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No Nuclear Arms For Iran 'Non-Negotiable' Condition: US

Washington: The United States has made clear that Iran will never be allowed to possess nuclear weapons, with Secretary of War Pete Hegseth calling it a "non-negotiable" condition under the emerging ceasefire framework. "It's always been non-negotiable that they won't have nuclear capabilities," Hegseth said, outlining Washington's red line as talks move forward following weeks of military confrontation. The statement comes amid intensified US scrutiny of Iran's remaining nuclear material, which officials say is currently being monitored closely after large-scale strikes on Tehran's nuclear infrastructure. "Right now, it's buried, and we're watching it... we know exactly what they



have," Hegseth said. He said Iran would be required to hand over any enriched material or face further action. "They will either give it to us... or if we have to do something else ourselves... we reserve that opportunity," he said. The Pentagon indicated that the US is prepared to remove the material "by any means necessary," underscoring the firmness of its position on preventing Iran from rebuilding its nuclear

capability. Officials said recent operations had already degraded Iran's nuclear infrastructure significantly. Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff Air Force General Dan Caine said nearly 80 per cent of Iran's nuclear industrial base had been hit during the campaign. The US military action, part of "Operation Epic Fury", targeted facilities linked to missile production, drone manufacturing and nuclear development, alongside command and control networks.

Odisha Achieves Major Industrial Milestone: CM Majhi Launches 36 Projects Worth Rs 40,811 Cr

BHUBANESWAR, (Correspondent): In a significant boost to Odisha's industrial growth, Chief Minister Mohan Charan Majhi on Wednesday laid the foundation stone and inaugurated 36 major industrial projects involving an investment of Rs 40,811 crore at Bhuinpur under Begunia block in Khurda district. Out of the 36 projects, 25 were formally launched while the foundation stone for 11 new projects was laid. The initiatives span diverse sectors including green energy equipment, metal and downstream industries, textile and apparel, plastics, tourism, agriculture and food processing, defense manufacturing, IT, automobile, and cement. Speaking at the



grand public meeting organised on the occasion, Chief Minister Majhi said, "Odisha is no longer just a state of possibilities. Our state is now experiencing the touch of prosperity." He described the event as a new and important chapter in the golden journey towards a prosperous Odisha and termed it a reflection of the second industrial

revolution underway in the state. The Chief Minister highlighted that these 36 projects are expected to generate more than 59,000 direct and indirect jobs. "59,000 new jobs is not a small achievement," he said, adding that in the last 18-20 months, the government has already laid the foundation stone or inaugurated 109 projects worth nearly Rs

2.5 lakh crore, creating 1.76 lakh jobs. With today's investment of over Rs 40,000 crore, the total job creation under these initiatives now stands significantly higher. Majhi emphasised that many goods previously imported from abroad will now be manufactured on Odisha's soil. "The products made in

Odisha will reach the world market, making our industrial ecosystem more self-reliant and contributing to the vision of Atmanirbhar Bharat," he stated. The Chief Minister noted that in the current state budget, more than Rs 72,000 crore has been allocated for infrastructure development, which is approximately 6.5 percent of the state's GDP. This massive push, he said, is accelerating infrastructure creation and generating fresh employment opportunities. He further remarked that the last 20 months, particularly since January 2025, have witnessed a new momentum in Odisha's industrial sector. "We have 10 years left for 2036, and these are the 'visionary years' for all of us."

Iran's 10-Point Proposal In Negotiations With US

Tehran: Iran's Supreme National Security Council said on Wednesday that the two-week ceasefire with the United States does not signal an end to the war, pending negotiations over the details of its 10-point plan. According to Iran's semi-official Mehr News Agency, the 10 points are — US commitment to ensure no further acts of aggression; continued Iranian control of the Strait of Hormuz; acceptance of Iran's nuclear enrichment rights; lifting of all primary sanctions; lifting of all secondary sanctions; termination of all United Nations Security Council resolutions against Iran; termination of all International Atomic Energy Agency Board of Governors resolutions against Iran. Additionally, the demands also include



payment of damages to Iran for loss in the war; withdrawal of US combat forces from the region; cessation of hostilities on all fronts, including Lebanon, reports Xinhua, quoting Mehr News Agency. The Council also released a statement confirming a two-week ceasefire announced by US President Donald Trump.

Key points of the statement mention that Iran has achieved a "great victory" and "forced" the United States to accept its 10-point plan, which includes controlled passage through the Strait of Hormuz and the necessity of ending the war against all elements of the "axis of resistance." According to Iran, the United States

has accepted Iran's 10-point plan as the basis for negotiations. The statement further mentioned that under the leadership of Supreme Leader Mojtaba Khamenei and the approval of the Supreme National Security Council, Iran will hold negotiations with the United States in Islamabad to finalise the details of the truce. The

negotiations, with "complete distrust of the American side", will begin on Friday, April 10, in Islamabad, and Iran will allocate two weeks for these negotiations. This period can be extended by mutual agreement, the statement read. Iran also demanded a binding UN Security Council resolution that would turn all agreements with the United States into binding international law. It also said that the ceasefire does not mean an end to the war or pending negotiations over details of the 10-point plan. The statement further called on the Iranians to trust and support the negotiation process with the United States, which is under the supervision of the supreme leader and the "highest levels of the system."

US 'Forced' Into Ceasefire, Says Iranian Supreme Leader's India Representative

New Delhi: The Iranian Supreme Leader's representative in India, Abdul Majid Hakeem Ilahi, on Wednesday claimed that the United States was compelled to announce a ceasefire with Iran after failing to sustain the conflict, and asserting that continued hostilities would have led to further setbacks for Washington. In an exclusive interaction with IANS, Ilahi said that the US decision to halt the war was not voluntary but driven by its inability to continue fighting. "The US was forced to announce a ceasefire because it could not continue the war. They made a big mistake, and within the last 41 days, they

wanted to stop the war but could not do it. Finally, when they realised they could not continue and would face further defeat, they announced a ceasefire," he said. On whether the ceasefire could pave the way for a lasting resolution, Ilahi indicated that peace would depend on the acceptance of Iran's terms. "With our conditions... if they accept our conditions, yes, it will be the end of this war," he stated. Reflecting on the broader conflict, Ilahi maintained that Iran had no intention of engaging in war and described the situation as being

imposed on the country. "From the beginning, we did not want this war; it was imposed on us. We also realised that many people from different countries suffered because of it, which we did not want. We did not want to attack civilians in countries that were attacking us. We were always guided by humanity and international laws regarding war," he said. However, he added that Iran was prepared to respond decisively, if necessary. "In the end, we also have to know how to respond, and they realised that if they continued, we would respond strongly," Ilahi remarked.

Saradha Chit Fund Chief Sudipta Sen Gets Bail, To Walk Free After 13 Years

Kolkata: Saradha chit fund company owner Sudipta Sen is set to be released from judicial custody on Thursday after getting bail in all corruption cases. He has been in judicial custody for 12 years and 11 months. He is currently lodged in the Presidency Correctional Home in West Bengal's Kolkata. The division bench of Justice Rajarshi Bharadwaj of the Calcutta High Court

announced the judgment on Wednesday and granted him bail in two cases pending with the state police. As a result, there is no legal obstacle to Sen's release from judicial custody. However, the court has imposed several conditions on Sen's bail. Sudipta Sen, the main accused in the Saradha chit fund scam in the state, is likely to be released from jail on Thursday. The Central Bureau of Investigation

(CBI) had filed 76 cases against Sen. Sen had already got bail in all the cases registered by the central probe agencies. At present, he was in judicial custody only in two cases of Barasat police station. The division bench of Justice Rajarshi Bharadwaj granted bail to Sen in both these cases. Incidentally, on Tuesday, the Calcutta High Court reprimanded the state in the bail case of Sen.

Kerala Polls: Undercurrents, Defections, And Sharp Exchanges Mark Final Stretch

Thiruvananthapuram: With hours to go before Kerala votes to elect 140 MLAs, the electoral landscape is marked less by any single dominant narrative and more by a series of undercurrents that have made this contest unusually layered. The fight between the Left Democratic Front (LDF) and the United Democratic Front (UDF) remains intense across regions, but what stands out this time is the internal churn within parties, particularly



within the Communist Party of India-Marxist (CPI-M), an unprecedented development, at least three former CPI-M MLAs are now in the fray as candidates of the UDF, while another

former legislator is contesting on a Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) ticket. The situation is further complicated in Kannur, long considered a CPI-M stronghold, where seasoned leaders such

as T.K. Govindan and V. Kunjikrishnan are contesting with UDF backing, underscoring a rare moment of dissent within the party's ranks. Even as the Left grapples with these defections, the campaign's closing phase saw Chief Minister Pinarayi Vijayan adopting an unusually combative tone. His sharp remarks targeting his Telangana counterpart, Revanth Reddy, on Tuesday added to the political heat, drawing both

criticism and attention in equal measure. On the other side, detractors of the Congress-led UDF have pointed to persistent factional undercurrents within the Congress. The public sparring and competing assertions of influence among senior leaders such as V. D. Satheesan, Ramesh Chennithala and K. Sudhakaran have, at times, lent the impression of a divided house, even as the alliance attempts to project unity before voters.

Dedicated and efficient workers are the wealth of the institution- Dr. Tirupati Panigrahi

Bhubaneswar Correspondent- Hi-tech Medical College and Hospital is gaining fame in the whole of Odisha and India as the first private hospital in Odisha. The efficient medical staff, paramedical staff, nursing staff, pharmacists of the institution, which has brought revolutionary changes in the field of health education, treatment and service in Odisha, are all contributing to the institution. Especially, the efficient medical staff of the Cardiothoracic Surgery Department of



Hi-tech Medical College and Hospital, Professor Dr. Ritesh Kumar Acharya, Associate Professor Dr. Smriti Prakash Sahu, are becoming objects of respect among people from every section of the society by providing special health services. For this, Hi-tech Group Chairman Dr. Tirupati Panigrahi congratulated the employees of every institution and said that the institution becomes golden for the efficient and hardworking employees and they are the wealth and capital

of the institution. On this occasion, Hi-tech Medical College and Hospital Trustee and Director Madhusmita Tripathi joined in and felicitated all the doctors and staff with Uttariya and bouquets, while Medical Superintendent Dr. Rabindranath Behera, Deputy Superintendent Dr. Chandan Samantray said that in the coming days, everyone will work with commitment and determination to provide services to the medical institution with care and attention.

Delhi High Court Issues Notice to Centre on Transgender Amendment Challenge

New Delhi, :The Delhi High Court issued notices to the Central Government on a petition challenging the constitutional validity of amendments to the Transgender Persons (Protection of Rights) Act. A bench led by Chief Justice D.K. Upadhyaya scheduled the next hearing for July 22. Filed by advocate Dr. Chandresh Jain, the plea argues the amendments violate fundamental rights under Articles 14, 19(1)(a), and 21 by replacing self-declared gender identity



with mandatory government verification and certification. It contends gender identity integral to dignity, autonomy, and privacy cannot be subjected to medical or administrative scrutiny,

contravening the Supreme Court's National Legal Services Authority v. Union of India ruling recognizing self-perceived identity as a constitutional right. The petition highlights that this shift denies transgender persons welfare benefits and legal protections, breaching equality, free expression, personal liberty, and international human rights standards.

Cabinet Greenlights 26,069 Crore Kamala Hydro Project in Arunachal Pradesh

New Delhi, :The Cabinet Committee on Economic Affairs (CCEA), chaired by Prime Minister Narendra Modi, approved a ₹26,069.50 crore investment for the 1,720 MW Kamala Hydro Electric Project (HEP) spanning Kamle, Kra Daadi, and Kurung Kumey districts. With a 96-month completion timeline, the project promises 6,870 million units (MU) annually. Configured as 8x210 MW and 1x40 MW units, Kamala



HEP—a storage-cum-run-of-river facility—bolsters Arunachal Pradesh's power supply, aids peak demand, balances the national grid, and moderates Brahmaputra floods. NHPC Limited and Arunachal Pradesh Government form a joint venture (NHPC 74%, state 26%). Central aid totals 7,833.98 crore; 4,743.98 crore for flood moderation, ₹1,340 crore for roads/bridges/transmission, plus ₹750 crore state equity aid. Arunachal

secures 12% free power and 1% Local Area Development Fund (LADF). Infrastructure gains include 196 km roads/bridges and facilities like hospitals/schools funded by ₹8 crore project allocation, alongside jobs, compensation, and CSR. Complementing NHPC's Subansiri Lower (2,000 MW, 750 MW live, full by Dec 2026), Dibang Multipurpose (2,880 MW), and Etalin (3,097 MW), Kamala advances clean energy goals.

India Hopes West Asia Ceasefire Boosts Ukraine Peace Efforts

New Delhi, :India welcomed the Iran-US ceasefire in West Asia, expressing optimism for lasting regional peace and its potential to advance negotiations in Ukraine. The Ministry of External Affairs (MEA) emphasized de-escalation, dialogue, and diplomacy as essential to end the conflict swiftly. MEA Spokesperson Randhir Jaiswal, at an inter-ministerial briefing, reiterated India's longstanding peace advocacy. Official



StatementThe MEA statement hailed the truce, noting the conflict's heavy toll on lives and global energy/trade networks. It stressed uninterrupted navigation through the Strait of

Hormuz for commerce. India anticipates face-to-face Iran talks following US-Israel agreement via mediators. The hostilities began February 28 with joint US-Israel strikes on Iran.

Government Confirms Stable Supply of Petrol, Diesel, and LPG



New Delhi, :Welcoming the West Asia ceasefire, the Central Government assured uninterrupted fuel availability amid regional tensions. Petrol and diesel supplies remain steady with refineries operating at full capacity on ample crude stocks; coal-based power meets ~70% of energy needs. Petroleum and Natural Gas Ministry Joint Secretary Sujata Sharma highlighted 890,000 5-kg LPG cylinders sold since March 23, including 110,000 yesterday. Over 1,600 awareness camps distributed 14,000 cylinders in five days, prioritizing households and fertilizer plants (95% gas supplied). C3/C4 streams diverted to LPG pools;

petrochemicals limited. Natural gas prioritizes domestic users, resuming for industries. Draft State CBG policy offers extra commercial LPG to adopting states—18 have complied. PNG connections up 387,000 since March; 17,000 dual users surrendered LPG. Vigilance intensified: 4,000 raids, 56,000 cylinders seized, 51 distributors suspended. MEA Spokesperson Randhir Jaiswal hoped for lasting peace, free Hormuz navigation, and Ukraine progress. Coal Ministry's Sanjeev Kumar Kasi confirmed ample stocks at mines, plants, ports—production matches consumption for reliable power.

Supreme Court Asserts Right to Identify Religious Superstition in Sabarimala Case

New Delhi, (H.S.):The Supreme Court stated during Sabarimala temple entry hearings that it holds authority to determine which religious practices constitute superstition. This came as the Centre argued secular courts lack jurisdiction over faith matters, given judges' legal rather than religious expertise. A nine-judge Constitution bench led by Chief



Justice Suryakant entered day two of arguments. Solicitor General Tushar Mehta contended courts

cannot define "essential religious practices," advocating true secularism as non-interference between

state and religion. Justice B.V.Nagarathna countered that public morality evolves—1950s obscenity standards no longer apply—rejecting rigid historical lenses. Mehta urged judicial restraint on beliefs, citing state priest appointment laws as principle violations. Senior advocate Rajeep Dhavan, for petitioners, sought balanced hearing

time. The Centre's affidavit defends the menstruating-age women's ban as faith and autonomy, urging limited review. The 2018 4:1 verdict (CJI Dipak Misra et al.) struck it down under Articles 14, 19(1)(a), 25, rejecting physiological discrimination; Justice Indu Malhotra dissented, favoring temple autonomy.

Army Chief Tests Prachand Helicopter's Combat Capabilities

New Delhi, (H.S.):Chief of Army Staff General Upendra Dwivedi visited Hindustan Aeronautics Limited (HAL) in Bengaluru today, flying the Light Combat Helicopter (LCH) 'Prachand' to assess its combat prowess, agility, and mission readiness. During the tour of HAL's helicopter hangars, he reviewed ongoing operations and capabilities for Prachand, Advanced Light Helicopter 'Dhruv', and Light Utility Helicopter



(LUH). HAL CMD Dr. D.K. Sunil, Director (Operations) Ravi Ke, and senior officials briefed him on production. Deployed at Misamari, Assam—250 km from

the LAC amid China threats—Prachand excels in high-altitude regions like Ladakh and Siachen. Four units guard Arunachal Pradesh forward areas.

AFFIDAVIT

By the virtue of an affidavit sworn before Executive Magistrate Binjharpur Dated-23.03.2026. I **Sasmita Panda** formerly called **Rasmita Panda** D/O-Damodar Panda permanent resident and residing of Village - Fatehpur (Naupal), Po-Fatehpur, Dist-Jajpur, Odisha, Pin-755012 do hereby solemnly affirm that the affidavit is signed by me all contents are true and correct to the best of my knowledge and belief. I have here unto Subscribed my former name and adopted names of **Rasmita Panda and Sasmita Panda**.

Rasmita Panda
Sasmita Panda
DEPONENT

AFFIDAVIT

By the virtue of an affidavit sworn before Notary Public, Dharmasala Dated-23.01.2026. I Sarat Kumar Jena, aged about 60 years, son of Late - Bidyadhar Jena of Village-Bairimal, P.O- Hatibari, P.S- Sukinda, Dist- Jajpur, Odisha, Pin- 755018 do hereby solemnly affirm That, **Jyotirmayee Jena and Kumari Jyoti May Jena** is related to one and same person. I do swear this Affidavit to be produced before the concerned authority for correction of my daughter's name **Kumari Jyoti May Jena to Jyotirmayee Jena**.

Sarat Kumar Jena
DEPONENT

25001/11/2627

E-Mail- eerwelect.bam@yahoo.com

GOVERNMENT OF ODISHA
OFFICE OF THE EXECUTIVE ENGINEER
RURAL WORKS ELECTRICAL DIVISION
BERHAMPUR
g-Procurement Notice No -EERWELBAM-01/2026-27

1	Name of the Work	:: Electrical Shifting works.
2	Estimated Cost	:: Rs.22.00 to 24.00 lakhs (Excluding GST)
3	Period of Completion	:: 4 Months
4	Date & Time of availability of Bid documents in the Portal	:: From Dt. 13.04.2026 at 11:00 A.M.to Dt-22.04.2026 up to 5:00 P.M
5	Date & Time of opening of tender	:: 23.04.2026 at 1:00 P.M
6	Bid Identification No	:: EERWELBAM-01/2026-27
7	Procurement officer/ Name and address of the officer inviting Bids.	:: Executive Engineer, R.W EL.DIVN.BAM At- Near I.T Office Ambapusa, Dist. -Ganjam,Berhampur Odisha. -760011

Further detail can be seen from the Govt. Web site www.tenderorissa.gov.in

OIPR-25001/25190/1/26-27/0001

Executive Engineer
Rural Works Elect.Divn.BAM

Vigilance arrested 5
CHC staffs of Kodala
Misappropriation of 2
Crore Govt money

G o p a l p u r (correspondent) Odisha Vigilance has unearthed a major financial fraud at the Community Health Centre (CHC) Kodala of Ganjam, involving the misappropriation of government funds exceeding ₹2 crore. On Wednesday Berhampur Vigilance P.S. registered Case No. 04. Allegations that staff members falsified records to draw unauthorized arrear salary bills between 2023 and 2025. Arrested staffs are Jatin Kumar Bhuyan (Senior Assistant) B h a r a t i Pradhan, MPHW (Female) Gopal Nahak (Attendant), Manu Nayak (Sweeper), Rama Chandra Mallika (Attendant), PHC Beguniapada. All above employees are forwarded to the Brahmapur Vigilance Court of Special Judge Today. Vigilance officials are currently investigating the matter to determine the full extent of the syndicate and identify any further official involvement.

Jajpur leaders meet
Naveen Pattanayak

J a j p u r r o a d (Correspondent) met former Odisha Chief Minister Naveen Pattanayak on Tuesday. It seems that they discussed about improving the organization in the district and the law and order situation in the district. Former Chief Minister Naveen pattanayak. And bjd General secretary Pranab Prakash Das (Bobby) was accompanied by former minister and Binjharpur constituency leader Pramila Mallik, former minister Preeti Ranjan Ghadai. Former MLA of Dharmachaya Pranab Balabantraya and other MLA candidates from each constituency of the district were present.

Rajya Sabha MP Dilip Roy's visit to Gopalpur. Warm welcome from BJP

G o p a l p u r (correspondent) Rajya Sabha MP Dilip Roy visited Gopalpur today after taking oath. Since it is his first visit to Gopalpur, he was given a grand welcome from Gopalpur Bull Chowk this afternoon by the Mayfair family, local people and BJP workers. Later, Rajya Sabha MP Dilip Roy was welcomed and felicitated by the Mayfair family, local people and BJP workers. On this occasion, Rajya Sabha MP Dilip Roy responded to the media at a press conference organized at the Mayfair



Hotel. I will present the problem in the Rajya Sabha keeping in mind the interests of the state. I will discuss with State President Manmohan Samal what will we do. Not alone, we will do teamwork. There is more to be done on the development of tourism. I am in the BJP. But I

know anything about Biju Patnaik are commenting. Out of all the political party leaders in the state, 90 percent of the leaders said that they do not know about Biju Babu. He said that there has been some development in the state in the last two decades, but there is a lot more development to be done. He said that 8500 people are currently employed in the Mayfair Hotel industry on the industrial side. He said that many of them are Odia. He said that efforts should be made to provide jobs instead of chasing jobs.

Odisha Govt Clarifies Access To 5 Kg LPG Cylinders At Fuel Stations

B h u b a n e s w a r (Correspondent): Students and migrant labourers in Odisha can now easily obtain 5 kg LPG cylinders and refills by producing a valid identity proof, Food Supplies and Consumer Welfare Minister Krushna Chandra Patra has stated. The facility is being provided under the Centre's Free Trade LPG (FTL) scheme, aimed at supporting vulnerable groups such as students living in hostels or rented accommodations and migrant workers who often lack a regular domestic LPG connection or address proof. According to the minister, a 5 kg LPG



cylinder will be available at Rs 1,537, while a refill will cost Rs 593. These small cylinders will be sold only through company-authorized filling stations of oil marketing companies — BPCL, HPCL, and IOCL — and not in the open market. The state

government issued this clarification after an initial announcement restricting open-market sales of 5 kg cylinders (to curb black marketing) caused concern among students and migrant workers. Officials have now made it clear that there is no ban on these

cylinders for genuine users. Students and migrant labourers can purchase them from authorised distributors by showing only a valid ID proof (such as Aadhaar, student ID, voter card, or labour card). Address proof is not required. The Centre has also doubled the daily allocation of 5 kg Free Trade LPG cylinders to states to ensure steady supply, especially in urban and semi-urban areas where many migrants and students reside. Oil companies are organising special distribution camps wherever needed to make the cylinders easily accessible.

Oil Pressure Drop Triggered Engine Failure In Rourkela Plane Crash: Probe Report

B h u b a n e s w a r: A preliminary probe into the recent aircraft crash at Kansar village near Rourkela has indicated that a disruption in fuel supply, triggered by a drop in oil pressure, was the likely cause of the incident. According to findings by the Aircraft Accident Investigation Bureau (AAIB), the aircraft reportedly experienced a significant fall in oil pressure, which eventually led to a complete interruption of fuel flow to the engine mid-flight. Sources said the issue was first detected nearly

30 nautical miles before the crash. As the situation worsened, the engine failed, forcing the pilot to attempt an emergency landing along the banks of the Brahmani River. However, the attempt was unsuccessful. The pilot then managed to regain limited control and brought the aircraft down in an open field, preventing a larger disaster. The crash claimed the life of one passenger, who later succumbed to injuries while undergoing treatment. Three other passengers, along with the pilot and co-pilot, sustained serious injuries.

A VILLAGE BUILDS ITS OWN ROAD TO HOPE

Paralakhemundi, (correspondent): In a poignant tale of resilience and collective will, the residents of Katapetaguda village under Jhamsi Panchayat in Gajapati district have scripted an inspiring story of self-reliance. Tired of waiting endlessly for administrative action, the villagers rose above despair and carved a lifeline to their village with their own hands. For years, the people of this small hamlet had pleaded for the construction of an all-weather road. Their voices echoed through official corridors, yet no tangible action followed—only hollow assurances. The existing

pathway remained a cruel reminder of neglect, turning nearly impassable during the monsoon, when even a two-wheeler struggled to navigate its treacherous stretch. The 2-kilometre road connecting the village to the main route from Paralakhemundi to Namanagada had long stood as a symbol of hardship. During rains, it would dissolve into mud and isolation, cutting off the village from essential services and opportunities. Home to just 24 families and over a hundred souls, Katapetaguda refused to surrender to adversity. With unwavering determination, the villagers pooled their

resources, collected contributions, and offered voluntary labour—transforming their plight into progress. Each shovel of earth carried not just soil, but the weight of their unfulfilled hopes. Each drop of sweat spoke of their silent struggle. In the end, what emerged was not merely a road, but a testament to human spirit—a pathway built on unity, dignity, and the refusal to be forgotten. While the road now stands as a symbol of their triumph, it also raises a haunting question—must citizens always fend for themselves when systems fail them?

Three Get Life Term For 2022 Murder In Keonjhar

Bhubaneswar: (Correspondent): A District and Sessions Court in Keonjhar district on Wednesday sentenced three persons to life imprisonment in connection with a 2022 murder case.

The convicts — Uttam Kumar Mahakud, Upendra Kumar Behera, and Nabakishore Mahakud — were also directed to pay a fine of Rs



10,000 each. The court ordered that failure to pay the fine would result in an additional one-year term of imprisonment. The case pertains to the murder of Mayadhar Behera (48), a resident of Kadakala village under Nayakote police limits. Behera owned a chicken and egg shop in the local market.

According to Public Prosecutor Pradeep Kumar Das, the incident occurred on the night of February 26, 2022. Uttam Mahakud had visited the victim's shop around 8 pm, leading to a heated argument over past disputes. He later returned with the other two accused. "The trio, carrying weapons, attacked the victim at his shop. He sustained multiple grievous injuries and died on the spot due to excessive bleeding," the prosecutor said. Investigators found that Upendra Behera, who also operated a chicken shop in the same market, had longstanding enmity with the victim. After committing the crime, the accused fled the scene, leaving behind the victim's body. Police registered a case based on a complaint filed by the victim's elder brother and launched an investigation. Uttam Mahakud and Upendra Behera were arrested the following day, while Nabakishore Mahakud, who had absconded, was apprehended from a hideout on March 22, 2022.

Naveen Patnaik To Visit Delhi On April 10 To Meet Ailing Elder Brother Prem Patnaik

B h u b a n e s w a r: Leader of Opposition and Biju Janata Dal (BJD) president Naveen Patnaik will travel to New Delhi on April 10 to be with his elder brother, Prem Patnaik, who underwent a major heart surgery on April 7. According to party sources, Prem Patnaik is currently recovering in a private hospital in Delhi under the supervision of a team of cardiologists. His condition is stated to be stable but requires close medical monitoring.

Sasmit Patra Steps Down As BJD Parliamentary Party Leader

Bhubaneswar: In a significant development, senior Rajya Sabha MP Sasmit Patra has resigned from his position as the BJD Parliamentary Party Leader in the Upper House. Patra, who has been representing Odisha in the Rajya Sabha, sent his resignation letter to BJD President and former Chief Minister Naveen Patnaik.

Midnight Police Crackdown in Odisha Hills: Tribal Homes Demolished, Women Allegedly Assaulted; MP Seeks President's Intervention

J a j p u r r o a d (Correspondent) A serious controversy has erupted in Odisha following allegations of a midnight police crackdown on tribal communities in the SIJIMALI Hill region of Kantamali village of Kasipur Block in Rayagada district, raising grave concerns over constitutional violations and human rights abuses in Scheduled Areas. According to reports, the incident occurred around 3:00 AM on April 7, 2026, when police forces allegedly gheraoed the entire village, disconnected electricity supply, and used tear gas along with blank firing, creating

widespread panic and fear among Scheduled Tribe residents living in their ancestral hill habitations. Homes Demolished, Livelihoods Disrupted. Eyewitness accounts indicate that Dwelling houses of tribal families were demolished and destroyed. Livestock was dispersed, severely affecting livelihoods. Several families fled into nearby forests in fear. These developments have triggered serious concerns regarding forced displacement and destruction of traditional tribal habitation. Allegations of Assault on Women. Disturbing reports have emerged that tribal women were abused, assaulted, and

humiliated during the operation. If verified, these acts constitute grave violations of human dignity and legal protections guaranteed to Scheduled Tribes. Ex MP Niranjan Bishi Writes to President Rajya Sabha Ex MP Niranjan Bishi has written to the Hon'ble President of India, terming the incident a "direct assault on the Constitution and tribal rights." He has urged urgent constitutional intervention, highlighting that the situation is not limited to SIJIMALI Hill but extends to other tribal-inhabited hill regions, including: Kutrumali Hill, Majhi Mali Hills, Khandualmali Hill. These regions are

ecologically sensitive and culturally significant Scheduled Areas, where tribal communities have lived for generations with recognized traditional and forest rights. Alleged Violations of Key Laws The Ex MP has alleged violations of several constitutional and statutory safeguards, including: Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes (Prevention of Atrocities) Act, 1989 Panchayats (Extension to Scheduled Areas) Act, 1996 Scheduled Tribes and Other Traditional Forest Dwellers (Recognition of Forest Rights) Act, 2006 He also cited the landmark Supreme Court judgment in

Orissa Mining Corporation vs Ministry of Environment & Forest (2013), which upholds the authority of Gram Sabhas in matters concerning tribal land and livelihood. Key Demands Raised, The ex MP has demanded immediate halt to coercive police actions, A judicial or independent inquiry into the incident, Strict action against responsible officials Protection against forced displacement of tribal communities, compensation and rehabilitation for affected families Serious Constitutional Concerns The incident raises critical questions regarding. Violation of

Fifth Schedule protections Breach of Article 21. Infact, Disregard for Gram Sabha consent in Scheduled Areas Legal observers state that if these allegations are substantiated, the case may amount to a serious constitutional and human rights violation. National Attention Expected With the matter now escalated to the President of India and likely to be raised in Parliament, the issue is expected to draw national attention on governance and tribal rights in Scheduled Areas. "This is not merely a local incident, it is about safeguarding the constitutional identity, dignity, and survival of tribal communities," said MP Niranjan Bishi.

Second Phase Of Ratna Bhandar Inventorisation Begins At Shree Jagannath Temple

Puri, (Correspondent): The second phase of the inventory of the Ratna Bhandar of Shree Jagannath Temple commenced on Wednesday, following approval by the state government and in accordance with prescribed guidelines. The inventorisation of ornaments and precious jewels resumed in the morning, with the focus shifting to the Bahara (outer) Ratna Bhandar. Briefing media persons after the first day's proceedings, Gajapati Maharaja Dibyasingha Deb said the process is progressing smoothly. "Everything is proceeding well with the blessings of Mahaprabhu," he said. He informed that after offering darshan, he personally inspected the Bahara Ratna Bhandar in the presence of members of the government-constituted committee, officials and servitors. The inventorisation is being carried out as per the standard operating procedure (SOP), with each valuable item being documented using 3D mapping technology to create a comprehensive record. The Gajapati Maharaja clarified that there is no plan to evaluate the monetary worth of the ornaments. Instead, detailed descriptions of the jewellery are being recorded to ensure proper documentation for future reference. He added that the Bhitara (inner) Ratna Bhandar will be taken up after completion of the Bahara inventory. He further stated that there has been no disruption in darshan for devotees during the process. "There is no fixed timeline. The work will be carried out as per Mahaprabhu's wish," he said, adding that inventorisation will not be conducted on festival days or during periods of heavy footfall in the temple.

EDITORIAL

From Science Fair to Science Frontier: Nurturing Young Minds for Tomorrow's Discoveries

Science fairs have long been a familiar and exciting part of school life. Rows of handmade models, charts filled with colorful diagrams, and enthusiastic students explaining their ideas to curious judges—these moments capture the spirit of curiosity and creativity. But in today's rapidly advancing world, science fairs are no longer just school events; they are stepping stones that can lead young minds from classroom experiments to the frontiers of real scientific discovery.

At their core, science fairs ignite curiosity. A simple question—Why does the sky change color? How can we save water? Can machines think like humans?—can spark a journey of exploration. When students attempt to answer such questions through projects, they begin to think like scientists. They learn how to observe, hypothesize, experiment, and conclude. These are not just academic skills; they are life skills that shape critical thinking and problem-solving abilities.

The transition from a science fair to the "science frontier" happens when curiosity meets opportunity. Today, students have access to tools and platforms that previous generations could only dream of. With the internet, online labs, and open-source technologies, a small school project can evolve into something impactful. A model demonstrating solar energy can turn into a real initiative promoting renewable energy in villages. A simple coding project can develop into an app that solves local problems. The possibilities are endless.

Teachers play a crucial role in this transformation. Instead of focusing only on marks and presentation, educators must encourage originality and experimentation. A project that fails but teaches valuable lessons is far more important than one that is perfect but copied. Mentorship, guidance, and encouragement can help students move beyond textbooks and explore real-world challenges.



Kishan Bhawnani

On April 8, 2026, West Asia once again became the focus of global concern when Donald Trump

announced a two-week temporary ceasefire with Iran. This announcement came 90 minutes before the deadline, at a time when military confrontation was at its peak and dire warnings of the end of civilization had been issued. Although this move brought a global sigh of relief, the explosion at an Iranian oil refinery just hours after the ceasefire and the missile and drone attacks on the Gulf countries of the UAE and Kuwait underscore the fact that this peace is not permanent but extremely fragile. I, Advocate Kishan Sanmukhdas Bhawnani, Gondia, Maharashtra, believe that it is essential to understand this entire development, as it is not merely a conflict between two countries, but a broader reflection of global energy security, diplomatic balance, and regional power dynamics. This ceasefire between the US and Iran is essentially a tactical pause, not a permanent solution. Iran's Supreme National Security Council has clarified that this is not the end of the war but a step taken to open the possibility of negotiations. Iran also clarified that its military activities will not cease completely, but will depend on whether attacks on it stop. Thus, this ceasefire is conditional, a balance where both sides are seeking a path to diplomatic dialogue while maintaining their military preparedness. This is why Iran has clearly stated that it holds the trigger, highlighting the instability of this agreement.

Friends, if we consider the Strait of Hormuz: The Center of Global Energy Politics, the most crucial aspect of this entire conflict is the Strait of Hormuz, through which approximately 20 percent of the world's oil supply flows. The US's primary demand has been to immediately and safely open this waterway. Iran has agreed in principle, but with conditions, including military surveillance and technical control. This indicates that Iran views this waterway not merely as a trade route but as a strategic weapon. If the Strait of Hormuz is closed, a sharp rise in global oil prices, disruption of supply chains, and economic instability are certain. Therefore, the opening of this waterway is being considered a sign of relief for the entire world. Friends, if we consider Iran's 10 conditions: Peace

The ceasefire will have global implications for energy, the economy

or strategic pressure? To understand this, Iran has put forward a 10-point proposal to transform the ceasefire into a lasting peace, which calls for a comprehensive geopolitical rebalancing, not just an end to the military conflict. These conditions include the lifting of US sanctions, the return of confiscated assets, financial assistance for reconstruction, and a permanent resolution of regional conflicts such as those in Yemen, Lebanon, and Iraq. Iran has also pledged not to develop nuclear weapons, but it also maintains the right to enrich uranium. This is where the biggest controversy arises. The US has long sought to end Iran's nuclear program, while Iran considers it part of its sovereignty. Differences in the Persian and English documents regarding uranium enrichment further complicate these negotiations.

Friends, if we consider the ground reality: attacks continue despite the ceasefire, despite the ceasefire announcement, reports of missile and drone attacks continue in the Gulf region. Israel's continued attacks on Iran and Iran's retaliatory actions indicate that the situation on the ground is still not under control. This contradiction between political declarations and actual events highlights the complexity of this conflict. It also makes it clear that the war is not limited to just two countries but has become a broader regional conflict involving many direct and indirect players. Friends India's response to this entire issue: balanced diplomacy and humanitarian concern. India welcomed the ceasefire and called it a positive step towards peace. The Ministry of External Affairs clarified that India has always been a supporter of dialogue and diplomacy. However, India's primary concern is the safety of its citizens. On April 8, 2026, the Embassy of India in Tehran issued an emergency advisory urging approximately 9,000 Indians living in Iran to leave the country. This move demonstrates that India understands the gravity of the situation and wants to evacuate its citizens before any potential danger. This is an example of proactive diplomacy. Friends, if we consider India's political response to the ceasefire issue: diplomacy versus politics, this international development has also impacted India's internal politics. A leader of a Maharashtra regional party launched a scathing attack on the central government and the Prime Minister, stating that India failed to play an effective role in this global crisis. He questioned the government's foreign policy, citing alleged Pakistani mediation. In response, the ruling

party rejected these allegations, stating that it is essential to understand the gravity of the situation and that India is acting in accordance with its strategic priorities. This debate demonstrates that foreign policy has now become a part of domestic political discourse. Friends, if we consider Pakistan's role in the ceasefire issue: diplomatic opportunity or exaggeration? There is debate about the role of the Pakistani Prime Minister and service chiefs in this ceasefire. Trump himself claimed that he halted military action at Pakistan's request. While independent confirmation of this claim is limited, it is clear that Pakistan is attempting to present this situation as a diplomatic opportunity. This could also create new equations in South Asian geopolitics. Meanwhile, India's issuance of NOTAMs near the Pakistan border and its planned GNSS (GPS) jamming trials in the Bay of Bengal indicate that modern warfare is no longer limited to conventional weapons. The ability to disrupt satellite signals could play a decisive role in future wars. This move reflects India's technological and strategic preparedness, in line with the changing global security environment.

Friends, if we consider this entire issue and the ceasefire in an international context, the global implications will impact energy, the economy, and diplomacy.

The impact of this conflict is not just regional but global. Energy supplies, trade routes, and financial markets all are interconnected. The opening or closing of the Strait of Hormuz directly impacts oil prices and the global economy. Furthermore, this conflict also affects the balance of power between the United States, Iran, Israel, the Gulf countries, and other powers. If this war prolongs, its impact could lead to a global recession.

Therefore, if we study and analyze the entire above account, we will find that the ceasefire of April 8, 2026, provides a measure of relief, but it does not signal lasting peace. The distrust between Iran and the United States, differences over the nuclear program, and the complexity of regional conflicts make this agreement extremely fragile. For countries like India, this is a time for balanced diplomacy, civilian security, and strategic preparedness. It is a reminder to the global community that lasting peace is possible not through military power alone, but through dialogue, cooperation, and understanding. Thus, this ceasefire is not an end but a pause, a gap in which the world must decide whether it will move toward conflict or cooperation.

Assembly Elections: The Litmus Test of Democracy and Emerging Power Equations



Yogesh Kumar Goyal

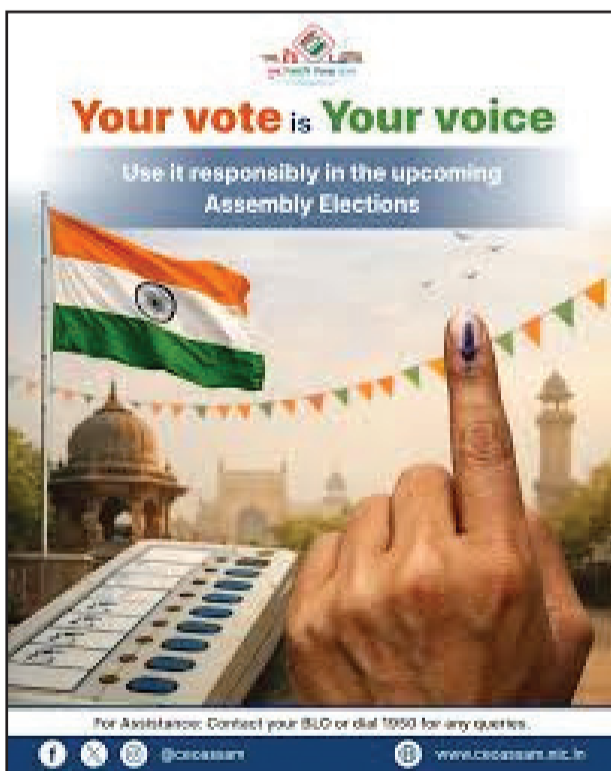
The ongoing assembly elections in five states have brought Indian politics to a boiling point. From Kerala to

Assam, West Bengal to Tamil Nadu, and the Union Territory of Puducherry, political activity has reached its peak. Amid the roar of rallies, a shower of promises, and sharp exchanges of allegations and counter-allegations, this festival of democracy has now reached a decisive turning point. Every political party is in the arena with its agenda, manifesto, and strategy, striving to win over voters.

This election is not merely about forming governments; it is a referendum on the performance of the past five years and a defining moment that will shape the political future. Across these five states, a total of 824 assembly seats and approximately 174 million voters are involved. This is not just a numbers game but a political battlefield connected to 116 Lok Sabha seats, which could significantly influence national politics. The election schedule is equally interesting: voting in Assam, Kerala, and Puducherry will take place on April 9, Tamil Nadu on April 23, and West Bengal in two phases on April 23 and 29. The results will be declared on May 4, making it clear where public confidence lies.

This election scenario is complex and multi-dimensional. While ruling parties are highlighting development work, welfare schemes, and slogans like "double engine government," the opposition is aggressively raising issues such as unemployment, inflation, social inequality, and administrative failures. The contest is no longer just for power but has evolved into a competition of ideologies, policies, and development models.

West Bengal has emerged as the focal



point of national attention, where the political temperature is at its highest. In the 294-seat assembly, around 64.4 million voters will decide the outcome. In the last election, the Trinamool Congress secured a sweeping majority, while the BJP emerged as the principal opposition. This time, the contest has intensified further. The Trinamool Congress is banking on its "Bengal model," women empowerment schemes, and regional identity, whereas the BJP is emphasizing "double engine governance" and issues like infiltration. Employment, corruption, and administrative transparency are also central to the discourse. Analysts believe this will be a neck-and-neck contest—on one side is Mamata Banerjee's political legacy, and on the other, the BJP's opportunity to expand in eastern India.

Assam's election is equally significant. In its 126-seat assembly, around 22.5 million voters will play a decisive role. The key question is whether the BJP can return to power for a third consecutive term or if the

Congress and its allies can stage a comeback. Under Chief Minister Himanta Biswa Sarma, the BJP is focusing on development, infrastructure, and security. Meanwhile, the opposition is targeting the government on issues like CAA-NRC, unemployment, and regional identity. The active involvement of national leaders has further elevated the importance of this election, which could impact the balance of power in the Northeast.

In South India, Tamil Nadu and Kerala present distinct political landscapes. In Tamil Nadu, Dravidian politics continues to dominate, limiting the role of national parties. In the 234-seat assembly, around 56.7 million voters will cast their votes. The DMK alliance, which won the last election, is again campaigning on its "Dravidian model," social justice, and welfare schemes. The AIADMK alliance, on the other hand, is attacking the government over inflation, electricity issues, and local concerns. The entry of actor Vijay's party has introduced a new dimension, especially among young voters.

Kerala, with its 140 seats and 27 million voters, has traditionally been known for alternating governments. However, the Left Front made history by winning consecutive terms in the last election. If it secures a third term, it will mark a new political chapter. The Left is emphasizing its achievements in health, education, and social welfare, while the Congress-led UDF is focusing on inflation, unemployment, and corruption. The BJP is also trying to expand its presence, making the contest increasingly triangular.

Though small, Puducherry's politics is highly sensitive and decisive. In its 30-seat assembly, around 944,000 voters will participate. Coalition politics plays a crucial role here, where even minor vote differences can determine power. The NDA, which won the last election, aims to retain control, while the Congress and regional parties are

striving for a comeback.

A common factor across all these states is that vote share does not always translate directly into seat share. Even a small difference in votes can lead to a large difference in seats. This is why political parties are strengthening their strategies down to the booth level. Social media and digital campaigns have added a new dimension, where the battle of narratives is being fought not only on the ground but also online. In terms of issues, no single factor dominates this election. Employment, inflation, education, healthcare, agrarian distress, and women's empowerment are emerging differently across states, adding to the complexity and intrigue of these elections.

Politically, these elections are being seen as a semifinal for the 2029 Lok Sabha elections. With 116 parliamentary seats at stake, the results could reshape national politics. If the BJP maintains its hold in Assam, performs strongly in West Bengal, and strengthens its presence in South India, its national position will become more robust. Conversely, if the Trinamool Congress retains power in Bengal, Mamata Banerjee could remain a central figure in opposition politics. A Left victory in Kerala would energize leftist politics, while continuity of the DMK in Tamil Nadu would reinforce the trajectory of Dravidian politics. Overall, these elections are not just a contest between political parties but a true test of democracy. Voters may appear silent, but beneath that silence lies a deep process of reflection and decision-making. On May 4, when the results are announced, it will become clear who understood the aspirations of the people and who needs introspection. This grand festival of democracy will once again reaffirm that the ultimate power rests with the people—and their verdict alone determines the direction and destiny of the nation's politics.

Vigilance unearths crores worth assets of Additional Chief Engineer Sri Rajesh Chandra Mohanty

Cuttack (Correspondent): In a major vigilance crackdown, extensive assets have been unearthed during searches at properties linked to Rajesh Chandra Mohanty, Additional Chief Engineer, Central Irrigation Circle, Odisha. According to preliminary reports, a palatial triple-storied building measuring around 3,000 sq ft has been detected at



Baramunda Housing Board Colony in Bhubaneswar. Additionally, a farmhouse with a double-storied building of approximately 4,000 sq ft, spread over 1.71 acres, has been traced

at Bimbol under Bhapur area in Dhenkanal district. Investigators have also identified five valuable plots—one in Bhubaneswar and four in Dhenkanal. The Vigilance Technical Wing is currently conducting detailed measurement and valuation of these properties. During the searches, cash amounting to ₹6.23 lakh and bank deposits worth over ₹60 lakh

have been recovered. The weight of gold ornaments is under way. Officials are further verifying travel expenses, including flight tickets worth ₹13.47 lakh allegedly incurred by Mohanty. Vehicles seized so far include two four-wheelers (Hyundai Sportz and Honda City) and two two-wheelers. Search operations are still in progress, and further details are awaited.

MP's letter to Union Railway Minister for setting up a new railway station at Baunsuni

SUBARNAPUR (Correspondent) --- Balangir MP Sangeeta Kumari Singhdeo has written a letter to Union Railway Minister Ashwini Baishnab for setting up a new railway station in Baunsuni area of Boudh district under Khordha-Balangir railway line. If this proposed railway station is built, the people of

Birmaharajpur and its surrounding areas will be greatly benefited. Currently, the distance from Birmaharajpur to Sonepur railway station is about 23 km, while the distance to Redhakhol railway station will be about 52 km. Similarly, if you go from Birmaharajpur to Baunsuni via Deuli (under construction bridge road), the distance will be only 5

km. On the other hand, since the road to Redhakhol is through the forest, it will be unsafe and inconvenient for the passengers, especially at night. In this situation, the establishment of a new railway station in Baunsuni will meet the long-standing needs of the people of the region and will help in making travel convenient, safe and smooth.

Woman attacked with iron rod, case registered at police station

Gopalpur, (correspondent): A widowed woman in Mendrajpur village under Golanthara police station was sleeping when two youths in a state of intoxication entered her house and attacked her with an iron rod. The woman has filed a complaint at Golanthara police station. According to the complaint of the victim of the attack T. Lakshmi Reddy of Mendrajpur village was sleeping in her house when T. Bhima Reddy and G. Balu Reddy entered the woman's house, abused her in various obscene languages and attacked Laxmi on the head with an iron rod. As a result, Laxmi suffered serious injuries on her head and bled profusely. Some villagers rescued her in a critical condition and admitted her to the Bramhapur MKCG Hospital. After recovering, Laxmi reached Golanthara police station today and filing a written complaint, a case was registered at Police Station and an investigation was started.

Successful Voluntary Blood Donation Camp at Kharasrota College, 32 Units of Blood Collected

JAJPUR (Correspondent): A voluntary blood donation camp was successfully organized at Kharasrota College, located at Singhpur under Binjharpur block of Jajpur district. The camp was conducted under the joint initiative of the college's Youth Red Cross, National Service Scheme (NSS), and Rover & Ranger units. The event stood as a fine example of social service and humanity, witnessing enthusiastic participation from students and local youths. The camp was inaugurated by the Principal of the college, Dr. Brajakishore Sahu. Youth Red Cross Counselor Prof. Nilamani Mallick, NSS Programme Officer Prof. Jaladhar Sahu, and Rover-



Ranger Guide Santosh Mahapatra efficiently managed the camp. On this occasion, faculty members including Purna Chandra Samal, Meenaketan Tripathy, Surendra Kumar Samal, Bijay Kumar Pati, Kailash Chandra Mishra, Ambika Prasad Jena, Baibhav Nayak, Chittaranjan Sahu, Physical Education Teacher Sanjeeb Bhadra, Chinmaya Thatoi, Malay Das, Rajesh Prusti, along with women faculty Mamata Mayee Samal, Smruti Smita Nayak, Jharana Dehuri, senior clerk Chirasmita Nayak,

and staff members Dilip Barik, Biraj Sahu, Yashobant Sahu, and Santosh Mallik actively extended their support. A total of 32 units of blood were collected from teachers, staff, and local youth participants. The blood collection process was carried out smoothly under the supervision of the Blood Bank of Jajpur District Headquarters Hospital. The guests expressed that such social service initiatives strengthen human values and provide invaluable support to emergency healthcare services.

140 medical students of MKCG Medical college and Hospital get vaccinated against cervical cancer

Gopalpur (correspondent) 140 medical students were vaccinated against cervical cancer at Maharaja Krishna Chandra Gajapati Medical College and Hospital in Berhampur, a major hospital in southern Odisha, on Wednesday. 160 students have already received the vaccine. These students, aged between 15 and 26, took the vaccine with great enthusiasm. The Human Cytomegalovirus vaccine was administered free of cost through the Obstetrics and Gynecology Society in Berhampur. Nationally renowned gynecologists and obstetricians



Professor Dr. Bharati Mishra, Dr. Indira Pal, Dr. P. Sulekha were prominently present at the vaccination program. The Sarvavac HPV vaccine, which is indigenously manufactured in India by Serum Institute, is being given to everyone in this order, said Field. Staff Srinivas and Birendra Dora reported that Sarvavac protects against HPV types 6,

11, 16 and 18. The program was organized at Maharaja Krishna Chandra Gajapati Medical College and Hospital, Berhampur as part of the Rs 3 lakhs that renowned gynecologist Professor Dr. K. Lakshmbai had earlier donated to the society in support of cervical cancer vaccination for teenage girls. Thousands of women

die of cervical cancer every year in India due to HPV. The main objective of this campaign is to prevent this. It is reported that this campaign is currently being conducted in schools, hospitals and health centers across the country to include 1.15 crore girls in this vaccination program every year.

Notorious Criminal Raja Sahani has been placed under a 7-day police remand

Cuttack correspondent: Notorious Criminal Raja Sahani has been placed under a 7-day police remand by the JMFC Court, Cuttack, at the request of Karnataka police. He is being interrogated in connection with a gold and diamond jewelry heist worth ₹20 crore, with the remand running from 9th to 15th April. Sahani previously escaped police custody in February during the apprehension of Madhukant Rana in Vrindavan. After fleeing, he led a gang in a 6-minute armed robbery at a jewelry store in Hunsur, Karnataka, on 28th December 2025, stealing 8 kg of gold and diamonds. He is among the most wanted criminals in Odisha, Karnataka, Andhra Pradesh, and Uttarakhand, facing over 28 criminal cases including murder, dacoity, bank robberies, and jewelry heists. His criminal syndicate reportedly involved around 2,000 operatives. Sahani was eventually tracked down in Uttarakhand while walking with his girlfriend and arrested by the Special Squad. He had frequently changed locations and avoided using phones, complicating efforts to locate him. He is now expected to be lodged in a special cell at Choudwar Jail under CCTV surveillance, as requested by jail authorities. Notorious Go-Mafia leader Sakil Khan held under NSA in Cuttack

Preparations for CM Trophy is in full swing DM reviewed the infrastructure

Malkangiri, correspondent: The district administration has taken a big step to strengthen the sports infrastructure of Malkangiri district and bring young talents to the limelight. Malkangiri District Magistrate Pratesh Arvind Rajeshirke visited the Sports Complex and Hostel located in the headquarters and reviewed the development of sports infrastructure and preparations for the upcoming CM Trophy. After inspecting and reviewing the sports infrastructure, the District

Magistrate visited various departments of the Sports Complex and emphasized on providing the best facilities to the sportspersons. He inspected the condition of the track for the better practice of the athletes and directed the departmental officers to maintain it and make necessary improvements. The District Sports Officer has been advised to maintain the indoor stadiums in various blocks of the district and keep them functional for the players at all times. The District Collector has

ordered to immediately start the construction of a fence to protect the premises of the sports complex. The state government's CM Trophy sports program is aimed to be celebrated with great pomp in Malkangiri. This competition will identify the hidden talents in the rural areas of the district and provide them a big platform. The District Collector has emphasized on maintaining coordination among all departments to manage the program smoothly.

Prabina Sahu death case Nuasahi solved: Extra marital affairs pulls her to suicide: Prabina's brother in law arrest

Boudh, (correspondent): The Prabina Sahu death case in Nuasahi-Boudh has been a shock to the people of Boudh, with the police investigation revealing that she took her own life. Her parents had initially reported the case as a dowry-related murder, but the Boudh SP's report indicates that Prabina was blackmailed by her brother-in-law, Sanjib Sahu, with private videos, leading to her tragic decision. This



incident highlights the disturbing trend of extra marital affairs and

blackmail related violence and harassment in India

The government is taking action : Police kill the democracy

Jajpur road (Correspondent) It is alleged that the police are violently attacked in Kashipur Tijimali area of Rayagada district. Government district administration is trying to kill people in the middle of the night in the interest of Vedanta, Maitri company. Late at night, the police took a gun and used iron gas. And the police is accused of smashing and the vehicle bearing number OD18j4536. The government is violating people's rights by creating fear by imposing police force.

Rayagada District Collector, Sub Collector, SP, and Kashipur IIC, and local Tahsildar are also seen working in the interest of the company. In this incident, many tribal women and youth are found to be seriously injured. Meanwhile, the police are being told that people have attacked the police. But the fact that the police went to the area in the middle of the night when people were sleeping raises questions about the police's work. Prafula Samanthara of Lok Shakti Abhiyan Odisha,

lawyer and human rights activist Biswapriya Kanungo, Narendra Mohanty of Campaign for -false Fabricated cases in odisha, columnist Valchandra Shadangi, literary Lenin Kumar, MSYF Bivrant Biswajit, and other Human Rights Activist have condemned the government for working in favor of the company in the police force. And Prafulla Samantha said. Inhuman brutal attack by Police force in the midnight on villagers in Kantamala, in Kasipur Block, Rayagada district. LAST NOGHT AT

2AM. Severed injured are Ani Majhi, Narangi Dei Majhi, Lali Majhi, Kumuti Majhi, Bamani Majhi, Burusa Majhi, Agadha Nayak, Nisingi Majhi, Ramachandra Nayak, and many also anjured. and Green novel winner prafulla samantra said Last night between 2 and 3 o'clock, the police force went to suppress the security agitators of Siji Mali of Kashipur tahsil, closed the doors of the houses of Kantamal village and started threatening people. When the sleeping

people came out of the house with their clothes on, the police beat them and fired blankly. Or the police and the district administration are committing such inhumane crimes under the orders of the company? Why can't people stay in their homes in their villages? Action should be taken against the officers responsible for such brutal repression. And he appeal to human rights activists, intellectuals and political party leaders to visit Shyamali and reveal the truth

EAST COAST RAILWAY
'E' PROCUREMENT SYSTEMS
The following tenders have been uploaded on website : www.ireps.gov.in
Tender Notice No. PCMM/EP/2026-27/25, Dt.01.04.2026
01. Tender No. 03261071 : Short
Description of Item : Constant Contact PU Side bearer Pads, Quantity : 1400 Nos.
02. Tender No. 03261615A : Short
Description of Item : Elastomeric Pad Design-B, Quantity : 15725 Nos..
03. Tender No. 03261542A : Short
Description of Item : Spherulastic Rubber bearing, Quantity : 296 Nos.
04. Tender No. 04261166 : Short
Description of Item : Set of High voltage fuse (with holder), Quantity : 1664 Sets
05. Tender No. 03251065A : Short
Description of Item : Key bolt with nut Spring Washer & split pin, Quantity : As per TS.
06. Tender No. 04261169 : Short
Description of Item : Low Maintenance Lead Acid Battery, Quantity : As per TS.
07. Tender No. 03261042 : Short
Description of Item : Levelling Valve for Air Suspension System, Quantity : 1300 Nos.
08. Tender No. 03261962 : Short
Description of Item : Air Brake Hose Coupling, Quantity : As per TS.
09. Tender No. 0525495A : Short
Description of Item : Under ground railway signaling cable Size 19 Core x 1.5 sq. mm., Quantity : As per TS.
Tender Opening Date : 10.04.2026 (For SI. No. 02), 13.04.2026 (For SI. No. 03), 14.04.2026 (For SI. No. 01 & 05) and 20.04.2026 (For SI. No. 04, 06, 07, 08 & 09)
Regarding detailed notice EMD, Purchase restrictions and detailed tender conditions, please visit Website : www.ireps.gov.in and www.eastcoastrail.indianrailways.gov.in
Principal Chief Materials Manager,
PR-14/R/26-27 Bhubaneswar



Deepika Padukone gives befitting reply to trolls questioning her alleged silence on Ranveer Singh's Dhurandhar 2

Dhurandhar: The Revenge has been garnering praise from the Bollywood celebrities ever since its release in theatres on March 19. However, the alleged silence of Deepika Padukone, wife of Ranveer Singh, on the film's success has been a point of discussion among the fans of the couple. Deepika Padukone has now broken her silence regarding the ongoing chatter on the internet and highlighted her support for husband Ranveer Singh and Dhurandhar after she skipped the sequel's screening in Mumbai. Taking to her Instagram handle, Deepika Padukone commented on a reel on social media which highlighted her absence at the Dhurandhar 2's screening and asked if "her silence was a delivery statement or is it the internet reading too much into celebrity social media silence?" Deepika has addressed the long-pending discussion with a befitting reply in the comment section of the post. Taking to the

comment section, Deepika wrote, "The latter my friend... P.S. I watched it way before any of you did. Now who is the joke on?" While the netizens came in support of her, saying, "Have you forgotten she stays with him?" Ranveer Singh and Deepika Padukone are a prominent Bollywood power couple who married in 2018 after dating since 2013, following their collaboration in Goliyon Ki Raasleela Ram-Leela. Renowned for their on-screen chemistry in films like Bajirao Mastani and Padmaavat, they welcomed their first child, daughter Dua, in September 2024. Dhurandhar: The Revenge, the sequel to last year's 'Dhurandhar', has shown remarkable performance at the box office. The critics and moviegoers have been praising the performance of Ranveer Singh in the film. Dhurandhar franchise marks Aditya Dhar's second directorial venture after his National Award-winning debut 'Uri:

Aditya Dhar credits Mukesh Chhabra for pushing him to think bigger on Dhurandhar

As 'Dhurandhar 2' continues its strong run at the box office, Aditya Dhar took a moment to appreciate the man behind the faces, casting director Mukesh Chhabra, whose vision and support helped bring the film to life. Dhar took to his Instagram account to share a heartfelt note for his "friend" and "well wisher," speaking about the importance of casting in filmmaking. In his post, Dhar mentioned how Chhabra believed in the film's vision from the very beginning and helped shape it in many ways. "Here's to Mukesh Chhabra, the man who saw Dhurandhar long before I truly did. There are people who come into a film and do their job and then there are people who quietly reshape the film itself. Mukesh was the latter. From the very first narration, he believed in the scale, the ambition, the sheer possibility of Dhurandhar far more than I did. Where I was cautious, he was fearless," Dhar wrote. The filmmaker went on to speak about how the casting process was not easy due to the large number of characters, but it was Chhabra and his team who went "all guns blazing" to find the right actors. Explaining how the casting became a "mission," Dhar wrote, "Where I was thinking within limits, he pushed me to think bigger, not just in numbers, but in depth, in detail, in truth."



10 vegetarian sources of Vitamin B12 you must include in the diet

Vitamin B12 or cobalamin is an important nutrient for production of red blood cells, DNA and brain and nerve function. Vitamin B12 binds to the protein in the foods we eat. It is naturally found in animal foods and vegetarians are at an increased risk of its deficiency. Dairy items like milk and yoghurt, and fortified foods must be consumed by vegetarians for sufficient levels of Vitamin B12. Fish, shellfish, liver, red meat, eggs, poultry, milk, cheese and yoghurt are primary sources of Vitamin B12. The deficiency of this Vitamin B12 can lead to shortness of breath, headaches, indigestion, loss of appetite, palpitations, trouble with vision, memory issues, numbness, weakness, diarrhoea and other neurological issues

Top vegetarian sources of Vitamin B12

1. Fortified cereals are a convenient source of vitamin B12 for vegetarians. Consuming fortified cereals regularly provides a direct and good intake of this essential nutrient, supporting nerve function, DNA synthesis, and red blood cell formation.
2. Fortified fruit juices are a good source of vitamin B12 for vegetarians. Drinking fortified juices can help maintain adequate B12 levels, supporting overall health and preventing deficiency-related issues such as anaemia and neurological problems.
3. Soymilk fortified with vitamin B12 serves as a dairy-free alternative for vegetarians. Incorporating unsweetened soymilk into the diet ensures a consistent intake of this essential nutrient, vital for energy metabolism and maintaining healthy nerve function.
4. Plain yogurt provides vegetarians with a source of vitamin B12. Including yogurt in the diet helps meet B12 requirements, supporting red blood cell production and promoting optimal neurological function.
5. Cow's milk naturally contains vitamin B12, making it an essential component of a vegetarian diet. Drinking milk regularly ensures an adequate intake of B12, which is crucial for DNA synthesis and preventing deficiency-



related health issues.

6. Swiss cheese is a good source of vitamin B12 among dairy products. Incorporating cheese into meals helps maintain optimal B12 levels, supporting cardiovascular health and promoting overall well-being.
7. Eggs are a versatile source of vitamin B12 for vegetarians. Including eggs in the diet provides a significant amount of B12, essential for neurological function and preventing deficiency-related symptoms such as fatigue and weakness.
8. Nutritional yeast fortified with vitamin B12 is a flavorful ingredient commonly used in vegetarian cooking. Adding fortified nutritional yeast to dishes ensures a direct intake of B12, supporting red blood cell formation.
9. Dried seaweed like nori contains natural vitamin B12. Consuming nori regularly provides vegetarians with an alternative source of B12, essential for DNA synthesis and preventing neurological disorders associated



stretching helps people relax and feel less tense.

4. Relieves stress: Endorphins are naturally occurring stress relievers that are released as you stretch. Stretching encourages relaxation and lowers cortisol levels, the stress hormone, by emphasising deep breathing and gentle movements. Furthermore, stretching facilitates the release of physical tension brought on by extended sitting or repeated motions, which supports mental and physical well-being.

5. Improved posture: Stretching can help fix alignment problems and muscular imbalances, which improves posture.

6. Better performance: By improving range of motion and flexibility, regular stretching can improve sports performance.

7. Boost energy: Stretching makes your muscles receive more blood and oxygen, which raises your energy levels.

8. Improved mind-body connection: Stretching promotes body awareness and mindfulness, which strengthens the mind-body bond.

9. Helps avoid injuries: By increasing muscular coordination, flexibility, and mobility, stretching helps avoid injuries.

10. Improved mental health: By lowering stress and anxiety levels and creating a sense of wellbeing, stretching can benefit mental health.

10 wonderful benefits of stretching every day for your body and mind

Sometimes the smallest of movements can help reap great rewards if done regularly and mindfully. Stretching for instance on a daily basis can work wonders for your flexibility, posture, energy levels, and even heart health. In today's modern lifestyle, stretching not only helps release stress, but also reverse ill effects of sedentary lifestyle. Stretching requires putting a body part in a certain position that helps in the lengthening and elongation of the muscle or muscle group, enhancing its flexibility and elasticity. Daily stretching can make your body more flexible, increase your range of motion, improve your posture, keep your muscles agile as you age and make you feel happier, more confident and relaxed. Sometimes the smallest of movements can help reap great rewards if done regularly and mindfully. Stretching for instance on a daily basis can work wonders for your flexibility, posture, energy levels, and even heart health. In today's modern lifestyle, stretching not only helps release stress, but also reverse ill effects of sedentary lifestyle. Stretching requires putting a body part in a certain position that helps in the lengthening and elongation of the muscle or muscle group, enhancing its flexibility and elasticity. Daily stretching can make your body more flexible, increase your range of motion, improve your posture, keep your muscles agile as you age and make you feel happier, more confident and relaxed.

2. Better blood circulation: By widening blood vessels, stretching promotes blood circulation, which makes it possible for muscles



to remove waste products and receive nutrients more effectively. Improved circulation aids in a quicker recovery from exercise or injury in addition to providing nutrition to the tissues. Enhancing blood flow also benefits general cardiovascular health, which enhances physical and mental well-being.

3. Lowers muscle tension: By loosening up tense muscles,

INDIAN U-14 GIRLS' TEAM CONTINUES WINNING RUN AT WORLD SCHOOL CHESS CHAMPIONSHIP 2026

BHUBANESWAR, (Correspondent) Continuing their impressive performance at the ongoing FIDE ISCF World School Team Chess Championship 2026 in Almaty, Kazakhstan, the Indian Under-14 Women's School Chess Team registered a convincing victory against Singapore with a score of 3-1 in the third round. The team, comprising four talented tribal girls from Kalinga Institute of Social Sciences (KISS), has once again demonstrated exceptional skill, determination, and composure on the international



stage. Building on their strong start in the tournament, the Indian team displayed remarkable coordination and strategic excellence to outplay Singapore, further strengthening their position in the championship

standings. With this victory, the team has now advanced to the fourth round, where they will face Turkmenistan. The players—Mohini Naik, Monalisha Bhoi, Shreya Nayak, and Humeswari Mallik—continue to bring pride to

the nation and Odisha with their outstanding performances. Their journey reflects the success of structured training, dedication, and the supportive ecosystem provided by KIIT and KISS. On this occasion, Prof. (Dr.) Achyuta Samanta,

Founder of KIIT, KISS, and KIMS, congratulated the players on their remarkable performance and extended his best wishes for the upcoming rounds. The players expressed heartfelt gratitude for his unwavering support, encouragement, and for providing world-class infrastructure that enables them to excel in both academics and sports. The team's success so far highlights the growing strength of Indian school chess on the global platform and stands as a testament to the transformative impact of inclusive education and sustained support for young tribal talents.

Sindhu Secures Thrilling Win at Badminton Asia Championships; Sen Exits Early

Ningbo, : Double Olympic medallist P.V. Sindhu advanced to the second round of the Badminton Asia Championships 2026 with a gritty comeback victory on Wednesday. Returning after nearly two months, Sindhu overcame Malaysia's world No. 38 Wong Ling Ching 15-21, 21-11, 21-19 in a 67-minute thriller. She'll next face second seed Wang Zhi Yi of China. Ayush Shetty stunned world No. 7 and defending bronze medallist Lee Shifeng of China 21-13, 21-16 in 51 minutes, setting up a



pre-quarterfinal clash with Chou Tien Chen of Chinese Taipei. Lakshya Sen suffered a straight-games defeat to Hong Kong's Lee Cheuk Yiu (12-21, 19-21). Malvika Bansod lost to Thailand's Busanan Ongbamrunghan (10-21, 19-21), and Tanvi

Sharma fell to Malaysia's K. Letshana (19-21, 14-21). Women's Singles (Round of 32): P.V. Sindhu def. Wong Ling Ching (MAS) 15-21, 21-11, 21-19. Busanan Ongbamrunghan (THA) def. Malvika Bansod 21-10, 21-19K.

ISSF World Cup Rifle/Pistol: Indian Men Miss Out On 10m Pistol Final Spots

New Delhi: Indian shooters missed out on a place in the final of the Men's 10m Air Pistol event in the International Shooting Sport Federation (ISSF) World Cup Rifle/Pistol at the Las Gabias shooting range in Granada, Spain, on Wednesday. Mukesh Nelavalli, who won gold in the 10m mixed team event on Tuesday, finished highest among the Indians in 14th place. In the 86-man qualification group, Mukesh shot 579-21x (94, 98, 98, 97, 95), two points below the final qualification place, which was secured by Anton Aristarkhov with a score of 581-20x. China's Xie Yu topped the qualification with a



score of 588-18x. The best performance among the Indians, though, was by Aakash Bharadwaj, who shot 580-26x, to finish 10th in the standings, but he was only competing for ranking points. Among the other Indians in the fray, Ujjawal Malik finished in 22nd place with a score of 577-17x, and Parmod Kumar ended 39th with a score of 574-16x. Varun Tomar,

who was also competing for ranking points, shot 569-13x to finish in 63rd place. Rhythm Sangwan and Divya TS started well in the precision stage of the 25m Pistol Women event, with both shooters currently placed inside the top eight. Rhythm ended the day with a score of 292-9x after shooting 99,96,97 in the three-series round, while Divya shot 291-8x with

scores of 96,98,97. The third shooter in the competition, Simranpreet Kaur Brar, had an off day with a score of 282-5x (93,94,95), the National Rifle Association of India (NRAI) informed in a release on Wednesday. Abhidnya Ashok Patel and Chinki Yadav, both competing for ranking points, finished the precision stage with scores of 286-8x and 277-7x, respectively. The rapid stage and finals of the 25m Pistol women will be held tomorrow. The qualification and finals of the 10m Air Rifle Men and the elimination round of the 50m Rifle 3 Positions Women will also be held on Thursday.

Table Tennis: World No. 1s Wang, Sun Lead China In World Team Championships In London

Beijing: China announced on Wednesday its roster for the upcoming ITTF World Team Table Tennis Championships Finals in London, with top-ranked Wang Chuqin and Sun Yingsha among those selected in the squad for the mega event. The 10 players to represent China are Wang Chuqin, Lin Shidong, Zhou Qihao, Xiang Peng, and Liang Jingkun in the men's team, and Sun Yingsha, Wang Manyu, Chen Xingtong, Kuai Man, and Wang Yidi in the women's team. On the men's side, Wang and Lin qualified directly through past results or world ranking, while Zhou and Xiang secured their places through the team trial. The coaching group decided to give the final spot to 29-year-old Liang, reports Xinhua. Wang Hao,



head coach of the men's team, said the decision was made after discussion within the coaching group and consultation with qualified players and experts. "Liang's experience, stability, and performance in crucial matches at the World Championships and Asian Championships are obvious. Though he didn't achieve good results after the Asian Championships due to

injury, his form began improving after rehabilitation," Wang said. Speaking of the world championships campaign, Wang said, "The competition is always intense on the men's side, and we have seen the rapid progress of players from other teams. We cannot take the title for granted and need to go all out for it." For the women's team, Sun and Wang Manyu

qualified directly, while Chen, Kuai, and Wang Yidi secured their places through the team trial. "They are the five highest-ranked players within the team and represent the highest level of the team," said women's team head coach Ma Lin. "This is the first team competition after the new coaching group was established. Hopefully, everyone can do well in preparation and competition and deliver a satisfying result," chief coach Qin Zhijian noted. China has won 11 consecutive men's team titles and six straight women's team titles in the tournament. The World Team Table Tennis Championships Finals in London will be held from April 28 to May 10.

Aboobacker Sets 17m Leap Benchmark For Asiad 2026, Backs Indian Triple Jumpers To Outshine China

New Delhi: Indian triple jumper Abdulla Aboobacker has set a clear benchmark for a podium finish at the 2026 Asian Games in Japan; the 17-metre mark. After narrowly missing the podium in the last edition, the Commonwealth Games bronze medallist believes that breaching the 17m mark will guarantee a gold or a silver medal in Japan. At the 2022 Asian Games in Hangzhou, Chinese jumpers Zhu Yaming (17.13m) and Fang Yaoqing (16.93m) bagged the top two spots on the podium, with India's Praveen Chithravel securing a bronze with a best effort of 16.68m and Aboobacker was placed fourth with 16.62m. However, last month Aboobacker produced his best



jump of 16.83m, defeating national record holder Chithravel to win the Indian Open Jumps Competition in Bengaluru. It was the eighth instance of a one-two finish between Aboobacker and Chithravel. "If I cross the 17m mark in the Asian Games 2026, I'll likely secure the gold or silver. Last

time, I finished in fourth place (16.63m), but this time in Japan, I have to perform well no matter what. Last year, gold and silver went to the Chinese athletes," Aboobacker, who has a personal best of 17.19m, told IANS. The former Asian champion stressed that intense competition within the

Indian camp has fuelled India's chances to challenge China's dominance and secure a top-two finish on the podium in Achi-Nagoya. "This year, our Indian triple jump team is very strong. Since Indian jumpers are giving such tough competition to each other back home right now, we can definitely perform well and finish

top two on the podium at the Asian Games," he said. "Competing against Praveen (Chithravel) has significantly improved my performance. Beating him has given me a lot of motivation for the upcoming Commonwealth Games (CWG) and Asian Games. Since I am getting such strong competition even before heading into major events, it will definitely help me perform better there," the 30-year-old jumper added. At the India Open, Aboobacker winning jump came in his third attempt, and he opted out of his final three jumps, which he called a strategic move to maintain his consistency for the major tournament coming ahead. "At the India

Open, my three jumps were 16.07m, 16.57m, and 16.83m. Since 16.83m is a decent performance, I felt it was better to stop after just three jumps and target my goals in the next competition instead. There was also a headwind at the India Open; if I had pushed harder, I could have touched the 17m mark, but it wasn't worth the risk there. "Even if I had hit 17.20m or 17.30m, it wouldn't have held much value in that specific setting. What I really wanted was consistency. Having put in so many jumps during the off-season, I need to maintain that form throughout the main season, which is why I decided to call it a day after three jumps," he said.

ISL 2025-26: Jamshedpur FC Face Mumbai City FC In A Top-Of-The-Table Clash

Jamshedpur: The top two contenders for the title, Jamshedpur FC and Mumbai City FC, will clash on Thursday as the Indian Super League (ISL) 2025-26 season resumes with a defining encounter involving teams at the top of the table at the JRD Tata Sports Complex in Jamshedpur. Jamshedpur FC return to the Furnace aiming to make full use of their home advantage and convert recent draws into victories. Under head coach Owen Coyle, the Men of Steel have proven remarkably resilient, most recently fighting back to hold Mohun Bagan Super Giant to a 1-1 draw. Currently sitting fourth with 14 points from seven games, a victory on Thursday would see them move level on points with Mumbai City at the top. Jamshedpur FC have historically held the upper hand in this fixture. In their 16 previous ISL encounters, the Men of Steel boast eight victories compared to Mumbai City's four, with four matches ending in draws. Their most recent clash in January 2025 saw Jamshedpur secure a commanding 3-0 away victory in Mumbai. As Jamshedpur head coach Owen Coyle pointed out, these are two of the most dominant sides in recent regular-season history. "Since the Shield became a 20-game format, only three teams have won it consistently - Mumbai, Mohun Bagan, and ourselves," Coyle stated. "Winning the Shield proves you are the best over the season. Mumbai have shown that since 2020. They are top on merit. But when we are at our best, we believe we can win. That's what we must focus on tomorrow."

Strengthening last-mile health care in Odisha and Chhattisgarh

Bhubaneswar (Correspondent) : Odisha and Chhattisgarh are proverbial paradox states that sit at the heart of the country's mineral economy, supplying coal, bauxite, aluminium, and iron ore that power industrial growth. Yet, across large swathes of their rural districts, health indicators continue to lag behind national averages. Inaccessibility, nutritional vulnerability, and the absence of quality care remain a bane for the people. CSR and health interventions in mining and industrial corridors navigate these geographical challenges to ensure last-mile connectivity and bridge barriers to healthcare services. For Vedanta Aluminium, operating in underserved areas of Odisha and



Chhattisgarh, the focus in recent years has increasingly been on last-mile health service delivery, charting pathways from village-level detection to tertiary treatment and care. Government surveys underscore why this approach matters. The National Family Health Survey-5 (NFHS-5) reveals that challenges persist in nutrition, maternal health, and early disease

detection, particularly in underserved districts. It is in this realm that last-mile healthcare interventions, including those supported by industry, become imperative. Through the years, Vedanta Aluminium's integrated health model has demonstrated measurable impact across its operational regions. With sustained community engagement and expanded

infrastructure, the company has impacted over 7 lakh beneficiaries across Odisha and Chhattisgarh, reached 4,09,079 people through health awareness initiatives, and recorded a combined 1.74 lakh footfall across its three hospitals. In rural districts, the pathway to care often begins with first contact. The nearest primary health facility may be several kilometres away, with

limited transport options and irregular outreach. In such settings, delayed care is often a function of geography rather than intent. Vedanta Aluminium's health interventions therefore work in close collaboration with frontline health workers, ASHA and ANM cadres, to strengthen first-level detection, referrals, and follow-up care in these hard-to-reach communities. It is within this access gap that mobile healthcare models have emerged as a critical first layer. Across industrial and mining corridors in districts such as Jharsuguda, Kalahandi and Sundargarh in Odisha, and Korba in Chhattisgarh, Vedanta Aluminium has deployed Mobile Health Units (MHUs) to take basic medical services directly into villages.

Kotak BizLabs Season 2 Picks 71 Startups, Expands Funding Beyond Metros

Bhubaneswar (Correspondent) : Kotak Mahindra Bank Ltd. ("KMBL" / "Kotak") today announced the selection of 71 startups for Season 2 of Kotak BizLabs Accelerator Programme, with 60 startups set to receive structured grants of up to ₹30 lakh each under the programme. The new cohort also reflects a decisive shift in India's startup geography. Fifty three percent of the selected startups are from non-metro locations, signalling growing entrepreneurial momentum beyond traditional hubs. The final cohort spans startups from 13 states across 12 sectors, including AI, deep tech, agritech, sustainability, clean energy, edtech and healthcare. Season 2 of Kotak BizLabs

attracted 3,088 applications, an 80% increase over the first season, with more than 80% of applications coming from outside the four metros. The six-to-nine-month programme will culminate in a Demo Day connecting founders with investors and corporate partners. The first season of Kotak BizLabs, which concluded recently, delivered encouraging outcomes. Several startups from the Season 1 cohort have stabilised revenue models with growing client bases, while a few have gone on to secure funding and achieve meaningful revenue growth. "We have redesigned Season 2 of Kotak BizLabs Accelerator Programme to support founders as they scale," said Himanshu

Nivsarkar, Head of CSR & ESG, Kotak Mahindra Bank. "Along with enhanced funding support, the programme now brings a wider network of incubation partners and a stronger community framework. Our focus is on helping startups build models that can sustain and grow." Rohit Bhasin, President and Chief Marketing Officer, Kotak Mahindra Bank, said: "The quality and diversity of applications this season tells us that India's entrepreneurial ambition is geographically broad and commercially serious. Kotak BizLabs Accelerator Programme Season 2 is about building a platform that meets founders where they are and helps them scale from there."

AM/NS India observes World Health Day across locations in Odisha

Bhubaneswar (Correspondent) : ArcelorMittal Nippon Steel India (AM/NS India) observed World Health Day across its operational locations in Odisha, in alignment with this year's global theme, "Together for health. Stand with science." Through engaging activities, awareness workshops, free tests and consultations, the company reaffirmed its strong commitment to the health and well-being of its employees, partners as well as the nearby community members. At the Paradeep Complex, the day commenced with an energising Zumba Fitness session for employees, setting a lively tone for the workforce. This was followed by office ergonomics and meditation practices, reinforcing the importance of holistic well-being. The journey toward better health



continued throughout the day with consultation sessions that addressed specific concerns such as ortho and joint-related issues, along with guidance on managing sitting posture conditions. Further highlighting preventive healthcare, the medical team conducted Bone Mineral Density tests. The programmes were graced by AM/NS

India leadership including Shri USR Raju, Head-Odisha Operations, Shri Rajarshi Sinha, Head-Power Plant and Dr. Ajit Jena, Chief Medical Officer-Odisha Asset. At the Bhubaneswar office, several meaningful initiatives were organised, including an Oral Health Camp, a Neuro Consultation, and a Spine Health Awareness

Session, all graced by the presence of Dr. Debabrata Dash, Head-HR (East), AM/NS India. World Health Day was also observed at the Dabuna Beneficiation Plant in Keonjhar, where impactful awareness sessions were conducted for employees and associates at the New Hostel Building.

TPCODL Partners with PeLocal Launches WhatsApp-Based Bill Payment Solution

Bhubaneswar, (Correspondent) : TP Central Odisha Distribution Limited (TPCODL), a joint venture of Tata Power and the Government of Odisha, has partnered with PeLocal Fintech Private Limited to introduce a first-of-its-kind WhatsApp-based electricity bill payment solution in the state. This innovative initiative marks a significant step in TPCODL's ongoing digital transformation journey, aimed at enhancing customer convenience and promoting cashless transactions. With this collaboration, consumers can now access their electricity bills and make payments directly through WhatsApp, eliminating the need to visit payment centers or switch between multiple platforms. The solution offers a seamless, secure and user-friendly interface, enabling customers to view bill details, receive payment



reminders and complete transactions instantly using multiple payment options. TPCODL, serving a vast consumer base, has been consistently promoting digital adoption across its operational areas. In March 2026, the utility achieved a major milestone by recording its highest-ever digital transactions since takeover, reflecting growing consumer trust in digital platforms. The integration with PeLocal is expected to further accelerate this momentum, particularly in semi-urban and rural areas. The WhatsApp solution will also enable personalized

customer engagement through intelligent payment reminders based on consumption and payment behaviour. Additionally, consumers will benefit from features such as instant payment confirmations, access to bill history and insights into savings through timely digital payments. Speaking on the initiative, Arvind Singh CEO, TPCODL said, "This collaboration with PeLocal is a step forward in our commitment to making electricity services more accessible, convenient and digitally inclusive. By leveraging WhatsApp, a widely used platform, we aim to bridge

the digital gap and empower our consumers with easy payment solutions." Vivekanand Tripathi CEO, PeLocal said, "Partnering with TPCODL marks a significant milestone in our mission to simplify last-mile payments and drive digital inclusion at scale. With WhatsApp as a powerful and familiar interface, we are enabling millions of consumers to seamlessly access and pay their electricity bills with ease, security, and convenience."

New Circle Head of PNB Baleswar Circle

Balasure, (correspondent) : Jitendra Kaushal has joined as Circle Head of Baleswar Circle. With over 16 years of rich banking experience, he has served in key assignments including Large Corporate Credit Branch, Kolkata, and the Head Office Finance Department. Mr. Kaushal began his career as a Probationary Officer in the bank in 2010 and has gained diverse exposure across states such as Bihar, Telangana, Delhi, and West Bengal. In his new role, he aims to strengthen the Circle's performance by focusing on Agriculture, MSME and Retail Advances, with a strong emphasis on customer service and customer connect initiatives to enhance the bank's brand value.



TPSODL steps up for scholarship and skill development

Goplapur (correspondent) : TP Southern Odisha Distribution Limited (TPSODL), a joint venture between Tata Power and the Government of Odisha, has reiterated its commitment towards the welfare of the community and empowering the youth. In this regard, 30 meritorious students of South Odisha have been awarded scholarships. Which will be of great help to them in their educational journey. This step taken by the company shows its commitment towards developing a future-ready talent and

empowering the economically and marginalized sections. All the students selected for the scholarship are studying in various disciplines of Diploma and ITI courses in various Government polytechnics and industrial training institutes (ITIs). Out of the 80 applications received under this scholarship initiative, 30 students were selected by TPSODL through various processes. The main objective of providing this scholarship is to financially empower and encourage students studying technology.



TPSODL has awarded certificates to 33 women from Self Help Groups (SHGs) who have completed sewing training at TPSODL's Anokha Dhaaga Centre. This training will be particularly helpful in

making them self-reliant and financially empowered. Speaking on the occasion, Amit Kumar Garg, Chief Executive Officer, TPSODL said, "We are taking many initiatives through our CSR programs.

Through this scholarship initiative, students are benefiting in a meaningful way. The selected students are the future of our country. I congratulate each and every one of them. Sunil Singh, Director, TPSODL said, "I congratulate each and every student who has been awarded the scholarship. Devanshu Panda (20), a second year student of Electrician Department at Government Industrial Institute, Berhampur, who received the scholarship, said, "I lost my father and mother during the COVID

period. This scholarship will be of great help to me in my current studies. Thank you, TPSODL." Through such initiatives, TPSODL continues to demonstrate its dedication towards inclusive development by investing in education, skill development and women empowerment. The efforts undertaken by the company's CSR department aim to create a lasting impact by empowering everyone to become self-reliant and make a positive contribution to society."