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## PM Modi, Netanyahu Have Zero Tolerance For Terrorism: Israeli PMO Spokesperson

Tel Aviv: David Mencer, the spokesperson for the Israeli Prime Minister's Office, on Friday lauded Prime Minister Narendra Modi's leadership while hailing the Indian leader's friendship with Israeli PM Benjamin Netanyahu and their common "zero-tolerance" attitude towards terrorism. In an exclusive interview with IANS, Mencer recalled PM Modi's recent "very successful" two-day visit to Israel, including his historic address at the Knesset during which he said that 1.5 billion Indians are with Israel in the fight against terrorist forces. "I was proud to have accompanied our Prime Minister (Netanyahu) who



welcomed Prime Minister Modi just a week ago, just a number of days ago. We went to the airport and welcomed him for his two-day visit here. I can't tell you how moved we were as a people to welcome Prime Minister Modi. I don't think there was a dry eye in the house when Prime Minister Modi addressed our Knesset, our parliament, the things that he said, the

leadership that he showed, the understanding he showed. Because he understands, as our Prime Minister Netanyahu does, both leaders understand that there must be a zero-tolerance attitude towards terrorists. When you appease terrorists, it just leads to more war. Terrorist states need to be stood up to and defeated and that's precisely what we're doing," Mencer told

## Union Minister Amit Shah Launches Rs 3,275 Cr Projects During Odisha Visit

Bhubaneswar, (Correspondent): Union Home and Cooperation Minister Amit Shah on Friday inaugurated and laid the foundation stones for development projects worth 3,275 crore during his one-day visit to Odisha, marking a significant push for the cooperative sector, dairy development and internal security infrastructure in the state. The main programme was held at the IDCO Exhibition Ground in Unit-3, Bhubaneswar, where several initiatives linked to the cooperative movement and policing reforms were launched in the presence of Odisha Chief Minister Mohan Charan Majhi, Union Education Minister Dharmendra Pradhan, Deputy Chief Ministers Kanak



Vardhan Singh Deo and Pravati Parida, along with several state ministers and Bhubaneswar MP Aparajita Sarangi. Addressing the gathering, Shah said Odisha is a land rich in art and culture and is steadily moving forward on the path of development under the leadership of Prime Minister Narendra

Modi. He stated that India is progressing towards becoming a developed nation and emphasised the Centre's goal of making the country completely free from Naxalism in the coming years. Referring to the vision of "Viksit India-2047" and "Viksit Odisha-2036", he said that the new government in Odisha has initiated several programmes to

ensure social and economic progress. Shah mentioned initiatives such as financial support of 3100 to paddy farmers and the Subhadra Yojana aimed at empowering women, stating that these steps would contribute to inclusive development in the state. Chief Minister Mohan Charan Majhi said a new chapter has been added to Odisha's

development journey with the launch of projects worth ₹3,275 crore in a single day. He expressed confidence that the initiatives would strengthen the state's economy and benefit farmers, youth and women across Odisha. The Chief Minister also highlighted Shah's role in strengthening the Odisha Police and said reforms undertaken in the security sector have started yielding results. According to him, the conviction rate in crimes against women has increased to 41 percent in the first six months of 2025, compared to 6.7 percent in 2023. A major highlight of the event was the launch of Odisha's Cooperative Policy-2026, making the state the first in the country to implement a cooperative policy aligned with the Centre's vision of "Sahakarita se Samridhi".

## Andhra Pradesh To Ban Social Media For Children Under 13

Amaravati: Andhra Pradesh Chief Minister N. Chandrababu Naidu said on Friday that the state government will ban use of social media for children under the age of 13 years and that a decision on whether to bar children in 13-16 age group from using social media will be taken after arriving at a consensus. Speaking on the Appropriation Bill in the State Legislative Assembly, he said steps would be taken within 90 days to ban social media for children under the age of 13. "A discussion is on what to do with regard to the children in 13-16 age group. A decision will be taken after arriving at a consensus," he



said. Chief Minister Naidu's announcement came on a day when Karnataka Chief Minister Siddaramaiah declared that use of social media will be banned for those under the age of 16. Last month, Andhra Pradesh

Home Minister Vangalapati Anitha had told the Assembly that the government is considering a legislation to bar school students from using social media. She stated that the sub-committee has met twice so far and

discussed various issues at length. The sub-committee reviewed the measures being implemented in states like Tamil Nadu and Karnataka. In January, Minister for Information Technology and Electronics Nara

Lokesh had stated that the government will study legal frameworks for 'age-appropriate access' to social media. Lokesh said the government would ensure social media becomes a safer space and reduce its damaging impact, especially for women and children. He stated that children are slipping into relentless usage, affecting their attention spans and education. The minister had also revealed that the group of ministers ordered a study of legal frameworks for age-appropriate access. It also invited major platforms like Meta, X, Google and Sharechat to the next meeting, to examine global best practices.

## Rajasthan Doctor Anuj Agnihotri Tops Civil Service Exam 2025

New Delhi: Anuj Agnihotri from Rajasthan has topped the Civil Services Examination 2025 while Rajeshwari Suve M from Tamil Nadu secured the second position in the exam in which 958 candidates qualified for IAS (Indian Administrative Service), IFS (Indian Foreign Service), IPS (Indian Police Service) and other services, an official statement said on Friday. While Rajeshwari is the highest-ranked woman candidate in the CSE 2025, there are two more women in the top 10 candidates. Agnihotri belongs to the Chittorgarh district of Rajasthan and is an MBBS from the All India Institute of Medical Sciences (AIIMS)

Jodhpur. He completed his Class XII from M.B. Public Senior Secondary School in Kota, said a note shared by a civil services exam coaching institute. Before securing the second position, Rajeshwari had already topped the TNPSC Group 1 (Deputy Collector). The third top performer in the list is Akansh Dhull of Chandigarh, who belongs to a family of politicians. In this year's CSE, of the total 958 successful candidates, 317 general category candidates have qualified the CSE examination, while 104 Economically Weaker Sections (EWS) candidates, 306 Other Backward Classes (OBC) candidates and 73

Scheduled Tribes (ST) category candidates qualified the final exam which comprised scores from the written examination held in August 2025 and personality test between December 2025 and February 2026. The number of vacancies reported by the Government to be filled totalled 1,087, said an official statement. Appointments to the various Services will be made according to the number of vacancies available with due consideration to the provisions contained in the Rules for the Examination, adding that the 1,087 vacancies included 180 IAS, 55 IFS, 150 IPS, 507 Central Services Group 'A', 195 Group 'B' Services, it said.

## Food Adulteration In Pakistan Reaches Alarming Proportion: Report

New Delhi: Food adulteration has become so widespread in Pakistan that it now threatens everyday survival rather than merely compromising consumer choice, a new report has said. The report from Daily Mirror said adulteration ranges across products from synthetic milk and fake cheese to contaminated spices, cooking oil, meat and bottled water. In Pakistan, a most dangerous public health emergency has unfolded gradually, almost invisibly, inside kitchens and marketplaces, the report said. It cited a

recent judicial observation that brought the issue into public view, as The Lahore High Court called the situation a "horrifying picture," when denying bail to an accused caught transporting 2,400 litres of adulterated milk. The report cited Pakistan Standards & Quality Control Authority findings that formalin and excessive phosphate were present in every milk sample tested in Karachi, rendering products unfit for human consumption, the report further said. Formalin, commonly used as an



industrial preservative, is particularly alarming given its known health risks, it noted. The report flagged that water, detergents, vegetable fats, urea,

formalin, and other chemicals are routinely added to milk. "The scale and persistence of this problem point not to isolated criminal acts, but to systemic

regulatory failure," the report said. It also flagged the widespread availability of counterfeit and substandard food products manufactured by unlicensed and

unregistered producers, imitating brand names, packaging, and visual appearance of popular items. These products are displayed prominently even in major retail stores. The report also highlighted unsafe and unhygienic practices throughout the supply chain, from farms to retail outlets raising risks of gastrointestinal disorders, liver and kidney damage, weakened immunity, and increased susceptibility to disease. "Perhaps the most troubling aspect of Pakistan's food adulteration crisis is how normalised it has become.

## Rajya Sabha Polls: Nominations Of Five Candidates Cleared In Odisha

Bhubaneswar: The scrutiny process for the upcoming Rajya Sabha elections in Odisha was completed on Friday with the acceptance of nomination papers of five candidates. As per reports, the scrutiny process, conducted on Friday, validated the nominations of Sanrupt Misra, Dr Datteswar Hota, Manmohan Samal, Sujeet Kumar, and Dilip Ray. Sanrupt Misra and Dr. Datteswar Hota are the candidates put forth by the Biju Janata Dal (BJD). The Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) has nominated Manmohan Samal, its state president, and Sujeet Kumar, a sitting Rajya Sabha member. Additionally, the party has extended its support to Dilip Ray, a senior leader contesting as an independent candidate. This move by the BJP is seen as a calculated attempt to secure three out of the four Rajya Sabha seats from Odisha. To win a seat, a candidate needs at least 30 first-preference votes, according to the Rajya Sabha electoral formula. The BJP, with the backing of 82 MLAs, is poised to win two seats comfortably and has 22 surplus votes.

# V-P Radhakrishnan To Address 20th Convocation Of Mizoram University ToDAY

Aizawl: Vice-President (V-P) C.P. Radhakrishnan will address the 20th convocation of Mizoram University on Saturday, officials said on Friday. After addressing the eighth convocation ceremony of Nagaland University in Kohima, Vice-President Radhakrishnan arrived in Mizoram's capital Aizawl on Friday afternoon on his maiden visit to the state since assuming office. On Saturday, the Vice-President is scheduled to be the chief guest at the 20th Convocation of Mizoram University, a central university. Upon arrival at Lengpui Airport, Vice-President



Radhakrishnan was warmly received by Mizoram Governor General Vijay Kumar Singh (retired), along with School Education Minister Vanlalhlana and other senior officials. He was also accorded a ceremonial guard of honour. Later, upon reaching the Lok Bhavan, the Vice-President was given a ceremonial welcome by the

convocation on Saturday. Vice-President Radhakrishnan will leave for Tripura to attend the 14th convocation of Tripura University as the chief guest. In Agartala, Vice-President Radhakrishnan will also meet several 'Lakshpati Didis' and members of Self Help Groups (SHGs) at the International Trade and Fair Centre in Hapania, on the outskirts of the city. He will also pay tribute at the Albert Ekka Memorial Park at Lichubagan. Police authorities have put in place elaborate security arrangements for the Vice-President's visit to Tripura. A Tripura University official said

that the convocation ceremony could not be held over the past two years, 2024 and 2025. During the ceremony, certificates, degrees, gold medals and PhD degrees will be conferred on eligible students. As many as 283 students from various departments will receive gold medals, while 149 research scholars will be awarded PhD degrees at the forthcoming convocation. Vice-President Radhakrishnan will inaugurate the convocation ceremony at the university campus in Suryaminagar, on the outskirts of the state capital Agartala.

# Bengal SIR: Judicial Adjudication Completed For 7.5 Lakh Cases, Informs CEO

Kolkata: About 7.5 lakh cases of judicial adjudication of voters' documents classified under the "logical discrepancy" category have been completed till Friday evening, informed the Chief Electoral Officer (CEO), West Bengal, Manoj Kumar Agarwal. "A total of 200 more judicial officers from neighbouring Odisha and Jharkhand will be reaching West Bengal by Saturday morning. After a two-day training on Saturday and Sunday, they will be joining the judicial adjudication process on Monday. Their joining will further add pace in the process of judicial adjudication," Agarwal told media

persons on Friday evening. A total of over 60 lakh voter documents were originally referred for judicial adjudication. The final voters' list in West Bengal, minus the cases referred for judicial adjudication, was published on February 28. The supplementary list will be published in due course as per an earlier order of the Apex Court. Reacting to Trinamool Congress's allegations earlier in the day that many "alive" voters have been shown as "deceased" voters following the Special Intensive Revision (SIR) and the poll-preparedness for the forthcoming crucial Assembly elections in the state, Agarwal said that if there was any such complaint, the voters

concerned should approach the Commission. "We will take action if the complaint is filed. We will see whose negligence resulted in the omission of the names of the living voters being marked as dead voters. Why was it done? Did someone intentionally omit the name? All these matters will be investigated," Agarwal said. Two other crucial developments related to the judicial adjudication part in the Special Intensive Revision (SIR) and the poll-preparedness for the forthcoming crucial Assembly elections in the state are scheduled next week, especially on Monday and Tuesday.

# Rajnath Singh, Rahul Gandhi Honor Assam Air Crash Martyrs: Tributes Pour In for IAF Heroes

New Delhi: Defence Minister Rajnath Singh and Leader of Opposition in Lok Sabha Rahul Gandhi, along with several other leaders, expressed grief over the martyrdom of two Indian Air Force pilots in a fighter jet crash in Assam's Karbi Anglong district. They paid floral tributes to Squadron Leader Anuj and Flight Lieutenant Purvesh Duragkar, extending condolences to their families. Rajnath Singh wrote on social media platform X on Friday that he was deeply saddened by the news of the demise of both pilots—Squadron Leader Anuj and Flight Lieutenant Purvesh Duragkar—in the Sukhoi-30 crash. Their courage and



service to the nation will always be remembered with pride and gratitude. He offered his deepest condolences to the grieving families, assuring that the nation stands firmly with them in this hour of sorrow. Rahul Gandhi, in his message of condolence, described the news of the martyrdom of Indian Air Force's brave warriors Squadron Leader Anuj and Flight Lieutenant Purvesh in

# Delhi CM Rekha Gupta Reviews Development Projects Valued At Rs 3,786 Crore

New Delhi: Delhi Chief Minister Rekha Gupta, on Friday, reviewed development projects worth Rs 3,786 crore and issued strict directions to officials of all departments for completion of works ahead of monsoon. The Chief Minister chaired the meeting on development works being undertaken across various parts of the national capital under the Chief Minister Development Fund (CMDF), the Delhi Village Development Board (DVDB) and the Trans-Yamuna Area Development Board (TYADB). The meeting was attended by DVDB Chairman Rajkumar Chauhan, TYADB



Chairman Arvinder Singh Lovely and other senior officials of the departments. Chief Minister Gupta emphasised that the pace of development works must be visible on the ground. According to the Chief Minister, development projects worth nearly Rs 3,786 crore have been approved so far under these

departments. She said that ensuring that budgetary funds are utilised for development works remains a key priority of the Bharatiya Janata Party-led state government. She also directed officials to begin processes related to development works promptly at the start of the new financial year so that projects are completed within the stipulated

timeframe. The Chief Minister told that, in order to strengthen basic infrastructure in the national capital and accelerate development at the local level, a large number of projects have been approved under the Chief Minister Development Fund (CMDF) scheme. As of now, 3,812 development projects have received administrative approval under this scheme, with a total estimated cost of nearly Rs 1,798.85 crore. These projects include the construction of roads and drains, works related to water supply, installation of streetlights, development of parks and other basic infrastructure facilities. Chief Minister Gupta said that these

works are being implemented through various agencies, including the Municipal Corporation of Delhi (MCD), the Irrigation and Flood Control Department, the Delhi Jal Board (DJB), the Public Works Department (PWD), the Delhi State Industrial and Infrastructure Development Corporation (DSIIDC) and Tata Power Delhi Distribution Limited (TPDDL). The highest number of projects are being executed through the MCD. Following the review meeting, the Chief Minister said that the Delhi government is continuously taking concrete steps for the holistic development of villages.

# From Nari to Narayani: Delhi Hosts Mega Women's Conclave with CM and President

New Delhi: A two-day National Women's Thinkers Conference (Mahamantaan programme) titled 'Bharati' will be held on March 7-8 to highlight women's empowerment and their role in nation-building for public awareness. Delhi Chief Minister Rekha Gupta will inaugurate the event, while President Droupadi Murmu will grace the valedictory session at Vigyan Bhavan in the capital. The conference, themed 'Bharati - Nari se Narayani', will feature Union Education Minister Dharmendra Pradhan, Women and Child Development Minister Annapurna Devi, Minister of State Jitendra Singh, Rashtrasevika Samor Committee's chief patron V Shanta Kumari, Sadhvi Ritambhara, and others. Around 1,500



women thinkers from across India will participate, with over 200 experts invited as key speakers. Special sessions are planned for women MPs, women vice-chancellors of universities, and women saints, including a Sadhvi Sangam. Organized jointly by Bharatiya Vidvat Parishad, Rashtrasevika Samiti, and Sharanya, deliberations will cover eight key themes: Vidya,

Shakti, Mukti, Chetna, Prakriti, Sanskriti, Siddhi, and Kriti. Under Vidya, discussions will address women's higher education, girls' dropout issues, and incorporating self-defense in curricula. Shakti will focus on self-reliance and financial literacy, while Mukti will explore measures against domestic violence and social stereotypes. Organizers stated the conclave aims to elevate women from

family units to the pivot of nation-building. Suggestions emerging from discussions will be forwarded to relevant Indian government departments for implementation. Rashtrasevika Samiti's chief pracharak Sita Gayatri remarked that in India, women and men are viewed as complementary, not competitive—now is the time for women to embrace leadership alongside maternity and duty.

# Shivraj Chouhan to Engage Stakeholders on Coconut Mission in Chennai

New Delhi: Union Agriculture Minister Shivraj Singh Chouhan will visit Chennai on Saturday, where he will interact with farmers at IIT Madras. He will also meet various stakeholders to gather suggestions on the Coconut Development Scheme. In a conversation with the media on Friday, Chouhan stated that Prime Minister Narendra Modi has launched the Coconut



Development Scheme for coconut producers, announced in the budget. The scheme will consider every aspect related to coconut production to enhance productivity and

farmers' income. He mentioned that discussions with farmers and stakeholders will take place at IIT Chennai and sought suggestions from farmers on this

matter. Notably, the Coconut Development Scheme announced in Budget 2026 aims to replace old and low-yielding coconut trees with new high-yielding varieties, improving productivity and quality. The initiative focuses on increasing coconut farmers' income, diversifying agricultural production, and creating new employment opportunities.

# Congress Brands US Oil Waiver Statement an Insult to India's Sovereignty

New Delhi: The Congress party has labeled US Treasury Secretary Scott Bessent's statement on a 30-day temporary waiver for Indian refineries to purchase Russian oil as an affront to India's sovereignty. Congress President Mallikarjun Kharge stated on social media platform X that India's strategic autonomy and national sovereignty are in serious jeopardy, as Prime Minister Narendra Modi is succumbing to blackmail. The language of granting permission is used for countries under sanctions, not for responsible partners like India. The Modi government is continuously ceding diplomatic space, reducing India to a "speechless vassal state" of America. Congress leader Rahul Gandhi wrote that India's foreign policy emerges from the collective will of its people and must be rooted in truth and non-violence. What is happening today is not policy but the

exploitation of a compromised individual. Congress General Secretary (Organisation) KC Venugopal remarked that in Amrit Kaal, the Indian Prime Minister has to seek permission from other countries to buy oil, which is deeply humiliating for India's sovereignty and international standing. Instead of bowing to US conditions, India should adopt an independent stance and make decisions in its supreme national interest. Notably, US Treasury Secretary Scott Bessent stated that President Trump's energy policy has driven US oil and gas production to record highs. To maintain global oil supply, the US Treasury has issued a 30-day temporary waiver allowing Indian refineries to purchase Russian oil. This deliberately brief measure will not significantly benefit the Russian government financially, as it only authorizes transactions for oil already stranded at sea.

# India will be free from Naxalism by March 31, highlights CISF's crucial role: Amit Shah

Cuttack (Correspondent): Union Home Minister Amit Shah on Friday reaffirmed that the security forces will fulfil the resolve of eradicating Naxalism from the country by March 31, 2026. Speaking at the 57th Raising Day of the Central Industrial Security Force in Cuttack, Amit Shah highlighted CISF's "crucial role" in eliminating Naxalism. "PM Modi government is determined to free the country from Naxalism by March 31, 2026, and the CISF has played a crucial role in that effort. Whether in Odisha, Chhattisgarh, or Telangana, the CISF has played a crucial role



in eliminating Naxalism. I assure you that by March 31, 2026, this country will be free from Naxalism. Our security forces will completely defeat those who dream of a Red

Corridor from Tirupati to Pashupati and establish their dominance," he said. Hailing CISF personnel's "valour and self-sacrifice" for the country, Amit Shah

further expressed his gratitude for their service. "In 56 years, CISF has not only fulfilled its original purpose but has also transformed itself by facing all kinds of challenges. Valour and sacrifice are the hallmarks of India's glorious history. By combining these qualities with dedication and armed with modern weaponry, CISF has demonstrated the courage to face all kinds of challenges. I express my heartfelt gratitude to all the personnel of the Force," he said. Amit Shah was attending the 57th Raising Day of the Central Industrial Security Force (CISF) at the Kharavela

Regional Training Centre, Mundali in Cuttack, Odisha. The Union Home Minister was received by the Chief Minister Mohan Charan Majhi at the Bhubaneswar Airport as he arrived in the state to attend various public programs. Amit Shah will also perform the Bhumi Pujan of the Central Forensic Science Laboratory (CFSL) located alongside the campus of National Forensic Sciences University (NFSU) in Bhubaneswar. Shah will inaugurate an exhibition on the 'New Nyaya Sanhita' in Bhubaneswar and will also flag off a Mobile Forensic Van.

# Contract Workers' Issues Raised at Labour Commissioner's Office

Bolangir, (Correspondent): A third round of discussions was held at the office of the Labour Commissioner in Bolangir regarding several legitimate demands of contract workers engaged by Tata Power through the contractor agency Darubrahma Private Limited. The meeting was organised under the banner of the Nikhil Odisha Bidyut Majdur Mahasangh. During the discussion, the union raised issues such as payment of minimum wages to contract workers, alleged mental harassment of employees and irregular termination of workers. The union representatives stated that despite submitting all relevant documents and information to the Labour Officer in Bolangir, no concrete action has yet been taken and the matter continues to be delayed.



They expressed concern that the Labour authorities have remained silent even after being aware of the problems faced by the workers. After the talks reportedly failed to reach any solution, the union alleged that the Labour Officer did not treat the issues of minimum wages and mental harassment with the seriousness they deserve and did not refer the matter to the Labour Court or Tribunal. This has led to strong dissatisfaction among the workers. Expressing

disappointment over the lack of justice from the Labour Office, the Nikhil Odisha Bidyut Majdur Mahasangh announced that the workers will stage a continuous day-and-night dharna in front of the Labour Office in Bolangir from March 10, 2026. Among those present during the discussion were Kahna Satpathy, District Secretary of Bharatiya Mazdoor Sangh, Bolangir, and Bismaya Hota, Organisation Secretary.

# Three children go missing in Bhubaneswar in last 24 hrs

Bhubaneswar, (Correspondent): Three children have gone missing from different areas of Bhubaneswar within the past 24 hours, prompting the Commissionerate Police to launch a detailed investigation. Authorities have announced a reward of Rs 25,000 for information leading to their safe recovery. The missing children include 12-year-old Pradyumna Pradhan from Dhauli, and two girls, Sumitra Dehuri and Shubhashree Nayak, from Salia Sahi. Pradyumna, a Class 6 student, was last seen riding a bicycle and carrying a bag. Details regarding the circumstances of the girls' disappearance have not been disclosed. Police teams from Nayapalli and Dhauli police stations have begun investigations following complaints lodged by the children's family members.

# TPCODL Celebrates Lineman Diwas

Bhubaneswar, (Correspondent): TP Central Odisha Distribution Limited (TPCODL), a joint venture of Tata Power and Government of Odisha, celebrated Lineman Diwas, honouring the dedication, courage and service of its frontline workforce. The occasion also marked the inauguration of the 55th National Safety Day and the launch of National Safety Month initiatives across its operational areas. In alignment with the 55th National Safety Day, TPCODL will observe Safety Month from 4th March to 3rd April 2026, reinforcing its commitment to making safety a fundamental part of its work culture and everyday operations. This will be celebrated in 259 locations including all section, division, MRT and Corporate office. Linemen from different divisions took part in the programme with great pride and enthusiasm. The event recognised



the vital role they play in maintaining a stable and dependable power supply. Around five linemen were felicitated for their outstanding dedication and commitment to duty. These frontline workers often operate in difficult conditions such as extreme weather, remote locations and urgent repair situations to ensure electricity reaches every consumer without interruption. The programme began with a Flag Hoisting Ceremony, symbolising TPCODL's strong commitment to safety and discipline at the workplace. A Safety Oath was administered to reaffirm the collective pledge of employees to follow all safety protocols in their daily

operations. As part of the observance, a Pinning of Badge ceremony was also held to remind employees of their personal responsibility towards maintaining a safe working environment. The event also included Lineman Felicitation, recognising the outstanding contributions and dedication of frontline linemen who play a crucial role in maintaining reliable power supply. Speaking on the occasion, Shri Arvind Singh, CEO of TPCODL, appreciated the continuous efforts and commitment of the field teams. He said, "Our linemen are the backbone of the organisation. They work in challenging

conditions to keep power supply uninterrupted. Their dedication and discipline keep the network strong. Safety must always remain our top priority. Every employee should return home safely." He also highlighted TPCODL's Zero Harm Mission and stressed that safety should not only be seen as a rule, but as a shared responsibility for everyone in the organisation. The event also included interactive sessions where field staff shared their real-life experiences and the challenges they face while maintaining the power network. The ceremony was attended by senior leadership team and colleagues across the organisation.

# University of Western Australia and Science & Technology (S&T) Clusters Sign Strategic MoU to Strengthen Science & Innovation Collaboration

Bhubaneswar, (Correspondent): The University of Western Australia (UWA) and the Science & Technology (S&T) Clusters (An initiative of the Office of the Principal Scientific Adviser) have signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) to establish a structured, long-term collaboration across India's national Science & Technology (S&T) Cluster framework. The partnership aligns UWA with India's federal science and innovation architecture, enabling mission-driven collaboration across priority sectors critical to national development and the Indo-Pacific region. The Office of the Principal Scientific Adviser serves as the highest-level scientific



advisory body to the Prime Minister and the Cabinet, providing strategic direction on science, technology, innovation, and research policy. Under the Office of PSA, India has established eight S&T Clusters across major innovation hubs including Bengaluru, Pune, Chandigarh, Bhubaneswar, Visakhapatnam, and Hyderabad. These clusters bring together universities, national laboratories, startups, MSMEs, industry partners, and state

governments to address mission-oriented challenges through coordinated, translational research and innovation. Dr Vishal Choudhary, Scientist-F, Office of the Principal Scientific Adviser to the Government of India said: "India's S&T Clusters are designed to foster coordinated, mission-oriented research that addresses national priorities through strong academia-industry-government partnerships."

# From Quality Labs to Smelter Lines: Women Power a New Industrial Story at Vedanta Jharsuguda

Bhubaneswar, (Correspondent): At Vedanta Aluminium's mega aluminium plant in Jharsuguda, where powerful machines rumble, furnaces burn bright and molten aluminium moves through intricate production processes, women professionals are increasingly leading the critical function of quality. Inside the plant's quality laboratories, women engineers and technicians oversee rigorous testing processes that establish reliability and consistency at the very first stage, validating raw materials, monitoring electrolytic conditions, and certifying finished metal

against stringent standards. Their work forms a vital foundation for stable, high purity aluminium production across the plant, where over 550 direct women employees now contribute to operations, reflecting the company's ongoing transformation towards greater gender diversity and technical inclusion. In these quality labs, teams manage process reduction testing, which evaluates smelting pot conditions to ensure alumina is consistently converted into high purity aluminium. They also conduct material analysis, verifying the chemical and physical integrity of both inputs and finished products against stringent quality



benchmarks. These assessments form the foundation of smooth plant operations, supporting safety, precision, and performance across smelter lines and downstream units. This emphasis on quality reflects a broader transformation across operations, where women engineers and operators are taking on critical roles in manufacturing

processes once considered beyond their reach. From laboratory benches to operational control rooms, their growing presence is reshaping what industrial participation looks like. Vedanta Aluminium is driving this shift with a structured commitment to enhancing representation, aiming for 30% women in its workforce by 2030.

# IFFCO's Paradeep Unit: Sulphuric Acid Plant-3 Dedicated to the Nation by Union Home & Cooperation Minister Amit Shah Ji

Paradeep, (Correspondent): Union Home and Cooperation Minister Shri Amit Shah Ji dedicated the newly commissioned Sulphuric Acid Plant-3 (SAP-III) at the Paradeep unit of Indian Farmers Fertiliser Cooperative Limited (IFFCO) to the nation today. The commissioning of the plant marks another important milestone in strengthening India's fertiliser infrastructure and supporting the country's farming community. The new sulphuric acid plant has been established with an estimated project cost of around ₹700 crore and has a



production capacity of about 2,000 metric tonnes per day. The facility will significantly enhance the operational capability of the Paradeep complex, which is one of India's largest integrated phosphatic fertiliser production units. The dedication ceremony was attended by several dignitaries including

Odisha Chief Minister Shri Mohan Charan Majhi Ji, Union Education Minister Shri Dharmendra Pradhan Ji, Shri Sampad Chandra Swain Ji, Minister of State (Independent Charge) for Industries, Skill Development and Technical Education, Government of Odisha, Shri Pradeep Bala Samanta Ji, Minister of State (Independent

Charge) for Cooperation, Handlooms and Textile, Govt. of Odisha, Dr. Bibhu Prasad Tarai Ji, Hon'ble M.P Jagatsinghpur, Sh Amarendra Das Ji, Hon'ble MLA, Jagatsinghpur, Sh Ashish Kumar Bhutani Ji, Secretary, Ministry of Cooperation, Govt. of India, IFFCO Chairman Shri Dilip Sanghani, IFFCO Managing Director Shri K. J. Patel, and other senior officials of the Government of India and the Government of Odisha, Board of Director of IFFCO and representatives from the cooperative sector.

## EDITORIAL

### Too Quiet

Digital resources have enriched scholarship in undeniable ways and opened new avenues of inquiry. But they cannot replace the human encounter that lies at the heart of teaching and learning.

The classrooms are getting quieter. Not in the reflective hush that accompanies thought but in a deeper, lingering stillness that has become familiar across Indian universities. As a close observer of academic life, I have watched this quietness spread steadily through our varsities, altering the texture of learning itself. Attendance patterns reveal only part of the change. More striking is the altered relationship students now have with academics themselves. The classroom, once the unquestioned centre of intellectual life, has gradually lost its gravity. Students arrive less frequently, remain for shorter durations, and increasingly engage with learning from a distance. The idea of the university as a shared space, demanding presence and participation, appears to be weakening.

One of the most visible shifts is in reading habits. Books, once companions in the slow formation of thought, have ceded ground to screens and portals. Knowledge is now encountered through online resources, summaries, and searchable texts. While this has expanded access, it has also shortened attention. Reading has become efficient rather than immersive, selective rather than sustained. The patience required to sit with a difficult argument, to reread, to reflect, and to disagree quietly with a text appears to be waning.

The most unsettling loss is the decline of dialectical engagement. The classroom was never meant to be silent. It lived through questions that interrupted lectures, debates that unsettled conclusions, and conversations that spilled beyond the syllabus. Today, many students hesitate to speak, to challenge, or risk being wrong. Silence thus replaces disagreement. Teaching risks becoming a one-sided performance and learning a passive act of reception. In the post-pandemic university, the classroom has, in many places, become unexpectedly empty. Presence is no longer assumed as integral to education but treated as optional. This has altered the rhythm of academic life. When students are not physically present, the shared energy that sustains discussion weakens. Ideas lose the immediacy that comes from being tested in real time, in the company of peers who question, contest, and respond. What is at stake here is not discipline or compliance, but value. The university has long been a space where questions mattered as much as answers. It trained students to think aloud, to listen carefully, and to refine their positions through disagreement. Such habits are cultivated through repeated encounters, through shared attention, and through the discipline of showing up.

The quiet classroom raises a larger concern about how education is now being experienced. Learning increasingly resembles a private activity, completed individually and often remotely. Yet intellectual growth has always depended on collective exchange. Thought deepens when it is spoken, contested, and revised in the presence of others. Solitude may sharpen efficiency, but it rarely nurtures wisdom.

This reflection is not an argument against technology or change. Digital resources have enriched scholarship in undeniable ways and opened new avenues of inquiry. But they cannot replace the human encounter that lies at the heart of teaching and learning. The classroom remains one of the few spaces where attention is shared, where ideas unfold slowly, and where thinking becomes a visible, communal act shaped by listening as much as speaking.

The bell still rings and the rooms still wait. Whether they will fill again with questions, conversations, and the quiet intensity of thinking together depends on how we choose to revalue presence. The silence that now lingers is not merely a consequence of circumstance. It is a pause that invites reflection and perhaps a renewed commitment to the life of the classroom.

# The Rising of a World War in the Middle East?



**Kishan Bhawnani**

Globally, West Asia once again appears to be at a crucial juncture in history. Rapidly changing military dynamics in the region, new waves of

missile and drone attacks, and the open involvement of superpowers have exacerbated the situation. The growing direct and indirect confrontation between Iran, Israel, and the United States is no longer just a regional conflict, but has become a test of the global balance of power. The layers of international diplomacy seem to be falling away, and military strategy has come into the open. The US's advisory to its citizens to immediately evacuate the Gulf and war-torn countries is a clear indication that the situation has escalated beyond simple diplomatic tensions. Advocate Kishan Sanmukhdas Bhawnani, Gondia, Maharashtra, believe that when a superpower instructs its citizens to immediately depart from multiple countries simultaneously, it is not merely a precaution but also a pre-warning of a potential major military escalation. The US leadership has clearly indicated that the operation could last for a few weeks and could be extended further if necessary. The stated objectives include neutralizing Iran's missile capabilities, weakening its navy, eliminating its chances of acquiring nuclear weapons, and depriving its allied groups, such as Hezbollah, of support. This strategy appears to be an attempt at geopolitical restructuring, not just military. If Iran's regional power is decisively weakened, the balance of power in West Asia could completely shift. However, in response, pro-Iranian groups could adopt a strategy of asymmetric warfare, further widening the scope of the conflict. Is the threat of a Third World War realistic? History shows that world wars are not declared suddenly, but rather develop as a series of regional conflicts. World War I began with a limited conflict in the Balkans. In the current situation, if Gulf countries directly enter the conflict, if regional organizations play an active military role, or if major powers like Russia, China, or the European Union openly join forces, the situation could escalate to a global conflict. However, it is equally true that the modern world is bound by interdependence. Energy markets, global trade, financial networks, and multilateral institutions make any full-scale world war extremely costly.

Therefore, most analysts believe that while the possibility of a Third World War may be discussed, the superpowers will do their best to avoid a direct global conflict.

Friends, if we consider the "Emergency Alert for 15 Countries: A Hidden Message in Diplomatic Language," the countries mentioned in the US State Department's advisory include major Gulf nations Saudi Arabia, the United Arab Emirates, Kuwait, Qatar, Bahrain, and Oman. Areas involved in war or direct conflict include Lebanon, Iraq, Yemen, Syria, as well as areas like the West Bank and Gaza. Neighboring countries Egypt and Jordan are also covered by this warning. Many of these countries, especially Saudi Arabia and the United Arab Emirates, have been considered relatively safe and stable until now. The call for immediate evacuation from there also indicates that the conflict is not going to be limited. The threat of airspace closures, flight cancellations by major airlines, and increased threats to sea routes—all these signals point to widespread military turmoil.

Friends, if we consider the roots and extent of the conflict, Iran and Israel have had ideological and strategic rivalry for decades. Nuclear programs, missile technology, and support for regional proxy groups have long been at the center of tensions. When the US openly sides with Israel and talks of joint military operations emerge, the conflict directly escalates into a superpower versus a regional power conflict. A characteristic of this conflict is that it has transcended the boundaries of conventional warfare. Drones, cyberattacks, long-range missiles, and maritime blockades all tools of modern warfare are simultaneously deployed. If this conflict prolongs, energy supplies, global trade routes, and international financial markets could be severely affected.

Friends, if we consider the impact on India: Diplomacy, Economy, and Internal Security, West Asia is not just a geopolitical region for India, but a major hub for energy, Indian diaspora, and trade. Millions of Indians are employed in the Gulf countries. If a full-scale war breaks out there, challenges such as evacuation operations, surges in energy prices, and disruptions to supply chains could arise. The cancellation of international flights at Delhi Airport, the start of the return of Indians from the Gulf countries, and the CBSE's postponement of examinations in Bahrain, the UAE, and Saudi Arabia indicate that the impact of the conflict has reached India directly. The Indian Ministry of External Affairs is on alert and efforts have been intensified to ensure the safety of

Indians living in various countries.

Friends, if we consider Jammu and Kashmir and internal sensitivities, the death of a prominent Islamic leader or a major military conflict in West Asia could have repercussions in sensitive areas of India, especially Jammu and Kashmir. Reports of increasing restrictions and protests in the Valley indicate that international events can influence local sentiments. The presence of such large-scale protests after 2019 is a serious signal for security agencies. The challenge for the Indian government is twofold: on the one hand, the external geopolitical crisis, and on the other, maintaining internal law and order. Controlling any kind of communal or political insurgency is extremely important at this time. Energy, Economy, and Global Markets If sea routes in the Gulf region are disrupted, oil prices could rise sharply. For an energy-importing country like India, this would increase economic pressure. Inflation, the current account deficit, and the currency exchange rate could be directly impacted. Globally, there could be volatility in stock markets and an increase in demand for safe assets like gold.

Friends, if we consider the need for diplomatic balance, India's foreign policy has traditionally been based on balance: historical ties with Iran, strategic cooperation with Israel, and a growing partnership with the United States. Maintaining this balance will be difficult but necessary in the current crisis. Openly supporting one side could compromise long-term interests. Appeals for peace at the United Nations and other multilateral forums, and an active role in humanitarian aid and evacuation operations these could be India's priorities.

So, if we study and analyze the entire above narrative, we find that restraint is needed in an era of uncertainty. The current situation in West Asia is explosive, but it would be premature to directly declare World War III. History teaches that major wars often result from miscalculations and diplomatic failures. If the possibilities for dialogue are kept alive and regional powers exercise restraint, a full-scale global war can be avoided. Nevertheless, emergency advisories, flight cancellations, announcements of extended military operations, and the activation of regional organizations all indicate that the world has entered a highly volatile phase. This is the time for the entire international community, including India, to prioritize cautious diplomacy, internal stability, and a commitment to global peace.

## India of bottled water: A profound failure of public water governance



**Dr. Satyan Saurabh**

The growing reliance on bottled water in India is not just a story of changing consumer behavior, but also clearly points to deep-seated, multi-

layered systemic problems in public water governance. Tap water, once considered a basic right for citizens and a state responsibility, is now becoming a symbol of distrust, insecurity, and inequality. From cities to towns and even rural areas, people are increasingly relying on plastic bottles for drinking. This trend not only increases the economic burden but also raises serious questions about the environment, social justice, and the concept of democratic governance. The water crisis in modern India is often attributed to lack of rainfall, climate change, or a growing population. While all of these factors are important, the root cause of the popularity of bottled water lies much deeper than this. The real problem is that citizens' trust in public water supply systems is steadily eroding. Doubts about the quality of tap water, lack of regular supply, and a lack of transparency have driven people to seek alternative sources. When the state fails to fulfill its basic responsibility, the market fills the void—often at a profit.

The use of bottled water has rapidly increased in urban India. In metropolitan cities, it has almost become a way of life. Large jars and bottles are a common sight in offices, schools, hospitals, and even government offices. This situation is ironic, as these cities boast the most developed water infrastructure. If, despite such facilities, citizens cannot drink safe tap water, it is a clear evidence of administrative failure. Poor plumbing conditions, mixing of sewage and drinking water lines, and lack of regular testing—all these problems have been known for years, but solutions have remained incomplete. The situation in rural areas is different, yet equally worrying. Bottled water

use is relatively low there, but as private companies expand their reach into rural markets, this dependence is also increasing. In many areas, high levels of fluoride, arsenic, or iron in groundwater have led people to fear local water sources. State-provided community taps and hand pumps are often out of order or undrinkable. Therefore, those with the financial means purchase bottled water, while the poor are forced to drink contaminated water. This situation creates deep water inequality.

The expansion of the bottled water industry raises many questions. While this industry promises "purity" and "safety," its regulation is severely flawed. It has often been found that even bottled water available on the market does not meet quality standards. Despite this, consumers consider it safer than tap water. This perception itself questions the credibility of public water institutions. If citizens do not trust the state-certified and controlled water supply system, it also threatens the credibility of democratic governance.

From an environmental perspective, the reliance on bottled water is extremely destructive. Plastic bottles are turning into mountains of waste. Recycling rates are extremely low, and most plastic ends up in rivers, lakes, and oceans. Furthermore, bottled water production consumes enormous amounts of water and energy. This means that an artificial solution is being offered by over-exploiting the very resource that is being talked about. This contradiction exposes the short-term thinking of policymakers.

The problems of public water administration aren't just technical; they're also institutional and political. Departments responsible for water management often struggle with resource constraints, a lack of skilled manpower, and coordination. Furthermore, a basic service like water supply often lacks political priority. While election promises include large dams, river-linking projects, and smart cities, relatively little attention is paid to improving everyday water supply. As a result, small but significant problems remain unresolved for years.

The growing trend of privatization is also exacerbating

this crisis. When public systems are weak, private companies are brought forward as a solution. While this has increased efficiency in some cases, the benefits often accrue only to those who can pay. Market-based distribution of an essential resource like water is contrary to the principles of social justice. Bottled water is the most obvious example of this privatization, where clean water becomes a consumer good rather than a fundamental right.

The most worrying aspect of this entire situation is that dependence on bottled water is gradually becoming normalized. People are beginning to see it as a solution rather than a symptom of the problem. This reduces public pressure and weakens demands for administrative reform. When citizens themselves create alternative arrangements, the pressure on the state to be accountable decreases. This tacitly accepted failure could lead to even greater crises in the future.

There is a need to re-establish water as a public good. This requires ensuring the quality and consistency of tap water, first and foremost. Transparent water testing, public availability of results, and effective grievance redressal systems can restore citizens' confidence. Furthermore, investment in water infrastructure—whether it's pipeline repair, sewage management, or modernization of water treatment plants—must be prioritized.

Public awareness is also crucial. People must understand that bottled water is not a long-term solution. Consumer behavior can be changed by increasing awareness about the environmental and social costs. Schools, community organizations, and local governments can play a key role in this.

Ultimately, the growing dependence on bottled water is a warning. It shows that if public water governance is not strengthened, even a basic necessity like water can lead to deep inequality and crisis. It is time for the state, society, and citizens to collectively reconsider this trend and bring water back into the realm of trust, equity, and public responsibility. Only then will India be able to quench its growing thirst in a just and sustainable manner.

## Discussion on corruption in the judiciary: A mirror of truth or an attack on the dignity of the institution?



**Dr. Priyanka Saurabh**

The judiciary is the guardian pillar of India's democracy, protecting the Constitution and assuring justice to citizens. However, recently, the Supreme Court took a strong stance against the NCERT's Class 8 Social Science textbook, imposing a complete ban on its printing, distribution, and circulation. The chapter on "The Role of the Judiciary in Our Society" mentioned "corruption at various levels of the judiciary," the high backlog of cases, the shortage of judges, and statements by former Chief Justice B.R. Gavai. CJI Surya Kant termed this a "deep-rooted and deliberate conspiracy" to defame the judiciary and issued notices to the Ministry of Education and the NCERT Director, seeking their response. The identity of the authors of the controversial chapter, their qualifications, and the minutes of the syllabus-framing meetings have been ordered. This incident not only raises questions about education policy but also raises a debate about the balance between institutional dignity, freedom of expression, and open discussion on corruption. Is such discussion in the school curriculum wrong? Or is it a means to alert society?

The Indian Constitution provides for freedom of expression under Article 19(1), but Article 19(2) also provides reasonable restrictions, including contempt of court. The Supreme Court's action falls under the scope of the Contempt of Courts Act, 1971, which makes material insulting the dignity of the judiciary punishable. The Court reasoned that the chapter was selective—prominently mentioning corruption in the judiciary, but not the legislature or the executive. Calling pending cases a "massive backlog" and challenging the shortage of judges undermined the institution. The reference to former CJI Gavai's statement was taken out of context and misleading. The Court called it a "deep-rooted conspiracy," suggesting it may not be a mere academic oversight but a deliberate attempt. The inclusion of such material in the recently revised curriculum by NCERT demonstrates the Ministry of Education's negligence. The lack of transparency in the meetings of the Syllabus Expert Committee has raised questions—were the authors motivated by political bias? The court has assured a thorough investigation, which is welcome.

Discussing corruption is essential for democracy. According to Transparency International, India's Corruption Perception Index was 40/100 in 2025, highlighting the challenges facing institutions, including the judiciary. The Supreme Court itself has made

scathing comments on corruption, such as in the Brahmvarta Hostel case or the medical admission scam. Justice J.S. Verma stated that "even one case of corruption in the judiciary tarnishes the entire institution." However, generalizing this in a school textbook is inappropriate. Children are 13-14 years old—give them factual knowledge, not biased perspectives. A chapter focusing on accountability, separation of powers, and reforms (such as fast-track courts and recruitment of judges) would have been useful. In its current form, it sows negativity, which could create distrust of the judiciary among the younger generation. In states like Haryana, where Panchayati Raj is strong, the local justice system is already struggling—such content will discourage rural children.

It's natural to question the role of NCERT. The New Education Policy 2020 aimed to simplify the curriculum and make it more Indian-centric, but this controversy is having the opposite effect. The ministry should mandate multilateral consultations—including academics, judicial experts, and parent organizations—in framing the syllabus. Verify the qualifications of authors—are they political science experts or general educators? The court also ordered the seizure of digital copies, which is challenging in the cyber age. However, this step was necessary because misinformation could go viral. Senior lawyers like Kapil

Sibal and Abhishek Manu Singhvi described the findings in court as selective, which strengthens the debate. Now, if the investigation proves a conspiracy, those responsible will face contempt charges.

This case calls for comprehensive reforms. To prevent corruption in the judiciary, strengthen the National Judicial Commission (NJAC) to ensure transparent appointments of judges. Accelerate the e-court project to reduce the backlog of cases—currently over 50 million. Seek legislative consent to increase the number of judges. Address corruption in education as a chapter on ethics, not as an attack on a particular institution. Freedom of expression is important, but the dignity of the institution is paramount. The Supreme Court's intervention is in the right direction—it is a warning that education should not breed corruption.

NCERT should revise the curriculum to ensure factual, balanced content. Governments should increase transparency—the syllabus process should be made public through RTI. The public should be aware, because a strong judiciary is a strong India. If the discussion on corruption leads to reform, it is welcome; otherwise, it is merely a conspiracy. A Supreme Court investigation will reveal the truth and strengthen the education system. Balance is the key to success in a democracy.

# Intellectual Discussion "J-LORE 2026" Celebrated with Grandeur in Jajpur

**J A J P U R** (Correspondent) : As a prelude to the district festival "Yayati-2026", a high-profile literary and intellectual discussion programme titled "J-LORE 2026" (Jajpur Literature and Discourse - Tales of the Past, Path to the Future) was successfully organised today under the joint initiative of the district administration and the District Culture Council, Jajpur. The colourful event was held at the Gautam Buddha Sanskruti Bhavan at 3:30 PM. The programme aimed to promote Jajpur's rich heritage, literature and culture and to connect the younger generation with the pride of their native land. District Collector and Chairman of the District Culture Council Ambar Kumar Kar attended the event



and explained the objectives of the programme. Additional District Magistrate (Revenue) Shibamanda Swain, in his welcome address, stated that the emotional depth present in art and culture can never be replaced by artificial intelligence. On this occasion, several distinguished writers, researchers and intellectuals of the state shared their valuable insights on different topics. A documentary on the development of

Jajpur", highlighting the historical significance of Shakti worship in the region. Historian and researcher Anil Dhir spoke on "Jajpur and the Maritime and River Trade of Ancient Odisha", recalling the prosperous trading centres that once flourished along the banks of the Baitarani River. Renowned personality and orator Kuna Tripathy addressed the issue of the declining interest of the younger generation (Gen-Z) in literature, stressing the need to reconnect youth with books and reading. Eminent writer and educationist Das Benhur analysed the contemporary topic "Artificial Intelligence versus Creativity", providing thought-provoking perspectives for the audience. The

knowledge-oriented discussion saw the participation of hundreds of students from various colleges of the district, along with scholars, administrative officials and members of the public. Additional District Magistrate Yudhisthir Nayak, Chief Development Officer and District Council Executive Officer Devi Prasad Mohanty, and District Culture Officer Sonali Behera played key roles in organising the programme. The event concluded with an interactive session among the guests and participants. The district administration's innovative initiative received widespread appreciation from all sections of society. Sub-Collector Tapas Ranjan Dehury delivered the vote of thanks.

# Malkangiri Assembly Constituency Development Committee Meeting Held

**M a l k a n g i r i**, (Correspondent) : Malkangiri Assembly Constituency MLA Narasing Madkani made an important announcement in the Legislative Constituency Development Committee meeting held at the District Council Conference Hall today. He has decided to select 3 villages from each block from Malkangiri, Kalimela and Podia and transform them into model or model villages. MLA Announces to Select 3 Villages from Each Block and Develop Them as Model Villages. In the meeting, the MLA directed all the departmental officers to immediately conduct a



detailed survey in the identified villages and assess the current development status, needs and gaps. A clear plan has been directed to prepare a clear plan of what needs to be done to fill this gap. In this process, the Block Development Officer of each block has been appointed as the nodal officer. The BDOs will prepare a detailed DPR

in coordination with all the departments. On the basis of this DPR, the identified villages will be developed as model villages through holistic development. This step is being considered as a commendable step for development, better living conditions, education and overall upliftment of the tribal community in the rural areas of Malkangiri district.

## Senior BJP worker Nepal Gedaya passes away

**Patnagarh: 6/3** (Correspondent) Senior BJP worker Nepal Gedaya, a resident of Khaprakhol block headquarters in Balangir district, passed away on Wednesday. He was over 80 years old at the time of his death. He was known in the area as a disciplined and hardworking worker of the Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP). He had contributed to strengthening the party's organization for a long time. His last rites were performed in the village Mashani. His elder son Neela Gadtya set him on fire. Upon receiving the news of his death, many BJP leaders and workers including Khaprakhol mandal president Umakant Padhan, Padmakumar Singh Bariha, Abhay Tripathi have expressed deep condolences. This news has cast a shadow of grief in the area.

## Shakti swarupani" program on the first day of International Women's Day

**Malkangiri** correspondent : The first day's program on the occasion of International Women's Day was held at Malkangiri Sports Complex. Malkangiri MLA Narasinha Madkani inaugurated the program as the chief guest, while Additional District Magistrate Administration Somnath Pradhan, District Sports Officer Muna Turuk were present. Today's first day's "Shakti swarupani" program was attended by women in group yoga sessions for physical fitness, nutrition and mental well-being.

## Yoga education begins on the first day of International Women's Day celebration



**SUBARNAPUR 6/3** (Correspondent)--- The first day's program was held in Subarnapur on the occasion of International Women's Day. On this occasion, Chairperson Sonepur Municipality, Honorable Member of Parliament, Representative of Balangir Smt. Nalini Panda, Additional District Magistrate (Revenue) Rajendra Majhi, District Panchayat Officer cum District Information and Public Relations Officer Arjun Majhi, District Sports Officer Chittaranjan Mishra, Yoga Trainer Manoj Kumar Panda and Rukuni Meher along with women from different walks of life and coaches of Khelo India Center Sonepur participated. Today, on the first day, on the occasion of 'Her Body / Her Power', Group yoga sessions / group fitness and physical activities (such as Zumba, aerobics,) were provided to women for mental well-being. Tomorrow, (Saturday) training will be provided on self-defense skills, judo, karate, etc.

## BJD workers' conference held at Gajapati

**Parlakhemundi**, (Correspondent): BJD workers' conference was held at Shardapur under Gosani block of Gajapati district. Hundreds of BJD workers from Shardapur village and Gosani block, along with a large number of district-level leaders, were present in this conference. On this occasion, various developmental works and people-oriented schemes implemented by the government of former Chief Minister Naveen Patnaik were discussed, while the schemes of the current state government were not working at the grassroots level. Naveen government's schemes resulted in economic and social growth of the people. Naveen government was quick to provide financial grants for the development of every panchayat. But the double-engine government is showing the people a lamp every day. The leaders spoke to reject such a government in the upcoming elections and give a befitting reply. There was a discussion on strengthening the BJD party. While Parla MLA Rupesh Panigrahi was the chief guest at the event, Dr. Tirupati Panigrahi was the special guest, other guests were ZP Chairman G. Tirupati Rao, BJD District President Pradeep Nayak, Gosani Block Chairman N. Veeraraju, former Sarpanch Babu Rao, Gumma Block Chairman Sunemi Mandal, Kashinagar Block Chairman Bala Saiamma, ZPI Member S. Balaraju and many BJD leaders were present.



## Bulldozer Moves Through Nimapara Golei Chhak; Hundreds of Encroachers' Houses Demolished

**N i m a p a r a**, (Correspondent): The administration carried out a demolition drive against houses and shops built by encroachers on government land along the Nimapara-Gop main road in Puri district. Bulldozers were used to clear the illegal structures. For the widening of the main road and construction of a four-lane road, encroachments on about one acre of land were removed today. More than 50 shops along with several other illegal houses built on government land were



demolished and cleared. Today's eviction drive was completed largely in a peaceful manner. According to the administration, removing these encroachments will help resolve the long-standing traffic

congestion and road-widening problems in the Nimapara Golei Chhak area. A few days earlier, the Nimapara Tahasil administration had issued government notices to the encroachers to vacate all government land

from Nimapara up to the Gop main market area. They were warned that if they did not remove their houses and shops within the given time limit, the government would demolish them. During today's eviction drive, Nimapara Tahasiladar Manoj Kumar Pradhan, Additional Tahasiladar Niranjan Nayak, Assistant Engineer of the Works Department Amitabh Mallik, along with the Nimapara police officials, more than six administrative officers, and one platoon of police force were deployed.

## Six Killed, Five Injured in Separate Road Accidents Across Odisha

**B h u b a n e s w a r**, (Correspondent): Six people were killed and five others injured in multiple road accidents across Odisha, including incidents in Pipili, Keonjhar, and Dhenkanal districts. In Dhenkanal's Hatibari village, a trailer carrying asbestos sheets collided with a tractor and overturned into a house, killing Asthir Tarai, who was asleep at the time. The driver and assistant were hospitalized. In Nayagarh's Bhapur block, two men, Beer Kishore Dhal and Sankar Biswal, died when their motorcycle crashed into a tree.

Two bike riders died and one was critically injured in Pipili after their vehicle collided with a Hyva truck on the Bhubaneswar-Puri National Highway. The identities of the victims are unknown. In Ganjam's Khallikote, a youth was killed when his motorcycle was hit by an unknown vehicle on National Highway-16. A truck accident in Keonjhar occurred when one truck crashed into another parked truck, injuring the driver, who was rescued and hospitalized. Lastly, a tipper truck overturned near Kendukhunta junction in Nilgiri, injuring the driver. The truck was speeding, possibly due to illegal stone transportation.

## District-Level PM SHRI Utsav Held in Rayagada

**R a y a g a d a**, (Correspondent): The district-level PM SHRI Scheme Utsav was organized at the playground of Govind Chandra Dev High School in Rayagada district. The District Collector of Rayagada District, Ashutosh Kulkarni, attended the programme as the chief guest and inaugurated the event. Addressing the gathering, he highlighted that the PM SHRI initiative aims to transform government schools into model institutions by effectively implementing the National Education Policy 2020. He emphasized the importance of improving



infrastructure, promoting inclusive school environments, strengthening co-curricular development, and equipping students with 21st-century skills. District Education Officer Ramachandra Nahak delivered the introductory address, while Additional District Education Officer Bhajan Lal Majhi

proposed the vote of thanks. Among the distinguished guests present were Assistant District Information and Public Relations Officer Debaraj Takri, Additional District Education Officers Shantilata Muni and Sasmita Behera, along with the Headmistress of Govind Chandra Dev High School Namita

Padhan. As part of the event, an Akanksha Mela was organized with 45 stalls showcasing various student initiatives such as Student Council activities, vocational education, Jadupedi, Padhiba-Gadhiba learning modules, and "Dokan Yatra". These stalls aimed to provide students with opportunities to participate in innovative and globally relevant learning platforms. The projects displayed during the exhibition were informative and highly engaging. Around 900 students, teachers, and staff from 15 PM SHRI schools across these blocks attended the programme.

## Gumma Forest Department Continues Efforts to Protect Forests and Wildlife from Fire

(Correspondent): With the onset of the summer season and the increasing risk of forest fires, the Forest Department has intensified awareness programmes to educate people about the importance of protecting forests. As part of this initiative, the Gumma Forest Section organized an awareness programme on forest fire prevention through the traditional folk art form Daskathia. The programme was conducted at Phulkana village under

Kumbhikota Gram Panchayat. Gumma Forester Rabi Chandra Patra, Forest Guard Labanya Majhi, Forester Padmabati Padhi, along with other forest staff and villagers from nearby areas, participated in the programme. Since Daskathia is a popular traditional folk art in Odisha, it was used as an effective medium to communicate the message in a simple and engaging manner. Through songs, dialogues, and dramatic performances, the

artists explained the dangers of forest fires and how they severely damage forests, wildlife, and the environment. During the programme, villagers were also advised not to light fires in forest areas due to negligence, especially while collecting forest produce such as mahua flowers or firewood. They were encouraged to remain vigilant and immediately inform the Forest Department if any forest fire is noticed. Forest officials emphasized

that protecting forests is a shared responsibility of everyone. The awareness programme helped villagers understand the harmful impact of forest fires and encouraged them to actively participate in safeguarding forests and wildlife. The Forest Department also informed that similar awareness programmes will continue in other villages in the coming days to further strengthen forest protection efforts.

## Sanjay Mishra, Divya Dutta's 'Chiraiya' to be out on March 20

Actors Divya Dutta and Sanjay Mishra will be seen in a social drama titled 'Chiraiya'. On Friday, the project's trailer was unveiled by streaming platform JioHotstar. The trailer offers a glimpse into the life of Kamlesh, the ideal daughter-in-law of a close-knit family, whose seemingly stable world begins to shatter when she discovers that her sister-in-law Pooja is facing sexual abuse within her marriage. As difficult truths begin to unfold, "Kamlesh finds herself torn between protecting her family's honour and standing up for what is right. What begins as quiet concern gradually turns into a deeply personal battle against deeply rooted patriarchal beliefs, forcing her to question everything she once believed in and stood for, while confronting the uncomfortable reality that consent cannot be assumed, even within marriage." Divya, who essays the role of Kamlesh, in a press note said, "With Chiraiya, we aren't just telling a story; we are holding up a mirror to the silences we've inherited. I've always been mindful of the characters I bring to life, but Kamlesh is different. She is a piece of my heart. She is a woman bound by the values she's always cherished, yet she finds herself at a crossroads where her love for family meets her refusal to ignore injustice. Her journey isn't a loud rebellion; it's a quiet, powerful awakening of a woman choosing dignity over fear. Playing her shook me, because she reflects a reality tucked away in the corners of so many homes. I truly hope Chiraiya makes us pause and rethink the 'norms' we've been conditioned to accept. It's time we start the conversations that have been overdue for generations." Sanjay Mishra added, "What makes Chiraiya impactful is its honesty. It does not present characters as heroes or villains, but as people shaped by beliefs, upbringing, and fear of judgment. I love how the story holds a mirror to the uncomfortable realities within families and highlights how silence can often become the biggest enabler of injustice. Working with the entire team of Chiraiya was a very enriching experience."



## 'Dhurandhar 2' trailer to be out on March 7, fans excited

The wait is finally over! The trailer for Aditya Dhar's upcoming film 'Dhurandhar 2' is set to release on March 7. On Friday, the makers announced that the trailer for 'Dhurandhar: The Revenge' will drop online on Saturday at 11:01 AM. Lead actor Ranveer Singh also shared the exciting update with fans, along with an intriguing poster teasing the trailer. "Brace yourself Trailer out tomorrow 7th March at 11:01 AM #Dhurandhar TheRevenge Releasing In Cinemas Worldwide on 19th March 2026 in Hindi, Telugu, Tamil, Kannada & Malayalam," Ranveer wrote. Soon after the makers shared the update, fans chimed in the comment section and expressed their excitement. "Wohoo, can't wait," a netizen commented. "It is going to break all records," another user wrote. 'Dhurandhar' was released in theatres on December 5 last year and went on to become the highest-grossing film of 2025. The film has since achieved cult status and rewritten box office history, surpassing 'Pushpa 2: The Rule' to emerge as the highest-grossing Hindi film of all time. Produced by Jio Studios and B62 Studios, with T-Series taking over as the music label, 'Dhurandhar: The Revenge' is slated for a pan-India theatrical release on March 19, 2026, coinciding with Eid, Gudi Padwa and Ugadi. It will release in Hindi, Telugu, Tamil, Kannada and Malayalam. Sanjay Dutt, Arjun Rampal and R Madhavan are also a part of the 'Dhurandhar' world. Akshaye Khanna delivered a menacing performance as the Pakistani gangster Rehman Dakait in the first part.



## why it is a big danger for your heart and liver

Weight gain can be detrimental to your overall health and may lead to several serious complications. But did you know that how your weight is distributed in your body can make a big difference? Fat accumulation in certain areas can make you more vulnerable to serious health risks, as it can adversely affect vital organs and increase the chances of developing chronic conditions.

Dr Pankaj Puri, director-gastroenterology at Fortis Escorts Heart Institute, Okhla, shared with HT Lifestyle in an interview that the liver and heart become most vulnerable when fat accumulates around the waist. "For decades, weight & BMI have been considered a marker for health. However, waist circumference & waist to hip ratio have proven to be important predictors of coronary heart disease & metabolic associated liver disease," he explained how the health risk indicators are



changing nowadays.

Why is waist fat harmful?

The fat that develops around the waist is called visceral fat, which the doctor cautioned is quite alarming, especially for internal organs.

Differentiating the two types of fat and why visceral fat is more dangerous, the gastroenterologist elaborated, "While subcutaneous fat is a cosmetic concern, visceral fat, which is accumulated deep in the abdominal cavity, is a more concerning indicator for heart diseases & fatty liver

disease."

He also disclosed that Body Mass Index (BMI) can be misleading, as individuals with a normal BMI may have high visceral fat and liver fat content, known as "skinny fat".

How to measure your risk?

You can measure your risk by checking the waist circumference and waist-to-hip ratio. But how do you measure the risk? "The technique for measuring waist circumference is to measure with tape, halfway between the lower ribs and the iliac crest," Dr Puri revealed

how to measure your waist circumference.

Now that you have measured your waist circumference, it is time to check which category you fall into and whether it indicates a healthy range. The gastroenterologist shared how the WHO classifies health risk with waist circumference in the Asian population. Check your measurement with these cut-offs, as they can help you find out if you are at risk of coronary artery disease and metabolic syndrome.

If you are gaining weight around the waist, take it seriously as it is not only a sign of obesity, but as the gastroenterologist pointed out, it is also a major predictor of the risk of fatty liver disease and coronary artery disease. High time you measure your waist circumference at home and aim to lose weight from that region for a better heart and liver disease.

## Googling symptoms and panicking about cancer?

Anytime someone encounters a concerning or slightly unusual symptom, many immediately hop on the internet, googling the signs. But more often than not, anxiety surges when a simple headache is linked to something as serious as cancer, or when every other person on social media claims carcinogenic content in common everyday foods. It is natural to feel worried and fall into the rabbit hole of overthinking and spiralling.

But it is important to cut through the noise and take a step back to separate facts from half-truths. Cancer requires awareness, but not panic. Understanding what is medically accurate and what is simply a myth can make a crucial difference in how people seek help. Unnecessary panic may even cause some delay in medical help due to pure terror.

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1. The sugar myth:



'Sugar feeds cancer'

Sugar, time and again, has been demonised, urging for a blanket ban on sugar, as it would help fight cancer by starving it. Here's where it is wrongly interpreted. The oncologist explained why it makes no clinical sense, "Cancer is not caused by high blood sugar, and neither does sugar feed cancer. Like all healthy cells in our body, the cancer cells too consume glucose (sugar) to remain metabolically active, thus cutting off sugar when not necessary will weaken the human body."

2. The biopsy myth: 'Surgery spreads the disease'

A biopsy is a test which the doctors ask for to ascertain cancer risk. Dr Krishnan explained, "A biopsy is the removal of a small amount of tissue (sample) from a suspicious area to be

evaluated under a microscope, it can also help doctors decide the right course of treatment if cancer is detected." But the myth associated with this test is that a biopsy spreads cancer. How much of it is true? "While there is an extremely small number of cases where biopsies can dislodge cancer cells, the possibility of it spreading cancer is extremely low," the oncologist dispelled the doubt. In fact, not getting a biopsy when required is even more dangerous.

3. The 'natural' myth: 'Herbal remedies are safer'

There is a common belief that anything labelled as 'natural' automatically means it is healthy. If an ingredient or remedy is rooted in herbs or natural sources, many people assume it is safer or better for the body. This perception is also seen for cancer treatment. However, the oncologist called this

notion unscientific, refuting claims that natural remedies can act as a 'non-toxic' treatment for cancer. "There is no 'non-toxic' alternative to curing cancer. No herb, spice, or diet alone can cure cancer," the oncologist firmly voiced.

Something even more alarming? Some of these natural remedies can actually interfere with the working of life-saving drugs, rendering them less effective or, in some cases, more toxic.

4. The genetic risk myth: 'It does not run in my family'

Many believe that the risk of cancer largely stems from genetic factors, which can create a false sense of reassurance. The oncologist recalled hearing things from patients like: "No one in my family had cancer, so I'm safe." But he disclosed a reality that challenges this assumption.



# ECoR Observes International Women's Day in Association with ECoRWFO

Bhubaneswar, (Correspondent): East Coast Railway, in association with the East Coast Railway Women's Welfare Organisation (ECoRWFO), celebrated International Women's Day 2026 at the Railway Auditorium, Bhubaneswar with enthusiasm and dignity, recognising the invaluable contributions of women employees across various departments. Addressing the gathering Smt. Kavita Funkwal, President ECoRWFO and Chief Guest on this occasion encouraged women railway employees to recognise their inherent strength and capabilities, work with confidence and determination, and continue contributing meaningfully to the growth and progress of



the organisation while inspiring others through their dedication and achievements. Smt. Kanta Mohanty, Chairperson, Child Welfare Committee, Khordha, Department of Women and Child Development, Government of Odisha and POSH Trainer, graced the occasion as Chief Speaker. During the event, a total of 31 women railway employees were felicitated for their remarkable contributions and achievements. 15 women employees from

different fields were honoured for their outstanding performance and professional excellence in their respective fields. 16 women employees were awarded for

their enthusiastic participation and success in various competitions organised as part of the celebrations. The celebrations were also observed at all the Divisional Headquarters the

Zone. Coordinating the programme, Chief Personnel Officer (Industrial Relations) Shri Anjan Ray congratulated the women employees for their sincere dedication and valuable contributions to the Railways. The programme concluded with a vibrant cultural performance presented by women railway employees, adding a festive and inspiring touch to the celebration of the spirit, strength and achievements of women in the Railways.

# Turkish Airlines achieved 2.2 billion USD Profit from Main Operations in 2025

Bhubaneswar (Correspondent): In the fourth quarter of 2025, Total Revenues increased by 12% year over year, reaching 6.3 billion USD, while Total Revenues for the full year exceeded 24 billion USD. The fourth quarter Profit from Main Operations increased by 23% compared to the previous year, reaching 534 million USD, bringing the 2025 Profit from Main Operations to 2.2 billion USD. In 2025, the EBITDAR (Earnings Before Interest, Tax, Depreciation, Amortization and Rent) margin exceeded the mid-point of the long-






term target, reaching 23.7%. Consolidated assets amounted to 46.6 billion USD, while total employment, including subsidiaries, exceeded 101 thousand. In line with the Company's strategic objectives, the value of investments made during the year reached 6 billion USD. Accordingly, over the last five years, the total value of investments was

recorded at c. 20 billion USD. Despite geopolitical developments, strong performance in January and February support expectations that the 2026 EBITDAR margin will be in the 22-24% range within the Company's long-term target. Maintaining its position as the network carrier operating the highest number of flights in Europe, Turkish Airlines sustained its steady growth throughout 2025 despite geopolitical tensions and economic uncertainties caused by trade wars, as well as aircraft delivery and engine supply issues in the aviation industry.

# Tata Steel celebrates the 187th birth anniversary of J. N. Tata across its units in Odisha




Bhubaneswar, (Correspondent): Tata Steel commemorated the 187th Founder's Day of its founder, Jamsetji Nusserwanji Tata, across its Odisha operations under the theme "One Vision, One Tata Steel." In Bhubaneswar, the observance began with floral tributes at the Chief Resident Executive (CRE) Office, honouring the Founder's enduring vision. Similar homage ceremonies were held at the Ferro Alloys and Minerals Division (FAMD) offices in Bhubaneswar and Sukinda. Senior leadership at Tata Steel Technical Service Limited and the Odisha Naval Tata Hockey High Performance Center paid tribute to J.N. Tata. To mark the occasion, a spirited six-a-side friendly hockey tournament was organised, with enthusiastic participation from staff. At Tata Steel Kalinganagar (TSK), employees led a formal parade from the Project Office to the TSK Centre, where senior leadership, union representatives and employees paid homage. More than 800 Tata Parivar members at TSK and Neelachal Ispat Nigam Limited (NINL) took part in week-long celebrations, including a friendly football tournament, various sporting events and a quiz competition held at the Rehabilitation & Resettlement Colony and company housing colonies. At Tata Steel Meramandali (TSM), floral wreaths were laid at the statue of J.N. Tata. The residential colony and main gate were illuminated with decorative lights, while sports and athletics programmes were organised for employees and their families, along with games for children. In Joda, the Ore Mines and Quarries (OMQ) Division observed the day with floral tributes at Joda East Iron Mine, Khondbond Iron Mine, NINL Mine, Kalamang and Gandhalpada Project Office, and Bileipada Sponge Iron Plant. Employees participated in sports activities, and fruit packets were distributed to in-patients at Tata Steel Main Hospital, Joda. Homage was also paid at Tata Steel Special Economic Zone Limited (TSSEZL) in Gopalpur and at offices of Subarnarekha Port Private Limited (SPPL), where employees joined in remembering the Founder's legacy.

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