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Trump Links Hormuz Crisis To Oil Opportunity

NEW DELHI: With a little more time, we can easily OPEN THE HORMUZ STRAIT, TAKE THE OIL, & MAKE A FORTUNE. IT WOULD BE A 'GUSHER' FOR THE WORLD," Trump said in a social media post. His remarks come as new data indicate a cautious return of shipping activity through the strategic waterway, a key artery for global energy supplies. Maritime intelligence firm Windward said 16 ships transited the strait on April 1, marking the third consecutive day



of movement after a period of severe disruption. Separate data showed 16 cargo vessels passed through on Wednesday, up from 11 the previous day, signalling a gradual recovery, though still far below pre-conflict levels. The disruption began in mid-March, when Iran imposed a

mandatory navigation corridor, overseen by the Islamic Revolutionary Guard Corps (IRGC), forcing vessels to alter their routes and operate under Iranian supervision. Recent vessel movements suggest some operators are beginning to test those restrictions.

Odisha CM Calls For Cooperation In Census Exercise, Promotes Self-Enumeration

BHUBANESWAR, (Correspondent): Odisha Chief Minister Mohan Charan Majhi on Friday appealed to citizens to actively cooperate with the upcoming Census exercise, with house listing operations scheduled to commence from April 16 across the state. In a video message, the Chief Minister urged people to participate in the process, including the ongoing self-enumeration drive being conducted ahead of the door-to-door survey. "I have completed my self-enumeration. You too should do it. If you have



not yet submitted your information, please do so and cooperate in the Census," he said. Majhi informed that the Census exercise is being carried out in coordination with

the Directorate of Census in Odisha, the Ministry of Home Affairs, and the state's Revenue and Disaster Management Department. According to the Chief Minister, the

house listing and housing census will be conducted in all 30 districts of Odisha from April 16 to May 15. During this period, trained enumerators and

supervisors will visit households to collect data. He added that the self-enumeration process is currently underway from April 1 to April 15 through an online portal, allowing citizens to submit their details in advance. Highlighting the importance of the exercise, Majhi said that the data collected would play a crucial role in planning and implementation of development programmes at both the state and national levels. He urged citizens to provide accurate information and extend full cooperation to ensure the success of the Census exercise.

Jan Vishwas Bill's Provisions Promise Big Boost To Health Sector: Ministry

New Delhi: The Union Ministry of Health and Family Welfare on Friday hailed the Jan Vishwas (Amendment of Provisions) Bill, 2026, recently passed by both Houses of Parliament, as a significant step to safeguard public health. As per the provisions of the Bill, 784 provisions across 79 Central Acts administered by 23 Ministries have been amended. Within the health sector, the amendments span key legislations including the Drugs and Cosmetics Act, 1940; the Pharmacy Act, 1948; the Food Safety and Standards Act; the Clinical Establishments (Registration and Regulation) Act, 2010; and the National Commission for Allied and Healthcare Professions



Act, 2021, said a statement. These reforms align with the broader objective of simplifying compliance while maintaining robust safeguards for public health, it said. A central feature of these reforms is the replacement of criminal penalties, particularly imprisonment for minor procedural violations,

with graded monetary penalties. This marks a shift towards a more facilitative regulatory framework while retaining strict action for serious violations affecting public health and safety. Under the Drugs and Cosmetics Act, 1940, several provisions have been amended to substitute imprisonment with

financial penalties and to introduce a structured adjudication mechanism, the statement said. Notably, an adjudication mechanism has been introduced for violations under Section 27A(ii) and Section 28A. This ensures that minor cosmetic violations (other than spurious or adulterated products)

will not require court intervention and can instead be addressed through a civil penalty framework. Further, violations such as non-maintenance of documents or non-submission of information, which were earlier punishable through court-imposed fines or imprisonment, can now be adjudicated through this civil penalty mechanism. For the first time, the legislation provides for the appointment of adjudicating authorities by the Central Government and State Governments, along with a defined process that includes the issuance of show-cause notices, provision for personal hearings, and an appellate mechanism.

Tremors Felt Across Delhi-NCR, Parts Of North India After 5.9 Quake In Afghanistan

New Delhi: Earthquake tremors were felt across Delhi-NCR and several parts of North India on Friday night, triggering panic among residents who rushed out of homes and office buildings. There were, however, no immediate reports of any casualties. According to the Meteorological Centre Srinagar, the earthquake measured 5.9 on the Richter scale and struck at 9:42:57 pm IST, with its epicentre in Afghanistan at a depth of 150 km. The tremors were reported from multiple locations, including Delhi, Noida, Gurugram, Ghaziabad and Faridabad, as well as parts of Uttar Pradesh, Haryana and adjoining regions. Residents reported feeling sudden

jerks while seated, with furniture and hanging objects swaying. Many people said the shaking lasted for a few seconds but was strong enough to be clearly felt indoors. In several residential areas, people stepped out of their homes as a precaution, while office-goers briefly evacuated buildings. People gathered in open spaces, waiting for further updates. There were no immediate reports of any major damage or injuries at the time of filing this report. Authorities are yet to issue a detailed advisory beyond confirming the earthquake parameters.

The Delhi-NCR region falls under Seismic Zone IV, which is considered a

high-risk zone for earthquakes. As a result, even moderate tremors originating from distant regions are often felt across a wide area, prompting swift public reaction. Residents took to social media to share their experiences, with many describing the tremors as sudden and unsettling. Some said ceiling fans and furniture shook noticeably, while others reported feeling vibrations while seated or lying down. Emergency services remained on alert, though no distress calls related to structural damage had been reported initially. Officials have advised citizens to remain calm and follow standard safety protocols in case of aftershocks.

Five Killed, 13 Others Injured After Suicide Bombing In Khyber Pakhtunkhwa

Islamabad: At least five people were killed and 13 others, including one police personnel, were injured after a suicide car bomb attack at the Domel Police Station in Bannu district of Pakistan's Khyber Pakhtunkhwa province, local media reported on Friday. The explosion took place when a vehicle laden with explosives rammed into the rear side of the police station, causing a blast followed by an exchange of gunfire. As per the initial reports, the sentry post of the police station was completely

destroyed while a large portion of the building was reduced to rubble due to the blast, daily Dawn reported.

Multiple houses collapsed, and several people were trapped under the debris as the explosion caused severe damage to nearby residential areas. According to Rescue 1122, the injured people were taken to the hospital, where some are reported to be in critical condition.

District Emergency Officer Bakhtullah Wazir said that five people were killed while 13 others

were injured, including one police officer. The deceased includes a husband, wife, daughter, and son from the same family. He further mentioned that search and rescue operations are being conducted and will continue until the area is fully cleared. Rescue 1122 teams had reached the site of the incident. However, continuous rainfall caused difficulties in relief operations. After the firing stopped, rescue personnel started an operation to remove debris and rescue people who had been trapped.

Seven People Killed, Four Others Injured As Rains, Flash Floods Ravage Balochistan

Quetta: As many as seven people were killed, and four others injured after rains and flash floods caused widespread devastation in Pakistan's Balochistan, destroying hundreds of homes, livestock and crops, local media reported on Friday. The floods have severely impacted districts, including Kachhi, Nasirabad, Jhal Magsi, Dera Bugti, Sibi, Harnai, Kohlu, Turbat, Jaffarabad, Loralai, and Bolan. According to the Provincial Disaster Management Authority (PDMA), over 100 houses were destroyed, more than 50 livestock killed, and

approximately 400 acres of agricultural land inundated, daily Dawn reported. Around 100 houses were damaged in Hamai and Qila Abdullah, while flood surges blocked the Gandawah-Notal road in Jhal Magsi. Two people were killed due to lightning strikes in Loralai and Kachhi, while one person died in Kohlu due to a roof collapse, another died due to a wall collapse in Loralai, a child drowned in Jaffarabad, and two people were swept away in Kech. Major roads were damaged due to heavy rainfall. Sections of the Hamai-Quetta and Quetta-Sanjawi national highways were washed away, and several roads were

impacted due to heavy rainfall. Streams in Hamai and Chaman experienced flash floods. According to the PDMA, emergency teams in coordination with district administrations are carrying out rescue and relief operations. A mini-coach carrying 15 women and children was trapped in floodwaters in Qila Abdullah; however, all of them were rescued under the supervision of the Deputy Commissioner with PDMA assistance. Rescue operations continue in Goth Taj Habib and Goth Balochani in Kachhi, where embankment repairs are being conducted. Thousands of livestock were killed and standing crops,

including mustard, wheat and chickpeas, were destroyed, Dawn reported. Roads linking Bolan, Yarokazoi, Notal, Gandawah and Jhal Magsi have been cut off, isolating communities and stopping traffic between Sindh and Balochistan.

On March 30, the PDMA said that at least 17 people, including 14 children, were killed and 56 others were injured after heavy rains caused roof and wall collapse in several areas of Pakistan's Khyber Pakhtunkhwa since March 25. The highest number of casualties was reported in Bannu, with eight deaths, including seven children and one woman, while 42 others were injured.

Top Maoist Leader 'Kishan Da' Dies in Ranchi Hospital After Prolonged Illness

New Delhi: Senior CPI (Maoist) politburo member Prashant Bose, widely known by as Kishan Da, passed away at the Rajendra Institute of Medical Sciences (RIMS) in Ranchi on Friday morning following a prolonged illness. He was over 80 years old. Bose, who carried a bounty of Rs 1 crore on his head, had been in judicial custody at Birsamunda Central Jail since his arrest in November

2021. His health deteriorated sharply early on Friday, with reports indicating severe breathing difficulties. He was rushed to RIMS around 6 am under heavy security and was declared dead around 10 am during treatment.

A key figure in the banned CPI (Maoist), Bose served as a politburo member and secretary of the party's Eastern Regional Bureau. Security agencies had long linked

him to Maoist activities across Jharkhand, Bihar, West Bengal, Odisha, and parts of the Northeast. He was considered one of the most influential leaders in the outfit's organisational and operational network in eastern India for decades. Before the formation of the CPI (Maoist) in 2004 through the merger of the Maoist Communist Centre of India (MCCI) and the People's War Group, Bose played a prominent

role in the MCCI. He was regarded as a strategist and ideological figure within the movement and was wanted in over 70 Maoist-related cases in Jharkhand alone. Bose was arrested in November 2021 along with his wife, Sheela Marandi (also a senior Maoist leader), and others during a joint operation by Jharkhand Police and the CRPF in Seraikela-Kharsawan district.

CBI Arrests Proclaimed Offender In Rs 41 Lakh Bank Fraud Case From Delhi

New Delhi: The Central Bureau of Investigation (CBI) on Friday arrested a proclaimed offender and businessman from Rajouri Garden in west Delhi in connection with a Rs 41 lakh fraud involving a Noida-based bank in 2008, an official said. After the arrest, Davinder Pal Singh was presented before a Delhi court, which sent him to judicial custody, the CBI said in a statement. The CBI registered the case against him on December 14, 2010, for alleged criminal conspiracy with other accused to obtain a loan of Rs 40 lakh in the name of his wife, Gurcharan Kaur, from Union Bank of India's SSI Branch in Noida. The probe agency said that Singh allegedly used forged documents to get the loan sanctioned in his wife's name. During the period

from May 2007 to June 2009, Singh got a cash credit limit of Rs 40 lakh sanctioned from Union Bank of India in the name of his wife, who was shown as the proprietor of M/s Dee Pee Electricals, a firm involved in the trading of electrical goods, the CBI said. The agency said the credit limit was created on the basis of false documents, causing a wrongful loss of Rs 41.40 lakh to the bank. After investigation, the CBI filed a chargesheet on September 29, 2012, against Davinder Pal Singh and others. As Singh failed to appear before the court during trial proceedings, the court issued a standing warrant against him on September 26, 2013, and declared him a proclaimed offender on September 17, 2014.

Rajnath Singh Lays Foundation Stone Of Tunnel In Visakhapatnam To Boost Naval Research

Visakhapatnam: Defence Minister Rajnath Singh on Friday laid the foundation stone of a state-of-the-art Large Cavity Tunnel (LCT) facility at the Naval Science and Technological Laboratory (NSTL) of the DRDO in Visakhapatnam, an official said. The facility will significantly enhance India's naval research and testing capabilities, marking a major step towards achieving technological self-reliance, said an official statement. Addressing scientists, researchers, and personnel at NSTL, the Defence Minister asserted that India, with this initiative, will be able to design, develop and test its equipment, systems and sub-systems indigenously, utilising its own resources, position itself as a strong naval power and a leader in defence technology. "Until now, even after successfully developing equipment, systems, and sub-systems, we often had to look abroad for critical testing. This situation will now



change," he said. Rajnath Singh said that this facility is not merely an infrastructure project, but an enabling system, which will strengthen our capabilities in advancing propulsion systems, enable focused efforts on noise reduction, and further strengthen stealth capabilities. "It will serve as a foundational backbone for the design and development of submarines and ships, supporting future advancements in naval engineering and maritime defence systems," he said. Rajnath Singh described the project as a symbol of the success

of Prime Minister Narendra Modi's resolve of Aatmanirbhar Bharat. He stated that the government's determination to make India self-reliant is intrinsically linked to the national security challenges, the country has achieved complete Aatmanirbharta in various sectors due to the concerted efforts of the domestic industry, academia, MSMEs, youth, and researchers. During the visit, the Defence Minister was briefed about the NSTL projects/programmes by the Secretary, Department of Defence

R&D and Chairman DRDO, Dr Samir V Kamat. He also visited the Seakeeping and Manoeuvring Basin, where he witnessed an impressive display of advanced underwater systems, including torpedoes, naval mines, decoys, and autonomous underwater vehicles (AUVs). A live demonstration of a swarm of man-portable AUVs showcased India's growing prowess in autonomous maritime operations and next-generation underwater warfare technologies, underlining the nation's focus on future-ready defence systems.

ECI Flags Heavy Police Deployment For Security Of Trinamool Leaders In Bengal

Kolkata: The Election Commission of India (ECI) has taken serious note of the large number of police personnel deployed by West Bengal Police and Kolkata Police to provide personal security to Trinamool Congress leaders at various levels in the state. The Commission has also flagged an allegedly biased approach in the selection of leaders for state-provided security cover, with ruling party leaders enjoying disproportionately high security, sources in the Commission said. The ECI noted that before the announcement of the elections, the West Bengal government had deployed 2,185 police personnel to provide security to 832 persons belonging directly to the Trinamool Congress



and 144 others, including supporters of the ruling party. The Commission has taken serious note of the matter and directed the Director General of Police, Sidh Nath Gupta, to conduct a strict professional review within the next two to three days in a fair and equitable manner, the sources added. Earlier in the day, the Commission had sought a status report from West Bengal Police on the implementation of its

earlier order for the withdrawal of state-provided security cover for tainted political leaders with criminal records, irrespective of their political affiliations. Earlier, the Commission had directed the withdrawal of state-provided security cover for leaders irrespective of political affiliation, including those out on bail or parole, those accused in criminal cases, and those with a criminal history.

Raghav Chandha Among Many Who Began The Walk With Kejriwal, But Slowly Parted Ways

New Delhi: For some time, Rajya Sabha member Raghav Chadha's estrangement with the Aam Aadmi Party (AAP) has been a subject for political discussions and certain assumptions, but no one in the know was willing to confirm, clarify, or even talk about it on record. But now, it is in the open. His removal as the party's deputy leader in the Rajya Sabha appears more than the claimed "administrative reshuffle"; it is a public signal of internal discord within AAP. This was further apparent with the party requesting the House's Chairman not to grant Chadha time from that allotted in presenting statements on important public matters. While the party apparently finds Chadha



veering away from issues being raised by it, with senior leader and former Delhi Minister Saurabh Bharadwaj on Friday accusing him of choosing "less significant" issues in Parliament over "real matters" and not questioning the ruling Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP). The Rajya Sabha

member chose to defend his parliamentary interventions as being people-related. On Friday, AAP senior leader and former Delhi Minister Saurabh Bharadwaj accused Chadha of choosing "less significant" issues in Parliament over "real matters" and not

questioning the ruling Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP). Contradictions and confrontations have earlier seen several prominent faces, part of the crusade against corruption, who came together in 2012 as the AAP - entrusting leadership to Arvind Kejriwal for his leading role in the protests,

abandoning it later. Several leaders, founding members, and aides have stepped down from the bandwagon and distanced themselves from the supremo largely due to internal bickering, disagreement, leadership style, and sometimes, political shifts. Key figures include Yogendra Yadav, Prashant Bhushan, Ashutosh, Alka Lamba, Swati Maliwal, and Kumar Vishwas, among others. Yadav, Bhushan, and Kumar Vishwas were said to have fallen out with Kejriwal largely because they believed AAP had abandoned its founding ideals of transparency, internal democracy, and alternative politics, shifting instead toward centralisation of power and personality-driven politics under Kejriwal.

Bengal Polls: ECI Suspends Joint BDO/ARO For Dereliction Of Duty

Kolkata: The Election Commission of India (ECI), on Friday, announced the suspension of a joint block development officer (BDO), also the assistant returning officer (ARO), in East Burdwan district of West Bengal on charges of gross dereliction of duty. The officer concerned is Jyotsna Khatun, the joint BDO-cum-ARO of the Khandagosh Development Block in East Burdwan district. In

a communique sent by the ECI's Secretary Sujeet Kumar Mishra to the West Bengal Chief Secretary Dushyant Nariala, the latter had been directed to place Khatun under immediate suspension and also to initiate disciplinary action against her immediately. "The directions of the Commission are implemented with immediate effect and a compliance report in this regard is to be sent

by 11 a.m. on April 4, 2026," the communique said. At the same time, the ECI had also clarified on Friday that the number of bureaucrats and police officers, who were transferred by the Commission after the model code of conduct (MCC), is negligible compared to the huge number of bureaucrats and police officers immediately before the MCC was enforced. As per the data provided by the ECI on Friday

evening, just before starting of special intensive revision (SIR) was announced October 27, 2025, till elections were announced on March 16, 2026, West Bengal government transferred a large number of 1,370 officers, including 97 Indian Administrative Service (IAS), 146 Indian Police Service (IPS) officers, 1,080 West Bengal Civil Service officers and 47 West Bengal Police Service Officers. "This

chaos created by the West Bengal government was corrected by ECI by a minimal number of transfers," said a Commission insider. Meanwhile, the office of the West Bengal Chief Electoral Officer (CEO) had issued a social media post on Friday afternoon, claiming that the ECI had mandated zero tolerance policy regarding conducting free, fair and violence-free polls for the 294 Assembly constituencies in West Bengal in two phases later this month.

PM Modi Holds Grand Roadshow In Puducherry Ahead Of April 9 Polls

Puducherry: With the Union Territory heading to the Assembly elections on April 9, Prime Minister Narendra Modi intensified the National Democratic Alliance (NDA) campaign on Friday by holding a high-profile roadshow in Puducherry, drawing enthusiastic crowds and tight security arrangements across the city. The NDA alliance in Puducherry, comprising the Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP), the All India NR Congress

led by Chief Minister N. Rangasamy, the AIADMK, and other regional partners, is seeking to consolidate its position in the upcoming polls. Prime Minister Modi arrived in Chennai from New Delhi earlier in the day via a special flight. From Chennai airport, he proceeded to Puducherry by helicopter, underscoring the importance the BJP leadership is placing on the Union Territory's electoral battle. Upon his arrival at Puducherry airport, the Prime

Minister was warmly received by Chief Minister Rangasamy along with senior BJP leaders and party functionaries. The reception marked the beginning of a carefully choreographed campaign event aimed at energising party workers and attracting undecided voters. From the airport, PM Modi travelled by car to the Ajanta Signal Junction, where he began an extensive roadshow in an open-top vehicle. ?

How notorious robber 'Raja' planned multi-crore robberies

Cuttack(Contributor): In a startling revelation, Police Commissioner S Dev Datta Singh on Friday uncovered the intricate and highly calculated operations of a notorious thief known as 'Raja', whose criminal methods resemble scenes straight out of a crime thriller. According to the Commissioner, Raja and his gang primarily targeted jewellery shops located in isolated areas. A key factor in selecting their targets was ensuring that no police station was nearby, or that the nearest one was at a considerable distance, allowing them ample time to execute their plans and escape.



Before carrying out any robbery, the gang would conduct extensive reconnaissance (recc) of the area. They would rent houses or stay in hotels nearby for several days, closely observing every detail of the locality. This included calculating the exact distance of the nearest police station and estimating how long it would take for information about a robbery to reach law enforcement authorities. The gang maintained detailed information about the jewellery shops, including the number of male and female employees working there. They also monitored the movement of gold-trucking when it was taken out of the shop, where it was being transported, and at what time. What makes Raja's operation even

more sophisticated is the involvement of technical experts within the team. These specialists were responsible for disabling GPS systems attached to gold consignments using signal jammers, ensuring that stolen valuables could not be traced. Following his escape from Choudwar Jail, Raja allegedly carried out a major heist in Mysuru, Karnataka, stealing gold worth over Rs 10 crore from a jewellery store before going on the run again. To apprehend the elusive criminal, police launched a massive manhunt operation spanning multiple regions, including the Northeast, Bihar, Delhi, and Karnataka.

Explosion at firecracker unit in Ganjam leaves six critical, probe underway

Berhampur, (Contributor): At least six persons, including a minor, were critically injured following a powerful explosion during firecracker preparation at Korada under Nuagaon police limits on Friday. The blast occurred while a family was reportedly engaged in manufacturing firecrackers for the upcoming Lanka Podi festival. The sudden explosion triggered panic in the area, with thick smoke engulfing the surroundings. The injured have been identified as firecracker unit owner Hadibandhu Sethi, his son Nava Sethi, and workers Niranjan Nahak, Bapuni Nahak, Manoj Nayak, along with a minor, Amit Sethi. All six were initially admitted to the district headquarters hospital. However, as the condition of five victims turned critical, they were shifted to a hospital in Bhubaneswar for advanced treatment. Police have reached the spot and launched a detailed investigation to ascertain the exact cause of the explosion.

Jagannath Prasad Nayak appointed Chair of FICCI Odisha State Council

Bhubaneswar (Contributor): The Federation of Indian Chambers of Commerce and Industry (FICCI) has announced the appointment of Jagannath Prasad Nayak, President & Unit Head of Aditya Aluminium, a unit of Hindalco Industries, as the new Chair of the FICCI Odisha State Council.

A seasoned manufacturing and metallurgy professional with an MBA and over 33 years of diverse industry experience, Nayak brings deep expertise across aluminium smelting, captive power generation, and downstream manufacturing operations. Recognised for his technical acumen and strategic leadership, he has played pivotal roles in enhancing operational excellence, efficiency, and transformation initiatives across major industrial establishments. Throughout his distinguished career, Nayak has been associated with leading aluminium and metals organisations, including Vedanta Aluminium, Oman Aluminium, Hindalco's Hirakud Smelter, Mahan Aluminium, and the company's aluminium smelter plant at Renukoot in Uttar Pradesh. His wide-ranging exposure across global and domestic operations has contributed significantly to advancing innovation-led manufacturing practices. Nayak's excellence has been recognised through several prestigious honours, including the Young Metallurgist of the Year Award 2006 conferred by the Ministry of Mines, the ABG Chairman's Individual Exceptional Contributor Award 2014, and the Manufacturing Transformation Champion of the Year Award 2024 by Frost & Sullivan.

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Dankari Hills under protection

Oil project is a very popular project in Jajpur district

Jajpur road (Contributor): The construction of the Jajpur Dankari Oil project is in full swing. The oil project area located at the foot of the Dankari hills has entered the security zone today. On the instructions of the Government of India, the Central Security Forces have reached the Dankari project site and have taken charge. A platoon of security personnel led by the Divisional Officer R.K. Jena and Security Agency Corporal Dilip Kumar Routray are reaching. On the instructions of Dharamshala MLA

Himanshu Shekhar Sahu, some youths led by senior BJP leader Pradeep Kumar Parida were seen helping the government security personnel who had reached the project area. The Jenapur police provided all possible support to the personnel who had come to secure the perimeter of the oil project. During an administrative meeting with officials of the Indian Strategic Petroleum Reserve (ISPR) on the 12th, Dharamshala MLA Himanshu Shekhar Sahu emphasized on the development of the affected areas as well

as the guarantee of employment. This could not have been done during the BJD rule. To make this project operational, Dharamshala MLA Shri Sahu also held personal discussions with ISPR on several occasions. After repeated meetings, the final draft of the project was submitted on the 12th. It was decided that the Central Security Forces will guard the project area from April 1st and the construction of the wall will begin. Accordingly, security has been tightened by ISPR yesterday.

Three arrested with heroin worth over Rs 16 lakh in Cuttack

Cuttack(Contributor): Cuttack Central Excise officials today arrested as many as three persons on charges of possessing heroin worth over Rs 16 on Thursday. Acting on a tip-off, the excise officials conducted a raid in Judicial Academy Chhaka under Markatnagar Police Station limits and seized 164 grams of heroin and arrested three persons. The officials also seized a scooty and mobile phones of the accused persons, said sources adding that the market value of the seized drug



is expected to be worth over Rs 16 lakh. The arrested persons have been identified as Som Nayak, Kalia Nayak and Rohit Ghadei of Alisha Bazar area under Lalbag Police Station limits. A case under the

Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances (NDPS) Act, 1985 was registered against the drug peddlers and they were forwarded to the court after completion of legal process.

Tata Power-led Odisha Discoms Illuminate Offices in Blue to Mark World Autism Awareness Day

Bhubaneswar, (Contributor): Reinforcing its commitment to inclusion and neurodiversity, Tata Power-led Odisha Discoms - TPCODL, TPSODL, TPNODL and TPWODL - illuminated their offices in blue on April 2, marking World Autism Awareness Day and standing in solidarity with individuals on the autism spectrum and their families.

As part of Tata Power's nationwide initiative to bring much-needed awareness about autism, key operational offices across Odisha were lit up in blue, the globally recognized colour symbolising autism awareness, acceptance, and



support. This symbolic gesture aimed to spark conversations around neurodiversity, while reinforcing the organisation's commitment to building an inclusive and empathetic ecosystem across its areas of operation. The initiative in Odisha aligns with Tata Power's broader philosophy of driving social impact alongside operational excellence. Across its distribution companies, the company has consistently integrated community engagement and awareness-building into its consumer outreach efforts, ensuring that social responsibility remains embedded in everyday operations.

5 accused persons arrested by Knuagaon Police for demanding Dadavati

Goplapur (Contributor): Knuagaon police arrested 5 accused persons for the violence case. These accused persons are threaten to give 5 lakhs rupees as Dadavati. arrested accused persons are Subham Panigrahy (20) of village Kharanipada, Jarada ps, Kanha @ Kanhu Charan Sahu (21) of Odia Sahi, Chikiti Pentho, K Nuagaon ps, Rosan @ Sarthak Patra (21) of village Amundi, K Nuagaon ps, Nilamani Patra (28) of village Satrumardanpur, K Nuagaon ps and Goutam Pradhan (27) of village Medinipur, Golanthara ps area. police seized



Remnants of exploded patrol bombs, One black colour Hero Honda Splendor motor cycle and one white colour Dzire car (OD 07 AT 0854) On the written report of complainant Umakanta Sahu (60) of Chikiti Pentho, PS case number 88/26 has been registered. The above accused persons demanded Rs. 5 Lakh rupees from Simanchal Sahu who is the son of the complainant. When Simanchal Sahu denied

to pay the demanded money, the accused persons made plan to throw the petrol bomb to the house of complainant in order to threaten him. As per their plan on 31.03.2026 at about 09.00 PM accused persons came to the spot and threw two petrol bombs on the entrance of the house and escaped from the spot. As a result the petrol bomb exploded and caught fire. Fire was extinguished by

neighbours. Following the case raid was conducted at different places to arrest the accused persons. IIC Knuagaon PS formed a team and during his investigation found that the accused persons have taken shelter in a hotel in Bhubaneswar. IIC and team proceeded to Bhubaneswar and conducted raid at the Hotel in Bapuji Nagar and apprehended the accused persons with the assistance of local police on 02.04.2026 and forwarded the accused persons today to the Hon'ble Court of JMFC, Patrapur. In this case further investigation going on by the police.

Metal and Manufacturing Power Odisha's Employment Growth

Bhubaneswar (Contributor): Odisha is the highest producer of Alumina, Aluminium and Steel in the country today. But for decades, Odisha's economic story was marred by limited local opportunities, driving large-scale labour migration. The state has historically witnessed both push and pull

factors, with distress-driven migration particularly prevalent in the south-western belt due to limited non-farm employment, agrarian stress, and low industrial absorption. In the last decade, however, significant shift has occurred in terms of labour force gradually shifting from agriculture to metal and manufacturing. This is

evident through the periodic labour force survey, which indicates a steady decline in agricultural workforce and while labour force participation in manufacturing rising to almost 27% in the state as per the recent Economic Survey 2025-26. As the state moves from a resource-based economy to value-added manufacturing, companies like Vedanta Aluminium are playing a catalytic role. With 100% value addition within the state, Vedanta has significantly strengthened local industrial



ecosystems through a cumulative investment exceeding ₹1 lakh crore. The company has generated an estimated 5 lakh direct and indirect employment

opportunities to date, spanning contractual work, logistics, maintenance, and ancillary services, thereby creating a powerful multiplier effect that extends well beyond core industrial employment. Its world-class assets, including the 5 MTPA alumina refinery at Lanjigarh and the 1.8 MTPA aluminium smelter at Jharsuguda, among the largest of their kind

globally, represent more than scale and output; they represent livelihoods rooted where people live. By anchoring its core operations in Kalahandi and Jharsuguda, some of Odisha's historically underserved regions, Vedanta Aluminium has built industrial capacity and reengineered the state's employment geography.

EAST COAST RAILWAY
Tender Notice No. 69-SBP-TRD-OT-2025-26, Date: 30.03.2026
NAME OF WORK: TRD RELATED WORK IN CONNECTION TO THE WORK OF "PROVISION OF SHUNTING NECK OF 100M AT SAMBALPUR END OF R/S OF HIRAKUD STATION WITH PROVISION OF DS AND EXTENSION OF 26M OF R/B AT HIRAKUD".
Approximate Cost (₹): 60,75,273.44, EMD (₹): 1,21,500.00, Completion Period: 12 Months.
Tender Closing Date and Time: At 1530 Hrs. on 21.04.2026
No manual offers sent by Post / Courier / Fax or in person against such e-tenders even if these are submitted on firm's letter head and received in time. All such manual offers shall be considered invalid and shall be rejected summarily without any consideration.
Complete information including e-tender documents of the above e-tender is available in website: <http://www.irps.gov.in>
Note: The prospective tenderers are advised to revisit the website 15 (Fifteen) days before the date of closing of tender to note any changes / corrigendum issued for this tender.
Sr. Divisional Electrical Engineer (TRD), PR-10/R/26-27 Sambalpur

EDITORIAL

How to Educate Every Last Girl: Unlocking the World's Greatest Potential

Education is not just a fundamental right; it is a transformative force that shapes societies, economies, and futures. Yet, millions of girls around the world remain excluded from classrooms due to poverty, cultural barriers, conflict, and systemic inequalities. Educating every last girl is not merely a moral obligation—it is the smartest investment humanity can make.

The Importance of Educating Girls

When a girl is educated, the benefits ripple far beyond her individual life. She is more likely to lead a healthier life, earn a higher income, and contribute positively to her community. Educated women tend to marry later, have fewer and healthier children, and are more likely to ensure that their own children receive education. In essence, educating a girl transforms generations.

Barriers That Still Exist

Despite progress, several obstacles continue to hinder girls' education:

Poverty: Families struggling financially often prioritize boys' education over girls'.

Cultural Norms: In many societies, girls are expected to focus on household responsibilities rather than schooling.

Early Marriage: Many girls are forced to drop out due to child marriage.

Safety Concerns: Long distances to schools and unsafe environments discourage attendance.

Lack of Infrastructure: Absence of proper sanitation facilities, especially for adolescent girls, leads to absenteeism.

Practical Solutions for Inclusive Education

To ensure that every girl gets an education, a multi-dimensional approach is required:

1. Strengthening Government Policies

Governments must enforce free and compulsory education laws, provide scholarships, and create girl-friendly policies. Programs that offer incentives to families can help reduce dropout rates.

2. Building Safe and Accessible Schools

Schools should be within safe reach and equipped with proper sanitation, especially separate toilets for girls. Transport facilities can further improve accessibility.

3. Community Awareness and Mindset Change

Changing societal attitudes is crucial. Awareness campaigns, local leaders, and educators must work together to highlight the importance of girls' education.

Dollar Dynamics and Gold: Is Now the Right Time to Buy?



Dr. Simant Kumar Nanda

Gold has always held a special place in Indian households, not merely as a decorative metal but as a symbol of stability, tradition, and financial security. Whenever prices fluctuate, questions inevitably arise: should we buy now or wait? The answer is never straightforward, because gold prices are shaped by a complex interplay of global currency movements, commodity trends, and human behaviour.

At the heart of gold pricing lies the US dollar, as gold is traded internationally in dollars. Even for buyers in India, the rupee price of gold is linked indirectly to the strength of the dollar. For example, if international gold costs 100 dollars and the exchange rate is 85 rupees per dollar, the price in rupees is 8500. If the dollar weakens to 75 rupees, the same gold drops to 7500 rupees. A weaker dollar makes gold appear cheaper locally, boosting demand. Conversely, a stronger dollar can push prices higher and temper buying interest. Crude oil prices add another layer of complexity. Oil is central to almost every sector, from transportation to agriculture and manufacturing. When oil prices rise, production and distribution costs increase, triggering inflation. As the cost of living rises, households naturally look for assets that preserve value, and gold has traditionally fulfilled this role. This is why periods of inflation often see greater demand for gold, which in turn supports rising prices.

However, there is an opposing effect. Since oil is traded globally in dollars, higher oil prices increase the demand for dollars. This strengthens the US currency, which makes gold more expensive for buyers using other currencies. As a result, rising oil prices simultaneously push gold



prices in two directions: inflation encourages buying and pushes prices up, while a stronger dollar restrains demand and can pull prices down. The net effect depends on which force dominates at the time. Market behaviour adds yet another dimension. During periods of uncertainty or fear, buyers often flock to gold even when the dollar is strong, driving prices up. In other circumstances, a rising dollar may

depress gold prices despite high inflation. This tug-of-war results in frequent short term fluctuations that can be confusing for households and individual investors. For example, consider a family investing five lakhs in gold today. If the dollar strengthens or oil prices

shift, the value of that investment could drop by 5 to 10 percent in a few months. While gold generally retains value over the long term, such short term swings can create stress, particularly when liquidity is required urgently. A practical strategy, therefore, is to treat gold as a long term store of value rather than a tool for short term gains. Gradual accumulation, spread over months or years, helps smooth out price volatility. Diversification also matters: keeping some funds in cash, some in bank deposits, and some in

gold ensures financial resilience against multiple risks. Behavioural science also explains why gold continues to attract buyers during dips. Cognitive tendencies such as loss aversion make individuals fear missing out on opportunities, while social cues and herd behaviour

reinforce buying patterns. Even neurological factors play a role: dopamine pathways in the brain create excitement and urgency during perceived bargains, pushing many to buy impulsively.

Understanding these psychological drivers can help investors make calmer, more rational choices. The key takeaway is clear. Gold prices do not move on a single factor but reflect a combination of currency dynamics, commodity prices, inflationary trends, and human psychology. A weaker dollar may make gold cheaper and stimulate demand, while oil driven inflation encourages buying, yet the same oil price rise can strengthen the dollar and reduce demand. These overlapping forces make short term predictions difficult. Ultimately, gold rewards patience and informed decision making. Buying a large quantity impulsively may not yield immediate benefits and could even result in temporary losses. Gradual, balanced investment, supported by knowledge of economic trends and personal financial planning, remains the wiser approach. Gold is not just a metal; it is a strategic asset that thrives when handled with care and understanding.

Light Born from Sacrifice: The Eternal Message of Good Friday



Kishan Bhawnani

Today's society is undergoing unprecedented change globally. While technological

advancement, globalization, and economic competition have made life more convenient, they have also profoundly impacted the nature of family structures and relationships. The emotional security and collective responsibility that once flourished in joint families are now increasingly confined to nuclear families. The most affected segment of this change is elderly parents. At a stage in life when they most need support, respect, and care, they often face neglect, loneliness, and financial insecurity. At such a time, the Employee Accountability and Parental Support Monitoring Bill, 2026, passed by the state of Telangana, is not only a legal step but also a historic intervention that will shake social consciousness. The core message of this bill is clear and strong: if a child refuses to care for their parents, the state will intervene to enforce their personal responsibility. I, Advocate Kishan Sanmukhdas Bhawnani, Gondia, Maharashtra, believe this idea is revolutionary, as family relationships have until now been considered a private and moral sphere, where the role of law was limited. But when morality fails, legal intervention becomes necessary. This bill is based on the principle that neglecting the elderly is not merely a personal failing, but a social crime, one that can only be addressed through strict legal provisions, not social preaching. As an advocate and author, I would like to suggest that this bill could be made more effective. For example, the salary deduction limit could be increased from 15 percent to 25 percent, and the maximum amount from ₹10,000 to ₹25,000, making it more effective and a deterrent.

Friends, if we consider whether such a law should be implemented in all states, the answer

is a resounding yes, as it has many social, economic, and legal implications. On the one hand, this law can be a powerful tool to protect the rights of elderly parents. It will instill a sense of responsibility in children who, despite being financially capable, neglect their parents. This will send a positive message to society that serving parents is not just an option but a mandatory duty. Furthermore, the central government should take the initiative to implement this law nationwide. If all states adopt this model, it could create a strong national framework for the protection of the elderly. However, it is important to clarify that no comprehensive law has yet been enacted by any state or central government in India that mandates a 15% direct salary deduction. In some cases, courts have ordered the deduction of maintenance from salaries based on individual circumstances, but this is not a blanket law but a decision made on a case-by-case basis.

Friends, if we are to understand the plight of the elderly, old age is an inevitable reality of life. It is a stage when physical and mental abilities gradually begin to decline. Illnesses increase, sources of income dry up, and individuals become completely dependent on others. In the Indian context, this dependence is primarily on children, as most people spend their entire life's earnings on their children's education, marriage, and future. Government employees may have the support of pensions, but the situation is even more challenging for elderly individuals in the private sector. In such a situation, if their children also abandon them, it becomes extremely painful and inhumane for them.

Friends, let's consider the bill passed by the Telangana Assembly on March 29, 2026. This bill offers a solution to this very problem. Under this bill, if any employee, whether government or private, is negligent in caring for their parents, 15 percent of their salary, or a maximum of ₹10,000 per month, will be deducted and deposited directly into the

parents' bank account. This provision not only ensures financial support but also sends a strong message that children cannot shirk their responsibilities. This law also applies to public representatives such as MLAs and Sarpanchs, making it clear that accountability is equal for all. A key feature of this bill is its clear and time-bound process. If parents feel they are being neglected, they can file a complaint with the District Collector. The Collector is mandated to investigate the matter and issue a decision within 60 days. If the complaint is found to be true, a salary deduction order is issued. If the application is rejected, there is a provision for appeal to the Senior Citizens Commission. This process ensures transparency and justice, which is often lacking in other laws.

Friends Fellow citizens, if we consider another important provision in the bill, it is the establishment of the Senior Citizens Commission. This Commission will be headed by a retired High Court judge and will act as an appellate body. It will have the power to summon witnesses, conduct investigations, and render decisions. This system not only ensures the speedy resolution of complaints but also provides a powerful platform for the elderly to seek justice. This law is not merely punitive, but also aims to restore social values. In Indian culture, parents are considered divine. The ideal of "Matri Devo Bhava, Pitri Devo Bhava" is deeply rooted in our values. The story of Shraavan Kumar epitomizes this, where a son dedicates his life to serving his parents. However, in the hustle and bustle of modern life, these values are being left behind. This law serves as both a warning and a guide that if society forgets its values, the state will have to intervene. Friends, if we consider the Maintenance and Welfare of Parents and Senior Citizens Act, 2007, already in effect in India, its biggest weakness is its slow implementation. Often, complaints are delayed so much that the elderly's situation worsens before they receive justice. This new bill in Telangana addresses this

shortcoming by including a time-bound process and stringent provisions. It not only strengthens the old law but also offers an effective model that goes beyond it. It is also important that this law is not viewed solely as a punitive measure, but rather as a tool for social reform. The government should also launch awareness campaigns to ensure that people understand their duties and voluntarily comply with them. The education system should also incorporate values that make children responsible for their parents.

Friends If we consider this entire provision internationally, many countries have legal provisions for elderly care. China has a Filial Responsibility Law, which obliges children to visit and care for their parents. Singapore has a Maintenance of Parents Act, under which parents can demand financial support from their children. Many countries in the US and Europe also have similar laws, although their form and severity vary. In this respect, the Telangana bill is in line with global trends, but its strictness and clarity make it unique. Thus, if we study and analyze the entire above statement, it would not be wrong to say that this Telangana bill marks the beginning of a new social contract, where responsibilities are being rebalanced between the state, society, and the individual. This law reminds us that development is not just about economic progress, but also about social sensitivity and the preservation of human values. If we neglect our elders, we not only turn a blind eye to our past but also make our future insecure.

Therefore, the need of the hour is to take this initiative seriously and transform it into a national movement. Every state, every citizen, and every family must understand that caring for the elderly is not just a duty, but a moral and human responsibility. If society fails to fulfill this responsibility, the law must be enforced—because ultimately, a civilized society is defined by how it treats its most vulnerable and dependent members.

The famous Danda Yatra of Balimela began with faith and belief

Malkangiri correspondent: The famous Danda Yatra of Malkangiri district of Balimela began. Hundreds of devotees join this Danda Yatra of the Mother with faith and belief for the fulfillment of their desires, completely surrender themselves to the Mother and worship the Mother for 13 days, observing the fast of Danda Kali. The Dhandanachatra has begun as per the rules with the sound of the dhol and ghant, with the devotion



and faith of the devotees and devotees, from village to town, with the chanting of "Kala Rudra mani ku Bhaja Hai" from village to town. For many years, this tradition has been going on in Balimela, where the Dhandanachatra continues till the 14th of next month. The Mother travels from town to town and gives darshan to the devotees in different forms. According to the mythological standards, observing this Danda Yatra fast fulfills all the desires of the devotee. It is organized under the supervision of Gajendra Mohanty, Babula Dakua, Bapi Das, Santosh Panda and other members.

After the defeat, the constitution speaks

Jajpur road (Correspondent) after the defeat of the 35-year-long regime, Sukanda is seen arming the constitution with its dominance in view of the upcoming elections. The rafulla Ghadei and pritrangan ghada (Dani) family, which has been holding elections for more than 3,000 workers in Sukinda without making them permanent, has been caught and defeated in the 2024 election. Sukinda Region Chormite Khadan Majdur Sangha along with Federation General Secretary Narayan Chandra Dhir

have left the camp along with several leaders. It has been written that there is little space for the Ghadei family to set foot in the mining Khadan area. The pressure of the Ghadei family has stopped from the Sukinda mining area to the industrial area of Kalingnagar. While all the residents of Sukinda are rejecting the Ghadei family for the monopoly of the Ghadei family, it seems that some Ambedkarists have held a meeting with their workers at Dangadi Bhawan at Jajpur district, Sukinda Constituency on

Friday evening, speaking the words of Ambedkar. Due to the situation of koro or moro, on April 14, on Baba Saheb's birthday, the family is seen trying to organize a blood donation camp with the help of Senior leaders of the state to grab the votes of the downtrodden tribals, dalits in Sukanda. It is being planned to give checks to the BJP and local MLAs Praderp bal samanta by bringing people with money. After losing, Ghadei family is seen making such efforts for vote politics in the name of Ambedkar.

Rayagada Police Pay Heartfelt Tribute to Martyrs on 91st Odisha Police Formation Day

Rayagada, (Correspondent): On the solemn occasion of the 91st Odisha Police Formation Day, the Rayagada District Police paid rich tributes to the brave martyrs of the district who laid down their lives in the line of duty during Maoist attacks over the years.

As part of the observance, police teams visited the residences of the martyrs' families across the district. The officials interacted with the family members, conveying deep respect, gratitude, and solidarity for their immense sacrifice. The visits were marked by emotional moments as officers acknowledged the courage and resilience of the families who continue to endure the loss of their loved ones with dignity.

The police personnel assured the families of continued support and cooperation from the department. They reiterated that the sacrifices made by these brave hearts will never be forgotten and will always be honored with utmost respect. The department also reaffirmed its commitment to the welfare of the martyrs' families and to maintaining peace and security in the region.

Foundation Stone Laid for Biraja Haat Project



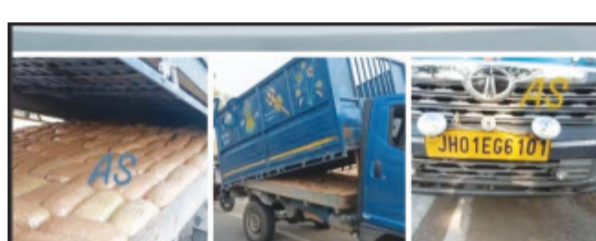
JAJPUR (Correspondent): The foundation stone for the redevelopment and construction of the Biraja Haat near Maa Biraja Temple has been laid by Odisha's Minister of Cooperation, Handlooms and Textiles, Shri Pradeep Bal Samanta. Jajpur MP Dr. Rabindra Narayan Behera and District Collector Shri Ambar Kumar Kar were present at the foundation ceremony.

The project has an estimated cost of over ₹17 crore and is expected to be completed by January 2027. The Biraja Haat project will include 124 permanent shops and 312 vending shops, along with facilities such as parking, walkways, security kiosks, boundary walls, and proper drainage systems. Speaking on the occasion, Minister Shri Bal Samanta stated that the improved

infrastructure and well-organized market will contribute significantly to the socio-economic development of the local area. Once completed, the Biraja Haat will provide a safe and clean marketplace for the local residents. Sub-Collector Shri Tapas Ranjan Dehuri, Executive Engineer of Roads and Buildings Shri Komal Kumar Swain, other administrative officials, and local residents were also present at the event.

In separate incidents, ganja seized from a car, 5 arrested

SUBARNAPUR (Correspondent): In separate incidents, police have arrested 5 mafia after seizing a car with ganja. To fool the police, they were smuggling ganja in an innovative way. The police were caught. Two four-wheelers, one and a half quintals of ganja were seized. 5 mafia members were arrested. Subarnapur district police have achieved such a success. Two young women, a child and a driver were travelling in a private car. The entire family was travelling in a vehicle with two suitcases and three bag. A car with registration number MH 02 CW 4947 was smuggling ganja in an



innovative way. The mafia used such a method to fool the police. The suitcases and all the bag were filled with ganja. When the police checked them, 30 packets of ganja were found from these bag. Sonepur police seized smuggled ganja at Budharaja Chhak. The police have arrested two young women and a driver in this incident. There was also a 5-year-old girl in the car. No one will suspect that. The arrested accused are

Uzma Sabir Sheikh (28) of Wadi police station in Nagpur district, Maharashtra, Gulzar Yusuf Khan Pathan (27) of Kalma police station in Nagpur district and Ashwin Devidash Kirlapur (28) of Uthan Nagar under Malkapur police station in Nagpur district. Similarly, the police have also seized a Tata AC vehicle with registration number JH 01 EG6101 at Baghalpur intersection on Sonepur-Birmaharajpur road. A

special chamber was made under the hood of the vehicle and ganja was being smuggled. 118 packets of ganja were seized from this vehicle, while two people have been arrested. They are Sarat Urma of Bhuktapada in Boudh district and Baraput village under Bausuni police station. Hiralal Nayak. These two were smuggling ganja on the Sonepur-Sambalpur road. A total quantity of ganja of more than one and a half quintals was seized from both the vehicles, two four-wheelers and 5 people were arrested. The mafia used innovative methods to trick the police, but the police were able to catch them

Man dies after live fish gets stuck in throat in Odisha

Baripada, (Correspondent): A tragic incident was reported from Odisha's Mayurbhanj district, where a man died after a live fish became lodged in his throat while he was fishing. The incident occurred in Dighi village under the jurisdiction of Bangriposi police station. The deceased has been identified as Abinash Bijuli, a local resident. According to reports, Abinash had caught a 'Kau' (Indian Koi) fish from a village pond on Friday morning.

CMD Shri Kaole inaugurates AMRIT at MCL

Sambalpur (Correspondent): Mahanadi Coalfields Limited (MCL) taking a significant step towards strengthening healthcare accessibility inaugurated AMRIT (Affordable Medicines and Reliable Implants for Treatment) Pharmacy at company headquarters in Anand Vihar colony, Burla, Shri Uday Anant Kaole, CMD, MCL, inaugurated the AMRIT pharmacy in the presence of Shri Keshav Rao, Director (HR); Shri A.K. Behura, Director (Finance); Shri P.K. Patel, Chief Vigilance Officer



(CVO); Shri S.K. Jha, Director (Technical); along with senior officials and members of the medical team. The AMRIT Pharmacy is a flagship initiative of the Government of India, launched in 2015 under

the Ministry of Health & Family Welfare and implemented by HLL Lifecare Limited. The initiative aims to reduce out-of-pocket healthcare expenses by providing essential medicines, life-saving

drugs, implants, and surgical items at highly affordable prices, often at discounts ranging from 50% to 90% of market rates. The establishment of the AMRIT Pharmacy at MCL reinforces the company's commitment to accessible, affordable, and quality healthcare for employees, their families, and the local community. This initiative reflects MCL's continued focus on employee welfare and community well-being, aligning with the broader national objective of strengthening affordable healthcare systems.

GAJAPATI POLICE FOIL RS 50 LAKH CANNABIS TRAIL IN DARING DAWN RAID

Paralakhemundi (Correspondent): In a resolute display of vigilance and valour, the Gajapati Police have once again struck a decisive blow against the clandestine corridors of narcotic trade, seizing cannabis worth an estimated Rs50 lakh and tightening the noose around inter-state smuggling networks.

A palpable contest now brews between law enforcers and the elusive drug mafia, as relentless crackdowns by the police continue to dismantle carefully woven smuggling chains. In the latest operation, acting upon precise intelligence, a swift and strategic raid was launched by the Adaba Police in the quiet stretches of Mandimera village



under its jurisdiction. As the net closed in, the driver of the pickup van—laden with contraband—abandoned the vehicle and fled into obscurity, leaving behind a trail of illicit cargo. Undeterred, the police secured the vehicle and recovered the hidden consignment. Under the vigilant supervision of a magistrate, the seized sacks were weighed, revealing a staggering

haul of nearly 5 quintals of cannabis. Officials have pegged the market value of the confiscated narcotics at around Rs50 lakh.

This successful interception not only underscores the unwavering commitment of the Gajapati Police but also sends a stern warning to those who dare to traffic in the shadows—law, ever watchful, shall prevail.

Saha campaign in bengal Election

Jajpur road (Correspondent) Hon'ble Union Home Minister Shri Amit Shah ji, addressing a public gathering in Bhawanipur, called for an end to the entrenched politics of appeasement and the prevailing climate of disorder in West Bengal. The scale of public mobilisation on the streets reflects a clear and assertive expression of public discontent signalling a decisive pushback against the governance



of the Trinamool Congress. Reinforcing the centrality of democratic rights, the Home Minister underscored that the

electoral process must remain free, fair and uninhibited, making it unequivocal that no citizen should face intimidation or

obstruction while exercising the right to vote. The message conveyed a firm assurance of safeguarding electoral

integrity and restoring public confidence. The political sentiment that crystallised in Nandigram, marked by a decisive rejection of the Trinamool Congress, now finds visible resonance in Bhawanipur. The scale and character of the mobilisation indicate a consolidation of voter sentiment around accountability signalling a discernible shift in the political discourse against All India Trinamool Congress.

Robbery occurred

Gopalpur (Correspondent): A complaint has been filed with the police station that thief looted gold ornaments, gas Cylinder, and money from a locked house in Defense Colony under Gopalpur police station. According to the information, C.H.

Kamala, who lives in Defense Colony, had gone out for some work for the last 2 days. When he returned this morning, he found the main gate lock has broken and all the belongings of the house lying open. When she went inside and looked, thief broke the cupboard

and took two gold necklaces and Rs 10,000 in cash. He also filed a complaint with the Gopalpur police station that two gas Cylinder in the kitchen were stolen. Based on the complaint, a police case number 182/26 has been registered and the police have gone to the place to investigate.

Sanjay Dutt's 'Aakhri Sawal' teaser out; Release advanced to May 8

Bollywood actor Sanjay Dutt is back in the spotlight as the teaser of his upcoming film *Aakhri Sawal* has been released. The film, based on the 100-year journey of the Rashtriya Swayamsevak Sangh, is now scheduled to hit theatres on May 8, 2026, earlier than its initial release date of May 15. Directed by Abhijit Mohan, the film features Sanjay Dutt in the lead role as a professor and also marks his role as co-producer alongside Nikhil Nanda. The teaser hints at a courtroom drama exploring key questions around the RSS, with references to historical events including the Babri Masjid demolition. Apart from this, Sanjay Dutt continues his strong run at the box office and will next be seen in *Raja Shivaji*, where he reprises a negative role.



Anshula Kapoor celebrates bachelorette in Seoul with close friends ahead of wedding

Anshula Kapoor is taking her pre-wedding celebrations to new heights, as she shared moments from a fun-filled bachelorette getaway in Seoul. The soon-to-be bride gave fans a glimpse into her joyful celebrations on Instagram, where she documented the memorable trip with her close-knit group of friends, whom she affectionately called the "Seoulsters for life." The pictures captured the essence of a lively and intimate celebration, merging classic bachelorette traditions with the vibrant cultural charm of South Korea's capital. Dressed in a "Bride to Be" sash and a playful pink tiara, Anshula was all smiles as she posed in a themed party setting, surrounded by "Team Bride" props and festive decor. The celebrations also embraced a fun K-drama vibe, with Anshula and her friends striking iconic finger heart gestures, adding a distinct Korean touch to the occasion. In one of the images, Anshula's friends proudly wore T-shirts emblazoned with the phrase "Seoulsters for life, before she becomes a wife."



The best time to eat fibre-rich foods to maximise health benefits

Fibre is a cornerstone of a healthy diet – linked to better digestion, a lower risk of colon cancer, and even a longer lifespan. But while most people focus on how much fibre they eat, few consider when they eat it. Simply loading up on salads or fibre-rich foods at random times of the day may not deliver the full benefits. In fact, timing your fibre intake strategically can make a significant difference, helping your body absorb and utilise it more effectively.



Dr Karan Rajan, a UK-based surgeon and popular health content creator, is breaking down the optimal time of day to eat fibre-rich foods. In an Instagram video shared on April 3, he explains how timing your fibre intake can influence digestion, gut microbiome fermentation, and metabolism throughout the day.

The best time to eat fibre According to Dr Rajan, if you want to maximise the benefits of fibre, it's best to consume it earlier in

the day – ideally making it a key part of your breakfast. This is because your digestive system is more active in the morning, with improved bile flow, stronger digestive enzyme secretion, and more efficient intestinal contractions. On top of that, many of the beneficial bacteria in your gut are most active during this time, making fibre intake even more effective.

The surgeon explains, "If you want to get the most benefits from your fibre, you need to frontload your fibre. That just means more fibre earlier in the day. For example, I try to get around 15 to 20

grams of fibre for breakfast. Your digestive system is more active in the morning, with greater bile flow, digestive enzyme secretion, and colonic contractions. Even most of your beneficial microbes have their peak function early in the day and are more awake. Try to take advantage and tap into that by eating a greater proportion of your fibre earlier in the day."

Digestive benefits Dr Rajan explains that eating fibre earlier in the day is less likely to trigger digestive discomfort like bloating. It also helps keep you fuller for

longer, as a fibre-rich breakfast kickstarts appetite-regulating hormones, reducing cravings later in the day. He further notes that bacterial fermentation of fibre begins earlier as well, extending the window for short-chain fatty acid production – an effect that can support better metabolism throughout the day.

The surgeon highlights, "Not only will this be easier on your digestive system and less likely to trigger symptoms like bloating, which often comes hand-in-hand with very high fibre intake, but it also keeps you fuller throughout the day because now you have that sustained appetite hormone signaling from earlier fibre fermentation. So you feel less snacky. But also bacterial fermentation of fibre happens earlier in the day. Now you've increased your window of short-chain fatty acid production, which really sets the metabolic tone for the whole day."



5 reasons why children can have low iron absorption, and 4-point cheatsheet to remedy it

Every human being needs and deserves to eat nutritious food. However, it takes on special importance when it comes to children, as they require all essential nutrients to grow into strong, healthy adults. Sometimes, even when their dietary needs are met, children may show symptoms of particular deficiency diseases. Iron is such an elusive micronutrient which is essential for the proper development of little humans. The mineral is a key component of haemoglobin in red blood cells. According to the Mayo Clinic website, iron helps move oxygen from the lungs to the rest of the body. It also helps muscles store and use oxygen. Taking to Instagram on February 14, clinical nutritionist Nikkie Malhotra explained why children can sometimes have low levels of iron despite eating iron-rich foods, and how to remedy the situation. If children are deficient in iron, it affects their



brain development, immunity, growth, focus and memory, shared Nikkie. It can present itself through the following symptoms: Pale skin Dark circles Irritability Low energy Poor focus Frequent infections Hair fall If a child repeatedly suffers from fatigue, the nutritionist suggests checking their complete blood count (CBC), ferritin, and iron profile. Reason for low iron levels in children If a child's iron levels are low, the problem is often not the diet, shared Nikkie. It is more

likely that the child's body is unable to absorb the iron that they are consuming. The nutritionist went on to list five common reasons why iron absorption can be low in children. Drinking milk with meals: Milk is a rich source of calcium, which blocks iron absorption. Tea or chocolate intake close to meals: Tannins present in them reduce iron uptake. Not adding vitamin C with iron: Iron needs vitamin C to be absorbed properly. Worm infections: Very common cause of low iron in kids. Low gut health: Poor digestion results in poor absorption. How to improve iron

absorption Nikkie shared four ways to improve the absorption of dietary iron in children. They are listed as follows. Add lemon or amla to the diet with iron-rich foods Pair dal (lentils) with lemon Add fruits after meals Avoid milk one hour before and after eating iron-rich foods The nutritionist also shared a list of foods that are rich in iron and perfect for a kid's diet. They include the following: Jaggery (gur) Black raisins Beetroot Spinach Rajma Chana Ragi Sesame seeds



IPL 2026: Confidence Comes From Preparation, Attacking Mindset Key For Spinners In T20s, Says Kuldeep

New Delhi: Delhi Capitals (DC) left-arm wrist-spinner Kuldeep Yadav said sticking to strengths and maintaining an attacking mindset are the crucial pointers for spinners to succeed in high-scoring situations, while stressing that his confidence to perform comes from meticulous preparation and routine. Since joining DC in 2022 season, Kuldeep has emerged as one of the most effective spinners in the IPL – with his first year in the side yielding 21 wickets – his best in a single edition of the competition. “Whenever a batter puts you under pressure, there’s a tendency to move away from your strengths and look for safer options to get out of the situation. But I believe you should always focus on your strengths. “I usually assess the batter – how



he plays, what his strengths are, and what the match situation demands. I try to read what the batter is expecting from me and stay one step ahead by predicting his next move and bowling accordingly. “At the end of the day, your strength is your identity. If you are an attacking spinner, you should not move away from that. If you are contributing to the

team by taking wickets, there is nothing better than that. The team also expects you to pick wickets. Sometimes it works, sometimes it doesn’t, but your mindset should always remain attacking.” Kuldeep said in the pre-match press conference on Friday. Kuldeep has consistently led the DC’s spin bowling attack alongside Axar Patel, and finished as

their top wicket-taker in IPL 2025 with 15 scalps, after claiming 16 wickets in 2024. His international form mirrored this success, as he finished the 2025 Men’s T20 Asia Cup as the leading wicket-taker with 17 wickets in seven innings – though it translated into just one game for Kuldeep – against Pakistan in Colombo – in India’s victorious T20 World

Cup campaign. “If you don’t get matches, especially in tournaments like the World Cup, your preparation becomes very important. You have to stay consistent with your training so that whenever you get an opportunity, you are ready. I didn’t have any shortcomings in my preparation. “I always prepared myself as if I had to play the next match. That helps you maintain rhythm, which is very important. When you are in touch with the game through practice sessions and follow a proper routine, it becomes easier to perform even after a gap.

“Being with the team, traveling, attending practice sessions, and keeping yourself mentally ready as if you are playing the next match is key. Even

if you don’t play, your mindset should always be ready,” he added. Kuldeep further said his confidence and wicket-taking abilities were linked to how good his preparation is ahead of a game. “I believe confidence comes from preparation. How well you prepare yourself and maintain your routine is very important. If your training is good and your routine is set, confidence follows naturally. “When it comes to taking wickets, it’s about reacting to how the batter is playing you. At the same time, batters also pre-plan – where they can score runs or which shots they want to play. When you play against someone regularly, you understand their strengths and patterns.

Odisha's Payal wins gold in World Archery Para Series



Bhubaneswar: In a remarkable achievement for Indian para sports, World Champion armless archer Sheetal Devi and Odisha’s talented limbless archer Payal Nag clinched the gold medal in the Compound Women’s Doubles event of the Bangkok World Archery Para Series at Thailand on Friday. The Indian duo delivered an outstanding performance in the final, defeating Kazakhstan with a score of 150-147 to secure the top podium finish. Earlier in the semifinals, they edged out Thailand by 155-146. Their exceptional coordination, precision, and mental strength were

on full display as they overcame strong international competition. This victory stands as a testament to their relentless hard work, dedication, and the indomitable spirit of para-athletes. Payal Nag’s achievement has brought immense pride to Odisha, while Sheetal Devi continues to inspire millions across the nation with her extraordinary journey. Looking ahead, both Sheetal Devi and Payal Nag are set to compete in their individual finals on Saturday, where expectations are high and all eyes will be on the duo to deliver yet another stellar performance for India.

KITG 2026 Day 9: Chhattisgarh Clinch Women’s Football Gold, Soren, Reethushree, Nagini Claim Double In Athletics

Raipur: Chhattisgarh women’s football team continued their solid run in the inaugural Khelo India Tribal Games (KITG) 2026, aided by the individual brilliance of their captain Kiran Pisda, by defeating Jharkhand 1-0 in the final on their way to securing a gold medal in Raipur on Thursday. The hosts also added the men’s 4x400m relay silver and men’s 1500m bronze to their overall tally on the penultimate day of track & field competitions in Jagdalpur. Further, Jharkhand’s Shiv Kumar Soren completed a grand double by adding the 200m gold to his 100m triumph. The Chhattisgarh women’s team made the most of the solitary chance they

got against the aggressive Jharkhand outfit when their captain pounced on a defensive lapse to score in the 61st minute, and then the host team held on to the advantage to clinch the title. “It’s a special moment for us because this is the first time so many fans came to support us, and I am very happy that we could win the gold medal in front of our home crowd,” said an elated Kiran, the only international player in the home squad. In all, 30 States and Union Territories are participating in the first-ever Khelo India Tribal Games, which is witnessing close to 3800 sportspersons compete in seven disciplines like archery, athletics, football,

hockey, swimming, weightlifting, and wrestling, while Mallakhamb and Kabaddi are demonstration sports. In Jagdalpur, the last day of athletics competitions saw Soren and Karnataka’s Reethushree and Nagini claiming their second gold medal on the athletics track at Kreedaa Parisar complex. Soren, who became the fastest athlete of the Games on Tuesday, clinched the 200m gold with a time of 21.51s. Earlier, Reethushree added the 200m gold to her 400m win with a time of 25.87s, and then Nagini completed the women’s 800m and 1500m double when she won the four-lap race in 4:43.87s.

IPL 2026: Clinical SRH Defend Mammoth Total Outclassing Struggling KKR

NEW DELHI: Sunrisers Hyderabad secured their maiden victory of the IPL 2026 season by dismantling Kolkata Knight Riders with a balanced display of aggressive batting and disciplined bowling. Defending a formidable target of 227, the Orange Army restricted the hosts to 161 runs, clinical execution ensuring the match ended within 16 overs. Batting first, SRH openers Travis Head and Abhishek Sharma ignited the scoreboard with an 82-run partnership in just six overs. Abhishek Sharma led the charge, plundering 25 runs in a single over against Varun Chakaravathy. This blistering start marked one of the



highest powerplay scores for the franchise in their history. While middle-order wobbles threatened the momentum, Heinrich Klaasen anchored the innings with a

composed 52. His partnership with Nitish Kumar Reddy allowed Hyderabad to post 226/8, despite a commendable four-wicket haul by KKR’s Blesing

Muzarabani. Kolkata’s chase began with frantic energy as Finn Allen and Angkrish Raghuvanshi looked dangerous early on. Raghuvanshi’s fluent fifty provided a

glimmer of hope for the home crowd, but the momentum shifted permanently following a series of disastrous run-outs involving Cameron Green and Raghuvanshi himself. Jaydev Unadkat then took control of the narrative, utilizing his variations to tear through the lower order. His figures of 3/21 extinguished any lingering KKR hopes, supported by sharp spells from Eshan Malinga and Nitish Reddy. Eden Gardens has historically favored chasing teams due to the dew factor, making SRH’s successful defence of a total here a significant tactical achievement for their coaching staff.

FIFA World Cup 2026 Final Tickets Hit Record ?8.8 Lakh due to Dynamic Pricing

NEW DELHI: Football enthusiasts seeking a seat at the FIFA World Cup 2026 final must now prepare for a staggering financial layout, as top-tier ticket prices have climbed to \$10,990 (?8,81,500). This sharp increase follows the conclusion of tournament qualification, which triggered a surge in demand and subsequent price adjustments under FIFA’s controversial dynamic pricing model. This system mirrors the surge-pricing strategies used by airlines and ride-sharing apps, causing ticket values to fluctuate in real-time based on market interest. Surging Costs for Key Fixtures MetLife Stadium in New Jersey, slated to host



the final on July 19, has seen its category-two seats jump from \$5,270 to \$7,380. Even the more “affordable” category-three options for the championship match have risen by nearly \$1,800, now sitting at \$5,785 (?5,01,600). The opening match at Mexico City’s legendary Estadio Azteca

is equally expensive for premium seekers, with category-one tickets starting at \$2,985 (?2,39,200). Resale Rules and High Commissions Beyond the initial purchase price, FIFA has implemented a strict resale protocol. Fans looking to trade or sell their tickets

must use the official platform, where the governing body extracts a 15 percent commission from both the buyer and the seller. This dual-sided fee structure ensures significant revenue for FIFA even after the initial sell-out. While a small fraction of tickets—roughly 400 to 700 per team

have been reserved at a lower rate of \$57 (?4,800) for loyal supporter groups, the vast majority of the public must navigate a high-cost environment. Historically, World Cup tickets have seen steady inflation, but the 2026 edition marks the first time FIFA has fully embraced dynamic pricing on this scale. This shift is largely driven by the high-revenue sports culture in the United States, Canada, and Mexico, where “premiumisation” of live events is the standard. Unlike previous tournaments in Qatar or Russia, the sheer geographic spread of 2026 necessitates a ticketing strategy that offsets the complex logistics of a 48-team format.

Mhasane Takes Sole Lead; Title Race Heads Into Final Round Of All India Chess Masters

Mumbai: Shriram Mhasane surged into the sole lead with an impressive 6.5 points after Round 7 of the All India Chess Masters (Season 3), underway at the Mumbai Chess Centre, Pedder Road in Mumbai on Friday. Mhasane’s crucial victory over Arjun Singh helped him break away from the chasing pack, giving him a clear edge heading into the final round of the tournament. On the top board, Rajveer Nahar held Shreyansh Somaiya to a draw in a tightly contested encounter, with both players moving to 5.5 points and remaining within striking distance of the leader. In other key results, Deepak R. Soni scored



an important win over Amogh Bhatavadekar, while Nikhil Shelar defeated Pankaj Borse, and Mohsin Yunus Shaikh overcame Prisha Margaj to stay in contention. Tanuj Dayal drew with Aashrita Balaji Guttula, while Palaash Mapara bounced back strongly with a win against Ekaansh Sharma, keeping his chances alive going into the final round. With one round remaining,

Mhasane holds a slender but significant lead, while a strong chasing pack ensures that the title race is still wide open and promises a thrilling finish. Overnight sole leader Palaash Mapara (5 points) saw his winning run come to a grinding halt as he suffered a defeat against Shreyansh Somaiya (5.5 points) in a Round-6 match of the All India Chess Masters (Season 3) Mumbai FIDE Classical Tournament 2026. Playing on the top board with white pieces, Palaash was unable to counter Shreyansh’s clever tactical manoeuvres and suffered his first loss at the Mumbai Chess Centre, Pedder Road, on Thursday.

"We are committed to providing world-class medical facilities to the people of Odisha" Dr. Tirupati Panigrahi

Bhubaneswar: (Correspondent):- Two new OPDs have been inaugurated at Hi-tech Medical College and Hospital, Bhubaneswar. With the aim of providing advanced and affordable treatment to the patients, the OPD of the Surgical Department and the expanded OPD of the Dermatology Department have been inaugurated on the ground floor of the hospital. Hi-tech Group Founder Chairman Dr. Tirupati Panigrahi, Managing Trustee Suresh Panigrahi and Director Dr. Rakesh Panigrahi



inaugurated these two departments. This new OPD is equipped with modern medical equipment and consultation by experienced surgeons and dermatologists and special arrangements

have been made for easy and prompt service to the common man. On this occasion, Chairman Dr. Panigrahi said that "World-class medical facilities have been inaugurated at Hi-tech Medical College

and Hospital, Bhubaneswar. We are always committed to providing it." The inauguration ceremony was attended by many senior doctors, department heads, employees and nursing staff of the hospital.

JSW committed to addressing drinking water issues in rural areas

Paradip: (Correspondent):- On the occasion of World Water Day, awareness programs were organized in villages surrounding the JSW Utkal Steel Project area. Like every year, World Water Day was observed globally on March 22. It serves as an important platform to raise awareness about the importance of water in everyone's life. In 2026, the theme "Water and Gender" highlighted the connection between water accessibility, women's empowerment, and gender equality. In alignment with this global initiative, JSW Utkal Steel Limited, Paradip organized awareness programs in four schools: Dhinkia Primary School (Dhinkia), Govindpur UP



School (Govindpur), Mathasahi UP School (Nuagaon), and Gadakujang Upgraded High School (Gadakujang), covering three gram panchayats—Dhinkia, Gadakujang, and Nuagaon. The objective of these programs was to educate the younger generation about the importance of water conservation, equitable access to water, and the role of gender inclusion in water management. The

campaign focused on spreading awareness about water conservation, sustainable usage, and the global relevance of this year's theme "Water and Gender." Interactive sessions were conducted to emphasize the role of equal water access in promoting gender equality and community welfare. Students actively participated in discussions and awareness activities,

showing keen interest in water-related challenges and solutions. To encourage participation, prizes were distributed to students during these sessions in the presence of teachers and school staff. As part of its ongoing commitment to community welfare and access to safe drinking water, JSW Utkal Steel Limited has already installed more than 30 water purification units in various government schools and public institutions in the region. This initiative reflects the company's continued efforts toward environmental sustainability and social responsibility, especially in improving access to clean and safe drinking water in rural communities.

Dollar Lehar Brings An Out-Of-This-World Twist To Summer Essentials

NEW DELHI: Dollar Lehar is turning up the heat this summer with a new campaign that blends humour, imagination and an unexpected sci-fi twist. As the innerwear category enters its peak season, the brand brings alive an engaging narrative set in a lively highway dhaba—where an ordinary night takes an extraordinary turn. With this campaign, Dollar Lehar reinforces its positioning as a dependable everyday essential, delivered through a story that is both entertaining and memorable.

Speaking on the brand campaign and brand ambassador, Vinod Kumar Gupta, Managing Director, Dollar Industries Limited, said "Our association with Saif has delivered strong value for the brand. His sharp wit and credibility resonate

particularly well with the male audience and that connect has translated into meaningful growth for us. What makes the partnership even more compelling is how naturally his personality aligns with our brand philosophy, making the renewal of this association a very natural step!"

Conceptualized by TBWA/Lintas and directed by renowned ad-film maker Uzer Khan, the new commercial brings an imaginative twist to everyday storytelling. The film follows a group of friends who unexpectedly come face-to-face with aliens, setting the stage for what first appears to be a tense encounter. However, the moment quickly turns playful, revealing Dollar Lehar innerwear in a witty and unexpected way.

With clever wordplay and light-hearted humour, the reveal of the Dollar Lehar baniyaan (vest)

becomes the centerpiece of the narrative—positioning it as a trusted everyday essential that stands by you in any situation. The film captures the brand's spirit of comfort, reliability and relatability, reminding viewers that some companions—like a dependable Dollar Lehar vest—never let you down, no matter how unusual the moment may be. Commenting on the campaign, Mohit Pasricha, Unit Creative Director, TBWA/Lintas, said: "The idea came from a simple and fun wordplay between 'yaan' and 'baniyaan'. We built a story around that moment, placing it in an unexpected sci-fi situation to make the punchline land in a surprising way. The goal was to create something entertaining and memorable while keeping the brand at the center of the narrative."

MCL & BCGCL Sign Landmark Agreement for Coal to Ammonium Nitrate Project in Odisha

Sambalpur (Correspondent): In a major step towards advancing India's coal gasification roadmap, a landmark land leasing agreement was signed between Mahanadi Coalfields Limited (MCL) and Bharat Coal Gasification and Chemicals Limited (BCGCL) for the upcoming Coal to Ammonium Nitrate Project at Lakhanpur in Odisha. The signing ceremony was held in New Delhi in the august presence of the Union Minister of Coal and Mines Shri G Kishan Reddy. The project, envisaged as a Coal to 2000 TPD Ammonium Nitrate facility, marks a historic breakthrough as India's first coal gasification project to deploy indigenously developed gasification technology by Bharat



Heavy Electricals Limited (BHEL). It reflects a decisive shift towards indigenous innovation, technological advancement, and reduced dependence on imported technologies in the energy and chemical sectors. Spread over approximately 350 acres of land under the possession of MCL, the project has been enabled through recent progressive policy reforms of the Ministry of Coal. These reforms

enable the utilisation of Coal Bearing Area (CBA) land for coal gasification projects, unlocking new pathways for value-added utilisation of India's abundant coal resources and strengthening the sector's diversification. Reinforcing its commitment to promoting coal gasification, the Ministry of Coal has extended financial support of ₹1,350 crore under its dedicated financial

incentives scheme. The project is already witnessing strong momentum on the ground, with major LSTK (Lump Sum Turnkey) packages, LSTK-1 and LSTK-2, having been awarded to BHEL, while LSTK-3 and LSTK-4 have been awarded to Larsen & Toubro. Simultaneously, site development works, including boundary wall construction and tree enumeration, are progressing in parallel, ensuring adherence to timelines. Addressing the gathering at the signing ceremony of the land lease agreement, Union Minister of Coal & Mines, Shri G Kishan Reddy, emphasised that, in line with the Prime Minister's vision of Atmanirbhar Bharat, the Government is

driving focused initiatives to transform the coal sector. Highlighting that India is endowed with abundant coal reserves, he underscored the imperative to harness this resource beyond conventional use through large-scale adoption of coal gasification. He informed that the Cabinet has approved an outlay of ₹8500 crore to promote coal gasification, with 7 projects already finalized, including 3 where bhoomi puja has been completed. Describing the land lease agreement between MCL and BCGCL, with an investment of about ₹25,000 crore, as a significant step forward, he noted that it marks the first indigenous project of BCGCL and reflects the growing momentum in this sector.

Techno-cultural fest 'Chakravyuha' & 'Genesis' kicks off at ITER, SOA

Bhubaneswar: (Correspondent):- The vibrant three-day techno-cultural festival 'Chakravyuha' and 'Genesis' commenced on Friday at the Institute of Technical Education and Research (ITER), faculty of engineering under Siksha 'O' Anusandhan (SOA), bringing together innovation, creativity, and cultural excellence.

The festival was formally inaugurated by SOA Vice-Chancellor Prof Pradipta Kumar Nanda, who attended as the chief guest. Addressing students, he highlighted ITER's



achievement of being ranked 22nd among engineering institutions in India in the NIRF Rankings 2025. He urged students to take pride in being part of the institution and strive to build a global identity.

SOA Pro Vice-Chancellor Prof Prashant Kumar Patra

encouraged students to equip themselves with modern knowledge and skills to excel in a competitive world.

Speaking on the occasion, ITER Dean Prof Pradeep Kumar Sahu emphasized the institute's strong focus on research and technological

advancement. ITER Director Prof Manas Kumar Mallik noted that ITER has grown into a leading educational hub over the past 25 years, supported by active student clubs and initiatives such as NCC, NSS, and the Atal Incubation Center.

The program began with a welcome address by Additional Dean (Student Affairs) Prof Renu Sharma, followed by remarks from Chief Warden Prof Ranjan Kumar Mallik. The vote of thanks was delivered by Additional Warden Prof Debahuti Mishra.

The festival will feature a series of technical competitions and cultural performances by renowned artists. Adding a special touch, students and children supported through the 'Jago' initiative presented captivating dance performances during the inauguration ceremony.

TAFE Crosses 214,000 Tractor Sales in FY26, faster than domestic industry growth in FY2026

Mumbai: Tractors and Farm Equipment Limited (TAFE), one of the world's leading tractor manufacturers and India's second-largest tractor company, announced a record performance in FY26, with tractor sales approximately 2,14,951 units, the highest ever in the company's history. TAFE concluded the fiscal year on a particularly strong note, delivering 37.4% growth in March 2026, a substantial achievement against the domestic industry growth of 29% for the month. The faster than industry growth reflects TAFE's strong product line-up, deep farmer connect, and consistent demand across key agricultural regions. The company achieved its highest-ever domestic sales, both the company's brands Massey Ferguson and Eicher Tractors, recording their highest sales. TAFE's export



momentum remained strong, with 12,584 tractors shipped to international markets, underscoring the company's robust global presence and diversified growth strategy. To meet sustained demand across domestic and export markets, TAFE's manufacturing plants operated at full capacity during the year. The company is actively evaluating capacity expansion initiatives to support future growth and reinforce its leadership position in the global tractor industry.

Commenting on the performance, Dr. Lakshmi Venu, Vice

Chairman, TAFE, said, "This has been a very positive year for both the tractor market and for farmers across the country. In addition to favourable monsoons, the government's move to reduce GST has provided significant relief to the farming sector. We are now seeing a very encouraging trend in the penetration of mechanisation in rural areas. This year marks a meaningful shift in the access to mechanisation for small farmers with many first time users entering the mechanization ecosystem. This will go a long way in improving farm productivity and strengthening farmer incomes across the country. At TAFE, we have remained sharply focused on the rapidly evolving preferences of our customers in this sector, and it is this focus that has enabled us to perform well in the market this year."

RBI Approves Emirates NBD Bank's Acquisition of Up to 74% Stake in RBL Bank

New Delhi: The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) has granted Dubai-based Emirates NBD Bank approval to acquire up to 74 per cent of the paid-up share capital in RBL Bank. Following the deal, RBL Bank will be classified as a foreign bank operating under

the wholly-owned subsidiary model with Emirates NBD as its parent foreign bank. In a disclosure to the stock exchanges, RBL Bank stated that the RBI issued the approval on April 1, 2026, valid for one year. The second-largest bank of the United

Arab Emirates (UAE), Emirates NBD, had in October 2025 proposed to buy about 60 per cent of RBL Bank for roughly ₹26,853 crore through a preferential allotment, paving the way for the present clearance. Under the RBI letter, Emirates NBD

(ENBD) must acquire and maintain at least 51 per cent of RBL Bank's paid-up share capital, while its voting rights will be capped at 26 per cent of the bank's total voting rights, in line with Section 12(2) of the Banking Regulation Act, 1949.