Odisha To Be Viksit Bharat's Growth Engine, Says Governor In Assembly

Bhubaneswar: The Budget Session of the Odisha Assembly commenced today, with Governor Dr. Hari Babu Kambhampati delivering his address, saying 'Jai Jagannath'.In his speech, he highlighted the state's progress, stating that Odisha is set to become a growth engine of developed India. "By 2036, Odisha will complete 100 years of its formation. My government has undertaken several initiatives to ensure a prosperous Odisha. My government is committed to building a prosperous and empowered Odisha by that landmark year," he said.He praised Prime Minister Narendra Modi's leadership,

saying it has brought significant projects to the state. "Odisha will be a semi-conductor hub in self-reliant India. The state government is modernizing roads and strengthening infrastructure," he added.The Governor informed the House that the state is undergoing a major road modernization drive to enhance connectivity and stimulate economic growth. Besides, the

Governor announced plans for a flyover on the Jaydev Bhubaneswar-Nandankanan road and approval for the Rameshwar-Paradip coastal highway. He emphasized the government's goal to eradicate malnutrition and anemia in the state.The Governor highlighted the government's focus on building robust infrastructure to drive Odisha's long-term growth.

PM Modi and French President Emmanuel Macron hold delegation-level talks in Mumbai

Mumbai: Prime Minister Narendra Modi and French President Emmanuel Macron met for delegation-level talks in Mumbai on Tuesday, marking a significant step in strengthening the India-France strategic partnership. The discussions took place at Maharashtra Lok Bhavan, where both leaders led their respective delegations in talks covering a wide array of mutual interests. This meeting is part of President Macron's fourth official visit to India.Earlier, PM Modi expressed his "delight" in meeting his close friend, President Macron. On X, the Prime Minister shared a light-hearted update that Macron had enjoyed his morning run in Mumbai,

adding that the French President was fond of the city. "It's a delight to meet my friend, President Macron, in Mumbai! He told me he really likes the city and also enjoyed his run earlier in the day!" PM Modi wrote on X.The meeting at Lok Bhavan focused on key aspects of the enduring India-France strategic partnership, with both

leaders engaging in a cordial exchange. The day also began with a unique moment as President Macron joined the morning joggers of Mumbai, surprising locals with his spontaneous run alongside a security team. The peaceful jog proceeded without major disruption, allowing the French

President to take in the vibrant spirit of the city.Later, in a deeply symbolic moment, President Macron, accompanied by First Lady Brigitte Macron, paid tribute to the victims of the 2008 Mumbai terror attacks. This solemn gesture highlighted the shared struggle against terrorism and the

collective resolve to uphold democratic values. Both nations, which have faced the horrors of radicalisation, reaffirmed their commitment to fighting violence and promoting resilience.PM Modi, ahead of the meeting, welcomed President Macron to India, expressing enthusiasm for advancing the bilateral relationship to new heights. In a post on X, the Prime Minister shared his anticipation for the visit, stating, "Welcome to India! India looks forward to your visit and to advancing our bilateral ties to new heights. I am confident that our discussions will further strengthen cooperation across sectors and contribute to global progress.

India Bets On AI To Speed Up Official Data

Washington: India is turning to artificial intelligence, expanded labour surveys, and tax data integration to modernise one of the world's largest statistical systems, its chief statistician said, as demand grows for faster, more granular economic data.Saurabh Garg, secretary of the Ministry of Statistics and Programme Implementation, in a recent interview podcast with the IMF, said the country continues to rely on door-to-door surveys but has shifted to tablet-based data collection and is embedding new digital tools to reduce delays and improve

accuracy."We still go door-to-door, to households and businesses, but data collection is tablet-based," Garg told the IMF. "On the tablet itself, we are working on adding AI chatbots; if the person conducting the survey has a question, the chatbot responds immediately."All field

data is uploaded directly to the e-SIGMA portal, streamlining processing and validation. The ministry has also revamped its website, launched a mobile app, and expanded infographics and direct download options. Training videos now guide researchers and policymakers on how to access unit-level

data.As more private and high-frequency indicators emerge, Garg acknowledged the growing ecosystem of alternative data. "Alternative data and high-frequency indicators are increasingly available and provide supplementary insights into the socioeconomic situation from a different perspective," he said.India is exploring how "e-commerce, scanner, mobile, satellite, and other alternative data can be incorporated into official statistics." Still, Garg stressed that official numbers "remain as relevant as ever"

because they are "underpinned by rigorous scientific methods and standards that make them internationally comparable."To harmonise datasets across ministries, the government has created a registry of government data sets and developed a national metadata structure. It has aligned classifications with international standards and standardised unique identifiers for organisations and geographic locations. "Each agency must use its own identifier; this ensures that two data sets can be read by each other," he said.

Pakistan: 924 Killed In Staged Encounters, Extrajudicial Killings In Punjab Province Last Year

Islamabad: The Human Rights Commission of Pakistan (HRCP) has condemned the country's Crime Control Department (CCD) in Punjab province for pursuing a deliberate policy of staged encounters resulting in extrajudicial killings that fundamentally undermines the rule of law and constitutional protections in the province.Citing various media reports, the HRCP documented at least 670 CCD-led encounters over the course of eight months in 2025, resulting in the deaths of 924 suspects, with two police officers

killed during the same period."The extreme casualty imbalance — averaging more than two fatal encounters daily — combined with the uniformity of operational patterns across districts, indicates an institutionalised practice rather than isolated incidents of misconduct. The fact-finding mission has therefore called for an urgent high-level judicial inquiry into these deaths," the HRCP stated.The organisation documented a pervasive climate of fear among victims' families. One family reported pressure from police officials to bury the deceased immediately

and claimed they were warned that other relatives could be killed if they pursued the case further. Such intimidation, it said, constitutes criminal conduct and represents a fundamental obstruction of justice." The practice of police encounters as a method of crime control has a long and troubling history in Pakistan. Successive provincial governments, especially in Punjab and Sindh, have defended such actions as necessary to combat crime, militancy or systemic inefficiencies within the criminal justice system," the HRCP stated.

Bangladesh Ranked 13th Lowest In World In Corruption Index

New Delhi: Bangladesh has been ranked as the 13th lowest in the world with a score of 24 out of 100 in the annual Corruption Perceptions Index (CPI) 2025 released by Transparency International (TI).
This rank is one step lower, counted from the bottom, compared to 2024 and two points lower than Bangladesh's overall average during 2012-2025. The country also remains the second lowest in South Asia, better than only

Afghanistan. Besides, Bangladesh is globally in the lowest quintile within the list of 182 countries, among 122 that scored below 50, and among 96 that scored below the global average of 42. Accordingly, Bangladesh has been listed among countries having a "very serious corruption problem", according to a report in Dhaka-headquartered The Daily Star.Looking at Bangladesh's performance more closely, a score of one point higher compared

to the previous CPI represents a recognition of the power of the July uprising that caused the collapse of kleptocracy and created aspirations of "dekleptification", the report

stated.However, the failure to carry forward and build the foundation for transformation has also been evident. Post-uprising Bangladesh has witnessed sustained corrupt practices in political and governance spaces nationally and locally. The failure of the interim administration to set examples of governmental transparency, integrity, and accountability, as well as setbacks in the reform process, also denied us a better overall score, the report pointed out.Many countries that previously scored similarly to or even lower than Bangladesh (examples

include Nepal, Laos, Vietnam, Timor-Leste, Ukraine, and Angola) have successfully managed to improve their CPI standing thanks to sustained efforts to push comprehensive and strategic institutional reforms and carry out robust digitalisation of public services in tandem with effective prosecution of high-level corruption, especially political, governmental, and corporate., the report further statef.The key global message of CPI 2025 is that corruption is

worsening worldwide, even in countries claiming to be democracies, due to deteriorating standards of compliance and enforcement. However, the index also shows that corruption is not inevitable. Many countries have proved that progress is possible if political leaders and governments act with integrity and take action to tackle corruption beyond rhetoric, implement robust institutional and political reforms for transparent and accountable governance, effectively prosecute the corrupt

PM Modi Welcomes Serbia President's Recognition Of India's Leadership Role In AI

New Delhi: Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Tuesday welcomed the recognition accorded by Serbian President Aleksandar Vucic to India's leadership in artificial intelligence.The PMOIndia X handle noted how the Serbian President emphasised that the India AI Impact Summit is more than a conference, terming it "a defining moment that firmly positions India at the centre of the global dialogue on artificial intelligence"."As I arrive in Delhi to participate in the ambitious India AI Impact Summit, I feel an almost irrepressible sense of exhilaration. It is a feeling born of seeing a nation I have long admired thrive — and

forge a path to success for its peers. India's ability to maintain unity in multiplicity has always fascinated me. As one of the world's largest republics, encompassing myriad languages, religions, cultures and traditions, the country exemplifies

a living, dynamic pluralism," the Serbian President wrote in an article in The Indian Express."But what truly cemented my affection for India was my first exposure to its people during an earlier chapter of my life, when I worked in London in

the 1990s. The lessons I absorbed then, far removed from the marbled halls of diplomacy and the clamour of politics, have helped shape both my character and my worldview," he further stated.Prime Minister Modi inaugurated the

India AI Impact Summit and Expo on Monday at Bharat Mandapam in the national capital, underscoring India's commitment to responsible and inclusive AI.The Summit, the first global AI gathering to be hosted in the Global South, is witnessing unprecedented participation, with over 20 heads of state, 60 ministers, and 500 global AI leaders. Bringing together policymakers, technology companies, innovators, academia, and industry leaders, the Summit seeks to translate global AI deliberations into actionable development outcomes under the IndiaAI Mission and the Digital India initiative.

Ashwini Vaishnaw inaugurates WAVES Creators Corner at AI Summit in Delhi

New Delhi: Union Minister of Electronics and Information Technology Ashwini Vaishnaw on Tuesday inaugurated WAVES Creators Corner during the India AI Impact Summit at Bharat Mandapam in New Delhi.Vaishnaw emphasised the increased use of Artificial Intelligence in creative content and encouraged people to keep a watch on the usage of AI."AI is being used very effectively in the world of creative content. The way startups and companies are showcasing their use of technology here is worth seeing... In particular, you should definitely check out

Kuku's platform. It has immense potential," Vaishnaw said.Earlier, Ashwini Vaishnaw said India is expected to add another 20,000 GPUs, bringing the total available capacity to more than 38,000 GPUs, with the aim of strengthening the country's AI compute infrastructure.A GPU or Graphics Processing Unit is a powerful computer chip that helps machines think faster, process images, run AI programs, and handle complex tasks more efficiently than a regular processor.Under the IndiaAI Mission, more than 38,000 high-end GPUs have been onboarded and are available at about Rs 65

per hour, which is nearly one-third of the global average cost.Talking to reporters today, Vaishnaw said the next phase of India's AI strategy will place design and research and development at its core, moving beyond foundational infrastructure to building solutions tailored to India's needs.He also indicated that AI-related investments are likely to exceed USD 200 billion at the ongoing India AI Impact Summit, including USD 90 billion already committed.The government is in discussions with several large companies regarding further investments in AI infrastructure, though he said names cannot be disclosed at this stage.

Om Birla Arrives in Dhaka to Represent India at Bangladesh's New Government Swearing-In

New Delhi, : Lok Sabha Speaker Om Birla arrived in Dhaka on Tuesday to represent the Government of India at the swearing-in ceremony of Bangladesh's newly elected administration.At Hazrat Shahjalal International Airport, interim government's Foreign Advisor M. Touhid Hossain extended a warm welcome. Bangladesh Nationalist Party (BNP) Chairperson

Tarique Rahman is slated to take oath as Prime Minister.Birla expressed on social media platform X that representing India at the

swearing-in of the new government under Tarique Rahman's leadership is a profound honor. He described it as a pivotal moment

strengthening bilateral ties and shared democratic values between the two nations.Notably, global leaders are converging in Dhaka for the ceremony, including Maldives President Mohammed Muizzu and Bhutan Prime Minister Tshering Tobgay at the invitation of Chief Advisor Yunus, alongside Foreign Ministers from Sri Lanka, Nepal, and select dignitaries from other countries.

SC rejects PIL seeking guidelines against hate speech, cautions against selective targeting

New Delhi: The Supreme Court of India on Tuesday dismissed a public interest litigation (PIL) filed by twelve petitioners, including former Delhi Lieutenant Governor Najeeb Jung and academic Roop Rekha Verma, who had sought the formulation of guidelines to ensure constitutional morality in the conduct of public officials, constitutional functionaries, and executive administrators.The petition specifically highlighted alleged discriminatory remarks made by Assam Chief Minister Himanta Biswa Sarma and Uttar Pradesh Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath, among others, and called for measures to address such statements by public figures.A three-judge bench, led by Chief Justice of India (CJI)

Surya Kant, along with Justices Joymalya Bagchi and BV Nagarathna, expressed concern over the selective nature of the petition. "The petitioners are respected individuals, but it is unfair to target only selected persons while conveniently ignoring others," the bench remarked. They stressed that a plea framed with impartiality and objectivity would be more appropriate for consideration.Senior advocate Kapil Sibal, representing the petitioners, raised the issue of increasingly toxic public discourse, emphasizing the need for intervention. "This has become a toxic environment, and only this Court can address it," he said. Sibal also offered to remove any personal allegations

from the petition.However, the Court raised doubts about the effectiveness of judicial guidelines in such matters. Justice BV Nagarathna questioned the feasibility of judicial intervention, saying, "There should ultimately be restraint on all sides. If the Court gives guidelines, why can't there be self-restraint and self-regulation? It is about preserving fraternity in the country." Justice Joymalya Bagchi also pointed out concerns over compliance, noting that judicial orders are only effective when followed, and breaches can only be addressed after the fact.On the broader issue of regulating public discourse, the CJI emphasized the distinction between public servants and public figures.

AI Set to Revolutionize India's Healthcare Landscape: Anupriya Patel

New Delhi,: Union Minister of State for Health and Family Welfare Anupriya Patel stated on Tuesday that India's vast and diverse population, marked by rural-urban divides and the dual burden of communicable and non-communicable diseases, presents formidable challenges demanding technological intervention. Speaking at a special session ahead of the India AI Impact Summit at Bharat Mandapam, Patel asserted that Artificial Intelligence (AI) integration into the national health framework transcends mere adoption—it's a strategic antidote to unique national exigencies.AI permeates the entire healthcare continuum, from disease surveillance and prevention to diagnostics and treatment, wielding transformative efficacy.She elaborated that AI facilitates early disease detection, timely prevention, precise diagnostics, and optimized treatment protocols, elevating service quality while bridging urban-rural disparities.

Modi-Macron Summit: Strategic Ties Set for New Heights in Mumbai

New Delhi, :Prime Minister Narendra Modi and French President Emmanuel Macron will hold high-level bilateral talks in Mumbai today, deliberating key issues from security to technology to elevate India-France strategic partnership to unprecedented levels.Foreign Ministry official spokesperson Randhir Jaiswal stated on X Tuesday that President Macron's visit features two primary facets: an afternoon high-level bilateral meeting with Prime Minister Modi in Mumbai, followed by his attendance at the 'AI Impact Summit' in Delhi.Jaiswal outlined

focus areas including enhanced collaboration in digital technology innovation, student mobility, defense security, culture, and green

pathways. Additionally, a celebratory event showcasing India-France innovation synergy will feature discussions on several

AI Investment Surge: $200 Billion Influx Expected in India Over Next Two Years

New Delhi,: At the India AI Impact Summit on February 17, Union Minister for Information and Technology Ashwini Vaishnaw announced expectations of over $200 billion in investments across all five layers of the Artificial Intelligence (AI) stack within the coming two years. Venture capital firms are channeling funds into deep-tech startups, large-scale solutions and applications, cutting-edge model research, as well as foundational

infrastructure and energy layers. Union Minister of State for Commerce and Industry Jitin Prasad attended the event.Vaishnaw highlighted India's competitive edge, noting that 51 percent of the nation's power generation capacity derives from clean energy sources—a feat enabled by Prime Minister Narendra Modi's visionary commitment to sustainability—which positions India advantageously in the AI

energy layer globally.Addressing AI risks, the minister emphasized emerging global consensus among leaders that AI must serve beneficial purposes while mitigating harmful impacts through combined technical and legal measures, beyond mere legislation. India's AI Safety Institute, in collaboration with academic institutions, is developing technical solutions to counteract adverse AI effects. Regarding Nvidia CEO

Jensen Huang's absence due to personal reasons, Vaishnaw noted his dispatch of a senior team; Nvidia is partnering with Indian firms on substantial AI infrastructure and software investments. Vaishnaw underscored strategic management of technological shifts in India's robust IT sector via government-industry-academia synergy, focusing on reskilling existing talent, cultivating new pipelines, and preparing future generations.

Delhi High Court Issues Notice to Mandira Kapoor in Priya Kapoor's Defamation Suit

New Delhi,: The Delhi High Court, presided over by Justice Swarnkanta Sharma, issued notices to Mandira Kapoor Smith on Tuesday in response to a defamation petition filed by Priya Kapoor, wife of the late industrialist Sanjay Kapoor who passed

away in June 2025.Priya alleged that immediately following her husband's death, Mandira and podcaster Puja Choudhary tarnished her reputation through false statements in a podcast, inflicting severe mental harassment. She

demanded ?20 crore in damages and immediate removal of the offending podcast from all platforms.The court directed both parties to refrain from public statements on the matter. Priya also filed a separate petition accusing her

mother-in-law, Rani Kapoor, of providing false testimony.Rani Kapoor seeks dissolution of the RK Family Trust, claiming its formation and management raise serious questions; the court has issued notices to Priya in that case. Additionally,

Karishma Kapoor's children have petitioned for a share in Sanjay's alleged ?30,000 crore estate, requesting declaration as first-class heirs entitled to a fifth share and interim freezing of his personal assets; the court has reserved judgment.

Commissionerate Police remands Madhukanta, who escaped from Chaudwar jail

Cuttack (Correspondent): The Commissionerate Police has remanded hardcore criminal Madhukant Kumar Rana, who escaped from Cuttack Chaudwar jail. The police have remanded him for 6 days from Tuesday for further questioning. The police will remand him till the 23rd and conduct a search operation. Accused Madhukant was taken from Chaudwar police station under tight security. On

October 3, Madhukant and his accomplices escaped from Chaudwar jail. Last Thursday, the Special Squad arrested Madhukant from Vrindavan. Along with Madhukant Rana, the other accused is Raja Sahani. It is worth noting that hardcore

criminal Madhukant Kumar Rana and his other accomplice Raja Sahani managed to escape from Chaudhary Jail on the night of October 2. After a long 5 months, a team of Commissionerate Police was able to catch Madhukant from a guest house in Vrindavan, Uttar Pradesh. Later, the Commissionerate Police brought him to Chaudhary Jail on the 14th and kept him in cell number 3. The Commissionerate

Police took Madhukant on remand for 6 days from Tuesday for further interrogation. An application was earlier filed in the court to take him on remand. The remand period is till the 23rd. The accused Madhukant has been taken to Chaudhary Jail under tight security. So, what the police are trying to tell Madhukant during his remand and when the police will reach another escaped criminal, Raja Sahani, will be known in the coming days.

Viral News of Damaged Road in Brahmani Draws Attention in Boudh

BOUDH (Correspondent)::-A damaged stretch of road in Bramhani village under Khatkhatia Panchayat in Boudh district has gone viral on social media, drawing widespread attention from people across the district. According to the viral reports, the pichu (bitumen) road connecting Bramhani Chowk to Bramhani Old Village has suffered severe damage. The upper layer of the road has reportedly deteriorated over a

stretch of nearly half a kilometre, making commuting difficult and raising serious safety concerns for villagers. Local residents have urged the authorities to take immediate steps

to repair the road at the earliest. The poor condition of the newly constructed road has also triggered public anger. Meanwhile, intellectuals and social activists have strongly

demanded strict action against the concerned contractors, alleging substandard construction work. They have also called for accountability from the officials respons

Boudh Police Seize 150 Quintals of Ganja Worth 15 Crore in Major Crackdown

BOUDH, (Correspondent):::-In a press conference held at Sadar Thana, Boudh, on Friday at 2 p.m., the Superintendent of Police (SP), Boudh, along with senior police officials, announced that Boudh Police have seized a total of 150 quintals of ganja from various police station areas across the district. During the operation, police also seized one pickup van, one truck, an Innova car, and a motorcycle used for transporting contraband. The

operation was carried out over a span of just five to six days, making it one of the biggest anti-narcotics actions ever conducted by Boudh Police. A total of four ganja smugglers were arrested in connection with the seizures.

According to police estimates, the seized ganja is worth approximately ?15 crore in the illegal market. The massive haul has drawn widespread praise from the residents of Boudh district

Fake Maoist Surrender Plot Busted: Three Arrested for Alleged Attempt to Misappropriate Government Funds

Rayagada(Correspondent): Rayagada Police have arrested three persons for allegedly pasting posters in the name of Maoists and plotting to stage fake surrenders to siphon off government funds. After earlier arresting web reporter Ranjhu alias Anubrata Bara and Bali Majhi on Sunday, police on Monday apprehended another associate, Seemanchal Kutruka, along with Apana Mandangi alias Mandika, from the Bisamkatak area.
Addressing a press conference at the district police headquarters, Superintendent of Police Swathi S. Kumar said that Anubrata Bara was the main

conspirator in the case. She stated that at a time when Maoist activity in the district had largely subsided, the accused allegedly attempted to create fear among the public and extort money, besides planning to present civilians as "surrendered Maoists" to fraudulently claim government rehabilitation funds. According to the investigation, Maoist posters had appeared last Friday at Dhumaguda bus stop under Baising Panchayat on the outskirts of Rayagada town, at Paikapada under Chandili police limits, and at Kumbhaguda junction under Kalyansinghpur block. After seizing the posters,

police launched a probe that led to the identification of Bara and his associates. Police sources revealed that the accused had held a series of meetings at different hotels in Rayagada town over the past few days to chalk out the plan. A blueprint had reportedly been prepared to project a staged surrender of alleged hardcore Maoists from neighbouring Chhattisgarh. However, individuals who were approached to pose as Maoists later backed out, causing the plan to collapse. Investigators also found that Seemanchal had earlier put up a banner in the name of Maoists at Telengapadar under Muniguda police limits on January 20.

Awareness drive on migrant workers held in Jagatsinghpur

Jagatsinghpur (Correspondent):. The District Legal Services Authority [DLSA] organised an awareness programme on various issues of Migrant workers at Khairanga Grama Panchayat office, six km away from here, on Tuesday. In a bid to provide extensive awareness to support migrant workers, the campaign emphasized safe migration, voluntary registration at district labor department and accessing several labour welfare schemes the attending participants were educated. DLSA secretary informed at the meeting that the programme aims to sensitise workers on the interstate migrant workmen Act 1979 and ensure they register before leaving the state. Each migrant, either an informal or construction worker, should register and renew their labour cards before going to out of state. If they face any difficulty at the workplace, then the labour department will support them for redressal measures and provide benefits under labour-centric social security schemes meant for workers, the secretary revealed.

Dense Fog To Grip Odisha For Next Two Days, Says IMD

Bhubaneswar(Correspondent): The India Meteorological Department (IMD) has forecast dense fog in isolated pockets of several Odisha districts on Wednesday and Thursday. The affected districts include Gajapati, Ganjam, Puri, Khordha, Nayagarh, Cuttack, Kendrapada, Jagatsinghpur, Angul, and Dhenkanal. The minimum temperature (night temperature) is expected to remain unchanged for the next 24 hours, followed by a rise of 2-3°C in the subsequent days. Meanwhile, temperatures soared across Odisha, with 33 places recording mercury above 30°C. Bolangir witnessed the highest day temperature of 33.9°C, while Bhubaneswar recorded 33°C.

Naveen Patnaik Calls Governor's Speech 'Short On Action' At Budget Session

Bhubaneswar: Leader of the Opposition (LoP) in the Odisha Assembly and Biju Janata Dal (BJD) president, Naveen Patnaik, on Tuesday criticised the Governor's address to the Budget Session, calling it "long on words but short on action." Speaking to reporters outside the assembly after Odisha Governor Dr. Hari Babu Kambhampati delivered his customary address, Patnaik said, "What you might say is short on work, alright—you understand that," pointing to the media. The LoP also raised concerns over law and order in the state, including incidents of mob lynching. "I think you have heard me say time and again that the law and order situation under this government is in a deadly state. Nowhere else in the country do you get such reports of law and order failures and violence, except in Odisha," he said. The Budget Session of the Odisha Assembly commenced on Tuesday with Governor Kambhampati urging members to discharge their responsibilities with dedication and work together to ensure inclusive growth. Kambhampati, who began his address with an invocation of 'Jai Jagannath', paid tribute to departed members of the House, including the late Murlidhar Chandrakant Bhandare, former Governor of Odisha, and Padma Shri awardee Kamala Pujari. Highlighting the state government's vision, he said Odisha aims to become a 'Viksit Odisha by 2036', marking the centenary of the state's formation.

OSSC Releases LTR Merit Lists; Aspirants Call Off Protest

Bhubaneswar, (Correspondent):: Bringing relief to hundreds of job aspirants, the Odisha Staff Selection Commission (OSSC) on Tuesday released the provisional merit lists for Leave Training Reserve (LTR) posts, prompting candidates to call off their eight-day-long protest in the city. The aspirants, who had been staging a demonstration outside the OSSC office here, were demanding the immediate publication of the selection lists for TGT Arts, TGT Odia, Hindi Teacher and Sanskrit Teacher posts. The candidates said the delay had caused widespread anxiety

despite completion of all recruitment formalities. According to the protesters, the Certificate Verification process was completed on January 22, 2026. However, even after 25 days, the merit list had not been published.

They alleged that in other streams such as PCM and CBZ, the Commission released merit lists within 12 days of document verification, leading to allegations of discrimination and administrative delay. The

agitation, which entered its eighth day on Monday, intensified after repeated appeals reportedly failed to yield any response from the authorities. Later that day, the Commission released the merit list for Sanskrit. On Tuesday,

the lists for Arts, Odia and Hindi were also published, following which the aspirants withdrew their stir. Nearly 6,000 LTR vacancies in Arts, Odia, Hindi and Sanskrit were notified in 2023. While the written examinations and certificate verification were completed by January this year, the delay in publication of the merit lists had triggered resentment among candidates. With the release of the provisional selection lists, aspirants expressed relief but urged the Commission to ensure timely completion of further appointment procedures.

BJD, Congress MLAs Stage Walkout During Governor's Address In Odisha Assembly

Bhubaneswar, (Correspondent):: Biju Janata Dal (BJD) and the Indian National Congress (INC) MLAs staged a walkout from the Odisha Assembly on Tuesday during Governor Hari Babu Kambhampati's address, the first day of the Budget Session, signalling their protest over the speech. Leader of Opposition and BJD president Naveen

Patnaik, speaking to the media after the walkout, described the Governor's address as "strong in words but weak in action," saying it did not reflect the ground realities of governance. Patnaik also raised concerns over rising incidents of mob lynching in Odisha and across India, alleging a worsening law-and-order situation under the current BJP-led

government. "The law-and-order scenario in Odisha is in a dreadful state. Nowhere else in the country can one find such reports of violence and deterioration," Patnaik said. Congress Legislature Party leader Rama Chandra Kadam also criticised the speech, claiming there was little alignment between the government's

statements and the Governor's address. He alleged that the state government had failed to demonstrate commitment to Odisha's development and the welfare of its people. The ruling BJP, meanwhile, defended the Governor's address, accusing the opposition of being "confused" and of opposing the state's rapid development

under the current government. The Budget Session began with Governor Kambhampati calling upon all members to discharge their duties with dedication and work collectively to ensure inclusive growth. He highlighted the state government's goal of creating a Viksit Odisha by 2036, marking the centenary of the state's formation.

Farmers : Backbone of Our Country

Gangadhar Samal

Our country has been known for agriculture ever since the Indus Valley Civilization.

Agriculture being the backbone of our economy, we hold a huge market worldwide for agricultural products. Have we ever wondered what's the reason for our flourishing agriculture? Where do the crops and stocks come from? It is none other than our farmers who are skilled in farming. They take up this divine job of feeding a billion people by investing so much risk. When we say risk, it is the problem of farmers for many decades in India. They face a lot of hurdles to do farming because of various reasons. This farmer essay will talk about the value of our farmers. Moreover, it will cover the life of a farmer in our society and the present condition of farmers in our country.

Farmers are undoubtedly the backbone of our country. They are the ones who work to produce the most essential products for human existence. One can possess endless wealth, but at the end of the day what matters is whether he has food on his plate or not. Though we have so much money doesn't mean we can produce food.

We can only buy necessary cereals and pulses if they are available in the market. Otherwise people will face dreadful famines and die out of starvation. Recalling the worst memory of the Bengal famine, millions of people died because they did not have food to eat. Today we must be grateful for the food we have, because somewhere a farmer is working tirelessly to feed the society. Farmers are very vital because they provide us with the food we eat.

The entire country depends on them because of this. We always talk about farmers and praise them only with words, never do we take any initiative to help farmers. Most farmers depend on harvesting wheat and rice as it is the most consumed food in our country. Be it large scale farmers or small scale farmers, all of them work for a very little profit, but with great satisfaction. All they ask is for the basic requirements to perform agriculture.

Farmers are important for any society despite their geographical location. In a world where we hardly have time to consume our meal, how can we produce our own food? It is impossible for us to grow the necessary cereals and vegetables in our garden. Farmers do the elite task of feeding millions of people! They end up in loans, debts and so many struggles yet they never quit farming and do other jobs. Farmers do not ask for luxury. In fact, there are lakhs of farmers who still use the ancient lough and ox method to sow the land. They don't even have the resources to own a tractor. It only prevails in India, that farmers do not get any of the advanced technology in agriculture. Talking about technology, it is again a luxury from a farmer's point of view. All that a farmer pleads is for proper water availability and a fair price for the goods they produce. The price of vegetables we buy in our nearby shop doesn't reach the farmer entirely. Hardly quarter the price is what the farmer is getting paid. Most farmers abandon farming because it incurs only loss for them.

Farmers are the important reason for a country to develop and live in harmony. If there are no farmers in the country, people will stumble for food and starve. The least we can do is to support a farmer in whatever way we can. Even a little contribution can be so helpful for a farmer to practice the divine task. People who do farming are no different than God as they provide us food, which is our basic necessity! To conclude, farmers in our country must be supported by all of us to ensure a prosperous future.

The Very Threat from Artificial Intelligence

Artificial Intelligence (AI) is transforming the world at an unprecedented pace. From voice assistants and recommendation systems to medical diagnostics and self-driving technologies, AI is reshaping how we live and work. Yet alongside its remarkable benefits lies a growing concern: the potential threats AI may pose to jobs, privacy, security, and even human autonomy. As societies embrace intelligent machines, it becomes essential to understand and address these risks.

Understanding Artificial Intelligence

Artificial Intelligence refers to computer systems designed to perform tasks that normally require human intelligence, such as learning, reasoning, decision-making, and language understanding. Modern AI systems, including tools like OpenAI's ChatGPT and Google's Gemini, demonstrate how rapidly machines are gaining capabilities once thought uniquely human.

Job Displacement and Economic Inequality

One of the most widely discussed threats of AI is job displacement. Automation is increasingly replacing repetitive and routine tasks in manufacturing, customer service, transportation, and even white-collar professions.

Potential impacts include:

Reduced demand for low-skilled and routine jobs

Pressure on middle-income professions

Growing gap between high-tech and low-skill workers

While AI also creates new roles, the transition can be disruptive, especially for workers without access to reskilling opportunities.

Privacy and Surveillance Concerns

AI-powered facial recognition, data tracking, and predictive analytics have raised serious concerns about privacy. Governments and corporations can analyze vast amounts of personal data, sometimes without clear consent.

Risks include:

Mass surveillance

Data misuse and profiling

Loss of personal privacy

Without strong data protection laws, individuals may lose control over their personal information.

EPILEPSY disease is a silent killer

Debasis Panigrahi

Epilepsy is one of the most common neurological disorders. It is a chronic non communicable disease of the brain that affects more than 50 million people worldwide and most of them reside in developing countries. With a conservative estimate of 1% as prevalence of epilepsy, there are more than 12 million persons with epilepsy (PWE) in India, which contributes to nearly one-sixth of the global burden. When it comes to Epilepsy in women, about a sixth of women in the world are living in India. It is estimated that there are about 2.73 million women in India with epilepsy and 52% of them are in the reproductive (15-49 years) age group. By conservative estimates, there are three million people with drug resistant epilepsy (DRE) and one million potential candidates for epilepsy surgery (ES) in India.

According to the data from Kerala Registry of Epilepsy and Pregnancy (KREP) indicate that anemia, ovariancyst and fibroid uterus, and spontaneous abortions are more frequent in women with Epilepsy. It has been observed that the peak of incidence of epilepsy is seen during the 1st year of life and in persons aged more than 74 years. Some children develop epilepsy as a result of their brain being injured in some way. This could be due to difficulties at birth, or an infection which affects the brain. In young children, development can be delayed due to uncontrolled seizures. The most common type of seizure in children is the febrile seizure, which occurs when an infection associated with a high fever develops.

Epilepsy Risk Factor

Stress, Sleep deprivation or fatigue, Insufficient food intake, Alcohol use or drug abuse

Failure to take prescribed anticonvulsant Medications. Premature birth or low birth weight Trauma during birth (such as lack of oxygen) Seizures in the first month of life

Abnormal brain structures at birth Bleeding into the brain Abnormal blood vessels in the brain Serious brain injury or lack of oxygen to the brain Brain tumors Infections of the brain such as meningitis or encephalitis Stroke resulting from blockage of arteries

Cerebral palsy Mental disabilities Seizures occurring within days after head injury

Family history of epilepsy or fever-related seizures Alzheimer's disease (late in the illness) Lengthy fever-related (febrile) seizures Alcohol or drug abuse Dr.NAME,says, "Epilepsy is characterized by recurrent seizures, which are brief episodes of involuntary movement that may involve a part of the body (partial) or the entire body (generalized) and are sometimes accompanied by loss of consciousness and control of bowel or bladder function. However it is important to note that one seizure does not signify epilepsy (up to 10% of people worldwide have one seizure during their lifetime). Epilepsy is defined as having two or more unprovoked seizures."

Fear, misunderstanding, discrimination and social stigma have surrounded epilepsy for centuries. This stigma continues in many countries today and can impact on the quality of life for people with the disease and their families A doctor makes a diagnosis based on symptoms, physical signs and the results of tests such as an electroencephalogram (EEG), computed tomography (CT or CAT scan) or magnetic resonance imaging (MRI)." adds Dr.Mitali

Myths and Facts

Myth: Fits are due to incarceration with evil spirits. Fact: fits are a medical disease which can be treated with medication.

Myth: These patients are possessed by God. Fact: Patients behave in an uncontrollable manner during a seizure, but this is not an expression of supernatural powers. They should be given medical treatment and treated like any other human being.

Myth: Never touch a patient having a seizure. The disease will be passed on to you. Fact: Epilepsy is not contagious. The patient having a seizure needs your help and should be given immediate and appropriate care.

Myth: The only side effects of a seizure are tiredness and being confused Fact: Having epilepsy can affect people in different ways.

Transparency initiatives, but lack of uniformity hinders employees' access to courts

Dr Satywan Saurabh

Ensuring one-time mandatory participation of all employees is essential so that workplace seniority is determined fairly and there is no future inequality or confusion. Traditional transfers should be completely banned once the online transfer policy is implemented. A uniform tenure system should be implemented in all departments to provide equal opportunities to employees. New appointments should be included in the online system in a timely manner so that seniority is not affected. The transfer process should have a fixed annual schedule to increase transparency and eliminate uncertainty among employees.)

The Model Online Transfer Policy implemented by the Haryana Government is an important and bold step towards administrative reforms. For a long time, there have been complaints of arbitrariness, favoritism, and corruption in the transfer of government employees. The online transfer system was implemented to eliminate these problems and make the process transparent, fair, and merit-based. Its primary objective was to ensure that employees are allocated work locations equitably based on their seniority, length of service, and special circumstances, eliminating any potential for external interference.

This policy is a positive example of modern administrative thinking and the use of technology. Applicable to cadres with 50 or more posts, this system establishes a merit-based evaluation system of 80 points. Age and total service period are the primary criteria, ensuring due weightage for seniority. Points are determined by dividing service period by 365 days, making the entire process objective and transparent. Women employees are awarded 10 points, spouses receive 5 points, and 10 to 20 additional points in cases of serious illness or disability.

The entire process is conducted through an online platform linked to the Human Resource Management System. After notification, the cadre list is made public, and employees select their preferred work locations by verifying them using a one-time password. In the event of failure to submit options within the stipulated time, the employee may be posted to any location. Employees holding surplus positions are compulsorily transferred, and they are required to assume their duties within the stipulated time from the date of issuance of the order.

Since the implementation of the policy, transparency has increased in many departments and complaints have also decreased. The online grievance redressal mechanism has provided a platform for employees to express their views. This has strengthened the belief that administrative reforms can be effectively implemented through a digital system.

However, the lack of uniformity in policy implementation poses its biggest challenge. Uniform tenure, uniform timetables, and uniform rules are not applied across all departments. In some areas, the minimum tenure is different, in others, the maximum tenure limit is different, and in others, the definition of special circumstances varies. This creates inequality among employees of the same cadre and undermines the policy's core spirit.

It is crucial to ensure one-time mandatory participation of all employees in the very first process of the online transfer drive. If some employees are left out for any reason in the initial phase, their workplace seniority is affected and can lead to future disputes. Therefore, a "one-time mandatory participation" should bring all employees on an equal footing.

The prescribed tenure should be uniform across all departments. For example, a minimum tenure of one year, or from one transfer campaign to the next, could be set, and a maximum tenure of five years.

This would ensure that no employee remains in one position for an excessively long period of time, nor would anyone face frequent transfers within a short period of time.

Whenever a new appointment is made, it must be included in the next transfer campaign. If an employee has not yet joined the online transfer policy, they must be included in the current campaign. This will provide all employees with the opportunity to receive assignments based on their seniority and eliminate the tendency to obtain assignments through traditional orders, either arbitrarily or through bribery.

Transfer campaigns should be completed simultaneously across all departments. This will facilitate decision-making in spousal cases and reduce uncertainty for families. If different departments conduct transfers at different times, family coordination becomes difficult.

When calculating tenure, the fiscal year should be considered as a year, not a count of days. Sometimes, transfer operations are completed mid-fiscal year and joining occurs late in the year, resulting in a one-year gap in tenure calculations. If the fiscal year were accepted as a complete unit, disputes regarding the cut-off date could be eliminated.

Transfer campaigns should be conducted annually according to a fixed and pre-announced schedule. Regular and annual transfers will eliminate uncertainty among employees and improve administrative coordination. Irregular or delayed campaigns can lead to confusion and dissatisfaction.

During the position restructuring or rationalization process, if the next recruitment process has already begun, a minimum number of positions should be blocked so that employees are more likely to find work locations near their residence. If rationalization is carried out comprehensively once, covering all employees, this process will not be necessary again in the future.

Currently, many employees' appointment orders clearly state "compulsory participation," but it is unclear how an employee's workplace seniority and rights will be protected if they are unable to participate for any reason. This ambiguity has left many employees out of the process, leading to inequality and dissatisfaction.

The most serious concern is that even after the online policy was implemented, some transfers were made through traditional channels. This situation contradicts the transparency and fairness of the policy. When some employees are assigned workstations based on numerical data and others through traditional orders, the principle of equal opportunity is undermined. Such parallel systems cast doubt on the policy and create a sense of discrimination among employees. These discrepancies are forcing many employees to resort to the courts. Disparate treatment despite the same position and length of service is bound to lead to disputes. The court process is mentally, socially, and financially taxing for employees, and also places additional burdens on the administration.

If the policy is implemented in a completely uniform and mandatory manner, ensuring the participation of all employees, and completely prohibiting traditional transfers, the need for going to court will automatically disappear. This will strengthen employee confidence and enhance the credibility of the administrative system.

The Model Online Transfer Policy is a visionary initiative, but its success depends on complete transparency, uniform rules, and strict compliance. Unless uniform tenures are ensured across all departments, a common annual schedule, mandatory participation, and work assignments conducted exclusively through online channels, its spirit will remain unfulfilled.

Today, there is a need to make this policy more clear, robust, and consistent. If this is done, this system can become a model of good governance, transparency, and fair administration not only in Haryana but across the country.

One-day orientation program held in Subarnapur on district level heat wave management

SUBARNAPUR,(Correspondent)- A one-day orientation program on district level heat wave management was held in Subarnapur. Under the chairmanship of Subarnapur Collector Dr. Nruparaj Sahu, officers of various departments were reviewed about their responsibilities in the upcoming summer and how they are prepared.The meeting was attended by Additional District Magistrate (General) Anjalina Pradhan, Additional District Magistrate (Revenue) Rajendra Majhi, District Chief Medical and Public Health Officer Usharani Das, District Chief Development Officer Aswini Meher,

Sub Collector Birmaharajpur Surendra Meher who were the prominent guests and reviewed the preparations. All the concerned officers of the district were also present in the meeting. The program was conducted by Rajesh Kumar Sahu, District Emergency Officer. A total of 9 students who excelled in various competitions on disaster

management and preparedness held in October were awarded. On this occasion, Collector Dr. Sahu said that all the departments of the district should fight the heat wave in coordination. If everyone plays their role, we can protect many people in the district and reduce the number of accidents. In the coming days, the

timings of classes in schools will be changed keeping in mind the heat wave. The Collector asked all the concerned departments to be prepared for all kinds of situations. Bishwanath Nayak, District Project Officer, Emergency Department elaborated on how heat wave occurs in Subarnapur district and how people have been affected in the past years. From April to June and July, not only the temperature in Subarnapur increases. He said that the humidity in the air increases, which makes it more uncomfortable. Currently there is one thermometer in the district, but in the coming days the government has

planned to install thermometers in all the blocks. This will show the difference in temperature between the district headquarters and various blocks in the district. Finally, the District Labour Department has been instructed to ensure that no one works outside during the summer. Regional Transport Officer Akshaya Kumar Jena has been asked to restrict the movement of vehicles during this time and to make arrangements for ORS and drinking water in every bus. The Collector has also been instructed to arrange special water tanks for animals and birds and has asked to continue the awareness program.

Training on Disaster Mitigation for Panchayat Executive Officers

JAJPUR (Correspondent):A training programme on disaster damage reduction and management was organized for Panchayat Executive Officers (PEOs) at the District Parishad Conference Hall under the joint initiative of the District Council and the District Disaster Management Authority.The programme was inaugurated by District Collector Ambar Kumar Kar. The training camp is being conducted in four phases from February 17 to 26. A total of 244 Panchayat Executive Officers from ten blocks of Jajpur district will receive training during this period.Three master trainers—Sukanta Biswal, Manoj Jena, and Shailendra Samal—along with two resource persons are imparting the training to

the officers. The programme mainly focuses on disaster management, minimizing losses caused by disasters, and strengthening preparedness measures. The objective is to enhance awareness and efficiency among Panchayat Executive Officers working at the grassroots level so that they can effectively handle disaster-related situations.Chief Development Officer-cum-Executive Officer of

the District Parishad Debi Prasad Mahanty and District Emergency Officer Ashok Behera were present on the occasion. District Project Coordinator Srinibas Panda, Assistant Supriya Panda, Section Officer Arun Sahu, Senior Assistant Chandrasekhar Behera, Tarun Kumar Panda, and Akshaya Kumar Behera assisted in conducting the programme.

District Magistrate's Grievance Hearing and Redressal Camp in Khaprakhol

Patnagarh - (Correspondent) A District Magistrate's Grievance Hearing and edressal Camp was held at Balangir district Khaprakhol Panchayat Samiti Conference Hall on Tuesday. Balangir District Magistrate Gaurav Shivaji Islwar, District Chief Development Officer Tarani Suna, Patnagarh sub - collector Sunil Kumar Meher, Sub-Divisional Police Officer Sadanand Pujhari, BDO Bibekanand Sarangi were present in

the camp and 50 grievances were heard and 10 grievances were resolved immediately. It is reported that various individual and group grievances were filed on this occasion. Officers of various major

district-level departments such as Education, Health, Horticulture, Agriculture, Cooperatives, Rural Development Department were present in the camp.

633 Students Awarded Jyoti Fellowship at Tata Steel Foundation's Arunima 2026, Berhampur

Berhampur, (Correspondent) : As many as 633 meritorious students from economically weaker Scheduled Caste families received Tata Steel Foundation (TSF)'s Jyoti Fellowship at the 8th edition of "Arunima 2026" held at the Berhampur University. Organised by the Foundation's Gopalpur Unit, the two-day flagship community-based initiative brought together students, women leaders, farmers, domain experts and public representatives.The Conclave was graced by Shri Krushna Chandra Nayak, Hon'ble MLA, Chatrapur, Smt. Sarmistha Pradhan, Chairman, Notified Area

Council, Chatrapur, Padma Shri awardees Patayat Sahu, Dr. Sabarmatee, Shri Simanchal Patra, Dr. Biswa Ranjan Pradhan, Project Scientist, IIT Bhubaneswar, Dr. Gobinda Chandra Acharya, Principal Scientist, Central Horticultural Experiment Station, Bhubaneswar, Bharat Bhusan Sahoo, District Fisheries Officer, Ganjam, Smt. Raimati Ghiuria, popularly known

as the Millet Queen from Koraput, Retd. Prof. Ratna Sahu, Smt. Sandhyarani Muni, Director, Munico Food Pvt. Ltd., Rakesh Kumar Patro, Head - Corporate Services, Tata Steel Special Economic Zone Limited (TSSEZL) and Dr. Jayant Kumar Tripathy, Unit Lead (TSF) - Gopalpur.Aimed at serving as an integrated platform for advancing education, youth leadership, women

empowerment and sustainable livelihood development across TSF's operational villages, the conclave engaged 538 farmers from across the Gopalpur region in meaningful dialogues on diversified, climate-resilient and market-linked livelihood practices. Around 345 women leaders from TSF's operational villages also participated at the event and deliberated on women leadership, gender mainstreaming, entrepreneurship and strengthening dignified and sustainable livelihoods for women. On the occasion, five Youth Change Makers were felicitated for their grassroots efforts in child marriage

prevention, menstrual hygiene awareness and adolescent education while 30 progressive farmers were felicitated for boosting incomes through agriculture and allied activities. The key highlight of the event was the launch of Information Education and Communication (IEC) materials on organic input production and sustainable farming to improve soil health, reduce chemical dependency and enhance farm profitability. The technical sessions covered natural farming, herbal plantation, probiotic crop practices, natural resource management and fisheries schemes.

Handicapped student Keshab qualified PhD in law department of national levels

SUBARNAPUR ,(Correspondent) -- A Locomotor (LM Disability) handicapped person from Subarnapur district, Keshab Chandra Meher, has become a source of pride and inspiration for Subarnapur district by qualifying in law at national level in the recently released December, 2025 NTA/ UGC NET examination. He did not get discouraged even at an advanced age and used to work hard for four hours a day from 6 am to 8 am and 8 pm to 10 pm. Shri Meher is currently working as a Law Officer in the District Child Protection Department in the Subarnapur District Collectorate for more than 13 years. Shri Meher is the third son of late Dharani Meher and late Mandakini Meher.

Preparation by the board for the matric examination, 3082 centers will also be under CCTV surveillance

Cuttack,(Correspondent): Matric exam will be held after just one day. Preparations by the board are in the final stage. Board President Shrikant Tarai informed about the preparation for the matriculation examination in the press conference. According to the information of the board president, CCTV has been arranged in a total of 3082 centers. Strict action will be taken against the students who copy. Strict action will be taken by providing copies or any irregularities. The board president said. Similarly, the examinees have been given 15 minutes more time to enter the emergency examination center. Candidates will be allowed to enter the examination center till 9:30 am. Earlier, the time was fixed till 9:15 minutes. The board president said that another 15 minutes have been extended. Candidates with disabilities will be given an additional 50 minutes for the examination. The center will provide supporting textbooks for disabled candidates. Board President Shrikant Tarai said that if you want, you can bring the disabled examinees to the students from class 10 to lower class as assistants. It is worth noting that the matric examination will start from next 19th. The exam will continue till March 2. 3082 centers have been prepared. In which all the students will take the exam. Similarly, the board has asked to create 222 nodal centers for the question paper. In which the board has planned to keep the questionnaire safely. All the nodal centers will be monitored by CCTV. This year 5 lakh 61 thousand 979 students will take the exam. Examination centers will also be under CCTV surveillance.

Special Intensive Revision: All Eligible Voters to Be Linked with 2002 Electoral Roll

Rayagada, (Correspondent): A review meeting on the ongoing Special Intensive Revision and voter linkage programme was held on Tuesday at the Sadbhavana Hall of Rayagada Block under the chairmanship of District Collector and District Election Officer Ashutosh Kulkarni.The meeting was attended by Additional District Magistrate Nabin Chandra Naik, Deputy Collector Manuela Priyadarshini, Assistant Collector Bichitra Sethi, Block Development Officers (BDOs) of all eleven blocks, Executive Officers of municipalities and

NACs, along with Booth Level Officers (BLOs) and supervisors.As per the guidelines, except for deceased, shifted, and duplicate voters, all eligible voters will be linked with the 2002 electoral roll. Voters whose names are included in the 2025 electoral roll must provide the serial number from the 2002 voter list —

either their own or that of their father, mother, grandfather, or grandmother — to ensure proper linkage.It has been informed that failure to establish linkage with the 2002 electoral roll may result in exclusion from the upcoming draft voter list.Meanwhile, BLOs highlighted challenges in the

linkage process, stating that many voters who have relocated since 2002 are not providing accurate details of their previous booths, making verification difficult. To address this, arrangements are being made for widespread awareness campaigns, especially in urban areas, to encourage voter cooperation.District Collector and District Election Officer Ashutosh Kulkarni appealed to all voters of the district to promptly submit their 2002 voter details to their nearest Booth Level Officer to avoid complications during the Special Intensive Revision process.

56 Cows Rescued in Boudh

Boudh(Correspondent) : The Shree Shyam Goshala in Purunakatak, located in Boudh, rescued 56 cows from alleged cow mafias in Pitambarpur jungle area with the assistance of the Purunakatak Police.According to reports, the joint effort helped save the cattle from illegal trafficking activities in the forest region of Boudh district. The rescued cows were safely brought back under the protection and care of the goshala.A similar incident had taken place a few days earlier in Boudh. This time, however, the alertness and timely action of the workers of Shree Shyam Goshala played a crucial role in assisting the Purunakatak Police in rescuing the cows from alleged cow mafias.

Delhi HC grants time to Centre to get consular access to Celina Jaitly's detained brother in Abu Dhabi

The Delhi High court on Tuesday granted time to Ministry of External Affairs (MEA) to get consular access to retired major Vikrant Jaitly and have a meeting with him. The high court has also asked the MEA to apprise him about the development in the petition moved by Celina Jaitly.The court is considering a petition filed by Bollywood actres Celina Jaitly seeking directions in connection with her brother's detention in the United Arab Emirates.During the hearing, wife of Vikrant Jaitly, Charul Jaitly, filed a note. The court directed to supply the copy of note to Celina Jaitly and MEA. She appeared before the court.Celina's counsel argued that Vikrant Jaitly was an employee and his wife was the owner of the company in question. His wife Charul Jaitly opposed the submissions of Celina Jaitly.Justice Purushaindra Kumar Kaurav granted 4 weeks time to MEA after its cousnsel sought time to get a consular access to retired major Vikrant Jaitly.The counsel for MEA submitted a note and submitted that UAE did not approved the consular access on February 13 and it is awaited. It will take 3-4 weeks to get approval.The bench granted time to MEA and directed to file a status report.

Nayanthara On Winning State Awards: "Truly Blessed"

Actress and producer Nayanthara, who won the Tamil Nadu government's State Film award for Best Actress for the year 2017 for her performance in the film 'Aramm', has now penned a post of gratitude, thanking the government for the honour.Taking to her Instagram page to post pictures of herself with three State Awards, the actress wrote,"My sincere gratitude to the Government of Tamil Nadu for honouring me with the State Award for Aramm. Also deeply thankful for the State Awards for Netrikann and Koozhangal for our production house @therowdypictures. Three State Awards for the house… Truly blessed."While the first award was for her acting, Nayanthara won the other two as a producer.For the unaware, 'Aramm' was a gripping thriller that was directed by well known director Gopi Nainar. The film's plot revolved around the efforts of a district collector to rescue a child that falls into a borewell by accident.'Aramm' highlighted the lives of those living in the rural parts of the country and spoke of how people there had to struggle to get even the most basic of their needs met from the government, thanks to red tapism and corruption. Nayanthara played the character of district collector Mathivathani in the film.Nayanthara has an exciting list of ongoing projects, both as a producer and as an actor. Among these, her film, 'Patriot', which is being directed by Mahesh Narayanan, is among the most eagerly-awaited thrillers of this year.For the unaware, 'Patriot', features both superstars of Malayalam cinema Mammootty and Mohanlal along with a host of other top stars including Fahadh Faasil, Kunchacko Boban, Nayanthara, and Revathy.

one-pan Mediterranean chicken recipe

Ingredients for Mediterranean chicken:
32oz (900g approx) boneless skinless chicken thigh
1 cup non-fat Greek yoghurt (marinade)
3 tbsp garum masala
1 tbsp salt
2 tbsp garlic paste
Juice from 1 lemon
1 yellow bell pepper
1 orange bell pepper
1 red onion
2 cups cherry tomatoes
1/2 cup non-fat Greek yoghurt (sauce)
1 tbsp olive oil
1 tbsp freshly chopped dill
Method of preparation:
Dice your chicken thighs into one-inch cubes and season with non-fat Greek yoghurt, olive oil, garam masala, salt, garlic paste, and the juice from half a lemon
While that marinades, dice your bell peppers, onions, and cherry tomatoes into pieces and add to your pan, seasoning with more salt and garam masala
Add your chicken to the same sheet pan and oven bake at 375°F for 15-20 minutes, then broil for five to seven minutes
While that cooks, prepare your sauce with the rest of your fat-free Greek yoghurt (1/2 cup), more garam masala, salt, garlic powder, black pepper, 1 tsp lemon juice, and freshly chopped dill
Enjoy on a pita bread

simple homemade probiotic rich drink that helps to boost gut health

Probiotics are touted as super nutrients for gut health. Time and again, several studies and health experts have found a correlation between probiotics and gut health. The benefits are so significant that, to some extent, they can even reverse earlier damage. Certain probiotic microbes, for instance, have been shown to promote resilience and normalise the gut microbiota when it has been disrupted by antibiotics, according to a study published in January 2024. Overall, these live microorganisms can improve or restore the gut microbiota, the elaborate ecosystem of microbes that live in your gut. This gut microbiota is now responsible for key functions like digestion and nutrient absorption. So in the bigger picture, given how the gut is connected to other major systems via gut-brain or gut-skin axes, probiotics support your entire well-being.
Similarly, another study from January 2025 also showed the other benefits of probiotics, including regulation of weight and blood glucose levels, as well as influence on metabolism and insulin sensitivity. Adding a probiotic-rich food or beverage to your diet becomes vital.
Shalini Sudhakar, a nutritionist and yoga teacher based in Bangalore, shared on a February 17 Instagram post about a special probiotic-boosting recipe: fermented kanji.Why is it effective?
The nutritionist explained why this method works, highlighting the pros and cons of other popular options. Homemade idlis, while accessible and nutritious, don't contain enough to actually be impactful for your gut.On the other hand, probiotic drinks from supermarkets offer plenty of probiotics but can be expensive.

5 best exercises to control blood sugar levels

An individual is diagnosed with the disorder when their blood sugar (glucose) levels are too high. As per the Cleveland Clinic website, this happens when the pancreas is not producing sufficient quantities of the hormone insulin, or when the body fails to respond to it properly. Medications and a healthy lifestyle are popularly known to keep diabetes in check. The latter also helps mitigate the risk of diabetes in people who are yet to be diagnosed.

In addition to keeping the diet in check, exercising has a major role to play in keeping blood sugar levels in check. Taking to Instagram on February 6, American board-certified gastroenterologist Dr Palaniappan Manickam highlighted five exercises which work wonders for this specific purpose.

1. Walking after every meal
A 10-20 minute walk after meals helps muscles use glucose immediately, shared Dr Manickam. This remedy works for people of all ages and helps reduce blood sugar spikes and improve insulin sensitivity.

2. Strength training
According to Dr Manickam, the muscles are the biggest glucose sink in our body. Therefore, the more muscles we have and the stronger they are, the better our blood sugar control. Strength training (or resistance training) involves exercises that force the muscles to work against an external resistance. Performing two to three sessions of strength training every week improves fasting sugar levels over time.

Easy strength-training exercises include squats, push-ups, and resistance-band exercises.

3. Calf raises
Calf raise is a simple exercise that has a "big metabolic impact," shared Dr Manickam, as it "activates one of the largest glucose-using muscles." It can be performed almost anywhere and at any time, and helps to significantly lower blood sugar levels. The gastroenterologist suggests performing 50 to 100 reps throughout the day.

4. Zone 2 cardio
Zone 2 cardio is steady, conversational-pace cardio that can be considered a low-to-moderate intensity exercise. It helps improve the metabolism of fat and glucose, reduces insulin resistance, and is sustainable in the long term. Examples of zone 2 cardio are brisk walking, cycling, and slow jogging.

5. Short bursts of intense workout
Dr Manickam considers short, controlled efforts to be better than long exhaustion. They are time-efficient, improve insulin sensitivity fast and train muscles to absorb glucose better. Such workouts may include walking fast for 30 seconds and then slow for 60 seconds, for six reps.

"It is not what you do, it is how consistently you do it," highlighted Dr Manickam. Movement beats perfection. Timing, especially when it is post-meal, matters. And small daily efforts give better results than occasional intensity.

Zimbabwe Seals Historic Super Eight Spot as Rain Washes Out Ireland Clash in Pallekele

NEWDELHI: Rain played the decisive role in Pallekele on Tuesday, helping Zimbabwe secure a historic spot in the Super Eight stage of the 2026 T20 World Cup. Persistent drizzle forced the match against Ireland to be abandoned without a single ball being bowled, granting both teams one point each. This single point was all Zimbabwe needed to advance, following their impressive earlier victories over Oman and Australia. For Australia, this washout confirmed their exit from the tournament. The former champions were left stranded on two points after a crushing defeat to

Sri Lanka on Monday night, hoping for a miracle that the weather did not provide. The scene at the Pallekele International Cricket Stadium was gloomy from the start. Blue covers protected the entire square well before

the scheduled toss. Although the rain was not heavy, a steady, nagging drizzle prevented any play. Large puddles formed on the covers, and despite the ground staff's efforts to keep the surface dry, officials

called the game off at 5:30 PM local time, two and a half hours after the intended start. This result marks a significant milestone for Zimbabwe cricket. It is the first time the team has progressed to the Super Eight stage of a

T20 World Cup, a remarkable turnaround after failing to qualify for the 2024 edition entirely. Zimbabwe now moves into a challenging group alongside heavyweights India, West Indies, and South Africa. Only the top two teams from this group will proceed to the semi-finals. For Ireland, the abandoned match ends their campaign, extinguishing their slim hopes of qualification. Fans in Odisha and across the globe will now look forward to seeing if Zimbabwe can continue their giant-killing run against the world's best teams in the next round.

T20 WC: No Experimenting In Final League Match, Says Kotak Ahead Of Netherlands Clash

Ahmedabad: With a spot in the Super 8s sealed, India will be taking on the Netherlands in their last league match, an inconsequential clash as far as the hosts are concerned. But India are unlikely to experiment much in this match as they could be playing more matches at the venue and want to gain as much experience as possible of the conditions in the Narendra Modi Stadium in Ahmedabad. After Wednesday's clash, India will meet South Africa in a crucial Super 8 stage match at the same venue on February 22, and if everything goes well, they will also be hoping to play the final scheduled in what is the World's

biggest cricket Stadium. That is the reason why India's assistant coach Sitanshu Kotak said they are unlikely to experiment a lot and would rather maintain the status quo in the clash with the Netherlands and continue to build on the momentum for the Super 8 stage by remaining unbeaten in the league phase. He said they would consider a change or two because of the conditions, but not because the match is not important. "I don't think there'll be an experiment or anything. But yes, looking at the wicket and conditions, there might be something different. But I don't really think that we look at it as a game which

is not important, because I think every game is important, your team want to be in the same momentum. "So for us, whether it is, I don't think we think of it as a less pressure game or a more pressure game. We played the last game with the same intent. I think we will play the next game with the same intent as well," said Kotak in the pre-match press conference ahead of the Netherlands clash. Kotak, who comes from Gujarat state, also played down worries over weather playing a role in the match and said they will approach each game with the same seriousness as in T20 cricket, any team can beat anyone.

Diageo Moves Forward With RCB Stake Sale As Due Diligence Begins For Premium IPL Franchise

NEWDELHI: Cricket enthusiasts across the nation and Odisha cricket fans are closely watching one of the biggest financial plays in Indian sports history. The race to acquire the popular Indian Premier League franchise, Royal Challengers Bengaluru (RCB), has officially moved to the next level. Following a strategic review by the parent company, United Spirits (a subsidiary of Diageo), approximately nine to ten serious bidders have been shortlisted to proceed with the deal. Sources indicate that the RCB stake sale has attracted heavyweights from the business world. Among the high-profile names selected for the next round are Adar

Poonawalla, CEO of the Serum Institute of India, and Lancer Capital, which is backed by Manchester United co-owner Avram Glazer. Other notable entities like Swedish private equity firm EQT and Manipal Group Chairman Dr. Ranjan Pai are also reportedly in the fray. This week marks a crucial phase as the due diligence process begins. Selected bidders will gain access to a virtual data room to inspect the financial health and operational details of the franchise. This will be followed by direct meetings with the management. The sheer number of shortlisted parties suggests that the valuation of the team could reach staggering heights, potentially

between $1.5 billion to $2 billion. United Spirits initiated this sale process in November because the sports franchise is considered non-core to their primary alcohol beverage business. The company aims to conclude the transaction by March 31, 2026. This timeline aligns perfectly with the buildup to IPL 2026, adding extra excitement for fans in Bhubaneswar and Cuttack who follow the league religiously. This development is part of a larger trend of consolidation and value unlocking in the IPL ecosystem. Apart from RCB, reports suggest that stakes in other teams like Rajasthan Royals and Kolkata Knight Riders might also see market activity.

Kiwis crush Canada by eight wickets to book Super Eight spot despite Samra heroics in T20 World Cup 2026

NEWDELHI: New Zealand has officially booked their spot in the Super Eight stage of the T20 World Cup 2026 following a comprehensive eight-wicket victory over Canada. While the match in Chennai will be remembered for a historic century by Canadian teenager Yuvraj Samra, it was the clinical batting display by the Black Caps that ultimately stole the show. Batting first, Canada posted a competitive total of 173 for 4. The innings was anchored almost entirely by 19-year-old opener Yuvraj Samra. He played a stunning knock of 110 runs off just 65 balls. This performance etched his name in the record books, as he

became the youngest player to cross the 50-run mark in a men's T20 World Cup match. Furthermore, his 110 is now the highest score by a batter from an Associate nation against a Full Member team in the tournament's history. Samra started cautiously against Matt Henry but shifted gears

quickly. He took a particular liking to James Neesham, smashing him for boundaries around the ground. Even after the powerplay, Samra kept the scoreboard ticking, reaching his century and giving Canada hope of an upset. Chasing 174, New Zealand faced an early scare. Canadian

bowlers managed to dismiss openers Tim Seifert and Finn Allen within the first four overs, creating a brief moment of tension in the Kiwi camp. However, that was the only success Canada would taste for the rest of the evening. Glenn Phillips and Rachin Ravindra joined forces to

completely dismantle the Canadian attack. Phillips was the aggressor, blasting an unbeaten 76 off just 36 deliveries. Ravindra provided perfect support with a classy 59 not out off 39 balls. The duo stitched together a massive unbeaten partnership of 146 runs off just 73 balls. Their aggressive running and clean hitting ensured that the required run rate never became an issue. New Zealand chased down the target with remarkable ease, finishing the game with 4.5 overs to spare. This dominant win ensures New Zealand progresses to the next round, sending a strong warning to other teams in the T20 World Cup 2026.

Sri Lanka beat Australia by 8 wickets as spinners and Nissanka shine in Pallekele thriller

NEWDELHI: Sri Lanka has officially booked their spot in the Super Eights of the T20 World Cup 2026, delivering a crushing defeat to the Aussies on home soil. In a match that thrilled the capacity crowd at Pallekele, Sri Lanka beat Australia by eight wickets, leaving the visitors relying on a mathematical miracle to stay in the tournament. The hero of the night was undoubtedly Pathum Nissanka. The stylish opener played the innings of a lifetime, scoring an unbeaten 100 to guide his team home. Chasing a competitive target of 181 runs, Sri Lanka reached the mark with two overs to spare, finishing at 184 for 2.

Kusal Mendis and Travis Head provided excellent support with a steady 51 not out, as the duo dismantled the Australian bowling attack. Earlier in the evening, things looked dangerous for the hosts. Australian captain Mitchell Marsh

launched a brutal assault, taking the score to 104 inside the first nine overs. It seemed like the Australians were set for a massive total, especially after Sri Lankan pacer Matheesha Pathirana left the field with a calf

injury in his very first over. However, the game turned on its head thanks to the Sri Lankan spinners. Dushan Hemantha was the pick of the bowlers, claiming 3 for 37. Along with disciplined bowling from Maheesh Theekshana and death-

over specialist Dushmantha Chameera, the hosts triggered a collapse. Australia lost 10 wickets for just 77 runs in the latter half of their innings, crumbling to 181 all out. Key moments included a spectacular catch by Nissanka to dismiss Glenn Maxwell, redeeming himself for an earlier drop. Meanwhile, Australia's star spinner Adam Zampa had a forgettable outing, failing to take a wicket and conceding 41 runs. With this victory, Sri Lanka moves forward with confidence, while Australia faces a nervous wait, their World Cup dreams hanging by a thread.

Paradip Golf Tournament 2026 Concludes with Akshaya Sutar Lifting the Championship Trophy

Paradip: Golf enthusiasts witnessed a spectacular display of skill and precision this weekend as the Paradip Golf Club hosted its prestigious annual event. The 25th Invitation Cup Golf Tournament took place at the lush Paradip Port Golf Course, running from February 14 to February 15, 2026. Organized by the local club, the two-day event brought together talent from across the country. Deputy Chairman of the Paradip Port Authority, Shri T. Venu Gopal, served as the Chief Guest and officially inaugurated the tournament, setting a high tone for the competition. The event saw a robust turnout, with 71 golfers representing seven premier golf clubs from

various parts of India arriving to test their mettle on the greens. Competition was fierce across multiple categories. In the Handicap (0–10) category, home turf advantage seemed to play a role as Shri Akshaya Ch. Sutar of Paradip Golf Club clinched the Champion title. The Handicap (11–19) category saw Dr. Debadarshi Rath from the Bhubaneswar Golf Club emerge victorious. Further success came for local players in the Handicap (20–24) category, where Shri Ranjit Kr. Bomali of Paradip Golf Club took home the top honors. Additionally, Shri Shaswat Panda, representing the Bhubaneswar Golf Club, was awarded the

coveted Best Gross award for his outstanding performance. The closing ceremony was a celebratory affair. Former Chief Secretary of Odisha, Shri Asit Kumar Tripathy, joined Shri A. K. Bose, Advisor (Traffic), and other departmental heads to present prizes to the deserving winners. Ensuring the event ran smoothly were the key office bearers of the Paradip Golf Club. President Shri Susil Chandra Nahak, along with Working President Dr. Durga Prasad Sethy, Captain A. C. Sutar, and Secretary Shri Manoj Kumar Mohanta, managed the proceedings, marking another successful chapter in the club's history.

Tata Steel and Tata Steel Foundation enable 600+ women to participate in the first-ever AI Sakhi Immersion at India AI Impact Summit 2026

Jamshedpur/ Bhubaneswar/New Delhi, : Tata Steel and its social impact arm, Tata Steel Foundation came together to enable more than 600 women from its grassroots programmes across Jharkhand, Odisha and Ludhiana to participate in the Tata AI Sakhi Immersion Program at the India AI Impact Summit 2026, held at Bharat Mandapam, Delhi. Organised by the Govt of India and spearheaded by the Tata Consultancy Services, this workshop is a flagship movement by the Tata entity to bolster learning in AI, confidence and dignity for women in grassroots India. The session was graced by the visit of Smriti Irani, Chairperson, Alliance for Global Good, Gender, Equity and Equality, CII, as the chief guest. Present on the occasion was Sourav Roy, Chief Executive Officer, Tata Steel Foundation alongwith government officials and dignitaries of Tata group companies. A total of 311 women from Jharkhand, 315 women from Odisha and 9 women from Ludhiana were present in a cohort of 635 out of 1600 at the session today.

The immersive workshop explored how artificial intelligence can become a practical tool for livelihood enhancement, entrepreneurship, and everyday problem-solving. The workshop aligns to the Foundation's vision of 'realising her potential with dignity', while placing the institution as an example of 'many firsts'. The participants mobilised by Tata Steel Foundation represented diverse community initiatives spanning health (MANSI+), livelihoods (Agriculture), women's leadership(Disha), community enterprise (Navjeevan, Srujanika and Pragati) and Tribal Identity (including Samvaad and Johar Haat), reflecting the organisation's integrated approach to inclusive development. Through guided hands-on sessions, women explored AI applications for business promotion, product design, documentation support, accessing information, and skill development, with trained mentors supporting small group learning. The initiative aligns with Tata Steel Foundation's intent at strengthening women-led development by combining digital inclusion with existing community capabilities and livelihood opportunities. On the occasion, Sourav Roy said: ""At Tata Steel Foundation, our programmes have consistently focused on strengthening women's leadership and livelihoods, and the AI Sakhi immersion is a natural extension of that journey.

Hanumankind and Thums Up Amp Up India Vs Pakistan ICC Men's T20 World Cup

NEW DELHI: Some days call for taking it up a notch, other days demand total thunder. When it's an India vs Pakistan cricket match, there's only one way to show up and that is Toofani. Living its anthem philosophy of Aaj Kuch Toofani Karte Hain, Thums Up turned the India-Pakistan ICC Men's T20 World Cup match into a storming spectacle. Iconic hip-hop artist Hanumankind took over the stadium transforming match-day energy into a full-blown Taste the Thunder moment. Against the backdrop of a packed stadium, Hanumankind performed Thums Up's latest anthem - Taste the Thunder along with some of his select tracks. Instinctive and unapologetic, Hanumankind's performance mirrored the intensity of the match, bringing Thums Up's thunderous spirit alive in the stands and on screen. Thums Up's signature static-glitch visuals took over the LED screens, followed by a sharp countdown that set the atmosphere. Hanumankind then took the stage with Taste the Thunder, as coordinated lighting, smoke and aerial choreography amplified the performance, before the spectacle built into a high-energy finale led by Kings United India. The moment brought together the homegrown rap phenomenon, the iconic hip-hop dance crew and ICC Men's T20 World Cup action in a standout cultural collaboration, closing with a powerful, crowd-led Toofani crescendo.

Vedanta Aluminium Deploys Innovative Cooling System to Boost Smelter Efficiency

Jharsuguda, (Correspondent):: Vedanta Aluminium, India's largest producer of aluminium, has deployed a state-of-the-art cooling system, termed the Forced Cooling Network (FCN), at its mega aluminium plant in Jharsuguda. Developed in-house, the innovation uses advanced 3D Computational Fluid Dynamics (CFD) modelling to enhance thermal management in aluminium reduction cells (commonly known as pots). The FCN technology has been recognised with a Certificate of Merit at the National Energy Conservation Awards 2025 by the Ministry of Power's Bureau of Energy Efficiency. CFD uses numerical algorithms to simulate fluid behaviour, such as airflow, pressure, and temperature, allowing engineers to optimise system performance without relying solely on physical testing. In aluminium smelting, this precision is critical for preventing sidewall overheating, maintaining protective layers, reducing energy loss, and ensuring stable, efficient pot operations. Leveraging detailed digital replicas of pot structures, cooling ducts and airflow pathways, the FCN uses CFD simulations to optimise heat dissipation before installation. The system has been commissioned on a section of a potline at Vedanta Aluminium's Jharsuguda plant, with plans underway to scale it across the entire potline. By ensuring precise sidewall temperature control, the FCN enables stable high amperage operations, better thermal balance and enhanced overall performance. It has already delivered measurable gains, including energy savings of 15.3 kWh per tonne of aluminium produced. Its contribution to advancing energy efficient, sustainable operations led to its recognition at the National Energy Conservation Awards. Commenting on the initiative, C. Chandru, CEO, Vedanta Jharsuguda, said: "Innovation is at the heart of everything we do at Vedanta Aluminium. By combining digital precision with practical engineering, we have not only strengthened the stability of our potlines but also improved the overall energy efficiency of our operations. This achievement is a testament to the ingenuity of our teams and sets a new benchmark for sustainable aluminium production in India."

IFFCO Donates Chairs to Boost SCB Medical College Facilities in Cuttack

Paradeep, (Correspondent):I FFCO Paradeep Unit donated 50 three-seater steel chairs to SCB Medical College and Hospital, Cuttack. The chairs will enhance patient and medicine department facilities in the New Medicine Building. SCB Medical College ranks among the country's top government hospitals, drawing patients nationwide. Yet, it faces chronic challenges with overcrowded spaces and inadequate amenities while many patients sit or sleep on the ground, with some unable to find any space at all. Dr. Jayant Kumar Panda reached out to IFFCO Managing Director Shri KJ Patel and Paradeep Unit Head Shri PK Mohapatra, requesting assistance. In response, IFFCO organized a donation ceremony this morning at 11:00 AM, where they handed over the chairs alongside an awareness program. The event was attended by ?Dr. Lucy Das, Dean & Principal, SCB Medical College, ?Dr. Gouttam Satapathy, Superint endent, SCB Medical College, ?Dr. Saroj Kumar Tripathy, HOD, PG Dept. of Medicine, SCB Medical College,?Dr. Jayanta Kumar Panda, Professor, PG Dept. of Medicine, SCB Medical College, Cuttack, Dr. Jyotrimaya Nayak, Addl. Superintendent SCB Medial College, Dr. Prasanna Kumar Beura, Public Relation Officer, IFFCO Paradeep Unit, Sh Biswa Ranjan Sahoo other scb administrators lauded IFFCO's timely support and expressed deep appreciation to its MD Shri K.J Patel and unit head Shri P.K Mahapatra. This act highlights IFFCO's wide-ranging contributions not just to farmers, but to healthcare and welfare for humans and animals alike.

Sensex, Nifty Extend Gains For 2nd Day; PSU Banks And IT Stocks Lead Rally

Mumbai: Indian benchmark indices ended higher for the second consecutive session on Tuesday, supported by gains in public sector banks and information technology (IT) stocks, even as global cues remained largely muted. The 30-share Sensex closed at 83,450.96, rising 173.81 points or 0.21 per cent. The broader Nifty settled at 25,725.40, up 42.65 points or 0.17 per cent. Expert said that the recovery lifted the index above 25,700; however, upside momentum repeatedly encountered supply in the 25,760–25,800 resistance band, leading to intermittent profit booking. "On the downside, dips toward the 25,550–25,600 demand region attracted consistent buying interest, reinforcing this zone as a near-term support base and preventing any sharp breakdown," an expert mentioned. In the Sensex pack, stocks such as ITC, BEL, Infosys, L&T, Asian Paints and Titan were among the top gainers, climbing up to 2.3 per cent during the session. On the other hand, Eternal, Trent, Tata Steel, RIL, M&M and Bajaj Finserv were among the laggards, slipping as much as 1.5 per cent. The broader market also ended in the green. The Nifty MidCap index gained 0.27 per cent, while the Nifty SmallCap index rose 0.56 per cent. Among sectoral indices, the Nifty PSU Bank index jumped over 2 per cent, emerging as the top performer of the day.

BRITISH HIGH COMMISSION, CHEVENING ALUMNI FROM UNIVERSITY OF OXFORD HOLD WORKSHOP AT SOA FOR CAPACITY BUILDING FOR WOMEN

Bhubaneswar, (Correspondent): The Bhubaneswar edition of the Chevening Alumni Project Fund (CAPF) initiative aimed at building capacities for women in Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics (STEM), organized by the British High Commission, New Delhi in collaboration with the Chevening alumni and representatives from the University of Oxford, UK, was held at the SOA Deemed to be University here on Tuesday. The day-long workshop aimed to empower young women-students and professionals-from Tier 2 and Tier 3 cities across Odisha by enhancing their capacities in STEM fields. The participants, who included school and college students, young women professionals and entrepreneurs numbering over 500, had the unique opportunity to engage with over 30 Oxford alumni and fellows, who shared their educational journeys, career insights and experiences in STEM. The different sessions on themes including green energy and clean technology, Artificial Intelligence, start-ups and entrepreneurship, healthcare and education, waste management, government services and manufacturing, were led by experts in the field."It is a pleasure for me to speak about a subject close to my heart and vital to our shared future-the role of women in science, technology, engineering and mathematics," Dr. Andrew Fleming, British Deputy High Commissioner, East and Northeast, told the workshop. Pointing out that it was an extraordinary time for UK-India relationships, Dr. Fleming said the cooperation between the two countries in relation to the UK-India Vision 2035 would facilitate in harnessing the power of technology, science, research and innovation to shape a secure, sustainable and prosperous future."The British Council had launched a fully funded annual scholarship for women in STEM for the 2026-27 academic session. Dr. Fleming said 25 scholarships remained open for applicants from South Asia working with five UK universities, he said and added that this program was part of 43 UK universities supporting around 500 women. The purpose of the program is simple and powerful-ensure opportunity and strengthen female leadership in science and innovation," he said