



BJP Unveils Month-Long 'Seva Sankalp Abhiyan' To Celebrate PM Modi's 25 Years Of Public Service

2



Demand for construction of new station

8



Four KISS Students Selected for India U-18 Rugby Teams for Asia Rugby Emirates U-18 Sevens 2026

7



5 simple daily habits that helped him stay lean, strong and healthy for 20 years

6

## Nepal Flash Floods: Death Toll Mounts To 1,114 As Search Operations Continue

Kathmandu: The death toll from the devastating floods in Rasuwa and surrounding districts has crossed the 1,100 mark, according to the latest search, rescue and relief update released by Nepali authorities on Wednesday morning. As many as 1,114 bodies swept away by last week's deadly floods had been recovered by 9 a.m. Wednesday, Nepal's National Disaster Risk Reduction and Management Authority (NDRRMA) said. The highest number of bodies had been recovered in southern Chitwan district, with 348, followed by Nawalparasi East with 217, Nawalparasi West with 190, Nuwakot with 155, Gorkha with 66, Dhading with 59, Rasuwa with 41 and Tanahun with 38. The figures include body



parts recovered from different locations. Authorities said 95 bodies have so far been identified and handed over to their relatives. According to the NDRRMA, 3,916 people remain out of contact, including government employees, security personnel, elected representatives, foreign nationals, Nepalis accompanying foreign tourists, local residents and workers employed at hydropower projects. However, there is a discrepancy

between the figures released by the NDRRMA and Nepal Police. According to data provided by Nepal Police based on information collected until 8 a.m. Wednesday, 4,858 people, including 583 foreign nationals, remain out of contact. Meanwhile, the whereabouts of many people reported missing from 11 flood-affected hydropower projects remain unknown, as rescue efforts have so far produced limited results.

## Odisha Govt Sanctioned Rs 54,000 Cr Water Infra Work In Last Two Years: CM Majhi

Bhubaneswar (correspondent): Odisha's economy is predominantly agricultural, so our government is giving top priority to water security and irrigation development, said Chief Minister Mohan Charan Majhi. Addressing a departmental summit organized by the Union Ministry of Jal Shakti in New Delhi, the Chief Minister said Rs 54,000 crore worth of water infrastructure work has been sanctioned in the state in the last two years and 3,20,000 hectares of agricultural land has been provided with irrigation facilities in a very short period of time. Prime Minister Narendra Modi, Union Minister of Jal Shakti C R Patil, Chhattisgarh Chief Minister Vishnu Deo Sai, along with Water Resources Ministers and senior



officials of various states were present at the summit. Presenting the state's achievements in water conservation, groundwater management and infrastructure development, CM Majhi said 770 new check dams and 9 in-stream storage structures (ISS) have been completed while 1,312 old check dams have been rehabilitated.

In addition, one dam, one barrage, 2 underground pipeline distribution networks, 6 mega lifts and 32 minor irrigation projects have been completed. Work on 14 more ISS projects and 6 medium irrigation projects will be started in the coming year. Currently, work on 5 new major and medium, 58 mega lifts and 5 new minor irrigation projects is progressing at a fast

pace. To support rural and agricultural sectors, 3,224 community lift irrigation, 20,228 deep borewells and 8,917 solar deep borewells have been constructed. To maintain groundwater sustainability, 20,000 rooftop rainwater harvesting structures have been completed under 'Chhata' Yojana and 1,200 recharge wells under 'Arua' Yojana. More than

40,000 'Pani Panchayats' are being empowered, he said. The Chief Minister noted that Odisha has already been declared the 'Best State' in the 5th National Water Awards for these initiatives. He specially mentioned the successful completion of the much-awaited Kanupur Project. The project, which was stalled since 2003-04, has been resolved by shifting the shrine of local Goddess Maa Shalabani Devi, coordination with NHA and construction of plastic cut-off walls with technical assistance from CWC and IIT Roorkee. The dam work will be completed by August 31, and the canal network will be completed by next year, providing irrigation to 25,000 hectares, he added.

## Odisha DGP Selection: Supreme Court Defers Hearing To Sept 7, Amicus Curiae Submits Report

Bhubaneswar (correspondent): The suspense over selection of Odisha's next Director General of Police (DGP) continues, with the Supreme Court on Wednesday deferring the hearing in the matter to September 7. Meanwhile, the Amicus Curiae appointed to assist the Supreme Court has submitted his report in the case. The Public Interest Litigation (PIL) challenging the process for selection of Odisha DGP is being heard by a Bench comprising Chief Justice Surya Kant, Justice Joymalya Bagchi and Justice V Mohan. A key issue before the court is whether the Odisha government complied



with the Supreme Court's earlier directions while preparing the list of eligible officers for appointment to the state's top police post. The petitioner has alleged that an attempt was made to include comparatively junior officers in the pool of eligible candidates for the DGP post, in violation of principles laid down by the

Supreme Court in the landmark Prakash Singh case of 2006. The Odisha government has opposed the allegations. During an earlier hearing, Solicitor General Tushar Mehta, appearing for the state government, informed the court that Odisha had already filed its response. The state has maintained that promotion of senior IPS officers is part of normal

administrative process and it is entitled to send a fresh proposal to the Union Public Service Commission (UPSC) comprising officers who fulfil the prescribed eligibility criteria. Under the DGP selection process, the UPSC empanels three officers from among the eligible candidates. In accordance with the Supreme Court's directions in Prakash Singh case, factors including length of service, service record and range of experience required to lead the police force are taken into consideration. With the Amicus Curiae's report now before the Supreme Court, attention will be focused on the next hearing on September 7.

## Retd Air Marshal Jeetendra Mishra Of Operation Sindoor Fame To Be First CEO Of Ram Temple

Ayodhya: Retired Air Marshal Jeetendra Mishra is set to become the first Chief Executive Officer (CEO) of Ayodhya's Ram Temple, people familiar with the Trust's decision said on Wednesday. The former officer held several commanding positions in the Indian Air Force and was the chief of its Western Command during Operation Sindoor. The decision to finalise Air Marshal (Retd)'s name for the top post was taken during the deliberations at the high-profile meeting comprising Trust president Mahant Nitya Gopal Das, newly appointed treasurer Swami Govind Dev Giri and others. The



appointment of Ram Temple's first CEO brings the curtain down on screening of month-long process to screen more than 5,000 applications for the top post. Retired Air Marshal Jeetendra Mishra will take charge of the post, as the temple has been marred by controversy over alleged siphoning off of

donations. The process for appointing the CEO began on July 6. A total of 5,585 applications were screened by the selection committee. A total of 111 candidates were selected for online interviews, while 16 candidates were called to Ayodhya for face-to-face interviews. Earlier in the day, the Shri Ram

Janmabhoomi Teerth Kshetra Trust appointed three new members to the Trust on Wednesday, one of whom is a relative of former Vishwa Hindu Parishad (VHP) leader Ashok Singhal. Delhi-based Mahesh Bhagchandka, Ayodhya-based Madan Mohan Pandey and Shikohabad-based Nirmala Yadav were appointed as new members of the Trust. The appointment of the temple CEO comes in the wake of raging controversy over embezzlement of temple donations that led to the arrest of eight people and the resignation of Champat Rai as General Secretary.

## India Sends 11-Member Rescue Team, 5.5 Tonnes Of Humanitarian Aid To Nepal

New Delhi: The fifth aircraft carrying an 11-member rescue team with specialised equipment and 5.5 tonnes of essential medicines has departed for Nepal, External Affairs Minister (EAM) S. Jaishankar announced on Wednesday. The aid supports the ongoing response to catastrophic flash floods that struck Nepal following a glacial collapse in Tibet on August 26. Taking to

X, EAM Jaishankar said, "The fifth Indian aircraft has departed for Nepal. It is carrying a 11-member rescue team with specialised equipment, and 5.5 tonnes of essential medicines." India has rushed over 68 tonnes of emergency relief materials and specialised rescue teams to support Nepal following devastating flash floods. Deliveries include blankets, sleeping bags, heavy-duty

tarpaulins, plastic sheeting, and hygiene kits. The supplies also include essential medicines, food packets, solar lamps, water purification tablets, and portable generators. Earlier on Tuesday, the Nepal authorities announced that over 1000 people have now been confirmed dead following last week's devastating floods in Nepal, even as bodies swept away continue to pile up along riverbanks in different districts. The



number of bodies recovered so far has reached 1003, the National Disaster Risk Reduction and Management Authority (NDRRMA) said in its latest update. The highest number of bodies — 321 — were recovered in southern Chitwan district, followed by 216 in Nawalparasi East. According to Nepal Police, as many as 4,606 people remain unaccounted for, including 583 foreigners, suggesting

that the death toll could rise further. Nepali authorities said efforts are underway to locate people who remain unaccounted for at various hydropower projects along the Bhotekoshi and Trishuli river corridors in Rasuwa and Nuwakot districts. At the request of the Nepali government, India and China have sent technical teams to assist in search and rescue operations inside hydropower tunnels.

16 Killed, 28 Injured As Bus Overtakes In South Sinai

Cairo: As many as 16 people were killed and 28 others injured after a bus overturned on the Dahab-Nuweiba road in Egypt's South Sinai on Wednesday, local media reported, citing Egypt's Ministry of Health and Population. The accident happened before the Al-Saada area when the bus was heading towards Nuweiba, 'Egypt Today' reported citing details released by the ministry. A total of 20 ambulances were rushed to the site of the incident to evacuate the injured and give them the first aid. Egypt's Health Minister Khaled Abdel Ghaffar ordered the officials to ensure that the injured people receive the highest level of medical treatment. Meanwhile, Egypt's Solidarity Minister Maya Morsy ordered officials to provide emergency relief assistance and take the steps necessary for supporting the people impacted by the accident. In August, 18 people were killed and 30 others injured after two vehicles carrying workers collided in Egypt's Ismailia Governorate, Egypt-based Ahram Online reported. The crash occurred on the Al-Dawawis link road near the Al-Shabab electricity station in Egypt. The injured people were taken to Qassasin Central Hospital for treatment. Following the accident, security forces and ambulance crews rushed to the site of the incident, and authorities launched a probe into the circumstances that led to the crash.

‘Chhattisgarh Emerges Frontrunner’, CM Showcases Water Conservation Success At Delhi Summit

New Delhi, 2/9: Chhattisgarh has emerged as a national frontrunner in water conservation, Chief Minister Vishnu Deo Sai said while presenting the state's achievements at the Ministry of Jal Shakti's departmental summit held in New Delhi on September 1-2, 2026. The state secured the top position in the third phase of the 'Jal Sanchay Jan Bhagidari' (JSJB) and 'Catch the Rain' campaigns, underscoring its leadership in rainwater harvesting and groundwater recharge, he said. Highlighting the

state's model, CM Sai said that Chhattisgarh, which accounts for nearly 4% of India's geographical area, has transformed water conservation into a mass movement by involving farmers, panchayats, and local communities alongside government initiatives. "Instead of limiting water conservation to government programmes alone, the state has empowered local communities," he said while showcasing the participatory approach that has driven success. Under JSJB 1.0 and 2.0,



Chhattisgarh consistently ranked second nationwide, completing millions of conservation structures. In the latest JSJB 3.0 phase, the state rose to the top, recording extensive

rainwater harvesting and recharge structures. Districts such as Surajpur, Mahasamund, Balod, Baloda Bazar, Bhatapara, and Kabirdham secured places among the top 10 districts in the country,

reflecting the widespread adoption of water-saving practices, he said. The impact of these efforts is visible in the decline of groundwater-stressed blocks in Chhattisgarh, which fell from 26 to a

significantly lower number, indicating improved water availability. Retaining rainwater in fields and villages has boosted irrigation potential, supported crop production, and reduced the burden on women who traditionally spend long hours collecting water. Prime Minister Narendra Modi's message of "Catch the Rain — Where It Falls, Let It Be Stored" has been implemented in Chhattisgarh with region-specific strategies, the chief minister said. The state's experience demonstrates that convergence among

schemes, geo-tagging of structures, and regular monitoring can make water conservation sustainable and scalable. The summit also noted India's target of creating 2 crore new water structures by May 2027, with Chhattisgarh's participatory model serving as a blueprint for other states. Senior officials, including Principal Secretary Subodh Kumar Singh and Water Resources Secretary Rajesh Sukumar Toppo, accompanied the Chief Minister at the event, reinforcing the state's commitment to long-term water security.

BJP Unveils Month-Long ‘Seva Sankalp Abhiyan’ To Celebrate PM Modi’s 25 Years Of Public Service

New Delhi: The Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) is set to launch a month-long nationwide campaign, 'Seva Sankalp Abhiyan', to mark 25 years of public service by Prime Minister Narendra Modi. The special campaign will begin on September 17, the Prime Minister's birthday, and continue until October 7, the day that completes 25 years of his journey in public life. Through this campaign, the party aims to take the key achievements of these 25 years directly to the people and highlight the transformative work undertaken under PM Modi's leadership. The BJP will organise a series of programmes across the country to



showcase the journey from grassroots service to national governance. The campaign will begin on September 17 with a major event titled "Public Representatives, Public Servants Mahakumbh: From Panchayat to Parliament". Prime Minister Modi will address the gathering on this occasion. The programme is designed to bring together public representatives and

public servants from the panchayat level to Parliament, underlining the continuum of service and accountability. A wide range of activities has been planned under the Seva Sankalp Abhiyan. These include the 'Ashirwad Ka diya (Lamp of Blessings)', 'India of 25 Crore Children's Dreams', 'Namo Seva Gatha', 'Angan Ka Utsav (Festival of the Courtyard)', 'Kahani Badlav Ki (Story of Change)', 'Viksit

Bharat Sankalp Yatra (Developed India Sankalp Yatra)', and the 'Seva Jyoti Yatra'. Special thematic programmes such as 'Vadnagar se Varanasi', which traces PM Modi's journey from his hometown to the cultural capital, and 'Sewa Mera Yogdan (Service My Contribution)' will also form part of the outreach. Other key initiatives include the 'Seva Setu Abhiyan-Sarkar Aapke Dwar (Government at Your Doorstep)', aimed at taking governance closer to citizens, along with 'Rangoli Rashtra (Nation)', a 'National Innovation Challenge', and the 'Jansewak (Public Servant) Mahakumbh - from Panchayat to Parliament'. These events are expected to

engage citizens, youth, women, and local representatives in large numbers. BJP leaders said the campaign will not only celebrate the milestones of the past 25 years but also renew the commitment to public service and the vision of a Developed India. Preparations are in full swing to ensure the message of Seva Sankalp reaches every section of society through creative and participatory programmes. The month-long "Abhiyan" is being positioned as both a retrospective of achievements and a forward-looking pledge of continued service. PM Modi charts roadmap for water-secure India, calls for continuous review and people's movement.

Stark Reminder Of Continuing Vulnerability Of Minority Communities In Pakistan

New Delhi: India on Wednesday severely condemned the reported demolition of a century-old Hindu temple in Pakistan and called upon the country's government to conduct a "prompt and transparent investigation" into yet another shocking incident involving the destruction of a place of worship for minority communities in the neighbouring nation. Responding to media queries, Ministry of External Affairs (MEA) spokesperson Randhir Jaiswal said that New Delhi has noted with deep concern the disturbing reports of the destruction of a historic Hindu temple in village Siraj, Narowal, Pakistan. "We unequivocally condemn this reprehensible act of vandalism against a century old minority place of worship. The apparent apathy of authorities and failure to protect this century-old temple is alarming. Such incidents are a stark reminder of the continuing vulnerability of minority communities and the egregious violations of their religious freedoms and places of worship in Pakistan," said Jaiswal. "We call upon the Government of Pakistan to conduct a prompt and transparent investigation into this incident and ensure that those responsible are held fully accountable. Furthermore, the Government of Pakistan must take immediate remedial measures to restore the desecrated temple and fulfill its primary obligation to guarantee the safety, security and well-being of all its minority citizens and their cultural heritage," he added.

US Congress Mourns Nepal-Tibet Flood Victims

Washington: US Congresswoman Grace Meng led a moment of silence in the House of Representatives on Wednesday for the victims of the devastating floods in Nepal and Tibet, saying nearly 1,000 people had died and more than 4,000 remained missing. Meng, a Democrat who represents a congressional district in Queens, New York, also expressed solidarity with Asian-American communities affected by the catastrophe. "The scale of destruction is heartbreaking," Meng said in remarks entered

in the Congressional Record. "This horrific tragedy has taken the lives of nearly 1,000 people, destroyed homes and livelihoods, and left families grieving the loss of their loved ones," she said. The congressional tribute came as search-and-rescue operations continued across the Himalayan region. Meng said an estimated 90 Americans were among those reported missing. "As search and rescue operations continue across the region, we pray for safe recovery of the more than 4,000 people still missing in the wake of this disaster, including an

estimated 90 Americans," she said. The tragedy has also deeply affected Nepalese, Tibetan and other Asian communities living across the United States, particularly in New York, which is home to a large and diverse Asian-American population. "We are committed to supporting our Asian-American communities across the United States, and especially those who live in my district in Queens, New York, as we navigate this profound tragedy," Meng said. "We stand with all those affected, both at home and abroad," she added.

Piyush Goyal To Visit US For G20 Trade Ministers’ Meet, India-US Trade Talks: Sergio Gor

New Delhi: Commerce and Industry Minister Piyush Goyal will travel to the United States later this month to attend the G20 Trade Ministers' Meeting and hold discussions on the ongoing India-US bilateral trade deal negotiations, US Ambassador to India Sergio Gor said on Wednesday. Speaking at the 66th Annual Session of the Automotive Component Manufacturers Association of India (ACMA), Gor said India and the United States are working



closely to strengthen their trade relationship and have made significant progress in negotiations. The US envoy said Goyal would visit the US in the coming weeks as Washington hosts the

G20 talks, adding that both governments are working towards a trade relationship that is fair, reciprocal and mutually beneficial. The visit comes as India and the US seek to advance discussions on a bilateral

trade agreement. NDTV Profit had earlier reported that Goyal was expected to travel to the US towards the end of September as both sides work towards finalising the deal. "It's great to be with my good friend, the Commerce Minister. The United States and India are working very closely together; a lot is happening," Gor said, adding that Washington looks forward to hosting Goyal for the G20 meetings. Gor also referred to the progress made by the two countries, including a trade understanding

reached by their governments. He said the cooperation between India and the US extends beyond trade in goods and covers a wide range of areas. "Our two governments are working closely together to build a trade relationship that is fair, reciprocal and mutually beneficial," Gor said. Highlighting broader cooperation, the ambassador said the two countries are partnering across several areas and pointed to the Pact Silica declaration signed earlier this year.

Nepal PM Calls For Global Response To Rising Himalayan Climate Risks

Kathmandu: Nepal Prime Minister Balendra Shah on Wednesday called for stronger international attention to growing climate-related risks in the Himalayan region as the death toll from devastating floods in the Bhotekoshi River crossed 1,100. Addressing the House of

Representatives, Shah said Nepal must highlight more forcefully the disasters it is facing due to climate change. At least 1,114 bodies swept away by last week's floods had been recovered by 9 am Wednesday, according to the National Disaster Risk Reduction and

Management Authority (NDRMA). Around 3,916 people remain out of contact. Experts said an avalanche blocked the Lengde Khola, a tributary of the Bhotekoshi River near the Nepal-China border. The accumulated water later breached the natural barrier, triggering a

massive flood that swept downstream towards the Trishuli River and devastated settlements and infrastructure. Shah said the disaster had raised questions about how such an event occurred and what it meant for Nepal's future. "The huge disaster, whose impacts of climate change we

have suddenly experienced, has kept us working around the clock to manage the damage. At the same time, another profound question has arisen in our minds: How did this disaster come upon us?" he said. Referring to expert assessments, Shah said the incident was a serious warning

that climate change was increasing risks in the Himalayan region. "We must make the international community aware of the disasters we are experiencing as a result of climate change. Climate change is a global challenge. Its impacts and efforts to mitigate and manage them are the shared

responsibility of the global community," he said. Shah also defended the government's response to questions over whether timely warnings were issued to the public. "As soon as we received information that the flood was approaching, our security personnel

were deployed to alert residents. However, they themselves went missing during the operation," he said. Some media reports had suggested that the Nepali government was reluctant to accept international assistance for the rescue and relief of flood victims.

# Modern Mechanical Road Sweeping Service to Begin in Rayagada

**RAYAGADA(correspondent):** Rayagada town is set to get a major cleanliness upgrade with the launch of an advanced mechanical road sweeping system aimed at making the town cleaner, greener and less polluted. As per Housing and Urban Development Letter No. 8625 dated April 22, 2026, Green Innovative Power Pvt. Ltd. has been engaged for mechanical sweeping services in Sambalpur Municipal Corporation, Jeypore Municipality and Rayagada Municipality. An



agreement has been signed with the agency for providing the service for a period of five years. The mechanical sweeping vehicle was formally inaugurated during the Autonomous Governance Day

celebrations by Rayagada MLA Appala Swamy Kadraka, in the presence of the Municipal Chairperson, Executive Officer, councillors and municipal employees. The service

became operational in Rayagada from September 1, 2026. Under the new system, all major roads under the municipal jurisdiction, particularly busy arterial roads and highways, will be cleaned regularly using modern sweeping machines. The machines will mechanically collect dust, sand and road debris in a significantly shorter time than conventional manual sweeping. The civic body expects the system to help reduce the amount of dust becoming airborne

from roads, thereby contributing to improved air quality and a healthier urban environment. Green Innovative Power Pvt. Ltd., stated to be qualified under government norms, has deployed high-standard machinery for the operation. The Rayagada Municipality said it remains committed to developing Rayagada as a clean and green city and appealed to residents to extend their cooperation to make the new mechanical sweeping initiative successful.

# Patient from Jharkhand Recovers After Emergency Surgery and Prolonged Critical Care at Ispat General Hospital

**Rourkela,( correspondent):** A 52-year-old man from Gua Mines, West Singhbhum, Jharkhand, has recovered following emergency abdominal surgery and prolonged critical care at Ispat General Hospital (IGH) of SAIL, Rourkela Steel Plant. Mr. Pachay Kerai, a resident of Gua Mines, was admitted to IGH with an acute abdominal emergency due to peptic perforation, which had resulted in severe infection within the abdomen. In view

of his critical condition, he underwent emergency exploratory abdominal surgery under the supervision of Dr. J. R. Sahoo, Chief Consultant, and Dr. Manoj Kumar Pradhan, Addl. CMO, with support from Dr. Manoj Panigrahi, H O D , Surgery. Following the surgery, the patient developed another critical respiratory failure (ARDS) secondary to the abdominal infection and required mechanical ventilation for 12 days in the ICU. His

condition was managed through close monitoring, serial blood-gas assessments and appropriate medication to support blood pressure and circulation. Anaesthesia support was provided by Dr. Manoranjan Samantaray, Addl. CMO, and Dr. C. K. Kasi, Consultant, Anaesthesia. The patient received dedicated critical care under the supervision of Dr. Sanjukta Panigrahi, In-charge, ICU & Department of Anaesthesia, and Dr. Anita Lakra, with the support of the nursing team.

# Three Arrested for Assaulting Man with Iron Rod in Turekela

**Kantabani, correspondence :** Turekela police have arrested three persons in connection with an alleged assault in which a man sustained serious bleeding injuries after being attacked with an iron rod. According to police, the incident took place on the night of August 31. The complainant, Smt. Kaya Nayak, a resident of Turekela, alleged that Santap Sahu and Pratap Sahu, both sons of Narottam Sahu, and Kamdeb Putel, son of Dhanajan Putel, assaulted Meghnad Nayak with an iron rod. Meghnad reportedly sustained



bleeding injuries to his head, leg and other parts of his body. He was initially shifted to the Community Health Centre (CHC), Turekela, and was later referred to the District Headquarters Hospital (DHH), Balangir, for better treatment. He is

currently undergoing treatment. Police registered Turekela PS Case No. 160 dated September 1, 2026, under Sections 126(2), 115(2), 117(2), 109(1), 351(3) and 3(5) of the BNS. All three accused persons were arrested and forwarded to court on Wednesday.

# Saipriya Walkers Club Leads Yet Another Green Initiative for a Sustainable Future

**Rayagadacorrespondence:** Reaffirming its commitment to environmental protection, promotion of greenery and building a clean, healthy and sustainable society, the Saipriya Walkers Club organised another plantation and environmental conservation drive at Saipriya Nagar with great enthusiasm and community spirit. The programme was organised with environmental protection as its foremost priority. Under the visionary guidance of Club Founder-President Mr. Subash Behera, Advisory Board Members and Advisors Walker Dr. M. Suresh Kumar and Walker B.M. Rao Pattnaik, and under the able leadership of the present Club President Walker Jayakrishna Pradhan and General Secretary

Walker Jagannath Nayak, the initiative was successfully carried out with the active participation, dedication and voluntary efforts of the club members. As advised by the President and General Secretary, Walker L.K. Panda, Walker V.J.R. Pattnaik, Walker Gopinath Nayak, Walker Sanyasi Panigrahi, Walker T. Nageswara Rao, Walker K. Baikuntha Rao, Walker K. Nageswar Tul, Walker V. Sambamurthy, Walker Gouri Naidu and Walker S.N. Khadanga, along with Walker Sanjukta Rani Panda and Walker Sushila Nayak, who regularly extend active support to the club's various activities, assembled near the Saipriya Club badminton court at the scheduled time.

# Azad's Arrest Linked to Mining Push: Samyukt Kisan Morcha

**Baragadacorrespondence :** The Samyukt Kisan Morcha (SKM) has condemned the Odisha government's handling of protests by farmers and Adivasis over land and forest rights. It demands the immediate release of activist Lingaraj Azad, who has been detained since 25 March 2026. In a statement today, SKM claimed Azad's arrest is part of a wider pattern of repression against those opposing "corporate plunder" of Adivasi lands in mineral-rich districts.

Azad, linked to groups such as the Niyamgiri Suraksha Samiti and the Maa Mati Mali Suraksha Manch, has been a vocal critic of land acquisition and mining projects in Scheduled Areas. Odisha Police arrested Azad from Bhawanipatna in Kalahandi district in March, along with fellow activist Suresh Sangram, under the Bharatiya Nyaya Sanhita and reportedly other strict laws. Farmer organisations and rights groups- including the

Campaign Against State Repression- call the arrests "illegal and undemocratic," demanding Azad's unconditional release. SKM's statement connects the crackdown to large-scale diversion of forest land for mining and industry. Citing replies in the Odisha Assembly, it states that 2,21,180.22,180.826 hectares of forest land were diverted for corporate projects from 2015-16 to 2024-25, primarily benefiting companies such as TATA,

Vedanta, NALCO, Adani, and Rungta Sons. The morcha emphasised that laws such as the Fifth Schedule, PESA (1996), and the Forest Rights Act (2006) require Gram Sabha approval for land acquisition and mining in Scheduled Areas. Still, it accused authorities and corporations of bypassing or manipulating these protections. It pointed to ongoing conflicts in areas like Sijimali and Niyamgiri, where tribal

communities have protested mining plans and alleged forest rights violations. SKM has demanded Azad's immediate release, withdrawal of charges against farmer activists, a halt to forced land acquisition and mining without Gram Sabha consent, strict enforcement of PESA and the Forest Rights Act, and accountability for officials involved in illegal arrests and rights violations. The Odisha government and police have yet to detail the accusations publicly.

# Demand for construction of new station

**Laxmipur correspondence:** Koraput District's Bandhu gaon Block was known as the stronghold of the Maoists. Any government employee was afraid to come here. Even if someone was transferred to this block, the CE either left the job or canceled the transfer by giving various excuses. Every day people were living in fear because something or the other happened with the Maoists. As the violence of the Maoists increased, the state government spent lakhs of rupees on the BSF in various parts of the block. Camps were made. BSF jawans stayed in each camp and conducted search operations in the area.



As many times as they curbed the activities of the Maoists, the Maoists were gradually forced to leave the area. As a result, after the gun block was freed from the hands of the Maoists, all the camps were closed. However, the state government could not learn anything. This block is divided into thirteen panchayats. There are a total of 148 villages in the block. Sometimes the population is more than 60 thousand, there is only

one police station to control crime in Etebad area. However, there are only a handful of police officers. It has become a headache for the police to control crime in Etebad area. When something happens somewhere, the time of the police is wasted while going back there. Due to the lack of good roads in most places, it is difficult for the police to reach the crime scene on time. Even most of the villages are 20 to 30 km from the police station.

Because of the distance, some criminal incidents are hidden without the news reaching the police. Even the people fearing the criminals cannot come to the police station to report the death. If someone dies for any reason, it takes two to three days to investigate the case in the police station. Along with this, the border of neighboring Andhra Pradesh starts seventeen kilometers from Tungaon. As a result, there is no crackdown on illegal entry. Therefore, in view of these problems, there is an opinion expressed in all quarters that if one more police station is built in the border areas of the two states, the crime in the area can be curbed.

# Farewell Felicitation Ceremony Held for Baripada ABEO Tapaswini Dash

**Baripada, correspondence::** Baripada Block's Additional Block Education Officer (ABEO) Tapaswini Dash retired from government service after completing 39 years of dedicated service. Mrs. Dash began her teaching career at a primary school in Bangiriposi Block. She later served as a BRCC (Block Resource Centre Coordinator) in Baripada Block and subsequently as an ABEO. Through her sincere and efficient discharge of duties, she earned the love and respect of everyone. A farewell felicitation ceremony was organised in her honour at Arati Primary School, Baripada, under the joint auspices of the Baripada Block Primary Teachers' Association, the Office of the Block Education Officer and the CRCCs.

# Khandapada Police Conduct Awareness Programmes on Drug Prevention at Two Educational Institutions

**Nayagarhcorrespondence::** Khandapada Police organised awareness programmes on drug prevention at two educational institutions in Khandapada block as part of efforts to promote a drug-free and healthy society. An awareness programme was held at Bapuji Vidyapitha in Rayat Dholamara village. The programme was presided over by Headmaster Subash Chandra Naik. Khandapada Police Station IIC Krutibash Harichandan attended the programme and highlighted the important role of students in building a drug-free and



healthy society. Addressing the students, Harichandan advised them to stay away from drugs and focus on their studies so that they can become responsible citizens and guide society towards a better future.

Assistant Teacher Kailash Chandra Kanan and School Management Committee President Pranakrushna Behera extended their cooperation in conducting the

programme. Koska Outpost Officer Jayadev Rana coordinated the event. All students of the institution were present. Similarly, another drug-prevention awareness programme was organised by the police administration at PM SHRI Ramachandra High School in Khandapada. The programmes aimed to sensitise students about the harmful effects of substance abuse and encourage them to contribute towards creating a drug-free society.

# RMC Food Safety Team Cracks Down on Top Fast-Food Outlets; Nearly 20 Kg Unfit Food Destroyed, 20,000 Fine Imposed

**Rourkela:** In a major food safety crackdown, the Rourkela Municipal Corporation (RMC) Food Safety Team conducted inspections and raids at several prominent fast-food franchise outlets, including KFC, Biggies, Karims, Pizza Hut, Dosa Plaza, Giani, Domino's and Wow Momo. The inspection focused on checking food quality, hygiene standards and mandatory documents maintained by the establishments. During the drive, more than 22 kg of food items were inspected, while nearly 20 kg of food found unfit for consumption was destroyed on the spot. Authorities also



imposed a total fine of ₹20,000 on violators for lapses detected during the inspection. The RMC team directed the outlets to strictly comply with food safety regulations, maintain proper hygiene and ensure that only safe and quality

food is prepared and served to consumers. The crackdown sends a clear message to food businesses in Rourkela: brand name and franchise status will not put anyone above food safety rules.

**EAST COAST RAILWAY**  
**'E'-PROCUREMENT SYSTEMS**  
Tender Notice No.: Ref: SDMM/KUR/EP/  
2026-27/E-procurement Tender Notice/9,  
Dated : 27.08.2026  
(1) Tender No. : 81266300  
Sl. No. 1: Brief description of materials:  
DIFFERENT TYPES OF RELAYS AS PER  
DESCRIPTION, Quantity : 80 Nos.  
(2) Tender No. : 81266310  
Sl. No. 2: Brief description of materials:  
MICROPROCESSOR CONTROLLER FOR  
ROOF MOUNTED AC, Quantity : 50 Sets.  
Closing date and time : At 1500 hrs. on  
28.09.2026 (for both sl. nos.).  
The above tenders have been uploaded on  
website [www.irops.gov.in](http://www.irops.gov.in)  
Sr. Divisional Materials Manager/  
PR-408/R/26-27 Khurda Road

## EDITORIAL

### Beyond Medical Colleges: How IITs and IISc Are Transforming Medical Education in India

For generations, medical education in India has been closely associated with medical colleges, hospitals and the traditional MBBS pathway. Doctors were trained primarily in anatomy, physiology, pharmacology and clinical practice. While this model remains essential, the future of healthcare is becoming increasingly interdisciplinary. Medicine today is no longer shaped by doctors alone. Engineers, computer scientists, biologists, data experts and researchers are playing an increasingly important role in solving some of humanity's most difficult health challenges. This is where India's premier institutions, particularly the Indian Institutes of Technology (IITs) and the Indian Institute of Science (IISc), are beginning to transform the landscape of medical education and healthcare innovation.

#### Where Medicine Meets Technology

Modern healthcare depends heavily on technology. Artificial intelligence can assist in analysing medical images, advanced sensors can monitor patients, robots can support surgeons, and biomedical devices can help diagnose and treat diseases. Developing such technologies requires expertise that extends beyond traditional medical education. IITs and IISc bring together students and researchers from engineering, computer science, biology, physics and other disciplines. Their growing involvement in healthcare research is creating an environment where medicine and technology can work together. The result is a new generation of professionals who may not necessarily become doctors but can still make important contributions to healthcare. Biomedical Engineering Creates New Opportunities. Biomedical engineering is emerging as an important bridge between medicine and technology. Researchers are working on affordable diagnostic devices, prosthetics, medical sensors, imaging technologies and other healthcare tools.

India faces unique healthcare challenges, including a large population, unequal access to medical facilities and the need for affordable treatment. Innovations developed by engineers and scientists can help create solutions that are less expensive and more accessible.

Students trained in interdisciplinary environments can learn to understand both technological possibilities and real healthcare needs. Collaboration with doctors and hospitals is therefore becoming increasingly important.

#### Artificial Intelligence and the Future of Healthcare

Artificial intelligence is another area where IITs and IISc can make a major contribution. AI is being explored for analysing medical images, studying large health datasets, supporting early detection of diseases and assisting healthcare professionals. However, technology alone cannot replace medical judgement. The future lies in collaboration between doctors and technology experts. Medical professionals understand patients and diseases, while engineers and computer scientists can develop tools that make diagnosis, treatment and healthcare delivery more efficient.

## Urban flooding: Rain woes or planning failure?



Priyanka Saurabh

Indian cities seem to repeat the same story every monsoon—a few hours of heavy rain, waterlogging on roads, vehicles stuck in traffic jams, flooded underpasses, water entering homes and shops, and the administration scrambling for relief and evacuation efforts. Rapidly developing metropolitan areas like Delhi-NCR and Gurugram are examples of this. The question is, are floods in these cities solely the result of excessive rainfall? The answer is no. Urban flooding is a crisis born out of the interaction of natural rainfall and human disruption. While changing weather has certainly increased the risk, poor urban planning and weak governance have exacerbated the situation. Urban flooding occurs when rainwater exceeds the city's drainage, groundwater infiltration, and natural or artificial water storage capacity. In rural areas, water has the space to spread and seep into the ground through fields, ponds, and natural channels, but increasing concretization in cities blocks natural waterways. As a result, even heavy rainfall over a short period can cause widespread waterlogging. The primary reason for Indian cities becoming flood-prone is changing rainfall patterns. Climate change is increasing the frequency of heavy rainfall over short periods of time in many areas. Drainage systems designed based on historical rainfall averages are unable to handle such intense rainfall. The intense monsoon rains in Delhi-NCR are a case in point. The problem isn't just the total amount of rainfall, but also the excessive concentration of rainfall over a short period of time. Another major reason is rapid concretization. Cities like Gurugram have seen rapid expansion of residential colonies, high-rise buildings, commercial complexes, and roads over the past few decades. Ground that previously absorbed rainwater is now covered with cement and asphalt. This reduces

groundwater recharge and increases surface runoff. When large amounts of water flow simultaneously to roads and drains, the drainage system quickly fails. Encroachment on natural drains and waterways also exacerbates urban flooding. Urban development often ignores the fact that every watercourse has its own natural flow area. Narrowing drains, covering them, or building on their banks obstructs water flow. Similarly, the disappearance of ponds, lakes, and wetlands robs cities of their natural water storage areas. The degradation of wetlands and water bodies in Delhi-NCR points to this problem. Weak and unorganized stormwater drainage systems further exacerbate the problem. In many cities, the capacity of drains has not been increased to meet local needs and current rainfall conditions. In many places, sewer and stormwater drainage systems are interconnected, causing both systems to be overwhelmed during heavy rains. Furthermore, plastic and other solid waste clogs drains. This means that as much as rain is a major problem, so too is the waste we ourselves dump into the drainage system. Therefore, it's not appropriate to consider urban flooding solely as a natural disaster. It's also a failure of governance. In cities, responsibilities for roads, building construction, drainage, land use, environment, and disaster management are often divided among different agencies. When an area becomes waterlogged, assigning responsibility becomes difficult. Lack of coordination leads to one department building a road, another constructing a drain, and a third granting land use permission, but planning doesn't consider the entire catchment area as a single unit. Flood risk and catchment areas are not adequately addressed in urban master plans. Despite existing regulations governing construction in low-lying areas, floodplains, and around water bodies, they are not effectively enforced. Unauthorized construction and encroachment gradually destroy natural waterways. Pre-disaster risk reduction should be a priority, rather than focusing on post-disaster relief and rescue. Building climate-resilient cities requires first considering the city as a natural watershed, not just a collection of buildings and roads. The con-

cept of a "sponge city" can be useful for this. Its aim is to capture, absorb, and reuse rainwater within the city, rather than letting it drain rapidly. Permeable surfaces, rain gardens, rainwater harvesting, and local water harvesting structures can be developed in parking areas, sidewalks, and other suitable locations. At the same time, "blue-green infrastructure" must be integrated into urban planning. Ponds, lakes, wetlands, rivers, streams, urban forests, and green spaces are not just aesthetically pleasing; they are the city's natural flood-fighting system. Their conservation and restoration help retain water, infiltrate the ground, and regulate temperatures. Stormwater drainage design capacities will also need to be adjusted to account for future climate conditions. Instead of relying on outdated rainfall data, it's essential to incorporate updated climate models and extreme rainfall projections into planning. GIS-based flood-risk maps can be developed to determine which areas should limit construction and where additional water storage capacity needs to be developed. It is also essential to provide local bodies with financial resources, technical expertise, and adequate decision-making power. Each city should develop a comprehensive Urban Flood Risk Management Plan, integrating drainage, land use, water bodies, waste management, and disaster management. Clear accountability should be established between municipal bodies and relevant agencies. Ultimately, extreme rainfall cannot be completely prevented, but it can be significantly reduced from becoming an urban disaster. This requires integrating meteorology and climatology with urban planning. Natural water bodies must be protected, concretization must be balanced, and administrative accountability must be strengthened. Cities must transform from being mere drains of rainwater, to being cities that manage rainwater wisely. The path to combating urban flooding in the era of climate change lies not in more pumps and more relief, but in better planning, stronger local governance, and an urban system that is in harmony with nature.

## Increase Youth Participation in Policy Decisions"



Uma sankar prasad

Political parties will have to attract and engage youth who are dedicated to the nation and inspired by the vision of a Developed India (Viksit Bharat) towards politics. Today's youth is the pillar of the present and the architect of the future. They deserve a share in policy decisions that shape their present and future. Youth are a powerful segment of society, and power always seeks an outlet. If directed constructively, it builds; if unguided, it can become destructive, causing severe costs to society and the nation. Recently, a wave of student and youth protests has swept the country. Protests at Jantar Mantar in Delhi, though orchestrated, obscene, and violent, saw the participation of many innocent students and youth. In contrast, the peaceful student movement in Ranchi served as a model for constructive expression, echoing across smaller towns. Youth must realize that demanding the resignation of a minister will not solve fundamental issues. The fault lies in the system. Therefore, the solution lies not merely in changing governments, but in systemic transformation. But how will this transformation happen? Governments may come and go, but corruption among ministers, MPs, and MLAs, along with blatant bribery in government offices and police stations, along with unbridled casteism, persist. Whichever party comes to power fails to build a fair, just, and transparent decision-making system. Political parties often wear the mask of public interest while serving their own self-inter-

est. This systemic failure is the root cause of the frustration and anger among youth and students. India has witnessed several student movements. During the freedom struggle, youth participated massively in the Non-Cooperation Movement (1920), Civil Disobedience Movement (1930), and Quit India Movement (1942). Though the goal was achieved, young people dispersed under Gandhi's mature leadership to secure their futures through education. The second major student movement emerged in 1974 in Bihar under socialist leader Jayaprakash Narayan (JP) against inflation, unemployment, and misgovernance—termed the 'Total Revolution' (Sampoorna Kranti). It opposed the Congress government's authoritarian policies under Prime Minister Indira Gandhi, leading to the 1975 Emergency, imprisonment of opposition leaders, press censorship, and an atmosphere of fear. Leaders like Chandrashekhar, Krishnakant, Mohan Dharia, and Ramdhan emerged from this movement. This movement led to the formation of the Janata Party government in 1977; however, ideological differences fractured these political forces, and young people returned to their studies. The third major student-youth mass movement occurred in 2011 under social activist Anna Hazare against corruption in the Congress-led government, demanding a 'Lokpal' anti-corruption ombudsman. Though restricted largely to Delhi, it ignited unprecedented awareness among youth. Unfortunately, leaders like Arvind Kejriwal sidelined Anna Hazare to form the Aam Aadmi Party, governing Delhi for over 10 years and setting new benchmarks in corruption, leaving the youth feeling betrayed once again. Leadership in all three movements was in the hands of Gandhi, JP, and Anna

Hazare, none of whom harbored ambitions to enter active politics. Recently, the so-called Gen-Z movement flared up via internet media through lit lamps. It operated under the name of Gen-Z but stood contrary to Dr. B.R. Ambedkar's principles. In his final speech to the Constituent Assembly on November 25, 1949, Ambedkar stated that blood-stained revolutionary methods must be abandoned, and unconstitutional methods like civil disobedience, non-cooperation, and satyagraha should be discarded when constitutional avenues for resolving issues are available. Contrary to Ambedkar's advice, opposition parties supported these movements for political gain, misleading many innocent students. Youth anger stems from a 75-year-old decaying system where labor, merit, and capability in education and employment are shrinking, while political interference, nepotism, corruption, and incompetence spread like a cactus. Today, political parties are engaging with youth, which is a welcome step. However, parties that previously held power will face tough questions about their past misgovernance. Moving beyond dialogue, political parties must guarantee youth participation in power structures, policy formulation, development, good governance, and administration. The past chaotic occupation of university campuses by political elements ruined the academic environment and discouraged capable youth from entering politics. Political parties must now reflect deeply and avoid repeating the mistakes of 1947, 1977, or 2011–12, ensuring that capable youth who are dedicated to the nation and the vision of a Developed India are actively brought into politics.

## Jantar Mantar Protest: Questions Before Conclusions—Part II



Bruhaspati Samal

The developments witnessed over the past twenty-four hours have undoubtedly marked a significant turning point in the ongoing student protest at Jantar Mantar. After nearly four weeks of fasting, Sonam Wangchuk ended his fast following discussions with a panel of Union Ministers and Government representatives at the hospital where he was undergoing treatment. According to official statements and media reports, the Government provided written assurances on several issues raised by the protesters, while the Prime Minister subsequently addressed the nation through a video message announcing measures such as fast-track courts for paper leak cases and broader examination reforms. At the same time, the CJP announced that the larger protest would continue, maintaining that some of its principal demands remain unresolved. These developments should neither be celebrated as a complete victory nor dismissed as a complete failure. Rather, they deserve careful constitutional and institutional examination.

In every constitutional democracy, dialogue is preferable to confrontation. Governments are expected to engage with peaceful protesters before tensions escalate, while protest leaders are equally expected to negotiate in good faith whenever genuine opportunities arise. Viewed from this perspective, the decision of Government representatives to meet Sonam Wangchuk and the latter's willingness to consider written assurances reflect an important democratic

principle—that dialogue should remain open even during periods of disagreement. Equally significant is the insistence on written assurances. Written commitments create a public record against which future governmental action may be assessed. Unlike oral assurances, they promote transparency and accountability. However, the constitutional value of such assurances ultimately depends not upon their announcement but upon their implementation. Public confidence will therefore depend on whether these commitments are translated into concrete administrative and legislative action within a reasonable time.

The Prime Minister's announcement regarding fast-track courts, stronger mechanisms against paper leaks and examination reforms also deserves careful attention. If implemented effectively, these measures could strengthen institutional credibility and restore confidence among students and parents. Yet announcements alone cannot resolve a crisis. Experience shows that public trust is restored only when reforms are visible, measurable and consistently implemented.

The continuation of the protest by the CJP also reflects another democratic reality. Social movements are rarely homogeneous. Different groups within the same movement may evaluate negotiations differently or continue to press demands that they believe remain unresolved. Such differences, by themselves, do not necessarily indicate division or failure; they illustrate the diversity of democratic participation. Nevertheless, it is equally important that all stakeholders communicate their respective positions clearly so that supporters

and the wider public understand which demands have been accepted, which remain under consideration and which continue to be disputed.

These developments also raise several constitutional and institutional questions that deserve thoughtful public discussion.

Should the written assurances reportedly provided by the Government now be placed in the public domain in their entirety so that citizens may independently evaluate the commitments made?

Have specific timelines been fixed for implementing the promised reforms, and if so, should periodic progress reports be issued to ensure public accountability?

Do the announced measures adequately address the structural weaknesses that gave rise to repeated examination controversies, or do broader institutional reforms remain necessary?

Can the conclusion of one form of peaceful protest, such as a hunger strike, coexist with the continuation of a wider democratic movement pursuing unresolved issues?

Would greater transparency regarding negotiations strengthen public confidence and reduce unnecessary speculation?

Should Parliament, educational institutions, independent experts and civil society participate in monitoring the implementation of the promised reforms so that public confidence is sustained beyond the present crisis? Most importantly, how should governments and protest movements together ensure that future disagreements are resolved through timely dialogue rather than prolonged confrontation? The answers to these questions are likely to determine not

only the future of the present movement but also the manner in which democratic engagement is conducted in similar situations in the future. Beyond the immediate political developments lies a larger national concern. Repeated controversies surrounding examinations affect millions of students and their families. They undermine confidence in public institutions and create uncertainty regarding merit, fairness and equal opportunity. Addressing these concerns requires more than administrative responses; it requires comprehensive educational reforms supported by transparency, technological safeguards, independent oversight and prompt legal action against wrongdoing. Ultimately, neither governments nor protest movements should measure success solely by immediate outcomes. The real measure of success will be whether the concerns that brought students to the streets are effectively addressed through durable institutional reforms. If the written assurances lead to meaningful action, they may become an important milestone in democratic dialogue. If implementation falters, public confidence may once again be tested.

History often records not the loudest slogans but the sincerity with which institutions respond to legitimate public concerns. The Constitution expects accountability from governments, responsibility from protest movements and vigilance from citizens. Before drawing final conclusions, the nation deserves transparency, evidence and implementation. For democracy, the most enduring victory is not the end of a protest—it is the restoration of public trust through justice, accountability and meaningful reform.

# Protest Over Irregularities at Khandapada CHC Withdrawn

N a y a g a r h , (correspondent): The protest launched by the Congress party over alleged irregularities and disruption of healthcare services at the K h a n d a p a d a Community Health Centre (CHC) was withdrawn on Wednesday afternoon following discussions with senior health officials. Khandapada MLA Er. Dushmant Kumar Swain and Nayagarh District Chief District Medical Officer (CDMO) Dr. Sushant



Kumar Swain reached the protest site and held detailed discussions with the protesting Congress workers for a c o n s i d e r a b l e period. Following the discussion, the CDMO assured the protesters that their demands would

be addressed in a phased manner. Subsequently, the Congress workers decided to withdraw the agitation. According to Khandapada CHC Chief Medical Officer Dr. Abhisar Panda, the health centre has a sanctioned strength of

14 doctors, but only three doctors are currently working there, leaving 11 posts vacant. The shortage of doctors has reportedly affected healthcare delivery at the CHC. The CDMO assured that necessary steps would be taken to fill the vacant doctor posts at the earliest. The withdrawal of the protest came after the health authorities assured the agitators of appropriate action to improve medical services at the Khandapada CHC.

Historic farewell in S u b a r n a p u r : administrator and literary figure Dr. Nruparaj Sahu retires.

S U B A R N A P U R (Corresp ondent)-- Another memorable and emotional chapter was written in the history of Subarnapur district on August 31. This is the second and very historic event for Subarnapur land to give such a grand, grand and tearless farewell to a Collector. After the Collector Saroj Jha in the past, the farewell ceremony of Dr. Nruparaj Sahu on Monday has left the entire district emotional. Dr. Nruparaj Sahu was not only an efficient administrator, but also a very compassionate, heart-warming and generous person. By making the administration people-oriented and standing by the happiness and sorrow of people from every section, he won the hearts of the district people. Subarnapur land was blessed to have such a loving and love-hungry Collector. Besides being an administrator, he was a great writer and orator. The land of Subarnapur will never forget him for his sincere love, love of literature and public service. It is true that he has retired from his long administrative service, but not from the hearts of the people of Subarnapur. At the moment of his retirement, the people of Subarnapur have paid their deepest respects and best wishes to his selfless love and saluted him.

## Former Sarpanch of Narayanpur dies in accident in Jammu and Kashmir

Gopalpur(Corresp ondent) Former Sarpanch of Narayanpur Gram Panchayat under Gopalpur police station R. Himanshu Prasad Rao (Tuna) died in an accident in Jammu and Kashmir today. He was 55 years old at the time of his death. It is reported that R. Himanshu had gone to Jammu and Kashmir on the 28th along with 6 friends. While he was travelling from Pahalgam to Anantnag by an Innova car (JK 01 AT 8081), when a huge stone fell from a hill near Bumju Shrine in Matan

(under Himayun Muzammil Model Police Station). In this accident, Mr. Rao was seriously injured and suffered serious head injuries. He was immediately admitted to the Government Medical College in Anantnag, but he died during treatment. Five other people sitting in the car are reported to be safe. He had worked as the Sarpanch of Narayanpur Gram Panchayat from 2017 to 2022. He was also the President of the Sarpanch Sangh of Rangeilunda Block. He was known in the area

as a mediator, popularizer, and social worker. After the news of his death spread, many people from the surrounding area, friends, and colleagues, including Berhampur MP Dr. Pradeep Kumar Panigrahi, reached his residence and met Himanshu's wife Vijayalakshmi, 2 sons Ashutosh and Akash, to console him and draw the attention of Chief Minister Mohan Charan Majhi to bring the dead body. MP assured the family that he would take action and provide all possible cooperation to bring the dead body home.

## 12th Panchayat Samiti Meeting Held in Binjharpur Focus on Education, Healthcare and Drinking Water Issues; Demand for Increase in Workers' Wages

JAJPUR (Corresp ondent) : The 12th meeting of the Binjharpur Block Panchayat Samiti was held at the block conference hall under the chairpersonship of Block Chairperson Ranjita Kumari Das. Binjharpur MLA Pramila Malik, MP's representative Purushottam Behera, Vice-Chairperson Sheikh Irshad and Tahasildar Pramod Baskey were among those present. At the outset, BDO Chhabirani Sahu delivered the welcome address. The meeting held detailed discussions on various public issues in the block



as well as the status of ongoing development works. Members particularly discussed various complexities related to VB-Ramji and the problems arising from them. A demand was also raised for an increase in workers' wages. The meeting reviewed the status and functioning of various departments, including education and

healthcare services, the Public Distribution System, Panchayat Development Plan, Integrated Child Development Services, drinking water and sanitation programmes. Emphasis was laid on ensuring that the benefits of government schemes reach the genuine beneficiaries effectively and without delay.

The participants also stressed the need for greater coordination between departmental officials and elected representatives to expedite development activities in the area and ensure speedy resolution of people's day-to-day problems. Officials from various departments of the block, along with all sarpanches, Samiti members and Zilla Parishad members, attended the meeting. Special emphasis was placed on resolving public grievances at the earliest and accelerating various development activities underway in the block.

## Transfer Policy or Merely on Paper? Questions Raised Over the Long Tenure of an Officer at Brajrajnagar Municipality

JHARSUGUDA,(Corresp ondent) A major question has now been raised among the public over the long tenure of Mr. Chandramani Swain, the Executive Officer who has been serving at the Brajrajnagar Municipality for a long period. While the government has a policy regarding the transfer of officers who have been posted at the same place for a prolonged period, questions have been raised over the extent to



which this policy has been implemented at the B r a j r a j n a g a r Municipality. In this regard, demands were made to verify the

officer's tenure and to ensure that the transfer policy is implemented equally for everyone. In response, the Director, Municipal Administration,

stated, "The grievance will be considered as per existing rule in due course of time." However, the question remains: When exactly is this "due course of time"? If there are rules in place, how much longer will people have to wait for the officer's tenure to be verified and for the rules to be implemented? The issue has now raised concerns over whether the transfer policy is actually being implemented or is merely confined to paper.

## Three Drinking Water Kiosks Inaugurated in Baripada Town State Government Gives Top Priority to Supplying Pure Drinking Water: Minister

Baripada, (Corresp ondent): With the objective of providing easy access to safe and quality drinking water to residents and commuters in Baripada town, three drinking water kiosks have been inaugurated at prominent locations across the city. Minister for Housing and Urban Development and Public Enterprises, Dr. Krushna Chandra Mahapatra, attended the programme and formally dedicated the kiosks to the public. He also inaugurated the facilities by personally drinking water from one of the kiosks. The drinking water kiosks have been established near the



Baripada Bus Stand, Maa Ambika Pump House premises, and near Jhubuli Bandh. The facilities will enable passengers, pedestrians and local residents to access safe drinking water conveniently. Speaking on the occasion, Minister Mahapatra said that the State Government is

fully committed to ensuring the supply of safe drinking water to the people. Particularly during the summer season, arrangements for drinking water supply are being strengthened at locations where the public has greater water requirements. As part of the programme, the Minister

also visited the Maa Ambika Pump House to review the drinking water supply system. He inspected the water quality testing and laboratory testing facilities there. While a 24x7 water supply system is already operational in some areas of Baripada town, the Minister directed the General Manager of WATCO to ensure uninterrupted 24x7 supply of safe drinking water in areas where such facilities have not yet been fully established. The Minister further stated that, based on an assessment of the town's future water requirements, water

storage capacity would be enhanced. He said that greater emphasis would be placed on quality water supply, uninterrupted services and public convenience, and that the overall drinking water supply system would be further strengthened. Baripada MLA Prakash Soren, various dignitaries, officials of Baripada Municipality, WATCO General Manager Gulshan Kumar Sahu, Manager Bipin Bihari Das, Assistant Managers B.K. Sahu, Suprit Das and Prabhakar Singh, Jal Sathis, other staff members and local residents were present at the programme.

## Career Counselling Workshop Held at Laxmipur college



Laxmipur, (Corresp ondent): A career counselling workshop was organised by the National Service Scheme (NSS) at the Laxmipur College campus on Wednesday to guide students on various career opportunities and the importance of proper planning for their future. Former Laxmipur Tahasildar and retired Sub-Collector of Rayagada district, Bhimasen Sabar, attended the programme as the special counsellor and interacted with the students on different aspects of career development. He advised the students to set clear goals, work hard and remain determined to achieve success in life. Sharing his own life experiences, Sabar explained how he overcame challenges as a tribal student and achieved success despite having received his early education in a small village. He encouraged the

students to believe in themselves and pursue their goals with dedication and perseverance. He also emphasised that hard work, discipline and a positive attitude are essential for building a successful career. Citing examples from his own journey, he motivated the students to make effective use of available educational and career opportunities. Former NSS Programme Officer Duryodhan Sahu, Programme Officer Mahima Rani Raju, Education Department lecturer M. Tilatoma Patnaik, Odia Department lecturer Jayashree Karsudha Patnaik, along with other faculty members, attended the workshop. The programme provided the students with valuable guidance and motivation to make informed decisions regarding their higher education and future careers.

## A worker died due to electrocution at a cattle farm in Chulimal village

SUBARNAPUR(Corresp ondent) --- A worker died due to electrocution at a cattle farm in Subarnapur district's Binika police station on Wednesday. The worker's name is Birendra Patra, 65 (Kuna). According to information, Birendra had been working at the cattle farm of owner Danardan Hota for a long time. Today, at 8 am, Birendra was cutting grass in the farm grounds when a water pea planted in a well from the farm got caught on an electric wire lying on the ground. Birendra was late returning home and when his family members searched for him, they found Birendra lying dead on the grass field at around 1 pm. Binika informed the police. The police reached the spot and recovered the dead body and brought it to the Binika Community Health Center. However, the doctor declared Birendra dead. Since it was 8 pm, the body could not be autopsied and the body was kept in the mortuary. Police UD 20/ ASI Trinath Sahu, who registered a case on 26th and is conducting further investigation, has revealed.

## Inner Wheel Brings Smiles to Little Leukemia Warriors

B h u b a n e s w a r : (Correspondent):- Inner Wheel Club of Bhubaneswar Temple City organised a joyful fun outing for 12 little warriors, aged 3-11 years, battling leukemia. The children spent a memorable day at Esplanade Mall, where they enjoyed themselves at the play zone, excitedly chose shoes of their own choice, and relished a meal at Subway. They were also sent home with goody bags, carrying not just gifts but memories of



a day filled with laughter and happiness. For children and parents navigating the difficult journey of treatment, a few hours of carefree joy

can mean so much. The initiative was a small gesture of service, but the smiles it brought were priceless. Inner Wheel believes that service is not

merely about giving—it is about standing beside those who need a little hope, spreading joy, and making a difference, one smile at a time.

# Ajay Devgn's horror thriller goes on floors; 'Drishyam' actor shares excitement

Actor Ajay Devgn-led horror thriller has officially gone on floors, with the 'Singham' star announcing the commencement of the untitled project on Wednesday. Taking to 'X', Ajay shared the news and expressed excitement about the upcoming film, which is directed by Rohit Jugraj and jointly produced by Devgn Films and Panorama Studios. "Darr ka mahaul...hone wala hai. Our untitled horror thriller officially goes on floors today. Directed by @rohitjugraj. A @devgnfilms & @panorama\_studios Production. @kumarmangatpathak @abhishekpatak @danishdevgn @sanju\_r\_joshi #DevgnFilms #PanoramaStudios #Muhurat #UntitledFilm," 'Singham' actor wrote on Instagram. Headlined by Ajay Devgn and directed by Rohit Jugraj, the film promises to "transport audiences into a haunting new world of mystery, fear and suspense." This untitled horror thriller marks a step onto a much bigger canvas for Jugraj, who brings his storytelling instincts to a dark and intense world of horror. The project is jointly produced by Ajay Devgn, Kumar Mangat Pathak and Abhishek Pathak.



# Jailer 2 release date confirmed: Rajinikanth film not postponed, Dussehra release set

Fans of Rajinikanth can finally put the postponement rumours to rest. The makers of Jailer 2 have officially confirmed that the much-awaited sequel will hit theatres on October 15, 2026, as scheduled. Over the past few days, reports on social media claimed that the film could be delayed and that some portions were undergoing reshoots. However, the makers have now dismissed the speculation. Sun Pictures shared a new post on X confirming that Jailer 2 will release on October 15. The post carried the caption, "October 15 Alappara Kelappuram (We are raising a storm)." The release is timed around the Dussehra festive period, raising expectations of a strong opening at the box office. What to expect From Jailer 2 The first official release-date announcement came in July along with an action-packed teaser. While the teaser kept the plot under wraps, it offered glimpses of the film's star-studded cast and teased Rajinikanth's iconic character, Tiger Muthuvel Pandian, heading into what appears to be another dangerous mission. The film's first song, Ala Bolelo, was released in August. Composed by Anirudh Ravichander, the energetic dance number featured Shamna Kasim, with Rajinikanth also making an appearance. Written and directed by Nelson Dilipkumar, Jailer 2 is produced by Kalanithi Maran under Sun Pictures. The film is a sequel to the 2023 blockbuster Jailer. Rajinikanth will reprise his role as Tiger Muthuvel Pandian, while Ramya Krishnan will return as Vijaya Pandian. Yogi Babu, Mirnaa and Rithvik are also expected to reprise their roles. The first Jailer followed retired jailer Muthuvel Pandian as he takes matters into his own hands after his family is threatened while his son investigates an idol-smuggling network. The sequel is expected to continue from the events of the first film. Mohanlal, Shiva Rajkumar and Jackie Shroff, who appeared in cameos in the first film, are also expected to return. The sequel additionally features names including SJ Suryah, Mithun Chakraborty, Vidya Balan, Suraj Venjaramoodu, Anna Rajan and Jatin Sarna. While reports have linked Hrithik Roshan and Vijay Sethupathi to the project, details about their involvement remain unconfirmed.



# why hair fall and breakage increase in winter

Winter brings cosy clothes and hot drinks, but it also comes with unwanted hair woes. Many people notice their hair becoming dry, brittle, and falling out more than usual. Seasonal changes, colder temperatures, and low humidity can all stress your scalp and hair, leading to excessive hair fall. Key drivers of hair fall and breakage "During winter, the air is dry and cold, which can cause the blood vessels in the scalp to narrow. This limits the amount of nutrients and oxygen reaching the hair roots, making them weaker," explains Dr Debbarman. She adds, "Hot showers and strong shampoos can strip natural oils from the scalp, leading to dryness, flakes, and broken strands. Pollution further damages hair proteins, making strands more fragile." A lack of sunlight can lead to vitamin D deficiency, while low levels of iron, biotin, and zinc, often from



unhealthy eating habits, can slow hair growth. "Stress during holidays or common winter illnesses like flu can trigger telogen effluvium, a condition where hair shedding increases two to three months after the stressful event," Tips to strengthen your hair Dr Debbarman shares practical tips to protect hair and maintain scalp health during winter:

Gentle cleansing routine: Use lukewarm water instead of hot and wash your hair 2-3 times a week with gentle, sulfate-free shampoos.

Follow with a conditioner on the mid-lengths and ends for 3-5 minutes. Deep hydration



treatments: Once a week, apply hair masks with natural oils like argan, coconut, or almond. Massage into the scalp and leave for 20 minutes. This helps lock in moisture and reduce breakage by

30-50%. Scalp nourishment: For persistent hair fall, consider scalp serums with peptides and massage your scalp for 5 minutes daily to improve blood flow. Protective styling: Avoid tight hairstyles and minimise heat styling. Let hair air-dry, sleep on silk pillowcases, and use a wide-tooth comb to gently detangle. Nutrition and lifestyle boosts: Eat omega-3-rich foods like walnuts, salmon, and flaxseeds, along with biotin sources such as eggs and nuts. Stay

# 5 simple daily habits that helped him stay lean, strong and healthy for 20 years



Weight loss and fitness are rarely a one-time fix - the real challenge begins once you've reached your goal. Staying lean, strong and healthy demands consistency and daily effort, but that doesn't mean extreme workouts or rigid routines. In reality, long-term fitness is built on simple lifestyle changes practised day after day, proving that sustainable habits matter far more than dramatic transformations. With 18 years of experience, Chennai-based fitness trainer Raj Ganpath - founder of the Slow Burn Method, co-founder and head coach at Quad Fitness, and author of Simple, Not Easy - has shared five simple daily habits that have helped him stay lean, strong and healthy for the last 20 years. In an Instagram video shared on December 24, the fitness coach states, "I'm not athletic or gifted or special in any way. Literally. And you can build these habits too. It is simply about making the small

changes and doing them consistently. Start today, do it through the next year. You'll be a different person by the end of the next year!" 1. Active mornings, relaxed evenings Raj balances his sleep-wake cycle by regulating cortisol and melatonin through a routine that keeps him active in the morning and relaxed in the evening. He explains, "In the mornings, I move a lot. I work a lot. I eat less. In the evenings, I don't move as much. I don't work as much, but I do eat more and I relax more. This helps me spike cortisol in the morning and keeps me active through the day. And in the evening, it secretes melatonin, helps me fall asleep quickly, and helps me sleep well." 2. Protein in every meal For the fitness trainer, proteins are non-negotiable in every single meal. He elaborates, "In the last many years, there's been a handful of meals where I have not had protein. 99.9 percent of my meals have had

some form of protein. Vegetarian, non-vegetarian, doesn't matter, but there is always some form of protein on my plate." 3. 7 hours of sleep every day Seven hours of sleep a day is another non-negotiable for Raj - even if he falls short at night, he makes time to nap during the day to compensate. He stresses, "In the last 20 years, my life has changed a lot. Initially, when I used to coach very early in the morning, I would only sleep for five hours at night. But I would sleep for two hours in the afternoon. But now that I don't coach early in the mornings, I sleep seven hours at night. If I'm not able to, I get a nap in the afternoon. One way or the other, seven hours have to happen. It is non-negotiable." 4. Strength training every week

According to Raj, he hasn't missed even a single week of strength training in the last 20 years, noting that it doesn't have to be anything intense - focusing on the basics does the job. He elaborates, "The basics - squats, deadlift, presses, push-ups, pull-ups, things like that - but strength training is always part of my week." 5. Prioritising vegetables and walking Raj describes this as "a general greed for vegetables and walking" - meaning he makes it a point to eat vegetables whenever they are available and does not miss an opportunity that calls for walking. He explains, "This has really helped me stay active through the day, through the years, and helped me a lot with recovery." In summary, the fitness trainer's strategies aren't extreme or groundbreaking, but rely on simple actions practised consistently. He concludes, "Now you'll notice that none of these are really crazy. None of this is groundbreaking. But that's the thing. You don't need anything groundbreaking. You need to remember that simple actions done consistently over a period of time can result in significant progress."



## Four KISS Students Selected for India U-18 Rugby Teams for Asia Rugby Emirates U-18 Sevens 2026

**Bhubaneswar,** (correspondent) We are delighted to share that four students of KISS have been selected to represent the India Under 18 Boy's and Girl's Rugby Teams in the Asia Rugby Emirates U-18 Sevens 2026, scheduled to be held in Qingdao, China from 5th to 6th September 2026. Selected Players are Boys: Rahul Majhi & Eswar Pujari, and Girls: Anita Murmu & Khameswari Majhi. In preparation for this prestigious international tournament, Rugby India is conducting a National Coaching Camp at the KIIT



University, Bhubaneswar from 21st July to 1st September 2026. Prof. Achyuta

Samanta, Founder of KIIT, KISS and KIMS, conveyed his heartfelt congratulations and best wishes to all four athletes. He encouraged them to give their very best while representing the nation and to bring further laurels to KIIT-KISS, Odisha and India. Mr. Upendra Kumar Mohanty, Vice President of the Odisha Rugby Football Association, also congratulated the selected players and extended his best wishes for their successful participation in the Asia Rugby Emirates U-18 Sevens 2026.

## Women's T20 Asia Cup: Muneeba, Sadia Lead Pakistan To Winning Start

Dubai: Muneeba Ali scored her fourth T20I half-century while Sadia Iqbal claimed three wickets as Pakistan women defeated Thailand women by 35 runs in their opening match of the ACC Women's T20 Asia Cup at the Dubai International Cricket Stadium (DICS) on Tuesday. Electing to bat first in the eight-team tournament, Pakistan posted a modest total of 119/9, with Muneeba Ali scoring 54 off 52 balls, while Sadaf Shamas contributed a run-a-ball 20 in the low-scoring encounter.



However, Pakistan made a strong comeback in the match as they defended the modest score. Chasing 120 to win, Thailand were never able to get going in the run-chase as they lost two wickets in the second over with six runs on the board. Both wickets went to

left-arm spinner Sadia, who bowled a double-wicket maiden over. Sadia returned in the final over of the match to bag her third wicket and finished with match figures of 4-1-11-3. Another left-arm spinner, Nashra Sundhu, was the most economical bowler for

the winning side, conceding just six runs and taking one wicket in four overs. Right-arm leg-spinner Tuba Hassan was also among the wicket-takers, taking two wickets for 17 runs from her four overs. Earlier, opening batter Muneeba was the top run-getter for Pakistan with 54 off 52 balls, which included four fours. Sadaf Shamas was the other notable run-getter with a run-a-ball 20. She struck three boundaries and added 54 runs for the fourth wicket with Muneeba.

## India Replaces Sri Lanka As Hosts Of Inaugural 2027 Women's Champions Trophy

New Delhi: India has replaced Sri Lanka as the hosts of the inaugural ICC Women's Champions Trophy, to be played from February 14-28, 2027, as the island nation continues to deal with administrative reforms following government interference in its cricket board. In a statement, the International Cricket Council (ICC) said the six-team tournament will now be held in two venues — the Cricket Club of India (CCI) in Mumbai and the Vadodara International Cricket Stadium. Interestingly, the DY Patil Stadium in Navi Mumbai, where India won the 2025 Women's ODI World Cup, is not on the list of venues for the competition. "The tournament was originally scheduled to be held in Sri Lanka but will now be staged in India as Sri Lanka Cricket continues to make the requisite

reforms outlined at the ICC's Annual Conference in July," said the ICC. Sri Lanka Cricket (SLC) is currently governed by an interim 'Transformation Committee' installed by the Sri Lankan government to execute constitutional and administrative overhauls. As the ICC strictly prohibits political interference and refuses to recognise government-appointed bodies, SLC representatives have been barred from attending ICC board meetings since the committee's formation. The ICC also said India was selected as the replacement host following an evaluation process that also considered proposals from Bangladesh and South Africa, with the decision ratified by the ICC Board on Wednesday. "The ICC Women's Champions Trophy 2027 marks an

exciting new chapter for women's cricket. As the inaugural edition of the tournament, it will bring together the best teams in the world in an intense, high-quality competition, while creating even greater incentive for teams to continue rising through the rankings and competing for a place on the global stage." "With a marquee ICC women's event now taking place every year, we have a significant opportunity to build greater momentum, provide more consistency and create a stronger rhythm for the women's game, its players and its fans around the world," said ICC Chairman. The tournament will feature a round-robin format between the six qualified sides — Australia, England, India, New Zealand, South Africa and Sri Lanka, with the top two teams advancing to the final on February 28.

## China Masters: Satwik/Chirag, Srikanth Keep Indian Hopes Alive; Sen Goes Down In Last-32

Shenzhen (China): Singles star Kidambi Srikanth and top men's doubles pair Satwiksairaj Rankireddy and Chirag Shetty kept the Indian hopes alive in the BWF China Masters even as Lakshya Sen made his exit in the Round of 32 stage matches at the Shenzhen Arena on Wednesday. Srikanth, a former World Championship runner-up, defeated Chi Yu Jen of Chinese Taipei in straight games in a men's singles Round of 32 match, winning 21-18, 21-15 in a 35-minute encounter on Court 2 at Shenzhen Arena. In the men's doubles, fourth seeds Rankireddy and Shetty joined him in the pre-quarterfinals by getting past the Malaysian pair of Junaidi Arif and Kang Khai Xing, winning 21-11, 21-16 in 40 minutes on Court 1. World No. 20 Tanvi Sharma also



advanced to the next stage in the women's singles second round by beating Amalie Schulz of Denmark 21-16, 21-17 in 31 minutes. India had a mixed day in the mixed doubles section, as Dhruv Kapila and Tanisha Crasto reached the pre-quarterfinals with a 21-8, 21-9 win over Tonkid Saeheng and Tonrug Saeheng of Thailand in 24 minutes. The contingent suffered a setback in the mixed doubles as Rohan Kapoor and Ruthvika Shivani Gadde lost to

the Chinese Taipei pair of Wu Guan Xun and Lee Chia Hsin, 21-16, 21-18 in 34 minutes. In the women's singles, Devika Sihag went down to Kaloyana Nalbantova of Bulgaria in the Round of 32 clash on Court 3, losing 21-18, 21-15 in the USD 1,250,000 event. In the men's singles, Srikanth surged to an early 7-1 lead and kept up the pressure as he won points to extend the lead to 12-3. Though Chi Yu Jen narrowed the gap to 13-8,

Srikanth maintained his upper hand to win the first game. In the second game, Srikanth took an early lead, but Chi levelled up at 4-4. The Chinese Taipei player went ahead 8-6. Srikanth then won four points in a row, then went on to take a 16-11 lead and went on to win the game and match at 21-15. Earlier, Lakshya Sen's China Masters campaign came to an early end on Wednesday as the Indian shuttler went down to Canada's

Victor Lai in straight games in the round of 32. Sen suffered a 14-21, 7-21 straight-games loss at the hands of the 2026 World Championships bronze medalist here at the Shenzhen Arena. This was the Indian's third loss to the Canadian in the pair's fourth career meeting. Moreover, this was Lai's third win over Sen this year. The Canadian got the better of the Indian at the Thomas Cup and in the round of 16 of the China Open in July. Sen's only win over Lai was a gruelling three-game All England Open semifinal in March that Sen won 21-16, 18-21, 21-15. In another men's singles action, Raunak Chauhan kick-started his campaign with a straight-games win over Liu Yu Xuan of China, 21-15, 21-18. Meanwhile, Saneeth Dayanand defeated third seed Chinese Dong Tian Yao 9-21, 21-18, 21-15.

## London Squash Classic: Anahat, Ramit Move Into Pre-Quarters

London: India's Anahat Singh and Ramit Tandon made winning starts to their London Squash Classic campaigns, advancing to the pre-quarterfinals of the PSA Gold tournament with straight-game victories, while Veer Chotrani bowed out in the opening round on Wednesday. Women's world No. 20 and reigning junior world champion Anahat delivered the most dominant Indian performance of the day, needing only 11 minutes to overcome Egypt's Mariam Metwally, ranked No. 30 in the world, 11-3, 11-2. The Indian teenager took control from the opening exchanges and allowed Metwally little opportunity to settle



into the contest. After racing through the first game, Anahat was equally commanding in the second to seal her place in the next round at the USD 144,000 PSA Gold event. Her next challenge will be considerably tougher, with Belgium's World No. 11 Nele Gilis awaiting her in

Thursday's pre-quarterfinal. In the men's draw, world No. 42 Ramit Tandon also advanced without dropping a game, defeating Qatar's Abdullah Al-Tamimi 11-6, 11-7 in a 20-minute opening-round contest. Tandon maintained control across both games to book his place in the

pre-quarterfinals, where he will face eighth seed Mohamed ElShorbagy on Wednesday. Egyptian-born ElShorbagy now represents England and will present a major test for the Indian player. There was, however, disappointment for world No. 38 Veer Chotrani, who was

edged out by Switzerland's Yannick Welhmi in a closely fought straight-game encounter. Welhmi, ranked No. 34 in the world, won both games by identical 11-9 margins to bring Chotrani's campaign to an early end. The London Squash Classic continues to provide important international competition for India's leading players, with both Anahat and Chotrani also part of the country's squash squad preparing for the upcoming Asian Games in Aichi-Nagoya, Japan. With Anahat and Tandon safely through to the pre-quarterfinal stage, India will now look to build on a strong opening day at one of the prominent PSA World Tour Gold events of the season.

## Bumrah, Rana, Washy Picked Subject To Fitness Clearance For Afghanistan T20Is

New Delhi: The Board of Control for Cricket in India (BCCI) on Tuesday announced India's squad for the upcoming three-match T20I series against Afghanistan to be played at the Arun Jaitley Stadium in New Delhi from September 13. Fast bowlers Jasprit Bumrah and Harshit Rana and all-rounders Washington Sundar and Nitish Kumar Reddy have been picked, but the participation of all four players is subject to fitness clearance, the BCCI confirmed. Shreyas Iyer will keep leading the Men in Blue, while Tilak Varma remains his deputy. The squad features regulars Abhishek Sharma, Vaibhav Sooryavanshi, Shivam Dube, Arshdeep Singh and Varun Chakravarthy, while there have been some changes to the team that played in Zimbabwe in July. Anju Samson returned to

the side after not being picked for the Zimbabwe T20Is, while the bowling department has seen changes with regular speedsters returning. Arshdeep is joined by Bumrah and Harshit, as the likes of Prince Yadav, Yash Thakur, Ashok Sharma, and Mayank Yadav, all of whom were on the touring party for Zimbabwe, miss out. Contrary to reports, there is no place for Hardik Pandya. The biggest development is the return of Bumrah, who had suffered an impact injury during the England ODIs in July and has been out of action since then. He also missed the recent Test series against Sri Lanka, which India won 1-0. Sundar was another key three-format player who was out of Sri Lanka's Tests due to a hamstring injury he sustained in the ODIs against the Three Lions. Harshit Rana is also back in the squad after

being ruled out of the England ODIs due to a hamstring strain sustained in the preceding T20Is. This came shortly after he made a return to the international fold following his recovery from a knee injury that made him miss the T20 World Cup 2026. The India vs Afghanistan T20Is will be played at the Arun Jaitley Stadium in New Delhi, with Afghanistan hosting the Men in Blue. The three matches are set to be played on September 13, 15 and 17. India's squad: Shreyas Iyer (C), Abhishek Sharma, Vaibhav Sooryavanshi, Sanju Samson (wk), Ishan Kishan (wk), Tilak Varma [VC], Shivam Dube, Nitish Kumar Reddy\*, Axar Patel, Washington Sundar\*, Varun Chakravarthy, Ravi Bishnoi, Jasprit Bumrah\*, Arshdeep Singh, Harshit Rana\*

# East Coast Railway Revises Timings of Several Trains

Bhubaneswar, (correspondent): East Coast Railway revised the timings of several trains for the convenience of passengers and to facilitate smooth train operations. The revised timings will come into effect from the respective dates of journey commencement. The 15027 Sambalpur-Gorakhpur Maurya Express will depart from Sambalpur at 09:05 hrs instead of 09:20 hrs and will arrive at Rengali at 09:28 hrs instead of 09:39 hrs, departing at 09:30 hrs instead of



09:41 hrs. These revised timings will be effective from 28 October 2026. The 15028 Gorakhpur-Sambalpur Maurya Express will arrive at Sambalpur at 14:50 hrs instead of 14:40 hrs, with the revised timing applicable from 04 September 2026. Similarly, the 12893 Bhubaneswar-Purunakatak Intercity Express will arrive at Purunakatak at 17:10

hrs instead of 17:00 hrs, effective from 04 September 2026. For the 12894 Purunakatak-Bhubaneswar Intercity Express, the departure from Purunakatak will be at 11:15 hrs instead of 11:25 hrs. The train will arrive at and depart from Biranarsinghpur at 11:30/11:32 hrs, Boudh at 11:45/11:50 hrs, Jharamunda at 12:02/12:04 hrs,

Puranapani at 12:20/12:22 hrs, Sonepur at 12:35/12:40 hrs, Narasinggarh at 12:55/12:57 hrs, Jhartarbha at 13:10/13:12 hrs and Bichhupali at 13:25/13:27 hrs. These changes will come into effect from 28 October 2026. The 18314 Bhubaneswar New-Boudh Weekly Express will arrive at Boudh at 10:45 hrs instead of 10:30 hrs, effective from 07 September 2026. The 18421 Puri-Sonepur Weekly Express will arrive at Sonepur at 06:00 hrs instead of 05:50 hrs, effective from

03 September 2026. Further, the 18422 Sonepur-Puri Weekly Express will depart from Sonepur at 18:45 hrs instead of 19:00 hrs. Its revised timings at Narasinggarh, Jhartarbha and Bichhupali will be 18:55/18:57 hrs, 19:06/19:08 hrs and 19:20/19:22 hrs respectively. These revised timings will be effective from 30 October 2026. For updated train information, passengers may visit the National Train Enquiry System (NTES) or use official railway enquiry services before commencing their journey

# Axis Bank celebrates India's National Sports Day

Mumbai,: Marking the National Sports Day 2026, Axis Bank, one of the largest private sector banks in India, celebrates India's steady emergence as a sporting power and is proud to contribute to its growth through strategic partnerships with leading sporting institutions of the country, which have already supported nearly 1,100 athletes, para-athletes, coaches and other professionals within a span of less than 3 years. Sport has been one of the key focus areas for Axis Bank's

CSR strategy, since the launch of its first program under this theme in FY 2024-25. Working with leading institutions in Indian sport, the Bank's initiatives range from supporting athlete training and development, greater integration and adoption of sports science and medicine, to creating world-class sports infrastructure that shall serve Indian sports for decades to come. This year's National Sports Day comes in the wake of India's strong performance at the 23rd Commonwealth Games

in Glasgow, where the country won 39 medals, including 13 golds. At the Games, 14 of the 20 athletes supported under the Bank's partnership with OGQ secured medals for India across four sports, including 9 Gold medals. Among the medal winners were Judokas Yamini Mourya (Silver-Women's 57 Kg category) and Unnati Sharma (Bronze - Women's 63 Kg category), who train under the Axis Bank Judo Development Programme in partnership with Inspire Institute of Sport (IIS).

## Monsoon Snacking Can Take a Toll on Your Teeth; Maintaining Oral Hygiene is Essential

Bhubaneswar (correspondent): The monsoon season is synonymous with comfort foods and frequent snacking, from hot chai and crispy pakoras to roasted corn and sweet treats. While these seasonal indulgences are a cherished part of rainy-day traditions, dental experts caution that increased snacking habits during the season can impact oral health if proper care is not maintained. According to leading dental practitioner Dr. Sonia Datta, frequent consumption of sugary and starchy foods can increase the risk of plaque buildup and tooth decay. "Monsoon often changes our eating patterns. Many people tend to snack more frequently throughout the day while enjoying seasonal favourites. Every time we eat, particularly foods rich in sugar and starch, bacteria present in the mouth produce acids that attack tooth enamel. When snacking becomes frequent, these acid attacks also become more frequent, increasing the risk of cavities and other oral health concerns". The expert emphasized that while there is no need to avoid monsoon delicacies altogether, maintaining good oral hygiene is crucial to keeping teeth and gums healthy.

# BHARAT MASALA Strengthens India's Spices Export Footprint, Connecting Indian Spices with International Markets

Cuttack, (correspondent): The growing demand for Indian spices in international markets is creating new opportunities for Indian spice manufacturers, exporters and farmers. Jay Bharat Spices Pvt. Ltd. (BHARAT MASALA), one of the leading spice companies from Odisha, is strengthening its presence in the global market with a renewed focus on exports of quality Indian spices. BHARAT MASALA has been honoured with the Best Export Company Award four times by the Government of India, recognising its contribution to the country's export sector and its efforts towards promoting Indian spices in

international markets. With a vision to contribute to the nation's economic development, BHARAT MASALA is committed to earning valuable foreign exchange for the country while ensuring incremental benefits to Indian farmers. The company believes that strengthening the connection between farmers, Indian spice processors and international markets can create a sustainable value chain and provide better market opportunities for agricultural producers. During the Financial Year 2026-27, BHARAT MASALA is scheduled to dispatch two consignments of Indian spices—Turmeric and

Cumin—from Paradip Port, Odisha, to Jebel Ali, UAE. These export consignments mark another important step in the company's efforts to expand the reach of Indian spices beyond domestic markets. Quote: Sri Surendra Nath Panda, Founder & Chairman, BHARAT MASALA « "The development of India is closely linked with the prosperity of our farmers. Our objective is not merely to increase exports, but to create a stronger connection between Indian farmers and international markets. When Indian spices reach consumers across the world, they generate valuable foreign exchange for the

nation and create opportunities for our farmers to receive better and incremental returns for their produce. We believe that every export should contribute to the growth of India, strengthen rural livelihoods and enhance the global identity of Indian agriculture." » Indian spices are renowned globally for their distinctive aroma, flavour, quality and traditional value. Turmeric and Cumin, in particular, have strong demand in international food markets and are widely used in households, food processing, restaurants and the hospitality industry. BHARAT

MASALA is working towards building a stronger international identity for Indian spices by maintaining quality standards, developing reliable supply chains and exploring new overseas markets. The company's export initiatives are also expected to create greater market opportunities across the spice value chain, ultimately supporting farmers and strengthening India's position as a leading supplier of spices to the world. The company aims to further expand its international footprint in the coming years and take the rich taste, quality and heritage of Indian spices to more countries across the world.

# Odisha Craft Odyssey to Launch Chandua: Canopies of Labour, Documenting Odisha's Living Appliqué Traditions

Bhubaneswar : Odisha Craft Odyssey (OCO), a collaborative initiative of the MGM Foundation and Bhubaneswar Experimental Art and Design Studio (BEADS), will launch Chandua: Canopies of Labour, a bilingual publication on Odisha's living appliqué traditions, on Sunday, September 20, 2026, at the Odisha Research Centre (ORC) Auditorium, Samantapur, Bhubaneswar. The launch, at 5:00 PM, forms the valedictory highlight of OCO's maiden full-day symposium, Mapping Transitions: Art, Craft, and the Ethnographic Turn. Chandua: Canopies of Labour is



the outcome of a research-led engagement with Odisha's Chandua traditions and the communities that sustain them. Looking beyond the finished object, it foregrounds craft as embodied knowledge and living testimony, tracing the labour, memory, history and cultural knowledge held within its making. The 2026 edition is

presented bilingually in English and Odia, edited by Premjish Achari and Sibdas Sengupta, with research and documentation by OCO Fellows Madhulika S. Naidu, Research Fellow, and Raj Maurya, Archivist Fellow. The book will be available for purchase at ₹6,500, inclusive of all taxes. Structured around three panels -

Art as Social Practice (Artists as Ethnographers: Reimagining Local Knowledge Systems), The Institutional Bridge (Institution Building between Art, Craft, and Anthropology), and Mapping Transitions (Art, Craft, and the Ethnographic Turn) - the symposium brings together artists, researchers, cultural practitioners and

institutional voices to examine changing approaches to art, craft and ethnographic practice. Confirmed panellists include Jeebesh Bagchi of Raqs Media Collective; Prof. Bishnu Mohapatra, political scientist and poet; Richa Agarwal, CEO of Emami Art and Chairperson of Kolkata Centre for Creativity (KCC); Anupam Roy of The Panjeri Artists' Union; Monisha Ahmed, co-founder of Ladakh Arts and Media Organisation (LAMO); and Jagannath Panda, noted Odia artist and sculptor. The symposium is planned as a yearly fixture alongside the programme's book launch.

## 'Based On New Series': Govt Refutes Claim That Q1 GDP Growth Would Be 2.6 Per Cent Without Data Revision

New Delhi: The Ministry of Statistics and Programme Implementation (MOSPI) refuted the claim that last year's current GDP for Q1 has been revised down from Rs 86 lakh crore to Rs 80 lakh crore, to make current year's GDP for the first quarter to look better and if this was not done, the growth would have been 2.6 per cent in current prices. According to an FAQ issued by the Ministry, the Q1 GDP for 2026-27 has been estimated with the new series based on 2022-23 as the base year and therefore cannot be compared with the Rs 86 lakh crore figure for the Q1 of 2025-26, which formed part of the old series that has 2011-12 as the base year. A valid comparison can be made only with the Rs 80 lakh crore figure based on the new series data with 2022-23 as the base year, it said. The comparison of the Q1 GDP estimates needs to be understood in the context of the revisions made to the GDP series. The change in the estimate of Q1 2025-26 does not represent a

downward revision made to make the current year's growth appear higher. It reflects successive methodological and data revisions to the GDP series, the MOSPI said. The Quarterly GDP estimates are compiled using the benchmark indicator approach, under which the movement in the quarterly estimates is guided by the movement in relevant high-frequency indicators. A revision in the previous-year benchmark does not, by itself, create an artificial increase in the current year's underlying economic activity or the indicators used for estimation. In the quarterly series, more than a hundred volume or value indicators are used, such as growth in crop production, growth in cement production index, growth in finished steel consumption, growth in sales in commercial vehicles, the statement said. Giving a step-by-step explanation, the statement said: First, the Q1 2025-26 GDP estimate was initially released on August 29, 2025 under the then

prevailing 2011-12 base-year series. Under that series, GDP at current prices for Q1 2025-26 was estimated at Rs 86.05 lakh crore. Second, in February 2026, the Ministry introduced the new GDP series with 2022-23 as the base year. As part of a base-year revision, the GDP estimates for the entire time series are comprehensively revised to incorporate updated data sources, improved methodologies, revised coverage and other relevant information. Accordingly, the estimate of Q1 2025-26 GDP at current prices under the new series was Rs 80.32 lakh crore. Third, at the time of release of the Provisional Estimates of GDP for 2025-26 on 05.06.2026, the Q1 2025-26 estimate was further updated to Rs 80.44 lakh crore, reflecting the availability and updation of indicators and data. Fourth, subsequently, the new series of IIP and PPI became available and were incorporated into the GDP compilation. Their incorporation necessitated updating the relevant GDP estimates from 2022-23 onwards. As a result, the Q1 2025-26 GDP at current prices was revised to Rs 80.00 lakh crore.

## Sensex, Nifty Extend Losses For 3rd Session As Oil Prices, Bond Yields Weigh On Sentiment

Mumbai,: Indian benchmark equity indices extended their losses for the third consecutive session on Wednesday, as a spike in oil prices heightened concerns over the inflation outlook, while rising bond yields further dampened investors' risk appetite. The Sensex declined 373.93 points, or 0.49 per cent, to close at 76,570.35. The Nifty also

remained under pressure, falling 141.35 points, or 0.59 per cent, to settle at 23,914.45. Commenting on Nifty technical outlook, experts said that the current bearish sentiment is likely to continue in the short term, and a sell-on-rise strategy may remain the preferred approach as long as the index remains below 24,000. "On the lower end, the correction

may extend towards 23,700-23,730," an analyst stated. The continued weakness in the domestic market came amid growing concerns that higher crude oil prices could put renewed pressure on inflation and corporate costs. Rising bond yields also added to the cautious mood among investors, making equities relatively less

attractive. Among the Nifty constituents, Eicher Motors, Wipro India and Bajaj Auto emerged as the biggest losers, contributing to the broader weakness in the benchmark index. The broader market also remained subdued. The Nifty MidCap index ended 0.53 per cent lower, while the Nifty SmallCap index declined 0.33 per cent.