



Govt Rejects Claims Of Aadhaar Design Change, Calls Viral Posts Misleading **2**



Student Death At Engineering College Sparks Protests In Bhubaneswar; Kin Allege Foul Play **3**



IPL 2026: Gaikwad Hails Bowlers After CSK Beat MI, Lauds Kamboj, Noor For Good Show **7**



Mango Candy **6**



Nine Killed After Massive Fire At Four-Storey Building In Delhi's Vivek Vihar

New Delhi: Nine people were killed, and several were injured after a massive fire broke out at a four-storey building in Delhi's Vivek Vihar area early on Sunday morning, officials said. According to the police, seven people are currently receiving treatment at a nearby hospital. The fire broke out on the second floor of the building at around 4 a.m., after which 14 fire engines were dispatched to the scene. During the rescue and relief operations, over 10 people were rescued, officials said. Upon receiving the information, police staff, along with the Vivek Vihar SHO and ACP, immediately proceeded to the spot. The fire brigade and crime team also reached the spot at premises No. B-13, Vivek Vihar Phase I. They added that the fire was brought under control by 6 a.m., and the injured were taken



to a nearby hospital. Speaking to the reporters, DCP (Shahdara) Rajendra Prasad Meena said, "Early in the morning, around 4 a.m., a call was received about a fire. Fire tenders and local police were immediately rushed to the spot. It took about two hours to bring the fire under control, after which search operations were carried out... Six to seven injured people were shifted to a hospital for emergency treatment." "The search and rescue operations

are still underway," he added. During rescue and fire-extinguishing operations, 10/15 persons were rescued from the building, of whom two sustained minor injuries and were shifted to Guru Teg Bahadur Hospital for medical treatment. During the preliminary enquiry, it was found that nine persons have lost their lives. Further enquiry and proceedings at the spot are in progress. The officials said that the cause of the fire is not yet known.

Centre Releases Over Rs 17,744 Crore As Wage Payments Under MGNREGA

New Delhi: The Centre has released over Rs 17,744 crore as the first instalment towards the wage component for workers through direct benefit transfer under the Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Act (MGNREGA) for 2026-27, a senior official confirmed. For FY27, Rs 30,000 crore has been allocated to MGNREGA to clear pending dues before shifting to the upcoming V B - G R A M I N initiative, which has a budget of Rs 95,692 crore. By March 11, 2026, over Rs 81,500 crore was released for the financial year 2025-26, including Rs 65,875 crore for wages and Rs 15,627 crore for material and administration costs. While employment saw a monthly dip in early



FY27, as many as 43 crore person-days were approved for May 2026, which is higher than 30 crore person-days for April. Funds are directly credited to worker accounts via Direct Benefit Transfer (DBT), ensuring transparency. The government is transitioning to the VB-GRAMIN initiative, which promises 125 days of employment and

higher wages. A senior official said that Viksit Bharat - G R A M G is an "upgrade of MGNREGA", and the scheme balances the interests of both farmers and labourers by providing a statutory guarantee of 125 days of employment instead of 100 days, along with better wages, unemployment allowance and legal safeguards such as

payment of interest in case of delays. The Central Government has made the largest-ever budgetary provision of Rs 95,692 crore for the Viksit Bharat - G R A M G scheme, representing the Centre's share alone, he added. The Central Government has released more than Rs 7.81 lakh crore over the 10 years from 2014-15 to 2024-25, under MNREGA, which has

resulted in the creation of 8.07 crore rural assets. This represents a sharp increase from the allocation of Rs 2.13 lakh crore in the previous decade (2006-07 to 2013-14), which resulted in the creation of 1.53 crore rural assets, according to an official factsheet. The number of person-days of employment created under the scheme has gone up by 82 per cent to 3,029 crores. The annual allocation for the scheme jumped from Rs 1,660 crore in 2013-14 to Rs 86,000 crore in the Budget for 2025-26. The work taken up under MNREGA is related to agriculture and allied activities, natural resource management and rural infrastructure. Various water-related works such as check dams, farm ponds, community ponds and irrigation open wells are taken up under the scheme.

West Asia Crisis Sparks Debate Over Pakistan's 'Double Policy' Approach: Report

New Delhi: The ongoing crisis in West Asia has triggered a wider geopolitical debate over Pakistan's role in the region, according to a report analysts and observers increasingly questioned what they describe as a "dual" or "double policy" approach in Islamabad's foreign engagements. The debate gained traction after remarks by the External Affairs Minister S. Jaishankar, who reportedly referred to Pakistan as a "broker" in the crisis, drawing sharp reactions and renewed scrutiny of Islamabad's diplomatic positioning, according to a report by Assahifa. Experts cited in the report suggest that Pakistan has long attempted to project itself as a mediator in



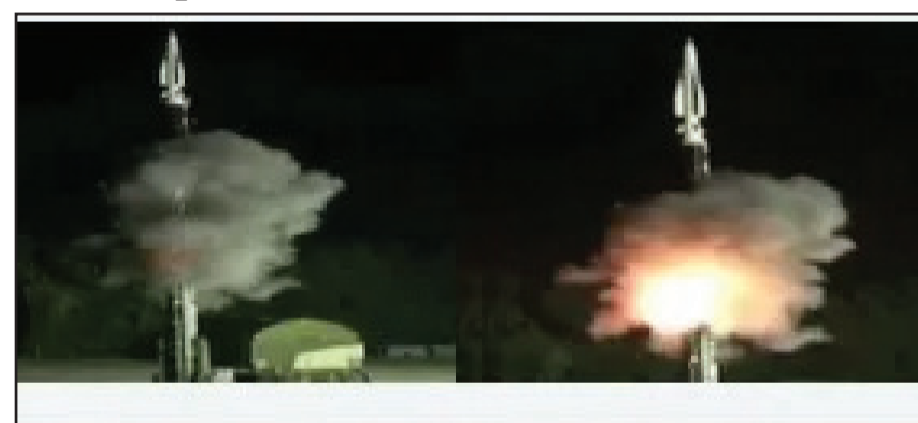
regional conflicts, including the current West Asia tensions. However, this role is often interpreted not as neutral diplomacy but as a pragmatic strategy aimed at securing strategic and economic advantages amid internal vulnerabilities such as economic fragility and reliance on international

financial support. Analysts argue that Islamabad's balancing act—maintaining ties with the US, China, and key Gulf nations—has constrained its strategic autonomy while enabling it to remain relevant in multiple geopolitical theatres. This multi-alignment, while offering short-term leverage, has

also led to perceptions of inconsistency in its foreign policy. In the context of the current crisis, Pakistan has reportedly offered to facilitate dialogue and act as a communication channel between Washington and Tehran. While such efforts have been framed as mediation, some observers view them as

an attempt to maintain influence without committing to any single side. The controversy has been further fuelled by reports and claims surrounding oil shipments and maritime activity in the Strait of Hormuz, with some analysts suggesting that such developments contribute to perceptions of conflicting interests being pursued simultaneously. Observers also point to a divergence between Pakistan's public rhetoric and diplomatic actions. While issuing strong statements condemning actions by Israel and expressing solidarity with Iran, Islamabad has simultaneously maintained engagement with Western powers, reinforcing the impression of "dual messaging".

India Successfully Tests Long-Range Hypersonic Anti-Ship Missile Off Odisha Coast



BHUBANESWAR, (Correspondent): India has successfully conducted the second test of its long-range hypersonic anti-ship missile (LR-ASHM) developed by DRDO. The test, conducted off the Odisha coast, validated the missile's two-stage hypersonic glide vehicle configuration. With a strike range exceeding 1,500 km and speeds of up to Mach 10, the missile enhances India's maritime defence

capabilities, particularly against regional competitors like China and Pakistan. While the DRDO and Ministry of Defence have not issued official statements, the BJP shared a video of the test, calling it a "sharp enhancement of India's hypersonic edge" and aligning with Prime Minister Modi's vision for a self-reliant India. The missile's average glide speed of Mach 5 enables it to bypass advanced radar and

interception systems. The LR-ASHM, capable of striking high-value targets such as aircraft carriers, uses a two-stage solid rocket system and a hypersonic glide vehicle. Its unpredictable flight paths, including low-altitude maneuvers, make it difficult to intercept. This test further strengthens India's defence self-reliance and highlights its progress in indigenous missile technology.

Chinese Man Survives 40 Hours Without Heartbeat in Rare Medical Case

NEW DELHI: A man in eastern China survived more than 40 hours without a heartbeat after doctors deployed advanced life-support systems. The rare case involved fulminant myocarditis, a severe inflammation of the heart muscle that can cause sudden cardiac failure. The

patient, in his 40s, collapsed from cardiac arrest and did not respond to repeated defibrillation attempts. Doctors placed him on extracorporeal membrane oxygenation (ECMO), which oxygenates blood outside the body, and an intra-aortic balloon pump to maintain circulation. These machines acted as

artificial heart and lungs, sustaining his organs until his cardiac function returned naturally. For nearly two days, the medical team kept him alive without a heartbeat. After three weeks of treatment, he walked out of the hospital without major complications such as stroke or kidney failure.

Centre Urges Calm Amid Heatwave Concerns, Advises Preparedness Over Panic

NEW DELHI: Amid growing concerns over rising temperatures across India, the Centre has urged citizens to remain calm and focus on precautionary measures rather than panic. Union Minister Jitendra Singh stated that while some regions may experience above-

normal temperatures in May, the overall situation remains manageable with awareness and timely action. He emphasised that weather advisories are based on scientific data from the India Meteorological Department, and misinterpretation of

forecasts often leads to unnecessary alarm. According to the IMD's outlook, heatwave conditions will not be uniform nationwide. Parts of southern peninsular India, the northeast, and northwest regions are expected to see above-normal temperatures.

However, several areas may experience normal or even below-normal temperatures due to intermittent rainfall and thunderstorms. Regions likely to face heatwave conditions include the Himalayan foothills, parts of the east coast such as Odisha, coastal Andhra Pradesh, Tamil Nadu, and

states like Gujarat and Maharashtra. These areas could experience two to four additional heatwave days during May. During these periods, parts of northwest, central, and western India, along with the eastern coastline, may witness heightened heat conditions.

EC Appoints Counting Observers Ahead Of Vote Count In Bengal

Kolkata: A day before the counting of votes for the West Bengal Assembly polls, the Election Commission has appointed a large number of counting observers to ensure the smooth conduct of the process. Counting of votes will begin at 8 a.m. on Monday. Votes for 293 Assembly seats in the state will be counted. In a bid to facilitate the process, the Election Commission has appointed counting observers. A detailed notification has already been issued in this regard. According to the Commission's notification, a total of 432 counting observers have been

appointed. The list mentions 294 seats, for which these observers have been deployed. The maximum number of counting observers has been appointed in North 24 Parganas district, where about 49 observers will oversee counting for 33 Assembly constituencies. A total of 45 observers will be present for 31 seats in South 24 Parganas district. Murshidabad will have 33 observers for 22 seats, while Kolkata will have 12 counting observers for 11 seats. Observers have similarly been appointed across all districts. The least number of observers has been appointed

for Alipurduar district, where six observers will oversee counting for five seats. According to the Commission, the observers will provide all possible assistance in the counting process and ensure that the entire exercise is conducted peacefully. Police observers have also been appointed for the counting process, with around 77 police observers deployed. Each police observer will maintain security and law and order outside the 77 counting centres across the state. However, the Commission clarified that they will not be allowed to enter the counting rooms on the

day. Moreover, the Commission had earlier stated that only those carrying ID cards with QR codes would be allowed entry into counting centres. It has now been specified that mobile phones will not be permitted inside the centres. Meanwhile, on the eve of counting day, Director General of the Central Reserve Police Force (CRPF) G.P. Singh visited a counting centre to review security and law and order arrangements. The visit was aimed at strengthening coordination with election officials, Central Armed Police Forces (CAPFs), and the state police to ensure a peaceful and transparent counting process.

Samrat Choudhary Meets HM Shah In Delhi, Bihar Cabinet Expansion Likely Soon

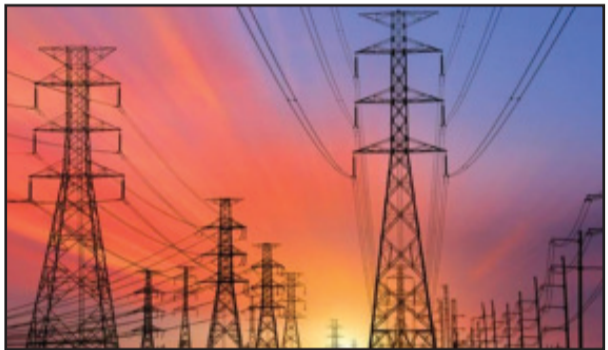
Patna: Bihar Chief Minister Samrat Choudhary met Union Home Minister Amit Shah and other senior leaders of the NDA in New Delhi on Sunday, amid growing speculation over an imminent cabinet expansion in the state. The meeting with Amit Shah is being seen as particularly significant, as sources indicate that his approval will play a crucial role in finalising the list of ministers. While the interaction was officially described as a courtesy call, political

circles believe that discussions centred around the proposed cabinet expansion. According to sources, deliberations focused on the likely induction of new leaders into the cabinet and the allocation of portfolios. The expansion has gained urgency as the current Bihar cabinet comprises only three members, including the Chief Minister. Following the meeting, Samrat Choudhary shared a post on the social media platform X, stating, "Met with the country's

Home and Cooperation Minister Amit Shah and received guidance on various topics related to security, good governance, and the overall development of Bihar." Samrat Choudhary had taken oath as Chief Minister on April 15, along with two Deputy Chief Ministers—Vijay Kumar Choudhary and Bijendra Prasad Yadav—both from the Janata Dal (United) quota. With only three ministers currently in office, the need for expansion has become increasingly pressing.

No Power Crisis, No Coal Shortage In India: PIB Fact Check Dismisses Viral Claims

New Delhi: Dismissing viral claims of a severe power crisis in the country, the government's fact-checking arm PIB Fact Check on Sunday said there is no coal shortage or grid failure in India and termed such posts as misleading. The clarification came after a widely circulated post on X by a user claimed that India's power grid had hit a record demand of 277 GW amid rising summer temperatures, alleging critical coal shortages at thermal power plants and load-shedding in several states. The post also flagged concerns over sharp evening demand spikes when solar generation drops,



suggesting potential stress on the grid. Refuting these claims, PIB Fact Check said the country's power system remains stable and adequately supplied. It stated that the maximum peak demand recorded on May 2, 2026, stood at 229 GW, which was fully met without any shortage. "A post circulating on social media platforms claims that India is facing a

severe power crisis and grid failures due to coal shortages. These claims are misleading and aim to create unnecessary panic," it said. "The maximum peak demand on May 2 was 229 GW and was met completely, and there was no shortage," it added. The government also clarified that coal availability remains sufficient, with total coal stock at thermal power plants currently

at 53.702 million tonnes. "The total coal stock with Thermal Power Plants currently stands at 53.702 million tonnes, which is sufficient to meet requirements," PIB Fact Check said. It added that power availability across the country is adequate and that grid operations and distribution are being managed as per established protocols. Addressing concerns about grid stability, the fact-check unit noted that existing frequency control defence mechanisms provide sufficient operational margin to ensure secure functioning of the power system, even during peak demand periods.

Govt Rejects Claims Of Aadhaar Design Change, Calls Viral Posts Misleading

New Delhi: The government on Sunday dismissed reports claiming that Aadhaar cards will soon be reduced to a simple format with just a photograph and QR code, stating that there is no such proposal under consideration and terming the claims misleading. In an official statement, the Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology said that news reports and social media posts suggesting a change in Aadhaar's format are incorrect and are creating unnecessary confusion among the public. "There are intermittent news reports and social media posts explaining how Aadhaar's look may change by the end of this year to just a photo and



a QR code, alone. This is not correct. There is no plan for any such changes," the ministry said. "Such news reports and social media posts are creating unwanted confusion in the minds of the people," it added. It advised people to rely only on official communication from the Unique Identification Authority of India through its verified channels and press releases issued via PIB, and urged media outlets not to amplify

unverified information. "People in general are advised to ignore such reports and social media posts and refer to official communication from UIDAI through its official social media handles and press releases issued through PIB. Media is also advised not to encourage such information," the ministry stated. The clarification comes amid growing circulation of claims online that Aadhaar

could soon undergo a major redesign. The government reiterated that no such decision has been taken and asked citizens to ignore misleading posts. The statement gains significance given the scale and importance of Aadhaar, which has evolved into the world's largest biometric identification system. According to the government, Aadhaar currently has around 134 crore users and has facilitated over 17,000 crore authentication transactions so far. Maintained by the Unique Identification Authority of India, the Aadhaar ecosystem plays a crucial role in enabling identity verification for a wide range of services.

Around 47 Lakh Domestic LPG Cylinders Delivered In A Day Against 47.4 Lakh Bookings

New Delhi: About 47 lakh domestic Liquefied Petroleum Gas (LPG) cylinders were delivered across the country on Saturday, indicating that there were no shortages or gaps in gas supply despite the military conflict in West Asia and the subsequent Strait of Hormuz blockade. According to the Petroleum Ministry, the online LPG cylinder bookings increased to 99 per cent on industry basis yesterday, and around 47 lakh domestic LPG cylinders were delivered against bookings of around 47.4 lakh LPG cylinders. "No dry-outs have been reported at LPG distributorships," it also added. The government has also assured that all efforts and measures are being undertaken to ensure energy supply, maritime operations, and support to Indian nationals amid the evolving situation in West Asia.

Govt Debunks 'Misleading' Power Crisis Claims, Says Grid Stable And Demand Fully Met

New Delhi: The government on Sunday dismissed as "misleading" a viral social media post that claimed India was facing a severe power crisis and potential grid failures due to coal shortages, asserting that the country's power system remains stable and fully capable of meeting demand. The clarification came from the Press Information Bureau's (PIB) Fact Check unit, which said that the claims being circulated online were aimed at creating unnecessary panic among the public. According to official data, the maximum peak power demand recorded on May 2, 2026, stood at 229 GW, and this demand was fully met without any shortfall. The authorities emphasised that there has been no disruption in electricity supply across the country. The PIB further stated that the



total coal stock available with thermal power plants is currently 53.702 million tonnes, which is sufficient to meet operational requirements. The government has consistently maintained that coal supplies are being closely monitored and managed to ensure uninterrupted power generation. Refuting

concerns over grid instability, the PIB said that power availability in the country remains adequate, and that grid operations, including distribution, are being handled in accordance with well-established protocols. It added that robust planning and coordination among various stakeholders have ensured smooth

functioning even during periods of high demand. The statement also addressed claims about grid frequency fluctuations, noting that existing frequency control defence mechanisms provide sufficient operational margins to maintain secure grid operations. These systems are designed to

automatically stabilise the grid and prevent cascading failures or blackouts. India typically witnesses a surge in electricity demand during the summer months due to the increased use of cooling appliances. However, the government said that it has taken proactive measures, including advance fuel stocking and capacity planning, to handle seasonal spikes efficiently. Officials urged citizens to rely only on verified information and to avoid sharing unsubstantiated claims that could lead to confusion or panic. The PIB Fact Check unit has also encouraged people to report any misleading content related to the government through its official WhatsApp number, +91 8799711259, and email, factcheck@pib.gov.in, as part of efforts to curb the spread of misinformation.

Mission Drishti A Testament To Youth Innovation: PM Modi After GalaxEye Satellite Launch

New Delhi: Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Sunday hailed Mission Drishti as a major milestone in India's space journey, saying the successful launch of the world's first OptoSAR satellite reflects the passion of the country's youth for innovation and nation-building. In a post on X, PM Modi congratulated the team behind the project and said the achievement underlines India's growing technological capabilities. "Mission Drishti by GalaxEye marks a major achievement in our space journey. The successful launch of the world's first OptoSAR satellite and the largest privately-built satellite in India is a testament to our youth's passion for innovation and nation-building," he said. PM Modi extended his best wishes to the founders and the entire team of GalaxEye for the successful mission. "Heartiest congratulations and best wishes to the founders and the entire team of GalaxEye," the Prime Minister added. The Bengaluru-based startup launched its first commercial satellite, Drishti, into orbit aboard Falcon 9 on Sunday. Described by the company as the "world's first OptoSAR satellite", the mission marks a significant step forward in Earth observation technology and highlights India's expanding footprint in the global space sector. Weighing around 190 kg, Mission Drishti is also the largest privately developed Earth observation satellite in India. It is the first satellite globally to integrate Electro-Optical (EO) and Synthetic Aperture Radar (SAR) sensors into a single operational platform, enabling imaging capabilities in all weather conditions, both day and night. The satellite carries what GalaxEye calls a "SyncFused OptoSAR" payload, combining optical imaging with radar technology. While optical satellites provide high-resolution images but are limited by cloud cover and darkness, radar systems can penetrate clouds, smoke, and rain, operating around the clock.

Worker Killed As Concrete Mixer Topples At Ganjam Bridge Site

Bhubaneswar, (Correspondent): A construction worker was killed after a concrete mixer overturned at a bridge construction site in Tilisingi village under Bhanjanagar police limits in Ganjam district on Sunday. The deceased has been identified as Madan Singh (40), a native of Latehar district in Jharkhand. According to reports, the incident took place around 3 pm when construction work was in progress at the site. The concrete mixer machine reportedly lost balance and overturned, trapping workers in the vicinity and getting partially buried under soil. The driver of the vehicle, Prabhanjan Mallick of Bhadrak district, managed to jump out of the machine in time and sustained minor injuries. He was provided preliminary medical assistance at the site. Following the incident, the fire brigade team rushed to the site and launched a rescue operation. After nearly three hours of effort using two JCB machines, the body of Madan Singh was recovered from beneath the debris. Senior police officials, including SDPO Dr. Deepak Kumar Mishra and Bhanjanagar IIC Subbulakshmi Pujari, reached the spot and initiated an investigation to ascertain the exact cause of the accident.

Keonjhar Skeleton Case: Jitu Munda Refuses Action Against Bank Staff

Bhubaneswar (Correspondent): In a startling turn in the Keonjhar skeleton case, Jitu Munda, the tribal man who carried his sister's skeletal remains to a bank to prove her death, has refused to seek any action against the officials who allegedly harassed him, saying he has already received the money due. Munda (50), a native of Dianali village under Erendei gram panchayat in Patana block of Keonjhar district, said, "I have received the money deposited in my sister's name after carrying her

skeletal remains to the bank. They (the bank) got proof of my sister's death and released the money immediately. It is true that they harassed me, but I do not want any action against them after receiving the money. They delivered the cash to my home." "What is the point of taking action against officials after getting the money?" he said, adding that he was not ashamed of the entire episode. "Had I not brought the skeletal remains to the bank, they would not have given our family's money



deposited in my sister's name. I have not done anything wrong," he said. Jitu, a bachelor who lived with his 56-year-old widowed sister, who died on January 26, 2026, said he did not regret exhuming her

remains. "Now people say it was wrong to dig out the remains of a dead person. But I had no alternative, as bank officials wanted the thumb impression of my sister, who had died three months ago," said Jitu, who belongs to the

Munda tribe. The tribal man exhumed the skeletal remains of his sister, Kalra Munda (56), who died in January. He then walked about 3 km to the Maliposi branch of Odisha Grameen Bank and presented them as proof of her death. A video of Munda carrying the skeleton has since gone viral on social media. Jitu said he was emotionally attached to his elder sister, Kalra Munda. Both of them lived together, while his elder brother, Raibu Munda (now deceased), and younger

brother, Shankar Munda, lived separately in the village. "I used to cook for and feed my elder sister when she was bedridden. Her death was a great blow to me. But she has blessed me. I have received around Rs 15 lakh from different people for carrying her skeletal remains." Jitu told a group of journalists who visited his village on Sunday. Kalra Munda had deposited Rs 19,300 at the Maliposi branch of Odisha Grameen Bank after selling the family's oxen.

Student Death At Engineering College Sparks Protests In Bhubaneswar; Kin Allege Foul Play

Bhubaneswar Correspondent): A first-year B.Tech student was found dead under suspicious circumstances at a private Engineering College here on Saturday night, triggering protests by hostel students and serious allegations of negligence and mental harassment from the deceased's family. The deceased has been identified as Biswas Swain, a resident of Baripada and a hostel inmate at the institute. He was rushed to a private hospital in Chandrasekharpur, where doctors declared him dead. Initial reports suggest the death may be a case of suicide,



though police have not officially confirmed the cause. Officers from Infocity Police Station reached the spot immediately and have launched an investigation. Family members have raised

serious concerns over the sequence of events. Biswas' father alleged that his son faced mental harassment by college authorities. According to the family, they received a message from the college

at approximately 9:36 pm on Saturday stating that Biswas was absent from the hostel. When contacted, Biswas reportedly told them he had been marked absent because he had fallen asleep. The family

claimed they spoke to him around 10 pm. However, within a short time, they were informed of his death. The college later stated that the student died by suicide around 11 pm. "How could such an incident happen within an hour, and why was there no proper monitoring?" the father questioned, alleging negligence by the institution. The incident triggered immediate protests inside the hostel, with students raising slogans through the night. The family has demanded a thorough and impartial investigation into the circumstances surrounding the death.

Two Minor Girls Drown In Pond In Balasore Village

Bhubaneswar Correspondent): A tragic incident has shaken Bhuihpada village under Nuagaon Panchayat in Remuna Block of Balasore, as two 10-year-old girls drowned while bathing in a village pond on Sunday morning. The deceased have been identified as Annapurna Mallick (10), daughter of Sanjay Mallick, and Anyasha Mallick (10), daughter of Sujit Mallick. The two cousins had gone to the pond around 11 AM to take a bath when they slipped and drowned. Family members noticed the girls were missing and

later found them in the pond. They were immediately rushed to the Nilagiri Subdivisional Hospital. However, doctors declared both girls dead on arrival. The incident has cast a pall of gloom over the two families and the entire village. Relatives and locals gathered at the hospital, where an atmosphere of profound grief prevailed as the news spread. Police officials visited the spot and the hospital. Further investigation into the exact circumstances of the drowning is underway.

Man Killed After Being Run Over By 'Ama Bus' In Bhubaneswar

Bhubaneswar Correspondent): A man was killed after being run over by an 'Ama Bus' near Rasulgarh overbridge in Bhubaneswar on Sunday. According to reports, the Route No. 91 'Ama Bus', operating between Biju Patnaik Park in Cuttack and Baramunda Inter-State Bus Terminal (BSABT) in Bhubaneswar, allegedly hit a two-wheeler rider from behind near Satsang Vihar. The impact caused the man to fall on the road, after which he was run over by the bus. He died on the spot. Following the incident, Saheed Nagar police reached the spot and brought the situation under control. The accident led to a brief traffic disruption in the area. Local residents gathered at the spot and staged a protest, stopping several 'Ama Buses' and demanding strict action against the driver involved.

OMFED Hikes Milk Prices By Rs 4 Per Litre

Bhubaneswar Correspondent): The Odisha State Cooperative Milk Producers' Federation (OMFED) has revised milk prices upward by Rs 4 per litre, with the new rates coming into effect from today. Under the revised pricing structure, toned milk will now be sold at Rs 54 per litre, up from Rs 50. Premium milk has increased to Rs 58 per litre, up from Rs 54. Gold Premium milk will cost Rs 60 per litre, up from Rs 56, while Gold Premium Plus milk has been raised to Rs 64 per litre, up from Rs 60. Half-litre milk packets, which previously cost Rs 27, will now be available at Rs 29. The price revision follows OMFED's recent announcement of an increase in procurement prices for milk producers.

Woman's Body Found In Abandoned Well In Balangir Village; Murder Suspected

Bhubaneswar Correspondent): In a tragic incident, the body of 40-year-old Janaki Sahu was recovered from an abandoned well on her farmland in Chitramunda village under Goimund Panchayat of Muribahal police station limits in Balangir district on Sunday evening. According to reports, Janaki left her home in the morning and did not return even after several hours. Worried family members and villagers launched a search and eventually found her body inside the well around 9:30 PM. Upon receiving information, a police team led by



Muribahal police station officials and Kantabanji SDPO Laxminarayan Marandi rushed to the spot. The body has been seized and a preliminary investigation has been initiated. Police said the body will be retrieved from the well after the arrival of the dog squad for further examination. Janaki Sahu is survived by her husband Kishore Sahu,

who has been working abroad for the past four years, and three children — two daughters and one son. Locals have raised suspicions that Janaki was murdered and her body was dumped in the well. Taking the villagers' concerns into account, police are investigating the case from all angles, including the possibility of foul play.

Malkangiri Police Bust Mobile Hashish Oil Unit, Seize Materials Worth Rs 100 Crore

Malkangiri Correspondent): In a major breakthrough, Malkangiri police dismantled a mobile hashish oil manufacturing unit in the Chittrakonda area and seized precursor materials and equipment estimated to be worth around Rs 100 crore. Acting on specific intelligence inputs, police had been tracking the operations of a suspected smuggling syndicate for the past few days. The group was reportedly shifting its mobile setup frequently to evade detection amid continuous raids and heightened surveillance in the region. The raid was conducted early Sunday morning when a

police team led by SDPO Chittrakonda Pradosh Pradhan intercepted a suspicious vehicle near Essar Chhak under Chittrakonda police limits, on the road leading towards Sileru. The operation was supervised by Superintendent of Police, Malkangiri. During the search, authorities recovered approximately 800 litres of chemical precursors and solvents capable of producing an equivalent quantity of highly potent hashish oil. Officials estimated the market value of the potential output at nearly Rs 100 crore. In addition, police seized 50 kg of ganja and 2 litres of finished



hashish oil from the vehicle. A fully functional mobile manufacturing unit, complete with specialised extraction equipment, was also confiscated. The vehicle used for transportation, bearing an Andhra Pradesh registration, was found with a falsified number plate and has been impounded. However, the driver managed to escape into the dense

forest nearby, taking advantage of the thick terrain. Preliminary investigations indicate that the syndicate was attempting to establish a hashish oil production unit in the Chittrakonda area but was repeatedly forced to relocate due to sustained pressure from the police. Further probe is underway to identify and arrest the members involved.

Life Jackets Made Mandatory For All Boat Passengers In Odisha Waters

Bhubaneswar Correspondent): The Odisha Government has made the use of life jackets mandatory for all passengers travelling in boats operating in the State's inland waters, following a high-level review of safety measures chaired by the Principal Secretary, Commerce & Transport Department, on Sunday. Taking

serious note of recent capsizing incidents, the meeting reviewed existing safety protocols in detail. It was attended by senior officials from the Odisha Maritime Board (OMB), Tourism Department, Fisheries & ARD Department, Forest, Environment & Climate Change Department, and other line departments. Officials were directed to

ensure strict compliance with safety norms, including compulsory wearing of life jackets by all passengers upon boarding. It was also instructed that all operational boats must be equipped with adequate life jackets matching passenger capacity, along with life buoys and fire safety equipment as per

prescribed standards. The Chair stressed the need for intensified enforcement and ordered authorities to carry out regular surprise inspections of boat operations. Strict punitive action will be taken against operators found overloading vessels or failing to ensure compliance with safety requirements.

Contract Worker Dies After Falling From 30 Feet At Rourkela Steel Plant

Bhubaneswar Correspondent): A tragic accident at the Rourkela Steel Plant (RSP) claimed the life of a contract worker on Sunday. Prakash Swain, a contract employee working at the Canning Plant (CP-2), fell from a height of approximately 30 feet while performing

cleaning work. According to preliminary information, Swain was cleaning sickle sheets when he lost balance and fell. He was immediately rescued by fellow workers and rushed to the plant's primary hospital. He was later shifted to Ispat General Hospital (IGH), where doctors declared him

brought dead. The deceased's body has been recovered and kept in the hospital morgue for post-mortem and further formalities. In response to the incident, RSP management has taken prompt action. Two RSP employees have been suspended for alleged negligence.

EDITORIAL

Don't confuse the sweet Punjabi dialect with a Dirty One.

The Punjabi dialect is not only a means of communication, but it symbolizes the soul of Punjab, rich heritage and sacred legacy of gurus. It is called 'sweet dialect' because in every word of this there is an air of appropriateness, warmth and love. But nowadays, increasing abusive vocabulary on social media, songs and general conversation are poisoning this holy canal. Glorious Background of the Punjabi Dialect The Punjabi language has a very deep root. It is inspired by the humility of Baba Faridji, spirituality of Guru Nanak Dev Ji and thrilling poetry of Varis Shah.

****Basis of the Gurbani:** Our masters chose this dialect so that ordinary human beings can connect with God. When we say shit in it, we actually disrespect that heritage.

Cultural richness: The Punjabi people express the sweetness and social sharing of songs, tapes and spoken relations. Impact of abuse and poor wording It has become a trend in the present day to race to be 'modern' or resort to swearing just to vent anger. The consequences are dire:

****Bad effect on the new generation:** Children learn what they hear. If we use profane vocabulary in homes or public places, our next generation will forget to respect their mother tongue.

****Social Decline:** Abuse is not a sign of civilized society. It creates strain in relationships and makes the atmosphere tense.

****Distortion of speech:** When slurs become an integral part of language, the real beauty and seriousness of speech is lost. Our duty: to keep the bid from getting dirty. If we want the prestige of Punjabi dialect to continue around the world, then we have to take some important steps: "Speech is the identity of a man, if speech itself becomes dirty then identity will also become blurred.

Self-improvement: We must begin with ourselves. Refrain from using abusive language, even in anger or humor.

A selection of cultural content: Boycott songs or films that promote violence and abuse.

Connect children with literature: Teach your kids the good books, poems and history of Punjabi so that they have to choose words.

The Punjabi dialect is not just a language, but the living embodiment of our shared identity, culture and heritage. The dialect has been associated with every aspect of our lives for centuries—whether it be our songs, folk tales, Sufi poetry or Rosemarra's conversation. Its sweetness and simplicity are its greatest beauty. But in today's time, we are unknowingly or sometimes deliberately mixing this sweet dialect with dirty slurs, which is a matter of concern.

The Tightening Noose on the Freedom of the Pen



Yogesh Kumar Goyal

In India, the press has always been termed the fourth pillar of democracy because of its

extremely vital role in strengthening the democratic fabric. This is why press freedom is considered essential for a healthy and robust democracy. However, it is an irony that for the past few years, a continuous decline in press freedom has been observed here as well. This is precisely why 'World Press Freedom Day' is celebrated every year on May 3.

The pen is considered mightier than the sword and more effective than its sharp edge because it is due to its vigilance that major scams have been exposed—not only in India but in many countries over the last few decades—forcing big industrialists, politicians, and stalwarts of various fields to fall from grace in a single stroke. This is the reason why, from time to time, conspiracies have been hatched to blunt or break this weapon of the pen. On various occasions, journalists across the globe, including India, have had to pay the price of truth with their lives. In recent decades, the conditions surrounding press freedom have changed significantly. Today, journalists worldwide face maximum threats from political, criminal, and terrorist groups, and India is no exception to this. Paradoxically, fear and tension have increased in newsrooms globally due to both government and private entities. The facts presented annually by the Paris-based organization 'Reporters Sans Frontières' (RSF), or 'Reporters Without Borders', regarding press freedom are always startling. Although, it is a different matter that some countries dismiss the data in these reports as being motivated by bias. Reporters Without Borders is a non-profit

organization dedicated to documenting and combating attacks on journalists worldwide and presenting an annual report titled the 'World Press Freedom Index'.

In the 'World Press Freedom Index 2019', the organization analyzed the state of press freedom in various countries, including India, clarifying how hatred against journalists worldwide has turned into violence, increasing fear among them. According to the World Press Freedom Index 2026, India has slipped to the 157th position out of 180 countries, whereas it was at the 151st position in 2025—marking a drop of six places in a single year. Prior to this, India stood at 159th in 2024, 161st in 2023, and 150th in 2022. This report indicates a continuous decline in India's ranking for press freedom. According to the report, while the number of countries considered 'satisfactory' in their treatment of journalists is increasing, the number of places where the situation is 'very serious' is also significant.

In the press freedom rankings released by Reporters Without Borders, while India climbed two spots in 2024 compared to 2023, it had fallen 11 spots in 2023 compared to 2022, and 8 spots in 2022 compared to 2021. In the 2021 ranking, India was at 142nd place. Norway tops the list in the World Press Freedom Index 2026. India's democracy is called the world's largest and most successful; however, if a small country like Norway consistently holds the top position in press freedom, and almost all of India's neighbors except China are in a better position, then this is not an ideal situation for a vast democratic nation like India. In such a scenario, we need to seriously introspect: why are we slipping year after year? This decline in press freedom is not a good sign for a healthy democracy.

The direct and clear implication of the decline in press freedom is that the right to freedom of

expression, which is inherent in the fundamental spirit of democracy, is gradually diminishing. Media has had a massive contribution to society, which is why it is considered the strong fourth pillar of democracy. However, in recent years, the way the electronic media in particular creates a "whirlwind of lies" just to increase their TRP—without verifying information—makes it seem at times as if one is watching a spicy political film rather than a news program. The biggest casualty of this is that public trust in the media is continuously eroding. Consequently, people are gravitating toward social media, where "fake news" is already a major problem, and AI is contributing significantly to exacerbating this issue.

The Indian Constitution does not grant separate freedom to the press; rather, its freedom is inherent in the freedom of speech and expression of the citizens. This freedom can be restricted if the unity and integrity of the country are at stake. However, journalism becoming increasingly challenging even in the absence of such conditions is by no means in the interest of democracy; rather, it is clearly seen as an attempt by certain forces to demolish the fourth pillar of the democratic system. One can imagine: if press freedom remains under such scrutiny, how will journalists continue to perform their work with transparency? How will it be possible to uncover the truth and deliver it to the public in an impartial manner if efforts to obstruct press freedom persist?

To ensure that press freedom remains intact in the country, there is a dire need for strict laws regarding the safety of journalists, whether they are associated with media houses or are independent, so that they can fulfill their duties perfectly without any pressure or fear. However, it is also extremely vital that the 'Press'—the fourth pillar of democracy—uses its freedom correctly while remaining mindful of its own boundaries and dignities.

Child Labor & Society



Alekha Chandra SamaL

The effects of child labor can be very dangerous to an underage worker. Some of the

effects include greater risks of hearing loss, a much greater need for food and clean water, and also a higher chemical absorption rate. Children who work run a greater risk of hearing loss because the loud noises of the machines can cause permanent damage to their eardrums. The children in factories aren't always given food therefore they need food and water. Children working in the brassware industry constantly inhale toxic chemical fumes from applying chemicals to the wares causing them to have a lower tolerance for chemicals.

There are several products made by

children in India including bidis, textiles, fireworks, and gems. In the bidi industry children are used because of their small hands needed to roll up the small cigars. Many girls in the textile industry are treated as if they were in jail as they try to save money for their dowry or help their parent's income. These girls are promised a lump sum of an amount between 700 and 800 dollars after three years, but they are often not paid or given faulty checks. In one factory in India children stuffing powder into fireworks are well aware of the dangers that come with producing them, but if they didn't work they wouldn't be able to eat because their families are so poor. When working in the gem industry, children have to drill holes, polish, and string gems for 8 hours with a salary of 50 rupees a month.

Child labor is something akin to slavery. Many of the children are forced to

work long hours every day for minimal pay, and the work they do is pretty dangerous. Some of the industries in India that need child labor force children to work for no pay. The food received by the children is less than stellar, and the conditions they work in are absolutely horrible. If I could work my will on every idiot who believes that using young children in a working environment like that, then there would be far less use of children as workers in the near future.

Child labor is something that India's economy thrives on. Without the huge child labor force there then many of the things we see and use every day would be super expensive or not there all. Although there are laws against child labor in India, they are not strongly enforced because the economy relies so much on it. Child labor is wrong and immoral, but there is not likely to be a decline in it any time soon in India.

Preventing food adulteration : impossible without strict laws



Amit Bajinath Garg

Recently, a large cache of counterfeit tea was seized in Hyderabad. In a crackdown on the syndicate, the police arrested 10 individuals. Investigations revealed that the accused were adulterating the tea—using artificial food colouring, jaggery syrup, and expired tea powder—in order to maximize their profits. Similarly, a major case involving the adulteration of dairy products has come to light in Madhya Pradesh. An investigation by the Enforcement Directorate (ED) revealed that forged documents and fabricated reports were being created to facilitate the export of these products. Moreover, the proceeds generated from this scam were being laundered through a network of various bank accounts. The ED has also arrested the former CEO of a company in connection with this case. In a similar incident in Delhi, a syndicate involved in the manufacture of counterfeit toothpaste and medicines was busted. In reality, cases involving counterfeit milk, adulterated paneer (cottage cheese), expired food products, fake sauces, counterfeit mawa (condensed milk solids), and similar items are being detected on a daily basis across the country.

Recently, authorities uncovered a syndicate manufacturing counterfeit toothpaste, alongside reports of everyday consumer products—such as soft drinks and biscuits—allegedly being sold in the open market past their expiration dates, expired goods being repackaged, and adulterated items circulating widely. These incidents collectively indicate that such unethical and illicit activities are being conducted on a massive scale. According to a government report, one out of every three milk samples tested fails to meet safety standards. In 2025, 38 percent of the milk samples tested were found to be adulterated. By mixing water, detergents, urea, and hazardous chemicals into milk, poison is effectively being

sold to the public under the guise of a healthy food product. In North India, the failure rate for milk samples reached as high as 47 percent. Meanwhile, 18 percent of milk samples in the South, 23 percent in the West, and 13 percent in the East were found to be substandard. The question remains: are we compelled to feed our children slow poison in the guise of milk? Furthermore, why is the number of laboratories for testing purposes not being increased across the country?

The Food Safety and Standards Authority of India (FSSAI)—the regulatory body responsible for inspecting adulterated products—states that many staple food items produced by companies accounting for a significant share of domestic consumption—ranging from paneer (cottage cheese) and soft drinks to dairy products, toothpaste, and even ginger-garlic paste—may not be as hygienic as they are portrayed to be. Enforcement actions conducted nationwide during just the first four months of 2026 have exposed the alarming reality of a widespread market for adulterated goods. Counterfeit products are being manufactured in small, illicit factories, posing a grave threat to public health. An examination of recent raids and actions taken against such illegal operations reveals the extent to which adulteration has evolved into a full-blown commercial enterprise.

Data presented to the Rajya Sabha by the Union Ministry of Health and Family Welfare indicates that a total of 155,306 samples were analysed during the year 2025–26, of which 27,567 samples were found to be non-compliant. Meanwhile, in its response to the Lok Sabha, the Ministry stated that, in accordance with the provisions of the Food Safety and Standards Act, Rules, and Regulations, punitive action is initiated against guilty Food Business Operators in cases where food samples are found to be non-compliant. However, the ground reality—as exposed by posts going viral on social media—paints a starkly different picture regarding the unhygienic preparation of food items, adulteration, and the modus operandi of gangs manufacturing counterfeit goods. This picture is truly grim, illustrating the devastating impact of adulteration on human lives. It suggests that government action against serious crimes like

adulteration is lax, sluggish, and woefully inadequate. Moreover, the existing laws are weak.

Economically motivated adulteration occurs when an individual deliberately removes or extracts a valuable ingredient or component from a food product, or substitutes it with another substance. It also takes place when someone adds a substance to a food item to make it appear superior or more valuable. For instance, when manufacturers blend inexpensive vegetable oil into expensive olive oil—yet market and sell the product as "100% Olive Oil"—they are deceiving their customers. This specific type of adulteration is known as food fraud. Food fraud has now become a common occurrence; indeed, it represents a prevalent form of adulteration. Such adulteration is not limited to food products alone; it is also found in other goods, including animal feed and cosmetics. Furthermore, some instances involve misbranding and regulatory violations.

Estimating the frequency of food fraud—or its precise economic impact—is challenging, as these fraudulent acts are executed in a manner designed to evade detection. This fraud affects approximately one percent of the global food industry, resulting in annual losses estimated at around \$10–15 billion. According to estimates by some experts, these losses could potentially reach as high as \$40 billion per year. Food adulteration is not merely an economic issue. Depending on what substances are added to, substituted within, or omitted from food products, adulteration can lead to a range of health-related problems—some of which may be severe and even prove fatal. Examples of such consequences include lead poisoning resulting from adulterated spices, and allergic reactions triggered by hidden or substituted ingredients—reactions that may range from mild sensitivities to severe food allergies.

Food adulteration—defined as the deliberate contamination or alteration of food products with substandard or harmful substances for the sake of economic gain—has emerged as a matter of grave global concern, bearing profound implications for public

health. The consumption of adulterated food items—including grains, spices, oils, dairy products, and beverages—can pose immediate risks, such as acute toxicity, as well as lead to adverse long-term health outcomes. Toxic substances, such as heavy metals and pesticides, can trigger digestive disorders, neurological damage, and even fatal consequences. Furthermore, the chronic consumption of contaminated food increases the likelihood of developing non-communicable diseases, including heart disease, diabetes, and cancer. To mitigate this threat, it is imperative to strengthen regulatory frameworks, implement robust testing protocols, and enforce stringent penalties against offenders. Public awareness campaigns and educational programs are essential to empower consumers to make informed decisions and to foster greater transparency within the food supply chain.

Food adulteration constitutes a major threat to public health, as it compromises both the safety and the nutritional quality of the food consumed. Recently, while making strong observations regarding adulteration, the Rajasthan High Court noted that adulteration is being perpetrated on a massive scale, driven by the desire to boost profits through the admixture of cheap and substandard substances. Statistical data indicates that more than 20 percent of food products in the country are either adulterated or of substandard quality. Alarming, water and detergents are being added to approximately 70 percent of the milk supply. Common methods of adulteration include adding chemicals to accelerate ripening, mixing in rotten fruits and vegetables, using artificial colors, and incorporating harmful substances such as lead and mercury. The Court observed that the fundamental Right to Life, enshrined under Article 21 of the Constitution, encompasses the right to a safe and healthy life. Under this provision, citizens are entitled to protection against hazardous and harmful food products. Furthermore, under Article 47, it is the duty of a welfare state to ensure the protection of such rights of its citizens. Rigorous efforts are required to achieve this objective.

Medical College Opened, But Healthcare in Jajpur in Crisis 800 Patients for 420 Beds, Only 37 Doctors — When Will the System Improve?

JAJPUR (Correspondent) :The medical college in Jajpur, established with high hopes and expectations, is now under serious scrutiny. The current situation at the district headquarters hospital clearly reflects a deep crisis in the healthcare system. A wide gap has emerged between government claims and ground reality. Despite having a capacity of 420 beds, the hospital is currently treating over 800 patients. As a result,

many patients are forced to lie on floors and verandas due to the unavailability of beds. The situation is especially alarming in the maternity, pediatric, medicine, and surgery departments.

While more than 2,000 patients visit the outpatient department daily, only 37 doctors are available against a sanctioned strength of 140 posts, highlighting a severe shortage. Many doctors are away pursuing postgraduate studies in Cuttack,

Burla, and Berhampur, which has significantly affected services. Doctors holding administrative responsibilities are also compelled to engage in patient care, further complicating the situation. Similarly, out of 267 sanctioned nursing posts, only 96 are currently filled, exposing the fragile state of the system.

After the opening of the medical college, people had hoped that they would no longer need to travel to

Cuttack or Bhubaneswar for advanced treatment and would receive all facilities within their district. However, in reality, the absence of professors and specialist doctors, lack of active involvement in patient care, and allegations that some doctors are attending private clinics in Cuttack have raised serious concerns.

Additionally, poor coordination between district medical administration and the

medical college, mismanagement, and inadequate support services and transport facilities have worsened the situation.

Despite generating significant revenue for the state government through minerals and industries, the people of Jajpur are still deprived of basic healthcare services. The distressing condition of poor patients is heartbreaking—many are forced to turn to private hospitals, while others lose their

lives due to lack of timely treatment.

In this critical situation, there is an urgent need to increase the recruitment of doctors and nurses, ensure active participation of the medical college in healthcare delivery, and strengthen administrative coordination. Otherwise, concerned citizens warn that the crisis may take an even more serious turn in the coming days.

Pass Rate of Boudh Reaches 95% in Matric Results

BOUDH(Correspondent) : -The Boudh district has recorded an impressive pass rate of 95.58% in this year's matriculation examination. Out of 6,561 students who appeared for the exam across 79 high schools, 6,271 students passed successfully. Among the successful candidates, 3,307 are girls and 2,964 are boys. A total of 12 students secured the highest A1 grade, reflecting excellent academic performance. Preetam Meher emerged as the district topper, bringing pride to the region. Other students also set inspiring examples—Sritam from Karanjakata village and Chandan Mahala of Manamunda scored above 90% despite facing challenges such as poverty and limited access to educational resources. Sarsara High School also came into the spotlight for its outstanding performance in vocational education (Electronics and Hardware), where four students achieved a perfect score of 100 out of 100.

Buddha Purnima celebrated in Khaprakhol

Patnagarh (Correspondent) On behalf of the Buddha worshippers, a Buddha Purnima function was held on Saturday evening under the chairmanship of Dharmapala Jaladhar Tandri near the khaprakhol police station Chwok. On this occasion, the chief guest was Lakshme Ghar Ganda Samaj Block President Nirakar Chhura, the chief speaker was Khaprakhol Police Station Officer Narendra Chhatra, the guest of honor was Mahinath Suna, senior journalist Abhaya Tripathi, Umakant Pradhan, Jyoti



Ranjan Panda, Ashok Bagh, tribal leader Tikeswar Dharua, LDA member Mukesh Suna and spoke about Lord Buddha. On this occasion, first, a collective lamp was lit in front of the Buddha statue, flowers were offered and a collective prayer was offered along

with puja. Satyanand Sendria, Janardhan Suna, Bir Bag, Radheshyam Nag, Hotasan Suna, Dolamani Jal, Dharmasingh Dharua, Roshan Suna, Shiva Ram Kumbar, and Yashwant Kumbar were prominently present on this occasion.

AAP district president Prithwiraj Jagdala arrested on fraud case

SUBARNAPUR (Correspondent)---- Sonepur police have arrested Subarnapur district Aam Aadmi Party (AAP) president Prithwiraj Jagdala (26) in a fraud case. This was informed by Subarnapur Supdt. Of Police Narayan Nayak at a press conference held at the dist. police headquarters. It is worth complaint that Saroj Bhesra of Kirttipur village of Sonepur police station had filed a written complaint with Sonepur police station

on April 22. In it, Mr. Jagdala had cheated Saroj's wife of Rs 1.55 lakh in installments by promising to get her a job as a postal GDS. Later, he also gave her an appointment letter, but later he came to know that the appointment letter given by Prithwiraj was fake. When Saroj asked to return the money, Prithwiraj again gave her an appointment letter saying that he would get her a job as an attendant in the Subarnapur District



Head Quarter Hospital Blood Bank. Later, the complainant came to know that the said appointment letter was also fake. Later, it was alleged that he had cheated the money given by the employer through cash, bank and UPI etc. by promising

to get his wife a job as a police guard. A case was registered in this regard at Sonepur police station on 143/22/04/2026 U/s-318(2)/319(2)/308(5)336(3)/338/316(2)339/296/351(2) BNS act and during the investigation, evidence was found that money was taken from Prithwiraj's account and through phone payment. Later, the Sonepur police team arrested Prithwiraj from his house in Kalapathar,

Birmaharajpur block and was produced in court on Saturday. His bail application was rejected and he was sent to Sonepur sub-jail custody. According to information, there are 6 cases pending against him in Birmaharajpur and Sonepur police stations of Subarnapur district, while there are many fraud cases against Prithwiraj outside the district, Supdt. Of Police Narayan Nayak informed in a press conference.

Farewell ceremony organised by Commerce dept Malkangiri College

Malkangiri correspondent: Malkangiri, the Department of Commerce of Malkangiri College organized an emotional farewell ceremony for the final year students with great pomp. The dignified meeting organized under the chairmanship of the Head of the Department, Dr. Ranjan Kumar Swain, was attended by the college principal, Dr. Chittaranjan Barik, as the chief guest, inaugurated the program by offering floral garlands to the photo of Lord Jagannath and lighting a lamp. In his speech, the principal advised the students to maintain discipline in life and engage themselves in social service like a goldsmith. B. Gupteshwar Rao introduced the guests with a welcome speech, while faculty members, Dipti Rekha Mishra, Bhakat Gand and Snigdha Sardar were present and wished the students a bright future. On this occasion, the departing students Supriya Panigrahi, Sheikh Mahiuddin shared their experiences +3 First and second year students bid farewell to their elder siblings by presenting bouquets of roses, pens and gifts. In the final a colorful cultural program was presented by Mohammed Ujjain, Om Panigrahi, Sheikh Abatab, Kunal Rout, Jyoti Kabasi, Radha Rani, hundreds of students participated, Mr Rao Finally expressed his gratitude to everyone.

BJP Public Protest Rally

Nimapada, correspondent: A women's protest rally was organized by the Balanga Mandal BJP Mahila Morcha over the issue of the Women's Reservation Bill. More than 1,000 women from Balanga BJP participated, holding black flags and wearing black ribbons on their faces while raising slogans on the main road. At Balanga Delta Square, the women burned effigies of Congress leader Rahul Gandhi and BJD president Naveen Patnaik. Hundreds of women and BJP workers took part in the program. The rally started near Sambhubharati Patana and moved through Balanga Bazaar before reaching Delta Square. Participants were seen protesting with placards in their hands and black bands tied on their heads. Among others present at the event were Balanga Mandal President Debashish Acharya, MP representative Minalata Mohanty, Swarnaprabha Majhi, Prasanna Kumar Das, Krushak Morcha Vice President Arjun Baral, Saroj Kumar Sahu, Balanga Mandal President Prabhakar Nayak, Dhanua Mandal President Santosh Parida, and Balanga Mandal Mahila Morcha leader Jayanti Biswal, along with many male and female participants.

Memorandum Submitted to District Collector Over Pest Attack on Paddy Crops

Nimapada, correspondent: Hundreds of farmers submitted a memorandum addressed to the District Collector regarding various issues faced by farmers in the Nimapada block. More than 100 farmers from Talataila village under Alanda Panchayat reported that over 250 acres of paddy crops have been completely destroyed due to stem borer pests and diseases. Despite using high-quality seeds, pesticides, and fertilizers as per government



guidelines, the farmers were unable to protect their ripened crops. Under the leadership of Jagrat Yuvashakti organization's convenor Adarsha Das, coordinator Sameer

Ranjan Rautray, chief executive Bijayananda Das, and Ajay Kumar Mishra, along with farmer leaders Sushanta Kumar Nayak, Pabitra Behera, Sanjeeb Ray, Pradyumna Ray, Baina

Nayak, Prabhanjan Baral, Lingaraj Baral, Prasanna Kumar Baral, and Radheshyam Biswal, hundreds of farmers gathered at the offices of the Nimapada Block Development Officer and the Block Agriculture Officer. They held discussions with officials, submitted the memorandum, and strongly demanded a proper survey of the pest-affected paddy fields, adequate compensation for all affected farmers, and inclusion of all farmers under crop insurance by the state government.

Wave of Thefts and Dacoities Sparks Fear in Umerkote; Police Under Fire for Inaction

Nabarangpur, correspondent: A series of theft and dacoity incidents over the past few days has triggered panic among residents of Umerkote town, with mounting criticism against the local police for their alleged failure to prevent crime or apprehend the culprits. According to an FIR registered at Umerkote police station, unidentified miscreants broke into a house in Dongrisaahi and decamped with gold and silver ornaments along with cash worth approximately ₹35,000-₹40,000. The incident reportedly occurred few days back when the family had gone out of station to attend a marriage. The

complaint, lodged by the house owner, details the theft of multiple valuables including a gold necklace, bangles, rings, anklets, and cash after the accused broke open the lock of the almirah. However, what has intensified public outrage is not just this incident, but a string of similar crimes reported in quick succession across the town. Residents allege that despite repeated thefts and even dacoity-like incidents in recent days, the police have failed to either arrest the accused or put in place effective preventive measures. Victims have also expressed frustration over the alleged indifferent attitude of the police. They claim that whenever they

visit the police station to inquire about recovery of stolen property or progress in arresting the culprits, officials respond reluctantly and often provide vague or discouraging updates, indicating little progress in the investigation. Locals have termed the situation a "complete policing failure," stating that criminals appear to be operating with impunity. "Incidents are happening back-to-back, yet there is no visible police action. People are now afraid to leave their homes unattended," said a resident. Several citizens have even gone to the extent of suspecting negligence or possible complicity, alleging that the

continued failure to crack cases has eroded public trust. The absence of arrests in the latest case has further deepened these concerns. Civil society members and local representatives have urged higher authorities to intervene and take stringent action against erring officials. They have demanded intensified night patrolling, swift investigation, and accountability within the police department.

With fear gripping the town and confidence in law enforcement waning, all eyes are now on senior police officials to restore order and ensure that those responsible are brought to justice at the earliest.

'Work with love or sit at temple gate': Orissa HC upholds bank official's removal over transfer defiance

Cuttack correspondent: Orissa High Court upheld the dismissal of a Bank of Baroda official who refused a transfer order, citing the necessity of caring for her elderly parents. In a judgment delivered on April 21, 2026, Justices Krishna S Dixit and Chittaranjan Dash emphasised that employees in public service are expected to report to their assigned stations to prevent administrative disruption. Invoking the literary wisdom of Khalil Gibran, the Bench suggested that if an employee finds their obligations "distasteful", they should exit the profession. The court quoted Gibran's 'On Work', "And if you cannot work with love but only with distaste, you should leave your work and sit at the gate of the temple and take alms of those who work with joy." To reinforce that professional life is defined by obligation, the court also cited Ellen Sturgis Hooper: "I slept, and dreamed that life was Beauty; I woke, and found that life was Duty." As reported by The Indian Express, the court criticised the appellant's plea regarding the violation of natural justice, observing that such a claim cannot be chanted like a Vedic mantra and remains a senseless sound unless supported by substance. The Bench noted the significant difficulties the banking sector faces when staff defy transfers to remain in one location. Ultimately, the court concluded that statutory conditions for the transfer were valid, dismissing the appeal.

Immediate Measures by District Administration to Control Food Poisoning Outbreak

JAJPUR (Correspondent) : Following the incident of people falling ill with diarrhea and vomiting after consuming contaminated food, the Health Department and district administration have taken immediate steps in the affected villages. To bring the situation under control, the administration has launched an awareness campaign. ASHA health workers and mobile medical teams have reached various villages, including the Patapur area under Dasharathpur block, and organized food safety awareness programs. Through group meetings, people are being educated about food safety, hygiene, and sanitation. The block administration has carried out inspections in roadside snack stalls, hotels, and sweet shops in Dasharathpur, Jayantara, and Katikata Gram Panchayats. Cleanliness, food quality, and the presence of stale food items are being closely monitored. Public awareness is also being spread through announcements, and special training on proper handwashing practices has been provided to the residents.

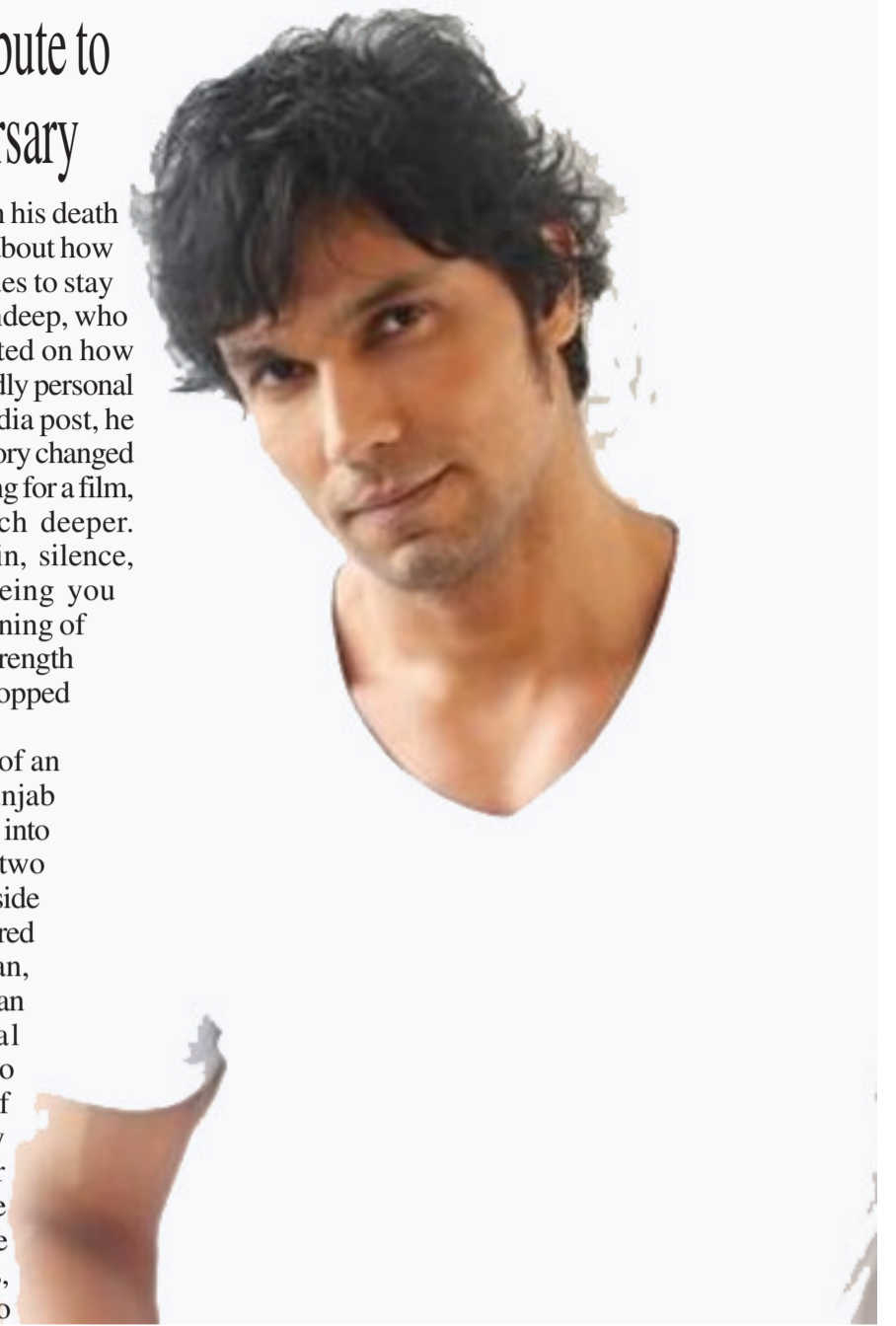
Riteish Deshmukh's 'Raja Shivaji' sees "super-strong" start, mints Rs 23.90 crore in 2 days

Riteish Deshmukh's ambitious historical epic 'Raja Shivaji' has delivered a thunderous start at the box office, rewriting record books for Marathi cinema with a massive Rs 23.90 crore opening weekend. The film, which was released on May 1, 2026, has emerged as the biggest opening day grosser ever for a Marathi film, as per trade analyst Taran Adarsh. According to Adarsh, the film has shown "super-strong" momentum since its release. Backed by the Maharashtra Day holiday, 'Raja Shivaji' opened to an impressive Rs 12.40 crore on Friday, followed by a solid Rs 11.50 crore on Saturday. This brings its two-day total to Rs 23.90 crore across Marathi and Hindi versions. While the Marathi version is currently leading the box office performance, the Hindi version is expected to gain traction through positive word-of-mouth. "The film is expected to witness substantial growth today [Sunday] before facing the crucial Monday test," Adarsh noted. Deshmukh has not only played the lead role but also directed the film. The film boasts an ensemble cast, including Sanjay Dutt, Abhishek Bachchan, Vidya Balan, Bhagyashree, and Genelia Deshmukh in key roles. It also features Mahesh Manjrekar, Sachin Khedekar, Fardeen Khan, Jitendra Joshi, and Amole Gupte



Randeep Hooda pays emotional tribute to Sarbjit Singh on his death anniversary

Actor Randeep Hooda remembered Sarbjit Singh on his death anniversary on Saturday, sharing an emotional note about how the story of the late farmer-turned-prisoner continues to stay with him, years after portraying him on screen. Randeep, who played Sarbjit in the 2016 biopic Sarbjit, reflected on how preparing for the role evolved into a profoundly personal experience. In a heartfelt social media post, he wrote, "Dear Sarbjit, Your story changed me. What began as preparing for a film, became something much deeper. Through you, I felt pain, silence, courage, and hope. Being you taught me the true meaning of freedom, loss, and the strength of a family that never stopped believing." The film told the story of an Indian farmer from Punjab who accidentally crossed into Pakistan and spent over two decades in prison. Alongside Randeep, the movie featured Aishwarya Rai Bachchan, Richa Chadha, and Darshan Kumar in pivotal roles. Randeep also remembered the passing of Sarbjit's close family members, including his sister Dalbir Kaur and his wife Sukhpreet, while noting the enduring legacy of his daughters, Swapandeep and Poonam, who are now living settled lives.



Weight loss at home: 7 household chores that will help you burn calories, melt fat



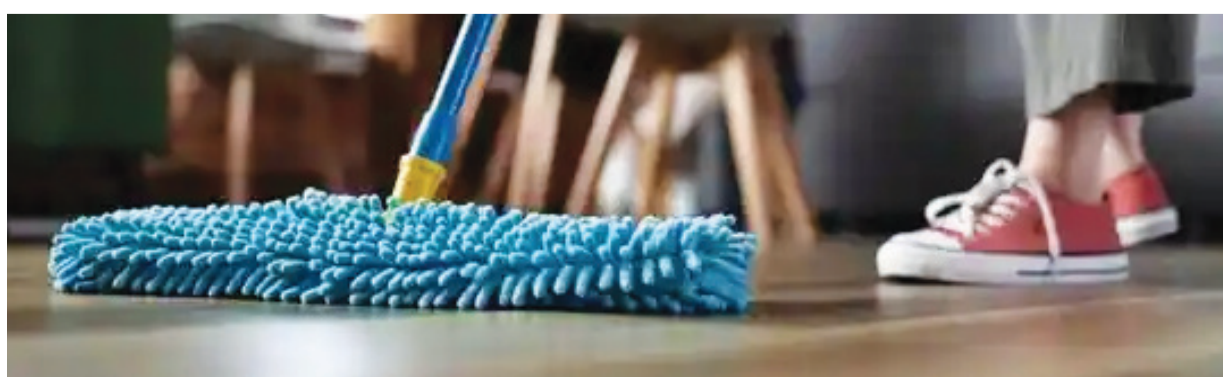
While they aren't a replacement for regular exercise, household chores can help you avoid ill effects of sedentary lifestyle and even aid in weight loss. Some are considered light to moderate, while others can

provide full workout. In modern times, washing machines, dishwashers and vacuum cleaners have made life easier for people, but it also means lesser opportunities to burn calories. However, they can be a convenient way to move the body amid the heatwave conditions across many parts of the country. Short bouts of activities can work wonders for your fitness levels. Doing household chores like dusting, walking the dog, preparing meals etc can also make sure you are not sitting continuously and moving your body more frequently. So when it comes to washing clothes or cleaning bathrooms, try doing these chores by yourself to see the

difference in your fitness levels

some common household chores that can help burn calories:

- 1. Vacuuming:** Pushing and pulling a vacuum cleaner can burn 150-300 calories per hour, depending on body weight and intensity.
- 2. Mopping/scrubbing floors:** This activity engages your core muscles and can burn 150-250 calories per hour.
- 3. Washing windows:** The reaching, stretching, and wiping motions use several muscle groups, burning 100-200 calories per hour.
- 4. Gardening/yard work:** Activities like raking leaves, pulling weeds, and pushing a lawn mower can burn 200-400 calories per hour. Being in touch with the earth while gardening has additional benefits. If your hands and bare feet are in contact with the earth, it can harmonise physiological processes in your body, aiding in weight management and stabilising your mood.
- 5. Washing and drying clothes:** Bending, lifting, and moving around while doing laundry can burn 100-200 calories per hour.
- 6. Cleaning bathrooms:** Scrubbing, wiping, and disinfecting bathrooms provide a full-body workout, burning 150-300 calories per hour.



7. **Dusting and organising:** Light cleaning tasks like dusting and decluttering can burn 100-200 calories per hour.

Benefits of household chores for weight management

- 1. Calorie burn:** Many household tasks, such as vacuuming, mopping, gardening, and scrubbing, burn a significant number of calories, contributing to a healthy energy balance for weight loss or maintenance.
- 2. Strength building:** Chores that involve lifting, pushing, or carrying heavy objects help build and maintain muscle mass. Increased muscle mass boosts your resting metabolic rate, allowing you to burn more calories even at rest.
- 3. Incidental exercise:** Household tasks often require movement around the house, climbing stairs, and various other activities. These incidental exercises throughout the day contribute to an active lifestyle and overall fitness.
- 4. Mindfulness:** Focusing on the task at hand and being present during chores can reduce mindless snacking or overeating that often occurs when bored or distracted.
- 5. Stress relief:** Completing household tasks provides a sense of accomplishment and reduces stress, which is important for weight management, as chronic stress can lead to unhealthy coping

Effective Discipline Strategies for Toddlers

- 1. Consistency is Key:** Establish consistent rules to provide children with a clear understanding of expectations. When rules are consistently enforced, they learn to anticipate the outcomes of their actions, fostering a sense of security and stability. Consistency also helps minimise confusion and reduces the likelihood of tantrums or defiance.
- 2. Practice Positive Reinforcement:** Instead of solely focusing on "don'ts", celebrate the "dos." Use praise and rewards to reinforce positive behaviour. Recognising and celebrating even small instances of positive behaviour creates a supportive environment that motivates toddlers to continue demonstrating those behaviours. This approach cultivates a sense of accomplishment and self-worth in children and also strengthens the parent-child bond through shared moments of encouragement

- 3. Redirect Their Attention:** When faced with undesirable behaviour, gently steer their attention towards a different engaging activity. This helps shift their focus away from the negative behaviour while offering a constructive alternative. Engaging them in a new activity can diffuse tension and prevent the escalation of challenging behaviour.
- 4. Be a Role Model:** Toddlers often mimic and learn by observing the behaviour of adults around them. Take this opportunity to demonstrate the behaviours you wish to instil in your child. Through your actions, such as displaying kindness, patience, and respect, you provide a blueprint for desirable conduct. This modelling not only serves as a powerful teaching tool but also cultivates a nurturing environment conducive to positive growth and development.

Mango Candy

- 2 large ripe mangoes
 - 2 tbsp sugar
 - A pinch of black salt
 - ½ tsp roasted cumin powder
- Steps:** Step 1: Prepare The Mango Pulp Wash, peel, and chop two ripe mangoes. Blend into a smooth puree. Do not add water. Step 2: Cook The Mixture Transfer the puree to a non-stick pan. Cook on a low flame while stirring. Gradually add sugar. Keep stirring until the mixture thickens and begins to leave the sides of the pan. This can take around 30-40 minutes. Step 3: Add Flavour Stir in black salt and roasted cumin powder. These spices boost flavour and aid digestion. Step 4: Set And Dry Grease a flat tray with ghee. Pour in the mixture and spread it evenly. Let it air dry under a fan or



sun-dry for 1-2 days, depending on humidity levels. Step 5: Cut And Store Once it has firmed up, cut it into bite-sized squares. Store in an airtight jar. You now have mango candy you can enjoy after any meal. **Why Make Mango Candy At Home?** The short answer: to keep mango season alive for as long as you can. Homemade mango candy contains no artificial preservatives, colourings, or excessive sugar, making it a healthier alternative to what you might find in shops.

Best fruits to support your heart health

- 1. Berries:** Strawberries, blueberries, raspberries, and blackberries are packed with antioxidants called flavonoids, which can help lower blood pressure and reduce the risk of heart disease.
- 2. Oranges:** The citrus fruits are rich in vitamin C, potassium, and fibre, all of which are beneficial for heart health. Potassium helps regulate blood pressure, while fibre aids in reducing cholesterol levels.
- 3. Apples:** They contain soluble fibre, which can help lower cholesterol levels. They are also rich in antioxidants and flavonoids, which may reduce the risk of heart disease.
- 4. Bananas:** They are an excellent source of potassium, which plays a key role in maintaining heart health by helping to regulate blood pressure. They are also low in sodium, which is important for heart health.
- 5. Avocados:** They are packed with heart-healthy monounsaturated fats, which can help lower bad cholesterol levels (LDL) and raise good

- 6. Grapes:** Grapes, particularly red and purple varieties, contain antioxidants called polyphenols, which have been shown to improve heart health by reducing inflammation and preventing blood clots.
- 7. Pomegranates:** They are rich in antioxidants, particularly punicalagins and anthocyanins, which can help protect the heart by reducing inflammation and improving cholesterol levels.
- 8. Kiwi:** It is loaded with vitamin C, fibre, and potassium, all of which contribute to heart health. The fibre helps lower cholesterol levels, while potassium helps regulate blood pressure.
- 9. Watermelon:** It is a hydrating fruit that is also rich in lycopene, a powerful antioxidant that may help lower the risk of heart disease by reducing inflammation and preventing oxidative damage to the heart.

Baranica Strikes Again In Bhubaneswar, Sets 4.23m National Record

BHUBANESWAR, (Correspondent): Bhubaneswar Indoor Stadium continues to be a dream venue for Tamil Nadu's pole vault star Baranica Elangovan, who once again produced a record-breaking performance at the facility to stamp her dominance on the national stage. The 29-year-old cleared 4.23m on Sunday to better her own national record of 4.22m, which she had set at the inaugural National Indoor Athletics Championships held at the same venue in March. Remarkably, both record-breaking performances have come at the Bhubaneswar Indoor Stadium within a span of just five weeks, reinforcing her strong association with the venue. Baranica achieved the new mark on her third attempt and described the



performance as another satisfying outing in her career. With this effort, she continues to raise the benchmark in Indian women's pole vault. Originally from Tamil Nadu, Baranica has now shifted her training base to Odisha and is currently practising in Bhubaneswar, a move that appears to be paying rich dividends in her performances.

In the men's heptathlon, Thowfeeq N of NCOE Trivandrum delivered a commanding performance to clinch the gold medal with a total of 5,350 points. He maintained his lead from Day One, where he had accumulated 2,943 points, and finished comfortably ahead of his rivals. The men's U20 heptathlon title was claimed by Kirthik Vasan S of Tamil Nadu, who topped the

standings with 4,609 points. He was followed by Jinoy Jayan of NCOE Trivandrum with 4,518 points and Aryan Prakash of Madhya Pradesh with 4,509 points. In the women's pentathlon, Odisha's Purnima Hembram delighted the home crowd by securing the gold medal with a tally of 3,835 points. Isha Chandra Prakash of Uttarakhand finished second with 3,671

points, while Bidisha Kundu of West Bengal took third place with 3,600 points. The women's U20 pentathlon title went to Jaskiran Kaur of Uttarakhand, who emerged victorious with 3,272 points. Priya of Haryana (3,133 points) and Alfaz Kaur Grewal of Punjab (3,066 points) completed the podium finishers. The women's pole vault event once again belonged to Baranica, whose record-breaking 4.23m effort secured her the gold medal ahead of Nitika of Madhya Pradesh and Blessy Kunjumon of Kerala, both of whom cleared 3.90m. With yet another national record to her name, Baranica continues to underline her supremacy in the event and remains the standout performer of the championship so far.

WAG Events Conclude At Gymnastics Nationals In Bhubaneswar

BHUBANESWAR, (Correspondent): The Women's Artistic Gymnastics (WAG) events of the Junior & Senior Artistic Gymnastics National Championships 2026-27 concluded on Sunday with exciting apparatus finals at the Gymnastics High Performance Centre, Kalinga Stadium, here. The final day saw strong performances from gymnasts across the country, bringing the curtain down on a competitive edition of the national championships. In the Senior Women's Artistic Gymnastics category, Niranjana Punia (Haryana) clinched gold in the Balance Beam event, followed by Diya Thakore (Gujarat) and Amani Dilshad (Kerala). In the Junior Women's Artistic Gymnastics category, Anusua Howlader (West Bengal) won the Balance Beam event, ahead of Shreyanshi Roy (Tripura) and



and Eshita Rewale (Maharashtra) finished second and third respectively. Eshita Rewale (Maharashtra) bagged the Vault gold medal, with Piyasa Kundu (RSPB) taking silver and Soumili Karar (West Bengal) winning bronze. In Uneven Bars, Tannu (Odisha) topped the podium, followed by Diya Thakore (Gujarat) and Amani Dilshad (Kerala). In the Junior Women's Artistic Gymnastics category, Anusua Howlader (West Bengal) won the Balance Beam event, ahead of Shreyanshi Roy (Tripura) and

Shreya Ghosh (West Bengal). Sreeparna Debnath (Tripura) emerged winner in Floor Exercise, while Shreyanshi Roy (Tripura) and Dhanishtha Ugalmugle (Maharashtra) finished second and third. Vaishnavi Vyas (Telangana) claimed gold in Vault, followed by Shreyanshi Roy (Tripura) and Tora Sani (West Bengal). In Uneven Bars, Paromita Bera (West Bengal) secured first place, with Abhidha Singh Dev (Uttar Pradesh) and Sakshi Dalvi (Maharashtra) completing the podium finish.

SRH vs KKR IPL 2026: In-Form Hyderabad Face Reviving Kolkata in High-Stakes Clash



NEW DELHI: Sunrisers Hyderabad (SRH) take on Kolkata Knight Riders (KKR) in a crucial IPL 2026 fixture on Sunday, with both teams entering the contest in sharply contrasting form. While SRH are riding a strong five-match winning streak, KKR have recently found momentum after registering their first two victories of the season. The toss is expected to play an important role in shaping match strategy,

especially considering pitch conditions and dew factors in Hyderabad. Both captains will be keen to gain an early advantage in what promises to be a tightly contested game. SRH's recent success has been driven by consistent performances from key batters. Heinrich Klaasen has been in exceptional form, delivering impactful performances in the middle order. Despite a slow start to the tournament, Ishan Kishan has bounced

back with crucial innings, including a match-winning 91 earlier in the season. Meanwhile, Travis Head showed signs of regaining form with a blistering knock against Mumbai, and will look to carry that momentum forward. KKR, led by Ajinkya Rahane, are still searching for consistency in their top order. Frequent changes in batting combinations have impacted their performance, with players like Sunil Narine being shuffled between roles.

IPL 2026: Gaikwad Hails Bowlers After CSK Beat MI, Lauds Kamboj, Noor For Good Show

New Delhi: The Indian quartet of Dharamveer Choudhary, Rajesh Ramesh, Vishal TK and Manu T.S. clocked an impressive time of 3:00.32 seconds, a season best, in the men's 4x400m to finish fourth in their heat 3 on day one of World Athletics Relays at Gaborone's National Stadium on Saturday. A target of 160 wasn't a massive one for CSK, and Gaikwad hit 67 not out off 48 balls, laced with five fours and two sixes, his second successive fifty. Kartik, meanwhile, registered his maiden IPL half-century in an unbeaten 40-ball vigil, hitting four boundaries and three sixes, as CSK wrapped up the chase with 11 balls remaining.



At the age of 20 years and 6 days, Kartik became the second youngest CSK batter to score an IPL fifty after Ayush Mhatre (17y 291d). The duo rotated strike wisely and punished the loose deliveries by sending them to the boundary ropes and kept the chase firmly under control through a 98-run stand off 75 balls for the third wicket. Though Jasprit Bumrah and AM

Ghazanfar took a scalp each, CSK were simply too composed in the chase to complete the double over MI and bring their campaign back on track. The eight-wicket win is CSK's biggest victory against MI in the IPL, and this is the third time they have achieved a league double over their arch-rivals after 2014

and 2023. Right from the word go, CSK's chase was steady. Sanju Samson hit two boundaries and was even dropped by Ryan Rickelton before the latter took the former's catch off Bumrah. Gaikwad settled in quickly, working through the gaps and ensuring the scoreboard kept ticking. Urvil

Patel's cameo of 24 off 12 balls, laced with two fours and as many sixes, injected momentum before being dismissed by Ghazanfar. Kartik then joined Gaikwad, and the duo stitched together a match-winning stand. Gaikwad's fluency stood out as he pierced the offside field with precision, while Kartik showed maturity beyond his years by mixing caution with aggression. Their partnership never allowed MI's bowlers to build pressure. By the halfway mark, CSK were well ahead of the required rate, and the chase became a formality. Together, they ensured CSK crossed the line with ease in the 18th over, with MI now clearly staring at an early exit from the competition.

Varun Chakaravathy and Raghuvanshi Power KKR to a Dominant Win over SRH

Kolkata Knight Riders successfully chased down 166 runs to defeat Sunrisers Hyderabad by seven wickets at the Rajiv Gandhi International Stadium on Sunday. This clinical performance ended Hyderabad's five-match winning run and propelled Kolkata further up the points table. Batting first, Sunrisers Hyderabad appeared set for a formidable total as Travis Head struck a ferocious 61 off just 28 deliveries. Alongside Ishan Kishan, who

contributed 42, the hosts reached 105/1 by the ninth over. However, the introduction of Varun Chakaravathy shifted the momentum entirely. The mystery spinner dismantled the middle order, finishing with impressive figures of 3/36. Sunil Narine provided expert support with 2/31, causing the home side to lose nine wickets for only 60 runs. Hyderabad eventually folded for 165 in 19 overs, marking the first time they were bowled out this season. Kolkata's response began with a



flurry of boundaries from Finn Allen, who hammered 29 off 13 balls. Following Allen's

exit, Angkrish Raghuvanshi took charge of the innings. The young batter played

with maturity, scoring 59 runs off 47 balls, including five boundaries and two sixes. He

Mittal Family Partners With Adar Poonawalla for Bold IPL Franchise Takeover

NEWDELHI: Rajasthan Royals are witnessing a seismic shift in their boardroom as the Mittal family and vaccine tycoon Adar Poonawalla move to secure a controlling interest in the franchise. This high-profile bid aims to acquire the majority stake currently held by Manoj Badale's Emerging Media Ventures. While the team was the inaugural champion of the league in 2008, this potential transition marks its most significant financial evolution in nearly two decades. Aditya Mittal, leading the charge for the ArcelorMittal promoter group, is looking to diversify his family's global sports footprint. The group recently made waves by joining a consortium to purchase a stake in the NBA's Boston Celtics. By teaming up with Adar Poonawalla, whose Serum Institute of India became a household name globally, the duo presents a formidable financial front. Their interest highlights the skyrocketing valuation of IPL assets, which now compete with major global sporting leagues in terms of brand equity and revenue potential.

Flipkart, Axis Bank and PayU Introduce Biometric Authentication for Card Payments

Bhubaneswar, (Correspondent): Flipkart, India's homegrown e-commerce marketplace, in collaboration with Axis Bank, one of the largest private sector banks in India and PayU, India's leading diversified fintech platform, announced the launch of biometric authentication for card payments. Three trusted organizations have joined forces for this initiative, building on their shared history of a consumer first approach, and reinstating their collective commitment to the consumers of India. The initiative

allows users to authenticate transactions using their fingerprint or Face ID on supporting Android and iOS devices, eliminating the need for a one-time password (OTP). The service is enabled first for Axis Bank cardholders through issuer-level biometric verification. With this launch, Flipkart has become one of the leading major Indian e-commerce platforms to offer biometric authentication for card payments. The feature offers customers a more secure method of authentication backed by

device fingerprinting and enhanced checks, reducing the risk of SIM swap or OTP-based fraud. It addresses significant friction points in digital payments replacing SMS-based OTPs, with a faster and more secured mechanism already familiar to smartphone users. Under this collaboration, PayU manages the merchant-side infrastructure, including device security and authentication flows while Axis Bank leverages Wibmo (a PayU company) to power biometric verification on the issuer side.

Industrialist And Dollar Industries Limited Founder & Chairman Emeritus Dindayal Gupta Passes Away

Bhubaneswar (Correspondent): Renowned Industrialist and Founder & Chairman Emeritus of hosiery major, Dollar Industries Limited Shri Dindayal Gupta left for his heavenly abode today in Kolkata from age related ailments. His demise marks the end of an era for the company and the Indian hosiery and apparel industries at large.

Shri Dindayal Gupta steered Dollar Industries Limited for over five decades with unwavering commitment, foresight and integrity. Under his leadership, the company evolved from modest beginnings into one of India's leading manufacturers in the hosiery and apparel segment. Under his leadership, Dollar Industries grew to a Rs 1700+ crore conglomerate. Born on 13th September, 1937 into a humble and large

family in Manheru village, Bhiwani district, Haryana with limited means, Shri Gupta's life was a testament to perseverance, resilience and the power of dreaming big. Migrating to Kolkata (then known as Calcutta) in 1962, he started manufacturing and selling hosiery products tailor-made to the buyers' budget and requirements from its inception. This was done through parallel development of manufacturing & finishing facilities, building a

network of selling outlets & partner retailers and direct development of markets neglected by other companies.

GREEN HILLS, MODERN LIVES: CAN SIJMALI HAVE BOTH?

Bhubaneswar (Correspondent): In the vicinity of the Sijimali hill region, where the Kalahandi and Rayagada districts of Odisha meet across a verdant spine of forested slopes, the debates occupying local conversations often arrive in a simple form. They emerge as animated questions asked at tiny tea stalls, on the long walk back home from tilling fields, and outside small grocery shops where phone recharges and household staples are both available. Sijimali presently sits at the intersection of two compelling views. One is the global shift toward resource security, as countries worldwide seek stronger control over their strategic minerals and aim to reduce dependence on

imports, in the face of growing geopolitical uncertainties. The other is personal and on ground: whether the often isolated, disjointed communities living in this region can get a shot at development without any compromise. Officials and grassroots supporters linked to the proposed bauxite project say it is a mineral block chosen specifically due to its minuscule population and sparse vegetation. In India, several bauxite deposits, especially in the Eastern Ghats, are characterized by relatively thin vegetation on their plateau caps. Covering 18 villages, operationalizing the mineral block will also require the relocation of two, comprising about 100 families. On ground, the single

metric for deeming the project a success is clear: whether it will result in real, tangible development for the people of Sijimali and Kshipur block. Youths in the region, many of whom earn their livelihood from subsistence farming and livestock rearing, often spend their free time scrolling videos on social media. Several Voiced their frustration with the slow pace of operationalizing the mines. Arjun Majhi, a resident of Semiliguda, "It has been three years since the project was first announced. But now, when it looked like things were finally moving forward, yet again we are witnessing these disruptions", Majhi said. "Our

community's needs are simple: a hospital that is accessible, a school that functions every day, and roads that do not cut us off when the rains arrive. We believe this project can help us achieve all of these." Lalbahadur Duria, of Tikri, spoke about what development means to him. "Our options for sustenance are often limited," Duria said. "When work is seasonal, income is intermittent, and everything else becomes uncertain. We were looking forward to this project finally providing us with a stable source of livelihood. If there is a way to earn a steady income closer to home, people will always be ready to support it."

TPCODL Restores Power Swiftly After Kalbaisakhi Storm Disruptions in Bhubaneswar and Cuttack

Bhubaneswar (Correspondent): TP Central Odisha Distribution Limited (TPCODL) successfully carried out prompt restoration of power supply in parts of Bhubaneswar and Cuttack following power disruptions caused by Kalbaisakhi rains and heavy winds that struck the region in the late afternoon and evening today. The storm, accompanied by wind speeds of up to 48.5 kmph, led to temporary interruptions in several areas due to falling tree branches, banners, hoardings and other objects coming in contact with power lines.



Through coordinated restoration efforts, all 33 KV feeders were restored by 7:00 PM, while all 11 KV feeders were normalised by 9:00 PM. TPCODL teams, including linesmen and maintenance staff, worked continuously on the ground to remove obstructions and restore supply in the shortest

possible time while ensuring safety protocols. Speaking on this, Arvind Singh, CEO, TPCODL, said, "Despite challenging weather conditions, our teams responded with speed and dedication to restore power supply across affected areas. TPCODL remains committed to providing reliable and uninterrupted electricity to consumers, while maintaining the highest standards of safety and service excellence. "TPCODL appreciates the patience and cooperation of consumers during the restoration process and remains fully prepared to respond to any weather-related contingencies during the ongoing storm season. The company reiterates its commitment to providing reliable power supply and quality consumer service across its operational areas

TDS, TCS To Annual Filings: Major Tax Deadlines Lined Up In May

New Delhi: As the new financial year gains momentum, taxpayers must stay alert to a series of important compliance deadlines scheduled throughout May 2026, with experts stressing that timely action is essential to avoid penalties and additional charges. The month begins with a crucial deadline on May 7, when taxpayers are required to deposit tax deducted at source and

tax collected at source for April. Government offices making payments without a challan must credit the tax to the Central Government on the same day. The date also marks the deadline for submitting declarations under Section 394(2) of the Income-tax Act, 2025, which allows buyers to procure goods without the collection of tax for transactions carried out

in April. The next key date falls on May 15, which involves multiple compliance requirements under the Income-tax Act, 1961.

Taxpayers must issue TDS certificates for deductions made in March under specific provisions such as Section 194-IA for property transactions, Section 194-IB for high-value rent payments, and Section 194M for payments to contractors or professionals.

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