traitors Season 2. Their conversation also included Rhea, while Shalini Passi jokingly asked the three women to stop discussing men and focus on the game.



Mallika Sherawat and Shweta Tiwari have struck up a friendship on The Traitors Season 2, where both actors are currently playing as

Anjali Arora as Sita Sparks Backlash: Internet Compares Film to Adipurush

Anjali Arora’s casting as Mata Sita in the upcoming film Mahakavya Shri Ramayan Katha – Shri Ram Ki has triggered a debate on social media, with some users questioning the decision to cast the influencer-turned-actor in the revered role. The controversy began after Anjali shared the film’s teaser on Instagram on Tuesday. While several fans praised her look and expressed excitement about the project, some Reddit users criticised the casting and questioned whether the portrayal would treat the character with the sensitivity they believe the role demands. Anjali Arora, who rose to fame through social media before appearing on reality television, will portray Mata Sita in the upcoming Ramayan adaptation. Following the teaser release, reactions on Reddit ranged from criticism of the casting to



3 foods to beat bloating, dryness, dandruff

The winter season is notorious for bringing a range of common health and beauty concerns. From bloating and sluggish digestion to dry skin, dandruff, and cracked heels, the cold months can take a toll on your body in ways you might not even notice. Celebrity nutritionist Rujuta Diwekar, who has worked with stars like Kareena Kapoor, shared in her December 17 Instagram post 3 foods that can naturally help combat these winter woes and keep your body feeling nourished and balanced. If you’ve been experiencing regular winter issues, sleep loss, increased gas, bloating, hair fall, dandruff, dry skin, and cracked heels, then I have the perfect recipe for you,” says Rujuta. She further shares 3 local, seasonal, and traditional foods that are must-haves this winter.

1. Bajra – The winter millet

“Bajra is the millet of the winters. You can roll it into a roti, make laddus, or cook it into a rub, it’s delicious. It’s great for your bones, your brain, and it will help arrest hair fall quickly. If

you’ve been running low on haemoglobin or feeling a bit low on energy, bajra is perfect for you,” Rujuta explains.

2. Unia – Seasonal vegetable medley

“Unia is a seasonal vegetable medley commonly made in regions like Mumbai, Gujarat, and Maharashtra. It’s a mix of tender pulses, wild and uncultivated vegetables, and root veggies. This is a must-have in winters,” she adds. “Try to include it at least once a fortnight. It’s the ultimate prebiotic, a tradition passed down by our grandmothers in the form of this wholesome winter recipe. If you don’t have unia in your region, any medley of tender pulses, root veggies, and wild vegetables will do.”

3. Dry coconut – The ultimate energy booster

“And finally, the ultimate rockstar, dry coconut. If you’ve been feeling lazy or finding it hard to get out of your rajai for a workout, this is the



energy boost you need, not another caffeine drink,” Rujuta advises. “Dry coconut is packed with medium-chain triglycerides (MCTs), the healthy fats that give you energy, help burn stubborn fat, smooth your skin, and leave you feeling calm and content. Make sure to include it this winter.”

‘leg cramps are not always just dehydration’ and can signal underlying disease; shares 7 causes

Leg cramps are often brushed off as a minor inconvenience - blamed on dehydration, fatigue or a long day on your feet. But frequent cramping in the legs can be your body’s way of signalling something more serious. From circulatory and cardiovascular conditions such as peripheral artery disease and venous insufficiency to electrolyte imbalances, nerve issues and metabolic disorders, leg cramps can point to underlying health concerns that should not be ignored. Understanding what your legs are trying to tell you can make all the difference in catching problems early and protecting long-term health.

Peripheral artery disease

Dr Yaranov highlights that leg cramps triggered by walking which subside when you stop can be caused by reduced blood flow due to peripheral artery disease (PAD), caused by blocked arteries in the legs. He stresses, “Ignored long enough, it becomes

limb-threatening. If your ‘charley horse’ shows up with activity, get checked.”

Venous insufficiency

According to the cardiologist, legs that feel heavy, swell up by evening and start cramping up at night can be a sign of venous insufficiency. He explains, “Veins that can’t return blood effectively cause fluid pooling and muscle irritation. Those bulging veins and restless legs? Not cosmetic but circulatory.”

Electrolyte problems

Dr Yaranov notes that leg cramps can also stem from low electrolyte levels - particularly magnesium, potassium and calcium - a common issue in people taking diuretics, consuming inadequate electrolytes or experiencing dehydration. He points out, “Muscles misfire when the chemistry is off.”

Nerve issues

According to Dr Yaranov, leg cramps may also arise from nerve-related issues, including sciatica, neuropathy and spinal compression.

He explains that burning sensations accompanied by tingling and night-time cramps are typically linked to nerve disorders rather than muscle issues.

Medications

Certain medications - including diuretics, statins, some asthma treatments and antidepressants - can also trigger leg cramps in some individuals. Dr Yaranov highlights, “If cramps started after a new prescription, the timeline matters.”

Overuse and under-recovery

Leg cramps can also occur when the legs are overworked and not given adequate time for rest and recovery. Dr Yaranov states, “Long shifts, heavy workouts, poor sleep - muscles tighten, tendons stiffen, and the legs revolt.”

Diabetes: 18 foods that do not raise blood sugar



Maintaining stable blood sugar levels is crucial for overall health where regular consumption of high-sugar and carbohydrate foods is a risk factor for developing diabetes later on in life, especially if there is a family history of diabetes. Incorporating the right foods into your diet can play a pivotal role in achieving a balance. some Indian foods that do not raise blood sugar - Switch from white rice to red or brown rice or quinoa. The red/brown rice may have the same calories but will not spike your post-meal blood sugar as much. Incorporate millet / jowar flour instead of maida.



Include as many lentils and beans as kidney beans and black beans as they do not cause significant blood sugar spikes. Add dals like Channa Dal and Moong dal to the diet to the extent possible. Include leafy greens like spinach and kale and antioxidant-packed berries such as blueberries and raspberries offer vitamins and fiber without causing spikes in blood sugar. Avocados if available and nuts like almonds and walnuts and olive oil provide healthy fats, contributing to stable blood sugar levels. Salmon, rich in omega-3 fatty acids, supports heart health with minimal impact on blood sugar. Cauliflower and broccoli are versatile, low-carb substitutes, while chia seeds offer sustained energy without spikes. Garlic’s potential in regulating blood sugar adds flavour to meals. Eggs and Greek yogurt, high in protein, are low-carb options promoting stable blood sugar. She added, “Most importantly, while having meals, make sure that you get the order right. Eat the salad/ veggies first followed by proteins and fats. Carbs and sugars must be had last. In addition to these foods, moderation is key to maintaining a balanced diet. Unique product like moder/ate will also help in reducing the amount of sugars and carbs entering the body. It can be a valuable asset on your journey toward optimal health, while yet consuming your favorite foods.”

Women’s Asia Cup 2026: Esha Oza To Lead UAE, Chaiwai Named Thailand Skipper

Dubai: Experienced all-rounder Esha Oza will captain a 15-member UAE squad in the eight-team Women’s Asia Cup 2026, scheduled to begin at the Dubai International Stadium on August 28. The hosts have been placed in Group B alongside previous winners Bangladesh, Indonesia, and defending champions Sri Lanka. UAE will open their campaign against Sri Lanka on August 29, followed by clashes against Indonesia on September 4 and Bangladesh on September 8. All matches in the tournament will be played under lights, starting at 6:30 pm local time. The two semi-finals are slated for September 10 and 11, with the summit clash scheduled for September 13. It’s the



first time UAE will host the continental tournament. Both UAE and Thailand qualified for the main event via the 2026 ACC Premier Women’s Cup, held in Malaysia in June. The selected squad features wicketkeeper-batter Theertha Satish alongside regular performers like Samaira Dharnidharka, Vaishnav Mahesh, and Indhuja Nandakumar. Former

international cricketer Subha Venkataraman will serve as the head coach of the side, and is supported by assistant coach Shahzada Saleem, with Shyla Alam and Merin Saji named as strength and conditioning coach and physiotherapist respectively. Meanwhile, Naruamol Chaiwai will captain a 15-member Thailand squad in the tournament. Thailand are placed in Group A

alongside Asian heavyweights and seven-time winners India, Pakistan, and regional qualifiers Hong Kong, China. The Thai setup features key core players like wicketkeeper-batter Nannapat Khoncharoenkai, top-order batter Nathakan Chantham, Chanida Sutthiruang, Thipatcha Putthawong, and Suleeporn Laomi. UAE Squad: Esha Oza

(captain), Archara Supriya, Heena Hotchandani, Indhuja Nandakumar, Janani Thirukkumaran, Lavanya Keny, Mehul Kulkarni, Rinitha Rajith, Samaira Dharnidharka, Siya Gokhale, Sashikala Silva, Suraksha Kotte, Theertha Satish (wk), Uttara Iyer, and Vaishnav Mahesh. Thailand Squad: Naruamol Chaiwai (captain), Nannapat Khoncharoenkai (wk), Nathakan Chantham, Chanida Sutthiruang, Suleeporn Laomi, Onnicha Kamchomphu, Thipatcha Putthawong, Phannita Maya, Aphisara Suwanchonrathi, Suninda Chaturongrattana, Chayanisa Phengpaeng, Nannapat Chaihan, Koranit Suwanchonrathi, Thanrada Seesawan, and Naomi Hamilton.

‘They Are Not Just Here To Participate’: Sumeeth Reddy Hails Treesa-Gayatri’s Historic World Championships Run

New Delhi: Treesa Jolly and Gayatri Gopichand’s coach Sumeeth Reddy said the Indian pair’s historic entry into the BWF World Championships semifinals was the result of months of careful preparation, patience and resilience, insisting that the assured medal was not the end of their journey. Treesa and Gayatri pulled off a dramatic comeback against the fourth-seeded pair Jia Yi Fan and Zhang Shu Xian, overcoming a game deficit to win the match 16-21, 21-15, 21-13 in the quarterfinals at the Indira Gandhi Indoor Stadium in New Delhi on Friday.

India’s victory has secured their first women’s doubles medal at the World Championships since the bronze medal won by Jwala Gutta and Ashwini Ponnappa in

2011. Reddy stated that the preparations for the home World Championships had started about 45 to 50 days earlier and gave credit to coach Pullela Gopichand for having carefully planned the campaign. “It started around 45-50 days before; obviously, this was a big stage, especially happening in India and since the first day, rather than just thinking about the World Championship, it was one day at a time and also huge credit to Gopi sir that he could plan and I think he is one of the greatest coaches who can plan such things so early and deal with them on a daily basis and it was a huge learning for me also, how to be in that specific area and do the right things at the right time,” Reddy told reporters. The Indians lost the opening game

16-21 after China made a strong start, but Reddy said the team had been waiting for a small lead to release Treesa and Gayatri from the pressure. “I think we were waiting from the first game that if our girls can get a couple of points lead, I think they would just free up and play their best game and that actually happened at 10-7 when the opponents were leading 10-7. I think from there when things changed at 11-10 and 13-10 is when they just could play the free game.” “We already had a discussion in the first game that just a two-point lead would change the whole scenario.” Treesa and Gayatri responded by taking the second game 21-15 before dominating the decider 21-13. Reddy said the emotional significance of the victory was evident immediately afterwards.

‘It’s Not Stopping Yet’: Treesa-Gayatri On Pulling Off Heist At BWF Worlds

New Delhi: Treesa Jolly and Gayatri Gopichand pulled off a marvellous come-from-behind win in their quarterfinal meeting against World No. 4 Jia Yi Fan and Zhang Shu Xian in the BWF World Championships to march into the semifinals and confirm India’s first medal at the ongoing edition here.

After losing the first game against the Chinese duo, the Indian pair staged a comeback for the ages to win the epic contest 16-21, 21-15, 21-13, which also sealed India’s first medal in women’s doubles since 2011 when Jwala Gutta and Ashwini Ponnappa bagged a bronze. Speaking after their 70-minute battle against the Chinese, Treesa and Gayatri reflected on beating Jia

and Zhang for the first time, while also stating that their journey is “not stopping yet.” “We’re really happy that we converted this win into this semifinal and getting a medal, but it’s not stopping yet. There are matches coming tomorrow also,” Treesa told reporters after the win. “And obviously, I want to thank, I think it’s teamwork for us, everyone that helped us to achieve this, and really grateful, and obviously I want to thank the home crowd people. I think the crowd was amazing today; that was really giving positive vibes to us,” she said. The duo also reflected on the message that chief national coach and legendary former shuttler Pullela Gopichand shared with them amidst the tense

game at the Indira Gandhi Indoor Stadium. “From the start, he was telling that be in the present moment and very calm, because that helped us score the points, and that really worked today,” Treesa added. “We were just be patient and waiting for the right time to score the points. I think that really worked,” she said. The Indian pair had never defeated this Chinese duo in their previous three meetings, and they were staring at a similar result when they were outplayed in the first game. Speaking on their comeback and a face-off against top seeds Liu Sheng Shu/Tan Ning of China, Gayatri emphasised that calmness helped them today, and they look to repeat the process in the semifinal too.

Hyderabad To Host Tennis Premier League Season 8 From Dec 8-13

Hyderabad: Tennis Premier League season 8 will be staged from December 8 to 13, 2026, at the LB Tennis Stadium in Hyderabad under the auspices of the All India Tennis Association and with the support of the Government of Telangana. Eight franchise teams will compete in TPL’s signature 25-point format, where every point matters, with the action live-streamed on JioHotstar, allowing fans across the country to follow the league as some of the world’s top-ranked international players go head-to-head alongside India’s leading tennis stars. The League will also see the presence of tennis icons Leander Paes and



Sania Mirza, along with Bollywod personalities and team co-owners Rakul Preet Singh and Sonali Bendre Behl, who will be cheering on and supporting their respective teams. For TPL, Hyderabad is more than just a new venue. It marks the league’s move into new markets, expanding its audience and building a stronger national footprint for professional tennis,

with the TPL App already connecting the league to more than 400 affiliated academies across the country. Hyderabad, with its strong sporting culture and growing tennis community, will provide the backdrop for Season 8 at the LB Tennis Stadium, one of India’s largest dedicated tennis venues. The stadium will host six days of high-intensity action as eight franchise teams –

GS Delhi Aces, Hyderabad Strikers, Lucknow Blazers, Gurgaon Grand Slammers, Gujarat Panthers, Rajasthan Rangers, Kolkata Thunder Blades and Mumbai Royals compete in TPL’s exciting 25-point format. Sharing his excitement on the announcement, Kunal Thakkar, Co-Founder, Tennis Premier League, said “Season 8 is a landmark chapter for TPL, not just because we’re bringing world-class tennis to Hyderabad for the first time, but because it’s the first season where fans will see our partnership with Kia India come alive. It’s a strong signal of how far this league has come, and Hyderabad’s

sporting culture makes it the perfect city to take that next step in our journey.”

Mrunal Jain, co-founder, TPL, added, “Every season, we’ve pushed TPL to reach new cities and new audiences. After hosting the tournament in Ahmedabad last year, Hyderabad is the next big step in that journey for us.” Jayesh Ranjan, IAS, Special Chief Secretary Municipal Administration & Urban Development and Sports Dept, added, “Hyderabad has emerged as an important destination for hosting major sporting leagues, and we are pleased to see the Tennis Premier League becoming part of this growing sporting ecosystem.”

Spain Coach Luis De La Fuente Set For Contract Extension Till 2030 After WC Glory

New Delhi: Spain football team coach Luis de la Fuente is set to get his contract extension till 2030 after the 65-year-old guided the national side to their second FIFA World Cup triumph when La Roja beat Lionel Messi-led Argentina by 1-0 in the final at the New York stadium. The Royal Spanish Football Federation (RFEF) is pleased with the performance of de la Fuente and is likely to present a lucrative offer to the World Cup-winning coach, which will extend his tenure straight till the next World Cup 2030, which Spain will co-host alongside Portugal and Morocco. The 65-year-old manager is currently under



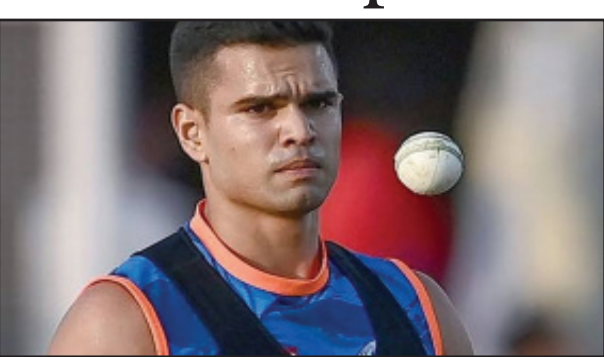
contract until 2028, and the Spanish football’s governing body is now determined to secure the head coach’s long-term commitment as they look to defend their Euro Cup and FIFA World Cup title. Speaking in an interview with Radio Nacional de Espana (RNE), Spain’s football federation

chief Rafael Louzan confirmed the development and insisted that De la Fuente’s stay is a fitting reward for his excellent leadership across competitions. “I think it is something Luis deserves and we are working on it. We are going to work on it now, and in fact we are already doing so, to extend his contract,

which currently runs until 2028, so that we can take it beyond or around 2030 because he has to be part of it,” Louzan said as quoted by Goal.com. “His simplicity and his ability to work have led us to achieve this success, together with an unforgettable group of players with this Spanish national team,” he added. Meanwhile, after guiding Spain to the Euro Cup 2024 and the FIFA World Cup 2026, De la Fuente’s continuity will face an immediate test in the UEFA Nations League next month, where the Champion side is set to clash with European giants England and Croatia, who will pose a great challenge.

Arjun Tendulkar to Continue With Goa Amid Future Speculation

NEWDELHI: Arjun Tendulkar will continue playing domestic cricket for Goa despite recent speculation surrounding his future with the team, according to a report. Arjun Tendulkar’s domestic cricket future appears to have been settled, with the left-arm pacer set to continue representing Goa, according to a Sportstar report. The 26-year-old recently missed Goa’s tour of Oman, leading to speculation that he could be considering a change. However, sources within the state cricket association reportedly confirmed that Arjun will remain with the team. Arjun moved from Mumbai to



Goa ahead of the 2022-23 domestic season and has established himself as a regular member of the side. He has claimed 50 First-Class wickets for Goa and has also contributed with the bat. One of his notable batting performances came in the Ranji Trophy, when he scored a century against Rajasthan. His all-round development has made him an important part of Goa’s domestic

setup across formats. Arjun was also part of Lucknow Super Giants (LSG) during the 2026 Indian Premier League season. Despite impressing in the nets and practice matches, he had to wait until the final game of the campaign to make his IPL debut. The left-arm pacer delivered a tidy performance against Punjab Kings, finishing with figures of 1/36. He

also had an opportunity to claim an early wicket after a difficult chance off Prabhsimran Singh was not held. Arjun eventually dismissed Prabhsimran with a yorker in the 15th over. Following his son’s debut, Sachin Tendulkar praised Arjun for remaining patient and continuing to work hard despite having to wait for his opportunity. The former India batter highlighted his son’s ability to remain positive and trust his skills during a challenging period. With Arjun now expected to continue with Goa, the focus will turn to the upcoming domestic season and whether he can build on his experience with LSG.

BPCL takes Bharatgas Lite ZIP to four Odisha cities in 100-city expansion.

Bhubaneswar: (Correspondent):- Bharat Petroleum Corporation Limited (BPCL), a Fortune Global 500 company and Maharatna PSU, has rolled out its Bharatgas Lite ZIP LPG offering in Bhubaneswar, Berhampur, Cuttack and Rourkela, expanding the premium convenience-led proposition as part of its landmark 100-city national rollout. The offering combines Bharatgas Lite's lightweight, corrosion-free and transparent composite cylinder with Instant New Connection and Express Delivery, aimed at making LPG access easier, faster and more convenient. The transparent cylinder also enables consumers to check the remaining LPG level, while its lighter design improves handling. In Bhubaneswar, the rollout comes as the state capital's expanding urban population increasingly seeks convenience, speed and reliability in everyday household services. The combination of faster delivery, easier cylinder handling and simplified new connections could strengthen BPCL's appeal among working professionals, young families, students, senior citizens and other urban consumers. BPCL Chairman and Managing Director Sanjay Khanna said Bharatgas Lite ZIP reflects the company's commitment to simplifying LPG access and meeting evolving lifestyles. He also thanked distributor partners for their support, particularly during recent supply challenges. Launched in Mumbai on July 18, 2026, Bharatgas Lite ZIP's Odisha expansion is part of BPCL's wider strategy to move beyond conventional cylinder delivery and build a more consumer-centric LPG experience across India's growing cities.

Govt Eases Rules To Enable Export Payments In Rupees

New Delhi:- The Directorate General of Foreign Trade (DGFT) on Thursday eased rules allowing export contracts, invoices, and payments with non-Asian Clearing Union (ACU) countries to be denominated and settled in rupee or foreign currencies, in a move aimed at allowing rupee exports to be eligible for benefits under the government's trade policy and also promote the use of the local currency in global trade. The changes, which have been notified with immediate effect, amend the provisions of the Foreign Trade Policy (FTP) 2023 to align it with foreign-exchange regulations issued by the Reserve Bank of India (RBI) in 2023. Under the revised rules, exporters selling to countries outside the Asian Clearing Union (ACU) can denominate export contracts and invoices in Indian rupees or any foreign currency and receive payments accordingly. The rupee payments received through approved banking channels will now qualify for benefits under the Foreign Trade Policy and count towards fulfilment of export obligations. This removes uncertainty over whether rupee-denominated export receipts would receive the same treatment as foreign-currency earnings.



During his visit to Berhampur today, Shri T. V. K. Reddy, Director General of Press Information Bureau (PIB) and Central Bureau of Communication (Eastern Region), paid a courtesy visit to Shri Amit Kumar Garg, Chief Executive Officer of TPSODL.

Ganjam Ranks No. 1 in Solar Installations

Berhampur, (Correspondent)6: Ganjam has emerged as the leading district in Odisha in rooftop solar adoption, recording 16,418 installations, the highest in the State. The achievement places the southern district at the forefront of Odisha's growing transition towards clean and renewable energy. The milestone reflects the growing acceptance of solar energy among households and the increasing shift towards sustainable power generation. The State-wide data presents a strong picture of rooftop solar adoption, with Baleshwar ranking a close second in installations, followed by Khordha and Cuttack. The performance



of these districts highlights the expanding footprint of rooftop solar across both urban and rural Odisha, with Ganjam leading the State in the number of installations. Ganjam's performance is particularly significant for Southern Odisha, where it has emerged as the clear leader among the eight districts served by TP Southern Odisha Distribution Limited (TPSODL). The eight districts—Ganjam, Gajapati, Kandhamal, Rayagada, Nabarangpur, Malkangiri, Koraput and Boudh—have together recorded 25,277 rooftop solar installations. The growing adoption is being driven by the PM Surya

Ghar Muft Bijli Yojana, which is enabling households to adopt rooftop solar with government support. TPSODL is complementing the initiative through consumer awareness, grassroots outreach and Utility-Led Aggregation (ULA) Model, facilitating greater access to rooftop solar across its operational districts. The growing presence of solar panels on rooftops is gradually changing the way households view and use electricity. Consumers are increasingly becoming participants in clean energy generation, harnessing sunlight to meet a part of their electricity requirements while contributing to a greener energy mix.

Hindalco organizes a massive health camp

Hirakud (Correspondent) :- Hindalco organized a massive health camp at the local Gundrupada Community Center on the advice of Shri. Sumit Mukherjee, Unit Head of Hirakud Hindalco, for the health security of the area. The camp was inaugurated by Hindalco Unit Head Shri Sumit Mukherjee, Smelter Plant Head Shri Pratap Sahu, Land and Corporate Affairs Head Shri Bighneswar Panda, Shri Swaroop Patnaik, Shri Arijit Chatterjee, Shri Manas Rath, Chief Medical Officer Dr. Praveen Yadav, Day Care Hospital Administrator Shri Satya Panda, Advisor, Peripheral



Development Department Shri Sukant Kumar Mahapatra, Department Head Shri Anand Chakraborty, by formally offering prayers to Maa Samaleswari and lighting the lamp. Unit Head Shri Sumit Mukherjee expressed that the Hirakud region is working for the betterment of education, health, sports, women, youth and culture and will continue to do so. In this function, Smelter Plant Head Shri Pratap Sahu, the public present at this health camp He expressed his wish to take advantage of this. He expressed his wish to further accelerate such development programs in the area. Many villagers

including respected people of the local area, Shri Gyanendriya Dash, Shri Itua Khadia, Shri Deepak Bhoi, Shri Abhiram Bhoi, etc. participated in this program. For this, the villagers appreciated this great program of Hindalco and expressed their heartfelt gratitude. In this camp, 166 people received health check-up and necessary medicines. This program was organized under the leadership of Dr. Praveen Yadav of Hindalco Health Services Department, Dr. Padmalaya Mishra, Dr. Puja Srivastava, Dr. Yogesh Dakhani, Dr. Sumit Kumar and Dr. Trilochan Barik were present.

BMW X1 LWB Launched Promising Incredible Rear Seat Space and Powerful Petrol Performance

NEW DELHI: BMW India has officially introduced its new X1 Long Wheelbase model at a price of Rs 49.90 lakh, ex-showroom. Available exclusively in the sDrive18i M Sport variant, this luxury compact SUV brings a roomier cabin and a refined petrol powertrain to the market. Indian buyers consistently show a strong preference for extended-wheelbase vehicles, prioritising rear-seat legroom for a superior chauffeur-driven experience. While this new model focuses on petrol propulsion, buyers seeking diesel options can still choose the standard wheelbase X1. Measuring 4,616 mm



in length, 1,845 mm in width, and 1,641 mm in height, the expanded vehicle dwarfs the standard version. Engineers stretched the wheelbase by 108 mm to reach 2,802 mm, which increases the total length by 116 mm. These modified proportions directly benefit rear-seat occupants. Passengers now enjoy 109 mm of extra knee room along with a rear seat cushion that extends an additional 15 mm, ensuring exceptional comfort during long drives. Under the hood, a 1.5-litre, three-cylinder turbo-petrol engine generates 156 hp and delivers 230 Nm of torque. This setup pairs smoothly with a seven-speed dual-clutch automatic transmission that channels power to the front wheels.

Markets Open Higher For Second Straight Session Despite Elevated Crude Oil Prices

Mumbai:- Indian equity benchmarks opened higher for a second straight session on Friday, extending their recovery from recent losses with gains led by realty, metal and pharmaceutical stocks amid elevated crude oil prices. Sensex started the session jumping 163.35 points or 0.21 per cent to 77,701.07, while Nifty opened 52.20 points or 0.22 per cent higher at 24,284.05. Sectorally, Nifty Realty was top gainer in early trade and rose 0.7 per cent, followed by Nifty Metal at 0.48 per cent and Nifty Pharma at 0.32



per cent. Nifty MidSmall Healthcare and Nifty REITS & Realty also were trading in green zone and gained 0.32 per cent and 0.28 per cent, respectively. In contrast, Nifty IT index was biggest laggard and declined 0.6 per cent, followed by MidSmall IT & Telecom at 0.17 per cent and Nifty Auto which slipped 0.19 per cent. However, analysts cautioned that the previous session's rally may struggle to sustain amid rising crude prices and higher US bond yields. Brent crude approaching \$94 per barrel and renewed pressure from US yields

could weigh on large-cap stocks and trigger profit booking, they said. At the same time, the broader market is expected to retain momentum, supported by institutional buying and improving fundamentals. Analysts further noted that NBFCs remain on a strong footing while digital platforms, pharma and CDMO stocks continue to attract buying interest despite elevated valuations, adding that the market is likely to remain rangebound as long as crude prices stay elevated.

Sensex Ends Flat, Nifty Gains Marginally As Oil Surge, US-Iran Tensions Weigh

Mumbai: Indian equity markets ended on a mixed note on Friday, with the benchmark indices largely flat as global equities retreated following a rebound in bond yields, while rising crude oil prices amid simmering tensions between the US and Iran kept investors cautious. The Sensex gained just 3.11 points to

settle at 77,540.83, while the Nifty edged up 20.15 points, or 0.08 per cent, to close at 24,252.00. Commenting on Nifty technical outlook, experts said that the 24,000–24,200 zone remains the key support base, reinforced by heavy Put open interest at the 24,000 strike. "On the upside, this week's high of



24,360 falls within the broader 24,300–24,400 resistance zone, making this the immediate hurdle for the index," an analyst stated. "A sustained move above 24,360–24,400 could trigger a quick advance towards 24,500–24,600," a market expert mentioned. Despite the marginal gains in the day's

session, both the Sensex and Nifty declined for the second consecutive week, reflecting continued concerns over global market conditions and geopolitical risks. Among the major Nifty losers, Trent, Maruti Suzuki India and InterGlobe Aviation came under pressure and ended among the top-performing stocks on the

downside. The broader market, however, showed some resilience. The Nifty MidCap index rose 0.1 per cent, while the Nifty SmallCap index gained 0.69 per cent. Sectorally, the Nifty FMCG, Nifty Auto and Nifty IT indices underperformed the broader market. In contrast, the Nifty Metal and Nifty Private Bank

indices emerged as the key outperformers during the session. Experts said that market sentiment remained cautious as investors continued to track movements in global bond yields, crude oil prices and developments surrounding tensions between the US and Iran.