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Historic 93% Voter Turnout in Bengal's East Burdwan

Kolkata, :The recent West Bengal Assembly elections witnessed an extraordinary voter turnout, with East Burdwan setting a remarkable record of over 93%. This achievement is a direct result of the rigorous enforcement of the Election Commission of India's (ECI) Seven Cardinal Principles for Free and Fair Elections. Dr. Satyajit Naik, the Inspector General of Police (IGP) for Central Range, Cuttack, who is currently serving as the Police Observer for East Burdwan district, was tasked with overseeing the area's



police arrangements during the election. His leadership was crucial in ensuring the smooth conduct of the elections. The 2026 West Bengal Assembly elections saw a landmark overall voter turnout of 92.9%. The first phase, held on April 23, recorded an

impressive 93.19%, while the second phase, held on Wednesday, achieved a turnout of 92.59%, as per official ECI data. Female voters led the turnout, achieving an impressive 93.24% participation across both phases, surpassing their male

counterparts, who recorded 91.74%. In the first phase, female participation was 94.10%, compared to 92.34% for males. In the second phase, women continued to lead with a turnout of 92.28%, while male participation was slightly lower at 91.07%. The second-phase turnout of 92.59% eclipsed the previous record of 84.72% set during the 2011 assembly elections, underscoring the significant impact of the Election Commission's guidelines on voter engagement and participation.

Administrative reshuffle: 29 OAS officers assigned new positions

BHUBANESWAR, (Correspondent): The Odisha government on Thursday effected a major reshuffle among the OAS officers. With it, as many as 29 officers, especially the Tehsildars under the Odisha Revenue & Disaster Management Department, have been assigned new postings, a General Administration & Public Grievance Department's notification said. According to the notification, Sasmita



Murmu, Deputy Collector, Collectorate, Balasore has been transferred and posted as Tehasildar, Baliapal, Balasore. Pranab

Ranjan Sahu, Tehasildar, Nuapada has been transferred as Tehasildar, Kaniha in Angul. Lalatendu Dandana, Deputy

Collector, Collectorate, Nuapada has been posted as Tehasildar, Nuapada whereas Manas Ranjan Panda, Deputy Collector, Collectorate, Bargarh has been assigned as Tehasildar, Padampur, Bargarh. Similarly, Biswanath Biswal, Deputy Collector, Collectorate, Mayurbhanj is posted as Tehasildar, Badasahi, Mayurbhanj and Chinmaya Das, Deputy Collector, Angul has been posted as Tehasildar, Koida, Sundargarh.

20 Killed in Jeep Crash in Nepal's Rolpa District

Kathmandu, : At least 20 people lost their lives when a jeep carrying pilgrims plunged off a cliff in Nepal's Rolpa district on Thursday evening, according to reports from The Kathmandu Post, citing police sources. The tragic accident occurred in Thabang Rural Municipality when the vehicle veered off a narrow ridge road and fell almost 800 meters below. The passengers, who were traveling from Rukum East to Jaljala, were on their way to perform rituals for the



full moon festival. Sunil Thapa Nepali, Information Officer at the Rolpa District Police Office, confirmed that rescue operations are underway, with police teams and local

residents actively involved at the scene. Authorities speculate that slippery road conditions, caused by recent rainfall, may have contributed to the jeep losing control.

Odisha Annual HSC Result 2026 To Be Declared On May 2

Cuttack (Correspondent): The Board of Secondary Education, Odisha on Thursday announced that the results of the Annual High School Certificate (AHSC) Examination 2026 will be declared on May 2 at 4:00 PM. According to an official press release issued by the board, the AHSC results—considered the most significant school-level public examination in the state—will be released alongside the State Open School Certificate Examination 2026 (1st) and the Madhyama Examination 2026.

Iran's New Rules For Strait Of Hormuz To Bring Peace, Progress To Region: Mojtaba Khamenei

Tehran: Asserting that a "new chapter" is being drawn in the Persian Gulf and the Strait of Hormuz, Iran's Supreme Leader Mojtaba Khamenei said on Thursday that a new "legal framework" and management of the Strait of Hormuz will bring progress and comfort to all nations in the region. In a message released on the occasion of the National Day of Persian Gulf, Mojtaba Khamenei said spotlighted the "sacrifices" made by Iran for the independence of the Persian Gulf and "confronting foreigners

and aggressors" while terming the Islamic Revolution as a "turning point" of these resistances. "This strategic asset has long provoked the greed of many evildoers over the centuries. The record of repeated invasions by European and American foreigners — the insecurities, damages, and multiple threats they have imposed on the region's countries — reflects only a fraction of the malicious schemes of global oppressors against the peoples of the Persian Gulf," the message read, Iran's Mehr news agency reported. "The new legal framework and

management system for the Strait of Hormuz will advance comfort and development for all the region's nations, and its economic benefits will bring joy to the nation," Iran's new Supreme Leader was quoted as saying. The future of the Persian Gulf, he emphasised, will be bright and "free of America", devoted to progress, peace, and prosperity for its nations. "We, the peoples and neighbours of the Persian Gulf and the Sea of Oman, share a common destiny, and the foreigners who covetously meddle here from thousands of kilometres away have no

rightful place, except at the depths of its waters," Mojtaba Khamenei mentioned. In his message, he also detailed that Iran considers nuclear, missile, nano and bio technologies as their national assets and will guard them just as they defend their water, land and air borders. "Today, 90 million Iranian people at home and abroad regard all national assets, including identity, spirituality, human talent, scientific innovation, industry, and fundamental technologies — from nano and bio to nuclear and missile (technologies) — as their collective heritage," he stated.





MESSAGE OF HON'BLE GOVERNOR ON THE OCCASION OF MAY DAY-2026

I convey my greetings and good wishes to all sisters and brothers of the Working Class of the State on the occasion of "May Day".


I call upon everyone to work sincerely in their own spheres and be the reason of pride and glory for the State and contribute to the building of "Viksit Odisha-Viksit Bharat".

(Signature)
(Hari Babu Kambhampati)

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ଆନ୍ତର୍ଜାତିକ ଶ୍ରମିକ ଦିବସ ଅବସରରେ ମୁଖ୍ୟମନ୍ତ୍ରୀଙ୍କ ଶୁଭେଚ୍ଛା

ଆନ୍ତର୍ଜାତିକ ଶ୍ରମିକ ଦିବସ ଅବସରରେ ଓଡ଼ିଶାର ଶ୍ରମିକ ଭାଇଭଉଣୀମାନଙ୍କୁ ମୋର ଆନ୍ତରିକ ଶୁଭେଚ୍ଛା ଜଣାଉଛି । ରାଜ୍ୟର ବିକାଶ କ୍ଷେତ୍ରରେ ଆପଣମାନଙ୍କ ଅମୂଲ୍ୟ ଯୋଗଦାନ ପ୍ରତି ମୁଁ ସମ୍ମାନ ଜଣାଉଛି । ଶ୍ରମିକ ସମାଜର ସର୍ବାଙ୍ଗୀନ ଉନ୍ନତି, କଲ୍ୟାଣ ତଥା ଅଧିକାରର ପୁରସ୍କା ପାଇଁ ରାଜ୍ୟ ସରକାର ପ୍ରତିବଦ୍ଧ ।

ଆସନ୍ତୁ, ଏକ ସମୃଦ୍ଧ ଓ ବିକଶିତ ଓଡ଼ିଶା ଗଠନରେ ସମସ୍ତେ ସମ୍ମିଳିତ ହୋଇ କାର୍ଯ୍ୟ କରିବା ।

(Signature)
(ମୋହନ ଚରଣ ମାଝୀ)
ମୁଖ୍ୟମନ୍ତ୍ରୀ, ଓଡ଼ିଶା

NALCO CLOCKS RECORD NET PROFIT OF RS. 5816 CRORE WITH REVENUE FROM OPERATIONS AT RS. 17843 CRORE IN FY26

BHUBANESWAR, (Correspondent): National Aluminium Company Limited (NALCO), the Navratna CPSE under the Ministry of Mines, Govt of India, has once again rewritten its own record by delivering its highest-ever financial and operational performance in FY26, surpassing its previous best achieved last year. As per the audited financial results approved by the Board of Directors at its meeting held today, NALCO has achieved a historic milestone by recording its highest-ever net profit (PAT) of Rs. 5816 crore, compared to Rs. 5,325



crore in the previous financial year, registering a robust year-on-year growth of 9.22%. The Company also reported its highest-ever revenue from operations of Rs. 17843 crore for FY26, surpassing last year's revenue of Rs. 16,788 crore. In the fourth quarter of FY26, the company has posted a net profit of Rs. 1718 crore, compared to Rs. 1601 crore in the preceding quarter, marking an increase of 7%. Revenue from operations during the quarter stood at Rs. 5103 crore, as against Rs. 4731 crore in the preceding quarter of FY26. The stellar performance was driven

by higher production volumes, improved realizations, and strengthened operational efficiencies across business units, highlighting the Company's resilience in a dynamic market environment. Worth mentioning that in FY26, NALCO also achieved its best-ever operational performance since inception, setting new records across production and sales. The Company recorded its highest-ever bauxite excavation at 77.01 lakh tonnes and bauxite transportation at 77.07 lakh tonnes. Alumina hydrate production reached 23.00 lakh tonnes, while calcined alumina production stood at 22.75 lakh tonnes. Cast metal production registered an all-time high of 4.72 lakh tonnes, accompanied by a record net power generation of 6,953 MU and coal production of 40 lakh tonnes. On the sales front, NALCO delivered unprecedented results across key segments. Total alumina sales reached 14.46 lakh tonnes, including 1.38 lakh tonnes of domestic alumina sales. Aluminium metal sales stood at 4.74 lakh tonnes, with the highest-ever domestic metal sales of 4.61 lakh tonnes. Higher production volumes, favourable pricing, and our ability to effectively leverage market opportunities with strong operational discipline have driven this outstanding performance. Our continued focus on plant, people, and process efficiency has enabled us to consistently surpass targets," said Shri Brijendra Pratap Singh, CMD.

ArcelorMittal Nippon Steel India's state-of-the-art automotive steel production line inaugurated by Japanese Ambassador

Hazira/ New Delhi, : ArcelorMittal Nippon Steel India (AM/NS India) today announced the inauguration of an advanced Pickling Line and Tandem Cold Mill (PLTCM) by His Excellency Mr. Keiichi Ono, Ambassador of Japan to India at the company's flagship plant in Hazira, Gujarat. With a capacity of 2 million tonnes per annum, the state-of-the-art PLTCM has been inaugurated as a key addition to AM/NS India's automotive manufacturing capabilities and will soon be configured to produce high-quality, cold-rolled base steel, which will be used to manufacture world-class products, including



first-of-its kind as well as patented steel solutions from parent companies ArcelorMittal and Nippon Steel. The new line marks a major step towards making India fully self-reliant in the production of Advanced High Strength Steel (AHSS) to meet the growing needs of the automotive industry. Among the most advanced production lines in India, the facility

integrates state-of-the-art process technology, superior automation, and globally benchmarked quality systems, drawing on the deep technical expertise of the parent companies. The facility is designed to support the manufacturing of advanced automotive steel for Advanced High Strength Steel (AHSS), Galvanized (GI), and

Press Hardened Steel (PHS) applications, having an edge over other mills in the country, providing end-to-end solutions to all automotive companies. These solutions are designed to meet global sustainability standards, enable vehicle lightweighting for improved efficiency and performance, and enhance safety in line with Bharat NCAP (BNCAP) norms. The

dedicated automotive line will significantly strengthen ArcelorMittal Nippon Steel India's downstream capabilities, aligning them with global benchmarks and supporting the production of AHSS with strength levels of up to 1180 MPa. The inauguration forms part of AM/NS India's ongoing 60,000-crore expansion project at its flagship plant in Hazira, Gujarat, to develop upstream, downstream, and other enabling facilities. His Excellency Mr. Keiichi Ono, Ambassador of Japan to India, toured the plant to gain firsthand insight into the scale of operations and its growth trajectory.

DEVELOP CHARACTER AND SKILL, SOA VC URGES LAW STUDENTS



Bhubaneswar, (Correspondent): Students need to develop character and skill to carve a niche for them and shine in the society, Prof. Pradipta Kumar Nanda, Vice-Chancellor of SOA Deemed to be University said on Thursday. "You have to evolve yourselves and resolve the issues you face in life calmly," Prof. Nanda said while addressing students of the SOA National Institute of Law (SNIL) at 'Justicia 4.0', the

cultural fest of the institution here. Prof. Nanda, who was the chief guest at the event, recalled his experience when he attended a conference at IIT Bombay saying that the event was completely managed by the students. "Everything they did was as per schedule and the arrangements were up to the mark," he said while urging the students to have a flawlessly organized event. He said SNIL was the tenth best law school in the country as

per the 2025 NIRF ranking while SOA Deemed to be University was ranked 15th nationally by NIRF. Prof. S.A.K. Azad, Dean of SNIL, while welcoming the Vice-Chancellor, urged the students to make the event a grand success. Prof. Madhusudan Das, senior professor, said the cultural fest was not only about winning awards but also making one better. Mr. Akash Trikha, Assistant Professor, proposed the vote of thanks.

EXPERT STRESSES ON DETAILED STUDY TO MINIMISE IMPACT OF EXTREME WEATHER EVENTS

Bhubaneswar, (Correspondent): Natural disasters in Uttarakhand and Himachal Pradesh following glacial lake outbursts in recent years requires detailed study to determine options to minimise the potential of such events in the face of climate change, Mr. Subjoy Dutta, a US-based expert in the field, has said. Steps need to be taken aiming at disaster reduction and building climate resilience with involvement of the local people and supporting organisations who could respond to a crisis and help the affected people, Mr. Dutta said while



addressing a two-day International Environmental Training Workshop on 'Water, Waste Management and Climate' which began at the SOA Deemed to be University here on Monday. Mr. Dutta, a mechanical engineer who runs the S & M Engineering in Maryland, USA and is the founder of the Rivers of the World

(ROW) Foundation, said that he had led a team of researchers to the Khatling Glacier at more than 17,000 feet, the source of the Bhilangana river which is a tributary of the Bhagirathi, to monitor its seasonal flow, said that the river had a very high flow despite the fact that no rainfall had occurred in that region for the past 30 days.

Assembly Polls Vote Counting Day: ECI Introduces QR Code-Based Ids For Officials, Authorised Persons At Centres

New Delhi: Ahead of the counting of votes of ongoing Assembly elections on May 4, the Election Commission of India (ECI) on Thursday introduced a QR code-based Photo Identity Card module on ECINET to eliminate entry of unauthorised persons into counting centres, an official said. Starting with the counting for the general elections to the Legislative Assemblies of Assam, Kerala, Tamil Nadu, West Bengal and Puducherry and the bye-elections in seven Assembly constituencies

of five states, the system will be extended to all future general and bye-elections to Lok Sabha and State Legislative Assemblies, the ECI said in a statement. "This initiative is in continuation of the series of more than 30 measures taken by the ECI over the past one year, which included introduction of standardised QR Code based photo ID Cards for booth level officers," Deputy Director P. Pawan said in a statement. "A three-tier security mechanism has been prescribed for

verification of identity at counting centres. At the first and second tiers, photo identity cards issued by the Returning Officer will be checked manually," it added. "At the third and innermost security cordon near the counting hall, entry would be permitted only after successful verification through QR code scanning," it said. The new QR code-based photo identity cards will be applicable for the categories of persons authorised by the ECI to enter counting centres and halls, which include

Returning Officers, Assistant Returning Officers, counting staff, technical personnel, candidates, election agents and counting agents, among others. "District Election Officers and Returning Officers have been directed to make all necessary arrangements for the effective implementation of this system, including deployment of trained personnel at designated checkpoints to ensure seamless and secure access control," the statement said.

FarmB Distributes "Deb Bhog Khechudi & Sagoo Khiri" at Jagannath Dham, Puri

Bhubaneswar, (Correspondent): In a heartfelt gesture rooted in tradition and devotion, FarmB organized a sacred food distribution initiative in association with Rays Foundation at Jagannath Dham, Puri one of India's most revered pilgrimage destinations. The initiative featured the distribution of "Deb Bhog Khechudi" and "Sagoo Khiri", prepared following the divine culinary traditions associated with Lord Jagannath. The event was conducted at prominent locations



including the sacred Badadanda (Grand Road) and the Municipal market building area, where thousands of devotees and visitors gathered to receive the blessed offerings. Inspired by the rich heritage of Mahaprabhu Shri

Jagannath's kitchen traditions, FarmB ensured that the food was prepared with utmost purity, hygiene, and devotion. The initiative aimed not only to serve prasad but also to revive and promote Odisha's sacred food culture among the

masses. Devotees expressed deep appreciation for the effort, highlighting the authentic taste and spiritual connection of the offerings. The distribution created an atmosphere of unity, devotion, and service, reflecting the true essence of Jagannath culture. Through this noble initiative, FarmB reaffirmed its commitment to community service, cultural preservation, and spreading the values of purity, trust, and tradition. Volunteers of Rays Foundation & FarmB conducted the distribution activity & co-operated the event.

President Murmu Greets Citizens On Eve Of Buddha Purnima

New Delhi, : President Droupadi Murmu on Thursday greeted citizens on the eve of Buddha Purnima, describing Lord Buddha's teachings as the answer to the challenges faced by the world today. In a message, the President

said, "On this auspicious occasion, let us resolve to imbibe his ideals and contribute to building a peaceful, inclusive and just society." "On the auspicious occasion of Buddha Purnima, I extend my heartfelt greetings and

best wishes to all citizens and to the followers of Bhagwan Buddha across the world," she added. "This sacred day marks the epoch-making events of Bhagwan Buddha's advent on the earth, enlightenment and

Mahaparinirvana. His eternal messages of compassion, non-violence, peace and knowledge will continue to guide the entire humanity," President Murmu said. "In today's world which is facing numerous challenges, the

teachings of Bhagwan Buddha inspire us to tread on the path of peace, tolerance and mutual harmony," she added. The President is currently on a five-day summer sojourn to her official residence at Mashobra in Shimla, where

she took a round of various areas in Rashtrapati Niwas and reviewed the amenities for visitors on Thursday. She also planted a Khumani sapling in the lawn of the official residence, a statement said.

EAST COAST RAILWAY
Tender No. 04-KUR-TRD-OT-2026-27
Name of Work: PROVISION OF CATENARY WIRE AS ANTI CREEP WIRE IN PLACE OF GALVANIZED STEEL WIRE IN KHURDA ROAD (KUR) DIVISION.
Advertiser Value: ₹ 79,10,763.04.
Earnest Money: ₹ 1,56,200.00, Period of Completion: 365 Days.
Bidding Start Date: 05.05.2026.
Date & time of tender closing: At 1300 hrs. on 19.05.2026.
Manual offers are not allowed against this tender, and any such manual offer received shall be ignored.
Complete information including e-tender documents are available in website : www.ircps.gov.in
Sr. Divisional Electrical Engineer (TRD), PR-96/R/26-27 | Khurda Road

3 police personnel fatally attacked in Cuttack, 5 arrested

Cuttack (Correspondent) : Police personnel providing security in the city of Cuttack, which is the police headquarters of the state, have been left vulnerable. A fatal attack was carried out on the police in the local 6th Battalion premises. Four police personnel were seriously injured in the attack. A police officer was brutally beaten inside the police campus. The incident took place in the 6th Battalion premises under Chauhiaganj police station to stop the lovers. First, there was a scuffle with the lovers and then a face-to-face situation. The incident took place when the lover Prashant Patra tried to stop his girlfriend from sitting in



the battalion. Prashant called his other accomplices and attacked the 6th Battalion with sharp weapons. In this attack, four police personnel suffered head injuries. The injured police personnel are Srikant Gamang, Bipanna Das, Deputy Subedar Manas

Ran Singh, Sepoy Prashant Muduli. They have been admitted to Cuttack SCB Medical College. Meanwhile, the police has taken action after the attack on the police. IG Satish Gajbiye said, senior police officers have taken the assault on the police seriously. Strict

action is being taken while the accused are in the police station. ACP (Zone-5) Sudhanshu Jena said, the attack on the police has cost the police dearly. The police have arrested his lover and five of his accomplices. The police have seized four vehicles of the attacker.

The police were attacked with sharp weapons. There was a sense of commotion like an attempt on their lives against the accused. On the other hand, Padmavati Patra, mother of accused Prashant Patra, says, my son did not attack the police. The young woman is my son's friend. The police have taken excessive action. The rumour is that the attackers are members of a specific gang active in the locality, but the police are denying this. Then the question arises as to how the lovers managed to reach the 6th Battalion campus by bypassing the security. The battalion has an armoury. Despite this, how was the security relaxed?

BSE Odisha to announce annual HSC exam results on May 2

Cuttack(Correspondent) : The results of Annual High School Certificate (AHSC) Examination 2026 will be announced on May 2, informed the Board of Secondary Education (BSE), Odisha, today. According to BSE, Odisha, the results of the State Open School Certificate Examination, 2026(1st) and M a d h a y a m a Examination, 2026 will also be published on the same day. While the annual exam results will be declared at 4 PM, it will be made available in the website www.bseodisha.ac.in and www.bseodisha.nic.in from 6 PM onwards.



The results will also be available through SMS where there is no internet facility. For this candidates have to "Type OR10<RollNo> and send SMS to 5676750 to get the results". Head of the Institutions can download the TR (Tabulation Register) from the same website from 7 PM onwards

on the same day which will help them to fill up the forms of the candidates for appearing at the Supplementary HSC Examination, 2026. It is to be noted here that School and Mass Education (S&ME) Minister Nityananda Gond on April 27 had informed that the results will be declared soon.

Not COVID warrior': Orissa HC overturns Rs 50 lakh compensation for Bhubaneswar stray animal feeder's family

Cuttack (Correspondent) : The Orissa High Court quashed a recommendation by the Odisha Human Rights Commission (OHRC) to pay Rs 50 lakh in compensation to the family of a deceased civic worker. According to The New Indian Express, Justice Sanjeeb Kumar Panigrahi, presiding over a single judge bench, ruled that the deceased did not meet the criteria for a 'Covid Warrior' under the state's specific ex gratia scheme. The state government had filed a writ petition challenging the OHRC's May 27, 2024 order, which favoured Sujata Singh. Her husband, Sanjib Kumar Das, was employed by the B h u b a n e s w a r Municipal Corporation to feed stray animals



during the lockdown from May 5 to May 19, 2021. Although the corporation claimed his disengagement was effective from May 16, 2021, Das developed symptoms on May 17, tested positive on May 27, and passed away on June 3, 2021. While the OHRC argued that testing positive within 14 days of service qualified him for relief, the High Court disagreed. Justice Panigrahi emphasised that the scheme necessitates a direct link between assigned

duties and active Covid-19 management. The court observed that feeding stray animals is not intrinsically connected with pandemic response efforts. Furthermore, the bench held that temporal proximity to the job was insufficient to satisfy statutory conditions. While acknowledging the family's hardship, the court maintained the limits of judicial intervention and subsequently set aside the compensation order.

Hit-and-Run in Turekela : Teacher Critically Injured After Being Hit by Unknown Vehicle

Kantabanji, correspondence : A serious road accident has been reported in the Turekela block of Balangir district. The incident occurred between Badbanki and Charpani villages, where an unidentified vehicle allegedly hit a motorcycle and fled the scene. In the accident, the bike rider, Tangadhar Chhatra (45), sustained critical injuries. He is a resident of Dumerbahal village under Komna in Nuapada district and works as a school teacher. According to reports, Tangadhar Chhatra was travelling from his native village to Barla village in Turekela block to visit a relative when the accident took place. Locals alleged that the vehicle fled immediately after hitting the motorcycle. Following the incident, local residents rushed to help and shifted the injured man to Khariar Mission Hospital by ambulance. His condition is reported to be critical.



Oben Electric Launches Rorr EVO at an Introductory Price of 99,999

BHUBANESWAR, (Correspondent)Oben Electric, India's homegrown R&D-driven electric motorcycle manufacturer, today announced the launch of the all-new Rorr EVO at a special introductory price of ₹99,999 (ex-showroom) for the first 10,000 customers. Designed to mark a clear shift in the category, the Rorr EVO brings together design, performance, and functionality into one cohesive package, redefining what riders can expect from an electric motorcycle. Built around the idea that riders should not have to choose between thrill and practicality, the Rorr EVO is engineered as a complete, no-compromise motorcycle for real-world riding. It combines aggressive street fighter design with



strong performance and thoughtfully integrated features that make it as engaging to ride as it is easy to live with. At first glance, the Rorr EVO stands out with its bold, muscular proportions and commanding stance. The front is defined by a projector headlamp with a signature front position lamp, delivering both strong visual identity and enhanced visibility for everyday riding conditions. Sculpted body panels, premium detailing, and a well-balanced silhouette

further reinforce its road presence. Underneath this design is performance built to deliver consistently. The Rorr EVO reaches a top speed of 110 km/h and offers a certified range of 180 km IDC, ensuring it is equally capable for even demanding daily rides. It supports 0-80% fast charging in just 90 minutes with Oben Plug (fast charger), and comes equipped with Oben Port, its onboard charger, for convenient everyday charging.

Human chain to mark Anti-Child labour day



Bhubaneswar (Correspondent) To mark Anti-Child Labour Day a human chain and community level awareness meeting was organised by ActionAid Association in collaboration with Centre for Child and Women Development (CCWD) at Nilachakra Nagar under ward no-26 of B h u b a n e s w a r Municipal Corporation. The objective of the programme was to aware the different stakeholders to abide the rule and regulations relating to child labour

and join hands to make odisha a child labour free State as well as every family should aware about the value of education said Sadasiv Swain, Secretary of CCWD. Among others Renubala Sahoo, Saraswati Parida, Manas Ranjan Pradhan spoke on this occasion. The welcome address covered by Bhaskar Chandra Pradhan. Lastly Snigdha Das proposed a warm vote of thanks to all. The programme coordinated by Shiba Sahoo and Bishnupriya Samal.

East Coast Railway Augments Coaches in Multiple Trains to Manage Summer Rush

Bhubaneswar, (Correspondent) : East Coast Railway has undertaken temporary augmentation of additional coaches in several trains originating from Bhubaneswar and Sambalpur to cater to the increased passenger demand during the summer season. As part of this initiative, KSR Bengaluru- Prashanti Express (Train No. 18463) will be augmented with one additional 3rd AC coach from 1st to 31st May 2026. Similarly, Bengaluru - Bhubaneswar Prashanti Express (Train No. 18464) will be added one additional 3rd AC coach from 2nd May to 1st June 2026. The Odisha Sampark Kranti Express (Train No.



12819) from Bhubaneswar to Anand Vihar Terminal will have one extra 3rd AC coach from 3rd May to 31st May 2026. The Odisha Sampark Kranti Express (Train No. 12820) Anand Vihar Terminal - Bhubaneswar will have one extra 3rd AC coach from 5th May to 2nd June, 2026. Similarly, the Bhubaneswar - Tirupati Superfast Express (Train No. 22879) will be augmented with one additional 3rd AC coach from 2nd May to 30th May

2026. Tirupati - Bhubaneswar Superfast Express (Train No. 22880) will be augmented with one additional 3rd AC coach from 3rd May to 31st May 2026. The Sambalpur-Rayagada-Sambalpur Intercity Express (Train No. 18301/18302) will run with one additional AC Chair Car coach from 1st May to 31st May 2026. Further, the Mahima Gosain Express (Train No. 20832) Sambalpur - Shalimar will run with one Sleeper coach from 3rd May to 31st May

2026. Shalimar - Sambalpur (Train No. 20831) will run with one additional Sleeper coach during 4th May to 1st June 2026. While the Bhubaneswar-Purunakatak Intercity Superfast Express (Train No. 12893) will have two additional General coaches from 1st May to 31st May 2026. Purunakatak - Bhubaneswar Intercity Superfast Express (Train No. 12894) will have two additional General coaches from 2nd May to 1st June 2026. In addition, the Hirakhand Express (Train No. 18447) running from Bhubaneswar to Jagdalpur will be augmented with one 3rd AC coach from 1st May to 12th May 2026 and from 14th May to 31st May 2026. Similarly, Jagdalpur-

Bhubaneswar Hirakhand express (Train No. 18448) will run with one 3rd AC coach from 2nd May to 13th May 2026 and from 15th May to 1st June 2026. Puri- Gunupur Express (Train No. 18417) to Express will be augmented with one 2nd class AC-chair Car from 1st May to 31st May 2026. Similarly, Gunupur-Puri express (Train No. 18418) will run with one additional 2nd class AC-chair Car from 2nd May to 1st June 2026 respectively. This temporary augmentation is expected to enhance accommodation capacity and improve the chances of confirmation for waitlisted passengers during the peak summer travel period.

Minor girl dies due to snake bite

Malkangiri correspondent: A minor girl died due to snake bite in Metaguda village of Pusuguda panchayat under Kalimela block of Malkangiri district. The deceased is Rabeka Pusam (9), daughter of Kana Pusam of Metaguda. According to sources, Rabeka was studying in class 3 at Rajgiri Ashram Vidyalaya. She had come to the village during summer vacation and had gone to Mukanpali village two days ago. She was bitten by a snake while sleeping. Her relatives killed the snake. Instead of taking her to a health center, they took her to quack in Badguda. When Rabeka did not regain consciousness for a long time, she was taken to MV-79 Primary Health Center in an ambulance. The doctor declared her dead there.

EDITORIAL

Talent in the Shadows: The Rising Cost of Education

Today's India stands in the midst of rapidly changing social and economic framework, where education is considered the key to success. But a serious question arises— Is education really providing equal opportunities for everyone, or is this increasingly expensive system pushing back talent? This subject of heavy expensive studies on the project is very relevant and worrying in today's time.

Increased marketing of education

In the last few decades, education has become more business than service. The fees of private schools, coaching institutes and universities have become so high that it is difficult for common and lower middle class families to get a quality education to their children. Education is now becoming less a medium of knowledge and more a means of economic investment.

Talent vs economic status

There is no shortage of talent in a country like India. There are millions of children in villages, small towns and economically vulnerable families who have amazing potential. But lack of resources, lack of proper guidance and expensive education wall limit their dreams. Many times it is seen that an average talented student, if he has financial resources, will get ahead while the more talented students are left behind.

Coaching culture pressure

The increasing influence of coaching institutes for preparing for competitive exams is also deepening this problem. Students who take coaching by spending millions of rupees are able to prepare relatively better. At the same time, financially weak students are left behind in this race. This situation further promotes inequality in education.

Mental pressure and social effects

Expensive education not only puts a financial burden, but also increases the mental pressure on students and their families.

Child Labour robs children's future



Er. Prabhat Kishore

Children are the future of a nation and are the mirror of its development. Their shriveled

face reflects the degradation of the country, whereas their blooming face shows the advancement and development of the country. Since ancient times, taking care of them have been the sole responsibility of the society. In human life, childhood is the stage when they need love, affection, trust, responsibility, acceptability and safety. The people who have had a secure, respectful & reciprocal childhood, their personality and future are generally found to be balanced and they contribute to the well-being of the society. But, it is poignant that a large section of children have to spend their childhood in miserable conditions. The children who should contribute to the progress of the nation as engineers, doctors, scientists, officers, journalists, businessmen, or progressive farmers, unfortunately they are engaged as child labourer for their family's livelihood.

A child is meant to learn and not to earn. Chronic Poverty, high population growth, lack of interest in education, migration, natural disaster, increasing landlessness, rising unemployment etc. are the underlying reasons behind child labour. These children come from such family who have no other means other than human work-force. India has not come out of poverty. Even after 73 years of independence. The economic as well as population policies of governments have failed and a large section of the masses are bereft of even basic amenities.

The problem of child labour has always been neglected at the national level. Although this problem has its presence in all ages. In ancient times, children engaged themselves in agriculture or other family occupations. After industrialization, the concept of child labour also transformed. The children became an independent entity and they have to join the workplace without protection of the guardian and have to handle their problems on their own.

Child labour has been gradually promoted by industrialists, factory owners, hoteliers, and landlord farmers, as children work for undefined hours without any hue & cry at minimal wages. The mentality of "More hand more work" of the working family has made the situation worse. Such children are deprived of inclusive social security in respect of education & all-round development and their whole childhood undergoes for earning wages. Instead of books or notebooks in their hands, they appear to have sickle, fade or other equipments.

The problem of child labour can be found in every corner of the world. India, Brazil, Haiti, Kenya, Pakistan, Sri Lanka, Indonesia, Bangla Desh are the most affected countries. Unicef report 2020 reveals that approximately 16 Crore children are engaged in child labour, half of whom belong to the Asian sub-continent. Globally, an additional 9 million children are at risk of being pushed into child labour by the end of 2022 as a result of the pandemic COVID 19.

Agriculture, forestry & fishing sectors account for 70% of children as child labour, followed by 20% in service and 10% in industry. Child labour in rural areas stands 14% as against 5% in urban areas. Child labour is more prevalent among boys, but when household chores are taken into account, the gender gap narrows.

Several industries in India are fully reliant on child labour. Kalin industry in Kashmir, Glass industry in Firozabad, Cracker & matchbox industry in Shivkashi (Tamilnadu), Slate industry in Mandsaur (MP), Leather industry in Kanpur & Agra, Diamond polish industry in Rajasthan & Gujarat, Lock industry of Aligarh, Hosiery, Bidi, fishery, etc. have their existence on the cheap wages of child labour. Most of the Dhabas and hotels in the country are flourishing due to 15-16 hour working of child labour.

Involvement of child labour in hazardous activities leads to numerous health and psychological problems such as chest & abdominal pain, skin infections, eye or ear problem, headache, physical tardiness, respiratory infections. Due to lack of proper guardianship & care, such children often exposed to theft, violence, criminal activities,

physical & sexual abuse, drugs and other immoral activities.

The problem of child labour has been tackled through protective legislations both at the national and international level. The government has enacted the Child Labour (Prohibition and Regulation) Act 1986 to prohibit the engagement of children in certain employments and to regulate the conditions of work in certain other employments. The Supreme Court in its judgement on 10th December 1996, declared child labour illegal. Article 24 of the Constitution prohibits the employment of children below the age of 14 years in any hazardous industry or factory or mines. Article 39 has provides for protection of children against exploitation and moral & material abandonment. Article 45 in the constitution deals with the provision of free & compulsory education for children below 14 years and for this "Right to Free & Compulsory Education Act 2009" has been implemented in year 2010. The Factories Act 1948, The Plantation Labour Act 1951, Motor Transport Workers Act 1961, The Contract Labour Act 1970, and Bonded Labour System (Abolition) Act 1976 have been promulgated.

The words "child" and "labour" together signify a disconcerting and negative narrative. But the prevailing socio-economic conditions donot permit to root out child labour overnight. A hungry person can not be expected to listen to valuable advice unless he fills his stomach first. In 1987, National Policy on Child Labour was framed for education, health, entertainment, and other development works for their well-being, but it needs to be reshaped and kept free from bureaucratic red-tapism.

Child labour has been a burning issue all over the world. It can not be eradicated without the joint collaboration of society, family and administration. Child Labour is a social crime as every child has the right to shine. In today's scientific age, although we have reached the Moon and Mars, world has come closer due to globalization, and numerous works of development can be counted on finger; but the ground reality is that without rooting out child labour, no nation can become "Swasth, Sashakt&Samridh Rashtra

Labour, Law, and the Changing Nature of Work



Dr Simant Kumar Nanda

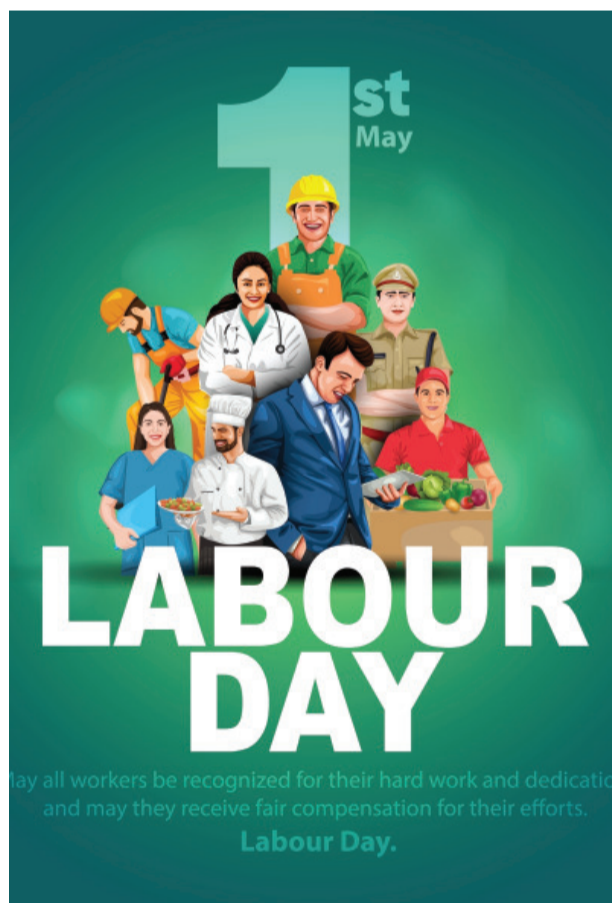
May 1st, observed globally as International Workers' Day, is not merely a ceremonial date.

It is a reminder of humanity's long struggle to dignify labour. What began as resistance against industrial exploitation in the late nineteenth century has evolved into a universal reflection on rights, justice, and the value of human effort. Though historically associated with socialist and communist ideologies, the essence of this day today transcends political boundaries. It reflects a fundamental truth: every society stands on the shoulders of its workers.

The origins of this observance can be traced to the Haymarket Affair in the United States, where workers demanding an eight hour workday faced violent suppression. The incident galvanised global labour movements and led to May 1st being recognised as a symbol of worker solidarity. Thinkers like Karl Marx had already articulated the structural tensions between capital and labour, framing history as a continuum of class struggle. Events such as the Russian Revolution further demonstrated how deeply the question of labour could reshape political systems.

Yet, the story of labour predates industrialisation. In the United States, the transition from slavery to wage labour after the American Civil War under leaders like Abraham Lincoln reflects a profound transformation. While slavery was abolished, many freed individuals entered systems such as sharecropping. The form of labour changed, but the struggle for dignity endured. This reminds us that labour systems evolve, yet the quest for fairness remains constant.

In India, the journey of labour has taken a legislative route. A once fragmented framework of laws governing wages, industrial relations, safety, and social security has been consolidated into four major labour codes. These reforms aim to simplify compliance and extend protection to a wider workforce, including those in informal and emerging



sectors. Welfare institutions such as the Employees' State Insurance Corporation provide healthcare and financial security through ESI hospitals, reflecting the State's commitment to worker welfare. Provisions relating to minimum wages, regulated working hours, maternity benefits, and workplace safety form the backbone of India's labour framework.

However, the practical reality reveals a more complex picture. A significant segment of India's workforce remains in the informal sector, where legal protections are inconsistently applied. Migrant labourers, contract workers, and gig economy participants often operate in spaces where the law exists but its reach is limited. This gap between policy and practice is where many disputes arise, often due to administrative lapses rather than ideological conflict.

Real life governance experiences further illuminate this gap. There have been instances in government offices where workers were engaged without proper procedural compliance, without formal appointment, defined terms, or

lawful retrenchment. When financial constraints such as non flow of funds interrupted wage payments, these workers approached courts. In many such cases, the judiciary, including the Supreme Court of India and the Orissa High Court, ruled in favour of the workers, directing payment of wages until proper termination procedures were followed.

At first glance, this may appear as a bias in favour of labour. In reality, it reflects a deeper legal principle. Labour law prioritises procedural justice. Under frameworks like the Industrial Disputes Act, 1947, termination without due process is invalid. The law does not inherently favour the worker; it favours adherence to procedure. When employers, including government bodies, bypass due process, they expose themselves to legal liability.

The Odisha context offers a compelling example of these dynamics. With industrial hubs such as Kalinganagar, Angul, and Jharsuguda, the state has witnessed significant economic growth. Yet, much of its workforce operates through contractual and informal arrangements. Temporary engagements, often driven by administrative necessity, frequently lack formal documentation. When disputes arise, the absence of procedural clarity often works in favour of workers.

At the same time, districts like Ganjam and Balangir continue to witness large scale labour migration, reflecting limited local employment absorption. This creates a paradox: a state rich in industrial potential yet marked by labour vulnerability. Compared to states like Kerala and West Bengal, where trade union movements have historically been stronger, Odisha presents a more moderate labour mobilisation environment, favourable for investment but less assertive in collective bargaining.

Gender adds another important dimension. Legal provisions relating to maternity benefits, workplace safety, and protection against harassment recognise the specific challenges faced by women workers. While these safeguards are progressive in intent, their effectiveness depends on implementation, once again highlighting the gap between law and lived

reality.

Beyond national boundaries, labour today is influenced by global developments. Conflicts involving Russia and Ukraine, as well as economic competition between the United States and China, have reshaped supply chains, inflation patterns, and employment opportunities. Labour is no longer a local issue; it is part of a global system where disruptions in one region can affect livelihoods elsewhere.

An equally significant transformation is visible within the media sector. Print journalists are protected under the Working Journalists and Other Newspaper Employees Act, 1955, which ensures structured service conditions. However, in electronic and digital media, the framework is less defined. While many employees remain covered under general labour laws, a growing number of digital content creators, freelancers, and platform based workers operate outside formal protections.

At the same time, technological developments, particularly Artificial Intelligence, are beginning to influence the sector. Automated content generation and algorithm driven distribution systems are gradually reducing dependence on certain traditional roles. While these changes improve efficiency and speed, they also raise concerns about job stability, professional accountability, and originality. The challenge lies in ensuring that technological advancement does not weaken human contribution or professional standards.

Final Reflection

From the bondage of slavery to the assertions of industrial workers, from organised unions to emerging digital work, the journey of labour is a continuous balance between power and dignity.

If the past was about resisting exploitation, and the present is about enforcing rights, the future must be about ensuring fairness in all forms of work.

May 1st, therefore, is not just a commemoration. It is a question.

Have we truly dignified labour, or have we merely changed its form of vulnerability?

Until that answer is reflected in both law and practice, the journey of labour remains unfinished.

Bargarh's Goshala Land Row Will High Court Decide Fate of One Sacred Acre?"

Bargarh: (Correspondent)- The land controversy surrounding the Bargarh goshala has emerged as one of the most delicate land-dispute issues in Odisha's western region. Recently, the principal civil court in Bargarh issued an interim order directing the recovery of one acre of goshala land allegedly occupied by encroachers. Urban development authorities, local litigants, and civil society groups are now attentively awaiting the hearing scheduled in the Orissa High Court, as the environment around the site has become increasingly politically and socially charged.

In the case filed by the "Shree Gopal Goshala, Bargarh" (WP(C) No. 26523 of 2023), the district court acknowledged the longstanding claims of the goshala institution over the one-acre plot near Goshala

Chowk. Previous governments had designated this land for religious and charitable purposes. The court also noted multiple complaints from the District Bar Association, Bargarh, and a local citizens' committee regarding unauthorised structures and shops constructed on parts of the goshala land, which had transformed sections of it into commercial space without legal sanction. Based on these findings, the court issued an interim order urging the Collector of Bargarh and the local municipality to prepare and submit a detailed report covering the extent of encroachment, the identities of the alleged encroachers, and the remaining lawful possession of the goshala. The court further directed the authorities to initiate proceedings to remove illegal structures, emphasising the need to follow statutory

procedures and avoid arbitrary demolitions that could contravene established eviction norms.

At present, the matter appears to be progressing within the district court's framework. The committee formed by the Collector has submitted its findings, and the municipality is taking steps toward retrieving encroached areas along the Goshala-Canal Chowk corridor. When disputes arise over the legitimacy of land claims or prior allotments, parties are generally expected to appeal or seek transfers to the Orissa High Court, in accordance with civil procedure and writ jurisdiction. The schedule for a High Court hearing has not yet been publicly announced. However, local observers in Bargarh anticipate that the next step may involve filing a writ petition under Article 226 of the Constitution or an appeal against the

Collector's eviction order, which would bring the case before the High Court in Cuttack for a comprehensive review. Legal experts suggest that cases involving religious or charitable land, such as goshalas, often transition to higher courts once interim orders are well documented and authorities either comply or face organised opposition from commercial interests. This case underscores the complex intersection of heritage preservation, charitable rights, and urban development. The one-acre plot at Goshala's frontage is regarded both as a religious and charitable asset and as a valuable piece of urban land. Local advocates argue that permitting encroachments could set a concerning precedent for other religious and charitable institutions across Odisha, where market forces are increasingly targeting such

properties. Residents and stakeholders around Goshala Chowk have reported that recent efforts to address encroachments have led to numerous discussions among political leaders, municipal officials, and shopkeeper associations. These developments highlight the ongoing tensions between urban growth priorities and the rights of institutional landholders. Civil rights organisations have expressed concern that any forceful eviction without proper resettlement or rehabilitation measures might attract judicial scrutiny from the High Court and national housing rights agencies. As this case unfolds, it will serve as a significant example of the broader challenge facing small-town Odisha—balancing the safeguarding of religious and charitable lands with the realities of urban expansion.

Journalists Demand Pension and Security

Nimapada, (Correspondent) - The district journalists' association has demanded pension, security, and travel allowances for journalists. On the Chief Minister's instructions, an additional District Collector, Dr. Sarat Chandra Mahapatra, was presented with the memorandum on Wednesday. The demands include: Reconstitution of the approved journalists' recognition committee. Formulation of a journalist protection law. Monthly pension of ₹15,000 for journalists above 60 years of age. Establishment of the Odisha Press Academy. Inclusion of parents and children

above 25 years under the Gopabandhu Health Insurance Scheme. Financial assistance of ₹10 lakh to the families of deceased journalists. District officials and leaders who submitted the memorandum included District President Purnachandra Nayak, Editor-in-Chief Aditya Raut, Purnachandra Mahapatra, Prasanna Behera, Prasanna Kumar Tripathy, Abhaya Nayak, Nimapada Press Club President Akshay Kumar Behera, Kedarswar Nanda, Vijay Kumar Mahapatra, Santosh Baral, Bishwajit Mishra, Pradyumna Behera, Mohan Patra, Bishwajit Pattnayak, Niranjan Das, and Bibhuti Ranjan Upadhyay.

Odisha State Women Commission Organizes Camp Court in Jajpur

Jajpur (Correspondent): The Odisha State Women Commission organized a camp court at the Collector's conference hall in Jajpur district. Various complaints related to women's issues from across the district were taken up and reviewed during the session. Dr. Kalpana Mallick, Member of the State Women Commission, stated that the main objective of the camp court is to ensure quick and cost-free resolution of grievances through mutual



discussions, along with spreading awareness about women's rights. The welcome address was delivered by District Social Welfare Officer Parbati Sahu. She emphasized that a healthy society can be built through strong and harmonious families. A total of 26 cases related to family disputes, domestic violence, harassment, and denial of women's rights were heard during the camp

court. The program was attended by Additional District Magistrate Yudhishtir Naik, Councillor Bandana Mohanty, Additional SP Shitikanta Kanungo, District Information and Public Relations Officer Kamini Ranjan Pattnaik, IIC Sarat Nayak, Legal Assistant Aravinda Pattnaik, Programme Officer Sarojini Das, and other departmental officials, police personnel, H&UB representatives, Commission staff, and media representatives.

Rare record : Rudranath Baba's land title found in 4 hours

SUBARNAPUR (Correspondent) --- 0.0084 decimil land in the name of Shree Shree Rudranath Mahadeb at Sonepur Town Unit No. 4 was submitted by Hrudananda Meher of Sonepur town to the Subarnapur District Registration Office on Wednesday, 29.04.2026. After it was duly registered, the Sonepur Registry Gift Deed was handed over to the Sub Collector and Executive Officer at 9 am on 30.04.2026. After this, the work of revising the map and title was started in the Sonepur Tehsildar's office on the instructions



of Sub Collector Sonepur Dr. Soumyarupa Rath. The process of preparing the lease was expedited today on the advice of the landowner's legal advisor and senior lawyer Sarbeshwar Purohit. After completing all the processes in just 4

hours, Sonepur Tehsildar G. Ras hmirekha, Additional Tehsildar, Yogeswar Dharua, Record Keeper, Basanti Bhoi, Court Amin, Lina Hota and Data Entry Operator Ajit Kumar Mishra, all worked together and Shree Shree Rudranath Baba

himself prepared a new patta in the name of Marfat Sub-Collector and Executive Officer Devottar Sonepur and handed it over to the Sub-Collector Sonepur at his office today at 1 pm in the presence of all the revenue employees. The Sub Collector Sonepur, thanked the Tehsildar, Sonepur and all the revenue employees for preparing the lease and providing expedited revenue services in such a short time and expressed his opinion that this is a rare example in the field of revenue service provision

Second Tusker Death in 4 Months Raises Alarm in Bolangir Forest Belt

Bolangir, (Correspondent): A tusker was found dead under mysterious circumstances in a cashew orchard at Chanutmal village within Muribahal forest range of Bolangir district, prompting an investigation by the Forest Department. The carcass, lying in a private orchard, was noticed early in the morning by the landowner, who immediately informed forest officials. A team soon reached the spot and began a detailed probe to determine the cause of death. Residents of the area said the tusker had been roaming nearby villages for the



past few days, damaging standing crops and causing considerable losses to farmers. Despite ongoing efforts, the Forest Department reportedly failed to drive the animal away from human habitation. The latest incident has sparked concern among locals and wildlife observers alike, as it marks the second

Gajapati Police Dragged Contraband Ganja Loaded Stranded Vehicle

Paralakhemundi-(Correspondent): While vehicles jammed at highway due to uprooted tree by unprecedented tremor, vigilant police eyes caught on a suspicious vehicle. Driver & staff of that vehicle were about to clear road for safe journey, at that time Adava Police of Gajapati district marked their trivial attempts & raided on that vehicle. They seized 25 bags filled 627 kgs filled toxic items of ganja. No sooner those driver & staff of that vehicle whisked away from spot by seeing police personnel adventure. Police seized that vehicle & a case (89/26) registered at Adava Police Station. Banged time to time to nab those thunder transportation of illegal ganja Gajapati Police steered their consecutive daredevil attempts; accoladed from all corners. Investigation is going on to trace out culprits.



VIGILANCE REOPENS PROBE INTO RS 2-CR PATNAIK POND TESTIRATION SCAM

Paralakhemundi-(Correspondent): The vigilance department has resumed its investigation into alleged misappropriation of over Rs 2 crore in the restoration of the historic Patnaik Pond under Paralakhemundi Municipality. A vigilance team inspected the site on Wednesday and expressed concern over the poor condition of the pond, directing municipal authorities to immediately undertake cleaning work before further inquiry. A similar inspection was conducted three months ago, following allegations of large-scale irregularities in the project. The state



government had sanctioned over Rs 2.11 crore since 2009 for desilting, construction of bathing ghats, retaining walls and other restoration works. However, despite repeated funding, the project remains incomplete and the pond has turned into a neglected, polluted water body. A

technical team from Cuttack has also conducted measurements to verify the extent of work executed. The prolonged neglect has triggered public concern, with residents demanding strict action against those responsible for the alleged financial irregularities.

RS 23 LAKH WORTH CANNABIS SEIZED IN GAJAPATI

Paralakhemundi: (Correspondent):- In a major crackdown on illegal drug trafficking, the Gajapati Excise Department seized 18 quintals of cannabis valued at over Rs 23 lakh and arrested one person in this



connection. Acting on reliable intelligence and under the direction of District Excise Superintendent Pradeep Kumar Sahu, a joint team led by R. Udayagiri Excise OIC N. Tripati Rao, along with officials from Mohana excise unit

and the district flying squad, conducted a raid near Nayara petrol pump road close to Mahendragada. The team intercepted a van carrying the contraband and seized the entire stock packed in sacks. The

vehicle used for smuggling was also confiscated. The accused has been identified as Mahindra Karada (26) of Keshariguda village under Adaba police limits. He was transporting the cannabis from

Chelagada towards Berhampur when the excise team nabbed him. He has been arrested and produced in court. Officials said the seized cannabis weighed around 18 quintals, with an estimated market value exceeding Rs 23 lakh.

"Always in our hearts...": Neetu Kapoor shares heartfelt tribute on Rishi Kapoor's death anniversary

Veteran actor Neetu Kapoor on Thursday paid an emotional tribute to her late husband, Rishi Kapoor with a heartfelt post on social media marking six years since his passing. Taking to Instagram Stories, Neetu Kapoor shared a candid photograph of the couple, capturing a warm, smiling moment between them. She captioned it with the words, "Always in our hearts". Rishi Kapoor, one of Hindi cinema's most celebrated stars, passed away on April 30, 2020, at the age of 67 after a prolonged battle with leukemia. Known for his charm and versatility, he delivered memorable performances in films such as Bobby, Karz, Chandni and Kapoor & Sons, among many others. The anniversary of his death continues to draw tributes from across the industry, including family members, colleagues, and admirers who fondly remember his "Chintu ji" persona and enduring contribution to Indian cinema. Adding to the emotional remembrance, film distributor Raj Bansal also posted a tribute on his Instagram handle. The image features Rishi Kapoor alongside Sanjay Dutt and Neetu Kapoor, capturing a candid moment of laughter. It was captioned as, "Missing my dearest buddy." Kapoor and Dutt had shared screen space in films like 'Hathiyar' and the 2012 remake of 'Agnepath'. Joining her mother, daughter Riddhima Kapoor Sahni also shared a deeply personal tribute. Posting a portrait of her father, she wrote, "Until we meet again. I'll keep celebrating you, loving you and missing you, always." Riddhima, known to have shared a close bond with her father, has often commemorated him through photographs and personal memories, keeping his legacy alive for followers.



Actor Bellamkonda Sai Sreenivas and wife Kavya Reddy seek blessings at Tirumala Temple

Actor Bellamkonda Sai Sreenivas and his wife Kavya Reddy visited the revered Tirumala Venkateswara Temple on Thursday, offering prayers to Lord Sri Venkateswara Swamy. Telangana Deputy Chief Minister Mallu Bhathi Vikramarka also visited the hill shrine on the same day to seek blessings. The Tirumala Venkateswara Temple, often called the "Temple of Seven Hills," is one of the most sacred and widely visited religious sites in the world. Perched atop the Seshachalam Hills in Tirupati, it is dedicated to Lord Venkateswara, an incarnation of Lord Vishnu, believed to have appeared to protect humanity in the Kali Yuga. The temple's 8-foot-tall main idol is considered Swayambhu (self-manifested), meaning it was not carved by human hands. The shrine sits on Venkatadri, the seventh peak of the Tirumala Hills, which are said to symbolize the seven hoods of the cosmic serpent Adishesha. Recently, the temple has seen a steady stream of celebrity visitors. Actors Vivek Oberoi and Shamita Shetty were also spotted offering prayers, while in April, Sonu Sood visited with his wife Sonali and son Ishant to participate in the sacred Thomala Seva ritual.

Why Do Mangoes Turn Brown Inside? The Science Behind Spoiled Mangoes And How To Avoid It



I remember being little and waiting for summer like it was a festival, all because of mangoes. My cousins and I would sit tight after lunch, just for that moment when the mangoes arrived. We would gather around my grandmother, quietly observing the golden fruit like it were treasure. The excitement, the smell, and that juicy

first slice - it was (and still is!) a ritual we look forward to every single year. Thanks to their endless potential, fresh and juicy mangoes show up in everything - from chilled aamras with puris to thick mango smoothies and even spicy mango curries. Now that I am older (and slightly more confident in my fruit-picking skills), the job of choosing the best mango falls on

me. But just when I think I have nailed it, I cut open the mango and spot brown patches where sunshine-yellow should have been. It is disappointing, especially when you have planned an entire dish around it or kept it aside for something special. So, what exactly went wrong? Well, to answer that, let us understand the science behind why mangoes turn brown inside and, more importantly, what you can do to stop it from happening. Why Does Mango Flesh Turn Brown? It comes down to oxidation. Once the enzymes in mangoes, particularly polyphenol oxidase, are exposed to air, they react and start turning the surface dark. Apples and bananas go through the same thing. The more the mango is exposed to air, the quicker it changes colour. How Can You Tell If A Mango Has Gone Bad? A mango that has crossed the line will smell odd, taste sour or metallic, and feel overly mushy. If it has a bitter edge, it is probably rotten. Now, not all brown mangoes are bad, some are still fine to eat as long as the flavour is intact. But if the texture is off and the taste is too acidic, it is better to avoid eating it.

Still Struggling With Belly Fat? This Morning Drink Might Be Your Missing Piece

How To Make A Belly Fat Burner Powder At Home This belly fat drink is fuss-free. Dietician Manpreet Kalra swears by this combination. To make it, you need:
Ingredients:
1 tsp fennel seeds (saunf)
1 tsp coriander seeds (dhaniya seeds)
1 small piece of cinnamon stick
10 cardamom pods
1 tsp jamun seed powder
Steps:
1. Add fennel, coriander, cinnamon and cardamom to a pan. Dry roast them on low heat till they become fragrant.
2. Cool them completely, then grind into a powder.
3. Stir in the jamun seed powder.
4. Store in an airtight container, away from sunlight, to keep it potent longer.
Best Time To Take The Belly Fat Burner Drink Kalra recommends taking this belly fat burner in the morning. Add 1 tsp of the powder to a glass of lukewarm water. Drink it on an empty stomach. It can help support digestion and may boost

metabolism over time. Why This Belly Fat Drink Works This belly fat burner powder is packed with kitchen staples known to support metabolism and gut health. Fennel and coriander seeds help with bloating and improving digestion. Cinnamon may regulate blood sugar levels and help control cravings. Cardamom supports digestion, while jamun seed powder is rich in antioxidants that may aid fat processing. Adding this mix to a glass of warm water makes a natural, homemade fat loss drink that can support belly fat reduction from the inside out.
4 Diet Tips That Work With This Fat Loss Drink: The best belly fat burner drink will not work in isolation. According to nutritionist Anjali Mukerjee, you need to make simple food changes to see results that last. Here are her four easy tweaks

Why Clove Water (Laung Ka Paani) Is The Morning Ritual Your Gut Will Thank You For



Mornings are meant to feel fresh and energized. But have you ever woken up with your stomach rumbling and a strange uneasiness in your body? That tight

waistband, the sluggish start - all before you have even had your first sip of chai? If that sounds too familiar, you are definitely not alone. Morning bloating is more common

than we think, especially in today's fast-paced lifestyles. It is one of those quiet discomforts many of us deal with but rarely talk about. It often creeps in due to late-night dinners, irregular eating habits, stress, or simply not moving enough.

The good news? Relief might be hiding in plain sight, right in your kitchen. An Indian household is packed with time-tested remedies passed down through generations. And one such gem that deserves your attention is clove water (or laung ka paani). Used in Ayurvedic traditions for centuries, this simple concoction has now made a comeback in modern wellness routines. Just two cloves steeped in warm water could be the gentle digestive reset your body needs to start the day feeling lighter and more balanced.

Clove Water: A Simple Sip With Serious Benefits Clove (laung) has long been a staple in Indian kitchens and traditional medicine. Known for its bold aroma and warm, slightly sweet flavour, this tiny spice is packed with powerful compounds that: Promote digestion by stimulating digestive enzymes Reduce bloating and gas, especially when consumed on an empty stomach Soothe gastric irritability and support overall gut health According to a study published in the Journal of Pharmacognosy and Phytochemistry, cloves are also effective in

relieving symptoms of diarrhea and gastric discomfort.

The Science Behind It: Eugenol Is The Star Clove owes much of its digestive power to eugenol, a natural compound known for its anti-inflammatory, carminative (gas-relieving), and antimicrobial properties. Eugenol helps relax the smooth muscles of the digestive tract, easing gas and bloating while encouraging the release of digestive enzymes.

A 2019 study published in the Journal of Gastroenterology found that regular consumption of clove water can: Reduce bloating and gas Improve nutrient absorption Stimulate digestive enzyme production Alleviate symptoms of stomach ulcers

Why Drink It First Thing In The Morning? Drinking clove water on an empty stomach acts like a gentle detox. It helps flush out toxins, stimulates digestion, and reduces that heavy, bloated feeling many people wake up with. Nutritionist Mitali Shah explains, "During the night, our gut slows down. Drinking clove water in the morning wakes up the digestive system and helps reduce that feeling of puffiness or tightness in the abdomen." **How To Make Clove Water At Home? Simple Recipe:** Boil 2 cloves in 1 cup of water for 5-7 minutes. Let it cool slightly and drink warm, preferably on an empty stomach. **Alternative Method:** Soak 2 cloves in a glass of water overnight. Drink it first thing in the morning.

A Word Of Caution While clove water is packed with health benefits, moderation is key. Overuse can irritate the stomach lining or lead to acidity, especially in sensitive individuals. It is always best to consult a healthcare expert to tailor the dosage to your needs, particularly if you are pregnant, breastfeeding, or have existing digestive issues. **Final Thought: Small Sip, Big Difference** So, the next time you wake up feeling bloated, skip the antacid and try this simple clove water instead. It might just be the easiest, and most soothing, way to start your morning on a lighter, healthier note.

IPL 2026: Arshad Khan Stars As RCB Bowled Out For 155 Runs Against Gujarat Titans

Ahmedabad: Fast bowler Arshad Khan picked three wickets as Royal Challengers Bengaluru (RCB) were bowled out for just 155 runs in 19.2 overs against Gujarat Titans (GT) in the Indian Premier League (IPL) 2026 at the Narendra Modi Stadium in Ahmedabad on Thursday. Put in to bat first, the Royal Challengers Bengaluru (RCB) had a slow start to their innings. Mohammed Siraj bowled a tight opening over, giving away just six runs and keeping things under control early on. However, the momentum quickly shifted in the very next over, thanks to Virat Kohli. The experienced batter took charge and attacked Kagiso Rabada aggressively, smashing five consecutive boundaries. Rabada ended up



conceding 21 runs in that over, giving RCB an early boost. Despite the strong counterattack, the Gujarat Titans struck back soon. Siraj provided the first breakthrough by dismissing Jacob Bethell, who continued his poor run of form and managed only five runs. RCB suffered another big setback in

the following over when Kohli tried to keep the pressure on but mistimed his shot. He chipped a good length delivery from Rabada straight to mid-wicket, where Rashid Khan completed the catch. Kohli scored a quick 28 off just 13 balls, hitting five fours and a six. With two wickets down, Devdutt Padikkal kept

the scoring rate high. He played some attacking shots, including two boundaries and a six against Siraj. RCB ended the powerplay at a strong 59/2. Captain Rajat Patidar tried to build a partnership with Padikkal and looked in good touch with a couple of boundaries. However, he fell while attempting an aggressive

shot at Arshad Khan. He was caught by Jason Holder at deep backward square leg.

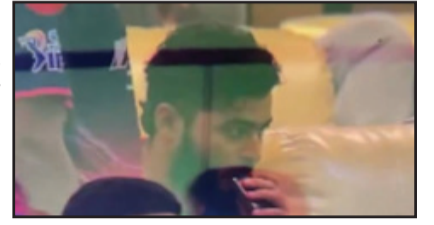
The dismissal led to some controversy, as RCB players were unhappy with the decision. They believed Holder had not fully controlled the catch and that the ball may have touched the ground. However, the umpires ruled it out, and Patidar had to walk back. GT tightened their grip further in the next over when Holder struck again, dismissing Jitesh Sharma for just one run. The wicket added more pressure on RCB's struggling middle order. The collapse continued as Rashid Khan made an immediate impact. He dismissed Tim David, who could score only nine runs. Holder took the catch once again, and by the end of 10 overs, RCB were in

deep trouble at 91/5. Things went from bad to worse when Krunal Pandya was dismissed in the next over. Trying to go for a big shot off Arshad Khan, he was caught at mid-wicket by Holder. RCB had now lost four wickets for just 17 runs, completely losing momentum. Amid the collapse, Padikkal stood firm and continued to fight. He rotated the strike well and found boundaries regularly to keep the scoreboard moving. But his resistance ended when Rashid Khan bowled a brilliant delivery to clean him up. Padikkal scored 40 off 24 balls, including five fours and two sixes. RCB's lower order also failed to make much of an impact. Romario Shepherd tried to play a finishing role but managed only 17 runs before being dismissed by Holder.

BCCI Penalizes RR Captain Riyan Parag for Vaping; Bollywood Rallies Behind Rahul Roy

NEWDELHI: The sports and entertainment worlds have seen two major disciplinary and social headlines today. While Rajasthan Royals (RR) skipper Riyan Parag faces the heat for a breach of the IPL Code of Conduct, 'Riyan Parag Fined for 'Bringing Game into Disrepute'

The Board of Control for Cricket in India (BCCI) has officially taken action against Riyan Parag for using a vape in the dressing room during Rajasthan Royals' Match No. 40 against Punjab Kings. The incident, which was caught on live broadcast, drew immediate criticism from fans and officials alike.



Key Penalties & Verdict:
The Fine: Parag has been fined 25% of his match fee. Demerit Points: The skipper has been handed one demerit point for a Level 1 offense.

The Violation: Breach of Article 2.21 of the IPL Code of Conduct, specifically regarding conduct that "brings the game into disrepute."

Parag admitted to the offense and accepted the sanction imposed by Match Referee Amit Sharma. Under India's Prohibition of Electronic Cigarettes Act (PECA) 2019, the use of vapes in public and enclosed areas like dressing rooms is strictly prohibited. The BCCI stated it is exploring further "stringent action" against the team and officials involved.

India Set to Face Chinese Taipei in Thomas Cup Quarterfinals

NEWDELHI: India will battle Chinese Taipei in the Thomas Cup quarterfinals on Friday, aiming to secure their second title in the prestigious world team badminton championship.

India advanced to the knockout stage after finishing second in Group A, following victories over Canada (4-1) and Australia (5-0) before narrowly losing to China (2-3). The team now faces a strong Chinese Taipei squad featuring world No. 6 Chou Tien Chen, All England champion Lin Chun-Yi (world No. 8), and Chi Yu Jen (world No. 21).

In doubles, Chinese Taipei boasts world No. 14 pair Chiu Hsiang Chieh and Wang Chi-Lin, along with world No. 16 duo Lee Jhe-



Huei and Yang Po-Hsuan. India's lineup looks balanced and confident. Young Ayush Shetty has impressed by winning all three of his matches, including victories over Brian Yang and Weng Hong Yang. HS Prannoy and Kidambi Srikanth bring experience to the third

singles slot, while Lakshya Sen continues to show fighting spirit despite close losses. The doubles pair of Satwiksairaj Rankireddy and Chirag Shetty remain India's biggest strength. They won their first two matches and pushed China's Liang Wei

Keng and Wang Chang to the limit in a close contest. The second doubles team of Hariharan Amsakarunan and MR Arjun also contributed crucial wins. India, the 2022 champions, will look to replicate their historic triumph and keep their title hopes alive.

India Men Drawn To Face Taipei In Thomas Cup QF

Horsens: Indian men's team has been drawn to face Chinese Taipei in the quarterfinal of the BWF Thomas Cup Finals after the knockout draw was made here on Thursday. The 2022 champions finished second in Group A and had already qualified for the quarter-finals following 4-1 and 5-0 wins against Canada and Australia, respectively, in their first two matches. But they suffered a 3-2 defeat against China in their last group game on Wednesday. Chinese Taipei did an intimate dance with disaster before somehow scrambling through by the hardest route imaginable to take their place in the quarter-finals of the Thomas Cup. Needing to win the final Group C tie over hosts Denmark - who only needed to win one match - Chinese Taipei would have looked to their strength in second and third singles to see them through on



Wednesday. Defending champions China, who remained unbeaten to top Group A, will take on Malaysia. Group B toppers Japan will lock horns with France, who staged a stunning takedown of pre-tournament favourites and 14-time champions Indonesia. Meanwhile, host Denmark, who finished second in Group C, are slotted to face Thailand. After Indonesia, China are the second most successful team with 11 titles. The Chinese, winners of five straight titles from 2004

to 2012, suffered a shock semifinal defeat in the 2014 edition to Japan, who went on to take their first-ever title beating Malaysia in an exciting final in New Delhi. It was then Denmark's turn to create history in 2016 as they became the first non-Asian country to win the Thomas Cup, which they did beating Indonesia in the final in Kunshan. The 2018 edition saw China once again storm to the title, beating Japan 3-1 in the final in Bangkok.

The 2020 edition was

held in October 2021 due to the Covid-19 pandemic. Indonesia broke a 19-year drought, beating China 3-0 in the final. The 2022 saw history being made in Bangkok, as India won their first major team title beating Indonesia 3-0 in the final. India thus became only the sixth country to win the Thomas Cup, and the third first-time winners in eight years. China, denied the title for a decade, roared back on home turf in Chengdu, beating Indonesia 3-1 in the final.

Indian Men's and Women's Teams Register Thrilling Wins at ITTF World Team Championships

NEWDELHI: India's men's and women's table tennis teams recorded impressive victories in their second group stage matches at the ITTF World Team Table Tennis Championships in London. The women's team defeated Ukraine 3-2 in a nail-biting contest. Manika Batra opened with a strong 3-1 win over Olympian Tetyana Bilenko. Yashaswini Ghorpade lost narrowly to Margaryta Pesotska, but Diya Chitale restored India's lead with a straight-games victory.



Manika fell in her second match, levelling the tie at 2-2. Ghorpade then sealed the win with a decisive 3-1 triumph over Bilenko. India will face Rwanda in their next

group match. The men's team overcame Slovakia 3-2 in another tense battle. Manush Shah lost his opener to Lubomir Pistej, but Manav Thakkar equalised

with a commanding 3-0 win. Slovakia regained the lead when Yang Wang defeated Harmeet Desai. Manav struck again with another 3-0 victory, and Shah redeemed himself by clinching the tie with a 3-0 win over Jakub Zelinka. India's next challenge is against Guatemala. Earlier, the women's team received a walkover against Uganda, while the men's team swept Tunisia 3-0. The championship features 64 teams divided into four groups of 16, showcasing top talent from across the globe.

Vaibhav Sooryavanshi's 'AI' Comparisons Continue as IPL 2026 Sensation Stuns Cricket World

NEWDELHI: Rajasthan Royals' teenage star Vaibhav Sooryavanshi is taking the Indian Premier League 2026 season by storm, delivering performances that have left fans, experts, and even international players in disbelief. At just 15 years old, the young batter has amassed 400 runs in eight matches, becoming the fastest player to reach the milestone in a single IPL season.

His remarkable consistency has also put him in strong contention for the coveted Orange Cap, trailing current leader Abhishek Sharma by a narrow margin.

'Is He AI?': Global Reactions Go Viral
Sooryavanshi's extraordinary performances have sparked playful yet widespread speculation, with many jokingly linking his talent to artificial intelligence. Earlier, Pakistani analyst Nauman Niaz humorously suggested the youngster might be using an "AI chip" in his bat.

The buzz didn't stop there. England wicketkeeper-batter Jos Buttler revealed that he even messaged fellow cricketer Jofra Archer asking whether the teenage sensation was real—or a creation of tech entrepreneur Elon Musk.

Despite the jokes, Buttler acknowledged the reality: Sooryavanshi is very much real—and exceptionally talented.

Fearless Against World-Class Bowlers
What sets Sooryavanshi apart is not just his run tally but his fearless approach against elite bowlers. He has achieved a rare feat by hitting a six off the very first ball he faced from three of the world's top pacers—Jasprit Bumrah, Josh Hazlewood, and Pat Cummins.

This extraordinary statistic has become one of the most talked-about highlights of the season, with experts calling it a defining moment in modern T20 cricket. No Signs of Second-Season Syndrome

Unlike many young players who struggle to maintain form, Sooryavanshi has elevated his game even further in IPL 2026. His confidence, composure, and aggressive stroke play have made him one of the most exciting prospects in world cricket.

Buttler noted that such performances at a young age are rare and predicted that the youngster could soon make an impact on the international stage, possibly featuring in England later this year.

Over 6,300 TPNODL consumers achieve zero-unit billing under PMSGY scheme

Baleswar, (Correspondent): PM Surya Ghar Muft Bijli Yojana is delivering measurable impact across Northern Odisha, with thousands of consumers substantially reducing electricity expenses through rooftop solar adoption. TP Northern Odisha Distribution Limited (TPNODL), a joint venture of Tata Power and the Government of Odisha, has accelerated rooftop solar installations under the Utility Led Aggregation (ULA) model, particularly in rural areas. The initiative has proven especially beneficial during peak summer demand. According to the latest billing cycle, over 6,302 consumers received zero-unit electricity bills



in the preceding month. Additionally, over 50% of the billed consumers recorded a significant reduction in their monthly electricity charges. To date, TPNODL has facilitated the installation of over 47 MW of rooftop solar capacity across its licensed area, with more than 22,000 consumers adopting solar solutions under the PM Surya Ghar Muft Bijli Yojana and the ULA

model. The regional distribution of these installations includes 8127 consumers in Balasore, 4676 in Mayurbhanj, 3573 in Jajpur, 2900 in Keonjhar and 2751 in Bhadrak. In total, over 11,500 consumers have benefited from the PM Surya Ghar Muft Bijli Yojana, while an additional 10,500 consumers have utilized the ULA model across these five districts. The practical

benefits of the scheme are reflected in the experiences of local residents. Rambhamani Sethi, a resident of Dhamnagar in the Bhadrak district, noted that since installing a 1 kW rooftop solar system two months ago, she has received zero-unit bills for two consecutive months. She expressed that the scheme has provided vital financial support for her family. Similarly, Sabita Paley from Ghatgaon in the Keonjhar district, who installed a 3 kW system, reported a substantial decrease in her energy costs. Her monthly electricity bill, which previously averaged between ₹1,200 and 1,500, has been reduced to approximately ₹150-

Shri Himanshu Jain takes charge of additional CVO at Mahanadi Coalfields Limited

Sambalpur (Correspondent): Shri Himanshu Jain is an officer of the Indian Railway Service, currently serving as the Chief Vigilance Officer (CVO) at South Eastern Coalfields Limited (SECL). He is also holding additional charge of CVO, Mahanadi Coalfields Limited (MCL) since 28.04.2026 and has earlier looked after the charge of CVO, Northern Coalfields Limited (NCL).



He obtained his Bachelor's degree in Electronics and Telecommunication Engineering from the National Institute of Technology (NIT), Raipur, securing the first position. He achieved All India Rank 13 in GATE 2007 and went on to pursue his Master's degree in Microelectronics and VLSI Design from the Indian Institute of Technology (IIT) Bombay, where he was actively

involved in research projects related to VLSI Design, Semiconductor Device Modeling, and System Design. He was selected through the prestigious UPSC Engineering Services Examination 2007, securing All India Rank 9 and joining the Indian Railway Service (IRSE). In the initial years of his service, he worked in the Signal and Telecommunication

Department of the Bilaspur Division under South East Central Railway (SECR). During this period, he contributed to projects such as the doubling of the Pendra Road-Anuppur section, commissioning of signaling systems at Junadih and Dipika sidings, and works related to Intermediate Block Huts, additional loop lines, multitracking, and speed upgradation.

MCL observes ILO Safety Day

Sambalpur (Correspondent): Mahanadi Coalfields Limited (MCL) on Monday observed the International Labour Organisation's Day on Safety and Health at Work at its headquarters here, in line with this year's theme, "Let's Ensure a Healthy Psychosocial Working Environment." Shri Ajit Kumar Behura, Director (Finance), was the chief guest on the occasion. He unfurled the Safety Flag on the premises and administered the safety oath to officers and staff present. Shri Sunil Sharma, General Manager (Safety and



Rescue), read out the messages of Shri B Sairam, Chairman, Coal India Limited, and Shri Uday Anant Kaole, Chairman-cum-Managing Director, Mahanadi Coalfields Limited. Addressing the gathering, Shri Behura stressed the need to

make safety a way of life and called for equal importance to be given to health and hygiene. He also highlighted the significance of maintaining a healthy psychosocial working environment for overall employee well-being and productivity.

Vedanta Aluminium launches VedSwad, expanding entrepreneurial avenues for rural women in Jharsuguda

Jharsuguda, Vedanta Aluminium, India's largest producer of aluminium, has launched VedSwad, a new snack production initiative under the ambit of its Subhalaxmi Udyogini community development project. Marked by the inauguration of a new food production unit at Kurebaga in Jharsuguda, the initiative aims to further expand the range of sustainable livelihood opportunities available to women in the region. A product rooted in authentic, traditional snacks that celebrate the culinary heritage of Odisha, VedSwad presently offers more than ten varieties



of snack items. They are prepared by women entrepreneurs from the Maa Baishnabi Self Help Group, which is part of Vedanta's Subhalaxmi Cooperative, Western Odisha's largest self-help group initiative with over 5000 women members. The company's comprehensive support for the initiative includes providing the unit with facility upgrades and modern machinery.

These efforts aim to strengthen the unit's production capacity, improve process efficiency, and enhance the overall quality of the products, enabling the women entrepreneurs to scale their nascent enterprise with confidence. The initiative also benefits from the strong legacy and network of Subhalaxmi Udyogini, among Vedanta Aluminium's key

women empowerment programs that was established in 2008. Operating across more than 100 villages in Jharsuguda, it provides mentorship, training, and financial support to help women build sustainable enterprises and drive development within their communities, while empowering more than 5,000 women through 440 self-help groups. Speaking on the initiative, C Chandru, CEO, Vedanta Jharsuguda, said, "We are focused on creating long-term livelihood models that are owned and led by communities. Subhalaxmi Udyogini has consistently

demonstrated that with the right support, women can build enterprises that are both sustainable and market-ready. The new VedSwad initiative is another step in this direction, where traditional skills are matched with wider quality controls and market access." Suniti Patel, a member of the Maa Baishnabi Self Help Group, said, "The VedSwad initiative helps us move from small-scale efforts to running a structured unit with better tools and marketing opportunities. Our products now reach more people, and our income has become more stable."

Give priority to the treatment of poor and helpless patients - Dr. Tirupati Panigrahi



Bhubaneswar (Correspondent): Hi-tech Medical College and Hospital has organized the 15th orientation program for the graduating students. Former Odisha High Court judge Justice Bimal Prasad Dash attended the program as the chief guest, which is intended for PG doctors. Justice Dash praised the efforts of Hi-tech Group Chairman Dr. Tirupati Panigrahi for establishing three medical colleges and producing hundreds of doctors every year and serving patients. He advised to become a good human being before becoming a good doctor.

Hi-tech Group founder Chairman Dr. Tirupati Panigrahi said that he asked the doctors to treat the patient's disease promptly, not the pocket of every patient coming to Hi-tech Medical. He urged the patients and their families to strive for good treatment and provide the best medical services. Dr. Panigrahi called upon all the doctors to maintain this basic mantra of the Hi-Tech Medical Center, which has been giving priority to the services of poor and helpless patients for the past 22 years. Dr. Bibartita Nayak and Dr. Pradeep Nayak, who

topped the PG examination in 2024, were felicitated with a cash prize and a gift. The program was attended by Managing Trustee and Acting Chairman Suresh Panigrahi, Engineer Rupesh Panigrahi, Dr. Rakesh Panigrahi, Director Savitri Panigrahi, Director Madhusmita Tripathi, Medical College Professor Dr. Debananda Mohapatra, Dr. Smita Sarangi, Dr. Chandan Samantaray, Administrative Officer Gopeshwar Acharya, as well as heads of departments, professors, doctors and staff of all departments.

Hindalco Organises Mega Health Camp at Mohammadpur, Hirakud

Sambalpur (Correspondent): A mega health check-up camp was organised by Hindalco at the Mohammadpur Community Centre with the objective of strengthening healthcare facilities for the local population. The camp was conducted on the advice of Hindalco Hirakud Unit Head, Shri Sumit Mukherjee, as part of the company's commitment towards community wellbeing. The camp was formally inaugurated by Chief Human Resources Officer, Hindalco Complex, Shri Vishwas Shinde, Smelter Plant Head Shri Pratap Sahu, Chief Medical Officer Dr. Praveen Yadav, CSR Advisor Shri Sukanta Kumar



Mahapatra, and CSR Department Head Shri Anand Chakravarty by offering prayers to Maa Samaleswari and lighting the ceremonial lamp. Addressing the gathering, Shri Vishwas Shinde stated that Hindalco has been continuously working in areas such as education, healthcare, sports, women and youth

development, and preservation of local culture in the Hirakud region, and assured that these initiatives would continue in the future as well. On the occasion, Smelter Plant Head Shri Pratap Sahu encouraged local residents to take full advantage of the health camp and expressed Hindalco's resolve to

further accelerate such development-oriented programmes in the region. Several dignitaries and members of the local community, including Shri Kunja Banchhor, Shri Rajendra Mahakud, Shri Gajendra Mahakud, Shri Deepak Bhoi, Shri Gyan Ranjan Sahu, Shri Pradeep Bagarti, Shri Rahas

Nag, Govinda Mahakud, and many villagers actively participated in the programme. The villagers appreciated Hindalco's noble initiative and expressed their heartfelt gratitude. During the camp, 179 number of people underwent health check-ups and were provided with necessary medicines free of cost. Under the leadership of Chief Medical Officer Dr. Praveen Yadav, an experienced medical team comprising Dr. Padmalaya Mishra, Dr. Pooja Shrivastava, Dr. Himanshu Nayak, Dr. Sumit Kumar, and Dr. Abhishek Kumar examined patients suffering from various ailments and distributed essential medicines.