

2

SOA SIGNS MoU WITH SERENDIPITY SPACE FOR JOINT COLLABORATION IN MICROGRAVITY DRUG DEVELOPMENT



3

Woman accused of arson near High Court in Odisha's Cuttack




7

Debutant Connolly's Unbeaten 72 Powers PBKS to Dramatic 3-Wicket Win Over GT



6

how carrying extra weight can raise women's risk of ovarian cancer; shares prevention tip



No Shortage Of Essentials Amid Global Tensions: CM Majhi

BHUBANESWAR, (Correspondent): Chief Minister Mohan Charan Majhi has assured the people of Odisha not to panic amid the prevailing war situation in West Asia, stating that the state government is fully prepared to handle any eventualities. "I have reviewed the impact of the war situation. Action has been taken on black marketing. We are



vigilant as per the Prime Minister's instructions — don't panic," the Chief Minister said

firmly. While presenting the statement on the expenditure sanction bill, CM Majhi assured that

adequate stocks of petrol, diesel, cooking gas, and fertilisers are available across the state. He directed officials to remain on high alert and conduct strict monitoring to prevent any artificial shortage. "The government is ready to face any situation that may arise. Those who violate law and order will be punished as per the law," he warned.

Strengthened Roads And Railways Will Bring Investments: PM Modi In Gujarat

Vav Tharad (Gujarat): Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Tuesday asserted that India's push to expand renewable energy, transport and public infrastructure is being realised on the ground. The Prime Minister made the statement while inaugurating and laying the foundation stones for development projects worth Rs 19,806.9 crore in Vav-Tharad district in Gujarat. Addressing a public gathering, the Prime Minister said that improved road and rail links would encourage business and facilitate investment. "When road and rail connectivity strengthens, businesses and new investments come," he said, noting

that the suite of projects represented "part of Gujarat's development." PM Modi connected the scale of the projects to his enduring bond with the region, recalling his deep memories of its villages. "There is not a single village here where my memories have not been formed. Today, I came here, met many familiar faces, and cannot forget your immense love. You all raised me, and I am returning to you with interest through development works," he said. He also noted the role of young party workers in implementing programmes locally. He recalled his earlier responsibilities in the region, noting that 25 years ago the people of

Banaskantha and Vav Tharad had entrusted him with leadership roles. As Gujarat's chief minister, he said, he had driven development "in mission mode" to advance the state, adding, "I tried my best to get Gujarat ahead, and I am glad that the double-engine government is continuing this work since 2014." On specific outcomes of government programmes, the prime minister said that nearly 40,000 families have now received pucca houses in the state under the Pradhan Mantri Awas Yojana (Rural) scheme. "For them it's their identity, a start for dreaming new aims," he said, adding that such progress was made possible by public support.

Odisha Cadre IAS Officer Vir Vikram Yadav Appointed New DGCA Chief

New Delhi: In a major bureaucratic reshuffle, the government has appointed Vir Vikram Yadav, a 1996 batch Odisha cadre IAS officer as the new Director General of the Directorate General of Civil Aviation (DGCA), replacing Faiz Ahmed Kidwai. Yadav, who is currently serving as Additional Secretary in the Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change, will now head India's aviation regulator at a time when the sector is expanding rapidly. With rising air traffic, growing airline fleets and increased focus on safety, his role is expected to be crucial in ensuring stronger regulatory oversight.

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MESSAGE OF HON'BLE GOVERNOR OF ODISHA ON THE AUSPICIOUS OCCASION OF ODISHA DIVAS-2026


On the auspicious occasion of Odisha Divas-2026, I greet the people of the State and extend them my good wishes. On this day, I call upon all to stay committed to build a Samruddha and Viksit Odisha.


 (Hari Babu Kambhampati)

OIPR-15001/15001/2/25-26/0012



15001/12/2526



**ଓଡ଼ିଶା ଦିବସ ଅବସରରେ
ମୁଖ୍ୟମନ୍ତ୍ରୀଙ୍କ ଶୁଭେଚ୍ଛା**

ଜୟ ଜଗନ୍ନାଥ!

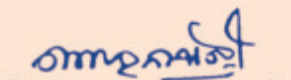
ଆଜି ଓଡ଼ିଶା ଦିବସ । ପ୍ରତ୍ୟେକ ଓଡ଼ିଆଙ୍କ ପାଇଁ ଅସ୍ମିତା ଓ ସ୍ୱାଭିମାନର ଦିବସ । ଏହି ଅବସରରେ ଓଡ଼ିଶା ତଥା ଦେଶ ଓ ବିଶ୍ୱର କୋଣ ଅନୁକୋଣରେ ରହୁଥିବା ଓଡ଼ିଆ ଭାଇଭଉଣୀମାନଙ୍କୁ ମୋର ଶୁଭେଚ୍ଛା ଓ ଅଭିନନ୍ଦନ ଜଣାଉଛି ।

ସ୍ୱତନ୍ତ୍ର ଓଡ଼ିଶା ପ୍ରଦେଶ ଗଠନ ପାଇଁ ତ୍ୟାଗ ଓ ବଳିଦାନ ରଖିଥିବା ସମସ୍ତ ବରପୁତ୍ରମାନଙ୍କ ନୀତି ଓ ଆଦର୍ଶ ଆମକୁ ପିଢ଼ି ପରେ ପିଢ଼ି ଅନୁପ୍ରାଣିତ କରି ଆସୁଛି ଓ ଆସୁଥିବ । ଏହି ଅବସରରେ ସେମାନଙ୍କ ପ୍ରତି ମୋର ଗଭୀର ଶ୍ରଦ୍ଧାଞ୍ଜଳି ଅର୍ପଣ କରୁଛି ।

ଓଡ଼ିଶା ଆଜି ନୂଆ ଆଶା, ନୂଆ ଭରସା ଓ ଗଭୀର ଆତ୍ମବିଶ୍ୱାସର ସହିତ ଆଗକୁ ବଢୁଛି । ୨୦୩୬ ପୂର୍ବା ଆମେ ସମୃଦ୍ଧ ଓଡ଼ିଶା ଗଠନ ଲକ୍ଷ୍ୟ ରଖୁଛୁ । ଆଗାମୀ ଦଶ ବର୍ଷ ପ୍ରତ୍ୟେକ ଓଡ଼ିଆଙ୍କ ପାଇଁ ସଂକଳ୍ପର ବର୍ଷ ହେଉ ।

ଆସନ୍ତୁ, ଆମେ ସମସ୍ତେ, ସମୃଦ୍ଧ ଓଡ଼ିଶା ଗଠନର ଲକ୍ଷ୍ୟ ପୂରଣ ପାଇଁ ଦୃଢ଼ ସଂକଳ୍ପବଦ୍ଧ ହୋଇ କାମ କରିବା ।

ବନ୍ଦେ ଭକ୍ତ ଜନନୀ!


 (ମୋହନ ଚରଣ ନାୟକ)
 ମୁଖ୍ୟମନ୍ତ୍ରୀ, ଓଡ଼ିଶା

Vedanta Aluminium Reaffirms its Commitment to Odisha on Utkal Divas

BHUBANESWAR, (Correspondent): Vedanta Aluminium, India's largest producer of aluminium, delivering 100% value addition within Odisha, reaffirmed its long-term commitment to the state on the occasion of Utkal Divas. With planned investments of ₹1.8 lakh crore in the pipeline and over ₹1 lakh crore already invested, the company has generated 5 lakh+ employment opportunities to date. Vedanta's Odisha operations including aluminium, power, iron ore, and related businesses, contribute over ₹9,000 crore annually to the exchequer and account for approximately ~3%



of the state's GSDP. The company operates fully integrated, world-class aluminium assets in the state, spanning the entire value chain from bauxite to finished aluminium products. Jharsuguda is home to the world's largest aluminium plant, with a capacity of 1.8 MTPA, while Lanjigarh houses a 5 MTPA alumina

refinery, among the most strategically significant assets in the global aluminium supply chain. Anchoring the next phase of this journey, Vedanta Aluminium is advancing a ₹1.8 lakh crore greenfield project in Odisha's Dhenkanal and Rayagada district, envisioned as an integrated aluminium manufacturing

ecosystem. The project includes a 3 MTPA aluminium smelter, a 4,900 MW powerplant, a 6 MTPA alumina refinery, and a world-class downstream Aluminium Park, enabling seamless upstream and downstream integration. The proposed development is expected to create up to 50,000 jobs in its initial phase and over 2 lakh employment opportunities over time, while catalysing a robust ancillary ecosystem, positioning Odisha as a globally competitive aluminium hub.

Speaking on the occasion, Rajiv Kumar, CEO, Vedanta

Aluminium, said, "Aluminium is a critical metal for India's future, with demand projected to rise nearly sixfold by FY2047. Odisha, with the country's largest bauxite reserves, is naturally poised to anchor this growth. Our upcoming investments are transformative in strengthening India's aluminium self-reliance, creating large-scale employment, energising local enterprises, and building a future-ready industrial ecosystem. We appreciate the proactive support of the Government of Odisha, and on Utkal Divas, reaffirm our commitment to making Odisha the aluminium capital of the world."

Godrej Consumer Products' 'Machar Hai, MehmanNahi' public service film remind households that not every visitor deserves an invitation

Mumbai: Mosquitoes and the diseases they spread continue to pose a serious public health challenge in India. Yet their presence has become so routine that it is often ignored. With the belief that mosquitoes should not be treated as harmless visitors, Godrej Consumer Products Limited (GCPL) has, as part of its CSR initiative Elimination of Mosquito Borne Endemic Disease (EMBED), launched a public service film titled 'Machar Hai, MehmanNahi' urging households across India to rethink how easily mosquitoes are allowed into everyday spaces. This CSR initiative is in



line with GCPL's impact-oriented culture that focuses on creating real change for communities. Mosquito-borne diseases such as Dengue, Malaria, and Chikungunya continue to affect millions across India each year. According to national health data, India reported over 1.13 lakh dengue cases in 2025 alone, underlining the urgent need for stronger community

awareness and preventive action beyond the monsoon season. Inspired by India's deep-rooted tradition of hospitality, where guests are welcomed with warmth and respect, the campaign turns this cultural instinct on its head. 'Machar Hai, MehmanNahi' (A mosquito is not a guest) reminds households that not every visitor deserves an invitation.

21st Punyatithi of Shri O.P. Jindal Observed with a Series of Charitable Activities

Angul, (Correspondent): Drawing inspiration from the altruistic vision and values of Shri O.P. Jindal, the visionary founder of the O.P. Jindal Group, Jindal Steel's social responsibility arm, Jindal Foundation, in association with Odisha Blood Bank, District Headquarters Hospital (DHH), Angul, organised a Mega Blood Donation Camp at Jindal Nagar, Angul, to commemorate his 21st Punyatithi. Demonstrating a strong spirit of community service and social responsibility, employees, workers, their family members, and members of the local community

enthusiastically participated in the voluntary blood donation camp. Their collective efforts resulted in the collection of 380 units of blood to support emergency medical needs in the region. Mr. P.K. Biju Nair, Executive Director and Angul Unit Head, Mr. Damodar Mittal, Executive Director, Iron Zone, Swami Satyabindu Saraswati, along with employees, workers, and community members, paid floral tribute to the visionary founder Shri O.P. Jindal. Inaugurating the blood donation camp, Mr. P.K. Biju Nair said, "I am very thankful to all the blood donors who have joined this noble initiative



voluntarily and contributed their service to humanity on the occasion of Bauji's 21st Punyatithi. I believe this is one of the most meaningful ways to pay tribute to a person whom we admire and

respect deeply. Though Bauji is not with us in his physical form, his commitment to society continues to inspire and guide us forever." Donating blood for the 15th time, Mr. Damodar Mittal said,

"Some people never truly leave us; they continue to live through their noble thoughts and values, and Bauji is one such personality who still lives in the hearts and minds of our employees. We organise voluntary

blood donation camps twice every year in his loving memory, and so far Jindal Steel has contributed more than 10,000 units of blood to the needy people of the district and the state. I feel proud to donate blood as we consider it as the greatest services to society." On this occasion, the Jindal Foundation also extended support to various social organisations, including shelter homes, institutions serving the underprivileged, specially-abled children and Goshalas in Angul. Students and staff members of O.P. Jindal School also paid tribute to the noble soul and learned about the values and vision of Bauji's life.

Ghoradia Dayana Chori Kunj Melan Coordination Meeting

Delang, (Correspondent): Delang Block Ghordia's famous Dayana Chori Kunj Melan was to be held on Wednesday, and a coordination meeting was held by the Melan Committee and the Police Administration at the Ghanipur Panchayat Office today. In the meeting organized under the chairmanship of Radha Mohan Math Trustee Prahallad Baliarsingh, Delang Police Station OIC Mamata Biswal, Ghoradia Police Aid Center Officer Kulamani Behera, Ghanipur Panchayat-in-charge Sarpanch Kamini Prabha Rautraya, Nominee, Rajalakshmi Behera, Sauria Nominee Aurnapurna Ranajit were present and discussed the smooth

management of the Melan. Similarly, heavy security has been made by the police to maintain peace and order in Melan, and it has been reported that a flag march will be held on Wednesday evening. On this occasion, it has been demanded to provide temporary toilets, drinking water, uninterrupted power supply, fire brigade deployment and health services.

JSW Steel Odisha Mining Division Bags Five Awards at ME&MC Week



Barbil, (Correspondent): JSW Steel's Odisha Mining Division has secured five major accolades at the 27th Mines Environment and Mineral Conservation (ME&MC) Week 2025-26, organized under the aegis of the Indian Bureau of Mines in Bhubaneswar. The recognition highlights the company's strong focus on sustainable and responsible mining practices. Narayanposhi Iron & Manganese Ore Mines led the tally with first prize in Environment Monitoring and third prizes in Sustainable

Development and overall performance (Group-A). Nuagaon Iron Ore Mines secured second prize in Waste Dump Management, while Gouua Iron Ore Mines won third prize in Scientific Development. Nuagaon Iron Ore Mines earned second prize in Waste Dump Management, while Gouua Iron Ore Mines secured third prize in Scientific Development, further reflecting the division's consistent operational excellence across multiple domains. In a significant individual achievement, Mr. Dikshit Kumar Das

of JSW Steel was conferred the prestigious "Mineral Conservation Bandhu" Award in the Executive Category, recognizing his contribution to mineral conservation initiatives. The awards were received by Mr. Prasanna Panda, Business Head, and Mr. Ram Shankar Sharma, Operations & Projects Head, along with their teams. Marking a significant milestone, the ME&MC Flag was handed over to Mr. Panda, signifying that JSW Steel's Odisha Mining Division will host the 28th ME&MC Week 2026-27.

SOA SIGNS MoU WITH SERENDIPITY SPACE FOR JOINT COLLABORATION IN MICROGRAVITY DRUG DEVELOPMENT

Bhubaneswar, (Correspondent): Siksha 'O' Anusandhan Deemed to be University on Monday signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with Serendipity Space Private Ltd, a Bhubaneswar-based Start-up which is engaged in development of space-enabled technologies and platforms including modules for pharmaceutical crystallization, clinostat-based microgravity simulation and orbital crystallization missions in zero gravity. Crystallization in zero gravity, a research area greatly pioneered by NASA over the past two decades, involves growing crystals in the microgravity environment of the International Space Station (ISS) to achieve higher quality, larger and more perfectly ordered structures than is possible on



earth. Following NASA's footprints, Serendipity Space Private Ltd, located at the DBT-Institute of Life Sciences Incubator, have developed abilities to develop new crystals in zero gravity in space to produce larger, uniform and qualitatively higher crystals by eliminating buoyancy driven convection and sedimentation to promote drug formulation stability, bioavailability and structure based drug design. On the other hand, SOA has established research capabilities, laboratories

and expertise in small molecule crystallization techniques. The two parties intend to collaborate on crystallization experiments involving small molecules under laboratory, simulated microgravity and spaceflight conditions. Both institutes aim to collaborate for development of novel drug products by capitalizing on their complementary expertise. Prof. Bharat Bhushan Subudhi, Professor at School of Pharmaceutical Sciences (SPS), SOA's faculty of pharmaceutical sciences, said,

Prof. Pradipta Kumar Nanda, Vice-Chancellor of SOA and Mr. Antariksh Parichha, CEO of Serendipity Space Private Ltd signed the MoU. Development of larger, purer and more highly ordered protein crystals and molecular structures compared to that done on earth will contribute to superior drug formulation, improved drug delivery and faster and more precise structure based drug design for treating diseases like cancer, Mr. Parichha said. Microgravity helped develop crystalline drugs which were more stable and enabled easier, long-term storage without refrigeration, he said adding the high quality crystals enabled the development of more concentrated pharmaceutical solutions, potentially allowing intravenous drugs to be delivered orally.

EAST COAST RAILWAY
e-Tender Notice No. e-Tender-Elect-Q-85-25

DESCRIPTION OF WORK:
AUGMENTATION OF POWER SUPPLY ARRANGEMENT WITH REPLACEMENT OF OVER HEAD LINE TO UNDERGROUND CABLE SYSTEM IN WAY SIDE STATIONS OVER KHURDA ROAD DIVISION.

Approx Cost of the work (₹): 5,11,49,173.66, EMD (₹): 4,05,800.00
Completion period : 06 Months

Tender Closing Date and Time : At 1500 Hrs. of 22.04.2026

No manual offers sent by Post / Courier / Fax or in person accepted against such e-tenders even if these are submitted on firm's letter head and received in time. All such manual offers shall be considered invalid and shall be rejected summarily without any consideration. Complete information including e-tender documents of the above e-tender is available in website: <http://www.ireps.gov.in>

Note : The prospective tenderers are advised to revisit the website 10 (Ten) days before the date of closing of tender to note any changes / corrigendum issued for this tender.

Sr. Divisional Electrical Engineer (G),
PR-1284/QI/25-26, Khurda Road

EAST COAST RAILWAY
Tender No. CAOCSPBB5-12-2026

NAME OF WORK: (1) CONSTRUCTION OF ROAD OVER BRIDGE (ROB) CONSIST OF 1 X 69.0 M GAMES M RCC TYPE TRUSS GIRDER AND 2 X 18 M COMPOSITE GIRDER IN LIEU OF LEVEL CROSSING NO.-247, AND 3 X 18.04 + 3 X 25.04 M RCC T-BEAM GIRDER ON BALUGAON SIDE AND 4 X 18.04 + 3 X 25.04 M RCC T-BEAM GIRDER ON NH 16 SIDE FOR THE APPROACH PORTION AT KM. 516/23-24 IN BETWEEN STATION GANGADHARPUR & SOLARI ON HOWRAH-VISAKHAPATNAM MAIN LINE UNDER KHURDA ROAD DIVISION.

(2) CONSTRUCTION OF ROAD OVER BRIDGE (ROB) CONSISTING OF 1 X 24.0 M + 1 X 42.000 M + 1 X 24.0 M SPAN COMPOSITE GIRDER (BRIDGE PROPER) IN THE RAILWAY PORTION AT KM. 522/27-29 IN BETWEEN DUNGAMAL SIDE OF THE STATE GOVERNMENT PORTION, LOCATED AT RAILWAY KM. 533/47-45/41 BETWEEN CHILIKA (CLKA) AND KHALIKOTE (KIT) STATIONS ON THE HOWRAH-VISAKHAPATNAM MAIN LINE UNDER KHURDA ROAD DIVISION.

(3) CONSTRUCTION OF A ROAD OVER BRIDGE (ROB) CONSIST OF 4 X 25.040 M + 1 X 17.385 M RCC T-BEAM GIRDER ON THE NH-16 SIDE, AND 1 X 23.283 M + 4 X 25.040 M RCC T-BEAM GIRDER ON THE BURILUGADA SIDE OF THE STATE GOVERNMENT PORTION, ALONG WITH 1 X 25.080 M, 1 X 37.280 M, AND 1 X 25.080 M SPAN COMPOSITE GIRDERS (BRIDGE PROPER) IN THE RAILWAY PORTION AT KM. 562/27-29 IN BETWEEN CROSSING NO. 279 AT RAILWAY KM. 562/27-29, BETWEEN RAMBA (RBA) AND HUMA (HMA) STATIONS ON THE HOWRAH-VISAKHAPATNAM MAIN LINE UNDER KHURDA ROAD DIVISION.

Advertised Value : ₹ 169,96,89,136.67, EMD : ₹ 86,48,500/-, Period of Completion : 24 Months.

Bidding Start Date: 14.04.2026
Tender Closing Date and Time : At 1200 Hrs. of 28.04.2026.

Manual offers are not allowed against this tender, and any such manual offer received shall be ignored. Complete information including e-Tender documents and corrigendum is available in website www.ireps.gov.in

Dy. Chief Engineer / CON / PR-328/CI/25-26 RSP / Bhubaneswar

Woman accused of arson near High Court in Odisha's Cuttack

Cuttack (Correspondent) : A sensational twist has emerged in the fire incident that occurred outside the Orissa High Court in Cuttack on Tuesday morning. Allegedly, a middle-aged woman set multiple vehicles on fire. The fatal incident, which initially appeared to be an accident, is now being treated as a case of suspected arson following crucial visual evidence. According to preliminary findings, the accused woman, identified as Minati Sahu, had used petrol to ignite the blaze. CCTV footage from the High Court premises has captured visuals of a woman throwing a flammable substance (believed to be petrol) toward parked vehicles,



triggering the fire. The footage is now a key piece of evidence in the ongoing probe. The fire broke out on the road in front of the High Court, engulfing a Bolero vehicle, an electric scooter, and two motorcycles parked nearby. Eyewitnesses described sudden flames spreading rapidly, causing panic in the locality.

However, a prompt response from the fire services prevented a larger disaster. Firefighting teams from the High Court fire unit, Bidanasi Fire Station, and the Cuttack Fire Service swiftly reached the scene with fire tenders. Their coordinated efforts ensured that the blaze was brought under

control and eventually extinguished, minimising damage and preventing injuries. Authorities have revealed that the accused woman hails from Biridi area of Jagatsinghpur district. While the motive behind the act remains unclear, officials are conducting a detailed investigation to uncover the reasons and any possible links. The incident has raised serious concerns about security in sensitive public zones like court premises. Police are reviewing surveillance footage and questioning witnesses to piece together the sequence of events. Further legal action against the accused woman is expected as the investigation progresses. Lalbagh police have initiated a detailed probe

into the incident, which is underway. "We got information earlier today that a major fire had broken out near the boundary wall of the Orissa High Court. Several vehicles parked on the roadside were gutted in the incident. A team of fire services personnel rushed to the spot and doused the flames. Initially, we had suspected that the battery of an EV (electric vehicle) had caused the fire due to overheating. However, during a preliminary probe, it was ascertained that a woman had played a mischief and set the vehicles on fire," a female ACP of the Commissionerate Police in Cuttack said while speaking to mediapersons.

Three critically injured in a head-on collision between two bikes

Nimapada (Correspondent) : A tragic road accident occurred while returning after visiting Maa Mangala of Kakatpur on the last Tuesday of the Chaitra month. According to reports, today at noon, Rinku Das (26) from the Bhubaneswar area was returning from the Mangala Temple on a along with his mother Sanjubala Das (54) after

Near Khedarpur Chhak, their bike collided head-on with another bike coming from the Nimapada side, resulting in three people being seriously injured. All three injured were first admitted to the Nimapada Community Health Centre. Later, as the condition of mother Sanjubala and son

Rinku became critical, they were immediately shifted to Bhubaneswar for better treatment. Meanwhile, the rider of the other bike, Dharendra Mallik (70), is undergoing treatment at the Nimapada Community Health Centre. Upon receiving information, Nimapada police reached the spot and have started an investigation.

OFFICE OF THE GENERAL MANAGER, WATCO DIVISION-I, VANIVIHAR SQUARE, BHUBANESWAR, ODISHA, PIN-751022
e-Mail: gmdivonewatco@gmail.com
OFFICE ORDER NO.2747 Dt.25/3/2026

The tender invited vide Bid Identification No. GMWATCO-I/130/2025-26 Dt.10.03.2026 for the work "Provision for laying of 100mm dia water supply pipeline with installation valves and ancillary work to NCC Directorate, Chandrasekharpur, Bhubaneswar", is hereby cancelled administrative ground.

GENERAL MANAGER WATCO DIVISION-I, BBSR



OIPR-13001/13257/1/25-26/0002

Transgender Rights Day celebrated: Demand for equality and respect

Malkangiri, correspondent : Transgender Rights Day was celebrated across the country including Odisha today. Awareness programs, seminars and rallies were organized by various government and private organizations on this occasion. The transgender community has been facing neglect and discrimination in society for a long time. They have been continuously demanding equal opportunities in education, employment and healthcare. The main objective of this day is to respect the rights of transgender people and increase equality and recognition in society. Although the government has started various welfare schemes, experts have expressed the need for more awareness and support. Representatives of some organizations said, "We want equal respect and rights in society. We need everyone's cooperation to take us into the mainstream." So far, 75 people have registered their names in Malkangiri district. They have received Rs 50000 in support through allowance, rice land and groups. Some are earning a good living by working as security guards in various companies and shops. 12 people have been given land to build houses in Balimela. This work has started in other places. They have demanded a community hall for their entertainment and meeting! We will draw the attention of the District Collector in this regard, said Rajesh Pujari, Sub-Division Social Security officer. On the occasion of Transgender Rights Day, a message of equality and humanity has been given to people from all sections of society.

Major Success for Rayagada Police: Arms & Explosives Recovered After Maoist Surrender

Rayagada correspondent: In a significant breakthrough against Left Wing Extremism, Rayagada Police have achieved a major success by recovering a large cache of arms, explosives, and other materials belonging to banned CPI (Maoist) cadres. The recovery was made by the District Voluntary Force (DVF) during intensive search operations along the Rayagada-Kandhamal border areas. This development comes shortly after 15 CPI (Maoist) cadres surrendered before Rayagada Police, marking a positive step towards peace and normalcy in the region. According to police sources, the search operations were carried out under the jurisdiction of Muniguda and Ambadola Police Stations, targeting forest and interior areas suspected to have been used by Maoist groups for hiding weapons and logistical supplies. During the operation near Pajigarega village under Muniguda Police Station limits, security personnel recovered two single-shot guns and one BGL gun. In addition, eight bundles of cordex and as many as 415 detonators were seized from the same area, indicating preparations for potential subversive activities. In another operation near Ambrikhol village under Ambadola Police Station, three bags containing approximately 29 kilograms of high explosive materials were recovered. This is considered a major seizure, as such materials could have been used for large-scale destructive activities. Further searches conducted in the forest area near Patrani village under Ambadola Police limits led to the recovery of one HP laptop, a laptop charger with pouch, two bundles of electric wires, a red cloth, two packets suspected to be used for blood sample connection, and one plastic container. These items are believed to have been used for communication, planning, and medical purposes by the Maoist cadres.





OUR CENSUS, OUR DEVELOPMENT

(First Phase of Census 2027)

Houselisting and Housing Census by the Government of India is about to begin in your State/Union Territory
Before this, a 15-day special facility is being provided where you can fill in your information online yourself


I am Pragati



SELF-ENUMERATION

Simple and Secure Digital facility

I am Vikas



How to do Self-Enumeration?

- 1 Visit the official portal (se.census.gov.in)
- 6 You will receive an SE ID after submission
- 2 Login via OTP using your mobile number
- 7 Keep the SE ID safe
- 3 Select your State, District and Local details
- 8 Provide the SE ID to the enumerator when they visit
- 4 Mark your house location on the Digital Map
- 9 The enumerator will confirm the information
- 5 Fill in information related to the house and family

It's Benefits

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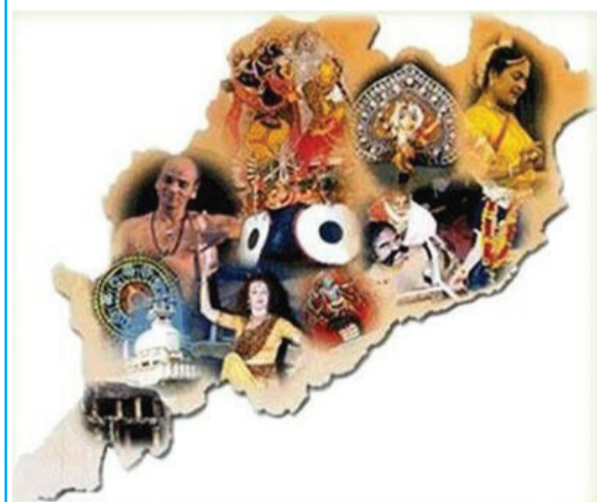
EDITORIAL

Utkal Divas : Foster a sense of unity and togetherness

Utkal Divas, also known as Odisha Foundation Day, is celebrated every year on April 1st to mark the formation of the state of Odisha in 1936. It commemorates the long struggle of the Odia people for a separate identity based on language and culture. Utkal Divas 2025 will be observed with great enthusiasm across Odisha, recognizing the state's rich heritage and historical importance.

Before 1936, Odisha was part of the Bengal Presidency, along with Bihar and Jharkhand. The demand for a separate state for Odia-speaking people gained momentum in the early 20th century. Under the leadership of eminent personalities like Madhusudan Das, Utkalmani Gopabandhu Das, and Fakir Mohan Senapati, the demand was finally recognized, and Odisha became the first state in India to be formed on a linguistic basis.

On April 1, 1936, the British Government officially separated Odisha from Bihar and Orissa Province, making it an independent administrative entity. Odisha has a rich historical background dating back to ancient times. The region was once the powerful kingdom of Kalinga, which fought



the famous Kalinga War (261 BCE) against Emperor Ashoka. The impact of this war led Ashoka to embrace Buddhism and promote peace. Odisha is a state rich in history, culture, and natural beauty. It is known for its architectural marvels, religious significance, and diverse landscapes. From ancient temples to modern engineering feats, Odisha has contributed significantly to India's heritage.

Utkal Divas is a memorable day for the people of Odisha, and its importance lies in the following facts: Remembering the sacrifices for independent statehood: The independence of Odisha came after years of struggle and numerous sacrifices of the Odia people. This day is meant to remember those struggles and sacrifices, and pay homage to those who strived for a separate land for the people of Odisha.

Opportunity for celebration: Utkal Divas is celebrated throughout the entire state to commemorate its creation. This day provides a chance for every resident of Odisha to feel a closer connection with their cultural roots and identity. Promotes a sense of unity: The State Government of Odisha organises numerous cultural events on this day. Such events present an excellent platform for people to come together and celebrate the culture of this state. Utkal Divas celebrations foster a sense of unity and togetherness among all residents of the state.

Utkal Divas : Celebrating Odisha's Pride



Biswarupa Rath

Odisha, the eighth-largest state of India, celebrates the 91st formation day today. Utkal Divas, or Odisha Day, marks the establishment of Odisha as an independent state on 1 April 1936. This day of pride is celebrated all over Odisha with great enthusiasm. Cultural programs and many debate competitions were held to honor this day. Before 1936, Odisha was part of the Bengal Presidency. With the immense dedication and efforts of prominent social reformers like Madhusudan Das founded Utkal Sammilani for the development of Odisha in social as well as industrial aspects. Fakir Mohan Senapati (often known as Utkal Byasa Kabi) contributed to Odia language and literature), Utkalmani Gopabandhu Das founded Satyavadi Vidyalaya in 1909 for promoting quality education for the Odia community), Krushna Chandra Gajapati (demanded for making Odisha an independent province in the Round Table Conference held in 1930 for about 3 decades, finally Odisha became an independent territory and is officially separated from Bihar and Orissa provinces by the

British Newspapers like Utkal Dipika, Samaja, Asha, etc. contributed to the development of the Odisha language and literature and played a major role in establishing Odisha as a separate province.

Moreover, legendary poets like Fakir Mohan Senapati, Swabhaba Kabi Gangadhar Meher, Kuntala Kumari Sabat, Pandit Gopabandhu Das enhanced Odia's identity through their literary works. Poems like "Bande Utkala Janani," written by Kantakabi Laxmikanta Mohapatra, "Utkala Bhramanam" by Fakir Mohan Senapati provided a unique identity to the Odia community.

Before the name Odisha, it had many other names including Kalinga (Kalinga War fought by King Ashoka), Utkala (means the field of art and craft), Odra (Odra people were living in the region during the ancient medieval period, etc.

The "SUN TEMPLE" of Konark, situated in the Puri district of Odisha, established by King Narasimhadeva in the 13th century. It is a famous tourist attraction and was declared a world heritage site by UNESCO in the year 1984 for its architecture. The temple is completely made of stone and anciently designed sculptures that represent the beauty of art and crafts of Odisha. Moreover, there is a giant wheel carved in the walls of a temple dedicated to Surya (the sun god). In Hindu Vedic

art, Surya is depicted as ascending in the east and swiftly moving across the sky in a chariot pulled by seven horses.

The world-famous Jagannath Temple of Puri, founded by King Anantavarman Chodaganga Deva in the 12th century was the heart of Odisha. It is renowned for the largest chariot festival in the world, "Rath Yatra." Devotees from all across the world, gather together to celebrate.

Odissi, the classical dance form of Odisha, is known for its expression and gestures. Mahari, gotipua and nartaki are the three key traditions of Odissi. Nowadays, this dance form is performed outside India too. Workshops on Odissi are being organized in Italy, Japan, New York, and many other countries. Dancers from Odisha were invited and appreciated there. Chhau and Ghumur are other dance forms of Odisha. Odisha, being a land of culture and tradition, celebrates various festivals in almost all month. That's why a quote often used "Bara masara, tera parba". From celebrating womanhood as a Rajo festival to celebrating the sacred bond of brother and sisters as Rakshya Bandhan, each and every festival aims to promote unity and add joy to our day-to-day life. Every year Utkal Divas encourage us to celebrate the pride and glory of our motherland.

Utkal Divas : Some known facts about the Odisha



Alekha Chandra Samal

On April 1, 1936, Odisha became a separate province, after a long struggle of over three centuries. The formation of Orissa province under the British rule, separated from Bengal and Bihar, marked the beginning of a new journey for the state. Odisha Day, also known as Utkal Divas and Utkala Dibasa, is celebrated on April 1 every year in memory of all the struggle that went into gaining a separate political identity for the state that was once part of Kalinga ruled by emperor Ashok, and later by Kharavela, remembered as a conqueror and the champion of Jainism, before Mughals invaded and wrested it. On April 1, 1936, Odisha was formed and since then the day is celebrated to mark the contributions and sacrifices made by the people of the state in the formation days. The day is also called as 'Utkal Divas'. Constant efforts of activists - Utkalmani Gopabandhu Das, Maharaja Shri Ramachandra Bhanjdeo, Raja Baikunthanath Dey, Maharaja Shri Krushna Chandra Gajapati, Gourishankar Ray, Gangadhar Meher, Utkala Gaurav Madhusudan Das and Fakir Mohan

Senapati - helped Odisha to get status of separate linguistic state, which carved out Bengal-Bihar-Orissa province. Odisha was later divided in to 13 and further to 30 districts.

Today on the 89th foundation day of Odisha, here are few lesser known facts about the state that will make you add 'Odisha' in your must-visit-places list. Here you go: Odisha is the first Indian state to be formed on linguistic basis. Odisha hosts world's largest open air theatre - Dhanu Yatra, spread across a 6 km radius. The play is based on mythological story of Krishna and his demon uncle Kansa. Chandipur Sea Beach in Odisha is also known as the hide and seek beach where water disappears to approx 5 km during ebb tide i.e. a time between the low and high tide and returns during the high tide. Odisha is home to 'Hirakud Dam', the fourth largest dam in the world, situated at Sambalpur. Abdul Kalam Island, formerly known as Wheeler Island, is an island located on the west coast of the city. It is a centre where most of the missiles are tested, such as Agni Missile, Prithvi Missile and Akash Missile, among others.

World's largest egg, with an approximate dimension of 13 inches and width of 9.5 inches is said to be of an ancient flightless elephant bird that

dated back to 1650 AD. The egg is preserved at Bhubaneswar's Regional Museum of Natural History. Built in the 13th century, Konark Temple has 12 pairs of wheels that are uniquely designed taking in consideration the scientific significance. Each wheel has 8 spokes that indicates 'prahars' i.e. 3 hour period. By looking at the wheels one can easily calculate the precise time. The Leaning Temple of Huma, situated on the bank of Mahanadi, is the only leaning temple in the world. Jagannath Temple in Puri is one of the 'Char Dhaam'; every Hindu is expected to visit it once in a lifetime. The kitchen at the temple is among the largest in the world where 400 cooks work round the clock and serve around 10,000 people each day. It is also said that while cooking the food, seven pots are placed one over another on firewood. But what comes to a surprise is the pot at the top gets cooked first and then the bottom one. World's highest electrified track is situated in Jakhapura-Daitari section of Odisha. The track is at a height of 7.45 metres and is constructed East Coast Railway of Odisha, it is followed by USA (7.1 m) and China (6.6 m). The Serene, Scenic and Sublime state is blessed with rich heritage, culture, natural beauty and some amazing festivals and traditions.

Reflection of Odisha's past and its promising future



Dr. Arundhati Devi

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April 1 Between Laughter and Legacy Understanding April Fool's Day and Utkal Divas



Dr. Simant Kumar Nanda

The first day of April carries two strikingly different emotions across the world, one of light hearted laughter and the other of deep historical pride. On one hand, people indulge in harmless pranks under the tradition of April Fools' Day, while on the other, the people of Odisha celebrate Utkal Divas, commemorating the formation of their state in 1936. The coincidence of these two observations on the same date has often sparked curiosity and sometimes even suspicion, whether Odisha was deliberately associated with a day known for jest. A closer and more careful look at history, however, reveals a far more dignified and inspiring truth.

April Fools Day, widely observed across Europe and many parts of the world, is rooted in cultural evolution rather than any single historical event. One widely accepted explanation traces its origin to the Gregorian calendar reform initiated by Pope Gregory XIII. Before this reform, several regions in Europe celebrated the New Year towards the end of March, with festivities extending up to April 1. When the calendar shifted the New Year to January 1, those who continued celebrating in early April became subjects of

playful mockery and were called April fools. Over time, this harmless ridicule evolved into a tradition of jokes and pranks. Importantly, this observance remained confined to social behaviour and never carried political or administrative implications, particularly in the Indian context.

In contrast, Utkal Divas represents a moment of profound historical and cultural significance. On April 1, 1936, Odisha emerged as a separate province, becoming the first region in India to be formed explicitly on a linguistic basis. Prior to this, Odia speaking people were administratively fragmented under the Bengal Presidency, Madras Presidency and Central Provinces. This fragmentation not only created administrative challenges but also posed a serious threat to the preservation of the Odia language and cultural identity.

The journey towards the creation of Odisha cannot be understood without acknowledging the role of Utkal Sammilani, which emerged as a powerful platform uniting Odia intellectuals and leaders in their demand for linguistic recognition and administrative unity. Alongside this organised effort, the song Bande Utkal Janani composed by Laxmikanta Mohapatra became an emotional and cultural force, inspiring a sense of collective identity and pride among the people. These intellectual and cultural currents ultimately culminated in the historic celebration of Utkal Divas, marking not just the formation of a province but the realisation of a long cherished civilisational aspiration.

The movement for a unified Odisha was the result of sustained intellectual, social and political efforts by visionary

leaders such as Madhusudan Das, revered as Utkal Gourab, and Gopabandhu Das, whose commitment to public service and cultural awakening inspired generations. Their struggle was based on the understanding that language is not merely a tool of communication but the essence of a community's identity. Through petitions, debates and organised efforts, they created a strong foundation for linguistic reorganisation, an idea that later influenced the broader restructuring of states in independent India.

Given this long and well documented struggle, the notion that Odisha was somehow mocked by being declared on April 1 does not hold any historical validity. In reality, the selection of this date was guided purely by administrative convenience. Under British governance, April 1 marked the beginning of the financial and administrative year. Implementing major territorial changes on this date ensured efficiency in governance, accounting and policy execution. The formation of Odisha followed this established administrative logic and not any cultural symbolism associated with April Fools Day.

It is also important to recognise that April Fools Day as a cultural tradition had little relevance in the official decision making processes of colonial India. The British administration, though aware of European customs, did not incorporate such informal traditions into formal governance decisions. Therefore, linking a global day of pranks with a serious administrative milestone like

the creation of Odisha risks undermining the depth of the historical struggle behind it.

Rather than viewing April 1 through the lens of coincidence or misconception, it is more meaningful to understand it as a convergence of two distinct human expressions, one of humour and the other of identity. While the world engages in fleeting laughter, Odisha stands in remembrance of a hard earned achievement, a testimony to unity, language and cultural resilience.

This coincidence also carries a subtle philosophical message. History often layers meanings upon the same date, allowing different communities to attach their own significance. For Odisha, April 1 is not a day of jest but a day of justice, when a scattered linguistic community found administrative coherence and cultural recognition. As we celebrate Utkal Divas, it becomes essential to move beyond myths and embrace historical clarity. The formation of Odisha was not an accident or a symbolic gesture, but a conscious recognition of linguistic identity. To associate it with the notion of being fooled is to overlook the sacrifices, intellect and determination of those who made it possible.

April 1 therefore stands as a powerful reminder that while laughter may define the day globally, for Odisha it resonates with pride, purpose and the enduring spirit of Vande Utkal Janani.

Potlampur and Mandar Gram Panchayats of Ganjam District to Get National Awards

Gopalpur, (correspondent): Two Panchayats of Ganjam District are going to get National Awards. Chhatrapur and Polsara Block have brought this honor. In the Din Dayal Upadhyay Panchayat Satat Vikas Award Scheme, two Panchayats of Chhatrapur Block, Potlampur and Mandar Panchayats of Polsara Block have achieved success. Similarly, Ganjam District has won the honor of being the best District

Panchayat in the Nanaji Deshmukh Best Panchayat Satat Vikas Award. In this regard, Vijay Kumar Behera, Financial Advisor to the Union Ministry of Panchayati Raj, has written a letter to the state government and informed it.

Five Panchayats from the entire state will be awarded in this. Out of which, 2 are from Ganjam district. In the Din Dayal Upadhyaya Panchayat Satat Vikas Award Yojana, Potlampur of Chhatrapur

block has been declared as the healthiest panchayat in the country. For this, a survey was conducted on 9 parameters. Out of which, Potlampur has secured second place. Similarly, in the survey conducted on 53 parameters, Mandar Gram Panchayat of Polsara block has secured third place in the social justice and social security category. Similarly, Ganjam district will be awarded as the best district panchayat in the

Nanaji Deshmukh Best Panchayat Satat Vikas Award category. Ganjam Collector V. Kirtibhasan has congratulated the people of Ganjam, Sarpanch, Samiti members and District Council members/members of the two Gram Panchayats for this success. He expressed the hope that this award will motivate them more in their work in the coming days and will help them move forward.

Sonepur police seizes 1 crore worth of ganja: Two accused arrested

SUBARNAPUR (correspondent): Subarnapur district police have achieved another big success. Police have seized ganja worth about 1 crore 5 lakh rupees being smuggled from Boudh district to Bihar via Sonepur and Sambalpur and arrested two accused. The incident revealed that, On Monday, the police received information from a reliable source about a large quantity of ganja being smuggled in a 14-wheeler truck (JH 10BP-3454). Based on this information, the police team was waiting at Sonepur Budharaja Chhak near Mahanadi bridge. When the truck reached there, it was stopped and checked. During the search, 31 bags were found inside the truck, in which 1067 small packets of ganja were filled. Later, the



ganja was weighed. After weighing, 10 quintals of 50 kg ganja were found. The estimated value of which is Rs. 1 crore 5 lakh. Two people have been arrested in this incident. It has been revealed that Laxman Yadav (29) and Laxman Yadav (59) from Buxar district of Bihar state. Both of them have the same name. Subarnapur Supdt. Of Police Narayan Nayak was present at the scene

and supervised the investigation. A case has been registered at Sonepur police station under Case No. 111/2026 and the accused have been tried in court. The police are investigating where this ganja came from in Boudh district and who is the main mafia behind it. It is worth noting that the Sonepur-Sambalpur road has now become the main corridor for ganja trafficking.

Subarnapur DRCS suspended

SUBARNAPUR (correspondent): -- Subarnapur DRCS Sanjaya Kumar Tripathy suspended. There were allegations of recruitment in PACS Tarbha Block, Moradogochha. This was reported in various media outlets. There had been complaints about widespread corruption in PACS at various times. Today, the Cooperative Department has received information that Subarnapur DRCS Sanjaya Kumar Tripathy has been suspended.

Devotees lie in supplication at Bat Gosain shrine

Nimapada, (correspondent): At the shrine of Bat Gosain, devotees observing religious vows lay in supplication (guharia) to fulfill their wishes. The ancient Bat Gosain shrine is located near Kanpur village on the border of Bhogshalada and Chanjanga panchayats under Nimapada block. Every year, on the Chaturdashi tithi of the bright fortnight of the Chaitra month, devotees observing vows remain in a prostrated position until their wishes are fulfilled and they receive the sacred "Agnya Mala"



(garland of divine approval). Hence, the event is locally as the "Maipi Mela." Today, on Chaturdashi, after the Mangala Aarti of Bat Gosain was performed at around 3 AM during an auspicious time, 153 devotees observing

vows took a bath in the nearby pond, wore new clothes, and observed fasting while lying in supplication before the deity. At around 12 noon, after offering "Kotha Bhoga" (special food offering) to the deity, the sacred Agnya

Mala was distributed among the devotees. Holy water was then sprinkled on the women observing the vows, after which they broke their fast and consumed the deity's prasada. After offering bhoga to Bat Gosain, the women returned to their homes. Hundreds of women had undertaken these vows seeking fulfillment of wishes such as marriage of young girls, childbirth, recovery from serious illnesses of family members, securing good employment for their children, and attaining progeny.

Odisha Police Achieves Major Success in Combating Naxalism

Bhubaneswar, (correspondent): Odisha Police has played a pivotal role in the ongoing battle against Naxalism, effectively neutralizing the threat in the state well

ahead of the deadline set by the Central Government for March 31, 2026. In a series of coordinated efforts, the Odisha Police forces have neutralized 27 Naxalites, including 17

in the Gariaband region. Additionally, 78 Naxals have surrendered to Odisha Police, with 42 more laying down their arms across the border in Chhattisgarh.

District-level International Transgender Day 2026 celebrated in Subarnapur

SUBARNAPUR (correspondent): -- Today, International Transgender or Third Gender Day 2026 was celebrated by the District Social Security and Empowerment Department at the Collectorate Conference Hall in Subarnapur. The program, organized under the chairmanship of Subarnapur Collector Dr. Nruparaj Sahu, was attended by Additional District Magistrate (General) Anjalina Pradhan, District Social Security Officer Gobinda Ballabha Sarangi, Subarnapur Juvenile Justice Board Member, Mrs. Ranjita Sahu, Additional District Chief Medical Officer, District Labour Officer, District Tourism Officer, District Panchayat Officer, District Social Welfare Officer,



District Sports Officer, Deputy Collector and Assistant Collector. The Collector said in the program that we must accept third gender individuals. This will increase their self-esteem and they will get respect in the society. In this regard, a proposal was made to recommend addressing the third gender person with respectful words. In this program, Mrs. Ranjita Sahu, member of the District Juvenile Justice Board, informed all the present about the Third Gender

Person Protection Act 2019 in detail through training. Gender identification, gender change, life partner selection, prevention of prejudice and abuse along with bringing them into the mainstream of the society were discussed. Finally, Additional District Magistrate Mrs. Anjalina Pradhan gave the example of Aishwarya Rutuparna Pradhan and said that the third gender persons have established their respect in the society and have reached a high level.

Record Assistance to Construction Workers in Jajpur: 16.62 Crore Disbursed in FY 2025-26

JAJPUR (Correspondent): In a significant step towards the welfare of construction workers, Jajpur district has achieved a record disbursement of financial assistance during the financial year 2025-2026, surpassing all previous years. As part of the final phase of assistance distribution for the current financial year, funds were released on March 31, 2026, with the approval of District Collector Shri Ambar Kumar Kar. A total of ₹2,00,19,800 was directly transferred (DBT) to the bank accounts of 579 beneficiaries under various schemes of the Odisha Building and Other Construction Workers' Welfare Board. The assistance included ₹29,99,800 for



368 beneficiaries under educational support, ₹65,25,000 for 131 beneficiaries as marriage assistance, ₹1,30,000 for 13 women workers as maternity support, ₹1,02,00,000 for 34 beneficiaries under death assistance, and ₹1,65,000 for 33 beneficiaries towards funeral expenses. Additionally, under the Odisha Unorganised Workers'

Social Security Board, financial assistance of ₹20,00,000 was provided to the nominees of 10 deceased beneficiaries through direct bank transfer. District Labour Officer Shri Sudhir Kumar Sahu stated that this financial year recorded the highest-ever assistance provided for workers' welfare in Jajpur district. According to official data, the

Construction Workers' Welfare Board disbursed 5,29,51,400 to 1,247 beneficiaries in 2021-22, ₹4,62,76,000 to 2,189 beneficiaries in 2022-23, ₹14,83,35,200 to 3,075 beneficiaries in 2023-24, ₹15,71,10,000 to 3,847 beneficiaries in 2024-25, and a record ₹16,62,47,000 to 3,877 beneficiaries in 2025-26. Similarly, under the Unorganised

Workers' Social Security Board, the district also recorded its highest assistance, with ₹15,00,000 provided to 15 nominees in 2021-22, ₹30,00,000 to 30 in 2022-23, ₹45,00,000 to 45 in 2023-24, ₹84,00,000 to 57 in 2024-25, and ₹87,00,000 to 45 beneficiaries in 2025-26.

The District Labour Officer credited this achievement to the active support of Joint Labour Commissioner (Jajpur Range) Shri Shiva Shankar Mishra, Divisional Labour Commissioner Shri Satyanarayan Acharya, the dedicated efforts of Assistant Labour Officers, and the cooperation of board staff including Rashmita Biswal, Shashikant Pradhan, and Narayan Chandra Nanda.

Minor girl rape victims arrested

Gopalpur, (correspondent) Berhampur police arrested 2 victims and one juvenile for Minor girl rape case. Police arrested Arjuna Nayak (22), Aditya Nayak (19) and one 15 yr old boy of Dipa Sahi, Lanjipalli, Berhampur under Gosaninuagoan police station of Berhampur. On 30 March through confidential source, Gosaninuagoan Police learnt that, a girl aged

around 17 yrs was raped by some persons from Dipa sahi area. Immediately IIC Gosaninuagoan PS visited the spot and rescued the victim and started investigation. During investigation it was learnt that, the victim was aged 17 yrs. She was from Kadappa district of Andhra Pradesh. After her father died her mother married again. Her mother was not treating her well. Her

stepfather abused her sexually while sleeping. Hence she ran away from Kadappa by catching Prasanthi express train. She reached Berhampur railway station four days before the incident. She worked in a tea shop near Platform 4 and stayed with a couple who also worked in the shop. While working there she got friendship with 15 yr old boy from Dipa sahi of

Gosaninuagoan PS. On 29 March, the 15 yr old friend took the victim to his home where his mother was also there. They offered her food and she stayed there. After sometime, two of his friends - accused persons came there and convinced both to go with them. All of them went to a isolated spot and there after consuming some intoxicating substance, the two accused persons raped the

victim. Victim was produced with Child welfare Committee, her medical examination was done. Two accused persons are arrested and will be forwarded to the hon'ble court. The Juvenile (Child In Conflict with Law) will be forwarded to the Juvenile Justice Board. Action will be taken against the step father of the victim also. The case is being investigated by Dysp Smruti Prava Pradhan.

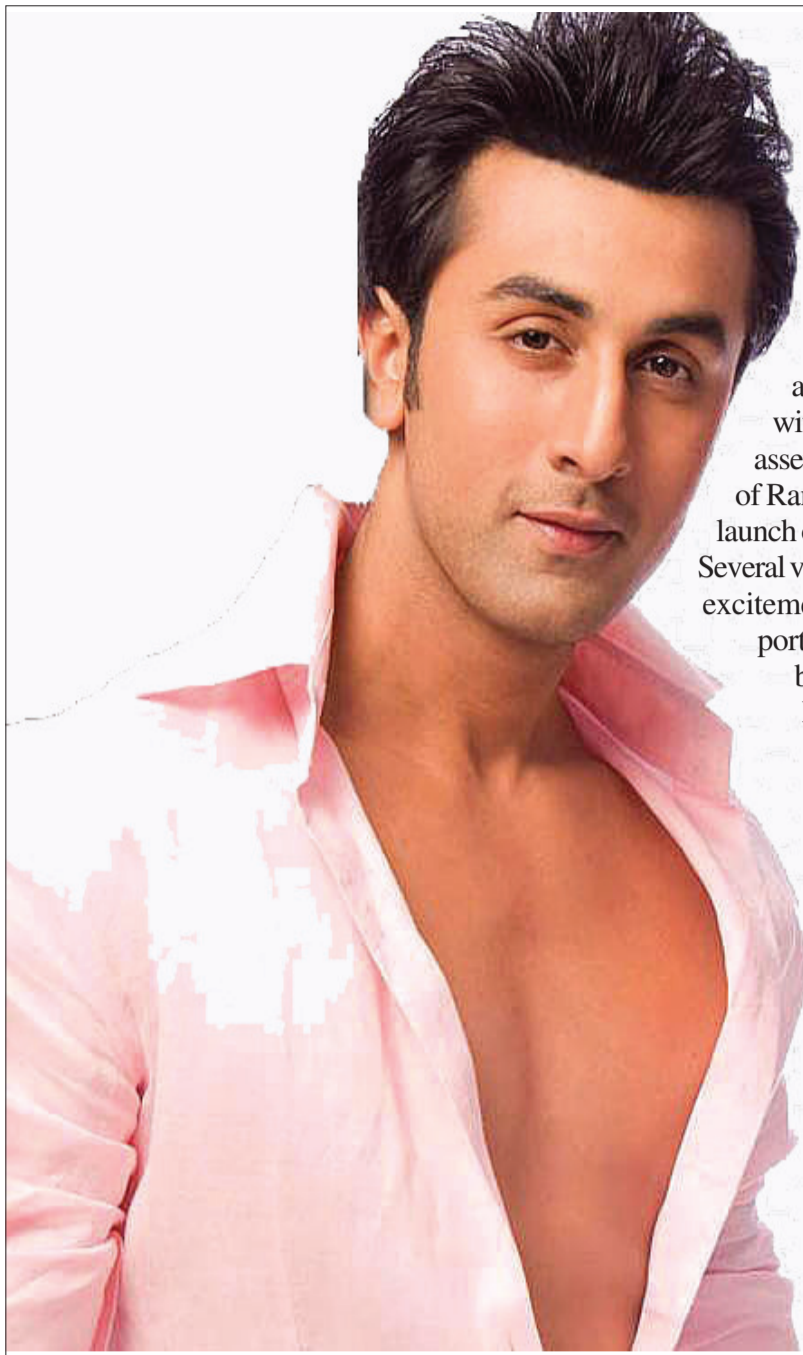
Dr. Laxmikant Nanda appointed as personal physician of His Excellency the President

Bhubaneswar: (Correspondent) :- Odisha's eminent homeopathic physician and former chairman of Dr. Abhihna Chandra Homeopathic Medical College Bhubaneswar and Professor Dr. Laxmikant Nanda has been appointed as the unpaid personal physician of President Draupadi Murmu. After getting this prestigious appointment, Dr. Laxmikant Nanda has been congratulated from various quarters. After the notification in this regard



was issued by the Ministry of AYUSH, Government of India, there was a wave of happiness in the whole of Odisha, especially in the medical community. Professor Nanda has made a special contribution in the field of homeopathic

treatment and research in the state and the country. Professor Laxmikant Nanda, the eldest son of the prominent poet and public leader Baikunthanath Nanda of Mudipur Panchayat in Jagatsinghpur district, has a lot of fame in the field of homeopathic treatment. Officials. It is pertinent to mention that Professor Nanda was working as the Head of Ayush Research and Development at Hit-tech Medical College and Hospital.



Ranbir Kapoor unveils first look as Lord Ram from 'Ramayana'

After impressing audiences with his power-packed performance in 'Animal', actor Ranbir Kapoor is all set for one of his most ambitious projects, 'Ramayana', directed by acclaimed filmmaker Nitesh Tiwari. On Monday, Ranbir, along with Nitesh Tiwari and producer Namit Malhotra, unveiled a crucial asset of the film at an event in Los Angeles, giving fans a first glimpse of Ranbir in the role of Lord Ram. In India, this asset is scheduled to launch on April 2, coinciding with Hanuman Jayanti. Several visuals from the US event have already surfaced online, generating excitement among fans. In one of the viral videos, Ranbir spoke about portraying Lord Ram, describing him as the "conscience keeper of billions of people". He said, "Lord Ram has been the conscience keeper of billions of people around the globe for centuries. He enlightens us about the triumph of human spirit. He stands for compassion, courage, righteousness and forgiveness, and is called Maryada Purushottam, which stands for an ideal man." Official pictures and videos from the team of 'Ramayana' are yet to be released. The film also stars Sai Pallavi as Sita, Yash as the formidable Ravana, Sunny Deol as Hanuman, and Ravi Dubey as Lakshman, making it one of the most anticipated films of 2026. Director Nitesh Tiwari earlier described the project as a cultural milestone, calling it "more than a film". He said, "This is more than a film. It is a vision meant to transcend borders while honouring the soul of our culture." Produced by Namit Malhotra's Prime Focus Studios in association with eight-time Oscar-winning DNEG and Yash's Monster Mind Creations, the two-part epic is set for a worldwide IMAX release, with Part 1 arriving during Diwali 2026 and Part 2 in Diwali 2027.

Huma Qureshi receives a shout out from American filmmaker Zack Snyder

Tuesday morning became extra special for actor Huma Qureshi as she woke up to a surprise shout-out from acclaimed global filmmaker Zack Snyder. In an Instagram post, Zack recalled working with Huma in 2021 Netflix zombie heist film 'Army of the Dead'. Calling Huma an "amazing" actor, Zack wrote, "@iamhumaq -- one of the most amazing actors I've had the pleasure of working with on Army of the Dead. Talent, presence, and pure brilliance on screen." Have a look at his post here.

In response, Huma dropped a comment filled with gratitude. "You the best.. boss man," she wrote. She also penned a thank you message for Zack on her Instagram story. "Such a sweet surprise getting this shout out from Zack Snyder. Miss you and my AOTD family (Red heart emoji)," Huma posted. With Dave Bautista leading the cast, the film follows a group of men and women who come together to stage a heist at a casino in Vegas. Ella Purnell, Omari Hardwick, Ana de la Reguera, Theo Rossi, Matthias Schweighofer, Nora Arnezeder, Hiroyuki Sanada, Tig Notaro, Raul Castillo, Samantha Win, Michael Cassidy, Richard Cetrone, and Garret Dillahunt, also featured in the film, which marked Huma's Hollywood debut. Meanwhile, currently, Huma is gearing up for the release of 'Toxic' with Yash. Written by Yash and Geetu Mohandas and directed by Geetu Mohandas, 'Toxic: A Fairytale for Grown-Ups' will also feature Tara Sutaria, Kiara Advani, and Nayanthara in key roles.



how carrying extra weight can raise women's risk of ovarian cancer; shares prevention tips

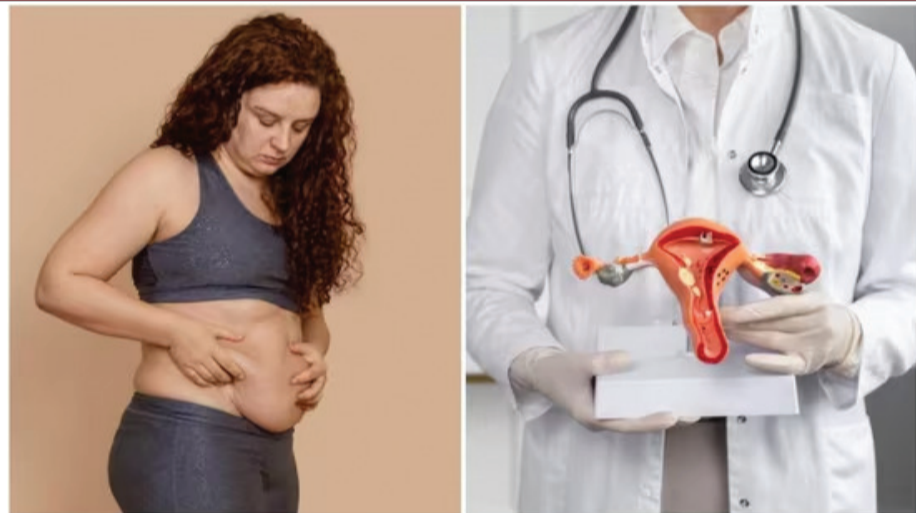
Obesity is often linked to a host of health issues, from heart disease to diabetes, but its connection to cancer, particularly ovarian cancer, remains a topic of growing concern. As the prevalence of obesity continues to rise globally, researchers and healthcare professionals are closely examining whether carrying excess weight could increase a woman's risk of developing ovarian cancer.

To shed light on this important issue, Dr. Ritu Dave, cancer physician at MIOC Cancer Care, Pune, shares with HT Lifestyle the latest findings, key risk factors, and practical steps women can take to stay proactive about their ovarian health.

How obesity increase the risk of ovarian cancer

"Excess body fat doesn't just add kilos, it changes how your body functions. Obesity can lead to hormonal imbalance, chronic inflammation and insulin resistance, all of which create an environment where cancer cells may thrive," says Dr. Ritu.

Medical evidence increasingly links obesity and metabolic abnormalities with a heightened risk of gynaecological cancers, including ovarian cancer. A recent Indian Council of Medical Research-led study, published in the Indian Journal of Medical Research on October 10, 2025, found that women with metabolic syndrome are nearly three times more likely to develop ovarian cancer compared with those



without the condition. Metabolic syndrome (MeS) comprises a cluster of conditions such as high blood pressure, high blood sugar, abnormal cholesterol levels and excess body fat, particularly around the waist, which together raise the risk of diabetes, heart disease and certain cancers. The study also highlights the strength of this association and underscores the importance of preventive measures.

Globally, systematic reviews and meta-analyses have explored the link between metabolic syndrome and gynaecological cancers. For example, a systematic review published in Endocrinology examined evidence on

metabolic syndrome and ovarian cancer risk, emphasising the biological plausibility of the connection even as individual study results vary.

"Fat tissue is not inert, it produces hormones and inflammatory signals that can fuel cancer development," Dr. Dave explains. "That's why weight management is not just about fitness but also about reducing long-term cancer risk."

How can women reduce their risk of ovarian cancer

Despite mounting evidence, awareness about ovarian cancer and its risk factors remains low in India. The ICMR study showed that only about 28 per cent of women were aware of ovarian



cancer and its risk factors, including obesity. This gap often leads to delayed diagnosis, with many cases detected at advanced stages when symptoms are vague, and screening tools are limited.

"Early detection is key, but women need to understand what puts them at risk in the first place," Dr. Dave says. "Obesity is a modifiable risk factor, addressing it early can change the trajectory of a woman's health."

The good news is that risk can be reduced. Early lifestyle interventions such as maintaining a healthy weight, regular exercise and balanced nutrition play a crucial preventive role. "Obesity doesn't have to be a life sentence," Dr. Dave notes. "Simple steps like daily physical activity, mindful eating and stress management can significantly lower a woman's risk of developing not only ovarian cancer but other serious diseases too."

In a fast-growing urban environment, prioritising weight management is increasingly about more than just appearance, it's about long-term health and cancer prevention.



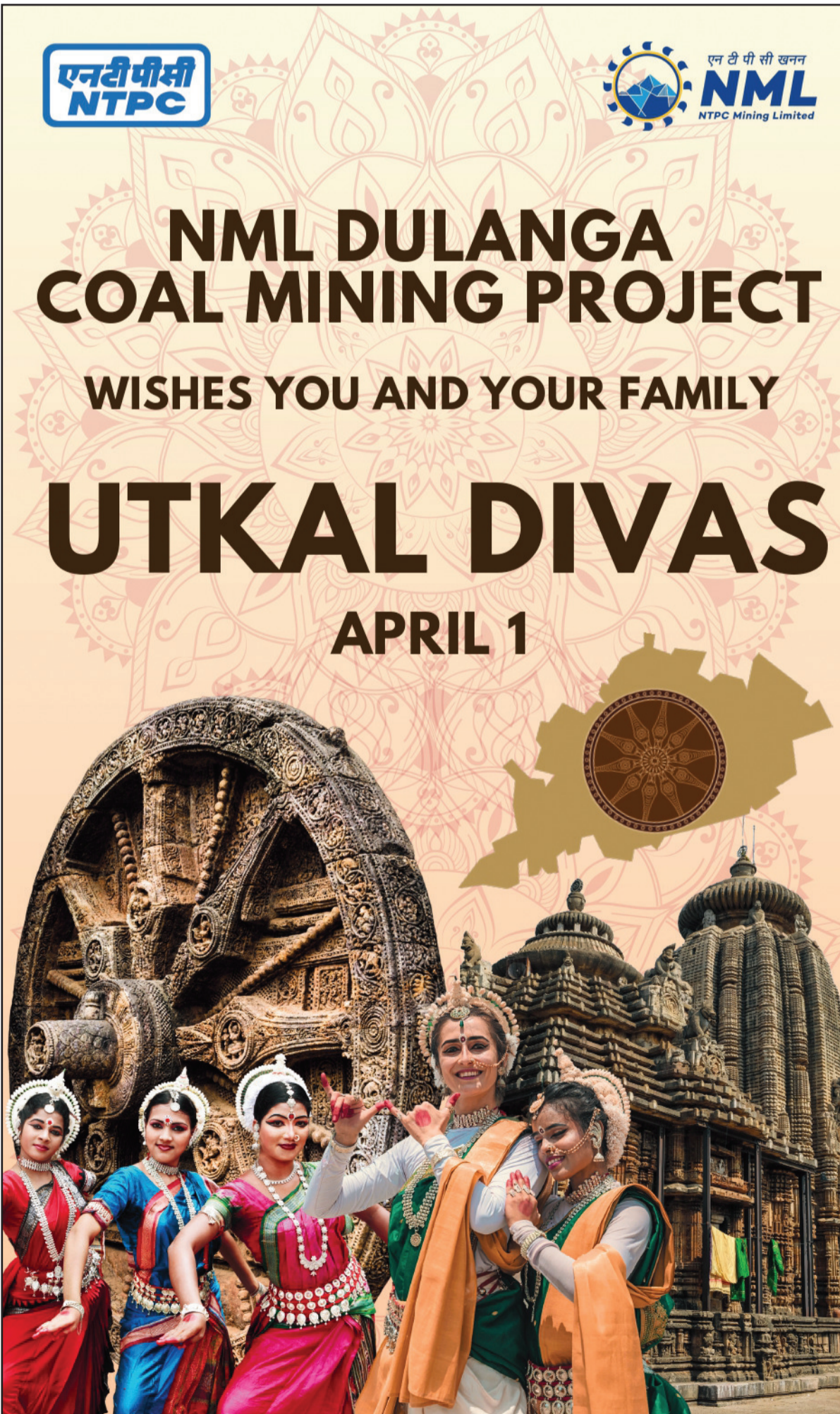



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ATHLETES FURTHER STRENGTHEN ODISHA'S CAMPAIGN; MEDAL TALLY RISES TO 36 AT 1ST KITG 2026

NEW DELHI: Continuing their remarkable performance at the 1st Khelo India Tribal Games 2026, KIIT & KISS athletes added further glory to Odisha's campaign with outstanding achievements in athletics. Basanti Majhi clinched a prestigious Gold medal, while Kabita Tadingi secured a Silver medal in the 100m hurdles, reinforcing the dominance of KIIT-KISS athletes on the national stage. Adding to the medal tally, the

KIIT & KISS contingent secured a Silver medal in the Women's 4x100m relay, with Jamuna Tudu, Rameswari Gond, and Basanti Majhi playing key roles in the podium finish, showcasing excellent teamwork and coordination. With these latest successes, Odisha has further strengthened its 2nd position in the overall medal standings, increasing its tally to 37 medals, comprising 13 Gold, 9 Silver, and 15 Bronze. KIIT & KISS athletes continue to be



central to this achievement, contributing an impressive 18 medals, including 7 Gold, 3 Silver, and 8 Bronze. The continued success across athletics events highlights the growing strength and

depth of Odisha's tribal athletes, complementing earlier achievements in swimming and weightlifting. Their performances reflect disciplined training, competitive exposure, and the strong support ecosystem fostered by KIIT & KISS. Prof. (Dr.) Achyuta Samanta, Founder of KIIT, KISS and KIMS, congratulated the athletes on their performances and reiterated his commitment to promoting sports as a means of empowerment and

social transformation. The athletes acknowledged Dr. Samanta's role in providing them with a robust institutional ecosystem, citing the world-class training environment, access to competitions, and continuous mentorship as key contributors to their success. With several events still to be contested, the Odisha contingent remains well-positioned to build on this momentum and further elevate its standing in the Games, driven by the sustained excellence of KIIT & KISS athletes.

Gukesh Withdraws From Grand Chess Tour's Full Program, To Play Two Rapid And Blitz Events In Europe

Mumbai: India's reigning World Champion Gukesh Dommaraju has withdrawn from the remaining events of the ongoing 2026 Grand Chess Tour but will participate in the Rapid & Blitz tournaments in Warsaw and Zagreb as a wildcard player. Gukesh has decided to withdraw from the event to recover from recent poor results. The Grand Chess Tour (GCT) on Tuesday announced an update to the 2026 full Tour lineup at Saint Louis in the USA. In a statement, Gukesh shared: "My performance in the last

few events has been quite disappointing, not just for me, but for all of you who support me. In order to find my best form, my team and I have decided that I should compete with slightly less intensity over the next few months. Consequently, we feel it is in my best interest to skip long events away from home to allow for more dedicated training time." With this in mind, I approached the Grand Chess Tour organisers and asked to play only two European Rapid & Blitz events. They were very supportive and understanding, and we agreed that I would participate in the Rapid &

Blitz tournaments in Warsaw and Zagreb this year. I'm very grateful for their support. Respectfully, I am not planning to play any other events during the Grand Chess Tour schedule and will certainly be back for the full Grand Chess Tour in the future," he said. Javokhir Sindarov of Uzbekistan will join the 2026 Grand Chess Tour as a full tour participant, replacing Gukesh in the lineup. The reigning FIDE World Cup champion has earned his place through outstanding recent performance at the highest level of international competition.

KITG 2026: How A Self-Taught Suraj Mashi Bagged Men's 5000m Silver With Borrowed Spikes

Jagdalpur: Suraj Mashi and his friends, who are training at the athletics track in Nashik, are busy doubling up as wide-eyed fan boys, watching their seniors do drills to improve their performance. The only difference is that they are busy taking mental notes that they can implement when they begin their training drills. Suraj is part of a group of tribal athletes who can't really afford to pay for a coach every month and have to rely on whatever help they can get to improve their performance, as running is the only skill that has brought them this far and can one day change their lives for the better. "The coaching fee is Rs 4000 per month. I can't afford it. I stay on rent in Nashik

to study and have to pay rent, which I earn from running in races in Maharashtra and Gujarat. So I train by myself and seek advice from seniors or Tribal department coaches when I get stuck," said Suraj, who bagged the silver medal in the men's 5000m race in the athletics competition in the Khelo India Tribal Games here on Sunday. Instead, Suraj pays Rs 300 a month to use the facility and trains with second-hand shoes and spikes. However, with his spikes quite worn out, he had to borrow a fellow runner's spikes to compete in the Khelo India Tribal Games here. Hailing from a small village in Mokhada Taluka of Palghar district, Suraj's

life has been a story of struggles and self-reliance. The first boy to be born on the back of four sisters to a daily wage labourer, Suraj, who belongs to the Warli tribe, has been on his own ever since he joined a state-government-run Ashram Shala to study. It was during a sports event in the school that he discovered running, and ever since, competing in races has been the stabilising force in his life, with many ups and downs. When Suraj was in the 10th standard, his mother suffered a fall in the house and injured her hip, and couldn't walk anymore. One of his elder sisters passed away last year, and three of his younger brothers look up to him for guidance and support.

Fakhar Zaman Handed A Two-Match Ban For Ball Tampering

Lahore: Fakhar Zaman has received a two-match suspension in the Pakistan Super League (PSL) after being found guilty of a Level 3 breach under Article 2.14 of the tournament's Code of Conduct for Players and Player Support Personnel. The Pakistan Cricket Board (PCB) confirmed the decision on Tuesday following the Lahore Qalandars vs Karachi Kings fixture held on Sunday, March 29, at Gaddafi Stadium in Lahore. Article 2.14 addresses violations involving the alteration of the ball's condition, specifically in contravention of clause 41.3 of the HBL PSL Playing Conditions. It states, "The following



actions shall, therefore, not be permitted (this list of actions is not exhaustive but included for illustrative purposes): (a) deliberately throwing the ball into the ground for the purpose of roughening it up; (b) applying any artificial substance to the ball; and applying any non-

artificial substance for any purpose other than to polish the ball; (c) lifting or otherwise interfering with any of the seams of the ball; and (d) scratching the surface of the ball with finger or thumb nails or any implement." A first-time Level 3 offence can result in a suspension

ranging from one to two matches. It also notes, "Any appeal under this Article must be lodged with the HBL PSL Technical Committee within 48 hours of receipt of the written decision of the Match Referee." The incident occurred in the closing stages of the match, when

on-field umpires penalised Lahore Qalandars by awarding five runs to the opposition. The ball was subsequently replaced before the final over of Karachi Kings' innings. The charge was brought forward by on-field umpires Shahid Saikat and Faisal Khan Aafreedi, along with TV umpire Asif Yaqoob and fourth umpire Tariq Rasheed. Fakhar denied wrongdoing and opted to challenge the allegation during a formal disciplinary hearing, as permitted under the Code of Conduct. Match referee Roshan Mahanama presided over the hearing, reviewing the evidence and allowing Fakhar to present his case before reaching a final decision.

IPL 2026: Plan Was To Control The Game In The Powerplay, Says Sooryavanshi

Guwahati: Teenage opener Vaibhav Sooryavanshi, who lit up the ACA Stadium with a blistering 52 off 17 balls in Rajasthan Royals securing an eight-wicket win over Chennai Super Kings, said the team's focus was on dominating the powerplay in a modest chase of 128 at the ACA Stadium. "I didn't really do anything outside - there was supposed to be a cake cutting, but I went to sleep early to avoid the cake-smearing (on how he celebrated his birthday last week). The plan today was simply to execute well in the powerplay - initially the wicket felt a bit sticky, but as the ball got older, it started coming onto the bat nicely. "I do think about defence, but today our plan was to control the game in the powerplay because in a small chase, that phase is crucial - if the bowling team does well there, the game can tilt their way, but our powerplay went



really well," he said at the conclusion of the game. His explosive knock, also the third fastest fifty in IPL history, ensured RR's chase of 128 was virtually sealed inside the first six overs. Yashasvi Jaiswal and skipper Riyan Parag later completed the formalities with 47 balls to spare and capped off a dominant performance that began with incisive spells from Jofra Archer, Nandre Burger and Ravindra

Jadeja to bowl out CSK for 127. Asked about guidance from coaches and fellow opener Yashasvi Jaiswal, Sooryavanshi said, "The coaches didn't specifically say that bowlers would attack me - everyone else was already saying that - but they just told me that they back me and that I should stick to my natural game and play according to the situation. "My opening partner (Jaiswal) keeps communicating

with me after every ball - he tells me when to take singles, keeps giving me the strike, and encourages me to keep playing my shots if the ball is coming nicely onto the bat (on partnership understanding)," he said. Player of the Match Nandre Burger, who picked 2-26, credited his side's strong start with the ball leading to their win. "Firstly, all glory to God - it feels great to contribute to a win for the team and get us

off to a good start. Watching the previous games with big scores, you naturally prepare for chasing something big, so winning the toss and getting the ball first was massive for us and helped us get off to a strong start. Asked about his plan to bowl in power-play, Burger said, "The plan is always to get every batter out - I can't really say I meant to bowl that exact delivery to Sanju Samson, it just happened, you can call it natural variation - but overall the idea was to bowl tight lines and make batters hit into the areas we wanted, so I'm glad it worked in my favour today. "The dressing room feels pretty similar to before - there are a few new faces and changes like the coach and captain, but the energy is good, everyone is smiling, and hopefully this is a positive start so we can keep that momentum going," he said.

Debutant Connolly's Unbeaten 72 Powers PBKS to Dramatic 3-Wicket Win Over GT



Newdelhi: In a nail-biting encounter at the Maharaja Yadavindra Singh International Cricket Stadium, debutant Australian all-rounder Cooper Connolly delivered a match-winning performance to guide Punjab Kings (PBKS) to a thrilling 3-wicket victory over Gujarat Titans (GT) in Match 4 of the Tata IPL 2026. Chasing a modest target of 163, PBKS found themselves in deep trouble at 118/6 after a middle-order collapse. Enter Connolly, batting at No. 3 as a specialist batter while recovering from a

back issue. The 22-year-old left-hander remained unbeaten on a blistering 72 off 44 balls, laced with 5 fours and 5 sixes, including a maiden IPL fifty. He sealed the win in style with a boundary off Washington Sundar in the 19.1 over, with 5 balls to spare. GT posted 162/6 after being asked to bat first by PBKS captain Shreyas Iyer. Shubman Gill and Jos Buttler provided stability, but tight bowling from Arshdeep Singh and others kept the total in check. PBKS's chase started promisingly with Prabhsimran Singh and

Connolly adding quick runs, but a sudden slump brought GT back into the game. Connolly's composure under pressure, combined with crucial contributions from Marco Jansen and Xavier Bartlett, steered PBKS home. The young Australian's aggressive strokeplay against spin maestro Rashid Khan and pace bowlers like Prasidh Krishna lit up the stadium, earning loud cheers and fireworks from the home crowd. This victory marks PBKS's first win of the season and continues the trend of home team dominance in the early IPL 2026 matches.

NML Dulanga Achieves 7 MMT Coal Production Target for Fourth Consecutive Year



Sundergarh: (Correspondent) :- NML Dulanga has achieved its peak rated capacity of 7 million tonnes (MMT) in coal production for the fourth consecutive year, underscoring its commitment to operational excellence and consistent performance. A flagging-off ceremony was held

today at the Rampur-1 Coal Face to mark the milestone. All Heads of Departments (HoDs) were present on the occasion, highlighting the collective effort behind the achievement. The programme began with a pooja, invoking blessings for continued safety, productivity, and success in operations.

This was followed by the green flag-off, signalling the continuation of sustained production activities. The achievement reflects NML Dulanga's continued focus on efficiency, safety, and excellence in coal mining operations, contributing to the nation's energy requirements.

Aditya Aluminium, Lapanga Launches Competitive Exam Coaching Centre at Rengali

Sambalpur (Correspondent): Aditya Aluminium, Lapanga, in collaboration with the Virat Group of Institute, Sambalpur, has launched another centre for competitive examination coaching at VSS ITI, Rengali. Earlier, the first centre under this initiative was started in January 2026 at Lapanga Higher Secondary School. The programme was attended by the Unit Head of Aditya Aluminium, Lapanga, Shri Jagannath Prasad Nayak, and Rahul Raj, representative of Virat Coaching. The event was graced by former MLA of Rengali, Duryodhan Gadatia, as



Guest of Honour. Other dignitaries present included Block Chairman Shri Satyanarayan Agrawal, Samiti Member of Renglo Panchayat Ashwini Patel, former Sarpanch of Jangla Panchayat Shri Murari Biswal,

senior citizen Shashibhushan Behera, President of Sambalpur District Senior Citizens Forum Antaryami Pani, President of Swadhin Ekata Sangathan Rajiv Lochan Mishra, CSR Cluster Head Shri Siba Mahapatra, CSR Department

representative Sukant Mahapatra, Chairman of VSS ITI Shri Kamal Lochan Bhoi, scientist Shri Ashish Mahana, and Ranjan Sahu from Art of Living. The initiative has been launched under the community development

programme "Gyanarjan Project." The project aims to support students from the surrounding areas in preparing for various competitive examinations, enabling them to secure government jobs and improve their families' economic conditions. Local residents, students, and parents also attended the programme. Through this initiative, students from all the panchayats of Rengali Block are expected to benefit. The dignitaries present on the occasion wished the students a bright future and encouraged them to become responsible and contributing citizens.

ART Centre inaugurated at Hi-tech Medical College

Bhubaneswar (Correspondent): ART Centre has been inaugurated at Hi-tech Medical College and Hospital premises. Hi-tech Group Founder Chairman Dr. Tirupati Panigrahi and Managing Trustee Suresh Panigrahi dedicated the ART Centre to the public. Odisha State AIDS Control Society Project Director Dr. Nilakantha Mishra spoke about the services and functionality of the ART Center. The



Antiretroviral Therapy (ART) Center functions as a comprehensive service center for people living with HIV. HIV patients and those living with them will be

provided with free antiretroviral drugs at the center and tests will be done to know the health status and viral load of the patient. At the ART Center, other

related diseases or infections that occur in the body due to the infection will be treated and the patient will be advised to take regular medicines and its side effects will be managed. All doctors, departmental officers and staff including Medical College Professor Dr. Debananda Mohapatra, Professor Rabindranath Behera, CO and Jyotimay Panda were present at the inauguration ceremony.

Kotak Mahindra Prime Limited appoints Suraj Rajappan as Managing Director & CEO

NEW DELHI: Kotak Mahindra Prime Limited (KMPL), a leading vehicle finance company and a subsidiary of Kotak Mahindra Bank Limited, has announced a leadership transition approved by its Board of Directors.

The Board has appointed Mr. Suraj Rajappan as Managing Director & Chief Executive Officer for a term of three years, effective June 1, 2026, subject to approval of members. Mr. Suraj Rajappan began his career with Kotak Mahindra Prime Limited and brings 24 years of cross functional experience across the entity. Mr. Shahrukh Todiwala,

presently Managing Director & CEO, will superannuate on May 31, 2026, after serving the Kotak Group for

over three decades. Ashok Vaswani, MD & CEO, Kotak Mahindra Bank said, "Shahrukh leaves

a strong legacy of prudent growth, risk discipline and customer centricity at Kotak Mahindra Prime.

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