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## Samrat Choudhary Elected BJP Legislative Party Leader, Set To Be Next Bihar CM

Patna: In a major political development, Samrat Choudhary has been elected as the leader of the BJP legislative party, paving the way for him to become the next Chief Minister of Bihar. The decision was taken during a crucial BJP legislative party meeting held on Tuesday at the party's state headquarters on Veer Chand Patel Path in Patna. The meeting was presided over by Union Minister Shivraj Singh Chouhan, who had been appointed as the central observer by the party leadership. Senior leaders, including BJP National President Nitin Nabin, B. L. Santosh, and Bhikhu Bhai Dalsaniya, were also present during the meeting. Deputy Chief Minister Vijay Kumar Sinha proposed the name of Samrat



Choudhary as the leader of the BJP legislative party and it was supported by former Deputy Chief Minister Renu Devi. With consensus achieved across the party, Samrat Choudhary is set to lead the BJP and the government of Bihar. This development signals the beginning of a new political chapter in Bihar, marking the transition from the era of Nitish Kumar to a new leadership under Samrat Choudhary. Earlier in

the day, Nitish Kumar officially resigned as Chief Minister after chairing his final cabinet meeting. He visited the Raj Bhavan and submitted his resignation to Governor Syed Ata Hasnain, also recommending the dissolution of his cabinet. Having recently taken the oath as a Rajya Sabha member, Nitish Kumar's resignation formally ended his long tenure in state politics and cleared the way for the formation of a new government.

## Ambedkar An Ideology Of Equality, Says Odisha CM; Announces Ambedkar Bhawan In Bhubaneswar

BHUBANESWAR, (Correspondent): Odisha Chief Minister Mohan Charan Majhi on Tuesday said that B. R. Ambedkar is "not just a name, but an ideology that shows the path of equality," while addressing the state-level celebration of the Bharat Ratna awardee's birth anniversary at Jayadev Bhavan. Announcing a major initiative, the Chief Minister said an Ambedkar Bhawan will be constructed at Kharavel Nagar in Bhubaneswar and directed the General Administration Department to prepare a Detailed Project Report (DPR) for the project. Describing the creation of an equal and just society as the greatest tribute to Ambedkar, Majhi highlighted the social reformer's lifelong



struggle against discrimination and his emphasis on education as a tool for empowerment. He said the Constitution framed under Ambedkar's leadership guarantees equal rights and justice to every citizen. The Chief Minister underlined that the upliftment of Scheduled Castes, Scheduled Tribes, and backward classes in the state has been made possible due to Ambedkar's vision. "A prosperous Odisha

is not possible without the development of the most backward sections of society," he said. Highlighting welfare measures, Majhi said that more than 76,649 crore has been allocated in the 2026-27 state budget for the development of SC and ST communities, with focused interventions in education, healthcare, and livelihood. He added that special attention is being given to Particularly

Vulnerable Tribal Groups (PVTGs). Calling the new reservation system in engineering and medical education a "historic step," the Chief Minister said talent transcends caste and religion, and equitable opportunities can enable all sections to progress. On food security, he said it forms the foundation of social justice, noting that the 'Mukhyamantri Annapurna' scheme is benefiting millions across

the state. Referring to national developments, Majhi said Ambedkar was conferred the Bharat Ratna posthumously in 1990 and alleged that his contributions had been neglected earlier. He credited Narendra Modi with restoring Ambedkar's legacy, citing the development of five sites associated with the leader's life as 'Panchteerth.' The Chief Minister also felicitated winners of various state-level competitions organised by the Information and Public Relations Department during the event. Among those present were Jagatsinghpur MP Bibhu Prasad Tarai, Niali MLA Chhabi Mallick, noted educationist Purnachandra Mallick, and Additional Chief Secretary of the I&PR Department Hemant Sharma, among others.

## In Call With Trump, PM Modi Stresses On Keeping Strait Of Hormuz 'Open And Secure'

New Delhi: Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Tuesday received a call from US President Donald Trump with both leaders discussing the current situation in West Asia as well as ways to further strengthen the bilateral partnership. "Received a call from my friend President Donald Trump. We reviewed the substantial progress achieved in our bilateral cooperation in various sectors. We are committed to further strengthening our Comprehensive Global Strategic Partnership in all areas," PM Modi posted on X after the phone call. "We also discussed the situation in West Asia and stressed the importance of keeping the Strait of Hormuz open and secure," he wrote further. Having



continuously advocated de-escalation, dialogue and diplomacy to bring an early end to the ongoing conflict, India has welcomed the ceasefire reached between the United States and Iran while hoping that it will lead to a lasting peace in West Asia. New Delhi believes that the conflict has

already caused immense suffering to people and disrupted global energy supply and trade networks. At the same time, India has said that it expects that unimpeded freedom of navigation and global flow of commerce would prevail through the Strait of Hormuz. Earlier this month, US Ambassador Sergio

Gor had outlined that Washington is positioning India at the centre of its long-term global strategy. Gor said that the US is working to deepen its engagement with New Delhi, aiming to transform the bilateral relationship into what he described as the defining strategic partnership of the 21st century.

## Nine Dead, Over 20 Injured In Boiler Explosion At Vedanta Power Plant In Chhattisgarh's Singhitarai

Raipur/Sakti: A major boiler tube explosion at the Vedanta Power Plant in Singhitarai village of Chhattisgarh's Sakti district triggered panic and chaos on Tuesday, leaving at least nine workers dead and more than 20 others critically injured, officials said. Sakti Superintendent of Police (SP) Praful Thakur has confirmed that nine people have died and more than 20 others were injured in the blast at the Vedanta power plant. The death toll rose to nine as rescue operations continue, with many labourers still trapped inside the facility. Taking to his official X account, Chhattisgarh Industry and Commerce Minister Laxman Lal Dewangan, said, "The news of the deaths of workers in an industrial accident at the Vedanta plant located in Sakti district is extremely heartbreaking. Considering the seriousness of the incident, I have immediately given necessary directions to the administrative officials of Sakti district and the officials of the Labour, Industry, Industrial Health and Safety

Department over the phone. I pray to God for the swift recovery of the injured." The blast occurred around 2 p.m. on Tuesday when around 40 to 50 labourers were working at the site. The sudden explosion caused a stampede-like situation as workers scrambled to escape the premises. Preliminary investigations suggest the accident was caused by a boiler tube burst, though the exact reason is yet to be officially determined. SP Praful Thakur had confirmed the initial casualties in the incident. "Four workers have died, and 15 others sustained injuries," he said, adding that the toll may rise as rescue teams are still extricating trapped labourers. Several workers suffered severe burn injuries and were immediately rushed to nearby hospitals for advanced treatment. Some of the injured have been referred to higher medical centres, including Jindal Fortis Hospital in Raigarh. Upon receiving information about the incident, police, fire brigade personnel, and a team from the district administration rushed to the spot

and launched rescue and relief operations. Local officials are supervising the efforts to clear the debris and reach the affected areas within the plant. The accident has sent shockwaves through the industrial belt of Chhattisgarh, once again raising serious concerns about safety standards at large power plants handling high-pressure boilers. Vedanta Limited, which operates the facility, has not issued an official statement so far. Senior district officials, including the Collector, have reached the site to monitor the situation. An inquiry has been ordered to ascertain the cause of the explosion and to determine if there was any lapse in safety protocols or maintenance procedures. As rescue work continues, authorities have appealed for calm and assured full medical and financial support to the families of the deceased and injured workers.

## Women's Quota: Govt Circulates Amendment Bill Text, Aims To Raise LS Seats To 850

New Delhi: The Union government on Tuesday shared with MPs the text of Constitution (131 Amendment) Bill, 2026 or the proposed amendment to the Women Reservation Bill which aims to raise Lok Sabha seats to 850 – including members from States and Union Territories. The Bill proposes a cap of 815 on the number of members chosen by direct election from constituencies in the States. For UTs, the Bill says, "Not more than 35 members to represent the Union Territories, chosen in such manner as Parliament may by law provide". At present, there are 530 Lok Sabha

members from States and 20 from UTs. However, a delimitation commission had set the number at 543. Another key amendment proposed in the Bill is the definition of population, giving Parliament the mandate to decide which data is to be made the foundation for the expansion of the number of seats. For modifying clause (3) of article 81 of the Constitution, the Bill proposes, "(3) In this article, the expression 'population' means the population as ascertained at such census, as Parliament may by law determine, of which the relevant figures have been published." The Union

Cabinet had recently cleared the Bill seeking to amend the Constitution for early implementation of 33 per cent quota for women in Lok Sabha and Assemblies, as well as increasing the number of seats in the lower house of Parliament. The amendment Bill also proposes changes in article 82 to substitute "Upon the completion of each census, the allocation of seats" with words "The allocation of seats". The proposed amendment aims to delink the quota's implementation from the 2027 Census and instead base it on the 2011 Census, enabling its rollout before the 2029 general

elections. In article 82, the amendment Bill also proposes to introduce a role for the Delimitation Commission. The Bill states that in article 82 (c) of the Constitution, "for the words 'by such authority and in such manner', the words 'in such manner and on the basis of such census, by the Delimitation Commission', shall be substituted". The Bill also talks about reservation of seats on rotation basis in Lok Sabha and Assemblies and carries paras related to the tenure for which the women's reservation shall remain in force, subject to extension by Parliament. Earlier in the day, Union Parliamentary Affairs

Minister Kiren Rijiju asserted that there is "nothing controversial" in the proposed amendment to the Women's Reservation Bill and appealed to all political parties to support it without politicising the issue. Speaking to IANS, Rijiju said, "The issue of women's reservation cannot be made a political matter in any form. If we give it a political angle, it would be an injustice to women." "The Prime Minister has made a very simple and clear appeal to rise above party politics. The Nari Shakti Adhiniyam (Women's Reservation Act) is a law that all parties supported and passed unanimously.

## ECI Removes Beldanga IC Ahead Of Bengal Polls

Kolkata: The Election Commission (EC) has removed the Inspector In-Charge (IC) of Beldanga police station in West Bengal's Murshidabad district, a poll panel official said on Tuesday. On April 11, the Sub-Divisional Police Officer of Beldanga was also removed. This time the IC of the Beldanga police station has been removed by the EC. The Commission said that Ashutosh Rai is being made the new IC of Beldanga police station. He was an Inspector of Howrah Police Commissionerate. Animesh Dey had been in the post of Beldanga IC for a long time. The Commission ordered



his removal ahead of the upcoming West Bengal Assembly elections. Ashutosh Rai has been asked to take charge as the IC of Beldanga police station by Tuesday night. On April 11, the Commission made several changes in

Kolkata Police and the West Bengal Police. Beldanga SDPO Uttam Garai was also under the transfer order. Anandjit Horke was made the new SDPO of Beldanga in his place. In January, tension spread in Beldanga over the death of a migrant

worker. The National Investigation Agency (NIA) is investigating the incident on the orders of the Supreme Court. Questions were also raised about the role of the state police and administration in controlling the situation. The ECI has

been reshuffling bureaucrats and IPS officers in the state since the announcement of the upcoming West Bengal Assembly elections. The Commission has removed several bureaucrats and police officers from their posts in the state from time to time. The poll panel has made it clear that those who are being removed cannot be appointed for any election-related work in the state for the time being.

Polling will be held in 294 Assembly constituencies of West Bengal in two phases on April 23 and 29. Murshidabad district will go to poll in the first phase. Counting of votes will take place on May 4.

## Manipur: Mob Violence After Drug Seizure Operation; 18 Injured, Vehicles Torched

Imphal: At least 18 civilians, including five women, were injured and a mob set fire to two security force vehicles in Manipur's Bishnupur district on Tuesday, officials said. The mob violence erupted following the seizure of a large quantity of drugs from a suspected drug peddler at the Imphal airport. A senior police official stated that, acting on credible intelligence, a joint operation by the Central Industrial Security Force and Airport Police was carried out at Bir Tikendrajit International Airport in Imphal, leading to the arrest of a suspected drug

peddler, identified as Mohammad Sabir Ahamed, a resident of Moirang sub-division in Bishnupur district. Following a thorough examination of Ahamed's checked-in baggage, approximately 6.74 kg (including suspected brown sugar, concealed inside six containers, was detected and seized. The accused, along with the seized contraband, was handed over to Singjamei Police Station, where a case has been registered for further investigation. During preliminary interrogation, the accused revealed information about a

concealed cache of arms and ammunition in the Kwakta area of Bishnupur district. Acting on this input, security forces moved towards the location. However, while en route near Thinungei in Bishnupur district, the security team's movement was obstructed by local residents due to the spread of mischievous, unverified rumours about the identity and purpose of the personnel. A mob soon gathered and blocked the security vehicles. The situation escalated when some members of the crowd turned violent, damaging and setting ablaze two vehicles associated with the security personnel.

## Cyber Security Integral To National Security, Says Prez Murmu At RRU Convocation

Gandhinagar: President Droupadi Murmu on Tuesday said that cyber security, data protection and digital diplomacy have become as critical as conventional military strength, while addressing the fifth convocation ceremony of Rashtriya Raksha University (RRU) in Gujarat. She said the very nature of national security has transformed in the digital age, with cybercrime, phishing attacks and data breaches emerging as major challenges before the country. "Cyber security is now not only a matter of security but also an integral part of digital trust," the President said, adding that emerging technologies and digital systems have made it necessary for institutions to continuously upgrade their capabilities to deal with new-age threats. She said security can no longer be seen only in terms of geographical boundaries or traditional weapon systems. "Security is not limited only to geographical borders or traditional weapons," Murmu said, adding that cyber security, data security and strategic coordination have become as important as conventional defence strength in

ensuring national stability. The President stressed the need for a new generation of trained professionals capable of handling complex digital threats. "The country requires skilled police officers who can effectively tackle cybercrime and forensic experts capable of producing evidence that stands legal scrutiny. Modern security systems demand a combination of technological expertise and investigative competence," she asserted. Murmu said institutions like RRU carry a growing responsibility in preparing such manpower for the future. She added that in the current environment, security is not confined to physical borders, but extends deeply into digital systems that govern communication, governance and finance. Referring to government initiatives, Murmu said efforts are underway to strengthen self-reliance in the defence sector. She noted that partnerships between academic institutions and industry, particularly in deep technology areas, are playing an important role in building long-term security preparedness. "The government is making firm

efforts towards making India self-reliant in the production of weapons and equipment required for security," she said. Speaking on artificial intelligence, the President said: "India is strengthening its position in the global technology landscape. Initiatives such as the India AI Mission are expected to significantly impact governance, security systems and economic growth." "Cyber security is now not only a matter of security but also an integral part of digital trust," she reiterated while highlighting the importance of AI-driven systems in future security frameworks. Murmu also referred to recent successes of security forces in countering left-wing extremism, saying that "areas once affected by violence are now witnessing peace and development". She said coordinated efforts by security agencies have contributed to restoring stability in several regions. On social inclusion, she highlighted the growing participation of women in technical and security-related disciplines. She said the achievements of women students in engineering and security studies reflect a positive transformation.

## Delhi L-G Sandhu Lauds Police For Arresting 2 Accused For Assault On Brigadier, Kin

New Delhi: Delhi Lieutenant Governor (L-G) Taranjit Singh Sandhu on Tuesday praised the Delhi Police for promptly arresting the two accused involved in the assault of a senior serving Army officer and his son in Vasant Vihar. In a message on social media platform X, L-G Sandhu said, "Appreciate the much-needed swift action by @DelhiPolice in the Vasant Enclave case. With two key accused now apprehended and the vehicle seized, the investigation must be fast-tracked to ensure all accomplices are brought to justice." The L-G said, "We remain committed to ensuring the safety of our citizens and maintaining the accepted standards of law and order." One of the accused has been identified as Satender alias Sonu (49), the son



of Banwari Lal and a resident of 8/123, Mehram Nagar. He is a director at Chaudhary Aviation Private Limited, a firm that provides chartered and cargo flight services, and deals in the sale and purchase of aircraft and related parts. The second accused, Sanjay Sharma (56), the son of Laxmi Narayan Sharma, resides at 8/142, Mehram Nagar and runs Pandit Ji Dhaba. Earlier on

Tuesday, L-G Sandhu expressed deep concern over the incident in Vasant Enclave involving the assault on the Brigadier, his wife, and their son, a 23-year-old IIT Delhi graduate. He said that he has directed the Delhi Police to provide full security to the Army officer and his family. "Deeply concerned by the incident in Vasant Enclave involving the assault on a serving Brigadier of the

Indian Army, his wife and son, a 23-year-old IIT Delhi graduate." L-G Sandhu said that he has personally spoken with the Brigadier to enquire about the incident and their well-being. "I also spoke with the Police Commissioner and the Deputy Commissioner of Police, directing them to ensure a thorough and swift investigation, leading to immediate and appropriate action against those responsible," the L-G added.

## Ambedkar Envisioned Women's Empowerment: Vice President Radhakrishnan

New Delhi: Vice President C.P. Radhakrishnan on Tuesday underscored Dr. B. R. Ambedkar's progressive vision on gender equality, recalling his emphasis on women's empowerment as a measure of societal progress. Delivering the Second Dr. Ambedkar Memorial Lecture on the theme "Dr. Ambedkar as a Nation Builder: Pathways Towards Viksit Bharat" at the Dr. Ambedkar International Centre here, Radhakrishnan highlighted the growing participation and achievements of women across sectors and the government's initiatives supporting women-led development. The Vice President stated that the aspiration of building a Viksit Bharat by 2047 requires collective effort



guided by constitutional values. He said that a developed India must be inclusive, equitable, innovative, and rooted in democratic principles. Referring to Dr. Ambedkar's pivotal role in drafting the Constitution, the Vice President said that through his leadership across extensive deliberations, he laid the foundation of an

inclusive India rooted in justice, liberty, equality, and fraternity. He described the Constitution of India as one of the most comprehensive democratic charters in the world. Emphasising the importance of constitutional morality, the Vice President, reflecting on his role as Chairman of the Rajya Sabha, said that

democratic institutions must function through dialogue, debate, and constructive discussion. He noted that parliamentary discourse should lead to decisions rather than disruptions, stressing the need for informed and respectful engagement. The Vice President highlighted Dr. Ambedkar's vision of

social and economic democracy alongside political democracy. He referred to various initiatives undertaken in recent years under the leadership of Prime Minister Narendra Modi aimed at inclusive development, financial empowerment, and upliftment of underdeveloped regions, noting that such efforts align with Dr. Ambedkar's ideals. The Vice-President underscored Dr. Ambedkar's intellectual brilliance, noting his seminal work "The Problem of the Rupee" and his courage in questioning colonial economic policies. He remarked that Dr. Ambedkar demonstrated how knowledge and wisdom can challenge even the most powerful systems.

## Woman In Bengaluru's Whitefield Kills Teenage Daughter, Commits Suicide

Bengaluru: In a tragic incident in Bengaluru, a woman allegedly killed her teenage daughter before committing suicide at their residence. The deceased have been identified as Suvarna, 40, and her daughter Karunya, 14. According to preliminary information, Suvarna is suspected of having smothered her daughter to death inside a room and later hanged herself from a ceiling fan. The incident from Immedihalli under the Whitefield police station area came to light late on Tuesday morning when family members checked on them after repeated phone calls went unanswered. Police said that Suvarna's husband, Chandrashekar, had left for work as usual in the

morning. When his calls to his wife went unanswered, he asked his brother to visit the house and check on them. When the brother entered the room at around 11 a.m., the shocking incident came to light. Whitefield police rushed to the spot, conducted an inspection, and shifted the bodies for post-mortem examination. A case has been registered, and further investigation is underway. According to Suresh Kumar, brother of the deceased Suvarna, the couple had been married for 18 years and had two children. Their son is currently studying in a hostel, while Karunya was living with her parents and grandparents. Family members said they are unaware of the exact

reason behind the incident. However, Suvarna's sister Usha indicated that financial stress may have driven her into depression. "She was upset over financial issues and often spoke to me about difficulties in managing expenses. We suspect this could be the reason behind her taking the extreme step. But it is painful that she also killed her daughter. A detailed investigation must be conducted," she said. Police are continuing their probe to ascertain the exact cause of the incident. "Whitefield police station received information stating that the mother and the daughter committed suicide at 11 a.m. today. Whitefield police officer and SOCO team visited the spot

# Paradip Port Authority Inaugurates National Fire Service Week 2026

**PARADIP**, (Correspondent): Paradip Port Authority (PPA) inaugurated National Fire Service Week 2026 on 14th April at the CISF Fire Wing, Paradip, reaffirming its strong commitment to fire safety awareness, prevention, and emergency preparedness across all operational areas of the Port. The observance is held every year to honour the brave fire service personnel who sacrificed their lives in the line of duty, while also strengthening awareness on fire prevention among employees, stakeholders, and the surrounding community. The theme for this year's observance is: "Safe School, Safe



Hospital & Fire Safety Aware Society - Together for Fire Prevention." The week-long program began with a solemn ceremony at the Port Fire Station, where senior officials and staff paid homage to the 66 brave firefighters who lost their lives during the catastrophic Bombay Dock explosion in 1944.

Tributes were paid to fire service martyrs, followed by the administration of the Fire Safety Pledge to port employees and stakeholders. The event served as a reminder of the risks undertaken by fire personnel and the critical importance of proactive fire prevention. The inaugural ceremony was graced by

Chairman, PPA, Shri P.L. Haranadh as the Chief Guest, while Deputy Chairman, Shri T. Venu Gopal attended as the Guest of Honour. The event was also attended by Shri Sanat Kumar Patel, Commandant, CISF Unit, Paradip Port, along with Heads of Departments, senior

officers, employees, and CISF personnel. Speaking on the occasion, the dignitaries highlighted the critical importance of fire safety awareness, timely response systems, and collective responsibility in preventing fire-related incidents across workplaces, institutions, and residential areas. The Chairman, Paradip Port Authority, Shri P.L. Haranadh, emphasized that fire safety remains a top operational priority for the Port. He stated that sustained awareness, strict adherence to safety protocols, and continuous capacity building of personnel are essential to achieving the goal of a "Zero Incident" environment.

# A milk tanker hit a bike, leaving one dead and another seriously injured

**Nimapada**: (Correspondent): An unfortunate incident occurred on the occasion of the Odia New Year and Maha Vishuba Sankranti. A tragic road accident took place at Golei Chhak, where a milk tanker collided with a motorcycle. Of the two persons on the bike, one died on the spot while the other was critically injured. The deceased has been identified as Kalandi Pradhan (58). According to reports, Kalandi Pradhan of Sarapada village under Tirundia Panchayat and Krushnachandra Behera (52) of Nimapada market were on their way from their homes to a vegetable



shop near Golei Chhak when a milk tanker coming from the Nimapada market side hit their bike. As a result of the accident, Kalandi Pradhan died at the scene, while the injured Krushnachandra Behera was rescued by locals and admitted to Nimapada Community Health Centre in critical condition. Due to the seriousness of his injuries, he was later shifted to Capital Hospital in

Bhubaneswar. Upon receiving information, Nimapada police reached the spot, seized the milk tanker, detained the driver, and initiated an investigation. The body has been sent for post-mortem examination. After hearing about the incident, Ex-minister Samir Ranjan Dash visited the Nimapada Community Health Centre and expressed his condolences.

# Dy CM Pravati Parida Launches 'Aarohan'

**Bhubaneswar** (Correspondent): On the auspicious occasion of Maha Bishuba Sankranti and the Odia New Year, the innovative programme 'Aarohan' was formally inaugurated today by Deputy Chief Minister Pravati Parida, at the ICWS campus in Bhubaneswar. Marking a heartfelt cultural gesture, the Deputy Chief Minister applied tikkita to the children as a symbol of a new beginning, sending off the little buds to the next step of their lives with the Aarohan kit, blessings and encouragement. Reflecting the spirit of the initiative, the programme carries the tagline "Ujwala Bhabisyat Pain Pade Agaku", underscoring a collective step forward towards a brighter future for every child. The initiative has been launched by the Department of Women and Child



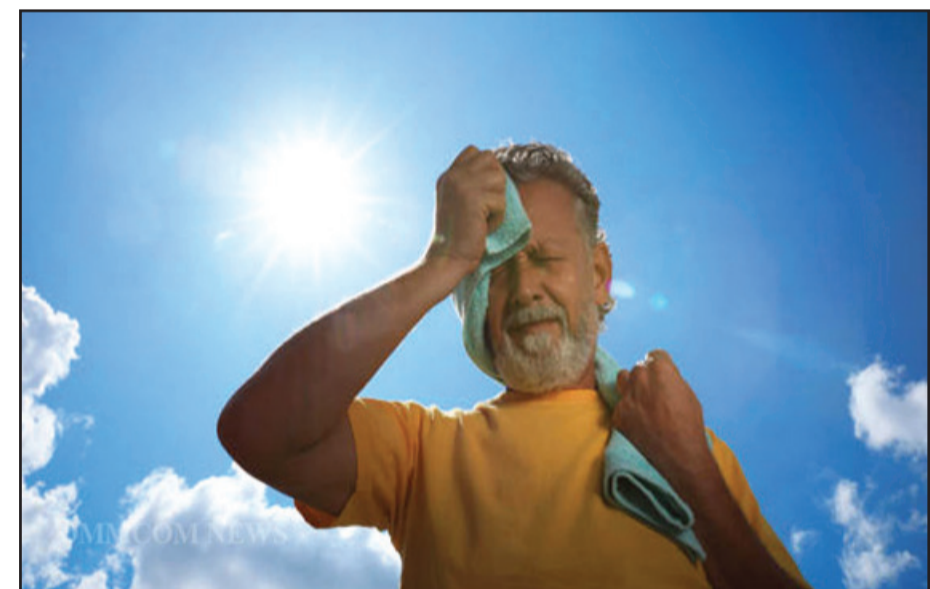
Development. The primary objective of this ambitious initiative is to strengthen the foundation of Early Childhood Education across the state and ensure a smooth transition of children from Anganwadi centres to Bal Vatika-3 after completing their pre-primary learning. Addressing the children and parents present at the event, the Deputy Chief Minister emphasized that

the first six years of a child's life are the most crucial for brain development. She highlighted that, on the occasion of Poshan Pakhya- 2026, the government is prioritizing early childhood development. Stressing the role of family and society, she stated that this initiative is not solely the responsibility of the government, but that active participation and

support from parents are essential to shape a bright future for children. The programme, the Commissioner-cum-Secretary of Department of Women and Child Development, Dr. Mrunalini Darswal, emphasized the need for active cooperation from all Anganwadi workers and officials to further strengthen Anganwadi centres and accelerate the holistic development of children.

# Odisha Reels Under Heatwave As Mercury Crosses 40°C At Multiple Places

**Bhubaneswar** (Correspondent): Heatwave conditions intensified across Odisha on Tuesday, with Titlagarh emerging as the hottest location in the state, recording a scorching 41.7 degrees Celsius. According to the India Meteorological Department's Meteorological Centre in Bhubaneswar, at least eight places in the state reported maximum temperatures of 40 degrees Celsius or above. Among the worst-hit areas, Sambalpur and Hirkud recorded 41.5 degrees Celsius each, while Jharsuguda and Bhawanipatna registered 41 degrees Celsius. Sonepur recorded 40.6 degrees Celsius, followed by Bolangir at 40.3 degrees Celsius. The coal town of Talcher also touched the 40-



degree mark. In contrast, the twin cities of Bhubaneswar and Cuttack recorded relatively lower maximum temperatures of 37.3 degrees Celsius and 37 degrees Celsius, respectively. However, high humidity levels—hovering above 80 per

cent—added to the discomfort. The weather office has issued a 'yellow' warning for several districts, including Balasore, Bhadrak, Jajpur, Kendrapara, Cuttack, Jagatsinghpur, Puri, Khordha, Nayagarh, Ganjam and Gajapati, cautioning

residents about prevailing hot and humid conditions on Wednesday. The India Meteorological Department further said that day temperatures are likely to rise by 2-4 degrees Celsius over the next three days, with no significant change expected thereafter.

# 'King of Forest' Gang Kingpin Rakesh Nath Arrested After Dramatic Escape Bid In Dhenkanal

**Dhenkanal**: The Kamakhyanagar Police have arrested Rakesh Nath, the alleged kingpin of the 'King of Forest' gang and a notorious criminal accused in multiple serious offences, including the high-profile murder of BJD leader Jashobant Parida. According to police sources, Nath, accompanied by four associates, had allegedly entered a house in Khuntapashi village under Kamakhyanagar police limits and opened fire, discharging five rounds. No injuries were reported in the incident. Acting on a tip-off, police rushed to the spot. While Nath's accomplices managed to escape, he attempted to flee by jumping from the roof of the house upon seeing the police team. He sustained serious injuries in the fall and was subsequently apprehended.

# Professor Chandi Prasad Nanda Assumes Charge As New Vice-Chancellor Of Utkal University

**Bhubaneswar** (Correspondent): Professor Chandi Prasad Nanda formally took charge as the Vice-Chancellor of Utkal University on Monday. A distinguished historian with nearly three decades of experience in teaching and academic administration, Professor Nanda has previously served as Head of the Odisha Research Centre. His appointment has generated optimism among the university community, with many hoping he will strengthen academic standards, promote high-quality research, and bring greater efficiency to the administration of Odisha's oldest and most prestigious university. Soon after assuming office,



Professor Nanda began his day with a visit to the Jagannath Temple and Maa Talapadeswari Temple located within the university campus, seeking divine blessings. He then took charge from the outgoing in-charge Vice-Chancellor, Professor Jagneshwar Dandapat. In a thoughtful gesture, the new Vice-Chancellor donated blood at a blood donation camp organised by the NSS Unit of Utkal

University as part of Odia Pakhya celebrations. Later, Prof. Nanda interacted with faculty members and staff in his office, where he emphasised the need for greater energy efficiency, sustainability, and cleanliness on campus, along with effective application of research for institutional development. In the afternoon, he inaugurated 'Odia Khadya Divas' at the

BARC Outreach Centre, where traditional Odia cuisines were showcased and celebrated. In the evening, Prof. Nanda paid a courtesy visit to the Honourable Governor of Odisha and Chancellor of the University, accompanied by Registrar Dr Swati Mishra. The meeting focused on the future growth and development prospects of Utkal University.

# FM Autonomous College Removes Odia HOD Following Female Student's Harassment Complaint

**Bhubaneswar**: Fakir Mohan Autonomous College has removed Dr Santosh Kumar Nayak from the post of Head of the Department (HOD) of Odia after receiving a written complaint of harassment from a female student. The allegation petition, submitted by a student named Priti (full name not disclosed in the complaint), reached the college on April 6, 2026. Acting swiftly on the same day, the college authorities relieved Dr Nayak—who is an Assistant Professor in the Odia department—of his HOD responsibilities through an office order issued on April 4, 2026 (Office Order No. 1584).

The matter has been referred to the college's Internal Complaints Committee (ICC) with instructions to conduct a detailed enquiry and submit its report at the earliest. According to a status report submitted by the Office of the Regional Director of Education, Balasore, to the Higher Education Department, the Regional Director personally visited the college on April 6 and met the Principal to review the action taken. The petition, sent via speed post, did not mention the complainant's full name or contact details, making it difficult for authorities to immediately verify the allegations or contact the student. The Internal Complaints Committee has now urged the student to appear before the panel by tomorrow to provide further details and present her version of events. University

officials have stated that any further action will depend on the student coming forward with sufficient evidence and cooperating with the enquiry. "On interaction with the Principal of the College, he told that Dr. Santosh Kumar Nayak Asst. Professor Odia and HOD has been removed from the post of HOD vide Office Order No. 1584 dt. 04.04.2026 and also stated that the matter of allegation petition has been transmitted to the Internal Complaints Committee of the College with an instruction for conduct of enquiry and submission of report thereof at the earliest", read the letter issued by the Office of the Regional Director of Education, Balasore to the Joint Secretary to Government of Department of Higher Education.

## EDITORIAL

### Stronger Together: The Science of Human Support

Support is often thought of as a simple act of kindness—a reassuring word, a helping hand, or a listening ear. Yet beneath these everyday gestures lies a powerful scientific foundation. Research across psychology, neuroscience, and social science shows that support is not just emotionally comforting; it is biologically essential. It shapes how we think, how we cope, and even how long and how well we live.

At its core, support is deeply connected to human biology. When individuals feel supported, their bodies respond positively. Stress hormones such as cortisol decrease, while “feel-good” chemicals like oxytocin and dopamine increase. This biochemical shift helps regulate emotions, lower blood pressure, and strengthen the immune system. In contrast, a lack of support can lead to chronic stress, which is linked to anxiety, depression, and a range of physical illnesses.

One of the most fascinating aspects of support is its impact on the brain. Neuroscientific studies reveal that social support activates regions associated with safety and reward. Simply knowing that someone is there for us can reduce the brain’s perception of threat. This explains why people often perform better, think more clearly, and recover faster from setbacks when they feel supported. The brain, in essence, becomes more resilient in the presence of connection. Support also plays a crucial role in mental health. Emotional support—being heard, understood, and validated—helps individuals process difficult experiences. It reduces feelings of isolation and builds a sense of belonging. Practical support, such as assistance with tasks or responsibilities, eases daily burdens and allows individuals to focus on recovery and growth. Together, these forms of support create a strong foundation for psychological well-being. In educational and professional settings, the science of support is equally significant. Students who receive encouragement from teachers and peers are more likely to stay motivated and achieve their goals. Similarly, employees who feel supported by colleagues and leaders tend to be more productive, innovative, and satisfied with their work. Support fosters confidence, and confidence fuels performance.

Another important dimension is the concept of “perceived support.” Interestingly, it is not only the support we receive that matters, but also the support we believe is available. Studies show that people who feel they have a reliable support system—whether or not they actively use it—experience lower stress and better health outcomes. This highlights the importance of building trust and strong relationships over time.

Technology has added a new layer to how support is given and received. Online communities, social media platforms, and virtual counseling services have made it easier to connect across distances. While digital support cannot fully replace face-to-face interaction, it can provide valuable assistance, especially in times of isolation or crisis. The challenge lies in ensuring that these connections remain meaningful and authentic.

## “Neither This One, Nor That ...”



**SYAMA PRASAD MISRA**

It happened about a year ago. One morning, around eight o’clock, I was buying vegetables. A luxury car stopped

nearly, and a well-dressed lady, wearing a lot of gold ornaments, got down. She looked quite rich and respectable.

The vegetable seller I was buying from also had some small raw jackfruits for sale — the kind that are great for making curry or fritters. To help his wife, the lady’s husband also got out of the car.

The lady asked, “How much for one jackfruit?” “Twenty rupees each, madam,” the seller replied. “Give me two big ones,” she said. The seller picked two and handed them over.

Immediately, the lady said, “Not these ones. The two over there look a bit bigger. Give me those.” The vendor handed her those, too.

Then she said, “Wait, I’ll pick them myself.” “Yes, madam,” said the seller politely, and went back to his work.

The lady started checking one after another — almost thirty jackfruits and finally chose the two that she and her husband thought were the biggest. She paid forty rupees and was about to sit in the car, when she suddenly turned back again and said, “Oh wait! Not these two. The ones beside them look even bigger. Give me those.”

The seller smiled and quietly handed her those two. This is not just a story about a woman choosing jackfruits.

It is something that happens to almost every single of us .

In every situation, we often question ourselves, standing in confusion between two options:

“Is it this one or that one? Hmm... okay, may be this one.”

Then after a while we think again, “No, no, not this one — that one. Yes, that one looks better.”

We take that one, but again feel, “Not this either. That another one must be the right choice!”

We feel disappointed when we see that someone else — maybe a neighbour or a rival — seems to have something better. Even if theirs is only slightly bigger or better, we start feeling that we made the wrong choice. That is human nature. We are never satisfied.

That’s why people say, “Human wants are unlimited.”

In truth, it’s our endless desires mixed with jealousy that make our minds restless and depressed . We want others to grow and succeed — but still remain under our control or influence.

Think of a little child in a toy shop. Even after buying the biggest, most expensive toy, he doesn’t feel happy. Instead, he feels gloomy about the other toy he couldn’t buy — much to his father’s frustration.

It’s a psychological fact and deep-rooted habit of the human mind — to be sorrowful about the small part we lost, rather than be delighted and satisfied about the larger part we already have.

A few days ago, a video went viral on social media. In it, a man sitting in his car saw

someone boarding an airplane and thought, “Ah, how lucky he is! Will I ever be able to fly on a plane someday?”

Similarly, a biker envied the man in the car.

A cyclist envied the biker. A person walking envied the cyclist. And finally, a differently-abled man on a tricycle looked at the person walking and thought, “If only I had legs that worked... I would be so lucky and happy. I wouldn’t have to depend on anyone.” But people in better positions never think like that.

Such is this strange world, and even stranger is human nature — always melancholic , always comparing, always discontented .

As if some magician has waved his wand and quietly stolen away the reason for our happiness.

Dear friends, If we learn to be glad and contented with what we have, and look at those who are less fortunate than us,

we will realize that there are many people living in situations far worse than ours.

They face countless hardships, while we are much better off than them. But instead of being grateful, we keep comparing ourselves with those above us — and make ourselves unhappy.

So let’s thank that invisible power — call it God or destiny —

for keeping us in the position we truly deserve, for giving us enough to live well. Once we do that, we will never feel ourselves inferior again, and we will never have to sigh and say, “Hmm... neither this one, nor that ...”

## Question on pension of public representatives



**Dr Satyan Saurabh**

India is a democratic country, where the people are considered supreme and public representatives act as public

servants. However, from time to time, issues arise that question this fundamental principle. The recent debate over the pensions and benefits of former MPs falls into this category. When the Supreme Court of India questioned the Central Government about the justification for the pensions and benefits provided to former MPs, it sparked a new debate across the country. This question is not merely an administrative or legal issue, but one that concerns social justice, equality, and democratic values. Why should one class enjoy privileges while others are bound by strict rules and limitations? This question naturally arises in the minds of ordinary citizens.

In a democracy, public representatives are elected by the people to protect their interests and work for the development of society. This is a responsibility, not a means to obtain permanent benefits. However, when public representatives are granted lifelong pensions, various privileges, and special rights, the question arises whether this system fosters a sense of service or turns it into a privilege. A typical government employee must serve for years to receive a pension, often only after 20 to 30 years of service. In contrast, a single term—of five years—is sufficient to become a Member of Parliament. This inequality is worrying not only from an economic perspective but also from a moral perspective. The Indian Constitution is based on the principle of equality. Every citizen should have equal opportunities and equal rights.

However, when special privileges are granted to a particular class, this principle appears to be weakened. The issue of pensions for former MPs has become a symbol of this inequality. When a large section of the country is struggling economically, troubled by problems like unemployment and inflation, such privileges create public discontent. This discontent is not only economic, but also psychological and social.

It’s also important to note that the cost of these pensions and benefits is ultimately met by public taxes. This raises the question: is this a wise use of resources? Shouldn’t this money be invested in education, health, employment, and infrastructure? While it could be argued that this expenditure is not significant in the overall budget, the issue is not just about the amount, but about the principle. If a system promotes inequality, it cannot be justified simply because its economic impact is limited.

One perspective on this issue is that public representatives should receive certain benefits after their term. They argue that becoming an MP requires a person to distance themselves from their profession, business, or job. Consequently, they lack a stable source of income after their term ends. Furthermore, it is argued that if public representatives are not provided with financial security, they will be unable to make independent and impartial decisions. They may become more vulnerable to external influences, which could impact the quality of democracy. These arguments seem reasonable, but the question is whether the current system is balanced, or whether this benefit has gone beyond “necessity” and become a “privilege.” An important aspect of this entire issue is how transparent the process for determining these benefits is. Is public opinion considered in these decisions? Is the advice of experts and economic analysts given importance? It is often observed that decisions related to the benefits of public representatives are made by

them. This situation gives rise to conflicts of interest. Therefore, it becomes necessary to increase the role of independent and impartial institutions on these issues. If we look at other democratic countries, they too provide certain benefits to public representatives, but in most places, these are subject to strict rules and conditions. Many countries have established minimum service periods, age limits, and other criteria. Such a system could be implemented in India, maintaining balance and strengthening the principle of equality. Measures such as determining pensions based on service period, providing them for a limited period, or balancing them with other government pension systems could be effective in this direction. Public awareness and participation are crucial in any democracy. Positive change is possible only if citizens remain vigilant and raise their voices on these issues. Today, discussions on this topic have increased through social media and other platforms, which is a positive sign. This demonstrates that people no longer want to be mere spectators, but rather active participants.

Ultimately, this debate over the pensions and benefits of former MPs is not merely a matter of policy, but rather one that touches the very heart of democracy. It forces us to consider whether we are truly adhering to the principles of equality and justice. The government and policymakers must take this issue seriously and develop a system that is not only rational but also just. Public representatives should be respected and protected, but this system must be designed to ensure that it does not become a privilege. A strong democracy is one where public trust is paramount, and to maintain this trust, transparency, equality, and accountability must be given top priority in policies.

## Articles 14 and 15 of the Indian Constitution guarantee equality and non-discrimination



**Kishan Bhawnani**

Globally, India has taken a decisive step in democratic history through the Nari Shakti Vandan Act 2023, which aims to establish gender balance in political representation by providing 33 percent reservation for women in Parliament and Legislative Assemblies. This move is not merely an attempt to increase statistical representation, but also a comprehensive approach to social justice, inclusive development, and strengthening the quality of democracy. However, this historic initiative has also raised serious questions and concerns, particularly the threat of proxy leadership or back-door control, whereby real power is vested in the husbands or other male relatives of elected women representatives. I, Advocate Kishan Sanmukhdas Bhawnani, Gondia, Maharashtra, believe that this problem is not limited to India; similar challenges have emerged in many democracies around the world after the implementation of women’s reservations or quotas. Therefore, it becomes essential that we thoroughly analyze the implications, potential risks, and corrective measures of this Act so that the far-reaching positive impact of the Nari Shakti Vandan Act 2023 proves to be a milestone towards our Vision 2047.

Friends, if we analyze the issues, the first and fundamental question is: does the control of women representatives by family men violate the trust of voters? The very essence of democracy is based on representation and accountability. When voters elect a woman based on her honest image, social sensitivity, and leadership abilities, they expect that she will play an active role in policy-making and decision-making. However, if the actual decisions are made by her husband or male family members, this not only betrays the trust of voters but also undermines the transparency and accountability of democracy. In many states of India, the trend of husband-

sarpanch (head of the village head) has become an established reality at the Panchayat level, where the elected woman is only a nominal head, and real power remains in the hands of men. This situation undermines the very purpose of women’s empowerment and reduces them to mere political tools.

Friends, another important aspect is that the implementation of the Nari Shakti Vandan Act may increase the potential for “back-door leadership.” When a constituency is reserved for women, political parties and influential male leaders may attempt to indirectly maintain power by fielding women from their families as candidates. This trend has already been observed in local bodies and is likely to spread to the state and national levels. International experiences are also important in this context. For example, in some African and South Asian countries, the initial years after the implementation of women’s quotas saw the rise of “proxy politics,” where women were merely symbolic representatives. However, over time, this trend gradually diminished with increasing education, political training, and social awareness. This makes it clear that providing reservations alone is not enough; institutional and social reforms are also necessary.

Friends, The third point is whether incompetent or incompetent male leaders, who cannot contest elections themselves, will maintain control of power through the back door by promoting women? This fear is not entirely unfounded. Nepotism and dynasty are already significant factors in Indian politics. Therefore, if a male leader faces legal or political restrictions, he can exercise power indirectly by nominating his wife, daughter, or other female relative as a candidate. This not only weakens democratic competition but also hinders the emergence of capable and independent women leaders. This problem cannot be addressed solely through legal provisions, but through the internal democratic structure of political parties and transparency in the candidate selection process.

Friends, The fourth and most important aspect relates to crime and the justice system. According to a report by the Institute for Crime and Justice Policy Research, the number

of female prisoners in India has increased by 162 percent over the past two decades, far exceeding the growth rate of male prisoners (77 percent). This imbalance raises several serious questions. Are women increasingly prone to crime, or are they being deliberately exploited by criminal networks? In many cases, it has been found that women are implicated in crimes such as drug trafficking, human trafficking, and illegal migration because they are considered less suspicious. This situation becomes even more worrying when viewed in a political context. If criminal elements begin to use women as a “political shield,” it could pose a serious threat to both democracy and law and order. This risk is particularly heightened in border states, where the problem of illegal migration and trafficking is high.

Friends, The fifth issue relates to the practical impact of reservations. If an Assembly or Lok Sabha constituency is reserved for women, and there aren’t enough qualified female candidates available, it’s likely that fewer capable candidates will be elected. This situation can also be unfair to voters, as they don’t have the opportunity to select the best candidate of their choice. While this argument is partially correct, it’s important to view it in a broader context. History shows that whenever a disadvantaged group is given an opportunity, there are challenges in the initial years, but over time, that group develops its capabilities. Therefore, the solution to this problem lies not in eliminating reservations, but in expanding opportunities for education, leadership training, and political participation for women.

Friends, The sixth and final point concerns constitutional balance. It’s essential to ensure that women’s reservations do not violate men’s fundamental rights, especially the right to equality. Articles 14 and 15 of the Indian Constitution guarantee equality and non-discrimination, but Article 15(3) also allows the state to make special provisions for women and children. Therefore, women’s reservation is constitutionally valid, provided it is consistent with the broader principles of equal opportunity and justice. Striking

a balance here is crucial, so that this policy promotes social justice and does not create new imbalances.

Friends, Considering all these challenges, it becomes necessary to add some concrete corrective measures to the Nari Shakti Vandan Act. First, there should be clear legal provisions to prevent proxy leadership, including financial and criminal penalties. If it is proven that an elected female representative is merely a figurehead and the actual decisions are being made by someone else, strict action should be taken against her and the person concerned. Second, mandatory political and administrative training programs should be initiated for women representatives to enable them to become self-reliant and capable leaders. Third, political parties must reform their internal structures and promote women as real leaders, not just token candidates. Fourth, the role of civil society and the media is also crucial; they should highlight cases where women are being abused. Internationally, it has been demonstrated that women’s reservations are successful only when combined with broader social and institutional reforms. Countries like Rwanda, Norway, and France have seen increased female representation, coupled with increased actual participation, due to higher levels of education, economic independence, and social acceptance. India also needs to adopt a holistic approach in this direction.

Ultimately, the Nari Shakti Vandan Act 2023 is a historic and necessary step towards India’s democratic development, but its success will depend on how we transform “numerical representation” into “real empowerment.” If we succeed in addressing proxy leadership, criminal interference, and institutional weaknesses, this Act can be a transformative force not only for women but for society as a whole. Otherwise, it will remain merely a paper reform that will fail to achieve its original purpose. Therefore, the need of the hour is to view this law not merely as a political achievement, but as a social revolution, and to make serious and concerted efforts at all levels to ensure its success.

## Odia Naba Barsh and Pana Sankranti celebrated in Subarnapur

**SUBARNAPUR** (Correspondent)--- Odia Naba Barsh and Pana Sankranti were celebrated by Sonepur Panchayat Samiti at Subarnapur Town Hall. Subarnapur Collector Dr. Nruparaj Sahu was the chief guest at the event. Additional District Magistrate (Revenue) Rajendra Majhi, Additional District Magistrate (General) Anjalina Pradhan, CDM & PHO Usharani Das, Sonepur Block Development Officer Pratik Kar and



District Cultural Officer Yamuna Pradhan were the guests of honour at the event. On this occasion, a Rangoli and Jhoti competition based on Odia Paksha was organized at the Town Hall. Apart from this, a Hul Huli competition was also organized and Bela Pana was distributed on the occasion of Pana Sankranti. Prizes were distributed to the winners of the competition and cultural groups performed their dances.

## Baba Saheb's birth anniversary celebrated in Baghjaran



**P a t n a g a r h** (Correspondent) The birth anniversary of Bharat Ratna Dr. Baba Saheb Ambedkar was celebrated on Tuesday in Baghjaran village of P a n c h a y a t Maharapada of Khaprakhol under Balangir district On this occasion, Ambedkar Youth Association President Tapindra

Suna presided over the function, while Deputy Chief Minister's Block Representative Padma Kumar Singh Bariha was the chief guest, Dr. Abhay Tripathi was the keynote speaker, BJP Mandal President Umakant Pradhan, Vikas Behera, former Sarpanch Rohit Meher were the guests of honor and shed light on the life of Baba Saheb. On this occasion, floral wreaths were offered at the statue of Ambedkar. Among others, Prahallad Chand, Radheshyam Nag, Kalia Sahu, Narayan Dandasena, prominent BJP workers, Ambedkar Youth League members, women and men were present.

## On the occasion of Pana Sankranti, a show of strength and a "Sankalp" rally by Sameer

**Nimapada**, ( correspondent): On the occasion of Pana Sankranti, Sameer demonstrated his strength in Nimapada of Puri district. After meetings at Bamanala Panchayat and Ramachandi, today he once again openly sounded a battle cry against Prabhaty. With more than 5,000 workers and supporters, a procession was carried out from near the Nimapada New Bus Stand to Charichhak Brahmakundi. During the procession, floral tributes were first offered at the statue of freedom fighter Mohan Das near Nimapada Dolabedi Chhak, and then at the statue of Gopabandhu at Charichhak. In the context of today's rally, Sameer said that the struggle which began in Nimapada in 2024 will continue, and through this procession, all workers and supporters have taken a pledge to carry it forward.

This resolve will be reflected in the upcoming Panchayat elections, and under the leadership of Sameer Das, the Gop-Nimapada Panchayat Samiti will be regained. Without directly naming her but clearly targeting Prabhaty, he repeated earlier statements, saying that in the past two years many promises have been made and many things have been said, but in reality, no visible development work has been carried out. He further stated that to successfully and swiftly implement all the state government schemes in Nimapada in the coming days, the Gop-Nimapada Panchayat Samiti must once again be taken over under the leadership of Sameer Das in the upcoming Panchayat elections, and today's "Sankalp Rally" should be made successful.

# Dist. level B.R.Dr. Babasaheb Bhimrao Ambedkar's birth anniversary celebrated in Subarnapur

**S u b a r n a p u r** ( correspondent)--- On Tuesday morning, the district-level Bharat Ratna Dr. Babasaheb Bhimrao Ambedkar's birth anniversary was celebrated in a grand ceremony at the Sonepur Town Hall with the joint support of the District Information and Public Relations Department and the Subarnapur District Administration. Subarnapur Collector

Dr. Nruparaj Sahu present as the guests of honor. History Professor Sonepur College, Dr. Sudam Deep was present as the main speaker. At the beginning of the program, floral wreaths were offered to the portrait of Ganesh and Bharat Ratna Dr. Babasaheb Bhimrao Ambedkar and the lamp was lit. The guests in the meeting gave their speeches and remembered

# Unity in Diversity: Grand Celebration of Ambedkar Jayanti in Bolangir

**Bolangir**(Correspondent): The 135th birth anniversary of Baba Saheb Dr. B.R. Ambedkar was celebrated with great fervour and unity by the District Dalit community at the Bolangir headquarters. A massive procession marked the occasion, beginning from Koshal Kalamandal and moving through various parts of the town before culminating at Kacheri Chowk. Thousands of Ambedkar followers gathered to pay floral tributes at the statue of the iconic leader. More than 4,000 people participated in the rally, making it a grand public event. The procession witnessed enthusiastic participation from tribal,



Yadav and backward class communities, reflecting a strong spirit of social unity. Traditional cultural performances such as Dalkhai dance, Ghumura and Dulduli added vibrancy and attracted public attention. A ??? was later held at the Koshal Kalamandal ground under the chairmanship of convener Bijay Barik. Prominent guests included tribal leader Satyanarayan Bhoi, Kaushalya Kumbhar of the Savitribai Phule organisation, women leader Rupali Mahanand, Sandeep Bag from the Yadav community, Saroj Meswa and Satyapir Patra from the backward class, and

Sitaram Kumbhar, President of the G u a r d i a n s ' Association. The programme was anchored by Kuna Bag, while councillor and labour leader Shambhu Nag delivered the vote of thanks. Speakers described the joint celebration by Dalit, tribal and backward communities as a

historic step towards fulfilling Dr. Ambedkar's vision, sending a strong message of unity and social harmony. They also pledged to continue collective efforts for the upliftment of society. Municipality Chairperson Lika Sahu, along with councillors Ganga Chand, Shatrughna Bag and organiser Bulu Behera, joined the procession and extended their greetings. The event was successfully organised with the active support of councillor Kishore Kumbhar, treasurer Suresh Haripal, Sushil Haripal, Sagar Kumbhar, Ranjan Barik, Suryamani Suna, Dinesh Nag, Basudev Mugri and Jyotish Mugri, among others.

## General assembly in religious house

**Jajpurroad**( corespondent)A general meeting has been held in the samrat kalyan mandap hall. Baba Saheb Bhim Rao Ambedkar's 135th birth anniversary was celebrated. It was joined by Lokshakti Abhiyaan host and renowned environmentalist, Green Nobel laureate Prof. Bishwajit Roy, Gandhi Memorial Fund founder and sangram mallik Ambedkar Lohia Bicharmonch leader.



There is ambiguity and discrimination in society that has started since thousands of years. In the whole world, caste discrimination is prevalent only in India. This country's humanitarian system is trying to kill the Constitution by suppressing the rights of the people. The government is destroying the laws of

the country. In the name of development, people's water, land and forests are being attacked. The speaker said that people's right to express their opinion has been taken away by taking away the Vitamati. It was organized by the staff of the organization along with Ambedkar Foundation's Dushmantha jena, kartik mallik, surendra mallik, gabinda jena and Biswanath patra. Organised this meeting.

## Law Minister attended Bajrang dal rally in Chilika

**K h o r d h a**, (Correspondent): A massive rally has been held in Balugaon-Banpur town on Monday on the occasion of Hanuman Jayanti. The rally was organised by the Bajrang Dal. Thousands of Ram devotees took part in the procession. The procession left Balugaon's Mamu Bhanaja hill in the afternoon and ended at Banpur Paltan Padia. During the procession, both towns were celebrated the function by chanting "Jai Sriram". Law Minister Prithviraj Harichandan.

## 13KL Liquid Oxygen Plant inaugurated at Hi-tech Medical College

**Bhubaneswar**: ( Correspondent) :- Another important step by Hi-tech Medical College and Hospital in the field of healthcare. A 13KL capacity liquid oxygen plant has been inaugurated in the premises of Hi-tech Medical College and Hospital. Dr. Tirupati Panigrahi, Chairman of Hi-tech Group, graced the occasion as the chief guest and inaugurated the plant. Suresh Kumar Panigrahi, Managing Trustee and CEO of Hi-tech Group and Dr. Rakesh Kumar Panigrahi, Trustee were present as the guests of honor. Dr. Tirupati Panigrahi said that the main objective of this new oxygen plant is to provide continuous and high-quality oxygen services to the patients. With the establishment of this new plant, the number of serious patients being treated in the hospital will increase.

## Odisha lady doctor suicide case: Orissa High Court denies bail to Nigerian accused

**Cuttack** ,( correspondent): The Orissa High Court has rejected the bail plea of a Nigerian national accused in a sensitive abetment of suicide case involving allegations of blackmail and immigration violations. The accused, Djedje Raymond alias Chijioke John Okoye, was arrested by Cuttack police in Delhi on March 24 last year. A 31-year-old resident of Abidjan, he is facing charges in connection with the death of a woman doctor in Cuttack on March 1, 2025. The case is currently under trial before the District & Sessions Judge, Cuttack. The chargesheet has been filed under multiple provisions of the Bharatiya Nyaya Sanhita, along with sections of the Information Technology Act, the

Passports Act, 1967, and the Immigration and Foreigners Act, 2025. The accused had approached the High Court seeking bail on December 22. While hearing the matter on April 9, Justice Gourishankar Satapathy noted the serious nature of the allegations, which include abetment of suicide, forgery, and unlawful stay in India. As per the prosecution, as reported by The New Indian Express, the accused allegedly blackmailed the victim and coerced her into transferring money in connection with a personal relationship. The deceased is reported to have left behind a suicide note attributing her distress to sustained harassment by the accused. The prosecution also submitted that the accused had been threatening the victim through

phone calls, which were later traced during the investigation. It further stated that he had overstayed in India since April 11, 2020, without valid documents. Verification by the Foreigners Regional Registration Office (FRRO), Hyderabad, revealed that he had entered India on November 23, 2019, on a tourist visa. However, investigators later found discrepancies, including the alleged use of another person's visa number and a forged visa sticker, indicating possible impersonation. Taking note of the gravity of the offences and the prima facie evidence on record, the High Court declined to grant bail, stating that it was not inclined to exercise discretion in favour of the accused at this stage.



## Allu Arjun's First Look Of 'Raaka' With Atlee Unveiled

On superstar Allu Arjun's 44th birthday on Wednesday, the makers of his next, which was tentatively titled as #AA22xA6, revealed that the film has been christened "Raaka" and even shared the first look of the actor from the upcoming movie. Production banner Sun Pictures, along with Arjun and director Atlee, took to Instagram in a

collaborative post to unveil the first look and the title of the upcoming film, which also stars Deepika Padukone. The first look featured an intense close-up of a bald Arjun's rugged face. His face is partially hidden by a wolf like claw. In the image, the star's one eye is sharply in focus, staring forward with a predatory intensity. The entire picture adds a primal, warrior-like aesthetic. "#AA22xA6 is now #Raaka Prepare yourself for a vision beyond limits @alluarjunonline @atlee47 @deepikapadukone," the caption read. The film is the first collaboration between Arjun and Deepika.

## Jr NTR's ripped look goes viral, fans hail his transformation

Jr NTR gave his fans a fresh glimpse of his physical transformation ahead of his upcoming film with Prashant Neel. In the picture posted on Instagram, NTR can be seen flaunting his toned back and strong biceps during a gym session. His fit look left fans excited about what's to come on the big screen. Keeping the caption short and powerful, the actor wrote, "Built. Not bought." Soon after he shared the post, fans flooded the comments section with excitement, with many praising his dedication and new look. One fan wrote, "Man of Masses #JrNTR is ready to ROAR," while another commented, "Alexa play AAYA SHERR." The latest post has also renewed excitement around Jr NTR's upcoming film with director Prashanth Neel. The project is currently under production and is one of the most anticipated films in the coming months. Earlier, the production house had dismissed rumours related to the film's look and shooting schedule. In an official statement, the team said there was "absolutely no truth" in such reports and urged people not to spread unverified information. The statement read, "There is absolutely no truth to the rumours circulating about the look or any schedule cancellation. The film is progressing as planned, with only a routine preparation gap. We request everyone not to believe or spread unverified information. Official updates will always come from us." Jr NTR was last seen in Devara: Part 1, which released in theatres on September 27, 2024. The film also featured Janhvi Kapoor, Saif Ali Khan, Prakash Raj, Srikanth Meka, Tom Shine Chacko, and Narain. Fans



## Migraine Relief In 7 Days



If you have ever experienced a migraine, you know it is not just a headache - it is a full-body shutdown. Migraines bring severe, pounding pain in the head, sensitivity to light, nausea, and brain fog. While popping pills may offer temporary relief, there is no absolute cure for the pain yet. But did you know there are ways to reduce the frequency of headaches without any pills? Nutritionist Shweta Shah recommends an Ayurvedic solution for lasting relief in just seven days. Understanding Migraines Through Ayurveda In Ayurveda, migraines are known as "Ardhavabhedaka," which literally means "half-head pain." For those unfamiliar, migraine sufferers experience intense, one-sided headaches along with other symptoms. According to yashaayu99ayurveda.com, migraines often result from an imbalance in the body's three core energies or doshas - Vata, Pitta, and Kapha. When these doshas fall out of sync due to stress, poor diet, lack of sleep, or even the weather, the body sends warning signals, and migraines are one of them.

A study published in the Journal of Ayurveda and Integrative Medicine found that the first step towards managing the pain is avoiding nidana (etiology/triggers). Understanding which dosha is out of balance can help you find the right path to lasting relief from migraines. Nutritionist-Approved Ayurvedic Cure For Migraine Ayurveda's strength lies in addressing the root cause of health problems through daily habits, diet, and herbs. Nutritionist Shweta Shah recommends a simple natural solution for migraine pain. Best part? The fix is likely sitting right in your kitchen: Coriander Tea. How Coriander Tea Provides Mi-

graine Relief Modern science links migraines with neurovascular inflammation, hormonal imbalances, and poor gut health. Coriander seeds are known to have anti-inflammatory properties that could reduce the severity and frequency of migraine attacks.

A study published in The Medical Journal of the Islamic Republic of Iran explained that coriander could have short-term effects on reducing the risk of migraine attacks as well as their duration and frequency. The researchers concluded that coriander could be considered a probable effective treatment for migraines without the side effects of chemical drugs.

Also Read: Summer Headaches: Common Causes Or Triggers And Expert Diet Tips To Prevent Them How To Prepare Coriander Tea For Migraine Relief Step 1. Boil 1 tsp of coriander seeds in a glass of water. Step 2. Let it boil well and sip on this soothing tea daily. Bonus Tip For instant relief from migraine pain, try this quick natural tip: Mix cinnamon (packed with neuroprotective properties) and honey (packed with anti-inflammatory properties) to prepare a smooth paste. Apply it on your forehead for 15-20 minutes, then rub it off. Ayurveda offers more than quick fixes. It promotes a holistic lifestyle shift. This seven-day migraine relief plan will not only ease your pain but also help you understand what your body truly needs. However, if migraines persist, it is best to consult an expert for better treatment.

## 5 Amazing Things That Happen When You Drink Buttermilk Daily



**Buttermilk Benefits:** Buttermilk, also known as chaach, is a staple for many during summer. This fermented dairy drink is loved for its refreshing flavour and ability to cool us from within. It's our desi summer cooler, and we simply can't get enough of it. But that's not all buttermilk has to offer. Did you know it offers several other amazing benefits for your health? From aiding in digestion and weight loss to promoting bone health, it can be a total game-changer for your health. Recently, dietitian Richa Doshi took to her official Instagram handle to reveal how drinking a glass of buttermilk every day can change your health. Intrigued to know more?

### What Is The Best Time To Drink Buttermilk?

Buttermilk can be enjoyed at any time of the day. But if you wish to reap its maximum benefits, it's best to drink it after a meal, preferably lunch. This aids in digestion and soothes the stomach after a heavy meal. Is Buttermilk Healthier Than Milk? Yes, buttermilk makes for a healthier alternative to regular milk as it has a lower fat content. Moreover, it is rich in probiotics and is easy to digest.

### Are There Any Side Effects Of Buttermilk?

Buttermilk generally does not have any side effects. However, in some cases, drinking it on a regular basis can cause gas, bloating, and diarrhoea in those who are lactose intolerant.

### Here Are 5 Health Benefits Of Drinking Buttermilk Every Day:

1. May Slow Down Ageing Ageing is a natural process, but certain foods and drinks can help slow it down. According to Richa, drinking a glass of buttermilk every day can help achieve this. How? She explains that buttermilk contains antioxidants, which help protect your skin from damage caused by free radicals, reducing fine lines and wrinkles. This can lead to a more youthful appearance.
2. Promotes Better Digestion If you've been having tummy problems, a glass of buttermilk can help calm the storm. The dieti-

tian explains that buttermilk is rich in probiotics that can aid in regulating your gut microbiome. Drinking it on a regular basis can alleviate stomach issues such as bloating and gas, and promote a healthier digestive system.

3. Rehydrate You And Boost Your Energy Another benefit of drinking buttermilk daily is that it can rehydrate your body, thus boosting energy levels. With its high water content and potassium, it naturally replenishes fluids and electrolytes, making you feel more energised. So, if you're looking for a pick-me-up after a workout or a long day, a glass of buttermilk can be a great option.

4. Will Strengthen Your Bones Strong bones are essential for a healthy life, and buttermilk can help. Richa explains that buttermilk is rich in calcium and vitamin D, which support bone health and can reduce the risk of osteoporosis. Regular consumption can help you build stronger bones and prevent fractures.

5. Will Aid In Weight Loss Looking to shed a few pounds? Buttermilk can be a valuable ally. It has a low calorie count and high protein content, which can help keep you full and satisfied for longer durations. Doshi states that drinking it daily can make it easier to stick to your diet and reach your weight loss goals. Plus, it makes for a healthier alternative to other sugary summer drinks.



## CM Trophy: Agelpur, Deogaon Crowned Champions

Bolangir, (Correspondent): The CM Trophy-2026 Inter-Club and Inter-District Volleyball Championship under the Odisha Sports Mahakumbh concluded at Gandhi Stadium here on Tuesday. Deogaon emerged champions in the girls' category after defeating Saintala in the final, while Agelpur clinched the boys' title with a win over Bangomunda. The closing ceremony was presided over by Dr. Srikanth Mishra, President of the District Sports Association. Senior player Sunil Chandra Biswal attended as the Chief Guest, while former volleyball player



Prashant Kumar Pattanayak graced the occasion as Guest of Honour. They awarded trophies to the winners and runners-up in both categories. Among others present were Vice-President Krushna Chandra Mishra, General Secretary Harinarayan Pujari,

District Physical Education Officer Pradeep Kumar Patra, Joint Secretary Shatrughna Singh, Treasurer Hemanta Kumar Behera, Football Secretary Sarat Kumar Nanda, and senior members Sudhir Chandra Panda, Jayaram Mishra, Dr. Siddheshwar

Mishra, and Dr. Shubham Mishra. The matches were conducted by Jitendra Barik, Kailash Chandra Naik, Debashish Mohapatra, Subash Suna and Bikash Das. The event concluded with a vote of thanks by Volleyball Secretary Sangram Keshari Bahidar.

## IPL 2026: Samson, Mhatre, And Brevis Guide CSK To 192/5 Against KKR

Chennai: A blazing start from Sanju Samson and Ayush Mhatre, followed by impactful middle-order contributions, helped Chennai Super Kings (CSK) post 192/5 in their 20 overs against Kolkata Knight Riders (KKR) in their Indian Premier League (IPL) 2026 clash at the MA Chidambaram Stadium in Chennai on Tuesday. Opting to bat first, CSK came out all guns blazing as Samson set the tone with a flurry of boundaries in the opening over. The aggressive intent continued despite an early setback, with skipper Ruturaj Gaikwad once again failing to convert his start, falling to Anukul Roy after scoring just seven runs. The highlight of the Power-play was young Ayush Mhatre, who lit up Chepauk with a sensational 38 off just 17 deliveries. The right-hander took on the pacers, particularly Cameron Green and Vaibhav Arora,



smashing boundaries at will to propel CSK to a strong 72/2 at the end of six overs. Samson, meanwhile, anchored the innings with a fluent 48 off 32 balls, striking four fours and three sixes. Just when he looked set for a half-century, Kartik Tyagi produced a sharp inswinger to clean him up, providing KKR a much-needed breakthrough. Following the Power-play fireworks, KKR's spinners, led by Sunil Narine and Varun Chakaravathy, applied

the brakes effectively. The duo dried up the boundaries and forced CSK into a quieter phase, with the hosts managing only 55 runs between the eighth and 14th overs. However, Dewald Brevis injected fresh momentum into the innings with a counter-attacking 41 off 29 balls. He combined with Sarfaraz Khan (23 off 18) to stitch together a crucial 51-run stand, taking calculated risks against both pace and spin. KKR struck back through Narine, who

bowled a clever knuckle-ball to dismiss Sarfaraz, while Tyagi impressed at the death, picking up key wickets and finishing with figures of 2/35. CSK lost the momentum towards the end as the KKR bowlers managed to thwart Shivam Dube and Jamie Overton from hitting the big shots. Disciplined death bowling from Tyagi ensured the scoring rate didn't spiral out of control, with just eight runs coming off the final over.

## Ishan Kishan Steps Away from Wicketkeeping to Focus on SRH Captaincy

NEW DELHI: In a strategic shift during IPL 2026, Ishan Kishan has decided to step away from wicketkeeping duties while leading Sunrisers Hyderabad. The move, he explained, has significantly improved communication with his bowlers and enhanced his overall effectiveness as captain. Kishan, who is currently captaining the side in the absence of Pat Cummins, chose to field in the outfield during the match against Rajasthan Royals. This adjustment allowed him to stay more engaged with players and make quicker tactical decisions. Speaking after the match, Kishan highlighted that balancing wicketkeeping with leadership responsibilities created communication gaps on the field. "As a

captain, I felt there was some miscommunication. While keeping, you don't always get enough time to clearly convey plans to your bowlers," he said. By moving into the outfield, Kishan was able to interact more frequently with his teammates, discuss bowling strategies in real time, and adjust field placements more effectively. While legendary players like MS Dhoni have successfully combined wicketkeeping with captaincy, Kishan acknowledged that each player must adapt based on their own strengths and team needs. Rather than replicating that model, Kishan has chosen an approach that better suits his communication style and leadership

preferences. The change appeared to pay off immediately. Kishan's increased involvement on the field contributed to sharper decision-making and better coordination among bowlers, helping SRH execute their plans more effectively. He also expressed confidence in continuing this approach: "Being in the outfield helps me stay connected with the bowlers and set fields accordingly. It worked well, and hopefully we continue this way." Beyond captaincy, Kishan also delivered a strong performance with the bat, scoring a crucial 91 runs. His innings anchored the team after an early setback and reinforced his value as both a leader and a key batter.

## Dhiren Patel And Arjun Singh Dominate, Add Two More Golds For India At The US Open Pickleball Championship 2026

Mumbai: Arjun Singh added another gold to his kitty winning the Men's Singles 5.0 at the US Open beating Ashton Patterson in straight sets 13-11, 11-6. Seasoned stalwart, Dhiren Patel added another US Open gold medal to his tally adding to India's total in the 40+ Pro Men's Singles category. This brings India's total medal tally to 3 gold medals at the US Open 2026 held in Naples, Florida. "Extremely happy with the win, one of the tougher matches so far but I was able to execute my plans and bring home the gold. Winning this category more than once is very special and I want to thank all the people who constantly support me behind the scenes. I also want to thank the

## Mitchell Starc and Deepti Sharma Shine as Wisden's Leading Cricketers

NEW DELHI: Mitchell Starc and Deepti Sharma earned top honours in the 2026 edition of Wisden Cricketers' Almanack. Starc was named the Leading Men's Cricketer in the World after a stellar 2025 season, while Sharma received the title of Leading Women's Player for her match-winning performances in India's historic World Cup triumph. Starc, 36, dominated the year with 55 Test wickets at an average of 17.32, including a career-best 6 for 9 against West Indies. He followed that with 31 wickets in the Ashes, helping Australia secure a series victory. Sharma, 28,



powered India to its maiden 50-over World Cup title with 215 runs and 22 wickets. Her all-round brilliance peaked in the final against South Africa, where she scored 58 runs and claimed 5 for 39. Wisden also honoured four Indian men's players—Shubman Gill, Ravindra Jadeja, Rishabh Pant, and Mohammed

Siraj—as part of its Five Cricketers of the Year list. Gill, India's captain, won the Wisden Trophy for his 430-run performance in the Edgbaston Test against England. Abhishek Sharma was named the Leading T20 Player after surpassing 1,000 runs at a strike rate of over 200. Former England

opener Haseeb Hameed completed the list after leading Nottinghamshire to the County Championship title with 1,258 runs. The 163rd edition of Wisden also reflected on England's Ashes defeat and paid tribute to legendary umpire Dickie Bird, remembered for his fairness and charm.

## IPL 2026: Pat Cummins Likely To Rejoin SRH Squad Ahead Of CSK Clash

New Delhi: Sunrisers Hyderabad (SRH) have received a big boost amid the ongoing Indian Premier League (IPL) 2026 campaign as their designated captain Pat Cummins is likely to rejoin the squad on April 17, a day ahead of their next match against five-time champions Chennai Super Kings (CSK) at their home ground Rajiv Gandhi Stadium in Hyderabad on Saturday. According to a report by Cricbuzz, Cummins will undergo a fitness test on Wednesday back home, and if he clears it—about which there is an element of optimism in the franchise—there is a chance he could start playing for them. Cummins is expected to be back in Hyderabad on April 17. "Hopefully, he will clear the test and get the NOC from Cricket Australia," a source related to the



development told the publication. The Australian pacer has not played a single match since the Ashes series at home against England. He also missed the recently concluded ICC T20 World Cup 2026, where Australia exited for the first time from the group stage. Cummins arrived in India ahead of the season, but didn't take part in the match. The 32-year-old flew back

to Australia right after SRH's thrilling win over Kolkata Knight Riders (KKR) on Thursday, April 2, at Eden Gardens in Kolkata for the scan on his back. In Cummins' absence, Ishan Kishan is leading the side. Under his captaincy, the team has won two out of five matches in the ongoing season. They are currently placed in fourth position in the points table with four

points and a +0.576 net run rate. SRH defeated the table toppers, Rajasthan Royals (RR), on Monday with the help of a brilliant bowling display by the debutants Praful Hinge and Sakib Hussain, who took four wickets each as RR got bowled out for just 159 runs in 19 overs while chasing a mammoth target of 217 runs and lost the match by 57 runs.



Indian Pickleball Association for their efforts and constantly raising the bar for pickleball in India. Lastly, congratulations to Arjun and Aditya for their win as well in the singles and doubles" said, Dhiren Patel, Gold, 40+ Pro Men's Singles. "Adding to the tally only reinforces

what we at Indian Pickleball Association believe to be true which is that India is a powerhouse and will dominate global rankings in the future. Congratulations to Dhiren and Arjun for winning the singles and to Aditya for the doubles. A special mention to Dhiren Patel, who has coached the

team along with playing his own category. This is only the start and Indian Pickleball Association remains committed to stamping India's authority on the global scale." Said Suryaveer Singh Bhullar, President, Indian Pickleball Association. Dhiren

Patel was stretched to the absolute limit by Juan Arraya in the finals, with the gold medal decided by the barest of margins. Dhiren won 11-9, 3-11, 11-9 to finally take home the coveted 40+ Pro Men's Singles championship. Having won the US Open before in the same category, Dhiren's experience was the key factor in getting him across the line in the closely contested final. Backed by the Indian Pickleball Association, the Indian contingent earlier received an unprecedented direct entry into the US Open because of the successful partnership between the national federation and the US Open.

## GM Conducts Inspection of Khurda Road – Puri Section; Reviews Puri Station Development Works

Bhubaneswar, (Correspondent): Shri Parmeshwar Funkwal, General Manager, East Coast Railway, conducted Khurda Road–Puri section inspection today, followed by a detailed review of station development works at Puri, in view of the forthcoming Rath Yatra. The inspection focused on assessing track conditions, signalling systems, and overall operational efficiency along this important section, which witnesses a substantial increase in passenger traffic during major pilgrimage occasions. At Puri station, the General Manager undertook a comprehensive review of ongoing redevelopment and passenger amenity enhancement works, with a strong emphasis



on pilgrimage centric infrastructure. Considering the massive influx of devotees during Rath Yatra, efforts are being prioritised to ensure smooth passenger handling and improved facilities. During the inspection, emphasis was laid on augmentation and upgradation of

passenger amenities to cater to the heavy pilgrim rush, including development of platforms, circulating areas, waiting halls, and overall improvement in passenger centric infrastructure to enhance convenience and ease of movement. The General Manager laid special emphasis on the

timely completion of all redevelopment works at Puri station ahead of Rath Yatra, directing officials to closely monitor progress and ensure readiness well in advance of the festival. He stressed that all works must be executed with a passenger-centric approach to facilitate safe, smooth, and

comfortable movement of pilgrims. He also underscored the importance of maintaining high standards of safety, sanitation, and inter departmental coordination to ensure efficient train operations during the peak pilgrimage period. Senior officials, including Principal Heads of Departments and the Divisional Railway Manager of Khurda Road, accompanied the General Manager during the inspection. This initiative reflects East Coast Railway's commitment to enhancing infrastructure and ensuring seamless, safe, and passenger friendly services during major religious events of national importance.

## Sanket Communications Distributes 'Pana' to Over a Thousand People

Bhubaneswar, (Correspondent): On the auspicious occasion of Mahavishub Sankranti and the Odia New Year, leading advertising and Public Relations (PR) firm Sanket Communications organized a social responsibility initiative aimed at providing relief to the public during the scorching summer. As part of the initiative, members of the organization came together to distribute 'Pana' to more than 1,000 pedestrians in Shahidnagar area. The gesture was intended to offer a sense of coolness and refreshment amid the intense heat of the summer (Baisakh) month. The initiative received widespread appreciation from pedestrians, daily



wage workers, auto-rickshaw drivers, and local residents, who commended the thoughtful effort. Speaking on the occasion, Shri Subhashish Tripathi, Managing Director of Sanket Communications, stated that the organization remains committed to social service and public welfare, and will continue to undertake such meaningful initiatives in the future. The program witnessed enthusiastic

participation from all members of the organization, including Mrs. Sangeeta Tripathi, Director, and Mr. Dilip Kumar Panda, Director (Finance), along with other employees, who actively contributed with a strong sense of service and community spirit. Please find attached the Press Release & Photographs on Sanket Communications distributes 'Pana' on eve of 'Pana Sankranti'

## Paradip Port Authority Pays Tribute at Dr. B.R. Ambedkar Statue, Ambedkar Park

PARADIP, (Correspondent): Paradip Port Authority (PPA) observed Ambedkar Jayanti by offering floral tributes at the statue of Bharat Ratna Dr. B.R. Ambedkar located at Ambedkar Park, Paradip. The occasion was held to honour Dr. Ambedkar, the chief architect of the Indian Constitution and a prominent leader of social justice and equality. His invaluable contributions to nation-building and empowerment of all sections of society were remembered with deep respect. The programme was attended by Chairman Shri P.L. Haranadh, Deputy Chairman Shri T. Venu Gopal, Shri Padma Charan Haiburu, MLA Karanjia, along with



Heads of Departments, senior officers, and employees of Paradip Port Authority. They remembered Dr. Ambedkar's enduring legacy and his vision of an equitable and inclusive society. The programme was also attended by Shri Dhuna Chandra Tarai, General Secretary, PPT SC/ST Welfare Association, and Shri

Gangadhar Sethi, along with other members of the association, Heads of Departments, senior officers, and employees of Paradip Port Authority. The event concluded with floral tributes at the statue and a collective remembrance of Dr. Ambedkar's ideals of justice, liberty, equality, and fraternity.

## Observance of the 135th Birth Anniversary of Dr. B. R. Ambedkar

BHUBANESWAR, (Correspondent): CSIR-IMMT, Bhubaneswar, solemnly observed the 135th Birth Anniversary of Dr. B. R. Ambedkar with great enthusiasm and active participation from nearly 400 attendees, including around 100 students representing various schools across the city. The programme commenced with the inauguration of Ambedkar Udyan and a plantation drive led by the Chief Guest along with the Director CSIR-IMMT, symbolizing a collective commitment towards sustainability and social responsibility. The formal session began with opening remarks by Dr. Ramanuj Narayan, Director, CSIR-IMMT, who reflected on



Dr. Ambedkar's enduring legacy in shaping a just and equitable society. Dr. R. Sakthivel, Vice-Chairman of the Celebration Committee, extended a cordial welcome to all dignitaries and participants. The Chief Guest, Shri Satish Kumar Gajbhiye, IPS, Inspector General of Police (Special Armed Police), Government of Odisha, delivered an insightful address highlighting the relevance of Dr. Ambedkar's ideals in contemporary society. He urged students to

embrace education, equality, and social responsibility as guiding principles in their lives. As part of the celebrations, meritorious participants of various competitions were felicitated. In addition, 80 school bags were distributed among students from RRL Project U.P. School, Adruta Children's Home, and other institutions, reaffirming the institute's commitment to community outreach and educational support.

## Femina Miss India 2026: Contestants Celebrate Odia New Year at KIIT

Bhubaneswar, (Correspondent): The Odia New Year was celebrated at the KIIT campus by the 30 qualifying contestants of the 61st Femina Miss India competition, immersing themselves in traditional Odia fervour. Dressed in Odisha's famous traditional patta silk sarees, they enjoyed authentic Odia cuisine along with the state's traditional sweet delicacy chhena poda. Relishing the traditional Odia-style food, they appreciated the rich culture and heritage of Odisha. They also expressed their commitment to



promoting Odisha's glorious culture and traditions across the country. The 30 state winners, who have qualified for the 61st Femina Miss India event scheduled to be held at

KIIT on April 18, are currently staying on the KIIT campus. Femina Miss India 2024 Nikita Porwal also joined them during the celebrations. In collaboration with the

Odisha Tourism Department, the event is being held with the active support of Dr Achyuta Samanta, founder of KIIT and KISS, aimed at promoting Odisha's art,

culture, and heritage. The Femina Miss India competition is one of the most prestigious beauty pageants in India, with various states competing to host it. It is a great honour that this event is being held in Odisha for the first time. The platform is being utilized to widely promote the state's rich cultural heritage. The contestants in the coming days will visit Puri, the Konark Sun Temple, and Chandrabhaga Beach to experience Odisha's rich cultural legacy. They will also participate in heritage walks at Puri Beach and the Mukteshwar Temple.

## Dhamra Port Organises Fire Service Week

DHAMRA, (Correspondent): The 82nd National Fire Service Week 2026 was formally inaugurated at Dhamra Port with a well-organized and impactful ceremony highlighting the importance of fire safety, preparedness, and respect for the sacrifices of fire service personnel. The week-long observance was officially inaugurated by the CEO of Adani Dhamra Port, who also addressed the employees. In his speech, he emphasized the importance of proper use of safety tools, adherence to fire safety protocols, and continuous training, encouraging everyone to remain vigilant and proactive



in preventing fire hazards. The function commenced with the ceremonial fire badge pinning, symbolizing commitment and pride among the fire and safety team members. This was followed by a solemn tribute to martyrs, where attendees paid their respects to the brave firefighters who lost their lives in

the line of duty. A collective fire safety pledge was then administered, reinforcing the commitment of all employees towards maintaining a safe and hazard-free workplace. As part of the awareness and preparedness initiative, a detailed demonstration of fire-fighting tools and equipment was conducted,

showcasing modern techniques and best practices in handling emergency situations. One of the key highlights of the program was a live recreation of the historic Bombay Dock Explosion of 1944, aimed at educating participants about the magnitude of fire disasters and the critical importance of emergency response planning.

## Rupee to face intense pressure this week, likely to test Rs 93.50/\$ amid oil shock and dollar strength: UBI Report

New Delhi, : The Indian Rupee is expected to face intense pressure this week, likely testing the Rs 93.50 per dollar levels, as it navigates a "triple threat" of geopolitical escalation, surging energy costs, and a resurgent US Dollar, according to a report by Union Bank of India. "The outlook for the Indian Rupee this week is decidedly bearish," the report said. The breakdown of US-Iran diplomatic efforts and the implementation of a naval blockade in the Persian Gulf has reignited fears of a catastrophic disruption in the Strait of Hormuz, pushing Brent crude above \$102 per barrel.