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Standard Practice, India Adopted 'Cautious Approach' Due To Trump's 'Unpredictable Behaviour'

New Delhi: Top government officials on Monday said India adopted a "cautious approach" during Prime Minister Narendra Modi's meeting with US President Donald Trump on the margins of the G7 Summit in France's Evian this June, considering his "unpredictable behaviour". Reacting on the comments made by US Ambassador Sergio Goro during an event over the weekend where he stated that India had "specifically requested" the US side to avoid any joint interaction with the media following the meeting between the two leaders, government officials aware of the matter highlighted that discussions regarding arrangements for public appearances of leaders



are normal practice ahead of any VVIP visit. "In this regard, the Indian side communicated its standard practice for such visits... Delegations when meeting the US President are wary about his unpredictable behaviour, as may be seen from his interactions with the President of South Africa, Ukraine etc. Thus, the cautious approach by India," said one official. During the June 18 meeting in Evian, Prime

Minister Modi had commended President Trump for his efforts that had resulted in an understanding to end the ongoing conflict in West Asia and restore peace and stability across the broader region. He had also underlined the importance of maintaining freedom of navigation and unimpeded commerce in the Strait of Hormuz and the need to ensure the safety of seafarers.

Empathy, Compassion At Core Of Governance, Says CM Majhi At Grievance Hearing

BHUBANESWAR, (correspondent): Empathy, compassion and sensitivity are the fundamental principles of the governance system, and listening to people's problems and resolving them remains the highest priority of the Odisha government, Chief Minister Mohan Charan Majhi said on Monday. Addressing the media after attending the 20th state-level grievance hearing programme at the Chief Minister's Grievance Hearing Cell in Unit-2 here, Majhi said his government was committed to remaining with the people in their joys and sorrows. The Chief Minister arrived at the grievance cell in the morning and personally heard the



grievances of people. Ten senior ministers and secretary-level officers of various departments were also present during the hearing. "Our government is a government of the people. We give the highest priority to listening to people's problems with sensitivity and resolving

them. Wherever people face problems, our government certainly reaches there," Majhi said. He said the government had stood by people during natural calamities such as floods, cyclones and droughts and provided necessary assistance. The government had

also declared the untimely rains of 2024 a natural disaster and extended assistance to those affected, while an assistance package had been announced for the current flood situation, he said. Of the 15,327 grievances received during the previous 19 state-level grievance sittings, 14,519, or 95

per cent, have already been resolved, according to the official statement. The Chief Minister said grievance hearings were also being conducted regularly at the district, tehsil and block levels. Collectors and SPs were hearing people's complaints at the district level, while 2,69,394 grievances had been heard there by the end of July, with 87 per cent resolved. With more grievances being addressed at the district level, people no longer have to undergo unnecessary harassment, Majhi said, adding that the changes in the administrative system had significantly strengthened public trust and confidence in the government.

Justice Gopal Ballav Patnaik Named Member Of Odisha Lokayukta Selection Panel

Bhubaneswar: Former Chief Justice of India Justice Gopal Ballav Patnaik has been nominated as a member of the selection committee of the Odisha Lokayukta, according to an official notification issued by the General Administration and Public Grievance Department. The nomination was made on the recommendation of the chairperson and members of the selection committee, the notification said. The appointment has been made in accordance with Section 4(1)(e) of the Odisha Lokayukta Act, 2014 (Odisha Act of 2018). Justice Patnaik, who served as the 32nd Chief Justice of India, will now be part of the committee involved in the selection process for the Odisha Lokayukta.



New Role For Ananya Awasthi In Minor IPS Reshuffle



Bhubaneswar: The Odisha government has effected a minor reshuffle of IPS officers, with Ananya Awasthi being transferred from the Governor's office and posted as Assistant Commissioner of Police (ACP) in the Police Commissionerate, Bhubaneswar-Kataka. According to a notification issued by the Home Department on Monday, Awasthi, an RR-2022 batch IPS officer, who was serving as Aide-de-Camp (ADC) to the Governor of Odisha, has been given the new assignment as ACP in the Police Commissionerate, Bhubaneswar-Kataka. In another transfer, Anugu Shiva Maruthi Reddy, an RR-2023 batch IPS officer, currently serving as Sub-Divisional Police Officer (SDPO), G. Udayagiri, has been transferred and posted as Aide-de-Camp (ADC) to the Governor of Odisha.

CJP Announces Peaceful March In Delhi On Sep 5 Over Centre's Unfulfilled Promises

New Delhi: The Cockroach Janta Party (CJP) on Monday announced a peaceful protest march in the national capital on September 5, accusing the Centre of failing to honour commitments made to young people on July 25. In a statement, the CJP said it would mobilise young people for a peaceful march from India Gate to the new Delhi Police Headquarters. The protest will be led by the families of deceased NEET victims and victims of police brutality, over the Government's failure to



announces youth mobilisation on September 5th, with a peaceful march from India Gate to Delhi Police Headquarters, led by families of deceased NEET victims and victims of police brutality, over the Government's failure to

honour its July 25 commitments," it said in the statement. "The National Working Committee of the Cockroach Janta Party (CJP) convened today to review the Government of India and BJP/NDA ruled states' compliance with

the solemn commitments made to the young people of this country on 25 July 2026, on the basis of which the nationwide youth protests were withdrawn in good faith. Members of the Committee expressed serious doubts over whether the Government intends to honour its word at all." The party alleged that, instead of implementing the commitments made a month ago, the government had delayed action and avoided providing clear assurances.

Tamil Nadu CM Vijay Announces 3 Free LPG Cylinders, Expands Free Bus Travel for Women

NEWDELHI: Tamil Nadu Chief Minister C Joseph Vijay on Monday announced a series of major welfare measures aimed at women, including three free LPG cylinders every year and an expansion of the state's existing free bus travel scheme. The announcements were made in the Tamil Nadu Assembly as part of the government's 'Annapoorani Super Six' welfare scheme. Under the proposed scheme, women heads of eligible households will receive the benefit of three free LPG cylinders annually. The initiative is expected to have an annual budgetary outlay



of around ₹4,000 crore and benefit approximately 1.3 crore families. Vijay said the scheme would be implemented from Pongal in January. The cost of the eligible LPG cylinders will be reimbursed and directly credited to the bank

accounts of women heads of households after booking and delivery. The reimbursement will be based on official billing from oil marketing companies. Who will benefit from the LPG scheme? According to the announcement, the

Annapoorani Super Six scheme will cover households with an annual income of up to ₹2.5 lakh. It will also cover economically weaker sections, families of small and marginal farmers and families of persons with disabilities. Vijay also

announced an expansion of the existing free bus travel scheme for women. The benefit will now extend to state-run ordinary, express and deluxe buses, according to the announcement. The chief minister said women would not face an income ceiling or restrictions on the number of trips while using the fare-free bus service. The expansion is aimed at making public transport more accessible while reducing the financial burden on women commuters. In another major announcement, Vijay said the Tamil Nadu government would drop, for now, the proposed second airport at Parandur near Chennai.

Manipur Violence: Houses Burnt, CRPF Jawan Injured in Senapati Gunfight

NEWDELHI: Fresh violence broke out in Manipur's Senapati district early Monday, leaving several houses burnt and a CRPF jawan injured in a gunfight between two groups, police said. According to officials, the unrest began around 2:30 am when miscreants torched a house in Taphou Kuki village in Kangpokpi district. Retaliatory arson followed at Naga Taphou in Senapati around 4 am, escalating tensions. A CRPF personnel was later injured in a gunfight at Taphou Naga around 9:20 am and admitted to Senapati District Hospital, where his condition is stable.

Maha e-HRMS System Will Become Face Of Admin: CM Fadnavis

Mumbai: Chief Minister Devendra Fadnavis on Monday said Maharashtra has introduced several reforms and brought transformational changes in human resource management, placing the State at the forefront of the country in this field. He stated that the ‘Maha e HRMS’ system is a prime example of these reforms and will become the face of dynamic administration. He also lauded Maharashtra for presenting yet another success story of its digital capabilities before the country. The Chief Minister was speaking after inaugurating the Government of

Maharashtra’s digital human resource management systems – ‘Maha e HRMS’, ‘Maha IAS’ and the ‘Mentor Mentee Portal’. On the occasion, ‘Jigyasa’, an indigenous artificial intelligence based assistant, along with the country’s first automated e Order Module, was also launched. CM Fadnavis said that while delivering government services, officers and employees often remain caught up in government resolutions, rules and procedural tick boxes. The initiative marks the first phase of comprehensive administrative reforms being implemented under Government



Process Re engineering (GPR). By modernising paper based administrative processes and service books that have been in practice for over a century, the initiative aims to make governance simpler, faster and technology driven. He said the

programme is a major component of the Government Process Re engineering initiative launched by the State Government about two years ago and the proposed integrated human resource management system. The Chief

Minister said motivation is important for maintaining enthusiasm at work, and promotion is a key motivating factor in government service. The new system will accelerate the promotion process and digitise the entire service lifecycle – from appointment order to

retirement documentation. He noted that officers working in the government system have practical experience of ground realities, which can be effectively utilised to address challenges faced by the State. He congratulated the General Administration Department for its contribution to the development of the system. Deputy Chief Minister Sunetra Pawar said the day would be recorded as an important milestone in the State’s governance. Implementing the Maha e HRMS system is a revolutionary step, she said, adding that the success of any government policy or initiative depends largely

on the administrative machinery responsible for its implementation. A capable administrative system ensures effective implementation of policies, she said. With the new platform, Maharashtra has taken a leading step in digital governance. The system will bring greater speed and efficiency to service related matters and has been developed by integrating six digital tools, she added. Additional Chief Secretary (Services) V. Radha, in her introductory remarks, outlined the journey of the initiative. She said the first phase covers the State’s IAS cadre, while officers and employees across the State Government will be included in subsequent phases.

NIA Searches Premises In Five States Over DDoS Attacks On Govt Websites During Op Sindoor

Ahmedabad: The National Investigation Agency (NIA) on Monday conducted searches at five locations across five states as part of its investigation into a cyber-terrorism case involving attempted distributed denial-of-service (DDoS) attacks on 54 websites of Central government entities during ‘Operation Sindoor’. The searches were carried out at premises in Junnar in Maharashtra’s Pune district, Nadiad in Gujarat’s Kheda district, Ramagundam in Telangana’s Karimnagar district, Gopalganj in Bihar and Delhi in

connection with a case registered on June 25 last year. The case was initially registered by the Gujarat Anti-Terrorism Squad (ATS) before being taken up by the NIA. According to the agency, the accused had attempted sophisticated DDoS attacks targeting government websites, critical computer resources and Critical Information Infrastructure (CII). The alleged attacks were carried out during Operation Sindoor with the stated intent of compromising India’s national sovereignty, security and unity and inciting public fear.

Calcutta HC Stays Arrest Warrant Issued Against Mahua Moitra In Hate Speech Case

Kolkata: The Calcutta High Court on Monday stayed an arrest warrant issued against Trinamool Congress MP Mahua Moitra by a Krishnanagar court in Nadia district for failing to appear before it. A division bench comprising Justices Debansu Basak and Aryak Dutt directed that the matter be taken up again on August 27, when it will hear the complainant in the case before the Nadia district court, where Moitra has been accused of insulting women and making hate speeches. The division bench ordered that no action can be taken against Mahua Moitra till August 31. A West Bengal court on August



19 issued an arrest warrant against Krishnanagar Trinamool Congress MP Mahua Moitra in a case of controversial comments regarding the Indian Army. It is alleged that Mahua did not appear in court despite being

summoned several times in this case. That is why an arrest warrant was issued against her on the last day of her appearance. Mahua is accused of making controversial and insulting comments not only against the Indian Army

but also against Union Home Minister Amit Shah. In addition, some of her comments on women wearing Tulsi Mala, Burkha and Hijab created controversy. In view of this, a resident of Krishnanagar in Nadia district recently filed a

petition in the court. The plaintiff’s lawyer Shirshendu Das said that summons had been issued in Mahua’s name several times in the past. She was asked to appear in person in the Krishnanagar court. However, she did not come to the court even for a day. In the wake of Mahua’s comments, a case was filed against her under multiple sections of the Bharatiya Nagarik Suraksha Sanhita (BNSS) and Bharatiya Nyaya Sanhita (BNS). Sections related to outrage on the modesty of women, inciting enmity between different groups, hurting religious sentiments, intimidation and hate speech have been added to the case.

Several Flights Diverted As Rain In Delhi-NCR Disrupts Airport Services; Airlines Issue Advisories

New Delhi: More than a dozen flights from Delhi Airport were rerouted as heavy rain and thunderstorms lashed Delhi-NCR on Monday, while airlines issued advisories urging passengers to check their flight status before heading to the airport, according to multiple reports. Taking to social media platform X, the airlines said adverse weather conditions were affecting flight operations and schedules. IndiGo said it was closely monitoring the situation and advised passengers to check real-time flight updates and factor in extra travel time due to possible traffic delays. “Bad weather over #Delhi has impacted flight schedules. We are closely monitoring the weather and doing our best to get you where you need to be, safely and smoothly,” IndiGo wrote on X. Similarly, Air India cautioned that weather-related disruptions could impact flights to and from Delhi, urging travellers to verify their flight status before leaving for the airport. “Adverse weather conditions may impact flight operations to and from Delhi today,” the airline said.

PM Package Kashmiri Pandit Employees Working In Valley Seek Enhanced Security In View Of ‘Fresh Threats’

Srinagar,: Migrant Kashmiri Pandit employees working in the Valley under the Prime Minister’s package requested the UT government on Monday for enhanced security and protection in view of “fresh threats from the terrorists”. In a letter addressed to the J&K Chief Secretary, the PM Package Employees Forum requested enhanced security and protection for them after the threats emerged. “We wish to draw your urgent attention to a serious security concern regarding the safety of migrant Kashmiri Pandit employees serving

under the PM Package in the Kashmir Valley. A fresh threat poster, purportedly issued by a terrorist outfit calling itself the United Liberation Council (ULC) and dated 23 August 2026, has surfaced on social media,” it said, adding the poster “reportedly contains threats directed towards migrant Kashmiri Pandit employees and mentions personal details such as names, addresses and vehicle numbers of certain individuals”. Noting that the authenticity of the poster is yet to be verified by the police and security agencies, the employees

forum, in its letter, said: “However, the repeated circulation of such threat letters and posters, particularly those containing sensitive personal information, is a matter of grave concern. The matter has reportedly been brought to the notice of the concerned Police and security agencies for verification and necessary action.” “Sir, we have already witnessed the tragic loss of Kashmiri Pandit employees in targeted attacks. The repeated emergence of new threats every week has created a deep sense of fear and insecurity among employees and their families.

EAM Jaishankar meets Russian President Putin as part of his two-day official visit to Moscow

Moscow,: External Affairs Minister S Jaishankar on Monday met with Russian President Vladimir Putin at the Kremlin in Moscow as part of his two-day official visit to the country at the invitation of First Deputy Prime Minister of the Russian Federation Denis Manturov. Jaishankar is on an official visit from August 23 to August 24. As per the release from the Ministry of External Affairs, the EAM will co-chair the 27th Session of the India-Russia Inter-Governmental Commission on Trade, Economic, Scientific, Technological and Cultural Cooperation (IRIGC-TEC). As per



the release issued on Saturday, “The External Affairs Minister, S. Jaishankar, will undertake an official visit to Russia on 23-24 August 2026 to co-chair the 27th Session of the India-Russia Inter-Governmental Commission on Trade,

Economic, Scientific, Technological and Cultural Cooperation (IRIGC-TEC).” During the visit, Jaishankar will also meet the Foreign Minister of the Russian Federation, Sergey Lavrov and exchange perspectives on regional and global

issues. “During the visit, EAM will also meet Foreign Minister of the Russian Federation H.E. Mr. Sergey Lavrov and exchange perspectives on regional and global issues,” the release added. India and Russia have a longstanding and time-

tested partnership. A prior release by the Ministry of External Affairs noted that since the signing of the “Declaration on the India-Russia Strategic Partnership” in October 2000, India-Russia ties have acquired a qualitatively new character with enhanced levels of cooperation in almost all areas, including political, security, defence, trade and economy, science & technology, culture, and people-to-people ties. Under the Strategic Partnership, several institutionalised dialogue mechanisms operate at both political and official levels to ensure regular interaction and follow-up on cooperation activities. cooperation.

Govt Proposes Amendments To Speed Market Access For Eligible Medical Devices

New Delhi,: The government proposed amendments to the Medical Devices Rules, 2017, to simplify regulatory requirements, standardise testing fees and facilitate faster market access for eligible medical devices, an official statement said on Monday. “The government has

undertaken key regulatory reforms in the medical device sector to promote Ease of Doing Business (EoDB) by simplifying regulatory requirements, enhancing transparency and facilitating timely access to advanced and innovative medical technologies in the country,” the statement

from the Ministry of Health and Family Welfare (MoHFW) said. The amendments focus on three areas—simplification of provisions relating to outsourced sterilisation of medical devices, introduction of uniform testing fees and inclusion of the European Union among

recognised jurisdictions for waiver of clinical investigation requirements. Under the amended provisions of Rule 44 of the Medical Devices Rules, 2017, manufacturers availing outsourced sterilisation facilities will no longer be required to obtain a separate loan licence under Rule 25, provided

that the sterilisation facility holds a valid licence under the Medical Devices Rules, 2017. Earlier, manufacturers without an in-house sterilisation facility were required to obtain a separate loan licence for sterilisation activities, the MoHFW said. The amended provision is expected to

reduce regulatory compliance requirements, documentation, approval timelines and associated costs, while enabling manufacturers to efficiently avail specialised sterilisation facilities. Further, a Ninth Schedule has been inserted in the Medical Devices Rules, 2017

prescribing uniform fees for the testing of medical devices by Medical Device Testing Laboratories, the statement noted. The measure will establish a standardised and transparent fee structure across laboratories, reducing ambiguity and variations in testing charges. The

standardised fee structure is expected to provide greater predictability to manufacturers and importers, minimise disputes, ensure equitable treatment of stakeholders and further strengthen transparency and efficiency in the medical device regulatory framework.

RS7LAKHGUTKHA SEIZED FROM PRIVATE BUS

Paralakhemundi, Correspondent): Adava Police in Gajapati district seized illegal gutkha worth an estimated Rs 7 lakh from a private passenger bus during a checking operation, prompting an investigation into its source and intended recipient. According to police, the Kamadhenu bus was travelling from Brahmapur towards Umarkote when it was intercepted and checked near Adava Police Station. During the search, police found seven bags containing “Mala Mal” gutkha pouches being transported without valid supporting documents. The entire consignment was seized following the due procedure. Adava Police registered Case No. 183/2026 in connection with the seizure and initiated an investigation. Police are probing who had sent the consignment from Brahmapur and to whom it was being transported in Umarkote. The source of procurement, ownership of the gutkha, destination and transportation arrangements are also being verified. The bus staff and owner are being questioned as part of the investigation, said Adava IIC Santosh Bishoyi. Further investigation is underway.

Odisha–Andhra Border Area Witnesses Movement of 8 Wild Elephants

Rayagada Correspondent): A herd of eight wild elephants, comprising six adult female elephants and two calves, has been moving along the Odisha–Andhra Pradesh border, creating concern among villagers in the border areas of Rayagada district. The elephant herd, reportedly from Andhra Pradesh, was spotted yesterday near Anija Resort under Kereda Beat of Rayagada Forest Range. According to Forest Department officials, the herd was seen moving towards Ampalavals village in Andhra Pradesh during the night. However, on Monday, the elephants were reported to be



staying near Miti Kereda village under Kereda Beat. By evening, the herd was further reported to be roaming near Kusa and Sulabha villages in the Kereda Forest Beat area. In view of the movement of the elephants, the Forest, Electrical and Railway Departments are

maintaining close coordination to ensure the safe movement of the herd and prevent any untoward incident. Villagers of Anija, Bora Haluwa, Ampalavals, Kereda and Miti Kereda have been cautioned to remain alert and avoid approaching or disturbing the elephants. Forest staff,

including Gajasathi personnel and Para Forest Staff, are continuously monitoring the elephant movement along the Odisha–Andhra Pradesh border and taking necessary measures for the safe passage of the herd. Rayagada Forest Range Officer Anil Kumar Panigrahi is personally monitoring

the entire situation and coordinating the field-level arrangements.

Forester Gouri Shankar Sahu, Forest Guard Siba Prasad Majhi of Kereda Beat, and Para Forest Staff Laxman Samal, Balam Swain, Surjya Narayana Miniyaka and Prasad Piridi are actively engaged in monitoring the herd and maintaining coordination for its safe movement.

The Forest Department has appealed to people in the affected villages to remain cautious, avoid going near the elephants, and immediately inform forest officials if the herd is spotted in or around their villages.

The axle of Janani Express was broken

Laxmipur (correspondent): A Janani Express accident took place at Laxmipur Zero Payent in Koraput district. A woman in labor and her new born baby narrowly escaped death. According to news reports, the Janani Express left the Laxmipur Group Health Center to drop off a woman in labor at Tunpar village. After traveling only four kilometers from Lakshmpur, the axle of the vehicle broke at Didi Ghati and the front wheel came out. The vehicle stopped because it was slow while climbing the ghat. If the axle had broken while descending the ghat, the public opinion is that it is beyond imagination how many feet the vehicle would have fallen. Even though many lives were lost sitting in the vehicle today, there is no way to ensure that this will not happen again. Therefore, it is absolutely necessary for the district officials to look into this before it happens again.



HEAVY RAIN RAISES FLOOD FEARS IN GAJAPATI

Paralakhemundi, correspondence: Incessant rain for three days has pushed rivers and low-lying areas across Gajapati towards a precarious situation, with the district recording 738.2 mm of cumulative rainfall and the Vansadhara River at Kashinagar rising to just 0.25 metres below the warning level.

The district recorded an average rainfall of 92.28 mm, with Kashinagar receiving the highest at 132 mm, followed by Rayagada (120.40 mm), Paralakhemundi urban area (119 mm),

Gumma (100 mm), Nuagada (89.20 mm), R. Udayagiri (76 mm), Gosani (68 mm) and Mohana (33.60 mm).

The rising water levels of the Mahendratana and Vansadhara rivers have raised fears of inundation in low-lying and riverbank areas. Several roads have also been affected by the rainwater.

In the Gummagada area along the Ranipentha road in Paralakhemundi, water was flowing over the main road at a depth of around 2 to 3 feet, disrupting vehicular movement.

Water was also flowing over the Pani Khunga village road, affecting communication.

At 6 pm on Sunday, the Vansadhara at Kashinagar recorded a water level of 53.85 metres, against a warning level of 54.10 metres and a danger level of 54.60 metres. The zero level at the location is 51 metres.

With the rain continuing, the river level is expected to rise further, causing concern among people living along the riverbanks and in vulnerable low-lying areas.

FAMILY FORCED TO CARRY CHILD'S BODY ON BIKE AFTER 2-HOUR WAIT FOR AMBULANCE

Kantabanji, correspondence: Healthcare services at Kantabanji Sub-Divisional Hospital have once again come under severe scrutiny after a video showing a family carrying a dead body on a motorcycle went viral on social media. According to reports, 12-year-old Suryakanti Chhura of Khairpadar village under Bongomunda block in Bolangir district died after suffering from vomiting and diarrhoea. After her death, the family alleged that they waited for nearly two



hours for an ambulance to shift the body back to their village. As no ambulance reportedly arrived, the family was forced to carry the minor girl's body on a motorcycle, the video of which has triggered widespread public anger. Sources said this

Kantabanji MLA requesting an ambulance, the vehicle was not made available. The repeated incidents have raised serious questions about the availability and management of ambulance and dead-body carriage services at the hospital. Local residents and social activists have demanded a high-level inquiry into the matter and immediate steps to strengthen ambulance services and ensure dignity in the transportation of deceased patients.

Student falls into drain, seriously injured

Laxmipur correspondence: For the past few days, low-pressure-related rains have been continuing in Laxmipur block of Koraput district. People are leaving their homes due to low-pressure rain. Laxmipur Block Headquarters while unable to Some or all of the drains pose a danger to everyone. In this case, a person going to college today Students go to the office of the local group education officer Injured after falling into drain on roadside The workers of Biju Swamiman Manch are open while cleaning the drain on the road They rescued a student who had fallen into a drain. It is said that Laxmipur Bazaar is located in Rayagada and National Highway connecting Koraput From Laxmipur Old Bus Stand to Ghoda Bandh While all the drains remained open, the national

highway department is not paying attention. Even inside the drain. Garbage piled up and flooded on a rainy day. The floodwaters are flooding the streets of the market. The open drain poses a threat to the lives of humans and cattle alike. Therefore, there is a public demand to look into the matter and resolve the problem before anyone else falls into the drain

One person seriously injured in snake bite

Laxmipur correspondence: A youth named Upendra Wadeka from Bandikar village of Burja Panchayat in Laxmipur block of Koraput district has been admitted to the Laxmipur Community Health Center after suffering a serious snake bite.

On Sunday, while Upendra was mowing grass in his farm, a poisonous snake bit his right hand. As a result, the relatives working there rushed him to the Laxmipur Group Health Center in a critical condition without delay. After treatment at the health center, his health condition has now improved. The doctor treating him said that his life was saved because the people had injected the snake at the health center without taking any indigenous medicine.



Police Uncovered Battery Theft from Jio Tower

Narayanapatana correspondence: The police have cracked the case of the battery theft incident at the Geo Tower in Narayanapatna block yesterday. Holding a press conference, the Narayanapatna police arrested five accused and seized two motorcycles, one auto and one Tata Interna. Lakhmipur SDP Monaj Behera and Police Station Officer Mamata Panda informed the press conference about the seizure of 76 batteries from the accused. Police sources said that 52 batteries were stolen from the Geo

tower in Bhitarkhilua under Narayanpatna police station this month and 48 batteries from the Balipeta Geo tower on the 18th and 24th of this month, respectively. Based on the complaint, a team was formed under the leadership of Narayanpatna Police Station Officer Mamata Panda and arrested the group of thieves involved in the battery theft racket. During interrogation, the thieves informed the police about the identity of the thieves and to whom they sold them. In which Chandan Mahanandia

and Suresh Mahanandia confessed to the police in Balipeta village that they had committed this crime. After it was found that 79 batteries out of the 100 batteries stolen from these two towers were purchased by three businessmen from Jaipur, the police arrested the three businessmen P. Jagadish, P. Srinivas, and Om Prakash Raut and seized 79 batteries from them and brought them to the police station. These ? scooty (Audi 10W 0719), auto vehicle (Audi 24A 4068) were used. These four

vehicles were seized by the police SDPO and Monaj Behera. The value of the stolen batteries is estimated to be around Rs 8 lakh. While some of the accused are absconding, the police said that efforts are on to arrest them. Meanwhile, while the accused was being arrested and produced in court today, the family and relatives of the accused gathered in front of the police station and raised slogans saying that our people are innocent and that they were falsely arrested.

Senior Congress leader Dr Shambhu Panigrahi resigns from the party

Gopalpur, (correspondent): Senior Congress leader Dr Shambhu Panigrahi, who has been associated with the Congress party for 20 years and has contested elections as an MLA on Congress ticket, at the district, today informed the Odisha Pradesh Congress Committee and the Central Congress through a letter that he has voluntarily resigned from the primary

membership of the party. Although Dr. Shambhu Panigrahi's political career began with the Janata Dal, he joined the INC in 2006 after the death of Biju Patnaik and started his political career by taking primary membership. In addition, he served as the state secretary of the Congress party, Gajapati district in-charge, and PCC member. In the 2019 general elections, he made a name for himself

by contesting the election as the Congress party's MLA candidate in the Hinjili constituency, which is considered the stronghold of BJD president and former Chief Minister Naveen Patnaik. Since losing the said election, he has started his political program in the Gopalpur constituency where he lives instead of Hinjili and has been able to earn the trust of the people.

Teachers’ Body Seeks Inclusion of Non-OTET Teachers in Promotion List, Moves Rayagada Collector

Rayagada, correspondence: : The District Primary Teachers’ Association, Rayagada, has approached the District Collector seeking intervention over alleged irregularities in the recently published provisional promotion list for primary school teachers. In a memorandum submitted to the Collector, the association formally lodged an objection to the exclusion of in-service teachers who have not qualified the Odisha Teacher Eligibility Test (OTET), alleging that senior teachers are being denied consideration for promotion without a clear government directive prohibiting their advancement. The association specifically questioned the provisional seniority list issued by the District Education Office under Letter No. 5441/08/2026, describing it as irregular and calling for its immediate review. According to the association, teachers appointed before February 11, 2011 were exempted from the OTET requirement for promotion under the applicable 1997 Cadre Rules and the 2019 amendment. It argued that such teachers should not be excluded from the current promotion process solely on the ground that they have not cleared OTET.

13001/1643/2627

PURI MUNICIPAL CORPORATION, PURI
Government Of Odisha

Notice No: 9430Dt: 21/08/26

EXPRESSION OF INTEREST (EOI)

The Commissioner, Puri Municipal Corporation, Puri hereby invites sealed Expression of interest (EOI) from intending eligible Original Manufacturer of children Playground Equipment and open-Air Gym Equipment for Repair & Re-installation of existing equipment, replacement (where ever required) with operation & Maintenance and upkeep of outdoor child play & open Air Gym equipments installed at different locations for a period of 03 years under Puri Municipal Corporation and supply of new equipment/spares parts of children play and Open-Air Gym as per the terms and conditions, details mentions in the scope of work in the Eoi document. The details of terms and conditions can be downloaded from the website pmcpuri.odisha.gov.in & puri.odisha.gov.in. The Tender paper along with terms and conditions and technical specification shall be submitted to the office of the commission Puri Municipal Corporation, Puri on or before Dt. 10.09.2026 at 5.00PM through speed post & Register Post only. The Tenders will be open on Dt. 11.09.2026 A.M in the office chamber of the commissioner PMC, Puri

The Authority reserves the right to reject any or all the Tenders without assigning any reason therof.

Commissioner

OIPR-:3001/13159/1/26-27/0025Puri Municipal Corporation, Puri

EDITORIAL

Cinema, Culture and Festivals Moving to the Margins

Cinema is not merely a source of entertainment. It is also a mirror of society, a storyteller of culture and, in many ways, a record of changing social values. For generations, Indian cinema has played an important role in bringing festivals, traditions, family relationships and cultural practices to the screen. Songs, celebrations, rituals, traditional clothing, food and community gatherings often became an integral part of films and helped audiences connect with their cultural roots.

However, the changing landscape of cinema tells a different story today. As storytelling styles, audience preferences and social realities evolve, traditional festivals are increasingly finding less space in mainstream films. The colorful world of Diwali, Holi, Dussehra, Baisakhi, Lohri, Pongal, Onam, Eid and other regional celebrations that once added emotional and cultural depth to cinema sometimes appears to be moving towards the margins.

This does not mean that festivals have disappeared from Indian cinema. They continue to appear in films, television, music videos and digital content. But their role has changed. Earlier, a festival scene was often more than decoration. It could become a powerful setting for family reunions, emotional encounters, reconciliation, celebration and social interaction. Today, festivals are sometimes reduced to background visuals, brief sequences or commercial elements.

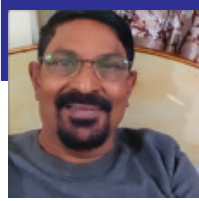
One reason for this change is the transformation of the Indian family. Traditional cinema frequently portrayed large families living together, where festivals brought grandparents, parents, children, relatives and neighbours into the same space. The festival became an occasion for collective happiness. With the growth of nuclear families, urban lifestyles and migration, the social experience of festivals has also changed. Cinema naturally reflects these changes.

The rise of digital entertainment has further transformed storytelling. Audiences now consume films and series on multiple platforms, often choosing shorter and faster narratives. Filmmakers compete for attention in an environment where stories are expected to move quickly. Long cultural sequences involving rituals, preparations and family gatherings may therefore receive less screen time. Commercial considerations also influence cinema. Filmmakers often focus on themes that they believe have wider appeal across regions and international markets. A deeply regional festival may be unfamiliar to some viewers, while universal themes such as ambition, relationships, crime, technology or personal struggle can be marketed more easily across different audiences. As a result, cultural specificity can sometimes be sacrificed for broader commercial accessibility.

Yet this raises an important question: What happens when cinema gradually loses its cultural landscape? A society does not preserve its culture only through textbooks and museums. Culture survives through everyday experiences, stories, songs, food, clothing, rituals and collective memories. Cinema has the unique ability to preserve these elements visually and emotionally. A film can introduce one generation to customs that another generation may no longer experience in the same way.

Festivals are particularly important because they represent more than religious or traditional observances. They create opportunities for people to meet, share food, exchange greetings, forgive old differences and strengthen relationships. They connect generations. Grandparents explain traditions to children; parents pass family practices to the next generation; communities come together in shared celebration.

THE POWER OF SILENCE: Why Nature Succeeds Where Humans Struggle



TRILOCHAN SAHU

It is complicated for humans to remain silent. But there are many others, like water, air, moon, sun, and trees; they perform their duties in silence and in this, no matter how many living beings there are, everyone benefits. If they can perform their duties in silence, why can't we? Why is silence so difficult for us?

The Paradox of Human Speech-

Human beings are uniquely gifted with the power of language, yet this gift often becomes a burden. While water nourishes without announcement, air sustains without demand, and the sun illuminates without expectation, humans struggle to perform their duties without the constant need to speak, explain, or justify.

Research reveals that silence triggers genuine discomfort in the human brain. When conversation stops flowing, even for a few seconds, most people experience a quick spike of self-doubt: something has gone wrong, someone disapproves, or the connection between people is fraying. This reaction isn't a personality flaw—it's rooted in how humans evolved to monitor their social standing and stay safely within a group.

Why Silence Feels Uncomfortable-

The neuroscience of silence discomfort shows that our brains are wired to interpret social ambiguity as a potential threat. In the absence of verbal feedback, the brain's predictive mechanisms falter, leading to a heightened state of alertness known as "prediction error." The nervous system activates social monitoring circuits to scan for signs of rejection, judgment, or disapproval, triggering a mild stress response.

Studies show that it takes only four seconds of silence in conversation for people to feel rattled, rejected, or insecure. Digital technology and social media have exacerbated this intolerance for silence, with the average person checking their phone 96 times daily, creating micro-distractions that fragment attention and diminish tolerance for stillness.

Psychological research confirms that silence is so unpleasant for some people that they would rather self-administer electric shocks than stay with their own thoughts in quiet deprivation. This highlights just how uncomfortable unstructured quiet can be for many people.

The Wisdom of Silent Nature-

Consider the profound lessons from nature's silent servants. Water flows endlessly, quenching thirst and sustaining life without seeking recognition. Air moves invisibly, providing the breath of life to every living being without demanding gratitude. The moon reflects light without claiming it as its own, while the sun radiates energy without expectation of return.

Trees stand as silent sentinels, providing oxygen, shelter, and stability without complaint or announcement. They perform their duties of photosynthesis, carbon sequestration, and ecosystem support in complete silence, yet their contributions are immeasurable.

These natural elements demonstrate that the most essential life services are rendered without fanfare, without the need for verbal validation. Their silence is not emptiness—it is fullness of purpose.

The Cultural Conditioning Against Quiet-

Our perception of silence during conversation depends heavily on the cultural environment. In Western societies, silence is often perceived as uncomfortable, empty, or lacking in social skills. In contrast, several Asian countries, such as Japan, value silence as a form of respect and reflection. This difference can cause misunderstandings and reinforce the idea that something is wrong when silence is prolonged.

Modern culture equates busyness with worth, creating what researchers call "continuous partial attention"—a state where we're always somewhat distracted, never fully present. We fill every moment with activity because silence forces us to confront unfiltered thoughts, suppressed emotions, and existential questions we've been avoiding through constant distraction.

The Hidden Strength in Silence-

Silence offers profound benefits that our noisy world often obscures. It gives us space to think before reacting, allows emotions to settle, improves self-awareness, and strengthens emotional regulation. Silence enhances creativity and decision-making while deepening our ability to listen rather than wait for our turn to speak truly.

In leadership, silence creates room for others to contribute. In therapy, silence often be-

comes the space where insight emerges. In relationships, silence can communicate safety, trust, and presence more powerfully than words.

The goal isn't to eliminate conversation but to become comfortable enough with ourselves that we no longer need constant noise to escape our own minds.

Learning from Nature's Example-

Perhaps one of the healthiest questions we can ask ourselves is: "When the room becomes quiet, what am I trying not to hear?" Sometimes growth begins not with speaking more, but with becoming comfortable enough to listen—to others, and to ourselves.

Nature teaches us that the most powerful forces operate in silence. The roots of mighty trees grow unseen underground, yet they anchor entire ecosystems. The ocean's depths remain silent while supporting unimaginable life. The stars burn silently across aeons, guiding travellers without announcement.

If water, air, moon, sun, and trees can perform their duties in silence while benefiting countless living beings, humans too can learn this art. The challenge isn't that silence is impossible—it's that we've forgotten how to trust it.

Embracing the Silent Path Forward

The path to comfort with silence begins with understanding that discomfort is not danger. When silence triggers anxiety, it's often our brain's outdated alarm system misinterpreting quiet as a social threat. With practice, we can retrain our response, recognising silence as an opportunity rather than emptiness.

Start small - allow pauses in conversation without rushing to fill them. Spend time alone without digital distractions. Notice how silence feels in nature, where it's not empty but alive with presence.

As we learn to embrace silence, we discover that our most meaningful contributions often come not from what we say, but from what we do—quietly, consistently, and without need for applause. Like the trees, the water, the air, the moon, and the sun, we too can perform our duties in silence, benefiting all living beings around us. The question remains -If nature can do it, why not us? The answer lies not in our inability, but in our willingness to try.

Democracy Must Not Become a Synonym for Mobocracy"



UMASHANKAR PRASAD

Political shifts driven by street protests and crowd-led movements can indeed force a change of power in democracy, but they rarely resolve the underlying issues. The fundamental problems facing society often remain entirely unchanged. The Mechanics of Student protest, A glaring example can be seen in recent youth demonstrations. Parties and leaders who vocally or silently backed protests in one arena—such as the "Cockroach" student demonstrations at Delhi's Jantar Mantar—were conspicuously absent during similar unrest elsewhere, such as protest gatherings at Morhabadi Stadium in Ranchi. In one state, a particular political bloc lends its weight; in another, an opposing group steps in. Yet, both movements were ultimately sparked by systemic flaws in education and recruitment exams.

Every generation possesses energy, idealism, and a deep desire for justice. However, when established political parties lack visionary leaders, unexpected incidents often thrust inexperienced youth into the political spotlight. Opportunistic political operatives then use these young protesters as convenient instruments. Once power shifts hands or political objectives are achieved, those same youth are discarded

like "flies from milk," while professional politicians take control.

The Perils of Mob Dynamics

While courage and dedication are crucial for any movement, unguided crowd enthusiasm is highly dangerous. Driven by raw emotion, a crowd can easily fall prey to ideological extremists and manipulative agendas. Once a mob mind takes over, even rational individuals lose self-control. This destructive trajectory has repeated itself throughout history—from the JP Movement of the 1970s to the anti-corruption protests and student-led marches to Parliament in recent times.

Political reality is rarely as simple as it appears on the surface. Behind grand promises and inflammatory rhetoric lie hidden agendas. Unscrupulous leaders lure, agitate, and exploit ordinary citizens, using public passion as leverage for personal gain. They flatter the public, calling them the ultimate authority, yet rarely treat them with genuine respect.

Protests vs. Constructive Governance

History proves that mob-driven uprisings rarely achieve their stated goals- Unstable Power Transfers:-- A crowd can overthrow a government, but it cannot formulate sound policies. Whether a new regime creates better governance depends entirely

on the wisdom, capability, and ethics of its leadership—not the size of the crowd that brought it to power.

The Illusion of Direct Action:-- From Jayaprakash Narayan's movement to union-led agitations, mass mobilization succeeded in ousting regimes, but completely failed to eradicate core issues like systemic corruption or foreign infiltration. The Need for Deliberative Reform:-- Policy achievements require patience, social awareness, and peaceful deliberation. Mob energy offers shortcuts, but shortcuts in politics inevitably lead to political instability.Preserving the Spirit of Democracy

Transforming street anger into political power does not solve fundamental societal problems—it merely changes who sits in office. Real resolution requires consensus, institutional wisdom, and scientific problem-solving. When political parties rely on polarization and opportunistic outrage, public discourse degrades into mob rule.

Democracy requires specialized knowledge, wisdom, and moral integrity far more than any other field of public life. When political discourse ignores these principles, society suffers the consequences. For democracy to thrive, we must maintain a clear, unwavering line between genuine democratic participation and the chaotic passions of mobocracy.

Schooling or outside interference?



Priyanka Saurabh

A school is not merely a

merely an administrative duty, but an essential element of meaningful and quality education.

collection of classrooms, buildings, and walls. It is a sensitive institution where the future of society is shaped. It is a place where children develop intellectually, emotionally, socially, and morally. Therefore, maintaining safety, discipline, and a peaceful educational environment is not

In this context, Deputy Commissioner Rahul Narwal's directives to government schools in Hansi district, prohibiting anyone entering without permission or unauthorized access to the premises, are noteworthy. These directives emphasize a point that is often

forgotten: schools should be places of learning, not places prone to unnecessary disturbance, disruption, and security problems.

Schools are community-based institutions. In rural and semi-urban areas, a government school can be an important public institution, especially as a community center. Public importance does not necessarily mean public access. In a broad sense, the community includes the school, but the school must be committed to

the education and well-being of its students every day. Therefore, no one should be allowed to enter classrooms, disrupt teachers, or interfere with educational activities simply because the school is a public building.

Unauthorized intrusion can impact the learning process in many ways. Entering a classroom and engaging in unnecessary conversations with teachers, contacting students without permission, or bringing personal issues or

problems into the school environment can disrupt learning. Students become distracted, teachers are distracted, and discipline is compromised. If this happens during exams, school events, and other important academic activities, the consequences can be even more serious.

This isn't just a discipline issue. Today, the issue of school security is multifaceted. Improved access control involves protecting children, staff, protecting

important files and digital hardware, and preventing untoward incidents. Unauthorized entry into school premises, whether by adults or children, can cause serious problems. Therefore, maintaining visitor records, understanding their intent, and obtaining appropriate permissions are crucial components of institutional security.

What's interesting about the Hansi administration's directives is that they aren't intended to isolate schools from society. Instead, they emphasize

the need for proper permission and a legitimate purpose for entry. Parents, education officials, inspection teams, and other authorized individuals must have good reasons for visiting schools. Parents and schools should communicate constructively with each other to support children's progress. However, this communication should occur through a system that doesn't disrupt classroom teaching.

Appointments for parents can be

scheduled, and schools can have a visitor register and a clear policy regarding meeting times with school officials or teachers. This will help ensure that any genuine concerns are addressed confidentially and respectfully, and that the academic routine is not disrupted. The aim is not to isolate the school from the community, but to establish a disciplined and accountable system for school/ community interaction.

Tractor driver and helper electrocuted to death; villagers stage road blockade

Jagatsinghpur (correspondent). One tractor driver and his helper were electrocuted to death while ploughing in paddy land in Benukhanda village under Alipingala Panchayat on the outskirts of Jagatsinghpur town on Monday.. The deceased were identified as tractor driver Ajaya Sahoo and his assistant Sagar Bhoi, both come under age group of mid-thirties, hailing from Benukhanda village. After the death news reached village hundreds of villagers converged at Thana Chhak here staged a road blockade keeping both bodies on road



urging compensation, as a consequence traffic movement on NH 55 was severely disrupted about three hours, later police and magistrate rushed to the spot discussed with agitated villagers, following assurance given by officials the road blocked was lifted and traffic movement was restored on roads. Report said that both the deceased

youths after ploughing a paddy land were returning village when their tractor inadvertently came contact with live electric line earthed on surface and after electrocution stranded on tractor, later villagers rescued them and sent to district headquarters hospital for treatment where doctor declared them dead. Villagers

complained that the mishap occurred due to carelessness act of the electric department, which had supplied an electric connection to a nearby lift irrigation point underground. Usually, the electric wire is stretched a minimum of 5 feet beneath the ground, but in this incident, the electric wire was pushed on the ground only 1 feet depth as result tractor came into contact with a live electric line resulted death of two youths. Meanwhile, police have launched a probe, taking the pleas of villagers, and after registering an unnatural death case, the bodies have been sent for autopsies.

IMD ISSUED YELLOW WARNING TO KAALAHANDI PRECIPITATION WILL CONTINUE FOR A WEEK LONG PERIOD

Bhabanipatna (Correspondent) Following the heavy downpour in past 24 hours, the IMD has issued orange and yellow warning for Odisha. Bracing the entire state the low pressure will precipitate with light and moderate rain and thunder shower and it will likely to be continued till 31st August, said in its evening bulletin. In this sequence in a single day on 24th August Kalahandi has received huge amount of rain water fairly in average rate it was 36.25 mm, where highest in

Jaipatna and Kalrunda block 85 and 70 where according recorded precipitation Keshinga only 4 mm. In a precautionary measure the IMD issuing yellow warning to the district Kalahandi, has served an advisory to common people to remain alert during the week long rain. Especially in this regard IMD cautioned in its bulletin to common people -check before venture to destination traffic congestion route, avoid distancing water logging areas and also vulnerable structures

Woman assaulted to death

Laxmipur (correspondent) A woman who was running a tea shop near Sadar Railway Street in Laxmipur Block, Koraput district was fatally attacked by a hotel owner nearby. It is reported that the hotel owner became enraged after some cups of tea were floating in the rain and surrendered to the police station. The woman was shifted to Koraput and there was chaos in the area. Lohit Subudhi, Ranjit Mishra, a well-known investigating officer, who went to the scene with the police scientific team and brought the CCTV footage after the woman's father Akhtar Mohan Sahu complained.

Dasarathpur Block Office Hosts Joint Public Grievance Hearing

JAJPUR (correspondent) : A Joint Public Grievance Hearing Camp organized by the Jajpur District Administration was held at the conference hall of the Dasarathpur Block Office. District Collector Shri Ambar Kumar Kar attended the camp and heard various grievances and complaints from members of the public. The District Collector stated that the concerned departmental officials would examine the complaints and take all possible steps to resolve the issues of eligible applicants. A total of 47 complaints were



registered during the hearing. These included 36 complaints related to individual issues, 3 concerning community-related problems, and 8 applications seeking assistance from the Chief Minister's Relief Fund. Of these, 10

complaints were resolved immediately. The hearing was attended by Sub-Divisional Police Officer Shri Prasant Kumar Majhi, Additional District Magistrate Shri Judhishtir Naik, Sub-

Collector Shri Tapas Ranjan Dehury, Additional Chief Executive Officer, Zilla Parishad, Shri Lambodar Khuntia, Chief District Medical and Public Health Officer Shri Nagendra Nath Mahapatra,

Deputy Collector, Grievance Cell, Shri Saraswat Sahu, Dasarathpur Block Development Officer Shri Akash Pattnaik, Dasarathpur Tahasildar Shri Shubhramshu Sahu, along with district-level, field-level and block-level officers. They heard and reviewed the grievances raised by the public.

During the grievance hearing camp, the District Administration and District Social Security Department provided wheelchairs to Bichitra Malik of Biharigrama Gram Panchayat and Sanjukta Nayak of Khandara Gram Panchayat.

PM Shri Central Incharge Rajiv Sharma's 2 day visit to Malkangiri

Malkangiri, correspondent : PM Shri School Scheme Central Incharge and Joint Secretary to the Government of India Rajiv Sharma is on a two-day visit to Malkangiri district to review the educational progress and infrastructure of the schools. On the first day of the visit, Central Incharge Shri Sharma, along with District Education Officer Chittaranjan Panigrahi, visited Sindhrimal PM Shri Government High



School in Malkangiri block and Balimela PM Shri Government High School in Korukonda block. During the visit, the school's Sahayak Center, Language

Center, E-Classroom, Science Library, Playground and the teaching program being conducted as per the National Education Policy 2020 were

inspected. At the end of the visit, a high-level review meeting was held in the District Council Conference Room under the chairmanship and direct supervision of

District Magistrate Prathamsh Arvind Rajeshirke. In the meeting, the District Magistrate specially briefed the Central Incharge about the successful implementation of PM Shri Yojana, administrative support and development of infrastructure in the district and gave strict instructions to the headmasters of all PM Shri Vidyalayas and education department officials to improve the quality of education.

Odisha Vigilance Raids Six Locations Linked to Jagatsinghpur Senior Revenue Assistant Bhanja Kishore Behera

Kataka (Correspondent) :: The Odisha Vigilance Department has launched simultaneous raids at six locations linked to Bhanja Kishore Behera, a Senior Revenue Assistant posted at Naugaon Tehsil in Jagatsinghpur district, on allegations of possessing assets disproportionate to his known sources of income. The raids are being conducted at his ancestral residence in Pateni village under Raghunathpur block, his office, his in-laws' house and other locations. Vigilance officials are currently verifying his movable and immovable properties as part of the investigation. Behera had earlier come under the Vigilance scanner while he was posted at Tirtol Block. Allegations had surfaced that he was involved in financial irregularities amounting to around Rs 3.02 crore. Based on the allegations, the Vigilance Department arrested Behera on August 12 and produced him before the court. Officials said the latest searches are part of the ongoing investigation into the alleged accumulation of disproportionate assets.

Odisha school bus safety crackdown: 3 buses seized for no fitness certificates, permits

Kataka Correspondent): Three school buses allegedly operating without valid permits and fitness certificates were seized during a checking drive in the Banki area of Kataka district on Monday. The enforcement action was carried out by the Kataka Regional Transport Office (RTO) and the Odisha Motor Vehicle Department (OMVD). During the inspection, a joint team of officials intercepted three buses that were carrying school students. Officials checked the documents of the vehicles and allegedly found that the

private school buses did not possess any valid permit or fitness certificate. Despite the absence of mandatory documents, the vehicles were being used to transport school children. The seizure has raised concerns over the operation of school transport vehicles without the required regulatory clearances. Fitness certification by RTOs is an important requirement for ensuring that vehicles used for passenger transportation meet the prescribed safety and roadworthiness standards. Following the alleged violations, all

three vehicles were seized during a checking drive by the enforcement authorities. Officials are now examining the remaining documents of the buses and investigating other possible violations of motor vehicle rules. The enforcement drive also highlights the need for schools and vehicle operators to ensure that buses used to ferry school students comply with all applicable transport regulations and possess the necessary permits and valid fitness certificates. Authorities are expected to take further action based on the findings of the ongoing probe.

Lawyers seek APP preliminary exam centres at all district headquarters

Umarkot, Correspondent) The District Bar Association, Nabarangpur, has urged the Odisha Public Service Commission (OPSC) to establish examination centres at all district headquarters for the upcoming Assistant Public Prosecutor (APP) Preliminary Examination. In a representation submitted to the Chairman of the OPSC on August 23, the association said that the preliminary examination is presently proposed to be conducted only at Cuttack. This, it pointed out, would force candidates from distant districts such as Nabarangpur, Malkangiri, Koraput, Rayagada, Nuapada, Kalahandi, Sonepur and Bolangir to travel several hundred kilometres.

The association said candidates, particularly those from economically weaker backgrounds, would have to bear substantial expenses towards transportation, food and accommodation. Such a requirement, it argued, could discourage deserving aspirants from participating in the recruitment process. "Conducting the examination at all district headquarters would ensure equal opportunity, reduce unnecessary hardship and promote fair access to public employment," the association said in its representation.

Adolescent Health Awareness Camp organised

Rourkela, (correspondent): An Adolescent Health Awareness Camp was organised jointly by Ispat General Hospital (IGH) and the CSR Department of SAIL, Rourkela Steel Plant at Sri Aurobindo Rourkela School, Sector-5, on 21st August 2026. The camp aimed at promoting awareness among school students about various aspects of adolescent health and encouraging healthy habits for a healthier future. In all 82 students were screened during the programme, including 27 students from Kindergarten to Standard I and 55 students from Classes IX and X. A team of medical specialists from Ispat General Hospital attended the camp and interacted with the students. The medical team included Dr. Aishwarya Mishra, Paediatrician; Dr. Ajay Jena, Paediatrician and Dr. Chandrakala Rani, Obstetrics & Gynaecology specialist. The programme covered important aspects of adolescent well-being, including nutrition and fitness, mental health, growth and development, puberty and sexual health, substance-abuse awareness and preventive healthcare. The students were also encouraged to adopt healthy lifestyle practices and seek timely medical advice whenever required.



Combined Grievance Redressal Camp held in Chitrakonda

Malkangiri, correspondent : With the aim of making government services more welfare-oriented and cleaner, a district-level joint grievance redressal camp was successfully organized by the Malkangiri district administration at the Tunnel Camp Gram Panchayat office premises of Chitrakonda block. Malkangiri District Magistrate and District Magistrate Pratish Arvind Rajshirke, District Police Officer Vinod Patil, Chief Development Officer Dashaaratha Sarabu and Sub District Magistrate Duryodhan Bhoi and other senior officers participated in the program and listened to the problems and various objections of the public directly. A total of 62 complaint letters were registered from the local area in this camp. This included 1 individual complaint and 46 complaints based on community problems. Each problem has been thoroughly investigated and sent to the relevant departments for resolution within a specific time frame. On the occasion of the camp, the District Magistrate said that the main goal of the administration is to provide benefits of government schemes to every eligible citizen.

Viral Audio Puts Boudh Police Under Scanner Over Alleged Ganja Nexus

BOUDH: (Correspondent) :- A purported audio clip involving three police personnel and a Home Guard has gone viral, alleging a police-ganja nexus in Boudh. Boudh is considered a major hub for ganja cultivation and smuggling. The controversy comes a month after a woman officer was suspended in July for allegedly tipping off smugglers via WhatsApp. In the viral audio, SI Chandan Jena of Boudh Adarsh Police Station is purportedly heard saying he seized a ganja consignment and detained Home Guard Jagadalla. Baghiapada outpost officer Pranabandhu Sahu is allegedly heard discussing whether the material was handed over four days ago. The SI also reportedly connects the Home Guard, who claims the material was given to him by the officer. In another clip, IIC Nalini Das is allegedly heard reprimanding the Home Guard and warning him not to return to the station, saying the department is being defamed. Following circulation of the clips, the DGP has reportedly ordered an inquiry. The authenticity of the audio is yet to be verified.

Tree Plantation Programme Held at Dumberbahal School

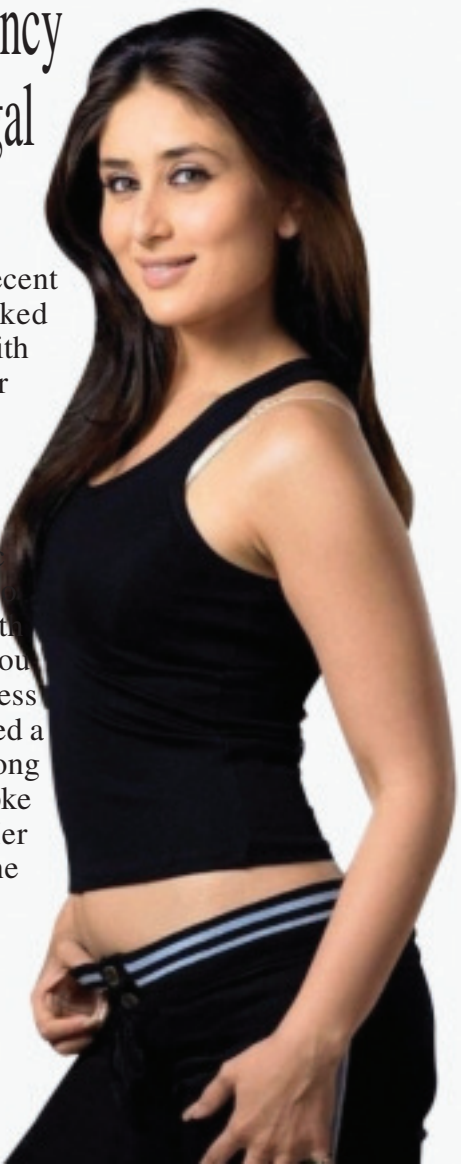
Padampur, (Correspondent) : A tree plantation programme was organised at Dumberbahal School under Paikmal block of Padampur subdivision, with Headmaster Hrushikesh Bag presiding over the meeting. Baragada MP Pradip Purohit attended the programme as the chief guest. Mandosil Sarpanch Om Prakash Nayak, CRCC Basudev Kumbhar, former SMC president Banabas Sahu and present SMC president Sushant Khumuri were among the guests of honour. Headmaster Bag highlighted the school's tree plantation initiatives over the past 12 years and their successful implementation. Former SMC president Sahu spoke about the school's development through quality education and urged the MP to take steps for establishing the proposed Godabarish Adarsha Vidyalaya at Dumberbahal village under Mandosil Gram Panchayat. Sarpanch Nayak and CRCC Kumbhar stressed the importance of tree plantation. In his address, MP Purohit explained the harmful consequences of indiscriminate tree felling and spoke about the successful plantation drive being carried out across the country under Prime Minister Narendra Modi's "Ek Ped Maa Ke Naam" initiative.

'Drishyam 3' gets official title; Ajay Devgn returns as Vijay Salgaonkar for final chapter

The much-awaited third instalment of the ‘Drishyam’ franchise has officially received its title and release date. Ajay Devgn will reprise his role as Vijay Salgaonkar in ‘Drishyam The Conclusion’, which is set to release in cinemas on October 2, 2026. The makers announced the title on Monday with the unveiling of the film's first poster. Ajay Devgn also shared the poster, which features the line, “Mera Sach, Mera Sahi, Sirf Meri Family Hai”, highlighting Vijay's unwavering commitment to protecting his family. The film will mark the final chapter of the Hindi Drishyam franchise, known for its suspense, twists and Vijay's carefully constructed plans to safeguard his loved ones. A previously released teaser offered a glimpse into Vijay's mindset, with the character reflecting on the different names people have given him while reaffirming that his family remains his truth and his right.

Kareena Kapoor Laughs Off Pregnancy Rumours After Viral Gym Video: ‘Pagal Kar Dete Ho Tumlog’

Kareena Kapoor has seemingly put an end to recent pregnancy rumours after a paparazzi video sparked speculation that she was expecting her third child with husband Saif Ali Khan. The rumours began after Kareena was filmed leaving a gym on August 21. In the video, her bodyguard appeared to shield her with an umbrella, while the actor's appearance led some social media users to speculate about a possible baby bump. During a subsequent public appearance, paparazzi members apologised to Kareena for the viral video. The actor responded with a laugh and joked, “Pagal kar dete ho tumlog” (You guys drive us mad). Kareena also appeared to address the speculation indirectly on Instagram. She shared a picture of a man showing off a bloated stomach along with the song Chocolate, Lime Juice from Hum Aapke Hain Koun, adding laughing and pizza emojis. Her sister-in-law Saba Pataudi had earlier dismissed the pregnancy speculation, calling it a “bad angle” and urging people not to speculate about private matters. Kareena and Saif, who married in 2012, have two sons, Taimur and Jeh. The actor is currently preparing for the release of Meghna Gulzar's investigative drama Daayra, which also stars Prithviraj Sukumaran. The film is scheduled to release on September 18.



Use chamomile for skin to get rid of acne, dryness and more!



The chamomile plant, which produces flowers with small white petals, and a yellow center, is known for its anti-inflammatory benefits and soothing effect. No wonder why this flowering herb is an important ingredient in skincare products. Be it face wash, oils, lotions or serums, you will find this flowering plant as the star ingredient. Rich in antioxidants, it may help to fight acne or provide hydration to your skin. Clearly, it can be beneficial for people with oily or dry skin. All you need to know is how to use chamomile for skin.

1. May help with eczema

The root cause of eczema, a common skin issue that causes dry skin, skin rash, and itchiness, is inflammation. Using anti-inflammatory compounds can help in dealing with eczema. “Chamomile has two potent anti-inflammatory compounds –

chamazulene and alpha-bisabolol,” says dermatologist Dr Nishtha Patel. It may be used to treat eczema, and skin irritations, according to research published in Molecular Medicine Reports in 2011.

2. Skin hydration

“Chamomile has hydrating properties and can keep the skin well moisturised,” says the expert. So, people with dry and sensitive skin can use a moisturising face wash or cream to hydrate their skin. It is gentle yet an effective skincare ingredient.

3. May combat acne

It has an anti-inflammatory characteristic and has anti-fungal and anti-bacterial effects. This can help reduce the incidence of breakouts and keeps the skin clear. Due to the antioxidant activity of chamomile extract, it can be used in natural anti-acne formulations, as per research published in the Informatics in Medicine Unlocked journal in 2019.

4. May lighten dark spots

The antioxidants in chamomile can help lighten dark spots. “This is due to the prevention of free radical damage to the body cells, which inhibits the production of skin melanin,” says the expert. This in turn, can reduce the appearance of dark spots on the face. Also, since it helps reduce inflammation and has soothing properties, its extract can be used to reduce puffiness around the eyes and lighten dark circles.

5. Wound healing

Chamomile may help heal minor wounds or acne scars. During a 2018 study published in the Infectious Disorders – Drug Targets journal, researchers found that ointment with Roman chamomile extract improved the healing and antibacterial activity in an infected wound.

Tea bags for eyes: Follow these tips to reduce puffiness and dark circles

Be it dark circles or puffiness, using tea bags for eyes is a scientifically proven method to give you instant relief. The chemicals present in caffeinated as well as herbal tea bags help in alleviating swelling and irritation in your eyes, offering a calming effect in return. You can opt for either a cold compress or even a warm compress while using this method. However, it is essential to note the right way to use tea bags for your eyes. Over-application or inappropriate ways can do more harm than good. Know how to use tea bags for eyes, and the various benefits that this practice can offer you.

1. Reduces puffiness

Caffeinated tea bags can be used to reduce puffiness by causing constriction of blood vessels. It is the temperature of the tea bags that calms the area effectively, reducing the swelling seen around the eyes. A study, published in the Journal of Cosmetic Dermatology, states that the caffeine content present in black or even green tea bags can help reduce puffiness.

2. Eases irritation

The anti-inflammatory ingredients included in tea, known as tannins, can soothe an inflamed surface.



This is useful for those who suffer from redness or inflammatory reactions to dust or pollen. A cold tea bag compress can help in alleviating dryness and inflammation in the eyes. Tea bags contain polyphenols such as epigallocatechin-3-gallate (EGCG), which is anti-inflammatory, states a study, published in Anti-Inflammatory & Anti-Allergy Agents in Medicinal Chemistry.

3. Alleviates eye bags

Dark circles or more scientifically periorbital dark circles are due to poor blood circulation beneath the eyes and can be resolved by the antioxidants present in tea. This enables the area to become brighter and supple upon regular usage. Apart from tea bags, there are several other ways to treat dark circles at home.

Why are sugary drinks unhealthy?

1. High in calories

A 330 ml soft drink typically contains almost nine teaspoons of sugars and has approximately 140 calories, with little nutritional value, according to the World Health Organization. Sugary drinks are calorie-dense, which means they provide a large number of calories in a small volume. “These are often referred to as “empty calories” because they contribute little to no essential nutrients like vitamins and minerals,” explains internal medicine expert Dr Ajay Nair.

2. Weight gain

For a 2012 study published in the New England Journal of Medicine, people with a genetic predisposition for obesity were chosen as participants. Researchers found that participants who consumed sugary drinks were more likely to have obesity than those who did not have such beverages. The excess calories in such drinks can make people gain body weight. Unlike solid foods, sugary drinks don't fill you up, so you might end up consuming more calories overall without feeling satisfied

3. Increased risk of chronic diseases

“Regularly having sweetened drinks may increase your chances of developing type 2 diabetes and heart disease,” says the expert. The high sugar content in such drinks can lead to insulin resistance, which is a precursor to diabetes.

4. Dental problems

The sugars in these drinks can contribute to tooth decay and cavities if consumed regularly.



Sugar can interact with bacteria in the mouth, and when that happens, it produces acid that can erode tooth enamel.

1. Replace sugary drinks with water

There are many healthy beverages, but water is the best alternative to sugary drinks. "It hydrates without adding calories or sugar to your diet," says Dr Nair. If you want to make water more appealing, you can add a few slices of lemon or cucumber.

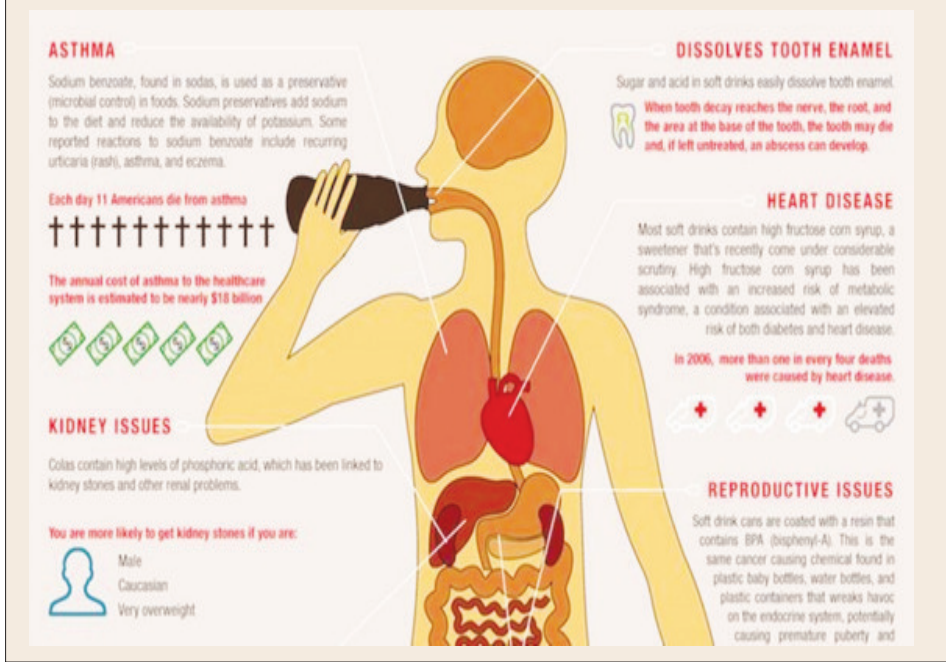
2. Choose unsweetened beverages

Opt for unsweetened versions of beverages such as tea, coffee or plant-based milks. If you need a little sweetness, add just a small amount of honey or jaggery, but in moderation.

3. Have smoothies

Skip the sweetened tea and soda, and go for a homemade smoothie, which can provide an energy boost, according to the American Heart Association. To make your own smoothie, toss any fruit or vegetable you like into a blender with low-fat milk or yogurt.

4. Gradually reduce the amount of sugar If you consume very sweet drinks, try reducing the amount of sugar you add gradually.



Subarnapur Senior Football League Municipality Zone - Ramdhun Club enters finals

SUBARNAPUR (correspondent)--- The semi-final match of the Subarnapur Senior Football League was held between Ramdhun Club and Shanti Shakti Pathagar . Ramdhun Club has entered the finals of the Municipality Zone by defeating Shanti Shakti Pathagar by 3-0 goals. Subarnapur Additional District Magistrate (General) Smt. Anjalina Pradhan was the chief guest in today's game and encouraged the players. Chandan Behera, jersey number 20 of the winning team, was awarded as the man of the match by the guests. Rajesh Thanapati was the chief referee, Sushant Bag, Sudam Jagdala and Sanjeev Sahu conducted the match .



Bhukulu Baxi was the match commissioner. Veteran players Padmanabh Dharua, MD Muslim, Pradeep Sahu were present on the stage as the guests of honor. Senior members of the sports association gave details of the Manoranjan tripathy meeting and the

match schedule. Under the direct supervision of Piyush Panda, all the work was carried out in the program and Bikash Panda proposed the vote of thanks. Subash Biswal, Bikash Panda, Bhakti Ranjan Dalai, Football Secretary Rajiv Sahu, Kalim Mohammed, Santosh Padhi, Raj Kumar

Naik, Hrushi Kesh Panda, Anil Sahu, Ravi Dehuri, Bhuban Naik and all the members of the major sports associations cooperated. Tomorrow (Tuesday) the final match will be played between Ram Dhun Club and Reserve Police in the Municipality Zone.

Hockey World Cup: India Men Lose To Argentina, Crash Out Of Semis Race

Amstelveen: The Indian men's team crashed out of the FIH Hockey World Cup 2026, losing 3-5 to former Olympic Games gold medallist Argentina in their Pool E match in Stage 2 of the premier competition at the Wagener Hockey Stadium in Amstelveen, Netherlands, on Monday. India's hopes of qualifying for the semifinals depended on beating Argentina by four goals but also getting favourable results elsewhere to keep their campaign alive after losing to hosts the Netherlands 3-1 in their earlier match. But they lost by two goals instead in their second match, thus remaining without any points in the second stage



of the competition. The 2016 Olympic gold medallist Argentina, who defeated England 3-1 in their first match in the second stage, moved up to six points and now share the top spot with the Netherlands, who also have six points. Their clash with England later on Monday will decide the first two spots

in the Pool and thus the two semifinalists. India have lost both their matches and are yet to open their account in the second stage. Against Argentina, India needed sharper movement in the final third, greater efficiency in front of goal and a more ruthless approach to chances. The challenge was immense,

but with their World Cup campaign on the line, India had no alternative but to go for it with everything they have. However, on Monday, they failed to capitalise on their chances against an Argentina side that played to its potential and did not allow the Indians many chances.

Rishabh Pant Scripts History, Breaks Dhoni's Away Test Runs Record

Colombo: India star batter Rishabh Pant shattered MS Dhoni's record for most Test runs scored by an Indian wicketkeeper away from home. The swashbuckling batter Pant went past Dhoni's feat during Day 2 of the second Test match against Sri Lanka at the Sinhalese Sports Club here on Monday. Pant scored a stroke-filled 63 in the first innings of the Test to go past the former skipper. Coming into the Test, the 28-year-old Roorkee man had scored 2471 runs in Tests away from home and at neutral venues. He needed to score 26 runs to get past the 2011 World Cup-winning captain, and he did so in style when he hit off-spinner Keshara Nuwantha for back-to-back fours in the 97th over of the first innings in the opening session on Day 2. Pant went on to complete his 21st Test half-century and a successive one after he had hit one in the second



innings of the first Test in Galle. The Southpaw's impressive stay came to an end on the first ball of the second session when he drilled one straight to deep mid-off off Nuwantha. However, he has now scored 2534 runs as wicketkeeper away from home in Test cricket, with Dhoni now pushed back to second. Former cricketer Farokh Engineer had 1209 runs in away Tests as wicketkeeper, while Syed Kirmani made 1109 runs as wicketkeeper. In the process, Pant has also surpassed former South African wicketkeeper Mark Boucher in the same

record list and has the third-most runs away from home by wicketkeepers overall. The list is led by former Pakistan captain Sarfaraz Ahmed, who made 2696 runs away from home in 52 Tests. Australia legend Adam Gilchrist is second with 2634 runs in 41 Tests away from home or at neutral venues. Pant's knock also saw him close in on 3000 World Test Championship runs as he aims to become the first Indian to get there. Following his 63, the Southpaw now has 2948 runs in 42 Tests in WTC history as he stands 52 shy of the 3000-run margin.

2nd Test: Pant Got Hurt In The Shoulder, Says Jurel As He Keeps Wickets On Day 2 In Colombo

Colombo: India batter Dhruv Jurel stated that wicketkeeper Rishabh Pant picked up pain in his right shoulder during the ongoing second Test match against Sri Lanka at the Sinhalese Sports Club as he kept wickets at the end of Day 2 in Colombo on Monday. Pant was absent from the field as India came out to bowl in the dying stages of Day 2 after posting a mammoth 503/9d in Colombo. He had earlier scored a stroke-filled 63 but had copped a blow to his shoulder following a hit on his left wrist on Day 1 of the fixture; the latter



forced him to retire hurt. As he stayed away from the field, Jurel, the second of the three wicketkeepers in the Playing XI (KL Rahul is another one), kept wickets for the final phase of the day as India put the hosts down to 8/2 in three overs

before stumps were called. Speaking at the end of Day 2, Jurel, who smashed a jaw-dropping unbeaten 115, revealed that Pant has a shoulder issue. "He (Pant) got hurt on his right shoulder. Physio is monitoring him. Today, I kept wickets because

he had pain in his right shoulder. Hopefully, he'll be fine tomorrow," Jurel said in the press conference after Day 2. Notably, Pant was hit on his right shoulder by a bouncer from Asitha Fernando in the 94th over of the first innings on Day 2. The batter did not gauge the line and length and could not do much but take a blow to his shoulder. The physio tended to him, applied an ice pack to the hit shoulder before he continued his work and went on to hit a strong 63 from 89 balls. Pant had earlier copped a blow to his left wrist while batting early on

the opening day. He was hit by a short ball from Lahiru Kumara in the 58th over of India's innings on Day 1. Pant needed medical attention as the physio ran out to apply ice to his wrist. A tape was also put on the wrist as he walked off the field unbeaten on three runs. India are in complete control of the second Test. Jurel's hundred powered the visitors to 503/9d, before Prasidh Krishna and Manav Suthar struck late to remove Lahiru Udara and nightwatchman Prabath Jayasuriya. They are reeling at 8/2 and trail by 495 runs.

BCCI Invites Applications For Five Positions On Junior Men's Selection Committee

New Delhi: The Board of Control for Cricket in India (BCCI) said on Monday that it is inviting applications for five positions on its junior men's selection committee, with an aim to reconstitute the panel responsible for shaping the age-group pathway and building bench strength. According to a statement issued by the board, the application window will

remain open until 5pm on September 5, 2026. The incoming panel will replace the current committee headed by former Tamil Nadu cricketer S Sharath, and also includes Ranadeb Bose (East Zone), Harvinder Singh Sodhi (North Zone), Pathik Patel (West Zone), and Krishen Mohan (Central Zone). The current committee came on board in September 2021, and in 2023,

former Karnataka wicketkeeper Thilak Naidu became the chief selector as Sharath moved to the senior men's selection panel. In 2025, Sharath moved back to being the chief junior selector and replaced Naidu. During the current panel's tenure of five years, India won 2022 and 2026 Men's U19 World Cups under the leadership of Yash Dhull and Ayush Mhatre respectively.

Basketball: IOA Congratulates Australia For Winning The Title In U18 Asia Cup 2026

Ahmedabad: The Indian Olympic Association (IOA) congratulated Australia for successfully defending their FIBA U18 Asia Cup title after defeating China 89-79 in a thrilling final of the 2026 competition at the Veer Savarkar Indoor Stadium in Ahmedabad. Australia unloaded a 7-0 run for the 69-62 lead late in the third quarter, and then pulled away in the fourth en route to completing the 'back-to-back,' in the process winning their third championship overall. Jai Fa'ale led Australia with 19 points, sparked by a 4-of-10 clip from deep, as he sparked the aforementioned rally to

put them ahead for good. Bailey Hanson supplied 17 points, 6 rebounds, 5 assists, and 4 steals. The IOA extended its warmest congratulations to Team Australia for their victory on Sunday night. The IOA also commends the city of Ahmedabad for its successful hosting of the championship at the Veer Savarkar Indoor Stadium from 13-23 August, marking yet another milestone in India's emergence as a premier destination for global sporting events. The championship brought together leading young basketball players from 16 nations across Asia, showcasing the depth of emerging talent across



the region. Its successful staging in Ahmedabad reflected the collaborative efforts of the organising partners to

deliver a competition of a high international standard. The tournament also served as an important

qualification pathway, with the four semifinalists - Australia, China, New Zealand and Korea - securing their places at

the FIBA U19 Basketball World Cup 2027 in Czechia. IOA President Dr. P.T. Usha said: "I extend my

warmest congratulations to Australia on their outstanding victory, and to the four nations that have secured their places at next year's FIBA U19 Basketball World Cup in Czechia. "Bringing 16 of Asia's leading young teams together in Ahmedabad reflects our commitment to creating opportunities for the next generation through sport. Successfully delivering major international competitions such as the FIBA U18 Asia Cup continues to demonstrate India's growing capabilities as a host, supported by world-class facilities, strong organisation and the warmth and hospitality of our people," she said. The

tournament not only delivered spectacular action on the court but also engaged thousands of young Indian fans, reflecting the country's rapidly growing passion for sport. The IOA thanked the Basketball Federation of India, the Local Organising Committee, the Government of Gujarat and the volunteers who contributed to the successful delivery of the tournament. India looks forward to continuing its collaboration with International Federations to host major international sporting events and create more opportunities for young people across the country to engage with sport.

Women to Become Self-Reliant Through Fish Farming

Aditya Aluminium Extends Support, Brings Smiles to SHG Women

Sambalpur: (Correspondent):- Fish farming is a highly profitable livelihood that can generate good income with low investment. With an aim to make Self-Help Group (SHG) women self-reliant through this, Aditya Aluminium, Lapanga has taken a special initiative. As per information, several rounds of meetings were held with SHGs from five panchayats under the project area. After the meetings, 14 SHGs actively involved in fish farming were selected. A joint field visit was then conducted with the Block Fisheries Department and the BFO. During the visit, it was found that the women had taken



panchayat ponds on lease and are eligible for government subsidies, but due to lack of technical training, they were unable to release fingerlings in the right quantity, provide proper feed, and carry out water treatment, resulting in lower profits. To address these issues, a special training

camp on fish farming was organized at RR Colony, Ludhapali with 50 leading women farmers, in consultation with the Block Fisheries Department. The training covered modern methods of fish farming and identified their key challenges. Aditya Aluminium, in collaboration with the

BFO, has now prepared a special support plan to make them eligible for subsidies. Under this plan, the company will provide lime for pond water treatment, quality fish fingerlings, fish feed, fishing nets, trays, and continuous monitoring support. This will help the women get

government subsidies and earn higher profits. In addition, an official meeting was held under the supervision of the Block Fisheries Officer to discuss implementation of more government schemes at the village level, such as the NFDP Scheme, Cooperative Society formation, Biofloc, Ice Factory, and Drying Machine. It has been decided that in the coming week, lime will be distributed in the first phase, followed by fingerlings, nets, trays and other materials in the second phase. After receiving this support, the SHG women are hopeful of earning more profit, and a wave of happiness is being seen among them.

Regulation of Train Services for Modernisation Works at Puri Railway Station

Bhubaneswar, (Correspondent):- In view of the upgradation work of Platforms No. 5 and 6 at Puri Railway Station, East Coast Railway has planned temporary changes in the services of several trains from 25 August 2026 to 20 October 2026. These changes have been planned to facilitate the smooth and safe execution of the infrastructure work.

Cancellation of Trains Train No. 68409 Khurda Road-Puri MEMU will remain cancelled from 25 August to 20 October 2026. Its pairing train, Train No. 68410 Puri-Khurda Road MEMU, will also remain cancelled during the same period. Short-

Termination of Trains The following trains will originate from stations other than Puri during the specified period: • Train No. 18125 Rourkela-Puri Express — at Khurda Road at 20:30 hrs, from 25 August to 20 October 2026. • Train No. 68441 Jaleswar-Puri MEMU — at Khurda Road at 11:05 hrs, from 25 August to 20 October 2026. • Train No. 68413 Talcher-Puri MEMU — at Khurda Road at 10:05 hrs, from 25 August to 20 October 2026. • Train No. 18039 Shalimar-Puri Express — at Khurda Road at 04:55 hrs on August 30; September 6, 13, 20 and 27; and October 4, 11, 18 and

25, 2026. • Train No. 18017 Bhanpur-Puri Express — at Khurda Road at 04:40 hrs on August 27 and 29; September 3, 5, 10, 12, 17, 19, 24 and 26; and October 1, 3, 8, 10, 15 and 17, 2026. • Train No. 18303 Sambalpur-Puri Express — at Sakhigopal at 13:15 hrs, from 25 August to 20 October 2026. • Train No. 17480 Tirupati-Puri Express — at Malatipatpur at 14:40 hrs on August 25, 26, 28, 29 and 31; and September 1, 2, 4, 5, 7, 8, 9, 11, 12, 14, 15, 16, 18, 19, 21, 22, 23, 25, 26, 28, 29 and 30; October 1, 3, 5, 6, 7, 9, 10, 11, 12, 13, 14, 16, 17, 19 and 20, 2026.

Tata Power Renewables Marks a Major Milestone with Commissioning of 190.5 MW FDRE Project in Rajasthan

BHUBANESWAR, (correspondent): Tata Power Renewable Energy Limited (TPREL), one of India's leading renewable energy companies and a subsidiary of The Tata Power Company Limited (Tata Power), has commissioned its 190.5 MW Solar FDRE project at Kalasar, Bikaner, Rajasthan which is under the contractual capacity of 460 MW Firm and Dispatchable Renewable Energy (FDRE) Project. The 190.5 MW project has been developed under SJVN FDRE Tranche-1. The project will supply energy to HPPC, MSEDCL and NPCL discoms. The project marks another significant milestone in India's clean energy journey by integrating large-scale solar generation with advanced energy storage and grid



support technologies to deliver reliable, dispatchable renewable power. The project demonstrates TPREL's engineering excellence and execution capabilities, having overcome several complex challenges including compressed project timelines, global supply chain disruptions impacting the availability of transmission line materials, module mounting structures and other critical equipment. It has successfully adopted several new technologies such as BESS, Harmonic Filter Bank and Static Var Generator

systems. Among the project's notable execution milestones was the completion of the switchyard within just three months and the Harmonic Filter Bank within one month, reflecting TPREL's focus on speed, quality and execution excellence. With this project, TPREL's total renewable utility capacity has reached 12.4 GW. Of this, around 6.9 GW is operational, including 5.6 GW of solar and 1.3 GW of wind capacity, while close to 5.5 GW is under various stages of implementation, are expected to be commissioned in phases over the next 24 months.

TPWODL Accelerates Green Energy Transition with Rooftop Solar Across 114 Offices

Sambalpur/Burla, (Correspondent): In a significant move to strengthen its renewable energy footprint, TP Western Odisha Distribution Limited (TPWODL), a joint venture between Tata Power and the Government of Odisha, has accelerated its green energy transition by installing rooftop solar PV plants across 114 office buildings in Western Odisha.

As of August 17, 2026, the rooftop solar installations have collectively generated 8,92,537 units (kWh) of clean electricity, contributing to significant energy savings. The initiative has also helped avoid an estimated 732 metric tonnes of carbon dioxide (CO₂) emissions, reinforcing the environmental benefits of decentralised solar energy. The initiative enables TPWODL to meet a part of its operational energy requirements



through renewable energy, while reducing dependence on conventional power sources. The initiative reflects TPWODL's commitment to integrating sustainability into its own operations and leading by example in Odisha's clean energy transition. By adopting renewable energy across its office infrastructure, the company is demonstrating the potential of rooftop solar as a sustainable and cost-effective energy solution.

Commenting on the

initiative, Parveen Verma, CEO, TPWODL, said, "The solarisation of our office infrastructure reflects T P W O D L ' s commitment to leading by example in Odisha's clean energy transition. By integrating renewable energy into our own operations, we are reducing our carbon footprint while demonstrating the potential of rooftop solar as a sustainable and cost-effective energy solution. We will continue to expand renewable energy adoption while enabling

consumers across Western Odisha to participate in India's growing clean energy movement."

Building on this progress, TPWODL plans to further strengthen its renewable energy footprint by installing an additional 100 kW of rooftop solar capacity across its office infrastructure during the coming financial year. The expansion will leverage applicable incentives and support available under schemes of the Ministry of New and Renewable Energy

(MNRE).

Beyond its own operations, TPWODL is also facilitating rooftop solar adoption among domestic consumers in Western Odisha. Under the PM Surya Ghar: Muft Bijli Yojana, eligible domestic consumers can avail government financial assistance for installing rooftop solar systems, helping reduce the upfront cost and enabling long-term savings on electricity bills.

To further make rooftop solar accessible to households, TPWODL has introduced its 1 kW ULA Model, under which eligible households can install a rooftop solar system by paying only ₹1,875. TPWODL facilitates the complete installation process and provides a five-year warranty on equipment along with a 25-year performance warranty on solar panels, offering consumers long-term reliability and hassle-free operation.

AIIMS Bhubaneswar Department of Burns and Plastic Surgery Celebrates a Decade of Excellence

Bhubaneswar, (Correspondent): The Department of Burns and Plastic Surgery, AIIMS Bhubaneswar, celebrated its 10th Anniversary with a prestigious National CME programme and Live Surgical Workshop on "Secondary Procedures in Brachial Plexus Injury." Held on 21 and 22 August 2026, the two-day academic programme marked a significant milestone in the Department's decade-long journey of clinical service, surgical innovation, training and academic excellence. The 36-bedded modern Burn Centre at AIIMS



Bhubaneswar, dedicated exclusively to comprehensive burn management, is among the advanced burn care units in Eastern India. The Centre provides comprehensive acute burn care, reconstructive surgery and rehabilitation services for burn

survivors. Over the past decade, the Burn Centre has successfully treated more than 1,500 burn patients, including critical and high-profile cases from Odisha and neighbouring states. The Centre has also provided skin allograft

support for burn victims referred from other health care institutions. The Department's decade-long journey is further reflected in more than 7,000 reconstructive and corrective surgeries, including over 500 microsurgical brachial plexus injury reconstructions,

300 congenital anomaly corrections, 200 Smile Train cleft lip and palate surgeries, more than 250 RBSK cases and around 3,000 trauma cases. Looking ahead, the Department plans to establish specialised subspecialty clinics, strengthen simulation-based surgical training, expand hyperbaric oxygen therapy, initiate hand transplantation, and establish a Skin Bank and Tissue Transplantation Unit. A major future objective is to further develop the Burn Centre into a Centre of Excellence in Burn Care, with continued emphasis on advanced treatment, research, innovation, rehabilitation and surgical training. Congratulating the Department and all

stakeholders on the successful completion of a decade, AIIMS Bhubaneswar Executive Director Dr. Ashutosh Biswas appreciated the significant contributions of the Burn Centre and expressed confidence that the Department would achieve many more milestones in the years ahead. The two-day workshop brought together more than 100 delegates from across India. The anniversary celebrations were graced by Dr. Sambit Patra, Hon'ble Member of Parliament, Puri Lok Sabha Constituency, and Padmashree Prof. (Dr.) Ashok Kumar Mahapatra, Former Director, AIIMS Bhubaneswar, as Chief Guests.

Sensex, Nifty End Lower As Iran-Hormuz Tensions Weigh On Investor Sentiment

Mumbai: The benchmark indices ended lower on Monday as rising geopolitical tensions weighed on investor sentiment after Iran threatened to seize vessels and alter transit rules for the Strait of Hormuz ahead of the US announcement of sanctions against Tehran. The Sensex declined 171.72 points, or 0.22 per cent, to settle at 77,369.11, while the Nifty fell 32.95 points, or 0.14 per cent, to close at 24,219.05. Commenting on Nifty technical outlook, experts said the 24300 region remains the crucial resistance band. "A decisive and sustained breakout above 24,300 would be important to improve the technical setup and could pave the way towards 24,400-24,500," an analyst stated. "On the downside, 24,145, which closely corresponds with the session low, remains the immediate support," the analyst stated. Selling pressure was visible among several heavyweight stocks, with SBI Life Insurance Company and Special Economic Zone, and Bajaj Finance emerging as the top losers on the Nifty. The cautious mood reflected concerns over the potential impact of heightened tensions in the strategically important Strait of Hormuz, a key route for global energy shipments. The broader market performance remained mixed. The Nifty MidCap index edged up 0.13 per cent, while the Nifty SmallCap index declined 0.26 per cent.