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Review meeting on fuel supply situation: States advised to maintain strict vigilance against hoarding, diversion

New Delhi, Secretary (Petroleum) chaired a meeting with Additional Chief Secretaries and Principal Secretaries (Food & Civil Supplies) of all States and Union Territories to review the fuel supply situation across the country, the government said in a release. He briefed the states/UTs on steps taken by the Government to ease the supply of essential petroleum fuels and also appreciated respective states/UTs to work alongside the central Government to deal with the evolving situation. Secretary (Petroleum) stressed that States/UTs must actively manage and prioritise LPG distribution to ensure uninterrupted supply for domestic consumers and essential sectors. "States were also advised to maintain strict vigilance against hoarding, diversion, and the spread of misinformation that could trigger unnecessary panic." States such as Uttar Pradesh, Gujarat, Haryana, Delhi, Maharashtra and Andhra Pradesh were commended for proactive enforcement actions, including raids to curb irregularities. Other States were urged to further "strengthen monitoring and enforcement and take exemplary action on offenders. States were also requested to actively thwart attempts to mislead and spread false rumours with regard to supplies." On reports concerning FTL LPG supplies to migrant workers, States clarified that "there is no disruption in LPG supply affecting migrants and that supplies remain stable. Secretary informed that states may consider managing targeted distribution of 5 kg FTL LPG cylinders, based on local requirements along with OMCs. On LPG for autos, it was clarified that "efforts are ongoing to meet this demand, and autos that can run both on LPG and petrol should be encouraged to use the later". Secretary (Petroleum) appreciated the cooperation of all States and UTs and called for continued close monitoring to ensure supply stability and maintain public confidence.

Utkal Divas Evolves into Grand Festival of Odia Asmita with Top Leaders' Wishes

BHUBANESWAR, (Correspondent) The Chief Minister's Office, Odisha, today highlighted the flood of best wishes received from the President, Vice President, Prime Minister, Union Ministers, and Chief Ministers of several states on the occasion of Utkal Divas. For the past two years, Utkal Divas has been celebrated with tremendous enthusiasm. The state government organises two major state-level mega festivals — one at the birthplace of a great son of the soil and the other in the capital city of Bhubaneswar. A grand celebration is also held in the national capital, New Delhi. Utkal Divas has now become a vibrant festival of Odia identity and pride (Odia Asmita). Greetings from eminent personalities have infused the event with even greater energy. This year, messages from the President, Vice President, Prime Minister, and the Lok Sabha Speaker have particularly delighted the people of Odisha. In a special, nearly 1,000-word letter to the Chief Minister, Prime Minister Narendra Modi showered high praise on Odisha's language, literature, culture, the contributions of its illustrious sons, and the state's development initiatives. He also lauded the



Jagat Prakash Nadda, Agriculture Minister Shivraj Singh Chouhan, Commerce Minister Piyush Goyal, Parliamentary Affairs Minister Kiren Rijju, Ports, Shipping and Waterways Minister Sarbananda Sonowal, and Women & Child Development Minister Annapurna Devi, extended greetings via social media. Chief Ministers of states such as Uttar Pradesh, Delhi, Assam, Chhattisgarh, Haryana, Madhya Pradesh, Tripura, and Meghalaya also conveyed their best wishes on the social media platform X, wishing continued progress and prosperity for the people of Odisha.

Trump To Address Nation On Iran Conflict

Washington: US President Donald Trump will address the nation on Wednesday night (Thursday morning, India time) with an update on the ongoing conflict with Iran, the White House said, as fighting involving the US and Israel enters its second month. White House Press Secretary Karoline Leavitt announced the address, saying: "Tune In: Tomorrow night at 9 PM ET, President Trump will give an Address to the Nation to provide an important update on Iran." This would be his first address to the nation from the Oval Office of the White House after the Iran war started on February 28. The address to the nation comes amid intensifying military activity and mounting questions over Washington's next steps. The Trump Administration is signalling two fold approach which encompasses both military resolve and a potential diplomatic opening. The US-Israeli campaign against Iran has stretched into its second month, with recent polling showing growing public unease over the trajectory of the conflict and the risk of deeper American involvement. Trump has repeatedly framed the US position as one aimed at neutralising Iran's nuclear capabilities while avoiding a prolonged ground war. He has emphasised that the objective is to "end the threat" posed by Iran's enriched uranium programme, according to officials familiar with internal discussions. Defence Secretary Pete Hegseth, told reporters a day earlier that the Pentagon is prepared for "decisive options" while maintaining that force posture adjustments are intended to deter escalation rather than

expand the conflict footprint. According to reports, Trump has been considering deploying American troops inside Iran to secure the country's highly enriched uranium. The operation could last several days and would likely involve elite special operations forces tasked with extracting radioactive material. Such a mission would place US personnel deep inside Iranian territory, exposing them to threats from Iranian short-range missiles and drones, officials and analysts say. Military action has already escalated in recent days.

NASA Launches Historic Artemis II Crewed Moon Mission

Florida: NASA's Artemis II Moon mission lifted off from the US state of Florida, carrying four astronauts on the first crewed flight around the Moon in more than 50 years. The Space Launch System rocket, with the Orion spacecraft on top, launched from NASA's Kennedy Space Center at 6:35 p.m. (Eastern Time) on Wednesday. It is NASA's first crewed mission under the Artemis program. The four-member crew consists of NASA astronauts Reid Wiseman, Victor Glover and Christina Koch, along with Canadian Space Agency astronaut Jeremy Hansen, reports Xinhua news agency. The launch countdown was briefly paused at the T-10 minute mark before resuming several minutes later. The Artemis II mission will demonstrate a broad range of capabilities needed on deep space missions. It aims to validate Orion's life-support systems and allow astronauts to practice operations critical to the success of Artemis III and subsequent lunar missions, according to NASA. The crew will travel about 7,400 kilometres beyond the far side of the Moon before returning home. The mission will carry astronauts farther from Earth and nearer to the Moon than any human has been in over half a century. Re-entry will be one of the most challenging phases. Orion is expected to hit Earth's atmosphere at speeds of about 25,000 miles per hour, facing temperatures of around 5,000 degrees before splashing down in the Pacific Ocean.





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

Good Friday is a solemn holy day commemorating the crucifixion of Lord Jesus Christ who gave the mankind the message of love, sacrifice, brotherhood and forgiveness. His life was dedicated to freeing humanity from miseries.

I along with Christian sisters and brothers of the State participate in the observance of Good Friday with a resolve to move forward on the path of love, compassion and sacrifice shown by Lord Jesus.

(Signature)
(Hari Babu Kambhampati)

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ଗୁଡ଼ ଫ୍ରାଇଡେ ଉପଲକ୍ଷେ ମୁଖ୍ୟମନ୍ତ୍ରୀଙ୍କ ଶୁଭେଚ୍ଛା

ଗୁଡ଼ ଫ୍ରାଇଡେ ଆମ ଖ୍ରୀଷ୍ଟିଆନ ଭାଇଭଉଣୀମାନଙ୍କ ପାଇଁ ଏକ ପବିତ୍ର ଦିବସ । ଏହି ଦିବସ ଆମକୁ ତ୍ୟାଗ ଓ ବଳିଦାନର ମୂଲ୍ୟ ସମ୍ପର୍କରେ ସଚେତନ କରିଥାଏ । ମାନବ ସମାଜର କଲ୍ୟାଣ ପାଇଁ ଯାଶ୍ରୁଷ୍ଟିକ ସର୍ବୋଚ୍ଚ ତ୍ୟାଗକୁ ଆଧାର କରି ଆସୁଛି, ଏକ ଆଦର୍ଶ ସମାଜ ଗଠନ ଦିଗରେ ସମସ୍ତେ ସଂକଳ୍ପବଦ୍ଧ ହୋଇ କାମ କରିବା ।

(Signature)
(ମୋହନ ଚରଣ ମାଝୀ)
ମୁଖ୍ୟମନ୍ତ୍ରୀ, ଓଡ଼ିଶା

LNJ Bhilwara Group Announces 13th Edition of 'Bhilwara Sur Sangam': A Grand Confluence of Classical Maestros in New Delhi

N E W DELHI: (Correspondent) :- The LNJ Bhilwara Group is proud to announce the return of its premier Indian classical music festival, Bhilwara Sur Sangam, for its 13th edition. The two-day cultural landmark will be held at the Kamani Auditorium, Copernicus Marg, on April 4 and 5, 2026. Established as a cornerstone of the capital's cultural calendar, the festival continues its mission of celebrating India's profound musical heritage by providing a prestigious platform for both Hindustani and Carnatic traditions. This year's curation promises an immersive experience of raga-



performances, further solidifying the event's reputation for bringing together the country's most distinguished vocalists and instrumentalists. The festival's opening evening on April 4, starting at 6:00 PM, will feature a diverse lineup beginning with the evocative vocals of Shri Bhagyesh Marathe. The program will then move into a brilliant instrumental showcase featuring the celebrated

Saraswathi Veena exponent Dr. Jayanthi Kumaresh. On the second day, April 5, beginning at 5:30 PM, the evening will open with a sitar recital by Shri Samanway Sarkar, followed by a much-anticipated vocal performance by the legendary Pt. Mukul Shivputra. Known for his profound mastery of the khayal tradition, Pt. Shivputra's presentation is expected to be a highlight for connoisseurs seeking depth and spiritual resonance in classical music. Organized annually by the LNJ Bhilwara Group, Bhilwara Sur Sangam reflects the conglomerate's long-standing commitment to nurturing the arts and supporting cultural sustainability across generations. By bridging the gap between established maestros and discerning audiences, the Group seeks to preserve the sanctity of classical traditions in a modern landscape. The 2026 edition is expected to draw a significant gathering of music enthusiasts, cultural patrons, and critics from across the region. Entry to the performances remains open to invitees and registered attendees, continuing the festival's legacy as an essential and accessible gathering for the classical music community.

NTPC Talcher Kaniha Celebrates Utkal Diwas



Kaniha, Correspondent: NTPC Talcher Kaniha celebrated Utkal Diwas on 1 April 2026 to commemorate the foundation day of Odisha. The event was graced by Shri K. N. Reddy, Executive Director (Talcher Kaniha). The program commenced with the ceremonial lighting of the lamp, followed by a live performance of the state anthem, "Bandhe Utkal Janani." During the event, the Chief Speaker highlighted

the significance of Odisha Diwas and its historical importance. The celebration also featured a vibrant cultural program showcasing Odisha's rich heritage through various dance forms such as Odissi, Sambalpuri, and contemporary performances. The event was attended by senior executives of NTPC Talcher Kaniha, the Chief Speaker, DC (CISF), members of Tanvi Sangam, union and association representatives, and residents of the Kaniha township. Utkal Diwas was a week-long event wherein NTPC Talcher Kaniha organized a series of competitions to promote local culture. These included traditional art forms like Jhota Chitha, a Pitha (traditional delicacy) competition, as well as unique cultural expressions such as Shankha blowing and Hulahuli, aimed at creating awareness and celebrating Odisha's rich cultural heritage.

Manipur CM Orders Crackdown On Disruptive Elements, Reviews Security, Durand Cup Preparations

Imphal: Manipur Chief Minister Yumnam Khemchand Singh, on Thursday, chaired a high-level meeting with senior officials, directing them to take firm action to contain disruptive and unruly elements while ensuring secure corridors and smooth transit across the state, officials said. According to an official from the Chief Minister's Office (CMO), the meeting was held at the Civil Secretariat, where the prevailing law and order situation was assessed and strategies were discussed to strengthen safety and security measures along the National Highways. "The

protection of life and the facilitation of safe, uninterrupted movement of people and goods remain our highest priority," the Chief Minister said in a post on his official X account. Chief Minister Khemchand Singh added: "Clear directives have been issued to firmly address and contain all disruptive and recalcitrant elements, ensuring secure corridors and smooth transit across the state. We remain resolute in our commitment to uphold peace, stability, and public confidence through decisive and coordinated action." Manipur relies

heavily on two key National Highways — Imphal-Jiribam National Highway (NH-37) and Imphal-Dimapur National Highway (NH-2) — for the transportation of essential commodities, including foodgrains, medicines, construction materials, and other goods from different parts of the country. Earlier on Thursday, the Chief Minister also met Governor Ajay Kumar Bhalla at the Lok Bhavan in Imphal, soon after returning from New Delhi, where he had held discussions with the Union Home Minister Amit Shah on a range of issues concerning the state.

ECI Asks NIA To Probe Attack On Judicial Officers In Bengal

New Delhi: Acting on the directions of the Supreme Court, the Election Commission of India (ECI) has written to the National Investigation Agency (NIA) requesting it to conduct an inquiry into the recent incident in West Bengal's Malda district where judicial officers deputed for electoral roll revision work were allegedly gheraoed and attacked. In a communication addressed to the Director General of the NIA, the poll panel referred to the apex court's order passed in a suo motu writ petition concerning the safety and security of judicial officers engaged in the Special Intensive Revision (SIR) of electoral rolls in the state. "I am directed to refer to the

order dated 02.04.2026 of the Hon'ble Supreme Court... in respect of gherao of seven judicial officers involved in the Special Intensive Revision (SIR) of electoral rolls by anti-social elements at the BDO office in the Kaliachowk area of Malda district," the Secretary to the ECI stated in the letter. "In this regard, I am directed to request that the necessary inquiry/investigation into the matter be conducted, and a preliminary inquiry report be submitted directly to the Hon'ble Court," the letter added. The development comes after the Supreme Court on Thursday took serious exception to the incident, terming it a "brazen attempt" to browbeat the judiciary and a direct challenge

to its authority. A Bench led by Chief Justice of India (CJI) Surya Kant had directed the ECI to entrust the probe to an independent agency and sought a preliminary report, while also issuing a series of directions to ensure the safety of judicial officers and the smooth conduct of the SIR process. The apex court took suo motu cognisance of the incident after receiving a report from the Calcutta High Court and flagged the "conspicuous inertia" of the local administration and police in responding to the situation. The matter is scheduled to be taken up again on April 6, when compliance reports are to be submitted before the Supreme Court. Earlier, information from the office of the Chief Electoral Officer (CEO), West Bengal,

had indicated that the CBI would probe the matter. It is learnt that the NIA team is likely to reach West Bengal on Friday and begin the investigation immediately. On Wednesday, seven judicial officers, including three women, were held hostage inside a block office at Kaliachak in Malda district by a group of voters whose names had been deleted during the process of judicial adjudication under the "logical discrepancy" category. At around 1 a.m. on Thursday, a large police contingent led by senior district officials reached the spot, dispersed the protesters, rescued the judicial officers, and escorted them to a safe location. They had been gheraoed for around nine hours.

Manipur: CM Singh Meets Guv After Delhi Talks With HM Amit Shah, Reviews Security

Imphal: Manipur Chief Minister Yumnam Khemchand Singh on Thursday met Governor Ajay Kumar Bhalla soon after returning from New Delhi, where he had held discussions with Union Home Minister Amit Shah on a range of issues concerning the state. An official from the Chief Minister's Office (CMO) said that Singh also conducted separate meetings with senior civil and Army officials, during which multiple matters were deliberated, including key security concerns. Sources indicated that the meeting between the Governor and the Chief Minister largely focused on the prevailing law and order situation in Manipur. According to local media reports, the meeting may also be linked to a possible expansion of the state cabinet,



with seven ministerial positions currently lying vacant. Sources further revealed that the Chief Minister briefed the Governor on recent security developments, including the proposal to raise an additional battalion of Manipur Rifles (an India Reserve Battalion Mahila unit) aimed at strengthening the state's policing capacity. This move follows an assurance

from the Union Home Minister. The Chief Minister had earlier rushed to the national capital on Tuesday (March 31) after being summoned by the Union Home Minister. The CMO official stated that during the meeting held at the Parliament House complex on Wednesday, the Union Home Minister directed the Manipur Chief Minister to accelerate the

ongoing peace process and further strengthen the improving relations among various communities in the state. The official added that a detailed review of the law and order situation in Manipur was conducted during the meeting. "The Union Home Minister reviewed the current security scenario in Manipur with the Chief Minister. He

Back BJP To 'Save Assam', Ensure Development: Nitin Gadkari

Guwahati: Union Minister Nitin Gadkari on Thursday appealed to voters in Assam to support the Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) in the upcoming Assembly elections, asserting that the state's future and development hinge on a decisive mandate in favour of the party. Addressing a public rally in the Palasbari assembly constituency, Gadkari said that both Assam's progress and the country's overall growth require political stability under the BJP leadership. He urged people to ensure that the party returns to power with a clear and absolute majority. "Assam and the nation can move forward only with a strong and stable government. I urge the people to vote for the Bharatiya Janata Party and give it a full majority in this election," the Union Minister said. Highlighting development as a key



plank, Gadkari said continued support for the BJP would help accelerate infrastructure development, economic expansion, and employment opportunities in the state. He stressed that the party remains committed to transforming Assam through sustained policy initiatives and investment. The senior BJP leader also flagged the issue of illegal immigration, raising concerns over its implications for the state. He questioned the idea of granting voting rights to individuals entering the country without legal authorisation, stating

that such practices could undermine national integrity and security. "No country in the world permits illegal entry, nor does it allow such individuals to influence its democratic process. It is important to protect Assam and the nation while ensuring steady development," he said. Gadkari's remarks come at a time when political campaigning in Assam has intensified ahead of the Assembly polls scheduled for April 9. Leaders across parties are making their final push to woo voters, with issues such as development, identity, and security dominating the electoral discourse.

Hardcore criminal Raja Sahani, who absconded from Choudwar jail, arrested from Rishikesh

Cuttack (Correspondent): Raja Sahani, a hardcore criminal who escaped from Choudwar jail in Odisha's Cuttack district on October 2, 2025, has been arrested from Rishikesh. Sahani, a native of Bihar, was involved in a sensational robbery and murder case in Jajpur's Panikoili area, where two people were killed. He escaped the high-



security jail along with another inmate, Madhukanta Kumar, by cutting the grill of their cell. Kumar was previously arrested from Vrindavan in Uttar

Pradesh in February 2026. The police have intensified their search for Sahani, announcing a reward of Rs 50,000 for information leading to his capture. The jailbreak has raised concerns about security lapses, with two warders suspended and the jailor transferred. An investigation is underway to determine how the prisoners escaped.

NTPC Kaniha Alerts Public to Fraudulent Recruitment Scam

Talcher Kaniha, (Correspondent): It has come to notice of NTPC Kaniha management that a forged appointment letter is being issued to people by some unscrupulous elements by forging the signature of senior officials of NTPC. The company clarifies that no such vacancy has been announced, and the said circular is completely fake, invalid, and without any legal basis. NTPC emphasize that its recruitment process is centralized, transparent, and conducted only through official notifications published on its website and in reputed media. Members of the public are advised not to rely on such fraudulent communications and to exercise caution. The matter is being taken seriously, and appropriate legal action will be initiated against those involved. NTPC kaniha shall not be held responsible for any loss or damage incurred as a result of dealing with unauthorized persons or fraudulent recruitment activities.

GAJAPATI POLICE UNEARTH RS2-CR NARCOTIC CACHE IN DARING FOREST RAID

Paralakhemundi, (Correspondent): In a striking display of Gajapati Police scripted a significant triumph against the shadowy corridors of narcotics trafficking. Acting with precision and purpose, the R. Udayagiri police unearthed a massive cache of cannabis valued at over Rs2 crore, believed to have been clandestinely stored for inter-state smuggling. The operation unfolded in the

quiet confines of Buripadar village under Kirama Gram Panchayat, where a meticulously coordinated raid pierced through both homesteads and adjoining forest stretches. In this sweeping crackdown, authorities seized an astonishing 18 quintals and 30 kilograms of contraband, exposing the hidden underbelly of illicit trade thriving beneath the green canopy. Spearheaded by

IPS officer Rakesh Kumar Sahu, SDPO of R. Udayagiri, the raid was conducted in the presence of an Executive Magistrate and independent witnesses, lending both transparency and gravity to the proceedings. While the law has tightened its grip with cases registered against three accused individuals, the suspects have slipped into the shadows, currently evading arrest.

TPNODL prioritizes public safety

Baleswar, (Correspondent): TP Northern Odisha Distribution Limited (TPNODL), a joint venture between Tata Power and the Government of Odisha, continues to reinforce its commitment to operational safety and community well-being. In a major safety drive, the company has successfully relocated electrical transformers from over 1,700 schools and Anganwadi center premises across its operation area. Recognizing that children's safety is a paramount concern, TPNODL has proactively shifted these assets to external locations and constructed robust fencing to eliminate potential hazards within educational environments. This



initiative ensures that high-voltage equipment is situated away from student activity areas, significantly reducing electrical accident risk in learning environments. The project has seen extensive implementation across five districts to ensure comprehensive coverage. In Balasore alone, TPNODL has shifted transformers from 567 educational sites, while 356 institutions in Jajpur have been cleared

of similar hazards. The safety drive has also successfully addressed approximately 350 institutions in Keonjhar, 217 in Bhadrak, and more than 250 in Mayurbhanj. Beyond mere relocation, the company has reinforced these new installations with the construction of dedicated fencing and protective barriers to provide an additional layer of safety for the surrounding community.

Dhamra Port Crosses 48.80 MMT Cargo Milestone, Reinforcing Its Role in India's Growth Story

Dhamra, (Correspondent): The Dhamra Port Company Limited (DPCL) has achieved a major milestone by handling a total cargo volume of 48.80 million metric tons (MMT) in the current financial year, surpassing last year's figure of 46.08 MMT. The achievement reflects strong operational performance across key segments, including railway operations, dry cargo handling, ship-to-ship (STS) operations, and overall throughput. According to the latest consolidated figures, DPCL has set multiple operational records, highlighting its growing



contribution to India's maritime and logistics sector. Highest-Ever Railway Handling: In a significant boost to rail evacuation and reception efficiency, DPCL recorded its highest-ever railway movement in a month with 912 rakes (with loading of 320 rakes and unloading of 592 rakes). The previous benchmark stood at 880 rakes, marking a notable improvement in rail logistics capacity.

DPCL recorded its highest-ever railway movement in this year with 9604 rakes (with loading of 2869 rakes and unloading of 6735 rakes). The previous benchmark stood at 9139 rakes, marking a notable improvement in rail logistics capacity. Strong Dry Cargo Performance (Monthly): The port reported a monthly ever highest dry cargo handling volume of 4.37 MMT surpassing

previous record of 4.11 MMT, underlining its strengthened capability in bulk cargo operations and efficient cargo management systems. Ship-to-Ship Operations Gain Momentum: DPCL's ship-to-ship (STS) operations ever highest handled 0.61 MMT during March 26, contributing to an annual STS volume of 4.38 MMT, which surpass the previous record of 3.77 MMT, indicating consistent growth in offshore cargo transfer activities. This annual record is historic high in STS operation. Record Total Cargo Throughput: The total cargo handled by DPCL reached 48.80 MMT during the

financial year, surpassing the previous record of 46.08 MMT. This achievement reflects the port's enhanced operational efficiency and infrastructure capacity. Monthly Total Cargo Performance Peaks: DPCL achieved all time high monthly cargo handling of 5 MMT milestone in Mar. 26 surpasses previous best of 4.64 MMT. Annual Dry Cargo Performance Peaks: Annual dry cargo handling also reached a new high of 42.80 MMT, exceeding the previous record of 42.06 MMT. This growth reinforces DPCL's position as a key player in bulk cargo handling.

Crackdown by Supply Department in Rayagada; Strict Action Against Illegal Use of Domestic LPG — 6 Cylinders Seized

Rayagada, (Correspondent): Under the direction of Rayagada District Collector Ashutosh Kulkarni, a special enforcement squad of the District Supply Department conducted a large-scale raid on Tuesday across various hotels, restaurants, and gas distribution agencies in Rayagada town. The drive was carried out on 31.03.2025, during which a total of 06 domestic LPG cylinders being used illegally were seized. The inspection was conducted across different hotels and restaurants under Rayagada Block and Municipality areas. The raid was carried out under the leadership of



Additional Tehsildar Debashish Biswas, along with Sadar Assistant Supply Officer Ramchandra Khilo, Block and Municipal Supply Inspector Manaranjan Suna, and District Supply Inspector Mahendra Ray. The team conducted inspections at 16 different locations across the town. During

the raid, two domestic cylinders were seized from Hotel Abhiruchi, three from Hotel Grand Delight, and one from Hotel Jagannath. Additionally, Sai Kiran HP Gas Agency was also inspected, and necessary documents were verified. Assistant Supply Officer Mr. Khilo informed that such enforcement drives will

continue in the coming days. According to local residents, many fast food stalls, tiffin centers, and small roadside hotels operating in lanes and by-lanes are secretly using domestic LPG cylinders for commercial purposes. This practice is reportedly causing a shortage of domestic gas for common households. Despite the price of domestic LPG cylinders exceeding ₹1,000, many hotel owners are allegedly using them by citing a shortage of commercial LPG. There are also complaints that some business owners are increasing food prices and overcharging customers under this pretext.

Biswajit Raj becomes the president of the Nilanchal milit monch

Jajpur (Correspondent) which is raising voice for the rights of the workers in the Nilanchal ispat nigom limited in Kaliingnagar industrial area of Jajpur district. And Biswsjit (babuni) Raj has been elected as the president. After the proposal of Bijay Kumar Maharana came from the organization, hundreds above of workers supported and elected Biswajit Raj as the president. Before Biswajit Raj, He was the District Youth Morcha President of the BJP for a long time. And the past assembly. He played a major role in Lok Sabha elections and was in the limelight. Biswsjit Raj played a major role in changing the



35-year rule. And Sukindar MLA and former minister Priti Ranjan Ghadai played a major role in making Prafulla Ghadai taste defeat. While Biswajit Raj has a special identity in the entire Sukinda constituency, it is expected that he will fight for the rights of workers and employees when he becomes the president of

the Nilanchol Milit monch. While being a staunch supporter of the ruling BJP, even after being ousted from the post of Yuva Morcha president on the basis of a conspiracy, he continues to fight for Entire Sukinda with the workers. And has earned the glory of becoming the president of the Nilanchal milit monch League.

Odisha Diwas and Zilla Mohatsava Kallola 2026 were inaugurated

JAGAT Singhpur (Correspondent). The Odisha Diwas and Zilla Mohatsava Kallola 2026 was inaugurated at Naba Krushna Choudhury stadium here on Wednesday. State minister of fisheries and animal husbandry Gokulananda Mallick inaugurated the event accompanying minister Sampad Chandra Swain, MLAs Amarendra Das and Sarada Prasanna Jena, Zilla Parishad president, SP Jagatsinghpur, ADMs from Paradeep and Jagatsinghpur, MP Bibhu Prasad Tarai as chief speaker, and Collector cum chairman Zilla Sanskruti Parishad J Sonal, who chaired the meeting. Addressing the gathering, Minister Mallick said the Jagatsinghpur district has carved out a special identity as a prosperous district across the state earlier, and it requires further assistance and care. Our state government pledges to provide support in the coming five years, he maintained. Meanwhile chief minister has announced starting an engineering college at Paradeep and a university in Jagatsinghpur, and necessary budgetary arrangements have been made in the current fiscal.

Dist Administration MKG organizes Poshan-15 awareness program

Malkangiri, (Correspondent): The state government is celebrating Odia Day from April 1 to 14 to promote Odia language, literature and culture. On this occasion, Malkangiri District Administration has successfully organized Poshan-15 and Health Awareness Program at MV-7 Jagannathpalli High School Mantaka. The program was attended by District Chief Medical

Officer Dr. Dolamani Pradhan as the chief guest. Additional District Chief Medical Officer Dr. M.M. Abid Hussain, District Education Officer Chittaranjan Panigrahi, District Program Manager Mousumi Mishra, Food Security Officer Prabhas Kumar Sethi, Dr. D.P. Raj, Community Development Officer Tapan Kumar Sahabi and PO Indira Pradhan were present as the chief guests

and guided the students and parents. The guests present discussed in detail about the importance of nutrition, the problems caused by malnutrition and the benefits of eating a balanced diet. Along with this, emphasis was laid on food safety and a healthy lifestyle for a healthy body. The school principal A. Iswar Rao thanked all the guests and participants.

Keeping her promise, the Deputy Chief Minister has ensured the installation of an ultrasound machine at the Nimapada Community Health Centre

Nimapada, (Correspondent): The Nimapada Community Health Centre in Puri district serves nearly 32 panchayats of the constituency along with 11 wards of the NAC area. People of this region have long depended on this health centre. However, for ultrasound tests, poor patients had to spend a significant amount of money and often faced



various difficulties. Although people had been demanding this facility from the previous government for a long time, they received nothing beyond mere

promises. Taking the matter seriously, Deputy Chief Minister Pravati Parida raised the demand before the government and ensured that an ultrasound

machine was provided to the Nimapada Community Health Centre. Medical Officer-in-Charge Dr. Subrata Mohapatra informed that the machine will be inaugurated very soon. On this occasion, MP's representative Minalata Mohanty, Sumanta Swain, Santosh Ojha, and NAC BJP Youth President Saipreetam Pattnaik, among others, were present.

EDITORIAL

Rights vs. Reality: Are Education, Health and Justice Really free?

The most powerful basis of society's progress is equal access to education, health and justice of its citizens. In a democratic system, these are not only facilities, but fundamental rights. But the question is, are these rights really reaching every person, or have they become a dream limited only to policies and speeches?

Education: from right to opportunity
Education is considered the first stage of human development. Under the Right to Education Act (RTE) in India, children from 6 to 14 years old have been given the right to free and compulsory education. On paper, this system seems strong, but in reality the question of lack of resources, shortage of teachers and quality still remains in many government schools. On the other hand, the increasing fees of private schools have become a big challenge for the poor and middle class. In such a way, the right to education is only in name.

Health: Facility or Conflict?

Health services are the primary responsibility of any nation. Schemes like Ayushman Bharat Yojana in India give free treatment to the poor. Nevertheless, long queues at government hospitals, shortage of doctors and lack of basic facilities push people to private hospitals where treatment is extremely expensive. Thus, the dream of free healthcare often looks far from reality.

Justice: The basis of equality

The aim of the justice system is to give equal and fair justice to every citizen. Institutions like National Legal Services Authority (NALSA) are working to provide free legal assistance for the poor in India. Despite this, the burden of pending cases in courts, complexity of justice process and long time makes justice difficult for the common citizen. It is deprived of justice, justice — This saying still highlights the challenges of our justice system.

Distance between dream and truth

The idea of free education, health and justice envisages a perfect society where everyone gets equal opportunities. But in reality, there are many obstacles in the quality, access and effectiveness of these services. It is easy to create policies, but implementing them on the ground is the biggest challenge.

India's Energy Resilience Amid Global Uncertainty

Abhilash Pati

The recent tensions in the Gulf region have once again underscored the fragility of global energy supply chains. Given India's historical dependence on imported hydrocarbons, particularly from West Asia, some narratives have attempted to project fears of fuel shortages and disruptions in domestic supply, including speculation about shortages of LPG cylinders. However, a closer look at India's current energy landscape reveals a very different story—one of growing resilience, diversification, and proactive policy planning. Over the past decade, India has consciously worked to reduce its vulnerability to geopolitical shocks in the energy sector. A key component of this strategy has been the diversification of crude oil import sources. While West Asia continues to remain an important supplier, India now procures oil from a broader set of countries, including the United States, Russia, and several African nations. This diversified basket ensures that disruptions in any one region do not translate into immediate domestic shortages. Equally significant has been

the strengthening of India's strategic petroleum reserves. Facilities maintained by the Indian Strategic Petroleum Reserves Limited provide the country with emergency stockpiles that can cushion short-term supply shocks. These reserves, combined with commercial inventories held by oil marketing companies, offer an additional layer of protection during periods of global uncertainty. Concerns around LPG availability also fail to account for the transformation in India's domestic distribution network. Over the past decade, schemes such as the Pradhan Mantri Ujjwala Yojana have dramatically expanded access to clean cooking fuel across rural and semi-urban India. Today, India's LPG ecosystem is supported by a robust network of bottling plants, storage depots, and transportation infrastructure that ensures continuous supply even during periods of global volatility. The role of India's public sector oil companies such as Indian Oil Corporation, Bharat Petroleum Corporation Limited, and Hindustan Petroleum Corporation Limited has also been crucial. These companies maintain large operational inventories and possess the logistical capability to quickly rebalance supply across

regions if local disruptions arise. Their integrated refining, storage, and distribution networks form the backbone of India's energy security. Importantly, India's long-term strategy is not limited to managing fossil fuel supply alone. The country has simultaneously accelerated its transition toward cleaner energy sources. Under the leadership of the International Solar Alliance, India has positioned itself as a major advocate of renewable energy expansion. Rapid growth in solar, wind, and bioenergy capacity is gradually reducing dependence on imported fuels. In an increasingly volatile geopolitical environment, resilience—not isolation—is the key to energy security. India's diversified sourcing, strategic reserves, strengthened logistics, and expanding renewable capacity demonstrate that the country is far better prepared today than it was a decade ago. While temporary rumours about shortages may circulate during global crises, the structural reality is clear: India's energy system has evolved into a robust and adaptive framework capable of withstanding external shocks while continuing to power the aspirations of over a billion people.

Summer Moment

Nibedita Sukla

ts of the world. During this time, the sun is at its highest point in the sky, leading to increased temperatures. The transition from spring to summer brings vibrant natural changes such as blooming flowers and lush green trees. The thrill of summer can create a sense of enthusiasm among children, who eagerly await the joys of this season. Summer holds a significant place in the lives of students and children for various reasons. Primarily, it is a time of vacation and relaxation. Schools typically break for a few weeks or months, allowing students to take a breather from their academic responsibilities. This time can be beneficial for personal growth and rejuvenation.

Another important aspect of summer is the opportunity for adventure and exploration.

Children often spend more time outdoors, engaging in various activities such as: Camping, Swimming, Traveling with family, Attending summer camps. Engaging in these activities helps children develop essential life skills, form relationships, and create cherished memories. While summer brings many joys, it is essential to understand the effects of heat and sun exposure on our bodies. Prolonged exposure to the sun can lead to a range of health issues, such as: Sunburn, Heat exhaustion, Dehydration. Children should be educated about the importance of sun protection, such as applying sunscreen, wearing hats, and drinking plenty of water to stay hydrated. Even though summer is often seen as a break from studies, it can also be a great time for learning opportunities. Many educational programs and workshops are available during this season, allowing children to discover new interests. Summer learning activities can include:

Reading challenges at public libraries, Online courses for various subjects, Science experiments at home. These activities can help children retain what they've learned during the school year while also stimulating their curiosity and creativity. Engaging in educational activities can prevent the "summer slide," a term used to describe the loss of academic skills during vacation.

summer season is a vibrant and exciting time for students and children. With its enjoyable activities, delicious foods, and opportunities for both relaxation and learning, summer undoubtedly is one of the most cherished seasons. It serves as a perfect reminder for children to play outside, explore their surroundings, and learn in a fun, engaging way. As the sun shines brightly and days grow longer, let's embrace everything the summer season has to offer and make the most out of every moment!

Opportunities, Fears, and the Search for Balance



Dr. Priyanka Saurabh

The proposed bilateral trade agreement (26) between India and the United States emerged at a time when India, on the one hand, is moving towards expanding its

participation in the global economy, while on the other hand, it faces the essential challenge of protecting its agriculture-based socio-economic structure. While the interim framework announced in February 2026 has opened new opportunities for Indian exporters in the US market, the potential import of cheap US agricultural products has created a sense of anxiety and insecurity among millions of farmers in the country. In this context, the question becomes extremely relevant: whether this agreement will establish India as a strong global agricultural exporter or will it cause economic crisis for small and marginal farmers. India-US trade relations have historically been strategic and multifaceted. India has achieved a surplus in agricultural trade between the two countries in recent years, indicating the potential for global competitiveness of Indian agricultural products. The proposed agreement, under which the US would reduce or eliminate tariffs on Indian products—such as spices, tea, coffee, cashews, mangoes, papayas, and processed foods—could boost Indian exports. This would not only increase foreign exchange earnings but also boost value addition and processing industries in the agricultural sector. But the other side of this

agreement is far more complex and sensitive. The United States provides extensive subsidies to its farmers, making its agricultural products highly competitive in the international market. If such products—such as DDGS, soybean oil, and sorghum—enter the Indian market on a large scale, domestic farmers could suffer serious price competition. This could lead to a decline in agricultural prices, creating even more challenges for farmers already struggling with income stress. India's agricultural structure is largely based on small and marginal farmers, who constitute approximately 86% of the total. These farmers sustain their livelihoods amid challenges such as limited resources, volatile markets, and climate change. Policies such as the Minimum Support Price (MSP) provide a safety net for these farmers, but its reach is limited and does not benefit all crops and regions equally. If cheap imports increase in the domestic market, the effectiveness of the MSP could be weakened and farmers' incomes could be adversely affected. Another important concern relates to biosafety and genetically modified (GM) crops. The United States is a major producer and exporter of GM crops, while India still maintains a cautious approach to the subject. India may face pressure to reduce non-tariff barriers under trade agreements, potentially increasing the import of GM products. This situation could pose long-term risks to the country's biodiversity, traditional agricultural practices, and food security. Additionally, sensitive sectors such as dairy, poultry, and oilseeds could be affected by

this agreement. India's dairy sector is not only a global leader but also supports the livelihoods of millions of rural families. If American dairy products enter the Indian market, local producers will face competition. Similarly, the oilseeds sector, in which India is striving for self-sufficiency, could be affected by cheap imports, hindering the promotion of domestic production. Along with these economic challenges, the social and strategic dimensions of this agreement are also important. Potential income losses and competition in the agricultural sector could adversely impact rural employment, exacerbating social inequality and regional disparities. Strategically, this agreement symbolizes growing cooperation between India and the United States, which is also linked to the broader perspective of the Quad and the balance of power in the Indo-Pacific. Therefore, it is not practical for India to reject this agreement outright; rather, it is necessary to adopt a balanced approach.

In this context, the biggest challenge facing India is how to protect its agricultural interests while taking advantage of global economic opportunities. This requires a multi-pronged strategy. First, trade protection measures—such as quantity limits (TRQs), minimum import prices (MIPs), and special safeguard measures (SSMs)—should be effectively utilized to protect the domestic market from sudden surges in imports.

Second, structural reforms are necessary to strengthen the domestic agricultural sector. This

includes promoting Farmer Producer Organizations (FPOs), strengthening the supply chain, and encouraging processing and value addition. This will increase the competitiveness of Indian products and enable farmers to obtain better prices.

Third, an export-oriented agricultural policy should be strengthened. India has immense potential to capture global markets in spices, organic products, horticultural crops, and traditional food products. If attention is paid to quality standards, branding, and logistics in these sectors, India can not only maintain but also strengthen its trade balance. Fourth, it is essential to adopt a clear and strict policy regarding biosafety and quality standards, so that the country's food security and environmental balance are not compromised. Additionally, a balance must be struck between traditional knowledge and modern science while embracing technological innovations.

Ultimately, this agreement is not just an economic document, but a crucial step in shaping India's development journey. Balancing its inherent opportunities and risks will be key to its success. India must adopt a "nation first" approach and develop a strategy that reconciles farmer security, food sovereignty, and global competitiveness.

If India succeeds in striking this balance through smart and sensitive policy-making, this agreement will not only become a vehicle for economic progress but will also pave the way for sustainable prosperity for crores of farmers in the country.

Light Born from Sacrifice: The Eternal Message of Good Friday



Yogesh Kumar Goyal

Good Friday is a day to remember the sacrifice of Jesus Christ and his teachings. In fact, Jesus sacrificed his life for the welfare of humanity.

According to Christian belief, Jesus, who preached love, compassion, kindness, charity, non-violence, good conduct, and purity of life, was crucified on this very day by the religious orthodox elements of that time. The day on which Jesus Christ gave up his life was a Friday, and in its memory, Good Friday is observed.

It is celebrated on the Friday before Easter Sunday, and this year Good Friday falls on April 3. The Christian community observes this festival in mourning. Good Friday is seen as a symbol of Jesus' sacrifice for the welfare of humanity. On this day, church bells are not rung; instead, wooden clappers

are used. People visit churches, kiss the cross, and remember Jesus. In some places, people wear black clothes as a mark of mourning and seek forgiveness for their sins. In remembrance of Jesus being crucified, followers give up worldly comforts. Decorative items are removed from churches and homes or covered with cloth. According to a tradition initiated by Catholics, fasting and prayer begin 40 days before Good Friday, starting from Wednesday known as Ash Wednesday. During this period, people consume simple vegetarian food. It is believed that Jesus fasted for 40 days before beginning his mission of serving humanity, and this is possibly the origin of this tradition. On this day, Christians across the world donate to churches and promote social welfare activities. In Christianity, Jesus Christ is regarded as the Son of God. He preached forgiveness, peace, compassion, kindness, charity, non-violence, good conduct, and purity of life. Because of these virtues, people began to call him a messenger of peace, an embodiment of forgiveness, and a saintly figure.

It is said that in the Galilee region of Jerusalem, Jesus spread messages of humanity, truth, unity, love, non-violence, and peace. His teachings spread far and wide, and people began to adopt them in their lives. Many even started regarding him as divine. This led to jealousy among religious leaders who propagated superstition and falsehood, as people no longer approached them for solutions. Nearly two thousand years ago, Jesus was sentenced to death because he raised his voice against injustice and sought to educate and awaken people against ignorance and excessive materialism. Jesus was not merely a religious figure but a living symbol of transformation and compassion. He expanded the idea of human love beyond selfishness and self-centeredness. His life proves that true love lies in sacrifice, forgiveness, and dedication.

At a time when sin and injustice were rising on earth, Jesus demonstrated the ultimate example of selfless love through his sacrifice. His suffering on the cross was not just the pain of an individual but

became a symbol of the redemption of all humanity. According to Christian beliefs, Jesus rose again on the third day after his crucifixion, on Sunday. This is why the Sunday following Good Friday is celebrated as Easter Sunday. This day is not just a celebration of resurrection but also a message of hope, new life, and renewed faith.

It is said that after his resurrection, Jesus appeared to his disciples and followers for about 40 days, inspiring them to walk on the path of truth, love, and righteousness. Easter prayers are especially offered at dawn, as it is believed that the miracle of resurrection occurred early in the morning. Mary Magdalene is believed to be the first to witness Jesus alive after his resurrection. This episode highlights that the light of truth and faith first awakens in hearts filled with devotion and belief. Thus, Good Friday teaches us sacrifice, patience, and love, while Easter Sunday brings a message of hope and renewal. Together, they remind us that no matter how deep the darkness may be, ultimately truth and light prevail.

MP and MLA present drinking water project of Rs 28 crore to Khurda residents and Rs 6 crore to municipal offices

- ◆ Khurda residents will get 24-hour drinking water.
- ◆ Special arrangements for clean, continuous and unpolluted drinking water supply-Aparajita.

Bhubaneswar: (Correspondent) :- Now there will be no more drinking water problem in Khurda Municipality. Drinking water supply under the government's 24-hour dry from tap scheme is going to start soon for more than 65 thousand people in 9450 houses in 22 wards and surrounding areas under Khurda Municipality. After a long-standing demand from the residents of the area, MLAs and MPs regarding the water problem, Bhubaneswar MP Aparajita Sarangi laid the foundation stone of this project on Thursday to solve the problem. Which will work as a permanent solution to the drinking water problem. The project, which is being implemented under the Housing and Urban



Development Department of the Odisha Government at an estimated cost of Rs 28 crore, is scheduled to be completed next year and 31,298 meters of pipes of various thicknesses are planned to be laid under the project. Along with this, for smooth and uninterrupted and clean water supply, a modern

technology MBR with a capacity of 6 million liters and two UGRs with a capacity of 1.5 million liters for water conservation will be installed in this project, said Bhubaneswar MP Aparajita Sarangi. While 4 generators have been arranged to make this 24-hour water supply even more smooth and

uninterrupted, Bhubaneswar MP Aparajita Sarangi said that this project will completely solve the long-standing water supply problem of the residents of Khurda Pooranchal in the coming days. While the locals praised MP Prashant Kumar Jagdeb and MP Aparajita Sarangi for

laying the foundation stone of the project, both of them said that many more such people-friendly works will be done in future as per the demands of the people. On this occasion, the foundation stone of the new two-storey office building of Khordha Municipal Council was laid at an estimated cost of Rs. 6.34 crore. Along with MPs and MLAs, Khordha Municipal Council Mayor Kanakalata Mohanty, Deputy Mayor Sourya Ranjan Mohanty, Watco General Manager Rajendra Sethi, BDO Siddhartha Patnaik, Ward No. 5 Councillor Amiya Kumar Mohanty, Rashmita Parida were prominently present.

Cuttack Baisakhi Mela :The audience is mesmerized by Kathak dance



Cuttack: (Correspondent) :- The Baisakhi Trade Fair held at the Cuttack Balyatra grounds is very busy and attracts people from all walks of life, including businesses from various states. On this evening, Odisha's

music and dance mesmerized thousands of viewers, while the dancers of Sangeeta Kathak Dance Academy mesmerized thousands of viewers with the Kathak dance of Shiva Shakti, Odhani, Krishna Lila.

Kathak Dance Pattayasi Under the direction of renowned Kathak dancer Dr. Sangeeta Sahoo the coordinator felicitated the first and only Kathak dance institute of Odisha with a medal and an award.

22 kg of Ganja seized, 1 accused arrested, 2 absconded

Gopalpur (correspondent): Berhampur excise staff raid at Aska and seizes Ganja and arrested the accused. The accused persons is Dayanidhi from Uttarpradesh and absconded persons are S. Siva Rao of Chandapur under Golanthara police station and Himansu Behera of Mochi shai under puri police station. At Kalinga Road Aska near Indian Oil Petrol Pump under P.S. Aska, while transporting illegal contraband Ganja (Cannabis) in an olive green colour Bolero (OD 07 AQ 9700). During the search, one basta containing Ganja was recovered from the dickey of the vehicle. At



that moment, two of the accused persons, namely S. Siva Rao and Himansu Behera, managed to escape from the spot taking advantage of darkness. Subsequently, upon thorough search of the vehicle, one jerry basta containing Ganja was recovered from the conscious and exclusive possession of the accused persons. After

due test and weightment, 22.00 (Twenty-Two) kilograms of contraband Ganja (Cannabis) was seized. the two above absconding accused persons, namely S. Siva Rao and Himansu Behera, have previously been arrested on illegal Ganja transporting. Excise department making further investigation on this case.

It is reported that Luhasingha Gram Panchayat has received ISO certificate for successfully delivering government schemes to the people

Patnagarh- (Correspondent) Balangir district Khaprakhol Block has received ISO certificate for successfully delivering government schemes to the people. According to the information, various Gram Panchayats were nominated by an organization called QRA for the implementation of various schemes implemented by the Central and State Governments and excellence in the field of service delivery to the people. The organization conducted a survey and held discussions with the public. It is reported that the QRA organization has received this certificate for three years from 2026 to 2029. Khaprakhol Block BDO Bibekananda Sadangi has expressed gratitude for this.

Preeti Suna (In-charge) took charge as Subarnapur DI&PRO

SUBARNAPUR (Correspondent) --- Ms. Preeti Suna, Odisha Information Service-2, 2024-25 batch, took charge as Subarnapur (I/C) District Information and Public Relations Officer from District Panchayat Officer Arjun Majhi on 31.03.2026 afternoon. Preeti Suna joined Odisha Information Service on 27th



November last year as Sub-Divisional Information and Public Relations Officer in Subarnapur District Information and

Public Relations Office. Earlier, she worked for 2 years in the English newspaper Times of India, Bhubaneswar edition and before that, she was a reporter for Sambalpur in a web channel in Western Odisha, 'Pahara' for 3 years. She completed her postgraduate degree in Journalism and Mass Communication from Pondicherry Central

University in 2020 and graduated in Commerce from Gangadhar Meher University. Coming to Subarnapur He said that it is a privilege for him to start a government job here. He said that his main goal will be to provide accurate government information to the people of Sonepur and to make them aware of all the government's schemes.

Government Officials and Employees Wear Traditional Attire During Odia Pakhya



JAJPUR (Correspondent) : Odia Pakhya is being celebrated across the state from April 1 to April 14. On this occasion, April 2 and 3 are observed as Traditional Attire Days with the theme "Our Dress, Our Identity."

In Jajpur, the celebration was observed with enthusiasm in various government offices. Today, officials and staff of the Collector's office dressed in traditional

handloom attire. They wore Sambalpuri fabrics, sarees, khadi outfits, Berhampur garments, and other handwoven Odia traditional dresses.

All officials gathered near the flagpost in front of the Collector's office and participated in a photo session. District Collector Shri Ambar Kumar Kar, Additional District Collector Shri Yudhishtir Naik, Additional District Collector (Revenue)

Shri Shibananda Swain, Chief Development Officer Shri Debiprasad Mohanty, and Sub-Collector Shri Tapas Ranjan Dehury, along with other senior officials, took part in the event. The use of traditional attire created a vibrant cultural atmosphere in the office. The observance aimed to promote Odisha's handloom industry and encourage wider appreciation of local artisans and craftsmanship.

Post-paddy crop management field day celebrated in Phulikimunda

Patnagarh - (Correspondent) Post-rice crop management field day and natural farming awareness program were organized at Khaprakhol Block Sahajpani Panchayat Phulikimunda Kalyan Diwas Complex on Tuesday. On this occasion, FES Master Trainer Abhay Tripathi conducted the program while Patnagarh District Agriculture Officer



Sudhakar Nanda was the chief guest, Khaprakhol Block Agriculture Officer Santosh Kumar Meher

was the guest of honor, Assistant Agriculture Officer Sumant Khamari, Jagabandhu Behera, Lalit Bhaisal

were present. On this occasion, non-paddy crop management after the kharif paddy crop was discussed and natural farming was advised to be done to protect soil, water and environment. On this occasion, agricultural officers visited Sujan Nag's moong crop. Agricultural workers, agricultural friends, farmer friends and farmers were present on the occasion.

Subarnapur DRCS suspended

SUBARNAPUR (Correspondent): Subarnapur DRCS Sanjaya Kumar Tripathy suspended. The State Cooperative Department has issued a suspension order vide letter No. 4299/dated 31/03/2026 for suspension of Shri Tripathy under the Odisha Civil Services Rules 1962 on charges of negligence and irregularities in work. Shri Tripathy has been directed to stay at the Sambalpur DRCS office during his suspension. Meanwhile, Sonepur ARCS Bhabanishankar Dash has been transferred as the in-charge DRCS by the Cooperative Department. It was revealed that there were allegations of widespread corruption in the appointment of PACS in Tarbha Block Maradugochha of Subarnapur district. Subarnapur Collector Dr. Nruparaj Sahu himself went to the PACS and investigated the incident and submitted a report to the state government. PACS Secretary and CEO Naveen Dash, Night Watchman Makund Naik and Peon Manoj Das gave their sons appointments. The above officer Shri Tripathy cooperated in this. Naveen, Makund and Manoj applied for voluntary retirement citing health reasons

and this proposal was accepted by the PACS Management Council. Permission for new appointments was not taken from the Registrar. PACS did not publish an advertisement or constitute a recruitment committee. Ignoring the government's recruitment rules, the DRCS gave administrative approval to the proposal for rehabilitation appointments. Naveen, Mukund and Manoj took VRS on February 19. On the same day, 4 members of their family got appointments. Ambarish, son of PACS Secretary Naveen, was illegally appointed as the I/C CEO cum Secretary and son-in-law of the said PACS and Anil Kumar Das of Remed village, Barpali block, Bargarh district, was appointed as the Asst. Secretary Similarly, Amit, son of Makund Naik, who was a night watchman of PACS, was appointed as a night watchman and Ajit, son of Peon Manoj Das, was appointed as Peon. After many complaints and protests from farmers, Collector Dr. Nruparaj Sahu conducted an investigation in this regard and after finding such evidence of corruption, he recommended the state government to take disciplinary action against the DRCS.

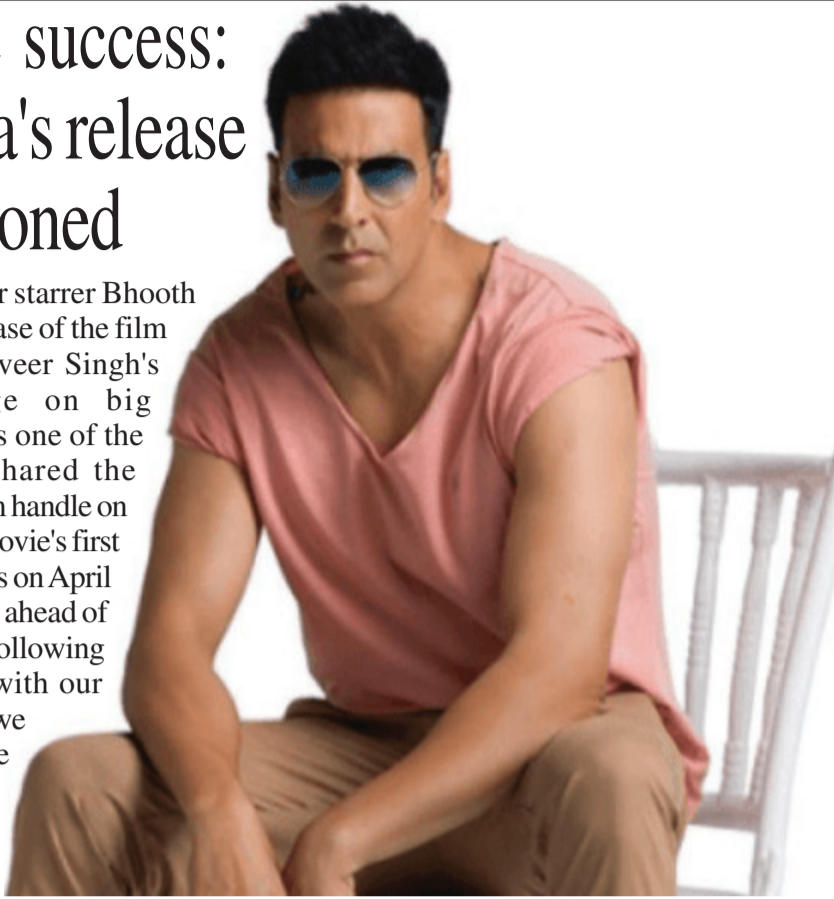
"Our Attire, Our Identity" Programme Observed in Rayagada

Rayagada, (Correspondent): On the occasion of Odia Pakhya celebrations, a special programme titled "Our Attire, Our Identity" was organized today, marking the observance of Traditional Attire Day. On this occasion, all officials and staff attended their duties wearing handloom and traditional attire, promoting the rich cultural heritage of Odisha. District Collector Ashutosh Kulkarni, Additional District Magistrate (General) Naveen Chandra Nayak, and Additional District Magistrate (Revenue) Nihar Ranjan Kahar attended the programme held at the District Culture Bhavan. Among others present were District Social Welfare Officer Minati Deo, District Welfare Officer Asima Rao, District Social Security Officer Elizabeth Gorada, District Sports

Officer Sheikh Alenur, District Information & Public Relations Officer Basanta Kumar Pradhan, District Culture Officer Susmita Bauri, District Panchayat Officer Surya Narayan Maharana, District Child Protection Officer Mahadev Sichuan, and Sub-Divisional Social Security Officer Srikanth Panigrahi. Speaking on the occasion, the dignitaries highlighted that wearing traditional attire not only reflects regional identity but also supports the livelihood of weavers and promotes indigenous handloom products. Newly joined Deputy Collectors and Assistant District Magistrates, including Arvind Pradhan, Manuela Priyadarshini, Bhadal Rani, Kalinga Kumar Pujari, Shami Ranjan Bhuyan, Pallabi Sarkar, P. Ankita Dora, Manabhanjan Kahar, and others also participated enthusiastically.

Dhurandhar 2 success: Bhooth Bangla's release date postponed

The makers of Akshay Kumar starrer Bhooth Bangla has postponed the release of the film to avoid the clash with Ranveer Singh's Dhurandhar: The Revenge on big screens. Ektaa Kapoor, who is one of the producers of the movie, shared the announcement on her Instagram handle on Thursday. She shared that the movie's first show will be released in theatres on April 16 in the form of paid previews ahead of its general release date on the following day. "After a collective call with our distributors and the exhibitors, we have decided on a new release date for Bhooth Bangla: 16th April, with the first show starting at 9 PM," noted the statement from the Ektaa Kapoor. This decision has arrived to avoid the possible division of the theatrical viewers due to Dhurandhar: The Revenge, allowing both films the "space, focus, and attention they deserve." The movie was earlier slated to release in theatres on April 10. "Dhurandhar: The Revenge performing exceptionally well is heartening news for our film industry, and the exhibitors feel that this shift will allow both films the space, focus, and attention they deserve. The Bhooth Bangla team looks forward to welcoming you in cinemas on April 16th from 9 PM onwards," wrote Ektaa Kapoor in the post. This is the second time that the makers have changed the release date of the film. Initially it was slated to release in theatres on May 15. While sharing the statement, Ektaa wrote, "Love and Unity. Bhooth Bangla, paid previews begin in theatres 16th April 2026, 9 PM onwards." Bhooth Bangla is directed by Priyadarshan and stars Akshay Kumar in the lead role with Wamiqa Gabbi, Paresh Rawal, Tabu and Rajpal Yadav in the prominent roles. With this movie, Priyadarshan and Akshay Kumar are set to reunite after movies like Bhagam Bhag, Hera Pheri, Phir Hera Pheri and others. Bhooth Bangla is presented by Balaji Motion Pictures, a division of Balaji Telefilms Ltd, in association with Cape of Good Films. It is produced by Akshay Kumar, Shobha Kapoor and Ektaa R Kapoor.



Delhi HC reserves order in Rajpal Yadav cheque bounce case after settlement fails; actor makes emotional plea in Court

The Delhi High Court on Thursday reserved its judgment in the cheque bounce case involving Bollywood actor Rajpal Yadav, after a final round of settlement efforts failed despite sustained intervention by the Court, with the actor making an emotional appeal during the hearing. The matter was heard by Justice Swarana Kanta Sharma, who expressed visible dissatisfaction over the shifting stand taken by Yadav regarding repayment of dues. At one point, the Court remarked, "I am not getting my answers. The undertaking said something else, and now you are saying something else," indicating concern over inconsistency in submissions. Appearing for the complainant company, advocate Avneet Singh Sikka submitted that Yadav had already accepted his conviction and could not now evade liability. He highlighted that a revision petition filed in 2024 was accompanied by an unexplained delay of 1894 days and lacked sufficient grounds for condonation. He further argued that the completion of the sentence does not absolve the accused of financial obligations. Sikka also stressed that despite repeated assurances, the dues remained unpaid, leaving the complainant with no option but to initiate proceedings under Section 138 of the Negotiable Instruments Act.



online hair and skin advice can't replace real check-up

Artificial intelligence has made skincare and haircare advice incredibly accessible. A few clicks, a couple of photographs, and an algorithm is ready with answers. For many, this feels efficient, even empowering. But in clinical practice, we're seeing the other side of this convenience: important medical details being missed, and patients feeling more confused than reassured.

Why can't online consultations replace in-person visits

"Skin and hair don't exist in isolation," says Dr Sayyad. "Yet most online consultations focus on what fits into a camera frame. A patient may upload facial photographs for pigmentation, but what about subtle darkening on the neck, knuckles, forearms, or under the eyes? These are often clues to hormonal shifts, insulin resistance, inflammation, or sun damage patterns, details that rarely come through in a selfie."

She adds, "Hair loss is far more complex than what scalp photos can capture. Early follicular thinning, scalp inflammation, variation in hair shaft thickness, or signs of scarring alopecia are best detected through touch, magnification, and clinical examination. These nuances help determine not just what treatment is needed, but whether treatment is needed at all."

Dr Sayyad emphasises that consultations are not just about recommending products or procedures. "It's about listening, observing, asking the right questions, and building trust. Patients often come in anxious, having tried multiple online routines or standardised treatment plans that didn't quite work for them."

What are the risks of fully digital treatments

"In-person consultations allow doctors to read between the lines to sense hesitation, address fears,



and offer clarity," she explains. "This human connection, empathy, and continuity of care are difficult to replace with purely digital models that rely on fixed protocols and limited follow-up." "Online treatment pathways often aim for scalability and speed," Dr Sayyad says. "While this may work for basic education, medicine rarely fits into preset templates. Skin and hair conditions evolve, react, and change over time. Without physical examination, long-term monitoring, or accountability, patients risk prolonged ineffective treatment or delayed diagnosis."

She also stresses the importance of transparency. "Knowing who is guiding your care, their training, experience, and responsibility, is fundamental to ethical healthcare. This can become blurred in anonymous or algorithm-driven platforms." How can technology enhance

dermatology

Dr Sayyad is not against technology, but she sees it as a tool, not a replacement. "AI has an important role in modern dermatology, from digital dermoscopy and trichoscopy to progress tracking and pattern recognition. When used correctly, it enhances accuracy and efficiency." "The future of skincare and haircare lies in collaboration between AI-powered diagnostics and human clinical judgement. Technology can help identify patterns and trends, but it is the clinician who interprets them in the context of a patient's health, lifestyle, and emotional well-being." She sums it up simply: "AI can inform. Doctors evaluate. AI can assist. Doctors decide."

Soaking feet in warm water: A simple winter habit with multiple health benefits

During the winter season, people commonly use warm water for drinking and bathing. Health experts also highlight another simple practice that can offer several benefits—soaking the feet in warm water. This traditional habit is known to improve blood circulation, reduce stress, and relieve daily

fatigue. Regularly soaking the feet in warm water may help protect the body from various minor health issues. According to health practitioners, it is particularly effective in reducing swelling, easing pain, and treating cracked heels. The practice also helps relax the feet and calm the entire body, making it

especially beneficial for people who experience extremely cold feet during winter. Experts suggest adding salt to warm water for enhanced benefits. Salt contains magnesium and other essential minerals that help relax muscles, reduce swelling, and support detoxification. This method is often recommended after a

long day to relieve foot discomfort. Soaking the feet in warm water during fever is an age-old home remedy. It is believed to help regulate body temperature, gradually reduce fever, and activate nerves in the legs, thereby stabilizing the body's energy levels. Health specialists describe warm water foot soaking as a simple,

affordable, and scientifically supported home remedy. Beyond foot pain and swelling, it can also help with muscle stiffness, foot odor, stress reduction, and improved sleep quality. Experts recommend soaking the feet for 15 to 20 minutes, especially in the evening during winter, to experience its full benefits.

5 common skincare myths



Understanding what your skin actually needs during colder months is key to preventing dryness, irritation and long-term damage, and building a routine that truly supports barrier health.

Myth 1: Skipping cleansing is fine in winter

many people tend to skip washing their face in winter, assuming that dry, settled skin doesn't need cleansing. In reality, the skin continues to accumulate dirt, oil and environmental pollutants even during the colder months. The aesthetic physician stresses that skipping cleansing can lead to breakouts, irritation and dullness.

Myth 2: The colder the weather, the less SPF you need

Sunscreen isn't reserved just for bright summer days - winter doesn't make UV rays disappear. Dr Sinha points out that they remain active year-round and can still contribute to dark spots, fine lines and other long-term skin damage.

She suggests, "The best approach is to apply a broad-spectrum SPF of at least 30 every day, regardless of temperature or cloud cover. For those who prefer a lighter option or find creams heavy, a sun care gel can be an effective alternative, providing protection without a greasy feel. Reapply sunscreen or sun care gel when spending extended time outdoors or in reflective environments."

Myth 3: Natural oils alone are enough protection

According to the aesthetic physician, it's easy to assume that your skin's natural oils provide enough

protection during winter - but in reality, skincare in colder months is far more complex than it seems. She explains that cold air, indoor heating and harsh winds all work together to strip moisture from the skin faster than it can naturally replenish itself.

Winter calls for a more layered approach. A shea butter day cream with ceramides helps reinforce the skin's natural defenses, while a night cream rich in peptides and hyaluronic acid repairs and deeply hydrates overnight. Think of it as giving your skin the support it needs to stay resilient and comfortable, rather than just covering up the dryness."

Myth 4: Applying products once a day is sufficient

Dr Sinha explains that winter skin is under constant assault from cold air, indoor heating and low humidity, all of which strip away natural moisture and weaken the skin barrier throughout the day - making a single application of product insufficient to counter these ongoing stressors.

Myth 5: Cracked skin is just a seasonal phase

Cracked or flaky skin is quite common in winter, but this does not mean it is normal. Most people treat it like a temporary winter nuisance but Dr Sinha highlights that it is a sign that your skin barrier is weakened and dehydrated.

PCB Committee Upholds Two-Match Ban On Fakhar Zaman For Ball Tampering

Mumbai: A three-member Appellate Committee rejected the appeal filed by Lahore Qalandars opener Fakhar Zaman against the two-match ban for ball tampering, saying there was not enough proof and thus upheld the punishment, a news report said on Thursday. The decision was on expected lines as there was enough proof against Fakhar Zaman changing the condition of the ball during the Pakistan Super League (PSL) match last week, Telecom Asia Sport reported on Thursday. "Fakhar Zaman appealed the decision of the Match Referee to suspend him for two PSL matches for breaching Article 2.14 of the applicable Code of Conduct for Players and Player Support Personnel during the Lahore Qalandars v Karachi Kings match on Sunday, 29 March at the Gaddafi Stadium, Lahore," said a PCB



release. "The appeal was heard today by the PSL Technical Committee comprising Professor Javed Malik, Dr Mumraiz Naqshband, and Mr Syed Ali Naqi. Pursuant to conducting a de novo inquiry, reviewing all evidence, and hearing submissions from relevant individuals, the Committee has dismissed the appeal and upheld the two-match ban imposed by Match Referee

Roshan Mahanama," the report quoted the release as saying. As per Article 2.14, it relates to "Changing the condition of the ball in breach of clause 41.3 of the PSL Playing Conditions." "Commission of a Level 3 offence for the first time carries a minimum penalty of one match ban and maximum penalty of two match ban," said the decision. In accordance with the Code of Conduct, any

decision made by the PSL Technical Committee shall be the full, final, and complete disposition of the matter and will be binding on all parties. 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. Also in attendance were Lahore Qalandars captain Shaheen Shah Afridi, team director Sameen Rana, and team manager Farooq Anwar. Lahore Qalandars are set to play their upcoming matches against Multan Sultans on Friday, April 3, at Gaddafi Stadium, followed by a clash with Islamabad United on Thursday (April 9) at the National Bank Stadium in Karachi.

IPL 2026: Klaasen, Abhishek Help SRH Reach Highest Total Of The Season Against KKR

Kolkata: Sunrisers Hyderabad (SRH) rode on blistering knocks by Abhishek Sharma (48) and Heinrich Klaasen (52) to post the highest total of the Indian Premier League (IPL) 2026 season by finishing at 226/8 in their 20 overs against Kolkata Knight Riders (KKR) at the Eden Gardens on Thursday.



For KKR, pacer Blessing Muzarabani ended with 4-41, and despite the side not conceding much in the back-end overs, they still have an uphill mountain to climb as they need to complete the chase at 11.3 runs per over. Asked to bat first, SRH got off to a flying start, with Abhishek and Travis Head tearing into the new-ball attack, who erred in bowling too full and short. Head smashed 46 off 21 balls, laced with six fours and three sixes, while Abhishek struck 48 off 21, including four fours and as many sixes. The pair added

82 runs in under five overs, setting the tone for a mammoth score. After Head was taken out by Kartik Tyagi, Muzarabani pulled things back for KKR with a double strike in the eighth over – removing Abhishek and a belligerent Ishan Kishan in quick succession. Though Sunil Narine and Varun Chakaravathy were expensive, Anukul Roy managed to hold his own by accounting for Aniket Verma, leaving SRH at 118/4 in 9.2 overs. Klaasen and Nitish Kumar Reddy (39 off 24 balls) steadied the innings

with a crucial 82-run stand for the fifth wicket, the second-highest for SRH in IPL history at that position. Whenever the bowlers erred, the duo were quick to send the ball over the boundary ropes – with Reddy also given a reprieve by Chakaravathy. Though Nitish and Salil Arora fell to Vaibhav Arora, Klaasen carried on and maintained his composure to complete a fluent half-century – his first of this season. His 52 off 35 balls featured four boundaries and a six, ensuring SRH maintained momentum despite regular wickets.

Zimbabwe To Host Australia For ODI Series In September

Harare: Zimbabwe Cricket has announced that they will host Australia for a three-match ODI series in September, marking Australia's first ODI visit to the country in more than a decade. The last time the two sides met on Zimbabwean soil in this format was during a triangular series in August/September 2014, which also featured South Africa. The series will commence on September 15, with the second and third matches scheduled to be played on September 18 and 20. All fixtures will be played at Harare Sports Club. The series forms a key part of Zimbabwe's build-up to the ICC Men's Cricket World Cup 2027, which Zimbabwe will co-host alongside



South Africa and Namibia. ZC Managing Director Givemore Makoni said the tour comes at an important stage for the team. "We are delighted to welcome Australia back to Zimbabwe for what promises to be a highly competitive ODI series," he said. "Fixtures of this calibre are vital for our growth as a team. With the ICC Men's Cricket World Cup 2027 on the horizon, this tour

provides invaluable preparation as we build towards hosting the tournament alongside South Africa and Namibia. "It is also a fantastic opportunity for our fans to experience top-level international cricket at home, and we look forward to strong support at Harare Sports Club." Zimbabwe has consistently proven to be a thorn in the side for Australian outfits in recent times. Most

recently, Australia's T20 outfit was left chastened by a 23-run defeat to Zimbabwe at this year's T20 World Cup in February enroute to an embarrassing group stage exit. And Australia's 50-over side lost in their last start against Zimbabwe, beaten by three wickets in Townsville in September 2022, albeit in the final game of a series the home side won 2-1.

Nuwan Thushara Moves Court Against SLC Over IPL 2026 NOC Denial: Report

New Delhi: Sri Lanka fast bowler Nuwan Thushara has moved the Colombo District Court seeking legal intervention after Sri Lanka Cricket (SLC) declined to grant him a No Objection Certificate (NOC) for participation in the Indian Premier League 2026. The matter came up for hearing on Thursday, with the court scheduling the next proceedings for April 9. In his petition, Thushara has named SLC president Shammi Silva, secretary Bandula Dissanayake, treasurer Sujeewa Godaliyadda and CEO Ashley de Silva as defendants. The pacer had secured a contract with Royal Challengers Bengaluru for IPL 2026, having previously featured in the tournament in the last two seasons with the



board's approval. However, SLC is understood to have withheld the NOC this time, citing his failure to meet required fitness benchmarks, according to News Wire Sri Lanka. Thushara has contested the decision, stating that his central contract with the board expires on March 31, 2026, and that he had already communicated his

intention not to renew it. He further claimed that he has effectively been out of national selection plans, making the board's stance on fitness grounds inconsistent and unjustified. In his plea, the bowler maintained that his fitness levels remain in line with those of previous years, during which he was granted NOCs to participate in overseas leagues, including the

IPL. He argued that the refusal to issue the clearance now lacks merit, especially given the absence of any change in his physical condition. The petition also highlighted the professional and financial implications of the decision, noting that failure to obtain the NOC could result in his replacement by the franchise, a loss of significant earnings, and potential setbacks to his career in global T20 competitions. Thushara has sought judicial relief in the form of a declaration affirming his right to receive the NOC, along with interim and permanent orders directing SLC to grant him permission to compete in the IPL and other international leagues.

Lucknow Super Giants fall as Sameer Rizvi blasts unbeaten 70 at Ekana Stadium

NEW DELHI: Sameer Rizvi showcased nerves of steel to steer Delhi Capitals to a six-wicket victory over Lucknow Super Giants on Wednesday. Chasing a modest target of 142 at the Ekana Cricket Stadium, Delhi overcame a horrific start to secure their fifth consecutive win against the Lucknow franchise. Disaster struck early for the visitors as Mohammed Shami dismissed KL Rahul for a golden duck on the very first ball of the innings. When skipper Axar Patel fell for a duck shortly after, Delhi were struggling at 30/4 within the first five overs. However, the momentum shifted when Sameer Rizvi joined forces with Tristan Stubbs. Rizvi, playing with remarkable maturity, hammered an unbeaten 70 off 47 deliveries. His partnership with Stubbs, which yielded 119 runs, effectively neutralised the threat posed by LSG's debutant Prince Yadav. Stubbs played the perfect anchor role, finishing on 39 not out as Delhi crossed the finish line with 17 balls to spare.



Master Blaster recalls India's historic 2011 night at Wankhede

NEW DELHI: Cricket fans across the globe paused today to celebrate the anniversary of India's 2011 ICC Cricket World Cup win, a moment Sachin Tendulkar claims still makes his heart race. Standing inside a roaring Wankhede Stadium on April 2, 2011, India ended a 28-year drought by defeating Sri Lanka. This victory remains etched in national memory as the pinnacle of Tendulkar's storied career. India's success stemmed from a collective bond formed over years of locker-



room camaraderie. Tendulkar recently shared on social media that the group grew up together, harbouring a singular focus to secure the trophy for their country. While the

pressure of a home final crushed many, this squad channelled that energy into a clinical chase after Sri Lanka posted a challenging 274/6. Mahela Jayawardene's

unbeaten century initially threatened Indian hopes, but disciplined bowling from Zaheer Khan and Yuvraj Singh kept the target within reach. Disaster struck

early in the second innings when both Virender Sehwag and Tendulkar fell quickly. However, Gautam Gambhir's gritty 97 and skipper MS Dhoni's unbeaten 91 turned the tide. This specific triumph resonated deeply in Odisha, where cricket academies saw a surge in enrollment as local youths looked to replicate the grit shown by that 2011 roster. Ending his World Cup career on home soil, Tendulkar finished as India's top run-scorer in the tournament with 482 runs.

National Indoor Rowing Championship from April 8

Bhubaneswar: Rowing Federation of India in association with Odisha Association for Rowing and Sculling (OARS) is going to host 1st National Indoor Rowing Championship at JN Indoor Stadium, Cuttack from 8-11 April 2026. Total 600 rowers including 250 women will participate in the meet. A 33-member host team with 17 women players will fight for the top honour. The players will arrive on 8th April and the inauguration will be held on 9th April. To host the event, SAI National Centre of Excellence will extend technical support and the equipment.

IndianOil Paradip Refinery celebrates Utkal Diwas 2026

PARADEEP, (Correspondent): Utkal Diwas (Odisha State's Foundation Day), was celebrated with enthusiasm & fervor at IndianOil Paradip Refinery on April 01, 2026. Addressing the gathering, Mr Kausik Basu, Executive Director & Refinery Head said, "Paradip Refinery takes pride in being a part of Odisha and is always committed to the growth &



development of the state". He paid humble homage and deep respect to all the great visionaries of Odisha whose contributions and sacrifices led to the formation of the state.

Utkal Diwas evening program commenced with lighting of auspicious Ceremonial Lamp. Utkal Jyoti Officers' Wives Club presented "Bande Utkala Janani - State Song of Odisha". This was followed by cultural program, depicting richness of art & culture of the state. World famous Odissi Dance, Traditional Song & Folk Dance were performed by Employees' Club and Utkal Jyoti Officers' Wives Club & outside artists as part of the cultural evening before full packed audience. Mr Dharmesh Choudhury, CGM (HR) welcomed dignitaries, guests, artists, employees & their family members to the programme. Mr Mamata Sahoo, GM (EMS) presented the vote of thanks during the concluding part of the programme.

BHIM Payments App launches 'Mahi Way' campaign, reinforcing a simple and secure way to make digital payments

Cuttack, (Correspondent): BHIM Payments App, the homegrown digital payments platform developed by NPCI BHIM Services Limited (NBSL), today announced the launch of its 'Mahi Way' campaign. The campaign positions BHIM as a clear and dependable choice, enabling users to complete payments instantly. Reflecting India's trust-led relationship with money, it emphasises on the convenient and safe payments offered by BHIM Payments app, building confidence in digital payments among people, including the new users. The 360-degree campaign features legendary cricketer and brand ambassador Mahendra Singh Dhoni, whose calm and dependable persona aligns with the



experience BHIM Payments App offers to its users. Built around the thought 'BHIM App se karo pay', the campaign draws from everyday situations where users are faced with multiple payment choices and prefer a simple, reliable way to transact. The films also showcase BHIM's scan and pay experience along with instant rewards, highlighting how digital payments can be made quick and worry free. Speaking on the campaign, Lalitha Nataraj, MD & CEO, NPCI BHIM Services Limited (NBSL), said, "In India, trust continues to play a defining role in how people adopt and use digital payments. As adoption deepens, users are looking for simplicity and trust, along with the assurance that every transaction is safe and secure. Our new campaign, Mahi Way' reflects this behaviour where payments happen without confusion or delay, on a platform that users can rely on.

NALCO Delivers Historic FY26 Performance, Setting New Benchmarks in Production and Sales

Bhubaneswar, (Correspondent): National Aluminium Company Limited (NALCO), the flagship Navratna CPSE under the Ministry of Mines, Government of India, and leading manufacturer and exporter of alumina and aluminium, has delivered an extraordinary performance in FY 2025-26, breaking all previous records in both production and sales since its inception over four decades ago. Marking a historic milestone, NALCO achieved its highest-ever production across multiple operational fronts, reinforcing its leadership as an integrated player in the alumina and aluminium sector. The company recorded bauxite excavation of 77.01



lakh tonnes and bauxite transportation of 77.07 lakh tonnes, while alumina hydrate production reached 23.00 lakh tonnes and calcined alumina production stood at 22.75 lakh tonnes. Cast metal production was recorded at 4.72 lakh tonnes, alongside a highest-ever net power generation of 6,953 MU and coal production of 40 lakh tonnes. On the sales front too, the company also recorded unprecedented achievements, registering its best-ever performance across key segments, with total alumina sales reaching

14.46 lakh tonnes, domestic alumina sales at 1.38 lakh tonnes, and aluminium metal sales recorded at 4.74 lakh tonnes including highest-ever domestic metal sale of 4.61 lakh tonnes. Worth mentioning that the company recorded a 6.13% growth in bauxite transportation over the previous year, while calcined alumina production witnessed a significant increase of 11.16% and aluminium cast metal production rose by 2.61% year-on-year. On the sales front, total alumina sales registered a robust growth of 30.74%, with total aluminium sales also increasing by 2.82% compared to the previous year. Shri Brijendra Pratap Singh, Chairman-cum-Managing Director, NALCO, expressed pride in the company's remarkable accomplishments. While reviewing the company's performance at the Annual Business Plan strategic meet held at Angul, he congratulated the entire NALCO team and stakeholders for their unwavering commitment and collective efforts. "This achievement reflects

the dedication, discipline, and collective strength of our employees. We have consistently striven to surpass our own benchmarks, and this milestone further strengthens our path towards sustained business excellence," he said. Looking ahead, Shri Singh emphasized the company's roadmap for continued growth and innovation. "We must continue improving and expanding our capabilities to meet future demands. Our progress will be driven by a renewed focus on the 3Ps - Plant Efficiency, People Efficiency, and Process Efficiency. As we move forward, our vision is firmly set on embracing digital transformation and advancing our green initiatives.

Hyatt Advances Next Phase of Growth in India and Southwest Asia with New Senior Leadership Appointment

New Delhi: Hyatt Hotels Corporation (NYSE: H) today announced the next stage of growth of Hyatt's business in India with the appointment of Vikas Chawla in the newly created senior role of President - India & Southwest Asia to lead the business in the region, effective April 1, 2026. The new leadership position reflects Hyatt's commitment to accelerating its expansion and deepening its brand presence in one of Hyatt's most strategically important growth markets. The appointment comes amid strong development momentum for Hyatt in India, where it continues to expand its portfolio and pipeline across key urban and leisure

destinations. Chawla will report to David Udell, Group President, Asia Pacific at Hyatt. "The creation of this new senior leadership role reflects both the scale of opportunity we see in India and our commitment to this market," said Udell. "Over more than four decades, Hyatt has built a strong foundation in India. As we enter our next phase of growth, Vikas' extensive experience and entrepreneurial leadership will bring the fresh knowledge, skills and abilities required at the top of our organization in India. His deep understanding of the Indian consumer will be pivotal to drive our strategic growth in this critical market as we accelerate our brand-led expansion and unlock new avenues for success."

Sensex, Nifty Extend Gains For 2nd Day As IT Stocks Rise

Mumbai: Indian equity benchmark indices recovered from early losses and ended higher on Thursday, extending their gaining streak to a second straight session, supported by strength in IT stocks and a firmer rupee against the US dollar. The Nifty closed on Friday on account of Good Friday. IT stocks led the gains during the session, with HCLTech and Tech Mahindra emerging among the top performers on the Nifty. Infosys and Tata Consultancy Services also supported the upward move — reflecting renewed buying interest in the sector. Among other

gainers on the 30-share Sensex pack were HDFC Bank, Bajaj Finance, Maruti Suzuki and Titan Company. Broader markets, however, underperformed the benchmarks, although they trimmed some of their intraday losses. The Nifty MidCap ended 0.30 per cent lower, while the Nifty SmallCap declined 0.50 per cent. On the sectoral front, IT and realty stocks outperformed, indicating selective buying in these segments. In contrast, sectors like construction durable and pharma witnessed selling pressure and ended as the worst performers of the day.

RBI Compounds FEMA Violations In Rs 4.1 Crore Mundlur Case

New Delhi: The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) has issued a compounding order on February 20 this year under Section 15 of the Foreign Exchange Management Act (FEMA), 1999, in the Rs 4.1 crore case filed against Vikram Mundlur, which has resulted in the termination of a adjudication proceedings against him for contraventions of provisions of FEMA, 1999. The order has been passed by the RBI after issuance of a "no objection" statement by the Enforcement Directorate (ED) which was investigating the case, according to an



official statement issued on Thursday. Accordingly, the RBI, on the basis of no objection issued by the ED, has compounded the contraventions vide compounding order dated February 20, 2026, with a one-time payment of Rs 3, 60,495. "This has resulted in termination of a adjudication proceedings with respect to aforesaid contravention under the provisions of FEMA against the person. No further litigation will be carried out in the case," the statement said. Section 15 provides a mechanism for

individuals or companies to voluntarily admit to a violation of FEMA regulations, pay a penalty, and regularise the contravention without undergoing lengthy litigation or legal proceedings. In this case, based on the credible information received, investigation was taken up by ED under the provisions of FEMA. "After completion of investigation, the ED filed a complaint under Section 16 of FEMA before the adjudicating authority pointing out the contravention of FEMA norms involving an amount of covering Rs 4,13,99,368, for which compounding has been done by RBI," the ED statement said. As per the provisions of FEMA, the adjudication proceedings were initiated by the adjudicating authority by issuance of show cause notice dated January 30, 2023, under Section 16 of FEMA against Vikram Mundlur. Mundlur then filed an application before the RBI for compounding of the contraventions under FEMA as per the provisions of Section 15 of the Act. "On reference from the Reserve Bank of India, the ED issued a no objection for the compounding in line with the true spirit of the Act," the statement added.

Rupee Sees Biggest Jump In Nearly 13 Years, Closes At 93.10 Against Dollar

New Delhi: The Indian Rupee saw its biggest single-day gain in nearly 13 years on Thursday, closing at 93.10 against the US dollar, as authorities stepped up efforts to curb currency speculation. The sharp rally came after the Reserve Bank

of India tightened rules in both domestic and offshore markets. "The move was largely driven by improved risk sentiment following US President Donald Trump's speech, which hinted at negotiations rather than escalation, triggering a relief rally. However, uncertainty remains elevated, keeping volatility high in currency markets," an analyst explained. The rupee surged as much as 1.7 per cent to 93.25 during the day, marking its strongest rise since September 2013, as trading resumed after a

three-day holiday break. The central bank recently barred banks from offering rupee non-deliverable forwards to both resident and non-resident clients, and also restricted companies from rebooking cancelled forward contracts. Earlier

measures included capping banks' net open rupee positions at \$100 million and prohibiting foreign exchange derivative deals with related parties. These steps are aimed at reducing speculative activity in the currency market and stabilising

the rupee. Analysts noted that India's strong foreign exchange reserves, which stand at over \$700 billion, also provide a cushion against volatility and give the central bank room to intervene if needed. The rupee's surge came even as

global cues remained weak. Asian markets traded lower, with key indices such as Japan's Nikkei, Hong Kong's Hang Seng, and South Korea's KOSPI falling up to 3 per cent amid rising geopolitical tensions after US President Donald

Trump signalled a possible escalation in West Asia. Meanwhile, crude oil prices jumped sharply, adding to global uncertainty. Brent crude futures rose 5.24 per cent to \$106.47 per barrel, while US WTI futures gained 4.5 per cent to \$104.64.