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Odisha DGP Selection Case: Susanta Nath Joins As Intervenor, SC Hearing On Sept 16

Bhubaneswar (correspondent): Odisha Jail DGP Susanta Nath has joined the proceedings in the Supreme Court over the selection of the state's Director General of Police (DGP) as an intervenor, seeking to be heard as an affected party in the matter. Nath has contended that the outcome of the case could have a bearing on his prospects in the DGP selection process and has therefore sought an opportunity to place his position before the apex court. The case pertains to the process followed for selecting Odisha's



police chief, including the eligibility of senior IPS officers and compliance with the Supreme Court's earlier directions governing appointment of state DGPs. The Supreme Court has now posted the matter for hearing on September 16. The court-appointed Amicus Curiae has also

submitted a report in the case. Nath's intervention adds a fresh dimension to the proceedings, which have so far focused largely on the state government's selection process, the role of the Union Public Service Commission (UPSC) and adherence to the apex court's

guidelines. Separately, Nath's name has surfaced in connection with the CBI investigation into alleged irregularities in the recruitment of police sub-inspectors in Odisha. The CBI has written to the Odisha Home Department regarding the possibility of examining Nath in the case. He was the chairman of the Odisha Police Recruitment Board during the relevant period. His possible examination by the CBI would be for the purpose of obtaining information about the recruitment process and decisions taken by the board.

Odisha Cabinet Clears Amendment To Uniformed Services Staff Selection Commission Rules

Bhubaneswar, (correspondent): The Odisha Cabinet on Monday approved a proposal to amend the Odisha Uniformed Services Staff Selection Commission (O USSSC) Rules, 2025, to expand the recruitment mandate of the commission. The amendment will enable the O USSSC, constituted under the General Administration and Public Grievance Department, to conduct recruitment for Group-B posts carrying Level-9 pay in the Pay Matrix under the Odisha Revised Scales of Pay



Rules, 2017, besides all Group-C posts specified in Schedule-I of the rules. The commission is currently responsible for recruitment to uniformed services under the Home, Excise, Forest,

Environment and Climate Change, and Commerce and Transport departments. The amendment will also empower the government to include, exclude or alter the nomenclature of

services or posts listed in Schedule-I in accordance with the relevant recruitment rules. Further, the commission will be authorised to prescribe the examination pattern, mode, scheme, syllabus and cut-off marks for combining different uniformed services for conducting a Combined Recruitment Examination (CRE). The Cabinet approved framing of the Odisha Uniformed Services Staff Selection Commission (Amendment) Rules, 2026.

IAS Officer Sudhansu Mohan Samal Appointed CMD Of OMC

Bhubaneswar (correspondent): The Odisha government on Monday appointed 2010-batch IAS officer Sudhansu Mohan Samal as Chairman-cum-Managing Director of the Odisha Mining Corporation (OMC) as part of a minor bureaucratic reshuffle. Samal, who is currently serving as Managing Director of OMC, will continue to hold additional charge as Revenue Divisional Commissioner (Central Division), Cuttack, according to a notification issued by the General Administration and Public Grievance Department. ith Samal's



appointment, the additional charge of OMC Chairman held by IAS officer Girish S N will cease from the date Samal assumes charge. In another change, 1998-batch IAS officer Suresh Kumar Vashishth has been appointed Principal Secretary of the General Administration and Public Grievances Department. He was serving as Principal Secretary of the Social Security and Empowerment of Persons with Disabilities

Department, with additional charge of the General Administration and Public Grievances and Parliamentary Affairs departments. He will now continue to hold the additional charge of Parliamentary Affairs. Meanwhile, 2010-batch IAS officer Dr Brundha D, currently Mission Director of the National Health Mission with additional charge as Chief Executive Officer of the State Health Assurance Society, has been appointed Commissioner-cum-Secretary of the Social Security and Empowerment of Persons with Disabilities Department.

Rescue Operation Ends In Delhi Building Collapse, Five Survivors Shifted To Hospital

New Delhi: Rescue operations at the site of the Satya Niketan building collapse in south Delhi concluded on Monday after multiple agencies worked through the night to evacuate people trapped under the debris. According to Delhi Police, five people were rescued and rushed to nearby hospitals, while the death toll in the incident rose to seven. The injured have been identified as Asgar Ali, 30, Neeraj Bawa, 19, Aditya Kumar, 19, Nitish Chib, 19, and Md. Ayan, 18. Officials said all five are undergoing treatment,



with three of them in critical condition. Authorities said 12 people were admitted to hospitals following the collapse of the five-storey building, which was being used as a paying guest accommodation for students. Seven people, including an unidentified

man, succumbed to their injuries. The deceased were identified as Abhishek, 20, a resident of Sonbhadra in Uttar Pradesh, Yuvraj Soni, 20, of Durg in Chhattisgarh; Pawan, 17, from Auraiya in Uttar Pradesh, Arpit Jahaj, 19, of Dewas in

Madhya Pradesh, Akshat Singh Yadav, 18, of Katni in Madhya Pradesh; and Surinder Singh, 75, a labourer. The identity of one deceased person is yet to be established. Most of the victims were students residing in the Satya Niketan area, known for its large concentration of coaching centres and student accommodations. Officials said the cause of the collapse is under investigation. Rescue and relief operations were carried out by multiple emergency response agencies. Meanwhile,

Delhi Police on Monday arrested the owner of the collapsed building, Hariram Bansal, from Bhiwadi in Rajasthan after he allegedly went absconding following the incident. Bansal was apprehended hours after police issued a Look Out Circular (LOC) against him as investigations into the tragedy gathered pace. Earlier in the day, the Municipal Corporation of Delhi (MCD) suspended five of its employees in connection with the deadly collapse. Delhi Chief Minister Rekha Gupta, meanwhile, vowed not to spare anyone found guilty.

Rs 5,045 Cr BASUDHA Scheme Approved To Strengthen Rural Water Supply In Odisha

Bhubaneswar: The Odisha Cabinet on Monday approved the revised Buxi Jagabandhu Assured Water Supply to Habitations (BASUDHA) scheme, with a State-funded outlay of Rs 5,045 crore for implementation from 2026-27 to 2028-29. The revised scheme aims to strengthen rural drinking water services across the State by addressing gaps in coverage, incomplete water supply projects, water quality concerns, infrastructure deficiencies, source sustainability and emerging climate-related risks. Under the revised BASUDHA scheme, comprehensive funding support will be



provided for rural piped water supply projects that fall beyond the scope of existing Central and State schemes. The initiative will also focus on providing drinking water infrastructure to left-out rural habitations and completing incomplete water supply projects. The scheme provides for the augmentation and

modernisation of existing water supply systems to improve service delivery and protect public investments made in the sector. A major focus has also been placed on water quality monitoring. The government plans to strengthen surveillance through laboratories, Field Testing Kits (FTKs), mobile

laboratories and Internet of Things (IoT)-enabled monitoring systems. The revised scheme will further promote climate-resilient and energy-efficient technologies in the rural water supply sector. Technology-enabled monitoring systems, command and control centres, social audits and citizen grievance redressal mechanisms will also be established to improve transparency, monitoring and accountability. The scheme places enhanced emphasis on water conservation, the sustainability of water sources, capacity building and

greater community participation. According to the Cabinet decision, BASUDHA is aimed at ensuring universal access to safe and sustainable drinking water in rural Odisha. It is expected to improve service delivery, strengthen water quality management and promote long-term water security through resilient and sustainable infrastructure. The Cabinet has authorised the Panchayati Raj & Drinking Water Department to issue the necessary operational guidelines and administrative instructions for the implementation of the revised scheme.

117 Killed As Govt-Houthi Fighting Rages In Yemen

Aden (Yemen): At least 117 people have been killed in four days of fierce clashes between Yemeni government forces and the Houthi group in the western provinces of Taiz and Hodeidah, medical officials said. A senior medical official accompanying government forces on the western coast frontlines told Xinhua news agency on condition of anonymity that 54 government soldiers had been killed and many others wounded since fighting erupted on Thursday. Two medical sources at Houthi-run hospitals in western Hodeidah province said 63 Houthi members had been killed during the same period, bringing the combined death toll from

both sides to 117. Yemeni government warplanes struck Houthi-held areas in the western provinces of Hodeidah and Taiz on Friday, backing ground troops battling a major Houthi offensive near the strategic Bab al-Mandab Strait. The airstrikes came as fierce fighting raged across multiple fronts in the two provinces, where Houthi fighters had made rapid advances over the past 24 hours, the official said on condition of anonymity. The official said the warplanes targeted Houthi positions and movements in areas of active ground combat. Further details on the strikes or casualties were not immediately available. A government military official told Xinhua on condition of anonymity that

government forces also retook several key positions in western Taiz in a swift overnight counterattack, hours after Houthi members had seized them. The latest escalation marks some of the heaviest ground fighting in western Yemen in recent years, raising concerns of a broader return to large-scale hostilities after years of relative calm across many of the country's frontlines. Yemen has been mired in conflict since late 2014, when the Houthis seized Sanaa and much of northern Yemen, prompting a Saudi-led coalition to intervene the following year in support of the internationally recognised Yemeni government.

On the occasion of International Literacy Day:TPSODL Empowering Communities Through Learning

Berhampur(correspondent): Strengthening community development across Southern Odisha, the Digital Literacy and Women Literacy initiatives are focused on improving access to information, essential services and opportunities while empowering individuals with the skills needed in today's digital world.Through these programmes, TP Southern Odisha Distribution Limited (TPSODL) is enhancing knowledge, confidence and self-reliance, helping communities build a more inclusive and sustainable future.Under its Digital Empowerment Initiative, TPSODL plans to reach 80,000 households across 40 Gram Panchayats in eight districts through door-to-door outreach, village

meetings and awareness camps.The programme aims to help people become more familiar and comfortable with digital services and technology.It specifically targets youth, farmers, homemakers, small-scale businessmen and Self-Help Group (SHG) members. Through these efforts, beneficiaries are being empowered to access online services, digital platforms and essential government welfare schemes.The initiative also facilitates enrolment and awareness of schemes such as PM-Kisan, CM-Kisan, PM Surya Ghar: Muft Bijli Yojana, PMJJBY and Ayushman Bharat, helping communities access greater opportunities and benefits.The initiative focuses on four key areas: Digital Literacy and Government Scheme Awareness, Cyber Security and



Financial Literacy, Solar Awareness, and E-Billing and Digital Payment Awareness. Through interactive sessions, participants learn about safe internet usage, fraud prevention and responsible financial management. The programme also raises awareness about renewable energy, digital transactions, online bill payments, and the effective use of digital alerts, notifications and pop-ups. The

programme has already reached around 5,000 beneficiaries across eight districts of Southern Odisha. District-wise coverage includes Ganjam (1,230), Gajapati (555), Kandhamal (512), Boudh (487), Koraput (795), Malkangiri (521), Rayagada (366) and Nabarangpur (451). Through these efforts, TPSODL is promoting digital awareness and helping communities make better use of

government welfare schemes and online services. The initiative also aims to strengthen cyber-security practices while encouraging the adoption of clean energy, e-billing and digital payments.Sharing her experience, Jhunu Maharana, a resident of Pujariput in Nabarangpur district, said, "Through TPSODL's Digital Literacy Programme, I learned about e-billing and its benefits. I have

now become an e-consumer and receive my electricity bill digitally. This helps me save ?10 on my monthly electricity bill and makes bill management much more convenient. The programme has been very helpful for me."TPSODL has also launched its Women Literacy Centre (WLC) programme to promote literacy among women above 15 years of age, particularly from underprivileged communities. As part of the first phase, three centres have been established in Ganjam district at HaldiaPadar in Rangeilunda Block, Raju Dhoba Sahi in Goshani Nuagaon, and Dhemarasaahi in Bijipur. Each centre has enrolled a minimum of 40 participants. The initiative aims to improve literacy levels, build confidence and create greater opportunities for women in the community.

Guru Pratibha Samman Programme Held

Padampur(correspondent): On the occasion of Teachers' Day, the Retired Teachers' Association organised a Guru Pratibha Samman Programme in Padampur to honour teachers for their valuable contributions to society.Padampur MLA Barsha Singh Bariha attended the ceremony as the chief guest. On the occasion, she expressed her gratitude to all teachers who impart knowledge, values and proper guidance to shape the lives of students.The MLA felicitated teachers who have made significant contributions in various fields. Speaking at the programme, she said that a teacher does not merely impart education but also guides students towards the right path and helps shape them into responsible and good human beings.

New bus stand worth Rs 6 crore is not functional in Malkangiri

Malkangiri, correspondent :the modern bus stand of Malkangiri Sadar, built at a cost of Rs 6 crore, has become a cowshed due to lack of use. This bus stand was built at a cost of more than Rs 6 crore during the previous government. This project was done to keep in mind the inter-state bus services from Malkangiri, the last frontier district of Odisha, to various states including Andhra Telangana and Chhattisgarh. The building has a waiting room, electricity, fans, lighting facilities and fire protection system for passengers. But even after a year of construction, the bus stand is not yet functional. Now, as the building does not have a main gate, it has become a haven for cattle rustlers and anti-social people. As a result, questions have been raised about the security and maintenance of government property built at a cost of crores of rupees. In this regard, OSRTC Bus Manager Guru Dutta Dora said that OSRTC is ready to manage the bus stand if the municipal council hands it over. On the other hand, municipal council Executive officer Rajiv Lochan Nayak said that OSRTC has been asked to take over the bus stand. However, he informed that since another new construction project of the organization is going on, this bus stand will be taken over after the completion of that work. And since the impasse between OSRTC and the municipal council regarding the transfer of responsibility continues, this bus stand has been idle for years.

Dedicated Freight Corridors: Transforming India's Freight Landscape

Bhubaneswar, (correspondent)India's freight transportation ecosystem is undergoing a significant transformation with the operationalisation of the Dedicated Freight Corridor (DFC) network. Developed by the Dedicated Freight Corridor Corporation of India Limited (DFCCIL), the network is designed to provide high-capacity, efficient and reliable rail connectivity between some of the country's major industrial, manufacturing and logistics centres.The DFC network comprises the 1,337-km Eastern Dedicated Freight Corridor (EDFC), connecting New Sahnewal in Punjab with New Sonnagar in Bihar, and



the 1,506-km Western Dedicated Freight Corridor (WDFC), connecting New Dadri in Uttar Pradesh with New JNPT in Maharashtra. Together, the two corridors form a 2,843-km high-capacity freight railway network designed to facilitate faster and more efficient movement of goods across the country.A landmark milestone was achieved on 31 March 2026, with the

completion of the approximately 102-km Vaitarna-JNPT section, bringing the entire WDFC into operation. The completion has enabled seamless movement of freight trains, including double-stack container trains, up to Jawaharlal Nehru Port Terminal (JNPT), further strengthening India's connection with its major western maritime gateway.

Rathaguda Village Grapples with Basic Civic Problems

laxmipur correspondent):Rathaguda village under Odia Penth Gram Panchayat in Laxmipur block of Koraput district has been grappling with a host of basic civic problems for a long time. The villagers have been deprived of essential facilities such as electricity and safe drinking water, causing considerable hardship in their daily lives.The village has been without electricity for the past three months after a 10 KVA transformer installed by the electricity department was allegedly stolen. The prolonged power outage has severely affected the daily lives of the villagers, particularly the studies of school-going children.Following the theft, villagers lodged a complaint at the Laxmipur police station. However, no tangible solution has been found so far, they alleged. The villagers further alleged that the electricity department has been citing various reasons for the delay in restoring power supply to the village.The drinking water situation in the village is equally distressing. About a year ago, a drinking water project was constructed under the Basudha scheme at a distance of around 300 metres from the village at a cost of lakhs of rupees. However, according to the villagers, the project supplied water only on the day of its inauguration and has remained defunct ever since.Despite the expenditure of a substantial amount of public money, the project is currently of little use to the villagers, they alleged.At present, a solar-powered drinking water project is the only source of water for around 20 families in the village. While the facility provides water during the summer months, it reportedly becomes non-functional during the rainy season, leaving the villagers in serious difficulty.

My Bharat Launches Quiz Competition in Rayagada

Rayagada, (correspondent)I: The Ministry of Youth Affairs and Sports, Government of India, through My Bharat, has launched a district-wide youth engagement campaign in Rayagada, including a quiz competition to promote knowledge, creativity, innovation and leadership among young people.A meeting was held under the leadership of District Youth Officer Kishore Vemulawada, with 24 My Bharat volunteers participating. The poster for the quiz registration campaign was unveiled on the occasion.The meeting discussed various My Bharat initiatives, including Volunteers for Bharat, experiential learning, youth exchange

programmes, Viksit Jeevant Gram, Viksit Bharat Young Leaders Dialogue, and the formation and support of youth clubs.Plans were also discussed to organise district-level sports, cultural and skill-based competitions to identify talented youth for state and national-level participation. The national programme will be held in New Delhi from January 10 to 12, 2027. Youth aged 15-29 years as on August 17, 2026 are eligible to participate. Six tracks will be organised — Viksit Bharat Challenge, Cultural Track, Design for Bharat, Hack for Social Cause, Young Entrepreneur Challenge and Youth Parliament.

Peaceful March Demands Better Healthcare at PRM Medical College and Hospital

Baripada(correspondent): A peaceful march was organised by MASA Army demanding immediate improvement in healthcare services, development of essential infrastructure and the provision of basic facilities for patients at Pandit Raghunath Murmu (PRM) Medical College and Hospital at Rangamatia in Mayurbhanj district.The march, led by MASA Army State President Sukulal Marandi, began from the PRM Medical College and Hospital campus after floral tributes were paid at the statue of Pandit Raghunath Murmu. The participants then proceeded to the office of the Mayurbhanj District Collector. Former President of MPC Autonomous College Banja Mahanti, environmentalist Vivekananda Pattnaik and senior journalist Sanjay Choudhury

were also present at the beginning of the programme. After paying floral tributes at the statue of Pandit Raghunath Murmu, they encouraged the participants of the march.Later, a memorandum containing 14 demands, addressed to the Hon'ble Chief Minister, was submitted to Additional District Magistrate Dukhabandhu Nayak through the Mayurbhanj District Collector.MASA Army stated that lakhs of people in a large district like Mayurbhanj depend on PRM Medical College and Hospital for treatment. However, the organisation alleged that patients and members of the public have raised various concerns regarding the availability of doctors, specialists, nursing staff, medical equipment, emergency treatment and other basic



facilities. According to the organisation, due to a shortage of emergency treatment and diagnostic facilities, many patients are reportedly referred to other places, particularly Cuttack, causing financial and mental hardship to patients and their families. The organisation also alleged negligence in the treatment of patients and held the hospital administration responsible for addressing such concerns.MASA Army further alleged that, instead of experienced specialist doctors, associate professors and professors regularly

attending to patients, patients are often left under the care of postgraduate students undergoing training. The organisation expressed concern over the alleged impact of this situation on patient care.Major 14-Point DemandsThe major demands put forward by MASA Army include:Immediate filling up of all sanctioned doctor posts at the Medical College and Hospital.Ensuring the presence of doctors, nursing staff and healthcare workers during duty hours, along with regular monitoring.Providing all necessary modern

medical equipment and ensuring that the equipment remains functional.Strengthening ICU, Emergency, Operation Theatre, Diagnostic and other essential medical services.Ensuring the continuous availability of blood, medicines and other emergency medical supplies.Providing adequate specialist doctors and treatment facilities to prevent unnecessary referrals.Improving sanitation, drinking water, toilets and seating facilities for patients and their attendants.Introducing an effective Grievance

Redressal System for the prompt resolution of complaints from patients and their relatives.Conducting regular high-level inspections to ensure quality and timely services in all hospital departments.Further strengthening the overall infrastructure of the Medical College and Hospital.Making the CT Scan and MRI facilities operational immediately and opening the Blood Bank building at the earliest to provide services to the public.Opening all required healthcare and treatment departments and making them fully

functional with adequate doctors, staff and equipment.Immediately repairing the road from Palbani to PRM Medical College and Hospital to ensure smooth transportation for ambulances and patients.Installing adequate streetlights from Palbani Square to the hospital.MASA Army State President Sukulal Marandi said that access to quality and affordable healthcare within their own district is a fundamental necessity for the people of Mayurbhanj. He stated that PRM Medical College and Hospital should be developed into a complete and advanced healthcare centre with the required number of doctors, equipment, specialised departments and proper infrastructure.He urged the government to seriously consider the 14-point charter of demands and take immediate and visible

action. Otherwise, MASA Army would intensify its public movement in the coming days to protect the healthcare rights of the people of Mayurbhanj, he said.Among others, MASA Army State Working President Surya Narayan Murmu, District Vice-President Laxmikanta Baske, District Working President Tika Badal Marandi, Abinash Marandi, Shankar Baske, Bikram Murmu, Dasmal Soren, State Secretary Padma Lochan Murmu, Pesa Dula Murmu, Brajesh Murmu, Lal Mohan Baske, Maya Rabindra Hembram, Sanel Murmu, Subash Murmu, Ranjit Murmu, Kiran Marandi, Ranjit Tudu, Chitta Marandi, Tapan Majhi, Birbhim Marandi, Chandray Marandi, Badal Murmu, Raisen Murmu, Rishiraj Murmu, Bishu Murmu and Digbijay Soren, among others, participated in the march.

Kathak dancer Dr. Sangeeta Sahu awarded with Guru Gaurav Samman 2026

Cuttack:(Correspondent):- Silver city Cuttack, the only Kathak dance institution in Odisha, Sangeeta Kathak Dance Academy, which has been working for the promotion and overall development of Kathak dance in the country and abroad through thousands of students, the annual function of Vidya Vikas Samiti, Odisha was held in a grand ceremony at the auditorium of Sri Ramachandra Bhawan, Cuttack. The chief guest, eminent social worker Mrs. Namrata



Chadha, honored Kathak dancer Dr. Sangeeta Sahu with Pushpaguchha, Uttariya, Sananda, and Manapatra. President Dr. Ramesh Chandra Das, Dr. Sudarshan

Sangita Sahoo, a daughter of West Bengal, married Arun Sahoo, the middle son of prominent politician and businessman Khirod Sahoo of College Chowk, Cuttack, and has been teaching dance through the first and only Kathak dance institute in Odisha for more than twenty-five years. Dr. Sangita is a gold medal winner in Kathak dance and has received a doctorate degree after conducting advanced research in Odissi and Kathak dance.

Odia professor and Odissi dancer Dr. Chittaranjan Sahani felicitated in Guru Gaurav Samman

Cuttack Correspondent):- At the 8th annual Swankshetra Utsav of Utkal Vidya Gaurav Parishad on the occasion of Guru Diwas at the Gaurishankar Rai Samilani Hall in the city of Cuttack, Paramhansa Swamiji has bestowed the Brahmaananda Saraswati Maharaj Pushpaguchha, Sananda, Manapatra, Uttariya, on senior professor of Odisha language literature and internationally renowned Odissi dancer Dr. Chittaranjan Sahani for his overall contribution to



the renowned education and dance fields of Odisha. President Professor Dr. Natabar Satpathy, eminent lawyer and social worker Shri Sauri Chandra Mohapatra, senior journalist and former editor of the "SAMAAJ" Dr. Satya Ray, Dr. Rabiranjana Sahu, professor Sanyashini Vidyut Kumari Lala, Dr. Kishore Chandra Das, were present on the stage and praised Dr. Sahani's efforts in promoting Odia language literature and Odissi dance in the country and abroad. The flawless performance of Odia literature and Odissi dance on one

stage at the provincial, national and international levels is a special glorious chapter in the life of Dr. Chittaranjan Sahani, which is captivating the entire Odia speaking and dance loving world. They have been providing dance services for more than three decades, especially during Sri Jagannath Mahaprabhu's Gundicha Yatra, Bahuda Yatra, Niladri Bije, Snana Yatra, Chandan Yatra, Dola Yatra, Jhulan Yatra and the last two Nabakalebar Yatras of Mahaprabhu.

NIT Rourkela Concludes SPARC-Sponsored International Workshop on Smart Healthcare and Robotics

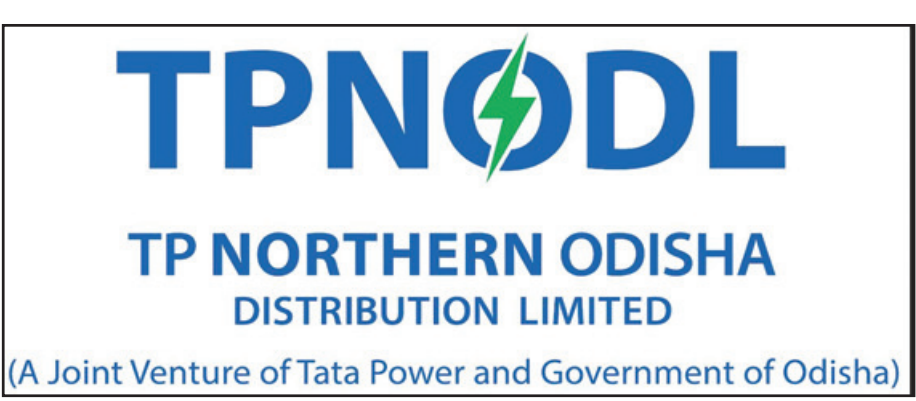
Rourkela:(Correspondent):- The National Institute of Technology Rourkela successfully concluded the three-day SPARC-sponsored International Workshop on "Smart Healthcare and Robotics" (SHRO-2026), organized by the Department of Computer Science and Engineering from September 2 to 4, 2026. The workshop brought together experts from India and abroad, faculty members, researchers, scholars, and students to deliberate on emerging technologies at the intersection of artificial intelligence, healthcare, biomechanics, and robotics. Organized under the Scheme for Promotion of Academic and Research Collaboration (SPARC) of the



Ministry of Education, Government of India, the workshop was part of the academic and research collaboration between NIT Rourkela and the University of Nebraska at Omaha, USA. The programme was coordinated by Dr. Anup Nandy and Dr. Ratnakar Dash, Associate Professors, Department of Computer Science and Engineering, NIT Rourkela. The inaugural ceremony was graced by Prof. K. Umamaheshwar Rao, Director, NIT Rourkela; Dr. Anita Aggarwal, Scientist-F and Head, SEED, Department of Science and Technology, Government of India, as Chief Guest; and Prof. Rabibrata Mukherjee, National Coordinator, SPARC, Ministry of Education, Government of India, and Professor, IIT Kharagpur, as Guest of Honour. Prof. Mukul Mukherjee, Foreign PI, and Prof. Philippe Malcolm, Foreign Co-PI, from the University of Nebraska at Omaha, were also present.

TPNODL to hold 3rd National Lok Adalat to resolve power theft and enforcement cases

Baleshwar, Correspondent)- TP Northern Odisha Distribution Limited (TPNODL) will host its 3rd National Lok Adalat and Settlement Camp of this calendar year on 12th September 2026 across its operational areas to facilitate swift and amicable resolution of pending cases related to unauthorized use of electricity and power theft. The day-long settlement drive will operate from 9:00 AM to 5:00 PM across Division and Sub-Division offices, as well as designated court premises in Baleshwar, Kendujhar, Jajpur, Bhadrak, and Baripada electrical circles. Organised under the framework



of the National Legal Services Authority, the initiative offers a transparent, accessible, and time-bound mechanism for consumers to resolve long-standing disputes. Dedicated support units comprising enforcement officials, legal advisors, and administrative personnel will be deployed at all designated venues to provide on-the-spot

verification, documentation assistance, and final settlement processing. Unauthorized use of electricity under Section 126 and theft of electricity under Section 135 are punishable offences under the Electricity Act, 2003, attracting financial penalties, imprisonment, disconnection of power supply and other actions as per the provisions of the

Act. Beyond its individual and legal risks, illegal energy consumption directly contributes to aggregate technical and commercial (AT&C) losses across the distribution network. This financial drain unfairly increases electricity tariffs for law-abiding consumers while overloading the grid, leading to frequent

voltage fluctuations, transformer burnouts, and service disruptions that compromise overall power stability. Highlighting the overarching objective of the initiative, Mr. Dushyant Kumar Tyagi, Chief Executive Officer of TPNODL stated, "Ensuring a resilient, transparent, and equitable power network requires a collective commitment to ethical energy consumption. Power theft not only poses severe legal hazards for the offenders but also directly undermines power network reliability and places an unfair financial burden on honest consumers."

SOA IDEATHON 2026-- FOSTERING INNOVATION FOR VIKSHIT BHARAT 2047

Bhubaneswar, (Correspondent):- A total of 456 teams took part in SOA Ideathon 2026, an internal hackathon organised exclusively for students of Siksha 'O' Anusandhan Deemed to be University (SOA) here on September 1 and 2, providing a platform for young innovators to transform their creative ideas into solutions addressing real-world challenges. The two-phase event conducted by SOA witnessed enthusiastic participation from students across the university. The online rounds were conducted on September 1 and 2 which was followed by the offline finale on September 5. Following the screening rounds and multiple stages of evaluation during the online phase, the top 50 teams were shortlisted for the offline finale. These teams will be given the opportunity



to have their ideas submitted for consideration in the Smart India Hackathon (SIH) 2026 selection process. The event reinforced SOA's commitment to fostering a culture of innovation and technological excellence among its students. In the offline round, the top 50 teams presented their ideas and prototypes before an experienced panel of jury members comprising industry experts and professionals from

organizations including Wipro, TCS, AIC-SOA Foundation, the Department of Telecommunications and Infosys, among others. The teams were evaluated on key parameters, including relevance to societal needs, feasibility, novelty and innovation, prototype readiness, clarity of presentation and teamwork. Based on the comprehensive evaluation by the jury, the top 10 teams were declared

winners of SOA Ideathon 2026. The winning teams were awarded cash prizes in recognition of their innovation and performance. The team which finished at the top received Rs. 30,000 while the second and third ranked teams received Rs. 20,000 and Rs. 10,000 respectively. The teams which secured ranks between 4 and 10 received Rs. 5,000 each. The grand event concluded with a valedictory ceremony graced by Prof. Pradipta Kumar Nanda, Vice-Chancellor, SOA, and other distinguished dignitaries who included Prof. Manoranjan Parhi, Organising Chair and Single Point of Contact (SPOC) for SIH 2026, Prof. Pradeep Kumar Sahoo, Dean, Institute of Technical Education and Research (ITER) and Ms. Lopa

Unsafe Water Pouches Sold Openly in Kantabanji No Packing or Expiry Dates Displayed; Questions Raised Over Administrative Inaction.

Kantabanji, correspondence :- Concerns over the sale of drinking water pouches without proper labelling have surfaced in the Kantabanji area, with consumers alleging that several packets do not carry essential details such as the packing date and expiry date. Residents claim that such water pouches are being sold openly at shops and roadside outlets despite the absence of clear information about their safety and shelf life. Consumption of improperly packaged or contaminated drinking water could pose serious health risks, particularly during the ongoing season of



increased water-borne diseases. As per food safety norms, packaged drinking water is required to carry prescribed labelling and safety information. However, consumers allege that the rules are being overlooked in parts of Kantabanji. The issue has raised questions over the monitoring and

enforcement mechanism of the concerned authorities. Residents have urged the administration and Food Safety officials to conduct inspections, collect samples for testing and take appropriate action against sellers or manufacturers violating the prescribed norms.

Closure of Rourkela Railway Station Entry Gate Sparks Public Anger

Rourkela Correspondent):- Public resentment has surfaced in Rourkela following the sudden closure of an entry route to Rourkela Railway Station without any prior notice. In protest against the move, members of the Rourkela Banik Sangh staged a demonstration on the railway station

premises on Monday, demanding the immediate reopening of the closed entry route. The association members also held discussions with the Station Master and Railway Protection Force (RPF) officials regarding the issue. However, as no immediate



arrangement was made to reopen the route, members of the Banik Sangh themselves opened the closed gate. According to reports, the railway authorities had closed the particular route and made the approach from the Sankat Mochan

Temple side the common entry and exit point for passengers. The arrangement was reportedly made on the instructions of the Divisional Railway Manager (DRM). The sudden closure, without any prior public information, has reportedly caused

considerable inconvenience to passengers and visitors. Members of the Banik Sangh have demanded that the railway authorities take necessary steps to ensure smooth access to the station and avoid such decisions without prior notice to the public.

EDITORIAL

Medicine in the Age of Intelligent Machines

Medicine has always evolved with science. From the discovery of antibiotics and vaccines to advanced imaging and robotic surgery, every technological breakthrough has changed the way doctors understand disease and care for patients. Today, medicine is entering another transformative phase—the age of intelligent machines.

Artificial intelligence (AI), machine learning, robotics and data-driven technologies are becoming important tools in hospitals, laboratories and clinics. Machines can analyze enormous amounts of medical information, recognize patterns and assist doctors in making faster and more informed decisions.

One of the most promising applications is early diagnosis. AI systems can examine medical images such as X-rays, CT scans and retinal photographs and identify subtle patterns that may be difficult to notice. Such technologies can support doctors in detecting diseases at an earlier stage, when treatment may be more effective.

Intelligent machines are also changing drug discovery. Developing a new medicine traditionally requires years of research and testing. AI can help researchers analyze biological data, identify potential drug targets and predict which compounds may be worth investigating. This does not eliminate laboratory research or clinical trials, but it can help scientists focus their efforts more efficiently.

Another important development is personalized medicine. Every patient is different, and treatments that work well for one person may not work equally well for another. By analyzing medical histories, genetic information and other health data, intelligent systems may help doctors select treatments that are better suited to individual patients.

Robotics is bringing another dimension to healthcare. Robot-assisted systems can help surgeons perform complex procedures with greater precision and control. Meanwhile, intelligent monitoring systems can help healthcare professionals observe patients and identify warning signs that require attention.

Crime Capital? The Opposition Should Check the Facts Before the Rhetoric

D.C. Swain

Every few months, someone in the opposition rediscovers the phrase "law and order collapse" and reaches for it the way a cricketer reaches for a well-worn bat that has never actually scored a run. It sounds dramatic. It fills a column. It generates a few headlines. It does not, however, survive five minutes with the real data and that, more than anything else, is what separates a real critique from a talking point.

Take the favourite claim of the season: that Odisha has somehow become the most dangerous place in the country for women. It is a serious charge, made seriously, and it deserves a serious answer—which is exactly why it is worth pointing out that acid attacks on women in Odisha have fallen by 73 percent, dowry deaths by 26 percent, public disrobing cases by nearly 27 percent, while molestation and rape cases have also declined. Total cases registered against women across the first eighteen months of new Government are, quite literally, within two of what they were in the eighteen months before that. That is not a crisis. It is a flat line that the opposition would rather not draw attention to, because a flat line makes for a very unconvincing headline.

Then there is the favourite backdrop prop of every "law and order in crisis" speech: the Maoist insurgency. It would help the opposition's case immensely if the insurgency were still, in fact, a going concern. Instead, the state has spent the last year quietly dismantling the Maoist network cadre by cadre—Central Committee members eliminated, 72 extremists walking out of the jungle and surrendering, and Odisha eventually being declared Maoist-free. The state's Director General of Police confirmed a milestone that would have seemed almost unimaginable during the nearly three decades in which the insurgency cast a shadow over parts of Odisha.

That is not the record of a government that has lost control of its territory. It is the record of a government that has done the difficult, unglamorous work of restoring state authority where it had once been challenged by armed extremists. It is also a reminder that law and order is not merely about what happens in a police station in Bhubaneswar or Cuttack. It is about whether the state can guarantee security in its most remote districts as well.

Cyber fraud, too, gets wheeled out as evidence of a state asleep at the wheel until you notice what the police have actually been doing. Odisha Police conducted a full-scale, named, month-long operation against digital fraud networks, freezing nearly 40,000 mule bank accounts and putting 379

accused behind bars. A dedicated cyber-abuse monitoring mechanism and 20 new economic-offence police stations have further expanded the state's capacity to deal with crimes that barely existed in their present form a decade ago.

Being outraged about cybercrime is easy. Building the institutional machinery to dismantle mule-account networks is not. The latter requires trained investigators, financial intelligence, technology, co-ordination with banks and agencies, and a police force capable of following money trails rather than merely registering complaints. On this front, the government's record is considerably more substantial than the opposition's rhetoric suggests.

And the modernisation is not restricted to cybercrime. The implementation of the new criminal laws marks another major transition in the functioning of the justice system. Moving from colonial-era criminal statutes to the new legal framework requires far more than changing the names of Acts. Police personnel have to be trained, procedures have to be redesigned, digital systems strengthened, investigation practices modernised and coordination between police, prosecution, forensic institutions and courts improved. Odisha's implementation of the new criminal laws is therefore part of a much larger effort to bring policing and criminal justice into the 21st century.

The opposition also likes to imply that none of this comes with any real investment—that the government talks big and funds nothing. The numbers say otherwise. Twenty-one thousand one hundred and eighty-six new posts sanctioned across the police force say otherwise. A 250-crore Investigation Fund, the first of its kind in the department's history, says otherwise. Nearly 5,000 new motorcycles and a Scorpio for every police station in the state say otherwise.

And then comes perhaps the most important investment of all: forensic capacity. A forensic system that processed more than three lakh samples across over 28,000 cases in eighteen months represents a fundamental shift in the quality of investigation. The establishment of a Forensic Science University takes that ambition further. If Odisha wants conviction-oriented policing rather than headline-oriented policing, forensic science, scientific investigation and trained forensic professionals have to become central to the criminal justice system. A modern police force cannot depend forever on confession, conjecture and paperwork.

There is another change that is easy to miss if law and order is viewed only through the narrow lens of FIRs and crime statistics: confidence.

A state that has genuinely lost control does not become the preferred venue for major na-

tional and international events. Odisha has increasingly demonstrated that it can host events of national significance with security, logistics and civic coordination operating at scale. The celebration of Navy Day, the hosting of Pravasi Bharatiya Divas and other major national events have brought thousands of visitors, senior dignitaries and public attention to the state. Such events require meticulous security arrangements, traffic management, intelligence coordination, crowd control, emergency preparedness and inter-departmental execution.

These are not merely ceremonial occasions. They are tests of administrative capacity.

And the same is true when the threat comes not from criminals or extremists but from nature. When Cyclone Dana bore down on the Odisha coast, it was not slogans that saved lives. It was preparedness, coordination and execution. As 125 disaster-response teams and nearly a thousand personnel worked to clear roads, evacuate vulnerable populations and maintain essential services, the government pursued its declared objective of zero casualties. The result was what matters most in disaster management: lives saved.

None of this means Odisha's police force is beyond improvement. It does not mean every crime has been solved, every victim has received perfect justice or every police station operates exactly as it should. No serious government can make such a claim. There will always be crimes, failures, delays and cases that demand scrutiny. A responsible opposition should absolutely question them.

But there is a difference between holding a government to account and simply repeating a slogan until it sounds true.

Law and order is not measured by how loudly a politician says "collapse". It is measured by whether organised extremism is being eliminated, whether crimes against women are declining, whether cybercriminals are being pursued, whether investigations are becoming more scientific, whether the new criminal laws are actually being implemented, whether police capacity is expanding, whether forensic infrastructure is being built and whether the state can mobilise its machinery when disaster or a major national event demands it. On those measures, the picture is considerably more complicated and considerably more positive than the phrase "crime capital" suggests.

So the next time the opposition reaches for that phrase, perhaps it should carry a footnote.

Because the data already has one. And it is not particularly flattering to the people making the charge.

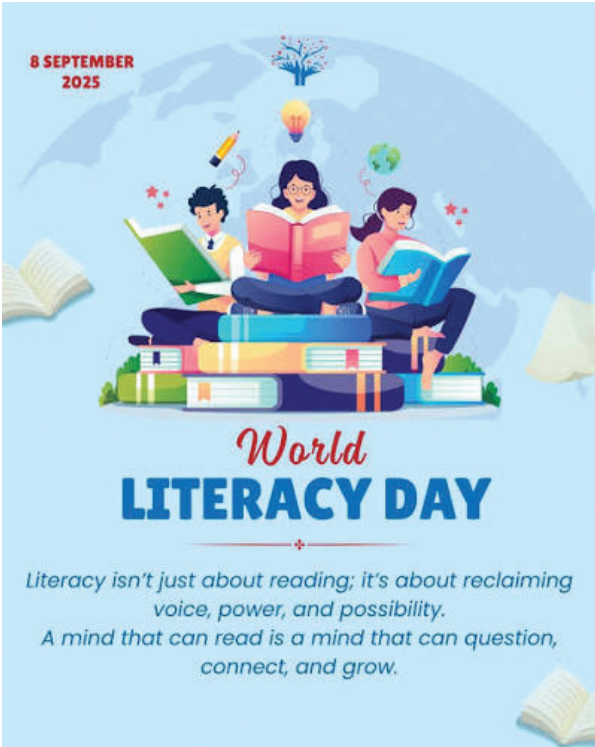
Where There Is Literacy, There Will Be the Light of Development



Atul Goyal

Literacy is far more than knowing letters and words; it awakens the courage to question, the wisdom to decide, the awareness to claim one's rights and the confidence to shape one's own destiny. Literacy is the first gateway to this ability. Therefore, limiting literacy merely to the ability to recognize letters and write words would be to narrow its broader meaning. In today's changing times, a literate person is one who can understand information, distinguish between right and wrong, use technology wisely, and make responsible decisions towards his or her family, society and nature. Keeping this broader perspective in mind, 'International Literacy Day' is observed across the world on 8 September. The year 2026 is particularly historic because it marks 60 years since the declaration establishing International Literacy Day. UNESCO declared 8 September as this day in 1966, and its global observance began in 1967. This

year's theme is 'Literacy for People, the Planet and Prosperity'. The theme makes it clear that literacy is connected not only with education but also deeply with human dignity, environmental sustainability and economic opportunities. The goal of achieving literacy has still not been fully accomplished despite six decades of global efforts. According to UNESCO, in 2024, at least 739 million young people and adults worldwide were deprived of basic literacy skills. The situation of children is also a matter of concern. Not nearly one in four, but approximately four out of ten children worldwide are unable to reach the minimum level of proficiency in reading, while in 2023 around 272 million children and adolescents were out of school. These figures show that merely increasing the number of schools is not enough; ensuring the quality of education, continuity of learning and access for every individual is equally essential. The first and foremost benefit of literacy goes to the



individual. A person who can read and write can understand information about government schemes, use banking and digital services, read health-related instructions, search for employment opportunities and raise his or her voice for rights. A mother becoming literate is not merely one individual becoming educated; its impact extends to the entire next generation. A literate family is better equipped to make informed decisions regarding children's education, health, nutrition and future. Therefore, literacy should be regarded as a fundamental force of social transformation.

In the present era,

the definition of literacy has become even broader. The digital age has made access to information easier, but at the same time it has created new threats in the form of misinformation, fake news, online fraud and misleading propaganda. Now merely reading a book is not enough; it is also necessary to understand whether the information available on the internet is reliable or not. The rapid expansion of artificial intelligence has made this challenge even more serious. The literacy of the future will also have to include digital literacy, media literacy, financial literacy, health literacy

and AI literacy. Only then can knowledge become a light that shows the right direction amid the noise of information. This year's theme gives equal importance to the 'planet' along with 'people'. To confront environmental crises, society must also be aware, and knowledge is the foundation of awareness. Information related to climate change, water conservation, biodiversity, energy saving, waste management and the judicious use of natural resources will translate into behaviour only when people are capable of understanding it and making decisions based on it. Literacy gives individuals the power to understand that protecting the environment is not merely the responsibility of governments but an issue connected with the everyday behaviour of every citizen. UNESCO also links the 2026 theme with inclusion, a sustainable future, livelihoods and opportunities for economic development.

The third important word in the theme is 'prosperity'. Without education and literacy, it is difficult to ensure that

the benefits of economic development reach every section of society. A literate person is better equipped to learn new skills, seek employment, start an enterprise and adapt to a changing economy. Today, when the nature of employment is changing rapidly and the importance of technological competence is increasing, the ability to continue learning throughout life is becoming the real capital. Literacy is the first step towards this lifelong learning.

For India too, this day is an occasion for introspection. The country has made remarkable progress in the field of literacy. According to the Ministry of Education, the literacy rate among the population aged seven years and above was recorded at 80.9 percent in PLFS 2023-24, significantly higher than the 74.04 percent recorded in 2011. Female literacy also increased from 57.93 percent in 2011 to 74.6 percent in 2023-24. However, the inequalities hidden behind the national average cannot be ignored. Differences still exist between rural and urban areas,

between men and women, and among different states. Therefore, the next challenge before India is not merely the question of 'how many people are literate', but the question of 'how many people are able to learn and understand effectively'. The literacy campaign will succeed only when it moves beyond documents and government programmes and becomes a shared responsibility of society. A culture of reading must be developed in schools, libraries must be made vibrant, quality content must be made available in local languages, and digital resources must reach villages and disadvantaged groups are essential. Technology should be used to expand access, not to deepen digital inequality.

The most important thing is that literacy should not be regarded as a means of passing examinations, but as the

power to understand life better and make it better. When a person reads and understands his or her rights, when a farmer uses weather and market information, when a woman becomes more financially independent through digital banking, when a young person learns a new skill through knowledge available online, or when a citizen changes his or her behaviour on the basis of environmental information, literacy is transformed into real change. A society in which the opportunity to read, understand and learn reaches the last person can become more just, more sensitive and more sustainable. This year's call on Literacy Day is, in fact, an appeal for a future world where knowledge empowers individuals, education connects society, understanding protects nature, and skills open new doors to prosperity. The need is simply to ensure that this light of knowledge does not remain confined to a few hands, but reaches every home, every village, every settlement and every individual. Only then can literacy truly become the light of human development.

Doctor Shortage Cripples Healthcare Services at Khandapada CHC, Patients Suffer

N a y a g a r h , (correspondent): Healthcare services at the Khandapada Community Health Centre (CHC) have been severely affected due to an acute shortage of doctors, leaving patients in distress. Against the sanctioned strength of 14 doctors, only three doctors are currently available at the health centre, reportedly causing serious difficulties in providing proper medical services to the people. Residents of Khandapada town and surrounding areas depend heavily on the

CHC for treatment. More than 300 patients reportedly visit the health centre every day. Particularly during the morning hours, long queues of patients can be seen waiting in the Outpatient Department (OPD) to consult doctors. With only one or two doctors attending to a large number of patients at a time, patients often have to wait for hours. It is alleged that, on some occasions, some patients are unable to consult a doctor and return home disappointed along with their family members. Although the



shortage of doctors has reportedly been causing problems repeatedly, the failure of the higher health authorities and the district Chief District Medical Officer (CDMO) to address the issue has led to growing resentment among the public. People of the Khandapada area have demanded that at least two to three doctors should be available during both morning and afternoon hours to ensure proper treatment of patients. Intellectuals and local residents have also urged the Nayagarh CDMO to take immediate steps to address the problem. There is also a demand for the district administration to fill up

the vacant doctor posts at the Khandapada CHC at the earliest in the interest of patients. When contacted, Khandapada CHC Chief Medical Officer Dr. Abhisar Panda said that he was aware of the problem and had repeatedly apprised the Nayagarh CDMO about the shortage of doctors. Local people have urged the higher health authorities, Nayagarh CDMO, Khandapada MLA and Cuttack Lok Sabha MP to intervene and take necessary steps to improve healthcare services at the CHC.

Kisan Congress Demands Swift Action

BARAGADA(correspondent): : The Bargarh District Kisan Congress Committee has urgently appealed to the district administration to implement immediate, robust measures to address three critical issues confronting farmers, warning that delays could worsen their plight. In a formal representation to the District Collector, Kisan Congress Chairman Gunamani Sahu emphasised the need for swift intervention to ensure that genuine farmers receive their rightful access to essential agricultural services and benefits. The committee's key demands are: First, fertilisers must be supplied to each farmer based on actual needs and at the prescribed rates, coupled with strict enforcement against black marketing and unwarranted price hikes. Second, the farmer registration process should be significantly expedited. The committee pointed out that farmers are wasting valuable time in queues and urged that registration continues until all eligible farmers are registered, without rigid deadlines. Third, sharecroppers must be recognised as bona fide farmers, and the requirement for landowner consent should be abolished to facilitate access to government schemes for genuine cultivators. The Kisan Congress urges the administration to approach these demands with empathy and to take prompt, time-bound corrective actions in the larger interest of the farming community.

District Magistrate's Joint Public Grievance Hearing Held

Kataka(correspondent): A joint public grievance hearing of the District Magistrate was held today at Bhagatpur Kalyan Mandap in Kanhaipur Gram Panchayat. A total of 348 grievances were received in this public grievance hearing, out of which 325 were individual grievances and 23 were collective grievances. Appropriate steps were taken for the speedy resolution of 27 grievances in the grievance hearing camp. At the venue of this grievance hearing, Security Officer Shri Vineet Agarwal, Additional District Magistrate Shri Kamaljit Das, Chief Development Officer and Executive Officer, Shri Prashant Kumar Nayak, Deputy District Magistrate Kataka Shri Dibyajyoti Smritiranjana Deo and other departmental officers were present. In addition, various officers have been instructed to take immediate action after hearing various registered complaints related to agriculture, education, electricity, drinking water, disabled and other allowances etc. It is worth noting that a joint public grievance hearing will be held on September 21 at the Oswan Quarters of the District Collector's office.



YRC Red Ribbon Club holds awareness rally for AIDS awareness

Malkangiri correspondent : An awareness rally was held today by YRC (Youth Red Cross Red Ribbon Club) to create awareness among students and the general public about AIDS. The program was organized at Dr. Shyama Prasad Higher Secondary School MV 79. Through the rally, people were made aware about the causes, diagnosis and prevention of AIDS and a message was given to cooperate and support AIDS patients without discrimination. The students participated in the rally holding various awareness placards. The school chairman Dr. Pradeep Kumar Mishra along with YRC Counsellor Purnachandra Mohapatra, Basant Kumar Biswal, Santosh Kumar Pahraraj, Meghanath Behera, Vicky Barik and Ricky Barik were present in the program and made the program a success. At the end of the program, everyone came together to create awareness against AIDS and create a healthy and safe society.



Joint Public Grievance Hearing Camp Held at Zilla Parishad Conference Hall, Jajpur

JAJPUR (Correspondent): A Joint Public Grievance Hearing Camp was organised by the Jajpur district administration at the Zilla Parishad Conference Hall. District Collector Ambar Kumar Kar attended the camp and heard various grievances and complaints submitted by members of the public. The District Collector said that the concerned departmental officials would examine the complaints and take necessary steps to resolve the genuine grievances at the earliest



possible. A total of 234 complaints were registered during the camp. Of these, 140 related to individual issues, 7 concerned community-related problems, and 87 were applications seeking assistance from the Chief Minister's Relief Fund. As many as 90 complaints were disposed of immediately. District Superintendent of Police Yash Pratap Primal, Additional District Magistrate

Judhishtir Naik, Zilla Parishad Chief Development-cum-Executive Officer Debi Prasad Mohanty, Chief District Medical and Public Health Officer Dr. Nagendra Nath Mahapatra, Sub-Collector Tapas Ranjan Dehury, Deputy Collector and District Grievance Cell Officer Saraswat Sahu, Jajpur Block Development Officer Brahmananda Behera, Tahasildar Rabi Narayan Padhi, along with district-level, field-level and block-level officials, were present at the grievance hearing camp and listened to the

complaints of the public. Meanwhile, the District Social Security and Empowerment of Persons with Disabilities Department provided a hearing aid to Sanatan Behera of Hariapur village under Jajpur Sadar. The hearing device is expected to help address his hearing difficulties and make communication easier in his day-to-day life. Sanatan Behera expressed his happiness after receiving the hearing aid and conveyed his gratitude to the district administration and the concerned department for the assistance.

Book on the return of twelve Astadhatu idols of Shree Gopalji presented to the District Library

SUBARNAPUR(Correspondent): -- On Monday at 2 pm, Sub Collector, Sonpur cum Devottar Officer Dr. Soumyarupa Rath presented the book 'Anubhuti Shree Gopalji' based on the return of twelve idols of Shree Gopalji to Sonpur to the District Library for the benefit of the readers and patrons. The role and efforts of the Sub Collector, Sonpur are described in this book. Dr. Rath's role in returning 12 idols made of Astadhatu to the Gopalji temple of Sonpur after 42 years is unique.

District Level PET /PTIs/ Conference cum Orientation-2026 Program Held at Subarnapur

SUBARNAPUR (Correspondent): Subarnapur District Level Physical Education Teacher Training (PET / PTIs) Conference-cum-Orientation Program was organized by the District Education Office, Subarnapur. The program was held under the chairmanship of District Education Officer Ghanashyam Meher and the in-charge Collector of Subarnapur Rajendra Majhi was the chief guest. The guests of honor were the Superintendent of Police Subarnapur Narayan Nayak and Additional District Magistrate (General



) Smt. Anjalina Padhan. Other guests included District Sports Officer Chittaranjan Mishra, Ulunda Block Education Officer Ajaya Luha, Sonpur and Binika Block Education Officer Laxman Mishra and District Science Supervisor Amlan Kumar Pandia. Bibhudatta Rath, who holds a diploma in sports coaching, along with trainers Jivanjyoti Nayak and Dillip

New Canteen Inaugurated at Jharsuguda Collectorate Premises

JHARSUGUDA, (Correspondent): A newly renovated canteen was officially inaugurated today on the premises of the Collectorate, Jharsuguda. Collector Shri Kunal Motiram Chavan inaugurated the facility as the chief guest. The canteen has been established by completely renovating the old press room building, which had been lying defunct and unused for several years. Notably, following the inauguration of a dedicated press room by the Collector a month ago, the vacated old structure was given a complete renovation and repurposed as a canteen. Speaking on the occasion,

the Collector emphasized women empowerment and food hygiene, stating, "Our primary objective is to empower women and promote their financial self-reliance. This canteen provides Self-Help Group members a platform to showcase their skills while earning a steady livelihood. Utmost priority will be accorded to food safety, hygiene, and nutrition so that everyone has access to wholesome, safe, and quality food." The day-to-day operation and management of the canteen have been entrusted to the 'Bimala Self-Help Group' of Bahadrunada, Jharsuguda. The facility will provide clean, hygienic,

and nutritious food to staff members as well as visiting citizens in a timely manner and at subsidised, affordable prices. The inaugural event was attended by Adm (General) Shri Brajabandhu Bhoi, Adm (Revenue) Shri Lalit Soreng, Chief Development Officer-cum-Executive Officer of Zilla Parishad Shri Biswa Ranjan Nayak, Sub-Collector Shri Sabyasachi Panda, District Information & Public Relations Officer cum District Culture Officer Ritakanti Baliasingh, and District Project Manager (OLM) Dr. Puspashree Nayak, along with other district-level officials.

Disability Surrenders Before Strong Willpower, Pen in Foot, Expert in Sanskrit

SUBARNAPUR (Correspondent)--- Paralyzed in both hands since birth due to polio, she cannot even speak normally. In the eyes of the general public, she is differently-abled. However, her extraordinary dedication has amazed everyone. Because her hands are paralyzed, she holds a pen with her foot. Gripping the pen between the toes of her right foot, she naturally writes page after page. Overcoming her disability right from childhood, she completed



her school education. Driven by a desire to study and a curiosity about various subjects, she began learning Sanskrit during high school. She is currently pursuing her bachelor's degree. Swastika Panda of

Palipada village, under the Binika block of Subarnapur district, studies and competes with other students in Sanskrit. After Swastika's dedication was highlighted within the Subarnapur Gita Seva Parivar, it has become a

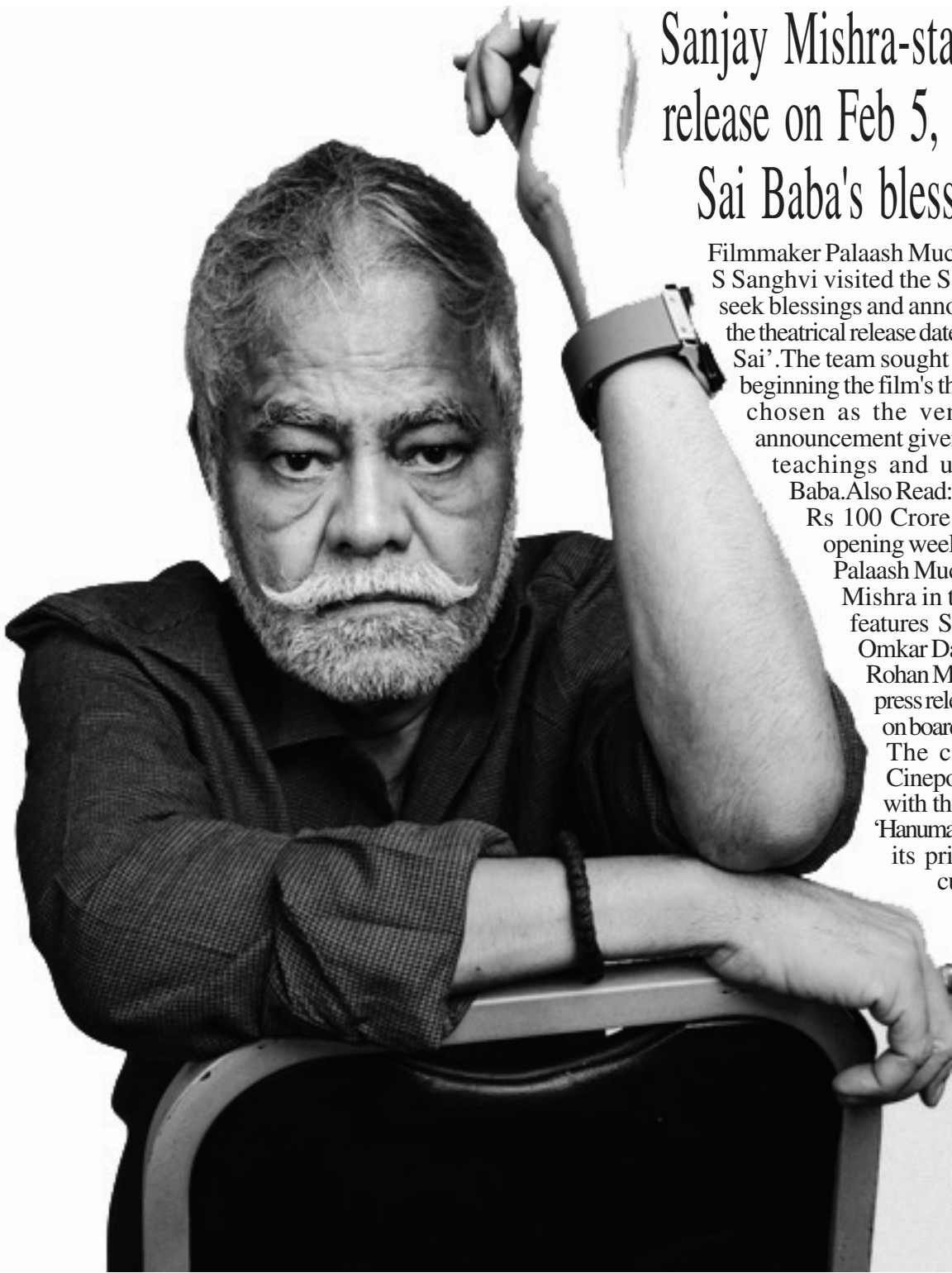
topic of widespread public discussion. Swastika, the daughter of Ajit Panda and Rina Panda from Palipada village (Ward No. 9 of Binika NAC), has been differently-abled since birth. Her father, Ajit, is an ordinary farmer. The parents were initially worried after her birth, but being God-fearing, Ajit and his wife believed there was a divine message behind this and raised their daughter with utmost care. Providing her with a normal environment, they sent her for primary education. Although her hands are

inactive and she cannot speak normally, her comprehension skills are far superior to others. Her deep interest in Sanskrit blossomed during her high school years. From Siddhartha Degree College in Binka completing her +2 (higher secondary) education, she is now studying in the second year of her bachelor's degree. Coincidentally, in 2021 Sadhuram Sahu joined Siddhartha Degree College as a Sanskrit lecturer. After completing his graduation from

Rajendra College in Balangir, Sadhuram obtained his master's degree from the National Sanskrit University in Tirupati, followed by an M.Phil., and is currently pursuing a Ph.D. Since Sadhuram himself is partially visually impaired, he could deeply empathize with Swastika's struggle. Mr. Sahu shared that he felt it was destiny guiding him to Siddhartha Degree College to mentor Swastika, leading him to offer her specialized guidance. With a dedicated teacher by her side,

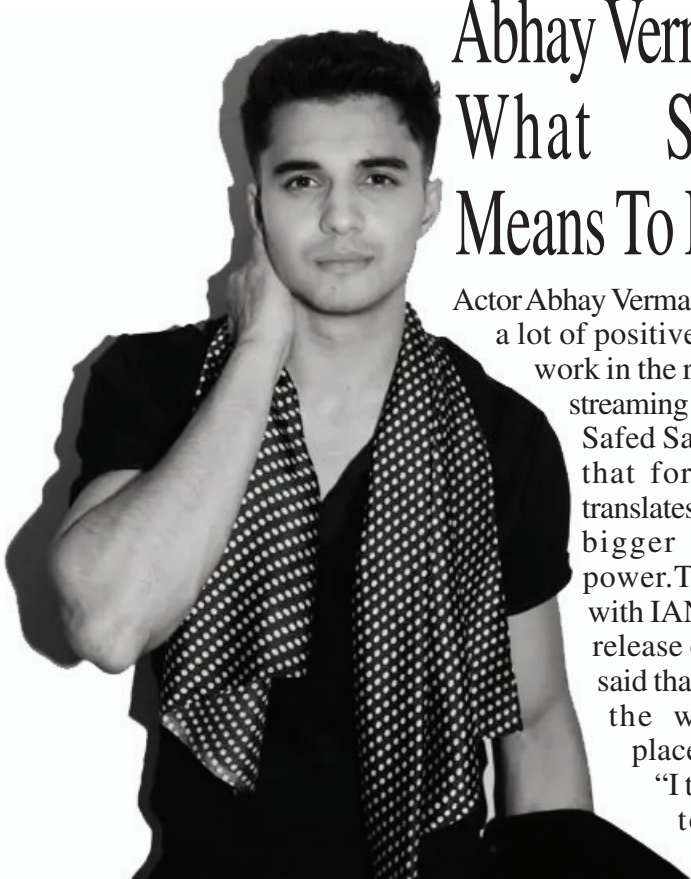
Swastika, despite her speech impairment, has now achieved proficiency in Sanskrit. Through strong willpower, relentless hard work, and unwavering self-confidence, she demonstrates her abilities today by holding a pen with her foot. Recognizing her extraordinary perseverance, district coordinator Sitansu Pujahari and Guide Sadhuram Sahu felicitated her with a certificate of honor on behalf of the Sonapur Pragyan Mission. In an era where today's youth often give up when

facing minor obstacles, Swastika's journey and dedication serve as a living inspiration. Because Swastika writes with her foot, her handwriting differs from that of typical students. Therefore, her teacher Sadhuram suggested that Swastika would greatly benefit if university authorities consider appointing a dedicated examiner to evaluate her exam answer sheets. Members of the Gita Seva Parivar expressed confidence that Swastika's struggle and dedication will undoubtedly lead her to success.



Sanjay Mishra-starrer 'Tera Sai' to release on Feb 5, 2027; team seeks Sai Baba's blessings at Shirdi

Filmmaker Palaash Muchhal and producer Shailesh S Sanghvi visited the Sai Baba temple in Shirdi to seek blessings and announced February 5, 2027, as the theatrical release date of their upcoming film ‘Tera Sai’. The team sought Sai Baba's blessings before beginning the film's theatrical journey, with Shirdi chosen as the venue for the release-date announcement given the film's focus on the life, teachings and universal message of Sai Baba. Also Read: 'Mirzapur: The Movie' nears Rs 100 Crore mark after power-packed opening weekend Written and directed by Palaash Muchhal, ‘Tera Sai’ stars Sanjay Mishra in the titular role. The film also features Sayaji Shinde, Manoj Joshi, Omkar Das Manikpuri, Avika Gor and Rohan Mehra in pivotal roles, as per the press release. Cinepolis India has come on board as the distributor of ‘Tera Sai’. The collaboration comes after Cinepolis India's recent association with the box-office performance of ‘Hanuman Ansh’. The film has completed its principal photography and is currently in post-production. Muchhal has focused on recreating the period associated with Sai Baba while keeping the narrative rooted in themes of humanity, devotion and hope. Sanjay Mishra's portrayal of Sai Baba is expected to be one of the film's major highlights. The veteran actor has adopted a restrained and sincere approach to the character, while keeping the portrayal deeply human, as per the press release.



Abhay Verma Shares What Sacrifice Means To Him

Actor Abhay Verma, who is receiving a lot of positive response to his work in the recently released streaming series ‘Operation Safed Sagar’, has shared that for him sacrifice translates to something far bigger than just the power. The actor spoke with IANS following the release of the show, and said that sacrifices make the world a better place. He told IANS, “I think it translates to something bigger than just power. I agree

that it translates to power a little bit, in a good way”. In the series, the actor essays the role of Wing Commander Rajpal Singh Dhaliwal in the streaming series ‘Operation Safed Sagar’. Sacrifice is the biggest trait of a soldier, and the actor thinks that it's something that separates a soldier from the citizens. He further mentioned, “But I also believe sacrifice translates to a better world ultimately. It means to do good to the unknown. It doesn't only mean that you do good to the known people. But yeah, sacrifices really can change the world for the good”. Meanwhile, ‘Operation Safed Sagar’ has received a good response from the audience. ‘Operation Safed Sagar’ was a combined arms operation by the Indian Air Force, supporting elements of the Indian Army during the 1999 Kargil war that was aimed at flushing out regular and irregular troops of the Pakistani Army from vacated Indian Positions in the Kargil sector along the Line of Control. It was the first large-scale use of airpower in the Jammu and Kashmir region since the Indo-Pakistani War of 1971. Earlier, the actor had shared that knowing about the eponymous operation by the Indian Air Force has humbled him, and has led to germination of a sense of gratitude in his personality. ‘Operation Safed Sagar’ is available to stream on Netflix.

6 delicious ways to eat millets and prevent sugar spikes

Millets can be an excellent addition to the diet of a person suffering from diabetes. From controlling blood sugar spikes to improving insulin sensitivity, millets have a range of benefits. The lost superfoods have made a comeback in recent years and are being lapped up by fitness enthusiasts. Millets have a brilliant nutritional profile with high fibre and truckloads of micronutrients. They are especially beneficial for people with diabetes who are advised to incorporate low GI foods into their diet. The high amount of fibre not only keeps you full, curbing appetite for junk, it also keeps your digestive system on track.

Regular consumption of millets can keep chronic diseases away, manage blood sugar, and prevent constipation and acidity. Millets are rich in antioxidants with loads of vitamins and minerals that can help reduce oxidative stress.

Sorghum millet (jowar), proso Millet (chena/barri), pearl millet (bajra), foxtail millet (kakum/kangni), finger millet (ragi), browntop millet (korle), barnyard Millet (sanwa), and little millet (moraiyo) are some of the examples of millets.

"Millets have been a staple to Indian cuisine for centuries. They can withstand high temperatures and have a good water-use-efficiency. They are drought-tolerant and are mostly grown in the arid and semi-arid regions. Millets are also referred to as "nutri-cereals" due to their high nutritional content. India is trying to promote millets both nationally and internationally due to the vast health benefits it offers,

How millets can manage diabetes

The goal of diabetes management is to keep our blood sugar at an optimum level, as well as maintain optimal blood pressure, cholesterol, and weight. Millets are a good option for diabetics for many reasons.

Millet is a whole grain; it has its outer layer, the bran and the germ. Whereas in grains like wheat, these layers are stripped off and only the endosperm remains. Hence, wheat flour gets digested quickly while millets take longer.

Millets generally have a low glycaemic index (55-65) compared to potato, wheat flour, rice, bread which have a high GI (70 – 75), hence millets cause a slower and more gradual increase in blood sugar level. Several types of millets, such as pearl millet,

finger millet, and foxtail millet, have been specifically studied for their beneficial effects on blood sugar control. Incorporating these grains into a balanced diet can be an effective strategy for managing diabetes.

Millets are high in dietary fibre, which aids in digestion, reduces constipation, and gives a feeling of fullness. This helps in controlling overeating and in turn managing weight. Fiber also acts as a pre-biotic and thus helps to maintain a healthy gut microbiome. Fiber slows down the release of glucose in the bloodstream, preventing spikes in blood sugar.

Millets are packed with essential nutrients, including magnesium, which is known to improve insulin sensitivity.

Regular consumption of millets has been associated with improved lipid profiles, which is beneficial for cardiovascular health. Since diabetes increases the risk of heart disease, consuming millets can be doubly beneficial.

Millets are rich in antioxidants along with good amounts of vitamins and minerals, which help reduce oxidative stress, a factor that can affect insulin sensitivity and secretion.

"While millets are beneficial to diabetics for all the reasons stated above, they have a varying range of GI. Hence, one must be mindful about the portion sizes. Further, it is important to note that the effect on blood sugar levels is also different on different individuals. Hence, keep track of the types of other carbohydrates you are adding to your diet and their portion sizes track other low-caloric nutrients on your meal plate such as non-starchy vegetables mix green veggies, dairy and pulses/dal with grains and millets to prevent sudden spikes and crashes in sugar levels,

Delicious ways to have millets

Some millet dishes you can include in your meals to control diabetes :

1. Millet upma: Replace semolina with foxtail millet or barnyard millet and add vegetables and season with spices. This becomes a nutritious and low-GI breakfast option.

2. Millet khichadi: This is a comforting dish for dinner. You can have a combination of millets (like pearl millet or little millet) and lentils and cook them with spices and vegetables. It's easy to digest and helps in maintaining stable blood sugar levels.

3. Millet dosa and idli: In place of rice, try finger millet. This will provide a probiotic-rich, fibre-dense meal. They are light, easy to digest and will help maintain sugar levels.

4. Millet salad: You can try preparing a fresh salad made with cooked millets (like Kodo millet), mixed with chopped vegetables, herbs, and a light dressing. It's a low-calorie, high-fibre option perfect for a light lunch.

5. Millet stir-fry: Cooked millets (like barnyard millet) can be mixed with stir-fried vegetables, tofu, or lean meats to make it a nutritious balanced meal. You can season it with ginger-garlic and some soy sauce to give it a tangy twist.

6. Millet porridge: This can become a simple meal so start your day at breakfast. Porridge made from any millet (like foxtail millet), cooked with water or milk, and flavoured with cinnamon and a few nuts cannot just be a wholesome meal but it can also help in maintaining blood sugar levels throughout the morning.

Indians are eating too much salt and it's quite harmful; experts on what to eat and avoid for reducing intake

Indians are consuming 8g of salt per day exceeding the recommended daily intake limit of 5g said a study published in the journal Nature Portfolio. The high salt diet may be putting us at a high risk of many health disorders from high blood pressure, stomach ulcers to cardiovascular issues. Excessive salt intake can also affect kidney function. While some amount of salt is important for important function of the body, too much of it on a regular basis may lead to many chronic diseases. It is important to cut salt from the diet and consume home-cooked food instead of store-bought as packaged food like namkeens, canned vegetables, pickles, biscuits, potato chips have high amounts of sodium which could be harmful to health. High sodium foods that can be harmful for health

Dr Agarwal says it's not just savoury dishes that can contribute significantly to your daily sodium intake, baked goods may also do the damage.

"Take a closer look at your favourite bread or pastry recipe ingredients and you'll likely find added salt to enhance taste and texture. Even whole wheat bread can harbour high levels of sodium due to added preservatives. Namkeens, canned vegetables, pickles, biscuits, potato chips, and even flavoured popcorn often come packed with excessive amounts of salt for increased flavour appeal. These snacks make it effortless to consume large quantities of sodium without realizing it and contribute heavily to your overall intake throughout the day," says Dr Agarwal. "One often overlooked source of hidden sodium is condiments, Sauces, Ketchup, Barbecue sauce, and Soy sauce contain

alarming amounts of sodium to enhance flavour and preserve freshness,"

says Desai. "Processed foods such as meat uses high salt as preservatives as it controls the growth of bacteria. It is used in snacks such as chips, nuts for taste. Pickles are essentially a salty solution making them high in sodium. Cheese is processed and even little of regular cheese can add to salt intake," says Dr Jagiasi.

How to reduce salt

When one dines out, he/she will not be able to control the amount of salt that sneaks into the meals. By cooking at home more frequently, one regains control over what ingredients we use and how much salt is added during preparation. Try to eat a well-balanced diet inclusive of fresh fruits, vegetables, and whole grains instead of processed and canned foods.

"Common foods like smoked, cured, salted, or canned meat, fish, poultry, and salted nuts, as well as many processed foods, contain excessive amounts of sodium. To manage high sodium intake, it is advisable to restrict the consumption of processed foods and consider using salt substitutes such as spices in your diet," says Indusha.

How to reduce salt in the diet

Salt is often used to enhance the flavour of food, but there are numerous alternatives that can add a burst of taste without the sodium content.

"Herbs like basil, parsley, or rosemary can elevate any dish, while spices such as cumin or turmeric lend a unique twist. One can also include amchur, lemon, cinnamon, jeera powder, black pepper powder to enhance the taste.

Ongoing Repair Work Behind DY Patil Stadium, Not Being Hosts For Women’s Champions Trophy

New Delhi: Ongoing repair work has resulted in Navi Mumbai’s DY Patil Stadium missing out on hosting matches for the inaugural Women’s Champions Trophy, set to be played in India from February 14 to 28, 2027. Last week, the International Cricket Council (ICC) announced Brabourne Stadium in Mumbai and the Vadodara International Cricket Stadium as the venues for the marquee six-team T20 tournament, after the tournament was taken out of Sri Lanka due to government interference in its board’s administration. But the omission of DY Patil Stadium came as a surprise given its status as a spiritual home for women’s cricket in the

country. The privately-owned venue, situated within the DY Patil University campus, hosted the 2025 Women’s ODI World Cup final, where India beat South Africa to win its first-ever senior women’s ICC trophy. The venue also remains a primary host for Women’s Premier League (WPL) fixtures. Multiple sources have told IANS that extensive repair work across the spectator stands will keep the facility out of action for the foreseeable future. “The games were supposed to be held at the venue only, but because the repair work has started there, the venue owners themselves asked to give the games to some other stadium. It is



going to take some 6-8 months or so to complete the repair work,” an official familiar with the situation told this news agency. The official further added that hosting fixtures while construction is underway was

practically unviable due to safety and logistical constraints. “To the best of our knowledge, the repair work is happening in the stands area, where they are adding washrooms for the spectators. “Currently, the washrooms are only on

the ground floor, and there are no washrooms on levels 1, 2, and 3. This was okay when the year was 2006, but now it’s a necessary requirement considering the venue is in such high demand for future games across all sports. Moreover, when the

contractors are doing that part of the repair work, they need access from the front and sides also. This is continuous work, so one can’t really do both construction and stage high-profile games at the same time. In fact, apart from cricket also, as usual, so many people from across the country keep calling for the stadium to be available for this or that sporting event, and the same thing is being told to everyone. We are just hoping that all the repair work goes well so that the DY Patil Stadium can soon start hosting games again,” added the official. Confirming the development, another official privy to the venue selection process told IANS, “We can tell that the DY Patil Stadium is

undergoing renovation; hence it wasn’t put forward to be one of the venues for the inaugural Women’s Champions Trophy.” Quizzed on why top metropolitan cities that have hosted women’s cricket games in the last few years weren’t available for hosting the Women’s Champions Trophy, the official said, “For the tier-1 centres constantly mentioned by many people, they weren’t available due to preparations for another big tournament at that time of year.” From an Indian perspective, the Women’s Champions Trophy will be held at a time when the domestic and international calendar will be very hectic. India are supposed to host Australia for a five-

match Border-Gavaskar Trophy series from January 21 to March 3. Apart from that, a host of men’s and women’s domestic and age-group tournaments like the Ranji Trophy, Col CK Nayudu Trophy, Women’s Under-23 one-day trophy, and the Senior Women’s Inter-Zonal competition will also be played. The Women’s Champions Trophy, originally scheduled for June 2027 before it was shifted to February 2027 by the ICC Board earlier this year, will feature the top six women’s T20I sides as per the July 6, 2026 cut-off date: Australia, England, India, New Zealand, South Africa, and Sri Lanka.

Duleep Trophy: Ishan Kishan’s Epic 270, Kumar Kushagra’s 101 Propels East Zone To 708

Chennai: Skipper Ishan Kishan smashed a monumental 270 while Kumar Kushagra hit a fine century to put East Zone in complete command of the Duleep Trophy final against South Zone by posting a colossal 708 at the end of the second innings of the match, played at the MA Chidambaram Stadium on Monday. Kishan’s 334-ball knock, laced with 30 fours and seven sixes, registered the eighth-highest individual score in a Duleep Trophy match. Kushagra, on the other hand, hit 101 off 132 balls, studded with eight fours and five sixes, ensuring that a total in excess of 700 was registered at Chepauk for only the third time in first-class cricket history before East



Zone were finally bowled out by stumps. Resuming from their overnight score of 385/4, East Zone continued to pile on the runs right from the outset. Desperately seeking wickets, South Zone took the new ball after delaying it for just one over, but neither Mohammad Siraj nor MD Nidheesh could find an early breakthrough. Kishan got going immediately,

collecting successive boundaries off Siraj before giving the same treatment to Nidheesh. Kushagra soon joined the party from the other end as, on either side of the drinks break, South Zone introduced spinners Tripurana Vijay and Shreyas Gopal into the attack, but it didn’t change the trajectory of East Zone’s innings. Kushagra moved into the nineties with a couple of boundaries off

Gopal before eventually bringing up his sixth first-class century. South Zone finally got the much-needed breakthrough closer to the lunch break when Kushagra found the fielder at fine leg off Vijay. For Kishan, however, it remained business as usual as he continued to manipulate the field with ease. Taking full toll of a tiring opposition, the aggressive left-hander slammed three boundaries in a single over from Gopal. South Zone attempted to break his momentum by deploying part-timers Devdutt Padikkal and Shaikh Rasheed, but to no avail as Kishan reached his double century off 270 balls. After crossing the milestone, Kishan accelerated rapidly and hit

boundaries with immaculate ease to move past 250, with South Zone eagerly anticipating a declaration. Even after guiding his side past the 600-run mark, the captain showed no intention of declaring. Although fatigue briefly caught up with Kishan and forced him to retire temporarily, the runs kept flowing for East Zone. With the total edging closer to 700, Mohammed Shami departed for a quickfire 28, which brought Kishan back to the crease in pursuit of a rare triple century. However, wickets falling at the other end forced his hand, and he was eventually caught near the long-on boundary, falling just 30 runs short of the 300-mark. By the time the East Zone innings ended at 708, they had firmly taken charge of winning the summit clash against a tired South Zone.

Ishan Kishan Becomes Third East Zone Player To Smash Double Hundred In Duleep Trophy

Chennai: East Zone captain Ishan Kishan achieved a significant milestone as he smashed a jaw-dropping double century in the final of the Duleep Trophy against South Zone at the MA Chidambaram Stadium in Chennai. Kishan became just the third East Zone player to score a double hundred in the Duleep Trophy, joining the likes of Arun Lal and Saba Karim in the epic list. He has also become the first East batter to hit a double ton in the final of the red-ball tournament. Before Ishan, Arun Lal had scored twin double centuries for East in the Duleep Trophy, as he had made 287 and 214. Saba Karim also had a double century to his name for East, having scored an unbeaten 200



in 1995. Ishan scored 26 fours and two sixes in his epic knock and got there in only 270 balls. The Southpaw got to the milestone with a four off Devdutt Padikkal on Day 2 of the fixture. He drilled Padikkal through to covers for a four to bring up his double ton. He continued his carnage and smashed

250 runs to pile more runs for his side. However, the skipper struggled with fatigue and retired hurt after getting to his 25 and walked off the field. Ishan resumed charge with the bat on Day 2 from his overnight unbeaten score of 111. He put the South bowlers to the sword and stormed his way to the milestone.

Irish Cricketer Arlene Kelly Announces International Retirement

Arlene Kelly Worcester: Ireland women’s all-rounder Arlene Kelly has announced her retirement from professional cricket, bringing the curtain down on a four-and-a-half-year international career following Ireland’s match against England Women in Worcester. The 32-year-old, born in New Zealand, moved to Ireland in 2022 after securing an Irish passport and initially came to experience domestic cricket. Her performances quickly put her on the international radar. Kelly made an immediate impression, scoring 60 and taking 3-35 in a Player of the Match display. Within weeks, she earned her Ireland debut against South Africa on June 3, 2022, at Pembroke Cricket Club. She returned figures of 2-25 as Ireland stunned the then-World Cup runners-up by 10 runs. What

began without any expectation of international cricket soon developed into a prominent role in Ireland’s side. Kelly featured in 110 of Ireland Women’s 117 matches since her debut, establishing herself as one of the team’s most dependable performers. A medium-pace swing bowler known for her control and consistency, Kelly leaves as Ireland’s third-highest wicket-taker, behind Isobel Joyce and Laura Delany. Her career-best figures of 5-12 came against the Netherlands in a T20I in 2023, a year in which she was named Irish Cricket International Women’s Player of the Year and also received the ICC International Women’s Player of the Month award for August. Reflecting on her decision to step away, Kelly said, “It’s been an absolute privilege to represent Ireland over the past four-and-a-half

years and I’ve been fortunate enough to make so many amazing memories both on and off the field. However, the time feels right to hang up the boots and head back to New Zealand to be around my family and friends. “I want to say a massive thank you to Cricket Ireland, the coaches I’ve worked alongside and – most importantly – my teammates. You welcomed me in with open arms and allowed me to be me. This has been a very special changing room to be a part of, and I know that this group is capable of achieving so much. I will be actively following and supporting the team from the other side of the boundary boards.” Ireland captain Gaby Lewis paid tribute to Kelly’s contribution and the impact she made after arriving as an overseas player for Malahide

Cricket Club. “Arlene has become such a special part of our team over the last four years. She came over to Ireland as an overseas player for Malahide CC and I don’t think any of us could have imagined then just how important she would become to our group. She has given so much to us, both on and off the field, and has been someone we could always rely on. “We know how difficult it has been for her being so far away from her family for such a long time. Although we’re going to miss her hugely, we’re really happy for her to be heading home and being closer to the people she loves. “We can’t thank Arlene enough for everything she has given to us over the last four years. She has left a real mark on our squad and she’ll always be a huge part of our Irish cricket family. We wish her all the best with whatever comes next.”

Satwik-Chirag Win 10th BWF World Tour Title With China Masters Crown

Shenzhen: India’s Satwiksairaj Rankireddy and Chirag Shetty won the men’s doubles title at the China Masters, a BWF Super 750 tournament, here on Sunday. The world No. 5 Indians, who finished runners-up in 2023 and 2025 and reached the semi-finals in 2024, registered an 11-21, 21-13, 21-17 win over the Chinese. Satwik-Chirag, who missed out on a third BWF World Championships medal after a quarter-final exit in New Delhi last month, won their 10th career title on the BWF World Tour. It is their second Super 750 title this year and their fourth overall. The reigning Asian Games men’s doubles champions became the first Indians to win the tournament since its 2005 inception. This marks Satwik and Chirag’s third BWF



World Tour final of 2026. They finished runners-up at the Thailand Open in May before winning the Singapore Open later that month. He and Ren made a blistering start, racing to a 5-0 lead and putting the Indians under pressure. Satwik and Chirag tried to fight back, but the Chinese stayed ahead 11-5 at the break and kept control of the game, winning the

opener 21-11 in 18 minutes. The second game began in similar fashion as China took an early 2-0 lead, but the Indians fought back to level the score at 3-3 and 6-6. Satwik and Chirag then took control, leading 11-7 at the break. Some powerful smashes helped extend Indian’s lead to 17-11. The Indians held off a late comeback to win 21-13, forcing a

decider. The Chinese came out strongly in the decider, opening up a 4-0 lead. The Indians fought back to tie it at 7-7 and took an 11-9 lead at the break before the Indians edged ahead 9-8 and carried an 11-9 lead into the final interval. Satwik and Chirag held their nerve, winning four straight points to secure a 21-17 victory and take the title in a 70-minute thriller.

Odisha Joins India's Fight as UN Declares November 27 International Day Against Child Marriage

Inner Wheel Club Felicitates 10 Teachers for Their Contribution as Nation Builders

Bhubaneswar, (correspondent) India's fight against child marriage has received a major global endorsement, with the United Nations (UN) declaring November 27 the International Day for the Elimination of Child, Early and Forced Marriage. The date carries special significance for India as it marks the day the Government of India launched the 'Bal Vivah Mukti Bharat' campaign in 2024. Bhuwan Ribhu, founder of Just Rights for Children (JRC), initiated the international call for a dedicated



global day to end child marriage. In March 2026, during his address at the United Nations, Bhuwan Ribhu reiterated the call for a UN resolution in the presence of international leaders, including Dr Fatima Maada Bio, First Lady of African nation Sierra Leone,

who also supported the initiative. Subsequently, Sierra Leone, backed by 67 nations, including India, led the effort by presenting a resolution to the United Nations General Assembly seeking to designate November 27 as a global day dedicated to ending child marriage.

On September 4, the United Nations passed the resolution. During the presentation of the resolution at the United Nations, First Lady of Sierra Leone Dr Fatima Maada Bio made a special mention of JRC in the UN Hall. JRC is one of the world's largest child protection networks and is leading the Child Marriage Free World campaign to end child marriage through law, accountability and collective action. JRC works on bringing together all stakeholders responsible for protecting children. In

India, its partners work alongside governments and law-enforcement agencies across 782 districts, mobilising communities, schools, panchayats, women, faith leaders, police, political representatives and vulnerable populations. Working with 14 partner organisations across 30 districts in Odisha, JRC has played a key role in preventing 29,231 child marriages in the state over the past three years, as part of a wider effort that has stopped and prevented more than 5,50,000 child marriages in India.



Bhubaneswar: (Correspondent):- The Inner Wheel Club of Bhubaneswar Temple City felicitated 10 teachers for their exemplary contribution towards nation-building at a special programme held at Raj Bhawan UP School, Bhubaneswar. Recognising the dedication

and devotion of teachers towards shaping young minds and building a better society, the Club honoured the teachers with citations of honour, steel bottles, tiffins and jute bags as tokens of appreciation. Teachers from various schools attended the programme. The event

was graced by Shri Ananta Narayan Jena, MLA, as the Chief Guest. The Club emphasised that honouring and appreciating dedicated teachers is a collective responsibility of society, as they play a vital role in nurturing responsible citizens and future generations.

Mass Cleanliness Drive Organized at Hirakud to Promote Environmental Awareness

Sambalpur: (Correspondent) :- As part of an Environmental Awareness Campaign, Hindalco Industries Ltd., Hirakud, organized a Mass Cleanliness Drive in front of Jawahar Udyan, Hirakud, in association with the State Pollution Control Board (SPCB), Regional Office, Sambalpur, Department of Forests, and Rotary Club of Sambalpur. The cleanliness drive witnessed enthusiastic participation from



officials of the Pollution Control Board, Forest Department, members of Rotary Club, local

Self-Help Groups (SHGs), employees of Hindalco Hirakud, and members of the local

community. The initiative was aimed at spreading awareness on environmental protection, cleanliness, and sustainable living practices. Addressing the gathering, Dr. S. N. Nanda, Regional Officer, SPCB, Sambalpur, highlighted the Government's vision and commitment towards environmental conservation and the importance of public participation in maintaining a clean and healthy environ

Aditya Aluminium Observes Environmental Awareness Campaign Week in Association with Odisha State Pollution Control Board Sambalpur

Sambalpur: (Correspondent):- Aditya Aluminium observed Environmental Awareness Campaign Week, in association with the Odisha State Pollution Control Board (OSPCB), Sambalpur, with a series of initiatives under the theme "Racing for Clean Air." The campaign witnessed enthusiastic participation from employees, township residents, children, plant leadership and officials from OSPCB, highlighting the collective commitment towards environmental protection and clean air. The programme was inaugurated in the presence of Dr. Satya Narayan Nanda, Regional Officer, OSPCB, Sambalpur; Gulshan Tiwari, Head-CPP; Sunil Singh,



Head-FRP; Vinoda Nand Thakur, Head-HR; Nimai Mahapatro, VP-CPP Operations; and Lalit Charan, Head-Environment. Officials from OSPCB, including Er. Rakesh Panda, Assistant Environmental Engineer, and Manoranjan Pradhan, Assistant Environmental Scientist, also graced the occasion. As part of the campaign, a Cyclothon cum

Walkathon were organised to promote environmental awareness, sustainable lifestyles and climate action. Participants also took the Mission LiFE (Lifestyle for Environment) Pledge, reaffirming their commitment to responsible and environmentally conscious living. Addressing the gathering, Dr. Satya

Narayan Nanda and Gulshan Tiwari emphasised the importance of controlling air pollution and adopting sustainable practices in daily life. They urged participants to contribute towards creating a cleaner and healthier environment through responsible choices and collective action. The campaign concluded with a strong message on collective responsibility towards maintaining clean air and protecting the environment. The enthusiastic participation reflected the shared commitment of the Aditya Aluminium community towards adopting sustainable practices and creating a healthier environment for present and future generations.

TRL Krosaki Refractories Limited and Raghav Productivity Enhancers Limited Sign Joint Venture Agreement (JVA) to Establish Silica Ramming Mass Manufacturing Business

Bhubaneswar, (correspondent) TRL Krosaki Refractories Limited and Raghav Productivity Enhancers Limited (RPEL), world's largest manufacturer of Silica Ramming Mass, have entered into a Joint Venture Agreement (JVA) on 05.09.2026 at Kolkata for establishment of a Joint Venture Company in Odisha, India for manufacturing, marketing and sale of Silica Ramming Mass. The Joint Venture brings together TRL Krosaki's extensive quartzite mineral resources and RPEL's globally recognized manufacturing expertise, proprietary technology and established market presence. The JV marks a significant step towards value-added utilisation of mineral resources while strengthening India's position in the global Silica Ramming Mass industry. The joint venture will leverage RPEL's established technical know-how, extensive customer network across India and overseas markets, strong distribution platform and research and development capabilities to accelerate market penetration and business growth. Speaking on the occasion Mr. Prasant Kumar Naik, Managing Director, TRL Krosaki Refractories Limited, said, "This joint venture marks an important strategic milestone for TRL Krosaki. The partnership aligns with our objective of maximizing resource utilization while creating new avenues for growth and shareholder value. Beyond its



commercial merits, this project provides an important opportunity to promote industrial development in Jharsuguda and surrounding areas. The manufacturing unit will generate employment opportunities in the local area, support local enterprises and contribute to the long-term economic development of the region." Similarly, Mr. Sanjay Kabra, Chairman, Raghav Productivity Enhancers Limited, said, "We are delighted to partner with TRL Krosaki, a respected leader in refractories industry. The joint venture combines high-quality mineral resources with our manufacturing expertise and proprietary technology. We believe this collaboration will strengthen our ability to serve customers in India and international markets while creating a strong platform for future growth."

A Train, 200 Books and a Journey That Made Reading a Shared Experience

Bhubaneswar, (Correspondent): The morning train carried its usual passengers, but this time it also carried something less ordinary—books, poems and a hundred people who had decided to spend a day travelling not just across Odisha, but through the world of words. For the readers and writers who boarded Train No. 68429 Bhubaneswar–Daspalla MEMU on Sunday, the journey became a moving literary gathering. Around 100 participants travelled as part of the Rail Reading Campaign "Gift A Book", organised by East Coast Railway in association with Walking Book Fairs, Bhubaneswar. Adding to the literary significance of the journey, eminent writers Jerry Pinto, Sarat Chandra Das, Christoph Ransmayr, Aakriti Mandhwani and Chandras Choudhary joined the participants, sharing their poetry, thoughts, literary experiences and reflections with fellow readers and passengers. Their presence transformed the train journey into a unique space



for interaction between writers, readers and lovers of literature. The campaign transformed an everyday train journey into an invitation to pause, read and connect. Soon after the train left Bhubaneswar, books found their way into the hands of fellow passengers.

Odisha T-20 Chief Minister's Trophy

Biplab Samantaraya appointed as Cuttack Panthers' captain by 'Bharat Masala

Cuttack: (Correspondent) :- Out of the 6 teams participating in the Odisha T-20 Chief Minister's Cricket Trophy, which is scheduled to start from September 20 at the Barabati Stadium, Cuttack Panthers was bought by Jai Bharat Spices Private Limited. In this context, the players were selected by OCA today through a draft. In this, Jai Bharat Spices has selected cricketer Biplab Samantaraya as the captain of Cuttack Panthers A-category. Similarly, Saurabh Gowda, Shubham Shatruijit, Karthik Biswal, Prashant Rana have also been selected in Jai Bharat Spices A-category. In the draft selection, Abhishek



Singh, Piyush Mantri, Priyashun Mohanty and Raj Yadav have been selected in B-category and Subashish Mallick, Abhirup Dash, Sarthak S Prakash, Shibun Nanda in C-category and Soumya Ranjan Biswal, M Gautam Gopal and D Ayush in D-category. During this selection, Director Shrimant Kumar Panda, Ashutosh Panda, Director SN Millennium, GM Bipin Rout, GM Arun Nayak were present

on behalf of Jai Bharat Spices Private Limited and selected the players. Prabhanjan Mallick has been given the responsibility as the head coach and Deepak Mangaraj as the associate coach. The team said that the experience, leadership skills and ability to guide young cricketers of the selected cricketers will be a significant asset for Cuttack-Panthers. On this occasion, Managing Director Sushant Panda

said that the aim of Cuttack-Panthers is not just to form a T20 team and participate in the competition; but to find the hidden talents in the soil of Odisha and provide them with an opportunity and a suitable platform. He further said that the emphasis will be on high-quality coaching, fitness training, match exposure, mental preparation and modern cricketing techniques for young players. He said that the long-term goal is to connect talent with opportunities and prepare players for high-level cricket in a phased manner. The company said that Jai Bharat Spices will provide all the opportunities to the cricketers coming out of Cuttack-Panthers to play in the IPL.

Khimji Automobiles LLP launches New Himalayan 440

Bhubaneswar (Correspondent): Khimji Automobiles LLP, Phulnakhara, Kataka unveiled the New Himalayan 440 on Saturday. Marking a decade since the Himalayan carved out a new vocabulary for adventure motorcycling in India, the Himalayan 440 comes with an upgraded heart and an unchanged spirit. The unveiling was held in the presence of guests like Prof. Ratheesh Nair, Director of school of automobile design, Centurion

university, Prof. Philip s. Dean of Centurion University. The new Himalayan 440 stands as a testament to how far that initial vision has evolved. It retains the iconic design and ergonomic rider triangle that established the first model, while introducing an enhanced 443cc long-stroke engine, a new six-speed transmission, and targeted mechanical refinements for increased durability, versatility, and touring comfort.