


Foundation Day of BJP in Sukinda **2**




Three-Storey Building Being Lifted Up **3**



IPL 2026: David, Padikkal, Patidar Fireworks Help RCB Register 43-Run Win Over CSK **7**



3 hard-hitting facts about weight loss people don't believe **6**



Trump Cites Nuclear Threat, Signals Iran Endgame

Washington: US President Donald Trump on Monday defended the war with Iran, saying it is aimed at stopping Tehran from getting nuclear weapons and could end quickly if conditions are met. "They're foolish, because the war is about one thing, Iran cannot have a nuclear weapon," Trump told reporters at the White House. He said the conflict could end soon if Iran complies with US demands. "Well, it could end very quickly, the war, if they do what they have to do. They have to do certain things," he said. Trump linked the



current war to his earlier decision to exit the Obama-era nuclear deal. "Had we not broken the Barack Hussein Obama agreement... Israel would have been gone, extinguished," he said. He also claimed US actions had reshaped

Iran's leadership. "We've had total regime change... The first regime was taken out. The second regime was taken out," Trump said, adding that the current group negotiating with Washington is "much more reasonable."

Trump said talks with Iran were being held "in good faith" and described the current interlocutors as "not as radicalized." At the same time, he struck a hard tone on military operations. "Because we are obliterating that country. And I hate to do it, but we're obliterating," he said. He said Iran's military capacity had been largely degraded. "They can't fight back. They have no capability... they have some missiles left. They have some drones left, but essentially, they have no capability," Trump said.

Odisha Governor Appoints Vice Chancellors For 14 Universities

BHUBANESWAR, (Correspondent): Governor Hari Babu Kambhampati, in his capacity as Chancellor, on Monday appointed Vice Chancellors for 14 universities in Odisha, exercising powers under the proviso to sub-section (1) of Section 6 of the Odisha Universities Act, 1989. According to an official press release issued by Lok Bhavan, Prof. Santosh Kumar Tripathy has been appointed Vice Chancellor of Fakir Mohan University, while Prof. Arka Kumar Das Mohapatra will head Ravenshaw



University and Prof. Chandni Prasad Nanda has been named Vice Chancellor of Utkal University. Prof. Sanjaya Kumar Patro has been appointed to lead Dharanidhar University and Prof. Byomakesh Tripathy will serve as Vice Chancellor of Gangadhar Meher University. The release

further stated that Prof. Asima Sahu has been appointed Vice Chancellor of Khallikote University, Prof. Sibaram Tripathy of Madhusudan Law University and Prof. Pawan Kumar Agrawal of Maa Manikeshwari University. Prof. Mahendra Kumar Mohanty will head Maharaja Sriram Chandra Bhanja Deo University, while Prof. Jyotsna K.B. Rout has been appointed Vice Chancellor of Rama Devi Women's University. Prof. Bibhuti Bhusan Malik will take charge of Rajendra University and Prof.

Prabhat Kumar Mohapatra has been named Vice Chancellor of Shree Jagannath Sanskrit University. In addition, Prof. Hrushikesh Senapaty has been appointed Vice Chancellor of Vikram Dev University and Prof. Satyanarayan Acharya will lead Odia University. The Chancellor extended his best wishes to all the newly appointed Vice Chancellors, expressing confidence that they would contribute significantly to strengthening academic leadership and shaping the future of higher education in the state.

BJD Suspends Former MP Manjulata Mandal and Ex-MLA Muktikanta Mandal for Anti-Party Activities

BHUBANESWAR, (Correspondent): The Biju Janata Dal (BJD) has issued a suspension order against former Bhadrak Lok Sabha MP Manjulata Mandal and her husband, former Dhamnagar MLA Muktikanta Mandal, citing anti-party activities. According to an official letter dated April 6, 2026, from BJD Vice President Pratap Jena, both leaders have been suspended with immediate effect. Manjulata Mandal, a State Council Member of the party, and Muktikanta Mandal, a Bhadrak District Member, face the action for alleged activities detrimental to the party's interests.

Two Killed As Car Crashes Into Roadside Dhaba

Bhubaneswar: In a tragic road accident, two persons died after a speeding car lost control and rammed into a roadside dhaba (eatery) on National Highway 143 near Jamuna Nagar in the Kuarmunda area under Bimitrapur police station late on Sunday night. According to reports, a Creta car was travelling at high speed from the Bimitrapur side when the driver lost control of the vehicle. The car veered off the road and crashed directly into Sonu Dhaba near Jamuna Nagar. The impact caused significant damage to the dhaba.

Nine Tamil Nadu Police Officers Sentenced to Death for Custodial Torture and Murder

NEWDELHI: The Madurai Bench of the Madras High Court has sentenced nine Tamil Nadu police personnel to death for the custodial torture and murder of trader P. Jayaraj (59) and his son J. Benniks (31) in S a t h a n k u l a m , Thoothukudi district, in June 2020. The landmark judgment, delivered after a six-year-long trial, marks one of the harshest punishments ever handed down in a custodial violence case in India. The court described the incident as a "rarest of rare" crime, citing extreme brutality and abuse of power by the police. The Central Bureau of



Investigation (CBI), which probed the case, argued that the torture was deliberate, sustained through the night, and intended to inflict maximum pain. The bench agreed, ruling that the officers had grossly violated their duty to uphold the law and protect citizens. The convicted officers include Inspector S. Sridhar,

Sub-Inspectors P. Raghu Ganesh and K. Balakrishnan, Head Constables S. Murugan and A. Samadurai, and Constables M. Muthuraj, S. Chelladurai, X. Thomas Francis, and S. Veilumuthu. A tenth accused, Special Sub-Inspector Pauldurai, died of COVID-19 during the trial. The father-son duo was

arrested for allegedly keeping their shop open beyond lockdown hours. What followed was a night of brutal custodial torture that led to their deaths, sparking nationwide outrage and protests against police excesses. The case became a rallying point for human rights advocates demanding stronger safeguards against custodial violence. This verdict is expected to have far-reaching implications for police accountability in India. Legal experts say it sends a strong message that custodial torture will not be tolerated and that law enforcement officers will be held to the highest standards of justice.

5 Kg LPG Cylinders Available For Students And Migrant Workers

Bhubaneswar: The Principal Secretary of the Food Supplies & Consumer Welfare Department, Sanjay Kumar Singh, on Monday clarified that there is no shortage of fuel in Odisha and assured the public of adequate availability of LPG, petrol, and diesel across the state. Addressing a press briefing at the Annapurna Conference Hall in Lok Seva Bhawan, Singh, along with senior officials and representatives of Oil Marketing Companies (OMCs), dismissed rumours regarding the

shortage of 5 kg LPG cylinders. He stated that such cylinders are being made easily accessible to migrant workers and students. The Principal Secretary informed that individuals can obtain 5 kg Free Trade LPG (FTL) cylinders from authorised distributors by submitting valid identity proof, without the requirement of address proof. He added that OMCs are organising special camps at various locations to facilitate on-the-spot issuance of these connections. Emphasising

enforcement measures, Singh said restrictions are being imposed only on illegal vendors to ensure public safety, and strict action is being taken against unauthorised sellers. On the overall supply scenario, he stated that domestic LPG supply remains stable, while commercial gas supply is gradually normalising, with nearly 70 per cent availability restored. Of the total supply, around 20 per cent is being prioritised for essential institutions such as hospitals, schools, hostels, and Aahaar Kendras.

Artemis II Astronauts Set New Record as Farthest Humans in History


NEWDELHI: In a landmark moment for space exploration, the four astronauts aboard NASA's Artemis II mission have become the farthest humans ever to travel from Earth, reaching a maximum distance of 252,752 miles (approximately 406,765 km) during their daring lunar flyby. This achievement surpasses the previous record set by the Apollo 13 crew in 1970 by roughly 4,102 miles. Apollo 13 astronauts reached about 248,655 miles from Earth before their emergency return. NASA confirmed the new milestone as the Orion spacecraft, named



Integrity, looped around the far side of the Moon and began its journey home. Commander Reid Wiseman, Pilot Victor Glover, Mission Specialist Christina Koch, and Canadian Space Agency astronaut Jeremy Hansen are conducting the first crewed test flight of the

Artemis program. Unlike earlier Apollo missions that entered lunar orbit, Artemis II follows a "free-return trajectory," allowing the crew to slingshot around the Moon without entering orbit or landing. The mission focuses on testing Orion's systems for future crewed lunar

landings. As the spacecraft made its closest approach to the Moon—passing approximately 4,070 miles above the lunar surface—the crew captured stunning views of the far side, areas never before seen directly by human eyes. Mission Control in Houston monitored the event live, with astronauts performing observations and systems checks while briefly out of radio contact behind the Moon. "This is a new milestone for humankind," NASA stated, highlighting the significance of pushing the boundaries of human spaceflight once again after more than five decades.



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Jindal Steel Leads India's Coal Gasification Revolution for Energy Self-Reliance & Sustainable Steel

New Delhi, : Jindal Steel has pioneered the use of swadeshi coal through advanced coal gasification, significantly strengthening India's energy security while enabling low-carbon steel production. The company achieved a global first by establishing India's first coal gasification-based Direct Reduced Iron (DRI) plant, using syngas for iron-making. In response to shortages of natural gas, LPG, and propane, Jindal Steel has now successfully deployed syngas in galvanising and colour coating line



furnaces—marking the first such application in the steel industry. This has helped the company better mitigate fuel shortages in these unprecedented times. Further strengthening its leadership, Jindal Steel has pioneered syngas injection into its blast furnace, reducing dependence on imported coking coal and lowering carbon emissions per tonne of steel. This integrated deployment of syngas across the steelmaking value chain sets a new

benchmark for efficiency, sustainability, and energy self-reliance. The forward-looking policies and incentives of the Government of India—including the National Coal Gasification Mission, are expected to accelerate the adoption of coal gasification technologies and support the country's push towards energy self-reliance. Mr. P.K. Biju Nair, Executive Director Angul, Jindal Steel, said: "Synthesis gas from swadeshi coal can replace imported methanol, ammonia, ammonium nitrate, and

LNG. India must utilise its vast coal reserves to future-proof low-carbon growth and reduce forex outflow. Coal gasification, coupled with CCUS, will lower emission intensity, support CBAM compliance, and strengthen our export competitiveness". By harnessing swadeshi coal and deploying advanced clean coal gasification technologies, Jindal Steel is advancing the vision of Aatmanirbhar Bharat while delivering sustainable and cost-competitive steel production.

Banpur Bar Asso President pays courtesy visit to Law Minister

Khorda (Correspondent) On Sunday, several members of the Banpur Bar Association, led by the newly elected President Jaganath Bhola, paid a courtesy call on Chilika MLA and Odisha Law Minister Prithiviraj Harichandan at his official residence and discussed various issues for the development of Banpur Court. On this occasion, discussions were held regarding the new Additional District and Sessions Judge (ADJ) Court to be opened in Banpur in the coming days. The Minister emphasized this and assured that necessary steps will be taken as soon as



possible to open the said ADJ Court in this year. Bar Association President and members thanked the Honorable Minister for this and requested him to resolve various problems of the advocates. Former Bar Association Secretary Ranjan Bedamata, former vice president Padmaja Patnaik, senior advocate Sandip

Mahapatra, Ajit Kumar Swain, Akhila Kumar Swain, Sitaram Agrawal, Ramachandra Palai, Pradosh Pradhan, Anil Barik and Swarnalata Jena were prominently present on this occasion. Later, the advocates met the Advocate General of Odisha Pitambar Acharya at his residence and held various discussions for the development of Banpur Court.

Congress rally in Assam

Jajpurad (Correspondent) Election date is approaching. The Assam election is going to be very active. In Assam, it seems that Congress leaders are camping and organizing meetings. Congress has prepared a plan to give a check to the BJP. A huge meeting is being organized for Congress workers. The scene where lakhs of people gather in the assembly is seen. Congress is working for fraternal peace in the society and is trying to get people to vote in favor of their party. While the Prime Minister visited Assam and prepared plans for votes in favor of the BJP in various places from the tea garden, it is seen that the Assam Congress is planning to hold a huge mass rally in Assam.

State executive meeting at Anandpur

Jajpurad (Correspondent) On behalf of (SUJ) State Union Of Journalists the state executive meeting has been held in Anandpur. Journalist friends from all over the state joined the district. Suj President Kailas Chandra Naik along with state executive members were present. The need for federation was discussed in society. On behalf of the Federation, the status of journalists in the state was discussed. Hundreds Above of journalists from Jajpur, Keonjhar and other districts attended the meeting. In the current situation, there was a demand that the government should give proper pension to the journalists. And the security of journalists was also discussed and the speakers gave their opinion.

Newly created South Coast Railway zone

BHUBANESWAR, (Correspondent) Certain concerns have been raised regarding some stations included in the new South Coast Railway stations. The factual position is clarified below:

Palasa - Ichchapuram Section (~ 50 km) consists of 7 stations namely Palasa, Summadevi, Mandasa Road, Baruva, Sompeta, Jhadupudi and Ichchapuram. All these stations are situated in Srikakulam district of Andhra Pradesh. None of these stations is located within Odisha.

These stations are small to mid-sized stations handling primarily passenger traffic. None of them is a major freight loading

point. Therefore, ECoR's revenue remains unaffected. Pass-through freight traffic (trains transiting through these stations en route) will continue uninterrupted regardless of which zone's jurisdiction the stations fall under.

Railway operations are seamless across zonal boundaries.

No disruption to train services. All existing trains including Palasa-Bhubaneswar, Palasa-Cuttack, and Ichchapuram-Cuttack MEMU/passenger services will continue to operate without any change in schedule, route, or frequency.

This is a technical revision to

ensure smooth functioning of the passenger services in Visakhapatnam division.

The modalities of the transfer, including staff deployment, are being finalised between ECoR and SCoR. The interests and service conditions of all railway employees will be fully protected as per established norms.

Government's commitment to Odisha is unwavering. Record capital expenditure on railway network expansion in Odisha, station modernisation, Vande Bharat services, and the newly created Rayagada Division under ECoR are evidence of this commitment.

Odisha Cabinet Approves Badamba Sugar Mill Revival Package With Rs 352 Cr IPL Investment

Cuttack (Correspondent): The Odisha Cabinet chaired by Chief Minister Mohan Majhi has approved an incentive package to revive the long-defunct Badamba Cooperative Sugar Industries Ltd (BCSIL) in Cuttack district. This followed a proposal by the Odisha Cooperation Department for reviving the mill through Indian Potash Limited (IPL), a public sector company with majority shareholding held by cooperatives such as IFFCO, under the provision of special/additional support mechanism in Industrial Policy Resolution, 2022. An official release said that the Chief Minister had requested IPL to consider reviving the sugar mill, which has remained defunct since 2011, adversely affecting sugarcane farmers and the rural economy of Badamba and adjoining areas. "Due to closure of the industry, sugarcane farmers have shifted to

conventional paddy cultivation, and the entire sugar and ancillary industry ecosystem has collapsed." Following which, the IPL has proposed to establish a Rs 352 crore integrated greenfield sugar complex, comprising a 3500 TCD sulphur-less sugar plant, 16 MW cogeneration plant, and 10 TPD Compressed Bio-Gas (CBG) plant over the vacant land of defunct Badamba Sugar Mill. While the government will provide approximately 112 acres of land on a long-term lease basis, the operations are expected to commence within one year of the agreement. The department has sought Cabinet approval for 4% interest subvention on term loans to IPL, an additional 10% Capital Investment Subsidy on top of the standard 20% under IPR-2022, bringing the total to 30% for eligible investments in plant and machinery.

Three-Storey Building Being Lifted Up

Nimapada, (Correspondent): A three-storey building is being lifted upward with the help of hundreds of jacks. While the use of jack technology to raise large buildings is becoming increasingly common in various parts of the state, a 3,000-square-foot three-storey house near Jayashree Chhak in Nimapada of Puri district is currently being elevated using this method. This house belongs to advocate Prabhat Behera. Due to increasing construction activities around the house and the rising level of nearby roads, he and his family were facing severe waterlogging



during the rainy season. At times, it even became impossible to step out of the house. After watching videos on YouTube showing old buildings being lifted in different places, he decided to raise his own house by 4 feet. A private company from Jharkhand has taken responsibility for lifting the building. After

excavating the foundation and cutting the pillars, a team of 15 technicians has installed around 160 jacks at the DPC (Damp Proof Course) level and successfully begun the process of lifting the structure. The lifting of such a large building has created curiosity and excitement among both the house owner and the local residents.

Heritage Run Organised on the Occasion of Odia Pakhya

JAJPUR ((Correspondent) : As per the directive of the state government, Odia Pakhya is being celebrated across the state from April 1 (Odisha Day) to April 14. On the fifth day of the celebrations, a Heritage Run was organised in Jajpur district by the district administration under the direct supervision of Collector Amar Kumar Kar, with the support of District Sports Officer Fakir Mohan Tudu. The event was flagged off by Jajpur Town Police Station IIC Sarat

Kumar Nayak, District Information and Public Relations Officer Kamini Ranjan Pattnaik, and District Sports Officer Fakir Mohan Tudu. While explaining the objective of the Heritage Run, the dignitaries emphasized the importance of preserving and promoting our rich heritage, culture, and traditions. Around 300 participants, including students from schools and colleges as well as members of various sports organisations, took part in the event.

Allied Blenders & Distillers Onboards Industry Stalwart Amar Sinha

NEWDELHI: Allied Blenders and Distillers Limited (ABD), India's largest domestic spirits company by volume, announced that the Board of Directors approved the appointment of Mr. Amar Sinha as Managing Director (MD) Designate effective 2nd April 2026.

As Mr. Alok Gupta's tenure as Managing Director nears completion, Mr. Amar Sinha's appointment aligns with ABD's strategy of value creation and long-term growth and underscores the Company's commitment to a seamless leadership transition. Mr. Amar Sinha brings over three decades of leadership experience across the alcohol beverage and consumer sectors. Over the course of his career, he has led corporations through phases of transformation and growth while building strong brands and businesses. His leadership journey includes roles as Chief Operating Officer at Radico Khaitan, Managing Director at Whyte & Mackay India and executive positions at Herbertsons (UB Group) and others.

He has received several recognitions for leadership excellence, including the Rajeev Gandhi Excellence Award - Most Enterprising CEO of the Year (2015), the Make in India Excellence Award (2016), and Business Leader of the Year at the IndSpirit Awards in 2023.

With this deep-rooted expertise across sales, marketing, and business transformation, Mr. Amar Sinha is uniquely positioned to accelerate ABD's next chapter of market leadership and growth.

PMGSY Roads in Disrepair Soon After Completion, Locals Cry Foul

Kantabani, correspondence : Allegations of large-scale irregularities in the construction of rural roads under the Pradhan Mantri Gram Sadak Yojana (PMGSY) have triggered widespread anger among residents of Bangomunda and Muribahal block in Balangir district, with villagers accusing contractors and officials of compromising on quality standards.

Several roads built under the flagship rural connectivity scheme are reportedly deteriorating within months of completion, prompting serious concerns over the durability and execution



of the projects. Locals allege that low-grade stones and inadequate quantities of bitumen were used during construction, resulting in weak road surfaces that are already developing cracks and potholes.

"The roads were meant to last for years, but they are already breaking apart. It clearly shows poor-quality work and lack of proper supervision,"

The perceived lack of accountability has intensified public resentment, with many demanding strict action against those responsible.

The PMGSY, a centrally sponsored scheme designed to provide all-weather road connectivity to rural habitations, operates under a stringent three-tier quality control mechanism, including inspections by state and national quality monitors. However, the current situation in Bangomunda has raised questions about the effectiveness of these safeguards on the ground.

Villagers have called for an immediate

and independent technical audit of all recently constructed PMGSY roads in the block. They have urged district authorities to investigate the alleged irregularities, fix accountability, and ensure that corrective measures are taken without delay. Despite the growing public outcry, no official statement has yet been issued by the concerned authorities. The incident has once again underscored the challenges in ensuring transparency and quality in rural infrastructure projects, particularly in remote areas where monitoring mechanisms often face limitations.

Foundation Day of BJP in Sukinda



Jajpur road (Correspondent) Foundation Day has been celebrated in Sukinda on Monday. On behalf of the organization, Sukinda has been held under the chairmanship of BJP Youth Front President Pushpak Mohapatra. BJP's Ramani Ranjan Bala Samantha, Odisha mining workers union President Sabyasachi Bala Samanta, Mandakini Sethi, Manaj

Nayak of No. 37 zone president, Lulu Roy of Dan Gadi Block, Sudshanshu Bhanj, BJP District President Diptirekha Mishra, District Secretary Devjani Pradhan attended the meeting and discussed the role of BJP. And the role of BJP in the society and the trust of the people in the coming days called to work. Activists of Sukinda Dangadi Block participated in it.

Joint Public Grievance Hearing Camp Held at Jajpur Zilla Parishad Conference Hall

JAJPUR (Correspondent) : A Joint Public Grievance Hearing Camp was organized today by the district administration at the Zilla Parishad Conference Hall in Jajpur. District Collector Shri Ambar Kumar Kar was present at the camp and personally heard various complaints and grievances of the public. He stated that the concerned departmental officers will verify the complaints, and appropriate steps will be taken to resolve the



issues of eligible applicants as soon as possible. A total of 254 grievances were registered today. Out of these, 202 were related to individual issues, 3 were related to group or village-level issues, 46 applications were for assistance

from the Chief Minister's Relief Fund, and 3 were related to the Red Cross Fund. Out of the total grievances, 49 cases were resolved on the spot. Among those present at the camp were Superintendent of Police Shri Yashpratap Srimal, Additional

District Magistrate Shri Yudhisthir Nayak, Sub-Collector of Jajpur Shri Tapas Ranjan Dehuri, Block Development Officer Shri Brahmananda Behera, Tahasildar Shri Ravi Narayan Padhi, Chief District Medical & Public Health Officer Dr. Bijay Kumar Mishra, along with other district-level, field-level, and block-level officers, who participated in hearing the grievances of the public. If you want, I can also convert this into a short news headline version or poster format.

BJP Foundation Day celebrated at District Headquarters Office

Malkangiri correspondent : the 47th BJP Foundation Day was celebrated at the Malkangiri BJP office. On this occasion, senior party worker and former president Gurcharan Mohanty hoisted the party flag in the office premises. Along with this, a program was organized in the office. First, a lamp was lit in front of the oil paintings of the founders of the BJP Dr. Shyama Prasad Mukherjee and Deendayal Upadhyay and Vande Mataram was sung. Today's program, MLA Shri Narasing Madkami gave information about the history of the party and explained that the party has achieved this success today after a lot of struggle of the workers who have played an important role in Indian politics. Along with this, Shri Mohanty gave details about the BJP government's patriotic and nationalist ideology as the main mantra for the workers to grow forward. Malkangiri MLA Narasing Madkami, senior worker Shyamal Sunani, Nagar Mandal President Dilip Dandapati, Nihar Roy, General Secretary Manik Lal Chakraborty, Treasurer Sanjay Sarkar, Block Vice Chairman Niranjan Halder, Women's Front secretary Beni Kartulu, District secretary Sabita Mishra, Soudamini Acharya, Mamata Mayi Mohanty, Media Head B Srinivas Patra, Deepak Saha and around 200 BJP workers were present in today's meeting.

postal cover was released at Berhampur University to celebrate Diamond Jubilee year

Goplapur (correspondent) A special commemorative postal cover was released at Berhampur University today to celebrate its Diamond Jubilee year. The programme was organized in collaboration with the Department of Posts India and witnessed the presence of distinguished guests and officials. Chief Guest Vinod Kumar attended the event and appreciated the



university's contribution to education and society over the decades. The function was also graced by the Sr. Superintendent of Post Office, Berhampur Region, Basanta Kumar Panda. Vice-

Chancellor Prof. Geetanjali Dash presided over the programme, Chairman PGC Prof. Sukanta Kumar Tripathy, Registrar Sachidananda Nayak, along with faculty members and students, were also

present on the occasion. Berhampur University expressed its elated to receive this special cover as a memorable gift during its Golden Jubilee year and has accepted this gift with gratitude. The special cover, issued by the Department of Posts, will be available at more than one lakh post offices across the country, enabling people nationwide to commemorate the Diamond Jubilee of Berhampur University.

District Planning and Monitoring Committee Chairman welcomed in Subarnapur

SUBARNAPUR (Correspondent) --- The newly elected Chairman of Subarnapur District Planning and Monitoring Committee cum Birmaharajpur MLA Er. Raghunath Jagdala was welcomed by the district administration. This afternoon, the District Planning and Monitoring Committee Chairman Er. Jagdala was welcomed at the joint grievance redressal camp of the district administration organized at the Sonepur Panchayat Samiti office. Subarnapur Collector Dr. Nruparaj Sahu and Subarnapur S. P. Narayan Nayak welcomed him with bouquets and salutes. On this occasion,



Additional District Magistrate (Revenue) Rajendra Majhi, Additional District Magistrate (General) Anjalina Pradhan, Chief Development Officer cum Executive Officer Zilla Parishad Aswini Kumar Meher, Sub Collector Sonepur, Dr.

Somyarupa Rath and other district level officers, tehsil and block level officers were present. On this occasion, the Collector expressed his views and welcomed the Chairman Er. Jagdala and said that he would work together with the

District Administration, District Planning and Monitoring Committee in the coming days. The S. P. Shri Naik congratulated him. The Chairman of the District Planning and Monitoring Committee Er. Jagadala expressed his views and called upon everyone to work together for the overall development of Subarnapur district. He said that a meeting would be held within the next month after discussing with the key members of the District Planning and Monitoring Committee and work would start as per the plan. All the government employees and media representatives were present in the program.

Kal Baisakhi and hailstorm in Changaria villege

- ◆ Crop damage and extensive damage information,
- ◆ Administration reaches the villege

Patnagarh - (Correspondent) On Monday afternoon Balangir district, Khaprakhol block Changaria villege was hit by Kal Baisakhi and hailstorm, causing extensive damage. Many tree branches were broken due to Kal Baisakhi and trees were also reported to have fallen on the roads at places. There was heavy hailstorm with Kal Baisakhi. Due to the hailstorm, the asbestos and earthen roofs of houses were shattered, while the glass of the car outside the house was also broken. Similarly, various tools outside the house were also broken. Rabi crops such as rice, beans, vegetables were extensively damaged, while the hailstorm was so heavy that for some time the ground turned white and looked like snow. Similarly, mango leaves and mangoes fell



due to the hailstorm. Due to Kal Baisakhi and hailstorm, extensive damage has been done to crops, honey, vegetables, mangoes, butternuts, lemons etc. On receiving the information, Khaprakhol BDO Bibekananda Sarangi, Tahsildar Anand Kumar Panda, Additional Tahsildar Satya Sundar Rautray reached the spot and met the affected families and inspected the damage.

Sarpanch Sushil Guru, BJP leader Pankaj Putel were present on this occasion. Some people were injured in the hailstorm and cows and goats were also injured. Similarly, it has been reported that crops were damaged in Rengal Juri village due to Kal Baisakhi and hailstorm. Similarly, various villages in the block have suffered extensive damage due to strong winds. When BDO Sarangi

was asked about this, both the villeges have suffered extensive damage due to hailstorm. There has been extensive damage to the soil of the house, khapara and asbestos. He said that dry food, candles, etc. will be distributed to the affected people. This is the first such incident in the region, which has created fear in the minds of the people.

Kadraka Appala Swami – The True Son of the Soil Driving Inclusive Growth in Rayagada

Rayagada : (correspondent) In the culturally rich and diverse district of Rayagada, where development challenges meet strong community resilience, one leader continues to stand out for his unwavering dedication to public service — Kadraka Appala Swami. As the MLA of Rayagada, he has earned recognition as a grassroots politician whose work is deeply rooted in the welfare of the people, particularly the marginalized and tribal communities. Kadraka Appala Swami's political journey is a reflection of his strong connection with the ground reality. Unlike many leaders who remain confined to offices, he believes in being among the people. His approach is simple yet impactful — listen, understand, and act. This people-centric style has helped him address real issues faced by the citizens, including infrastructure gaps, healthcare challenges, and educational needs. A major highlight of his leadership has been his consistent focus on rural development. Under his guidance, several remote

villages have witnessed improved road connectivity, bringing previously isolated areas into the mainstream. Better roads have not only enhanced mobility but have also opened doors for economic growth and

access to essential services. Healthcare development has been another area of priority. Recognizing the hardships faced by people in interior regions, he has worked towards strengthening medical facilities and

ensuring that basic healthcare services reach even the most remote corners of the district. These efforts have significantly reduced the struggles of villagers who once had to travel long distances for treatment.

Sonepur Municipality conducts cleanliness drive in temples and historical sites on the occasion of Odia Paksha

SUBARNAPUR (Correspondent) --- On Monday, on the sixth day of Odia paksha, at 7 am, Sonepur Municipality organized a cleanliness drive in temples and historical sites of the district. In this drive, Maa Sureswari Peeth and Rameshwar Temple courtyard were cleaned.

Additional District Magistrate (General) Anjalina Pradhan attended the program as the chief guest and emphasized the importance of cleanliness. Along with this, Municipality Executive Officer Rushi Majhi, District Cultural Officer Yamuna Pradhan, District Sports and Youth Services Officer

Chittaranjan Mishra and District Nizarat Officer Satyabrata Sahu, Additional Fire Officer Dhirendranath De were also present. Sonepur-Manmunda Swachha Bharat Sangathan, NCC students of Sonepur College, Municipality Swachha Sathi and conscious citizens actively participated.

Chittaranjan Mishra and District Nizarat Officer Satyabrata Sahu, Additional Fire Officer Dhirendranath De were also present. Sonepur-Manmunda Swachha Bharat Sangathan, NCC students of Sonepur College, Municipality Swachha Sathi and conscious citizens actively participated.

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3. Category of executors	: SSI Units registered under DIC/ NSIC/ MSME for Irrigation Shutters / Hydro mechanical gates.
4. Bid Identification No.	: CEM / MDS - 14/ 2025-26
5. Estimated Cost	: Rs. 32,65,638.00
6. Period of Completion	: 02 (Two) calendar months.
7. Date & time of availability of bid documents in the Portal	: From dt.06.04.2026 (10.00 AM) to dt.15.04.2026 (5.30 PM)
8. Last date/ time for receipt of bid In the Portal	: dt. 15.04.2026 (up to 5.30 PM)
9. Date and Place of opening of Technical Bid	: dt.16.04.2026 (12.00 Noon onwards in the O/O the undersigned)
10. Date and Place of opening of Financial Bid	: To be intimated to the qualified Bidders after evaluation of Technical Bid.
11. Name of the Officer inviting bid	: Chief Engineer, Mechanical, O/O the E.I.C, Water Resources, Odisha, Bhubaneswar

Further details can be seen from the e-procurement portal <https://tenders.odisha.gov.in>. Any further issue of Addenda/ Corrigenda/ Cancellation Notice shall be uploaded in the aforesaid website only.

Chief Engineer, Mechanical
O/o- Engineer-In-Chief,
Secha Sadan, Bhubaneswar

OIPR-32001/32520/1/26-27/0001

EDITORIAL

Beyond Fluency: Rethinking Spoken English Education

Teaching a language requires an understanding of how learners acquire language, how errors can be addressed, and how communicative competence can be developed

A classroom full of learners stands with their hands over their hearts, repeating in unison: "From today, I will speak only in English. I can speak in English." The exercise resembles a pledge—solemn, collective, and hopeful. For many, it marks the start of a journey toward confidence and self-improvement. Yet, one cannot help but wonder: can fluency in a language truly be achieved through such declarations?

This scene is not unusual. With the onset of the vacation season, several spoken English centres appear across towns and cities, offering attractive packages and persuasive promises. Advertisements assure learners that fluency can be attained within two to three months. Some even guarantee a refund if the goal is not achieved. For students preparing for higher studies or job interviews or looking for social mobility, such claims are difficult to resist since English has become a global necessity and the pressure to acquire it quickly is immense. However, beneath these assurances, lies a more complex reality about how languages are actually learned.

In many centres, training is built around predictable conversational patterns. Learners are taught to introduce themselves, describe their hobbies and discuss their ambitions, and respond to routine questions. These are useful starting points but the method often relies heavily on memorisation. Students internalise fixed sentences and reproduce them with confidence, creating the impression of fluency in controlled environments.

Thinking in English

Yet, language is not a set of ready-made expressions to be recalled on demand. It is a system that must be actively constructed in the mind. The first step in communication occurs in thought, where ideas take shape before being articulated. When learners rely primarily on memorised phrases, they struggle in unfamiliar situations that require spontaneous expression.

The reliance on translation further complicates this process. In many classrooms, concepts are explained in the regional language and then translated into English. While this may make learning appear easier, it prevents learners from thinking directly in English. Instead, they become dependent on a mental translation process, which slows communication and restricts originality. True fluency emerges only when the language becomes a medium of thought rather than a tool of conversation.

Global Energy Crisis Heading towards Darkness



Amit Baijnath Garg

Under the pretext of the conflict involving the US, Israel, and Iran, the global energy sector

is once again being targeted. Recently—for the first time—Iran and Israel launched attacks on facilities linked to fossil fuel energy production, thereby heightening fears of a global energy crisis. In reality, energy is now being weaponized as an instrument of war. Israel attacked the South Pars gas field, which it shares with Qatar. In retaliation, Iran launched drone and missile strikes against Saudi Arabia's Aramco-owned SAMREF refinery, as well as gas facilities in Qatar and the UAE—a move that has marked a dangerous turning point in the conflict. The world's largest gas field, South Pars, serves as the backbone of global LNG supplies, including those to India. The surge in oil and gas prices following the Israeli attack is proving to be financially crippling for the common man, as well as for nations across the globe.

A look back at history reveals that following the US invasion of Iraq in 2003, it took months to repair the damaged energy infrastructure. Production levels did not return to pre-war standards until nearly two years later. During this period, the world faced a severe energy crisis. Experts warn that repairing damaged energy production infrastructure can take years; damage to LNG plants, in particular, is the most critical, as their restoration can take several years. Retaliatory attacks on gas facilities have far-reaching global repercussions. It is a well-established fact that energy disruptions impact fuel prices and supply chains, which, in turn, adversely affect economies.

The Gulf region continues to serve as a vital energy corridor for Europe, Asia, and India. Meanwhile, amidst the ongoing conflict, Iran has stated that if its energy installations are attacked again, it will completely devastate the oil and gas sectors of the Gulf nations. Iran's military unit, the IRGC, asserted that the United States and Israel committed a grave error by striking Iran's energy infrastructure. Should such an act be repeated, the retaliation would be far more severe. Prior to this, Iran's largest gas field—the South Pars Gas Field—came under attack. This is the world's largest gas field, situated offshore near Bushehr. Immediately thereafter, Iran issued a warning to Qatar, Saudi Arabia, and the United Arab Emirates, cautioning that their oil and gas facilities could be targeted. During this period, a missile strike was launched against Qatar's Ras Laffan gas plant, causing extensive damage and heightening

global anxiety.

The persistent attacks on the energy sector demonstrate that this conflict is no longer confined solely to military installations; rather, the global energy supply itself is now under direct threat. If the situation continues to deteriorate in this manner, oil and gas prices could witness a sharp surge, the repercussions of which would be felt across the entire world. Concurrently, the situation in the Strait of Hormuz remains extremely precarious due to the ongoing conflict involving Iran. Hundreds of vessels remain stranded, thereby perpetuating a global energy crisis. It is noteworthy that the Strait of Hormuz serves as the conduit for 20 percent of the world's oil exports. In this context, the United States recently launched an attack on the Strait of Hormuz, an action that has further exacerbated the already perilous situation. In essence, the confrontation that initially erupted between the US-Israel axis and Iran has now evolved into an "oil war," which continues to take increasingly dangerous turns. It is anticipated that the situation is likely to become even more dire in the days ahead.

Meanwhile, the world is already grappling with disruptions in crude oil supplies as a result of Iran's restrictions on maritime traffic through the Strait of Hormuz. Under these circumstances, any damage inflicted upon production facilities could have lingering repercussions that persist for years to come. According to estimates, the South Pars gas field holds reserves of 1,800 trillion cubic feet of gas—sufficient to meet the world's needs for several years. For Tehran, South Pars serves as the hub of its energy supply; approximately 80 percent of Iran's electricity is generated from this gas field. This gas field, however, does not belong exclusively to Iran. Iran shares it with Qatar—an ally of the United States and the world's largest producer of LNG. The Qatari portion is known as the North Field, from which large quantities of LNG are exported to global markets.

In reality, the world is grappling with a severe crisis driven by an unprecedented surge in energy demand, the lack of electricity access for 1.18 billion people (known as "energy poverty"), and a heavy reliance on fossil fuels. Led by China, rising coal consumption and geopolitical tensions have further complicated this crisis, even as there is an urgent need to transition toward clean energy to combat climate change. While renewable energy has reached record levels alongside the growing demand for energy, the consumption of fossil fuels—

specifically coal, oil, and gas—also remains at record highs. In developing regions, particularly in Sub-Saharan Africa, hundreds of millions of people still lack access to reliable electricity or clean cooking fuels. Furthermore, it is not just energy systems that are under strain; climate change-induced weather disasters are also damaging energy infrastructure—specifically electricity transmission grids—affecting over 200 million households.

Meanwhile, the crisis involving Ukraine and Russia, along with other instances of geopolitical instability, has disrupted global energy supply chains. Rather than a decline in fossil fuel usage, some regions have witnessed a surge of over 50 percent in the demand for coal, leading to a record increase in carbon emissions. Fundamentally, a rapid transition toward clean energy represents the only viable path forward—a transition that necessitates massive investment in new technologies and infrastructure. Countries across the globe are diversifying into renewable energy sources—such as solar, wind, and hydrogen—to enhance energy security and reduce their dependence on traditional energy sources. Moreover, expanding access to clean energy in rural areas holds the potential to bring about significant improvements in both public health and the environment. Concurrently, China's energy demand is projected to peak and subsequently decline, a shift that could fundamentally reshape the global energy landscape.

Last year, the International Energy Agency reported that approximately 730 million people worldwide still live without access to electricity. Progress toward connecting these individuals to the power grid has stalled since 2020. Furthermore, in numerous countries—including India—a primary driver of the energy crisis is the fact that the demand for electricity far exceeds its supply—a gap that continues to widen. Electricity consumption in the commercial and industrial sectors is high and continues to rise, as many nations—including India—are still in a phase of development. The greatest challenge now lies in meeting this growing demand through clean energy, while simultaneously seeking alternatives to fossil fuels. A future characterized by clean, abundant, affordable, and reliable energy is attainable, provided that the world can address the existing gaps in finance, policy, and infrastructure. To achieve the goal of affordable and clean energy for all by 2030, there is a need to further strengthen international cooperation and policies. If serious action is not taken in this regard moving forward, the world will plunge into darkness.

West Asia Crisis; Iran-Israel War & Its Impact on Energy



Yogesh Kumar Goyal

land. However, the year 2026 stands as a watershed in the history of modern India as it

driven less by sovereignty and more by control over resources. Bullets and missiles are no longer just aimed at territories; they now target energy pipelines and oil tankers. The ongoing triangular conflict in West Asia between Iran, Israel, and the United States is not merely a territorial dispute but a battle for control over the lifeline of the global economy—energy supply.

For India, this crisis extends far beyond rising petrol and diesel prices. It has emerged as a serious national security challenge, creating the looming threat of an invisible "energy lockdown." When the Prime Minister compared this situation in Parliament to the horrors of the COVID era, he did not mean physical confinement, but the global uncertainty that could, at any moment, halt the wheels of India's economic growth. If the Strait of Hormuz were to be blocked, nearly 60% of India's oil and LNG supply would be disrupted, pushing the nation toward a severe energy lockdown.

Blockade of Hormuz

On the world map, the Strait of Hormuz is a narrow yet critical waterway through which nearly 20% of the world's crude oil and a significant portion of LNG passes. Any disruption by Iran in this region effectively means choking the global energy supply. Since the conflict began in late February 2026, crude oil prices have surged from \$85 to over \$110 per barrel within just five weeks. India meets nearly

40% of its LPG demand from Qatar. Attacks on Qatar's Ras Laffan LNG facilities have not only reduced production but have also driven up the cost of cooking gas for Indian households. The mathematics is simple and harsh—every \$10 increase in crude oil prices raises India's current account deficit by approximately \$12–15 billion. This situation clearly warns that energy security dependent on external sources can collapse at any time.

Strategic Petroleum Reserves: Are a Few Days Enough?

One of India's biggest vulnerabilities in energy security is its limited strategic petroleum reserves. Developed nations like the United States, Japan, and China maintain reserves for up to 90 days, whereas India's current capacity—spread across Visakhapatnam, Mangaluru, and Padur—totals about 5.33 million tonnes, sufficient for barely 9 days. Although expansion plans in Chandikhol and Bikaner aim to extend this to 60–65 days, progress has not been at the urgency required. Alarmingly, about 36% of the existing storage capacity remains unfilled. If India had a 90-day reserve today, it could pursue a more assertive and independent foreign policy. A 30-day disruption in Hormuz could push India's economy onto a "ventilator." Therefore, expanding reserves is no longer optional—it is an urgent necessity.

Diplomatic Constraints and the Crisis of Strategic Autonomy

India's strategic autonomy is under severe strain due to its heavy dependence on imported oil. This dependence is not just an economic burden but also a diplomatic constraint. India has been compelled to distance itself from long-time partner Iran and align more closely with Israel and US-backed Gulf nations. This shift is not purely strategic but driven by compulsion. The safety of

nearly 9 million Indians living in Gulf countries and the remittances they send back form the backbone of India's economy. As long as India depends on imports for 85% of its energy needs, its foreign policy will remain influenced by external powers. Developments in Washington or Tehran will continue to dictate concerns in New Delhi. True sovereignty, therefore, lies not just in territorial defense but in energy self-reliance.

Rumors, Panic and Government Damage Control

Amid the conflict, rumors of a lockdown in India have triggered panic. However, Union ministers Nirmala Sitharaman, Kiren Rijju, and Hardeep Puri have reassured citizens that the country is secure. The government claims that diversified energy sources ensure adequate supply and that there is no need for panic. While these assurances provide short-term relief, they also raise a critical question—will India continue to rely on damage control during crises, or will it build long-term resilience?

Alternative Energy: Not a Choice, but a Necessity

In the face of rising import dependence and global uncertainty, alternative energy is no longer optional—it is a national imperative. Energy self-reliance forms the foundation of true independence. Initiatives such as rooftop solar and free electricity schemes are not just welfare measures but pillars of a self-reliant India. With 330 million LPG consumers dependent on imported fuel, shifting toward induction cooking and ethanol-based alternatives can significantly reduce costs and import burdens. Cooking with electricity at approximately ₹8 per unit is more economical than LPG, while ethanol from agricultural residue can transform farmers into energy producers. Electrification of the transport

sector is equally crucial, as it accounts for the largest share of oil consumption. Expanding electric mobility can save billions in foreign exchange. Solar energy and green hydrogen offer a pathway toward a clean, secure, and sustainable energy future.

Changing Pattern of Electricity Consumption

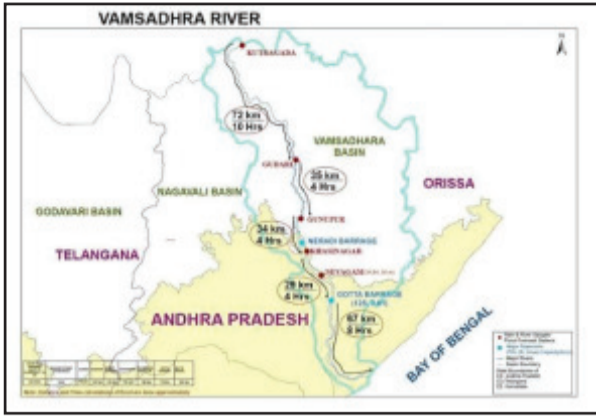
In India, about 42% of electricity is consumed by industry and 17% by agriculture. With rapid urbanization, demand from commercial sectors is rising. India must gradually shift from coal-based power—which still dominates—to nuclear, solar, and wind energy. India's annual oil import bill of \$143 billion (2025 data) is a deep economic wound. While the country has abundant solar and wind resources, the pace of investment and implementation remains insufficient.

The Road Ahead: Energy Security is National Security

The Iran-Israel conflict serves as a stark warning for India. Any disruption in the Strait of Hormuz would not remain a regional issue but could trigger a global economic crisis, impacting fertilizers, fuel, semiconductors, and entire supply chains. India must act decisively. First, strengthening strategic reserves to at least 90 days within the next 24 months should be a national priority. Second, aggressive energy diversification through long-term agreements with Russia, Central Asia, and Africa is essential. Third, investments in nuclear energy, solar power, and green hydrogen must be accelerated on a war footing. Ultimately, while global peace may not be in our control, ensuring our energy security certainly is. Self-reliance is no longer just a slogan—it is a condition for survival. If decisive steps are not taken today, the darkness of the future will be a consequence of our own inaction.

MASS PROTEST THREAT LOOMS OVER NEREDI BARRAGE RULING

Paralakhemundi: (Correspondent):- A tide of simmering discontent is steadily swelling into a potential storm of agitation in Gajapati district, as villagers along the serene banks of the Vamsadhara River rise in unison against the tribunal verdict favoring the Neredi Barrage. What began as a legal battle in 2006 has now transformed into a ground-level outcry, with residents of Khandava and Budura panchayats under Kashinagar block voicing deep anguish over what they perceive



as a looming threat to their existence. The tribunal's decision, seen as a nod to Andhra Pradesh's interests, has unsettled the fragile balance of life in these riverine villages. Clutching their ancestral soil and standing firm on

the land that has nurtured generations, the villagers have sounded a stern warning—if immediate intervention is not made by both the State and Central governments, the region will witness an unyielding mass

agitation. The fear of losing fertile fields, homes, and livelihoods has ignited a fierce resolve among the people, who declare they will not abandon their roots under any circumstance. As the Vamsadhara flows quietly through the contested terrain, its banks now echo with a rising chorus of resistance—one that could soon swell into a formidable mass movement, reshaping the narrative of development and displacement in the region.

MAHENDRAGIRI WITNESSES TRAGIC END OF TOURIST BY LIGHTNING

Paralakhemundi: (Correspondent):- The tranquil and myth-laden heights of Mahendragiri were plunged into sorrow as the lifeless body of a missing tourist was recovered on Monday morning, casting a shadow over the revered hillscape. The victim is suspected to have succumbed to a lightning strike triggered by a sudden Kalbaisakhi storm. The deceased, identified as Binod Jena of Olatpur village under Niali block in Cuttack district, had arrived in Paralakhemundi with three companions. After a midday meal at a relative's residence, the group set out on a scenic excursion to the sacred Mahendragiri hills. Their journey traced the spiritual trail through

Kunti Temple, Yachhihira Temple, and Arjuna Cave. However, as they ascended towards Bhima Temple, nature unleashed its untamed wrath. A fierce Kalbaisakhi storm—laden with thunder, gusty winds, and torrential rain—struck without warning, scattering the group in a desperate bid for safety. While three of the friends managed to find refuge within the precincts of Bhima Temple, Binod was tragically separated and went



missing amidst the chaos. As the storm relented, an anxious search began, soon joined by forest personnel stationed at nearby watchtowers and resorts. Despite hours of tireless efforts, hope faded into despair as no trace of the missing youth was found by nightfall. The search resumed at first light, and in a heartbreaking turn, Binod Jena's body was discovered near Bhima Temple, bringing a grim closure to the ordeal. Authorities from Garabandh police station have registered a case and initiated an investigation, while the somber winds of Mahendragiri now whisper a tale of nature's might and human fragility.

District Collector's Joint Public Hearing at Bali Mela

Malkangiri, correspondent: A joint public hearing and grievance camp was organized by the Malkangiri district administration at Balimela Nagar Bhawan for the speedy resolution of public problems. Organized under the chairmanship of District Collector Pratesh Arvind Rajashirke, hundreds of local residents reached the camp with their personal and collective problems. A total of 10 personal and 6 rural problems related complaints were heard in the camp. Important issues like Prime Minister's Housing Scheme, land



lease, old age and widow allowance and disabled assistance were discussed. Along with this, the District Collector directed the divisional officers to resolve drinking water, electricity connection and road problems. Along with the District Magistrate, Superintendent of

Security Vinod Patil, Forest Officer Sai Kiran, CDO Dasharathi Sarabu, SDM Duryodhan Bhoi and CDMO Dr. Dolamani Pradhan were present in the program and listened to the problems of the people. In addition, all the Tehsildars, BDOs and district level officers joined the camp.

Silk City Festival and Subhadra Shakti Mela inaugurated

Goplapur (correspondent) The Silk City Festival of Odisha has been inaugurated in Brahmapur. The Silk City Festival was inaugurated today at the Khalikot University Campus Stadium. The festival will continue till April 12. The chief guest at today's inauguration ceremony was Ganjam district Planning Board Chairman and Khalikote MLA Purna Chandra Sethi. Silk City has become world famous for silk. He spoke about the importance of Brahmapur Patoo. He said that



mothers have become self-reliant through Subhadra Shakti Mela and farmers are our breadwinners. The guests of honor were Brahmapur MLA K. Anil Kumar, Mayor of Brahmapur Municipal Corporation Sanghamitra Dalai, Brahmapur police superintendent Dr. Sarban

Vivek M., Chief Development Officer and Executive Officer Sameer Kumar Jena, Convenor of Swadeshi Jagran Manch Prasanna Kumar Sotoray, Shilpapati Govind Chandra Subudhi, Brahmapur Deputy Collector Avinash Kumar were present on the stage and spoke about the

importance and fame of the Silk City and Brahmapur Patoo Saree. District Collector V. Kirti Vasan gave the welcome speech and sought cooperation in bringing art and culture to the people of Ganjam district and making Ganjam a best district. Corporation Commissioner A Sasya

Reddy proposed the vote of thanks. In this festival, the self-help group of Odisha's mothers' Subhadra Shakti and self-reliant Swadeshi Mela, traditional food fair, agricultural machinery fair were displayed. The main attraction of the first day evening was the famous singer of the Odia cinema world Antara Chakravarty and her associates. In accordance with the Cultural Council, local artists performed Dasakthiya, Odissi dance, Kuchipudi, Sambalpuri, Dhamsa, Akthapada dance, and modern dance.

Four arrested on attacking neighbour

Goplapur, 06/04 (correspondent) Brahmapur Town Police have arrested four persons in connection with a violent assault case reported from Mochi Sahi under Brahmampur Town Police Station. The arrested accused are P. Manoj Kumar (21), S. Ajay Kumar (25), S. Akash (20) all are of Chomada Gadam, Mochisahi and M. Bhardwaj (21) of Khalasi Sahi, all are of Brahmampur Town

police station area. The complainant, K. Babula (36), alleged that he was attacked by his neighbors due to prior enmity between their families. According to the complaint, the incident occurred on April 3, 2026, at around 8:30 PM, when the accused persons—identified as P. Manoj Kumar (21), S. Ajay Kumar (25), S. Akash (20), and M. Bhardwaj (21)—allegedly came to the complainant's

street, abused him in obscene language, and physically assaulted him. The attack was reportedly carried out with an intention to cause fatal harm, resulting in bleeding injuries to the complainant's head and face. Acting on the complaint, Brahmampur Town Police registered a case and initiated an investigation. Subsequently, on April 6, a police team conducted a raid at the

residences of the accused persons and successfully apprehended all four individuals involved in the incident. The accused have been booked under Sections 126(2), 115(2), 351(2), 109(1), and 3(5) of the Bharatiya Nyaya Sanhita (BNS) and are being forwarded to the court. Further investigation into the matter is going on said by the police.

BJP Foundation Day celebrated at the Mandal and Booth levels of the Nimapada-Gop Assembly Constituency

Nimapada, (correspondent) : Today, the BJP's 47th Foundation Day was celebrated with enthusiasm by leaders and workers of all seven Mandals and Booth-level units of the Nimapada-Gop Assembly Constituency. Participating in the event, the party workers hoisted the party flag and took a pledge to work towards the creation of a Developed India and a Developed Odisha. On this occasion, presidents of the Mandals and senior leaders highlighted the history of the BJP,

as well as the sacrifices, dedication, and struggles of great leaders. Speakers also expressed their views on the ideology of the party, established on the ideals of eminent personalities such as Pandit Deendayal Upadhyaya, Dr. Syama Prasad Mukherjee, and Bharat Ratna Atal Bihari Vajpayee. Special emphasis was placed on Pandit Deendayal Upadhyaya's integral humanism and his core principle of "Antyodaya", calling for ensuring that all government schemes and benefits reach the

last person standing at the edge of society. Among those present were Sarpanch Debashish Acharya, MP representative Minalata Mohanty, Jachindra Swain, Councillor Niranjan Nayak, Kisan Morcha Vice President Arjun Baral, NAC Youth President Saipreetam Patnaik, Saroj Kumar Sahu, and many others. Party workers across booth levels and even at their homes celebrated the Foundation Day by hoisting the party flag.

Accused Arrested in Chandili Snatching Attempt Case; Woman Seriously Injured

Rayagada (correspondent): In a significant breakthrough, Chandili Police have successfully detected and solved a burglary/snatching attempt case registered as Chandili PS Case No. 104/26 dated March 25, 2026, U/S 309(6)/311 BNS. One accused has been apprehended in connection with the incident. The arrested accused has been identified as Kishan Hobika (20), son of Late Anand Hobika, resident of Village Debadola under Chandili Police Station, District Rayagada. The

case originated from a complaint lodged by Sri K. Prasad Rao (57) of Village Majhiguda under Kalyansinghpur PS. As per the complaint, on the evening of March 24, 2026, between 7:30 PM and 8:00 PM, Smt. Kanakam Parbati (52) was traveling towards Rayagada Railway Station on a motorcycle with her nephew, Pali Gandhi. Near Satyam Carton Factory (between JK Pur and Rayagada), an unknown miscreant riding another motorcycle attempted to snatch her mangalsutra from behind. During the attempt, she lost balance and fell from the

motorcycle, sustaining severe head injuries. The accused fled the scene without successfully snatching the ornament. She was immediately rushed to District Headquarters Hospital (DHH), Rayagada, and later referred to Visakhapatnam due to her critical condition. During the course of investigation, police established that the victim was en route to Bhubaneswar to visit her daughter. Further inquiry and interrogation revealed the involvement of accused Kishan Hobika, who used to borrow a KTM Duke

motorcycle from his acquaintance Pradeep Patra of Village Budaguda under Kalyansinghpur PS. The accused followed the victim from behind and forcefully attempted to snatch her mangalsutra, leading to the accident and serious injuries. Prompt response by local eyewitnesses and timely intervention of the 108 Ambulance service ensured that the injured were shifted for immediate medical attention. The accused was arrested on April 3, 2026, and has been forwarded to the court for further legal action.

Three 'Dalals' Arrested For Cheating Patients At SCB Medical College

Cuttack (correspondent): The growing menace of middlemen (dalals) operating in major government healthcare institutions in the State has once again come under the spotlight after police in Cuttack arrested three for allegedly cheating patients and their attendants at SCB Medical College and Hospital by falsely promising to procure scarce blood units in exchange for money. According to police, the accused—Shiva Mohanty of Bari, Abinash Rout of Kendrapara, and Dhaneswar Mohanty of Jagatsinghpur—were



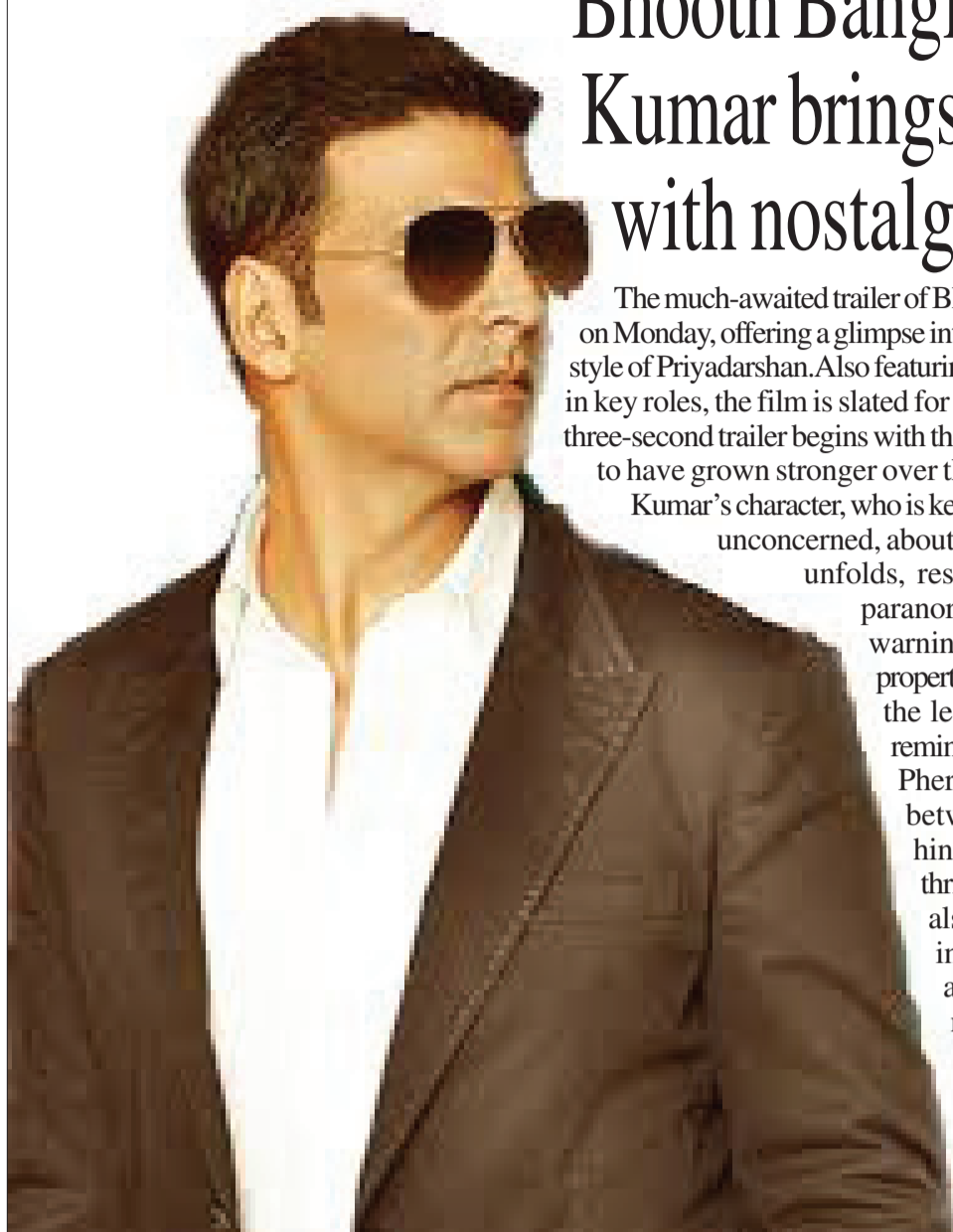
part of an organized network targeting vulnerable families visiting the hospital in urgent need of blood units. They allegedly approached attendants, assured them of arranging blood quickly, and then extracted money on false promises. Police said such middlemen often exploit panic situations in

busy government hospitals, where patients' families struggle to arrange critical medical support, including blood units. In several instances, these agents are also suspected of persuading patients to shift from government facilities to private nursing homes under the pretext of better treatment, raising

concerns about a broader, coordinated racket. The case came to light after a complaint was filed by Bibekananda Behera from Balikuda, who alleged that he was duped by the accused while trying to arrange blood. Acting on the complaint, Mangalabag Police Station registered a case, launched a probe, and subsequently apprehended the three individuals. They have been forwarded to court. Police officials indicated that further investigation is underway to determine whether more individuals are involved in the network and to uncover possible links with private healthcare operators.

'Bhooth Bangla' trailer out: Akshay Kumar brings back horror-comedy with nostalgic twist

The much-awaited trailer of *Bhooth Bangla*, starring Akshay Kumar, was unveiled on Monday, offering a glimpse into a fun-filled horror-comedy crafted in the signature style of Priyadarshan. Also featuring Paresh Rawal, Rajpal Yadav and late actor Asrani in key roles, the film is slated for a theatrical release on April 16. The three-minute-three-second trailer begins with the introduction of a powerful demon, Vadhusur, said to have grown stronger over the last 1,000 years. It then shifts focus to Akshay Kumar's character, who is keen on selling a lavish bungalow unaware, or perhaps unconcerned, about its haunted past linked to the demon. As the story unfolds, residents of the house begin to experience eerie paranormal activities. Paresh Rawal's character is seen warning Akshay about the dangers lurking within the property. The trailer highlights engaging interactions between the lead cast, blending horror with slapstick humour reminiscent of classics like *Bhool Bhulaiyaa* and *Phir Hera Pheri*. The trailer concludes with a dramatic face-off between Akshay Kumar and the demon Vadhusur, hinting at a mix of action, comedy and supernatural thrills. Apart from the veteran comic ensemble, the film also stars Tabu, Wamiqa Gabbi and Mithila Palkar in prominent roles. Tabu's presence, in particular, appears to add a layer of intrigue and depth to the narrative. The trailer was shared by Balaji Motion Pictures on its official Instagram handle, teasing audiences with the caption: "Welcome to Bhooth Bangla. Yahan na toh log normal hain... Aur upar se Bangla bhi paranormal hai. Enter at your own risk." Presented by Balaji Motion Pictures



Why gluten sensitivity is so common today

Gluten-free diets are not just wellness fads because gluten sensitivity is a real issue today. Dr Chopra shares the symptoms and suggests ways to manage.

For many people, cutting out gluten feels like a modern health fad - especially when parents and grandparents insist they ate wheat all their lives without any issues. Yet today, gluten is increasingly linked to bloating, gut inflammation, fatigue and a growing list of sensitivities. So what changed? Experts say it's not just our bodies, but the wheat itself. As ultra-processed and hybridised grains become the norm, gluten is affecting the gut in ways earlier generations never experienced, prompting a closer look at why gluten sensitivity is now so widespread.

Dr Alok Chopra, founder-director and consultant cardiologist at Aashlok Hospital with over 40 years of experience, is breaking down why gluten sensitivity has become such a widespread issue today. In an Instagram video shared on January 24, the cardiologist explains how hybridised gluten from today's ultra-processed wheat impacts gut health and also shares practical ways to manage related symptoms.

Is gluten different now? According to Dr Chopra, the gluten we consume today is very



different from what earlier generations ate. The wheat our grandparents consumed was far less processed and hybridised, unlike the modern varieties commonly found in today's food supply. He explains, "You must have heard this from your parents or elders. Nothing happened to us. What is this gluten nonsense you keep talking about? Well, they're not entirely wrong because the gluten they ate is not the gluten you're eating today. The wheat our grandparents consumed was natural, unmodified, and far easier for human gut to handle. But today's gluten has been hybridised, altered, and ultra-processed, and your body treats it like an irritant. That's why gluten sensitivity is exploding today."

Why does this happen? Dr Chopra points out that modern forms of gluten can trigger inflammation in the gut, weakening the gut lining and leading to a condition known as leaky gut. This, in turn, activates an immune

response which, over time, may begin attacking the body's own tissues.

He elaborates, "When this modern gluten enters your gut, it creates inflammation. In many people, it weakens the gut lining leading to what we call the leaky gut - small tears that allow particles to slip into the bloodstream. Your immune system sees those particles as invaders and in the long run may start attacking your own tissues, including your thyroid, joints, and gut lining."

Warning signs The cardiologist outlines the following symptoms as the warning signs of gluten sensitivity:

Persistent gas, bloating, acidity, and constipation. Food intolerances, especially to wheat, dairy, and eggs.

Autoimmune issues. Fatigue that doesn't make sense.

Brain fog or poor concentration.

Joint inflammation, pain, early arthritis.

Weight gain despite dieting.

Hypothyroidism and hormonal imbalances.

In kids: hyperactivity, focus issues, and recurring gut troubles.

3 hard-hitting facts about weight loss people don't believe

Achieving and maintaining fitness and good health is a comprehensive process that is deeply affected by an individual's lifestyle. That includes following the right diet and exercising, among other things. While there are many popular notions on the subject, especially at a time when user-generated content has taken over the internet, not all of them hold up when put to the test in real life. This goes the other way as well.

Taking to Instagram on January 17, Dr Spencer Nadolsky, an obesity specialist with 11 years of experience, shared three hard facts about weight loss which people find hard to believe.

1. There is no fat-burning diet

It is not possible to lose fat just by following a magic diet, shared Dr Nadolsky, adding, "There is only a diet you can actually live with."

The best diet plan for an individual is the one that keeps them full, nourished, energised, and consistent. If a diet makes a person miserable, hungry, or weak, it is poorly designed and not because of the individual's lack of willpower.

2. Your "goal weight" is probably wrong

According to Dr Nadolsky, most people chase a number while picking up their goal body weight without considering muscle, body composition, strength, or how they feel day to day.

"Health isn't a scale weight," he noted. "It's energy, performance, labs, and a body you can maintain without suffering."

3. Needing help is not failure



Sometimes, on the uphill journey to health and fitness, one may need a little help, which can arrive in the form of medication or even surgery.

"Needing a GLP-1 is not cheating. Needing surgery is not a weakness," shared Dr Nadolsky.

"Needing tools doesn't mean you didn't try hard enough; it means your biology needed support." He noted that GLP-1s, a drug that is originally a medication for diabetes, does not replace the effort that needs to be put into weight loss. "They reduce

food noise, regulate appetite, and create space to build habits that actually stick. That's not taking the easy way out. That's practising medicine." Weight loss is not a test for

character, but rather a physiological problem. And "physiology deserves real treatment," said Dr Nadolsky.

guilt-free choco lava cake recipe

Ingredients:

40g oat flour or whole wheat flour
Unsweetened cocoa powder (to taste)
A sweetener of your choice (Sugar-Free / monk fruit / dates / honey)
1-2 pinches of baking soda and 1 pinch baking powder (if you don't have either, add 1/2 tsp Eno)
Milk (just enough to form a smooth batter)

For chocolate ganache center filling: 3 parts dark chocolate, 1 part milk

Method

Prepare the ganache: Melt the dark chocolate gently, then mix in the milk until smooth and glossy. Refrigerate the ganache until it thickens and sets, so it holds its shape when layered.

Make the cake batter: In a bowl, combine all the

dry ingredients. Gradually add the milk and whisk well to form a smooth, lump-free batter with a pourable consistency.

Assemble the cake: Pour half of the batter into a mug or oven-safe bowl, spreading it evenly. Add a generous spoonful of the chilled ganache in the centre, then cover it completely with the remaining batter.

Bake to perfection: Select your cooking method:

Oven: Bake at 170 to 180°C for 15 to 17 minutes, until the top looks set while the centre remains soft and gooey. Air fryer: Preheat, then bake at 150°C for 15 to 17 minutes for a similar molten-

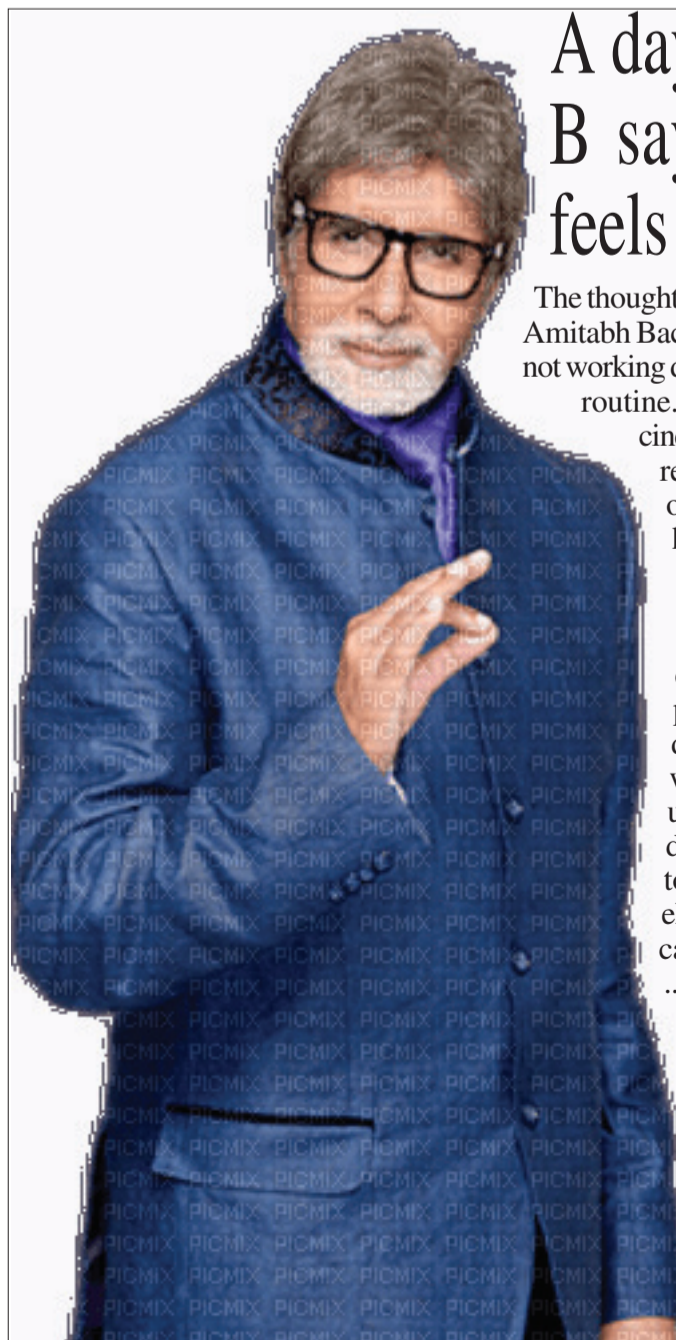
centre finish. Final touch: Baking time may vary slightly depending on the size and depth of your container, so keep an eye on it. Serve warm for the best texture and flavour.



A day that spelt 'lazy': Big B says not working daily feels "off" and "unsettling"

The thought of a "lazy" day does not sit well with megastar Amitabh Bachchan. The veteran actor, recently shared that not working daily brings a sense of "disturbing" unease to his routine. Big B, 83, who has spent over six decades in cinema, spoke about how discipline and daily work

remain a big part of his life even today. In a post on his personal blog, the actor opened up about how a break from routine feels "off" and "unsettling." "A day that spelt 'lazy'... no reason whatsoever... just it seems disturbing to not be working each day... and when you do not work each day according to a schedule... the entire process of habit forming that pre seeded... the day suddenly becomes a mystery of deeds, which normally would have worked in perfect unison," he wrote. "And you wonder, why the day is not behaving the way you normally wish it to be. So if there is some understanding of this element within us, then 'may there be peace and calm around us'... but for some it never happens... and that is an added anxiety... living in anxiety, they say, is harmful for the mind and body... and leading an anxious day, on the weakness of this phenomena is an unrequired," he added. Bachchan recently wrapped up hosting the 17th season of 'Kaun Banega Crorepati.' On the film front, he was last seen in 'Kalki 2898 AD,' directed by Nag Ashwin. The film, which also stars Prabhas, Deepika Padukone and Kamal Haasan, performed strongly at the box office.



KIIT & KISS SHINE AT ALL-INDIA INTER-UNIVERSITY RUGBY CHAMPIONSHIP 2026

BHUBANESWAR, (Correspondent) Highlighting an outstanding performance at the All-India Inter-University Rugby Championship 2026, KIIT & KISS athletes brought immense pride to the institution with remarkable achievements in Rugby 7s. The KIIT Women's Team clinched the Gold Medal, while the KIIT Men's Team secured the Silver Medal. Adding to this success, both KIIT and KISS Men's and Women's teams have qualified for the upcoming Khelo India University Games, reaffirming their growing dominance in university rugby.



The All-India Inter-University Rugby 7s & 15s Championship 2026 for Men and Women concluded successfully today at Rahul Bose Rugby Stadium, Campus 13, KIIT University, Bhubaneswar. The closing ceremony commenced with a welcome address by Prof. (Dr.) Gaganendu

Dash, Director General, Sports & Yoga, KIIT & KISS, who congratulated all participating teams for their spirited performances and appreciated the seamless organization of the championship. Dr. V. Koul, Director of Sports, SRM University, AP, and

Observer from the Association of Indian Universities (AIU), addressed the gathering, lauding KIIT & KISS for hosting the championship with exceptional facilities and professionalism. The ceremony also featured prize distribution and felicitation of the Observer by the Chief Guest. The ceremony was also graced by distinguished dignitaries on the dais including Dr. Harish Chaudhary from KIMS and Dr. Sudeep Satapathy, KIMS, whose presence added further prestige to the occasion. Prof. (Dr.) Achyuta Samanta, Hon'ble Founder, KIIT, KISS & KIMS, graced the occasion as the Chief

Guest. In his address, he congratulated the winners and participants, emphasizing the importance of sports in shaping discipline, teamwork, and leadership among youth. He reiterated KIIT & KISS's commitment to promoting sports at national and international levels and formally declared the championship closed. All the players and officials expressed their heartfelt gratitude to Prof. Samanta for his unwavering support, constant encouragement, and for providing world-class sports infrastructure and facilities that continue to inspire excellence among athletes.

Odisha: 69th SGFI National Rugby Championship kicks off at Kalinga Stadium

Bhubaneswar, : The 69th National School Games Federation of India (SGFI) Rugby Championship 2025-26 for both boys and girls in the Under-17 and Under-14 categories was inaugurated here on Monday. The national-level school rugby championship is being organised at Kalinga Stadium in Bhubaneswar, bringing together players from different States across the country.

The championship will be held from April 6 to April 10. Under-17 boys' and girls' competitions are being held on April 6 and 7, while the Under-14 categories will take place on April 9 and 10. A total of around 460 players from 15 States and

organizations are participating in the Under-17 championship, including Andhra Pradesh, Bihar, Chhattisgarh, New Delhi, Gujarat, Jammu & Kashmir, Madhya Pradesh, Maharashtra, Odisha, Punjab, Rajasthan, Tamil Nadu, Telangana, CBSE Welfare Sports Organisation, and the Council for the Indian School Certificate Examinations. The inaugural ceremony was graced by the Sports and Youth Services Secretary Bhubendra Singh Poonia. Among the distinguished guests present were Dr. N. Thirumala Naik, Commissioner-cum-Secretary, School and Mass Education Department; Birendra

Korkora, Director of Secondary Education; Jyoti Prasad Parida, Assistant Director (PET); SGFI Observer Arvind Yadav; and international rugby player Dumuni Marandi. Addressing the participants, Poonia encouraged the players to compete with true sportsman spirit and strive to represent their state and country at the international level. SGFI Observer Yadav appreciated the School and Mass Education Department and thanked the Odisha government for organizing the event at an international venue like Kalinga Stadium.

Sub-Jr Women's National Hockey: Chandigarh, Karnataka, Mizoram, Haryana, Odisha Win On Day 6

Ranchi: Teams from Dadra & Nagar Haveli and Daman & Diu, Chandigarh and Karnataka won in Division 'B' while those from Mizoram, Haryana, Odisha, and Jharkhand won their respective matches in Division 'A' on the sixth day of the 16th Hockey India Sub-junior Women's National Championship 2026 in Ranchi, Jharkhand, on Monday. In the first match of the day, Dadra & Nagar Haveli and Daman & Diu Hockey defeated Hockey Unit of Tamil Nadu 1-0 in their Pool A, Division 'B' fixture. Anushka Gupta (41) scored the winning goal in the third quarter for Dadra & Nagar

Haveli and Daman & Diu Hockey. In the second match of the day, Hockey Chandigarh beat Hockey Himachal 4-1 in their Pool B Division 'B' clash. Annu (7, 14, 52) registered another hat-trick to her name while her teammate Rani Radha (42) also contributed with a goal for Hockey Chandigarh. Khushvinder Gill (44) scored the lone goal for Hockey Himachal. In the third match of the day, Hockey Karnataka enjoyed a commanding 6-1 victory over Hockey Gujarat in a Pool B, Division 'B' match. K.P. Sinchana (20, 52), M.M. Thaniya (2), S.M. Kusumanjali (19), Pretti Neelaraddi (22), and Huggenavar Basamma

Shivappa (26) were the goal scorers for Hockey Karnataka, while Parvatiben Gamar (31) scored a goal for Hockey Gujarat. In Pool D, Division 'A', Hockey Mizoram secured a 2-1 victory over Chhattisgarh Hockey. K. Vanlalpeki (14, 41) scored a crucial brace for the winning side, while Manpreet Kaur (27) scored the solitary goal for Chhattisgarh Hockey. Hockey Haryana defeated Manipur Hockey 4-2 in their Pool C, Division 'A' encounter. Radhika (12), Diya (18), Vishakha (42), and Antika (44) scored goals for Hockey Haryana while Tongbram Reenu Devi (5) and

Captain Devi Moirangthem Prinja (6) were the goal-scorers for Manipur Hockey. In Pool B of Division 'A', Hockey Association of Odisha claimed a dominant 4-0 win over Hockey Andhra Pradesh. Sweety Kujur (7), Princess Priya Ekka (32), Deepika Bage (49), and Archana Kujur (59) were the goal-scorers of the match. In the final match of the day in Pool A, Division 'A', Hockey Jharkhand registered a 6-0 win over Hockey Maharashtra. Sushmita Guria (14), Sandeepa Kumari (22), Shruti Kumari (27), Pushpa Manjhi (36), Saniya Tirkey (40), and Pretty Bilung (52) scored goals for the home team.

Samson, Bumrah And Esterhuizen Nominated For ICC Men's Player Of The Month Honour

New Delhi: India wicketkeeper-batter Sanju Samson, ace fast bowler Jasprit Bumrah and South Africa batter Connor Esterhuizen have been nominated for the ICC Men's Player of the Month award for March 2026. Samson, who began the 2026 Men's T20 World Cup watching from the sidelines, wrote one of the tournament's most dramatic personal arcs once handed an opportunity to be in the team since the Super Eights clash against Zimbabwe in Chennai. He struck an unforgettable 97 not out against the West Indies



in a must-win Super Eights fixture in Kolkata before hitting scores of 89 each in the semi-final against England in Mumbai and in the final against New Zealand in Ahmedabad. His efforts helped India retain the

title on home soil, as Samson clinched the Player of the Tournament award. Bumrah, meanwhile, was central to every knockout victory India got on their way to win the title. In a semifinal where most bowlers

conceded more than 9.50 runs per over against England, Bumrah was at his best to pick 1-31 - with his tight 16th and 18th overs proving decisive as England fell seven runs short in the chase.

IPL 2026: David, Padikkal, Patidar Fireworks Help RCB Register 43-Run Win Over CSK

Bengaluru: A marauding batting show led by Tim David, Rajat Patidar and Devdutt Padikkal, along with Bhuvneshwar Kumar's incisive spell of 3-41 propelled defending champions Royal Challengers Bengaluru (RCB) to a commanding 43-run victory over Chennai Super Kings (CSK) in their IPL 2026 encounter at the M Chinnaswamy Stadium on Sunday. The marquee contest saw RCB's batting unit dismantle CSK's attack with relentless hitting, as David's 70 not out off just 25 balls and Patidar's unbeaten 48 off only 19 balls provided for a grandstand finish after Padikkal's fluent 50 off 29 balls - his second consecutive fifty of the season - had set the tone for the daunting total. The trio's combined effort, including an unbroken 99-run stand off just 35 balls between David and

Patidar, who indulged in mind-blowing range-hitting, lifted RCB to a daunting 250/3, thus setting a new record for highest total in IPL 2026. After clobbering Noor Ahmad for three consecutive sixes, a sensational David cut loose in the penultimate over by smashing Jamie Overton for four sixes and a four to reach his second IPL half-century in just 21 balls. His power-hitting had even got Virat Kohli to rise from his seat in the RCB dugout. In reply, CSK faltered under scoreboard pressure, with Sarfaraz Khan's 50 off 24 balls and Prashant Veer's 43 the lone acts of resistance amid a string of failures from the top order. Bhuvneshwar was at his disciplined best and even crossed the 200-mark in terms of wickets in IPL, with others also chipping in as CSK were bowled out for 207 in 19.4 overs. The



comprehensive win also meant RCB have registered four consecutive triumphs over CSK for the first time in the IPL's history. RCB began cautiously after being put into batting first, with Phil Salt and Virat Kohli negotiating early swing from Khaleel Ahmed and Matt Henry. Kohli broke the shackles in the

fourth over, striking Henry for a six and two boundaries, but fell soon after for 28 off 18 balls, caught by Shivam Dube, who had shelled an earlier chance, off Anshul Kamboj. Salt, who had struggled early, found rhythm with pulls and slog-sweeps to race to 46 off 30 before Dube dismissed him in the 11th over. Padikkal,

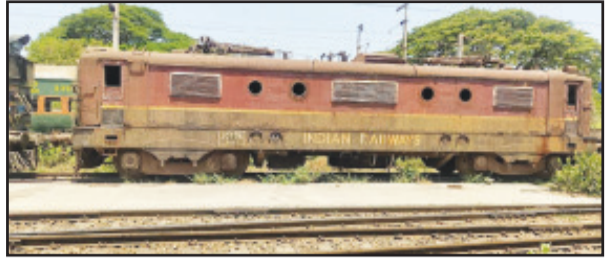
dropped once by Ruturaj Gaikwad at cover, shifted gears in the middle overs. He cracked three fours and two sixes off Dube and Henry to bring up his second successive half-century, raising his bat to the noisy and cheerful Chinnaswamy crowd. His innings ended at 50 off 29 balls, bowled by Jamie Overton while

trying to play a lap shot in the 15th over. From 151/3 in 14.1 overs, Patidar and David launched a stunning counterattack, leaving many in awe of it. Patidar carved Khaleel for two sixes and a four, while David went after Noor Ahmad, smashing three consecutive sixes - twice over deep mid-wicket and once over

dismissed Kartik Sharma, in the seventh over left CSK tottering at 84/5. After Shivam Dube's vigil was cut short by Abhinandan, Veer and Jamie Overton joined forces for a spirited 57-run stand. Veer struck 43 off 29 balls, while Overton smashed 37 off 16, but both perished to Bhuvneshwar and Suyash Sharma respectively. Noor Ahmad and Anshul Kamboj struck a few boundaries, but Bhuvneshwar and Abhinandan took them out to seal a great win for RCB in a contest which didn't live up to its hype. Brief Scores: Royal Challengers Bengaluru 250/3 in 20 overs (Tim David 70 not out, Devdutt Padikkal 50; Shivam Dube 1-30, Jamie Overton 1-42) beat Chennai Super Kings 207 in 19.4 overs (Sarfaraz Khan 50, Prashant Veer 43; Bhuvneshwar Kumar 3-41, Abhinandan Singh 2-30) by 43 runs

EAST COAST RAILWAY RECORDS HIGHEST EVER SCRAP DISPOSAL REVENUE IN FY 2025-26

BHUBANESWAR, (Correspondent): East Coast Railway has achieved a significant milestone in scrap disposal during the financial year 2025-26, recording its highest ever revenue of ₹290.22 crore. This outstanding performance exceeds the Railway Board's target of ₹260 crore by ₹30.22 crore, registering an impressive 11.62% increase over the target. The achievement also marks a 7.77% growth over the previous year's best



scrap disposal revenue of approximately ₹269.3 crore, reflecting sustained improvement in resource mobilisation and efficient asset management. This accomplishment is the result of continuous and focused Swachhata Drives conducted across divisions, workshops, and loco sheds under the

"Swachhata Hi Seva" campaign. These initiatives have not only boosted revenue generation but have also contributed to cleaner premises, enhanced safety standards, and improved operational efficiency. The success is a testament to the coordinated efforts of all departments and divisions, along with the

dedicated work of the Stores Department at both field units and headquarters. Systematic monitoring and transparent e-auction processes have played a key role in converting scrap into substantial revenue. Major contributions to this record breaking performance include the disposal of over 40,342 MT of condemned rails and permanent way materials, more than 5 lakh PSC sleepers, and significant quantities of ferrous scrap. In addition, condemned rolling stock comprising electric and

diesel locomotives, coaches, and wagons were efficiently auctioned. Efficient scrap disposal continues to be a key thrust area for East Coast Railway, as it not only generates valuable financial resources but also fosters a cleaner, safer, and more organized working environment. This achievement highlights ECoR's commitment to operational excellence, financial prudence, and environmental sustainability, setting a benchmark for other Railway Zones across Indian Railways.

Adani Foundation's 'Project Udaan'



Dhamra, (Correspondent): Building on its commitment to empowering the next generation, the Adani Foundation, the Corporate Social Responsibility (CSR) arm of the Adani Group, has successfully launched its flagship initiative, 'Udaan', at the Dhamra Port site. Since its rollout in September 2025, the programme has become a catalyst for academic and professional inspiration, reaching over 5,000 participants across the region. Bridging the Gap Between Classrooms and Careers Project Udaan is meticulously designed to foster an entrepreneurial mindset by providing students with direct exposure to large-scale industrial operations. By opening the gates

of the Dhamra Port and Dhamra LNG Terminal, the foundation encourages students to envision their roles in nation-building and the global maritime economy. The initiative has witnessed an impressive turnout, highlighting the community's strong interest in experiential learning. To date, the programme has engaged a total of 5,111 participants, including 2,076 boys and 2,692 girls, along with 343 teachers and faculty members. Overall, 106 institutional visits have been conducted under the programme. During these guided tours, students move beyond theoretical learning to experience real-world applications firsthand. By engaging directly with experienced port officials, participants gain practical insights

into port operations and logistics, enhancing their understanding of import-export processes and shipping mechanisms. They also witness modern equipment handling and maritime technologies in action, learn about stringent safety protocols and environmental management systems, and interact with industry experts—helping them explore potential vocational and career pathways. "The 'Udaan' programme is designed to ignite curiosity and ambition among young learners," stated a spokesperson for the Adani Foundation. "By helping them understand how industries contribute to the nation's growth, we are motivating them to envision and pursue diverse, high-impact career paths."

Paradip Port Authority Marks National Maritime Day with Focus on Sustainability, Safety and Growth

PARADIP (Correspondent)— Paradip Port Authority (PPA) celebrated the 63rd National Maritime Day under the theme "Maritime India: Empowering the Progress" and "Prosperous Seas – Developed India & Youth for Blue Economy & Green Growth," highlighting the vital role of the maritime sector in India's economic progress and global trade connectivity. The celebration began with flag hoisting, reflecting the rich maritime legacy of the nation. Shri A.K. Bose, Advisor (Traffic), PPA and former Deputy Chairman, graced the occasion as Chief Guest. Capt. P. Rout (Master Mariner) and Shri P.C. Majhi (SIC,



MMD) attended as Guests of Honour. During the occasion, Capt. P. Rout and Shri P.C. Majhi were felicitated by Shri A.K. Bose in recognition of their valuable contributions. In his address, Shri A.K. Bose emphasized the growing importance of the maritime sector, the role of youth in shaping the future, and the need for sustainable and

environmentally responsible development. Speakers also paid tribute to seafarers, acknowledging their dedication and resilience in ensuring the seamless movement of essential commodities, energy resources, and cargo across the globe, even under challenging conditions. Their contribution continues to be a backbone of

national and global supply chains. Under the leadership of Chairman Shri P.L. Haranadh, Paradip Port has achieved remarkable operational milestones over the past year. The port successfully handled over 2,526 vessels and recorded significant cargo growth, including more than 6 million metric tonnes of additional traditional cargo. It also played a crucial role in stabilizing supply chains during the West Asia crisis, ensuring the steady flow of key commodities such as limestone, fertilizer raw materials, and liquid cargo. Aligned with the Maritime India Vision

2030, PPA is steadily progressing towards becoming a "Green Port" through modernization and sustainability initiatives. These include the adoption of green fuels, expansion of port electrification, increased mechanization, and the implementation of smart logistics systems.

SOA NSS VOLUNTEERS CONDUCT WEEK-LONG CAMPS IN VILLAGES TO INCULCATE CLEANLINESS LESSONS

Bhubaneswar, (Correspondent): NSS volunteers belonging to the Institute of Technical Education and Research (ITER) and Institute of Business and Computer Studies (IBCS), faculties of engineering and management sciences of the SOA Deemed to be University respectively, spent a week in nearby villages getting engaged in a variety of activities. The activities included door-to-door socio economic survey, cleanliness drive, fire safety training, health camp and spreading awareness among the villagers about digital literacy and AI. NSS volunteers of ITER set up the special camp in Harapur village on the outskirts of the city from March 19 to 25 while those of IBCS visited Nuagaon from March 18 to 24 for the program. The ITER students organized an innovative 'Bayo Seva' focusing on the well-being of the



elderly people. The volunteers spent time with the senior citizens providing them personal care while encouraging the family members to be sensitive to the needs of the elderly through practical demonstration. The volunteers also staged six street plays at different locations of the village on themes which included prevention of child marriage, the evil of dowry, maintenance of cleanliness, menstrual hygiene and responsible voting for upholding democracy. "The seven day camp was highly impactful fostering a strong bond between the

volunteers and villagers while drawing attention to several key issues affecting life," Dr. Kamal Lochan Mahanta, Program Coordinator of NSS, said. The volunteers of IBCS, who were accompanied by Prof. Ayasa Kanta Mohanty, Dean of the institute and Prof. Jyoti Ranjan Das, Dean (Students' Welfare), displayed remarkable qualities of unity, discipline and enthusiasm throughout the week-long event. Mr. Ananta Prasad Nanda, Program Officer, NSS was also present. The survey

conducted by them provided valuable insight into the living conditions of the villagers and the challenges faced by them. A medical camp and an oral health camp organised during the outing extended basic healthcare to the inhabitants. The volunteers also provided with basic hygiene awareness to children in a local school and conducted a plantation drive while creating awareness about protection of the environment.

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- ପ୍ରବଳ ଶୋଷ ଲାଗିବା
- ମାଂସପେଶୀ ଟାଣି ହେବା
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- କୌଣସି ପ୍ରକାର ମାଦକ ଦ୍ରବ୍ୟ ସେବନ କରନ୍ତୁ ନାହିଁ

ପ୍ରତିକାର

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