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## Khamenei Killed In US-Israeli Attack

New York: Iran's Supreme Leader Ayatollah Ali Khamenei has been killed in an epochal attack by the US and Israel, marking an inflection point in the 46-year Shia-theocratic rule, as Tehran's retaliation set off conflagrations in a swath of the Middle East. US President Donald Trump announced on Saturday the killing of the 86-year-old cleric, ending his iron-fisted rule over Iran for 36 years. Trump said on Truth Social, "He was unable to avoid our Intelligence and Highly Sophisticated Tracking Systems and, working closely with Israel, there was not a thing he, or the other leaders that have been killed along with him, could do". Iran has not confirmed his death, and the nation's future remained murky with no word as of Sunday evening about who is filling the leadership void, although the country has a rank of civilian and military leaders. It was not known

### Ayatollah Arafai Named Iran's Interim Supreme Leader

Tehran: Hours after long-time Supreme Leader Ali Khamenei was killed in a US-Israeli airstrike, Iran on Sunday named Ayatollah Alireza Arafai as his interim successor. Ayatollah Khamenei, whose death in an attack on his residential compound in Tehran was announced by Iran, had been the Supreme Leader since 1989 after the passing away of the 1979 Iranian Islamic Revolution's leader, if other leaders, civilian and military, were killed. "The escalation underway is dangerous for everyone. It must stop", French President Emmanuel Macron said, echoing the sentiments of many. As soon as the US-Israel attack began, Tehran retaliated with a fusillade of drones and missiles against Israel, Qatar, Bahrain, the



Ayatollah Ruhollah Khomeini, in 1989. After announcing his death, the government said that a three-member council comprising President Masoud Pezeshkian, Judiciary Chief Gholamhossein Mohseni Ejei, and a

jurist from the Guardian Council would oversee Iran's leadership during the transitional period, as per the IRNA news agency. Under Iran's constitution, the council assumes leadership duties until a successor is appointed by the Assembly of Experts, an 88-member clerical body that holds ultimate authority over the country's political system, armed forces, and key institutions. Isfahan, Qom, Shahriar, and Tabriz, were attacked. As calls rose around the world for de-escalation, India's External Affairs Minister S Jaishankar, one of the few leaders with open lines to both sides, spoke to Foreign Ministers Seyed Abbas Araghchi of Iran and Gideon Sa'ar of Israel.

## Odisha CM Holds Talks With MEA For Safe Return Of Odias From West Asia

Bhubaneswar (Correspondent): Odisha Chief Minister Mohan Charan Majhi has held discussions with the Ministry of External Affairs (MEA) to ensure the safe return of Odias stranded in West Asia. Law, Works, and Excise Minister Prithviraj Harichandan said on Sunday. Replying to a media query on the evacuation of Odias from conflict-hit areas, Harichandan said, "Our Chief Minister discussed the matter with the MEA, and very soon, people from our state will return



home safely." He added that the Prime Minister and the MEA have taken all necessary steps to evacuate every Indian citizen from the war-affected zone. "The government has prepared all plans, and everything is proceeding on

schedule. Not a single Indian will be left behind," the minister said. The evacuation comes in the wake of a major attack by the United States and Israel on Iran on Saturday, which resulted in the death of Iranian Supreme Leader

Ayatollah Ali Khamenei early Sunday. Air travel across West Asia and several other countries, including India, has been severely disrupted due to airspace restrictions following the joint attack and Iran's retaliatory strikes. The Odisha government is closely monitoring the situation and coordinating with the MEA to ensure the safe return of all stranded Odias. The minister emphasised that priority is being given to those in immediate danger, and evacuation flights are expected to begin shortly.

## Three US Troops Killed In Iran Operations: Pentagon

Washington: Three US Service members have been killed and five others seriously wounded in what the Pentagon described as ongoing "major combat operations" under Operation 'Epic Fury', US Central Command (CENTCOM) said on Sunday. In an update issued at 9:30 a.m. Eastern Time, US Central Command confirmed that "three

US Service members have been killed in action and five are seriously wounded as part of Operation Epic Fury." "Several others sustained minor shrapnel injuries and concussions — and are in the process of being returned to duty. Major combat operations continue, and our response effort is ongoing," the statement added.









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## 5 Workers Electrocuted To Death In Bengal's Dinhata

Kolkata: Five factory workers were electrocuted to death after coming into contact with an 11,000-volt overhead electric line in Dinhata in Cooch Behar district of north Bengal on Sunday, officials said. The incident occurred in the Dinhata Village-II Gram Panchayat area under Dinhata police station limits. According to initial reports, an 11,000-volt electric wire snapped and fell on the iron portion of a mixer machine during work at a stone-cutting factory located near the head of a dam. The workers present at the site were electrocuted, and five of them died on the spot. According to district administration sources, the deceased have been identified as Mukul Verma, Raju Sen, Mithun Pal, Suman and Sanjay Verma. All



were residents of Cooch Behar district. Police personnel, including the Inspector-in-Charge of Dinhata police station, reached the spot and recovered the bodies. The bodies were sent to a local hospital for post-mortem examination. Dinhata Sub-Divisional Police Officer (SDPO) Prashant Debnath told reporters, "Five workers died after

being electrocuted while using a lift meant for construction work. It is initially known that three of the five were residents of Bhetaguri and two were from the Okrabari area. It is a very unfortunate incident. The workers died on the spot. The matter will be investigated in a proper manner. The administration will stand by the families of the

deceased." As news of the accident spread, tension gripped the area. Relatives of several of the deceased rushed to the hospital after receiving the information and demanded a thorough investigation into the incident. An investigation has been initiated to ascertain how the accident occurred and whether any negligence led to the deaths.

## PM Modi To Chair Urgent CCS Meeting Tonight Amid Escalating Middle East Tensions

New Delhi: Prime Minister Narendra Modi will chair a high-level meeting of the Cabinet Committee on Security (CCS) upon his return to the national capital on Sunday night, government sources said. The meeting of the Cabinet committee, the apex decision-making body on security and strategic matters of India, comes against the backdrop of a rapidly deteriorating geopolitical situation in the Middle East following coordinated US-Israeli airstrikes on Iran, which have intensified regional conflict and raised global security concerns. According to official sources, PM Modi is expected to land in Delhi around 9:30 pm after concluding a two-day tour across several states, including Rajasthan, Gujarat, Tamil Nadu, and Puducherry. During the visit, the Prime Minister inaugurated development projects, flagged

off new train services like Amrit Bharat Express trains connecting southern cities, and reviewed key infrastructure initiatives worth thousands of crores. "The Prime Minister will chair a meeting of the CCS on returning to Delhi tonight from his two-day tour of the states. He is expected to land here at around 9.30 pm," a government source said. The CCS, India's apex body for national security decisions, comprises the Prime Minister and the Ministers of Defence, Home, External Affairs, and Finance. The urgent convening of the CCS is widely seen as a response to the latest developments in West Asia, including US-Israel strikes on Iranian targets and subsequent retaliatory actions. Reports indicate the killing of Iranian Supreme Leader Ayatollah Ali Khamenei in related escalations, heightening fears of broader conflict. The

meeting is expected to review the implications for India's strategic interests, including the safety of Indian nationals in the region, particularly in the UAE and other Gulf countries, energy security, maritime routes, and diplomatic positioning. India has maintained a balanced stance in the Middle East crisis, advocating de-escalation while protecting its citizens and economic ties. Sources suggest the discussions may cover contingency plans for evacuations if needed, impact on oil prices, and coordination with international partners. This is the latest in a series of high-stakes security reviews as global tensions mount. PM Modi's prompt return and immediate CCS engagement underscore the government's proactive approach to safeguarding national security amid volatile international developments.

## CDS General Anil Chauhan Reviews Naval Training Command's Functioning, Capabilities

New Delhi: General Anil Chauhan, Chief of Defence Staff (CDS), received a comprehensive overview of the Southern Naval Command's role as Navy's Training Command, functioning, and operational capabilities, an official said on Sunday. The briefing included presentation on Southern Naval Command's tri-services training initiatives and capacity-building efforts for foreign trainees, a statement said. He was received in at the Command's headquarters in Kochi on Saturday by Vice-Admiral Sameer Saxena, Flag Officer Commanding-in-Chief of the Southern Naval Command. During the

presentation, General Anil Chauhan was also briefed about capacity-building efforts reinforcing Indian Navy's stature as preferred training partner for navies of friendly nations, the statement said on social media. "During the visit, the CDS also witnessed a demonstration on advanced ship-handling simulator Dhury at Naval Children School in Cochin," the statement said. CDS General Anil Chauhan also visited the Indian Naval Maritime Museum at INS Dronacharya, the premier gunnery training establishment of the Indian Navy. INS Dronacharya is situated nearly 10 km from the main Naval Base (INS Venduruthy) and serves as a training centre for

specialised weapons and gunnery skills. In a separate development, the Andaman and Nicobar Command organised a workshop on introduction of items in Naval Inventory and Government e-Marketplace (GeM) on February 26-27. The programme was conducted by a team from Naval Headquarters led by Rear Admiral Neeraj Malhotra, Nau Sena Medal Assistant Controller of Logistics. Deliberations focused on resolving issues faced by ships and establishments, streamlining provisioning procedures and enhancing understanding of workflows, regulations and procurement processes on GeM.

## CM Mamata To Hold Dharna In Kolkata On March 6 Over Deletion Of Voters' Names

Kolkata: Trinamool Congress national general secretary Abhishek Banerjee on Sunday announced that party supremo and Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee will sit on a dharna in Kolkata on March 6 to protest against the alleged deletion of names from the final voters' list in West Bengal following the SIR process. Addressing a press conference, Banerjee said, "The BJP cannot win the Assembly polls. That is why it is using the Election Commission to influence the election results by deleting genuine voters. BJP leaders gave a target of deleting over one crore voters in Bengal. This was decided even



before the SIR process commenced here. To protest against the arbitrary deletion of names, Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee will sit on a dharna in Kolkata on March 6." He said the dharna would be held at Esplanade in central Kolkata, where Mamata

Banerjee had staged a 26-day hunger strike in 2008. "Why isn't the Election Commission publishing a list of Bangladeshis and Rohingyas who have been identified during the SIR process in Bengal? This is nothing but a lie manufactured by the BJP. Deletion of genuine

voters from Bengal's voters' list will not yield any result for the BJP, as it will not win more than 50 seats in the Assembly polls," Banerjee said. Abhishek Banerjee alleged that the exclusion of a large number of names is against the democratic process. He claimed that the

voting rights of common people are being curtailed in the name of revising the voters' list and questioned the role of the Election Commission in the matter. "The Election Commission will have to take responsibility for this. So many have died in Bengal due to the SIR process. In the name of logical discrepancies, the Election Commission has only followed the BJP's diktat, which is to remove over one crore names from the voters' list," he said. According to him, party leaders and workers from across the state will attend the dharna on March 6 to stand by Mamata Banerjee in her protest against the deletion of names.

## AIADMK Alliance Will Win 210 Seats In Tamil Nadu Polls And Form Govt: EPS

Madurai: AIADMK General Secretary Edappadi K. Palaniswami on Sunday asserted that the AIADMK-led alliance would secure a sweeping victory in the upcoming Tamil Nadu Assembly elections and form the next government by winning 210 seats. Addressing a massive public meeting of the alliance in Madurai, Palaniswami expressed confidence that the coalition would register an emphatic mandate across the State. "Our alliance will win 210 seats and form the AIADMK government. We must put an end to this anti-people regime. Our alliance candidates should emerge victorious in all 234 constituencies," he declared amid loud cheers from party cadres. Calling for grassroots mobilisation,



the former Chief Minister urged party workers to intensify their campaign efforts in every constituency. "We must work like bees and ants in all 234 constituencies. Every cadre must dedicate themselves to ensure victory," he said, emphasising discipline, coordination and booth-level strength. Taking aim at the ruling DMK, Palaniswami alleged that the party had failed to begin its campaign in earnest and accused it of misleading the public. He also questioned Chief

Minister M.K. Stalin over the State's development record. "Can Stalin explain what funds he has secured for Tamil Nadu and what major schemes he has brought to the State? Prime Minister Narendra Modi has allocated thousands of crores for Tamil Nadu's development," he said. Palaniswami further criticised the DMK's past association with the Union government, stating that the party had been part of the Centre for nearly 15 years.

## Former Israeli PM Bennett Says Strikes Are Weakening Iran's Regime

Washington: Former Israeli Prime Minister Naftali Bennett on Sunday said Israel's campaign against Iran is steadily eroding the regime's grip on power, arguing that sustained strikes are weakening the Islamic Revolutionary Guard Corps (IRGC) and creating space for the Iranian people to determine their future. "Well, we've got plenty of targets to weaken and weaken the regime, the IRGC, a siege of all the terror apparatus that is terrorising its own people," Bennett said in an interview with Fox News Sunday. He described the initial phase of operations as focused on eliminating top leadership, saying, "The first wave was to decapitate the



leadership." He added that after taking down air defences, Israel could now move to dismantle the broader security structure. "When you hit the main centres of command and operation and coordination, you can weaken it," Bennett said. "Imagine that the Iranian people have chains of oppression on them. We're weakening those chains. But ultimately it's up to the Iranian people to rise up and tear those chains and

fight for their own freedom." Bennett emphasised that Israel's objective was defensive. "Israel's precise goal was not regime change," he said. "Our goal is to defend ourselves and to remove the horrible nightmare that was on top of us for such a long time." He argued that inaction would have left Israel and others exposed to a growing threat. "Had we not acted now, Iran would have had tens of thousands of ballistic missiles, including

intercontinental ballistic missiles, and nuclear arms that could hit Israel, Europe and the United States," he said. Bennett also suggested the Iranian military structure had already suffered major blows. "The IRGC today is not the IRGC from a month ago. It's much weaker. Its commander has been taken out. Much of its command has been eliminated, and we've just started," he said. However, he acknowledged uncertainty about internal developments in Iran. "Whenever you talk about public action or uprising, no one can really know, because it could take days, it could take months, and it could not happen," Bennett said. He drew a

comparison to the collapse of the Soviet Union. "Remember the former Soviet Union in the 80s, no one knew when it would collapse. This is a very similar regime in terms of corruption, rot, disconnection from the people and just the sheer evil," he said. On the broader regional implications, Bennett said, "I think the big lesson is: Do not mess with President Trump." He added, "Already now, the world is a safer place compared to yesterday." Israel has long viewed Iran's nuclear and missile programmes as existential threats. Tensions have escalated over Tehran's enrichment activities and its support for armed groups across West Asia.

# SP takes urgent action after High Court order: 15 Migrant Labourers rescued from Telangana

**SUBARNAPUR** (Correspondent)---- Police have rescued 15 migrant labourers who were trapped in a brick factory in Mancherial area of ??Telangana state. Subarnapur police, Balangir and Subarnapur labour department officials have rescued the said migrant labourers. It is reported that 7 of the rescued labourers are from Subarnapur district and 8 from Balangir district. This was informed by Supdt. Of Police Narayan Nayak at a press conference



held at Subarnapur district police headquarters. According to information, in November 2025, 6 people including Debarchan Meghani of Nagapali village under Sonepur police station in

Subarnapur district and 7 other people including Sudam Das of Fased village under Loisingha police station in Balangir district were rescued from Telangana state. He went to work in a brick factory in Mancherial

area. While working in the brick factory, he did not get proper remuneration and always faced oppression from the owner. In this regard, the brick workers Kunja Bharati approached the Odisha High Court. The High Court heard the case in WP(C )No. 3538/2026 and delivered its verdict. In the said verdict, it directed the Subarnapur Supdt. Of Police to take appropriate steps to rescue the tortured brick workers. After this, the District IAHTU Cell immediately contacted

the trapped brick workers there along with the District Labour Officer. With the help of the Odisha Government Communication Officer in Telangana State, the place where the trapped workers were working was identified. The workers were rescued from there. After the rescue, they were brought to Sonepur by train on 27/02/2026. All the brick workers were taken to Subarnapur District Labour Officer and Balangir District Labour Officer and Police Department.

# Peace committee meeting organized by Dharamgarh police station

**D h a r a m h a r h**, correspondent: A peace committee meeting was held by the Dharamgarh police administration with the participation of prominent members from various communities. The meeting took place today at the conference hall of Dharamgarh Police Station under the chairmanship of Inspector-in-Charge S u d a r s h a n Nayak. Among those present were President of Dharamgarh Chamber of Commerce Bidyadhar Sahu, noted social worker

Prushikesh Mishra, social activist Brajesh Panda, senior member of the Marwari community Suklal Agrawal, Councillor Praveen Kumar Panda, Abdul Rehman, and several other distinguished members representing different communities, who actively took part in the discussion. On the occasion, the Inspector-in-Charge urged everyone to maintain peace, harmony, and unity during festivals of all communities such as Holi, Hanuman Jayanti, Prophet Muhammad

Jayanti, Eid-ul-Fitr, and Christmas Day. He appealed to the public to ignore rumors circulating on social media and to uphold communal harmony in Dharamgarh, known as a peaceful town. He especially advised the youth whose social media to remain vigilant and responsible. Others present at the meeting included Mohammad Islam, Mohammad Firoz, Abdul Harun, Bikram Sunani, and Satyaban Duria. Sub-Inspector Loris Pradhan of Dharamgarh Police Station delivered the vote of thanks.

# Contractors threaten to lock up Anganwadi houses for Non payment

**M a l k a n g i r i**, correspondent : The Khairput block administration of Malkangiri district is once again embroiled in a controversy. The contractors are harassing them for not disbursing the grant money received for the construction of Anganwadi houses on time. In some places, they have threatened to lock up the Anganwadi centers. According to government rules, a grant of Rs 12 lakh was fixed for the construction of each Anganwadi center. Out of this, Rs 2 lakh is to be given to the block administration, Rs 2 lakh to the Panchayat administration and the

remaining Rs 8 lakh to be given under MGNREGA. According to this scheme, the construction work of 5 Anganwadi center houses had started in Khairput block. The construction work of some centers has been completed, while others are in a semi-finished state. But even in the centers where the work has been completed, the contractors have not received their due money. It is alleged that this problem has arisen due to the non-disbursement of grants under the Ministry of Rural Development. The construction of two Anganwadi centres in Govindpali Panchayat has been completed and one

of them has become operational. However, the concerned contractors have not received the money due to them. It is learnt that the two centres have outstanding dues of Rs 3,94,585 and Rs 3,98,351 respectively. The condition of the other three centres in the block is also similar. The aggrieved contractors have threatened to lock the operational Anganwadi centres due to non-payment of dues, causing concern in the area. If the problem is not resolved, the local people have expressed concern that the Anganwadi centres running for the service of children will be closed.

# HPV Vaccination Campaign Launched in Rayagada District to Prevent Cervical Cancer

**R a y a g a d a**, correspondent: A district-level Human Papillomavirus (HPV) vaccination campaign was formally launched today at the District Headquarter Hospital, Rayagada, aimed at preventing cervical cancer among adolescent girls. The programme was inaugurated by Hon'ble Koraput Member of Parliament Saptagiri Sankar Ulaka. Hon'ble MLA of Rayagada Assembly Constituency Kadraka Appala Swamy attended the event as the guest of honour. On behalf of the



Health Department, Chief District Medical & Public Health Officer Dr. Sarojini Devi, District Medical Officer and Superintendent Dr. P.K. Mishra, Additional District Public Health Officer (Family Welfare) Dr. Kishore Kumar Barai, District Education Officer Shri

Ram Charan Nahak, officials from the Women & Child Development Department, and other healthcare staff were present during the inaugural ceremony. The HPV vaccine will protect adolescent girls from cervical cancer, a major health concern

among women. In Rayagada district, a total of 7,587 girls aged between 14 and 15 years will benefit from this vaccination drive. The vaccine is being provided completely free of cost at government health institutions to ensure maximum coverage and accessibility. Under this initiative, approximately 3.36 lakh girls aged 14-15 years across Odisha will be vaccinated over a targeted period of three months. Initially, the vaccine will be administered at Community Health Centres (CHCs), Sub-

Divisional Hospitals, and the District Headquarters Hospital. From the second month onwards, the programme will be expanded to Primary Health Centres (PHCs). Although the market price of the HPV vaccine is approximately ₹4,000 per dose, it will be provided free of cost at government health facilities under this scheme. The Hon'ble MP emphasized the need for extensive awareness and publicity about the vaccination drive across rural and urban areas of the district to ensure maximum participation.

**Matric answer sheet Check to start from March 19th, answer sheets have reached 50 assessment centers**

**Cuttack** : The Social Science subject examination of the matriculation candidates has been completed. The last examination on the March 2nd is Mathematics. Since there is an additional 15 minutes for the said examination, it will start from 9 am and will continue till 11:45 am. Like the examinations of other subjects, it is reported that 12 thousand candidates were absent in Social Science too. The answer sheets of Matric, SOSC and Madhyamik Odia, English and Hindi, Sanskrit subjects have been collected from all the 322 nodal centers in the state and have reached 50 rating centers under police protection, the board said. Within a day or two of the completion of the Mathematics examination, the answer sheets of Physical Science, Social Science and Mathematics will reach the rating centers from the nodal centers. The counting will start from March 19th. The board has set a time to complete the rating process by April 2nd.

# Aditya Aluminium Lapanga Organizes Mega Health Camp at Rajiv Bhawan Lapanga

**Sambalpur (Correspondent)** :- Aditya Aluminium Lapanga, in collaboration with Swadhin Ekta Sangathan, organized a Mega Health Camp at Rajiv Bhawan, Lapanga on 28th February 2026, reaffirming its commitment to community healthcare and well-being. The health camp witnessed the presence of a team of eminent specialist doctors who provided comprehensive medical consultations and treatment to the beneficiaries. The distinguished medical team included Dr. C. K. Kar and Dr. Nihar Ranjan Hota (Medicine Specialists), Dr. Benudhar Das (Gynecologist), along



with Dr. Sumit Kumar, Dr. Suraj Sethi, Dr. Arka Chatterjee. The camp was further supported by a physiotherapist, pharmacist, nursing, and paramedical staff from Gayatri Group of Institutions, Sambalpur. The Mega Health Camp was inaugurated by Mr. J. P.

Nayak, Unit Head, Aditya Aluminium Lapanga, in the presence of Mr. Kiran Behera, Panchayat Samiti Member; Smt. Mamta Behera, Sarpanch, Lapanga; Dr. A. K. Roy Choudhury, Chief Medical Officer; Mr. Ashok Kumar Satpathy, Director, Gayatri Group of

Institutions, Sambalpur; Mr. Rajiv Mishra, President, Swadhin Ekta Sangathan; and team members from CSR Aditya Aluminium Lapanga and Swadhin Ekta Sangathan. More than 300 patients from Lapanga and nearby villages availed free medical consultation, diagnosis, and treatment services during the camp. The initiative aimed to ensure accessible and quality healthcare services at the doorstep of the rural community. Such initiatives under the CSR programme of Aditya Aluminium Lapanga continue to strengthen community relations while addressing critical healthcare needs in the region.

# 1 dead, 21 injured in separate accidents Father's life lost before son

**Paralakhemundi**:( Correspondent):- One person died and 21 were injured in separate accidents in Gajapati district. According to the incident, Pandara Sahir Barik Kharada (56) Kashinagar was killed in an unknown vehicle accident at Ranipenta Chack near Parlakhemundi town. Similarly, 20 people were injured in a bus accident at Gatushal Ghati under R. Udayagiri police station. According to information, a road accident occurred at Ranipenda Chack near Parlakhemundi in Gajapati district at around 5:30 am. Barik Kharada and his son were going to Jirang Hat from Kashinagar on a scooter. The pickup van exploded and overturned. The father Barik died on the spot while the son was slightly injured. The



father's life passed away before the eyes of the son. The police have seized the body and sent it to the Paralakhemundi District Head Hospital. A case of accidental death has been registered at the Paralakhemundi police station. Similarly, a private bus (OR 19N 6531) lost control and crashed into a hill at the Gatushal Ghati under the Udayagiri police station in Gajapati district. The bus was traveling at a high speed when it lost control and the

accident occurred. The police and the fire brigade rescued the injured. 21 injured have been admitted to the R. Udayagiri Hospital and are being treated. Praan Rohit (51) of Udayguda village, who is in critical condition, has been shifted to the Paralakhemundi Hospital for urgent treatment.

# Preparatory meeting for the All India Youth Red Cross Conference at Hi-tech

**Bhubaneswar (Correspondent)**:- The National Level Education and Training Camp of the Red Cross is going to be held from March 25th to 29th at the Hi-tech Medical College and Hospital campus. It is expected that at least 400 young competitors from every state and union territory from all over India will

participate in the training camp. Dr. Tirupati Panigrahi, Founder Chairman of Hi-tech Group, extended all his support for this and said that all students should know the role of the Red Cross. The preparatory meeting was attended by Chairman Dr. Tirupati Panigrahi, Paralakhemundi MLA



Er. Rupesh Kumar Panigrahi, Administrative Officer of Hi-Tech Medical College and Hospital Dr. Gopeswar Acharya, Sports and Culture Officer Lalit Mohanty, and senior members of Bhubaneswar Red Cross Laxman Swain and Surendranath Samal.

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## EDITORIAL

### Celebrate Holi, don't screw up

Holi is a festival of colours, symbolising happiness and carrying a message to strengthen mutual community ties. But in recent times, there has been an increasing trend of "holing" under the guise of this sacred festival which is cause for concern. We need to understand that celebrating festivals does not mean forgetting dead people, sweetness of the festival and our obligation Holi makes us realize the triumph of truth over evil. When we slander each other, there must be a feeling of love behind that, not an obstinacy to annoy someone. A few pointers to avoid the hustle: Respect for consensus: Not everyone likes playing Holi. If a person refuses to be colored, respect his wish. Forced coloring is not happiness but misogyny. Abandon chemical dyes: The firm and non-chemical dyes on the market today can be deadly to skin and eyes. Try playing natural gual or flower holly. Distance from Drugs: It is often seen that young people do drugs in the name of Holi and then go on a rampage through the streets. This is not only a legal offense, but also causes fatal accidents. Water conservation: water abuse should be prevented. Dry holly playing is vital for the environment and saving water. civilized behavior on the streets On Holi day it is out of the question to ride a bike at high speeds, play loud fireworks or throw balloons at passing pedestrians. Your one minute "fun" might be big trouble for someone. "A celebration is one that brings a smile to the face of others, not one that puts fear in one's heart".

Holi is a festival of colors, joy and brotherhood. This festival symbolizes the arrival of spring, new life and sweetness of human relationships. Holi is not just a day to play with color but also sends a message to strengthen love and community by erasing the cracks in hearts. But sadly in many places this festival of happiness loses its true soul due to hooliganism, coercion and anti-social behaviour.

Colors are a symbol of unity — Just as different colors combine to create beauty, so different people together make society beautiful.

This behavior erodes the joy of celebration and causes discomfort and fear for others.

How to celebrate a safe and ritualistic Holi?

Respect Consent Don't force someone to color.

Use natural colors Floral or herbal dyes are safe for the skin and environment. Save water conserve water by playing dry holly. Stay away from drugs Addiction often gives rise to violent and erratic behavior. Avoid noise pollution Loud noise is distressing for the elderly, children and patients. Take care of cleanliness Clean up around after the festival.

Holi is the occasion when we hug each other by forgetting about Gile-Shikwe. If someone feels uncomfortable or scared during the festival, it means that we have failed to understand the real spirit of the festival.

The younger generation sets the direction of society. If they celebrate with moderation and ceremony, other people will be inspired as well.

Conclusion

Holi is a festival of joys, not to create fears and inconveniences. Let us resolve this year — shall celebrate Holi, but will not make fuss; paint hearts with colors, rather than hurt one's feeling.

The true Holi is the one who colors faces as well as hearts. Conclusion Let's celebrate Holi, in a civilized way this time. Let's erase the madness and embrace and spread the color of community in society. Remember, the scent of colors is good only when it is within the perimeter of Merda. Do you want me to write a short speech for the school assembly on this topic?

# Every Women Has a Super Power



Chinmayee Devi

In this world, there are countless powerful wonders, but none compare to the essence of

a woman. She embodies beauty and the incredible ability to create life, which is a force unlike any other. Women possess immense patience, love, empathy, and compassion, yet they also hold a fierce strength and passion within. They are merciful, but they can also be a formidable force of change. Recognizing this duality highlights the true power of women in our lives and society, merciful, but also a destroyer. A woman creates a nurturing space, like a nest, but if she's insulted, she can unleash her fury, turning it into a fire that consumes everything. Her essence is like a river, flowing gently, but when angered, she can become a tumultuous flood. She embodies the patience of soil, but when misunderstood, she hardens, becoming unyielding.

A woman knows she is a power center. Without her, nobody can do anything, but sometimes she doesn't have control over her mind. Every role she plays is very beautiful. As a mother, sister, daughter,

wife, friend, aunt, etc., she conveys to society that she has greater responsibility for the world.

Sometimes we hear of women being described as kind or hard, but not quite soft or hard. A woman embodies both softness and strength, reacting as the situation demands. Just as Mother Earth can be nurturing and kind, she can also unleash disasters when necessary. The feminine is always miraculous and stands apart from anything else in this world.

The universe provides an extra source of energy to the female body. From forehead to toe, women have a unique connection with the universe. A scientist girl on her day of wedding asked her mother, "I am a scientist, and I can manage my life. But if I get married, I feel like I'll be sacrificing my life for others, like my husband, kids, and so many other people." Her doctor mother responded beautifully, emphasizing the unique power of women. She said, "As a woman, we have a special status in this universe. We can create life and manage many things at once. We nurture everyone, like Mother Earth. However, sometimes we must also take on the role of destroyer to cleanse our society for new beginnings. The energy of a woman fosters a healthy and prosperous society." Yet, she pointed out that society is often structured with men in

control. This shouldn't deter a woman from pursuing her goals; if a woman truly wants something, she can achieve it. The mother noted that a woman's mind can be unpredictable, and sometimes emotions like anger can lead to giving away her power to men. Ultimately, she explained that a man can positively influence a woman through love and respect. Everything has a dark and light side. Women embody more goodness, intertwined with some stubbornness, and anger can sometimes erode their true power. This is why women nurture their love for men, children, friends, and society; it's not that society controls women, but rather, women willingly grant that power to society. Unfortunately, over time, society has become corrupt, imposing various rules that suppress women. In places where women are respected and cared for, prosperity follows. A young scientist and her mother come to this realization. I now understand that the universe

entrusts women with more responsibilities than men. Women must seek education and knowledge about society and the world, as this is why they are the power centers of every home. Stay blessed all women in this world and make this world a heaven.

## Relevance of Nitish & Laloo in Power politics - I



Dr. Jyotirnanjan Champatiray

For over three decades, the political power in Bihar has revolved around two personalities Nitish Kumar, a technocrat and Laloo Prasad, a law graduate. Both ruled the State directly or indirectly for about 15-15 years, each leading the regional parties with the support of national ally BJP and Congress respectively. Before the pre-Mandal era, the two leaders worked unitedly and were termed as "Hira-Moti" by their well-wishers, and "Ranga-Billa" by rivals. Laloo Prasad was elected as an MP in his first attempt in 1977, but Nitish lost two consecutive elections and reached the Vidhan Sabha in his third attempt in 1985. After the demise of Karpoori Thakur, Ex-CM and leader of the opposition, Nitish Kumar was instrumental in Laloo's projection as leader of the legislature party; although legislatures had advised him to project himself for the post, but he refused. He was also influential in Laloo's election as CM, when the Janata Dal came to power in the 1990 Vidhan Sabha election. When the Mandal commission report was implemented by V.P. Singh government in 1990, aggressive anti-reservation protests were held by the upper caste lobby under the leadership and patronage of Congress as well as BJP leaders. To counter the anti-reservation protests, pro-reservation campaigns were launched by the backward and SC communities. The outspoken Laloo spearheaded the pro-reservation campaigns and backward community of all castes rallied behind him. Soft-spoken Nitish lagged behind in this movement. The challenge of the

outnumbered backwards weakened the opposition. After becoming the centre of power, Laloo started ignoring not only Nitish, but also other non-Yadav leaders. He sidelined Nitish's suggestions regarding development works and the situation became unbearable for Nitish. Laloo proclaimed "MY" equation as against earlier

"All BC". The month long campaign and massive rally of the anguished Kurmi Samaj on certain social issues on 12th February 1994 at Patna and Lav-Kush (Kurmi-Koiri) Sammelans in the same year was an indication of resentment among the non-Yadav backwards. Nitish realised that his time for a challenge has come. The split in the Janata Dal took place in 1994 under the leadership of veteran socialist George Fernandes along with Nitish Kumar, Abdul Gafoor and others and the Samata Party was formed. In 1997, Laloo Prasad parted away from the Janata Dal to form his own outfit, the Rashtriya Janata Dal. In 2003, the Samata Party was merged into the Janata Dal (U) to expand its base. Laloo Prasad (7 years 130 days) and his wife Rabri Devi (4 years 360 days) ruled the State since 1990 to 2005 minus the rule of Nitish Kumar for 7 days and President Rule for 31 days; whereas Nitish Kumar ruled since 2005 uptill now, minus the rule of Jitan Ram Manjhi for 278 days. In Bihar, the two personalities have their own merits and demerits. In the pre-Mandal era, the Backward classes were not united cohesively and the majority of small artisan and landless castes were not vocal. In 1979, Karpoori Thakur, the CM had to resign under the pressure from the fundamentalist lobby, when he implemented reservation in state services and educational institutions for the backward classes. Laloo was fully aware of the fact. He not only demoralized the upper caste political and social lobby but their bureaucrats too and united backwards to fight for their cause. When the BJP tried to destabilise

him after the implementation of the Mandal Commission report, he broke a fraction of its MLAs and a repeat of the 1979-like situation flopped. In his first 5-year tenure, he experimented with some innovative schemes like Charwaha Vidyalaya for working children, Construction of houses for the poor, cleanliness programme in slum areas, Rainbasera for poor rickshaw-pullers and labourers in urban areas. After the bifurcation of Bihar, he re-shaped the 50% reservation to various socially depressed groups in a scientific manner. Under the Congress regime, institutions were named and official functions were held to honor upper caste leaders only. Laloo started these activities for Backward and Dalit leaders, too. Unlike the Chief Ministers of the Congress, he occasionally visited the areas of the depressed classes and intermingled with them. These activities were just a miracle for the people who had seen the earlier CMs as a ruler and not as a leader and this established Laloo as a mass leader. In second and third tenure of Laloo Prasad or his wife Rabri Devi, minimal works took place in roads/bridges and power generation. The graph of Crime high up and rape, murder and kidnapping became a daily routine. Corruption was deeply rooted in government department and board-nigams. After 15 years of power, only social awareness with hollow promises was not enough and people wanted roads, schools, hospitals, electricity and other development works. On social forum, he distanced himself from the non-Yadav backwards. He could not develop a think tank, which could advise him for the planned constructive social works. The involvement of Laloo and other ministers in fodder, coal-tar and other scam tarnished his image. His Party was turned into a family coterie. His mass-base gradually deteriorated and he was eventually ousted from power in 2005.

## Explosive Turning Point in the Middle East: The US-Israeli Joint Attack on Iran, Khamenei's Death, and a New Crisis in Global Geopolitics



Er. Prabhat Kishore

On Sunday, March 1, 2026, the news that created a geopolitical stir in the Middle East and world politics was the joint airstrikes by the US and Israel

on Iran, codenamed 'Operation Epic Fury' and 'Operation Roaring Lion'. This shook the global balance of power. These attacks targeted Iranian military bases and strategic installations, and the news of the death of Iran's Supreme Leader, Ayatollah Ali Khamenei, shocked the entire world. This scenario has been established factually; this will not be merely a military event but an epochal political change. History sometimes pauses at turning points where events are not merely regional but have the potential to alter the course of human civilization. I, Advocate Kishan Sanmukhdas Bhawnani, Gondia, Maharashtra, believe that amid official confirmations, counterclaims, and claims and counterclaims, this incident is not merely a question of the death of an individual; it is a potential geopolitical earthquake with far-reaching implications for the power structure of West Asia, the politics of the Islamic world, energy markets, maritime trade routes, nuclear proliferation, and the global security system. The role of Iran's Supreme Leader is not merely religious or symbolic, but has been central to the state's strategic-political direction, regional networks, and security doctrine. Therefore, it is essential to assess the impact of this incident from a multi-pronged perspective. First, we must understand the strategic landscape of West Asia. Israel and the United States have long considered Iran's regional policies, particularly its influence in Lebanon, Syria, Iraq, and Yemen, a challenge to their security. If the alleged operation actually took place and resulted in the death of Iran's Supreme Leader, it would be considered not just a targeted strike but a direct blow to the ideological and organizational core of the resistance axis. This would have immediate implications for political stability and the transition process within Iran. Under Iran's constitutional system, a Council of Experts selects the new Supreme Leader, but instability, power struggles, and the role of security forces during the transition period could be decisive.

Friends, if we consider the response of Arab countries and the Gulf region, it has naturally been cautious and balanced. Countries like Saudi Arabia, the

United Arab Emirates, and Qatar have been taking steps toward dialogue and tension management with Iran over the past few years. They want to avoid direct war or a broader regional conflict because their economies depend on energy exports, global investment, and stability. If the balance of power in Iran destabilizes or a series of retaliatory attacks begin, Gulf oil and gas installations, sea routes, and drone/missile attacks could be at risk. The 2019 attacks on Saudi oil installations are still fresh in memory; therefore, Gulf countries will prefer back-channel diplomacy over an open response. The broader Islamic world's response will also be multi-layered. There are differences among the member states of the Organization of Islamic Cooperation regarding Iran; some view it as a Shia leader, others as a regional power rival. Nevertheless, the allegation of a targeted assassination of the supreme leader of a sovereign country raises questions of international law and sovereignty. Strongly worded resolutions may emerge on the OIC platform, but a collective military response is unlikely. It is more likely that member states will move toward calls for peace, restraint, and debate in the United Nations.

Friends, if we consider the situation for India, this crisis has not only economic but also strategic and humanitarian dimensions. Millions of Indians work in Gulf countries. The United Arab Emirates, Qatar, Oman, and Saudi Arabia are home to a large number of Indian expatriates. This is why the Indian government has issued an advisory to its citizens, advising them to exercise caution and avoid unnecessary travel. This move indicates that the situation has become a question not only of military but also of civilian security. If the conflict escalates, India may have to repeat evacuation operations like Operation Rahat. The impact of this crisis is also visible on the education sector. The decision by the Central Board of Secondary Education (CBSE) to postpone the 10th and 12th grade examinations in several Middle Eastern countries is a sign that regional instability is now affecting the very fabric of civilian life. Thousands of Indian students attend CBSE-affiliated schools in the UAE, Qatar, and Oman. The postponement of exams is not just an educational decision, but a reflection of security priorities. This suggests that the conflict's impact has reached beyond borders, permeating the social fabric. India is also an energy importer and maintains a large expatriate community in West Asia, necessitating balanced diplomacy. India has traditionally pursued a policy of maintaining dialogue with all parties. Priorities will be the security of oil supplies, sea routes,

and the safety of Indian diaspora. Asian powers will want to avoid a full-scale war, as their economic growth depends on global stability.

Friends, if we consider the questions raised globally, will this incident become a new example of state-sponsored targeted killing? If it is proven that the US and Israel carried out this attack in a joint operation, it will spark widespread debate on international norms, the UN Charter, and principles of regional stability. European powers such as France, Germany, and the United Kingdom will insist on restraint and a diplomatic solution. Russia and China may use this incident as an example of US-Western interventionism and see an opportunity to increase strategic economic cooperation with Iran. This could further intensify global power polarization.

Friends, if we consider the significant impact on the energy market, Iran is located near the Strait of Hormuz, through which a large portion of global oil supplies pass. If Iran or its affiliated groups attempt to disrupt this sea route in retaliation, a sharp surge in oil prices is possible. This would impact global inflation, growth, and supply chains. India, China, Europe, and other importing countries will activate alternative energy security strategies. Marine insurance premiums could rise, naval deployments could increase, and the movement of merchant ships could be affected. From a security perspective, the biggest question is whether the conflict will remain limited or escalate into a broader regional war. Iran possesses conventional military capabilities, as well as drones, missiles, and a regional allied network. Groups active in Lebanon, Syria, Iraq, and Yemen could potentially launch retaliatory actions. Israel already faces multi-front security challenges; tensions could escalate on the northern, southern, and cyber fronts. The US regional military presence, especially naval bases in the Gulf, will remain on high alert. If a direct US-Iranian confrontation occurs, it could be far more widespread than the crisis that followed the assassination of General Qassem Soleimani in 2020. Friends, if we consider how long this conflict will last, the answer depends on several factors. First, how smoothly the transition of power within Iran proceeds. If a new leadership emerges quickly and systematically, it could demonstrate strategic patience and choose a diplomatic path after a limited retaliation or symbolic response. Second, what is the US-Israeli strategy? Was this a one-time operation or part of a broader campaign? Third, the possibilities for mediation. Will regional powers or the United Nations play an active role? Fourth, domestic politics—public opinion and electoral calculations in the US, Israel, and Iran—will influence decisions. Will it escalate further? The risk is

certainly there. If either side's response results in increased civilian casualties or attacks on holy sites/strategic installations, public sentiment could become inflamed. Social media and information warfare could also inflame tensions. Cyberattacks, the intensification of financial sanctions, and the expansion of proxy conflicts—these are all elements of a "gray-zone" war that can last for a long time without a formal declaration of war. Such a situation can maintain instability for months or years, even if a full-scale war does not erupt.

Friends, if we understand the crucial role of the United Nations and major powers in this scenario, emergency meetings in the Security Council, demands for independent investigations, and ceasefire proposals could emerge. However, veto politics could hamper concrete action. At the regional level, countries like Oman, Qatar, or Turkey could attempt to mediate. Back-channel dialogue, prisoner exchanges, and maritime security agreements could become tools to defuse tensions.

Ideological and psychological dimensions are also important. Within Iran, this incident could be presented as a narrative of martyrdom, strengthening national unity and a sense of resistance. On the other hand, if the public is concerned about economic pressures and the risk of war, they may demand stability and diplomacy. Within Israel and the United States, too, the debate between security-based arguments and international law-based criticism will intensify. This debate could set new standards globally regarding targeted killings, drone warfare, and principles of sovereignty. Therefore, if we study and analyze the above narrative, we will find that this crisis reminds us that the balance of power in West Asia is extremely fragile. A high-profile targeted action could destabilize the entire region. The coming weeks will be crucial as to whether responses will remain limited and controlled, or whether the cycle of retaliation will escalate. If diplomacy remains active and coordinated, this crisis can be contained within a limited period. If emotions and strategic miscalculations prevail, it could escalate into a protracted, multi-layered conflict with global implications. The cautious reactions of world leaders indicate that all parties are aware of the risks. Energy markets, maritime trade, nuclear proliferation, and regional proxy networks—all of these make this not just a regional incident but a question of global security. Therefore, in the coming days, restraint, dialogue, and multilateral diplomacy are the only paths that can prevent this potential crisis from escalating into a full-scale war. The stability of West Asia is not just a local issue; it is also a testament to global peace, economic balance, and the credibility of international law.

## Accused Forwarded to POCSO Court in Kantabanji Case

Kantabanji, correspondence: In connection with Kantabanji PS Case No. 37/2026, one accused person identified as Prem Bharasagar (18), son of Brundaban Bharasagar of Kabarstanpada under Kantabanji Police Station limits in Bolangir district, has been forwarded to the POCSO Court, Bolangir. According to police sources, the accused has been booked under Sections 137(2)/140(3)/3(5) of



the Bharatiya Nyaya Sanhita (BNS) read with Section 4 of the Protection of Children from Sexual Offences (POCSO) Act. Following his production, the accused

was forwarded to the designated POCSO Court for further legal proceedings. Investigation into the matter is currently underway by Kantabanji Police.

## District-Level Launch of HPV Vaccination Drive in Jajpur district

JAJPUR (Correspondent): The district-level launch of the Human Papillomavirus (HPV) vaccination campaign was formally inaugurated on 28.02.2026 at the District Headquarters Hospital in Jajpur. The programme was inaugurated by Chief District Medical & Public Health Officer Dr. Bijay Kumar Mishra at the MCH building premises. Among those present at the inaugural ceremony were Additional District Public Health Officer Dr. Samyukta Panda, DMO Superintendent Dr. Hansda, Pediatric Specialists Dr. J.J. Mishra and Dr. H.K. Raul, along with nursing officers, ANMs, ASHA workers, health staff, 14-year-old adolescent girls and their parents. The campaign has

been described as a historic step towards safeguarding the health of adolescent girls in the district. Speaking on the occasion, Dr. Mishra stated that the primary objective of the HPV vaccination drive is to protect adolescent girls from HPV infection, which is the leading cause of cervical cancer. A total of 14,496 adolescent girls aged 14 years (who have completed 14 years but not yet attained 15 years) will be covered under the campaign in the district. Under this initiative, each eligible beneficiary will receive a single dose of the Gardasil-4 vaccine, which provides protection against four types of HPV viruses. The vaccination drive will be implemented in phases across the district, covering all

10 blocks, Jajpur Road and Jajpur Town headquarters, through Community Health Centres (CHCs), Primary Health Centres (PHCs), and sub-health centres at the village level. Parents have been urged to ensure that their daughters receive the vaccine at the designated health facilities. It was highlighted that this initiative will play a significant role in protecting women from cervical cancer. The campaign will continue from March 2026 to May 2026, during which special vaccination sessions will be organized at all health centres. Adolescent girls who miss vaccination during the campaign period will continue to receive the vaccine through Routine Immunization (RI)

centres. Key highlights of the launch programme included the formal inauguration of the district-level HPV vaccination drive, symbolic administration of the first dose of Gardasil-4 vaccine, cervical cancer awareness activities, and a collective pledge to achieve 100 percent vaccination coverage through coordinated efforts of various departments. The District Administration and Health Department expressed hope that this initiative will prove to be a milestone in ensuring a healthy future for adolescent girls in Jajpur district. The first beneficiary, Tulasi Dalai, was administered the vaccine by the Chief District Medical Officer during the programme.

## Police to roam in plain clothes to check crime on Holi, 17 platoon forces to be deployed

Cuttack Correspondent: The Cuttack Police is taking special measures to tighten security in the city on Holi. To maintain law and order, keep an eye on anti-social youth and check criminals, the Cuttack Police will deploy 17 platoon forces in the city. The entire Cuttack city will be divided into 2 sectors and 6 zones to control security. Police officers will be present at important intersections and main roads. Along with the police station PCR, 112 vans and bike PCRs will patrol the city till the end of the Holi games. Apart from this, 2 platoon forces will be reserved to deal with the law and order situation. 3 additional DCPs will supervise the security arrangements. The leave of all the officers and employees of the police stations under Cuttack Commissionerate has been cancelled on Holi. DCP Khilari Rishikesh Dyandeo will personally visit the city to inspect the situation.



## INTACH Sonapur Chapter General Council Meeting Held: INTACH will expand its programs for the protection of heritage

Subarnapur Correspondent: The General Council meeting of the Chapter was held under the chairmanship of INTACH Sonapur Chapter Convenor Pradyumna Kumar Sahu at the Mahanadi Sahitya Sansad conference hall. On this occasion, the Executive Committee of the Chapter was formed. Chapter Convenor Pradyumna Kumar Sahu, Co-Convenor Banamali Panda, retired CDMO Dr. Rajendra Kumar Mishra, Professor Dr. Sourabh Ranjan Khamari, Debaki Nandan Mishra and Siddhartha Agarwal were elected as members of the



committee. Various programs held by the Chapter in the past few days were discussed and plans were made to further expand the Chapter's programs towards the protection of heritage. The meeting decided to organize heritage clubs in various schools and colleges, heritage walks, nature walks, preparation of a

list of temples in the proposed format in Subarnapur town, protection of endangered heritage and preparation of circles, organization of workshops, etc. at regular intervals. It was decided to accept him as a member to especially involve students in the direction of heritage protection.

The meeting was attended by retired Principal Dr. Santosh Kumar Padhi, historian Sudam Naik, Baladeb Pradhan, Debashish Pradhan, Dr. Minketan Kumar, Kailash Chand, Bibhuti Bhushan Ota, Banka Bihari Panda, Durjyodhan Meher, Satya Priya Mahala, Biswajit Mahapatra major among others.

## Session on Vikhit Bharat Youth Parliament

Paralakhemundi-(Correspondent)\_At SKCG(Autonomous) College session on Vikhit Bharat Youth Parliament held. SP Gajapati Jatindra Kumar Panda graced as chief guest. Presided by Principal Prof. Radhakant Bhuyan, Dr. Sanyasi Behera, District Nodal Officer of NSS graced on dias. Speakers highlighted on glimpses to strengthen democracy & roadmap for youths to join on development scenarios. Their vital contributions will be reinforced to saturate global recognitions to our nation. Now it has been proved by strategies & principles with diehard contributions of key players to reinstate & apt excellency in global field to our nation. Now other nations, too, nurture dynamic role played being the largest democracy in world. On this occasion elocution competition held among students. Among them Sneha Behera, Samarpan Das, Shradhanjali Das, A. Saranya & Aradhana Mishra qualified for state level Youth Parliament. Among juries Dr. R.K. Pati, Dr. Surendra Rath, Sanyasi Behera, Subrat Choudhry & Arupanjali Mohanty evaluated students symposium talk. From district level more than hundred students participated.

## Kalahandi: HPV vaccination campaign launched



Bhawanipatna: (Correspondent) In a bid to protect from infectious Human Papilloma Virus (HPV) the state wide (HPV) vaccination campaign has been launched on Sunday 1st March 2026. In this row from Bhawanipatna's UPHC, near College Chhaka the vaccination program has been launched officially by ADM Kalahandi. And in first phase the vaccination facility will be available all 13 UPHC, SDH and Bhawanipatna's DHH across the district the authority briefed in the launching program. Especially, for protective measure to keep safe women from uterine cancer at the age of above 13 and below 15. With an anticipation the district authorities set a target to administer vaccine a number of 12,446 adolescences in first phase and in this regard they appealed the media for wide dissemination message. Along the ADM representative of MP Loksabha Kalahandi, District Culture Officer, CDM&PHO, ADPHO(TB) and DPM NHM were part of the event.

## Corruption Allegations Mount in Muribahal Block

Kantabanji, correspondence: Serious allegations of corruption have surfaced in Muribahal Block of Balangir district, raising concerns among local residents about the transparency and accountability of ongoing development works. Questions are now being asked whether the block has turned into a hub of irregularities and financial mismanagement. According to sources, complaints related to irregularities in construction works are increasing day by day. Locals allege that in

several projects, government funds are being misused, with claims that money is being withdrawn without proper execution of work on the ground. Allegations of siphoning off public funds without completing assigned tasks have sparked outrage among villagers. Despite repeated accusations and reports of scams surfacing one after another, residents claim that the administration has not taken adequate steps to investigate the matter thoroughly. The alleged misuse of government funds has

led to growing dissatisfaction among the public, who are demanding strict action and a transparent inquiry. Concerned citizens have urged higher authorities to conduct a detailed probe into the alleged irregularities and ensure accountability of officials involved. They have also called for strict monitoring of ongoing and future development projects to prevent further misuse of public money. As allegations continue to mount, all eyes are now on the district administration to take appropriate action and restore public trust in the system.

## Harirajpur Melan Committee holds press conference

Delang, (Correspondent): Odisha The famous Harirajpur Panchudol Melan is scheduled to be held on the 8th March 2026, and the Melan Committee held a press conference on Saturday. This historic Melan has been held on an 80-acre land since 1637 AD. The press conference organized under the chairmanship of Melan Management Parisad Secretary Prasanna Maharathi was attended by President Sangram Keshari Pradhan, Assistant secretary Vijay Kumar Jena, Social Worker Basanti Sahu, Nirupama Patra, Temple Sevayat Dilip Mohapatra, Bishnu Prasad Jena, Manoj Jena and others who were present and gave detailed

information about the smooth management of the Melan. Apart from the Melan ceremony, various important programs taken up by the Melan Management Committee and the district administration were informed in the press conference. This year, during the Melan Jamana festival, Shri Paschim Sambhu Somnath Dev will travel through the western gate of the temple in a decorated chariot to the Melan Mandap and Devasabha, located 1 km from the temple, as per the traditional customs. On this Jamana night, cultural programs will be performed by renowned artists and silent fireworks will be displayed by psychics. For the safety of the devotees, the place

where the fireworks will be displayed will be cordoned off from all sides. Bell-playing groups, conch-playing groups, musical groups, sankirtana groups, paik akhada, and fire-ball performers from different parts of the state will participate in the festival. In the evening, hundreds of children will perform in various costumes and evening prayers will be held in a spiritual atmosphere created by mantra recitation. On the 10th, the regional conference will organize a Paik Akhada Pariveshan, a Harihat program will be organized by more than 2,000 Sankirtan congregations from 11 pm to 7 pm, and a Homa Yagya will be organized by the Khandagiri saints.

## Police–Public Interaction Programme Held at Regedising Village

Rayagada (Correspondent): In a proactive step towards strengthening community policing and spreading legal awareness, Puttasinh Police Station organized an "Ama Police/Police–Public Interaction Programme" at Regedising village under its jurisdiction. The programme witnessed active participation from local villagers, members

of the Panchayati Raj Institutions (PRI), community leaders and youth. The initiative aimed at building trust between the police and the public while addressing pressing social and legal issues affecting rural communities. During the interaction session, police officials sensitized the gathering on the harmful consequences

of witch-hunting, urging people not to believe in superstitions and to report any such incidents to the authorities immediately. Emphasis was laid on maintaining social harmony and protecting vulnerable individuals, particularly women and elderly persons, who often fall victim to such practices. The police team also educated

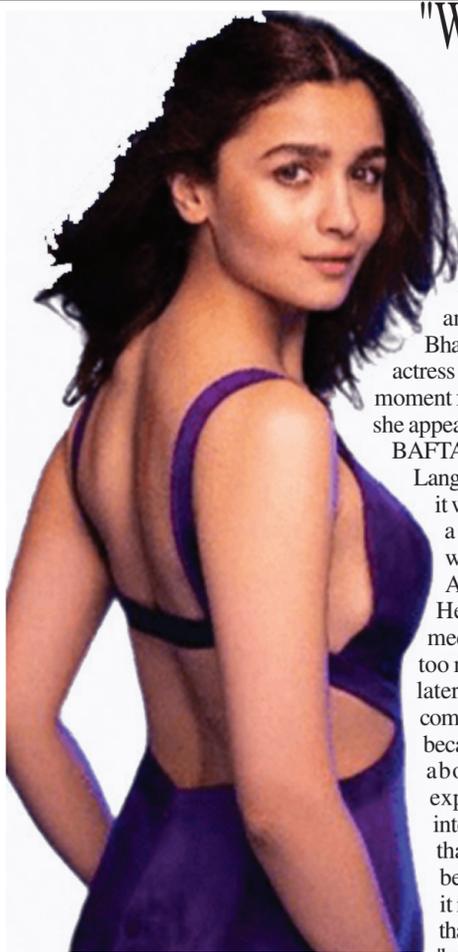
villagers about the growing threat of cyber frauds, advising them to remain cautious while sharing personal information, OTPs, or bank details over phone calls and social media. Practical guidance was provided on how to identify suspicious calls and online scams, and the importance of promptly reporting cyber crime

cases. Awareness was also created regarding traffic rules and road safety measures. Participants were urged to wear helmets, avoid drunken driving, and follow traffic regulations to prevent accidents. The officials highlighted penalties under the new motor vehicle regulations and encouraged responsible driving behavior. Special

focus was given to newly implemented criminal laws and legal provisions aimed at safeguarding citizens' rights. The police explained important aspects of these laws in simple language to ensure better public understanding. Furthermore, the programme stressed the strict prohibition of child marriage. Villagers were informed about the

legal consequences of conducting or supporting child marriages and were encouraged to report any such incidents. The police reiterated their commitment to protecting children's rights and promoting education for girls. The event concluded with an open discussion session where villagers shared their concerns and

suggestions. Police officials assured prompt assistance and continuous cooperation in addressing local issues. The initiative was widely appreciated by the community, who expressed hope that such interaction programmes would continue in the future to strengthen police–public relations and ensure a safer society.



## "Why is it being talked about so much?" Alia Bhatt responds to BAFTA, 'Gone Girl' backlash

Just days after social media was flooded with clips and comments about her BAFTA appearance, Alia Bhatt has finally reacted to the online backlash. The 'Raazi' actress addressed the chatter that followed a short interview moment from the 79th British Academy Film Awards, where she appeared as a presenter. Alia had taken the global stage at BAFTA to present the award for Best Film Not in the English Language. While her presence at the event drew attention, it was a short interview after the ceremony that became a major talking point online. In a now-viral clip, Alia was asked to name a film with the biggest plot twist. After a brief pause, the actress answered 'Gone Girl.' Her hesitation soon led to mixed reactions on social media. Some felt her response was natural, others read too much into her expressions and body language. Alia later reacted to the buzz in a conversation with fashion commentator Diet Sabya. She questioned why the moment became such a big issue and said, "Why is it being talked about so much? Is it because of my expression?" Explaining what happened during the interview, Alia shared what was going on in her mind at that time. She said, "So basically I really think it is the best twist but I have not liked watched it in... when did it release? 10 years ago? So I have not watched it after that." "So when she was like, 'that monologue,' I was like 'haan' (yes) and I was going back in my head that oh ya, 'that monologue, correct correct correct' and she was mentioned cleaning the floor and I was like like 'haan' (yes) so I was like going back in time and I guess that's what you saw. I am a cool girl. I am a sweet girl. But I could be... total... I mean I can be like... I am more sweet than I am cool. Actually, I don't think I am cool. I am uncool girl, my sister would say that," she added. On the work front, Alia is gearing up for her next projects. She will lead Alpha, a female-led spy thriller from the YRF Spy Universe, directed by Shiv Rawail. The film also stars Bobby Deol and Sharvari Wagh and is expected to release next year.

## Toxic: Poster of first single 'Tabaahi' out; Kiara, Yash express excitement

The makers of 'Toxic: A Fairy Tale for Grown-Ups' unveiled the poster of the first single of the film. Titled 'Tabaahi', the song will be out on March 2. Featuring Yash and Kiara in a windswept seaside embrace, the visual speaks of fire, desire and raw emotion. Sharing the poster, Kiara on Instagram wrote, "A Toxic World, A Safe Embrace. #TabaahiSong out on 2nd March. #ToxicTheMovie. "Directed by Geetu Mohandas, 'Toxic' also stars Nayanthara, Huma Qureshi, Rukmini Vasanth and Tara Sutaria in pivotal roles. The film will hit the theatres on 19 March 2026. The first glimpse of the film was unveiled in January earlier this year. The two-minute, fifty-two-second clip offered a striking glimpse into Yash's intense and enigmatic character as Raya. Set against the backdrop of a cemetery, the teaser opened with a blaze of action, with gunfire cutting through the silence, signaling the arrival of Yash as the composed, fearless, and unflinching Raya with a Tommy gun. The film stars Yash alongside Huma Qureshi, Tara Sutaria, Kiara Advani, and Nayanthara in key roles. Kiara plays Nadia, a character shown as calm but carrying deep emotions. Huma Qureshi appears as Elizabeth, a sharp and dangerous presence. Nayanthara is seen as Ganga, a role that changes the balance of power in the story. Tara Sutaria plays Rebecca, a character shown as charming yet hard to read, while Rukmini Vasanth essays Mellisa, a figure with quiet control. The final reveal introduced Yash as Raya, with the line "Daddy's home."



## The role of fibre for overall health

Fibre has long been recognised as a cornerstone of a balanced diet, but growing evidence suggests its role extends far beyond simply keeping digestion regular. From helping regulate cholesterol levels and stabilise blood sugar to supporting gut bacteria and reducing the risk of colon cancer, fibre influences multiple systems within the body. Despite its wide-ranging benefits, many people still fall short of recommended daily intake, often unaware of the silent impact this can have over time. An anaesthesiologist and interventional pain medicine physician, is breaking down the far-reaching implications of low fibre intake, highlighting its effects beyond just digestion. In an Instagram video shared on March 1, the physician explains, "Low fibre intake does not just slow bowel movements. It alters bile acid handling, glucose absorption, gut microbiota fuel, and long-term colon health. Fibre supports cholesterol handling, glucose control, microbiome balance, and colon integrity. Chronically low intake affects all of these systems long before symptoms appear."



### Rise in LDL cholesterol

According to Dr Sood, soluble fibre forms a gel-like substance in the gut that binds to bile acids and cholesterol. As these are excreted, the liver is prompted to draw more cholesterol from the bloodstream to produce additional bile acids, thereby helping to lower circulating cholesterol levels. He explains, "Soluble, viscous fibres such as beta-glucan and psyllium form a gel that traps bile acids and cholesterol in the gut. This increases bile acid excretion, forcing the liver to pull cholesterol from the bloodstream to make more bile acids. Controlled-trial meta-analyses show meaningful LDL reductions with several major fibres."

### Higher post meal glucose spikes

Eating fibre also slows gastric emptying, thereby delaying the digestion and absorption of carbohydrates. However, without adequate fibre intake, the physician notes that glucose enters the bloodstream more rapidly, resulting in



sharp spikes in blood sugar and insulin levels.

He elaborates, "Viscous fibre slows gastric emptying and creates a diffusion barrier, meaning carbohydrates are digested and absorbed more gradually. Without enough fibre, glucose enters the bloodstream faster, producing higher peaks and larger insulin responses. Mechanistic and systematic reviews support this glycemic effect."

### Shift in gut bacteria and mucus barrier

Dietary fibre also serves as prebiotic fuel for beneficial gut bacteria, and chronically low intake can disrupt the microbiome, potentially leading to imbalances and a thinning of the protective mucus lining of the gut.

Dr Sood explains, "Many gut microbes rely on microbiota-accessible carbohydrates, a key component of dietary fibre. When fibre intake is chronically low, microbes shift toward degrading host mucus glycans, thinning the protective mucus layer. An animal model showed fibre deprivation led to mucus barrier degradation and greater pathogen susceptibility."

### Increased risk of colon cancer

Dr Sood highlights that consistently low fibre intake may increase the risk of colon cancer over time. Fibre adds bulk to the stool and promotes faster intestinal transit. It also supports bacterial fermentation into short-chain fatty acids, which help protect the epithelium and maintain gut health - collectively lowering the risk of colon cancer.

He emphasises, "Large prospective dose-response analyses show about a 10 percent lower colorectal cancer risk per 10 g/day higher fibre intake. Proposed mechanisms include increased stool bulk and faster transit, fermentation to short-chain fatty acids like butyrate that support epithelial health, and altered bile acid profiles that may be less irritating to the colon."

## surgeon explains why it could be a deadly combo for gut health



In countless Indian households, the day begins with a familiar ritual: a steaming cup of chai paired with a few biscuits. For many, it feels incomplete to step out without this comforting combination - often consumed first thing in the morning on an empty stomach. It may seem like a quick, convenient breakfast substitute that keeps you going until lunch. However, health experts suggest that this seemingly harmless habit could be doing more harm than good.

Wellness, is breaking down the health implications of India's favourite way to start the day - with chai and biscuits! In an Instagram video shared on February 28, the surgeon explains how this combination affects gut health and blood sugar balance.

The chronic indigestion combo Most Indian households start their day with the classic chai and biscuit combo, however, Dr Vora notes that having tea and biscuits on an empty stomach is actually a recipe for gut health disaster. The caffeine and tannins in tea, combined with empty calories from biscuits can irritate the gut lining and lead to rapid blood sugar spikes. Here's what the surgeon explains.

**Tea** Tea contains caffeine and tannins, which don't go easy on the stomach lining when ingested in an empty stomach. They irritate the gut lining, increase acid production and lead to all kinds of stomach issues. Tea contains caffeine and tannins, which irritate the stomach lining, increase acid production, and can trigger acidity, nausea, bloating, or a heavy feeling."

### Biscuits

Most biscuits are essentially empty calories that are made of simple carbohydrates like refined flours, sugar and unhealthy fats. Having these in an empty stomach can lead to rapid spikes in blood sugar followed by energy crashes and higher cravings.

The surgeon highlights, "Biscuits are essentially empty calories. They provide quick carbohydrates made from refined flour, added sugar, and unhealthy fats. This combination causes your blood sugar levels to spike and then crash, leading to low energy and high cravings."

What is the solution? Dr Vora highlights that you do not need to give up tea entirely to prevent gut issues. Instead, he suggests that a few simple adjustments can make the combination gentler on the stomach and overall more gut-friendly. He recommends avoiding the beverage on an empty stomach and instead having it after a light breakfast. As for biscuits, he suggests swapping them for healthier alternatives rich in protein or fibre to make the pairing more balanced and gut-friendly. The surgeon emphasises, "This does not mean you must stop drinking tea entirely; rather, the timing and combination matter. It is safer to consume tea after a light breakfast and replace biscuits with protein or fibre. So, the next time someone claims that tea and biscuits are a healthy start, remember that it can burden the gut, especially on an empty stomach."

# ISL 2026: Chennaiyin FC Take A Point With Fighting 1-1 Draw Against Odisha FC

**Bhubaneswar:** Chennaiyin FC secured their first point of the Indian Super League (ISL) 2026 season after battling to a spirited 1-1 draw against Odisha FC at the Kalinga Stadium on Sunday. The Marina Machans looked the sharper side for large spells and deservedly went ahead in first-half stoppage time through Elsinho, who netted his maiden ISL goal. However, Carlos Delgado's header midway through the second half restored parity for the hosts. Head coach Clifford Miranda made two changes to the starting XI, handing Farukh Choudhary a place in attack while Maheson Singh made his first league start, partnering Mohammed Ali Bemammer in midfield. Chennaiyin began brightly, carrying confidence from last season's unbeaten run against the Juggernauts.



Within six minutes, a sweeping move released Mandar Rao Dessai down the left, and his cutback nearly found Inigo Martin before the defence intervened. Soon after, Alberto Noguera threaded a pass to Irfan Yadwad, whose attempted pullback was cut out. From the resulting corner, Farukh reacted quickest to a loose ball and fired in a powerful volley that was bravely

blocked. Chennaiyin continued to stretch Odisha's backline with their width, while Maheson linked up well with Martin on multiple occasions, creating half-chances that kept the hosts on alert. The breakthrough finally arrived at the end of the first half. Farukh's inswinging corner was met by a towering header from Elsinho, who powered home to give Chennaiyin a deserved

1-0 lead. Goalkeeper Mohammad Nawaz then produced a sharp save moments later to ensure the visitors went into the break ahead. After the restart, Chennaiyin maintained their attacking intent. Imran Khan and Lalrinliana Hnamte were introduced before the hour mark, and Inigo Martin soon drifted into space and drove into the box, only to see his curling effort drift

narrowly wide. Klusner Pereira later replaced Farukh as the visitors sought to press home their advantage. Despite Chennaiyin's dominance, Odisha found a way back in the 68th minute when Delgado rose highest to head in the equaliser. The visitors responded immediately, with Imran trying his luck from a distance and then delivering a dangerous ball into the area that Martin was inches away from converting. Vivek S and Gurkirat Singh were thrown on in the closing stages as Chennaiyin pushed for a winner. Deep into stoppage time, Gurkirat's penalty appeal was waved away before Laldinliana Rentlei's inviting cross found Imran unmarked, but his header sailed over the bar. Forced to settle for a point despite an enterprising display, Chennaiyin will now aim to build momentum when they take on Kerala Blasters on March 7.

# South Africa vs Zimbabwe thriller ends with Proteas reaching T20 World Cup semis unbeaten

**NEW DELHI:** South Africa heads into the T20 World Cup semi-finals without dropping a single game, surviving a massive scare from Zimbabwe in Delhi. Sikandar Raza delivered an unforgettable all-round masterclass, yet the Proteas successfully chased down a tricky 154-run target with five wickets in hand. They will now travel to Kolkata, gearing up to clash against New Zealand in the crucial knockout stage. Zimbabwe relied heavily on their veteran star throughout the match. Raza blasted 73 runs off just 43 deliveries, scoring the vast majority of his team's total while he was at the crease. He smashed boundaries for fun, batting with a massive strike rate near 170. His strategy was straightforward but devastating. He cleared his front leg to dispatch full deliveries through the off-side and aggressively pulled



shorter pitches into the stands. Later, he opened the bowling during the chase and grabbed three crucial wickets, dismantling the top order and leaving his opponents stumbling early. Kwena Maphaka proved his worth during only his second appearance in this global tournament. Bowling consistently at high speeds, the 19-year-old prodigy troubled batters by moving both the new and old ball. He eventually removed the dangerous Raza with a clever cutter, finishing his four-over spell with two wickets for 21 runs. Several bench players, including George Linde and Anrich Nortje, also

stepped up to perform solidly while standard bowlers like Kagiso Rabada rested ahead of the playoffs. Chasing 154 quickly turned into a nightmare as early wickets tumbled. Quinton de Kock departed for a duck, and captain Aiden Markram saw his stumps shattered by a tricky carrom ball. Ryan Rickelton provided a brief spark with three massive sixes after surviving a nasty hit to the helmet. However, Dewald Brevis and David Miller truly stabilized the innings. Brevis slammed a quickfire 42, partnering with Miller to add 50 vital runs in just 25 balls.

# Diksha Shoots Bogey-Free Cards In Second And Third Rounds In NSW Open

**Wollongong:** India's top star Diksha Dagar bounced back from a disappointing first round of 77 with 66-65 in the next two rounds to rise to tied-26th after the third round of the Ford Women's NSW Open. In the second round, Diksha had five birdies and no bogey, and she kept the bogey-free run in the third round with six birdies. The six included four birdies in the last five holes. She is now 5-under and well placed for a charge on the final day. Her second round 66 helped her make the cut in 53rd place, and then she moved up to T-26 after three days. The other Indians, Hitaashee



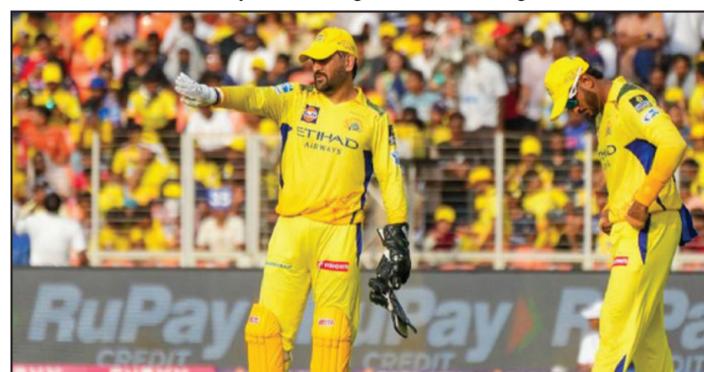
Bakshi (73-73), Pranavi Urs (74-74), and Avani Prashanth (80-72) missed the cut. There is a packed leaderboard heading into the final round as regional qualifier Hannah Reeves is now leading the way on 12-under par. The 17th edition of the tournament has already produced plenty of

drama due to heavy rainfall on Thursday. Once 36 holes were finally done and dusted at Wollongong Golf Club, a shotgun start for round three commenced at 14:45 local time with Ireland's Aine Donegan holding a two-shot lead. Donegan got off to the perfect start, birdying the par-5 1st

before the Irishwoman dropped five shots in her next 10 holes to open things up to the rest of the field. Reeves, a winner of three regional qualifiers, took advantage on a sun-soaked day, recovering well from a bogey at the 3rd to card six birdies for a round of 66 (-5). The scoreboard included a spectacular grandstand finish as the Australian almost holed out for an eagle three. She leads compatriot Kelsey Bennett by one shot with 18 holes remaining in New South Wales. Thailand's April Angurasanee had a day to remember, posting her best round of golf, a 62 (-9), which included a hole-in-one at the 170-yard par-3 12th.

# IPL 2026: MS Dhoni, CSK Players Begin Training In Chennai

**New Delhi:** Former India and Chennai Super Kings captain Mahendra Singh Dhoni, along with current team captain Ruturaj Gaikwad and several other squad members, began their preparations for IPL 2026 with their first practice session in Chennai on Sunday. The five-time champions commenced their camp at the franchise's high-performance centre, with several Indian players reporting for duty. Among those present were Ayush Mhatre, Mukesh Choudhary, Rahul Chahar, Urvil Patel, Ramakrishna Ghosh and Sarfaraz Khan. The franchise shared visuals from the session, showing Dhoni and Gaikwad batting in adjacent nets as



preparations gathered momentum. New signings Prashant Veer and Kartik Sharma also joined the squad and took part in the drills. In the training footage, Sarfaraz was seen closely watching Dhoni's net session, while Gaikwad appeared fluent, displaying assured footwork. The current phase of the camp features Indian domestic

players, while those on national duty will link up later. India internationals Sanju Samson and Shivam Dube, who are presently involved in the T20 World Cup, are expected to join the squad after the tournament concludes on March 7. Shreyas Gopal, fresh from Karnataka's Ranji Trophy final campaign, will also report at a later

date. For now, the sessions are being supervised by assistant coaches Sridharan Sriram and Rajiv Kumar, along with strength and conditioning coach Greg King. Overseas players and members of the foreign coaching staff are yet to assemble. Earlier on Sunday, the franchise revealed their jersey for the upcoming cash-rich event.

# Australia Women Outclass India by 185 Runs to Seal ODI Series 3-0 in Hobart



**NEW DELHI:** Australia Women completed a commanding clean sweep in the ODI series against India Women, winning the third and final match by a massive 185 runs at the Bellerive Oval, Hobart. Batting first, Australia piled up an imposing 409/7 in 50 overs, led by captain Alyssa Healy's blistering 158 off 98 balls and Beth Mooney's unbeaten 106. Georgia

Voll (62) and Nicola Carey (34 off 15) added crucial runs to ensure India faced an uphill battle. India's chase faltered early, with only Jemimah Rodrigues (42) and Pratika Rawal (27) showing resistance. Despite brief partnerships from Deepti Sharma and Sneha Rana, the visitors were bowled out for 224 in 45.1 overs. Spinner Alana King

starred with 4/33, while Georgia Wareham and Ashleigh Gardner chipped in with wickets. Post-match, Healy praised her team's dominance and looked ahead to the historic pink-ball Test at WACA. India captain Harmanpreet Kaur admitted her side struggled to adapt in ODIs compared to T20s, stressing the need to regroup for the upcoming Test.

# Hockey India Announces 20-Member Women's Squad for World Cup 2026 Qualifiers

**NEW DELHI:** Hockey India named a 20-member Indian Women's Hockey Team for the FIH Women's Hockey World Cup 2026 Qualifiers scheduled in Hyderabad, Telangana, from March 8 to 14. Hosts India will compete alongside England, Scotland, Korea, Italy, Uruguay, Wales, and Austria for three qualification spots at the World Cup in Belgium and the Netherlands this August. Seasoned midfielder Salima Tete will continue as captain, providing leadership and stability. Goalkeepers Bansari Solanki and Bichu Devi Kharibam will share responsibilities. The



defensive line includes Sushila Chanu Pukhrabam, Nikki Pradhan, Manisha Chauhan, Udita, and Ishika Chaudhary. Midfield strength comes from Salima Tete, Neha, Sunelita Toppo, Sakshi Rana, Vaishnavi Vitthal Phalke, Rutaja

Dadaso Pisal, and Deepika Soreng. India's attacking unit features Navneet Kaur, Ishika Lalremsiami, Beauty Ddungdung, Baljeet Kaur, and Annu, combining flair and finishing power. Chief Coach Sjoerd Marijne expressed

confidence in the squad, noting that fitness and tactical drills have prepared the team for the crucial tournament. He confirmed that India will play two practice matches in Hyderabad before the qualifiers. India open

their campaign against Uruguay on March 8, followed by matches against Scotland on March 9 and Wales on March 11. Live streaming of the qualifiers will be available on Star Sports Khel and JioHotstar.

# Vedanta Aluminium Inaugurates Jute Processing Centre Under Project Subhalaxmi

**Jharsuguda (Correspondent):** Vedanta Aluminium, India's largest producer of aluminium, has inaugurated a jute processing centre at Kelendamal village in Jharsuguda, creating new livelihood generation avenues for rural women. Undertaken under the aegis of its Subhalaxmi Cooperative self-help group (SHG) project, the facility enables members to produce reusable jute products, promoting eco-friendly materials and supporting women-led businesses.

Equipped with four jute-processing machines in its first phase, the centre will initially focus on the manufacture of reusable jute bags, supporting the



transition away from single-use plastics while enabling sustainable income generation at the grassroots level. By combining skill training, infrastructure, and market access, the initiative creates a locally anchored green enterprise model. The jute processing centre was inaugurated by Ms.

Sushrita Naik, Sarpanch of Kelendamal Village, in the presence of Ms. Pankajini Oram, President, Subhalaxmi Cooperative and Ms. Harmeet Sehra, Head - CSR, Vedanta Aluminium. Highlighting the impact of the initiative, Mr. Chandru, CEO, Vedanta Jharsuguda,

said, "Sustainable development requires balancing economic opportunity with environmental responsibility. Through this partnership with the Subhalaxmi Cooperative, we are empowering women to build enterprises that strengthen household incomes while

promoting eco-friendly lifestyles. The jute processing centre demonstrates a scalable model for community-driven entrepreneurship that combines economic growth with sustainability." Ms. Pankajini Oram, President, Subhalaxmi Cooperative, said, "The jute processing centre is a significant step forward in empowering women from our community. With the support of Vedanta, the women are receiving training and upskilling opportunities that help them develop valuable skills and run successful enterprises. We are proud to see them lead initiatives that benefit both their families and the environment."

# SUM HOSPITAL DOCTORS TURN AROUND UNDER WEIGHT BABY WITH COMPLEX PROBLEMS

**Bhubaneswar, (Correspondent):** Doctors at the Institute of Medical Sciences and SUM Hospital-1 here have successfully turned around the condition of a pre-term baby suffering from Duodenal Atresia meaning a part of the duodenum was blocked with Down Syndrome. Born at Balasore to a G2P1 mother (meaning a woman who has been pregnant twice and has carried one pregnancy to a viable gestational age) and weighing 1100 grams, the baby was received in the hospital on the 15th day after birth in a critical condition. The baby, delivered in the 7th month of pregnancy, was earlier treated at two other hospitals where doctors treated it with IV fluids and antibiotics without any



significant improvement in the condition. After evaluating the baby's condition at IMS and SUM Hospital-1, doctors weighed their options including surgery. Babies of such low weight and with such associated problems usually do not survive even after successful surgery. The team of doctors, however, decided to go ahead with the needed surgery which was led by pediatric surgeon Dr. Antaryami Pradhan. Post operation, the baby was managed at

the Neonatal ICU (NICU) by a team of doctors led by Dr. Debashis Nanda, Dr. Ratan Das, Dr. Bhabagrahi Mallick, Dr. Bijaya Kumar and other members of the team.

The doctors explained that an exploratory laparotomy was done on the 19-day-old baby and it was put on parental nutrition for 23 days. Gradually enteral feeding commenced and IV fluids were stopped on the 42nd day of the baby's birth.

# Hindalco Hirakud organizes a large homeopathy treatment camp

**Sambalpur (Correspondent):** Hindalco, Hirakud organized a large homeopathy treatment camp at the Community Center under the local CNI Church. The camp was jointly inaugurated by Hindalco, Hirakud Unit Head Shri Sumit Mukherjee, Human Resources Head of Hindalco Complex Shri Biswas Shinde, Homeopathy Treatment Officer Dr. Santosh Kumar Sahu and Father Shri Suresh Kumar Nag. Manager of Environmental Development Department Shri Anand Chakravarty, Shri Jitesh Rath, Assistant, Shri Sukant Mohapatra, and dignitaries of the local area were present. Shri Saroj Kumar Acharya conducted the inauguration program.



Dr. Santosh Kumar Sahu expressed his happiness that Hindalco, as a corporate house, has organized such a huge homeopathy camp and I am sure that Hindalco will continue such camps in the future. Mr. Sumit Mukherjee, Unit Head, Hindalco Hirakud Complex, said that J will continue such health camps in various places in Hirakud region to improve health. Dr. Santosh Kumar Sahu, Dr. Sushant Kumar Sahu, Dr. Falguni Kumar Badhei, Dr.

Mahendra Dharua and Dr. Jofi Sahu were present in this camp and treated the patients. 120 people received health check-ups and necessary medicines in this camp. Many dignitaries from the locality were present in this meeting. Smt. Jayashree Rao, Mr. Santosh Kumar Tripathi, Mr. Milan Kumar Sahu and Riyas Nag cooperated on behalf of Hindalco Environmental Development Department to make this program a success.

# Odisha DISCOMs Felicitate Winners of 'Oh My Beautiful Odisha 3.0', Highlighting State-wide Participation in Biodiversity

**Bhubaneswar, (Correspondent):** Tata Power-led Odisha DISCOMs felicitated the winners of their flagship photography contest, 'Oh My Beautiful Odisha 3.0,' at a grand ceremony held in Bhubaneswar. Organised by the Odisha DISCOMs - TPCODL, TPNODL, TPWODL and TPSODL, the initiative witnessed passionate participation from photography enthusiasts across the state. Launched with the theme "Wildlife and Biodiverse Landscapes of Odisha," the contest received more than 1,100 entries capturing the state's rich ecological diversity. From dense forests and



tranquil wetlands to vibrant birdlife and majestic wildlife, participants showcased Odisha's natural heritage through compelling visual narratives. The ceremony was graced by Shri Ramakrishna Vedala, Regional Secretary, Lalit Kala Academy, Regional Centre, Bhubaneswar (Ministry of Culture, Government of India), as the Chief Guest. The occasion was further distinguished by the presence of the CEOs

of the Tata Power-led Odisha DISCOMs - Shri Gajanan Kale, Chief, Odisha Distribution Business & CEO, TPNODL, Shri Arvind Singh, CEO, TPCODL, Shri Parveen Kumar Verma, CEO, TPWODL and Shri Amit Garg, CEO, TPSODL. Several other senior officials and staff members were also in attendance. A total of 13 winners were felicitated and their photographs have been featured in the Odisha

DISCOMs 2026 Calendar, giving them state-wide recognition. Speaking at the event, Shri Ramakrishna Vedala appreciated the initiative for encouraging creative expression while promoting awareness about biodiversity and conservation. He commended the participants for beautifully capturing Odisha's ecological wealth through their lenses. Addressing the occasion, Gajanan

Kale, Chief, Odisha Distribution Business & CEO, TPNODL, said, "The overwhelming response to 'Oh My Beautiful Odisha 3.0' reflects the deep bond people share with Odisha's natural environment. The participants have beautifully captured the state's rich biodiversity through their lens. This initiative goes beyond a photography contest, it is a celebration of Odisha's ecological wealth and a collective effort to strengthen conservation awareness. I sincerely thank and congratulate all participants for becoming true ambassadors of our state's ecological heritage."

# Women Given a Distinct Identity by JSW Utkal Steel

**Paradip (Correspondent):** In Paradip, JSW Utkal Steel has set new benchmarks through various developmental initiatives even before the establishment of its project. From promoting women's self-reliance to contributing to agriculture, education, healthcare, and electrification, the company has reached public spaces across the region. It has earned a distinct identity for empowering local women and making them self-dependent. Under the initiative of JSW Utkal Steel, 246 Self-Help Group (SHG) members have prepared 98,400 mushroom beds. Each member is earning around ₹5,000 per month. Additionally, 1,909 farmers have been provided skill



training for livelihood enhancement, helping small enterprises grow. SHGs engaged in incense stick making, poultry farming, and mushroom cultivation have particularly benefited. Similarly, 612 SHG members are involved in poultry farming, earning an average monthly income of ₹3,500. For making "badi" (dried lentil dumplings), 43 SHG members produce 300 kg per month,

earning ₹1,500 monthly. Eight members of Maa Sarala SHG are making bags and earning ₹1,500 per month. Ten members of Sambhabana PG produce 250 kg of spices every month, with each earning ₹1,500. Fourteen members of Maa Annapurna PG make jute bags and earn ₹2,500 per month each. In incense stick production, women from 45 SHGs earn a

minimum of ₹1,750 per month. In Nolia Sahi, 20 women of Maa Charchika PG have been provided with two high-capacity solar-powered fish drying machines worth approximately ₹2 lakh. These machines can dry 20 kg of fish in three hours, proving especially beneficial during the rainy season and ensuring better quality dried fish production. Overall, 3,043 families have experienced an increase in additional income. Sharmistha Jena, a member of Subasita Producer Group of Nuagaon, said that earlier they made incense sticks but could not progress. With support from JSW, their group of 30 members is now able to sustain their families through incense stick production. Minakshi Das

shared that two of their betel vine farms were lost due to company construction, causing them to lose their livelihood. At that time, JSW Utkal extended support. They collectively decided to start mushroom cultivation, and with materials provided by the company, they prepared 200 beds and are now sustaining their families. They plan to expand production further.

Sandhyarani Dalai of Annapurna PG, Gobindpur, said that by making various jute products, they earn an average of ₹1,500 per month per member. Under the leadership of Anita Nayak from Jagannath SHG, mushroom cultivation with 200 beds has been developed into a small enterprise, providing a stable source of income.

# MCL inks 46.51 Crore MoU to strengthen advanced healthcare services in Odisha

**Sambalpur (Correspondent):** Mahanadi Coalfields Limited (MCL) has signed two memoranda of understanding (MoUs) of ₹46.51 Crores with leading government medical institutions in Cuttack to strengthen public healthcare infrastructure in Odisha, with major focus on advanced diagnostic support at Srirama Chandra Bhanja Medical College & Hospital (SCB MCH).

MCL has committed ₹46.34 crores under its CSR initiative for procurement and installation of two 128-Slice Dual Energy CT Scan machines and one 1.5 Tesla MRI machine at SCB MCH, Cuttack. With an average daily footfall of 8,000-10,000



patients, the addition of advanced imaging systems is expected to significantly enhance diagnostic precision, reduce waiting time, and benefit nearly 25-30 lakh patients annually across Odisha and neighbouring regions. In a separate initiative, MCL has also signed an MoU with Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel Post Graduate Institute of Paediatrics (SVPPGIP), Cuttack popularly known as Shishu Bhawan, extending CSR support of

₹16.99 lakh for procurement of three 8-seated battery-operated passenger vehicles. This will cater to improved, safe and eco-friendly patient mobility within the hospital campus. Through these initiatives, MCL continues to look beyond its core operations-strengthening healthcare facilities, supporting life-saving infrastructure, and reaffirming its enduring commitment to community welfare across Odisha.