




2 NITI Aayog Releases Reports On Ease Of Doing R&D




3 Due to the negligence of the contractor, the Basudha water pipeline was damaged



7 Odisha bags 14 medals in Indoor rowing meet



6 5 meditation tips for moms to cultivate calm in everyday



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Being a daughter is my pride



Sex Ratio at Birth improved from 918 to 929

Our future is now secured



4.6+ crore Sukanya Samridhi accounts opened

Mathura boat accident: 10 bodies recovered from Yamuna

Mathura (UP), April 10: At least 10 people died after a boat carrying over two dozen passengers collided with a pontoon bridge on the Yamuna River near Keshi Ghat in Mathura on Friday. According to police, around 25 to 27 people were on board when the accident took place. Mathura DIG Shailesh Kumar Pandey said the incident occurred in the afternoon, and rescue operations are still underway. "At approximately 3.15 PM, a boat accident took place on the Yamuna River, at the site where a pontoon bridge is located. It is reported that there were approximately 25 to 27 people on board... The prima facie cause of the collision, based on accounts provided by witnesses so far,



appears to be that the boat crashed into the pontoon bridge, leading to the accident. Ten dead bodies have been recovered from the site. Teams from the Fire Services and the Police, along with local divers and boatmen, are all actively engaged in relief and rescue operations here. Teams from the NDRF and SDRF have also departed from their respective bases and are expected to arrive at the scene very shortly.

A search is currently underway for all individuals who remain missing..." Pandey told reporters. SP Rural Suresh Chandra Rawat said that 22 people have been rescued so far and were taken to hospital. "Thus far, twenty-two individuals have been rescued from the water. Those rescued were immediately transported to the hospital via ambulances and eight PRV (Police Response Vehicle) units.

Odisha Cabinet Approves 11 Key Proposals Across Five Departments

BHUBANESWAR, (Correspondent): The Odisha Cabinet, chaired by Chief Minister Mohan Charan Majhi, approved 11 important proposals across five departments during its meeting at Lok Seva Bhawan on Friday. Key Approvals: Rural Drinking Water Supply O&M Policy 2026: The Cabinet approved the policy to ensure continuous and reliable drinking water services in rural areas. Responsibilities of RWSS, district authorities, gram panchayats, and village water committees have been clearly defined. The policy includes user fee systems, local maintenance teams, regular water quality testing, and digital monitoring through



SCADA and IoT-based systems. A centralised command and control centre will be established. This initiative will safeguard government investments in rural water infrastructure and help achieve the "Har Ghar Jal" mission without burdening the state treasury. Parbati Giri Mega Lift

Irrigation Scheme: Tenders approved for Cluster-27 (Sambalpur) and Cluster-30 (Subarnapur). Sambalpur: Water from Hirakud reservoir will irrigate 6,210 hectares across 54 villages. Subarnapur: Water from the Tel and Mahanadi rivers will irrigate 6,025 hectares across 47 villages. Both

projects will encourage farmers to adopt high-value crops through micro-irrigation systems. Hadua Irrigation Project: Approval for an underground pipeline distribution system to irrigate 3,641 hectares across 86 villages in Narasinghpur, Baramba, and Tigiria blocks of Cuttack district. Parbati Giri Cluster-38

(Keonjhar-Mayurbhanj): Irrigation for 4,280 hectares across 33 villages. Other Decisions Rs 3,400 crore Atal Bus Stand Scheme to modernise 318 bus stands. Rs 1,647 crore MVA substation in Keonjhar to strengthen power supply. Amendments to Odisha Labour Service Rules, exempting ALOs and RLI appointed before 2010 from departmental exams. Government Statement Chief Secretary Anu Garg said these decisions will usher in a new era of rural development, agriculture, and water management in Odisha. The projects are expected to benefit lakhs of farmers and villagers directly once completed.

26-Year-Old Rubi Kumari Thakur Elected As Nepal's Youngest-Ever Deputy Speaker

Kathmandu: Rubi Kumari Thakur, 26, has been elected as the Deputy Speaker of Nepal's House of Representatives (HoR) on Friday, becoming the youngest person ever to hold the position as the country's politics witnesses a generational shift. A lawmaker in the lower house elected through the proportional representation system from the Shram Sanskriti Party, Thakur secured the post with backing from the Rastriya Swatantra Party (RSP) and other parties. Given that the RSP commands a nearly two-thirds majority in the lower house, its support proved crucial for her election. Out of 256 lawmakers present in the House, Thakur secured 229 votes, while her rival Saraswati Lama from the Rastriya Prajatantra Party received five votes. A total of 22 lawmakers abstained from voting.

ISRO Successfully Conducts Second Air Drop Test for Gaganyaan Mission

NEWDELHI: India has taken another significant step toward its first human spaceflight mission, as the ISRO successfully carried out the Second Integrated Air Drop Test (IADT-02) for the Gaganyaan programme. The test was conducted at the Satish Dhawan Space Centre in Sriharikota, marking a crucial milestone in ensuring the mission's readiness. Key Milestone for India's Human Spaceflight Programme The Integrated Air Drop Test is an essential part of validating the crew escape and recovery systems, which are

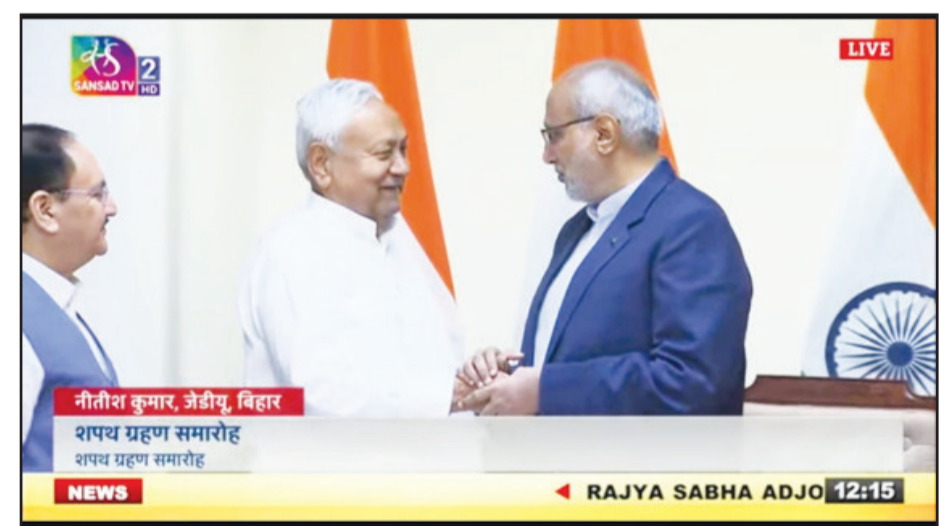


critical for astronaut safety during emergencies. Union Minister of State (Independent Charge) for Science and Technology, Jitendra Singh, congratulated the ISRO team for the successful achievement and

highlighted its importance in India's space journey. The success of IADT-02 brings India closer to launching the Gaganyaan mission, which aims to send Indian astronauts into space for the first time.

Bihar CM Nitish Kumar and Harivansh Narayan Singh Take Oath as Rajya Sabha Members

New Delhi: Bihar Chief Minister Nitish Kumar and outgoing Rajya Sabha Deputy Chairman Harivansh Narayan Singh were sworn in as members of the Upper House on Friday, administered by Vice President and Rajya Sabha Chairman C. P. Radhakrishnan in Parliament House. The ceremony drew a constellation of dignitaries, including Leader of the House and Health Minister Jagat Prakash Nadda, Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman, Fisheries, Animal Husbandry and Dairy Minister Rajiv Ranjan



alias Lalan Singh, Congress MP Jairam Ramesh, and Bihar Deputy CM Samrat Choudhary. At 69, Harivansh's prior term concluded on April 9, prompting President Droupadi Murmu to

nominate him Friday to one of Rajya Sabha's 12 presidential slots—reserved for luminaries in art, literature, science, and social service. The vacancy stemmed from former

Chief Justice Ranjan Gogoi's retirement. This dual induction reinforces Bihar's parliamentary heft, blending executive stewardship with seasoned legislative acumen.

Donald Trump Accuses Iran of Violating Strait of Hormuz Oil Transit Agreement

NEWDELHI: US President Donald Trump has sharply criticised Iran, accusing it of failing to uphold commitments related to oil transit through the strategically vital Strait of Hormuz. In a post on Truth Social, Trump

stated that Iran is doing a "very poor job" of allowing oil shipments to pass through the waterway, adding that such actions are "dishonourable" and not in line with prior agreements. Rising Concerns Over Oil

Flow the Strait of Hormuz is one of the world's most critical energy routes, carrying a significant share of global oil supply. Any disruption in this region has immediate consequences for international markets and energy security. Recent

developments indicate that shipping through the strait remains limited, with many vessels facing delays and uncertainty. Tensions Despite Ceasefire Trump's remarks come amid a fragile ceasefire between

the United States and Iran. However, disagreements over the terms—particularly regarding free passage through the strait—continue to fuel tensions. Reports suggest that hundreds of ships remain stalled, while access to the waterway is

tightly controlled. Global Impact and Strategic Importance The situation has raised global concerns, as the Strait of Hormuz accounts for a large portion of seaborne oil trade. Disruptions have already led to increased oil prices and uncertainty in energy

markets. What Lies Ahead As diplomatic efforts continue, the focus remains on ensuring safe and uninterrupted passage through the strait. Any further escalation could significantly impact global trade and geopolitical stability.

State Police Headquarters Accused sentenced to death in rape and murder case of minor girl

Angul (Correspondent)- The final verdict in the sensitive case of rape and murder of a 4-year-old minor girl in Angul district was announced today. The Angul Additional District Judge and Special POCSO (POCSO) Court has convicted the accused Babula Jena and sentenced him to death. The accused has been punished under Sections 137(2), 103(1), 65(2) and 238(a) along with Section 6 of the POCSO Act. The fact that the trial of this case was completed within a year and the accused was punished has set a shining example of



police efficiency and speedy justice. According to the details of the case, on March 13, 2025, a minor girl went missing while playing in front of her house in the Industrial Thana area. After a search was conducted on the complaint of the family members, the

body of the girl was recovered from the root of a nearby Mahul tree on March 15. The autopsy report revealed that the minor girl had been raped and strangled to death. A special team was formed under the direct supervision of Angul SP Shri Rahul Jain and the

investigation process was intensified. The police, led by Industrial Thana IIC and DSP (IUCAW) Yogeshwari Behera, immediately arrested the accused Babula Jena. The police were able to convict the accused due to the collection of scientific and forensic evidence,

DNA sample testing and timely filing of the police charge sheet. Odisha Police's 'zero tolerance' policy and administrative coordination in cases of crimes against women and children have resulted in the families of the victims getting justice in a short time. On this occasion, State Director General of Police, Shri Yogesh Bahadur Khurania congratulated the Angul SP and the investigating officers. He also expressed satisfaction over the significant increase in speedy investigation and conviction rate after the implementation of the new Indian law.

Uttarakhand CM Dhama Seeks Direct Flights To Varanasi, Prayagraj, Ayodhya

Dehradun: Uttarakhand Chief Minister Pushkar Singh Dhama has urged the Union government to improve air connectivity from Dehradun to the key religious destinations of Varanasi, Prayagraj, and Ayodhya. In response to the Chief Minister's request, Union Minister of Civil Aviation Ram Mohan Naidu Kinjarapu informed him through a formal letter that 254 weekly round-trip flights are currently operating from Dehradun to 11 destinations: Ahmedabad, Bhubaneswar, Bengaluru, Mumbai, Kolkata, Delhi, Shamsabad (Hyderabad), Jaipur, Lucknow, Pune, and Kullu. These services are being run by major carriers,

including IndiGo, Alliance Air, Air India, and Air India Express. The Minister clarified that India's domestic aviation sector is fully deregulated. Airlines enjoy complete freedom to choose aircraft types, routes, and markets based on their own operational and commercial viability. He added that the final decision to start or expand services on any route lies with the individual airline operators. However, in response to the state's request, the Civil Aviation Ministry has forwarded the request for new or enhanced flight services from Dehradun to Varanasi, Prayagraj, and Ayodhya to all scheduled domestic airlines for their consideration. Chief Minister Pushkar Singh

Dhama expressed optimism about the development. He stated that under the guidance of PM Modi, the Central Government is continuously supporting Uttarakhand to expand air services across the state. "This initiative will enable the people of the state to establish direct connectivity with Varanasi, Prayagraj, and Ayodhya," said CM Dhama. The proposed routes hold special significance for Uttarakhand, as thousands of devotees from the state frequently travel to these holy cities for religious purposes. Direct flights would significantly reduce travel time and offer greater convenience to pilgrims and general passengers alike.

NITI Aayog Releases Reports On Ease Of Doing R&D

New Delhi: NITI Aayog released two reports titled Ease of Doing Research & Development in India and the Survey Report on Ease of Doing R&D in India on Friday, aimed at enabling a more efficient, facilitative, and innovation-driven research ecosystem in the country. The reports provide a comprehensive assessment of India's research and development ecosystem and outline actionable recommendations to improve funding mechanisms, institutional governance, regulatory frameworks, and research translation. The reports, which are being shared with relevant ministries and departments, underscore the need for a more trust-based, outcome-oriented, and facilitative environment to enable researchers and institutions to perform at their full potential. The reports are the outcome of an



extensive exercise conducted over approximately 9 months, involving outreach to more than 400 institutional leaders and insights from over 850 distinguished scientists and researchers across the country, according to a NITI Aayog statement. The reports were formally released by Suman Bery, Vice Chairman, NITI Aayog, and the Chief Guest Jitendra Singh, Minister of State (Independent Charge), Ministry of Science and Technology, in the presence of senior officials and representatives from academia and industry. Addressing the gathering, Jitendra Singh emphasised that the report is grounded in

evidence and reflects the realities of the research ecosystem. He noted that research flourishes in an environment free of impediments and highlighted India's strong human resource base. He also called for greater private-sector participation, including through corporate social responsibility initiatives, to support and sustain research and innovation, particularly in emerging areas and startups. Suman Bery highlighted that translating research into practical applications remains a key priority. He emphasised the need for institutional structures for mission-mode research and development, including enhanced participation of the private sector.

He further noted that as research increasingly spans multiple domains, the need for flexible, responsive systems becomes more evident, as rigid structures can limit collaboration while adaptable frameworks can open new avenues of inquiry. He called for treating this report as a guidance document for improving the country's overall research and development ecosystem. The event commenced with a welcome address and a presentation by Prof. Vivek Kumar Singh, Senior Adviser at NITI Aayog, who provided an overview of the report's objectives, methodology, and key findings. He highlighted that the report identifies challenges across multiple thematic areas and puts forward actionable recommendations based on an evidence-driven process that includes nationwide surveys, stakeholder consultations, and regional consultative meetings.

Delhi CM Discusses Welfare With BJP President Nitin Nabin

New Delhi: Delhi Chief Minister Rekha Gupta met BJP National President Nitin Nabin on Friday for a discussion on the implementation of public welfare schemes and organisational matters, a party leader said. Chief Minister Gupta shared information about the interaction on social media and said, "Today, I had the courtesy of paying a visit to the Honourable National President of the Bharatiya Janata Party, Shri Nitin Nabinji." During this cordial meeting, I received invaluable guidance from the Honourable President ji on the all-round development of Delhi. The implementation of public welfare schemes, and organisational matters," she said. The Chief Minister said, "The progress of Delhi and the well-being of every individual remain our utmost priority. To



achieve this goal, we are working tirelessly with complete dedication and commitment." During the day, the Chief Minister also attended the launch of a series of programs until April 14 as part of celebrations to mark the 136th birth anniversary of Bharat Ratna Dr Bhimrao Ambedkar. She and Delhi Minister for Social Welfare and SC/ST/OBC Welfare Ravinder Indraj Singh invited all citizens to participate in the programmes, stating

that this year Baba Saheb's birth anniversary will be celebrated in Delhi grandly and enthusiastically. Ravinder Indraj Singh said a major highlight of the events will be the "Bhim Jyoti Utsav" to be organised near India Gate, in the Kasturba Gandhi Marg area, where rich literature related to Baba Saheb and important aspects of his life will be displayed through a special gallery. He informed that visitors will have the opportunity to explore and understand various

aspects of Baba Saheb's life, thoughts, and struggles. In addition, several folk-cultural programmes, performances, and diverse activities will be organised to take his ideas to the masses, he said. Ravinder Indraj Singh said that the platform will reflect the spirit of national harmony. Saints, social workers, intellectuals, and individuals working towards unity and social cohesion from across the country will participate in the event.

Nitish Kumar's Rajya Sabha Move Is Driven By Political Pressure, Says Tejashwi Yadav

Patna: The Leader of the Opposition in the Bihar Assembly, Tejashwi Yadav, has launched a sharp attack on Nitish Kumar after he took his oath as a Rajya Sabha member, calling the development nothing new and dismissing it as a mere formality. Taking a jibe at the political buzz surrounding the event, Tejashwi questioned whether Nitish Kumar had taken the oath as Prime Minister, questioning the hype around the development. He alleged that the Chief Minister's move to the Rajya Sabha was not voluntary but driven by immense political pressure. Expressing a mix of criticism and sympathy, Tejashwi claimed that



Nitish Kumar is currently under significant strain. "I had said earlier that he would not be allowed to function peacefully," he stated, adding that Nitish Kumar had no personal desire to move to the Rajya Sabha. He further questioned the timing, noting that such a decision coming just months after assuming the Chief Minister's office raises serious doubts about the circumstances behind it. Raising concerns over

what he described as the public humiliation of the Chief Minister, Tejashwi alleged that Nitish Kumar's authority has been undermined. Referring to recent incidents and purported video clips, he claimed that interruptions—such as adjournments or disruptions during his speeches—reflect the extent of disrespect being shown to him. The Opposition leader also launched a broader attack

on the state government, alleging that Bihar's condition is deteriorating rapidly. He claimed that crime rates have surged, while sectors such as education and healthcare are witnessing a steady decline. According to him, the government is focused solely on retaining power, with little concern for governance. On the issue of unemployment, Tejashwi accused the administration of deliberately delaying teacher recruitment, thereby affecting thousands of aspirants. He reiterated claims made in his social media posts, alleging that promises of employment are being used merely as a delaying tactic. In his concluding remarks, Tejashwi asserted that Bihar's

governance is increasingly being controlled from New Delhi rather than Patna. He alleged that the next Chief Minister would not reflect the will of the people but would instead be imposed. Taking a lighter jibe, he also mentioned that shortly after he raised the issue of his pending salary with the media, it was credited—an observation that has added another layer to the ongoing political discourse in the state. Tejashwi Yadav's remarks have triggered a fresh political debate in Bihar, further intensifying the already charged atmosphere surrounding the state's evolving leadership scenario.

MP To Build Medical Hub On Indore-Ujjain Corridor: Dy CM Shukla

Indore: Deputy Chief Minister Rajendra Shukla on Friday said that Madhya Pradesh is moving ahead with plans to set up a special regional medical hub along the Indore-Ujjain corridor, aimed at strengthening healthcare services and promoting medical tourism. Speaking at a stakeholder consultation workshop on the proposed Health and Wellness Tourism Corridor in Indore, Shukla said the initiative is part of a national vision under PM Modi to develop specialised medical hubs across the country. "Work has already started in Madhya Pradesh to develop a regional medical hub. This will

improve healthcare facilities, boost medical tourism, and generate employment opportunities," Shukla said. Explaining the choice of location, he said the Indore-Ujjain corridor is ideal for this project. On one side is the Omkareshwar Jyotirlinga and on the other is the Mahakaleshwar Temple in Ujjain. A large number of people visit both places for darshan, so this region is naturally suitable. Indore is also a major educational hub. He said the proposed hub will focus on providing world-class, affordable healthcare services using modern technology, while promoting wellness and AYUSH-based treatments. "The

objective is to offer quality treatment to patients from across the country and abroad, and showcase India's medical capabilities at the global level," he added. Shukla noted that India already holds a strong position in the Medical Tourism Index and Wellness Index, and the new hub will further strengthen this standing. He said the project will also improve patient care, rehabilitation services, and AYUSH facilities in the state. Highlighting healthcare growth, he said that under the Prime Minister's leadership, the sector has expanded rapidly. Madhya Pradesh is also benefiting, with wellness centres coming up in Tier-2 and Tier-3 cities.

Orissa High Court quashes 'weaponised' case against Mukesh Ambani over Rs 501 mobile handset

Cuttack(Contributor): The Orissa High Court delivered a sharp rebuke to a persistent litigant, quashing a criminal complaint against Reliance Industries Limited (RIL) and its chairman, Mukesh Ambani. The case, which originated from a dispute over a mobile handset worth just Rs 501 purchased over two decades ago, was described by the court as an abuse of the criminal justice system. Justice S.K. Panigrahi, presiding over the matter, imposed a fine of Rs 1,000 on the complainant, Prafulla Kumar Mishra, a resident of Rourkela. The judge directed that the penalty be deposited into the Juvenile Justice Fund

of the Odisha State Legal Services Authority within four weeks. The dispute dates back to 2003, when Mishra subscribed to a telecom scheme launched by the then-Reliance Infocomm. After paying a subsidised upfront cost of Rs 501 and agreeing to monthly installments, he received a mobile handset from a local dealer. Mishra subsequently alleged that both the device and the accompanying telecom services were substandard, leading him to initiate criminal proceedings against Mukesh Ambani, who headed the telecom venture at the time. The High Court's order, passed on March 31 and published

online on Wednesday, revealed that this was the fourth attempt by the complainant to pursue criminal action on the same set of facts. Previous complaints filed in 2003 and 2004 were already quashed by the High Court in 2004 and 2005, with the Supreme Court of India dismissing related special leave petitions in 2007. Justice Panigrahi expressed significant concern regarding the conduct of the lower court. The Sub-Divisional Judicial Magistrate (SDJM) in Panposh had issued summons on January 27, a move the High Court criticised for a lack of proper judicial scrutiny. The court

noted that the sheer age and trivial value of the transaction should have triggered a more cautious approach by the magistrate. The judgment highlighted the discordance of summoning a national industrial leader as an accused over a twenty-year-old consumer grievance involving such a minor sum. While the court acknowledged that Mishra may have had a legitimate complaint regarding his mobile service in 2003, it drew a firm line regarding the use of the penal code for such disputes. Justice Panigrahi observed that "a sense of grievance, however deep, does not entitle a person to

weaponise the criminal law against those who have already been found to bear no criminal liability," as reported by the Times of India. The ruling serves as a stern warning against the persistence of meritless litigation. The High Court noted that despite courts repeatedly finding no basis for prosecution over the last 23 years, the proceedings had continued in various forms, wasting valuable judicial time. By quashing the summons and the pending case, the High Court has finally drawn a curtain on one of the state's longest-running legal battles over a consumer device.

EMINENT NEUROSURGEON PROF. (DR.) SURESWAR MOHANTY PASSES AWAY

Bhubaneswar, (Contributor): Eminent neurosurgeon and academician Prof. (Dr.) Sureswar Mohanty, who served in some of the most prestigious medical institutions in India and abroad, passed away here on Friday. Prof. (Dr.) Mohanty, 83, was ailing for some time. The end came while he was under treatment at the IMS and SUM Hospital. He is survived by a daughter.



After completing his MBBS from the S.C.B. Medical College, Cuttack, he earned his M.Ch in Neurosurgery from the All India Institute of Medical Sciences (AIIMS), New Delhi. He served as Professor and Head of Department of Neurosurgery at the Institute of Medical Sciences, Benaras Hindu University, where he also subsequently served as Director. Prof. (Dr.) Mohanty also underwent advanced training at global medical centres like Institute of Neurosurgery, London, Burdenko Institute, Moscow and Cleveland Clinic, USA. Following his retirement at IMS-BHU, he returned to Odisha and played a pivotal role in the establishment of the Institute of Medical Sciences and SUM Hospital and served as its first Principal and Dean.

Due to the negligent work of the contractor, the Basudha water pipeline was damaged

Nimapada, (Contributor): At Kuansa Chhak on the Nimapada-Balanga main road, while bridge construction work was in progress, the contractor broke the Basudha water pipeline. Due to this, local people faced water scarcity for the last two days, and today afternoon they staged a road blockade in protest. According to information, the state government has sanctioned more than ₹44 crore for the construction of a 14-kilometer road from Nimapada via Bayabar to Balanga. However, since the beginning of the project, there have been allegations that the contractor is engaging in corruption and doing



substandard work. On Friday, during the bridge construction work at Kuansa Chhak, the Basudha water pipeline was again damaged. As a result, the people of Deulia Thenga, Kuansa, Nahantara, Gopalpur, and nearby villages have been suffering from a water crisis for two days. Nearly 500 families,

along with their cattle, are struggling due to the disruption of the water supply. Even though complaints had been repeatedly made to the contractor and workers, nobody listened. So, today afternoon, villagers including Jyoti Ranjan Nayak, Niranjana Rautaray, Manas Kumar Swain, Biranchi Sethi,

and Subas Kumar Sahu blocked the road for around four hours. After Nimapada Police received information and reached the spot, they held discussions with the protestors. When the police assured that the water issue would be resolved immediately, the locals withdrew the blockade.

5G Network Eludes Kapilabhata Village, Residents Face Hardship

Kantabanji, (Contributor): Residents of Kapilabhata village under Bangomunda block in Kantabanji Assembly constituency of Balangir district have raised serious concerns over the absence of 5G network connectivity, leading to widespread inconvenience among consumers. Despite being a panchayat headquarters, Kapilabhata village continues to suffer from poor network coverage. Villagers that the lack of reliable 5G services has been causing frequent disruptions in daily activities, especially as most essential services now depend heavily on internet access. Tasks



that should ideally be completed within minutes are reportedly taking hours due to slow or unavailable connectivity. While both the Central and State governments are actively promoting the vision of Digital India, the ground reality in rural areas like Kapilabhata paints a different picture. The absence of proper network infrastructure has become a major hurdle in accessing

government services, online applications, and digital transactions. Locals have repeatedly brought the issue to the attention of administrative officials and public representatives, but no concrete steps have been taken so far, leading to growing dissatisfaction among the villagers. Even decades after independence, basic digital connectivity

remains a distant dream for many in the region. Villagers, along with Huleswar Hans, Secretary of Maa Sahaji Yuvak Sangh, have demanded that telecom companies like Jio and Airtel immediately provide 5G network services in the area. They have also warned of launching protests if their demands are not addressed in the coming days.

Junior College Principal Arrested for Alleged Torture of Lecturers in Jharbandh

Jharbandh, (Contributor): In a shocking development, the principal of a junior college in Jharbandh has been arrested on charges of allegedly torturing two lecturers. The case has been registered under Case Nos. 40/26 and 41/26 at the Jharbandh Police Station. According to police sources, the arrest was made under the supervision of the Sub-Divisional Police Officer (SDPO) of Padampur subdivision, following complaints

lodged by the affected lecturers. The accused principal is alleged to have subjected the two faculty members to mental and possibly physical harassment over an extended period. After the arrest, the accused was produced before the Padampur Sub-Divisional Court and has been remanded to judicial custody pending further investigation. Meanwhile, in a related development, the college librarian has

reportedly gone absconding. Police have launched a search operation to trace the individual and are investigating their possible involvement in the case. Authorities have assured that a thorough and impartial investigation will be conducted, and strict action will be taken against those found guilty. The incident has raised serious concerns regarding workplace safety and conduct within educational institutions in the region.

Road safety Awareness through Yamraj and Chitragupta by police & RTO

Malkangiri correspondent: Accidents are increasing day by day in various areas of Malkangiri district. Due to which many lives are being lost. To protect road safety, a road safety awareness program was jointly organized by Malkangiri District Police and Regional Transport Department. In which Yamraj himself and Yama Dutta are explaining and making the drivers aware of the rules related to road safety. At every intersection and important area of the city, Chitra Gupta stopped the drivers and gave them road safety rules on the instructions of Yamraj. Similarly, the police provided free helmets and roses to the drivers and warned them to follow the rules of driving.

Former Rivals Naveen Patnaik And Pitambar Acharya Share Friendly Flight To Delhi, Discuss State Issues

Bhubaneswar correspondent: Former Odisha Chief Minister and Leader of Opposition Naveen Patnaik travelled to Delhi on the same flight as Advocate General Pitambar Acharya, with both seated next to each other. The two leaders, who have been political opponents in the past — Pitambar Acharya had contested against Naveen Patnaik in the 2019 Assembly elections from Hinjili — were seen engaged in a lively and cordial conversation during the journey. Photos from the flight show them discussing various matters with great enthusiasm and warmth, setting aside their political differences for the duration of the trip. After landing, Pitambar Acharya



shared the moment on X (formerly Twitter), writing: "It was a great pleasure sharing some beautiful moments with former Odisha Chief Minister & Leader of the opposition Sri @Naveen_Odisha ji while travelling to New Delhi. Discussed on many issues of Odisha's interest with him." Acharya later stated that he had a long and

fruitful discussion with Naveen Patnaik on matters concerning the interest of the state. Meanwhile, Naveen Patnaik's visit to Delhi is purely personal. He has gone to meet his elder brother, Prem Patnaik, who is recovering in a private hospital after undergoing heart surgery. Senior BJD leader Debi Mishra confirmed that

Naveen Patnaik will spend a few days with his family during his brother's recovery. The unexpected friendly interaction between the former Chief Minister and the Advocate General has sparked interest across political circles, highlighting that personal courtesy and concern for the state can transcend political rivalries.

Injured body of unidentified youth recovered from Kanishi Hat National Highway, murder suspected

Gopalpur, (contributor): The injured body of an unidentified youth was recovered by the Golangthara police today from the service road in front of Kanishi Hat Fire Station under Golangthara police station. As a tip, the Golangthara police station was informed about the dead body of a youth lying on the roadside this morning. The police station SI Silu Dhal reached the spot along with the police personnel and started investigation and seized the body. The age of the deceased youth is estimated to be 40 to 45 years. He was wearing grey pants and black and green flower shorts. He has been seen with severe injuries on his head and face. The

locals are suspecting who killed the youth and threw him here. In what circumstances did the youth come here and whether there is any other reason for the murder, the police are investigating from various angles and have collected photos of the dead body. The police are trying to identify the deceased while leaving the group. While the identity of the deceased has not been revealed, the police have registered a case of unnatural death and informed that the body has been taken to the Berhampur MKCGI Hospital and kept in the morgue. The exact cause of death will be clear only after the autopsy, said the investigating officer, ASI Pushpa Mallick.

Collectors Asked To Finalise Seat Reservations Ahead Of 2027 Panchayat Polls

Bhubaneswar: The State government has instructed all district collectors to complete the reservation of seats for Scheduled Castes (SC), Scheduled Tribes (ST), Other Backward Classes (OBC), and women in various posts under the three-tier Panchayati Raj Institutions (PRIs) in preparation for the upcoming general elections to

rural local bodies, expected in 2027. In a recent letter to the collectors, Panchayati Raj and Drinking Water Department Commissioner-cum-Secretary Girish S.N. emphasised the need to finish the reservation exercise within the stipulated timeframe at both district and state levels, in accordance with the provisions of the PRI Acts and Rules.

EDITORIAL

Alternative Pathways Beyond NEET UG: Rethinking Medical Careers in India

The National Eligibility cum Entrance Test (NEET-UG) has become the primary gateway for students aspiring to pursue undergraduate medical education in India. While it ensures a standardized selection process, the intense competition, limited seats, and high pressure often leave many capable students searching for alternatives. Fortunately, a wide range of pathways exist for those who wish to build meaningful careers in healthcare and life sciences without clearing NEET.

1. Allied Health Sciences: Expanding Healthcare Horizons

Allied health sciences offer numerous career options that play a crucial role in patient care and medical support. Courses such as Bachelor of Physiotherapy (BPT), Bachelor of Occupational Therapy (BOT), Medical Laboratory Technology (BMLT), and Radiology and Imaging Technology are excellent alternatives. These professionals work closely with doctors and are essential for diagnosis, rehabilitation, and treatment.

2. Nursing: A Noble and Rewarding Profession

Nursing remains one of the most respected professions in healthcare. Students can pursue B.Sc. Nursing or General Nursing and Midwifery (GNM) programs without NEET in many institutions. With increasing global demand, nursing offers stable career opportunities both in India and abroad.

3. Pharmacy: Bridging Medicine and Research

Bachelor of Pharmacy (B.Pharm) is another promising option. Pharmacists are experts in drug formulation, development, and dispensing. With the rise of the pharmaceutical industry, this field provides opportunities in research, quality control, and healthcare services.

4. Biotechnology and Life Sciences

For students inclined toward research and innovation, biotechnology, microbiology, and biochemistry are excellent fields. These disciplines contribute significantly to medical advancements, vaccine development, and disease research. Graduates can work in laboratories, research institutions, and biotech companies.

Airports Must Stay Controlled



Narvijay Yadav

For decades, Indian airports stood apart as islands of order in an otherwise chaotic public

ecosystem. They symbolised discipline, efficiency, and predictability. Queues moved with purpose, authority was visible, and rules were followed without negotiation. That image is now under visible strain. A recent social media post by a senior journalist on taxi mafia operations at Jabalpur Airport triggered a wide national response. Accounts quickly emerged from Bhopal, Indore, Raipur, Dehradun, Ranchi, Hyderabad, Goa, Srinagar, and Varanasi. The pattern was familiar. App-based taxis were blocked, private operators charged three to four times the fare, and passengers were pushed into uncomfortable situations marked by pressure and, at times, intimidation.

It reflects a structural gap. Taxi mafias thrive when three conditions exist: weak enforcement, fragmented responsibility, and silent tolerance. Airports operate through multiple agencies with divided mandates. The Airports Authority of India (AAI) manages infrastructure, CISF ensures security, local police handle law and order, state transport departments regulate vehicles, and app-based aggregators function under separate frameworks. When accountability is dispersed, enforcement loses sharpness. Informal networks step in to exploit this vacuum. Operators understand the blind spots. They know where oversight weakens and where passengers, often tired after flights, prefer convenience over confrontation.

Overcharging then becomes normalised behaviour rather than an exception.

The problem deepens when app-based taxi drivers are denied entry or threatened. Blocking access is illegal, and intimidation crosses into criminal conduct. Arbitrary pricing further erodes trust. When such practices occur within airport premises, the issue goes beyond transport. It becomes a reflection of governance failure within a high-visibility national space. Airports are not ordinary public areas; they are regulated zones where discipline is essential for safety and order.

The context has also evolved. The UDAN scheme has expanded regional connectivity and democratised flying. First-time fliers now form a significant part of the passenger base. This is a welcome shift, but it brings new behavioural challenges. Aviation is not merely a mode of transport; it is a tightly regulated ecosystem where compliance is non-negotiable. Recent incidents of unruly passenger behaviour inside aircraft and terminals highlight the pressure on systems designed around discipline. While most passengers respect the environment, even a small fraction of disruptive behaviour can weaken overall order.

Disorder at airports cannot be treated as routine. The nature of risk may have changed over time, but its implications remain serious. Earlier, threats were external; today, disruption can emerge from internal indiscipline and unchecked aggression. The visible impact may differ, but the underlying risk to safety and trust persists. This makes it imperative to restore clarity in enforcement and accountability. Immediate steps are both possible and necessary. Airport operators and AAI must designate taxi

operations as a strictly controlled zone with zero tolerance for informal practices. Clear, exclusive lanes for app-based taxis should be created within airport premises to eliminate ambiguity. Joint enforcement teams comprising CISF, local police, and transport authorities must conduct regular, visible checks. Transparency is equally important. Fare structures and helpline numbers should be prominently displayed so passengers can make informed choices. Violations must attract firm consequences, including blacklisting of repeat offenders and legal action in cases of intimidation. Consistency in enforcement will gradually dismantle informal networks that depend on weak oversight. Airports are national assets and symbols of institutional credibility. They influence public perception as much as they facilitate mobility. When passengers experience disorder immediately after landing, confidence erodes. The impact extends beyond inconvenience. Tourism suffers, business travel slows, and the perception of systemic reliability weakens. Taxi mafias and unruly behaviour are not isolated problems; they point to a deeper issue of enforcement gaps and absence of consequences.

India has invested significantly in building modern airport infrastructure. Connectivity has improved, and access has widened. The next phase must focus on preserving the integrity of these spaces. Airports must continue to function as controlled environments where rules are visible and consistently applied. Because when discipline weakens at airports, the message travels far beyond the terminal, shaping how citizens and visitors interpret the functioning of the system itself.

Shree Rama, the Karma Yogi, lights the path to Moksha



Ajaya Kumar Behera

The ancient culture says that being born human is a golden opportunity to understand the impermanent nature of the world.

At the very same time, it is very easy to become absorbed in the temptation to be attached to the things and relationships in this world, and become lost in its myriad attractions. It is precisely to light the path towards Moksha (freedom from mandatory birth and death), that the Supreme has taken birth as Avatars like Shree Rama and Shree Krishna.

In contrast to human consciousness, animals are largely concerned only about their own prey or food, and protecting themselves from becoming prey. They never chase material benefits, or collect or amass properties. Nor do they get involved in the complex emotional web of relationships. Only us Homo sapiens, as an effect of our higher intelligence, have also developed a kind of fear and insecurity and learned to collect and gather more and more of everything to overcome these fears. We fail to realize that this collection of material assets is not a solution to drive

away the fear of death, or any kind of fear. On the contrary, we also seem to ignore the fact that once we are no longer alive, all our collections, no matter how valuable, are left behind right here. As a species, we seem to be repeating these errors, life after life, and feel trapped. Until we do not imbibe the teachings of Shree Rama and apply them in our own lives, there will be no change in this cycle.

Some of the deep teachings embedded in the Ramayana are as follows. Shree Rama represents the Universal Consciousness and Mother Sita, who has taken birth from the Earth element, symbolizes Maya - the impermanent and fascinating material world. In learning about the self, it is extremely important to comprehend Maya and fathom its reality. Only then can we escape the repetitions of happiness followed by misery and so on, and become steady and one with the Universal Consciousness. To help us realize this is the purpose of the birth of Shree Rama.

Many readers might be surprised to learn that Shree Rama's bow is nothing but the spine in our bodies. Stringing a bow is an art by itself. One has to pull the bowstring over the other end, which is extremely difficult. Mere physical force will only make the string twirl up and swing endlessly from left to right. A calm mind and steady hands are a

prerequisite to string the bow. Contemplating on Rama's avatar helps to achieve this state of composed tranquillity. In this state, one may hope to come face-to-face with the Ultimate Truth. 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.

Nitish in National Politics, BJP Era in Bihar



Ajay Kumar

After remaining at the center of power in Bihar for nearly two decades, Nitish Kumar's move to the Rajya Sabha is not merely a

political formality, but a turning point in the long phase that shaped Bihar's politics after 2005. The leader who influenced the state's governance for nearly 21 years is now preparing to play a new role in Delhi's politics. This shift is significant because Bihar's politics has long revolved around a single leadership, and for the first time after such an extended tenure, a major transition in power is becoming visible. From a statistical perspective, Nitish Kumar's tenure as Chief Minister is counted among the longest and most influential in Bihar's history. From November 2005, when a stable government was formed, to April 2026, combining different phases, he held the Chief Minister's post for approximately 18 to 19 years. During this period, he took oath as Chief Minister a total of ten times, which is considered a record in itself. In 2000, he first became Chief Minister for seven days, but had to resign after failing to prove a majority. Later, on November 24, 2005, when he became Chief Minister for the second time, it marked the beginning of an era of stable governance in Bihar. Looking at the early phase of his political journey, his active political career began in 1985 when he was elected as a legislator for the first time. Four years later, in 1989, he entered the Lok Sabha for the first time. From 1989 to 2004, he was elected to the Lok Sabha four consecutive times. During this period, he handled

several important responsibilities in the central government. In the 1990s, he served as Minister of State for Agriculture, and between 1998 and 2004, he held key portfolios such as Railway Minister and Minister for Surface Transport. During his tenure as Railway Minister, several new railway projects were initiated and efforts were made to improve passenger facilities, which enhanced his administrative experience. When he assumed power in Bihar in 2005, the state faced multiple challenges. At that time, the road infrastructure was considered weak, and rural areas lacked proper connectivity. In the years after 2005, thousands of kilometers of rural roads were constructed. According to available figures, between 2005 and 2020, lakhs of kilometers of rural roads were built and repaired in the state, accelerating the process of connecting villages to district headquarters. The education sector also witnessed significant transformation during his tenure. The bicycle scheme launched in 2006 remained one of the most widely discussed initiatives. Under this scheme, more than one crore students have been provided bicycles so far, which significantly increased school attendance, especially among girls. While the enrollment percentage of girls at the secondary level was relatively low in 2005, it recorded remarkable growth over the following decade. Similarly, uniform schemes and scholarship programs also played a role in improving attendance in schools. The decision to provide 50 percent reservation to women in the Panchayati Raj system is considered one of the most significant administrative initiatives of his governance. Bihar became one of the early states in the country where women's participation in local governance increased on such a large scale. As a result, thousands of women emerged as village heads, ward

members, and district council representatives. This decision played an important role in transforming the nature of rural politics.

Several changes were also recorded in the health sector. After 2005, the number of primary health centers was increased, and the expansion of facilities in district hospitals was initiated. The number of patients visiting government hospitals steadily increased, which was considered an indicator of improved access to healthcare services. However, his politics was not limited to development schemes. Frequent shifts in alliances became one of his defining political characteristics. In 2013, he separated from the National Democratic Alliance and adopted a new political direction. In 2017, he rejoined the same alliance. In 2022, he changed direction once again, and in 2024, he returned to the same alliance. Within nearly 11 years, four major political shifts highlighted the complexity of his political journey. The 2025 Bihar Assembly elections were also considered a crucial turning point in his political career. In the 243-member Assembly, the alliance secured a clear majority, after which he took oath as Chief Minister for the tenth time. However, within four to five months of the election, his decision to move toward the Rajya Sabha indicated that this was not merely a personal decision, but part of a broader political strategy. With his entry into the Rajya Sabha, another significant record has been added to his name. He has joined the select group of leaders who have had membership experience in all four legislative houses Legislative Assembly, Legislative Council, Lok Sabha, and Rajya Sabha. In Indian politics, the number of such leaders is considered very limited. Now, the biggest question is what his

role in Delhi will be. Based on his long administrative experience, it is believed that he may play an important role at the national level in policy-making or coalition management. With more than 30 years of parliamentary experience and nearly two decades as Chief Minister, he has established himself as a leader capable of understanding and balancing complex political equations. On the other hand, the process of power transition in Bihar has created fresh political activity. Continuous discussions are underway regarding the name of the new Chief Minister. Governing a large state with a population of nearly 13 crore and 38 districts is not considered an easy task. The biggest challenge before the new leadership will be to continue the schemes initiated in previous years while also implementing new priorities. At present, Bihar's politics is passing through a phase of transition. The administrative structure developed over the past nearly 20 years will need to be maintained and strengthened further by the new government. It will also be observed whether the new administration can sustain the pace of development seen in recent years. Nitish Kumar's move toward Delhi is also being seen as the completion of a full political cycle in his career. The leader who began his political journey as a Member of Parliament is now returning to Parliament after stepping down from the Chief Minister's post. This change is not merely a shift in position, but a signal of the beginning of a new phase in both Bihar and national politics. In the coming months, it will become clear whether this decision was limited to a change of responsibility or a preparation for a larger political role at the national level.

Excise department raid Dhaba, Liquor sized and one arrested

G o p l a p u r (correspondent): Illegal liquor trade was going on in the dhaba, Excise Department seized it. On receiving information from a reliable source, a team led by Ganjam District Excise Department Deputy Commissioner Saryatikant Raut on Friday morning sealed an illegal foreign liquor shop that had been running for many days at 'Odiani Dhaba' in Purushottampur, Ganjam. In this case, the Excise Department has arrested Sachidra Dash, a resident of Bhatkumurda village, and produced him in court. After the arrest, 11,340 liters of IMFL of various brands and 24,700 liters of beer of various brands were seized from the accused. The team, led by Deputy



Commissioner of Excise and Intelligence Department, Sangeeta Mohapatra, Prabir Samal, Saroj Swain, Bhagwan Hembram, Sumitra Sahu, and driver Sanjay Patra, have been formed under the leadership of Saryatikant Raut, an Excise and Intelligence Department official informed.

Samir Dash nominated as a permanent invitee member of the BJP state committee

N i m a p a d a, (Correspondent): The list of State Executive Members, Special Invitee Members, and Permanent Invitee Members has been announced by BJP State President Manmohan Samal. In this list, 72 State Executive Members, 38 Special Invitee Members, and 23 Permanent Invitee Members have been included. Among the 23



Permanent Invitee Members announced by the BJP, Ex-minister and BJP spokesperson Samir Ranjan Dash has been nominated.

Following the official announcement of the list by the State President, a wave of happiness has been seen among BJP workers in Nimapada. On the other hand, Ex-minister and state spokesperson Samir Dash has expressed his sincere thanks and gratitude to State President Manmohan Samal for placing trust in him and nominating him as a Permanent Invitee Member.

Senior Folk Artists Felicitated at District-Level Cultural Event

R a y a g a d a, (correspondent): On the occasion of Odia Pakhya, a district-level programme titled "A Day for Folk Art" was organised on April 10, 2026, at the local Sanskruti Bhavan in Rayagada. The event witnessed the participation of members of various cultural organizations, including the Vice-President of the Rayagada Urban Art and Culture Association, along with several artists and cultural enthusiasts. The programme was presided over by District Culture Officer Ms. Sushmita Bauri. District Information and Public Relation Officer Basanta Kumar Pradhan



attended as the Chief Guest, while Sukanta (Vice-President of the Urban Art and Culture Association) graced the occasion as the Guest of Honour. During the event, senior folk artists were felicitated in recognition of their contribution to preserving and promoting traditional art forms. The dignitaries encouraged artists and

emphasized the importance of nurturing folk culture among the younger generation. As per the State Government's directive, the day was celebrated with grandeur across various blocks of the district. Senior folk artists and veteran gurus were also honoured at different locations. Prominent artists including

veteran dance guru Trilochan Sahu, Shiva Bhaskar, Pinki Rath, Debi Prasad, Usha Devi, Gupta Sikha, N. Vivekananda, Manasi Melaka, and others shared their views on the significance of folk art. The programme was coordinated by noted musician Prashanta Kumar Nayak.

Kalahandi: 'Odia Pakshya' observation - local culture artists honoured

B h a w a n i p a t n a: (Correspondent) Among the series of staged event on the eve of 'Odia Pakshya' observation the felicitation program of district administration for local artists has gained the extravaganza, which was organised in the Village of Art-Chhoriagad of Junagarh CD Block on Friday. For the preservation of the age old local culture like Ghumua, Banabadi, Sankirtan, Madali, this endeavour of administration was taken as felicitation ceremony for the local artists. In the ceremony,



a number of eighteen artists from different field of the art were conferred with laurels for their extra ordinary performance. On this occasion a grand procession was taken in this village before felicitation. According to information, the entire program was

taken under the Chairmanship of Junagarh BDO Debashis Kara. And joining, as Chief Guest of the cultural program ADM Tanmaya Kumar Darwan, as Guest of Honour DCO Vivekanand Mahananda, DI & PRO haladha Ra Nial, Dharamgarh

Deputy Collector Amit Behera and others appreciated the felicitators for their outstanding role as good performer to keep live the local culture. The entire program was run by the effort of Council of District Culture coordinator Ashok Pattnaik.

Awareness Message to Students in Environmental Protection Programme

S U B A R N A P U R (Correspondent): Subarnapur district An "Environmental Protection Programme" was successfully organized at the Government Upper Primary School, Kairajhuli, under Ulunda block of Subarnapur district. The programme was conducted by Daya Sarabani Yoga Trust. The event was presided over by senior teacher Kishore Sahu, who smoothly guided the proceedings. Dr. Yudhishthir Khamari, President of Gayatri Residential Higher Secondary School, B.M. Pur, attended as the Chief Guest and



spoke about the importance of environmental protection. He urged the students to be aware of anti-plastic campaigns, tree plantation, forest fire prevention, and the protection of animals and birds. As an honoured guest, Bikram Kumar Nanda, teacher of Government Upper Primary School,

Lakarma, beautifully highlighted environmental awareness through poetry and storytelling. Dr. Hrushikesh Deheri, Secretary of the Trust, explained the aims and objectives of the programme in detail. He emphasized that environmental protection is a collective responsibility and that it

is our duty to build a clean and healthy environment for future generations. On this occasion, other guests also shared their views on reducing plastic use, promoting tree plantation, and protecting wildlife. School President Lekharaj Sagar encouraged the students to be aware and actively participate in environmental protection activities. The programme concluded with a vote of thanks by Jitendra Pardiya. With the cooperation of all teachers and staff members, the programme was successfully completed.

PARALAKHEMUNDI MUNICIPAL COUNCIL CHARTS A VISION FOR PROGRESS AND PUBLIC WELFARE

Paralakhemundi, (Correspondent): In a gathering marked by purpose and promise, the General Council Meeting of the Paralakhemundi Municipality unfolded today under the gracious chairmanship of Chairperson Nirmala Sethi, weaving together threads of concern, commitment, and collective vision. The august assembly resonated with earnest deliberations as pressing civic challenges and pathways to holistic development took center stage. With a tone both reflective and resolute, MLA Rupesh Panigrahi voiced that the age-old municipality, rich in heritage, has yet

to witness the scale of development it rightfully deserves. He urged the council members and departmental officials to rise to the occasion, to transform Paralakhemundi into a beacon of progressive urban excellence through thoughtful planning and quality execution. The corridors of discussion echoed with concerns over roads that seek renewal, drainage systems that demand efficiency, the lifeline of safe drinking water, and the essential fabric of healthcare services. Each issue was not merely discussed but embraced with a spirit of responsibility and reform. As tradition blends

with transparency, the proceedings of the previous meeting were solemnly read, reinforcing continuity in governance. The gathering was further dignified by the presence of Vice-Chairperson Madhusudan Lenka, MP's representative Adarsha Das, Executive Officer Laxman Murmu, along with esteemed council members and dedicated municipal staff—each a vital note in this symphony of civic stewardship. Thus, beneath the canopy of shared responsibility, Paralakhemundi today scripted yet another chapter in its journey towards a brighter, more vibrant tomorrow.

New Paid Cabins Inaugurated at District Headquarters Hospital

J A J P U R (Correspondent): A newly constructed paid cabin facility was inaugurated today at the District Headquarters Hospital to enhance patient convenience. The inauguration was carried out by Jajpur Member of Parliament, Dr. Rabindra Narayan Behera, who attended

the event as the chief guest. Every day, hundreds of patients from Jajpur town and various parts of the district depend on the District Headquarters Hospital for treatment. To ensure quality healthcare services and better patient comfort, the hospital has introduced 7 single

cabins and 3 twin-facility paid cabins. The charge for each cabin has been fixed at ₹1500. Each cabin is equipped with two to three beds and includes air-conditioning, television, fan, proper lighting, and attached toilet facilities. A patient calling system has also been installed. Staff will

be deployed to maintain cleanliness in the cabin area. After the inauguration, MP Dr. Rabindra Narayan Behera stated that earlier there were many complaints due to the lack of paid cabin facilities in the hospital. With the introduction of these new cabins, the issue is expected to be

resolved. He added that patients and their attendants will now receive better quality services. District Collector Mr. Ambar Kumar Kar mentioned that there was a growing demand for such cabins, especially for patients coming out of the ICU and those requiring specialized medical

care. This demand has now been fulfilled. He further added that additional facilities will be developed in the future in line with the increasing number of patients. Plans are also in place to increase dialysis beds in the district by December. The event was attended by Chief

District Medical and Public Health Officer Dr. Bijay Kumar Mishra, Superintendent of Maharaja Jajati Keshari Medical College Mrs. Manorama Swain, Additional Public Health Officers, and doctors and staff of the District Headquarters Hospital.

A Blood Donation Camp was organised

p a r a d e e p, (Correspondent) A Blood Donation Camp was organised in the premises of Paradip College, Paradip to observe Odia Pakhya Palana -2026, on 10/04/2026. The YRC and NSS Wings of Paradip College collaborated with the Alumni Association of Paradip to jointly organise the camp. The Principal of the college Dr Sasmita Satapathy inaugurated the camp with a motivating talk on blood donation and its benefits to the society. The Programme Officer of NSS and faculty from the Department of History, Smt Sanghamitra Pradhan, the YRC Counsellor and Lecturer in English, Smt Saswati Pattnaik, other members of Staff and esteemed members of Alumni Association actively extended their co-operation to make the programme a success. Around 30 units of Blood were collected in the camp.

Youth dies in bike accident

G o p a l p u r (correspondent): A youth from Arupalli village under Gopalpur police station has died in a bike accident. The deceased has been identified as Sudam Das, aged 22, of Arupalli village, police said. On information, Sudam and his friend Kanhu of Arupalli village, Charan Sawat, were returning from Tariganju on a bike at a fast speed after seeing the evening procession, when they lost control and fell off the bike. As a result, Sudam, who was sitting in the back, suffered serious injuries to his head and ear and was unconscious. The locals sent him to the Berhampur Medical College in an ambulance for treatment. The sister filed a complaint at the Gopalpur police station after the doctor declared him dead. On the complaint, the police registered a case number 191/26 and handed over the body to the family after the autopsy. While the friend Kanhu is undergoing treatment, the police said.

Elderly Disabled Woman Burnt Alive In Fire Mishap In Boudh Village

Boudh: In a tragic incident, a 60-year-old disabled woman was burnt alive after a fire broke out in her house at Tikirapada village under Baunsuni Police Station limits in Boudh district on Friday. The deceased has been identified as Suryakanti Sahu, who had been bedridden for several years due to her disability, sources said.



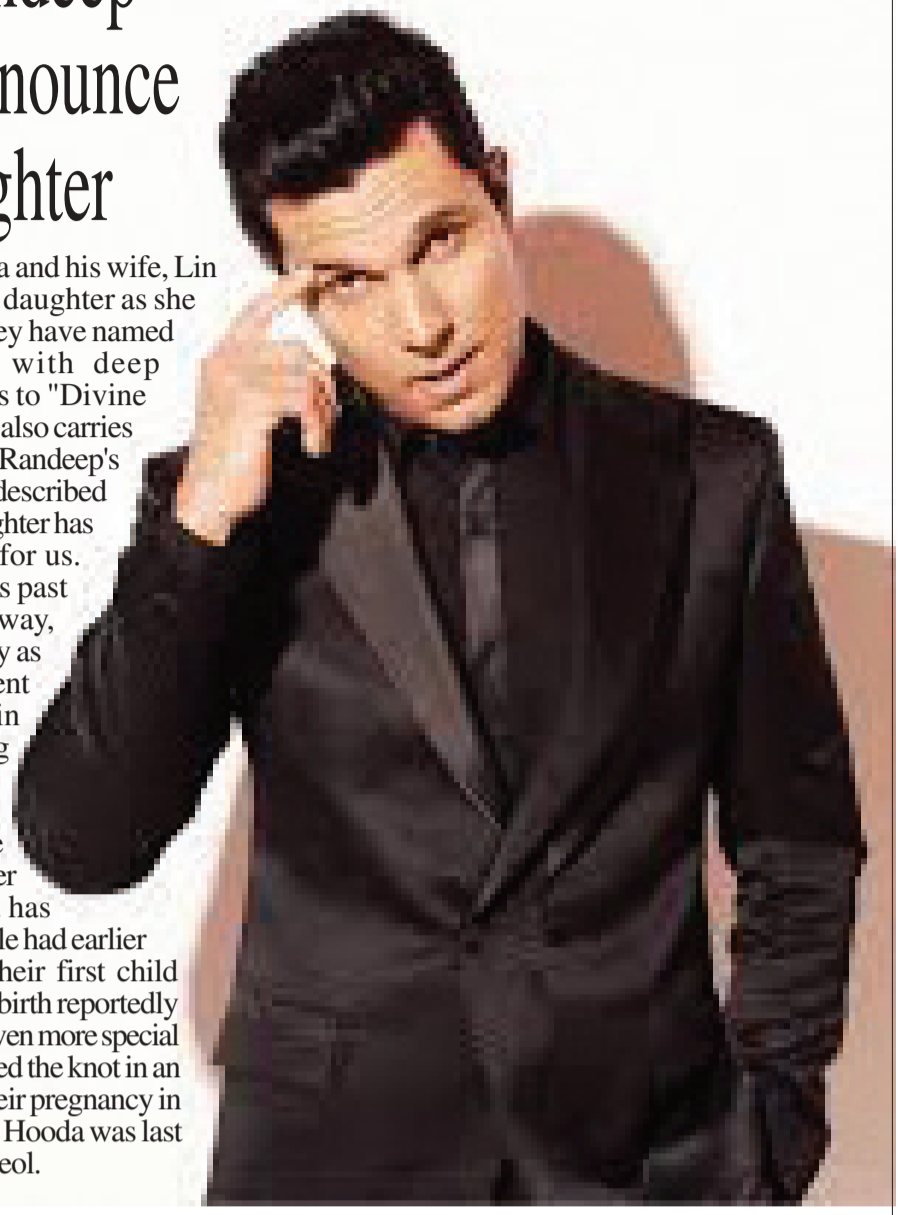
Ranveer Singh's Dhurandhar: The Revenge Crosses 1000 Crore at Hindi Box Office, Creates Historic Record

Ranveer Singh-led Dhurandhar: The Revenge has achieved a historic milestone at the Indian box office, surpassing the ₹1000 crore mark in its Hindi version. The film's extraordinary run has solidified its position as one of the most commercially successful Hindi releases in

recent times, marking a significant achievement for the franchise. Trade analyst Taran Adarsh confirmed the milestone in an Instagram post on April 10. According to him, Dhurandhar 2 has made history by becoming the first Hindi film to cross the ₹1000 crore benchmark in its Hindi version. The analyst highlighted the film's sustained dominance across multiple weeks since its release. Its box office trajectory demonstrates consistent momentum throughout its theatrical run. In Week 3, the film earned 21 crore on Friday, 25 crore on Saturday, and 28 crore on Sunday, followed by ₹10 crore each on Monday and Tuesday, 8 crore on Wednesday, and ₹7 crore on Thursday, bringing the Week 3 total to 109 crore. "There was such a positive energy on set": Shahid Kapoor recalls shooting for 'Jab Talak' song from 'Cocktail 2'. Earlier, the film recorded a strong Week 1 collection of 649 crore (including Wednesday previews and eight days), followed by 251 crore in Week 2. The cumulative total now stands at ₹1009 crore for the Hindi version.

Nyomica Hooda": Ranveer Hooda, Lin Laishram announce the name of their daughter

In a heartfelt note, actor-filmmaker Ranveer Hooda and his wife, Lin Laishram, have revealed the name of their newborn daughter as she completed one month today. The couple shared that they have named their daughter 'Nyomica', a name imbued with deep meaning. According to Ranveer, the name translates to "Divine Grace, Freedom and limitless, like the sky." The choice also carries a special familial touch, as it was lovingly suggested by Ranveer's sister, Anjali Hooda. Announcing the name, the couple described the moment as profoundly emotional. "Naming our daughter has been an incredibly special and emotional moment for us. 'Nyomica' felt just right the moment we heard it. This past month has been life-changing in the most wonderful way, and we're soaking in every moment of this new journey as parents," they shared in a press note. The announcement was accompanied by an intimate photograph of Lin Laishram holding their daughter near a window, capturing a quiet and tender moment of early motherhood. The second picture in the post also provided a closer glimpse of their daughter. Ranveer also expressed gratitude towards his wife, thanking her for bringing their daughter into the world, while reflecting on how fatherhood has deepened his appreciation for his own parents. The couple had earlier welcomed their daughter in March, making this their first child together. Adding an emotional layer to the occasion, the birth reportedly coincided with the birthday of Ranveer's father, making it even more special for the family. Ranveer Hooda and Lin Laishram, who tied the knot in an intimate Manipuri ceremony in 2023, had announced their pregnancy in November last year. On the professional front, Ranveer Hooda was last seen in the film Jaat, where he starred alongside Sunny Deol.



5 meditation tips for moms to cultivate calm in everyday



In the fast-paced life of today, meditation can be a very effective tool to manage emotions, increase productivity and stay calm. Especially for mothers who juggle with multiple tasks every day, some moments of mindfulness can boost efficiency and increase joy. Meditation isn't just about closing your eyes and focusing within, but also incorporating mindfulness in your daily life. Starting your day with some deep breathing can set the tone of the day, while spending some time

with yourself can help sort thoughts. Balancing the demands of motherhood with self-care can feel like an uphill battle, but amidst the hustle and bustle, there lies an oasis of calm waiting to be discovered through meditation.

1. Embrace mini moments of meditation

Who says meditation has to be a lengthy affair? Incorporate micro-moments of mindfulness into your day, whether it's taking a few deep breaths while waiting for the kettle to boil or finding stillness in the midst of a chaotic morning routine. By embracing these mini moments of meditation, you can weave tranquility seamlessly into your daily life without adding extra stress to your busy schedule.

2. Make mindfulness a family affair

Get the whole family involved in the practice of mindfulness. Whether it's a peaceful walk in nature, a moment of gratitude before a family meal, or a bedtime meditation session with your little ones, incorporating mindfulness into family activities can strengthen bonds and create moments of shared serenity amidst the hustle and bustle of everyday life.

3. Create your zen zone

Designate a tranquil sanctuary within your home where you can retreat for moments of meditation

and reflection. Whether it's a cozy nook adorned with plush cushions and flickering candles or a sunlit corner of your garden, make it your own. By creating a dedicated space for meditation, you signal to yourself and your family that self-care is a priority worth cherishing.

4. Experiment with meditation styles

Explore a variety of meditation techniques to discover what resonates most with you. From guided meditations that offer soothing narration and gentle prompts to mindfulness practices that focus on breath awareness and present-moment awareness, there's a meditation style for every mood and moment. Don't be afraid to experiment until you find the perfect fit for your lifestyle and preferences.

5. Practice self-compassion

As moms, we often put immense pressure on ourselves to be perfect. But perfection is overrated, and self-compassion is essential. If your mind wanders during meditation or you miss a session altogether, practice kindness and understanding toward yourself. Remember that you're doing the best you can, and every moment of self-care, no matter how small, is a step toward greater well-being for yourself and your family.

5 best foods to have on empty stomach for weight loss

As much as you would want to start your day with a cup of tea and biscuits, swapping the sugary snack with a wholesome one can do a whole lot of good for your holistic well-being. Having a balanced meal early in the morning on empty stomach is the perfect chance to fuel your body with a variety of nutrients and allow their better absorption, considering the digestive system is at

full efficiency. After a night of fasting, your body requires a generous dose of good quality nutrients for efficient functioning and better energy levels. Eating the right foods in the first few hours of waking up can also keep blood sugar spikes in control throughout the day. Sugary snacks can on the other hand trigger unhealthy cravings and affects energy levels.

1. Raw Mango Chutney

Ingredients

Raw mangoes (2 medium-sized), peeled and chopped
Sugar or jaggery (to taste)
Roasted cumin seeds (1 teaspoon)
Red chili powder (1/2 teaspoon)
Salt (to taste)

Instructions

In a blender or food processor, combine chopped raw mangoes, sugar or jaggery, roasted cumin seeds, red chili powder, and salt. Blend until smooth, adjusting sweetness and



spice level according to taste. Transfer to a serving bowl and refrigerate. Serve as a side with meals or snacks.



1. Greek yoghurt

It is an excellent choice to kickstart your day for several reasons. Firstly, it boasts probiotic properties that promote gut health and aid digestion, making it a wise choice for the first meal of the day. These probiotics help maintain a healthy balance of beneficial bacteria in the gut, which is crucial for overall digestive health. Additionally, Greek yoghurt is rich in protein, which not only supports muscle maintenance but also helps with weight management by keeping you feeling fuller for longer periods. Moreover, when paired with fresh fruits and almonds, Greek yogurt transforms into a delicious and nutritious morning parfait. The combination of creamy yoghurt, sweet fruits, and crunchy almonds provides a balanced mix of macronutrients and micronutrients, making it a satisfying and wholesome breakfast option.

2. Almonds

They are a powerhouse of nutrition, offering an array of benefits beyond merely providing energy. Rich in protein, healthy fats, and essential nutrients, almonds are a versatile addition to any diet. rich profile and diverse health benefits, almonds are not just a snack but a valuable component of a balanced and wholesome diet.

3. Berries

They make for a great breakfast option because they are rich in antioxidants, which help reduce

inflammation and oxidative stress in the body. Starting your day with a dose of antioxidants from berries can contribute to overall health and well-being. Additionally, berries are low in calories and high in fibre, making them a satisfying choice that can help keep you feeling full until your next meal. Whether you enjoy them on top of yogurt or oatmeal, blended into a smoothie, or simply eaten on their own, berries are a delicious and nutritious addition to any breakfast.

4. Avocados

They are a wonderful addition to your morning routine because they are creamy, delicious, and incredibly nutritious. Packed with healthy fats and fibre, avocados help keep you feeling full and satisfied throughout the morning. They also provide essential nutrients like potassium and vitamin E, which support overall health. Whether you spread some mashed avocado on whole-grain toast or add slices to your breakfast bowl, incorporating avocados into your breakfast is a nutritious and satisfying way to start your day.

5. Chia seeds

Chia Seeds, these tiny seeds are nutritional powerhouses, packed with omega-3 fatty acids, fibre, protein, and various vitamins and minerals. When soaked in liquid, chia seeds form a gel-like consistency, making them an excellent base for overnight oats or chia pudding.

INTER-CLUB & INTER-DISTRICT U-14 BOYS & GIRLS CHIEF MINISTER'S TROPHY VOLLEYBALL CHAMPIONSHIP INAUGURATED AT JAGATSINGHPUR

BHUBANESWAR, (Correspondent) In line with the vision of "Padia to Podium" and the Government of Odisha's continued emphasis on strengthening sports at the grassroots level, the Inter-Club & Inter-District U-14 Boys & Girls Chief Minister's Trophy Volleyball Championship has commenced across all 30 districts of Odisha from 10th to 30th April 2026. The Chief Minister's (CM) Trophy for Under-14 Boys and Girls is being conducted by the Government of Odisha as a strategic initiative to actively engage youth in organised sporting activities while identifying and nurturing grassroots talent at an early stage. The tournament aims to create a structured pathway for young athletes to pursue excellence and build careers in volleyball, aligned with the broader



vision of establishing Odisha as a leading sporting hub in India. The Odisha Volleyball Association (OVA), in coordination with all District Athletic Associations, District Sports Officers (DSOs), and District Collectors, is facilitating the smooth conduct of the championship across the State. In Jagatsinghpur district, the championship is being held at Nabakrushna Choudhary Stadium on 10th and 11th April 2026, witnessing

enthusiastic participation from young volleyball players representing various clubs of the district. Similar intra-club and inter-district matches are being conducted across the State, ensuring widespread participation and strengthening the grassroots sports ecosystem. The President and General Secretary of the Odisha Volleyball Association (OVA), along with various notable players and officials, have also welcomed this initiative,

highlighting its significance in promoting grassroots volleyball across Odisha. They emphasized that the Chief Minister's Trophy provides a valuable platform for youth to actively take up the sport, while also serving as an important opportunity for early talent identification. Such initiatives will help in systematically nurturing and grooming young players, enabling them to compete at national and international levels in the

future. The inaugural function at Jagatsinghpur was graced by several distinguished dignitaries. The programme commenced with a welcome address, Secretary DAA, Jagatsinghpur followed by addresses by the Guests of Honor and other dignitaries, who encouraged the young athletes and motivated them to excel in sports. The Chief Guest highlighted the significance of such initiatives in nurturing future champions, extended best wishes to all participants.

The function concluded with a vote of thanks proposed by the District Sports Officer, Jagatsinghpur. The championship is expected to provide a robust platform for young athletes to showcase their talent and progress towards higher levels of competition under the Chief Minister's Trophy initiative.

FIDE President Mr. Arkady Dvorkovich Meets KISS Chess Students in Almaty, Praises Our Tribal Talent

BHUBANESWAR, (Correspondent) In a notable moment of international recognition, FIDE President Arkady Dvorkovich met and interacted with tribal girl students from the Kalinga Institute of Social Sciences (KISS) during the ongoing FIDE ISCF World School Team Chess Championship 2026 in Almaty. The four players—Mohini Naik, Monalisha Bhoi, Shreya Nayak and Humeswari Mallik—are representing India in the Under-14 Girls' category. During the interaction, he enquired about their experience in Kazakhstan, the hospitality extended to them, and their training at KISS, while acknowledging their progress and composure on the international stage. Mr Dvorkovich commended the talent, determination and performance of



the players, and lauded the efforts of Prof. (Dr.) Achyuta Samanta, Founder of KIIT, KISS and KIMS, for advancing opportunities for tribal youth through education and sport. He noted that such initiatives are strengthening grassroots development and enabling students to compete globally. Referring to the FIDE Global Conference on Social and Educational Chess hosted by KIIT University in January 2026, he appreciated the organisation and emphasised the role of chess in education

for cognitive and social development. In their recent performance, the KISS team held their ground in the seventh round, securing a draw, and are set to face Malaysia in the upcoming round of the championship. Encouraged by the performance of the KISS players, Mr Dvorkovich also expressed interest in facilitating their participation in future international events and indicated the possibility of collaborating on a junior-level championship. He later posed for a group photograph with the team.

Odisha bags 14 medals in Indoor rowing meet



Bhubaneswar: Odisha bagged eight gold, four silver, two bronze medals by the end of the second day of the 1st All India Indoor Rowing Championship at JN Indoor Stadium at Cuttack on Friday. Odisha Gold medalist: Priyanshu and Sanju Kumari (LT WT Mix Pair), Neha (Open

Women Individual), Pavitra (Open LT WT Women Individual), Diksha (U23 LT Women Individual), Manju Kumari and Manisha Choudhary (U23 LT Women Pair), Hansraj and Kapeesh Kumar (U23 Men Pair), Ayush Bal and Aviraj (U19 Men Pair), Tejbir Singh and Shivani Landge (U17 Mix Pair) Silver medalists:

Sumit Choudhury and Aryan Panwar (U23 Open Men Pair), Atharva Vilas Raut and Anushka Patel (U23 LT Mix Pair), Barsharani Sethy and Palak Jokta (U23 Open Women Pair) Bronze Medalists: Pratingya Jena and Ruturami Swain (U19 Women Pair), Kamya Priyadarshini Dhal (U17 Women Individual).

IPL 2026: Patidar's Fighting 63 Propels RCB To 201/8 Vs RR In Guwahati

Guwahati: Skipper Rajat Patidar's fighting 63 off 40 deliveries and a late blitz of 29 off 15 by Venkatesh Iyer propelled defending champions Royal Challengers Bengaluru (RCB) to 201/8 against Rajasthan Royals (RR) in the 16th match of the Indian Premier League (IPL) 2026 at the Baraspara Cricket Stadium in Guwahati on Friday. Royal Challengers Bengaluru's innings started dramatically as Jofra Archer sent down a vicious bouncer to dismiss Phil Salt on the very first ball. It was an eventful opening over. Archer troubled Virat Kohli with steep



bounce, while Devdutt Padikkal found early boundaries, including a streaky edge and a crisp cut. Kohli responded in his usual style, whipping and driving with authority to relieve the early

pressure. He took on Sandeep Sharma with a couple of strong boundaries. Padikkal supported him well, and the two put together a quick 45-run stand in just 17 deliveries for the second wicket. This

briefly put RCB ahead, despite Nandre Burger's probing deliveries that repeatedly beat Kohli with seam and swing. However, the momentum changed quickly. Archer returned

to break the partnership, as Padikkal (14) miscued a flick to long leg, where Shimron Hetmyer made a sharp catch. The turning point came soon after when Ravi Bishnoi delivered a cleverly disguised googly to outsmart Kohli, who was bowled for a quick 32 off 16. Bishnoi struck again in his next over, removing Krunal Pandya (1), who hit a catch to long-off, where Hetmyer made another fantastic catch. Rajasthan Royals tightened their hold when Brijesh Sharma returned with a wicket, trapping Jitesh Sharma (5) in front.

Asian Wrestling C'ships: Meenakshi Bags Silver, Sujeet, Abhimanyu, Sandeep To Fight For Gold Medal Bouts

New Delhi: Meenakshi Goyat added the third silver medal to India's tally in the women's 53kg category, while three of the five men's freestyle wrestlers in action on Friday sealed their spots in the gold medal bout of their respective weight category in the 2026 Senior Asian Wrestling Championships in Bishkek, Kyrgyzstan. Monika (women's 65kg) and Harshita (women's 72kg) then signed off with bronze medals to take India's overall medals tally into double figures – three silver and seven bronze. India's sole gold medal hope on Friday rested on Meenakshi, who had fought back from the



brink in the semi-finals to reach this far. However, the 25-year-old was not at her best on Friday and went down 10-0 against China's Jin Zhang. While Meenakshi's loss came as a heartbreak for the Indian contingent, Monika and Harshita

lifted their spirits with clinical performances to clinch the bronze medals. Monika defeated Hanbit Lee of South Korea 9-0 to win the bronze in the women's 65kg category, while Harshita got the better of Sevinchay Polvonova 5-0 in the

women's 72kg bronze medal bout. Earlier, India's men's freestyle wrestlers showcased their growing stature on the continental stage as U-23 world champion Sujeet (65kg), Abhimanyu (70kg), and Sandeep Mann (79kg) sealed their final berth. In the 65kg

freestyle semi-final, Sujeet defeated Abdumazhid Kudiev of Tajikistan 7-2. The 23-year-old, winner of two Ranking Series earlier this year, had beaten Kyrgyzstan's Rustamzhan Kakharov by technical superiority in the quarterfinals. He will now face Umidjon Jalolov of Uzbekistan in a rematch of the U23 world championships final that the Indian had won comfortably. Abhimanyu then surprised defending champion Ernazar Akmatyaliyev of Kyrgyzstan 6-3 in a late twist to reach the men's 70kg freestyle final, where he will face Tumur Ochir of Mongolia. Sandeep Mann will be the third Indian wrestler in the

final on Saturday after the 26-year-old displayed total dominance to beat Somonjon Ikromov of Tajikistan 10-0 in the 79kg freestyle semi-final. He will now face Japan's Keyvan Gharehdaghi in the gold medal bout. Among the other two men wrestlers in contention on Friday, Vicky will contest for the bronze medal in the 97kg category after he lost his semi-final bout against Amiral Azarpira of Iran 0-2. In the men's 57kg freestyle, Ankush will challenge Fuga Sasaki of Japan for the bronze medal after Milad Validazeh, against whom he lost the quarter-finals, reached the final.

Sub-Jr Men's National Hockey: MP And UP Win Semifinals, To Meet In Final

Rajgir: Madhya Pradesh and Uttar Pradesh registered wins in their respective Division 'A' matches in the semifinals of the 16th Hockey India Sub Junior Men National Championship 2026 at the Rajgir Sports Complex in Rajgir, Bihar, on Friday. In the first semifinal, Hockey Madhya Pradesh secured a 4-2 win against Dadra & Nagar Haveli and Daman & Diu Hockey. Deepak Singh (29'), Karan Gautam (43'), Gazez Khan (47'), and Siddharth Ben (51') scored for the winners, while Captain Dhiraj Pal (36') and Apurva Chauhan (54') netted for Dadra & Nagar Haveli and Daman & Diu Hockey.

In the second semifinal, Uttar Pradesh Hockey registered a 6-2 victory against Hockey Punjab. Shahrukh Ali (11', 32') and Nitish Yadav (26', 29') bagged a brace each, with Captain Ketan Kushwaha (42') and Rahul Yadav (42') also finding the back of the net for Uttar Pradesh Hockey. For Hockey Punjab, Ali Razzazq (39') and Rajveer Singh (43') scored a goal each. Hockey Madhya Pradesh will take on Uttar Pradesh Hockey in the final, while Dadra & Nagar Haveli and Daman & Diu and Punjab will face each other in the 3rd/4th Place match on Sunday. Earlier, Day 8 of the 16th Hockey India Sub Junior Men National Championship 2026 in Rajgir, Bihar, witnessed Dadra & Nagar Haveli and Daman & Diu Hockey, Hockey Punjab, Uttar Pradesh Hockey, and Hockey Madhya Pradesh register wins in their respective Division 'A' quarter-final matches at the Rajgir Sports Complex in Rajgir, Bihar, on Thursday.

TPCODL Strengthens Power Network to Meet Projected 2,691 MW Summer Demand

BHUBANESWAR, (Correspondent): TP Central Odisha Distribution Limited (TPCODL) has strengthened its network ahead of the summer season to meet a projected peak electricity demand of 2,691 MW. The utility has added 153 MVA of network capacity, enhanced real-time grid monitoring systems and mobilised over 9,000 ground staffs to ensure reliable power supply across its operational areas. The Power Distribution Technology Centre in Bhubaneswar

serves as the central hub for managing the distribution network during the summer peak. Through integrated Supervisory Control and Data Acquisition (SCADA) and Advanced Distribution Management System (ADMS) platforms, operators continuously monitor 33 kV feeders, Primary Substations and 11 kV feeders in real time to manage load flows and respond quickly to supply disruptions. The system enables rapid fault detection, remote switching and dynamic

load management during peak demand conditions. Communication redundancy within the control architecture supports uninterrupted grid operations during contingencies, while hot standby sources at urban Primary Substations facilitate rapid restoration in the event of a source failure. Preventive maintenance has been carried out across substations and lines using new-age technologies that help identify potential equipment stress early and enable timely

intervention to minimise supply disruptions. Preparations are also in place to manage disruptions during Kalbaisakhi storms, with manpower, machinery, materials and tools positioned in line with TPCODL's Business Continuity and Disaster Management Plan. Customer response systems have also been strengthened ahead of the summer months. TPCODL has reinforced Fuse Call Centre operations through the FCC 2.0 mobile application and strengthened call centre

readiness ahead of the summer season. Service requests and outage alerts are monitored through a 24x7 call centre and a digital command centre that tracks customer feedback and complaints across social media platforms, supported by SMS alerts, missed call services and automated call-back facilities. These initiatives aim to strengthen network resilience and enable faster restoration of power supply during periods of high demand and weather-related disruptions.

SOA SIGNS MOU WITH ICAR-NATIONAL RESEARCH CENTRE ON YAK FOR JOINT RESEARCH



Bhubaneswar, (Correspondent): The SOA Deemed to be University on Thursday signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with the ICAR-National Research Centre on Yak (ICAR-NRCY), Dirang, for joint research in the field of animal husbandry. The ICAR-NRCY is a

premier research institute proactively engaged in research and development on Yak which was established at Dirang in West Kameng district of Arunachal Pradesh in 1989. Prof. Pradipta Kumar Nanda, Vice-Chancellor of SOA and Dr. Dinamani Medhi, Senior Scientist of

ICAR-NRCY signed the MoU. Prof. Sushanta Kumar Das, Dean of the Institute of Veterinary Science and Animal Husbandry, faculty of veterinary sciences of SOA, Dr. Ashok Kumar Barik, professor in the institute and others were present during the signing of the agreement.

Upasna Bhardwaj, Chief Economist, Kotak Mahindra Bank

IMFA CSR Initiative Brings New Community Hall to Komuguda, Strengthening Village Unity

Rayagada (Correspondent): In a proud and joyous moment for the residents of Komuguda village under Suri Gram Panchayat in Kolnara Block, a newly constructed community hall was formally inaugurated under the BIPF CSR FY 2025-26 initiative of IMFA, Thirubali. The inauguration ceremony was led by G. V. Rakesh, Unit Head & EIC, in the presence of Dipak Kumar Ojha, PR Head. The event witnessed enthusiastic participation from villagers, reflecting their excitement and hope for a better future. Local representatives, including Smt. Sasmita Kadraka, Nayeb Sarpanch of Suri Panchayat, along with respected elders and prominent villagers, graced the occasion. The newly built community hall is regarded as a long-awaited asset that will serve as a hub for social, cultural, and



developmental activities in the village. Addressing the gathering, G. V. Rakesh expressed his commitment to the community, stating, "We are not here merely to create infrastructure; our aim is to stay connected with the people and respond to their needs. This effort will continue in the future as well." His message resonated strongly with the villagers, highlighting a sense of partnership and shared responsibility. Smt. Sasmita Kadraka, Nayeb Sarpanch, acknowledged the continued support of

BIPF IMFA and expressed heartfelt gratitude. She noted that the organization has consistently stood by the village and contributed significantly to its development. The programme was beautifully organized by the villagers themselves, with active coordination and support from the PR team, making it a true reflection of community participation and unity. A touching highlight of the event was the felicitation of elderly villagers, who were honoured with shawls as a mark of

respect and appreciation. This gesture created a warm and emotional atmosphere, symbolizing the strong bond between the organization and the community. The programme concluded on a hopeful note with meaningful interactions between officials and villagers. The inauguration of the community hall marks not just the opening of a building, but the beginning of stronger unity, shared progress, and a brighter future for the people of Komuguda.

UPI Turns 10, Grows 12,000-Fold In Volume And Over 4,000 Times In Value

New Delhi: India's digital payment system Unified Payments Interface (UPI) is set to mark its 10th anniversary on April 11, after growing 12,000-fold in volume and over 4,000 times in terms of value. The payment system scaled from 17.86 million transactions worth Rs 6,952 crore in FY17 to 218.98 billion transactions amounting to nearly Rs 285 lakh crore in FY26, data from analytics firm Tracxn showed. Transactions rose gradually in the initial years — to 915 million in FY18 and 5.39 billion in FY19 — before UPI entered the mainstream in FY20 facilitating 12.52 billion transactions worth over Rs 21 lakh crore. The pandemic years accelerated adoption as volumes jumped to 22.33 billion in FY21 and 45.97 billion in FY22, and again it doubled to 83.75 billion

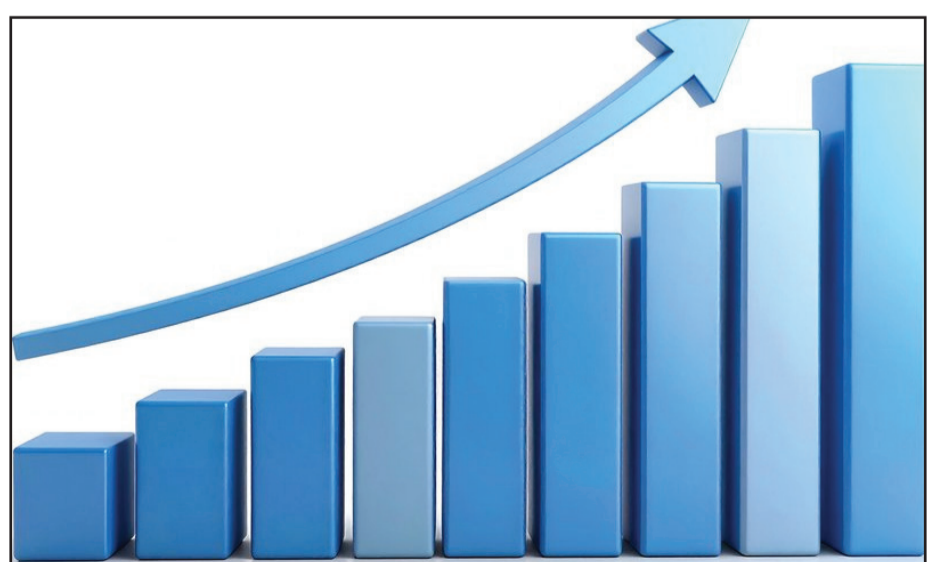


transactions in FY23. The payment app recorded 130.13 billion transactions in FY24 and 185.87 billion in FY25. In 2025, UPI processed 228.5 billion transactions, marking a 33 per cent year-on-year increase, while total transaction value touched Rs. 299.74 trillion, another report said. Merchant acceptance infrastructure expanded in 2025, with UPI QR codes increasing 15 per cent YoY to 731.38 million. Point-of-sale terminals grew 15 per cent to 11.48 million. Bharat QR deployments eased slightly as the ecosystem

consolidated around UPI-led acceptance models, the report said. One-month UPI transaction value stood at about Rs 28 lakh crore, roughly 70 per cent of the economy's total currency stock, underscoring that digital payments volumes remain large relative to cash. Meanwhile, India's digital payments ecosystem saw a strong comeback in March 2026, with the UPI registering its highest-ever monthly transaction volume since its launch in 2016, according to data released by the National Payments Corporation of India.

Equity MF Inflows Hit 8-Month High In March; SIP Inflows Hit Record At Rs 32,087 Crore

Mumbai: Equity Mutual Funds (MFs) witnessed robust growth in March, with investments in actively managed funds rising to Rs 40,450.26 crore — the highest since July 2025 — compared to Rs 25,977.81 crore in February, according to data released by the Association of Mutual Funds in India (AMFI) on Friday. Meanwhile, Systematic Investment Plan (SIP) contributions hit a record high of Rs 32,087 crore in March, up from Rs 29,845 crore in February, indicating continued retail participation. However, the overall mutual fund industry saw net



outflows of Rs 2.39 lakh crore during the month, as against inflows of Rs 94,530 crore in February, largely due to heavy withdrawals from debt-oriented schemes. Market

experts said that the surge in inflows reflects sustained retail engagement through SIP contributions, year-end portfolio allocations, and investors using recent market corrections as an

opportunity to deploy incremental capital into equities. They further added that the volatility triggered by the West Asia conflict created attractive entry points for long-term investors,

prompting many to increase allocations through mutual funds. Among equity categories, inflows increased across segments, led by flexi-cap funds, which attracted Rs 10,054.12 crore in March, up from Rs 6,924.65 crore in the previous month. Mid-cap and small-cap funds also saw higher inflows at Rs 6,063.53 crore and Rs 6,263.56 crore, respectively, compared to Rs 4,002.99 crore and Rs 3,881.06 crore in February. Moreover, large-cap funds recorded inflows of Rs 2,997.84 crore, while sectoral and thematic funds saw relatively stable inflows at Rs

2,698.82 crore. In contrast, debt mutual funds witnessed sharp outflows of Rs 2.94 lakh crore in March, against inflows of Rs 42,106.31 crore in February. Overnight and liquid funds were among the key contributors to these outflows. Hybrid schemes also recorded outflows of Rs 16,538.47 crore during the month, while arbitrage funds saw withdrawals of Rs 21,113.70 crore, the data showed. In addition, gold Exchange-Traded Funds (ETFs) saw inflows decline to Rs 2,266 crore, nearly half of February's Rs 5,254.95 crore.

RBI Absorbing Rs 2 Lakh Crore Excess Liquidity Via Reverse Repo Auction

Mumbai: The Reserve Bank of India announced on Friday that it is carrying out a Variable Rate Reverse Repo (VRRR) auction worth Rs 2 lakh crore with a 7-day tenor to absorb excess, durable liquidity from the banking system. The date of reversal is April 17. The VRRR is used to absorb excess liquidity when the system has a surplus, which helps maintain interest rates within the RBI's prescribed corridor. This move follows the RBI's revised liquidity management framework, which prioritises VRRR to manage liquidity over long-term repo operations. The auction aims to withdraw liquidity, often used to counteract surplus funds and maintain stability in the monetary system. This action is part of the central bank's broader strategy to manage liquidity conditions and maintain the stability of the financial system. Last year, the RBI discontinued the 14-day Variable Rate Repo (VRR) and Variable Rate Reverse Repo (VRRR) operations as the main operation for managing short-term or transient liquidity under a revised liquidity management framework. Instead, it is now managed primarily through 7-day VRR/VRRR and other VRR/VRRR operations of tenors from overnight up to 14 days, at the discretion of the RBI based on its assessment of the liquidity requirement for the system.