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51.5 Lakh Domestic LPG Cylinders Delivered Daily: Centre

New Delhi: Domestic LPG cylinder deliveries remain normal, with more than 51.5 lakh cylinders delivered on April 8 despite disruptions in supply due to the West Asia crisis, according to an official statement issued on Thursday. Online LPG bookings have increased to about 98 per cent, and no dry-outs have been reported at distributorships. The Delivery Authentication Code-based deliveries have risen to around 92 per cent to prevent diversion at the distributor level. More than 1.06 lakh 5 kg LPG cylinders, used mainly by migrant workers, were also sold across the country against a daily average of 77,000 in February this year. Since March 23, about 10 lakh 5 kg LPG cylinders have



been sold. The public sector oil companies have strengthened surprise inspections and issued over 1,870 show-cause notices, imposed penalties on 189 LPG distributorships, and suspended 53 distributorships, the statement said. A three-member committee of Executive Directors from Indian Oil Corporation Limited, Hindustan Petroleum Corporation

Limited, and Bharat Petroleum Corporation Limited is coordinating with State authorities and industry bodies to plan commercial LPG distribution. Around 6,711 metric tonnes of commercial LPG (equivalent to more than 3.5 lakh 19 kg cylinders) were sold on Wednesday, taking the total amount to 99,796 metric tonnes since March 14, the statement said.

CM Majhi Inaugurates Key Grid Substations and Transmission Lines

BHUBANESWAR, (Correspondent): In a significant step towards making Bhubaneswar's power supply system world-class, Chief Minister Mohan Charan Majhi on Thursday inaugurated three new Gas Insulated Switchgear (GIS) grid substations and eight vital transmission lines at Baliaanta. The projects are expected to provide reliable, high-quality and uninterrupted electricity to lakhs of consumers in the capital and surrounding areas. The three new substations — 220/132/33 kV GIS at Baliaanta, 132/33 kV GIS at Satyanagar, and 132/33 kV GIS at SCB Medical College, Cuttack — have been developed at an estimated cost of around Rs 600 crore. These facilities will



directly benefit approximately 22 lakh consumers in Bhubaneswar, Cuttack and nearby regions. Speaking on the occasion, Chief Minister Mohan Charan Majhi said that although the projects were approved years ago, they could not progress due to pending court cases and other hurdles. After the new government

assumed office, these issues were resolved on priority, and work began about a year ago. In a short span of one year, Odisha Power Transmission Corporation Limited (OPTCL) successfully completed four major power projects, including the Nayapalli grid substation which became operational last year. "Where there is a

strong will, the impossible becomes possible," the Chief Minister remarked, highlighting the government's firm resolve to deliver world-class power infrastructure to the people of the capital. He noted that Bhubaneswar's current power demand of around 1000 MW is projected to rise significantly, potentially reaching 2000 MW by 2030, making

these upgrades essential for future growth.

The new GIS substations and associated transmission lines will ensure stable and reliable power supply, supporting rapid development in industry, business, IT sector and urban life. The Chief Minister added that Odisha's power system is being modernized in line with the Digital India vision of Prime Minister Narendra Modi. For the first time in the state, digital grid substations have been established, and plans are underway to develop a 765 kV transmission system for the capital region. He further informed that multiple feeder lines will soon connect Cuttack and Bhubaneswar, providing alternative power sources and greater redundancy.

President Murmu Approves Central Armed Police Forces (General Administration) Bill, 2026

New Delhi: President Droupadi Murmu has granted her assent to the Central Armed Police Forces (General Administration) Bill, 2026, allowing the legislation to become law. Following this, the Act was officially notified in the Gazette of India by the Ministry of Law and Justice. As per the notification, the Act aims to regulate the recruitment policies and service conditions for Group A General Duty officers and other personnel within the Central Armed Police Forces (CAPFs). The legislation also outlines provisions for the

administrative and functional aspects of the forces, as well as related matters. The government emphasized the vital role of the CAPFs in safeguarding national security, particularly in border protection and maintaining internal security throughout the country. It further stressed that these forces operate under a unique command and control structure, with operational needs distinct from other organizations. The new law is expected to bring greater clarity and uniformity to administrative processes within the CAPFs, enhancing

governance and operational efficiency. In related developments, the Lok Sabha is slated to discuss the CAPF (General Administration) Bill, 2026, after its passage in the Rajya Sabha. The Bill proposes that 50% of the posts in the CAPFs be filled through deputation at the rank of Inspector General, with a minimum of 67% of positions in the rank of Additional Director General also filled via deputation. Moreover, all posts in the ranks of Special Director General and Director General will be exclusively filled through deputation. Union

Minister Amit Shah, expected to be in West Bengal ahead of the state elections, may have MoS Home Nityanand Rai move the Bill in the House. The Bill was passed in the Rajya Sabha on Wednesday, despite a walkout staged by Opposition MPs.

Opposition members voiced concerns, arguing that the Bill contradicts a 2025 Supreme Court judgment, which recommended that the number of deputation posts in CAPFs up to the Senior Administrative Grade (SAG) level be progressively reduced over a period of two years.

SC eCommittee to Host National Conference on Judicial Digital Transformation on April 11-12

New Delhi: The eCommittee of the Supreme Court, in association with the Department of Justice, will host a two-day national conference on 'Judicial Process Re-Engineering and Digital Transformation' in New Delhi on April 11 and 12. The event, taking place at the Multipurpose Hall of the Additional Buildings Complex at the Supreme Court, aims to advance the integration of technology in the justice delivery system. According to an official press release, the conference will focus on enhancing the efficiency



and accessibility of judicial processes through digital innovation. The inaugural address will be delivered by the Chief Justice of India, Justice Surya Kant. Supreme Court Judge

Justice Vikram Nath, who chairs the eCommittee, along with Union Ministers Arjun Ram Meghwal and Jitendra Prasad, will also address the gathering during the inaugural session.

Three Minor Girls Drown In Pond In Nabarangpur

Nabarangpur (Correspondent): In a tragic incident, three minor girls drowned in a village pond at Kursi village under Umarekote police limits in Nabarangpur district on Thursday, leaving the entire locality in deep shock and mourning. According to reports, the girls—two daughters of Rajman Gond and one daughter of Balsai Gond—had gone to a pond near their house for a bath in the afternoon. While they were bathing, they reportedly slipped into deeper water and drowned. Locals rushed to the spot after noticing the incident and immediately pulled the girls out of the pond. They were taken to a nearby medical facility, but doctors declared them brought dead. The sudden deaths have cast a pall of gloom over Kursi village, with the bereaved families inconsolable. On being informed Umarekote police have launched an investigation into the incident, and the exact cause of death will be ascertained after the postmortem examination.

India's Growth Momentum Stays Strong: World Bank

Washington: India's economy is maintaining strong growth momentum, driven by robust domestic demand, resilient services exports and sustained reforms, the World Bank said in its latest report. Growth is estimated at 7.6 per cent in fiscal year 2025-26, higher than earlier projections, reflecting the strength of consumption and investment activity, according to the South Asia Economic Update. Private consumption has been a key driver. The report

said retail demand has remained steady, supported by lower inflation, tax rationalisation and rising consumer confidence, which reached its highest post-pandemic level in late 2025. Domestic demand has helped offset weakness in goods exports. Shipments of merchandise grew marginally, affected by tariff disruptions, but services exports remained strong, expanding by about 16 per cent in recent months. The services sector continues to



anchor growth. Information and communications technology and business services have expanded steadily, contributing to

export earnings and economic activity. Manufacturing has also picked up pace. The report noted that industrial activity has

been strong, with manufacturing growing by more than 10 per cent annually between 2023 and 2025, led by sectors such as

electronics.

According to the World Bank, government incentives and rising investment flows have supported this expansion. Production-linked incentive schemes and improved infrastructure have helped boost output and competitiveness, the report said. India's trade outlook has improved with new free trade agreements with the European Union and the United Kingdom. These deals are expected to reduce

tariffs on more than 95 per cent of traded goods and expand market access for Indian firms. The World Bank said such reforms are likely to result in "broad-based consumption and real income gains" for households, especially through lower prices for manufactured goods. Inflation remained within the central bank's target range for much of 2025, aided by lower food prices.

Congress Used Low-Level Tactics By Politicising Zubeen Garg: CM Sarma

Guwahati: Assam Chief Minister Himanta Biswa Sarma on Thursday launched a sharp attack on the Congress, accusing the party of resorting to "desperate and low-level tactics" by dragging popular singer Zubeen Garg into electoral politics. Addressing reporters after polling, Sarma alleged that the Congress had "stooped too low" by using Zubeen Garg's image at polling booths to influence voters. He claimed that such actions reflect the party's weakening ground support and lack of confidence among its leaders. The Chief Minister further remarked that several leaders who recently

joined Congress have largely confined their activities to areas associated with Zubeen Garg, questioning their broader political outreach. Sarma also warned that politicising a cultural icon like Zubeen Garg could backfire on the Congress, calling it the party's "biggest curse" in the ongoing elections. He asserted that the people of Assam would respond strongly to such moves, reiterating his confidence that the BJP-led alliance would secure a decisive mandate. Meanwhile, the Chief Minister also expressed satisfaction over the high voter turnout in the ongoing Assembly elections, stating that the



enthusiasm shown by voters, particularly among Hindu and indigenous communities, reflects a strong commitment to the democratic process. Sarma said there has been a visible surge in participation among local and indigenous voters this time. He termed the development as a positive sign for

democracy, adding that such active engagement strengthens the electoral system and reflects public trust in governance. Commenting on the overall rise in voter turnout, the Chief Minister said that the increased participation is an encouraging indicator and shows that people are more aware and eager to exercise their

democratic rights. He noted that peaceful polling and enthusiastic voter response point towards a vibrant democratic culture in the state. Sarma also exuded confidence in the Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP)-led alliance's prospects, reiterating his earlier claim that the coalition would secure more than 90 seats in the 126-member Assam Assembly. He said that the response from voters across constituencies suggests a clear mandate in favour of the ruling alliance. The Chief Minister further said that the higher turnout would ultimately benefit the democratic framework and ensure a stronger, more representative government.

Guwahati: Assam Chief Minister Himanta Biswa Sarma on Thursday expressed satisfaction over the high voter turnout in the ongoing Assembly elections, stating that the enthusiasm shown by voters, particularly among Hindu and indigenous communities, reflects a strong commitment to the democratic process. Speaking after polling concluded, Sarma said there has been a visible surge in participation among local and indigenous voters. He termed the development as a positive sign for democracy, adding that such active engagement strengthens the electoral system and reflects public trust in governance. Commenting on the overall rise in voter turnout, the Chief Minister said that the

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government. He added that the final outcome will reflect the aspirations of the people, as Assam witnessed one of its most participative elections in recent years. Assam on Thursday recorded its highest-ever voter turnout in a Legislative Assembly election, with an impressive 85.38 per cent polling, reflecting strong public participation across the state, according to the Election Commission of India. The turnout surpassed the previous record of 84.67 per cent registered during the 2016 Assembly elections, marking a significant milestone in the state's electoral history. Officials described the polling process as largely peaceful, with only a few minor incidents reported from scattered locations.

PM Modi To Inaugurate India's First Refinery-Petrochemical Hub On April 21

Jaipur: Chief Minister Bhajan Lal Sharma announced that Prime Minister Narendra Modi will inaugurate the country's first Hindustan Petroleum Corporation Limited Integrated Refinery-cum-Petrochemical Complex at Balotra on April 21. He stated that the Pachpadra Refinery will emerge as a key pillar of national energy security and provide fresh momentum to Rajasthan's economic development. The Chief Minister issued necessary directions to officials to ensure that the Prime Minister's visit becomes a historic and well-organised event. Sharma was chairing a high-level review meeting at the Chief Minister's Office on Thursday to assess

preparations for the proposed visit. He informed that the Prime Minister will also address a public gathering and flag off liquefied petroleum gas tankers produced at the refinery. The Chief Minister directed officials to make comprehensive arrangements at the venue, including seating, drinking water, medical facilities, uninterrupted power supply, parking, traffic management, and security. He instructed the Traffic Police and Transport Department to coordinate closely to ensure smooth traffic flow and adequate parking. Directions were also issued regarding plantation activities within the refinery premises. Sharma highlighted that, in addition

to petrol and diesel, the Hindustan Refinery and Petrochemical Limited refinery will produce polypropylene, Linear Low-Density Polyethylene, High-Density Polyethylene, benzene, toluene, and butadiene. These products will significantly benefit sectors such as transportation, pharmaceuticals, paints, and packaging. He added that the project will strengthen energy self-reliance, reduce dependence on imports in the petrochemical sector, and generate substantial direct and indirect employment opportunities for youth, along with avenues for skill development.

Nitish Kumar To Take Rajya Sabha Oath On Friday

Patna: In a major political development, Bihar Chief Minister Nitish Kumar is set to take oath as a member of the Rajya Sabha on Friday, signalling an imminent leadership transition in the state. Nitish Kumar arrived in New Delhi on Thursday afternoon and later confirmed that he would soon resign as Chief Minister. Speaking to reporters, he explained the reasoning behind his move, "I have accomplished a lot of work in Bihar. Now I felt that I should remain here, and that is what I am doing." He further added, "I will step down from my role there and work here. I will resign in three or four days. New individuals will be appointed as Chief Minister and



Ministers." Nitish Kumar was accompanied by Sanjay Jha, National Working President of the Janata Dal (United), and Bihar minister Vijay Kumar. Earlier, Sanjay Jha had indicated that the process of forming a new government in Bihar would begin after April 13. Nitish Kumar's latest remarks

have now made it clear that the transition is imminent. Meanwhile, Bihar minister Vijay Choudhary stated that the entire NDA—including leaders from the BJP and its allies—is united in carrying forward Nitish Kumar's governance model. "We will continue to work on the 'Nitish Model' under which Bihar has achieved significant progress over the past two decades.

This legacy will guide our future path," he said. Following his swearing-in as a Rajya Sabha member, Bihar Chief Minister Nitish Kumar is likely to participate in a crucial meeting with Prime Minister Narendra Modi and Union Home Minister Amit Shah in New Delhi to chart the roadmap for the formation of the next government in Bihar. According to sources, top leaders of the NDA are expected to finalise the name of the next Chief Minister of Bihar and the distribution of ministerial portfolios. These decisions are likely to be taken in the presence of Nitish Kumar, Narendra Modi, and Amit Shah, underscoring the meeting's

significance. Meanwhile, Bihar's Deputy Chief Ministers Samrat Choudhary and Vijay Kumar Sinha have also reached New Delhi. They are expected to participate in a BJP core committee meeting, where discussions regarding leadership and power-sharing arrangements in Bihar are likely to take place. These high-level deliberations come amid an ongoing political transition in Bihar, with Nitish Kumar having already indicated his decision to step down as Chief Minister shortly after moving to the Rajya Sabha. The developments suggest that the NDA is moving swiftly to ensure a smooth leadership transition and formation of a new government in the state.

Battleground 2026: Women Register Higher Turnout In First Phase Of Polls In Assam, Kerala, Puducherry

Thiruvananthapuram/ Guwahati/Puducherry: Polling in Thursday's Assembly elections in Assam, Kerala, and Puducherry was marked with a record turnout of voters, where women came out in larger numbers than their male counterparts to exercise their franchise. The process was largely peaceful amidst heavy deployment of security forces, as only isolated incidents of law and order reports came in. Assam and Puducherry recorded the highest number of voters' participation ever by recording 85.38 per cent and 89.83 per cent turnout, respectively. Previously, the highest turnout recorded in Assam was 84.67 per cent in the 2016 Assembly elections and for the Union Territory of Puducherry, it was 86.19 per cent in 2011. Kerala recorded 78.03



per cent. Welcoming the high turnout in the first phase of the Assembly elections, possibly the highest in five decades, Chief Election Commissioner Gyanesh Kumar greeted voters and poll officials, highlighting that the impressive voting numbers reflect the people's trust in democracy. Significantly, women voters outdid their male counterparts in both the

states and the Union Territory. In Assam, the figures stood at 85.96 per cent for females against men's 84.80 per cent, while in Kerala, it was 80.86 per cent and 75.01 per cent, and in Puducherry, 91.33 per cent to 88.09 per cent, respectively. Puducherry also recorded the highest turnout of electors representing the third gender at 91.81 per cent, to Assam's 36.84

per cent, and 91.81 per cent in Kerala. A total of 296 Constituencies in the two states and the lone Union Territory of Puducherry went to polls with a total electorate of over 5.31 crores. At the same time, by-elections were also held in Karnataka's Bagalkot and Davanagere South, Nagaland's Koridang, and Tripura's Dhamanagar.

Several voter-friendly initiatives, such as easily-identifiable colour photos of candidates on EVM ballot papers, Mobile Deposit Facility (MDF), newly-designed Voter Information Slips (VIS) for easy readability and a limit of electors up to 1,200 per polling station, were introduced in these elections. Turnout built steadily through the day after moderate morning participation. Long queues were seen across the states in several booths, even as specially-abled persons joined in exercising their voting rights. Among other places, a newly married couple came to vote at the HMT School polling station at Kalamasseri in Kerala's Ernakulam. In Thiruvananthapuram, first-time voters received halwa from CEO, Dr Rathan U. Kelkar, after casting their votes as part of the Vote Sweetened Kerala campaign.

MP Gears Up For Uniform Civil Code Implementation

Bhopal: The Madhya Pradesh government has initiated steps toward implementing the Uniform Civil Code (UCC), aiming to advance the vision of "One Nation, One Law." A high-level committee, headed by a retired judge and including social activists, senior lawyers, university Vice-Chancellors, and legal experts, is expected to be constituted soon to draft the state's UCC Bill. Chief Minister Mohan Yadav directed the Home Department during a

recent cabinet meeting and, while speaking at an event in Jabalpur, to fast-track the process, with an eye on a possible rollout by the end of 2026 or even before Diwali, sources said. The department is actively studying the UCC models adopted by Uttarakhand (the first state to enact a comprehensive UCC in 2024) and Gujarat (which passed its UCC Bill in March 2026), analysing their implementation challenges, methodologies, and reports.

OFFICE OF THE PATTAMUNDAI MUNICIPALITY, PATTAMUNDAI 13001/128/2627

SHORT QUOTATION CALL NOTICE NO. 1623 Date: 7-04-26

The Executive Officer, Pattamundai Municipality on behalf of Pattamundai Municipality, Dist.- Kendrapara invites sealed quotations in single cover system from the Registered firm for supplying and installing CCTV Surveillance System. The Firms desires to submit their quotation must obtain the Tender Paper from Cashier of the Municipality depositing Paper Cost of Rs. 10000.00 (Ten thousand only) to be deposited in the form of Cash/Demand Draft drawn in the name of Executive Officer, Pattamundai Municipality, Payable at Pattamundai or deposited in the form of Cash at Cashier of the Office & EMD Amount of Rs. 25000.00 (Twenty Five Thousand) in the shape of TDR duly pledged to Executive Officer, Pattamundai Municipality.

The filled in Short Quotation along with copy of Pan Card, GST Registration Certificate, GST Clearance Certificate, Paper Cost, Similar Experience Certificate, Short Quotation Specific OEM Authorization Certificate and all other document as per DTCN along with bid document. All documents are to be put in a sealed envelope and the envelope must be written on top "Short Quotation Call Notice for supplying and installing CCTV Surveillance System Phase 1 at Pattamundai Municipality under MLA LAD" and received in the office of the Executive Officer, Pattamundai Municipality through Speed Post on or before date 18-04-2026 at 01.00 PM. The quotation will be opened on 20-04-2026 at 10.00 AM in presence of the quotationer or their authorized representative. The quotation received beyond the schedule date and time will not be considered at all.

The undersigned has the rights to accept, cancel or reject any or all the quotations without assigning any reason thereof.

Executive Officer
Pattamundai Municipality

OIPR-13001/13220/1/26-27/0001

RESOLUTION OF NEREDI ISSUE TO BE PURSUED THROUGH TALK WITH AP, LAW MINISTER

Paralakhemundi: (Correspondent):- The issue of the Neredi project will be resolved through discussions with the Andhra Pradesh government. For this purpose, a new independent committee will be formed, said State Law Minister Prithviraj Harichandan. Speaking to media representatives during his visit to Mohana block in Gajapati district yesterday, Minister Harichandan stated that the Odisha government is also making efforts to resolve other important issues with Andhra



Pradesh, such as Vamsadhara, Kotia, and Polavaram. Therefore, the state government remains fully alert and committed regarding the Neredi issue as well. He added that through dialogue, not only the Neredi issue but also

other related matters will be resolved. It is worth mentioning that yesterday evening, Minister Harichandan attended the consecration ceremony of a Hanuman temple at Manikpur Kesharinagar in Mohana block of Gajapati district. After offering oblations in the yajna and performing ritual worship at the temple, he addressed a public gathering. He assured that all necessary measures would be taken for the development of the district in the coming days. The visit was also attended by Digapahandi MLA Siddhant Mahapatra, Mohana MLA Dasarathi Gamang, Chairman of the Gajapati Special Development Council Kamadeb Badanayak, along with several other leaders and workers.

Fire Safety Awareness Programme at Paradip College on the Occasion of Odia Pakhya Palana

PARADIP (Correspondent): A Fire Safety Awareness Programme was organized on 7/04/2026 at 10:00 AM in the premises of Paradip College by CISF Unit, PPA, Paradip in collaboration with the YRC and NSS wings of the college. The Principal of the college, Dr. Sasmita Satapathy, delivered the welcome address and highlighted the importance of organizing such awareness programmes in the present times. Former ANO, NCC Officer and Head of the Department of History, Shri Akshya Chandra Mishra, introduced the guests. NSS Programme Officer and Lecturer in History, Smt. Sanghamitra Pradhan, spoke on the theme of the programme. Fire Inspector of CISF, Shri Pradeep Mothsara, along with his team, delivered a presentation on fire safety and prevention and conducted a mock drill with the students. An essay competition was also organized among the students to spread awareness. The programme concluded with a vote of thanks by Smt. Saswati Pattnaik, Lecturer



in English and YRC Coordinator of Paradip College. Around 150 students and several staff members including former District Coordinator of YRC and Head of the Department of Philosophy, Shri Bhramananda Biswal; CTONCC Abhishek Biswal; Miss Kabita Padhan, Subhasmita Lenka, and others participated in the programme and made it a success.

51 LPG Cylinders Seized In Mohana Raid Amid Acute Cooking Gas Shortage

Mohana ((Correspondent)): In a major enforcement action amid an escalating LPG shortage, officials seized 51 cooking gas cylinders during a raid on a local distributor in Mohana on Thursday. A five-member team from the Food Supplies and Consumer Welfare Department, led by the Sub-Collector, conducted a surprise inspection at a LPG distribution agency near Mohana High

School Chowk. During the raid, authorities seized a total of 51 HPCL LPG cylinders, including 27 filled and 24 empty ones. Officials said the distributor failed to produce mandatory documents and did not possess a valid fire safety licence at the counter. It was also found that customers were not being issued bills after receiving gas cylinders. Citing these violations, the administration carried out the

seizure and initiated further inquiry. The Sub-Collector stated that appropriate action, including imposition of fines, will be taken against the agency following a detailed investigation. The raid comes against the backdrop of a worsening LPG crisis in the region. Consumers alleged that home delivery services have virtually stopped, with dealers citing supply shortages.

Heatwave-Like Conditions Grip Interior Odisha; Boudh Hottest At 38.9°C

Bhubaneswar (Correspondent): The evening weather bulletin issued by the India Meteorological Department's (IMD) Bhubaneswar centre on Thursday highlighted rising day temperatures across many parts of Odisha, particularly in the western and southern districts, even as coastal areas remained relatively cooler. According to the bulletin, Boudh recorded the highest maximum temperature of 38.9°C, followed closely by Bolangir and Bhawanipatna at 38.0°C each. Other interior stations that crossed the 37°C mark included Titlagarh (37.5°C), Paralakhemundi (37.6°C), Nuapada (37.8°C), Sambalpur (36.8°C), Dhenkanal



(36.8°C), and Jharsuguda (35.7°C). State capital Bhubaneswar recorded a maximum of 34.7°C, while Cuttack stood at 33.4°C. Coastal stations like Puri (35.1°C), Gopalpur, and Paradip remained comparatively moderate. Several places in north and central Odisha, including Balasore (28.8°C) and Bhadrak (30.5°C), recorded noticeably lower daytime

temperatures. Minimum temperatures ranged between 19°C and 25°C across most stations, providing some relief during nights. Relative humidity remained high, especially in coastal regions (often above 80% at 0830 IST), contributing to muggy conditions. Rainfall activity was sparse. Significant showers were reported only in isolated pockets — Paradip recorded 27.3 mm, Bhubaneswar 10.2

Paradip Port Authority and CEMS Champion Youth Empowerment Through Vocational Excellence

PARADIP (Correspondent): Paradip Port Authority (PPA), in collaboration with the Centre of Excellence in Maritime and Shipbuilding (CEMS), marked a significant milestone with the successful completion of the first training batch under its CSR-funded skill development initiative. The program is designed to enhance employability among local youth while supporting the growing demands of the maritime and logistics sectors. Demonstrating strong outcomes, the initiative has achieved a 100% placement rate for its first cohort of 25 students from 168 students. Most participants, aged between 20 and 22, have secured employment opportunities in logistics



and supply chain sectors across major cities such as Coimbatore, Hosur, Hyderabad, Kolkata, Bangalore, and Visakhapatnam. The valedictory ceremony held at Paradip Port recognized the achievements of the trainees, and certificates were conferred on 25 candidates during the ceremony for successfully completing the Supply Chain Management program, marking the first phase of the broader training

initiative. The event was attended by Shri P.L. Haranadh, IRTS, Chairman, PPA, along with Shri T. Venugopal, Deputy Chairman, Shri Krishna Bapi Raju G, Secretary, and other senior officials. CEMS was represented by Commander Gopi Krishna Sivvam, IN (Retd.), Chief Operating Officer, along with senior team members. Emphasizing the program's regional focus, the PPA Chairman reiterated that

the initiative is exclusively for the youth of Odisha. He noted that the program serves as a crucial first step toward financial independence and professional growth for young individuals in the state. PPA has allocated ₹40 lakhs for the current year to support the program, which is presently running six batches simultaneously, training approximately 140–160 students annually. Building on its success, PPA has also encouraged CEMS to expand the curriculum to include shipbuilding, ship repair, and maritime operations. CEMS, supported by the Ministry of Ports, Shipping and Waterways and promoted by the Indian Register of Shipping, has trained over 25,000 candidates nationwide since 2019.

Demand for high mast LED light installation in crematorium

Bhawanipatna: (Correspondent) In the course of time, allegedly, it has been seen, cunningly some authority of government evading their first and foremost job 'planning and implementation' on the guise of 'public demand' the approaches of aware peoples, for implementation and proper execution any of government funded scheme. The same situation was seen, while some aware peoples with an



anticipation to illuminate with high mast LED floodlight, to a dark crematorium. With a demand for

installation of high mast LED light in the area of Bhawanipatna Purunapada crematorium the attempts of

"Swasana Suraksha Samiti" has put them in embarrassment situation while they submitted a demand letter to Executive Officer of this Municipality, alleged the Samiti's members. During the submission of demand letter the Samiti's member Dukhishyam Pradhan, Lakshmi Narayan Panda, Manas Jena, Kambhupani Parichha, Kaliprasad Dakua, Sitakanta Pradhan, Santosh Pradhan and Gopal Maharana has faced discomfort situation.

Sijimali Clash Lays Bare Deep Mistrust Between Local Tribals and District Administration

Rayagada, (Correspondent): A violent confrontation over the proposed Sijimali bauxite mine road project in Odisha's Rayagada district left at least 40 police personnel injured on Sunday, bringing into sharp focus not just tribal anger but also growing questions over the district administration's role and its perceived lack of neutrality in such seriously flared up issues. The clash broke out in Sagabari village under Kashipur block when police and officials arrived to oversee road construction from Purulang to Sagabari Ghati—part of the access route for the mining project. What began as resistance quickly escalated into a full-scale confrontation, with police alleging attacks by the local groups using stones, axes and other weapons. Villagers, however, offered a



sharply different account. They said their resistance stems from fears of displacement, loss of forests, water sources and traditional livelihoods. Many alleged that the project is being pushed without genuine consultation, consent, or trust-building—despite longstanding opposition in the region. The incident has intensified scrutiny over whether the administration acted merely as a law-and-order agency or as an enabler of a project backed by powerful corporate interests. Local activists and residents questioned the urgency with which construction

was attempted in a sensitive zone, and whether adequate dialogue was ever prioritised over enforcement. Reports indicate several senior police officials were among the injured, with some in serious condition. The injured were initially treated at Kashipur CHC and later shifted to Rayagada district headquarters hospital, while a few were referred to Visakhapatnam for advanced care. Following the clash, prohibitory orders were imposed and additional forces deployed. While officials maintained that the situation is now under control, the episode has triggered

uncomfortable questions around preparedness, crowd management, and, more crucially, the administration's approach to handling dissent in tribal areas. The Sijimali project has long remained a flashpoint, symbolising the uneasy intersection of mineral extraction and indigenous rights. Sunday's violence has only deepened the fault lines, with critics arguing that repeated attempts to push infrastructure linked to mining—without transparent engagement—risk reinforcing perceptions of a tacit alignment between state machinery and corporate entities. With tensions still simmering, the incident underscores a critical reality: in regions where trust is fragile, any development push seen as imposed rather than negotiated can quickly spiral into conflict.

EDITORIAL

Lack of Experts: How to Get Kids Ready for AI

Criterion intelligence in the modern era is rapidly changing every sector including education, health, agriculture, industry and employment. But with this change comes a bigger challenge—the cost of money. When technology advances, human resources are not developed at the same speed. The biggest question in SE: Are we preparing our children for an AI future? Why the shortage of experts?

AI is a high-level field that requires knowledge—understanding of math, logic, data, and programming. But there is a growing lack of experts for several reasons: the still-old curriculum in schools, the paucity of practical and experiential learning, and lack of equal access to technology.

Lack of teacher training: The need to prepare children for AI. Many jobs in the future will be related to AI. So kids will have to learn not only book knowledge, but also thinking and problem-solving skills. (Critical Thinking) (creativity) (digital literacy). (adapting to change) The Role of Schools

Schools have to make changes in their education system: New curriculum covering topics such as AI, coding and data science. Practical Education: Not just theory, but learning through projects and experiences. Teacher training: Making teachers aware of new technology. The role of parents: Parents also play a vital role in preparing children for AI: Making children aware of technology, motivating them to ask questions and learn new things. Maintaining a balance of screen time, responsibility of government and society, strengthening the digital infrastructure, equal educational opportunities in rural and urban areas.

Skills development programmes for young people: The Importance of Human Values: Human values are no less important in the age of AI.

Subsidiary morality: Responsibility. These qualities make children not just a good professional, but a good human being. Impeccable: The shortage of experts is not only a problem, but also an opportunity to train the ninth generation. If we teach and guide children in the right direction from now on, they will not only be able to work with AI, but also reshape it. Success in the future world will be achieved by those who not only use technology, but understand and build it.

HOMOEOPATHY: STRATEGIC STRENGTH & GLOBAL ACCEPTANCE



Anjana Panda, IAS,
Director, AYUSH -cum- MD,
National AYUSH Mission, Odisha

Homeopathy is recognized by the World Health Organization (WHO) as a key component of Traditional, Complementary, and Integrative Medicine (TCIM), which is practiced across more than 80 countries worldwide. It is legally recognized and regulated in many of these nations and continues to serve as a widely accepted complementary healthcare system, particularly in India. "Globally, homeopathy enjoys strong public acceptance and institutional recognition, supported by well established regulatory frameworks in countries such as Germany, France, Switzerland, the United Kingdom, and the UAE. Its appeal lies in its safety, affordability, and complementary role in managing a wide range of conditions, while its integration into mainstream healthcare systems continues to be guided by evolving regulatory and evidence based standards. "Originating in Germany in 1796, homeopathy was founded by Dr. Christian Friedrich Samuel Hahnemann. It rapidly spread across Europe and India during the 19th century. The core principle of homeopathy Similia similibus curantur ("like cures like") suggests that substances capable of producing symptoms in healthy individuals can, in highly diluted forms, treat similar symptoms in the diseased. "Today, India hosts one

of the largest homeopathic infrastructures in the world, with over 277 government supported homeopathic medical colleges, numerous clinics, and a robust research ecosystem comprising more than 35 research centers. The system is formally recognized and promoted by the Ministry of AYUSH as one of the country's national systems of medicine, reflecting its strong institutional and community level foundation. "Odisha has emerged as a proactive leader in integrating homeopathy into grassroots healthcare delivery. The state has effectively mainstreamed AYUSH systems by embedding homeopathy within its primary healthcare framework. This is supported by a multi tiered infrastructure, including 680 co located homeopathic clinics at PHCs and CHCs, 562 standalone dispensaries, and four premier colleges and hospitals, ensuring accessible and holistic care for the population. "Odisha is also among the leading states alongside Kerala and Gujarat that have utilized homeopathy as a supportive prophylactic measure during outbreaks such as dengue, influenza, COVID-19, and seasonal diseases like measles and chickenpox. Its affordability, ease of administration, and community acceptance have enabled it to bridge healthcare gaps, particularly in remote and underserved regions. "Homeopathy contributes to population level immunity support through prophylactic approaches, though it is not a replacement for national immunization programs or standard vaccines. Preventive remedies,

identified as Genus Epidemicus, are used during seasonal outbreaks such as chikungunya, measles, and chickenpox. During the COVID-19 pandemic, the use of Arsenicum album 30 under Ministry of AYUSH guidelines witnessed significant community uptake and positive public response. "Globally, over 3,000 substances are utilized in homeopathic practice. In India, these medicines are prepared in accordance with the standards of the Homeopathic Pharmacopoeia of India (HPI) and undergo stringent quality checks as per established pharmacopoeial parameters. "Homeopathy is also gaining prominence in maternal and child healthcare (MCH) due to its non-invasive nature and high safety profile. It is commonly used during pregnancy, lactation, and early infancy to manage conditions such as morning sickness, fatigue, and mild anxiety without the risks associated with conventional pharmacological interventions. "In pediatric care, homeopathy is valued for its palatability and ease of administration, making it suitable for managing common childhood conditions such as teething issues, respiratory infections, and digestive disorders. By supporting the body's natural healing processes, it serves as a gentle yet effective complementary approach within a holistic public health framework. "In conclusion, homeopathy in India and particularly in Odisha, has evolved from a traditional system of preference into a well regulated, institutionalized, and integral component of public healthcare. It represents a strategic, high reach, and cost effective intervention that continues to strengthen healthcare delivery.

Schemes for Weaker Sections: A Matter of Controversy or a Basis of Development?



Dr. Satyan Saurabh

Development and welfare schemes for vulnerable groups are often criticized as discriminatory. At first glance, the argument may seem

appealing: when the government targets certain groups for benefits, it's unfair to others. But when examined more deeply, it becomes clear that this approach challenges the very spirit of social justice. In a country like India, where caste, economic, and social inequalities have long been entrenched, such schemes are not just an option but a necessity, and a constitutionally mandated responsibility. The historical structure of Indian society privileged some classes, while others faced persistent deprivation and discrimination. This centuries-old inequality excluded Scheduled Castes, Scheduled Tribes, and other vulnerable groups from education, health, employment, and social respect. If the state merely adopted a policy of "equal treatment," this inequality would have deepened. Therefore, the framers of the Constitution understood that equality truly meant equal treatment for all, not simply the application of uniform rules. In this context, Article 46 of the Constitution holds special significance, directing the state to promote the educational and economic interests of the weaker sections and to protect them from social injustice and exploitation. This provision makes it clear that targeted schemes are not a form of discrimination, but a necessary step towards justice. This is the concept of 'positive discrimination' or 'affirmative action,' which attempts to compensate for historical inequalities. The impact of these schemes is evident not only in theory but also in practice. The progress made in education over the past few decades is a testament to this. While literacy rates among marginalized groups were once very low, they have now increased

significantly. Scholarship schemes, residential schools, and special educational programs have provided millions of children with the opportunity to access school and higher education. Similarly, rural employment schemes, self-help groups, and skill development programs have promoted economic self-reliance.

These schemes have also played a significant role in women's empowerment. Through self-help groups, rural women have not only gained income but also established social standing. This has brought positive change to both families and society. This demonstrates that targeted schemes are not limited to economic benefits but also serve as a vehicle for social change. However, these schemes are not without controversy. Critics argue that when a particular class is given priority, it is unfair to others. For example, sometimes an economically disadvantaged person from the general category is unable to avail the benefits of a scheme simply because they do not fall into the prescribed category. This creates a feeling of reverse discrimination, which can lead to social unrest.

This argument isn't entirely unfounded, but it's certainly incomplete. It ignores the fact that not all individuals are born into equal circumstances. Some grow up in social and economic environments that provide them with better education, resources, and opportunities, while others begin life in extremely disadvantageous circumstances. Therefore, even if both are given equal opportunities, the outcomes will not be the same. Therefore, to truly achieve equality, it becomes necessary to treat those who are unequal differently. Nevertheless, it must be acknowledged that there are many shortcomings in the implementation of these schemes. Problems such as corruption, unequal distribution of benefits, and lack of transparency affect their effectiveness. It has often been observed that those who need these schemes the most are left out, while the more capable ones reap the benefits. The concept of the "creamy layer" was introduced to address this problem, but it has not been effectively

implemented across all sections. Furthermore, society's problems are also evolving with changing times. Today, the nature of poverty in urban areas is different, with people of different castes facing similar economic hardships. Therefore, formulating plans based solely on caste is not sufficient. Policies must be more inclusive and multifaceted, taking into account economic status, education, and regional disparities.

The most important requirement for reform is transparency and accuracy. Digital technologies can be used to make beneficiary identification more effective. Schemes can be made more transparent and accountable through Aadhaar-based verification, Direct Benefit Transfer (DBT), and data analytics. Regular monitoring and independent audits of scheme implementation are also essential to prevent any irregularities in time.

Private sector and civil society participation can also play an important role in this direction. Corporate social responsibility (CSR) can enhance support in the areas of education, health, and skill development. Furthermore, involving local communities in the implementation of programs can further enhance their effectiveness, as they gain a deeper understanding of the problems at the local level.

Finally, it's crucial to understand that schemes designed for vulnerable groups are not a form of discrimination, but rather a means of establishing justice. These schemes are an attempt to address the historical inequalities that have long deprived large sections of society of opportunities. If they are abolished, they will only deepen inequality and exacerbate social imbalances. Ambedkar's dream wasn't limited to political equality, but social and economic equality was also integral to it. The existence of these schemes is essential to realizing the concept of "one person, one vote," along with "one person, one opportunity." Instead of questioning their existence, we need to make their implementation more effective, transparent, and inclusive.

Homeopathy: The Power of Subtlety, The Vastness of Health



Yogesh Kumar Goyal

Every year on April 10, World Homeopathy Day is celebrated on the birth anniversary of Dr. Christian Friedrich Samuel

Hahnemann, a German physician, great scholar, researcher, linguist, and eminent scientist, regarded as the founder of homeopathy. The credit for developing an entire system of medicine based on the principles of homeopathy goes to Dr. Hahnemann. That is why his birth anniversary is observed as World Homeopathy Day. The objective of celebrating this day is to create awareness among people about this distinct system of medicine and to improve its accessibility and success rate for every individual. Born on April 10, 1755, Dr. Hahnemann held an MD degree but later left his medical practice to work as a translator. He studied medical and scientific texts in several languages, including English, French, Italian, Greek, and Latin.

Homeopathy is a medical system based on medicines and their application. In India, the Ministry of AYUSH determines the theme of Homeopathy Day each year, and the day is celebrated nationwide. This year, the theme is

"Homeopathy for Sustainable Health." On this occasion, the 271st birth anniversary of Dr. Hahnemann is being observed. The main objectives of celebrating this day include strengthening the safety, quality, and efficacy of homeopathic medicines globally; understanding the challenges and future strategies for advancing homeopathy; developing national policies; promoting interdisciplinary and international research collaboration; ensuring high-quality medical education; encouraging evidence-based medical practice; and securing an appropriate place for homeopathy in healthcare systems worldwide to achieve the goal of universal health coverage.

The World Health Organization also recognizes that universal health goals cannot be achieved without promoting traditional and alternative systems of medicine, and homeopathy holds a prominent place among such systems worldwide. Due to its unique characteristics, homeopathy is practiced in more than 100 countries, and India is a leading nation in this field. Homeopathic medicines are considered effective in treating both infectious and non-infectious diseases, as well as ailments related to children and women. Although it is often believed that homeopathic medicines act slowly, one of their key features is that they aim to cure diseases from the root, with minimal or no side effects. These medicines

work differently on each individual, and their effects may vary from person to person.

According to homeopathic practitioners, in conditions like diarrhea, cold, cough, and fever, homeopathic medicines can act as quickly as allopathic medicines. However, in chronic conditions such as asthma, arthritis, and skin diseases, they may take more time but are believed to address the root cause of the disease. Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel once described homeopathy as a kind of miracle. According to the Central Council for Research in Homeopathy, homeopathy is an alternative system of medicine based on the principle of "Similia Similibus Curentur" (like cures like). It is a method of treatment in which a substance that produces symptoms in a healthy person is used in highly diluted form to treat similar symptoms in a diseased person.

In India, homeopathy is one of the most popular systems of medicine. There are over 210 homeopathic hospitals, more than 8,000 dispensaries, and nearly 300,000 practitioners across the country. Under the aegis of the Ministry of AYUSH, the Government of India organizes World Homeopathy Day. Although homeopathic medicines may appear similar, there are more than 4,000 types of remedies used worldwide. Hahnemann believed that the highest

ideal of cure is the rapid, gentle, and permanent restoration of health in the most reliable and least harmful way. Since homeopathic medicines often act more slowly compared to allopathic medicines, which are known for providing quick relief, comparisons between the two systems are common. Nevertheless, homeopathy continues to be one of the most widely practiced alternative medical systems globally. This is not only due to its affordability and accessibility but also because of its unique approach that encourages the body to restore its own balance and health.

Homeopathic treatment focuses on addressing the root cause of disease rather than merely suppressing symptoms, thereby reducing the chances of recurrence. It considers the physical, mental, and emotional aspects of an individual, making the treatment more holistic and effective. Moreover, as these medicines are derived from natural sources and administered in extremely small doses, they are generally considered safe, with minimal risk of adverse reactions or interactions with other medications. This is why, in today's complex and side-effect-prone medical environment, homeopathy is emerging as a safe, balanced, and long-term solution for health.

Block-level social public hearing program held in Rangeilunda block premises

Gopalpur, (correspondent): Block-level social public hearing program was held in Rangeilunda block premises. Berhampur Sub Collector Avinash Kumar, BDO Biswajit Roy, Zilla Parishad Vice President S. Rajeshwari Dora, BEO Debendra Behera, Assistant Engineer Naveen Bhuayan, Digambara Nayak were present in the meeting hall. District Social Commentator Rabindra Malna presided over the program. APO Gopal Panda read out the details of 32 Panchayats for the financial year 2025-26. According to the



information, Rangeilunda block has achieved 4 lakh 32 thousand 180 days out of the target of creating 5 lakh labour days. Various development works worth 12 crore 72 lakhs 1 thousand rupees have been done. While there are 18,241 job card holders, 14,697 have done labor work. 580 job card holders have done labor work for 100 days. It is reported that 660

projects have been completed. Rangeilunda block is ranked third in Ganjam district. In Valiyagad village, students of GUGH school were going to play at the national level but they repeatedly complained to the Tahsildar about the lack of playground in the school. However, Kotharasingh Samiti member Ashish Rawal said that he was not paying attention and

demanded that this be looked into. Last year, the Odia Madhyamik Vidyalaya, which received the COR, was getting free books from the Education Department for classes 1 to 8, but the school was charging money for books. Baxipalli Panchayat Samiti member Jaysen Sahu drew the attention of the Deputy Collector. No official of the Horticulture Department was found. It was demanded that the toilets of the schools are not being cleaned. PIO, Forest Department, Education, GRS, Sarpanch, Samiti members and others were present on this occasion.

TRACTORS AND JCB SEIZED IN SAND MAFIA CRACKDOWN

Paralakhemundi: (Correspondent): In a decisive crackdown against the shadowy trade of illegal sand smuggling, the vigilant Mining Department of Gajapati has struck a firm blow, seizing vehicles engaged in clandestine operations across the district. Near the serene outskirts of Ranipentha village, two tractors were intercepted while allegedly transporting illegally extracted sand. Acting swiftly, officials brought the vehicles under custody. Later, one tractor was released upon payment of penalty, while the other remains stationed as a silent witness to the crackdown before the mining office. The operation took a dramatic turn under the cover of night, as authorities, guided by reliable intelligence, carried out a late-night raid near the cremation grounds along the banks of the Vansadhara River in Kashinagar. The raid led to the seizure of another tractor along with an unregistered JCB machine, both now handed over to the police. Echoing the firm resolve of the administration, District Mining Officer Dipen Parida affirmed that the department remains ever-alert and relentless in its mission to uproot illegal sand smuggling. With vigilance as its watchword, the crackdown continues, sending a stern message that the plunder of nature will not go unchecked.

District BJP felicitates newly appointed SDC president and vice president

Malkangiri correspondent: A program of felicitates newly appointed president and vice president at the BJP office in Malkangiri, on this occasion, newly appointed Planning Board Chairman and Malkangiri MLA Narasinh Madkani, Special Development Council Chairman Gangadhar Sodi and Vice President Savitri podiami were felicitated. More than 500 party workers from different parts of the district were present at this felicitation



ceremony. The chief was felicitated with garlands, uttariya and gifts. BJP State Vice President and District In-charge Ramesh Sahu, former District President Nimai Chandra Pal, Manik Lal Chakravarty, Bhavani Shankar Mukherjee, Sanjay Sarkar, Sameer

Mistry, Nihar Roy, Niranjana Halder, and Narayan Sarkar were prominent present at the event. The party workers took an oath to unite for the development of the district under the leadership of the leaders,

“Let’s Buy a Book” Campaign to be held on the occasion of Odia Paksha

SUBARNAPUR (Correspondent): A book stall titled “Let’s Buy a Book Day Campaign” (Asa Bahitika Kiniba) was organized by the District Culture and District Information and Public Relations Department at the Subarnapur Collector’s office premises today on the occasion of Odia Paksha. The stall was inaugurated by Birmaharajpur MLA cum District Planning Board Chairman Er. Raghunath Jagdala. Subarnapur Collector Dr. Nruparaj Sahu was the guest of honor at the program. Other guests included Additional District Magistrate (General) Anjalina Pradhan, Sonepur Sub Collector Dr. Soumyarupa Rath and District Chief Medical and Public Health Officer Dr.

Usharani Das who visited the stall and purchased books. Various district officials also visited the stall and purchased books. In addition, individuals and intellectuals from various institutions of the district visited and purchased books. The book sale program was organized by District Cultural Officer Smt. Yamuna Pradhan. The sale started from 10 am and continued till 2 pm. Books by regional poets, writers and editors on the art, culture and history of Odisha and Subarnapur were available at the stall. Through this, regional writers got encouragement and their works were promoted. A total of 200 books were sold, earning Rs. 10,000. All the employees of the Collectorate cooperated in making the day a success.

Angul Police Organises Mega Blood Donation Camp

Angul (Correspondent): A Mega Blood Donation Camp was successfully organised by Angul Police today at the Reserve Police Office, Chheliapada, Angul, as part of its ongoing commitment towards community welfare and humanitarian service. The camp witnessed an overwhelming and encouraging response from police personnel and Home Guards. A total of 120 units of blood were collected by



Police Personnel during the camp, including 56 Home Guards, reflecting their dedication towards saving lives. The camp was inaugurated by

Superintendent of Police, Angul, who himself participated in the noble cause by donating blood. Senior officers including Rajib Lochan Panda, Additional SP;

Jogeswari Behera, DSP; Inspectors Anup Tirkey and Ayashkanta Jena, along with other officers and staff, actively participated and donated blood in the blood donation drive. Adding further significance to the event, Satyabrata Bhoi, Hon'ble IGP, NCR, visited the camp at around 10:30 AM. He interacted with the donors, motivated the participants, and appreciated their humanitarian gesture.

Villagers Nab Two Youths Involved in Brown Sugar Consumption, Hand Them Over to Police; A Model of Public Awareness

Jajpur (Correspondent): While illegal trade of brown sugar, ganja, and liquor continues to spread widely in the Binjharpur police station area, complaints had been pouring in from various quarters. Due to alleged police inaction, the menace of this “white poison” has been growing day by day, with many youths falling prey to addiction. As a result, gatherings of drug-addicted youths in isolated roads and open fields had become a common sight. Amid such a situation, a group of aware local youths from the Mainda area



took serious steps to curb this illegal trade and substance abuse. On Thursday afternoon, in a deserted field at Baniapal village under Ghantiali Gram Panchayat within Binjharpur police limits, two youths were caught red-handed while consuming

brown sugar. The locals seized four packets of brown sugar along with a TVS Apache motorcycle from their possession and handed them over to the police through the 102 PCR service. The detained youths have been identified as Shiv Charan Sethi (20) of

Jahanpur in Jajpur district and Jagannath Sahu (22) of Arei village under Binjharpur. Police have taken them into custody, conducted medical examinations, and are continuing interrogation to trace the background of the illegal brown sugar trade. The incident has drawn widespread appreciation from the public, as the local youths took initiative and performed a task that ideally should have been handled by the police, setting a strong example of community awareness and responsibility.

510 KG OF ILLICIT GANJA UNEARTHED IN GUIBADI

Paralakhemundi: (Correspondent): In a decisive pre-dawn operation, the serene silence of the forested hills of Guibadi village under R. Udaigiri Police Station was pierced by the vigilant strides of law enforcement. Led by the Sub-Divisional Police Officer (SDPO) of R. Udayagiri Rakesh sahu, a dedicated police team carried out a meticulously planned raid targeting the clandestine trade of narcotics. Amidst the mist-laden wilderness and secluded mountain stretches, the team uncovered a hidden cache of contraband—17 plastic jerry bags filled with illicit ganja, collectively weighing a staggering 510 kilograms. The haul,



carefully concealed in forest dumps far from human habitation, hinted at a well-organized yet shadowy network operating under the cover of nature’s isolation. Following the seizure, a case has been registered at R. Udaigiri Police Station vide Case No. 50 dated 09.04.2026 under Section 20(b)(ii)(C) of the NDPS Act. Despite the magnitude of the

recovery, no arrests have been made so far, as the contraband was discovered abandoned in remote, uninhabited terrain. The operation stands as a testament to the unwavering vigilance of the police in dismantling the silent spread of narcotics, even in the most inaccessible corners where the law dares to tread and justice quietly prevails.

Tourist Drowns While Bathing At Rani Duduma Waterfall In Koraput

Koraput: A tourist drowned while bathing at the scenic Rani Duduma Waterfall in Odisha’s Koraput district on Thursday, police said. The deceased has been identified as Bhabani Shankar Mohanty, a native of Jagatsinghpur district. He was working as an accountant at a private educational institute in Koraput. According to reports, Mohanty had gone to the waterfall along with three friends on a recreational trip earlier in the day. During the visit, he reportedly entered the water for a bath and accidentally drowned.

OSSTET 2025 results declared, 72.38 per cent candidates qualify

Cuttack, (Correspondent): The Board of Secondary Education (BSE), Odisha declared the results of the Odisha Secondary School Teacher Eligibility Test (OSSTET) 2025, with an overall pass percentage of 72.38 on Thursday. The results were declared on April 9, 2026, and will be available on the Board’s official websites from 4 pm onwards. The OSSTET 2025 examination was

conducted on January 21, 2026, with a total of 56,456 candidates appearing for Papers I and II. Candidates can check their results and download their scorecards by visiting www.bseodisha.ac.in and www.bseodisha.nic.in, using their registration or roll number along with their date of birth. Along with the results, digital certificates are also being made available online from 5 pm onwards on the day of publication.



Qualified candidates can download their digitised certificates from the Board’s website upon payment of the prescribed fee. This facility will remain available until the

issuance of hard copies. Candidates who have not qualified can download their OMR answer sheets from the same website. The OMR sheets will be accessible from 5

pm on April 9 until April 17, 2026. As per the prescribed criteria, general category candidates are required to secure between 45 per cent and 50 per cent marks, depending on specific guidelines. Candidates belonging to SC, ST, PH and SEBC categories must obtain between 35 per cent and 45 per cent marks to qualify. BSE President Srikanta Tarai said, “The results of OSSTET 2025 will be available on the

Board’s website from 4 pm. This year, 72.38 per cent of candidates have qualified in the examination, which was conducted on January 21, 2026. A total of 56,456 candidates had appeared for the test. Candidates can check their results on www.bseodisha.ac.in and www.bseodisha.nic.in. Digital certificates will also be available online from 4 pm today.” He added, “The students can get the OTP from their

registered numbers and download their certificates. We are also uploading the OMR sheets of their answers, and I would urge them to download it soon as it will be removed after seven days. The certificates will be available on the website for a month, but the OMR sheets will be taken down in a week as they take up a lot of space and we have other things to publish like Matriculation results on the website as well.”



Shah Rukh Khan praises Allu Arjun's "amazing" look in Atlee's 'Raaka'

Superstar Shah Rukh Khan has expressed excitement over filmmaker Atlee's upcoming project 'Raaka', praising the first look of Allu Arjun as "intriguing and amazing." "The makers unveiled the title and first look poster of 'Raaka' on April 8, coinciding with Allu Arjun's birthday. Shah Rukh took to X to extend his wishes to the team and share his enthusiasm for the film. Posting the poster, the actor wrote, "Happy Birthday @alluarjun... the poster is intriguing and amazing just like you are. Can't wait to see what you guys have put together. This experience will be... in Atlee's words - Mass mass masssss!! #Raaka looks so exciting, all the best!!"

Shah Rukh had previously collaborated with Atlee on the blockbuster 'Jawan', which emerged as a massive box office success and earned him his first National Award for Best Actor. The first look poster of 'Raaka' has already generated considerable buzz online. It features Allu Arjun in a striking and unconventional avatar, partially covering his face with a clawed hand while staring intensely into the camera. His look is marked by kohl-lined eyes, a receding hairline, and a thick, greying moustache and beard. Director Atlee also shared an emotional note about the film, describing it as a deeply personal project. "Raaka isn't just a film... it's a part of me I've carried for years. For 18 years, I held on to one idea, never letting it fade," he wrote on X. He added that the journey of bringing the story to life had tested and shaped him, calling the film "just the beginning." Produced by Sun Pictures, 'Raaka' also stars Deepika Padukone in a lead role. The film marks the first collaboration of Allu Arjun with director 'Atlee'. Allu Arjun's last release, 'Pushpa 2: The Rule,' directed by Sukumar, did very well at the box office after its release in 2024. The film was a sequel to 'Pushpa: The Rise' and featured Rashmika Mandanna, Fahadh Faasil, Jagapathi Babu, Sunil and Rao Ramesh. Deepika Padukone was last seen in 'Kalki 2898 AD,' which also performed well in theatres

Nora Fatehi skips NCW hearing in 'Sarke Chunari Teri' row, given final notice

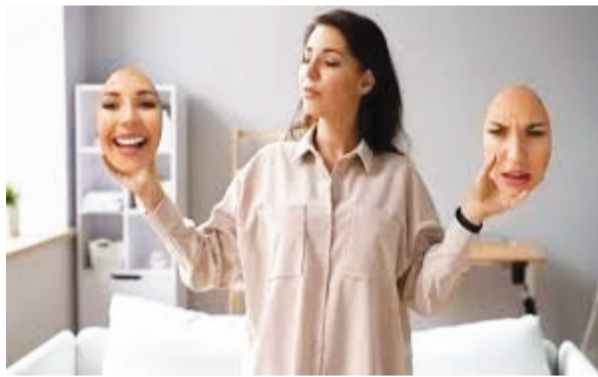
Nora Fatehi has come under scrutiny over the song 'Sarke Chunari Teri' from KD: The Devil after she failed to appear before the National Commission for Women (NCW) on April 6.

The commission expressed displeasure and issued a final opportunity for her to appear on April 27. At the hearing, lyricist Raqueeb Alam, director Prem, and production representatives were present. Nora, however, sent her lawyer instead of appearing in person. NCW chairperson Vijaya Rahatkar raised concerns over the song's lyrics, stating they undermine women's dignity and cannot be justified in the name of creativity. Those present accepted the concerns, submitted a written apology, and assured the commission of working towards women's empowerment for three months. The commission has also summoned Sanjay Dutt to appear for the hearing on April 8.



5 unconscious beliefs that block us from getting the love that we want

“Overcoming unconscious beliefs involves introspection, self-compassion, and often seeking support through therapy or personal development. Recognising and challenging these limiting beliefs can pave the way for a more receptive and fulfilling experience of love,” says Amanda Twigg, marriage coach and relationship expert. She further shared in her recent Instagram post five unconscious beliefs that block us from getting the love that we want.



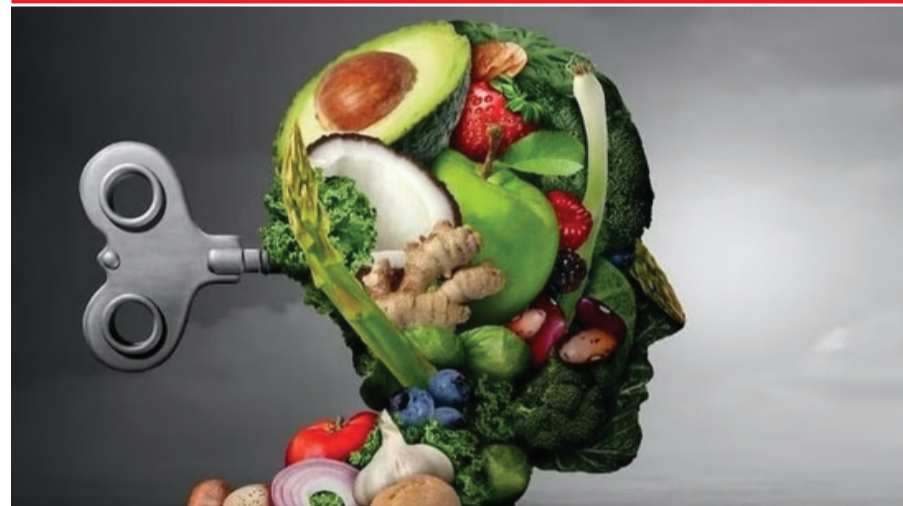
Fear of vulnerability: Not being emotionally vulnerable and expressing our true selves blocks even our partners from really getting to know us. Fear of judgment or rejection keeps us from sharing our feelings, dreams and desires, sabotaging our closeness and

Unworthiness: Believing we are unworthy of love can be a significant barrier to getting the love that we want from our partner. This deep-seated belief, often stemming from past experiences or self-perception, can create a subconscious resistance

Limited self-love: Insufficient self-love can impede our capacity to receive love from others. If we struggle to love ourselves, we might question the authenticity of others' love or feel undeserving of their affection.

Distrust: Deep-rooted distrust, whether from past betrayals or insecurities, can act as a formidable barrier to receiving love. A lack of trust in others' intentions can make it challenging to open up and accept love willingly.

5 food items to improve your mood, brain and mental health: Nutritionist recommends



The food that we eat and the diet and lifestyle that we follow directly impacts our physical health and mental health. It is important to watch our diet and incorporate essential nutrients into our diet. “By

incorporating nutrient-rich foods into our diets, we can support brain and mental health, decrease stress, improve our mood, protect against cognitive decline, and promote optimal cognitive function,” wrote

Nutritionist Marina Wright. Vegetables: Vegetable such as broccoli, spinach, beetroot, onion and tomatoes are antioxidant in nature and help in supporting brain health. Fruits with low sugar

content such as apple, orange, pomegranate and sweet lime can also help in cleansing the skin.

Protein: Salmon, sardines, eggs, yoghurt and chicken are healthy sources of protein to be incorporated in the daily diet.

Nuts and seeds: Flax seeds, chia seeds, pumpkin seeds, sunflower seeds, walnuts and almonds support brain health and improve memory. Herbs and spices: Turmeric, cinnamon, rosemary and sage protect brain cells from oxidative stress and have anti-inflammatory effects.

Injectable HIV medication: What you need to know

Long-acting, injectable medication is seen as a big advance in HIV prevention (PrEP) and treatment — an effective alternative to taking pills daily. There's no vaccine for HIV, the virus that can lead to AIDS. And stories about people being cured of HIV are still read as miracles. HIV can, however, be prevented, controlled and treated with tablets — sold as Truvada.

But since 2020, Europeans living with the sexually transmitted infection have had an alternative to a daily regimen of pills: an injectable medicine.

The European Medicines Agency (EMA) approved rilpivirine and cabotegravir (sold as Rekambys and Vocabria, respectively, and together as Cabenuva). They are used in combination to treat patients with HIV-1, the most widespread type of the virus worldwide.

In 2021, the US Food and Drug Administration (FDA) approved cabotegravir (sold as Apretude) as a prophylactic. After an initial two doses, one month apart, people then take it every two months. What are the disadvantages with injectable HIV medicine?

Long-acting HIV drugs have advantages and disadvantages.

"Dose frequency is still not ideal," said Doherty. "[They also have] complex injecting requirements — separate injections, intramuscular or intravenous route — and cold chain needs."

We've mentioned the two-month frequency for cabotegravir and rilpivirine. Another treatment drug, ibazulimab (sold as Trogarzo), is given every two weeks, either by injection or infusion. It needs to be taken in combination with other drugs.

Long-acting rilpivirine also needs refrigeration, which presents a potential limitation — it is potentially inconvenient for hotter climates and remote regions.

"Addressing these limitations is essential to ensure that injectable HIV medications can be effectively utilized in diverse settings," said Doherty.

Lenacapavir: An injectable only every six months. The drugs differ also in terms of what they target. Ibazulimab, for instance, is a monoclonal antibody — it's designed to behave like natural, human antibodies.

Lenacapavir, on the other hand, is a capsid inhibitor — the first of its kind in HIV treatment. It is designed to interfere with the HIV capsid, the protein shell that protects HIV's own genetic material.

Spinach pesto pasta

Ingredients

Pasta
Lemon zest
Basil leaves
Spinach
Parmesan cheese
Olive oil
Salt
Pepper

Method

Cook one pound of pasta. Blend finely grated lemon zest, fresh basil leaves, garlic cloves, 1 tablespoon of grated cheese, oil, and salt into a chunky paste. Now remove this paste and put it in a serving bowl, adding half a cup of water in which you

cooked the pasta. It will enhance the flavour. After properly cooking the pasta, drain and transfer it to a bowl with the paste prepared earlier. Add seasonings as per your preference.



U-14 GIRLS' TEAM DEFEATS UZBEKISTAN, CONTINUES STRONG RUN AT WORLD SCHOOL CHESS CHAMPIONSHIP 2026

BHUBANESWAR, (Correspondent): Continuing their outstanding run at the ongoing FIDE ISCF World School Team Chess Championship 2026 in Almaty, Kazakhstan, the Indian Under-14 Women's School Chess Team secured another impressive victory by defeating Uzbekistan with a score of 3-1 in the fifth round. The team, comprising four talented tribal girls from Kalinga Institute of Social Sciences (KISS), has been consistently showcasing exceptional form and determination on the global stage. With this crucial win, the Indian team has further strengthened its position



in the tournament standings, reflecting remarkable consistency, teamwork, and strategic brilliance. The players once again demonstrated their composure under pressure, outplaying a strong Uzbekistan side with confidence and

skill. The team will now move into the sixth round, where they are scheduled to face KGZ-School. The players—Mohini Naik, Monalisha Bhoi, Shreeya Nayak, and Humeswari Mallik—continue to make the nation and Odisha

proud with their inspiring performances. Their success is a testament to their dedication, rigorous training, and the strong support system provided by KIIT and KISS. On this occasion, Prof. (Dr.) Achyuta Samanta, Founder of

KIIT, KISS, and KIMS, congratulated the team for their remarkable achievement and extended his best wishes for the upcoming matches. The players expressed heartfelt gratitude for his constant encouragement, visionary leadership, and for providing world-class facilities that nurture excellence in both academics and sports. The team's continued success at the championship not only highlights India's growing strength in school-level chess but also underscores the transformative impact of inclusive education and sustained support for young tribal talents.

IPL 2026: Rahane, Raghuvanshi Lead KKR To 181/4 Against LSG

Kolkata: Captain Ajinkya Rahane and young batter Angkrish Raghuvanshi played key knocks, while Rovman Powell provided a late boost as Kolkata Knight Riders (KKR) posted 181/4 in 20 overs against Lucknow Super Giants (LSG) in Match 15 of the Indian Premier League (IPL) 2026 at Eden Gardens in Kolkata on Thursday. After being asked to bat first, KKR had a cautious start. Mohammed Shami kept things tight in the opening over, conceding just six runs. The three-time champions then lost an early wicket as Finn Allen was dismissed for

nine off eight balls, caught at third man off Prince Yadav, with Digvesh Rathi taking the catch. Following the early setback, Rahane and Raghuvanshi steadied the innings. The pair started cautiously before picking up pace towards the end of the Power-play, collecting 16 runs in the final over to take KKR to 52/1 after six overs. The duo continued to build steadily, rotating the strike well and targeting loose deliveries. While they were careful against Rathi, they scored freely off the other bowlers, guiding KKR to 98/1 at the halfway stage. Their 84-run partnership was

broken in the 11th over when Rathi dismissed Rahane. The skipper scored a quick 41 off 24 balls, hitting four fours and two sixes. Soon after, Manimaran Siddharth removed Raghuvanshi, who made 45 off 33 balls with four boundaries and two sixes, falling just short of a half-century. KKR then went through a quiet phase, struggling to find boundaries. Rinku Singh was dismissed cheaply in the 14th over, bowled by Avesh Khan. Cameron Green also took time to settle, as Lucknow's spinners kept the scoring in check. The drought finally ended in the 16th over when Powell hit Siddharth for a six and a four.

Sub-Jr Women's National Hockey: Odisha, MP, UP, Jharkhand Win, Reach Semis

Ranchi: Teams from Odisha, Madhya Pradesh, Uttar Pradesh, and Jharkhand won in the quarterfinals of Division 'A' of the 16th Hockey India Sub Junior Women National Championship 2026 at the Marang Gomke Jaipal Singh International Astro-turf Stadium in Ranchi, Jharkhand, on Thursday. In quarterfinal 1, Hockey Association of Odisha enjoyed a commanding 8-1 victory over Hockey Maharashtra. Priyanka Minz (8', 26', 41', 54') was in fantastic form as she registered four goals to her name. Princess Priya Ekka (20', 42'), Sweetie Kujur (26'), and Kiran Ekka (38') also contributed with goals for Hockey Association of Odisha, while Anvi Rawat (60') scored the lone goal for Hockey Maharashtra. The



quarterfinal 2 clash saw Hockey Madhya Pradesh defeat Hockey Mizoram with a scoreline of 5-1. Captain Nousheen Naz (12', 24', 42') scored a hat-trick for her side while Nammi Geethasri (2') and Bhabar Keshar (21') also contributed with goals for the winning side. Captain of Hockey Mizoram Laldinpuii (53') scored the only goal for her team in the final quarter. Uttar Pradesh Hockey defeated Hockey Haryana 2-1 in a tightly-contested Quarter-Final 3

encounter. Arika Kumari (21') scored the opening goal in the second quarter to give Uttar Pradesh Hockey an early lead. Hockey Haryana's Radhika (50') scored the equaliser in the final quarter; however, four minutes later, Rashi Singh (54') scored the winning goal for Uttar Pradesh Hockey. In the last quarterfinal of the day, hosts Hockey Jharkhand defeated Hockey Punjab 2-0. Pushpa Manjhi (35') and Sandeepa Kumari (53') were the goal scorers for Hockey Jharkhand.

MCA Unveils Stands, Gates At Wankhede Stadium To Honour Former Cricketers Shastri, Sardesai, Solkar, Edulji

Mumbai: In a moment etched in Mumbai cricket's history, the Mumbai Cricket Association (MCA) on Thursday inscribed the names of cricketing stalwarts, Ravi Shastri, Dilip Sardesai, Eknath Solkar, and Diana Edulji, at the iconic Wankhede Stadium, recognising their contributions to Mumbai and Indian cricket by naming stands and gates after them. The honours were unveiled by the Chief Minister of Maharashtra, Devendra Fadnavis, as a stand was named after Ravi Shastri and stadium gates were dedicated to Dilip Sardesai, Eknath Solkar, and Diana Edulji. The ceremony was also attended by Cabinet Minister Ashish Shelar, MCA President Ajinkya Naik, former



India captains Sunil Gavaskar and Dilip Vengsarkar, along with MCA Apex Council members, office-bearers, and members of the cricketing fraternity. On the occasion, the MCA also felicitated Suryakumar Yadav, the 2026 ICC Men's T20 World Cup-winning

captain. The Level 1 stand below the Press Box is now named the Ravi Shastri Stand, honouring a prominent figure in Indian cricket. A member of India's 1983 World Cup-winning team, Shastri's contribution spans generations as a player, captain, coach, and commentator. Gate No.

3, Gate No. 6, and Gate No. 5 will now be named the Dilip Sardesai Gate, Eknath Solkar Gate, and Diana Edulji Gate, respectively, marking the contributions of three legends from Mumbai. Sardesai, widely regarded as India's 'crisis man', made significant

contributions to the game with his consistency and dependability. Solkar, regarded among the finest close-in fielders, played a key role in India's success with his all-round skills and fearless approach. Edulji, a pioneer of women's cricket, led the national side and later contributed significantly to the growth of the game as an administrator. Unveiling the honours, Chief Minister Fadnavis said, "I want to wholeheartedly congratulate the Mumbai Cricket Association. It is a great way to celebrate our icons. This initiative, naming gates and stands after those who created history so that their memories and their contribution to the game remain alive forever, is commendable."

IPL 2026: After GT's Nail-Biting Win Over DC, Gill Fined Rs 12 Lakh For Slow Over-Rate

New Delhi: After Gujarat Titans' sealed a dramatic one-run victory over Delhi Capitals to get their first win of IPL 2026 at the Arun Jaitley Stadium, captain Shubman Gill has been fined Rs 12 lakh for maintaining a slow over-rate in the match. "Gujarat Titans (GT) Captain Shubman Gill has been fined after his team maintained a slow over-rate during Match No. 14 of the TATA Indian Premier League (IPL) 2026 against Delhi Capitals (DC) at Arun Jaitley Stadium, Delhi. "As this was his team's first offence of the season under Article 2.22 of the IPL's Code of Conduct, which pertains to minimum over-rate offences, Gill was fined INR 12 lakhs," said a statement from the tournament on Thursday morning. Previously,



Punjab Kings skipper Shreyas Iyer was fined twice for slow over-rate in IPL 2026. The ruling came hours after Gujarat Titans opened their account on the IPL 2026 points table with a thrilling finish. DC needed two runs off the last two deliveries, but the run-out of Kuldeep Yadav on the last ball sealed the contest in favour of

GT. With the ball, Rashid Khan took an exceptional 3-17 while Prasidh Krishna, who defended 13 runs off the final over, picked two scalps. GT's one-run victory was set up by the trio of Gill, Jos Buttler and Washington Sundar hitting fifties each as the 2022 IPL champions posted 210/4. Buttler was

back to his devastating best with the bat by hitting a 27-ball 52, laced with three fours and five towering sixes. Gill, back in action after a muscle spasm in neck ruled him out of the last game, was elegant in collecting majority of his runs through leg-side to top-score with 70 off 45 balls, laced with four boundaries and five sixes.

12 athletes from Odisha to take part in Athletics series 3

Bhubaneswar: Odisha's 12-member athletic team including four women athletes will participate in 10 events of the Indian Athletics Series 3 at Jawaharlal Nehru Stadium at Delhi on 11th April 2026. This will be India's first outdoor National competition on a Mondo track. With a massive 66 entries in the men's 100m. Featuring national record holder Animesh Kujur, national indoor champion Gurindervir Singh, along



with Tamilarasu, Harsh Raut, Jayaram, Pranav Gurav, and Nuzrat and Amiya Mallick. Maximum 70 number entries in the men's

400m race. Odisha athletes: Men's 100m: Amiya Kumar Mallick, Animesh Kujur, Dondapati Mrutyam Jayram, Abhinash

Sahu. Men's 200m: Animesh Kujur, Dondapati Mrutyam Jayram. Javelin men: Kishore Jena. Men's 200m U-20: MD Reyan. Men's 400m U-20: Bapi Hansda, Astik Pradhan, Md Reyan. Women's 100m, 200m: Srabani Nanda. Women's 1500m: Susmita Tigga. Women's 100m hurdles, Long Jump: Prangya Prasanti Sahu. Women's Hammer Throw: Divya Shandilya.

Will This Be Ayush Shetty's Breakthrough Moment? Rising Star Enters Asian Quarterfinals

NEWDELHI: Rising Indian badminton sensation secures impressive continental quarterfinal berth. Ayush Shetty marched into the quarterfinals of the Asian Badminton Championships today with a clinical straight-games victory that showcased his growing maturity on the international circuit. The young Indian talent dismantled his opponent with a 21-16, 21-12 scoreline, maintaining control from

the opening serve to the final point. Winning this match demonstrates Shetty's transition from a successful junior career into a legitimate threat at the senior level. He utilized a mix of aggressive net play and precise baseline smashes to keep his rival off-balance. Unlike previous rounds where he faced moments of pressure, this performance remained remarkably disciplined.

Anant Ambani Announces Scholarships, Jobs and Exposure Opportunities for KISS Students on Birthday

BHUBANESWAR, (Correspondent): The scion of Mukesh Ambani family- Anant Ambani- has announced a series of major initiatives for KISS students on the occasion of his birthday today, including jobs in the Reliance group. The announcements support scholarship for KISS students for the current academic year, and an opportunity for toppers from KG to PG levels to visit Vantara, a massive wildlife centre in Gujarat set up by Shri Ambani, allowing them to gain valuable learning experiences. Significantly, 30 KISS graduates will be offered jobs each year across Reliance Group companies, opening sustainable career pathways for



tribal youth. We further enhanced academic exposure by distributing study materials for the current academic year to all students, strengthening their educational foundation. The announcements are expected to benefit

thousands of students across different levels, contributing to their academic growth, skill development and future livelihood. As part of his birthday celebration, KISS students organised a grand cake-cutting ceremony, prayers, and a special

programme filled with gratitude. Shri Ambani hosted a special dinner for 40,000 tribal students, creating a festive and joyful atmosphere across the campus. Students formed a human display inspired by the Vantara logo to express their heartfelt

gratitude. They also offered prayers to Lord Jagannath for his good health, happiness and long life.

The celebration was held under the guidance of KIIT and KISS Founder Achyuta Samanta, who conveyed his best wishes on the occasion. Dr. Samanta stated that the initiatives announced would greatly strengthen students' confidence and future prospects. He emphasised that such support holds deep significance for children coming from humble tribal backgrounds, helping open new doors of opportunity. The event witnessed the presence of students, staff and members of the KISS community, making it a memorable occasion filled with joy, hope and aspiration.

Over 19000 Benefit from Vedanta Iron Ore Odisha's Project Aarogya

BHUBANESWAR, (Correspondent): World Health Day 2026, observed globally on 7 April, carries the theme "Together for health. Stand with science." The focus is on leveraging collaboration to foster health & well-being while strengthening protection for people, animals, plants, and the planet. With a strong emphasis on the 'One Health' approach, World Health Day 2026 highlights the interconnectedness of human, animal, and environmental health.

Vedanta Iron Ore Odisha's (IOO) Project 'Aarogya' anchors the Company initiatives in the field of health and ensures accessibility in the remote villages in and around Koida. Its key initiatives include the Mobile Health Units (MHUs), health camps, eye camps, and conducting awareness sessions and especially focusing on the health of girls and women. In FY26 alone, over 19000 community



members, across locations, benefitted from Vedanta IOO's health initiatives. Underscoring the importance of Project Aarogya, Mr Biswanath Sahoo, Dy CEO, Vedanta IOO said "With Project Aarogya, we aim to ensure holistic well-being of the communities. The MHU has been a testament to our commitment to providing healthcare support in far-flung areas, while the health camps bring the benefits of basic medical care to the doorstep of the communities. Vedanta IOO reiterates its commitment to #TransformingCommunities and to partnering them to usher in lasting progress." The

Company also conducted health awareness sessions, striking at taboos such as cervical cancer, menstrual hygiene and maternal health. Distribution of sanitary pads at schools has also been undertaken by the Company while spreading the messages on menstrual health and hygiene. "Good health and strong livelihoods are the pillars of progress for our village. As a community leader and entrepreneur, I have seen how initiatives like Vedanta IOO's Mobile Health Units are making a real difference. Access to free medicines and doorstep treatment, have benefitted many amongst the communities.

RBI's Focus On Growth, New NBFC Framework To Strengthen Sector: Expert

Mumbai: The Reserve Bank of India's continued focus on boosting economic growth, along with its proposed regulatory changes for non-banking financial companies (NBFCs), is expected to bring greater strength and clarity to the sector, Rajesh Sharma, Managing Director of Capri Global Capital Limited said on Thursday. In an interaction with IANS, Sharma said that the RBI's regulatory frameworks have historically brought transparency and stability, and the proposed changes for NBFCs are no exception. "Such initiatives by the central bank help improve compliance standards while supporting overall sectoral growth," he said. "The Reserve Bank of India has consistently prioritised economic expansion, and the upcoming framework is likely to further strengthen growth momentum while ensuring better regulatory oversight," he stated. Following the RBI's Monetary Policy Committee (MPC) decision earlier this week, Governor Sanjay Malhotra had indicated that the central bank is working on a revised classification system for NBFCs, with an announcement expected soon.

Under the proposed structure, NBFCs will be categorised into upper, middle and other layers to enhance regulatory clarity and supervision.

TPNODL Bolsters Power Infrastructure in Northern Odisha

Balasore, (Correspondent): In a significant boost to regional power stability, TP Northern Odisha Distribution Limited (TPNODL) has successfully commissioned 32 MVA of additional network capacity in a record-breaking 48-hour window. The rapid intervention comes as a major relief for over 27,000 households across Bhadrak, Balasore, and Keonjhar districts, strategically timing the upgrade to combat the surge in demand typical of the peak summer months. The upgrades were executed at three key Primary Substations- Basudevpur, Nilagiri



and Gambharia-serving over 27,000 consumers across Bhadrak, Balasore, and Keonjhar districts. At Basudevpur PSS in Bhadrak North Division, substation capacity was increased from 5 MVA to 8 MVA, delivering improvement in power quality and reliability for around 11,049 households in Barmdua, Narasingpur, Bazar Area and Medical Area. Similarly, Nilagiri PSS in

Balasore's central electrical division was upgraded from 5 MVA to 8 MVA, meeting growing load demands and ensuring stable electricity for Rajnagar and Nilagiri areas, positively impacting over 5,000 households. The most substantial enhancement was at Gambharia PSS in Keonjhar Division, where capacity was doubled from 8 MVA to 16 MVA, strengthening

the distribution network for Keonjhar town and its surroundings, benefiting 11,378 consumers. With this upgrade, consumers are expected to have a reliable power supply during peak summer months, reducing outage risks due to load fluctuations. This infrastructure expansion establishes a robust network supporting the region's energy demands and long-term growth. By completing these overhauls within a compressed timeframe, TPNODL has signaled a shift toward proactive grid management, prioritizing consumer comfort during Odisha's demanding weather periods.

India Emerges Stronger From Every Global Crisis: Shaktikanta Das

New Delhi: India has consistently shown strong resilience during global crises, not just surviving them but transforming and emerging stronger each time, Shaktikanta Das, Principal Secretary to the Prime Minister, said on Thursday. Speaking at the AIMA National Leadership Conclave in the national capital, Das said that India's journey through turbulent times reflects its ability to grow despite challenges. "During every crisis, the country has not merely endured difficulties but has come out of them stronger in measurable ways," he

noted. He pointed out that the global economy is currently facing an uncertain and tense environment, marked by geopolitical tensions, supply chain disruptions and uneven growth across regions. "Risks in the global economy are largely tilted towards the downside," Das explained. Amid such conditions, Das highlighted India's robust economic performance. "The country recorded a real GDP growth of 7.6 per cent in FY26, with an average growth of 7.8 per cent over the past five years, Das mentioned. He explained that

India's strength lies not only in its ability to withstand shocks but also in its transformation during such periods. Factors like macroeconomic stability, consistent policy decisions, infrastructure development and strong domestic demand have played a key role in building this resilience. Emphasising the importance of controlling inflation, Das said that rising prices hurt the poor the most. He added that keeping inflation low helps increase the purchasing power of consumers and supports overall economic stability.

TPCODL Observes 'ASA BAHITIYE KINIBA ABHIJAN' as Part of Odia Pakhya Celebrations

Bhubaneswar, (Correspondent): TP Central Odisha Distribution Limited (TPCODL), continuing its Odia Pakhya celebrations, observed "ASA BAHITIYE KINIBA ABHIJAN" on 9th April, a day dedicated to promoting reading habits and celebrating Odisha's rich literary legacy.

As part of the initiative, TPCODL collaborated with Ama Odisha to set up a special book stall at its state-of-the-art Power Distribution Technology Centre in Bhubaneswar. The stall featured a wide range of Odia books, including biographies of eminent personalities and titles on Odisha's history and culture, encouraging employees to reconnect with the state's literary heritage.

TPCODL has been actively celebrating Odia Pakhya from April 1 to 14, 2026, with a



series of initiatives aimed at promoting the Odia language, culture and traditions among employees and the wider community. The celebrations commenced with Odisha Diwas and have included themed observances such as Khadi Chuan Dibasa, Paramparika Poshak Paridhan Dibasa and Odia Nama Phalaka Dibasa. The event was attended by Shri Dushyant Tyagi, COO, TPCODL, along with senior officials and employees, who actively participated by engaging with the book exhibition, reading and gifting Odia books.

Commenting on the occasion, TPCODL CEO Shri Arvind Singh said, "At TPCODL, we take pride in celebrating Odisha's vibrant culture and literary heritage. Observances like 'Asa BahiTiye Kiniba Abhijan' inspire us to stay connected with our roots while fostering a culture of learning and appreciation for our language and traditions." The event witnessed enthusiastic participation from TPCODL employees, reflecting their deep respect for Odisha's rich heritage and their continued commitment to the progress of the state

Sensex, Nifty Fall As Oil Rally Breaks 5-Day Winning Streak

Mumbai: Indian equity benchmarks declined on Thursday, snapping their five-day gaining streak, as rising oil prices and uncertainty around the US-Iran ceasefire weighed on investor sentiment. The Nifty closed 0.93 per cent lower, falling 222.25 points to settle at 23,775.10. The Sensex

also slipped sharply, ending 1.20 per cent or 931.25 points down at 76,631.65.

Commenting on Nifty technical outlook, experts said that the intraday charts showed price action remained range-bound with a slight negative bias, marked by the formation of lower highs, indicating sustained

selling pressure throughout the session. "A decisive and sustained move above 24,000 is required to improve sentiment and confirm strength, while failure to hold above 23,600 could expose the index to further downside pressure," an analyst stated. Selling pressure was seen in key frontline stocks,

with Jio Financial Services, InterGlobe Aviation, and Larsen & Toubro emerging among the top losers in the Nifty pack. Despite the weakness in benchmark indices, broader markets showed resilience. The Nifty MidCap and Nifty SmallCap indices managed to end in positive territory, gaining

0.25 per cent and 0.20 per cent respectively. On the sectoral front, banking stocks dragged the market lower, with the Nifty Private Bank and Nifty Bank indices underperforming their peers. In contrast, metal stocks provided some support, with the Nifty Metal index emerging as the top sectoral gainer. Investor

sentiment remained cautious amid rising geopolitical tensions. Iran's Parliament Speaker Mohammad Bagher Ghalibaf expressed deep distrust toward the United States, citing repeated violations of agreements. He pointed to Israel's continued attacks on Lebanon and reported drone

activity in Iranian airspace as reasons for the strained situation, according to a statement shared on social media. Experts stated that the renewed concerns over the stability of the ceasefire and the uptick in oil prices added to market volatility, leading to profit booking after the recent rally.