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Sitharaman Fires Back at Stalin: Labels Paddy Bonus Claims a Fabricated Narrative




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Bomb threat in Malkangiri court house, security tightened



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IPL 2026: GT-CSK Fixtures Dates Swapped Due To Municipal Corporation Elections



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Asha Bhosale Cremated With Full State Honours At Mumbai's Iconic Shivaji Park



## Trump Warns Iran Ships Amid Blockade



Washington: U.S. President Donald Trump Monday warned Iran that any naval vessels approaching American ships enforcing a blockade in the Strait of Hormuz would be "immediately ELIMINATED," as tensions escalated following the collapse of peace talks. In a post on his Truth Social platform, Trump said that Iran's naval capabilities had been severely degraded. "Iran's Navy is lying at the bottom of the sea, completely obliterated—

158 ships," he wrote, while noting that Tehran still retains a limited number of "fast attack ships." "What we have not hit are their small number of, what they call, 'fast attack ships,' because we did not consider them much of a threat," Trump said. He issued a direct warning to Iran against challenging the U.S. blockade. "Warning: If any of these ships come anywhere close to our BLOCKADE, they will be immediately ELIMINATED, using the same system of kill that we use against the drug dealers on boats at Sea. It is quick and brutal," he added.


## No Power Disconnection For Domestic Consumers In Odisha During Summer: Deputy CM

Bhubaneswar (Correspondent): In a major relief for domestic consumers amid the intense summer heat, Odisha Deputy Chief Minister Kanak Vardhan Singh Deo on Monday directed that no household electricity connections be disconnected due to non-payment of bills until the onset of the monsoon. The Deputy Chief Minister, who also holds the Agriculture & Farmers' Empowerment and Energy portfolios, further instructed that no unscheduled power cuts shall be carried out by any distribution companies (DISCOMs) on account of unpaid dues by domestic consumers. He clarified that power interruptions, if required, will be permitted strictly for essential repair and maintenance works. Such scheduled outages must be communicated in advance through SMS alerts and public address systems to ensure that consumers are adequately informed.

## CM Majhi Lays Foundation For Rs 1,581 Cr Barbil Bypass, Unveils Multiple Projects In Keonjhar

BHUBANESWAR, (Correspondent): Chief Minister Mohan Charan Majhi on Monday laid the foundation stone for the long-awaited Barbil Bypass-Ring Road project in Keonjhar district, fulfilling a key promise made to residents of the mining town. The proposed 18.326-km bypass road, to be developed at an estimated cost of 1,581.21 crore, is expected to significantly ease traffic congestion and improve connectivity in Barbil and surrounding areas. The Chief Minister said the project would address long-standing issues caused by heavy vehicular movement, particularly from mining operations. During the programme at Barbil, Majhi also inaugurated 24 projects worth ₹29.41 crore and laid foundation stones for 51 projects involving an investment of 326.43

crore across the district. Highlighting the importance of the bypass project, the Chief Minister said it has been designed to handle up to 40,000 passenger car units (PCU) per day, compared to the current traffic load of around 15,375 PCU. The project comprises three key stretches: 3.7 km from Bhadra Sahi to Serenda, 6.3 km from Serenda to Balani, and 8.3 km from Serenda to Nalda. He noted that the ring road would not only decongest the town but also spur urban expansion, boost economic activities, and reduce transportation costs, contributing to regional growth. Majhi also announced the establishment of a power sub-station for the Joda, Basudebpur and Barbil areas at a cost of 298 crore, and directed officials to expedite the construction of the proposed 8-lane Barbil-Paradip road.




**National Commission for Scheduled Castes celebrates Babasahab Dr. B.R. Ambedkar's 136<sup>th</sup> Birth Anniversary**

**Social Justice and National Development: Dr. Ambedkar's Principles as the Foundation of Viksit Bharat 2047**

**CHIEF GUEST**  
**SHRI OM BIRLA**  
HON'BLE SPEAKER, LOK SABHA

**DISTINGUISHED GUEST**  
**DR. VIRENDRA KUMAR**  
HON'BLE UNION MINISTER OF SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT

**DATE: 14<sup>th</sup> APRIL, 2026**  
**TIME: 4:30 PM**  
**VENUE: PLENARY HALL BHARAT MANDAPAM, NEW DELHI**



A tribute to a visionary leader

**DR. B.R. AMBEDKAR**

CBC 38114/13/0001/2627






**MESSAGE OF HON'BLE GOVERNOR OF ODISHA ON THE AUSPICIOUS OCCASION OF MAHA VISUBA SANKRANTI & ODIA NEW YEAR**


On the auspicious occasion of Maha Visuba Sankranti and on the first day of Odia New Year, I greet sisters and brothers of the State and extend my good wishes. I call upon all to work devotedly to make Odisha as one of the best States of the country and transform it to Viksit Odisha.

*(Signature)*  
**(Hari Babu Kambhampati)**

OIPR-15001/15001/2/26-27/0015



15001/15/2627



**ଓଡ଼ିଆ ନବବର୍ଷ ଅବସରରେ**  
**ଗୁଣ୍ୟମନ୍ତ୍ରୀଙ୍କ ଶୁଭେଚ୍ଛା**

ପବିତ୍ର ମହାବିଷୁବ ସଂକ୍ରାନ୍ତି ତଥା ଓଡ଼ିଆ ନବବର୍ଷ ଅବସରରେ ସମସ୍ତ ଓଡ଼ିଶାବାସୀ ଏବଂ ବିଶ୍ୱର କୋଣ ଅନୁକୋଣରେ ରହୁଥିବା ପ୍ରିୟ ଓଡ଼ିଆ ଭାଇ ଓ ଭଉଣୀମାନଙ୍କୁ ମୋର ଆତ୍ମରିକ ଶୁଭେଚ୍ଛା ଓ ଅଭିନନ୍ଦନ ଜଣାଉଛି ।

ମହାପ୍ରଭୁ ଶ୍ରୀକରନାଥଙ୍କ ଅପାର କରୁଣାରୁ ନୂତନ ବର୍ଷ ଆପଣ ସମସ୍ତଙ୍କ ଜୀବନରେ ଅପାର ସୁଖ, ଶାନ୍ତି ଓ ସମୃଦ୍ଧି ଭରିଦେଉ, ଏହାହିଁ ମୋର ପ୍ରାର୍ଥନା ।

କଳା, ସାହିତ୍ୟ, ସଂସ୍କୃତି, ଐତିହ୍ୟ ଓ ପରମ୍ପରାରେ ସମୃଦ୍ଧ ଆମ ଓଡ଼ିଆ ଜାତି ଆଜି 'ଓଡ଼ିଆ ଅସ୍ମିତା'ର ପୁନଃ ପ୍ରତିଷ୍ଠା ପାଇଁ ପୂର୍ଣ୍ଣ ସମର୍ପଣ କରୁଅଛନ୍ତି । ଆଜିର ଓଡ଼ିଶା ନୂଆ ଭଣ୍ଡାହ, ଅସୀମ ଉତ୍ସାହ ଓ ଗଭୀର ଆତ୍ମବିଶ୍ୱାସର ସହିତ ଏକ 'ସମୃଦ୍ଧ ଓ ବିକଶିତ ଓଡ଼ିଶା' ଗଠନ ଦିଗରେ ଦୃଢ଼ ସଂକଳ୍ପର ସହ ଅଗ୍ରସର ହେଉଛି ।

ଆସନ୍ତୁ, ଏହି ପବିତ୍ର ଅବସରରେ ଆମେ ସମସ୍ତେ ମିଳିମିଶି ଆମର ଏହି ସଂକଳ୍ପକୁ ସିଦ୍ଧିରେ ପରିଣତ କରିବା ଏବଂ ଓଡ଼ିଶାକୁ ବିକାଶର ଶିଖରରେ ପହଞ୍ଚାଇବା ପାଇଁ ନୂଆ ଶପଥ ନେବା ।

**ବନ୍ଦେ ଭକ୍ତଜ୍ଞ ଜନନୀ !**

*(Signature)*  
**(ମୋହନ ଚରଣ ମାଝୀ)**  
ଗୁଣ୍ୟମନ୍ତ୍ରୀ, ଓଡ଼ିଶା

# Women's Reservation: Congress Wants Central Govt To Wait Till 2027

New Delhi: The Congress party has alleged that the Central government is playing a 'Machiavellian game' (Shakuni-like manoeuvre) by hiding behind the issue of women's reservation, with the aim of conducting a flawed delimitation exercise in the country and avoiding the necessity of holding a caste census.

During a press conference at the Congress headquarters, Supriya Shrinete—Chairperson of the party's social media and digital platforms wing—cited an article by Sonia Gandhi, Chairperson of the Congress

Parliamentary Party, asserting that the delimitation process should not result in any absolute or relative disadvantage to smaller states, or to those states that have performed commendably in the field of family planning. However, the delimitation exercise that the Central government intends to undertake—without the requisite census data, will be procedurally incorrect. She warned that this move would also exacerbate the existing divide between the northern and southern states. She laid emphasis on the true objective of



delimitation, which is not merely to increase the number of seats, but to ensure equitable representation. Shrinete noted that the last census was conducted in 2011, and the subsequent census was scheduled for 2021; however, the process is currently

running five years behind schedule. She raised a question: How can delimitation be carried out in the absence of up-to-date census data? She pointed out that in various states where the Socio-Economic and Caste Census (SECC) is being

conducted, the names of millions of people have been struck off the lists—implying that the government itself acknowledges that population figures are fluctuating across different regions. In such a scenario, Shrinete asked, What basis will be used to conduct the delimitation? How will the government determine which seats are to be reserved for Scheduled Castes (SCs) and Scheduled Tribes (STs)? She further questioned why the government could not simply wait until next year—2027—when the complete census data is

expected to become available. The Congress spokesperson stated that the caste surveys conducted in Bihar and Telangana demonstrate the significant size of the Backward Classes population; based on this, when the Women's Reservation Bill was passed in 2023, the Congress party had advocated for the inclusion of reservations for OBC women as well. However, in an attempt to evade conducting a caste census and providing reservations for OBC women, the Modi government is now proposing to expedite the delimitation process.

# Three Bhagiraths of Sangh Ganga' Play to Echo in Delhi

New Delhi, (H.S.): To commemorate the centenary year of the Rashtriya Swayamsevak Sangh (RSS), the special Hindi play Sangh Gangechya Teen Bhagirath will be staged at three different venues in the national capital on April 15, 18, and 19, 2026. Director Sanjay Pendse shared this information. According to Pendse, nationwide performances mark RSS's 100-year milestone. The play chronicles the lives and contributions of its first three Sarsanghchalaks—Dr. Keshav Baliram Hedgewar, Shri Guruji (M.S. Golwalkar), and Balasaheb Deoras—vividly portraying the organization's century-long journey. The inaugural Delhi show on April 15 (Wednesday) is hosted by the Confederation of All India Traders (CAIT) at NDM Convention Centre, Parliament Street, commencing 5 PM. CAIT National President Balakrishna Bharatiya noted the script by Sridhar Gadage illuminates RSS's founding, objectives, social service, and evolution, spotlighting nationalism, social harmony, and a century of struggle and expansion. On April 18 (Saturday) at 3 PM, the second performance unfolds at Maharaja Agrasen Mahavidyalaya, Mayur Vihar (Vasundhara Enclave), as announced by RSS Delhi East Prant Sanghchalak Viresh Kumar.

# NHA Beckons Innovators for AB PM-JAY Auto-Adjudication Hackathon 2026

New Delhi, (H.S.): The National Health Authority (NHA) has invited innovators, students, developers, and startups to participate in the AB PM-JAY Auto-Adjudication Hackathon 2026 under Ayushman Bharat-Pradhan Mantri Jan Arogya Yojana, aiming to forge cutting-edge digital solutions for swifter, precise, and transparent health insurance claims adjudication. Currently settling ~50,000 daily claims—with merely 15-20% automated—the scheme grapples with surging volumes and complexities. This AI-driven initiative seeks scalable systems adept at diverse treatment packages and document formats. Nationwide enthusiasm has yielded 2,600+ registrations; applicants must enroll by April 13, 2026, via the official portal. Masterclasses commence today, elucidating claims systems, hackathon expectations, and digital health innovation vistas. Culminating May 8-9 at Bengaluru's Indian Institute of Science, top teams clinch ₹5 lakh, ₹3 lakh, and ₹2 lakh prizes—plus NHA collaboration prospects. Register at <https://nha.gov.in/hackathon> by deadline.

# Scindia to Unveil Unity Through Stamps Exhibition at PM Sangrahalaya

New Delhi, : Union Minister for Communications and Development of North Eastern Region Jyotiraditya Scindia will inaugurate a four-day special postage stamp exhibition, "Ek Bharat Shreshtha Bharat: Celebrating India's Unity and Democracy Through Postage Stamps," at the Prime Ministers' Museum on April 14, 2026. Organized by the Prime Ministers' Museum and Library (PMML) with the Department of Posts, the event commences at noon in Block-I's 'Introduction Gallery,' running until April 17. Special picture postcards on India's

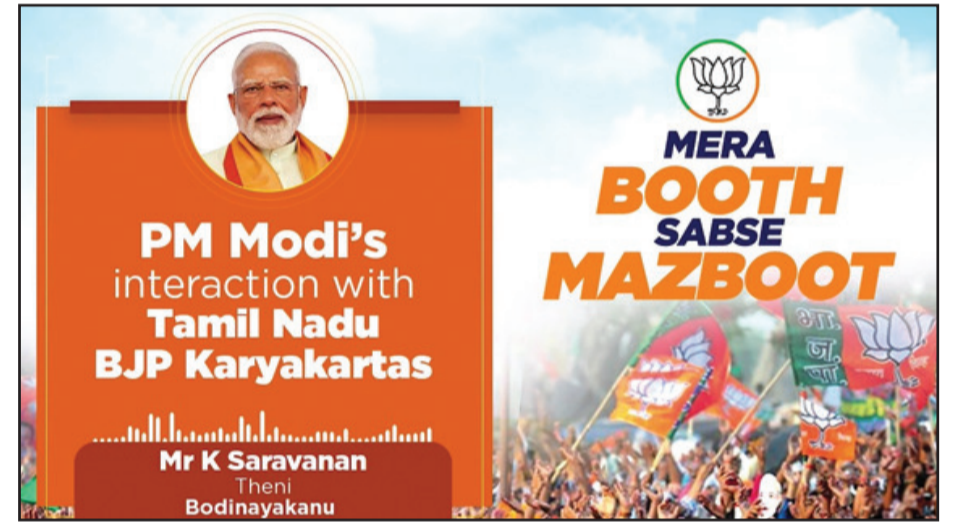


Constitution, Dr. B.R. Ambedkar, and "People of India" will be released. Private collectors nationwide contribute rare stamps, chronicling post-Independence unity, democracy, and cultural tapestry—featuring PMs/ Presidents, democratic institutions, freedom fighters, and diversity. A Memorandum of

Understanding between the Department of Posts and PMML will be signed. Culminating April 17 on former PM Chandrashekar's 99th birth anniversary, a dedicated "special cover" launches. Visitors, philatelists, students, and public will immerse in history, heritage, and democracy via philately's lens.

# Double-Engine Momentum: PM Modi Envisions Accelerated Tamil Nadu Development

New Delhi, : Prime Minister Narendra Modi asserted on Monday, that Tamil Nadu views the BJP-led NDA as a harbinger of change, with grassroots efforts fostering optimism, and a "double-engine government" would turbocharge development. Booth-Level Connect and Youth Outreach Addressing Tamil Nadu BJP booth workers virtually via 'Mera Booth Sabse Majboot Samvad - Tamil Nadu,' PM Modi urged small-group meetings to share experiences, emphasizing outreach to young voters on NDA's developmental strides despite opposition rule. Prioritizing farmers, PM Modi highlighted direct benefit transfers under PM-KISAN (thousands of



crores to Tamil Nadu accounts) and massive crop insurance payouts, eliminating intermediaries for unhindered scheme reach. Tamil Nadu gained 11 new medical colleges and doubled seats in the past decade—fulfilling middle-class aspirations—alongside accelerated rail, highway, and airport projects. Mudra Yojana empowered

millions of youth, traders, and women with collateral-free loans, spurring self-employment. Critique of DMK: Housing Lapses, Lawlessness, Graft. Modi faulted DMK for denying PMAY homes to deserving poor via flawed surveys, raised women's safety concerns amid rising drugs and illicit liquor networks—allegedly state-patronized—

threatening youth futures, and decried institutionalized corruption defining ministers and departments. Guarantee of Inclusive Progress Urging workers to identify scheme-deprived citizens, PM Modi pledged "Modi ki Guarantee": future NDA rule ensures concrete homes for all eligible families and development dividends to every individual.

# Sitharaman Fires Back at Stalin: Labels Paddy Bonus Claims a Fabricated Narrative

New Delhi, : Union Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman launched a sharp rebuttal on April 13, 2026, against Tamil Nadu Chief Minister M.K. Stalin's accusations over the Centre's advisory on wheat and paddy farmer bonuses, accusing him of engineering a "false narrative." Advisory, Not Directive: Promoting Crop Diversification. Posing the relevant letter on X, Sitharaman clarified no directive halted bonuses; rather, an advisory to all states' chief secretaries urged alignment with national priorities—fostering pulses, oilseeds, and millets for nutritional security and self-reliance,



not curbing incentives. She lambasted DMK's ploy to masquerade as farmers' guardians, emphasizing India's unsustainable rice/wheat monoculture amid soaring palm oil and pulse imports. "Farmers gain superior prices from demand-supply gaps in pulses/oilseeds," she posited, questioning

Stalin's disregard for Aatmanirbhar Bharat. Crop diversification advances protein-rich access ("nutrition security") and slashes edible oil import bills ("economic stability"). Most states embraced cooperative federalism; only Stalin sensationalized a constructive invitation.

# Strict Action Against Paper Leaks: Rajasthan CM

Jaipur: Rajasthan Chief Minister Bhajan Lal Sharma stated that the youth are the driving force determining the direction and future of the nation. Emphasising the government's commitment, he said the "double engine" government is working with a clear vision to empower youth, urging them to strive to achieve their dreams while assuring full government support. Addressing participants via video conferencing during the My Bharat Budget

Quest: Rajasthan Youth Dialogue at the Rajasthan International Centre, the Chief Minister noted that platforms like these help youth better understand economic policies and evolve into responsible citizens. Participants expressed gratitude for key initiatives such as transparent recruitment processes and the formulation of a dedicated Youth Policy. Highlighting the government's focus on employment and fairness, Sharma said a

Special Investigation Team was constituted immediately after the formation of the government to probe paper leak cases. As a result, 420 accused have been arrested in connection with the use of dummy candidates, fake degrees, and other recruitment-related irregularities. He added that over 351 examinations have been conducted transparently in the past two years without any incidents of paper leaks. Reaffirming the government's

commitment to employment, the Chief Minister stated that against the target of 4 lakh government jobs, more than 1.25 lakh youth have already been provided government jobs. Additionally, around 3 lakh employment opportunities have been generated in the private sector. He emphasised that through interest-free loans and supportive policies, the government is encouraging youth to move from job seekers to job creators.

# Rahul Gandhi Stands Firm: Congress Backs Pawan Khera Against Assam CM's Retaliation

New Delhi: Congress leader and Leader of Opposition in Lok Sabha, Rahul Gandhi, has unequivocally rallied behind party media chairperson Pawan Khera amid an FIR triggered by his allegations against Assam Chief Minister Himanta Biswa Sarma's wife, Rinki Bhuiyan, vowing unyielding resolve in the face of

political vendetta. In a pointed post on X on Monday, Rahul Gandhi branded Sarma as India's most corrupt chief minister, accusing him of weaponizing official authority to harass political adversaries and critics—a blatant affront to constitutional ethos. He insisted that Khera's claims warrant impartial scrutiny, advocating transparency,

governmental accountability, and rule of law as bedrock constitutional tenets. Reiterating solidarity, Gandhi declared: "We shall not cower. Congress stands resolutely with Pawan Khera." The imbroglio ignited on April 5, 2026, during Khera's press briefing at Congress headquarters, where he alleged Rinki Bhuiyan held active

passports from the United Arab Emirates, Antigua-Bermuda, and Egypt, alongside undisclosed multimillion-rupee assets in Wyoming (USA) and UAE—omitted from Election Commission disclosures. Sarma dismissed these as malicious fabrications, pledging legal recourse within 48 hours; consequently, an FIR ensued,

prompting Assam Police's raid on Khera's Delhi residence on April 7. Absent at the time, Khera later saw police seize his mobile, iPad, laptop, and pen drives. This standoff exemplifies intensifying pre-poll skirmishes, with Congress decrying "state machinery misuse" while BJP counters with defamation charges.

prompting Assam Police's raid on Khera's Delhi residence on April 7. Absent at the time, Khera later saw police seize his mobile, iPad, laptop, and pen drives. This standoff exemplifies intensifying pre-poll skirmishes, with Congress decrying "state machinery misuse" while BJP counters with defamation charges.



**Bhubaneswar: (Correspondent):-** "A national seminar on developed India based on rural development and sustainable development has been organized to fulfill the goal of Viksit Bharat 2047 at Nilakanthaswar degree Mahavidyalaya, south Balanda, Talcher. This seminar was inaugurated by the Honourable Member of Parliament, Dhenkanal Rudra Narayana Pani. He guided students and researchers to work and research on the prosperity of the rural economy to achieve Prime Minister Modi's dream of Viksit Bharat 2047. Later, the President of the Central Cooperative Bank, Angul Sri Santish Kumar Pradhan, advised that the outcomes of the seminar should be transformed into plans with proper supervision. Professor Dukhabandhu Sahu from IIT Bhubaneswar gave his

opinion on the rural economy. Professor Biswambhar Mishra from NEHU Silang, provided insightful suggestions for building a developed India. The event was conducted under the leadership of Principal Dr Balabhadra Jena, Research Forum India National Vice president Dr Susil Pattanayak, a Rashtriya Awardee from the RISE Foundation, Professors Lalaetahu Gadnayak, Sumanta Majhi, and Shubhadashini Mahapatra managed the sessions. 81 researchers from across the country presented their papers. In the afternoon, the concluding session was successfully organized. awards are given to the scholars.

All staff and students cooperated in smooth organisation of the National conference.

## Sudhir Kumar and Brajabandhu captivate the audience with Danda Nacha

**Bhubaneswar: (Correspondent):-** The Danda Nacha of Odisha, which is held from the end of the month of Chaitra to the Pana Sankranti of the month of Baisakh, has a very ancient history. In particular, the male dancers perform flawlessly in many spiritually charged mythological stories based on female characters, while the melodious performances of Sudhir Kumar Behera and Brajabandhu Behera as the main characters of the Danda Yatra of Goddess Kali in



Karadapada, Goudatamandi, Gania Block, Nayagarh District, have captivated the hearts of the people of the region. Sudhir Kumar, a highly educated artist, worked as a Bajaj Finance Officer after completing his graduation from Nayagarh College. His

love for art and dedication to art have created a special identity for him in the region. The flawless performances of the two male artists, Lakshmi Narayan, Radha Krishna, Ram Sita, and Shiv Parvati, in the Danda dance by Sudhir Kumar Behera and Brajabandhu Behera, are captivating the entire people of Nayagarh. For this, the appreciation and blessings of the art-loving public and the people of Nayagarh are pouring in for these two artists.

## Bhubaneswar Braces For Traffic Curbs On Hanuman Jayanti Amid Multiple Processions

**Bhubaneswar:** The Commissionerate Police on Monday issued a detailed traffic advisory ahead of Hanuman Jayanti and Maha Bishuba Sankranti celebrations on April 14, warning of congestion, diversions, and temporary road closures across the city due to multiple religious processions and rallies. According to the advisory, large-scale padayatras, bike rallies, cycle rallies, and religious processions will be organised by various temple committees, clubs, and organisations

## NOT AN INCH SHALL BE GIVEN, VAMSADHARA VILLAGERS VOW

**Paralakhemundi, (Correspondent):-** In a powerful surge of resistance, villagers along the Vamsadhara River in Gajapati district have declared an unflinching stand against the proposed Neredi Barrage, asserting that they will not part with even a single inch of their land, even at the cost of their lives. United under the Vamsadhara Protection Forum, the predominantly agrarian community has risen in one voice, turning their deep-rooted bond with the land into a resolute movement of defiance. Thus the people of Gajapati have risen with unyielding resolve against the proposed construction of the long-disputed Neredi Barrage. For over three decades, the Katragada Phase-II project has remained a contentious chord between Odisha and Andhra Pradesh, now striking a renewed note of unrest. A video, purportedly shared from the social media account of a Srikakulam MP and Union Cabinet Minister, has set the region abuzz with claims that the Supreme Court has ruled in favor of Andhra Pradesh. Though unverified officially, the message has ignited anxiety and agitation among the villagers who stand on the brink of displacement. Responding to the growing unrest, Paralakhemundi MLA Rupesh Kumar Panigrahi visited

Sara village under Kashinagar block, engaging directly with the affected communities. United under the banner of the Vamsadhara Protection Forum, the villagers conveyed their collective anguish and determination. The forum has emerged as a beacon of local resistance, voicing both fear and hope. The people argue that an upstream dam within Odisha's jurisdiction would better serve the state's agrarian backbone, ensuring irrigation benefits for its farmers. In contrast, the Neredi Barrage, if realized, threatens to submerge seven villages in Kashinagar block and impact parts of the Gunupur subdivision in Rayagada district, leaving a trail of displacement and deprivation. Moreover, concerns loom large over the specter of water scarcity that could haunt the lower regions of Gajapati, including Kashinagar and its adjoining areas, if the river's flow is altered. While social media continues to swirl with assertions of approvals from the Supreme Court and the Central Water Commission—alongside claims of a 50:50 water-sharing arrangement from the proposed 115 TMC capacity—the local Irrigation Department remains cautious.

## Paradip Sahitya Sansad Celebrates 17th Annual Festival "Shabda Samudra-2026"

**Paradip (Correspondent):-** The 17th annual festival of Paradip Sahitya Sansad, titled "Shabda Samudra-2026," was celebrated with great enthusiasm on Sunday, April 12, at the local Shishu Vidya Mandir auditorium during the forenoon session. The event was presided over by the President of the Sahitya Sansad, Mr. Tulasi Baral. Eminent personalities graced the occasion, including poet Shailaja Ravi as the Chief Guest, Dr. Bhagabat Shukla as the Chief Speaker, and Ms. Bandita Shubhadarshini

Pattanaik, Chairperson of Adivev Entertainment, as the Guest Speaker. Among the distinguished guests were Paradip Municipality Chairman Mr. Basant Kumar Biswal, Councillor Mr. Subrata Kumar Pradhan, Head of the Commerce Department of Narayan Birabar Samanta College, Jhiman, Dr. Kishore Kumar Jena, and columnist Mr. Akshaya Kumar Rout. The welcome address, introduction of guests, and presentation of the editorial report were delivered by Mr.

Prasanta Kumar Rout, while the program was skillfully anchored by Mr. Sanjay Kumar Mishra. During the programme several distinguished individuals were honored for their contributions in various fields. Poet Prahlad Satapathy was conferred the Paradip Port Poetry Award, Dr. Abhilash Jena received the Essay Award, Dr. Sameer Ranjan was awarded for Short Story Writing, and artist Kshirod Rout was honored with the Fine Arts Award. Young poet Preeti Pragya Jena received the

Nityananda Baral Memorial Award. In addition, Dr. Shubhashree Baral, Dr. Rabintra Kumar Swain, and Jayadev Samantaray were felicitated for their contributions to healthcare. Poets Brundaban Das, Prabhat Das, Gopabandhu Nayak, Khageswar Mahanti, Mrs. Haramoni Mahapatra, and Sanghamitra Swain were also honored for their literary contributions. Vikram Parida was recognized for his work in theatre direction.

## GAJAPATI POLICE UNEARTH RS 1-CR WORTH GANJA CACHE

**Paralakhemundi, (Correspondent):-** In a striking blow to the clandestine empire of narcotics, the vigilant Gajapati Police have once again scripted a tale of triumph amid the whispering wilderness. From the dense green folds of the forests near Gudripanka village under Adaba police limits, a staggering 1,054 kilograms of ganja—valued at over Rs 1 crore—has been unearthed, sending tremors through the ranks of the ganja mafia. Since assuming charge as SDPO of R. Udayagiri, the resolute IPS officer Rakesh Kumar Sahu has unleashed an unyielding crackdown against the illicit drug trade. His relentless pursuit of



lawfulness has turned the once-shadowy corridors of smuggling into zones of fear for the perpetrators, robbing them of their sleep and sanctuary. Acting upon credible intelligence, a meticulously planned raid was carried out under his leadership deep within the forested terrain. The operation revealed 42 sacks brimming with contraband, stealthily concealed for illegal transit. In adherence to due process, the seized

ganja was weighed in the august presence of a magistrate, confirming the colossal haul. Police sources estimate the market value of the confiscated substance to exceed Rs 1 crore, underscoring the magnitude of the crackdown. With unwavering determination, SDPO Sahu has affirmed that such decisive actions will persist until the roots of this illegal trade are entirely uprooted from the soil of Gajapati.

## Reason for minor's suicide in Jhatipadar unclear

**Gopalpur, (correspondent)** A complaint has been filed at the police station that a minor committed suicide by tying a saree around his neck in Jhatipadar village under Golanthara police station. The police have registered a case of unnatural death and started investigation. The minor who committed suicide the police have identified as B Janaki Rao (15). According to reports, Janaki, a resident of Jhatipada village under

this police station, had dropped out of school after completing her 8th standard. he had been herding buffaloes for the past few months. On Monday, at around 12 noon, he had gone for a walk near the village pond. But he did not return home. Even after being late, Janaki did not return home. When the family searched for him, they found him hanging in a hut near the pond with a saree tied around his neck. The family rescued Janaki in the hope that

he was alive and admitted him to the Berhampur MKCG Hospital, where the doctor declared him dead. It is understood that the family had lodged a complaint with the Golanthara police station in this regard. A case of unnatural death was registered under Police Station No. 13/26. The police reached the Berhampur MKCG Hospital and seized the body, dismembered it and handed it over to the family in the evening. On the other

hand, what was the reason for Janaki taking such a drastic decision? Whether it was taken or what other reason is there? The police are investigating from various angles and the real reason will be clear once the autopsy report comes, said the investigating officer, ASI Ramesh Chandra Chaudhary. The way in which the deceased Janki committed suicide while her entire body was lying on the ground has shocked the family.

## A helping hand extended to a meritorious student suffering from cancer by social worker Kasturi Bala Swain

**Nimapada (correspondent):-** In Dihabari village under Chanarpada Panchayat of Nimapada block in Puri district, a bright student, Biswajita Bhoi, the elder daughter of Pradipta Bhoi, who had achieved success in a state-level Taekwondo competition, has been suffering from cancer for a long time and is currently bedridden while undergoing treatment. Social worker and district president Kasturi Bala Swain has come forward to support her. According to reports, Biswajita, a Class 10 student of the local J.B.R. Government Girls' High School, requires more than ₹15 lakh for cancer treatment as per doctors' advice. However, her father Pradipta Bhoi, a daily wage laborer living below the poverty line, is unable to manage the expenses required for her treatment. After learning about the situation, social worker Kasturi Bala Swain visited Biswajita and provided some financial assistance. She also promised to extend further support in the coming days for her treatment.

## Mercury to Touch 45°C in Odisha, Heatwave to Persist Till April 17

**BHUBANESWAR, (Correspondent)** Odisha braces for an intense heatwave as temperatures are expected to soar to 45°C over the next five days, according to the Bhubaneswar Meteorological Centre. Regional Meteorological Centre Director Manorama Mohanty said coastal and interior parts of the state will continue to experience extreme heat and humidity until April 17. She warned that relief from the scorching

conditions is unlikely in the coming days. The heatwave has already gripped several districts, with daytime temperatures rising steadily. Bhubaneswar, Cuttack, and western Odisha towns such as Sambalpur and Jharsuguda recorded severe heat conditions. Meteorologists said the dry northwesterly winds and clear skies are intensifying the heat across the region. Health officials advised residents to avoid outdoor activities during peak hours and stay hydrated.

## Dr. D. Sudhakara Rao Takes Charge as Principal Chief Commissioner of Income Tax for Odisha Region

**BHUBANESWAR, (Correspondent):** Senior IRS officer Dr D. Sudhakara Rao assumed charge today as the Principal Chief Commissioner of Income Tax (PCCIT) for the Odisha Region at Bhubaneswar. An Indian Revenue Service (IRS) officer of the 1990 batch, Dr Rao brings decades of rich administrative and leadership experience across multiple states and Union Territories, including Andhra Pradesh, Telangana, Goa, Karnataka, Puducherry, Kerala, and Maharashtra.

## Bomb threat in Malkangiri court house, security tightened

**Malkangiri (correspondent)** Bomb threat was witnessed in Malkangiri district courthouse today. After receiving a threat to blow up the courthouse through an anonymous e-mail, the entire area was in a state of panic. The courthouse was immediately evacuated for security reasons, while the police and bomb disposal squad are continuing their search. According to information, a threatening e-mail was received by the authorities today while the court work was going on normally. In this e-mail, it was mentioned that a bomb had been planted in



the courthouse by an organization called Tamil Nadu Liberation Group and that it would be blown up. After this news was spread, District Judge Shantanu Kumar Das immediately ordered all the employees, lawyers and clients to leave the courthouse. Malkangiri police reached the spot and

are checking every corner of the court. Special Bomb Squad has also joined this operation. Police are investigating whether the threat is real or a hoax. Although no suspicious items have been found in the courtroom so far, police have increased security and have urged everyone to be patient.

## EDITORIAL

### 'Pavan puthra' Hanuman



Dr. Umesh Chandra Patra

Hanuman is one of the most important personalities in 'Ramayana'. Hanuman is known as a Hanuman is one of the most important per-

sonalities in 'Ramayana'. Hanuman is known as a popular devotee of Lord Rama. His help made Rama to find out Sita devi easily and then defeat Ravana in the war. Hanuman is known as different names such as Anjaneya, Pavan puthra, Maruthi. The name 'Anjaneya' was derived from his mother's name 'Anjana', a female vanara. Its also believed that Hanuman is the incarnation of Lord Siva. So Hanuman is known as 'Maharudhra' too. Some believes that Hanuman is the son of 'Vayu', the god of wind, so having the name 'Pavan puthra'.

The story of the birth of Hanuman goes thus: Vrihaspati had an attendant called Punjikasthala, who was cursed to assume the form of a female monkey — a curse that could only be nullified if she would give birth to an incarnation of Lord Shiva. Reborn as Anjana, she performed intense austerities to please Shiva, who finally granted her the boon that would cure her of the curse.

When Agni, the god of fire, gave Dasharath, the king of Ayodhya, a bowl of sacred dessert to share among his wives so they may have divine children, an eagle snatched a part of the pudding and dropped it where Anjana was meditating, and Pavana, the god of wind delivered the drop to her outstretched hands. After she took the divine dessert, she gave birth to Hanuman. Thus Lord Shiva incarnated as a monkey, and was born as Hanuman to Anjana, by the blessings of Pavana, who thus became Hanuman's godfather.

The character of Hanuman teaches us of the unlimited power that lies unused within each one of us. Hanuman directed all his energies towards the worship of Lord Rama, and his undying devotion made him such that he became free from all physical fatigue. And Hanuman's only desire was to go on serving Rama. Hanuman perfectly exemplifies 'Dasyabhava' devotion — one of the nine types of devotions — that bonds the master and the servant. His greatness lies in his complete merger with his Lord, which also formed the base of his genial qualities. It is hard to find a mythical character who is at once so powerful, learned, philosophical, humble and amusing! Hanuman features prominently in the great epics of Ramayana and the Mahabharata.

It is hanuman's speciality, that even though he is god, he always wanted to be the servant of his master, Lord Rama. Doing upasana for Hanuman is very special and auspicious and he will be protecting his devotees from all sufferings and helping for endurance in their life. It is believed that Lord Hanuman is still living with us in Kali yuga and blessing all his devotees.

## Dr. B. R. Ambedkar: The Eternal Voice of Equality and Social Justice



Pradeep Kumar Mallick

April 14 stands as a significant and solemn day in India's history, marking the birth anniversary of B. R.

Ambedkar—a visionary leader, social reformer, and the chief architect of modern India's democratic foundation. More than an individual, he represents an enduring movement for justice, dignity, and human rights.

Dr. Ambedkar firmly believed that political independence alone could not ensure true freedom for a nation. According to him, social freedom—free from discrimination, inequality, and oppression—was equally, if not more, essential. At a time when India was fighting colonial rule, he courageously highlighted that internal social injustices, especially untouchability, were deeply rooted evils that needed urgent eradication. His lifelong struggle was dedicated to dismantling these oppressive structures and building a society based on equality and justice.

Despite facing immense challenges and limited support from contemporary leaders, Dr. Ambedkar remained unwavering in his mission. He often walked a solitary path, driven by a clear vision of an inclusive India. For him, patriotism was not

confined to political liberation; it extended to social transformation. A nation could not truly progress unless all its citizens were treated with dignity and equal rights.

One of the most misunderstood aspects of his legacy is the narrow labeling of him as merely a leader of the marginalized. In reality, his thoughts and reforms were aimed at the upliftment of the entire society. He envisioned a nation where justice was not selective, but universal. His contribution to the drafting of the Indian Constitution reflects this vision—embedding principles of liberty, equality, fraternity, and justice at its core.

Dr. Ambedkar's patriotism has, at times, been questioned by critics who misinterpreted his stance during British rule. However, his actions consistently demonstrated deep commitment to the nation. During international forums like the Round Table Conferences, he boldly asserted India's right to self-governance and demanded an end to colonial domination. Such courage, especially in front of British authorities, highlighted his fearless nationalism.

His life was marked by a dual struggle—against colonial oppression and against social discrimination within Indian society. Importantly, he gave equal importance to both. This dual vision makes his contribution unique; he was not only fighting for a free India but for a just India.

As the principal architect of the Indian Constitution,

Dr. Ambedkar laid the foundation for a democratic framework that protects individual rights and promotes social justice. The Constitution he helped shape remains a living document, guiding the nation through changing times while upholding core democratic values.

His decision to embrace Buddhism later in life was also a thoughtful and principled choice. It was not driven by hostility toward any religion but by his pursuit of equality, dignity, and human values. He sought a path that aligned with his ideals of social harmony and justice, and his conversion inspired millions to rethink the meaning of faith and identity. Dr. Ambedkar's journey—from facing severe social discrimination to becoming one of the greatest intellectuals and nation-builders—stands as a powerful testament to resilience, education, and determination. His life continues to inspire generations to challenge injustice and strive for a better society. In today's world, where divisions and inequalities still persist, his ideas remain profoundly relevant. True tribute to Dr. Ambedkar lies not merely in remembering him on his birth anniversary, but in practicing his ideals—ensuring equality, defending justice, and upholding human dignity in everyday life.

On this occasion, the nation bows in deep respect to a true nation-builder, whose legacy continues to illuminate the path toward a more just and equitable India.

## MAHABISHUVA SANKRANTI - The Advent of Odia New year



SHYAM SUNDAR SAHOO

MahaBishuva Sankranti" is widely acclaimed as "Pana Sankranti" in the state of Odisha being it's regional, traditional and

cultural identity. It is the odia new year and observed with religious and spiritual fervour approaching in the month of April. This year the festival is being observed on 14th April, Tuesday throughout the country according to the calendar. After the retreat of spring season the summer creeps in with the sun at its peak and this significant Pana Sankranti marks the transition of the sun into Aries (Mesha rasi). The same solar transition is being celebrated across India as regional new years in different states. It is called "Baisakhi" in Punjab while the Bengalis rejoice it as "Pahela Baisakhi" and it is named as "Vishu" in Kerelam and Tamil Puthandu in the state of Tamil Nadu.

The festival has its root in ancient Indian astronomy and the solar calendar system. "MahaBishuva Sankranti" implies the meaning as "Great Equinox Transition". It is the celebration of Sun's rebirth into the first house of zodiac marking a moment of celestial balance symbolising the beginning of a fresh life cycle for the earth, the crops and people. As history reveals, since the time immemorial it has been celebrated for centuries, as an agrarian and seasonal festival denoting the start of a new agricultural cycle and spiritual sentiment of Odishan people.

Far from being a Sankranti, it holds immense value in Odisha because in the heart of legacy there lies a potential point i.e., the Odia new year starts from this day and is observed gleefully by one and all irrespective of caste, creed and class. The festival is steeped in ancient legends and ritualistic practices signalling the transition of seasons i.e., from Spring to Summer. One of the most significant rituals that

comes to my mind is "Bashundhara". In Odisha every household hangs a small earthen pot filled with water with a tiny hole at the bottom hung over a Tulsi plant which symbolises the life-giving rain amidst the unbearable summer days to come.

In the southern part of Odisha an unique form of dance and penance known as "Danda nacha" is also observed which is dedicated to Lord Shiva and goddess Kali. This observance culminates on this Pana Sankranti day. The devotees undergo rigorous physical trials in hot sand, thorns and water exhibiting their devotion with austerity. They even walk on burning coals and charcoals known as "Jhamu jatra" which not only show their devotion with austerity but amazes the onlookers for such adventurous performances.

Justifying the name "Pana Sankranti", Pana (a chilled sweet drink) made from ripe wood apple (bela), grated coconut, chhena (cottage cheese), bananas, yogurt and spices comprising black pepper, ginger with a pinch of green cardamom, is prepared and offered to the deities as prasad and shared among the devotees which act as a coolant to sooth them from the scorching summer heat. In some places people take the pleasure of drinking the pana mixed with "bhanga" elevating its taste and texture. The "pana" is believed to enhance the digestive capacity, hydration thereby rejuvenating the body as an energy booster.

Barring historical background, it has religious and cultural significance ahead. It is dedicated to Lord Jagannath and Lord Hanuman. Hanuman Jayanti coincides on this day. Special temple rituals as per the Madala Panji are performed in Sri Mandir before Lord Jagannath to mark the Odia new year and onset of Summer. Pana is offered as bhogto Lord Jagannath with chatua. Apart from observing the rituals of "Basundhara Theki" within the temple premises, the new Panjika (the Odia astronomical almanac) is traditionally read out before the deities seeking Lord's blessings for a prosperous new year.

Special rituals are designed for "Aastha Sambhu" (eight Shivas) and multiple Hanuman idols located at the four gates of the temple. With the change of the season the deities are adorned with suitable seasonal attire to comfort their bodies.

This day is treated auspicious for charitable activities coupled with beginning of new ventures and spiritual purification. Pana and prasad are served to all leaving none. "Pana" is the "Prana" (soul) of Odias which is why it is colloquially called "Pana Sankranti". Acts of charity and social welfare like donating water, food, clothes, umbrellas and extending a helping hand to the needy and poor is considered very meritorious. Hence Dana (donation), Dharma (righteousness) and Punya (virtue) are the core value of this Sankranti.

The celebration is not all the same in rural villages and towns. While the celebrations in rural belt are traditional, ritualistic and community oriented that include melas, in cities and towns it is more organised, systematic and modern in nature. Apart from traditional rituals, Odia new year events comprising of dance, music and social gatherings are organised by the state level function and social organisations like NGO's.

The particular day is not only celebrated as the Odia new year, it upholds the symbol of Odia Asmita which encapsulates the pride, heritage and cultural identity of the age oldstate of Kalinga reminding us of the rituals that our great forefathers and predecessors were observing since the time immemorial. Today's modern educated youth plunged in empty western culture are not acquainted with the rituals and may not appreciate it but if we call a spade a spade, it is true that the observances are as old as mountains and are the heart throb of every Odia. This ritual is based upon the reflection of Odia's cultural, spiritual and ecological values and harmonises the relationship between humans and nature.

## Maha Vishuva Sankranti: The Odia New Year as a Confluence of Culture, Cosmos, Science and Consciousness



Dr Simant Kumar Nanda

The celebration of Maha Vishuva Sankranti, widely known as Pana Sankranti, marks far more than the commencement of a regional calendar year in Odisha. It represents a profound synthesis of

astronomy, environmental awareness, health science, and philosophical introspection. Observed annually around the 13th or 14th of April, this sacred transition embodies an ancient wisdom that seamlessly integrates cosmic rhythms with human existence. At a time when modern civilization is rediscovering the importance of sustainability, balance, and preventive health, this festival stands as a living example of how deeply these principles were embedded in traditional Indian life. At the astronomical level, Maha Vishuva Sankranti signifies the Sun's entry into the zodiac sign Aries, a transition known as Mesha Sankranti. This movement is part of the Earth's revolution around the Sun, perceived from our geocentric viewpoint as the Sun's apparent journey across the zodiac. Unlike lunar festivals that shift annually, this solar event remains nearly constant in the Gregorian calendar, reflecting

the precision of ancient Indian astronomical calculations. Texts of Indian astronomy, particularly those rooted in the Surya Siddhanta, reveal a sophisticated understanding of solar motion, equinoxes, and seasonal cycles. The recognition of this solar ingress as the beginning of a new year demonstrates how timekeeping in traditional societies was closely aligned with celestial phenomena rather than arbitrary constructs.

The term "Vishuva" conveys the idea of equality, referring to the near balance between day and night

during this period. While the actual vernal equinox occurs around March 21, the symbolic continuation of this equilibrium is celebrated in mid-April through Maha Vishuva Sankranti. This notion of balance is not merely observational but deeply philosophical. Indian thought, as expressed in the Bhagavad Gita, repeatedly emphasizes equanimity—"Samatvam Yoga Uchyate," meaning that balance

itself is yoga. Thus, the festival becomes a reminder that just as nature achieves equilibrium, human beings too must strive for balance in thoughts, actions, and desires.

The agricultural significance of the festival is equally noteworthy. Odisha, being largely agrarian, has historically depended on seasonal cycles for sustenance. Maha Vishuva Sankranti marks a transition phase when the intensity of summer begins to rise, preparing the land and its people for the coming agricultural activities. Farmers traditionally observe this period as a time of preparation, aligning sowing practices and resource management with climatic conditions. This synchronization of agriculture with solar cycles reflects an early form of agro-meteorology, where empirical observations of nature guided farming decisions long before the advent of modern meteorological science. One of the most distinctive aspects of the festival is the preparation and offering of "pana," a cooling beverage made from wood apple (bel), jaggery, black pepper, water, and sometimes curd or fruits. At first glance, this appears as a devotional offering, but a deeper examination reveals a strong scientific basis rooted in nutrition and seasonal adaptation. As temperatures rise during this period, the human body becomes prone to dehydration, electrolyte imbalance, and digestive disturbances. The ingredients of pana address these concerns effectively. Wood apple is rich in vitamins and has cooling properties; jaggery provides quick energy and essential minerals; black pepper aids digestion and metabolism. This combination acts as a natural rehydration solution, comparable in principle to modern oral rehydration therapies. It reflects the preventive healthcare approach of Ayurveda, which emphasizes adapting diet and lifestyle according to seasonal changes, known as "Ritucharya."

Another remarkable practice associated with this festival is the "Basundhara Theki," an earthen pot filled with water and suspended in such a way that it drips slowly through a small hole. The pot is often placed above a Tulsi plant or in open spaces, allowing water to trickle continuously. This simple yet ingenious practice embodies principles of environmental science and sustainability. The slow dripping ensures minimal wastage of water while maintaining a steady supply for plants and small creatures. The evaporation of water from the earthen surface produces a cooling effect, illustrating the concept of

evaporative cooling, a principle widely used today in eco-friendly cooling systems. Additionally, the use of clay pots highlights an understanding of natural materials that are porous, biodegradable, and thermally efficient.

Beyond its physical utility, the Basundhara Theki symbolizes a compassionate worldview. Water is made available not just for human use but for birds, insects, and animals struggling in the summer heat.

Offerings of food are also made to cows, crows, dogs, and even ants. This practice reflects an ecological ethics deeply rooted in Indian philosophy, where all forms of life are interconnected. The principle resonates with the teachings of poets like Bhima Bhoi, who envisioned universal well-being, and aligns with modern ecological thought that emphasizes biodiversity conservation and interdependence within ecosystems. In an era of environmental crises, such traditions offer timeless lessons in coexistence and responsibility. The festival also carries significant psychological and sociological dimensions. The marking of a New Year provides an opportunity for introspection and renewal. Rituals, prayers, and communal gatherings foster a sense of belonging and continuity. They act as anchors in an otherwise uncertain and rapidly changing world. Psychologically, such transitions help individuals reset their goals, release past burdens, and embrace new beginnings. Modern psychology recognizes the importance of such symbolic resets in enhancing mental well-being and resilience. Thus, Maha Vishuva Sankranti serves not only as a cultural event but also as a mechanism for emotional and social rejuvenation. From a broader scientific perspective, the alignment of this festival with seasonal change demonstrates an intuitive understanding of circadian and circannual rhythms. Human physiology is closely linked to environmental cycles, including temperature, daylight, and food availability. The adjustments in diet, lifestyle, and social behavior during this period help the body adapt to changing conditions, reducing the risk of seasonal illnesses. This reflects an early awareness of what modern science now terms chronobiology—the study of biological rhythms and their interaction with environmental cues. Philosophically, the festival invites deeper reflection on the nature of time and existence.

Time, in Indian thought, is cyclical rather than linear. Each Sankranti represents not an end but a transition, a continuous flow where endings and beginnings merge. This cyclical understanding fosters resilience, as it reassures individuals that change is inherent and renewal inevitable. The Sun's journey into Aries becomes a metaphor for human life—a reminder that after every phase of stagnation or decline, there is an opportunity for growth and transformation. The concept of balance inherent in "Vishuva" extends beyond the physical to the moral and spiritual realms. It encourages moderation in desires, harmony in relationships, and equilibrium between material pursuits and spiritual aspirations. In contemporary society, where excess and imbalance often lead to stress and conflict, this message holds profound relevance. The festival subtly teaches that true progress lies not in accumulation but in alignment—with nature, with society, and with one's inner self. Furthermore, the integration of science and spirituality in this festival challenges the often perceived dichotomy between the two. Maha Vishuva Sankranti demonstrates that traditional practices were not based on blind belief but on careful observation, experimentation, and adaptation. The rituals encode knowledge in symbolic forms, making it accessible and sustainable across generations. This integration is perhaps one of the greatest strengths of Indian civilization, where knowledge is not compartmentalized but woven into the fabric of daily life. In conclusion, Maha Vishuva Sankranti emerges as far more than a regional New Year celebration. It is a multidimensional phenomenon that unites astronomy, environmental science, health practices, and philosophical wisdom into a coherent and meaningful whole. It reminds us that human life is most harmonious when it resonates with the rhythms of the cosmos and the cycles of nature. As the Sun begins its new journey in the celestial sphere, it invites humanity to embark on a parallel journey within—to seek balance amidst chaos, simplicity amidst complexity, and unity amidst diversity. In this alignment lies not only the essence of the festival but also the path to a sustainable and fulfilling future.

## District-Level "Ama Janiba, Ama Budget" Meeting Held in Jajpur

**JAJPUR** (Correspondent) : The State Budget 2026-27 has given priority to the poor, youth, farmers, and women empowerment. Under the "Mission Power" initiative, it has been targeted to provide three basic facilities—electricity, drinking water, and last-mile road connectivity—to every revenue village by 2026-27. Provisions have also been made in the current budget for the development of mineral-based industries in Jajpur and infrastructure linked to industrial corridors, said Principal Secretary of the Government of Odisha and Jajpur District Nodal Officer, Suresh Kumar Vashisth. During his visit to Jajpur today, he participated in a budget-related



discussion meeting titled "Ama Janiba, Ama Budget," held at the District Collector's conference hall. The meeting was attended by District Collector Ambar Kumar Kar, Additional District Magistrate Yudhishtir Nayak, Chief Development Officer Devi Prasad Mohanty, Sub-Collector Tapas Ranjan Dehuri, and other district-level departmental officers. At the outset,

the Principal Secretary discussed the concept and objectives of the budget with the district officials. The District Collector then presented a detailed overview of the key highlights of the Odisha Budget 2026-27. He emphasized that the public should be aware of various development schemes, budget allocations, expenditure estimates, and departmental fund distribution. Heads of various departments also

shared detailed information about their respective budget allocations, grants, new schemes, and ongoing projects. The current state budget focuses on rural empowerment, preservation of culture and heritage, use of technology, and people-centric governance. Considering Jajpur as a flood-prone district, provisions have been made in the budget for disaster management. The budget also includes

initiatives such as the establishment of a Rare Earth Corridor, development of National Waterway-5, advanced ITI schemes, Chief Minister's Nutrition Scheme, PM Poshan, Chief Minister's Kanya Vivah Scheme, Kanya Sumangala Scheme, and Samruddha Krushak Yojana. Additionally, people-oriented measures include the construction of a new Shree Jagannath Interpretation Centre in Puri with an investment of ₹1000 crore, introduction of a digital hundi for online donations at Shree Jagannath Temple, establishment of five new medical colleges, four new universities, and a new guest house in Bhubaneswar for visitors from different districts.

## Balanga Police conduct a flag march for Maha Bishuba Sankranti



**Nimapada**, (Correspondent) : To ensure how peace and order will be maintained during Maha Bishuba Sankranti in the Balanga police station area, a flag march was conducted this evening by Balanga Police under the leadership of Pipili SDPO Debashish Mishra, Balanga Police Station officer Sasmita Sahu, along with one platoon of

police force. This evening, the flag march was carried out in places such as Balanga Bazaar and Bayabar Chhak by the Balanga Police. Along with this, awareness was created among the general public. People have been advised to celebrate the upcoming Maha Bishuba Pana Sankranti tomorrow while maintaining peace and discipline.

## Iconic Ramleela Mahotsav in Boudh Concludes with Sankirtan at Palasaguda

**Boudh** :- The iconic and age-old Ramleela Mahotsav of Boudh district, held at Palsaguda village under Kantamal block, concluded on Sunday with a sacred Yagyan and Sankirtan. This 14-day festival, organized by Maruti Natya Sansad, Palsaguda, beautifully depicted the divine life and values of Lord Ram, continuing a rich legacy of devotion and cultural tradition. The performances, deeply rooted in spirituality and tradition, drew large numbers of devotees throughout the event. On the concluding day, a significant gathering of five thousands devotees participated in the final rituals and celebrations with great devotion and enthusiasm. Several social workers and well-wishers also extended generous all support to arrange Prasad for the attendees. The Mahotsav stands as a vibrant symbol of community unity, faith, and the preservation of cultural heritage.

## Former Municipality Chairperson Rajwant Kaur passes away

**Malkangiri**, correspondent : Former Chairperson of Malkangiri Sadar Subdistrict Municipal Council, Rajwant Kaur, passed away on Sunday. She had been ill for some days. She was elected as chairperson in 2014. Rajwant Kaur had been the Chairperson of the Municipal Council and had done various developmental works in the Malkangiri Municipal Council. She was known as a senior leader of the Biju Janata Dal. She was a soft-spoken, charitable, and religious woman. After receiving the news of Kaur's death, many people reached her residence and paid their last respects. Condolences have been expressed in Malkangiri on her death.

## Minister Sets Ambitious Deadlines to Transform Rural Bargarh and Ensure Water Security

**Bargarh**, (Correspondent) :- In an electrifying move, Odisha's Rural Development, Panchayati Raj, and Drinking Water Minister Ravi Narayan Nayak launched a high-stakes review in Bargarh on Sunday, unleashing strict deadlines to fast-track all pending Jal Jeevan Mission works. During a dynamic meeting at Ambapali Circuit House, the Minister passionately emphasised the urgency of uninterrupted summer water supply, instructing officials to deploy tankers swiftly in vulnerable areas and to expedite repairs of broken tube wells. He also announced plans to install additional borewells in some of the most water-stressed



villages. In a bold push for progress, S. J. Nayak reviewed key schemes like MGNREGA and the Swachh Bharat Mission, urging officials to create village-specific migrant databases and launch targeted employment schemes—his goal: to make Bargarh a "migration-free district" within a year. The Minister's vision extends to connecting every village with all-

weather roads within just one year, with a focus on accelerating ongoing projects under the state and PWD. Major drinking water projects in Bheden and Barpali also received close attention. The meeting was attended by local leaders and district officials, including the Collector, signalling a new era of tighter monitoring and relentless progress as summer puts growing pressure on rural infrastructure.

## Aama Ruchi Aama Khadya ": Traditional food exhibition on the occasion of Odia Paksha

**SUBARNAPUR**, (Correspondent) :- On the 13th day of the Odia Paksha, a traditional food exhibition titled "Aama Ruchi Aama Khadya" was organized by Sonepur Panchayat Samiti at the new Town Hall of Subarnapur. Women from 30 self-help groups of Sonepur block prepared and served various traditional foods in this exhibition. On this occasion, CDO cum EO Zilla Parishad Ashwini Kumar Meher



was the chief guest. Sub Collector Sonepur Dr. Soumyarupa Rath, Sonepur Block Development Officer Pratik Kar, District Cultural Officer Yamuna Pradhan, Assistant Executive Engineer

Bajjanti Karna and District Information and Public Relations Officer Ms. Preeti Suna were present as the guests of honor. The town hall was filled with the aroma of various cakes, sweets, Mandia national dishes,

rasabara, chakuli and chutneys etc. The women of the self-help group won the hearts of the audience by serving the dishes beautifully. The Panchayat Samiti informed that these traditional dishes are not only delicious but also beneficial for the body. The program was managed by Sonepur WEO Sourabh Dani, while Bajjanti Karna proposed the vote of thanks. Finally, the women of the self-help group were awarded certificates.

## "Ama Ruchi Ama Khadya" Food Competition organised in Rayagada

**Rayagada** (Correspondent) : On the occasion of Odia Pakhya celebrations, a food competition titled "Ama Ruchi Ama Khadya" was organized on Monday at the Block Sadbhavana Hall by the Rayagada Block administration.



Block Chairperson Tuni Huika, Vice-Chairperson Hara Prasad Hepruka, BDO Sujit Mishra, ABDO Kalucharan Nayak, GPDO Smrutirekha Nayak, and Livelihood Mission Coordinator Khirod Chandra Bhuyan graced the occasion. As many as 10 women Self-Help

Groups (SHGs) from Rayagada Block participated in the event, showcasing a variety of traditional Odia delicacies that captivated everyone present. Popular items included mandia pitha, tampa, laddu, kakara, and manda, which received wide appreciation. The dignitaries emphasized that, like the Odia language, traditional Odia cuisine also holds a unique identity and cultural significance. All participants were felicitated for their efforts. The programme was conducted by teacher Nilanchal Mishra.

## Joint Public Grievance Hearing Camp Held at KNDA Conference Hall, Kalinganagar

**JAJPUR** (Correspondent) : A Joint Public Grievance Hearing Camp was organized today by the Jajpur District Administration at the KNDA Conference Hall, Kalinganagar. District Collector Shri Ambar Kumar Kar attended the camp and heard various grievances from the public. He stated that the concerned departmental officers would verify the complaints and necessary steps would be taken to resolve the issues of eligible applicants at the earliest. A total of 39 complaints were registered during the camp. Out of these, 27



were related to individual issues, 2 were related to group or village-level concerns, 8 applications were submitted for assistance from the Chief Minister's Relief Fund, and 2 were related to the Red Cross Fund. Immediate action was taken on 10 complaints. The camp was also attended by

Superintendent of Police Shri Yashpratap Srimal, Additional District Magistrate Shri Yudhishtir Nayak, Chief Development Officer-cum-Executive Officer of Zilla Parishad Shri Debi Prasad Mohanty, Additional District Magistrate (Kalinganagar) Shri Sapan Kumar Nanda, Sub-Collector Jajpur

Shri Tapas Ranjan Dehuri, Tahasildar Vyasanagar Shri Prashant Kumar Panda, Chief District Medical & Public Health Officer Dr. Bijay Kumar Mishra, along with other district, sectoral, and block-level officials. All officials present actively participated in hearing and addressing public grievances.

## Subarnapur Police's big success: Vehicle with huge quantity of ganja seized

**SUBARNAPUR** (Correspondent) --- A huge quantity of ganja has been seized in various police stations of Subarnapur district. On Monday (13.04.2026) at around 05 am, Subarnapur Police, after receiving information from a reliable source, conducted raids in various parts of the district as part of the "Nasa Mukti Odisha" campaign. After receiving information from a reliable source, a huge quantity of ganja was seized near Talapadar village by the Tarbha Police team and 02 suspects involved in this incident have been arrested. After this, a total of 139.142 kg. ganja, 01 mobile phones and a motor cycle have been seized in compliance with the prevailing provisions of the NDPS Act. According to the government assessment, the estimated value of the seized ganja will be Rs.

13,91,420/-. In this regard, a case has been registered under Tarva PS Case No.129 Dt.13.04.2026 U/s-20(ii)(b)(C)/29 NDPS Act. In addition, on receiving information from a reliable source, a huge quantity of ganja has been seized by the Ulunda Police Team from the premises of Patra Farm House in Guja Village. 04 suspects have been detained in this incident. After this, a total of 853.715 kg. ganja, 01 truck, 04 four-wheelers and 04 motor cycles have been seized in compliance with the prevailing provisions of the NDPS Act. As per the official valuation, the estimated value of the seized ganja is Rs. 85,37,150/-. In this regard, Ulunda PS Case No. 66 Dt.13.04.2026 U/s-20(ii)(b)(C)/25/29 NDPS Act.

## SAKSHAM holds state executive meeting along with District Divyang Convention

**Rayagada**, (Correspondent) : Samadrusti Kshyamata Vikash eban Anusandhan Mandal (SAKSHAM) is the only national level organization in the country which has been working tirelessly for the social, educational, health and economic empowerment of all 21 types of Divyangs for the past 18 years all over India. It is a multi-faceted organization of the Rashtriya Swyam Sevak Sangh. Last Sunday, SAKSHAM held its state executive

meeting along with district Divyang Sammelan at Biju Patnaik Auditorium in Rayagada town. The main attraction of this conference was Dr. Kamalakant Pandey, National Vice President of Saksham and member of the Central Advisory Committee of the Department of Social Security, Government of India, along with Chairman of the DDRC Board.

**EAST COAST RAILWAY**  
Tender No. ELS-ANGL-OT-26-27-01  
**NAME OF WORK:** RETROFITMENT OF AIR CONDITIONING IN CABS WITH PROVISION OF THERMAL INSULATION OF CABS IN ELECTRIC LOCOMOTIVES (WORK PORTION: MODIFICATION IN LOCO CAB FOR INSTALLATION OF CAB AC.  
Advertised Value (₹) : 37,40,880.46, EMD (₹) : 74,800.00, Period of Completion : 24 Months  
Bidding Start Date : 16.04.2026, Tender Closing Date and Time : At 1500 Hrs. of 30.04.2026.  
Manual offers are not allowed against this tender, any such manual offer received shall be ignored.  
Complete information including e-Tender documents of the above e-Tenders is available in website <http://www.ireps.gov.in>  
Sr. Divisional Electrical Engineer (TRS), PR-39/R/26-27 (Angul)



# Asha Bhosale Cremated With Full State Honours At Mumbai's Iconic Shivaji Park

Legendary singer Asha Bhosle was cremated with full state honours on Monday at the Shivaji Park Crematorium in Mumbai, where a large gathering of mourners came together to pay their final respects to the iconic voice that enthralled generations for more than eight decades. Wrapped in the tricolour, the mortal remains of Asha Bhosle, fondly known as "Asha Tai," were consigned to flames following a traditional gun salute by the Mumbai Police. The city witnessed an emotional day as fans, political leaders, and members of the film and music industry came together to

pay their last respects to the melody queen. Her last rites were performed by her son Anand. The legendary vocalist was also given a musical tribute by singers Shaan and Sudesh Bhosale. Several well-known faces from the film world arrived to pay floral tributes to the legendary singer. Actors Vicky Kaushal, Aamir Khan, Vivek Oberoi, Padmini Kolapuri and Jackie Shroff were among those seen at Shivaji Park.

Apart from the film industry, several senior political leaders were also present at the crematorium. Maharashtra Chief Minister Devendra Fadnis and Deputy Chief Minister Eknath Shinde attended the funeral and paid floral tributes to the iconic singer. NCP-SCP MP Supriya Sule, Shiv Sena (UBT) chief Uddhav Thackeray, Rashmi Thackeray, and Aaditya Thackeray also visited to offer their respects. Actors Ranveer Singh and Riteish Deshmukh also visited her residence earlier in the day to offer condolences. Veteran filmmaker Rakesh Roshan also paid tribute to the singer whose songs defined generations of Hindi cinema. Her mortal remains were earlier kept at her residence for public homage, draped in the Tricolour. Long

queues of admirers were seen outside the home, with many offering flowers, folding hands in prayer, and remembering the singer through tears. Among other dignitaries who paid tribute were Maharashtra Governor Jishnu Dev Varma and state minister Mangal Prabhat Lodha. Music composer Uttam

she saw us and asked us to wait. Within minutes, she went inside, cooked chicken and rice herself, and insisted we eat before leaving. She was that kind of person," he said. Soon after the news of her death broke on Sunday, tributes poured in from across the

country. Bollywood superstar Shah Rukh Khan, for whom she sang the much-loved song "Zara Sa Jhoom Loon Main" from the classic Dilwale Dulhania Le Jayenge, remembered her as a timeless voice of Indian cinema. In his message, Shah Rukh Khan wrote, "It's truly sad to learn about Asha Tai's



Singh remembered Asha Bhosle not just as a great artist but as a warm-hearted human being. Recalling an old memory, he shared how she once

cooked food for his team late at night after a recording session. "It was around 1:30 at night. As we were about to leave,

passing. Her voice has been one of the pillars of Indian cinema and will continue to resonate across the world for centuries to come."

## How Banana Raita Helps With Digestion



When the heat refuses to back off and your appetite is stuck in snooze mode, raita is the one thing that always makes sense. It is cold, creamy, and slides perfectly next to a bowl of dal chawal, paratha, or khichdi. While cucumber and boondi usually hog the spotlight, there is another summer raita that deserves your attention—banana raita. Lightly sweet, just tangy enough, and surprisingly filling, this is the recipe that makes bananas more than just a smoothie filler. It is what weekday lunches need, especially when the fan's on full and you still do not want a full meal.

### How To Make Banana Raita

- 1 ripe banana
- 1 cup chilled thick curd (dahi)
- ½ tsp roasted jeera powder
- A pinch of black salt
- A pinch of regular salt
- 1 tsp freshly grated coconut
- ½ tsp sugar
- A pinch of red chilli powder
- 4-5 mint leaves
- 1 tsp ghee
- ½ tsp mustard seeds
- 4-5 curry leaves

#### Steps:

1. Peel the banana and chop it into small cubes.
2. Whisk the curd until smooth and free of lumps.
3. Add roasted jeera, black salt, regular salt, sugar, and red chilli powder. Mix well.
4. Stir in the chopped banana and freshly grated coconut.
5. Heat ghee in a small pan. Add mustard seeds and let them crackle. Toss in curry leaves and turn off the flame.
6. Pour this tadka over the raita, stir gently, and top with mint leaves. Chill for 10-15 minutes before serving.

### Is Banana Raita Good For Digestion?

Yes, it is. Bananas contain soluble fibre that helps your gut do its job more smoothly—less bloating, better bowel movement. Add curd to the mix, and you are also getting a solid dose of probiotics. It is a light, soothing side dish

that goes down easily, especially when your stomach needs a little help handling heavy food. Can You Eat Banana Raita As A Dessert? Yes, and you probably should. If your sweet tooth kicks in but you do not want to load up on sugar, this raita makes a good swap. The banana brings in natural sweetness, the curd adds a tang, and together they deliver something that tastes indulgent but isn't. Want to skip sugar? A drizzle of honey does the trick. It is not overly sweet, but it hits the spot.

### How To Keep Banana Raita From Turning Brown

Bananas oxidise fast, and no one likes grey raita. To avoid that, always add chopped bananas to the curd just before serving. The curd's natural acidity slows browning a little, but it is not a long-term fix. If you are prepping ahead, toss the banana pieces in a few drops of lemon juice. It helps keep them looking fresh. Still, your best bet is to make and serve this raita fresh, right when you want to eat it.

## Why Add Rock Salt to Water?

Kiran Kukreja recently shared in an Instagram post that rock salt (or Himalayan pink salt) can help prevent dehydration and fatigue during hot weather, workouts, or illness. When we sweat heavily, due to exercise, walking, or heat, we don't just lose water; we also lose essential electrolytes, particularly sodium. This loss can cause dizziness, weakness, and even muscle cramps. Rock salt is rich in natural minerals and contains sodium in a less processed form than regular table salt. By adding a pinch to your water, you help replenish what's lost through sweat or illness, especially during episodes of vomiting or diarrhoea.

## When Should You Drink Water With Rock Salt?

There are a few key times when adding rock salt to your water can be especially beneficial:

**In the Morning:** If you wake up feeling weak, dizzy, or dehydrated, a glass of water with a pinch of rock salt can help restore balance and boost energy.

**After a Workout:** Rehydrating after a sweat session is vital. Rock salt water helps restore electrolyte levels and prevent post-exercise fatigue.

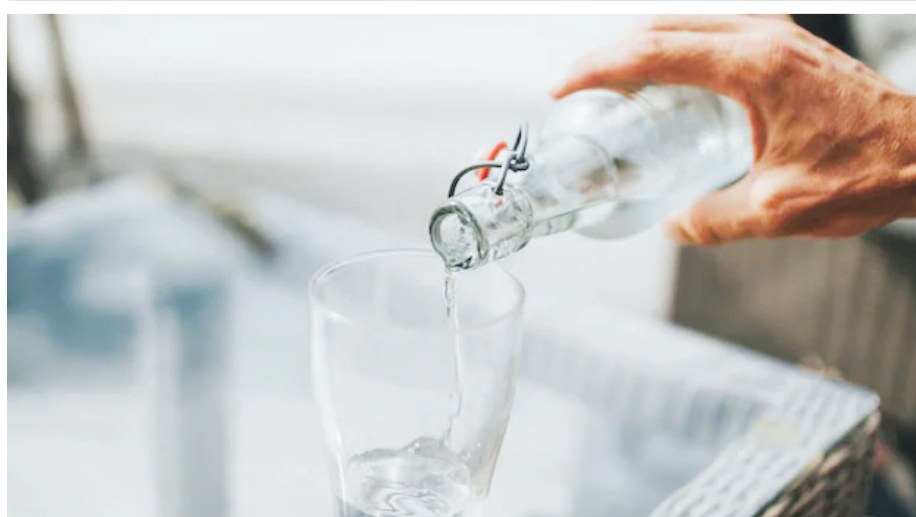
**During Hot Weather:** Long walks or outdoor work in summer heat can cause heavy sweating. Sipping salted water helps maintain sodium levels and prevents heat-related weakness. How Much Rock Salt Water Is Safe? Don't overdo it. Kukreja recommends just a pinch (about 1/8 teaspoon) of rock salt mixed in a glass (200-250 ml) of drinking water. If needed, you can have up to two glasses a day, but it's essential not to exceed this, especially if you already consume salty foods.

**Who Should Avoid Rock Salt Water?** While this hydrating trick can be helpful for many, it's not suitable for everyone.

**Avoid this habit if you:** Have high blood pressure, as extra sodium can worsen it. Suffer from kidney disease, where sodium balance needs close management. Experience water retention or bloating frequently. Already eat a high-sodium diet, such as one rich in processed or packaged foods. Always consult a doctor or a qualified nutritionist before making changes to your hydration routine if you fall into any of these categories.

**Just remember:** moderation is key. With one pinch at the right time, you can help your body function better in demanding conditions.

## Why You Should Add Rock Salt To Your Drinking Water In Summer



As temperatures soar and our bodies sweat more, maintaining hydration becomes more than just drinking water. There are so many hydrating drinks you can make, but if you're short on time, a simple addition to your drinking water can do the trick. According to nutritionist Kiran Kukreja, adding a pinch of rock salt to your water can make a significant difference in how your body retains fluids and stays energised



## CM Trophy Volleyball Championship Begins in Bolangir



**Bolangir**, (Correspondent): The Odisha Sports Mahakumbh CM Trophy Inter-Club and Inter-District Volleyball Championship-2026 was inaugurated today at Gandhi Stadium here. A total of 10 teams in the boys' category and 6 teams in the girls' category are participating. Teams from Bolangir, Puintala, Bangomunda, Agalpur, Sainatala,

Khaprakhol and Muribahal are competing in the boys' section, while Puintala, Deogaon, Muribahal, Sainatala, Titilagarh and Bangomunda are playing in the girls' category. The inaugural function was held under the chairmanship of Sports Council Vice-President Krushnachandra Mishra. Bolangir Municipality Chairperson Lika

Sahu attended as chief guest and formally inaugurated the tournament, encouraging the players. The matches are being conducted under the supervision of Volleyball Secretary Sangram Keshari Bahidar. Several officials and members of the Sports Council were present on the occasion. The programme concluded with a vote of thanks by Sangram Keshari Bahidar.

## Outstanding Performance by Aditya Uday Sports Club Girls' Team in CM Trophy Supported by Aditya Aluminium, Lapanga

**Sambalpur (Correspondent):** Aditya Aluminium, Lapanga, under its community development initiative, has launched the Lakshya Project aimed at promoting integrated sports development among tribal girls in nearby villages. As part of the initiative, a talent identification programme was conducted in nearby government schools, through which 45 talented girls were selected and enrolled in the Aditya Uday Sports Club. To nurture their sporting potential, Aditya Aluminium has developed a football ground, engaged a full-time D-License football



coach, and provided essential training equipment and facilities to enable the girls to participate in football matches within the district and beyond. Each girl has been provided with sports kits and jerseys, and the company has recently introduced monthly nutrition kits to support their health and fitness. The nutrition kits were distributed in the

presence of their parents, strengthening community engagement and encouragement. The girls undergo regular daily training as part of the programme. With this dedicated effort, the Aditya Uday Sports Club girls' team recently participated in the Chief Minister's Trophy football tournament organized by the Sambalpur District Administration and

FAO. In the first round of the tournament, the team delivered an outstanding performance by defeating St. John's School with a remarkable score of 14-0. In the match, Barsha Munda from Katarbaga village of Katarbaga Gram Panchayat, scored 9 goals, Neelam Oram scored 3 and Rita Khadia 2 goal from

Lahamani village of Jangala Gram Panchayat showcasing exceptional talent and teamwork.

Parents of the players expressed their gratitude, stating that such opportunities were never available earlier. They acknowledged that, through the support of Aditya Aluminium, their daughters are now getting a platform to develop their sports talents and pursue new aspirations. Aditya Aluminium remains committed to empowering rural and tribal youth through sports, education, and community development initiatives.

## IPL 2026: GT-CSK Fixtures Dates Swapped Due To Municipal Corporation Elections

**New Delhi:** The Board of Control for Cricket in India (BCCI) has announced that the dates of IPL 2026 fixtures between Gujarat Titans (GT) and Chennai Super Kings (CSK) have been swapped due to municipal corporation elections in Ahmedabad and other regions of Gujarat, slated to be held on April 26. Apart from Ahmedabad, municipal corporation elections will also be held in Surat, Vadodara, Rajkot, Bhavnagar, Jamnagar, Karamsad-Anand, Gandhidham, Nadiad, Navsari, Porbandar, Mehsana, Morbi, Vapi and Surendranagar. The counting of votes will take place on April 28. According to the revised itinerary in a statement issued by BCCI Secretary Devajit Saikia, the



afternoon clash between GT and CSK was originally set to take place at the Narendra Modi Stadium in Ahmedabad on April 26. But it will now be held on the same date at the MA Chidambaram Stadium in Chennai. The match, though, will retain its original start time of 3:30 PM IST. Consequently, the reverse fixture between the two sides, which

was scheduled to be played in the evening in Chennai on May 21, will now be hosted in Ahmedabad and the original start time of 7:30 PM IST. As of now, the rest of the IPL 2026 schedule remains unchanged as the league enters its crucial mid-season phase. Five-time champions CSK, captained by Ruturaj Gaikwad, will take on Kolkata Knight Riders

(KKR) in Chennai on Tuesday evening, after getting off the mark on the points table with a 23-run win over Delhi Capitals (DC). GT, led by India's Test and ODI captain Shubman Gill, have four points from as many games and are at fifth place in the points table. GT, the IPL 2022 winners, will be next seen in action when they take on KKR in Ahmedabad on Friday.

## IPL 2026: Tim David, Hardik Pandya Fined For Code Of Conduct Breach

**New Delhi:** Tim David and Hardik Pandya have been punished for separate violations of the IPL Code of Conduct after Match 20 between Royal Challengers Bengaluru and Mumbai Indians in the Indian Premier League (IPL) 2026. David, playing for RCB, was fined 25 percent of his match fee and received one demerit point for a Level 1 offence. This was for breaching Article 2.4, which deals with ignoring an umpire's instruction during a match. The first incident occurred in the 18th over of RCB's innings when the umpires decided to change the ball. David insisted on inspecting it and refused to return it despite several requests. A similar situation happened again in the final over, where he



again did not hand the ball back to the officials, showing repeated non-compliance. The batter admitted to the offence and accepted the penalty given by the match referee. Meanwhile, Mumbai Indians captain Hardik Pandya was fined Rs12 lakh for having a slow over-rate during the same match. Since it

was MI's first offence of the season under Article 2.22 of the IPL Code of Conduct, the appropriate penalty was applied. Brilliant bowling, blazing half-centuries by Phil Salt (78) and Rajat Patidar (53), followed by some fine restrictive bowling, helped Royal Challengers Bengaluru (RCB) hand five-time champions Mumbai Indians an 18-run defeat

in Match 20 of the Indian Premier League (IPL) at the Wankhede Stadium in Mumbai on Sunday. Salt and Patidar put up a sensational display of power-hitting as they rained sixes on their way to half-centuries, and with Virat Kohli contributing a sedate 50, RCB posted a challenging 240/4 in their 20 overs.

## US Open Pickleball Championships 2026: Dhiren Patel Wins Gold, Naga Moksha Bags Bronze

**NEW DELHI:** Indian players delivered standout performances at the 2026 Franklin US Open Pickleball Championships, with Dhiren Patel winning gold and Naga Moksha Yerram securing bronze. Dhiren Patel triumphed in the Men's Singles 5.0 (40-49) category, defeating Juan Arraya in a thrilling three-game final. Patel won 11-9, 3-11, 11-9 on Court 25, holding his nerve in crucial moments to seal the title. Arraya settled for silver, while Alex Mabred claimed bronze.



pickleball. Arjun Singh, 15, emerged as another rising star. He captured the Men's Singles 5.0 gold medal and paired with his elder brother Aditya Singh to win the Under-18 Boys Doubles title. The duo defeated top-seeded Americans Ryder Brown and Soli Messiri 11-1, 11-5 in the final. Arjun's aggressive style and consistency have already earned him recognition as Men's

Pickleball Player of the Year 2025. Indian Pickleball Association president Suryaveer Singh Bhullar praised the achievements, saying India's young talent is beginning to dominate the global stage. The victories underline India's rapid rise in pickleball, with players challenging established names from traditional strongholds like the United States.

## ICC Announces Record Prize Pool For WT20 WC, Winners To Get USD 2.34 Mn

**Dubai:** The International Cricket Council (ICC) has unveiled a record prize fund of USD 8,764,615 for the ICC Women's T20 World Cup 2026, reflecting a 10 per cent boost compared to the 2024 edition. This amount surpasses the USD 7,958,077 shared among the 10 participating nations in the United Arab Emirates two years ago, as the tournament is set to expand to 12 teams for the first time. The 2026 edition will feature hosts England joined by Australia, Bangladesh, India, Ireland, the Netherlands, New Zealand, Pakistan, Scotland, South Africa, Sri Lanka and the West Indies. The winners will once again receive USD 2,340,000, while the runners-up will get USD

1,170,000. Losing semi-finalists will earn USD 675,000, and each group match victory will be rewarded with USD 31,154. All 12 teams participating are guaranteed a minimum prize of USD 247,500, the ICC said in a release. The news arrives just 60 days before the tournament begins on June 12, when England will face Sri Lanka at Edgbaston, Birmingham. The 33-match event will take place across seven venues over 24 days, with teams competing for the top prize. ICC CEO, Sanjog Gupta, said, "The growth of women's cricket continues to accelerate, and the expansion of the ICC Women's T20 World Cup to 12

teams, combined with a record prize pool, underlines our commitment to building a stronger, more competitive global game. "The continued rise of women's cricket through increased investment and opportunity reflects the growing influence and impact of female athletes on the global stage. With that same momentum building across every aspect of women's cricket, this event is shaping up to not only set a host of new attendance and viewing records in the sports and media ecosystems but also leave a lasting impact on the wider socio-cultural landscape across the world." All roads now officially lead to England and Wales this summer, thanks to the ICC

Trophy Tour, which kicks off Monday and will travel across Europe in the weeks before the competition. The Trophy Tour begins in London, where it will be displayed in the square at Lord's Cricket Ground, the venue for the final and known as the Home of Cricket. It will be showcased with a spectacular projection—making it the first time anything has ever been projected onto the ground's renowned pavilion. The trophy will travel to the Netherlands, Ireland and Scotland, the tournament's qualified European member nations, before embarking on an extensive tour of the tournament's host cities through May, building excitement ahead of the

tournament's first ball on 12 June. The tour will feature visits to major locations with multiple fan engagement opportunities across the host cities, including Millennium Square (Leeds), St Peter's Square (Manchester), Bullring (Birmingham), Cabot Circus (Bristol), Guildhall Square (Southampton), and Trafalgar Square (London). Tournament Director Beth Barrett-Wild said, "The ICC Women's T20 World Cup 2026 is set to be a landmark moment for the game – on course to become the most attended women's cricket event in history, with record-breaking ticket demand and the largest-ever prize pot for a global women's T20 competition.

## Executive Management Changes at Turkish Airlines

NEWDELHI: Turkish Airlines has implemented changes in its executive management structure. In line with the airline's corporate objectives, new appointments have resulted on the Board of Directors and the CEO position. Prof. Murat ?eker, who has served for many years in critical roles such as finance, treasury, and investor relations positions as Chief Financial Officer (CFO) at the national flag carrier, has been appointed as Chairman of the Board of Directors and the Executive Committee of Turkish Airlines. Prof. Murat ?eker, who earned his undergraduate degree in Industrial Engineering from Marmara University in 2000, received his Master's Degree in Economics from Sabanc? University and his PhD in Economics from the University of Minnesota. Continuing his career with key roles in the international arena, Prof. ?eker participated in various operational projects and was responsible for the production of policy reports and academic studies on innovation, entrepreneurship, international trade, and growth in developing countries during his tenure as an Economist at the World Bank from 2008 to 2013. Between 2013 and 2016, Prof. ?eker worked at Ziraat Bank as Senior Vice President of Financial Institutions and Investor Relations Department where he was responsible for international funding, managing the relationship with all financial institutions and investors.

# Railways To Run More Summer Special Trains for Passenger Convenience

BHUBANESWAR, (Correspondent): In order to facilitate smooth travel and manage the increased passenger demand during the summer season, Indian Railways has decided to operate more Summer Special Trains connecting key destinations including Anand Vihar-Khurda Road, Bhubaneswar-Kolkata, Visakhapatnam-Shalimar, Sambalpur-Shalimar, Patna-Khurda Road, and Puri-Patna. These special services aim to provide enhanced connectivity and greater travel

convenience for passengers during the peak holiday period. Details of the Special Trains are as follows: • 04066 Anand Vihar Terminal - Khurda Road Special will depart from Anand Vihar Terminal at 00:30 hrs every Monday from 20th April to 11th May 2026, reaching Khurda Road at 11:30 hrs on Tuesday. • 04065 Khurda Road - Anand Vihar Terminal Special will leave Khurda Road at 15:30 hrs every Tuesday from 21st April to 12th May 2026, arriving at Anand Vihar Terminal at 03:40 hrs on Thursday. • 08401 Bhubaneswar - Kolkata



Special will depart from Bhubaneswar at 00:50 hrs every Tuesday from 14th April to 28th April 2026, reaching Kolkata at 11:30 hrs the same day. • 08402 Kolkata - Bhubaneswar Special will leave Kolkata at 17:10 hrs every Tuesday from 14th April to 28th April 2026, arriving at Bhubaneswar at 00:45

hrs the following day. • 08502 Visakhapatnam - Shalimar Special will run every Friday up to 24th April 2026, while 08503 Shalimar - Visakhapatnam Special will run every Saturday up to 25th April 2026. • 08301 Sambalpur - Shalimar Special will operate every Wednesday from 15th April to 29th

April 2026, and 08302 Shalimar - Sambalpur Special will run every Thursday from 16th April to 30th April 2026. • 03230 Patna - Khurda Road Special will run every Thursday up to 14th May 2026, while 03229 Khurda Road - Patna Special will operate every Friday (up to mid May 2026). • 08439 Puri -

Patna Special will run every Saturday up to 16th May 2026, and 08440 Patna - Puri Special will run every Sunday (up to mid May 2026). Passengers are advised to check the latest train schedules and availability through the official Indian Railways website or at nearby railway stations before commencing their journey. These additional services reflect Indian Railways' continued commitment to ensuring safe, comfortable, and hassle-free travel for passengers during peak seasons.

## BPUT - OKCL Joint AI Capacity Building Workshop Concludes Successfully at OKCL

(Bhubaneswar, (Correspondent) -The four day AI Capacity Building Workshop jointly organized by Odisha Knowledge Corporation Limited (OKCL) and Biju Patnaik University of Technology (BPUT) concluded today with an overwhelming response from participants and officials. Held from April 9 to 12 at OKCL under the direct supervision of BPUT, the program brought together nearly 300 officials representing 145 affiliated colleges and the university. The Hon'ble Vice Chancellor of BPUT, Prof. Amiya Kumar Rath, joined the closing ceremony as Chief Guest. He interacted with the participants and expressed his satisfaction with the outcomes of the



workshop, noting that the sessions had set a strong foundation for AI adoption across campuses. Prof. Siba Kumar Mishra, Director of Centre for UG and PG Studies, advised participants to begin integrating AI into official activities and move towards creating AI enabled campuses. Prof. Sujit Kumar Khuntia, Director of Curriculum Development, encouraged attendees to

embrace AI as part of everyday institutional life and explore its wider possibilities. Throughout the workshop, guidance was provided by Mr. Susant J Das, Senior Program Manager, and Mr. Soumya Subham Rout, Regional Manager of OKCL, who helped participants understand the practical applications of AI. Mr. Niladri Bihari Ray, Senior Manager, showcased the OKCL

internship ecosystem, including a live demonstration by a student, highlighting how internships can support students, institutions, and industries in building future careers. Dr. Manoranjan Puthal, Managing Director of OKCL, emphasized how AI can enhance efficiency in work environments and explained the organization's role in driving AI capacity building across the state. Contributions from Dr. Anshuman Sar, Mr. Jayesh Mahato, and other OKCL staff members added significant value to the sessions. At the closing ceremony, all participants were felicitated by the Vice Chancellor and Dr.

Puthal with certificates of participation and select AI tools to aid their future work. The feedback received was highly positive, with principals and placement heads expressing keen interest in organizing similar workshops for their colleagues to broaden the reach of AI awareness. The successful completion of this program marks a milestone in strengthening higher education in Odisha. By equipping academic leaders with practical knowledge and tools, the workshop has paved the way for AI enabled campuses that are ready to meet the evolving demands of education and employment in the digital era.

## CSIR-IMMT Celebrates Foundation Day with Enthusiasm and Scientific Vision

Bhubaneswar, (Correspondent): The Council of Scientific and Industrial Research - Institute of Minerals and Materials Technology (CSIR-IMMT), Bhubaneswar successfully celebrated its Foundation Day on 13th April 2026 with great enthusiasm and active participation from its present and former staff and students and guests from other laboratories. Established originally as the Regional Research Laboratory on 13th April 1964, CSIR-IMMT continues to stand as a premier research institute in the field of minerals, metals, and materials technology. The main function was held in the institute auditorium and commenced with a welcome address by



the Director, Dr. Ramanuj Narayan. In his address, Dr. Narayan presented a comprehensive overview of the institute's activities and achievements during the last financial year. He highlighted the establishment of new facilities and emphasized emerging R&D focus areas, particularly in decarbonization and critical minerals. Appreciating the dedicated efforts of scientists and staff members, he

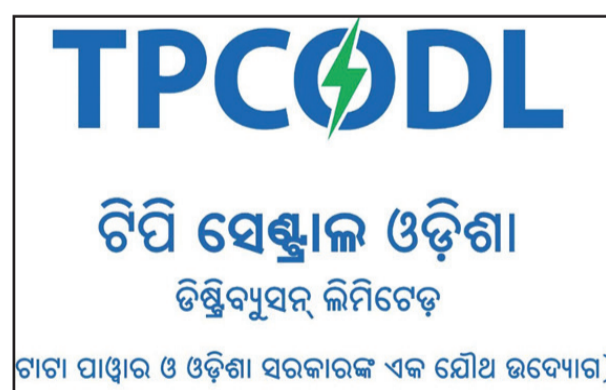
encouraged them to extend the impact of their research beyond academic publications and laboratory boundaries. In a poetic note, he urged the scientific community to transform knowledge into national progress, contributing meaningfully towards the vision of Viksit Bharat. He also spoke about the ongoing collaborations between NALCO and CSIR-IMMT and expressed his gratitude to the Chief Guest for graciously accepting the invitation.

## ABD Deepens Premium Play in Defence Channels with Expanded CSD Footprint

NEWDELHI: Allied Blenders and Distillers Limited (ABD), the largest domestic spirits company by volume in India, today announced the expanded availability of its key brands-ICONiQ White International Grain Whisky, Jolly Roger Premium Rum, and Kyron Premium Brandy within the Canteen Stores Department (CSD). This strategic expansion builds upon ABD's existing and successful footprint in the CSD channel, which already features established favourites such as Officer's Choice Blue Pure Grain Whisky and Sterling Reserve B10 Premium Blended Whisky. By adding ICONiQ, Jolly Roger, and Kyron to the mix, the company is significantly strengthening its portfolio to offer a more diverse range of high-quality spirits to institutional consumers. The company's products are now available across 34 essential depots nationwide, supplying a wide network of Ex-Servicemen (ESM) canteens, Station Canteens, Unit Run Canteens (URCs), Defence Officers' Institutes, and Defence Clubs ensuring deeper reach and improved accessibility across geographies. ICONiQ Whisky: A standout in the prestige category, ICONiQ has seen rapid consumer adoption, recently reaching the 10-million-case milestone due to its high-quality blend and contemporary appeal. Jolly Roger Premium Rum: A long-standing favourite in the ABD portfolio this mature dark rum is recognized for its smooth character and consistent quality standards.

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

Bhubaneswar: 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.

## India's Retail Inflation Edges Up To 3.4 Per Cent In March

New Delhi: India's inflation rate, based on the new Consumer Price Index (CPI) series with 2024 as the base year, edged up to 3.4 per cent in March compared to the same month of the previous year, according to data released by the Ministry of Statistics on Monday. The commodities that recorded the highest inflation during the month were silver jewellery, which saw a 148.61 per cent jump in prices, and gold jewellery, which clocked a 45.92 per cent increase in prices. Overall food inflation in March stood at 3.87 per cent, largely because vegetables such as tomato and cauliflower turned more expensive during the month. However, the prices of onion, potato, and garlic recorded a double-digit decline during the month compared to the same month of the previous year, while pulses also turned cheaper. The prices of arhar and tur dal dropped by 9.56 per cent, while chickpea registered a 7.87 per cent fall in price. Sequentially, the inflation in March was a tad higher than 3.21 per cent in the previous month of February and the revised figure of 2.74 per cent for January this year, when the new series was launched. Meanwhile, the Reserve Bank of India (RBI), last week, projected the country's inflation rate, based on the consumer price index (CPI) for 2026-27, at 4.6 per cent as the near-term food supply prospects have been boosted by a robust rabi crop which provides some comfort amid rising oil prices in the international market due to the Iran war.