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Trump Warns Of Possible Disruption To Global Oil Flows Amid Tensions Around Strait Of Hormuz

Washington: US President Donald Trump signalled potential disruption to global oil flows, warning that maritime congestion and military actions near key shipping routes could affect energy supplies. Speaking at a Forum Club event in Palm Beach, Trump described heavy vessel traffic around a critical Gulf corridor. "You see all of those ships... they're all over the place... hundreds and hundreds of ships," he said. He said US naval operations had tightened control over the route. "We have a navy that is unbelievable... it's a blockade," he said. Trump added that the situation had left oil shipments stranded. "These ships are loaded up with oil they can't



get out of the strait," he said, pointing to a build-up of tankers awaiting passage. He suggested that some flows were being redirected. "You see all of those big gorgeous ships... they're coming to Texas now... to load up," he said. Despite the disruption, Trump said supply remained ample. "There's so much oil," he said, predicting prices would "drop like a rock" once movement resumed. The President

also linked military operations to economic outcomes. "This is the first war... where we actually have paid for the cost of the war by about 37 times already," he said. At the same time, he acknowledged uncertainty tied to conflict. "With war, you never know what happens," he said. Trump reiterated that US actions were aimed at limiting Iran's capabilities, including its energy exports.

CM Majhi Unveils Roadmap To Make Odisha India's Knowledge Hub

BHUBANESWAR, (Correspondent): Odisha Chief Minister Mohan Charan Majhi on Monday unveiled an ambitious roadmap to position the state as India's "knowledge hub", outlining a series of reforms and investments in the education sector under the National Education Policy (NEP-2020). Speaking at a two-day national-level workshop on NEP implementation at a local convention centre, the Chief Minister said the government is focused on transforming Odisha into a centre of learning, innovation and skill development. He said the initiative is aimed at overcoming long-standing stagnation in the education system and aligning it with global standards. Majhi



said the NEP-2020, formulated under the guidance of Prime Minister Narendra Modi, is not merely a policy document but a national mission to make India a global knowledge leader. "Education is the foundation of human civilisation. Our goal is to ensure students are industry-ready and globally competitive," he said. Highlighting budgetary support,

Majhi announced that Rs 41,273 crore has been allocated to the education sector in the 2025-26 financial year, describing it as a long-term investment in the future of the state's youth and a step towards building world-class infrastructure. To address the rural-urban education divide, the government has launched the Godabarish Adarsha Vidyalaya

(GVA) scheme, with an outlay of Rs 12,000 crore. Under the initiative, modern schools will be set up in all 6,794 gram panchayats, equipped with advanced classrooms, laboratories and sports facilities to ensure quality education in rural areas. In higher education, the state has introduced 11.25 per cent reservation for Socially and Educationally Backward

Classes (SEBC) students. Additionally, financial assistance under the 'Shahid Madho Singh Haath Kharcha Yojana' aims to reduce dropout rates among Scheduled Tribe (ST) students. Majhi said these measures would help bring marginalized communities into the educational mainstream. The Chief Minister also highlighted efforts to promote Odia language in higher education. The state has signed an MoU with IGNOU to offer technical and higher education courses in Odia, aiming to eliminate language barriers and improve learning outcomes. Union Education Minister Dharmendra Pradhan, who attended the event, praised Odisha's cultural and educational legacy.

Odisha Matric Results 2026: Pass Rate At 95.33%, Scorecards Available From 6 PM

Cuttack (Correspondent): The Board of Secondary Education, Odisha on Saturday declared the results of the annual High School Certificate (Matric) Examination 2026, with an overall pass percentage of 95.33 per cent.



The results were formally announced at a special programme held at the Board's office by School and Mass Education Minister Nityananda Gond in the presence of Board President Srikanta Tarai and other senior officials. A total of 5,36,306 students had appeared for the examination this year, out of which 5,19,251

candidates successfully passed. The Board informed that 8,364 students remained absent during the examination. As per the grade-wise distribution, 2,456 students secured A1 grade, 15,681 obtained A2, 43,565 got B1, 86,103 secured B2, 1,29,813 achieved C grade, 1,46,152 were placed in D grade, and 95,481 students passed

with E grade. In terms of district performance, Gajapati recorded the highest pass percentage at 99.31 per cent, while Keonjhar district registered the lowest at 95.33 per cent. Notably, 3,310 high schools achieved a 100 per cent pass rate, while three schools recorded zero results. The Matric examination was conducted across 3,082

centres in the state from February 19 to March 2, 2026, with the evaluation process commencing on March 19. The Board also declared results for the State Open School Certificate and Madhya Madyama examinations alongside the HSC results. Students can access their results online from 6 pm onwards through the official portals of the Board. To improve accessibility, especially in areas with limited internet connectivity, an SMS-based facility has been introduced. Candidates can check their results by typing OR10<RollNo> and sending it to 5676750.

Writer-Lyricist Prasoon Joshi Appointed Chairman Of Prasar Bharati

New Delhi: The government on Saturday said it has appointed noted lyricist, writer and communications expert, Prasoon Joshi, as the Chairman of Prasar Bharati. According to a Ministry of Information and Broadcasting statement, Joshi is a distinguished creative professional with wide-ranging contributions across literature, advertising, cinema, and public communication. "My heartfelt congratulations to Prasoon Joshi on his appointment as Chairman of the Prasar Bharati Board. Prasoon is a rare creative spirit celebrated across the



world in advertising, literature, art and cinema, yet his heart beats unmistakably for India," said Union Minister of Information and Broadcasting, Ashwini Vaishnaw. "His words carry the fragrance of our soil, and his vision reflects the timeless essence of our culture. Under his stewardship, Prasar

Bharati will discover renewed energy, deeper purpose, and a fresh creative voice. My very best wishes to him for a memorable and meaningful tenure ahead," said the minister. Known for his impactful writing and deep cultural sensibility, Joshi has played a significant role in shaping contemporary

Indian media narratives. His body of work spans acclaimed film lyrics, advertising campaigns, and socially resonant storytelling that connects with diverse audiences across the country. Before this appointment, Joshi served as Chairperson, Central Board of Film Certification (CBFC), Mumbai since August 2017 where he contributed to strengthening film certification processes while engaging with stakeholders across the film industry. His tenure at CBFC reflected a balanced approach towards creative expression and regulatory responsibility.

PM Modi Visit Puts Vedic Clock At Kashi Vishwanath In Global Spotlight

Varanasi/Bhopal: Prime Minister Narendra Modi's recent visit to Kashi Vishwanath Dham in Varanasi has brought the "Vikramaditya Vedic Clock" into sharp national and international focus, with the installation recording a digital reach of over 7.8 million people across multiple platforms. PM Modi observed the Vedic Clock on April 29 after offering prayers and described it as a "magnificent blend of

ancient wisdom and modern scientific outlook". His remarks triggered widespread engagement across digital platforms, with live streams on official channels drawing thousands of viewers and television coverage reaching millions. According to a statement from the Madhya Pradesh government on Saturday, the hashtag Vikramotsav Varanasi ranked first in India's trending section, while several related hashtags

generated significant traction. Officials said the strong digital response reflects growing interest in India's traditional knowledge systems and their contemporary relevance. Notably, the Vedic Clock, developed by the Maharaja Vikramaditya Research Institute in Ujjain, was presented by Chief Minister Mohan Yadav to Uttar Pradesh Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath and installed at the temple complex on April 4,

2026. Explaining the significance of the initiative, a Madhya Pradesh government official said that the Vikramaditya Vedic Clock represents a scientific interpretation of India's ancient timekeeping system and is an effort to present it in a format that is accessible to the modern generation. The official added that the project aims to revive awareness of traditional astronomical knowledge while aligning it with

contemporary technology. Unlike conventional clocks, the Vedic Clock follows a 30-hour cycle based on sunrise and divides time into 30 Muhurats. It also displays detailed Panchang elements, including Tithi, Nakshatra, Yoga, Karana, and planetary positions, offering a comprehensive understanding of the traditional Indian calendar system. The initiative has also been extended into the digital space through the

Vikramaditya Vedic Clock mobile application, available on both the Google Play Store and App Store. Supporting more than 189 languages, the app provides sunrise and sunset timings, auspicious and inauspicious periods, and a Panchang spanning 7,000 years from the era of the Mahabharata to the present day. It also includes an alarm feature based on the Vedic time system.

MP: Bargi Dam Tragedy Toll Rises To 11

Jabalpur: Two more bodies were recovered on Saturday evening in the Bargi Dam cruise accident, taking the death toll to 11, even as the Jabalpur district administration intensified efforts to trace the missing and manage the repatriation of victims. The Jabalpur district administration confirmed that the bodies of two children, four-year-old Viraj Soni and six-year-old Shritamil,

were recovered near the accident site and sent for post-mortem. The administration said the focus has shifted to locating the remaining missing persons, including nine-year-old Mayuram and 40-year-old Kamraj. "Multiple teams have been deployed, and the search operation has been intensified with deep-diving efforts in identified zones of the reservoir," the district administration said in a statement.

ECI Orders Fresh Poll In Bengal's Falta Constituency Over 'Severe Electoral Offences'

Kolkata: The Election Commission of India (ECI) on Saturday ordered a fresh election in all polling stations of the Falta Assembly constituency in South 24 Parganas district after finding severe electoral offences during the second phase of polling on April 29. As a result, counting of votes will take place in 293 Assembly constituencies in West Bengal on May 4, with Falta excluded. The Commission said the entire polling conducted in the constituency on April 29 stands cancelled, and a fresh poll will be held on May 21. "On consideration of severe electoral offences and subversion of the democratic process during polling in a large number of polling stations on April 29 in 144-Falta Assembly Constituency, West Bengal, the



Commission directs that a fresh poll shall be conducted in all 285 polling stations, including auxiliary polling stations. Fresh polling will be held between 7 a.m. and 6 p.m. on May 21," the ECI said in an official statement. Following the fresh poll, counting of votes in the constituency will take place on May 24. On Friday, the Commission had announced re-polling in 15 booths across two

Assembly constituencies in South 24 Parganas district — Diamond Harbour and Magrahat (Paschim). Re-polling in these booths was conducted on Saturday. Falta has been in the spotlight even before the second phase of polling. A standoff had emerged between the Election Commission-appointed Special Police Officer Ajay Pal Sharma, an Indian Police Service (IPS)

officer of the Uttar Pradesh cadre, and Trinamool Congress candidate from Falta, Jahangir Khan. On polling day, allegations of EVM tampering surfaced in the constituency, and petitions were submitted to the Commission seeking re-polling. The Commission subsequently undertook scrutiny to determine the extent of irregularities. According to sources, the highest

number of complaints seeking re-polling was received from South 24 Parganas district, with Falta among the key constituencies flagged. On the direction of Chief Election Commissioner Gyanesh Kumar, the Commission-appointed Special Observer Subrata Gupta visited Falta, Magrahat, Diamond Harbour and other affected areas on Thursday to review the situation. After assessing the ground situation, Gupta submitted a report to the Commission recommending re-polling in around 30 booths in Falta. Sources said that during scrutiny, serious irregularities were detected, including allegations that surveillance cameras were switched off in several booths and that the information did not reach the control room due to network issues.

'Namaz Should Not Be Offered In Places Of Dispute': Muslim Community Welcomes Allahabad HC Verdict

New Delhi: Senior members of the Muslim community on Saturday welcomed the Allahabad High court's judgment which held that the right to practise religion does not extend to converting private premises into an "unregulated congregational space". The court dismissed a plea seeking permission and police protection for offering regular namaz at an alleged private property in Uttar Pradesh's Sambhal district. Commending the High Court's decision, Muslim religious leader Maulana Chaudhary Ibrahim Hussain said: "In Islam, prayers should not be offered at places where disputes may arise. Also, there should be a particular place to offer namaz." "Therefore, it is a good decision according to Islam as

well as according to the law," he told IANS. Hussain mentioned that such a decision was necessary. He said that since people of different religions stay in India, it is important to maintain communal harmony. "If people of any one particular community start following their religious practises at public places, then it may hurt the sentiments of others," he added. "Moreover, the public places are meant for the use of common people. Therefore, it would better if those places are restricted for such use only and no dispute arises in it," the Muslim cleric added. All India Muslim Jamaat National President Maulana Mufti Shahabuddin Razvi Barelvi also supported the court's judgment. He echoed saying: "The 'Shariat-e-Islamia' also

says that namaz should not be offered in places of dispute." "Also, namaz should not be offered at places which may be objectionable for anyone," he added. He noted that a public place is prone to noise and congestion and therefore is not suited for a religious practise. Barelvi highlighted that ambulances also pass through such places and namaz should not be offered there so that the route does not get obstructed. "It is better to offer namaz at peaceful and secured places like mosques or own homes," he told IANS. However, Barelvi said that some people, especially some "mindless youth", have turned the namaz into a "matter of joke". Former Babri Masjid litigant Iqbal Ansari emphasised that rules and laws apply to everyone.

IIFT Contributing To Policy, Research In Global Trade: Piyush Goyal

New Delhi: Union Commerce and Industry Minister Piyush Goyal on Saturday lauded the Indian Institute of Foreign Trade (IIFT) as a premier institution contributing to India's global trade and policy landscape, as the institute marked its 63rd Foundation Day. In a message shared on a social media platform, the minister highlighted IIFT's role in shaping the country's international trade and management ecosystem through its contributions to policy, research, and capacity building. Meanwhile, Commerce Secretary, Department for Promotion of Industry and Internal Trade, Ministry of Commerce



and Industry, Rajesh Agrawal, congratulated the institute, noting that it has consistently supported India's global trade ambitions through high-quality education and research. He said IIFT's presence across its campuses in New Delhi, Kolkata, Kakinada, and GIFT City reflects its expanding footprint and global outlook. Agrawal added that the institute continues to play a key role in nurturing future leaders in international

business and has undertaken several initiatives in recent years to strengthen its academic and research ecosystem, deepen alumni engagement, and expand its reach. Speaking at the 63rd Foundation Day event as a Chief Guest, Chairman of the National Board of Accreditation and National Educational Technology Forum, Anil Sahasrabudhe, emphasised the need for multilingual education to

improve accessibility and outreach. He said institutions like IIFT are increasingly relevant in preparing students to navigate a volatile, uncertain, complex, and ambiguous global business environment. In addition, Vice Chancellor IIFT, Prof. Rakesh Mohan Joshi, highlighted the institute's recent growth, including the organisation of five major academic and research conferences and the hosting of its first Vice-Chancellors' Conclave 2026, focused on the internationalisation of higher education in India. He also noted the launch of the Pitch Perfect Australia-India Business Compendium under IIFT's Case Research Centre, aimed at promoting research-led innovation and experiential learning.

India To Grow Over 7 Pct Despite West Asia Conflict: CEA Nageswaran

New Delhi: India's economy is likely to sustain growth above seven per cent in the near term even as geopolitical tensions in West Asia pose risks to the macroeconomic outlook, Chief Economic Adviser (CEA) V. Anantha Nageswaran said on Saturday. He noted that the timing of the conflict coincides with expectations of another year of strong growth, adding that the Union government is closely monitoring and managing crude oil supply dynamics. CEA Nageswaran said India's reliance on imported crude should not be viewed as a vulnerability in isolation, as alternative energy options also come with cost-related challenges. However, he



flagged potential pressures on the external sector, cautioning that elevated import costs and moderation in remittance inflows could push the current account deficit (CAD) higher. He indicated that the CAD could widen to around two per cent of GDP in FY27 from below one per cent in FY26. On capital flows, CEA Nageswaran said India continues to remain an attractive destination for investors despite global

uncertainties. "Gross foreign direct investment (FDI) inflows are expected to be in the range of \$90-95 billion in FY26, with momentum likely to hold in the following year as the country strengthens its manufacturing base." Addressing inflation, the CEA pointed to a gradual decline in the share of food in the consumer price index basket, even as short-term risks from weather conditions and input cost pass-through

remain. Nageswaran also highlighted progress in easing regulatory frameworks, noting that states have made substantial headway in deregulation efforts across key sectors. At the same time, he said that while corporate profitability has improved significantly in recent years, private investment has not kept pace, signalling a divergence between earnings growth and capital formation. Highlighting progress on regulatory reforms, Nageswaran said states are actively pushing deregulation across sectors. According to the CEA, nearly 86 per cent of the identified deregulation targets across 23 areas have already been achieved.

Assembly Poll Outcome On May 4 A Crucial Test For Left's Survival Bid

New Delhi: A people's mandate, to be declared on May 4, following the high-voltage Assembly election exercise, would be crucial for the Left parties who stand marginalised, except for a coalition government in Kerala. Exit polls have, however, predicted a regime change in Thiruvananthapuram. Meanwhile, in West Bengal, apart from the two main political parties (Trinamool Congress and the Bharatiya Janata Party) making headlines through the current poll process, the Left has found a mention for infusing newer, more energetic youth faces in the organisation, as well

as among candidates. It fielded 192 candidates across 294 seats in the state, emphasising that several of its nominees are from the party's youth wing and aged below 45 years. How far these younger leaders will be able to claw into a turf largely divided between the Trinamool Congress and the Bharatiya Janata Party is a subject of speculation. But that it is a battle for survival in the changing world is apparent. The Left parties in Kerala — primarily the Communist Party of India (Marxist)-led Left Democratic Front (LDF) — have stayed relevant till now unlike other states

where they have withered, including West Bengal. The roots of the Left in Kerala go back to the 1940s-50s, but its decisive breakthrough came in 1957 when a Communist-led coalition formed the world's first democratically elected Communist government. After periodic setbacks, the LDF re-emerged in the 1980s as a stable coalition, alternating power with the UDF and winning six government formations between 1980 and 2021. The outgoing LDF government, led by Pinarayi Vijayan, despite portraying able



governance and administrative successes, is facing inertia, factionalism within the CPI-M, and a growing dependence on charismatic leadership centred on the Chief Minister. The party's national weight has shrunk, and its ability to project ideology has weakened through times. Moreover, the Left's record on job-

creation and industrial growth has come under criticism, especially as Kerala faces rising fiscal stress and youth unemployment despite its high human development indices. In West Bengal, the CPI(M)-led Left Front held an almost unshakeable grip over state politics, shaping the state's institutional structures, agrarian relations and social

movements. It first came to power post-Emergency period, in 1977, winning 230 of the 294 Assembly seats and securing around 54 per cent of the vote. Under Jyoti Basu, the coalition implemented land reforms, strengthened local panchayats and expanded a network of public sector units and cooperatives. The regime styled itself as development-oriented but within a socialist framework, combining welfare measures with a rigid, cadre-driven party structure. Here, the Left's decline was as dramatic as its rise. Basu's successor, Buddhadeb

Bhattacharjee was in a hurry to attract industries, after aggressive trade unionism drove away prospective investors as factories shut shop. By the 2000s, inflexibility over industrial policy — most visibly in the violent land-acquisition conflicts at Singur and Nandigram — eroded its rural base. The Trinamool Congress, led by Mamata Banerjee, successfully positioned itself as both 'anti-Left' and 'anti-Congress', winning the 2011 Assembly elections and ending 34 years of uninterrupted Left rule. In the time that followed, and by 2019

it failed to win a single Lok Sabha seat in West Bengal. The 2021 Assembly election delivered a near-total wipeout, with the Left Front drawing a blank in the 294-seat House. In Tripura, the BJP triumphed in 2018, ending an uninterrupted Left rule after almost a quarter-century. Overall, the Left's organisational crisis has been compounded by an ageing leadership. For years, key decision-making in the CPI-M and its allied parties remained concentrated in the hands of veterans who had cut their political teeth in the 1970s and 1980s.

Conference on building bridges for inclusivity begins at KiiT-IS

BHUBANESWAR, (Correspondent): The two-day International Conference on Building Bridges for Inclusivity (ICBBI 2026) commenced at KiiT International School on Friday, bringing together global experts, educators, policymakers, and practitioners to deliberate on strengthening inclusive systems in education and employment. Organised jointly by the National Institute for the Empowerment of Persons with Intellectual Disabilities (NIEPID), Secunderabad, and KiiT International School under its Special Education Needs (SEN) Globe initiative, the conference is being held in collaboration with the University of Sussex, UK. It is supported by the



Department of Empowerment of Persons with Disabilities (DPwED), Government of India, and the SSEPD Department, Government of Odisha. Speaking at the inaugural session, Prof. Thompson, Deputy Pro Vice-Chancellor of the University of Sussex, emphasised that inclusive education must go beyond policy

frameworks. "It cannot remain a statement of intent alone; it has to be reflected in everyday practice," he said, adding that sustained trust-based collaboration is key to achieving meaningful inclusivity. He also underlined that inclusive education must remain adaptable and open to change. Rajni Jani, Special Secretary, Government of Odisha,

highlighted the state's initiatives in the field of special education. Sharing her experiences, she noted that even small gestures can significantly impact the lives of persons with special needs. She stressed the importance of compassion, patience, and bridging gaps to achieve true inclusivity. Dr. Achyuta Samanta, Founder of KIIT and KISS,

described the conference as "the need of the hour" and reiterated the institution's commitment to inclusive education. He stated that KIIT International School is the only institute in the country that has championed the cause of inclusivity with the SEN Globe initiative, that provides education to special children. It has been successful due to its human-centric approach. The inaugural ceremony also witnessed the signing of Memorandums of Understanding (MoUs) between NIEPID and KiiT IS SEN Globe to uplift underprivileged children with intellectual disabilities. Also, conference proceedings, a significant step towards fostering institutional collaboration was released on the occasion.

Mass Sacred Thread Ceremony Marks Nrusingha Jayanti in Bolangir

Bolangir, (Correspondent): A mass Bratopanayan (sacred thread ceremony) of twelve Brahmin boys was solemnly conducted at Sri Nrusingha Temple here on the occasion of Lord Nrusingha's birth anniversary. The programme was held under the direct supervision of Mahant Maharaj Braja Mohan Sharan Dev and organised by the Gurubhai O Bhauni Seva Sangha Trust. Hundreds of devotees from within and outside the district attended the sacred event and received the blessings of the deity as well as the Mahant Maharaj. The rituals were performed by eminent priests, including the Trust's chief advisor Pandit Chandra Kumar Purohit



and noted scholar Pandit Murari Mishra, who conducted the ceremonial proceedings in accordance with traditional Vedic practices. Prominent citizens of the town, members of the Brahmin community, and Chairperson of Bolangir Municipality Lika Sahu were present on the occasion. They praised the organisers for conducting such a noble and spiritually significant event. Among those present were Seva Sangha president Kshyamanidhi Bag, secretary Hazari Mishra, joint secretary Kishore Purohit,

treasurer Bhaktabandhu Dash, executive members Raghunath Raut, Dilip Kumar Nayak, Braja Mohan Sahu, Jagamohan Tripathy, Biranchi Narayan Tripathy, Purandar Hota, Prabhat Kumar Dash, Gaur Charan Sahu, Bhusagar Dang and Pandit Gobardhan Satpathy. Several volunteers, including Jayaram Mishra, Sankirtan Tripathy, Rakesh Panda, Rajendra Panigrahi and Bagdal Singh Yadav, along with a large number of devotees, also took part in the programme.

Land Acquisition Fund Distribution for Railway Project

Nabarangpur (Correspondent): A loss compensation fund distribution program for land acquisition for the Nabarangpur Jaipur Railway Project was held at the Nabarangpur Tehsil office. Honorable Member of Parliament, Lok Sabha Balabhadra Majhi attended the program as the chief guest and distributed a total amount of Rs. 70 crore 48 lakh 26

thousand 663 through cheques to 14 people who lost their land due to land acquisition. For this project, 29,215 acres of land has been acquired in Keshariguda Mauja of Nabarangpur Tehsil. The chief guest distributed Vasundhara Patta to 20 beneficiaries of Keshariguda Mauja on this occasion. The Honorable Member of Parliament in his speech said that this railway

project will fulfill the long-standing demand and dream of the people of Nabarangpur district and the construction of the railway will begin soon. It is to be noted that the proposed Junagarh-Nabarangpur, Nabarangpur-Jaypur and Malkangiri-Bhadrachalam railway lines with a total length of 460 km are the second largest railway projects in independent India.

The seed farm will extend a hand of cooperation for the revival: MP

Jajpur road (Correspondent) Sukinda Seed Farm Workers' union will hold a huge gathering. Sukinda Seed Farm, which once gained special success in the field of seed production in the Asian continent, is in a dilapidated condition. The life of the farmers has been pushed into the dark. On the other hand, it has been seen that hope has been revived in the minds of the workers after Jajpur MP Rabi Narayan Behera expressed his support for the revival of Sukinda Seed Farm by saying that all kinds of cooperation will be done for the revival of Sukinda Seed Farm. It is worth noting that



Sukinda Seed Farm in Damodarapur, Sukinda Block, Jajpur District has been established since 1948 and once held a place in the Asian continent in seed production. And the farmer empowerment department has been neglected. And the said farm, which had grain storage with the ability to

produce two crops and various types of seeds, has now become a pasture land. From Sukinda, the lives of 20 villages workers who depend on the seed farm from Sukinda are like a pot of rice. Sukinda seed farm workers have expressed concern about this. Under the Adviser of Sukinda fsm

sramik sangh of Biswanath Patra, adviser of the labor federation, a huge workers' meeting has been held in the courtyard of the seed farm with nearest 20 villages women workers. Indramani Mahant, Kainta Mahant, Draupadi Naik, Malati Mahant, Tumuni Dehuri, Raibarihanaga, Minjari

Munda, Reena Munda, Mamata Naik, Sumati Naik, Savita Munda Bhabani Patra, social activist Rina Samal, Rabindra Patra, lawyer and native student youth front state president bibhrant biswsjit and Sukinda Seed Farm Workers Federation. Jajpur MP Rabi Narayan Behera joined and social worker and former councilor Prasanna Samal (Babuli) of Basnagar city. And the MP of Jajpur offered to cooperate in all kinds of ways in relation to how to do the farming work in Sukinda Seed Farm as soon as possible. And MP Rabi Narayan Behera as the advisor of Seed Farm Workers Federation, MP Rabi Narayan Behera declared.

Utkal Journalists Association's protest for fulfillment for 6 demands

Malkangiri correspondent: On May 1, the Utkal Journalists' Association held a protest across the state, wearing black badges, demanding the fulfillment of the long-standing demands of journalists. The Malkangiri district branch also held a peaceful protest in all blocks, wearing black badges. On May 29, the association held a protest procession with six demands and submitted demand letters to the Chief Minister from all 30 districts. After this, on Labor Day, journalists from 7 blocks wore black badges and conveyed their demands to the government. These demands include restructuring of the accreditation committee and amendment in the existing law to recognize qualified journalists,

enactment of a journalist protection law, monthly pension of Rs 15,000 for journalists above 60 years of age, establishment of Odisha Press Academy and construction of a building



in Bhubaneswar to provide low-cost accommodation for journalists, inclusion of retired journalists and their family members in the Gopabandhu Health Insurance Scheme, and increasing the death benefit amount to Rs 10 lakh. The association has said that if these demands are not met, the agitation will be intensified in the coming days.

Elderly Man Arrested for Alleged Sexual Assault of Mentally Challenged Woman in Turekela

Kantabanji, correspondence : A shocking case of alleged sexual exploitation has surfaced from Pakhanmuda village under Turekela police limits in Odisha's Balangir district, where a 70-year-old man has been arrested for allegedly assaulting a 27-year-old mentally challenged woman. According to police sources, the victim, identified as Tilamati Majhi (27), who is reported to be mildly mentally challenged, had been residing for the past one year with the accused, Pita Majhi (70), described as her "sworn grandfather" from the same village. The matter came to light after the victim's elder sister filed a complaint stating that Tilamati is currently around 27 weeks pregnant. During the course of inquiry, it was revealed that in November 2025, the accused had allegedly confessed to the victim's elder sister that he and the victim had been living together as husband and wife at his daughter's residence. Following the complaint, police registered a case and launched an investigation. The accused was taken into custody on April 30, 2026, and later produced before the court.

Health Minister Visits Patients Affected by Diarrhea and Vomiting

Jajpur (Correspondent) : Today, Health and Family Welfare Minister Dr. Mukesh Mahaling visited Jajpur district and inspected the District Headquarters Hospital. He also went to the diarrhea ward and met patients who had fallen ill due to diarrhea and vomiting. According to preliminary reports, around 50 people from Patapur area under Dasarathpur block in Jajpur district fell ill after consuming contaminated food and were admitted to the District Headquarters Hospital. Along with the Health Minister, Jajpur MP Dr. Rabindra Narayan Behera and District Collector Ambar Kumar Kar also visited the hospital and enquired about the health condition of the patients. Minister



Mahaling interacted directly with the patients and assured them that the government would provide all necessary medical treatment. To address the situation, he held discussions with health department officials and the Chief District Medical Officer. He directed officials to collect water and food samples from the affected area and conduct tests to determine the exact cause of the outbreak. He also advised the public not to panic. Meanwhile, teams from the Health and Family Welfare

Department, Maharaja Jajati Keshari Medical College, and the CDMO office are closely monitoring the situation. Special care is being taken for affected children, and efforts are being made to ensure that all patients recover and return home safely, the Minister stated. Additionally, as per the instructions of the District Collector, financial assistance from the Chief Minister's Relief Fund has been provided to the families of the deceased in the Patapur area.

Naveen Patnaik felicitates two women sarpanches of Belgaon and Pochilima in Hinjili

Goplapur (correspondent) The leader of the opposition party Naveen Patnaik, felicitated two women sarpanches of Belgaon and Pochilima panchayats under Hinjili constituency at Naveen's residence today. It is noteworthy that in the Panchayat Progress Index 2023-24 report published by the Central Government, Hinjiluta Pochilima panchayat of Ganjam was awarded as the best panchayat in the country, while Belgaon panchayat was also awarded for



outstanding services in the field of drinking water supply. Today, at Naveen's residence, Leader of the Opposition and Hinjilikatu MLA Naveen Patnaik felicitated Belgaon Panchayat Sarpanch Laxmi Sahu and Pochilima Panchayat Sarpanch

Ranjita Kumari Das and Samiti member Aarti Nayak. BJD's Asika MP candidate Ranjita Sahu, Hinjili Block President Durga Prasanna Mohanty, Debananda Mohapatra, Ramakrishna Goud were prominently present in the program.

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 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

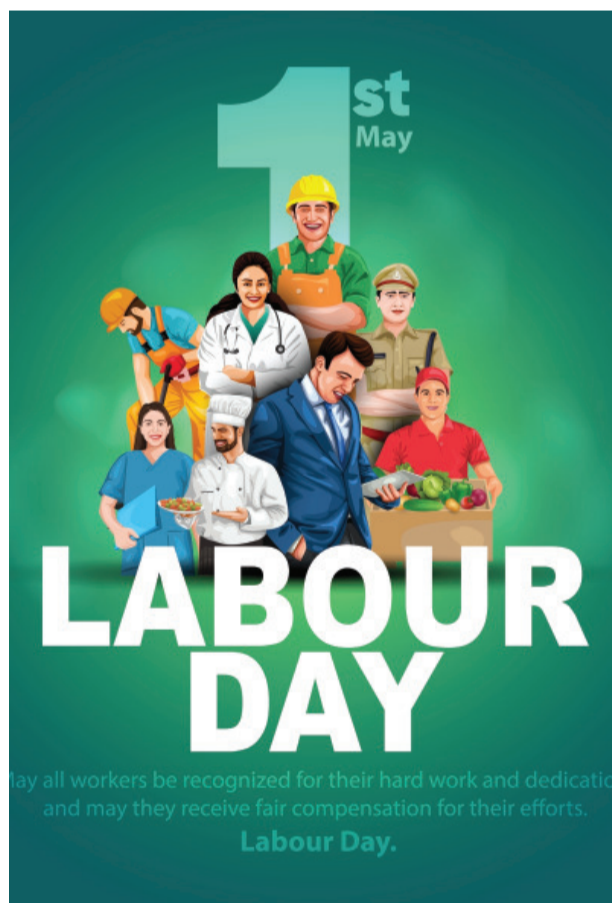
May 1st, observed globally as International Workers' Day, is not merely a ceremonial date.

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.

2 TONS OF GANJA SEIZED IN GAJAPATI FOREST RAID, RS 2-CR HAUL BUSTED

Paralakhemundi, (Correspondent) In a major crackdown on illegal narcotics trade, a police team led by SDPO R. Udayagiri, Rakesh Sahoo, IPS, carried out a high-impact raid in the forested areas near Antarva Girls High School on Saturday, seizing a massive consignment of contraband ganja valued at over Rs 2 crore. Acting on credible intelligence, personnel from Adava and Mohana Police Stations launched a coordinated operation in the dense forest belt, resulting in the recovery of 80 bags of ganja weighing approximately



2002 kg—amounting to more than 2 metric tonnes. The haul marks one of the largest seizures in the region in recent times, dealing a significant blow to organized drug trafficking networks operating in the district. A case (No. 91/2026) has been registered at Adava

Police Station in connection with the seizure. Police sources said that efforts are underway to trace and apprehend the culprits involved in the illicit trade, while further investigation is in progress to unearth the larger network behind the smuggling racket.

Workers Rally for Rights as Labour Day Observed in Bolangir

Bolangir, (Correspondent): The Bolangir Construction Workers' Association observed International Labour Day with enthusiasm on Friday at the Kosal Kala Mandal ground. The programme began with a massive procession that moved through different parts of the town before culminating in a public meeting at the venue. The meeting, presided over by association president Shambhu Nag, was attended by Zilla Parishad Chairperson

Debaki Sahu as the chief guest. Municipality Chairperson Lika Sahu joined as guest of honour, while senior advocate and labour leader Pramod Mishra and journalist Sandip Kuanr addressed the gathering as keynote speakers. Speakers highlighted that workers form the backbone of the nation and play a crucial role in its development. They noted that despite constitutional provisions ensuring welfare and rights for labourers, many workers continue to be deprived of

their legitimate entitlements. Emphasising unity, they urged the labour community to come together and intensify their struggle for securing their rights. Earlier, association secretary Sadhu Mahanand delivered the welcome address. Among others present were vice-president Sarathi Pradhan and members Murali Mahakur, Gajin Bagarti, Bijay Mahanand, Haribandhu Dharua, Debashankar Bag, Duryodhan Bagarti, Shankar Deep, Abhimanyu Nand and Sushant Nand.

Leak Before Exam Day: Outsourcing Worker Suspended in Boudh

BOUDH (Correspondent): A private postgraduate (PG) examination at Panchayat College, Boudh was disrupted after a question paper leak came to light. According to reports, an outsourcing employee has been suspended for allegedly leaking the question paper to a female student one day before the exam. The incident has triggered strong reactions among students, many of whom expressed frustration over the breach. As a result, the examination for the affected subject has been postponed. An investigation is currently underway, and authorities have stated that further details will emerge following a thorough inquiry.

Boudh Journalists Wear Black Badges in Protest on May 1

BOUDH (Correspondent): On May 1, Journalists in Boudh district have begun a protest by wearing black badges over various demands. Wearing black badges, they attended all government programs today as a mark of protest. Despite repeated demands, the issues faced by journalists have not been resolved. The

Boudh District Journalists' Association has alleged that while journalists in other states of India receive various benefits, those in Odisha are being deprived of such facilities. Under the leadership of President Debashish Purohit, journalists in Boudh district staged a demonstration wearing black badges. They have demanded the



reconstitution of the accreditation committee and amendments to existing laws to grant wider recognition to eligible journalists at both district and state levels.

Protest to Save Mahanadi held at Maa Bisweswari Temple premises on the banks of Bhargavi River

Nimapada, (Correspondent): A protest titled "Save Mahanadi" was organized at the premises of Maa Bisweswari Temple on the banks of the Bhargavi River in Haripur, under Nimapada block of Puri district. The demonstration was jointly conducted by the Mahanadi Banchao Movement Committee and the Open Learning System. The protesters demanded justice for Odisha, urged that water be released from Chhattisgarh, and called for an immediate resolution of the water dispute.

It is worth mentioning that between 2007 and 2016, the construction of a dam at Kalma in the upper reaches of the



Mahanadi in Chhattisgarh led to water scarcity in Odisha. As a result, lakhs of farmers, fishermen, and people dependent on drinking water faced severe hardship, leading to protests at various places by different organizations. During the previous government's tenure, in 2017, a tribunal was formed through the Supreme Court to resolve the Mahanadi water dispute. However, between

2018 and 2026, although the tribunal visited twice, it did not receive cooperation from the Chhattisgarh government. Odisha requires 1.74 million acre-feet of water, but the tribunal has not yet provided any solution. To address this issue urgently, today's protest was organized by the Mahanadi Banchao Committee and the Open Learning System. A memorandum addressed to the

Chairman of the Mahanadi Water Disputes Tribunal, Justice Bela M. Trivedi, was submitted through the Nimapada Tehsildar. The members of the Mahanadi Committee, along with Prakash Rath, convener of the Dhanua-Bhargavi Protection Forum, warned that if the issue is not resolved immediately, a larger movement will be launched in the coming days.

HSC annual examination Kalahandi soars to 98% pass rate

Bhabanipatna: (Correspondent) This year the parents of Matric Board Examinee of Odisha's Kalahandi district showered with lot of dream for huge success of their child scoring near about 98% pass rate in HSC class-X annual examination. This successful achievement message "the pass rate of student in HSC class-X annual examination. 97.86% has been giving immense pleasure in the sphere of kith and kins of achievers. The data shows -out of 20,968 appeared student in examination the A1 grade is 118 and A2 1276, B1 -3616, B2-5077, C-5302, D-3513, E-1246 are respectively.

KALABAI SAKHI FURY IN GAJAPATI, 1 KILLED

Paralakhemundi: (Correspondent): A severe Kalbaisakhi storm unleashed havoc across Gajapati district, resulting in one death and leaving another person critically injured after a massive tree collapsed on a roadside shop in Baghasala village under Gosani block. According to reports, the incident occurred during heavy rain and gusty winds on Friday evening. Y. Srinu, a local shopkeeper, was inside his shop when Y. Manmadha Rao took shelter there to escape the downpour. Suddenly, a large tree behind the shop was uprooted by strong winds and fell onto the structure, trapping both men. Villagers rushed to the spot and began



rescue efforts, later joined by the Paralakhemundi Fire Brigade. Using cutting equipment, rescuers managed to pull out Srinu in a critical condition. He was immediately shifted to the District Headquarters Hospital. However, Manmadha Rao was later found

dead under the debris. Police from Gurandi station reached the site and have started an investigation into the incident. In a separate mishap on April 30 night, lightning strikes during the storm killed three bulls and critically injured another in Paratoda village under

Gumma block. The cattle, belonging to farmer Timaya Bhuyan, were sheltering in a cowshed when the lightning struck. The loss of the bulls is estimated to exceed Rs 1 lakh. Villagers have urged the government to provide compensation to the affected farmer.

Odisha 2026 Matric results Published, overall pass rate at 95.33%

Cuttack (Correspondent): In a remarkable achievement, girls have outshone boys in the Odisha Matriculation results for the year 2026 that was announced today i.e. Saturday (May 2). The results, which were officially declared by the Minister of School and Mass Education, show that the pass rate for girls surpasses that of their counterparts, continuing a growing trend of academic excellence among female students in the state. A total of 2,63,222 female students have successfully passed the



matriculation exams, while 2,56,029 male students secured their pass. This represents a slight edge in favor of the girls, highlighting their consistent performance across Odisha's educational landscape. In terms of district performance, Gajapati district has emerged as the leader, boasting an impressive

pass rate of 99%. It tops the charts, with many schools in the district achieving a 100% success rate. On the other hand, Keonjhar district recorded the lowest pass rate this year. The overall state pass rate stands at 95.33%, with 5,19,251 students passing out of 5,36,306 who

appeared for the exam. This includes students across various grades, with significant numbers achieving excellent scores: 2,456 students in A1, 15,681 in A2, 43,565 in B1, 86,103 in B2, 1,29,803 in C, 1,46,152 in D, and 95,481 in E grade. This year's matriculation exam saw 5,44,670 students filling out forms, with 8,364 students absent from the exams. Despite the challenges faced by some regions, such as Keonjhar district, the overall state performance has been impressive, with 87.3% of students passing.

Jindal Stainless' Hisar and Jajpur units earn top honours at IMC Ramkrishna Bajaj National Quality Award

Jajpur, (Correspondent): Jindal Stainless, India's leading stainless steel manufacturer, has been conferred with multiple honours at the prestigious IMC Ramkrishna Bajaj National Quality Award (RBNQA) 2025, further strengthening its position as a benchmark for operational excellence, quality systems, and performance-led manufacturing. The

awards were presented at a ceremony organised by the IMC Chamber of Commerce and Industry in Mumbai on April 30, 2026, where legendary cricketer Sunil Gavaskar was present as Chief Guest. The company's Hisar unit secured the Overall Trophy, along with the 'Excellence' certificate in the 'Operations' category. As a reflection of sustained progress in

business excellence and performance improvement, the Jajpur unit won the Performance Excellence Trophy 2025 in the 'Manufacturing' category—a second consecutive year of recognition for the plant. The recognition followed a rigorous assessment process conducted by the Board of Examiners of the IMC RBNQA Trust across key parameters including



leadership, strategy, customer focus, operations, and business results. Commenting on the achievement,

Managing Director, Jindal Stainless, Mr Abhyuday Jindal, said, "This recognition is a proud milestone for Jindal Stainless, underscoring our commitment to strong systems, discipline, and the performance culture we have institutionalised across our operations. We remain focused on fostering a culture of excellence and building globally competitive capabilities that create long-term value for all stakeholders." Commenting

on the recognition, Unit Head - Hisar, Jindal Stainless, Mr Vijay Bindlish, said, "The RBNQA Overall Trophy validates the robust systems and operational capabilities at Hisar that enables performance at scale. Our efforts to build a safe and inclusive workplace, especially enhanced well-being facilities for women employees, were also recognised as a key strength. We remain focused on strengthening our processes and setting higher

benchmarks in operations and manufacturing." Speaking on the achievement, Unit Head - Jajpur, Jindal Stainless, Mr Deepak Agrawal, said, "Achieving recognition at IMC RBNQA for a second consecutive year reflects our focus on continuous improvement, manufacturing excellence, and long-term value creation. We remain committed to setting higher standards in operational performance." The IMC

Ramkrishna Bajaj National Quality Award is among India's most respected recognitions for business excellence. Instituted by the IMC Chamber of Commerce and Industry, it is modelled on globally recognised excellence frameworks and honours organisations that demonstrate sustained excellence in leadership, strategy execution, customer orientation, operational performance, and measurable outcomes.

Bombay HC quashes 2010 FIR against Shekhar Suman, Bharti Singh over 'Rasgulla, Dahi Bhalla' comedy act



The Bombay High Court has quashed a 2010 FIR registered against actor Shekhar Suman and comedian Bharti Singh over alleged objectionable remarks made during a television comedy programme aired on Sony Entertainment Television (SET). The FIR, registered at Pydhonie Police Station, stemmed from a complaint alleging that expressions such as "Ya Allah! Rasgulla! Dahi Bhalla!" used in an episode of 'Comedy Circus Ka Jadoo' had hurt religious sentiments. The complaint had invoked Section 295-A read with Section 34 of the Indian Penal Code (IPC). In its order pronounced on April 29, the High Court held that the comedy show was a "family entertainment programme" and the expressions used were part of a scripted humorous act, without any deliberate or malicious intent to outrage religious feelings. The court observed that Section 295-A requires the presence of "deliberate and malicious intention" to insult religious beliefs, and stated that such essential ingredients were absent in the present case. It is asserted that the said programme was not intended to cause offence or hurt the sentiments of any religion, caste, community, or section of society," the court said, adding that stray expressions in a performance cannot be read in isolation. "It is further submitted that prior to September 2010, the programme "Comedy Circus Ka Jadoo" was telecast under

the broader title "Comedy Circus", which has been aired on SET since the year 2007 under various formats such as "Comedy Circus Ke Superstar", "Comedy Circus Teen Ka Tadka", and others, with certain modifications in presentation. The essential format of the programme consists of pairs or groups of performers, generally comprising two or three artists, who perform acts across episodes, which are then evaluated by judges appointed for that purpose," as per the order. It was informed by the concerned police officer that the complaint lodged by Mohd. Imran Dadani Rasabi alleged that a programme telecast on 20 November 2010 at about 9 pm contained certain expressions, including the words "Ya Allah! Rasgulla! Dahi Bhalla!", which were perceived to have offended the religious sentiments of members of the Muslim community. Based on such a complaint, the matter was forwarded to Pydhonie Police Station, which resulted in the registration of the impugned FIR. The bench further noted that terms like "Rasgulla" and "Dahi Bhalla" are commonly known food items without any religious connotation, and their use in a rhyming comedic context could not reasonably be interpreted as inciting religious animosity. The court also observed that there was no material to establish shared criminal intent under Section 34 of the IPC, and held that continuation of proceedings would amount to abuse of process of law. The petitioners had additionally argued that a prior sanction under Section 196 of the Code of Criminal Procedure was mandatory for prosecution under Section 295-A, which had not been obtained in this case.

Anupam Kher unveils 551st film 'Flicker', says it feels like "first step again"

Legendary actor Anupam Kher has announced his 551st film titled 'Flicker', describing the project as marking a fresh beginning and feels like "the first step again". Taking to Instagram, Kher shared the first look at his latest project. Despite an extensive filmography spanning over 550 films, he said Flicker "feels like the first step again." Reflecting on his long career, the actor noted that he has consistently chosen to challenge himself rather than repeat earlier work. "FLICKER! Film number 551. And yet... it feels like the first step again. I have always believed that if you don't challenge yourself... you slowly start repeating yourself. So I chose the harder road. To reinvent... not just the actor in

real. FLICKER is that search. Extraordinary in its spirit. Quiet in its preparation. The story... for now... will remain a secret." The actor also confirmed that shooting for the film has already begun, while keeping details of the storyline under wraps. "The story... for now... will remain a secret. But I promise you when it reaches you, it will stay with you." Kher further sought blessings from his fans, expressing hopes for their continued love and support. "Today is Day 1. A new beginning. A new leap of faith. As always... I need your love. Your blessings. Your good wishes. Wish me luck. I need it! #Flicker #Day1 #551stFilm #NewBeginnings" Alongside 'Flicker', the actor has a busy slate ahead, including projects like 'Khosla Ka Ghosla 2', the sequel to the much-loved 2006 film directed by Dibakar Banerjee.



me... but the person I am becoming," he shared. Describing the film as a search for something deeper, he added, "To step into uncertainty. To make it difficult. To search for something...

White Dhokla



Ingredients:

- Rice Soaked 3 cup
- Urad Dal Soaked 1 cup
- Asafetida 2 tsp
- Sugar 1 tsp
- Water as required
- Ginger 1 inch
- Green chili 4-5 no.
- Salt to taste
- Yogurt 2 tbsp
- Eno ½ tsp
- Black pepper crushed 1 tsp
- Red chili powder 1 tsp
- Coriander leaves chopped 1 tbsp.

Method:

1. Take grinder jar, add soaked rice, urad dal, asafoetida, sugar and water and grind smoothly.
2. Remove in a bowl, cover it and keep it aside to ferment for overnight.
3. Take grinder jar, add ginger, green chilli and little water and grind coarsely and add to the fermented batter.
4. Add salt and Yogurt and mix well.
5. Add eno and mix well. Keep it aside.
6. Meanwhile Take big pot, place the stand and add water.
7. Tie the cloth on lid and cover the pot.
8. Grease the tin with oil and pour the prepared batter, add crushed black pepper, red chilli powder and chopped coriander on top.
9. Place the tin on prepared steamer, cover the lid and cook till 15-20 min.
10. After 15-20 min. remove the tin from steamer, brush some oil on top and keep it aside to cool down.
11. Cut into pieces and serve.

weight loss plan that will help in setting the overall goals for your weight loss journey as a couple. Moreover, they not only provide diet plans but also suggest workout routines that you can do together, focusing on your holistic fitness goals.

2. Meal Prep as a Team

Diet is a major element influencing weight loss. Instead of relying on unhealthy convenience foods, make meal prep a joint activity. Plan your weekly meals together, go grocery shopping as a group, and spend time preparing healthful meals. Not only does this encourage healthier eating habits, but it also improves your friendship as you work together to achieve a common objective. Experiment with new recipes, try other cuisines and make meals pleasurable and rewarding for both of you.

3. Stay Active Together

Physical activity is vital for weight loss and overall health. Find activities you both enjoy and incorporate them into your daily routine. Whether it's going for a walk or jogging in the park, taking a fitness class together, or dancing in the living room, keeping active as a pair makes exercising more enjoyable and inspiring. Additionally, ensure that you keep your house clean together. Avoid stocking an abundance of tempting snacks and motivate each other to adopt healthier habits.

4. Support Each Other Through Challenges

Weight loss journeys are often accompanied by challenges and setbacks. It's crucial to support each other during these times and celebrate your successes together. Be each other's cheerleaders, offer words of encouragement, and provide emotional support when needed. Decide one cheat day where you can enjoy your favourite foods, reinforcing the idea of rewarding yourselves within your fitness journey.

5. Communicate Openly and Honestly

Effective communication is key to any successful relationship, including your health and fitness journey. Be open and honest with each other about your struggles, temptations, and achievements. Discuss any concerns or obstacles that may arise and work together to find solutions. By maintaining open lines of communication, you'll build trust, deepen your connection, and overcome obstacles more effectively as a couple.

5 weight loss tips for couples to achieve their health goals together



5 weight loss tips for couples

1. Set Realistic Goals Together

Before starting any weight loss regimen, sit down with your

partner and discuss your goals. Set realistic and achievable goals that are compatible with both your lifestyles and schedules. Whether you're trying to lose weight or change your eating habits, make sure your goals are precise, measurable, achievable, relevant, and time-bound. You can also opt for a group or family

partner and discuss your goals. Set realistic and achievable goals that are compatible with both your lifestyles and schedules. Whether you're trying to lose weight or change your eating habits, make sure your goals are precise, measurable, achievable, relevant, and time-bound. You can also opt for a group or family



Subarnapur competitor wins medal in 5th State Level Taekwondo Championship

SUBARNAPUR (Correspondent)--- Odisha Taekwondo, the only association of Odisha affiliated to India Taekwondo, and the Sports and Youth Affairs Department, Government of Odisha, with the approval and support of the Odisha Government, organized the 5th Odisha Taekwondo State Level Championship at Jawaharlal Nehru Indoor Stadium, Cuttack from April 28 to April 30. A total of more than 800

sportspersons from 25 different districts participated in this approved competition and 120 coaches and managers participated. In the said competition, 9 players participated from Subarnapur Taekwondo Association Arts Temple, out of which Om Parimita Mirdha won the gold medal, Jaya Laxmi Mirdha and Pratyasha Behera won the silver medal and Sagun Jagat, Sahul Khura won the bronze medal, making Subarnapur proud. It is

not known whether the successful contestants will participate in the upcoming national level competition. Similarly, four other competitors from Subarnapur, Shruti Kumbhar, Sai Swadhi, Sai Ivan, Anmol Mishra, also scored good points with their excellent performance but could not win a single medal and they returned with inspiration to achieve their goals in the coming days. Behind this success, the hard work, well-organized training and constant motivation of Arts Temple

Subarnapur coach and Subarnapur Taekwondo secretary Susanta Kumbhar play an important role. In this success, Arts Temple Subarnapur Taekwondo President Abhishek Nayak, Art Temple and Subarnapur Taekwondo founder Master Gyana Ranjan Mohanty have congratulated everyone. Founder Master Mohanty has stated that continuous efforts will continue to develop national and international level taekwondo talents from Subarnapur in the coming days.

India Will Carry A Winning Habit Into Women's T20 World Cup, Says BCCI Secretary Saikia

Mumbai: BCCI secretary Devajit Saikia has expressed confidence that the Harmanpreet Kaur-led side will carry forward the winning habit from last year's ODI World Cup triumph at home into the upcoming Women's T20 World Cup, to be played from June 12 to July 5 in England. "We have prepared a very strong team. So, I hope India will do excellently well. India is playing three T20I matches before the World Cup. That is a good preparation, and after that, there will be two warm-up matches before the actual World Cup starts. "So, with five matches before the World Cup, the Indian team will get fully acclimatised in English conditions. I am sure with the confidence they are carrying after the World Cup victory last year in the ODIs in



India. So, this team is with a positive mindset. They will be travelling on May 22. "I hope they will do excellently and bring a lot of pride to our country. Definitely, they have got the taste of success, and that is very important. If you start winning, then that has to become a habit. So I hope this team will carry that habit to England and also bring another trophy to BCCI and to the country," said Saikia to reporters on the sidelines of the Women's T20 World Cup squad announcement.

Saikia highlighted the depth created by the Women's Premier League (WPL) in terms of talent pool. "Look, there is a fitness issue, but we are tackling it. Our pool has become very big since WPL has started. This is the T20 World Cup, T20 format. So WPL has removed a lot of players from our team. Today, the selector has two injured players, but they get the same standard player for three replacements. So that is a very good thing. "It is a very good pool, so one or two players can get injured, but there is an

adequate, sufficient, and quality replacement for the players. BCCI is always positive. I have seen the positive signs of our team. They will definitely work hard to win the trophy and bring it to India," he added. On fast-tracking Vaibhav Sooryavanshi into the men's T20I team, Saikia said, "Look, they have started their career, and our selectors are going everywhere. They are noticing all the performances. That's why all five of our selectors are physically present in all the IPL matches, because if a new talent comes up, they should be seen. That's why we are trying. "It's a very good thing that there are already many players in Indian white-ball cricket.

Kuldeep Kumar sets national pole vault record, raises the bar to 5.41m

Bhubaneswar: Kuldeep Kumar representing Madhya Pradesh won a battle of wits to set national men's pole vault record on Day-One of inaugural Indian Indoor Open Combined Events and Pole Vault Competition at Bhubaneswar's Indoor Stadium on Saturday. The 21 years old cleared the height of 5.41m in his first attempt to better the national record of 5.40m set last year by Dev Kumar Meena. Kuldeep Kumar also improved the national indoor record of 5.30m set earlier in March by Reegan G of Tamil Nadu. The newly crowned champion missed all three attempts at 5.46m. "It was a good day for me," says Kuldeep Kumar after breaking the national record. Dev Kumar Meena was in good form. Earlier this year



he had equalled his national record (5.40m) in March in Taiwan. He was the pre-event favourite but settled for the bronze medal today. It was the first indoor competition for Kuldeep Kumar. He found it challenging to get a good rhythm on the fast Mondo track here at Bhubaneswar's indoor stadium. "It was a good

experience today," says Kuldeep Kumar. The contest for gold medal was between three athletes---Dev Kumar Meena, Kuldeep Kumar and Reegan G. As the competition progressed, Dev Kumar Meena struggled and settled for bronze (5.20m). Reegan G made attempts to cross 5.35m, but missed all three chances. He settled for silver

(5.25m). Kuldeep Kumar cleared 5.35m in his second attempt. It gave a big boost to his confidence. He raised the bar to 5.41m, setting a positive tone for the major outdoor domestic competition at the end of May in Ranchi, Jharkhand. The pre-event favourite and former national record holder Dev Kumar Meena says it wasn't his day. But

IPL 2026: Anshul Kamboj's 3-32, Noor Ahmad's 2-26 Help CSK Restrict MI To 159/7

Chennai: Anshul Kamboj claimed 3-32 while Noor Ahmad chipped in with 2-26 as Chennai Super Kings (CSK) produced a disciplined bowling performance to restrict Mumbai Indians to 159/7 in their IPL 2026 clash at the MA Chidambaram Stadium on Saturday. On a two-paced pitch, CSK pulled things back after a brisk start from MI, who were 90/2 at the halfway mark, but then faltered in the last ten overs via 69/5. CSK's pacers were clinical in bowling hard lengths and yorkers. For MI, Naman Dhir top-scored with 57 off 37 balls, but did get stuck in the later stages alongside Hardik Pandya, whose timing deserted him big time. From the word go, CSK were on the money, despite Shivam



Dube being out of sorts in his fielding. MI were jolted early when Will Jacks fell to Kamboj in the second over. Ryan Rickelton counter-attacked by smashing five to race to 37 before Noor Ahmad dismissed him in the seventh over. Dhir joined forces with Suryakumar Yadav to keep the scoreboard

ticking before the latter perished to debutant Ramakrishna Ghosh for 21. At 90/2 after 10 overs, MI looked set for a big total until CSK bounced back. Tilak Varma's scratchy stay ended on five against Noor, while Dhir's standout knock was cut short by Jamie Overton's sharp off-

cutter and miscued to extra cover. Kamboj came in to remove Pandya and Robin Minz to complete a three-wicket haul. Trent Boult struck a six late on, but MI's innings fizzled out, as Kamboj and Noor ensured MI managed to reach a total that looked underwhelming given the start they had in the first ten overs.

Former F1 Driver And Paralympic Champion Zanardi Dies At 59

New Delhi: Former Formula 1 driver and Paralympic champion Alex Zanardi has passed away at the age of 59 on Saturday. Zanardi's family confirmed the news in a statement. They informed that the former champion passed away peacefully, surrounded by the love of his family and friends. Zanardi is known for his great comeback after losing both legs in a horrific crash in 2001, which ended his racing career. After the accident, he rebuilt his career and became a global icon in

Para cycling. He competed for Italy in the 2012 and 2016 Paralympics, winning four gold and two silver medals. The racing icon suffered severe injuries in a road accident in Italy in 2001, while riding his hand bike in Siena in northern Italy. "It is with deep sorrow that the family announces the passing of Alessandro Zanardi, which occurred suddenly yesterday evening, 1 May," Zanardi's family announced. "Alex passed away peacefully, surrounded by the love

of his family and friends. The family would like to express their heartfelt thanks to all those who are showing their support at this time and asks that their grief and privacy be respected during this period of mourning." The Italian was one of motorsport's most popular characters, competing in Formula 1 in the 1990s with Jordan, Minardi, Lotus, and Williams across 41 Grands Prix. His strongest stint was with Lotus in 1993 and 1994, with Zanardi scoring a career-best sixth-place finish in

Brazil. "I am deeply saddened by the passing of my dear friend Alex Zanardi. He was truly an inspirational person, as a human and as an athlete. I will always carry with me his extraordinary strength. He faced challenges that would have stopped anyone, yet he continued to look forward, always with a smile and a stubborn determination that inspired us all. While his loss is profoundly felt, his legacy remains strong," Formula 1 President and CEO Stefano Domenicali said in a statement. "

IPL 2026 penalty hits Kyle Jamieson after aggressive send-off to Vaibhav Sooryavanshi in Jaipur



NEW DELHI: Delhi Capitals fast bowler Kyle Jamieson has been penalised with one demerit point following a breach of the IPL Code of Conduct during the clash against Rajasthan Royals. The New Zealand international received the sanction for his conduct in Match No. 43 at the Sawai Mansingh Stadium. The incident occurred during the second over of the first innings after Jamieson dismissed the 15-year-old batting sensation, Vaibhav Sooryavanshi. Reports

suggest the tall pacer approached the young opener in an aggressive manner, using gestures that officials deemed potentially provocative. On this the match referee cited a violation of Article 2.5, which covers actions or language that disparage an opponent. Rajeev Seth, the designated match referee for this encounter, issued the formal warning along with the demerit point. Jamieson opted not to contest the charge, admitting to the Level 1 offence and accepting the penalty immediately.

While such high-intensity emotions are frequent in the high-stakes environment of the Indian Premier League, league officials maintain a strict stance on player interactions involving teenagers and debutants to preserve the spirit of the game. Sawai Mansingh Stadium has been a fortress for the Royals, but this season it has become a flashpoint for high-scoring chases and fiery individual rivalries. Despite the disciplinary setback for their lead pacer, Delhi Capitals managed to secure a dominant victory.

KISS Achieves 100% Success Rate in Matric Examination for 19 Consecutive Years

BHUBANESWAR, (Correspondent): The results of the matriculation examination conducted by the Board of Secondary Education, Odisha, were declared today. While the overall pass percentage across Odisha stands at 95.33%, the results of Kalinga Institute of Social Sciences (KISS) recorded a perfect 100% pass rate. Since its inception, KISS students have consistently achieved a 100% success rate in the matriculation



examination for 19 consecutive years. This year, a total of 2,031 students from the institution appeared for the exam. Among them, 50% secured more than 60% marks, while the remaining students

Particularly Vulnerable Tribal Groups (PVTGs) such as Saura, Bonda, Juanga, Khadia, Lodha, and Paudi Bhuyan also performed well this year. Out of them, 46 students passed in the first division. It is also noteworthy that students from the neighbouring state of Jharkhand, who are studying at KISS, performed well and achieved good results in the matriculation examination this year. Expressing his happiness over the results, KIIT and KISS Founder Dr. Achyuta

Samanta congratulated all the successful students. He stated that these students are the first generation in their families to receive formal education. The dedication of teachers, their continuous guidance, and the tireless efforts of students have strengthened their foundation, leading to such consistent success every year. Dr. Samanta also extended his gratitude to all the teachers and staff of KISS for their contributions.

NML Dulanga Marks Labour Day with Focus on Worker Welfare and Safety

Sundergarh: (Correspondent):- NML Dulanga celebrated Labour Day by honoring the dedication and contributions of its workforce at its mining premises. The programme commenced with a ceremonial pledge reaffirming the organization's commitment to the dignity of labour and adherence to safety standards. Addressing the gathering, organizational leaders appreciated the relentless efforts of workers and emphasized the importance of safety, discipline, and teamwork, encouraging continued



commitment to operational excellence. The event witnessed the presence of departmental heads and officials, reflecting unity across all levels. A prize distribution ceremony recognized outstanding performers, followed by refreshments to promote camaraderie. Additionally, the HR

Department conducted an awareness session for contract workers, highlighting key aspects of new labour codes, including wage slips and employment documentation. The celebration reinforced NML Dulanga's commitment to worker welfare, safety, and inclusive growth.

Aditya Aluminium Lapanga organized a mega health camp at Gumkarma in Ghichamura Panchayat

Sambalpur: (Correspondent):- Aditya Aluminium Lapanga and Swadhin Ekta Sanghthan jointly organized a mega health camp at Gumkarma in Ghichamura Panchayat. Through this program, the company has once again reaffirmed its commitment to total health care and welfare.



Institutes, Sambalpur. The camp was formally inaugurated by the Sarpanch of Ghichamura Panchayat Shri Rajiv Kisan. The camp was organized under the supervision of the CSR Head of Aditya Aluminium Lapanga Shri Ravi Niwas, Deputy Manager Shri Manoranjan Behera and Shri Sukant Mohapatra. Shri Rajiv Mishra, President, Swadhin Ekta Sanghthan, along with members of the CSR team of Aditya Aluminium Lapanga and Swadhin Ekta Sanghthan were

A team of skilled and renowned specialist doctors were present in this health camp and provided complete medical advice and medical services to the common people. In this team of doctors, Dr. Rosy Sathua (Physiotherapist), Dr. Sumit Kumar (Neurologist) and Dr. Abhishek Kumar (Beauty Specialist) were present and provided treatment.

The camp was supported by a physiotherapist, pharmacist, nursing and paramedical staff from Gayatri Group of

present. More than 105 patients from Gumkarma and nearby villages attended the camp and availed free medical consultation, diagnosis and medication. The aim of this initiative was to provide affordable and quality healthcare services to the rural people. Such initiatives under the CSR program of Aditya Aluminium Lapanga play a significant role in addressing the health needs of the region and building a strong community bond. The residents of Gumkarma village appreciated this great initiative.

Kotak Mahindra Bank Announces Results

Bhubaneswar (Correspondent): The Board of Directors of Kotak Mahindra Bank ("the Bank") approved the audited standalone and consolidated results for the quarter and financial year ended March 31, 2026, at the Board meeting held in Mumbai, today. The Bank's PAT for Q4FY26 increased to ₹4,027 crore, up 13% YoY from ₹3,552 crore in Q4FY25 (up 17% QoQ from ₹3,446 crore in Q3FY26). PAT for FY26 stood at ₹14,008 crore, up 2% YoY from ₹13,720 crore in FY25 (excluding gain on ZKGI divestment). Net Interest Income (NII) for Q4FY26 increased to ₹7,876 crore, up 8% YoY from ₹7,284 crore in Q4FY25 (up 4% QoQ from ₹7,565 crore in Q3FY26) and for FY26 increased to ₹30,010 crore, up 6% YoY from ₹28,342 crore in FY25. Net Interest

Margin (NIM) was 4.67% for Q4FY26 (4.97% for Q4FY25 and 4.54% for Q3FY26). NIM was 4.60% for FY26 (4.96% for FY25). Cost of funds was 4.45% for Q4FY26 (5.09% for Q4FY25 and 4.54% for Q3FY26). Cost of funds was 4.67% for FY26 (5.10% for FY25). Fees and services for Q4FY26 increased to ₹2,767 crore, up 6% YoY from ₹2,616 crore in Q4FY25 (up 9% QoQ from ₹2,549 crore in Q3FY26) and for FY26 increased to ₹9,981 crore, up 5% YoY from ₹9,530 crore in FY25. Operating expenses for Q4FY26 increased to ₹5,137 crore, up 3% YoY from ₹4,994 crore in Q4FY25 (up 2% QoQ from ₹5,023 crore in Q3FY26) and for FY26 increased to ₹19,566 crore, up 4% YoY from ₹18,754 crore in FY25. Cost to assets was 2.73%

MCL recognises Outstanding Performers on Miners Day 2026

Sambalpur: (Correspondent):- Mahanadi Coalfields Limited (MCL) celebrated Miners Day with grandeur, honouring the unwavering dedication of coal miners who power the nation's growth. The event, held at the company's headquarters on Friday evening by Jagannath Area, witnessed enthusiastic participation from top leadership, employees, and stakeholders. Shri Keshav Rao, Director (HR), Shri A.K. Behura, Director (Finance), and Shri S.K. Jha, Director (Technical/Operations), along with Area General Managers, senior executives, and members of the Joint Consultative Committee (Apex) were prominent



in presence. The dignitaries paid floral tributes at the coal miners' statue, saluting the courage and commitment of the nation's "energy warriors." In his address, Shri Rao congratulated Team MCL for achieving a remarkable "200MT hat-trick" in coal production, commending the collective dedication

and relentless efforts of the workforce. He also highlighted MCL's continued focus on employee welfare and the enhancement of workplace facilities. Emphasising MCL's role as the largest CSR contributor in Odisha, Shri Rao underscored the company's steadfast commitment to building sustainable social infrastructure and

uplifting local communities. While, Shri Behura and Shri Jha lauded the company's strong despatch performance during the past fiscal year and expressed confidence that MCL's collaborative spirit and operational excellence will drive even greater achievements in the years ahead. On this occasion, the dignitaries felicitated best

performing Areas & Projects of the company, employees for their outstanding performance and excellence during financial year 2025-26. A total of 76 awards, including individual and institutional recognitions, were presented to employees and contractor workers for exemplary performance and excellence. Ib Valley Area was conferred with the prestigious Malpuri Trophy for Best Overall Performance. Samaleswari Opencast Mines, Ib Valley Area was honoured as the Best Performing Opencast Mine, while Hirakhand-Bundia Underground Mines, Orient Area received the award for Best Performing Underground Mines.

TPCODL Enhances Power Reliability for Over 12,000 Consumers in Different Areas of Bhubaneswar

Bhubaneswar (Correspondent): TP Central Odisha Distribution Limited (TPCODL) has commissioned 2 RMUs (Ring Main Units) at Gothapatna PSS and Nuagaon Chowk, along with 4 km of underground cable network. The upgrade is benefiting around 12,000 consumers across Kantabada, Gothapatna, Bharatpur and nearby areas through improved reliability, faster fault isolation, reduced



outages and better voltage profile. In another initiative, TPCODL has commissioned a 63 kVA Distribution Substation Structure under Mukhya Mantri Shakti Bikash Yojana in Palashpur. Around 400 consumers in Palashpur village and Uttara, Bhubaneswar will benefit from improved and reliable power supply. These initiatives reaffirm TPCODL's commitment to delivering safe, reliable and quality power to its consumers.

UAE Telecom Giant Etisalat May Exit Pakistan

New Delhi: Leading UAE telecom major Etisalat is reviewing its investment in Pakistan, which could lead to its exit from Pakistan Telecom-munication Company Ltd (PTCL), according to a report in the local media. Insiders say Etisalat had indicated that the review is driven by a combination of global macroeconomic uncertainty, regional geopolitical tensions, and evolving capital allocation strategies among sovereign-linked investors, the report in the Dawn said. Etisalat's plans are still at the preliminary assessment stage, with no final decision taken as yet, the report stated. Asked for comment, PTCL told Dawn its long-term business plan had recently been approved by its board and shareholders. "PTCL is not aware of any change at this stage," the company said in its statement. For Pakistan, PTCL remains a strategically important entity, despite its mixed ownership — the government

Rohit Jain Named RBI Deputy Governor For Three-Year Term

New Delhi: The government has appointed Rohit Jain as a deputy governor of the Reserve Bank of India, according to an official notification. Jain's appointment will take effect from May 3 and will be for a tenure of three years, the notification said. He is currently serving as an executive director at the central bank. Jain succeeds T. Rabi

Sankar, who retired late last month. His portfolio allocation as deputy governor is yet to be announced. The appointment comes at a time when the central bank continues to focus on currency management and financial system stability. Meanwhile, RBI Governor Sanjay Malhotra — speaking at the 25th FIMMDA-PDAI Annual

Conference in Amsterdam, The Netherlands — said India's macroeconomic fundamentals remained strong because of consumption and sustained public investment, despite macroeconomic headwinds from geopolitical tensions. The RBI Governor warned that continued fiscal expansion abroad, together with rising

defence spending amid geopolitical tensions, could strain global fiscal sustainability. He cautioned that stretched valuations in some asset classes, especially in the technology sector, could pose broader risks for markets. The government's focus on capital expenditure has helped crowd in private investment and expand productive capacity, Malhotra said.