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## Subhadra Yojana Impact: 25% Women Start Businesses, 35% Meet Household Needs - CM

BHUBANESWAR, (Correspondent): Chief Minister Mohan Charan Majhi on Sunday highlighted the growing impact of the Subhadra Yojana, stating that 25% of beneficiaries have used the funds to start businesses, while 35% have utilised it for household needs, during a state-level program in Puri to distribute the fourth installment of the scheme on International Women's Day. "Subhadra Yojana has not only empowered women financially but also instilled self-confidence and independence," said CM Majhi while handing over Rs 5,000 each to 1.12 crore women beneficiaries across Odisha in the fourth phase of the scheme. The total disbursement under this phase amounts to Rs 5,106 crore, including



4,20,854 beneficiaries from Puri district. The Chief Minister praised beneficiaries who have leveraged the Subhadra assistance to create opportunities in horticulture, poultry farming, bamboo businesses, and other small enterprises, calling them examples of success and resilience. "Women from districts like Angul, Balangir, Bargarh, Bhadrak, and Cuttack are turning this support into sustainable livelihoods," he

added. According to a survey conducted by IIM Sambalpur, 25.52% of beneficiaries have used the funds to launch businesses, while 35.7% have applied the assistance to meet household expenses. Many women have also utilised the money to repay loans, save, and improve their skills, earning recognition and respect within their families. CM Majhi emphasised that women will play a pivotal role in achieving a prosperous

Odisha by 2036 and a developed India by 2047. "Currently, the state has approximately 17 lakh Lakhpati Didis, and the government aims to create 6 million 'Lakshapati Didis' and 1 million 'Millennium Didis' by 2047," he said. The Chief Minister also reaffirmed the government's commitment to women's welfare through schemes such as 'Mukhyamantri Kanya Vivah Yojana', 'Mukhyamantri Kanya

Sumangala Yojana', and 'Pradhan Mantri Matru Vandana Yojana', which support education, health, and economic empowerment. During the program, CM Majhi released the Subhadra Review Report, a coffee table book of the Women and Child Development Department, and a booklet on child marriage prevention. He also condemned the recent disrespect shown to the President in West Bengal, stating that such acts undermine both the office and the nation, as well as women's dignity. Deputy Chief Minister and Women and Child Development Minister Pravati Parida congratulated all beneficiaries, saying, "Thanks to Mother Subhadra, women in Odisha are emerging as a powerful force."



## India beat New Zealand

### Death Toll Due To Adulterated Milk In Andhra Pradesh Rises To 12

Amaravati: The death toll due to acute renal failure caused by milk adulteration in Andhra Pradesh's Rajahmundry city reached 12 on Sunday as a 73-year-old woman died while undergoing medical treatment at a private hospital. Senapathi Ramalaxmi, a resident of Laalacheruvu area in the city, was admitted to the hospital with acute renal failure on February 16 after she reportedly consumed adulterated milk. Nine people,

including three infants, are still battling for life with acute renal failure. According to East Godavari District Collector Kirthi Chakuri, as many as 20 persons suffered acute renal failure after they consumed milk adulterated with Ethylene Glycol. She said on February 16, some people who consumed the adulterated milk were admitted to various hospitals due to urinary obstruction and kidney-related problems.

## US Warns Iranian Civilians Amid Drone Attacks

Washington: The US military has issued a warning on Sunday to civilians in Iran, urging them to stay indoors as Iranian forces continue launching drones and ballistic missiles from densely populated cities — a tactic American officials say is placing millions of ordinary people at risk. US Central Command said the Iranian military had been conducting operations from crowded urban areas, including the cities of Dezful, Esfahan, and Shiraz, where drones and missiles have been launched in recent days. "The Iranian regime is using heavily populated civilian areas to conduct military operations, including launching one-way attack drones and ballistic missiles,"



CENTCOM said in a statement. American officials warned that using residential neighbourhoods for military operations could expose those areas to retaliation under international law. "This dangerous decision risks the lives of all civilians in Iran since locations used for military purposes lose protected status and could become legitimate military targets under

international law," the command said. The statement urged civilians across Iran to remain inside their homes as fighting intensifies. "US forces strongly urge civilians in Iran to stay at home," the statement said, adding that the Iranian government was "knowingly endangering innocent lives". American officials also accused Iranian forces of

targeting civilian infrastructure elsewhere in the region. According to CENTCOM, Iranian forces have "deliberately and indiscriminately targeting civilian airports, hotels, and residential neighborhoods" across parts of the Middle East, putting innocent people in neighbouring countries at risk. Adm. Brad Cooper, commander of US Central Command, said Tehran's actions were placing both its own population and regional partners in danger. "Iran's terrorist regime is blatantly disregarding civilian lives by attacking Gulf partners while compromising the safety of their own people," Cooper said.

## 100 Mn Barrels Of Russian Oil Waiting For China: US

Washington: US Energy Secretary Chris Wright said on Sunday that more than 100 million barrels of Russian crude are currently floating at sea waiting to be delivered to China, a backlog the US believes could temporarily ease global energy market disruptions if redirected to other refineries. "There's more than 100 million barrels of floating Russian crude waiting in line to deliver to China," Wright said in an interview with CBS News. "That's going to be sold, it's going to be refined, but that could be one or two months from now." The comments came as global oil markets react to disruptions linked to the ongoing conflict involving Iran, which has



rattled shipping routes and pushed up fuel prices. Wright said Washington has taken what he described as a pragmatic step to help ease the supply dislocation affecting refineries in Asia and Europe. "So in a pragmatic way, with no change in US policy towards Russia, we told the Indians, bring that into your refineries," he added. "You know, if you're feeling a shortage of crude, prices are being bid up, draw

down that Russian crude stocks that are sitting right offshore." According to Wright, the current spike in oil prices is driven more by logistics disruptions than by an actual shortage of crude supplies. "The world is very well supplied with oil. There's no energy shortage at all in the Western Hemisphere," the US Energy Secretary said. "The United States is a net exporter of oil, a large net exporter of natural

gas." However, he noted that refineries in Europe and Asia were facing interruptions because normal shipping routes and supply flows had been affected. "But there is massive energy stores around the world," Wright said, adding: "What you're seeing is emotional reactions and fear that this is a long term war. This is not a long term war." He said the US military was currently focused on restoring stability in the Strait of Hormuz, a vital oil transit corridor through which nearly 20 million barrels of crude typically pass each day. "All of our military assets right now are focused on ending Iran's ability to kill their neighbours, threaten American soldiers and threaten ship traffic in the Strait of Hormuz," Wright said.

## Centre Greenlights CGHS Wellness Center in Sambalpur

BHUBANESWAR, (Correspondent) In a significant boost to healthcare accessibility for central government employees and pensioners in western Odisha, Union Education Minister and Sambalpur MP Dharmendra Pradhan has revealed that a new Central Government Health Scheme (CGHS) Wellness Center will soon be established in Sambalpur. This development comes following a positive response from Union Health Minister JP Nadda to Pradhan's request, with all necessary approvals already secured from the

Health and Finance Ministries. The initiative addresses a long-standing need in the region, where numerous central institutions such as BSNL, the Postal Department, Income Tax Department, East Coast Railway, Central Excise Department, CRPF Group Center, IIM Sambalpur, and Kendriya Vidyalayas operate. A large number of serving employees and retired pensioners reside here, but the absence of a local CGHS facility has forced them to travel over 300 kilometers to cities like Bhubaneswar, Cuttack, or Berhampur for medical services.

## PM Modi To Address Post-Budget Webinar On 'Sabka Saath Sabka Vikas' On March 9

New Delhi: Prime Minister Narendra Modi will address a Post-Budget Webinar on the theme "Sabka Saath Sabka Vikas — Fulfilling Aspirations of People" on March 9. The event will begin at 10:15 AM and will be held through video conferencing. The webinar will focus on key areas highlighted in the Union Budget and aims to discuss ways to implement government policies effectively. Several

breakout sessions will be organised during the event, covering sectors such as education and skilling, health and AYUSH, tourism and hospitality. During the discussions, participants will explore initiatives designed to strengthen the link between education and employment. There will also be deliberations on developing content creator labs for Animation, Visual Effects, Gaming, and Comics (AVGC), a

sector that has been identified as a growing area for job creation and innovation. In the healthcare sector, the sessions will examine plans to expand the training of allied health professionals and caregivers. Discussions will also focus on the development of regional medical hubs and the establishment of new institutions related to AYUSH systems of medicine. Tourism-related initiatives will also be a major part of

the webinar. These include skill development in the hospitality sector, promotion of sustainable tourism trails, and development of Buddhist circuits in the North-Eastern region. Efforts to promote heritage tourism will also be discussed. According to the government, the Post-Budget Webinar is intended to bring together representatives from the government, industry and various

sectors to discuss practical ways of implementing the announcements made in the Union Budget. The discussions are expected to generate actionable recommendations that can help accelerate inclusive growth and development across the country. Meanwhile, earlier in the day, the Prime Minister visited General Pool Residential Accommodation (G P R A )



Redevelopment Plan in the national capital. PM Modi handed over the keys of the Type-5 quarters to the female allottees.

## International Women's Day Celebrated in Ganjam

**Gopalpur (correspondent):** International Women's Day was celebrated by the Ganjam District Administration and the District Social Welfare Department with enthusiasm at a district-level programme held at the Rishikulya Conference Hall today. On this occasion, financial assistance under the fourth installment of the State Government's flagship women empowerment scheme Subhadra was disbursed to the beneficiaries of the Ganjam District under the guidance of Minister for Commerce & Transport, Steel and Mines, Bibhuti Bhusan Jena. Across the state, more than one crore women beneficiaries received the fourth installment of Rs 5,000 each, amounting to



more than Rs 5,000 crore in total financial assistance. In Ganjam district, 9,12,408 beneficiaries received the fourth installment under the Subhadra scheme, with a total amount of Rs 456 crore 20 lakh 40 thousand transferred directly to their bank accounts. Earlier, 9,31,841 beneficiaries had received the first installment, 9,16,885 beneficiaries the second installment, and 9,17,498 beneficiaries the third installment in

the district. District Collector V. Keerthi Vasana said the Subhadra scheme has become a milestone in strengthening the economic and social empowerment of women, particularly in rural areas. He added that the initiative is not only contributing to the economic development of Ganjam district but is also a strong step towards achieving the goals of "Viksit Odisha 2036" and "Viksit Bharat 2047." Emphasizing the

importance of education, the Collector stated that when a girl is educated, it enlightens not only her life but also her family and society. The Collector also highlighted that Odisha is the only state providing interest-free loans up to Rs 10 lakh to Self-Help Groups, urging women to take advantage of the opportunity to strengthen the rural economy and improve their livelihoods.

## ICAR-CIFA celebrated International Women's Day 2026

**Bhubaneswar, (Correspondent)** On 8th March 2026, ICAR-Central Institute of Freshwater Aquaculture, Bhubaneswar and KVK, Khordha jointly organized a Workshop on "Empowering SC Women Farmer through Women Friendly Aquaculture Technologies" in connection with the celebrations of International Women's Day 2026. A total of 100 farm women from of Balipatna block of Khordha district attended the workshop. Dr. Kanta Das Mahapatra, former Principal Scientist, ICAR-CIFA gave a presentation on "Freshwater aquaculture as a livelihood option for farm women". Dr. S.N.Sethi., Principal Scientist, ICAR-CIFA delivered a lecture on



"Natural Farming for sustainable aquaculture". Dr. C.K. Mishra, Principal Scientist, ICAR-CIFA talked on Empowerment of women farmer through ornamental aquaculture. Ms. Prajna Parangama, Deputy Collector, Khurda and the Chief Guest of the programme, expressed her delight in participating in the International Women's Day celebration at ICAR-CIFA. She highlighted that recognizing and promoting the contributions of women in aquaculture and rural development is essential, and emphasized that

empowering women through knowledge, entrepreneurship, and opportunities in fisheries can significantly strengthen livelihoods and foster inclusive and sustainable development. Dr. P.K. Sahoo, Director of ICAR-CIFA, in his address highlighted the various initiatives undertaken by the institute to promote women's empowerment, particularly in the field of aquaculture and fisheries. He also spoke about several schemes launched by the Government aimed at strengthening the socio-economic status

of women and encouraging their active participation in development activities. Dr. K. D. Mahapatra and Dr. Bindu R. Pillai, former Principal Scientists of ICAR-CIFA, attended the programme as Guests of Honour and highlighted the importance of empowering women through aquaculture. Emphasizing the concept of "Give to Gain," they stated that greater participation of women in aquaculture entrepreneurship can significantly enhance their livelihoods while also contributing to their social empowerment and responsibilities. Ms. Kanta Mohanty, GB Member of SARA, Bhubaneswar, and External Member of the IC at ICAR-CIFA, also addressed the gathering on this occasion.

## Rayagada Municipality Salutes Women Frontline Workers on Eve of International Women's Day



**Rayagada, (Correspondent):** On the eve of International Women's Day, Rayagada Municipality organized a series of programmes under the theme "Nari Leads Swachhata", highlighting the vital role played by women in sanitation services and civic administration. A capacity building programme was conducted at the respective Wealth Centres (WCs) for Swachhkarmis, Swachh Sathis and Plant Managers. The programme was held in the presence of Executive Officer Kuldeep Singh, Junior

Engineer (JE), Junior Sanitary Engineers (JSEs) and Ward Councillors. The participants were sensitized on effective waste management practices and the importance of maintaining cleanliness and hygiene in the city. As part of the ongoing IEC (Information, Education and Communication) campaign, leaflets were distributed among Swachh Sathis to strengthen door-to-door awareness on source segregation of waste among households. Later, a felicitation programme was organised at the Council Hall of Rayagada

Municipality under the chairmanship of Executive Officer Kuldeep Singh. On the occasion, women municipal officers, women staff members, female sanitation workers, frontline workers and other women employees were felicitated for their dedicated service and significant contribution to urban sanitation and public welfare. Through this initiative, Rayagada Municipality paid a heartfelt tribute to the dedication, resilience and leadership of women, acknowledging their invaluable role in building a cleaner, healthier and more inclusive city.

## International Women's Day celebrated

**Gopalpur, (correspondent)** International Women's Day was celebrated in the premises of Sahanipur Panchayat office under Rangeilunda block with the joint support of SBL Volunteer Organization and Bahanipur Panchayat. The Honorable Chairperson of Odisha State Child Protection Commission, Babita Patra, participated in the organized program and advised children to be careful while using mobile phones. She said that in the coming days, the commission will take up a big program for online use among students from class 6 to class 12 in the state. Among others, Ganjam District Consumer Disputes Redressal Commission Member Saritri Patnaik, Bahanipur Gram Panchayat Sarpanch Eg



Ranjit Sahu, President of Sustainable Development Goals NGO and Advocate of Orissa High Court Ravindra Kumar Mishra, Panchayat Officer Sushri Nirupama Pradhan, Women's Association President Gayatri Shatpathy, Naib Sarpanch Shivani Patra, Advisor to SBL Professor Surya Narayan Tripathi, Dr. Bharati Mishra, and Dr. Polaki Sri Obstetrics and Gynecology Department of MKCG Medical College and Hospital, lecturer of Dura College Dr. Usharani Brahma, Vice President of SBL B. Janardhan Reddy,

Editor Uma Shankar Sahu, Joint Editor Ravindra Goud, Treasurer Jayasen Sasmal were the main organizers, while Madhusmita Thakur, Vice President of ESBL, moderated the meeting. About 168 teenage girls, women, ANMs, Anganwadi workers, ASHA workers, Nursing Officers, lecturers and other women working continuously in social service. The program was aimed at creating awareness about women empowerment, health awareness and social development. During the day, 7 senior doctors from Sam Hospital, Shitlapalli, along with their team, conducted health check-ups and provided free medicines to more than 150 teenage girls and women. Among others, Sameer Kumar Muni, Motilal Thakur, Rajiv Lochan Mishra, Pradeep Khatei, Sonali Nayak, Swapna Behera, Svetvika Satpathi, Suresh Sahu contributed significantly.

award by the Sustainable Development Goals NGO. The honored women included ANMs, Anganwadi workers, ASHA workers, nurses, Nursing Officers, lecturers and other women working continuously in social service. The program was aimed at creating awareness about women empowerment, health awareness and social development. During the day, 7 senior doctors from Sam Hospital, Shitlapalli, along with their team, conducted health check-ups and provided free medicines to more than 150 teenage girls and women. Among others, Sameer Kumar Muni, Motilal Thakur, Rajiv Lochan Mishra, Pradeep Khatei, Sonali Nayak, Swapna Behera, Svetvika Satpathi, Suresh Sahu contributed significantly.

## Interstate Ganja Racket Busted In Sundargarh

**Sundargarh, (correspondent):** Sundargarh Town Police on Sunday arrested two men from Punjab and seized a consignment of 146 kg ganja in a major interstate smuggling bust. The arrested have been identified as Ajay Kumar (32), a driver from Chhaju Majra village under Rajpura Police Station of Punjab and Virendra Pal (38), a resident of Kumal Colony, 33 Feet Road area in Ludhiana district of Punjab. According to Sundargarh SP Amrit Pal Kaur, police received a credible tip-off this morning that a truck was transporting ganja from Sambalpur to Rourkela via Ranchi, originating from Punjab. Acting on the information, officials stopped the truck on the Biju Expressway and conducted a thorough inspection.

## ACS Vishal Kumar Dev Chairs Review Meeting to Accelerate Rooftop Solar Adoption in Odisha

**Bhubaneswar (Correspondent):** A high-level review meeting was held at TPCODL Management Development Centre to assess the progress of the PM Surya Ghar: Muft Bijli Yojana in Odisha, bringing together senior officials from the Energy Department, DISCOMs, representatives of banks and empanelled vendors. The meeting focused on addressing operational bottlenecks, streamlining loan disbursement processes and strengthening coordination among stakeholders to accelerate rooftop solar installations across the state. The interaction was chaired by Shri Vishal Kumar Dev, Additional Chief Secretary, Government of Odisha. Speaking on this occasion, he stressed upon the importance of collective action in achieving the state's renewable energy goals. "PM Surya Ghar: Muft Bijli Yojana has the potential to transform the rooftop solar landscape in Odisha. Banks, vendors and DISCOMs must work in close coordination to ensure timely loan disbursement and smooth implementation so that more households can benefit from clean and affordable energy," he said. Chief Odisha Distribution Business, Shri Gajanan Kale, highlighted the role of strong partnerships in meeting the ambitious targets under the scheme.



## Women's Day Special: Tata Power-Led Odisha DISCOMs Enable Women to Restart Careers through 'Nua Arambha' Initiative

**Bhubaneswar, (Correspondent):** Reinforcing its commitment to diversity, inclusion and women empowerment, Tata Power-led Odisha DISCOMs celebrated the 'Nua Arambha - New Beginning' initiative on the occasion of International Women's Day. The programme aims to support women who wish to restart their professional journey after a career break, enabling them to re-enter the workforce with renewed confidence and opportunities for growth. Now in its second season, the initiative continues to create meaningful opportunities for women professionals to restart their careers



and contribute to the power distribution sector in Odisha. It reflects Tata Power Odisha DISCOMs' broader commitment to fostering an inclusive workplace culture that encourages women to pursue their professional aspirations while balancing personal responsibilities.

Through Nua Arambha, the organisation is creating pathways for talented women professionals to begin their second careers and contribute meaningfully to the power distribution sector in Odisha. As part of the initiative, seven women professionals have

been onboarded across different roles and professional profiles in the four Odisha DISCOMs, marking an important step towards strengthening gender diversity within the organisation. The programme recognises their determination and provides them with the platform and support

needed to confidently restart their careers. The event also served as a platform to acknowledge the resilience and commitment of these women professionals while inspiring more women to take the step towards returning to the workforce. The programme was graced by Dr. Monica Singhania, Professor, Faculty of Management Studies, Delhi, and Director on the Boards of TPNODL and TPWODL; Mr. Gajanan Kale, Chief - Odisha Distribution Business; Mr. Arvind Singh, CEO, TPCODL; and Mr. Shyam Sunder Choudhury, Chief BHR, along with members of the senior leadership team of the

Odisha DISCOMs. Speaking on the occasion, Mr. Gajanan Kale, Chief - Odisha Distribution Business, Tata Power, said, "At Tata Power, we strongly believe that diversity and inclusion are key drivers of organisational growth and innovation. Through initiatives like 'Nua Arambha', we aim to provide women professionals with the opportunity and confidence to restart their careers and contribute meaningfully to the organisation and society. Their resilience and determination inspire us to continue building a workplace that supports equal opportunities and empowers women at every stage of their professional journey."

## International Women's Day Celebrated by Nimapada BJD

Nimapada, (Correspondent): Today's women are not only the strength of the family but also the fundamental force in building society and the nation. Our government had prioritized women's empowerment and continuously worked to improve women's education, financial independence, and social dignity. However, the present government is misleading women and, instead of giving them respect, is insulting them by luring them with small monetary incentives, said Puri district Biju Janata Dal (BJD) Women's Wing President Kasturibala Swain on the occasion of International Women's Day. International Women's Day was celebrated by the Nimapada BJD at



the local Town Hall premises. Under the leadership of President Kasturibala Swain, a large rally involving hundreds of women started near Jayaguru Ashram Chhak and passed through Old Bus Stand, Dolabedi before reaching the Town Hall. Among others who attended the meeting were Nimapada BJD organizing leader Subrata Chhatoi, Gop

Block Chairperson Jhunu Mallik, Zilla Parishad member Sasmita Nayak, Nimapada Block President Bhagyadhar Khato, Town President Dhanurdhar Das, and senior BJD leader Bijay Pattnaik. Women are playing a leading role in various sectors such as household responsibilities, agriculture, health, education, science, sports, and industry. By doing so, they are

strengthening the economic power of families and society and making significant contributions to the development of the state. Through Mission Shakti, the Biju Janata Dal had empowered women. Organizing leader Subrata Chhatoi said that in the coming days women will become more employment-oriented and increasingly empowered.

## WOMEN WALK 1-KM FOR A POT OF WATER

Paralakhemundi, (Correspondent): The noble promise of the government's Vasudha Yojana, envisioned to bring safe drinking water to every household, appears painfully distant in parts of Gajapati district. In the quiet hamlet of Gamang Sahi under Ukhura Panchayat of Gumma Block, the scheme's lofty vision fades into a daily struggle, as women are forced to walk nearly a kilometre in search of a single pot of water. Home to more than twenty families, Gamang Sahi slips deeper into hardship with the arrival of summer. Water, the most basic necessity of life, remains beyond easy reach. Ironically, even as the government invests heavily to ensure household water supply, the residents here continue to face an acute scarcity that tests their endurance each day. In



earlier days, hope had arrived through the efforts of the Village Development Volunteer Organization, which had devised a modest system to channel spring water from the nearby hill and store it for the villagers' use. But with the scorching days setting in, that lifeline has begun to dry up. The lone tube well in the locality, now worn and neglected, produces only muddy water, unfit for drinking. Left with no alternative, villagers trek nearly a kilometre to a distant well to fetch water

for drinking, cooking, washing clothes and other daily needs. For the elderly and the physically challenged, the journey is impossible. In a touching display of solidarity, neighbours often carry an extra pot of water for them, sharing what little they can. The silence of the administration has deepened the villagers' frustration. With no public representative or official visiting the area to assess the crisis, residents submitted a written complaint to

Paralakhemundi MLA Rupesh Panigrahi. Acting on the plea, the MLA reportedly advised them to meet the concerned officials at Gumma Block. However, despite visiting the block office twice and waiting the entire day, the villagers claim they could not meet the concerned officer. Now, patience is running dry just like their water sources. Residents including Amerjeet Gamang, Ajiy Gamang, Sumanrani Shabar, Junita Gamang and Igan Gamang have warned that if the administration fails to take immediate steps to ensure drinking water for Gamang Sahi, they will be compelled to launch a protest to make their voices heard. For the women of this small tribal hamlet, every sunrise still begins with a weary walk for water — a stark reminder that the promise of water to every doorstep remains, for them, a distant dream.

## Subhadra fourth installment awarded on the occasion of International Women's Day



Paralakhemundi, (Correspondent): The fourth installment of Subhadra was awarded on the occasion of International Women's Day at Biju Kalyan Mandap. MLA Paralakhemundi Rupesh Kumar Panigrahi attended today's district-level program as the chief guest, while Yatindra Kumar Panda, SP Gajapati, Additional District Collector Falguni Majhi, PD DRDA Prithviraj Mandal, Nirmala Sethi, Chairperson, Municipal Council Paralakhemundi, Manorama Devi, District Social Welfare Officer Gajapati, District Cultural Officer Ms. Archana Kumari Mangaraj, District Child Protection Officer Gajapati Arun Kumar Tripathi were the guests of honor. In this program, on the occasion of International Women's Day, the fourth installment of Subhadra Yojana has been provided financial assistance to more than 1 lakh 44 thousand women of the district through DBT to the eligible beneficiaries of the district.

## Shakti Padayatra' organized in Subarnapur

SUBARNAPUR, (Correspondent) --- On Sunday, on the occasion of International Women's Day, a Shakti Padayatra was organized by the Sports Department of Subarnapur District Administration from Sureswari Temple to Sonepur College. Carrying the message of 'Shaktiira Gati Rashtrara Pragati', this padayatra encouraged women and students of the district to contribute to the development of the country. Subarnapur Collector Dr. Nruparaj Sahu and Supdt. Of Police Narayan Nayak flagged off the 5-km long padayatra by displaying the white flag. District Sports Officer Chittaranjan Mishra conducted the program. Sonepur Sub-Collector Dr. Soumyarupa Rath led the padayatra. Sonepur Municipality Chairperson Smt. Tamasi Tamasmita Naik, Additional District Magistrate (Revenue) Rajendra Majhi, DSP Smt. Renuka Suna, Sonepur Police Station IIC Yadav Bagh, Deputy Collector and District Emergency Branch Officer Rajesh Sahu were prominently present in this walk.

## Fitness Together Celebrates International Women's Day

Bhubaneswar, (Correspondent): On the occasion of International Women's Day, the fitness community Fitness Together organized a special celebration at Shyama Prasad Mukherjee Park to honor and appreciate the women members of the group. During the program, all the lady teammates of the community were felicitated in recognition of their dedication to health, fitness, and active participation in the group's activities. The event witnessed a gathering of around 70 members, creating a vibrant and joyful atmosphere at the park. The celebration was organized under the leadership of the founder Sourya Ranjan Dash, who highlighted the importance of women's health and their vital role in building a healthy and strong community. The event was hosted by senior teammates Asis Mohanty, Bibhu Mohanty, Amit Pattnaik, Ashok Prusti, and Bijaya Bisoi, who ensured smooth conduct of the program.

## Mohammed Moqim to launch New Party named 'Odisha Janata Congress' on April 8

Cuttack (Correspondent): Mohammed Moqim has confirmed to launch his new political party named 'Odisha Janata Congress' on April 8. He will officially launch his party at the Exhibition Ground in Bhubaneswar on April 8, 2026. Moqim has confirmed that he has received clearance for the party's name from Election Commission. Moqim said that the new party intends to connect with grassroots communities and will focus on issues of governance, development, and public welfare.

## Block level International Women's Day celebrated in Khaprakhol, women farmers promoted

Patnagarh - (Correspondent) Block level International Women's Day was celebrated on Saturday at the Balangir district Khaprakhol block conference hall under the chairmanship of BDO Bibekananda Sadangi. On this occasion, Block Chairperson Nirupma Patel was the chief guest, Deputy Chief Minister's Block Representative Padma Kumar Singh Bariha was the guest of honor, MP's Block Representative Santosh Kumar Bhainsal, CDPO Amita Panda, OAV President Sarita Naik, OLM BPM Pankajini Tarasiya, Block Agriculture Officer Santosh Kumar Meher, Welfare Development Officer Pratikshya Sahu were present. On this



occasion, the guests spoke about making women self-reliant and demonstrating skills in all fields. On this occasion, women who achieved excellence in various fields were felicitated with trophies and awards. Lathor Sarpanch Jayashree Bhainsal, Block Chairperson Nirupma Patel, Local Sarpanch Betikhai Sendria, Women Farmers Sarojini Sahu, Rashmita Patra, Surya Bariha, Gauri Bhue, Women Doctor

Monika Mallik and other leading women in various fields were felicitated. On this occasion, officers and employees of various departments including Pabitra Patel, Umesh Gupta, Prashant Nanda, Madhuri Deep, ASHA, Anganwadi workers, MBK, CRP were present. FES Master Trainer Dr. Abhay Tripathi conducted the program and OLM BPM Pankajini Tarasiya proposed the vote of thanks.

## "Satrangi 2.0" Revives the Golden Melodies of Hindi and Odia Cinema

Bhubaneswar, (Correspondent) : A vibrant musical evening titled "Satrangi 2.0" was organized on Saturday, 7th March, at the Ekamra Haat Open Stage from 6:00 PM to 10:00 PM, celebrating the timeless melodies of Hindi and Odia cinema. The primary objective of the event was to revive and promote the beautiful yet gradually forgotten songs of the Hindi and Odia film industries, bringing back the charm of the golden era of music. The program featured soulful performances by singers Meera, Manjushree, Manoj, Shiv, Prashasti, Shreya, Pragya, Naitik, and Shubhrajit, who enthralled the audience with evergreen classics such as "Salona Sa Sajan Hai," "Piya Tose Naina Lage Re," "Aaj Phir..." and "Silsila Ye Chahat Ka," among others. The musical performances were enriched by talented instrumentalists. Nityanand and Sanjay Rout played the tabla, Raju Das performed on dholak and handsonic, Bablu and Rupankar played the keyboard, while Siba added rhythmic depth with the octopad. The event was organized by Manoj Kumar Ojha, whose initiative brought together talented artists to celebrate classic music. The event was graced by Shri Srikant Gautam and Shri Om Prakash Mohanty as the Chief Guests.



## Earth Venture Camp Concludes with International Women's Day Celebration at KiiT International School

BHUBANESWAR, (Correspondent) The four-day Earth Venture Camp for neurodivergent students, organised by KiiT-IS SEN Globe, concluded on a vibrant and meaningful note as the final day coincided with the celebration of International Women's Day. The event brought together students, parents, educators and staff in a joyful celebration of inclusion, creativity and empowerment. The celebration was graced by the presence of the Honourable Founder of KiiT, KISS and KIMS, Prof. Achyuta Samanta, who appreciated the dedication and strength of the women associated with the SEN Globe community. He acknowledged the tireless efforts of mothers, educators and



team members who continuously nurture, support and empower neurodivergent children, emphasizing that their compassion and resilience form the foundation of an inclusive learning environment. Addressing the gathering, Chairperson Dr. Mona Lisa Bal reflected on the journey of womanhood

and motherhood, highlighting both the challenges and the profound strength that define it. She spoke about how being a mother and a woman often demands immense patience, courage and compassion, yet remains one of the most inspiring roles in shaping lives and futures. On the occasion, three

dedicated support staff members were also felicitated, recognising their invaluable contributions and quiet dedication to the institution. The Earth Venture Camp itself was designed as an engaging and experiential learning journey for the students. Over the past three days, children

participated in a variety of activities including art and craft, vocational skill development, creative expression, sensory-based learning and collaborative tasks that encouraged confidence, independence and teamwork. The initiative also highlighted the importance of neurodiversity and special education, creating an environment where every child's unique abilities were celebrated and supported through inclusive learning practices. The final day concluded with a lively, fun fair, cultural performances and an exhibition of the children's creations, where parents had the opportunity to witness the remarkable talent and effort of the students.

## 3 JNV Staff Suspended After Students Drown In Kolab Reservoir

Bhubaneswar: Three staff members of Jawahar Navodaya Vidyalaya (JNV) in Koraput district were suspended after three Class X students drowned in the Kolab reservoir on Saturday while bathing after their CBSE examination. The Bhopal regional office of Navodaya Vidyalaya Samiti (NVS), which runs the centrally funded residential schools, placed Physics teacher Chaman Kumar, Physical Education Teacher (PET) Rahul Singh and hostel in-charge Ishwar Khara under suspension pending an inquiry into the incident. According to reports, eight students had gone to the Kolab reservoir to bathe after completing their CBSE Class X examination. During the bath, three students — Lingaraj Khilo, Omm Prakash Behera and Swasthita Sundar Halwa — reportedly ventured into deeper waters, lost their balance and were swept away.

## EDITORIAL

### Meditation Can Reshape Your Brain Activity

Meditation is widely known for reducing stress and promoting calm, but new neuroscience research shows it can also actively reshape brain activity—potentially transforming how the brain functions at both electrical and network levels. A recent study led by neurophysiologist Annalisa Pascarella of the Italian National Research Council used high-resolution brain scans and machine learning to investigate how meditation alters brain dynamics. Researchers recruited 12 seasoned Buddhist monks from the Thai Forest tradition—each with over 15,000 hours of meditation practice—and measured their brain activity using magnetoencephalography (MEG) while they were practicing Samatha meditation (focused attention on a specific sensation like breathing) or Vipassana meditation (open awareness of thoughts and sensations). The results were striking. Meditation was shown to move neural activity toward a state researchers call “brain criticality.” This is a delicate balance between neural order and chaos that may help optimize how the brain works. In this balanced state, brain networks are thought to be more efficient and flexible—a bit like tuning an engine to run smoothly under many conditions. The two meditation types produced distinct neural patterns:

Samatha promoted a stable, focused brain state, ideal for concentration. Vipassana brought the brain closer to the criticality state, potentially enhancing overall flexibility and awareness. Interestingly, this study found reduced gamma oscillations—a type of high-frequency brain activity often linked with processing external stimuli—suggesting meditation may shift focus from the outside world inward. How Experience Changes the Brain: Experienced meditators showed smaller differences in brain activity between meditation and rest, suggesting that with practice, the meditative state and restful brain dynamics may begin to resemble one another. This hints that regular meditation rewires baseline brain function, not just fleeting brain states during meditation. Broader Implications of Meditation and the Brain: This study fits into a broader body of research showing meditation’s effects on brain activity and structure. Meditation is associated with increased gray matter volume and cortical thickness in regions tied to memory, attention, and emotional regulation. Some deep EEG studies have found changes in amygdala and hippocampus activity, suggesting meditation could influence emotional processing and memory networks.

## Daughters of Bharat : A Deprived Section of the Society - II



Er. Prabhat Kishore

Special focus on backward states

In the Indian context, just

providing facilities is not enough to educate everyone. There is a need to focus on backward states and remove gender and regional disparities, increase enrolment, retention and providing quality based learning.

The work done by girls is usually not visible as it is confined to the home. In rural areas, girls take care of their brothers and sisters, cook food, clean, fetch fuel and wood and help in sowing, ploughing, harvesting etc. in the fields. Even in urban areas, girls do household chores as well as earning money outside the home. Although there is no effective method available for measuring or financially evaluating household work; according to a 1981 estimate, a rural girl would have done work worth more than Rs 39,600 by the time she becomes an adult.

The curse of child marriage

Child marriage is a curse for both boys and girls. But for girls the consequences are graver since, for them, marriage means the end of education, taking over responsibilities inside and outside the home, and restrictions on movement in and outside the home. Early marriage prolongs the fertility of girls. Due to early and repeated pregnancies, they become physically weak. As a result, child marriage reduces the productivity of adult women. Mean age at marriage by education level is 21.8 in Rural area and 23.2 in urban area.

Measures for elimination

The Child Marriage Restraint Act, 1929 (replaced by the Child Marriage Prohibition Act 2006) does not seem to be implemented anywhere. Two efforts are required to eradicate child marriage. First, to awaken the community and secondly, to overcome poverty, the root cause of child marriage. On an average, 1,00,00,000 marriages take place every year in Bharat, out of which 30 percent of girls are of the age of 15-19 years. A clear impact of education is seen on the age of marriage. The

average age difference between a graduate and an illiterate girl at the time of marriage is four and a half years. Sometimes they are married before they even reach puberty. 90 percent of them become mothers within the first one or two years.

According to the data collected by N.N.M.B. (1980) during the year 1975-78, girls in the age group of 13-18 years get less iron than the recommended amount as compared to boys. Young girls become anaemic as a result of menopause due to deficiency of iron in the diet. Low birth weight and basic delivery related complications are more common among teenage mothers

Girls/women who give birth to their first child at an early age are at risk of birth complications. After the first menstruation around the age of 14, they have to endure the pain of intercourse. Their bodies and reproductive systems are immature. Apart from the requirements of tissue maintenance and foetal development, they also have to meet the nutritional demands for their own growth.

Adverse effects

Due to their gender, girls are more susceptible to the adverse effects of adverse circumstances than boys. Children living in difficult circumstances can be classified into many categories such as :- working children, street children, neglected and exploited children, children associated with institutions, children affected by the consequences of war, children of prostitutes, children involved in sexual relations in childhood, children who are victims of physical abuse. Poor families in areas adjacent to big cities, deprived families living in rural areas, prostitutes, gamblers, alcoholics, prisoners are at the highest risk of sexual abuse.

Incidents of rape of minor girls

Incidents of rape of minor children are increasing. 25 percent of rape cases are of minor girls. At some places, sexual abuse is also done in the name of religion, which is popular as "Devdasi" in Bharat. According to Oxfam India's 2011-12 report, 29 percent women in the labour sector, 23 percent in domestic maid service and 16 percent in small scale industrial units have complained of sexual exploitation.

Political will and actions are needed to ensure equal opportunities and status for girls in the decade of 2030. This is only possible with the joint efforts of the government, international organisations and private institutions. Political, legal and developmental policies should be made to eliminate gender discrimination and bias in childhood.

The main points suggested by experts regarding girls are as follows:-

(1.) Religious, legal, social, economic and anthropological evidence should be collected and such information should be used in policy making and programme based interventions to improve the situation.

(2.) Concrete steps should be taken by setting targets and preparing a time table related to the basic health, nutrition, education and social status of girls.

(3.) A time-bound process should be set at the community and national levels to ensure survival and development programmes.

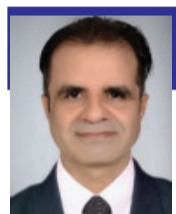
(4.) The negative image of girls prevalent through media, education, religion and culture must be corrected through legal and social mechanism.

(5.) To enhance self-confidence and self-reliance in girls, human development activities should be organised at various levels and their active participation should be encouraged.

(6.) Equal rights for girls should be supported in every national and international gathering.

The daughters of Bharat are victims of gender and caste-based malice. They are forced to live a suffocating life from prenatal foeticide till the last breath of their life and are living out the famous lines of the national poet Dinkar, "Nari Jeevan Hai Teri Yahi Kahani, Aanchal Mein Hai Doodh Aur Aankhon Mein Paani". The fact cannot be denied that women are more responsible than men for the pitiable condition of girls. Education is the only spark that can ignite their extinguished lives and remove the darkness that has been going on for generations. Women's awakening and women empowerment is the divine weapon that will be the new ray of dawn for the neglected daughters of Bharatvarsha in which the whole nation will shine.

## The biggest challenge facing the world community - inspire all parties to abandon the path of war and adopt the path of peace and diplomacy



Kishan Bhawnani

Globally, the Middle East once again appears to be at a historic juncture where

regional conflict could escalate into a global crisis. Recent developments, including the escalating military conflict between Iran, Israel, and the United States, have seriously challenged the peace and security not only of West Asia but of the entire world. In particular, the politics of revenge and sharp military rhetoric that emerged after the death of Iran's Supreme Leader Khamenei have made the situation even more explosive. The feeling of vengeance in Iran has intensified significantly since Khamenei's death. Leaders and former commanders within Iran's security establishment have openly declared that this incident will be avenged. Former commanders of the Islamic Revolutionary Guard Corps, in particular, have directly targeted the US leadership, stating that Iran will avenge its leader's blood. Israel's statement after Khamenei's death that those involved in the selection of the new Supreme Leader may also be targeted indicates that Israel views this conflict not as a mere military operation but as a strategy to influence the political structure. Trump completely dismissed Iran's warnings, stating that these threats do not affect him. He also stated that Iran has already lost this war and that US military action will continue until Tehran surrenders unconditionally. I, Advocate Kishan Sanmukhdas Bhawnani, Gondia, Maharashtra, believe that if this conflict is not controlled through diplomatic means in time, it will not be limited to a regional war but could lead to global instability. The most worrying aspect of this entire conflict is that the possibility of the use of nuclear weapons cannot be completely ruled out. Iran's nuclear program has long been a concern in the international community. Israel is also believed to already possess nuclear weapons, although it has never officially confirmed this. If this conflict escalates into a full-scale war

and nuclear weapons are used, the consequences will not be limited to the Middle East but could have serious implications for the entire world. Nuclear weapons have not been used in history since World War II. However, in the current circumstances, if a regional war spirals out of control, this possibility cannot be completely ruled out.

Friends, if we are to understand Khamenei's death and the changing power dynamics, the death of Iran's Supreme Leader is being considered the most significant shock in recent events. Khamenei was at the center of Iran's politics, religious leadership, and military strategy. His death not only marks the death of a leader but also signals a major change in Iran's political structure. Maintaining the stability of the power structure within Iran after Khamenei's death has become a major challenge. Iran's constitution clearly stipulates the process for selecting the Supreme Leader, under which an 88-member expert council selects the new leader. This council is composed of religious scholars and senior political leaders. The council's decision is crucial not only from a religious perspective but also from a political and military perspective. Following Khamenei's death, this council has accelerated the process of selecting a new Supreme Leader. However, Israel has warned that anyone who emerges as Iran's new Supreme Leader or participates in the selection process could be targeted. This statement is considered to further incite regional tension.

Friends, if we consider Iran's warning, Trump's response, and US strategy, then in this context, a prominent Iranian leader directly warned US President Trump that he would pay a heavy price for his actions. He also stated that Iran would never leave Trump alone and would continue to take action against him. This statement is being considered not merely a personal threat but a broader strategic signal that Iran views this conflict as a long-term form of retaliation. Within Iran, the perception is growing that the

US and Israel have jointly targeted its supreme leader. This has further intensified the sense of vengeance among the public and military leadership.

US President Trump has responded harshly to these threats, and this statement clarifies US strategy. The US has long pursued a policy of limiting Iran's nuclear program and regional influence. The US administration believes that if Iran is not stopped now, it could strengthen its military and political power in the Middle East to such an extent that it will become difficult to control it in the future. For this reason, the US, in collaboration with Israel, has carried out several military operations, reportedly aimed at weakening Iran's military capabilities and its nuclear program.

Friends, if we consider the Islamic world and the global response, the attacks against Iran and the death of Khamenei have sparked strong reactions in many Islamic countries. Protests have erupted in many places, and resentment against the US and Israel is growing. If this protest turns into a widespread political movement, it could impact the internal politics of many countries. It could also increase resentment against the US and its allies globally. The need for diplomacy: Under these circumstances, the most important question is whether this war can be prevented. History shows that whenever conflict reaches its peak, diplomatic efforts are the only path to a lasting solution. If the United Nations, the European Union, Russia, China, and other major powers take active diplomatic initiatives, it is possible to control this conflict. Measures such as dialogue, mediation, and international pressure are essential to extinguish the flames of war.

Friends, if we consider the increasing military activity in the Middle East, the recent missile attacks on oil production and processing facilities near Tehran further highlight the military dimension of this conflict. These attacks have damaged Iran's energy infrastructure, which is vital to its economy. Attacks on energy installations are not only a military strategy but also an attempt to exert

economic pressure. If Iran's energy production capacity is affected, its economy will be weakened and its ability to continue the war could be compromised. However, such attacks could also impact global energy markets, as the Middle East is one of the world's largest oil-producing regions. Israel's Prime Minister has long maintained that Iran poses the greatest threat to Israel's existence. Israel alleges that Iran supports several armed groups in the region, including Hezbollah in Lebanon and several organizations in Gaza. Israel believes that if Iran succeeds in developing nuclear weapons, it would jeopardize the security of the entire region. For this reason, Israel has repeatedly warned of targeting Iranian military bases and nuclear facilities. Friends, if we consider the potential impact on the world, including India, if this conflict continues for a long time, its impact will not be limited to the Middle East. Consequences such as a sharp increase in oil prices, disruptions to global trade, and a security crisis could emerge. This would be particularly worrying for countries like India, as India imports a significant portion of its energy needs from the Middle East. Furthermore, millions of Indians work in the region, whose security could become a significant issue. The Middle East has long been a center of geopolitical competition and ideological conflict. The region's abundance of energy resources, religious and cultural diversity, and the strategic interests of global powers have made it a constant battlefield of conflict. The decades-long hostility between Iran and Israel is a major pivotal factor in this conflict. Iran considers itself the representative of the Islamic Revolution and has opposed Western influence, while Israel, considering its existence and security paramount, has pursued a policy of eliminating any potential threat. The entry of the United States into this equation further complicates this entire crisis. The United States has long been a strategic ally of Israel and has a highly influential military and political presence in the Middle East. Consequently, whenever tensions escalate between Iran and Israel, the United States becomes directly or indirectly involved.

## Lakhs of rupees were defrauded in the name of getting a job in the army

Gopalpur, (correspondent): A complaint has been filed in Gopalpur police station regarding a case of 'defrauding lakhs of rupees in the name of getting a job in the army'. Such a large-scale fraud incident has now come to light. Narayan Sahu of Kamalapur village under the said police

station has filed a complaint in this regard. Based on the complaint, the police have registered a case under case number 128/26 and are investigating the incident. Based on the information, in 2023, a man from Tamil Nadu was working in the Army AD Records in Gopalpur. He met Narayan Sahu and said

that he would get his son a job in the army. Believing the words of the said army employee, Narayan paid a total of Rs 3 lakh 10 thousand through Phone Pay in four installments between January 2023 and December 2023. But after getting the money from the said army personnel, Narayan did not let him

go. He tried to contact the said employee by calling him repeatedly but failed. As a result, Narayan came to know that he had been cheated. He has filed a complaint at the police station today to get back the money he had given to the army personnel for the job. The police have started an investigation into the incident.

## ALL ODISHA CONTRACTORS WELFARE ASSOCIATION HAS WITHDRAWN FROM THE PROTEST

Bhubaneswar, (correspondent): All Odisha Contractors Welfare Association (AOCWA) today announced the withdrawal of its long 14-day long protest after a successful discussion with Sri Prithviraj Harichandan, Hon'ble Minister, Works, Law and Excise Department, Govt Of Odisha. Three major



organisations representing approximately 70,000 contractors- staged protest since 20th

February 2026 against the State Government to fulfil their 8-point charter of demands. The

representatives of All Odisha Contractors Welfare Association (AOCWA) met Sri Prithviraj Harichandan, Hon'ble minister at Lok Seva Bhawan to discuss on the demands and finally, the government has accepted the demands. All the demands of the contractors' association were discussed one by one in details.

## Paradip Saksharata Samiti Celebrates International Women's Day

Paradeep, (Correspondent) Paradip Saksharata Samiti (PSS), the social arm of Paradip Port Authority, organized an inspiring programme to celebrate International Women's Day, highlighting the importance of education, equality, and opportunities for women and girls. The celebration reflected the spirit of the theme "Give to Gain," emphasizing that empowering women strengthens society and paves the way for a more inclusive future. The programme was graced by Chief Guest Shri P. L. Haranadh, Chairman, Paradip Port Authority, in the presence of Capt. A. C. Sahoo, Deputy Conservator, Shri Krishna Bapi Raju G, Secretary, Shri A. K. Sahoo, FA & CAO, along with other Heads of Departments and



senior officials, who encouraged the spirit of women empowerment. Mrs. Swarna Mishra, social activist and former Governing Body Member of PSS, attended the event as the Chief Speaker and shared her valuable insights on the role of education and empowerment in strengthening women's participation in society. Mrs. Sabita Mishra, also a former Governing Body Member of PSS, joined the programme as a special invitee and addressed the

gathering. On this occasion, prizes were distributed to the winners of various competitions, recognizing their talent and encouraging greater participation in social and educational activities. Sri A.K. Sahoo, Sr. DTM, PPA and Working Chairman of PSS, delivered the welcome address, highlighting the significance of International Women's Day and the importance of empowering women through education and equal opportunities.

## Fourth Installment of Subhadra Scheme Distributed to Women Beneficiaries in the District

Jajpur (Correspondent): On the occasion of International Women's Day, the Department of Women and Child Development of the Odisha Government distributed more than 75,000 crore to over 1 crore beneficiaries across the state as the fourth installment of the Subhadra Scheme. In this context, a programme was also organized in Jajpur district to distribute the fourth installment to women beneficiaries. The programme was held at Gautam Buddha Sanskruti Bhawan where the Hon'ble Minister for Cooperation, Handlooms and Textiles, Pradeep Bal Samanta, attended as the chief



guest. Addressing the gathering, Minister Bal Samanta said that the Subhadra scheme is a historic initiative to celebrate women's empowerment. He stated that the scheme has helped make women in Odisha financially self-reliant while also promoting skill development and entrepreneurship. He further added that the scheme reflects the government's

commitment towards enhancing the dignity and empowerment of women. Keeping the development of women in mind, the government has proposed the Subhadra Shakti Samvad Scheme in the budget. This initiative will allow Subhadra beneficiaries to share their experiences, discuss issues with officials for grievance redressal, and receive guidance and

counselling. To promote physical and mental well-being, nutritious food awareness and financial literacy among women, Subhadra Wellness Centers will also be established. In Jajpur district alone, more than 4.69 lakh beneficiaries are receiving financial assistance under the fourth installment of the Subhadra scheme. Minister Bal Samanta said that many women in the district have already started new businesses with the support of the Subhadra funds and the government aims to create "Lakhpati Didis" through this initiative. District Collector Ambar Kumar Kar stated that the Subhadra scheme is a strong step towards the socio-

economic development of women in Odisha. Among others present on the dais were Additional District Collector Yudhishtir Naik, District Social Welfare Officer Parbati Sahu, Danagadi BDO Pradeep Kumar Sethi, District Information and Public Relations Officer Kamini Ranjan Pattanayak, and District Panchayat Officer Santosh Kumar Sahu. On this occasion, prizes were also distributed to students who excelled in various competitions such as essay writing, quiz, kho-kho, kabaddi and jhoti. In addition, the three best supervisors, the best CDPO and the best Anganwadi workers who showed outstanding performance were felicitated.

## Vehicles Seized but Released Without Case: Questions Raised Over Police Action

Kantabanji, correspondence: The role of the police in Kantabanji town of Balangir district has once again become a topic of public discussion after allegations surfaced that seized vehicles were released without registering any case. According to information, on February 24, a police team from Kantabanji Police Station conducted a raid at an alleged gambling den within the police station limits. Although the police were reportedly unable to apprehend any gamblers during the raid, they seized six motorcycles from the spot. All the seized motorcycles were brought to the police



station and kept in custody. As per standard procedure, the police could have initiated an investigation based on the seized vehicles and attempted to identify and trace the individuals involved in the gambling activity. However, allegations have emerged that the motorcycles were later released from the police station without

registering any formal case in connection with the incident. This has raised several questions among locals about the manner in which the matter was handled. Observers say that if a police raid was conducted and vehicles were seized from a suspected gambling spot, a case should have been registered immediately and a proper investigation

carried out. The decision to release the seized motorcycles without filing a case has now become a matter of discussion in the town. In many criminal cases, police often use available clues and evidence to track down suspects even if they initially escape. In this case, despite having possible leads through the seized vehicles, questions are being raised as to why further action was not taken to identify and apprehend the alleged gamblers. The incident has triggered debate among residents, with many seeking clarity on whether any pressure influenced the police decision to release the vehicles without legal proceedings.

## Subhadra's fourth installment distribution program held at Malkangiri

Malkangiri, correspondent: The fourth installment distribution program of Subhadra was held at the local Sanskruti Bhawan on the occasion of International Women's Day. Chief Minister Mohan Charan Majhi attended the state-level program organized in Puri district today as the chief guest. All the districts of the state joined this program through VC. District Council Chairperson Samari Tangulu attended the district-level program as the chief guest, while Chitrakonda MLA representative Govinda Patra, Additional District Magistrate Administration Somnath Pradhan, Additional District Magistrate Revenue Vedavar Pradhan, District Council Chief Development Officer



and Executive Officer Dasharathi Sarabu, Deputy District Magistrate Duryadhan Bhoi, District Social Welfare Officer Gauri Nayak, District Welfare Officer Srinivas Achari, District Panchayat Officer, District Child Protection Officer Narayan Das were present. Through virtual media, Chief Minister Mohan Charan Majhi said that the people's government is working continuously with

determination to empower women. Subhadra Yojana is a shining example of this determination. Subhadra Yojana has empowered women socially and economically and has made them self-reliant. At the district level program, Mrs. Tangul wished everyone on International Women's Day and made mothers aware of their rights and encouraged them to be empowered in every

field. In the fourth installment, more than 1 lakh 40 thousand beneficiaries in the district have received Subhadra money. District Social Welfare Officer Gauri Nayak delivered the welcome speech. District Information and Public Relations Officer Pramila Majhi managed the program. Prizes of various competitions organized on the occasion of International Women's Day were distributed.

## SP's press conference on Operation Cyber Kabach

Malkangiri correspondent 3 Through the special 'Operation Cyber Kabach' operation launched by the Odisha Police, Malkangiri Police has succeeded in busting a large-scale inter-state online cyber crime and betting racket. In this

case, Malkangiri Police has arrested four accused, including two main kingpins from Raipur and two associates from Koraput. Four mobile phones, two laptops, five bank passbooks and three cheque books have been seized from



them. Investigation has revealed that these accused, with the help of some middlemen from Kotpad area, were opening bank accounts in the names of innocent villagers of the district by falsely promising them money. Later, those

passbooks, ATM and mobile numbers were collected and sent to the online betting network running in Raipur and transactions of more than Rs 15 lakh were done daily through the WhatsApp group, which the police have estimated to be more

than Rs 1 crore by now. In this press conference, SP Vinod Patil H. along with Police ARI, Malkangiri Police Station Officer Regan Kindo, Malkangiri Police Station SI Parvata Goud and other police officers were present.

## Gaddar State Film Awards For 2025: Naga Chaitanya Wins Best Actor, Rashmika Mandanna Best Actress!

The Telangana government on Saturday announced that actor Naga Chaitanya had been chosen as the Best Actor for 2025 for his performance in 'Thandel', while actress Rashmika Mandanna had been chosen as the Best Actress for her performance in 'The Girlfriend'. It may be recalled that Naga Chaitanya had delivered a captivating performance as the captain of a shipping vessel in director Chandoo Mondeti's 'Thandel', while Rashmika had powerfully portrayed a girl breaking free from a toxic relationship in director Rahul Ravindran's 'The Girlfriend'. On Saturday, the Telangana government announced the list of winners of the prestigious Gaddar State Film Awards for 2025. Telangana Film Development Corporation Chairman Dil Raju announced the award winners for 2025 at a press conference. 'Thandel', which fetched Naga Chaitanya the award for Best Actor, also won the award for Best Film on National Integrity. Anil Ravipudi's popular blockbuster film 'Sankranthiki Vasthunam' won the Award for Best Entertainment Film. The award for Best Film went to 'Raju Weds Rambhai', while 'Dhandoraa' and 'The Pre Wedding Show' won the awards for the second and third best films respectively. The Best Debut Feature Film award went to the superhit film 'Little Hearts' while the Teja Sajja-starrer 'Mirai' won awards for Best Special Effects, Best Editor (Sreekar Prasad) and Best Cinematography (Karthik Ghattamneni). 'Court', one of the most powerful films of last year which went on to emerge a superhit as well, was adjudged the Best Social Message Film. Actor Shivaji has been chosen for the Award of Best Supporting Actor, while actress Bhumika has been chosen as the Best Supporting Actress. The Best Actor (Jury) award went to Chaitu Jonnalagadda for his performance in 'Raju Weds Rambhai' while the Best Actress (Jury) award went to Ananthika for her performance in '8 Vasanthalu'. The Special Jury Hero award went to Roshan Meka for his performance in the period drama 'Champion'. 'Champion' also won awards for Best Art Direction (Thota Tharani), Best Action Choreography (Peter Hein), Best Dance Choreography (Aata Sandeep) and Best Costume Design (Chandrakant Sonawane and Ajay Kumar Nambala).



## "Main apni favourite hoon...": Kareena Kapoor channelises inner 'Geet' on International Women's Day

Actor Kareena Kapoor Khan is channelising her inner 'Geet' this Women's Day, giving a shoutout to all the women. In a heartfelt Instagram post, Kareena shared a carousel of her solo pictures and wrote, "To all the women out there DON'T EVER FORGET... to say every single day of your life... MAIN APNI FAVOURITE HOON... Happy women's day ladies." The 'Jab We Met' star appears to be relaxing in what appear to be pictures from her vacations. Fans quickly took to the comment section and showered love on the actor, while also sharing Women's Day wishes to her. Meanwhile, celebrities have penned special messages across social media platforms, celebrating the spirit of womanhood. Actor Anupam Kher, while speaking to ANI, highlighted the invaluable role women play in shaping families, communities and society at large. "On International Women's Day, my heartfelt salute to all the women of the world. I truly believe that whoever has the power to give birth to another life is the greatest, and that is a woman," Kher told ANI. Actor-politician Hema Malini, in a social media post, wrote, "Reaching out to all women - each remarkable in her own way, all capable multitaskers, homemakers, entrepreneurs, seasoned business women who have mastered the art of work-life balance - a shout out to all of you, wherever you are! Remember, you are a unique, blessed creation of God. Just learn to enjoy life on your own terms!"



## 8 facts about heart health that every woman should know about: 'Heart disease behaves differently...'

Heart health is often discussed in general terms, but women's cardiovascular health remains widely overlooked and underdiagnosed. Despite heart disease being the leading cause of death among women worldwide, it is still frequently perceived as a "man's disease." This misconception, combined with a long-standing gender gap in healthcare, means that many diagnostic standards and symptom checklists have historically been based on male patients. As a result, signs of heart disease in women being missed, misunderstood, or dismissed, leading to delayed diagnosis and treatment, is often a scary reality in healthcare.



### 1. Leading cause of death in women

According to Dr Yaranov, heart disease remains the leading cause of death among women, yet it continues to be widely misunderstood and often perceived as a "man's disease." This misconception can prevent many women from recognising the risks and seeking timely care. He stresses, "Heart disease is the leading cause of death in women. Despite this, it is still commonly perceived as a 'man's disease'."

### 2. Heart attack symptoms are different

The cardiologist highlights that heart attack symptoms often present very differently for women. In most cases, there is no dramatic chest pain - instead the warning signs can manifest as nausea, fatigue, dizziness, jaw pain or breathlessness, making them easy to overlook or misinterpret. Dr Yaranov explains, "Heart attack symptoms in women can look very different. Instead of crushing chest pain, women may experience nausea, unusual fatigue, dizziness, jaw pain, or shortness of breath."

### 3. Heart attacks are more dangerous

Heart attacks can often be more dangerous in women. Dr Yaranov points out that women are more likely to die from a heart attack, largely because their symptoms are frequently recognised later or mistaken for other conditions, leading to delays in diagnosis and treatment. He highlights, "Heart attacks are often more dangerous for women. Women are more likely to die within the first year after a heart attack, partly because symptoms are recognised later and treatment is delayed."

### 4. Heart disease behaves differently

The cardiologist also draws attention to the fact that heart disease often manifests differently in women. Plaque can build up in the arteries in distinct ways, which means traditional diagnostic tests may sometimes fail to detect the condition early. He explains, "Heart disease behaves differently in women. Plaque can build differently in the arteries, which means traditional diagnostic tests sometimes miss it."

### 5. Emotional health matters

Dr Yaranov emphasises that emotional well-being plays a crucial role in women's heart health. Mental health challenges such as stress, anxiety, and depression can have a more pronounced impact on cardiovascular health in women, increasing their risk of heart-related complications. He explains, "Emotional health matters for the heart. Stress, anxiety, and depression have a stronger cardiovascular impact in women than many people realise."

### 6. Risk rises after menopause

The cardiologist notes that the risk of cardiovascular disease in women can rise significantly after menopause. Hormonal changes during this stage can affect blood pressure, cholesterol levels, and overall vascular health, ultimately increasing the likelihood of heart-related complications. He explains, "Risk rises significantly after menopause. The drop in oestrogen accelerates changes in blood pressure, cholesterol, and vascular health."

### 7. Women are less likely to receive proper treatment

Highlighting the persistent gender gap in healthcare, Dr Yaranov notes that women are often less likely than men to receive timely medical procedures, appropriate medications, or even emergency interventions such as CPR. He emphasises, "Women are less likely to receive aggressive treatment. Studies consistently show women are less likely to receive procedures, medications, or even CPR compared with men."

### 8. The good news: Most heart disease is prevention

the good news is that most heart diseases are largely preventable. Adopting a healthy lifestyle, managing key risk factors, and undergoing regular health check-ups can significantly lower the risk of cardiovascular events. The cardiologist highlights, "The good news: most heart disease is preventable."

## Can basic skin care products present cancer risk?

With cancer diagnoses becoming increasingly commonplace in societies, the fearmongering about probable carcinogens has simultaneously increased.

While there is truth to some of them that deserve more attention, there is also a lot of misinformation that is being spread via social media platforms as a cheap ploy to grab attention. And it is often successful, as people start getting worried about using everyday products.

Taking to Instagram on March 8, Dr Jayesh Sharma, Raipur-based oncologist with over 25 years of experience, explained if there is any truth to the claim that everyday cosmetic products can cause cancer.

He stressed the fact that a particular chemical can be singled out from almost any product which might present a risk. However, details such as the chemical's concentration in the product and the level at which it becomes harmful to humans matter. He divided everyday skincare products into two groups, as follows.

1. Products that are rinsed off  
Cosmetic products such as shampoo, soap, hair and body wash are applied and washed off almost immediately. Since the products do not stay in contact with the skin for a long period of time, they do not present any risk of cancer. If anyone is claiming that these products can be carcinogens, they are spreading completely fake information, claimed Dr Sharma.

2. Leave-on products  
Moisturisers:  
Moisturisers are usually applied to the skin and kept for hours on end. Some of them contain the compound paraben, which presents a theoretical risk of disrupting hormone balance. However, Dr Sharma highlighted

that the risk is only "theoretical" because it is yet to be proven in any study that the concentration of parabens found in moisturisers can have any effect on humans.

"Nevertheless, if you have a very strong family history of breast cancer, or if you are afraid in general, then there are paraben-free products available in the market that you can use," he stated. "However, 99.9 percent of people are not at risk from the substance."

Perfumes and deodorants:  
Perfumes and deodorants are also left on the body for a long period of time. They often contain a group of compounds called phthalates, which, if absorbed through the skin, can cause hormonal disruption.

However, no risk has been proven in humans as of yet. But those who experience PCOS may avoid the product, noted Dr Sharma.

He added that while deodorants are essential in the tropical climate, perfumes are not, and one can use them on clothes instead of on the body to further reduce any probable risk.

Fairness creams:  
Fairness creams present a true risk of cancer, cautioned Dr Sethi. The products are known to have mercury, which is harmful for overall health, as well as steroids, which are not good for our skin.

"Frankly, we do not need them at all," noted the senior cancer surgeon. "We are just different shades of wheatish complexion, and all shades are beautiful."

This report is based on user-generated content from social media. HT.com has not independently verified the claims and does not endorse them.



# T20 WC: India Make History By Clinching Third Title After Beating New Zealand By 96 Runs

NEWDELHI: Cricket enthusiasts witnessed sheer dominance today as Suryakumar Yadav's squad secured a breathtaking 96-run victory over New Zealand. Over 86,000 passionate spectators packed the Narendra Modi Stadium to watch this thrilling clash. Batting first, the home side set a monumental target of 256, leaving the opposition completely overwhelmed from the start. Sanju Samson played an unforgettable knock, smashing 89 runs off just 46 deliveries to entertain the massive crowd. Early momentum came through Abhishek Sharma, who blasted a quickfire half-century in merely 21 balls during a highly productive powerplay. Following that explosive start, Ishan Kishan kept the scoreboard ticking rapidly with a stunning 54 from 25 balls, hitting four massive sixes into the stands. Even though James Neesham managed to pick up three wickets for his side, the sheer volume of boundaries from the Indian top order proved too much to handle. Shivam Dube provided the final fireworks, blasting an unbeaten 26 runs from a mere eight balls to push the final total to a towering 255 for five. Chasing such a colossal figure required a miracle, but Jasprit



Bumrah ensured the visitors never gained any traction on this pitch. Bowling with lethal accuracy and perfect variations, he completely dismantled the opposition lineup. He finished his four overs taking four crucial wickets while conceding only 15 runs. Axar Patel provided exceptional support in the middle overs by claiming three vital scalps for just 27 runs, further tightening the defensive grip on the match. Tim Seifert fought hard at the top of the order with a brave 52 off 26 balls, and captain Mitchell Santner added a resilient 43 later in the innings. Unfortunately for the visitors, their efforts were simply not enough against a disciplined bowling attack. Wickets tumbled at regular intervals, eventually restricting the touring team to 159 all out by the nineteenth over. Local fans across Bhubaneswar, Cuttack, and the rest of the country are already out in the streets celebrating this incredible achievement. Securing the T20 World Cup 2026 Final trophy with such an emphatic, well-rounded performance highlights the absolute strength of this current generation. Tonight will certainly be remembered as a legendary chapter in modern sporting history.

## Lakshya Sen All England Open Title Dream Shattered Following Straight Games Loss to Lin Chun-Yi

NEWDELHI: Star Indian shuttler Lakshya Sen faced profound disappointment during Sunday's summit clash in Birmingham. Hoping to secure a historic badminton victory, he ultimately succumbed to Chinese Taipei's Lin Chun-Yi in straight games. Fans witnessing the Lakshya Sen All England Open campaign were left heartbroken as the scoreboard finalized at 15-21, 20-22 inside the packed Utilita Arena. This defeat sadly marked his second runner-up finish at this prestigious BWF tournament. Right from the opening serve, Lin Chun-Yi asserted dominance on the court. He quickly capitalized on early opportunities, forcing errors to wrap up the first game 21-15 within just 24 minutes. Sensing an urgent need to stay alive in the match, Sen mounted a spectacular comeback attempt during the second



game. Supporters tracking the Lin Chun-Yi vs Lakshya Sen duel watched a thrilling neck-and-neck contest unfold, featuring breathtaking rallies and incredible defensive saves. Sen actually grabbed an 11-8 advantage at the mid-game interval and showcased immense mental fortitude by matching Lin smash for smash. He even pushed the score to 20-20, raising hopes among the

crowd for a dramatic decider. Unfortunately, Lin demonstrated remarkable composure under immense pressure, saving crucial points to edge past his Indian opponent 22-20 and secure the championship crown. History has rarely favored the Indian athlete when facing this particular rival. Following this weekend's devastating outcome, Lin now boasts an intimidating 5-0 overall record against

him. Whenever they meet, the Chinese Taipei star seems to find a way to counter Sen's trademark agility and powerful court coverage. Furthermore, Sunday's result re-opened old wounds for Indian badminton news followers. Back in 2022, Sen experienced similar agony when he lost the final of this exact tournament to Danish powerhouse Viktor Axelsen.

## Hockey World Cup Qualifiers: India Beat Uruguay 4-0 In Opener

Hyderabad: The Indian women's hockey team opened its campaign in the FIH Hockey World Cup Qualifiers 2026 with a dominant 4-0 win over Uruguay at the G. M. C. Balayogi Hockey Ground at the Gachibowli Sports Complex in Hyderabad on Sunday. Sunelita Toppo (21'), Ishika (40'), Lalremsiami (49') and Rutuja Dadaso Pisal (58') scored the goals for the home side. It was a bright start to the match in the first quarter as India made multiple circle entries and several goal-scoring chances. In the 4th minute, the home side won the first penalty corner of the night as Uditia found the net after a beautifully orchestrated variation, but her shot went a bit high, and hence the goal wasn't given. Uruguay, too, had their moments as it banked on



counter-attacking hockey, but India's resilient backline held its ground. In the 21st minute, India broke the deadlock through a penalty corner as Sunelita Toppo showed great reflexes to pounce on the rebound and tap the ball into the net to open the scoring. Five minutes later, India received another penalty corner, but this time, Annu's drag-flick was stopped by the

Uruguayan defence. India held most of the possession in the second quarter. In the 29th minute, Uruguay won their first penalty corner of the night, but the opportunity was squandered as India managed to swiftly defend their goal and hold the slim lead. In the 36th minute, India were through on goal as Navneet Kaur found herself unmarked in front of the post, but

Uruguay's goalkeeper Maria Bate stepped out and delivered a decisive save. In the 40th minute, India launched a quick attack as Sakshi Rana played a brilliant pass into the circle to Ishika (40'), who did well to slot the ball into the bottom left corner. Uruguay were awarded a penalty corner as well in the 40th minute, but they couldn't reduce the deficit. In the 49th minute,

## KIIT University Hosts Grand Finale of FIVB Beach Pro Tour Challenge 2026; USA and Belgium Clinch Gold

BHUBANESWAR, (Correspondent) The FIVB Volleyball World Beach Pro Tour Challenge 2026 concluded in spectacular fashion on Sunday at the Dutee Chand Athletic Stadium, KIIT Deemed to be University, Bhubaneswar, bringing together top international teams for an exciting final day of world-class beach volleyball. The day began with the Women's Bronze Medal Match, where the USA teams Myszkowski/Kan faced Hughes/Batenhorst in a gripping all-American contest. After winning the first set, Myszkowski/Kan were unable to hold their advantage as Hughes/Batenhorst staged a strong comeback to win the match 2-1 (19-21, 21-15, 15-12) and



secure the bronze medal. In the Women's Gold Medal Match, Japan's Shiba/Reika took on the USA duo Durish/Koenig. The American pair delivered an impressive performance with excellent coordination and attacking play to win the match 2-0 (21-18, 21-16) and claim the gold medal, while Shiba/Reika settled for the silver medal. The Men's Bronze Medal Match featured Elazar/Cuzmiciov of Israel against Brinck/Houmann of Denmark.

The Israeli duo dominated the match with confident serving and powerful attacks, winning convincingly 2-0 (21-19, 21-8) to take the bronze medal. The tournament concluded with the highly anticipated Men's Gold Medal Match between Sepka/Dzavoronok of the Czech Republic and Vercauteren/Van Langendonck of Belgium. In a thrilling contest, the Belgian pair displayed remarkable composure and skill to win 2-0 (21-10, 22-20) and emerge as the

champions, while the Czech team finished with the silver medal. The final matches were played between 4:00 PM and 6:00 PM, with the women's final featuring teams from the USA and Japan, followed by the men's final between the Czech Republic and Belgium. The closing ceremony commenced at 6:00 PM with a welcome and congratulatory address by Prof. (Dr.) Achyuta Samanta, Founder of KIIT, KISS & KIMS, Board Member -

Strategic Council of the Volleyball Federation (FIVB), Chief Patron of the Volleyball Federation of India and President of the Odisha Volleyball Association. He congratulated the winning teams and appreciated the outstanding level of competition witnessed throughout the tournament. A message from His Excellency Dr. Hari Babu Kambhampati, Hon'ble Governor of Odisha, was delivered, followed by a video message from Shri Mansukh Laxmanbhai Mandaviya, Hon'ble Union Minister of Labour & Employment and Minister of Youth Affairs & Sports, Government of India, who congratulated the organizers and participants for the successful conduct of the prestigious international event.

## T20 WC: Sanju Samson Joins Virat Kohli In Elite Company With A Fifty In Final

A h m e d a b a d : Continuing his rich form, Sanju Samson brought up his third consecutive fifty-plus score drawing levels with India great Virat Kohli in the final of the T20 World Cup 2026 against New Zealand at the Narendra Modi Stadium in Ahmedabad on Sunday. Samson etched his name into the record books by becoming only the third player to score fifties in both the semi-final and final of a T20 World Cup, joining Shahid Afridi (2009) and Virat Kohli (2014). The Indian wicketkeeper-batter paced his innings smartly after Abhishek Sharma's explosive half-century at the other end. Samson brought up his fifty off 33 balls, playing a composed knock without needing to force the pace. He began cautiously while keeping the scoreboard ticking before Abhishek

shifted gears, helping India race to 137 for 1 in 11 overs. India raced to 92 for no loss in six overs, rewriting the record books in the summit clash of the T20 World Cup. The previous best Powerplay total in the tournament was 92/1 by the West Indies against Afghanistan in 2024, while India's previous best in the tournament's history came in the same edition, when they scored 86/1 against Namibia. The charge was led by Abhishek, who smashed a breathtaking 52 off 21 balls, bringing up his half-century in only 18 deliveries, before being dismissed. The knock was also the fastest fifty by any batter in this edition of the T20 World Cup. India's innings began cautiously, with the first two overs yielding just 12 runs, but the tempo shifted dramatically thereafter.

Abhishek and Sanju Samson launched a relentless assault on the New Zealand pace attack, smashing 80 runs in the last four overs of the powerplay. Abhishek took a particular liking to the seamers, stepping out to loft deliveries over the infield and punishing anything short with powerful pulls and cuts. His aggressive approach put New Zealand on the defensive, forcing them into frequent changes of pace and line. The pressure told when Lockie Ferguson conceded 24 runs in a single over, making it one of the most expensive overs in a T20 World Cup final. Abhishek continued the carnage against Jacob Duffy, eventually bringing up his fifty with a pulled boundary that triggered loud applause from the crowd and the Indian dugout.

# Daikin India Redefines the Future of Cooling with New High-Efficiency

**BHUBANESWAR,** (Correspondent)- Daikin Airconditioning India Pvt. Ltd., a 100% subsidiary of Daikin Industries Ltd., Japan, today announced the launch of its highly anticipated 2026 product lineup, marking a significant leap in energy efficiency and smart climate control. The new range includes a completely revamped series of Room Air Conditioners (RA) compliant with the latest BEE 2026 Star Rating standards, and the pioneering VRV Alpha series, which integrates advanced AI and IoT capabilities into Daikin's patented VRV technology. Daikin India's 2026 Room AC range has been precision-engineered to exceed the Bureau of Energy Efficiency's (BEE) stringent new ISEER thresholds, embodying the brand's



"Responsible Cooling" philosophy. At its core are Daikin's signature innovations—Patented Streamer Discharge and Swing Compressor for exceptional air purification and efficiency, Smart IoT connectivity, DNNS anti-corrosion coating, and High-Ambient Performance technology that delivers

reliable cooling even in blistering Indian summers up to 54°C. With a sharpened focus on 5-star inverter models, the lineup introduces an array of new split ACs that blend ultra-quiet operation, rapid cooling, and superior energy savings, seamlessly aligned with updated BEE labelling norms. These

advancements not only promise dramatic improvements in power efficiency and durability but also cement Daikin's dominance in the fiercely competitive split AC market, appealing to urban premium buyers and first-time adopters seeking sustainable, intelligent home comfort that sets the industry

benchmark. In the commercial and high-end residential segment, Daikin is raising the bar with the VRV Alpha. At the heart of VRV Alpha is a strong emphasis on energy performance and a system which can evolve itself to anticipate changes and decide intelligently to perform optimally thus enhancing sustainability. The VRV Alpha series pairs advanced hardware with intelligent AI based control software to maximise efficiency while keeping the comfort. With the VRV Alpha series, Daikin seeks not only to reinforce its leadership in the VRV segment but also to align its technology roadmap with the evolving needs of 21st century infrastructure—where energy efficiency, connectivity and design flexibility are increasingly non-negotiable.

# Tata Steel Foundation Marks International Women's Day with Inspiring Community Celebration in Athagarh

**Athagarh,** (Correspondent): Tata Steel Foundation's Athagarh unit hosted a vibrant community event on the eve of International Women's Day at the Dhursia High School ground near Tata Steel's Ferro Alloys Plant (FAP), Athagarh. The celebration witnessed the participation of around 200 women from neighbouring villages, showcasing the collective spirit of empowerment and progress. As part of the occasion, Tata Steel Foundation felicitated women leaders from communities surrounding FAP Athagarh and the Power Plant, recognising their contributions and encouraging others to take on leadership roles. Sushree Deepam Rout, Deputy Collector, Office of the Sub-Collector, Athagarh, graced the event as Chief Guest. In her address, she highlighted the



pivotal role women play in shaping families, communities, and society. She urged the participants to continue striving for excellence and to uplift one another through collaboration and mutual support. Dr. Rajendra Prasad Padhy, Education Officer, Regional Directorate, Dattopant Thengadi National Board for Workers Education and Development (DTNBWED), Jamshedpur, delivered an insightful session on women empowerment.

He encouraged women to actively participate in decision-making processes and contribute meaningfully to the socio-economic development of their communities. Natasha Jha, Head of FAP Athagarh, attended the programme as Guest and applauded the resilience and determination of women in the region. She reaffirmed Tata Steel's commitment to creating opportunities that enable women to learn, grow, and lead across various spheres.

# Women Leaders Come Together at IIM Sambalpur to Shape the Vision of Viksit Bharat @2047

**Sambalpur,** (Correspondent) Institute of Management (IIM) Sambalpur, one of India's premier management institutions, celebrated International Women's Day, bringing together women leaders from governance, policing, corporate CSR, and academia to share insights on leadership, decision-making, and the role of women in building a more inclusive and developed India by 2047. On the occasion of International Women's Day, the institution organised a panel discussion on the theme "Women's Leadership in Action for Viksit Bharat @2047". The event was graced by Prof. Mahadeo Jaiswal, Director, IIM Sambalpur, Ms. Anshu Pragyans Das, OFS-I, DFO, Hirakud Wildlife Division, Sambalpur,



Ms. Komal Garg, IPS, Ms. Aruna Marandi, CSR Head, TPWODL and Ms. Harmeet Sehra, CSR Head, Vedanta Ltd. Addressing the gathering Prof. Mahadeo Jaiswal, Director, IIM Sambalpur, said, "Two pillars are critical to achieving the vision of Viksit Bharat by 2047—greater participation of women across corporate leadership, governance, education and stronger entrepreneurship at the grassroots level. At IIM Sambalpur, we are actively working towards both, while

we celebrate International Women's Day today, our faculty and research scholars have also been working over the past six months on a research project examining the status of women's participation based on the World Economic Forum's Global Gender Gap Report 2025, where India ranked 131 out of 148 countries due to low gender participation in Economic Activities, Education Attainment, Poor access in healthcare services & less participation in Political Empowerment.

# Aditya Alumina Refinery Celebrates Women's Day with Local Community

**Bhubaneswar / Tikiri,** (Correspondent) : Aditya Alumina Refinery, Kansariguda, a unit of Hindalco Industries Limited under the Aditya Birla Group, celebrated International Women's Day 2026 with great enthusiasm under the theme "#GiveToGain." The event witnessed the participation of more than 600 women, including female employees, members of the surrounding communities, and employees' spouses, creating a vibrant platform to recognise the strength, leadership, and contributions of women in society. The celebration was graced by distinguished guests including renowned Indian sprinter Dutee Chand, Col. Shweta Prabhati of



the Indian Army, and social leader Heena Beig. Their inspiring presence motivated participants and highlighted the importance of perseverance, leadership, and women's empowerment. Several prominent community leaders also joined the celebration, including Saraswati Majhi, Zilla Parishad Chairman of Rayagada; Swai

Kulesika, Chairman of Laxmipur Block; Pinki Himirika, Zilla Parishad Member; and Lilabati Mandinga, Sarpanch of Podapadi. Their participation reflected the strong collaboration between industry and community in promoting women's leadership at the grassroots level. During the programme, inspiring addresses were delivered by Dutee Chand, Col. Shweta

Prabhati, and Heena Beig, who shared their life journeys and encouraged women to believe in their abilities and continue striving for success despite challenges. The event also featured an engaging question-and-answer session, where female employees and women from nearby communities actively interacted with the panelists. The discussion created an

open platform for dialogue, inspiration, and learning, allowing participants to connect directly with the distinguished guests. The celebration also showcased vibrant cultural performances by lady teachers, female security personnel, and community members. Women who have made significant contributions in the fields of health, education, livelihoods, and community mobilisation were felicitated during the event in recognition of their impactful work. On this occasion, Mazhar Beig, Unit Head and President of Aditya Alumina Refinery, Kansariguda, shared his message emphasising the importance of collective growth and inclusion.

# KIIT, KISS & KIMS Celebrate International Women's Day

**BHUBANESWAR,** (Correspondent): KIIT, KISS, and KIMS came together to celebrate International Women's Day, reaffirming their commitment to gender equality and empowerment. Dr. Achyuta Samanta, Founder, KIIT & KISS, expressed his deep appreciation for the contributions of women, emphasizing that the growth of KIIT has been driven by the respect and opportunities it provides to women. Giving importance on the theme "Give to Gain," Dr. Samanta said, the



joy of giving to others and the happiness it brings is unmatched. He highlighted that women are the backbone of the KIIT ecosystem, noting that around 50 per cent of the staff across KIIT, KISS and KIMS are women, which he described as the true beauty and strength of the institutions. Sharing a personal note, he said his mother was his

greatest inspiration, recalling how she faced life with dignity and courage after becoming a widow, never bowing before adversity. He said that the values she instilled in him ultimately shaped the vision that led to the creation of KIIT and KISS. Dr. Samanta also encouraged women to continue strengthening themselves and

supporting one another, while emphasizing that KIIT and KISS provide complete freedom and opportunity for women to excel. He also urged everyone to spend time with and care for their parents, reminding them that their blessings are invaluable. Among others Prof Saranjit Singh, VC, KIIT Deemed to be University; Prof. Jnyana Ranjan Mohanty, Registrar and other women staff were present on the occasion. Prof. Padmakali Banerjee, DG KIIT proposed vote of thanks.

# Runaya Ranks in top 7% globally in S&P Global Corporate Sustainability Assessment

**Bhubaneswar,** (Correspondent) : Runaya Metsource (Runaya) a Vedanta company that provides advanced technological solutions for circular economy and critical metal recovery, including cadmium, cobalt, nickel, copper and antimony, has been ranked in the top 7% globally in its first S&P Corporate Sustainability Assessment (CSA) for its Aluminum Recovery Business, Runaya scored 93rd percentile

and ranked among top 11 of the 162 global peers evaluated in the Commercial Services & Supplies Category. The S&P Global Corporate Sustainability Assessment (CSA) is a globally recognized benchmark that evaluates how companies identify, manage, and disclose material ESG risks and impacts across economic, environmental, and social dimensions. Globally, circularity and critical metal recovery are becoming central to

sustainable industrial growth. Through its circular economy model, Runaya integrates sustainability across operations, transforming waste into value and advancing responsible resource stewardship toward a zero-waste future. Naivedya Agarwal, Managing Director, Runaya, said— "This recognition underscores the confluence of strategy, execution, and purpose that defines Runaya. Across our portfolio, including our critical metal recovery business, we pair technology with

operational discipline to strengthen India's self-reliance while elevating performance standards. Through data-led systems and integrated practices, we are advancing manufacturing models where sustainability, resilience and competitiveness move forward together." Runaya will continue to scale its initiatives across operations, deepen ESG integration and strengthen long-term resilience, delivering meaningful impact for communities, stakeholders, and the environment.