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 ମୁଖ୍ୟମନ୍ତ୍ରୀ  
 ଶ୍ରୀ ମୋହନ ଚରଣ ମାଝୀଙ୍କ  
 କରକମଳରେ



# ସୁଭଦ୍ରା ଚତୁର୍ଥ କିସ୍ତୁ

୧ କୋଟିରୁ ଊର୍ଦ୍ଧ୍ୱ ହିତାଧିକାରୀଙ୍କୁ  
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ଗରିମାମୟ ଉପସ୍ଥିତି

ଶ୍ରୀ କନକ ବର୍ଦ୍ଧନ ସିଂହ ଦେଓ  
 ଉପ-ମୁଖ୍ୟମନ୍ତ୍ରୀ, ଓଡ଼ିଶା

ଶ୍ରୀମତୀ ପ୍ରଭାତୀ ପରିଡ଼ା  
 ଉପ-ମୁଖ୍ୟମନ୍ତ୍ରୀ, ଓଡ଼ିଶା

ଶ୍ରୀ ସମ୍ପ୍ରଦ ପାତ୍ର  
 ସାଂସଦ, ପୁରୀ

ଶ୍ରୀ ବିଭୁପ୍ରସାଦ ତରାଇ  
 ସାଂସଦ, ଜଗତସିଂହପୁର

ଶ୍ରୀ ତୁଷାରକାନ୍ତି ବେହେରା  
 ବିଧାୟକ, କାକଟପୁର

ଶ୍ରୀ ସୁନୀଲ କୁମାର ମହାନ୍ତି  
 ବିଧାୟକ, ପୁରୀ

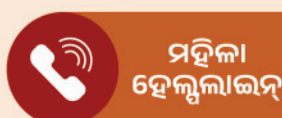
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 ବିଧାୟିକା, ବ୍ରହ୍ମଗିରି

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 ବିଧାୟକ, ସତ୍ୟବାଦୀ

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 ବିଧାୟକ, ପିପିଲି

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ମହିଳା ଓ ଶିଶୁ ବିକାଶ ବିଭାଗ, ଓଡ଼ିଶା ସରକାର

## Vigilance raids at 7 locations simultaneously, including the home of an irrigation department officer Pramod Ray

Cuttack (Correspondent): The Vigilance Department has started a massive raid from midnight. A four-member team from Cuttack Vigilance Department and Kendrapara Vigilance Department raided the residential office of an Irrigation Department officer from midnight on charges of accumulating assets beyond the income. After a long 8-hour interrogation, he was taken to the Cuttack Vigilance Office. From 2 am on Saturday, the Kendrapara Irrigation Department conducted a vigilance raid at the residential office of Pramod Kumar Ray,



who works as an assistant engineer in Chhata sub-district, at Chhata Chak. A four-member team from Kendrapara and Cuttack Vigilance Department is checking various documents and is checking the cash and other necessary documents in his possession. After a long 8-hour raid, Pramod

Kumar Ray was taken to the Cuttack Vigilance office. During the investigation, it was found that more than 2 lakh rupees were seized along with many important documents. Reacting to the seized money, Pramod Ray said, "All the money that the Vigilance is taking is mine. I had kept the money in the office, the Vigilance Department will tell you how much money it has counted." However, the Cuttack Vigilance has not yet received any details in this regard. On the basis of a search warrant issued by the Cuttack Vigilance Special Judge, the Vigilance, led by 2 Additional SPs, 9

DSPs, 9 Inspectors, 4 ASIs and other support staff, raided 7 places including Kendrapara, Cuttack, Dhenkanal, Bhadrak and Bhubaneswar. Pramod Kumar Roy Pramod joined the Irrigation Department office in Indupur, Kendrapara in 2008 as a junior engineer. He was working as an Assistant Engineer or SDO in the Irrigation Department at Chhata, Kendrapara after receiving the promotion in 2019. According to the information provided by the Cuttack Vigilance Department, Pramod Ray works as an Assistant Executive Engineer under the

Kendrapara Irrigation Department. During the search on the properties related to the Deravish Irrigation Sub-Division, 2 multi-storey buildings (one in Bhubaneswar and one in Choudwar), 2 plots, cash worth Rs 4.48 lakh etc. were seized during the investigation. He started working as a junior engineer in the Water Resources Department in 1988. The initial salary at that time was only Rs 1.5 thousand. So far, during the investigation conducted by the Vigilance Department, many properties have been seized in the names of Pramod Ray and his family members.

## CMC has prepared a huge budget of Rs 1268 crore for the new financial year

Cuttack: The budget of Cuttack Mahanagara Nigam has become even bigger compared to last year. This time a budget of Rs 1268 crore has been prepared. Which was presented in the council meeting today. Although the size of the budget is very big, the chairman of the Khoda Works Committee has raised questions about its implementation. Because about Rs 250 crore has not been spent from the Rs 12 crore budget presented last year. Again, the budget is being prepared only on loans and government grants. But CMC's own income is decreasing. On which the Congress has raised



objections. This time a maximum of Rs 655 crore has been provided for new construction and renovation. Out of which, 40 crores have been allocated for ward beautification, 35 crores for development of parks and community halls, 25 crores for street lights, 15 crores for construction and repair of new roads, and 10 crores for restoration of water bodies. Similarly, an

expenditure of 91.70 crores has been allocated for health and sanitation. Out of which, only 50 crores will be spent on bio-mining. But the CMC Health Committee Chairman has expressed dissatisfaction over this. There is a lot of sympathy for a specific agency, but he has questioned why the bio-mining work is not being given to a qualified company.

## President Murmu To Visit Ayodhya On March 19, Perform Rituals At Ram Temple

Ayodhya: President Droupadi Murmu is scheduled to visit Ayodhya on March 19 to participate in a series of religious ceremonies at the Ram Mandir Ayodhya, including the installation of the Ram Yantra on the temple's second floor and Vedic rituals as part of special celebrations marking the Hindu New Year. The President will also install the Shri Ram Yantra and Shri Ram Naam temple on the second floor of the temple complex and take part in Vedic prayers that will begin at around 9 a.m. The rituals will be performed by 51 Vedic scholars from southern India, Kashi, and Ayodhya under the guidance of priest Ganeswar



Shastri. During the visit, President Murmu will also honour nearly 400 workers who contributed to the construction of the temple and hoist a flag at one of the temples located along the outer precinct, known as the parkota. The President's convoy is expected to reach the temple complex at around 11 a.m. and she will remain there for nearly four hours. The event will see

participation from several religious and social leaders, including spiritual leaders. Around 5,000 special guests have been invited for the occasion, while elaborate arrangements are being made for security, seating, transport, and accommodation. Officials said the temple trust also plans to open access to additional shrines within the

complex for devotees after the President's programme. Under the proposed system, about 5,000 devotees will be allowed daily to visit temples within the parkota area through a pass-based arrangement. Meanwhile, the number of devotees visiting Ayodhya continues to rise, with about 1,500 pilgrims from Punjab arriving in the city by a special train on Saturday to offer prayers to Ram Lalla. Speaking ahead of the ongoing three-day meeting of the temple construction committee, committee chairman Nripendra Mishra said discussions were held regarding the President's visit and arrangements at the temple complex.

## Padampur Paddy Crisis: Challenges Faced by Farmers as Bags Remain Uncollected in Mandis

Bargarh (Correspondent): Approximately one lakh bags of paddy are currently stranded in Mandis in Padampur, Bargarh district, Odisha, leading to concerns among farmers due to delays in procurement by rice millers. As registration for the Rabi season begins on March 10, farmers await payments for the Kharif harvest, which has led to understandable frustration. Mandi Woes Persist. Padampur subdivision, a significant paddy centre, has seen over 8 lakh bags remain unlifted as of early 2025, with delays extending into March 2026 owing to procurement challenges and logistical issues. Farmers have reported issues such as



deductions and difficulties with token issuance, prompting some to consider alternative arrangements, including private sales below MSP. The region has experienced protests, including a 12-hour bandh in December 2025 that temporarily disrupted daily activities. During these events, some farmers temporarily deposited

their bags at the Bargarh Collectorate, where about 15 bags went missing overnight, prompting police complaints from leaders like Nilanchal Deheri. While there is speculation about official measures to address these concerns, no official confirmation has been provided, which has contributed to uncertainty. Similar theft incidents have been

reported in the area amid ongoing procurement challenges. Farmer representatives have organised Dharnas and engaged in discussions with authorities, emphasising the need for timely procurement and payments. Leaders such as Ramesh Mohapatra have urged prompt resolution and have emphasised the importance of addressing these issues during the ongoing Rabi sowing period. As Odisha continues its procurement efforts—extending the Kharif operations to March 31—the situation in Padampur highlights broader systemic challenges affecting many stakeholders.

## Global Crude Oil Prices Surpass \$90 Per Barrel Amid Middle East Tensions

New Delhi: Crude oil prices have surged dramatically, crossing the \$90 per barrel threshold as geopolitical tensions rise and concerns over supply disruptions escalate. This sharp increase has sent ripples through global energy markets, with oil prices reaching their highest levels in nearly two years. Just a week ago, crude oil was trading around \$80 per barrel. However, it has now soared past \$90, marking one of the most significant weekly hikes since the COVID-19 pandemic. Experts attribute this surge primarily to the intensifying conflict between Iran and the United States, which has led to a nearly 25% rise in oil prices within a short time frame. In addition, supply concerns in the Middle East have been exacerbated by reports of damaged oil refineries in Kuwait, resulting in a decline in production and reduced supply capacity across the region.

## CM Mamata Hits Out At BJP Over President's Remarks On Santal Event Venue

Kolkata: West Bengal Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee on Saturday launched a sharp attack on the Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) over President Droupadi Murmu's displeasure earlier in the day regarding the West Bengal government allotting a smaller venue for the 9th International Santal Conference at Gossaiapur in Darjeeling district, where the President was the chief guest. Addressing a sit-in protest against the Special Intensive Revision (SIR) at Esplanade East in

central Kolkata, which began on Friday, CM Banerjee accused the BJP of exploiting the office of the President to defame West Bengal. "Where has the BJP taken the Constitution today? We feel ashamed to say that. We respect the Hon'ble President. Now she has also been sent to promote the BJP's politics and fulfil the BJP's agenda. I am sorry, Madam. I have the utmost respect for you. But you have fallen into the BJP's trap," the Chief Minister said. Claiming that the

President had accused the West Bengal government of deliberately preventing people from attending the International Santal Conclave, the Chief Minister said such allegations were baseless, as the state government was not the organiser of the event. "It was not a state event. The state government was not even aware of the event. We get information about when she will come and when she will go. We try to make arrangements as far as possible. But if someone comes every day, how can I attend

every time? Don't we have work to do? Do we have to be on your tail all the time? Come once a year, I will go and receive you. If you come 50 times a year, I do not have that much time to attend every time," Banerjee said. She also said that she could not receive the President as she was participating in the anti-SIR demonstration in what she described as the larger public interest. "You might be the priority for the BJP. But my priority is the common people," the Chief Minister said.

## Bengaluru Lokayukta Raid Reveals Assets Worth Rs 3.19 Crore Linked To BDA Officer

Bengaluru: The Karnataka Lokayukta Police on Saturday conducted search operations in connection with a disproportionate assets case registered against a Range Forest Officer attached to the Bengaluru Development Authority (BDA), and allegedly unearthed properties worth Rs 3.19 crore. According to an official statement, the searches were carried out in connection with a case registered at the Lokayukta Police Station, Bengaluru City-1, against the accused government officer

identified as Dalesh A.L. Simultaneous raids were conducted at more than four locations, including the residences, office and premises of relatives of the accused officer. During the searches, the Lokayukta Police allegedly found movable and immovable assets disproportionate to the known sources of income of the officer. Officials said the searches revealed immovable properties worth about Rs 2.70 crore and movable assets valued at Rs 48.85 lakh. The

immovable properties include three sites, two houses, one commercial building and about 17.20 acres of agricultural land. The movable assets include Rs 1.35 lakh in cash and gold ornaments worth around Rs 13 lakh. Further investigation into the case is under way, the statement added. In another case, a woman official of the Hubballi-Dharwad Municipal Corporation was caught by Lokayukta police on Saturday while allegedly accepting a bribe for issuing a licence to run a roti shop.

## India's LPG Price Cheaper Than Pakistan, Sri Lanka, Nepal Despite Rs 60 Hike: Govt Sources

New Delhi: Even after the recent Rs 60 increase in domestic LPG prices, India continues to have one of the lowest LPG cylinder prices in the region, according to government sources on Saturday. Data showed that cooking gas in India remains

significantly cheaper than in neighbouring countries such as Pakistan, Sri Lanka and Nepal. Government sources said the price of a 14.2 kg LPG cylinder for beneficiaries under the Pradhan Mantri Ujjwala Yojana in Delhi is currently around Rs 613 as of


March 2026. In comparison, the same cylinder costs around Rs 1,046 in Pakistan, about Rs 1,241 in Sri Lanka and roughly Rs 1,207 in Nepal. Officials said this reflects the government's effort to keep cooking fuel affordable for households despite fluctuations in

global energy prices. The Rs 60 increase in domestic LPG prices has created the impression of a sharp burden on consumers. However, officials said the revision needs to be seen in the context of global LPG price movements and India's dependence on


imports. India imports more than 60 per cent of its LPG requirement, and domestic prices are linked to international benchmarks such as the Saudi Contract Price. International LPG prices have seen major fluctuations in recent years. Government

sources noted that the Saudi Contract Price rose from about \$415 per metric tonne in 2020-21 to \$712 per metric tonne in 2022-23. Despite the sharp increase in global prices during that period, the government ensured that the full impact was not passed on to domestic

consumers. To support this effort, the government compensated oil marketing companies around Rs 22,000 crore in the financial year 2022-23 to cover losses incurred from selling LPG at lower prices than international levels.




**2**  
Vigilance raids at 7 locations simultaneously, including the home of an irrigation department officer Pramod Ray



**3**  
Subhadra Yojana: Rs 5,000 Cr To Be Disbursed To 1.02 Cr Women Beneficiaries Today



**7**  
Tillo Cup 2026: Hyderabad commanding victory over Kolkata



**8**  
Drink coriander leaves water on empty stomach for lowering cholesterol, boosting immunity

## Trump Warns Of Wider Iran Strikes

Washington: US President Donald Trump on Saturday warned that the United States could expand its military targets in Iran, hours after Iran's President apologised to neighbouring countries caught in the widening Middle East conflict but rejected calls for surrender. Trump issued the warning in a post on Truth Social as the war between the United States, Israel, and Iran entered its second week. "Today, Iran will be hit very hard! Under serious consideration for complete destruction and certain death, because of Iran's bad behaviour, are areas and groups of people that were not considered for targeting up until this moment in time," Trump wrote. The US President did not provide details on what



additional targets might be considered. His remarks came after Iranian President Masoud Pezeshkian delivered a televised message in which he apologised to neighbouring Gulf countries that had been struck during the conflict. "I should apologise to the neighbouring countries that were attacked by Iran, on my own behalf,"

Pezeshkian said. He said Iran did not intend to attack nearby countries unless it was attacked first. "From now on, they should not attack neighbouring countries or fire missiles at them, unless we are attacked by those countries. I think we should solve this through diplomacy," he said. However, Pezeshkian also rejected Trump's demand that Iran

surrender unconditionally. "The idea that we would surrender unconditionally is a dream that our enemies will take to the grave," he said. Iran had launched missile and drone attacks against several Gulf states after the conflict began, targeting locations in Bahrain, Saudi Arabia, the United Arab Emirates, Qatar and

## CM Majhi Hails Scheme As Boon For Poor, Middle Class Families

Bhubaneswar: Odisha Chief Minister Mohan Charan Majhi extended warm wishes to all on Jan Aushadhi Diwas 2026, highlighting the impact of the Pradhan Mantri Bhartiya Janaushadhi Pariyojana (PMBJP) in making healthcare more affordable for the poor and middle-class families. He praised the scheme, launched under Prime Minister Narendra Modi's leadership, for providing quality generic medicines at significantly lower prices than market rates through over 800 Jan Aushadhi centers in Odisha. Majhi emphasized that the scheme is a boon for those suffering from chronic diseases like diabetes and



hypertension, reducing healthcare costs and providing financial security to countless families. He urged citizens to make Jan Aushadhi centres a part of their healthcare ecosystem, ensuring affordable and reliable healthcare for all. The Chief Minister expressed gratitude to Prime Minister Modi for this revolutionary initiative, which is contributing to building a healthy and

empowered India. He called upon everyone to come together to create a healthier and more prosperous Odisha and India. Taking to his X handle, CM wrote: "Greetings to all on #JanAushadhiDiwas2026! Under the visionary leadership of Hon'ble Prime Minister Shri @narendramodiji, the 'Prime Minister Indian Generic Medicine Scheme' (PMBJP) has become a lifeline for the poor and middle-class families.

## LPG Price Up By Rs 60, Commercial Cylinders Dearer By Rs 114.5

New Delhi: State-owned oil marketing companies (OMCs) on Saturday raised the prices of domestic and commercial LPG cylinders, with household cooking gas becoming costlier by Rs 60 and commercial cylinders by Rs 114.5, amid rising global energy prices linked to the ongoing conflict in the Middle East. According to the Indian Oil Corporation, the price of non-subsidised domestic LPG used by most households has

been increased to Rs 913 per 14.2-kg cylinder in New Delhi — up from Rs 853 earlier. This marks the second price hike in less than a year for domestic LPG cylinders. Commercial LPG cylinders — typically used by hotels, restaurants and other businesses — have also seen an increase of Rs 114.5 per unit. According to industry officials, the recent surge in global energy prices follows the escalation of military

tensions in the Middle East. The conflict has disrupted energy market sentiment and raised concerns over supply stability in key global oil and gas routes. The rise in LPG prices comes amid broader volatility in energy markets, with crude oil prices climbing in recent weeks as geopolitical tensions intensify in the region. Meanwhile, PSU oil marketing companies have also confirmed that fuel stocks remain adequate amid rumours of petrol and diesel shortages.

## Subhadra Yojana: Rs 5,000 Cr To Be Disbursed To 1.02 Cr Women Beneficiaries Today

Bhubaneswar: The Odisha government will distribute Rs 5,000 crore under the fourth installment of the Subhadra Yojana to 1.02 crore women beneficiaries tomorrow (March 8), on International Women's Day. The event will be held at Talabania in Puri district, with Deputy Chief Minister Pravati Parida announcing the scheme, and Chief Minister Mohan Charan Majhi also present. The Deputy Chief Minister said the government has



received a total of 1.12 crore applications, out of which over 1.02 crore women will receive financial support in this installment. "This disbursement marks a continuation of our

efforts to empower women economically and socially," Parida said. As part of the Women and Child Development (WCD) Department's International Women's

Day program, awards will also be presented to notable beneficiaries during the event. Deputy CM Parida further highlighted that 2.13 lakh new beneficiaries will be included in this cycle, while an additional 36,385 women will receive assistance through the grievance redressal mechanism. She explained the ongoing registration process, saying, "Every April, women turning 21 years of age are registered under the scheme, while

those reaching 60 years exit the program and are added to the pension system. This is a continuous, yearly process." "This is the fourth installment under the Subhadra Yojana. Beneficiaries who have turned 21 since the last cycle will also receive their second installment," Parida said. The scheme, launched with the vision of supporting women from economically weaker sections, has grown steadily, with applications rising each year.

## Malaysian PM Calls For Peaceful Approach To Ease Middle East Tensions

Kuala Lumpur: Malaysia has recently held phone conversations with several Middle Eastern leaders, calling for peaceful approaches and restraint to ease rising tensions in the region. Malaysian Prime Minister Anwar Ibrahim said in several posts on social media on Saturday that Malaysia's position was conveyed during separate phone conversations recently with Qatari Prime Minister and Foreign Minister Sheikh Mohammed bin Abdulrahman bin Jassim Al-Thani, United Arab Emirates' President Sheikh Mohamed bin Zayed Al

Nahyan and Bahraini Crown Prince and Prime Minister Salman bin Hamad Al Khalifa. Anwar said they exchanged views on the current developments in Qatar and Bahrain as well as the wider Middle East region following the attacks on Iran. "I also appreciate the efforts of the governments of Qatar and Bahrain in ensuring the safety and welfare of Malaysians residing in both countries. We agreed that all parties should prioritize peaceful approaches and exercise restraint from any actions that could jeopardize regional stability and security," he



said. Meanwhile, Anwar also held a phone conversation with Iranian Foreign Minister Seyed Abbas Araghchi to convey Malaysia's sympathy and solidarity with the people of Iran during this extremely

difficult time, Xinhua news agency reported. Malaysia is also deeply concerned over the prolonged conflict's implications for global peace, stability, and well-being, said Anwar. The United

States and Israel launched massive attacks on Iran on February 28, killing Khamenei, multiple senior military commanders and hundreds of civilians. Iran has responded with multiple waves of missile

and drone attacks targeting Israel and US assets across the region. However, Malaysia's ringgit is expected to remain relatively resilient despite rising geopolitical risks in the Middle East, with analysts saying the currency could outperform regional peers on the back of strong economic fundamentals and robust technology-sector demand. Maybank Investment Bank said in a note on Friday that, despite the recent conflict posing significant risks, it sees the ringgit still faring better than other peers, given that Malaysia is a net oil importer.

## No Shortage Of Petrol Or Diesel In Odisha: Minister

BHUBANESWAR, (Correspondent): Odisha has adequate stocks of petrol and diesel and there is no shortage in the state, Food Supplies & Consumer Welfare Minister Krushna Chandra Patra said on Saturday. He appealed to the public not to panic or rely on misleading reports related to the Middle East conflict circulating on television and social media. "There is enough petrol and diesel in the state. Please do not believe false information on TV channels or social media. Oil is arriving from Russia, and our supplies are adequate," Patra said. The minister also dismissed reports of long queues at petrol pumps, calling them untrue. He assured citizens that authorities are closely monitoring black market activities and taking necessary action. "We are keeping a close watch on the distribution of petrol, diesel, and other daily necessities. Any irregularities will be addressed immediately. I request everyone to remain calm and trust only official sources," Patra added. He further emphasised that the state government is continuously monitoring stock levels and supply chains to ensure smooth availability. Citizens have been urged not to hoard petrol or diesel, as there is no reason for concern regarding shortages in Odisha.

## EDITORIAL

### Flight of Dreams: Educator and Writer Dr. Priyanka Saurabh

Throughout history, there have been countless examples of women who, despite limited resources and numerous social constraints, have shaped new directions in life through their courage, patience, and determination. A woman is not only the pillar of a family but also the sensitive conscience of society. When a woman recognizes the power within herself, she gains the ability not only to transform her own life but also to inspire an entire community. The story of educator, writer, and thoughtful intellectual Dr. Priyanka Saurabh is one such inspiring journey where struggle, perseverance, and creativity come together beautifully.

Born in the modest rural surroundings of Aryanagar village in Hisar district of Haryana, Dr. Priyanka Saurabh spent her childhood in ordinary circumstances. There were neither extraordinary resources nor special privileges in her life. However, she possessed a deep desire to pursue education and accomplish something meaningful. That aspiration gradually became the driving force behind her determination.

During her academic journey, life took a significant turn when she got married while she was still pursuing her undergraduate studies. After marriage, she had to take on several responsibilities at once—those of a wife, daughter-in-law, and later a mother. In many cases within Indian society, such circumstances often lead to the end of a woman's academic dreams. Household duties and family responsibilities become her primary domain. Yet, Dr. Priyanka Saurabh refused to let circumstances define her limits. She accepted the challenges of life but never abandoned her dreams. Alongside marital and family responsibilities, she continued her studies with unwavering commitment. This was by no means easy. Limited time, domestic duties, and social expectations created constant pressure. Moving forward on the path of education under such circumstances required immense dedication and discipline. Nevertheless, through determination and continuous effort, she completed a double M.A. in Political Science. She later pursued an M.Phil. and continued her academic journey toward a Ph.D.

## Women for Women: Responsibility, Progress and Partnership



**Dr Simant Kumar Nanda**

The observance of International Women's Day on 8 March each year has gradually evolved into one of the most widely recognised global

occasions dedicated to women's dignity, rights and empowerment. The United Nations began formally observing this day in 1975 during International Women's Year, and an important milestone came two decades later with the adoption of the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action in 1995, which provided a comprehensive global framework for gender equality and the advancement of women.

Over the years these international initiatives have helped women establish themselves in many spheres of society at a level comparable to men. In politics, administration, science, education, medicine, defence, entrepreneurship and social leadership, women have emerged as powerful contributors to the progress of nations. The picture that appears today is indeed bright and worth thoughtful review.

At a fundamental level, if we keep aside the differences in anatomical structure between men and women, there is little visible variation in their intellectual potential, emotional capacity and social competence. In education and professional skill women have repeatedly demonstrated that talent, discipline and commitment are not determined by gender. In many fields women have excelled with remarkable distinction, often overcoming barriers that were historically imposed by social structures.

Yet despite this visible progress, the powerful global discourse about discrimination against women continues to echo across societies. Voices demanding equality, justice and respect are still heard strongly in many parts of the world. This raises an important question. If opportunities are expanding and women are increasingly occupying positions of authority and influence, why does the feeling of inequality still persist?

Part of the explanation lies in the deep rooted historical structures of male dominated societies. For centuries social, economic and political power remained largely concentrated in the hands of men. These

inherited patterns cannot change overnight. Even when laws and policies promote equality, cultural attitudes and social habits often take longer to transform.

However another dimension also deserves honest reflection. In certain situations women themselves may unintentionally become obstacles to the progress of other women. Within families, workplaces and social institutions it is sometimes seen that one woman fails to support another who is trying to rise. Competition, insecurity, social conditioning or internalised norms may create barriers that weaken the spirit of solidarity among women.

This observation should not be interpreted as criticism but rather as a call for introspection. If the goal is collective empowerment, mutual encouragement becomes essential. Progress cannot flourish if those who stand at the top of a ladder hesitate to extend support to those who are trying to climb.

History nevertheless offers many inspiring examples of women who have used positions of power and responsibility to work for the welfare of women across society. Across nations women leaders have strengthened education for girls, expanded access to healthcare, ensured legal protection, promoted livelihood opportunities and encouraged women's participation in governance. Their contributions demonstrate how leadership combined with empathy can transform social realities.

The areas in which women have contributed significantly are numerous. In education they have served as teachers, scholars and administrators shaping the minds of future generations. In healthcare they have worked as doctors, nurses and public health leaders guiding policies for maternal care, nutrition and community wellbeing. In security forces, disaster management and public administration women have shown remarkable courage and efficiency. In the sphere of livelihood and entrepreneurship they have created pathways for economic independence and social confidence.

Among all these achievements, however, one function remains particularly vital. That is the art of management within the family and the immediate social environment. The family is often regarded as the smallest unit of civilisation, and within that unit the role of a woman frequently becomes central in

maintaining harmony, nurturing values and guiding the next generation. This responsibility should not be viewed as a limitation but recognised as a powerful social function that shapes the moral and emotional fabric of society.

The qualities often associated with the feminine personality such as empathy, patience, emotional intelligence and resilience are invaluable in navigating the complexities of family and community life. When these qualities are exercised with wisdom and responsibility they help balance the conflicts and pressures that inevitably arise within society.

At the same time it is important to remember that society itself consists of interacting elements including both men and women. The progress of one cannot occur in isolation from the other. Cooperation rather than confrontation must become the foundation of sustainable development. When mutual respect replaces rivalry and partnership replaces suspicion, social harmony becomes possible.

Therefore the path forward may not lie merely in demanding equality but also in strengthening solidarity. Women supporting women can become one of the most powerful forces of transformation. When a woman in a position of influence encourages another woman to grow, learn and succeed, she multiplies the strength of society itself.

In this context the idea of Women for Women becomes particularly meaningful. It reminds us that empowerment is not granted only through policies or institutions but also nurtured through attitudes of mentorship, encouragement and collective responsibility. Each woman who uplifts another contributes to a wider culture of confidence and dignity.

As the world observes International Women's Day each year, it offers an opportunity not only to celebrate achievements but also to reflect on responsibilities. The progress achieved so far is significant, yet the journey toward a balanced and compassionate society continues.

Ultimately the vision of equality will be realised most effectively when women and men work together with mutual respect and when women themselves stand united in supporting one another. In that spirit the idea of Women for Women may indeed represent a meaningful direction for the future.

## Attitudes towards women are changing in India



**Ramesh Sarraf**

International Women's Day is celebrated to celebrate the social, economic, cultural, and political achievements of women and to

advocate for gender equality. It is a day to raise awareness, break barriers, and promote equal opportunities for all. This day reminds us that societies and nations are strengthened when women advance. It is a global movement for equality and rights, symbolizing the struggle for women's dignity and their rights. It is a day that encourages women to dream and fulfill their dreams. International Women's Day has been celebrated every year on March 8, 1911, worldwide. It aims to celebrate the social, cultural, economic, and political achievements of women. The theme for International Women's Day 2026 is "Giving Benefits," which promotes the values of generosity, cooperation, and collective progress. This campaign highlights that supporting women and advancing gender equality can bring widespread social and economic benefits for all. The core idea of this campaign is that when women are empowered in fields such as education, leadership, entrepreneurship, science, arts, and politics, it builds stronger communities and shared prosperity. By encouraging collaboration and equal opportunities, this campaign aims to promote inclusive growth and positive change in society.

In India, women are given special consideration for their safety and dignity. In the twenty-first century, women

are working shoulder to shoulder with men in every field. The Indian Parliament has now passed a bill providing 33 percent reservation for women in the Lok Sabha and Legislative Assemblies. This will further strengthen the role of women in Indian politics. Women are now being deployed to important positions in the military, a major step towards women's empowerment.

Women here have equal rights with men. Women represent half the country's population and are equal partners in development. In today's era, women are not only at par with men but have gone two steps ahead of them. A society without women is unimaginable. According to the Indian Constitution, women have the right to live a life equal to that of men. In India, women are seen as goddesses. It is said that where women are worshipped, gods reside there. Since ancient times, women have been given special respect and honor in society. Over the years, many laws related to women's safety have been enacted in India. These include the Hindu Widow Remarriage Act 1856, the Indian Penal Code 1860, the Maternity Benefit Act 1861, the Christian Marriage Act 1872, the Married Women's Property Act 1874, the Child Marriage Act 1929, the Special Marriage Act 1954, the Hindu Marriage Act 1955, the Foreign Marriage Act 1969, the Indian Divorce Act 1969, the Muslim Women Protection Act 1986, the National Commission for Women Act 1990, the Sexual Harassment of Women at Workplace Act 2013, etc. Furthermore, the Juvenile Justice Bill was amended by the Lok Sabha on May 7, 2015, and by the Rajya Sabha on December 22, 2015. Under this bill, if a juvenile between the ages of 16 and 18 is found involved in a heinous crime, there is a provision for harsh punishment.

According to the National Crime Records Bureau (NCRB), a total of 405,861 crimes against women were registered in India in 2023. These crimes include serious offenses such as rape, molestation, dowry harassment, domestic violence, sexual harassment, cybercrime, and kidnapping. Domestic violence and sexual harassment accounted for the highest number of cases, reflecting our society's indifference to women's safety. Previously, 445,256 cases were registered in 2022, 428,278 in 2021, and 371,503 in 2020.

According to data released by the National Commission for Women, Uttar Pradesh led the way in crimes against women in 2023. According to data released by the National Commission for Women, 28,811 complaints of crimes against women were received across the country throughout the year, with over 16,000 cases coming from the state of Uttar Pradesh. These figures are shocking. Because these complaints have been filed with the Commission under the Right to Dignity category. The national capital, Delhi, came in second with 2,411 cases. Maharashtra followed with 1,343, Bihar with 1,312, and Madhya Pradesh with 1,165.

Released after the 12 months of 2023, this report highlights crimes against women such as dowry harassment and rape. This report by the National Commission for Women reveals the police's indifference towards women. According to the data, 805 cases of sexual harassment, 605 cases of cybercrime, 472 cases of stalking, and 409 complaints of honor-related crimes were registered across the country. According to the data, crimes against women also include rape. In 2023, 1,537 cases of rape and attempted rape were registered.

Following this, 8,540 cases were registered under the Right to Dignity Act, 6,274 cases of domestic violence, 4,797 cases of dowry harassment, 2,349 cases of molestation, and 1,618 cases of police indifference towards women. In 2023, cases of crime against women decreased compared to 2022. In 2022, 30,864 cases of crime against women were registered. This number decreased to 28,278 in 2023. This is a positive sign, but much remains to be done. The number of complaints has decreased since 2022, when 30,864 complaints were received, which was the highest number since 2014. When it comes to women's safety, India has made numerous arrangements for women's safety through unprecedented decisions in the last few years. Today, women in India are safer than before.

On one hand, we are promoting women by giving them equal status in every field. On the other hand, incidents of atrocities against them are constantly increasing. Every day, we hear of incidents of rape and abuse against women. Such incidents hamper the campaign for women's empowerment. Changing the deteriorating environment for women in the country is not only the responsibility of the government but also of every common man. We must all come forward and support women in the fight for women's safety. Only then will the mother power of the country be able to walk with their heads held high. Now, women must understand that their plight in society today is the result of established traditions. Women themselves must take the initiative to change these traditions. Only then will society's perception of them change.

## Odisha's Mahima Dharma



**Bishnupada Sethi**

In the turbulent socio-religious landscape of 19th-century

India marked by rigid caste hierarchies, idol worship, superstitious rituals, and priestly dominance within Hinduism, a powerful indigenous reform movement emerged in Odisha. Known as Satya Mahima Dharma or Alekha Dharma, this monotheistic faith boldly challenged orthodox practices. It advocated devotion to one formless, supreme God and promoted universal brotherhood, non-violence, and social equality.

The movement's founder, Prabuddha Guru Mahima Swami also called Mahima Gosain or Mahima Prabhu, remains an enigmatic figure whose early life is shrouded in legend and obscurity. According to tradition, he was an incarnation of the Absolute who spent years in the Himalayas before manifesting in Puri around 1826. There, he appeared sleeping on the bare ground, earning the name Dhulia Baba. For about twelve years, he wandered through places such as Bhubaneswar, Khandagiri, Dhauligiri, and Cuttack, propagating the philosophy that God is one and indivisible, with no multiplicity.

He debated learned scholars at the Puri Temple's Mukti Mandapa Sabha. Surviving solely on water, he came to be known as Nirahari Baba. Rejecting elaborate rituals, he emphasized direct communion with the formless divine. Later, he retreated to Kapilas Hill

in Dhenkanal district for 24 years of intense meditation, clad in the bark of the Kumbhi tree. For the first twelve years, he subsisted on wild forest fruits; during the next twelve, he lived on milk supplied by Raja Bhagirathi Mahendra Bahadur of Dhenkanal.

During this period of seclusion, Mahima Swami initiated his first disciple, Jagannath from Balasingha in Boudh, who renounced worldly ties and became Govinda Das Baba, the foremost of the 64 siddhas (perfected ascetics), titled Abadhutas. Mahima Swami's teachings spread rapidly across Cuttack, Puri, Ganjam, and feudatory states such as Dhenkanal, Athagarh, Hindol, Boudh, Sonepur, Sambalpur, and Angul. He attracted disciples especially from tribal communities, Scheduled Castes, and lower castes, drawn by his miraculous powers.

He established places of worship called Alekha Tungi or ashrams for propagation. In 1874, he returned to his headquarters at Mahima Gadi in Dhenkanal. On the 14th day of the bright fortnight of Phalgun (February-March 1876), he voluntarily shed his mortal body, merging into the absolute void.

The philosophy of Mahima Dharma draws deeply from Upanishadic Absolute Monism-Brahman or Shunya-Brahman - viewing ultimate reality as one formless, omnipresent essence beyond attributes. True worship involves withdrawing from multiplicity to realize this singular essence, as poetically expressed by Bhima Bhoi. The movement synthesizes opposites: Brahmanism and anti-Brahmanism, Eastern and Western influences, Hinduism and Islam, while preserving core Indian spiritual traditions in a

harmonious, unique form.

Followers adhere to strict Guraagnya (rules from the guru), including severe discipline of body, mind, and soul; celibacy; vegetarianism; and abstinence from intoxicants and violence. Prayers occur twice daily under the open sky; at dawn (Brahma muhurta) and dusk (Darshana). In the morning prayer, devotees raise their hands overhead, prostrate, and chant Alekha's glory seven times; in the evening, they repeat it five times. Food is taken in moderation, with no water consumed from sunset to sunrise, a practice aligned with scriptural wisdom for health and austerity. Rituals are minimal: no idol worship, blood sacrifices, spirit beliefs, or deities. This rejection extended to challenging mainstream practices.

After his departure from the mortal world, followers divided into sects: Kumbhipatias (bark-clad ascetics), Kanapatias (rag-wearing mendicants with matted hair, sticks, and palm-leaf parasols), and Ashritas (householders in red kasa or Gairikabasana, akin to Brahmacharis or Jogis).

The movement's poet-prophet, Bhima Bhoi (c. 1850-1895), the world-famous saint, mystic, and social reformer, became its most influential voice. Born into poverty, he faced immense hardships but was miraculously blessed by Mahima Swami, who reportedly restored his sight and poetic gift. Though visually impaired, Bhima Bhoi composed profound works such as Stuti Chintamani, Bhajanamala, Nirveda Sadhana, Poorna Samhita, Shunya Rahas, Adi Samhita, Nirgun Mahatmya, and Bhabisiya Gupta Malika.

His poetry echoes Mahima teachings with radical

empathy for suffering. His immortal lines capture selfless compassion: "Praninka Arata Dukha Apramita, Dekhu Dekhu Ke Ba Sahu, Mo Jibana Pachhe Narke Padithau, Jagata Uddhara Heu." (Boundless is the anguish and misery of living beings; who can bear to see it? Let my soul fall into hell, but let the universe be redeemed.)

Bhima Bhoi's bhajans and jananas remain beloved among rural folk, championing a casteless, classless society free from exploitation. He challenged the prevailing social ethos, promoting kindness to all beings including birds, animals, and insects as well as universal brotherhood, non-violence, peaceful coexistence, and freedom from greed.

The faith drew followers from Odisha's tribes and Scheduled Castes, extending to Andhra Pradesh, Assam, Bengal, Bihar, and Madhya Pradesh. Today, it has a global reach, with devotees in Europe and beyond.

The spiritual heart of the movement is Mahima Gadi at Joranda, spanning over 100 acres and featuring key temples: Gadi Mandira, Dhuni Mandira, Sunya Mandira, and Niti Upasana Mandira. No idols adorn these spaces; worship focuses on the formless Alekha.

Mahima Dharma transcends conventional religion. It is a reformation movement, a way of life, and a code of conduct emphasizing equality, simplicity, and spiritual purity. In an era of division, it offered a vision of unity and compassion that continues to inspire Odisha and beyond, proving that profound change often arises from the margins, voiced by saints like Mahima Swami and Bhima Bhoi.

# Launch of Shri Jagannath Darshan Yojana in Jajpur

**J A J P U R** (Correspondent): The district administration of Jajpur has launched the State Government's Shri Jagannath Darshan Yojana. On Saturday, District Collector Shri Ambar Kumar Kar flagged off the buses carrying the pilgrims. Under this scheme, more than a hundred senior citizens and pension beneficiaries under various social security schemes from the district set out on a pilgrimage to Puri Dham. The pilgrims travelled in special air-conditioned buses arranged by the Odisha State Road Transport Corporation (OSRTC). Prior to the departure, Collector Shri Kar interacted with the



passengers and encouraged them. Speaking on the occasion, the Collector said that without the divine call of Lord Jagannath, it is not possible to get the opportunity to visit the temple of the Lord. He prayed for a safe and blessed journey for the

pilgrims and hoped that their wishes would be fulfilled. The Collector also advised the pilgrims to visit other important shrines in the temple complex along with the darshan of Lord Jagannath, including Maa Bimala Temple, Bat Ganesh Temple, Goddess Kali Temple

and the Navagraha Temple. Each pilgrim was provided with a special kit for their convenience. To ensure the safety and smooth conduct of the journey, the district administration deployed five escort officers. In addition, the Health Department deputed

five medical and paramedical staff members, while five personnel from OSRTC were also assigned to accompany the pilgrims during the trip. The pilgrims will return after having darshan at the Puri Srimandir today. The inaugural programme was attended by Additional District Collector Shri Yudhishtir Nayak, District Tourism Officer Shri Debabrata Sahu, OSRTC Manager Shri Amlash Sinha, District Information and Public Relations Officer Shri Kamini Ranjan Patnaik, Jajpur Municipality Executive Officer Shri Laxmidhar Rout, and Assistant Collector Shri Tapas Kumar Sahu, among others.

# International women's day celebrate by BERHAMPUR UNIVERSITY

**G o p a l p u r** (correspondent): International Women's Day, 2026 was celebrated under the theme "Give to Gain". Berhampur University observed International Women's Week by conducting series of competitions and events. For today's celebration esteemed guests were Smt. Sanghamitra Dalai, Mayor, Berhampur University, Harshita Priyadarshani Mohanty, Seed Girl of India and Prof. Swarnamayee Tripathy., Retd Prof. Utkal University. Dr. Bandita Panda, Director, WSRC gave her inaugural remarks followed by PGC Chairman, Prof. Sukant Tripathy who spoke about many dimensions related to gender equality. Seed Girl of India Harshita Priyadarshani Mohanty, shared her thoughts about her Seed Bank and how she is working hard to preserve



indigenous varieties of millet and other grains. She is working towards agro biodiversity preservation and protection. Berhampur Mayor, Smt. Sanghamitra Dalai spoke about the importance of Education and how educated women can shape the face of politics through active decision making. Prof. Swarnamayee Tripathy shared exemplary thoughts about femalefoeticide and how courage can help women to move and challenge abusive societal norms. Chief Guest Prof. Geetanjali Dash highlighted on the importance of Women's

Day and how this day serves as a platform for solidarity and reflection, amplifying Women's voices honoring their achievements and bringing attention to the ongoing global fight for justice. Cash prize of Rs 10000 was awarded to Harshita Priyadarshani Mohanty for her incredible contribution to preservation of indigenous seeds variety by the Vice-Chancellor. On this occasion all the women employees both teaching and non-teaching were felicitated by honourable vice-chancellor. Introduction of guests and Vote of thanks was presented by Dr. Bagmi Priyadarshani.

# MAOIST LEADER AZAD PRODUCED IN GAJAPATI SPECIAL COURT, ACQUITTED IN 4 CASES

**Paralakhemundi,** (correspondent) Maoist leader Dona Keshav Rao alias Azad was produced for the second time before the Special Court in Paralakhemundi of Gajapati district after being brought from Jharpada Jail in Bhubaneswar. A total of 37 cases are pending against Azad, most of which are registered in Gajapati district. For the past 14 years, although Azad had been implicated in several cases, the trials could not proceed. Challenging this delay, Azad's lawyer filed a petition in the Supreme Court. After hearing the matter, the Supreme Court directed that the pending cases against Azad be taken up for trial and hearing. Accordingly, Azad appeared before the Paralakhemundi Special Court for the second time yesterday. Due to lack of sufficient evidence, the Special Court acquitted Azad in four cases, declaring him not guilty.

# Geological Survey of India Celebrates its 176th Foundation Day at Central Headquarters, Kolkata

**Kolkata:** The Geological Survey of India (GSI) celebrated its 176th Foundation Day on 6th March 2026 at its Central Headquarters, Kolkata, with great fervour and institutional pride. Shri Asit Saha, Director General, GSI, inaugurated the event by lighting the ceremonial lamp in the gracious presence of Dr. Joyesh Bagchi, ADG (PSS), Dr. Joydeep Guha, ADG and HoD, along with senior officials and

staff of GSI. In his address, Shri Asit Saha reflected on GSI's remarkable 176-year journey in advancing geoscience for the nation. He highlighted the organization's renewed focus on the exploration of critical and strategic minerals, the adoption of cutting-edge technologies including Artificial Intelligence and Machine Learning, enhanced geophysical mapping techniques and the strengthening of national geoscience data

systems. Shri Saha also emphasised GSI's growing role in supporting India's clean energy transition and the need for collaborative efforts to contribute effectively to the critical mineral value chain. Shri Saha expressed his appreciation to generations of geoscientists and staff whose dedication continues to shape GSI's enduring legacy and extended his best wishes for the 176th Foundation Day.

# International Women's Day celebrated at NIST University

**G o p a l p u r,** (correspondent): International Women's Day was celebrated on the NIST University campus. On this occasion, the Academic Dean of the University, P. Rajesh Kumar, attended the meeting held on the university campus as the chief guest. A discussion was held on the occasion of Women's Day. P. Rajesh Kumar, Dr. Akankhya Patnaik, Alumni Wing Commander Rina Sahu, Student Representative M. Pratya participated as panelists. Gifts were



distributed to the women workers of NIST University on the occasion of Women's Day. Cultural programs were performed by the students on this occasion. Along with this, speech, recitation, poster presentation, rangoli, musical chair, table tennis, badminton competitions were

organized among the staff and students. In this, awards were given to the best faculty members and students. On this occasion, Purnendu Mishra, Dr. Harikrishna Gantayat, Dr. Preeti Ranjan Sahu, Dr. Pradeep Jena, Mitu Baral, Soumya Muduli, Sanjit Mohanty, Saroj Padhi, Tatrappara Sahu,

Dr. Charulata Palai, Dr. Runu Sahu, Dr. Amrita Patnaik, Ruchika Padhi, Pragya Samanta, Akankhya, Basanti Patra, Dr. Sarita Sahu, Meenakshi Das, Dr. Braj Kishore Mishra were the prominent present. The program was conducted by Dr. Sasmita Padhi, Head of Electrical Department.

# Heavy crowd in Malkangiri petrol pumps -fuel issues seen

**M a l k a n g i r i** correspondent: A huge crowd has been seen at all petrol pumps in Malkangiri district headquarters since last night. Due to some rumour, fear has been created among the people, due to which thousands of people have gathered at petrol pumps in the scorching heat with their vehicles and big barrels. The situation has become impossible as everyone is trying to fill the tanks of their vehicles and collect more petrol and take it home. When the Food Supply Department was asked about this, they clarified that people are scared only due to false rumours. In reality, there is no big problem in the supply of oil. But due to fear, everyone



wants to collect petrol together, so there is a risk of the stock running out soon. Therefore, to control the situation, some petrol pumps are not giving petrol more than Rs 200 per motorcycle, while some petrol pumps in the district do not have petrol stock. Along with this, a complete ban has been imposed on taking petrol in external

containers like barrels or jars. As a result, people who came from far away to buy petrol in barrels are returning home empty-handed in disappointment. The administration has appealed to the public that no one should panic; the supply of oil is normal and petrol will be available to everyone. The quantity has been restricted only to ensure equal supply of oil to all consumers.

# POCSO Act: Orissa HC Rules Touching Minor Girl's Chest Over Clothes is Sexual Assault

**Cuttack,** (correspondent): Orissa High Court has lately ruled that — touching a minor girl over her clothes constitutes sexual assault under the POCSO Act. In an important hearing, the High Court clarified that touching the chest of a minor girl is a serious crime or sexual assault under the POCSO Act. Justice Sanjiv Kumar Panigrahi emphasized that touching any part of a child's body with sexual intent is enough to classify it as sexual assault, regardless of skin-to-skin contact. Justice Sri Panigrahi, while hearing the case, said that touching any part of the body with sexual intent is enough for sexual assault. The court has rejected the argument that touching over her clothes is not a crime. The High Court said that the Supreme Court has also clarified in this case earlier. The Supreme Court has already changed an old decision of the Bombay High Court. This old idea is against the Child Protection Act. The court has upheld the guilt of the accused in this case. According to Section 8 of the POCSO Act, this offence is punishable with imprisonment for a minimum of 3 to 5 years and fine. This verdict strengthens child protection laws, making it harder for perpetrators to escape punishment on technical grounds.

# AMIT SHAH VIRTUALLY INAUGURATES CYBER POLICE STATION AT PARALAKHEMUNDI

**Paralakhemundi,** (correspondent): In a significant stride towards strengthening the digital security framework in southern Odisha, Union Home Minister Amit Shah virtually inaugurated the Cyber Police Station at the Gajapati district headquarters, Paralakhemundi, on Friday evening at 6 PM. The inauguration ceremony witnessed the presence of several prominent dignitaries and district officials. Among those present were Mohana MLA Dashaarathy Gamang, Paralakhemundi MLA Rupesh Panigrahi,



Gajapati SP Yatindra Nath Panda, and Paralakhemundi Municipal Council

Chairperson Nirmala Sethi, along with other senior administrative and police officials. Speaking on the occasion, Gajapati Superintendent of Police Yatindra Nath Panda described the establishment of the Cyber Police Station as a timely and welcome initiative to curb the growing menace of cybercrime. He stated that the specialized police unit will play a pivotal role in tracking, apprehending, and initiating strict legal action against cyber criminals who dupe innocent citizens

through various online frauds and deceptive schemes. The Cyber Police Station, now operational in Paralakhemundi, has been placed under the charge of a senior police officer. It will primarily focus on investigating cyber fraud, online financial scams, and other digital offences that have increasingly become a challenge in the modern technological era. With this new facility, Gajapati district hopes to fortify its digital vigilance and ensure safer cyberspace for the public.

# 5.61 Quintals of Ganja Seized

**Sonepur:** Ulunda police in Odisha's Subarnapur district seized 5.61 quintals of ganja from two cars fitted with fake number plates during a raid on Saturday and arrested one person in connection with the illegal transportation. According to police sources, acting on a tip-off that ganja was being transported from the Manamunda area of Boudh district, a team from Ulunda police station set up a checkpoint on the Matikhai-Nuapada road on Saturday morning. Soon after, two suspicious cars approached the checkpoint.

## FIR filed against Badshah for his 'Tateeree' song

Amid mounting trouble for rapper-singer Badshah, the Haryana Police has initiated major action in connection with the alleged objectionable lyrics of his latest song 'Tateeree'. An FIR has been registered against Aditya Pratik Singh Sisodia, aka Badshah, and a process has also been initiated to issue a Look Out Circular (LOC) against him. A notice has also been issued, asking Badshah to appear before the police, while teams have been continuously carrying out raids to arrest him, the police confirmed in a tweet. "Haryana Police's Strict Action in the Objectionable Song 'Tateeree' Case. FIR Registered Against Singer Aditya Pratik Singh Sisodia alias Badshah. Process Initiated to Issue Look Out Circular (LOC) Against the Accused, Notice Issued to Appear Before Police. Police Teams Continuously Raiding for Arrest. Panchkula Police Got the Controversial Song Removed from YouTube, Action Continues to Remove Video from Other Social Media Platforms. Strict Legal Action Will Also Be Taken Against Those Sharing Objectionable Content," the Haryana Police posted on X.

The FIR, dated March 6, has been registered at Cyber Police Station, Sector-20, Panchkula under Section 296 of the Bharatiya Nyaya Sanhita (BNS) and Sections 3 and 4 of the Indecent Representation of Women (Prohibition) Act, 1986. According to the police, the video depicts minor girls wearing school uniforms throwing away their school bags and appearing to run away from their studies. The use of words such as "Badshala" in the song has also been found to portray the school environment and education in a misleading and inappropriate manner. Furthermore, objectionable and derogatory expressions towards women and girls have also been identified in the lyrics. During the investigation, it has also come to light that a Haryana Roadways bus from the Jind depot is featured in the video. Police are verifying whether permission was obtained from the concerned department for its use in the video.

If it is found that the bus was used without authorisation, legal action will also be initiated against the responsible persons under the relevant section. Similarly, a government school premises has also been shown in the video. Police are examining whether proper approval was taken from the competent authority for shooting at the location. If it is established that the premises were used without permission, action will be taken against the responsible individuals as per the law.

Earlier this week, objections were raised against Badshah's latest song 'Tateeree' over its allegedly objectionable lyrics. The Haryana State Commission for Women (HSCW) took suo motu cognizance of the matter and issued official summons.



## benefits and side effects of eating lychee seeds

The sweet and juicy lychees are in the season and eating them moderately is recommended by nutrition experts for boosting overall health. However, have you ever wondered if the black and shiny seed of lychee has any use or benefits? Seed of lychee has its own unique benefits. Lychee seed extracts have a hypoglycaemic effect and can help stabilize blood sugar levels. They also have a compound called saponin, which can help boost cognitive function. However, before eating lychee seeds, it's important to process them correctly as raw lychee seeds can have a toxin that can lower blood sugar levels dangerously and can lead to poisoning.

"Lychee, a tropical fruit loved for its juicy sweetness, hides within its core a seed that is often discarded. However, these seeds hold untapped potential for health benefits when processed correctly," says Shweta Shah, Celebrity Nutritionist and Ayurveda Expert in an interview with HT Digital.

### Are lychee seeds safe to consume?

"Raw lychee seeds contain Hypoglycin A, a toxin that can interfere with normal metabolic processes and lead to a dangerous drop in blood sugar levels, known as hypoglycaemia. This makes them unsafe for direct consumption. It is crucial to understand that raw lychee seeds should never be eaten due to the risk of poisoning," says Shah.

### How to process lychee seeds correctly

When lychee seeds are processed correctly, the harmful Hypoglycin A can be neutralized and diluted, says Shah. "The seeds can then be ground into a powder or turned into an extract, making them safe and beneficial for various uses. Processing methods often involve drying, roasting, and soaking, which help in eliminating the toxins," adds the nutritionist.

### Benefits of lychee seed extract

Processed lychee seed

extract offers numerous health benefits. Here are some of the key advantages:

1. Digestive health: Lychee seed extract can aid in digestive problems, helping to soothe and improve gut health.

2. Anti-inflammatory properties: The extract is known for its anti-inflammatory effects, making it beneficial for conditions like arthritis.

3. Antioxidant powerhouse: Rich in antioxidants, lychee seed extract can combat oxidative stress, protecting cells from damage.

4. Skin rejuvenation: Topical application of lychee seed extract can help with skin issues such as acne and breakouts. It promotes skin health and rejuvenation, thanks to its antioxidant and anti-inflammatory properties.

Consume it in moderation

Lychee seed powder should be consumed in moderation. The recommended dosage is no more than one teaspoon per day. This ensures that you receive the benefits without risking any adverse effects. The extract can be soaked in water, and the resultant compound can be used in cosmetic formulations. This extract can be applied directly to the skin to help with various dermatological conditions," says Shah. "While processed lychee seeds can be highly beneficial, overconsumption can lead to digestive problems and the reappearance of Hypoglycin A-related issues, such as hypoglycaemia. It is essential to adhere to recommended dosages and consult with a healthcare professional before adding lychee seed supplements to your routine, especially if you have pre-existing health conditions," adds the expert.

## Drink coriander leaves water on empty stomach for lowering cholesterol, boosting immunity



Coriander or Dhaniya is a powerful herb that has been in use since ancient times for lowering cholesterol levels and treating digestive issues. Fragrant and flavourful, both coriander seeds and leaves are widely used in Indian curries for enhancing taste. Coriander leaves are ground into delicious chutney that can go with a wide range of recipes. An excellent source of vitamins, fibre, minerals, and antioxidants, coriander leaves can be an amazing addition to your diet. Coriander leaves water can be a wonderful remedy for managing blood sugar levels and keeping at bay many chronic diseases.

Coriander has many natural compounds that can combat high cholesterol. High in antioxidants and dietary fibres, coriander water can play also help in reducing LDL or 'bad' cholesterol levels. Coriander is full of phytosterols, the plant compounds that can inhibit the absorption of cholesterol in the intestine. This also help prevent heart disease.

The herb coriander acts as a diuretic. It is also shown by research that it can help reduce harmful cholesterol (LDL) thus reducing risk of atherosclerosis and prevention of coronary artery disease," says Dr. Dipankar Roy, MBBS, MD (MEDICINE), Golf View Healthcare & Research Centre. "Coriander water can help relieve PMS, acidity, thyroid, migraine due to excess heat, night sweats, hot flashes, mid-night sweats and all kinds of pitta issues," shares Dr Dixa Bhavsar Savaliya in her recent Instagram post.

### How to make coriander

#### leaves water

Just take a handful of coriander leaves and boil it in 500 ml of water for 10 minutes, then strain and sip on it while its lukewarm or at room temperature.

Right time to drink coriander leaves water

You can drink coriander leaves water at any time be it first thing in the morning or 45 minutes before or after your meals.

#### What makes coriander leaves so nutritious

"Coriander leaves are an excellent source of Vitamin A and Vitamin C. Along with these nutrients, each serving of coriander leaves is loaded with a potful of nutrients like dietary fibre, iron, manganese, calcium, vitamin K, phosphorus, etc," says Dr Savaliya.

#### Health benefits of Dhaniya or coriander leaves water

1. Improves vision: Coriander is high in Vitamin A which can help nourish your retinas. It also helps retain the right amount of moisture in your eyes.

2. Boosts immunity: Coriander leaves are full of Vitamin C and Vitamin C along with Vitamin A. This can help boost your immune system. The wonderful antioxidants and plant-based compounds are further beneficial for your health.

3. Manages blood sugar levels: According to WebMD, coriander has been shown to significantly lower blood sugar in people who have diabetes.

4. Reduces bad cholesterol (LDL): Coriander leaves has wonderful compounds that can help cut bad cholesterol and improve heart health.

## Neena Gupta shares clip from her first TV serial 'Dard', fans say "Miss the golden age"

For many who grew up watching Doordarshan in the 80s and 90s, some shows still remain fresh in the memory, the kind that bring a rush of nostalgia the moment you watch them again. Actor Neena Gupta recently stirred exactly that feeling when she shared a clip from her very first television serial, 'Dard,' taking fans on a heartfelt trip down memory lane. Taking to Instagram, Neena posted a video from the show and revealed that 'Dard' was not only the first serial she acted in, but also one she produced. The brief glimpse instantly struck a chord with viewers who remembered the era when Doordarshan dramas ruled Indian households. Soon after she dropped the post, fans in no time chimed in the comment section with their nostalgic reactions. Many fans spoke about how shows from that period had a certain simplicity and emotional depth that still feels special today.

One user wrote, "Can we have a channel only dedicated to 80s and 90s shows from Doordarshan. Miss the golden age." Another fan expressed a wish to see some of those classics return on modern platforms, commenting, "How I wish Dard n Saans be re-released on main OTT platform again... what masterpieces you all created back in those days." Moments like these are a reminder of Neena Gupta's long journey in Indian cinema and television. Even today, the actor continues to inspire her fans with her confidence and timeless presence on screen. At 66, Neena remains one of the most admired actors in the industry, often praised by fans for her bold personality and graceful ageing. Over the years, she has delivered memorable performances across films and streaming platforms.



## KIIT Hosts Exciting Quarterfinals at FIVB Beach Pro Tour Challenge 2026; Semifinalists Confirmed

**BHUBANESWAR, (Correspondent)** The FIVB Volleyball World Beach Pro Tour Challenge 2026 at KIIT Deemed to be University witnessed another thrilling day of international beach volleyball action on Saturday as the tournament progressed through the Round of 16 and Quarterfinal stages at the Dutee Chand Athletic Stadium, Bhubaneswar. Top teams from across the world displayed outstanding skill and determination to secure their places in the semifinals of the prestigious tournament. In the men's Round of 16 matches, the Czech Republic pair Sepka/Dzavoronok continued their impressive form by defeating Canada's de Greeff/Gannett in straight sets. Lithuania's Rumsevicius/Palubinskas fought hard to overcome the USA duo Ukkelberg/Owen in



a three-set contest. Norway's Ringøen/Aas also registered a narrow win over Slovakia's Nemeč/Petruf, while Israel's Elazar/Cuzmiciov advanced comfortably against England's Bialokoz/Batrane. Denmark's Brinck/Houmann secured a solid victory over Ukraine's Kozii/Bublyk, and the Czech pair Semerad/Stoček progressed with a straight-set win against Latvia's Bulgacs/Graudins. Belgium's Vercauteren/Van Langendonck edged past Australia's Merritt/Walker in a close three-

set match, while the USA team Cory/Bradford defeated Turkey's Özdemir/Kuru to move into the quarterfinals. The quarterfinal matches produced more exciting moments. Sepka/Dzavoronok of the Czech Republic continued their winning streak by defeating Lithuania's Rumsevicius/Palubinskas. Israel's Elazar/Cuzmiciov also advanced after overcoming Norway's Ringøen/Aas in a closely fought contest. Denmark's Brinck/Houmann maintained

their strong performance with a convincing win over fellow Czech pair Semerad/Stoček. Belgium's Vercauteren/Van Langendonck completed the semifinal lineup with a victory against the USA pair Cory/Bradford. With these results, the men's semifinals will feature Sepka/Dzavoronok (Czech Republic) against Elazar/Cuzmiciov (Israel), while Brinck/Houmann (Denmark) will take on Vercauteren/Van Langendonck (Belgium) for a place in the final. In the women's competition, the quarterfinal matches were equally exciting. Japan's Shiba/Reika defeated Romania's Alupei/Vaida in a hard-fought three-set match. The USA pair Myszkowski/Kan secured a straight-set victory over Japan's Ren/Non. Another American duo, Durish/Koenig, advanced

after beating China's Yan X./X. Y. Xia, while Hughes/Batenhorst of the USA overcame Ukraine's Serdiuk/Kurnikova in a thrilling three-set battle. The women's semifinals will see Shiba/Reika (Japan) face Myszkowski/Kan (USA), while Durish/Koenig (USA) will compete against Hughes/Batenhorst (USA). Prof. (Dr.) Achyuta Samanta, Founder of KIIT, KISS and KIMS, congratulated the teams that have advanced to the semifinals and appreciated the high level of competition witnessed during the tournament. He also extended his best wishes to all teams for the upcoming matches. The participating players and officials expressed their sincere gratitude to Prof. Samanta for his warm hospitality and constant support.

## All England 2026: Lakshya Sen Storms Into Final With Sensational Win Over Victor Lai

**Birmingham:** Lakshya Sen became only the second Indian player to reach the men's singles final of the All-England Open badminton championship twice when he overcame Canada's Victor Lai in a gruelling semifinal in Birmingham on Saturday. The 24-year-old, who had also reached the summit clash in 2022, not only overcame a spirited Lai but also blisters in his right toe to win 21-16, 18-21, 21-15 in an hour and 37 minutes. Sen's mentor, Prakash Padukone, had reached the All-England final in 1980 and 1981 and won the title in his first appearance in the summit clash. The semifinal clash on Saturday between Sen and Lai tested the physical endurance of both players as they engaged in multiple rallies that went beyond 50 strokes. It was Sen's ability to find

an extra gear that helped the Indian take the opening game, which stayed neck-and-neck till 17-16. Sen then took four straight points to draw first blood. But Lai, the first Canadian player to win a BWF World Championships medal, bounced back in the second game and took an 11-7 lead at the mid-game interval. Sen, who was by then struggling with blisters, fought back to draw level at 16-16, only for Lai to once again pull away and take the match in the decider. The 24-year-old's experience meant that he at times took calculated risks to take a sizeable 15-9 lead. However, Lai is known for fighting till the end, and he managed to close the gap at 17-15 before Sen once again won four straight points to reach the final. In the summit clash, he will face India Open champion Lin Chun-Yi

of Chinese Taipei after the left-hander packed off second seed Kunlavut Vitidsarn of Thailand 21-14, 18-21, 21-16 in an hour and 18 minutes. Sen will be hoping to become the third Indian player to win the men's singles title, joining Padukone and Pullela Gopichand (2001) as winners of the most famous and prestigious All-England Open tournament. Earlier, India's top-ranked men's singles player, Sen, continued his dream run at the All-England Open as he packed off sixth seed and former champion Li Shi Feng in straight games to reach the semifinals on Friday night. Sen defeated Li 21-13, 21-16 in exactly an hour to set up a last-four clash against Canada's Victor Lai, who got the better of Japan's Koki Watanabe 18-21, 21-17, 21-15 in the other quarterfinals.

## Tillo Cup 2026: Hyderabad a commanding victory over Kolkata

**Bhubaneswar:** Nexage Hyderabad got off to a fantastic start in the Tillo Cup 2026 on Saturday, at the Hanuman Jew Stadium in Tillo, Bhadrak. They secured a five-wicket victory after sealing a big run chase against A&S Kolkata. After winning the toss, Hyderabad invited Kolkata to bat first. Pacer Ayush Roy got the first breakthrough for the side in the form of Dipanshu Upadhyay (1) in the third over. However, Uttar Pradesh batter Almas Shaukat employed a positive intent to accelerate Kolkata's scoring. He found boundaries in consistent fashion, as Abhishek Yadav played a regressive knock as a second fiddle. The



dismissals of Yadav (14) and Rishikesh Tiwari (5) curtailed the momentum and infused pressure on the side. Soon, Shaukat was also dismissed after playing a sublime knock of 56 off 37 balls, with seven fours and two sixes. At this point, Kolkata needed a big partnership to stabilize the team's ship. Keeper Suvankar Bal unleashed his aggressive style to turn as the tormentor for the Hyderabad bowlers. He smashed an unbeaten 67

off 24 balls, with five fours and six sixes, while captain Anshuman Pandey hit 21 off 11 balls. Their contributions boosted Kolkata's score to 190. Rahul Rajpal was the pick of the bowlers with three wickets for Hyderabad. Chasing a big score, Hyderabad needed a strong opening partnership to bring back the side's confidence. The duo of Irshad and Nishant Yadav did the needful, as they were brilliant with their

strokeplay and scored boundaries at will. Their sensational batting display stunned the Kolkata bowling unit, as they had no answer to the onslaught. Pacer Akash Sharma finally brought an end to the 125-run partnership in the 11th over after dismissing Irshad (49). Although the wickets of Rahul Rajpal (1) and Fahim Naz (6) kept Kolkata's hopes alive, Nishant ensured he maintained his supreme form. Mohammad Sharim (21) and Nishant stitched a 24-run stand, with the former scoring the majority of the runs. Nishant remained unbeaten on 73 off 46 balls, with 10 fours and three sixes to complete the chase with 16 balls to spare. Akash took two wickets and was the most successful bowler for Kolkata.

## T20 WC: Ahmedabad Braces For Historic Showdown As IND-NZ Cross Swords

**New Delhi:** Two cricketing giants, one historic final. India stand on the cusp of a record third T20 World Cup title, while New Zealand eye their maiden crown. After a thrilling and unpredictable campaign, both teams have reached the ultimate showdown at the Narendra Modi Stadium in Ahmedabad, a venue that promises a grand stage for what's set to be an epic contest. India's lethal pacers will go head-to-head with New Zealand's explosive openers, Tim Seifert and Finn Allen. Allen, the fastest T20 World Cup centurion, has been in blistering form, boasting the highest strike rate of the tournament. Meanwhile, Seifert has



piled up 425 T20I runs against India, the second-best tally for a BlackCaps batter. But they will face their biggest challenge yet in the form of India's bowling attack. Jasprit Bumrah and Arshdeep Singh have dominated the powerplay and death overs, with India boasting the best economy rate (7.5) in the first six overs of this campaign. India's all-rounder Hardik Pandya

has been in scintillating form, with 199 runs and eight wickets. He is on the verge of becoming the first Indian to score 200 runs and take 10 wickets in a single T20 World Cup edition. His all-round brilliance could prove vital in this high-stakes final. Sanju Samson has been on a roll, delivering match-winning performances against the West Indies and England. With back-to-back Player of

the Match awards, he's played a key role in India's run to the final. However, New Zealand's Matt Henry will be hoping to stop India's in-form No. 9 with his deadly bowling. Suryakumar Yadav, India's captain, is one win away from defending the title he helped secure in 2024. With 526 runs at an average of 58.44, he has been India's standout batter against New Zealand, and he'll be keen to deliver one more big innings against the team he relishes facing. On the other hand, New Zealand may look to bring back Ish Sodhi, who has been a key figure in their T20I success against India, with 30 wickets to his name.

## T20 WC: A Look At India's Record In Ahmedabad Ahead Of Final

**Ahmedabad:** Team India secured their spot in the ICC Men's 2026 T20 World Cup final following their semi-final victory over England and will now face New Zealand in the summit clash on Sunday at the Narendra Modi Stadium. However, the venue has stirred mixed feelings among Indian fans because it was also where they suffered a painful defeat in the 2023 ODI World Cup final. Before the summit clash, let's dissect India's history at the world's largest stadium. The Men in Blue have played 10 matches at Narendra Modi Stadium, winning



seven of them. They have lost only three games at the venue since 2021 and have secured multiple victories, including convincing wins against teams such as England,

the Netherlands, South Africa, and even New Zealand. One of the most emphatic results came in 2023, when India defeated the BlackCaps by a

massive 168-run margin, underlining their ability to dominate at this venue. India also enjoyed a strong run during the 2021 home series against England in Ahmedabad, winning

three of the five matches played there. More recently, however, the venue has produced mixed results for India against the top opposition. Despite a solid 30-run win over South Africa in late 2025, the Proteas responded strongly in their T20 World Cup fixture in February, handing the hosts a thumping 72-run defeat, adding a dent to their chances of qualifying for the tournament's knockouts. As a result, India have won a game and lost a contest at the venue this season. India, as hosts and defending champions with recent

bilateral victories, are likely slight favourites for Sunday's showdown against New Zealand. Nonetheless, history favours the Black Caps, as New Zealand have never lost a match to India in this tournament's history. Up to now, six matches have taken place at the Narendra Modi Stadium during this T20 World Cup. Teams batting first have secured three wins, while chasing teams have won two. One match resulted in a tie, indicating that the venue has hosted closely contested games throughout the tournament.

## FIH Hockey World Cup Qualifiers 2026: Indian Women's Hockey Team Aim To Seal World Cup Berth

**Hyderabad:** The India women's national field hockey team will aim to secure a coveted berth at the upcoming FIH Hockey Women's World Cup 2026 when they take the field in the FIH Hockey World Cup Qualifiers 2026 Hyderabad, Telangana, beginning on Sunday. The tournament will feature eight teams — hosts India, England, Scotland, Korea, Italy, Uruguay, Wales, and Austria — competing for three coveted qualification spots for the global showpiece. At stake in Hyderabad will be three direct World Cup berths, with the teams finishing first, second and third in the tournament earning qualification for the 2026 edition. The upcoming World Cup will feature 16 teams in both the men's and women's competitions, with nine teams in each category already having secured qualification, setting the stage for a highly competitive qualification phase. The tournament format divides the field into two pools of four teams, with the top two teams from each pool progressing to the semifinals. The winners of both semifinals — and the bronze medal match — will secure automatic qualification for the World Cup. Additionally, the highest world-ranked team finishing fourth in Hyderabad will also earn a place at the tournament.

# Vedanta Iron Ore Odisha Fosters Meaningful Women Empowerment

**BHUBANESWAR, (Correspondent):** In the interior villages of Nadidhi & Rengalbeda quiet revolutions are changing lives. A girl who once thought college was out of reach now has a regular school bus service to rely on, a mother who once travelled miles for medical care now receives affordable treatment close to home through Project Aarogya. A young woman with aspirations of being an entrepreneur is now enabled with skills and capacity to establish micro-enterprises, thanks to the Vedanta Iron Ore Odisha's (IOO) impetus on setting up Self Help Groups. This International Women's Day, Vedanta IOO reaffirms its commitment to foster lasting transformation through meaningful women empowerment. Sharing his views, Mr Biswanath Sahoo, Dy CEO, Vedanta IOO, said, "At Vedanta IOO, we

believe that empowering women is the cornerstone of building resilient communities. Our initiatives in the field of education, empowerment through vocational training & promoting overall well-being through basic affordable healthcare have contributed to meaningful & lasting transformation for women in remote areas. On this occasion, we reaffirm our commitment for fostering holistic progress and prosperity of the communities."

Vedanta IOO has ensured safe and secure commute for over 200 young children, majority of them girls. The initiative has contributed to continuity in learning and fall in school dropout rates. The significance of the initiative was summed up well during the inauguration of the bus service by Ms Rani Lohar, Sarpanch, VP Kashira when

she said "The introduction of the school bus under Vedanta's Project Vidya has been a transformative initiative for our village. It has ensured that our children, especially those from remote areas, have safe and reliable transportation to school every day. This initiative is a big step toward improving the future of our community, and we are deeply grateful to Vedanta for their continued support." In FY26, Vedanta IOO's interventions through Project Aarogya were amplified by the wide network of community members that its Mobile Health Unit has succeeded in reaching out to. The initiative brings to the doorstep of these remote communities, basic affordable healthcare - with most of the beneficiaries being women. The initiative comprises health check-up camps, eye camps and awareness sessions on

cancer, diabetes etc.

Vocational training under Project Jeevika has given women the chance to upskill and generate income. Vedanta IOO has enabled women in Rengalbeda & Nadidhi through SHGs aimed at capacity building for enabling women to run successful Mushroom farming and footwear making enterprises. These measures have provided new pathways to women in remote areas and inspired many others to work towards achieving their aspirations. Vedanta IOO has enabled the SHGs with machinery, raw material and skilling which has led to additional income streams for rural households.

"As members of Banewari SHG, mushroom cultivation has been a transformative experience for us. Initially, we were unsure, but with the training and

support from Vedanta IOO and Punaruthan Voluntary Organization, we quickly learnt the technique through expert training. We also received resource support which allowed us to harvest our first crop within a fortnight and earn revenue through sales. We have also contributed to the environment by using farming waste as compost. The support received has empowered us economically and socially." - Elisaba Munda, Rengalbeda Community Resource Person

What makes these initiatives remarkable is not just their scale but the human stories behind them. Together, they form a mosaic of empowerment that is reshaping communities and inspiring futures, the true essence of reaffirming commitment on International Women's Day and building a more equal and prosperous future.

## EAST COAST RAILWAY ANNOUNCES TEMPORARY REGULATION OF TRAINS FOR INFRASTRUCTURE UPGRADATION AT PURI STATION

**BHUBANESWAR, (Correspondent):** In a major move to enhance passenger amenities and operational efficiency, East Coast Railway (ECoR) has announced a significant infrastructure upgradation project at Puri Railway Station. The work involves the execution of Ballastless Track construction in the station yard and the development of Platforms No. 7 & 8. To facilitate these essential works, several train services will be temporarily short-terminated, or short-originated from March 11, 2026, to May 16, 2026. Short-Termination / Short-Origination of Trains on nominated days: Short Terminated at Sakhigopal station: 12145 Lokmanya Tilak Terminus - Puri Express On 15, 22, 29 March; 5, 12, 19, 26 April; 3, 10 May 2026\* 12993 Gandhidham - Puri Express On 13, 20, 27 March; 3, 10, 17, 24 April; 1, 8 May 2026\* 15644 Kamakhya - Puri Express On 12, 19, 26 March; 2, 9, 16, 23, 30 April; 7, 14 May 2026\* 22973 Gandhidham - Puri Express On 11, 18, 25 March; 1, 8, 15, 22, 29 April; 6, 13 May 2026\* 17480 Tirupati - Puri Express On 13, 14, 16, 17, 18, 20, 21, 23, 24, 25, 27, 28, 30, 31 March; 1, 3, 4, 6, 7, 8, 10, 11, 13, 14, 15, 17, 18, 20, 21, 22, 24, 25, 27, 28, 29 April; 1, 2, 4, 5, 6, 8, 9, 11, 12, 13 May 2026

## Forester Trainees Visit JK Paper Mill at J.K. Pur for Study Tour

**Rayagada, (Correspondent):** Forester trainees from the Forest Training School (FTS), Ghatikia undertook an educational study tour to JK Paper Mill at J.K. Pur to gain practical knowledge about industrial forestry and paper manufacturing processes. The visit was conducted under the guidance of Sri Arabinda Mohanty, Divisional Forest Officer (DCF), and Sri Ananda Kumar, Assistant Conservator of Forests (ACF). During the study tour, the trainees were taken through different sections of the paper production units where they observed the step-by-step process



involved in manufacturing paper from raw materials. The trainees also visited the clonal mist chamber, where modern techniques of plant propagation and clonal forestry are practiced. The exposure helped the trainees understand how improved planting materials are developed and used for sustainable forestry and industrial requirements. Sri A.K. Pradhan, ACF (R), and Sri K.S. Achary, Forest Range

Officer (FRO), Rayagada assisted and coordinated the visit, providing valuable insights about plantation management and the linkage between forestry and paper industries. The study tour proved to be highly informative for the trainees, offering them practical exposure to forestry-based industries and enhancing their understanding of sustainable forest resource management.

## IFFCO's Paradeep Unit: Sulphuric Acid Plant-3 Dedicated to the Nation by Union Home & Cooperation Minister Shri 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, Sh 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. Addressing the gathering, Union Home and

Cooperation Minister Shri Amit Shah Ji highlighted the important role of the cooperative sector in strengthening India's rural economy. He said institutions like IFFCO have played a transformative role in empowering millions of farmers across the country. Shri Amit Shah Ji said that the Government of India is committed to strengthening the cooperative movement so that farmers can become economically stronger and agriculture can move towards greater self-reliance. He also noted that expansion of fertiliser infrastructure using modern technology will help ensure timely availability of essential agricultural inputs to farmers and improve productivity in the agriculture sector. Speaking on the occasion, Odisha Chief Minister Shri Mohan Charan Majhi Ji said that the commissioning of the new plant at Paradeep will accelerate industrial

development in the state. He said Odisha is emerging as an important industrial hub and projects of this scale help attract investment while also creating employment opportunities for local people. Union Education Minister Shri Dharmendra Pradhan Ji said that the expansion of IFFCO's Paradeep complex will strengthen the country's fertiliser production capacity. He said ensuring timely availability of fertilisers to farmers is essential for sustaining agricultural growth and improving farmers' incomes. IFFCO Chairman Shri Dilip Sanghani Ji said that IFFCO has always worked with the primary objective of serving farmers and strengthening the cooperative movement. He said the commissioning of Sulphuric Acid Plant-3 reflects IFFCO's commitment to expanding production capacity and adopting modern technologies for the benefit of farmers.

# Vedanta raises women's representation target to 35%

**New Delhi:** Marking International Women's Day, Vedanta Group has raised its ambition to achieve 35% women representation across all levels of the organisation, while launching #HerAtTheCore, a nationwide campaign and LinkedIn-led hiring drive inviting women to build careers across mining, metals, oil & gas, power and technology. The announcement comes against a stark industry backdrop. According to the Annual Survey of Industries in India, women accounted for around 18% of direct employment across industries in 2023-24,



while in core sectors such as mining and metals, their share remains only about 6%. #HerAtTheCore campaign seeks to highlight the fact that India is entering a defining decade of industrial growth, powering the global energy transition, building EV supply chains, and

strengthening its role in advanced manufacturing and technology. Metals, minerals, oil & gas, and power are crucial for the growth of these industries. And yet, women represent only about 6% of the workforce across core sectors that will build this future. For India's economic aspirations to be realised, the

industries powering them must reflect the full strength of the country's talent pool. At Vedanta, women today constitute 23% of the workforce, significantly above industry averages. Anchored in the message "6% isn't enough and 23% is just the beginning," the #HerAtTheCore campaign highlights both the industry gap and the opportunity to reshape the future workforce of core industries. Commenting on the initiative, Priya Agarwal Hebbar, Non-Executive Director, Vedanta Ltd. and Chairperson, Hindustan Zinc Limited, said, "India's

growth ambitions require the full participation of its talent pool. At Vedanta, women today represent 23% of our workforce but this is only the beginning. Our ambition is to grow to 35% and ultimately to 50%. We are not only increasing representation - we are redesigning systems, deploying advanced technologies and building life-stage support frameworks that enable women to thrive in core industries. #HerAtTheCore is both a celebration and a call to action. We encourage talented women across disciplines to join us and help shape the sectors that power the world."

## Jindal Stainless hosts its annual 'Stainless Swachhata Abhiyaan' Summit in Jajpur

**Bhubaneswar, (Correspondent):** Jindal Stainless, India's leading stainless steel manufacturer, organized the second edition of its annual 'Stainless Swachhata Abhiyaan' (SSA) Summit at Danagadi block in Jajpur, Odisha. The event saw participation from over 200 individuals, including representatives from local administration, community members, Self-Help Groups (SHGs), youth, and school students. Centered on the theme 'Mo Gaon, Swachh Gaon' (My Village, Clean Village), the Summit aims to raise awareness and strengthen structured, community-driven action towards an effective waste management system in Jajpur, where Jindal Stainless' largest manufacturing facility is



located. The Summit saw the presence of Mr Pradipa Kumar Sethy, Danagadi Block Development Officer, Mr Deepak Agrawal, Unit Head - Jajpur, Jindal Stainless, Mr Manas Ranjan Sahani, District Sanitation Coordinator, Mr Diptimanta Mallick, Danagadi Block Resource Coordinator, Mr Sukanta Kumar Rath, Deputy General Manager - CSR, Jindal Stainless, Ms Maitreyee Deb, Environment Head, Jindal Stainless, and Mr Ashish Sachdeva,

Founder President, Green Dream Foundation. Their participation showcased the commitment from government institutions, corporate CSR platforms, and community stakeholders towards sustaining rural waste systems. Reflecting on the company's commitment to community development, Jindal Stainless, Managing Director, Abhyuday Jindal, said, "At Jindal Stainless, we firmly believe that the communities around us must grow with us."