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## India Expanding Cooperation With Finland In Arctic And Polar Research: PM Modi

New Delhi: Terming Finland as an “important partner” of India in the Nordic region, Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Thursday announced that the two nations are expanding cooperation in Arctic and polar research. While addressing a joint press meet with Finland President Alexander Stubb following their talks at Hyderabad House in New Delhi on Thursday, PM Modi stated that the two nations have also agreed to expand research cooperation in teacher training, school-to-school partnerships, and the future of education. “Finland is becoming a preferred destination for Indian students and talent. Today, we have signed a comprehensive



migration and mobility agreement with Finland to connect the innovation ecosystems of both countries. With this, we are also going to further strengthen joint research and startup collaboration,” PM Modi said. “Finland is a role model in the field of education. Today, we have also agreed to expand research cooperation in teacher training, school-to-school partnerships, and the future of education. This means that we are

going to deepen our cooperation at every level of human development, from school to industry. Finland is an important partner of India in the Nordic region. We are also expanding our cooperation with Finland in Arctic and polar research,” he added. Extending a warm welcome to Stubb on his first visit to India, PM Modi said, “I warmly welcome President Stubb on his first visit to India as

President of Finland. President Stubb is not only a renowned global leader but also a respected thinker and author. It is a matter of great honour and pleasure for us to have an experienced and dynamic leader like you as the Chief Guest of this year’s Raisina Dialogue.” PM Modi noted that the growing cooperation between India and Europe is giving new strength to global stability, growth and shared prosperity. He also mentioned about the recently signed Free Trade Agreement (FTA) between India and the European Union (EU). “Today, the world is going through a period of instability and uncertainty. From Ukraine to West Asia, conflict continues in many parts of the world.

## BJP Nominees, Dilip Ray File Nominations For Rajya Sabha Polls

**Bhubaneswar (Correspondent)** Nominees of the Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) — Manmohan Samal and Sujeet Kumar — along with senior politician Dilip Ray filed their nomination papers on Thursday for the upcoming Rajya Sabha elections from Odisha. The nominations were submitted at the State Legislative Assembly in the presence of Chief Minister Mohan Charan Majhi and senior BJP leaders, including Jayanarayana Mishra. Dilip Ray filed his nomination as an independent candidate backed by the BJP to contest against Dr. Dattaswar Hota, who has been fielded by the Biju Janata Dal (BJD), for the crucial fourth Rajya Sabha seat. The



elections are scheduled to be held on March 16. Before filing his nomination, Ray paid tribute to his mentor and legendary leader Biju Patnaik on the occasion of the statesman’s birth anniversary. Expressing confidence about the contest, Ray said he expected to emerge victorious despite not having the required magic number of 30 first-preference votes in his favour. He recalled that he had earlier secured a Rajya Sabha

seat in 2002 through cross-voting. The BJP’s open support for Ray is widely viewed as a strategic move by the saffron party to secure three out of the four Rajya Sabha seats from Odisha. However, neither the BJP nor the BJD currently has the numbers required to independently win the fourth seat. Based on the present strength in the Assembly, the ruling BJP is expected to win two seats comfortably, while the BJD is likely to

secure one seat. According to the Rajya Sabha electoral formula, a candidate requires at least 30 first-preference votes to win a seat from Odisha. With the backing of 82 MLAs, the BJP is comfortably placed to win two seats and will still have 22 surplus votes, falling eight votes short of the number required to secure a third seat. As a result, the battle for the fourth seat is expected to turn into a keen political contest between Ray and BJD’s candidate Dr. Hota. The Indian National Congress has extended its support to Dr. Hota. Meanwhile, BJP’s first nominee and the party’s Odisha president Manmohan Samal is set to enter the Upper House of Parliament after a gap of 22 years.

## Bengal Governor Ananda Bose Resigns, CM Banerjee Expresses Shock

Kolkata: In an unprecedented development ahead of the upcoming Assembly elections, West Bengal Governor C.V. Ananda Bose on Thursday resigned from his post. Ananda Bose is currently in New Delhi, and he tendered his resignation to the office of President Droupadi Murmu there. Although no official confirmation in the matter had come from the office of the Governor in the matter

at the time the report was filed, Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee issued a statement confirming the Governor’s resignation. In her statement, the Chief Minister had claimed that the news of the resignation of Bose had been confirmed to her by Union Home Minister Amit Shah, who had also told her that the current Tamil Nadu Governor, R.N Ravi, will be West Bengal’s

new Governor. However, it is not clear whether Ravi would join as the acting or the full-time Governor. “I am shocked and deeply concerned by the sudden news of the resignation of Shri C. V. Ananda Bose, the Governor of West Bengal. The reasons behind his resignation are not known to me at this moment. However, given the prevailing circumstances, I would not be surprised if the

Governor has been subjected to some pressure from the Union Home Minister to serve certain political interests on the eve of the forthcoming State Assembly elections.” Cm Banerjee said in a statement shared on her X handle. In her statement, the Chief Minister also claimed that the Union Home Minister never discussed the replacement of Ananda Bose with Ravi with her.

## Revenue Minister Suresh Pujari Shifted To AIIMS New Delhi For Advanced Heart Care

**Bhubaneswar:** Revenue and Disaster Management Minister Suresh Pujari was transferred to AIIMS New Delhi on Thursday morning for advanced cardiac care following his diagnosis with coronary artery disease (CAD) and triple vessel disease (TVD). According to reports, he was initially admitted to AIIMS Bhubaneswar on Tuesday evening after complained of chest pain. Pujari was diagnosed with CAD and TVD, a condition affecting all three major coronary arteries. It was then doctors treating Pujari decided to shift him to AIIMS New Delhi for advanced cardiac care.

## India Advises Its Nationals In UAE To Remain Vigilant, Follow Safety Guidelines




Abu Dhabi: The Indian Embassy in UAE on Thursday issued a fresh advisory, asking Indian nationals in the UAE to remain vigilant, calm and follow the safety guidelines issued by the local authorities and official advisories issued from time to time. The Embassy mentioned that the airspace and regular scheduled flight operations in UAE


continue to remain suspended temporarily considering the prevailing security situation. However, the Indian and UAE airlines have started limited non-scheduled flight operations to various destinations in India in coordination with the UAE authorities subject to the operational and safety approvals of relevant authorities. The stranded Indian nationals

may avail these flights by contacting their respective airlines. “In view of the prevailing situation in the United Arab Emirates and the region, all Indian Nationals currently in the UAE are advised to continue to remain vigilant, calm, adhere to the safety guidelines of the UAE Authorities and also follow official advisories issued from time to time.” the advisory issued by Indian Embassy in the UAE stated. It mentioned that the Indian Embassy in UAE, Consulate in Dubai and their outsourced passport, consular and visa services continue to function normally. The Embassy also released the helpline numbers for Indian nationals in the UAE in case they have any query or concern.

### CENTRAL INDUSTRIAL SECURITY FORCE



### VIRTUAL INAUGURATION & FOUNDATION LAYING




Virtual inauguration of modern residential complexes for CISF personnel at Rajarhat (Kolkata) and Maidangarhi (Delhi)

Laying of foundation stones for campuses of 03 Reserve Battalions at Kamrup (Assam), Nashik (Maharashtra) and Sehore (Madhya Pradesh) worth Rs 900 Cr. (approx) on the occasion of 57th Raising Day of CISF.

“The CISF has a vital role in our security apparatus. They provide round the clock security at key locations including critical and strategic infrastructure. The force is known for its hardwork and professional outlook.”

**- Narendra Modi**



**Chief Guest**  
**SHRI AMIT SHAH**  
Hon’ble Union Home Minister and Minister of Co-operation  
from  
**KRTC Mundali, Odisha**  
on 06<sup>th</sup> March, 2026

CBC 19141/13/0002/2526

# TPWODL Celebrates 55th National Safety Month and Lineman Day

**Burla, (Correspondent):** TP Western Odisha Distribution Limited (TPWODL) celebrated Lineman Day along with the inaugural day of the 55th National Safety Month, reaffirming its strong commitment to workplace safety and recognising the invaluable contribution of its frontline workforce. The programme was inaugurated by Mr. Parveen Verma, CEO, TPWODL, who hoisted the Safety Flag at the company's Corporate Office in Burla, symbolising the beginning of month-long safety awareness initiatives across the organisation. The celebration was organised to acknowledge the dedication, courage and



tireless efforts of linemen who play a pivotal role in ensuring uninterrupted power supply to millions of consumers across Western Odisha. Working in challenging weather conditions and hazardous environments, linemen remain the backbone of the power distribution network. Speaking on the occasion and highlighting this year's National Safety Month theme, "Engage, Educate & Empower

People to Enhance Safety," Mr. Parveen Verma said, "At TPWODL, safety is not just a protocol but a core value that guides every aspect of our operations. Our linemen and field teams work tirelessly in demanding conditions to ensure reliable power supply. Through continuous training, awareness and empowerment, we remain committed to creating a safe and secure workplace for all our employees." The

event was attended by senior leadership including Mr. Prasant Kumar Singh, Chief - Operation Services; Mr. Ashish Kumar Patjoshi, Chief - Renewable Energy; Mr. P. P. Tendulkar, Chief - Commercial; Mr. Anil Kumar Ojha, Chief - Technical Services; Mr. Rupesh Goyal, Head - MMG; and Mr. Gopabandhu Satpathy, Head - Safety, along with other officials, employees and linemen of the company. On this occasion, linemen were felicitated across all offices of the company in recognition of their dedicated service. As part of the Tata Group's strong safety culture, TPWODL continues to prioritise employee wellbeing by equipping its workforce with the necessary knowledge,

training and safety tools to perform their duties responsibly and efficiently. In addition to the Corporate Office programme, Lineman Day was also celebrated across all Circle and Division Offices of TPWODL. The month-long National Safety Month activities will cover 201 Sections, all Divisions and the Head Office, engaging approx. 15,000 workforce through various awareness programmes, safety drills, training sessions and recognition initiatives. Through such initiatives, TPWODL reiterates its commitment to fostering a strong safety culture while recognising the dedication of its frontline workforce who power the region every day.

# KIMS Sets Record, Performs the Highest Number of Successful Liver Transplantations in Odisha

**Bhubaneswar (Correspondent):** The Kalinga Institute of Medical Sciences (KIMS) Bhubaneswar has set a record, performing the highest number of successful liver transplants in Odisha. The new benchmark is owed largely to the establishment of a comprehensive liver transplantation programme at KIMS, a transformative step in regional healthcare delivery. A dedicated medical team is leading this initiative. In collaboration with the renowned AIG Hospitals, Hyderabad, the KIMS Liver Transplantation Unit integrates clinical expertise, advanced technology, and evidence-based protocols to provide holistic and patient-centric care. This strategic collaboration



ensures that patients in Odisha and neighbouring states receive nationally benchmarked transplant services without the burden of geographical displacement. "Our team has achieved several historic milestones, underscoring its leadership in the field of liver transplantation in Odisha," said Dr. Satya Prakash Ray Choudhury, Senior Consultant in GI, HPB Surgery and Liver Transplant. "Our team

has performed the highest number of liver transplantations in the state and has set multiple firsts, including Odisha's first cadaveric liver transplantation, the first paediatric liver transplant, and the first laparoscopic donor hepatectomy." These achievements reflect not only surgical excellence but also a strong commitment to innovation, donor safety, and ethical transplantation practices.

# TPSODL Observes Founder's Day on 187th Birth Anniversary of Jamsetji Nusserwanji Tata



**Berhampur, (Correspondent):** TP Southern Odisha Distribution Limited (TPSODL) observed the 187th birth anniversary of Jamsetji Nusserwanji Tata along with its Foundation Day at its Corporate Office in Berhampur. The occasion was marked with reverence and reflection, celebrating the enduring legacy, vision, and values of the founder whose principles continue to guide the organisation. The day also marked the successful conclusion of the week-long Ethics Week 2026. The observance brought employees together to reaffirm their commitment to integrity, transparency, and responsible governance. Throughout the week, a series of awareness sessions, pledge-taking ceremonies, and interactive discussions

were organised across offices, encouraging employees to uphold the highest standards of professional conduct. Employees actively participated in discussions around real-life workplace scenarios and principled decision-making. The sessions created an open platform for dialogue and reflection, strengthening the culture of accountability and mutual trust within the organisation. The enthusiastic participation across departments reflected TPSODL's strong ethical foundation. The concluding ceremony was led by Mr. Amit Kumar Garg, CEO, TPSODL, who paid tribute to the visionary founder and highlighted the relevance of ethics in modern corporate functioning. Addressing the employees, he said, "Ethics is not confined to

policies or documents; it is demonstrated through our daily actions. At TPSODL, every decision we take must reinforce trust among consumers and stakeholders. Performance is important, but principles define our long-term success." On the occasion, TPSODL also launched Tata Volunteering Week 24, which will now continue as a month-long initiative across Southern Odisha. Employees will engage in community-driven activities focused on education, environmental sustainability, and social wellbeing, further strengthening the organisation's connect with the communities it serves and carrying forward the founder's vision of nation-building through responsible enterprise.

# Honouring Frontline Power Victors: Linemen's Day at TPNODL

**Baleswar, (Correspondent):** TP Northern Odisha Distribution Limited (TPNODL), a joint venture of Tata Power and the Government of Odisha, observed Linemen's Day with arduous enthusiasm and reverence. With an objective to acknowledge the unwavering commitment, grit and responsibility of linemen who form the backbone of electricity distribution services, the event was organised across all sections and pertinent establishments. The event was inaugurated by Mr. Gajanan Kale, Chief - Odisha Distribution Business and CEO,



TPNODL at the Corporate Office in the presence of Mr. Nilesh Potphode, Chief Operations Services; Mr. Jaydeep Roy, Chief Commercial & BE; Mr. Pradeep Kumar Mohanty, Chief Projects and Civil; Mr. Ramendra Banik, Head HR, IR & ESA; Mr. Vipin

Chauhan, Chief Contracts and Material Management; Mr. Tapan Patra, Head Safety; Mr. Jitendra Kumar Sahoo, HoG Safety; and Superintending Engineers, among other senior officials. Employees from across DISCOM also

participated virtually in the session. Addressing the event, Mr. Kale emphasised that linemen are the frontline warriors who ensure uninterrupted and quality power supplies for consumers, irrespective of the terrain and circumstances. "Linemen are crucial to delivering reliable electricity services, and their role at the grassroots level is paramount. At TPNODL, we are committed to empowering our linemen with the latest technology and training to enhance their safety and efficiency. I urge all linemen to prioritise safety at the site and serve consumers with the utmost importance

and humility," he said. This year marks the 55th National Safety Week, celebrated under the theme "Engage, Educate & Empower People to Enhance Safety." As part of the month-long observance, TPNODL has planned various employee engagement and awareness activities to reach out to employees and business associates, emphasising the importance of following all safety protocols without compromise. Since its inception, TPNODL's efforts towards safety and innovation have led to a significant reduction in accidents and improvement in overall operational efficiency.

# Mahindra elevates luxury with the exclusive XEV 9e Cineluxe Edition at 29.35 Lakh

**Mumbai:** Mahindra today unveiled the XEV 9e Cineluxe Edition, a more indulgent interpretation of its flagship Electric Origin SUV. Created for those who don't just appreciate luxury but expect it to be felt, Cineluxe is where craftsmanship, technology and theatre come together, effortlessly. Since its global unveiling in November 2024, the XEV 9e has rewritten expectations in India's luxury SUV space. It is already India's most awarded electric SUV, including the prestigious Green Car of the Year at ICOTY 2026, and has

found favour with people of eminence - from celebrities and sportspeople to business leaders - cementing its position as their luxury SUV of choice. The XEV 9e Cineluxe Edition introduces exclusive new exterior colours - Satin Black or Satin White - paired with all-new Chestnut Brown and Nocturne Black smooth-grain leatherette interiors. Every surface, texture and detail has been curated to elevate the in-cabin experience, turning the space into something closer to a private lounge.

# Plastic-Free Awareness Drive Held at Sankesh Picnic Spot

**Rayagada:** A plastic-free awareness programme was organized by the Rayagada Forest Range at the Sankesh picnic spot under the Gumpha Section on January 18, 2026. The programme aimed to create awareness among visitors and local residents about making picnic spots plastic-free and promoting the use of eco-friendly materials. The awareness drive witnessed participation from members of women Self-Help Groups of Gumpha Gram Panchayat, local villagers, NCC cadets from Rayagada, officials and staff of the Rayagada District Pollution Control Board, and forest staff of the Rayagada Forest Range.

# Celebrating 87th birth anniversary of Jamsetji Nusserwanji Tata

**Bhubaneswar (Correspondent):** This March 3, Tata Steel celebrates the 187th birth anniversary of Jamsetji Nusserwanji Tata by renewing its commitment to the lasting vision that has guided the Company for over a century. Jamsetji Tata was not only a pioneering industrialist but a nation builder. At a time when India lacked industrial infrastructure, he envisioned a self-reliant nation powered by steel. His belief that industry must serve

society laid the foundation for a company built on integrity, excellence, and community development. The creation of Tata Steel reflected a progressive model of responsible industrialisation, long before such concepts became global standards. Today, that vision still guides Tata Steel's strategy and actions. With operations in India, Europe, and beyond, Tata Steel is working to build a strong, globally competitive

company focused on growth with purpose. In a world changing through geopolitics, technology, and sustainability, the Company is reinforcing its foundation while getting ready for the future. In India, Tata Steel is advancing its capacity expansion plans in alignment with the country's infrastructure and manufacturing ambitions. The Company plans to expand NINL's capacity from 1 to 9.5 MTPA and has secured the Board's approval for the first phase, which will

expand capacity to 6.2 MTPA. Marking its first step in scrap-based steelmaking in India, the Company is soon going to commission its EAF-based steelmaking plant in Ludhiana, Punjab. In Europe, it is driving structural transformation to enhance competitiveness and accelerate decarbonisation. After the closure of blast furnaces in Port Talbot, UK, in September 2024, the Company's EAF-based unit is progressing as planned. In 2025,

following extensive discussions, the Government of the Netherlands and Tata Steel signed a non-binding Joint Letter of Intent for the first phase of the transition to low-emission steel production. Transitioning to greener steelmaking is one of the Company's biggest transformations in its history. Tata Steel is investing in low-carbon pathways, circular processes, and energy efficiency while staying competitive and focused on long-term value.

Investment in technologies like Hisarna and Easymelt, and cross-geography collaboration to improve performance, are among many such measures. Across operations, safety, operational excellence, financial discipline, and responsible governance remain non-negotiable. These efforts follow a generational mindset, reflecting the Founder's belief in building lasting institutions. This year, Tata Steel is celebrating Founder's Day with the theme "One Vision. One

Tata Steel," highlighting a renewed focus on working as one global organisation. A unified organisation also implies a workplace where diverse voices are heard. While the Company is strengthening collaboration across geographies to share strengths in technology, sustainability, and innovation, it is also creating synergies and boosting performance by creating a conducive environment for the workforce of tomorrow.

## The auspicious inauguration of Hi-tech Gurukula International School

**Bhubaneswar(Contributor):** This Gurukula has been started in a beautiful natural environment, near Hi-tech Medical College. Dr. Tirupati Panigrahi, founder chairman of Hi-tech Group, said that this Gurukula will continuously work towards intellectual, spiritual and character development of the students along with education. Similarly, Madhusmita Tripathi, director, said that the students of the



Gurukula will work towards building a sense of patriotism and a healthy society along with modern education.

The Hi-tech Group, which has brought revolutionary changes in the education and health sectors in the

state, has been welcomed in various quarters for imparting education through Gurukula. The inauguration ceremony of this school was attended by Managing Trustee Suresh Panigrahi, Director Savitri Panigrahi, Paralakhemundi MLA Er. Rupesh Panigrahi, Director Madhusmita Tripathi, Director Rakesh Panigrahi and Director Ankita Panigrahi.

## Shyam Steel's Macaw Paints Celebrates Holi with 'Holi Ke Rang, Magic Ke Sang' Across Eastern India

**Bhubaneswar(Contributor):** Shyam Steel's Macaw Paints brought vibrant festive cheer to Kolkata, Patna, Lucknow, Varanasi and Bhubaneswar with experiential Holi celebrations under the theme "Holi Ke Rang, Magic Ke Sang." Through this multi-city initiative, the brand curated engaging, high-energy experiences that blended traditional Holi fervour with interactive on-ground activities. In Kolkata, celebrations came alive at PC Chandra Garden, while similar large-scale events were hosted across prominent venues in Patna, Lucknow, Varanasi and



Bhubaneswar, each reflecting the unique festive spirit and cultural rhythm of the respective city. The activity drew enthusiastic

participation, with every successful attempt met with cheers and applause. The celebrations featured specially curated selfie

zones inspired by the vivid hues of the macaw bird. Speaking about the initiative, Mrs Megha Beriwal Gupta, Marketing Director at Shyam Steel Group and Macaw Paints, said, "we aimed to create engaging experiences that allowed people to celebrate freely while connecting with the brand in a natural and joyful way." Bhubaneswar added its own flavour with a vibrant Herbal Holi celebration. Across all locations, Macaw Paints' branded gull buckets were seamlessly integrated into the venues, reinforcing the brand's presence in every splash of colour.

## JSW Empowering Youth Through "Samarth" Initiative

**Paradip(Contributor):** The "Samarth" initiative launched at Dhinkia by JSW Utkal Steel has created new employment opportunities for local youth. The program is especially opening doors for rural young men and women to enter banking and government services. The "Samarth Youth Development" center has been helping rural students succeed in competitive examinations. A meritorious student, Balaram Nayak, from Nuagaon village under Erasama block of Jagatsinghpur district, successfully cleared the Customer Service Associate examination and has been selected as a Customer Service Associate at Canara Bank. He has also expressed hope of being selected in the



SBI Junior Associate and RRB examinations. He began his preparation in 2024 and credited his success to the strong academic support from Gurukul teachers and management, along with the free training, mock tests, and guidance provided under Project Samarth by the JSW Foundation, the CSR arm of JSW Utkal Steel. On this

occasion, Mr. Nayak was felicitated by JSW Foundation Head Abhijit Mohanty, Narendra Barik, Siddharth De, Gurukul teachers, and students. He stated that the CSR training support made this achievement possible and advised new students to study regularly and maintain discipline. Other students of the program, including

Prasanna Kumar Sethi, Ganesh Chandra Sethi, Swapna Rout, and Sanghamitra Behera, have also qualified in the written and physical examinations for the Odisha Home Guards. It has been reported that earlier, 15 young men and women have secured jobs in various government institutions through this initiative.

## Bargarh BJD demands "BHARAT RATNA" Honour for Biju Patnaik on 110th Birth Anniversary

**B A R G A R H , (Contributor):** The Biju Janata Dal (BJD) district unit of Bargarh commemorated the 110th birth anniversary of the esteemed statesman and former Chief Minister of Odisha, Biju Patnaik, through a respectful tribute and a gentle appeal for his posthumous recognition with the Bharat Ratna. The observance commenced with solemn floral tributes at the

statue of Biju Babu, led by former MLA and State Senior General Secretary, Delesh Acharya. The event, convened under the guidance of District President Susanta Mohapatra at the Agraga Apurva Sangh premises, was attended by a large gathering of party leaders, council members, and community members. Speakers expressed a collective admiration for Biju Patnaik—a distinguished aviator,

freedom fighter, and visionary who played a pivotal role in shaping modern Odisha—highlighting his national significance and enduring legacy. The sentiments underscore his contributions to India's independence movement and his influential role in the country's political development, and he advocates for the recognition he deserves at the highest levels. "Biju Babu was a source of pride for India.

## JK Paper Mills 55th National Safety Day Safety Week inaugurated



**Rayagada, (Contributor):** The 55th National Safety Day and Safety Week was formally inaugurated today at the premises of JK Paper Mills. On this occasion, Mr. Biswajit Dwivedi, Vice President (Commercial) attended the programme as the Chief Guest, while Mr. Sandeep Pandey, General Manager (Human Resources & Industrial Relations) joined as the Guest of Honour. At the beginning of the programme, the Chief Guest hoisted the Safety Flag and administered the Safety Pledge to the employees present. He also informed the gathering about how JK Paper Mills gives priority to safety over production and emphasized that maintaining a safe working environment is the company's top

priority. In his address, the Guest of Honour, Mr. Pandey, highlighted the importance of safety for every employee. He also elaborated on this year's Safety Week theme: "Empowering employees through engagement and education for enhanced safety." During the programme, employees presented self-composed poems focusing on the importance of safety in the workplace. As part of the Safety Week celebrations, various competitions and awareness programmes such as essay writing, quiz competitions, poster drawing, slogan writing, and safety awareness workshops have been organized for employees.

The programme was conducted by Mr. Satyajit Mohanty, General Manager

(EHS), who delivered the inaugural address and coordinated the proceedings of the meeting. He also congratulated the employees and informed that JK Paper Mills has received several state and national-level awards in the past for its excellent safety management practices. At the end of the programme, Mr. Ramarajan Biswal, Senior Manager, delivered the vote of thanks. The event was successfully coordinated with the support of Arun Das, Deputy Manager (Safety); Amit Pattnaik, Assistant Manager (Safety); and Harsharaj Sahu, Officer, who assisted in organizing the programme. Several other senior officials and employees of JK Paper Mills were also present on the occasion.

## IMFA Therubali Commences 55th National Safety Week with a Call to "Engage, Educate, and Empower"

**Rayagada(Contributor):** In a resolute demonstration of corporate responsibility and operational excellence, IMFA Therubali officially inaugurated the 55th National Safety Week. Guided by the strategic vision of Mr. GV Rakesh, EIC & Unit Head, the commencement ceremony served as a powerful platform to reinforce the plant's "Safety First" culture and its unwavering commitment to the well-being of its workforce. The event was honored by the presence of Chief Guest, Er. Chitta Ranjan Beura, Deputy Director of Factories & Boilers (F&B), Rayagada Division. The ceremony began with the



prestigious hoisting of the National Safety Flag, followed by a collective Safety Pledge. In a unified voice, leadership and employees declared, "I commit to be safe," a statement that underscores the core philosophy that personal accountability is the foundation of institutional safety. Mr. GV Rakesh, EIC & Unit Head Imfa Therubali, highlighted this year's theme, "Engage, Educate, and

Empower People to Enhance Safety." He emphasized that employees should never view safety as a competition but rather as a collaborative effort, urging the workforce to always operate under strict safety guidance and adhere religiously to established safety norms. Reinforcing this message, Er. Chitta Ranjan Beura stated that safety is of paramount importance, noting that the workplace is the

primary environment where we must master safety protocols and actively engage ourselves to ensure the protection of others. He further commended the IMFA Management for its exemplary responsiveness, specifically noting their commitment to taking immediate, corrective action on safety suggestions and audit findings. A key highlight of the program was the prize distribution to recognize the proactive

contributions of the Safety Committee members. The awardees honored for their dedication to maintaining a hazard-free environment included Upendranath Mohanty, Kaushar Ali, Madan Mohan Mohanty, Reeta Pribaka, Tirupati Nilagiri, E. Kiran Kumar, Santosh Panigrahi, Upendra Nath Dash, Bijay Ku Garadia, Giridhari Jena. The event was seamlessly hosted by Mr. Pradyumna Acharya (Sr. Manager, HSE). The proceedings concluded with a formal vote of thanks delivered by Mr. Kshitish Chandra Mahapatra (DGM, HR and Admin) and meticulously organized by Mr. Tirupati Panda (Officer, HSE).

## The 110th birth anniversary of legendary leader Biju Patnaik was celebrated

**Nimapada, (Contributor):** The 110th birth anniversary of legendary leader Biju Patnaik was celebrated with great grandeur in Nimapada of Puri district. Under the leadership of Nimapada BJD organizer Subrata Chhattoi, more than a hundred party workers took out a bike rally from near the Nimapada

New Bus Stand. The rally went around the Nimapada market and offered floral tributes to the statues of Mohan Das near Dolabedi Chhak, Mahatma Gandhi, Gopabandhu Das, and the full-sized statue of Biju Patnaik near Block Chhak. After offering garlands, they proceeded to the Town Hall premises.

There, party workers celebrated Biju Jayanti with great enthusiasm. Later in the afternoon, a meeting was held. The chief guest of the meeting was Subrata Chhattoi, organizer of the Nimapada Assembly constituency. Among those present were Puri District Women's Chairperson Sasmita Sahu, and others. All

President Bhagyadhar Khato, Town President Dhanurdhar Das, Zilla Parishad Member of Zone No. 20 Rabindra Kumar Mallik, Zilla Parishad Member of Zone No. 21 Sasmita Nayak, Zilla Parishad Member of Zone No. 18 Kunjalata Samal, Nimapada NAC Chairperson Sasmita Sahu, and others. All

speakers delivered their speeches highlighting the life and contributions of Biju Babu. Among others present were senior BJD leader Niranjan Mohapatra of Gop, Balanga Panchayat President Kripasindhu Dutta, senior BJD leader Satyabadi Mohapatra, Gop BJD President Maheswar Swain, and others.

## EDITORIAL

### Women who have been Communicating Science to Society for Centuries

Science is not limited to laboratories only; it is connected with the thinking, lifestyle and progress of society. In the development of science where male scientists are named prominently, many women over the centuries have not only contributed in scientific discoveries, but also done important work of bringing science to society. Women's role in this historical journey of science communication has been inspiring and transformative.

Even in ancient times, women played an active role in the promotion of knowledge. In India, scholars such as Gargi Vachkanvi and Maitreya made philosophical and scientific thinking a topic of discussion in society. Their questions and arguments led to the depth of knowledge at that time to the masses. This was only one form of communication, where knowledge was expanded through curiosity and dialogue.

Mary Curie's name is a pioneer among women who have given new direction to science communication in the modern age. She connected science with the life of common people through her discovery of radium. At the same time, Jane Goodall spread the message of wildlife conservation throughout the world through her research and books. Her simple language and sensitive presentation linked science with human perspective.

The contribution of women in the field of science communication is also noteworthy. Kalpana Chawla aroused enthusiasm among young people towards space science. Her life journey conveyed that science was not confined to any one class or gender. Similarly, Tessie Thomas, who has been called 'Bold Missile Woman of India', not only contributed to defense science but through her lectures and dialogues brought science closer to society.

In the digital age, new platforms of science communication have emerged. Many female scientists and teachers are presenting complex scientific topics in simple language on social media, blogs, podcasts and YouTube. This is making science a part of common people's life by not being limited to books only. During Covid-19 pandemic, women doctors, researchers and health experts strengthened scientific thinking in society by delivering correct information.

The importance of science communication by women is even greater because they become a source of inspiration for different sections of society, especially children and young people. When a girl sees a female scientist on stage, her confidence in science also awakens. Thus, science communication is not only about giving information, but also the process of social change.

The need today is for the role of women in science communication to be more widely recognized and supported. Schools, universities and media institutions should encourage such efforts. Science only becomes empowered when it reaches every segment of society—And this bridge has been built by women over many centuries.

Ancient times: the guardians of public knowledge In the early days of history science was not confined to laboratories as it is today. That was the art of living. Home remedies and botany: Women were the primary practitioners in ancient societies. They had a deep knowledge of the chemical properties of herbs and their effects, which they transmitted to society through songs and stories. Agronomy: Understanding of seed selection, soil fertility and the weather cycle was developed by women themselves and made it a collective knowledge. . The Middle Ages: Communication Among Challenges Even in the Middle Ages, when men's monopoly on education began to increase, women did not give in. Manuscripts and translations: Many learned women translated scientific texts so they could be understood by the common people. kitchen—A laboratory: Complex scientific processes such as food preservation and fermentation were established in society by women as 'traditional recipes'. 3. The modern age and scientific consciousness In the 19th and 20th centuries, women formally assumed the role of science communicators: Marie Curie and Irenaeus Curie: They not only researched, but conveyed the importance of radiology to the general public and military. Rachel Carson: Her book 'Silent Spring' made environmental science a household topic.

# Nature's Signs Animals and Birds



**Amit Baijnath Garg**

Recently, a study by the Dept of Biology at Jai Narayan Vyas University in Jodhpur proved that weather signals can be discerned from

bird nest building patterns to animal behaviour. This research, published in the International Journal of Environmental Science, states that animal behaviour has an accuracy of up to 80 percent. This research proves that this age-old traditional knowledge, used by villagers, has now been scientifically validated. For example, the dance or chirping of peacocks signals the onset of monsoon. Similarly, ants gathering food signals a drought.

Dr. Gemraman Parihar, the department's head of research, and his research team argue that natural signs are still effective. The behaviour of animals and birds can be used to predict the weather. They claim that scientific research has confirmed these facts. Their research has provided scientific evidence for ancient practices. The research concludes that the behaviour of animals and birds is still fully capable of predicting the weather. The research states that the behaviour of animals and birds provides accurate weather predictions. This finding has been proven to be approximately 80 percent accurate. The research claims that traditional knowledge is unmatched even today. Its signs still hold true even under scientific scrutiny. The research also reveals how in ancient times, people used the behaviour of ecosystem members to predict the weather. The behaviour of foxes, jackals, and other animals was also part of this system. For example, foxes control the number of rats in the fields, which is a good sign for agriculture. According to research, people in rural areas of Rajasthan, such as the Bhil, Meena, and Banjara communities, still follow animal and bird cues. For example, when red ants move their eggs, it signals the approach of rain. This reflects the wisdom of these ecosystem animals, who provide accurate weather information. In the villages of Marwar, nature's cues are still followed to predict the weather. While science has

developed advanced technologies for weather forecasting, these traditional methods remain highly useful. A recent university study proves that important weather signals are hidden in the behaviour of animals and birds. This traditional knowledge, based on the behaviour of animals, birds, and other animals, has become an important reference not only for villagers but also for scientists. It plays a crucial role in maintaining the balance of the ecosystem.

These ancient practices are now being further validated through modern science. Research suggests that traditional bird signs have specific meanings. Peacocks dancing indicates the onset of monsoon. Ants gathering food is a sign of drought. Snakes climbing trees predict the possibility of rain. The presence of foxes indicates the control of rats in the fields. Bird signs are also linked to weather and life, for example, a sparrow or bird building a nest in a house is a sign of prosperity and progress. The arrival of a parrot in the house indicates financial gain, the completion of pending work, and the blessings of Goddess Lakshmi. The appearance of an owl in the house is a sign of something auspicious happening soon, as it is the vehicle of Goddess Lakshmi. The arrival of a crow indicates the arrival of guests. The sighting of a peacock, bluetit, and white pigeon in the morning is considered a sign of a good day.

Similarly, weather indicators from birds include their flight altitude (low-altitude flight indicates rain, while high-altitude flight indicates good weather), their calls (e.g., the hooting of an owl or the dancing of a peacock is considered a sign of rain), and their feeding behaviour (eating heavily before a storm). Some ancient and rural traditions also consider the nesting location of birds as a weather indicator. When birds fly close to the ground, it is considered a sign of rain. Peacocks dancing, owls shrieking, and sparrows rolling in the dust are also considered signs of rain. If crow's nest on thorny trees, rainfall is likely to be low. Nesting on trees like mango or karanj is a sign of good rainfall. Red ants moving their eggs around also indicates the arrival of rain.

Similarly, birds soaring high in the sky is a sign of good weather. Crows flying in pairs also indicates

the same. Before a storm, birds become more active and eat abundantly to store fat. Chickens become restless or rub themselves in the dust when rain approaches. Red or dark swans' chest bones may indicate a cold and stormy winter. Cranes flying in circular circles in the sky signal imminent rain. The rapid construction of termite nests on trees signals good rainfall. When birds gather together and flap their wings, a change in weather can be expected. The Chatak is considered a rain bird, and its arrival signals the monsoon season. Thus, observing the movements of animals and birds can largely predict the weather.

This is our traditional knowledge related to birds, which our ancestors held in high regard. Humans have long used bird behaviour as a barometer of changing seasons. There are many folk tales and stories that suggest that the increased or decreased activity of birds signals the end of one chapter and the beginning of a new one. Most of us have forgotten this connection, but any birdwatcher will surely tell you about the excitement of seeing birds in vibrant colors during the last dull days of winter. Like other birds, migratory birds also offer many predictions. For example, the nightly chirping of mockingbirds and blackbirds indicates warmer days are coming. Many migratory birds signal the arrival or departure of winter.

Traditional knowledge related to birds is diverse and permeates every aspect of life. In environmental terms, the study of birds (ornithology) helps us understand ecological balance, as they play a vital role in pest control, pollination, and seed dispersal. Birds provide early indicators of environmental change. Declines in their populations can signal habitat degradation or climate change. Birds control pests, disperse seeds, and aid in pollination, which is vital for many plants humans use. Birds also play a vital role in cleaning up dead animals and waste. The scientific study of birds helps us thoroughly understand their behaviour, migration, breeding, and physical characteristics. We simply need to understand this knowledge and recognize its scientific applications.

## Asia is a victim of conspiracies around the world



**Dr Satywan Saurabh**

Asia's geopolitical landscape has been fraught with conflict, interference, and intrigue for centuries. This continent is not only a hub of population and culture, but is

also considered the world's richest region in terms of natural resources. Yet, ironically, this same Asia has repeatedly been plunged into the flames of war, instability, and poverty. Whether it's the escalating tensions on the Iran-Pakistan border or the border conflict between Cambodia and Thailand, these events do not appear to be mere coincidences. Behind them, a broader global strategy appears to be at work, in which external powers pursue their own interests by keeping Asia in turmoil. Let Asia burn, and the coffers of developed countries fill—this is the naked truth of this politics. Countries in the Global South are rich in resources but lack decision-making power. Despite possessing oil, gas, coal, rare minerals, fertile land, and a young population—these countries remain mired in debt, unemployment, and instability. The root cause of this is not merely internal weaknesses, but the global system that has been designed to keep them dependent for decades. The plunder that developed countries began during the colonial period continues today in new forms—sometimes in the name of free trade, sometimes under the guise of democracy and human rights.

The Iran-Pakistan tensions are the latest example. Long-standing sanctions on Iran have weakened its economy, while Pakistan continues to live under foreign debt and economic pressure. Consequently, the escalating border tensions are no longer merely a local issue. Instability in sensitive areas like Balochistan could pit the two countries against each other. If this tension escalates, energy routes throughout South Asia and West Asia will be disrupted. Oil and gas prices will rise, directly benefiting the powers that control global markets. While war may be in Asia, profits will be reaped elsewhere.

History bears witness to the frequent attempts by external powers to incite local conflicts to further their own interests. Sometimes they act as mediators, and sometimes they establish their bases under the guise of military aid and security. Afghanistan is a prime example, where decades of war raged, society was torn apart, and ultimately the very country they claimed to "help" suffered the most. Similar situations are being

replicated in other parts of Asia. The Cambodia-Thailand dispute in Southeast Asia appears to be part of this strategy. Tensions over temples and historical sites in the border region are not new, but the military overtones they have taken in recent years are worrying. The region is considered rich in rare minerals, demand for which is rapidly increasing in the era of new technologies and energy transition. When two neighboring countries engage in conflict, it becomes easier for outside powers to intervene. Access to resources is gained in exchange for military aid, investment, and loans. Ultimately, the local population suffers—in the form of environmental destruction, displacement, and economic inequality. This situation in the Global South did not arise suddenly. Since the mid-20th century, developed countries have used Asia, Africa, and Latin America as a source of raw materials and a market for finished goods. Colonial rule ended, but the economic structure remained unchanged. Even today, international financial institutions provide loans, but in return, they impose conditions that strip these countries of their policy independence. Privatization of resources, reduction of subsidies, and import dependence—these are all part of the same trap.

Internal weaknesses within this system are no less responsible. Corruption, power struggles, ethnic and religious divisions erode these countries from within. When societies are divided, external interference becomes easier. Those in power compromise long-term national interests for short-term gains. The voice of the people is suppressed, and decisions are limited to a select few.

Nevertheless, it would be a grave mistake to assume that the Global South is helpless. Solutions exist, provided there is will. The first step is regional solidarity. Asian countries must resolve their disputes through dialogue and cooperation. Whether it's border disputes or the sharing of resources—the solution lies not in war, but in shared understanding. When neighboring countries stand together, the scope for external forces will automatically diminish.

Another important aspect is economic self-reliance. Real control over resources is possible only when local industries and the public sector are strong. Emphasis must be placed on value addition rather than simply exporting raw materials. Transfer of technology is essential, but production capacity must be developed within the country. Self-reliance does not mean cutting off from the world, but connecting on an equal basis. Environmental justice is also a crucial part of this struggle. Indigenous and rural communities are bearing the brunt of the increased mining being carried out in the name of the energy

transition. The countries most affected by the adverse effects of climate change are those that have contributed the least to it. Therefore, it is imperative to demand equitable participation and accountability on global platforms.

Change is also necessary at the societal level. The education system must develop not only technical knowledge but also an understanding of history, politics, and the global economy. The media and information systems must be strengthened to protect society from propaganda and misinformation. The younger generation must understand that local problems are often linked to global structures. Ultimately, Asia's future lies in its own hands. If this continent continues to be embroiled in conflict and instability, it will impact the entire world. But if Asia unites and takes control of its resources, its policies, and its societies, the global balance of power can change. This is not a time for mere reaction, but for introspection and concrete action. Asia must now refuse to become someone else's battlefield. The resources are ours, the people are ours, and the future must be ours. The Global South needs justice, not pity; respect, not interference. This is the true direction of struggle, and it can become the foundation of a just world order. It eliminates their sins of many lifetimes. The new Almanac (Panji) is opened and read aloud before the Lord. In the temple the deities adom 'Chacheri Beshu' dressed in beautiful red silk attire (Phagu Khandua). On Dola Purnima day the deities in the temple undergo Rajarajeswar Beshu (Suna Beshu) adorned with massive gold ornaments which is called the attire of king of kings symbolising Lord's supreme sovereignty over the Universe.

Odisha's rich tradition and precious cultural heritage are not only vast and vivacious but also a living legend which has stood the test of time. Dola Purnima is such a festival which carries mythological, religious, social and cultural significance with it. The easy accessibility of the divine at every door point of the devotees in the Chacheri Bhog and Dola Melanas is of prime importance in the sense that all are equal in the eyes of Lord irrespective of caste, wealth, status and religion. The grandest Dola Melan serves as a meeting place for the nearby villagers for interaction displaying unity and solidarity. The Melan promotes brotherhood and communal harmony patronising the cultural activities like Pala, Daskathia and Gotipua protecting them from utter extinction. To add to this, it is also observed as a harvest ending festival and cows are worshipped on this day (Gomata puja) honouring the animals who provide livelihood. The Chacheri bhoga and Dola Melana justify and vivify the fact that Vaishnavism was deep rooted in Odishan soil and well pervasive in its culture from time immemorial.

## Less to say, more to do: Ranbir Singh Gangwa



**Dr. Priyanka Saurabh**

Ranbir Singh Gangwa was born on March 4, 1964, into a potter (Prajapati) family in Gangwa village, Hisar district, Haryana. His father, Rajaram, and mother, Kesar Devi, were from a simple rural background. Raised in limited resources, Gangwa received a higher secondary education and early developed an interest in social work. Living in a rural environment, he deeply understood the problems of farmers, laborers, and the backward classes, which later shaped his political career.

His first formal election was for the Zila Parishad. In 2000, he contested the Hisar Zila Parishad elections, where he faced initial defeat. However, this defeat strengthened him. In 2005, he won re-election and became a Zila Parishad member, later rising to the position of Vice President. During this time, he accomplished significant work to improve rural roads, drinking

water, education, and health facilities. This period laid a strong foundation for his political career.

In 2009, he contested the Nalwa Assembly constituency on an Indian National Lok Dal ticket. He lost the election to senior Congress leader Sampat Singh, but his political influence remained. In 2010, he was elected to the Rajya Sabha on behalf of the Indian National Lok Dal. As a Rajya Sabha member, he raised issues related to Haryana's rural and backward classes at the national level and earned recognition for his activism.

In 2014, he was elected MLA from the Nalwa Assembly constituency. He defeated veteran leaders like Sampat Singh and former Deputy Chief Minister Chandramohan. As an MLA, he accelerated development work in the area and maintained constant communication with the public.

In 2019, he joined the Bharatiya Janata Party and won the Nalwa seat again. He was appointed Deputy Speaker of the Assembly, where he played a key role in ensuring the smooth and orderly conduct of the House proceedings.

In the 2024 assembly elections, the BJP nominated him from the Barwala assembly constituency. This was a new political challenge, but Ranbir Gangwa turned it into an opportunity. He won a historic victory in Barwala, leading the BJP to victory there for the first time. Following this victory, he was inducted as a cabinet minister in the Nayab Saini cabinet. This was a significant milestone in his nearly 34-year political struggle.

After becoming a cabinet minister, Ranbir Gangwa was given responsibility for the Public Works Department (PWD) and the Public Health Engineering Department. He clarified that his aim was to make the department transparent and accountable. Haryana's road network spans approximately 30,664 kilometers. The PWD has a target of re-carpeting 6,500 kilometers of roads for 2025–26. A strict monitoring system has been implemented to ensure quality and curb corruption.

Under the Public Health Engineering Department, his focus is on providing clean drinking water, pipeline expansion, and water conservation schemes in rural areas. Through the Haryana Golden Jubilee Mahagram Yojana, infrastructure in villages is being strengthened.

He believes that strong villages are the foundation of a strong Haryana. Ranbir Gangwa is considered a strong representative of the backward classes. He holds a strong influence in the Prajapati community and is known for championing the cause of the OBC community. His simplicity and unassuming demeanor make him popular among the general public. A key feature of his political career is his clean image. He has no criminal cases against him in his 34 years in public life. His declared assets and liabilities are transparently disclosed in his election affidavits, reflecting his integrity and accountability.

Ranbir Singh Gangwa's life embodies the message that through persistent hard work, grassroots connections, and dedication to public service, one can reach great heights. His journey from Zila Parishad to Cabinet Minister is an inspiring tale of struggle and determination. Today, he has established himself as a dynamic, grassroots, and development-oriented leader in Haryana politics, and under his leadership, the state's infrastructure is progressing in a new direction.

# Police arrest 3 accused in Gajapati district hospital attack incident

Paralakhemundi, (Correspondent) :Paralakhemundi Police have arrested 3 accused for abusing, assaulting and obstructing the work of a nursing officer working at the district hospital in Paralakhemundi . Yesterday at 7:30 pm, Manoj Kumar Sabar was performing his duties as a nursing officer at the District Hospital. While he was administering an



injection to a patient as per the doctor's advice, Abdul Imtiaz and some others came to the hospital, abused him in obscene language and obstructed his official work. Along with this, they beat him up, causing a cut on his left

ear and blood to flow and his clothes were torn. Based on this complaint, a case was registered at Paralakhemundi Police Station, Case No. 72, and an investigation was conducted. The police have arrested 3 accused in this incident, Abdul Ezaj, Abdul Imtiaz, and Tangudu Bhanuprasad. The 3 arrested accused were sent to the court today and the investigation of the case is ongoing.

# A farmer from Baghalpur village dies due to snake bite

SUBARNAPUR ,correspondence: Girish Pradhan (38) of Baghalpur village under Raksa Gram Panchayat of Ulunda Block, Subarnapur district Yesterday at around 1.30 pm, while he was working in his field, a poisonous snake suddenly bit him on his right leg. Upon knowing this, he immediately ran home and informed his family and asked his wife for some water to drink. After drinking the water, he suddenly fell unconscious. No matter how many times his family called him, he did not respond. The family members were scared and immediately rushed him to the Subarnapur District Headquarters Hospital. Later, the doctor examined him and declared him dead and informed the police. The police reached the spot and seized the body. After his wife Mami Pradhan filed a complaint at Hikuri Beat House under Birmaharajpur police station, the police reached there at 10 am yesterday and registered a case of unnatural death, conducted an autopsy and sent the body for post-mortem. Since he had two children, the locals have demanded that the government provide some financial assistance to this helpless family. Since Shri Pradhan was a sociable person, his untimely demise has cast a shadow of grief over the entire area.

Teacher Arrested For Raping Class VIII Girl Bhubaneswar: The police have arrested a teacher of a Primary School in Katringia Panchayat in Gochhapada police station in Kandhamal district for allegedly raping a minor girl of the school. Kunu Bhoi, was produced in court following his arrest. The crime began on November 21 last year when he took the Class VIII girl student to a science fair in Phulbani where she had displayed her project.

# Woman's Hand Severed in Paddy Threshing Machine Accident ; Police Seize Machine

Kantabanji, correspondence : A woman's hand was severed in a paddy threshing machine accident in Bolangir district, following which a complaint was lodged at Turekela Police Station and the machine was seized by the police. The incident took place in Bariali village under Halanbhata panchayat within the jurisdiction of Turekela

police station. The injured woman has been identified as Golapi Majhi, wife of Trilochan Majhi of Bariali village. According to reports, Golapi Majhi had gone to thresh paddy when her hand accidentally got caught in the paddy threshing machine, resulting in a serious injury in which her hand was severed. After the incident, a complaint

was filed at Turekela Police Station. Acting on the complaint, police reached the spot and seized the paddy threshing machine involved in the accident. Sources said the threshing machine and the tractor used in the operation belong to Nitya Patel of Dholmandal village. Police have launched an investigation into the incident.

# Special OTET question paper leak case, Odisha High Court grants bail to all accused

Cuttack, (Correspondent) : The Odisha High Court has granted conditional bail to all the eight accused arrested in the Special OTET question paper leak case. In August last year, the Crime Branch had arrested eight persons including Board of Secondary Education (BSE) Vice-President Nihar Ranjan Mohanty in the Special Odisha Teacher Eligibility Test (OTET) question paper leak case. The other seven accused arrested were identified as BSE data entry operator Jitan Maharana, Ramji Prasad Gupta, Bijaya Kumar Mishra, Jayanta Kumar Rout, Ajay Kumar Sahu, Prasant Kumar Khamari, and Sanatan Bishoi. While granting bail, the court imposed strict conditions on

the accused. The court directed them to cooperate with the ongoing investigation and barred them from leaving the country without prior permission. For the context, the OTET exam - scheduled for July 20, 2025, for in-service primary school teachers - was postponed just hours before it was to begin due to the circulation of identical handwritten and printed question papers on social media platforms. According to the Crime Branch the principal accused, Jitan Moharana, a data entry operator at BSE, accessed the question paper from BSE Vice President Mohanty's laptop - violating security protocol - and distributed it further.

# District Administration holds press conference to celebrate International Women's Day in Subarnapur district

SUBARNAPUR ,(Correspondent)-- A press conference for the upcoming International Women's Day was held at the Subarnapur Collectorate mini conference hall on Thursday under the chairmanship of Additional District Magistrate (Revenue) Rajendra Majhi. In this conference, information was given through the press conference about various programs related to International Women's Day to be organized by the Sports Department for three days. The press conference was attended by District Sports Officer Chittaranjan Mishra, District Panchayat cum District Information and Public Relations Officer Arjun Majhi and Sub-Division Information and Public Relations Officer, Ms. Preeti Suna. It has been informed in the



conference that this year, on the first day on March 6 of International Women's Day, yoga practice and various activities for the physical and mental well-being of women will be organized at the District Town Hall from 6.30 am to 9.30 am. Similarly, on the second day, on March 7, in the morning, a program related to self-defense training and leadership

development will be held at the District Town Hall. On the last day, on March 8, a grand march will be organized from Sureshwari Temple to Sonepur College Ground on the occasion of International Women's Day. Students of various schools and colleges of the district, women from self-help groups, women sportspersons and housewives will be

mainly involved in all these programs, informed Additional District Magistrate Rajendra Majhi. It was requested to disseminate information related to the celebration of this International Women's Day to the public and women and to publish and broadcast all the programs in their newspapers and electronic media.

# 5th National Safety Day & Week Observed at Paradip Port Authority

Paradip, (Correspondent): The 55th National Safety Day and Week celebrations commenced at Paradip Port Authority (PPA) with great enthusiasm, reaffirming the port's commitment to strengthening safety culture and employee welfare. This year's theme, "Engage, Educate & Empower People to Enhance Safety," highlights the importance of collective responsibility in ensuring a safe working environment. The programme was inaugurated by Shri P. L. Haranadh, Chairman, Paradip Port



Authority, who hoisted the Safety Week Flag and administered the Safety Pledge to officers, employees, and workers of the port. On the occasion, he also flagged off a Safety Awareness Rally and "Safety Rath" from the PPA Administrative

Building, which culminated at Gate No. 4 of Paradip Port, spreading awareness on safe work practices among employees and port users. The event was graced by Shri Susil Chandra Nahak, Chief Mechanical Engineer, along with Heads of

Departments (HoDs) and senior officers of PPA. The programme was coordinated by Shri A. Ramesh on behalf of M/s Chennai Radha. Addressing the gathering, Chairman Shri P. L. Haranadh emphasized the importance of safety, health, and modernization in port operations. He highlighted the Port Authority's strategic roadmap towards achieving 100% mechanization by 2030, which aims to modernize cargo handling systems, reduce manual intervention in high-risk areas, and enhance operational efficiency.

# GAJAPATI'S YOUNG PRODIGY BATTLES A DEADLY ILLNESS

Paralakhemundi: (Correspondent): - A heart-rending appeal has emerged from the remote tribal belt of Gajapati district, where an eight-year-old boy with bright dreams and exceptional talent now stands in a desperate battle for life. Dhananjay Nayak, a promising student studying in Class-III, is suffering from a fatal bone marrow disease that requires an urgent and costly transplant for survival. Dhananjay is the beloved son of Kashinath Nayak and Tamal Nayak of Bankijhula village under Chandiput Panchayat in Mohana block. Born after years of prayers and hopeful vows by his parents, the little boy had become the very light of their humble household. Despite living in a remote tribal



village and struggling with poverty, his parents nurtured many dreams for their son's future. Kashinath Nayak, a daily wage labourer, sustains the family with his meagre earnings. Yet, like every hopeful father, he carried boundless aspirations for his gifted child. Fate, however, dealt a cruel blow when Dhananjay

suddenly fell seriously ill. He was first taken to the R. Udayagiri Community Health Centre and later shifted to the District Headquarters Hospital at Paralakhemundi. After further examinations at MKCG Medical College and Hospital in Berhampur, doctors diagnosed a grave bone marrow

disorder. Following initial treatment, Dhananjay was referred to AIIMS Bhubaneswar for advanced care. Medical experts there advised that the young boy's life could be saved only through a bone marrow transplant, a procedure that may cost between Rs40 to Rs50 lakh. For the impoverished parents, the staggering cost has shattered all hope. Hearing the estimate, they felt as though the ground beneath their feet had slipped away. Returning to their village in utter despair, the grief-stricken parents now struggle with a haunting question — what misfortune has befallen their innocent child? Clutching their ailing son close to their hearts, Kashinath and

Tamal Nayak have made a tearful appeal to the administration, government authorities, and compassionate citizens to extend financial assistance so that their child may receive the life-saving treatment he urgently needs. Moved by the family's plight, local residents and well-wishers have also urged the district administration and the State Government to intervene and ensure that Dhananjay's treatment is arranged without delay. As the young boy continues his fragile fight for life, the people of the region hope that kindness and collective humanity will come forward to rescue a budding life that still holds so many dreams yet to blossom.

# Harihar Bhet Celebrated with Religious Fervour

Bolangir, ( Correspondent): The traditional Harihar Bhet ceremony was observed with great religious fervour in Bolangir on Tuesday night with the participation of devotees from different parts of the town. On the occasion, after special worship of the idols of Radha and Krishna at the residence of Madan Mohan Rath at Tikrapada, the divine couple was placed on a decorated palanquin and taken out in a grand procession. The procession, accompanied by kirtan groups, traditional musical instruments and ceremonial umbrellas, moved through different parts of the locality. The idols were first taken to the Ram Temple at Tikrapada for the ceremonial meeting and later carried to the Ram Temple at Malpada. Meanwhile, Baba Ashutosh was also brought in a grand procession from Ananda Math at Malpada to the Malpada Ramaswamy Temple to mark the occasion. Special rituals and worship were performed at the temple at night.

8001/119/2526 OFFICE OF THE CHIEF EXECUTIVE CHILIKA DEVELOPMENT AUTHORITY PLOT NO- 493(P), PALASAPALI, KHURDA, BHUBANESWAR-751020  
Tender Call NOTICE NO. 342/CDA/2026, DT. 23.02.2026.  
The Chief Executive of the Chilika Development Authority, Plot No. 493(P), Palasapali, Khurda, Bhubaneswar-751020, invites tenders from renowned farms for the supply of Tide Gauge. The specification and other details will be found on the Official Website: <https://tendersodisha.gov.in>. The last date for submission of quotations is 5th March 2026.  
Sd/-  
Addl. Chief Executive  
Chilika Development Authority  
OIPR-8001/8138/1/25-26/0013

## Lara Dutta Bhupathi opens up about living in Dubai amid Middle East tensions

Lara Dutta Bhupathi shared an emotional update on Wednesday, revealing that she is currently in Dubai with her daughter, Saira, as the Iran-Israel conflict continues to escalate in the Middle East. In an Instagram video, the actress described the past few days as stressful, noting the presence of fighter jets flying overhead and loud explosions. Despite the unsettling environment, Lara reassured her followers, saying, "Though we live in a villa in a very safe neighbourhood, the windows shake, the house and the doors rattle, and it's unnerving. But I haven't felt unsafe, not even once." The actress also expressed her appreciation for the UAE government's efforts to ensure the safety and well-being of residents. She said, "I just want to say that the UAE government has done an incredible job. I think, for every single person — I won't speak for anybody else — we felt really looked after. We felt wanted, we felt protected, regardless of our nationality or where we're from. We feel like we count, we matter. The UAE government, as somebody living in this city, is making sure they do everything in their power to protect us and keep us safe." Lara's heartfelt message comes amid growing concerns over the ongoing conflict in the region. The US and Israeli strikes have resulted in the deaths of Iranian Supreme Leader Ayatollah Khamenei and several senior military officials, causing widespread explosions in Tehran and other major Iranian cities. In retaliation, Iran launched ballistic missiles and drones targeting US and allied assets across the Middle East, including in Israel, Bahrain, Kuwait, Qatar, Saudi Arabia, the UAE, and Jordan. This has only intensified the situation, further heightening risks for both civilians and expatriates in the region.



## Hand-in-hand, Aishwarya, Abhishek Bachchan arrive at Arjun Tendulkar wedding

Wedding festivities for cricketer Arjun Tendulkar and businesswoman Saaniya Chandhok began in grand style in Mumbai on Thursday, drawing a guest list from India's cricketing, business, and film industries. The son of cricket legend Sachin Tendulkar and Anjali Tendulkar is tying the knot with Chandhok, the granddaughter of noted industrialist Ravi Ghai. The ceremony on March 5 has become one of the most talked-about celebrity weddings of the year, with several prominent figures expected to attend the celebrations. Among the early arrivals were Bollywood stars Abhishek Bachchan and Aishwarya Rai Bachchan, who reached the venue together and briefly posed for photographers gathered outside. For the occasion, Aishwarya chose an elegant blue anarkali ensemble, while Abhishek complemented her look with a black kurta paired with white trousers.



## 5 best foods to have on empty stomach for weight loss



probiotic properties that promote gut health and aid digestion, making it a wise choice for the first meal of the day. These probiotics help maintain a healthy balance of beneficial bacteria in the gut, which is crucial for overall digestive health. Additionally, Greek yoghurt is rich in protein, which not only supports muscle maintenance but also helps with weight

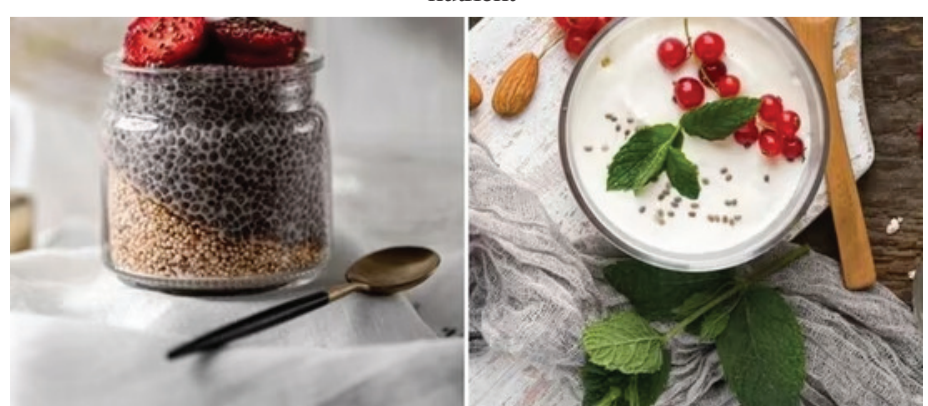
management by keeping you feeling fuller for longer periods. Moreover, when paired with fresh fruits and almonds, Greek yogurt transforms into a delicious and nutritious morning parfait. The combination of creamy yoghurt, sweet fruits, and crunchy almonds provides a balanced mix of macronutrients and micronutrients, making it a satisfying and wholesome breakfast option.

2. Almonds

They are a powerhouse of nutrition, offering an array of benefits beyond merely providing energy. Rich in protein, healthy fats, and essential nutrients, almonds are a versatile addition to any diet. Their high magnesium content supports numerous bodily functions, including energy production, muscle function, and bone health. Moreover, almonds boast antioxidant properties, such as vitamin E, which help combat oxidative stress and inflammation, promoting heart health and supporting the immune system. Additionally, the fibre in almonds aids digestion and promotes feelings of fullness, making them an excellent choice for weight management. With their

### 1. Greek yoghurt

It is an excellent choice to kickstart your day for several reasons. Firstly, it boasts



## 5 meditation tips for moms to cultivate calm in everyday life



In the fast-paced life of today, meditation can be a very effective tool to manage emotions, increase productivity and stay calm. Especially for mothers who juggle with multiple tasks every day, some moments of mindfulness can boost efficiency and increase joy. Meditation isn't just about closing your eyes and focusing within, but also incorporating mindfulness in your daily life. Starting your day with some deep breathing can set the tone of the day, while spending some time with yourself can help sort thoughts. Balancing the demands of motherhood with self-care can feel like an uphill battle, but amidst the hustle and bustle, there lies an oasis of calm waiting to be discovered through meditation.

1. Embrace mini moments of meditation  
Who says meditation has to be a lengthy affair? Incorporate

micro-moments of mindfulness into your day, whether it's taking a few deep breaths while waiting for the kettle to boil or finding stillness in the midst of a chaotic morning routine. By embracing these mini moments of meditation, you can weave tranquility seamlessly into your daily life without adding extra stress to your busy schedule.

### 2. Make mindfulness a family affair

Get the whole family involved in the practice of mindfulness. Whether it's a peaceful walk in nature, a moment of gratitude before a family meal, or a bedtime meditation session with your little ones, incorporating mindfulness into family activities can strengthen bonds and create moments of shared serenity amidst the hustle and bustle of everyday life.

### 3. Create your zen zone

Designate a tranquil sanctuary within your home where you can retreat for moments of meditation and reflection. Whether it's a cozy nook adorned with plush cushions and flickering candles or a sunlit corner of your garden, make it your own. By creating a dedicated space for meditation, you signal to yourself and your family that self-care is a priority worth cherishing.

rich profile and diverse health benefits, almonds are not just a snack but a valuable component of a balanced and wholesome diet.

### 3. Berries

They make for a great breakfast option because they are rich in antioxidants, which help reduce inflammation and oxidative stress in the body. Starting your day with a dose of antioxidants from berries can contribute to overall health and well-being. Additionally, berries are low in calories and high in fibre, making them a satisfying choice that can help keep you feeling full until your next meal. Whether you enjoy them on top of yogurt or oatmeal, blended into a smoothie, or simply eaten on their own, berries are a delicious and nutritious addition to any breakfast.

### 4. Experiment with meditation styles

Explore a variety of meditation techniques to discover what resonates most with you. From guided meditations that offer soothing narration and gentle prompts to mindfulness practices that focus on breath awareness and present-moment awareness, there's a meditation style for every mood and moment. Don't be afraid to experiment until you find the perfect fit for your lifestyle and preferences.

### 5. Practice self-compassion

As moms, we often put immense pressure on ourselves to be perfect. But perfection is overrated, and self-compassion is essential. If your mind wanders during meditation or you miss a session altogether, practice kindness and understanding toward yourself. Remember that you're doing the best you can, and every moment of self-care, no matter how small, is a step toward greater well-being for yourself and your family.

### 4. Avocados

They are a wonderful addition to your morning routine because they are creamy, delicious, and incredibly nutritious. Packed with healthy fats and fibre, avocados help keep you feeling full and satisfied throughout the morning. They also provide essential nutrients like potassium and vitamin E, which support overall health. Whether you spread some mashed avocado on whole-grain toast or add slices to your breakfast bowl, incorporating avocados into your breakfast is a nutritious and satisfying way to start your day.

### 5. Chia seeds

Chia Seeds, these tiny seeds are nutritional powerhouses, packed with omega-3 fatty acids, fibre, protein, and various vitamins and minerals. When soaked in liquid, chia seeds form a gel-like consistency, making them an excellent base for overnight oats or chia pudding.

# T20 WC: India Beat England By 7 Runs To Set Up Final Vs NZ

Mumbai: India clinched a thrilling seven-run victory over England in the second semi-final of the ICC Men's T20 World Cup at the iconic Wankhede Stadium to confirm set up a final date with New Zealand at the Narendra Modi Stadium in Ahmedabad. The Men in Blue are now just one step away from becoming the first team to defend their T20 World Cup crown and lift the title twice. Batting first, India posted 253/7 against England, powered by Sanju Samson's explosive 89 off 42 balls. Samson continued his rich form in the tournament, smashing 89 off 42 balls, laced with eight fours and seven sixes. The right-hander dominated the England bowlers from the outset and anchored India's innings with aggressive strokeplay across the ground. After Abhishek Sharma fell early for nine, Samson stitched a crucial 97-run partnership for the second wicket with Ishan Kishan, who made a quickfire 39 off 18 balls. Samson then added another 43 runs for the third wicket alongside Shivam Dube, who contributed a brisk 43 off 25 deliveries. Samson brought up his half-century in just 26 balls, his second successive fifty in the tournament, before eventually falling while attempting an expansive shot, caught by Phil Salt off Will Jacks. Late cameos from Hardik Pandya, who scored 27 off 12 balls, and Tilak Varma, who struck 21 off just seven balls, helped India surge



past the 250 mark. For England, Will Jacks and Adil Rashid picked up two wickets each but struggled to contain India's aggressive batting display. Coming to the chase, England suffered early setbacks as Pandya, Jasprit Bumrah and Varun Chakaravathy picked one wicket each in the powerplay, but the Englishmen looked unfazed by the blows to take their total to 68/3 at the end of the sixth over. Though the 2022 champions' top-order faltered, middle-order batter Jacob Bethell kept his side in the hunt with a brilliant century, the third fastest for England. He shared crucial partnerships with Jos Buttler and Tom Banton before bringing up a game-changing 77-run stand with Will Jacks and a 50-run stand with Sam Curran, which kept the momentum swiftly hanging in balance. However, Pandya dismissing Curran in the penultimate over mounted pressure on England. Though Bethell kept going and gave his best, clutch bowling from Bumrah and Pandya in the death meant England needed 30 off the final over. With Dube given charge of bowling the last over, a brilliant fielding display led to Bethell's dismissal off the first delivery, putting an end to England's hopes as India restricted Brook-led side to 246/7 in 20 overs. The Harry Brook-led side fell short by eight runs as India marched into the final for a second consecutive time.

## T20 WC: Bumrah Reaches 500-Wicket Milestone In International Cricket

Mumbai: India's pace spearhead, Jasprit Bumrah, achieved a monumental career milestone during the ICC Men's T20 World Cup 2026 semi-final against England at the Wankhede Stadium on Thursday as he became only the eighth Indian bowler to reach 500 international wickets with the first wicket he took off the opening delivery of his spell in the fifth over of England's chase. Since making his debut against Australia in Sydney on January 23, 2016, Bumrah has scalped 500 wickets across all formats, joining an elite club that includes cricketing legends Anil Kumble, Ravichandran Ashwin,



Harbhajan Singh, Kapil Dev, Ravindra Jadeja, Zaheer Khan, and Javagal Srinath as the seven other bowlers to have achieved the feat. The 32-year-old fast bowler from Ahmedabad has now picked 234 wickets in 52 Tests, 149 wickets in 89 ODIs, and 117

wickets in 94 T20Is, highlighting his consistent performance and powerful influence across all formats. Bumrah's performance in the ongoing T20 World Cup has been equally impressive. He had bagged nine wickets in six matches for the

Suryakumar Yadav-led side, and took his tally to ten with England skipper Harry Brook's wicket in the semi-final clash. He was India's top wicket-taker in the Super 8 matches against South Africa and the West Indies. Notably, he also dismissed two Pakistani batters, Saim

Ayub and Salman Ali Agha, in his very first over during the Group A match against the neighbouring nation at the R. Premadasa Stadium in Colombo last month. Achieving 500 wickets places Bumrah in an exclusive circle of India's greatest bowlers, cementing his legacy as one of the most formidable fast bowlers in modern cricket. Bumrah is India's leading wicket-taker in T20 World Cup history. If he takes four wickets in the current semi-final against England, he will surpass Anrich Nortje's record for the most wickets by a fast bowler in Men's T20 World Cup history.

## All England Open: Lakshya Sen Beats Ka Long Angus To Seal Quarterfinals Berth

Birmingham: India's Lakshya Sen overcame the disappointment of missing out on four match points in the second game to dominate the decider against Hong Kong's NG Ka Long Angus to reach the quarterfinals of the All England Open here on Thursday. The 24-year-old Indian, who has upset top seed and defending champion Shi Yu Qi in the opening round, prevailed over NG 21-19, 21-23, 21-10 in an hour and 21 minutes. This was also Sen's first win over NG in their four meetings, though the last time they faced each other was back in the 2023 Malaysia Masters. Sen, the 2022 All England finalist, began aggressively against his Hong Kong opponent and kept his nose ahead throughout the opening

game. NG, however, drew level at 19-19 after winning three straight points, but Sen took the next two to pocket the game. It looked like Sen would breeze through the second game when he opened up a 11-4 lead, but NG slowly but surely crawled back into the match. The experienced campaigner from Hong Kong saved three straight match points from 17-20 and then saved another at 20-21 but took the match in the decider. "It was a very solid game in both the games. Credit to him (NG) he made a solid comeback in the second (game) and I just didn't play freely towards the end of the second game and just gave too many easy shots for him to kill. I was prepared again in the third to just go all out

and happy with the way I played in the third game," Sen said. But Sen seemed determined to not let go of another opportunity, as he took control of the game early with powerful cross-court smashes, and though NG saved one match point at 20-9, the gap was too big for him to recover. "I think tactically I was playing the right game both the games, and it's just the last few points I didn't stick to the plan, just gave too many easy errors, but again, it was important to just switch off, forget the second game, forget the first and play the third game with the same plan which was working," he added. Sen, the only Indian left in singles, will now face the winner of the match between sixth seed Li Shi Feng of China and Nhat Nguyen of Ireland.

## Odisha: 61st Annual Athletic Meet of RIE-Bhubaneswar concludes



Bhubaneswar, (Correspondent): The 61st Annual Athletic Meet of the Regional Institute of Education (RIE), Bhubaneswar, concluded marking the end of two days of intense competition and outstanding performances. Md. Jafar Iqbal, International B 1 Category Cricketer addressed the valedictory event as the chief guest. He urged the students and prospective teachers to cultivate perseverance, resilience, and dedication. He congratulated the prize winners and participants

and emphasised the importance of overall fitness - physical, mental, and emotional. Prof. Manasi Goswami, Principal of the Institute presided over the meeting and welcomed the Chief Guest. She extended her congratulations to all participants and winners and highlighted the recommendations of the NEP 2020 on sports-integrated learning to foster physical fitness, teamwork, and mental health, treating sports on par with academic subjects. The event concluded with the much-

awaited prize distribution ceremony, where winners were honoured with medals for their outstanding performances. A special moment of pride came when Prithvi House was declared the March Past champions, recognized for their discipline, synchronization, and commanding performance during the ceremonial parade. The trophy was presented by distinguished alumni of the institute, adding a nostalgic and celebratory touch to the occasion.

## KIIT Becomes First University in India To Host Historic FIVB Beach Pro Tour Challenge 2026

Bhubaneswar (Correspondent): In a historic moment for KIIT Deemed to be University, the FIVB Volleyball World Beach Pro Tour Challenge 2026 was formally inaugurated at the Dutee Chand Athletic Stadium on Wednesday evening. The city is set to witness a landmark sporting event as the FIVB Volleyball World Beach Pro Tour (Men & Women) makes its Odisha debut at KIIT University from March 4 to 8, 2026. The prestigious international tournament has brought together 83 teams from 52 countries, with more than 300 players and officials participating in the event. The opening ceremony was attended by guests, sports officials and international delegates. The event was inaugurated by Odisha's Minister for



Law, Works, and Excise, Prithviraj Harichandan, with the exhibition match being played by India and Australia. Dr Achyuta Samanta, Founder of KIIT, KISS, welcomed the gathering. Mr. Blair Harrison, FIVB Technical Delegate, and Prof. (Dr.) Saranjit Singh, Vice Chancellor of KIIT University, were among the other dignitaries. In his inaugural address, Chief Guest Prithviraj Harichandan described

the occasion as a proud moment for KIIT, the state of Odisha and the entire country. He noted that for the first time an Indian university is hosting such a prestigious international beach volleyball tournament. He Minister congratulated Dr Samanta for his dedication and vision in organising the championship. He recalled seeing a social media post where Prof. Samanta was personally supervising preparations for the event and

wondered how he manages to find the time for such efforts. "He is a perfectionist with a far-reaching vision not only for sports but also for human development," Harichandan said. Welcoming the athletes and delegates from across the world, Dr Samanta expressed his happiness that players from 52 countries had gathered in Bhubaneswar for the championship. He noted that the tournament was taking place at a time when West Asia is

in turmoil, noting that he was grateful that players had still travelled to participate in the event in the spirit of sportsmanship and unity. FIVB Technical Delegate Mr. Blair Harrison said that tournaments like the Beach Pro Tour inspire players from around the world to dream bigger and aim higher in their sporting careers. He appreciated the efforts taken by the organisers in hosting a tournament of this scale and expressed confidence that the event would leave a lasting impact on the athletes. Addressing the players, KIIT VC Prof Singh said that by hosting an international tournament of such scale, Odisha has sent a clear message that it is fully prepared to organise world-class sporting events.

# Vedanta Aluminium Marks Women's Day with 'Tarakki Ki Taiyaari' Campaign



Bhubaneswar, (Correspondent): On the run-up to International Women's Day 2026, Vedanta Aluminium, India's largest aluminium producer, has launched #TarakkiKiTaiyaari, a campaign underscoring that true national progress rests on inclusive participation. The initiative brings together thought leaders like Kiran Bedi and Padma Shri awardee Arunima Sinha, to engage with employees, complemented by community outreach drives, health camps, and employee volunteer-led initiatives. Despite the tremendous growth in India's metals, mining, and manufacturing sectors, women remain significantly underrepresented. As the

world transitions toward a more metal-intensive, technology-driven future, Vedanta Aluminium is working to ensure that women are not just included but positioned to lead. At its core, #TarakkiKiTaiyaari reframes the conversation from aspiration to preparation. It recognises that ambition is abundant, but opportunity must be deliberately cultivated. Vedanta Aluminium embraces this in its people philosophy: women currently comprise 21% of the workforce, with a clear ambition to reach 30% representation by 2030. To accelerate this transition, the company has prioritised 50% women hiring at entry-level roles, ensuring a strong and diverse talent pipeline. Vedanta Aluminium's commitment

to women's advancement is reflected in several pioneering milestones across its operations. The company commissioned India's first fully women operated potline at its Jharsuguda facility and has deployed over 100 women across critical smelting and production roles through phased technical training and structured capability development. It has also introduced the first all-women locomotive engine crew and expanded Agnivahini, its all-women firefighting squad, to more than 100 trained women. The company continues to steadily increase the presence of women in its leadership cohorts, ensuring stronger representation across decision-making roles. At its locations, control rooms are now predominantly operated by women, and the number of women entering roles at mining sites as mining engineers and in areas such as digitalisation and automation, has been rising, reflecting Vedanta Aluminium's focus on building a truly inclusive and future-ready workforce.

# From Paddy Fields to a Thriving Enterprise

Bhubaneswar, (Correspondent): For most of her life, Anupama Pradhan worked like many women in Kulunda village helping her husband on their small paddy field, stretching whatever they earned, and managing with very little. Starting a business of her own was never something she imagined. That changed when she joined a mushroom-cultivation training run by Gram Vikas. The idea was straight forward: use paddy straw, which is usually thrown away or burned, to grow mushrooms. What set Anupama apart was how quickly she understood the opportunity. She looked at the land she had, calculated the costs, and decided to invest ₹14,000 to set up 500 mushroom beds. It was a clear, confident decision-not a trial or a guess. She followed every step of

the process carefully. Eleven days later, the first mushrooms appeared. By the end of her first cycle, she had harvested 365 kilograms and earned nearly ₹87,600. The income changed how her family saw her role and strengthened her voice at home. "We used to grow only paddy, just enough to survive. Now mushrooms are our main occupation," she says. Anupama didn't stop there. Each new cycle of cultivation created around 20 days of paid work for women in her village. Her enterprise became a reliable source of work in a place where such opportunities are limited. Soon, other women began turning to her for guidance, inspired by what she had achieved.

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