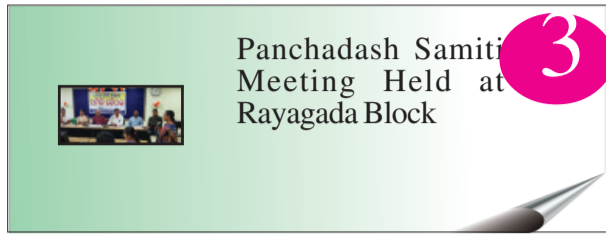




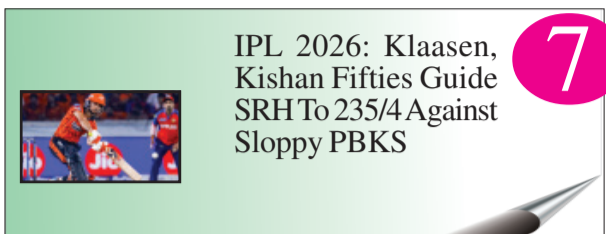
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Congress Extends Conditional Support To Vijay's TVK To Form Govt In TN

Chennai: The Congress party on Wednesday formally announced its support to actor-politician Vijay's Tamilaga Vettri Kazhagam (TVK) to form the next government in Tamil Nadu, while making it clear that the backing would remain conditional on keeping "communal forces" away from the alliance. A statement issued by Congress' Tamil Nadu in-charge Girish Chodankar said TVK President C. Vijay had officially sought the party's support after emerging as the single largest party in the recently concluded Assembly elections. The Congress described the electoral verdict as a strong mandate for a "secular, progressive and welfare-oriented government" rooted in



constitutional values. The party said the people of Tamil Nadu, especially the youth, had chosen TVK and Vijay to lead the state. "The Tamil Nadu Congress Committee and the Congress Legislature Party have decided to extend full support to the TVK to form the government," the statement said. However, the

Congress underlined that its support would depend on TVK ensuring that "communal forces that do not believe in the Constitution of India" are kept out of the proposed alliance, an apparent reference to the BJP and its allies. The development assumes significance as TVK, contesting its maiden

Assembly election, secured 108 seats in the 234-member Tamil Nadu Assembly, falling short of the majority mark of 118 seats by just 10 seats. The Congress, which won five seats as part of the DMK-led Secular Progressive Alliance, could play a key role in helping Vijay stake a claim to form the government.

Odisha To Anchor India's Next Growth Wave From East Coast: CM Majhi

BHUBANESWAR, (Correspondent): Calling for a more balanced model of national growth, Odisha Chief Minister Mohan Charan Majhi on Wednesday said India's next phase of industrial expansion must be driven by the East Coast, with Odisha positioning itself as a key gateway for future economic activity. Addressing industry leaders during his two-day visit to Gujarat, including a tour of Mundra Port, Majhi said that while the western seaboard has long dominated maritime trade and industrial development, the eastern coastline is now at a crucial turning point. "What has been achieved on the West Coast must now be expanded on the East. Odisha offers the



ecosystem, connectivity and policy support to enable that transition," he said, highlighting the state's strategic proximity to Southeast Asia, East Asia and the wider Indo-Pacific region. Pitching a "two-coast strategy", the chief minister urged industry stakeholders to integrate operations across both seaboards to leverage existing strengths while

unlocking emerging opportunities in the east. He stressed that balanced coastal development is vital for India's long-term competitiveness and said the East Coast would play a defining role in the coming decade. Majhi, accompanied by Industries Minister Sampad Chandra Swain, Chief Secretary Anu Garg

and senior officials, showcased Odisha's policy framework, infrastructure readiness and facilitation-driven governance model to investors. During the visit, the delegation toured key facilities at Mundra, including container and Very Large Crude Carrier (VLCC) jetties, gaining insights into large-scale cargo handling systems.

"Won't Resign, Let Them Dismiss Me": Mamata Banerjee Vows to Continue Fight After West Bengal Poll Defeat

Kolkata: Outgoing West Bengal Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee, addressing newly elected MLAs of her party, declared she will not resign following the assembly election results, stating that the Centre may dismiss her if it chooses, according to Trinamool Congress (TMC) sources on Wednesday. Mamata alleged that many TMC candidates were "forcefully defeated" and claimed that over 1,500 party offices were "hijacked" during the polls. She also highlighted strengthened unity within the INDIA bloc after the elections.

Speaking passionately, she accused the ruling BJP of turning the state's elections into an "atrocious" rather than a fair process. "We may have lost in numbers, but we defeated them morally," she said. Mamata emphasized her determination to continue the struggle: "After the Bengal polls, the INDIA team is united. I won't resign. Let them dismiss me. This should be marked as a black day. On the first day of the Assembly, wear black clothes. Those who betrayed us will be removed from the party."

Dramatic 8-Hour Rescue Saves Minor Trapped In Rock Crevice In Nayagarh Forest

Nayagarh (Correspondent): An 11-year-old boy was rescued alive after being trapped for nearly 10 hours inside a narrow rock crevice on a hill in Nayagarh district on Wednesday, officials said. The minor, identified as Shiva Pradhan, was pulled out by Fire service personnel following an intensive rescue operation in the Kanipada forest area near Chorakhil hill under the Odagaon police limits. According to officials, Shiva had accompanied his uncle, Ram Pradhan, to the hilltop early in the morning to collect honey. While attempting to retrieve a



honeycomb lodged deep inside a rock crevice, the boy crawled in headfirst but got stuck and was unable to free himself. Unable to rescue him, his uncle Ram Pradhan rushed back to the village and alerted locals and the fire services. The site of the incident was located about 3 km from the village and nearly 250 feet above ground

level. Fire service teams from Odagaon, Nayagarh, and Bhubaneswar reached the spot and carried out a coordinated operation for nearly eight hours before safely extricating the child. The boy was immediately shifted to the Odagaon Community Health Centre for treatment. His condition is reported to be stable. The

rescue operation drew a large crowd, with over 300 people gathering at the hill, anxiously awaiting updates and praying for the boy's safety. Family members, including his mother, were seen in distress during the prolonged operation. In a dramatic twist, a large python was spotted barely 15 feet from the crevice during the rescue, but it did not pose any threat to the trapped child. Ram Pradhan, who earns his livelihood by collecting and selling forest honey, had taken his nephew along as part of his routine work when the incident occurred.

President To Lam's Visit Reflects Vietnam's Commitment To Deepen Ties With India: Report

New Delhi: Vietnamese President To Lam's visit to New Delhi demonstrates the Southeast Asian nation's strong commitment to strengthen ties with India, elevating the relationship to a higher level that is more effective, robust and substantive, a report detailed on Wednesday. President To Lam is on a State Visit to India at the invitation of Prime Minister Narendra Modi. This visit holds significance as 2026 marks the 10th anniversary of the Comprehensive Strategic Partnership between two nations, a landmark in the history of bilateral relations. This is President To Lam's

second overseas visit after the National Assembly approved key state leadership appointments. "In recent years, India has emerged as a notable success story in regional economic development, while steadily enhancing its international standing through a balanced and independent foreign policy. These factors have enabled the South Asian country to remain resilient and sustain strong growth amid an increasingly volatile and contested global environment," reported Nhan Dan newspaper, the central organ of Communist Party of Vietnam. A flexible diplomatic policy has

remained an important factor in India achieving significant achievements on its development path. India's role and position in the region and the world is increasing. India is following a multi-alignment foreign policy, sharing good and balanced ties with other countries. "The South Asian nation is striving to affirm its role as a 'leader of the Global South', step up its 'Act East' policy, continue strengthening its comprehensive strategic partnership with ASEAN, and commit to working with ASEAN to build a free, open and inclusive Indo-Pacific, in line with ASEAN's central role in the region," the report mentioned.

India and Vietnam sign 13 MoUs to elevate ties to Enhanced Strategic levels

NEW DELHI: India and Vietnam officially upgraded their bilateral relationship to an Enhanced Comprehensive Strategic Partnership following high-level talks in New Delhi. Prime Minister Narendra Modi and Vietnamese President To Lam oversaw the signing of 13 Memorandums of Understanding (MoUs) designed to strengthen security, digital

infrastructure, and trade. This diplomatic surge aims to achieve a bilateral trade volume of USD 25 billion by the year 2030. Economic cooperation now extends into the critical sector of rare earth elements. IREL (India) Ltd and Vietnam's Institute for Technology of Radioactive and Rare Elements (ITRRE) formalised a pact to collaborate on these vital resources. This move aligns with global



efforts to secure supply chains for high-tech manufacturing and green energy. Additionally, both nations are

integrating their financial sectors. The Reserve Bank of India and the State Bank of Vietnam agreed to foster

innovation in digital payments, while NPCI International and Vietnam's NAPAS will work on cross-border QR code interoperability. Historical ties received a significant boost with a five-year cultural exchange program spanning 2026 to 2030. Interestingly, India's connection with Vietnam dates back centuries through the Cham civilization, which practiced Shaivism. A new initiative will focus

on digitizing Cham manuscripts of Indian origin. Furthermore, India announced the establishment of a Site Interpretation Centre at the My Son UNESCO World Heritage Site, a cluster of ancient Hindu temples in central Vietnam. Vietnam's decision to join the Indo-Pacific Oceans Initiative (IPOI) marks a notable shift in regional security dynamics. Discussions at Hyderabad House also

touched upon maritime safety and defense. Local administrative cooperation is also on the cards, with Mumbai and Ho Chi Minh City signing an agreement to share expertise in urban management. Educational and agricultural sectors were not left behind. Nalanda University will facilitate capacity building for Vietnamese officials, and two new Indian Studies chairs will be established in Vietnamese universities.

Vedanta Aluminium Augments Fly Ash Management Through Digital and On-Ground Monitoring in Jharsuguda

Jharsuguda (Correspondent): As the largest aluminium plant in the world, Vedanta Aluminium's Jharsuguda unit has put in place a comprehensive framework to manage the fly ash generated from its captive power facilities. Combining real-time technologies with robust on-ground verification mechanisms, the company aims to ensure end-to-end fly ash management practices that strictly adhere to both regulatory and environmental requirements.

All vehicles engaged in fly ash transportation from the plant are equipped with GPS-enabled tracking systems, providing continuous, end-to-end visibility from loading points to authorised end-use

destinations. Truck movement occurs only on approved routes, ensuring route discipline and reducing the risk of any unauthorised diversion or disposal. The plant's route monitoring system records all trip data digitally, creating a verifiable audit trail which is also accessible by government authorities.

This data-led monitoring has enabled greater transparency in operations. With vehicle movement logs captured automatically, the dependence on manual records has reduced. The system enables immediate detection of any deviations, supporting prompt corrective action and reinforcing accountability among all logistics partners.

To complement its digital monitoring efforts, the unit has also recently deployed Quick Response Teams (QRT) to strengthen its GPS oversight systems and maintain full visibility and control across the logistics chain. These teams have been tasked with conducting surprise inspections across its fly ash transportation network, providing independent, on-ground validation of compliance. Surprise inspections are conducted for verifying adherence to approved routes, documentation and handling practices. The monitoring framework covers key districts in the vicinity of Jharsuguda, including Sambalpur, Sundargarh and

Bargarh. A dedicated contact number, 9668972214, has also been launched to support rapid communication and response, enabling swift field-level intervention wherever required. This on-ground presence has reinforced operational discipline among drivers, contractors and supervisors.

By integrating a dual-control monitoring framework that links digital assurance with ground intelligence, the company's model underscores how technology and on-ground enforcement can work together to deliver responsible fly ash management within the metals and mining sector.

India, Vietnam Elevate Ties To Enhanced Comprehensive Strategic Partnership: PM Modi

New Delhi: Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Wednesday announced that ties between India and Vietnam have been elevated to Enhanced Comprehensive Strategic Partnership. While addressing a joint press meet with Vietnamese President To Lam following their talks at Hyderabad House in New Delhi on Wednesday, PM Modi called Vietnam a "key pillar" of India's Act East policy and Vision Mahasagar. PM Modi said, "One decade

back, during my first visit to Vietnam, Vietnam became India's first Comprehensive Strategic Partner in ASEAN. Since then, our relations have made rapid and comprehensive progress. Along with the civilisational ties, our trade, technology and tourism ties have also strengthened. Building on this strong foundation, today we are taking our relations to the level of an Enhanced Comprehensive Strategic Partnership." Extending

a warm welcome to the Vietnamese President, PM Modi said, "I am immensely pleased to extend a hearty welcome to President To Lam in India. After becoming President of Vietnam, his visit to India within just one month, accompanied by a high-level delegation along with several business leaders, clearly demonstrates the priority he accords to India-Vietnam relations." "President To Lam of Vietnam started his visit to India from Bodh Gaya.

Rajnath Singh To Attend Swearing-In Ceremony On May 7

New Delhi: Defence Minister Rajnath Singh will be attending the swearing-in ceremony of the new Bihar Cabinet in Patna on May 7. Rajnath Singh took to social media 'X' and said, "Tomorrow, 07th May, I shall be in Bihar to attend the swearing-in ceremony in Patna. Later in the evening, I shall be visiting Rajasthan to attend the Joint Commanders' Conference to be held in Jaipur. Looking forward." This Cabinet expansion marks a pivotal moment in Bihar politics. It follows the transition of power after Nitish Kumar vacated the Chief Minister's post for senior BJP leader Samrat Choudhary,

who was sworn in on April 14. Earlier in the day, the National Democratic Alliance (NDA) government held a crucial meeting ahead of the much-anticipated Cabinet expansion. The meeting is being viewed as the final round of consultations before the formal announcement of the new ministerial team. According to an official communication issued by the Information and Public Relations Department, Bihar, the Cabinet meeting will be held today at 5:00 P.M. in the Cabinet Hall at the Chief Secretariat in Patna. This will be followed by a press conference at 6:00 P.M. in the Information Building, where key

decisions taken during the meeting are expected to be shared with the media. The meeting, led by Chief Minister Samrat Choudhary, is expected to focus on finalising preparations for the upcoming expansion and ensuring coordination within the NDA alliance. Governor Syed Ata Hasnain will later administer the oath of office and secrecy to the newly-inducted ministers during the expansion ceremony. The Cabinet expansion follows extensive consultations between state leadership and central NDA leadership, including discussions with senior figures of the Bharatiya Janata Party.

India, Japan Ink Pacts On Health Research, Quantum Technologies

New Delhi: India and Japan have signed agreements to strengthen cooperation in health research and quantum technologies, further deepening their strategic partnership in science, technology and innovation, the Ministry of Science & Technology said on Wednesday. The agreements were exchanged during a high-level meeting between Union Minister Dr Jitendra Singh and Japan's Minister for Science and Technology Policy and Minister of State for Space Policy, Kimi Onoda, who is on a visit to India with a high-level delegation. Moreover, a Memorandum of Cooperation (MoC) in the field of health and medical devices was



exchanged among the Japan Agency for Medical Research and Development (AMED), the Indian Council of Medical Research (ICMR) and the Department of Science and Technology (DST), the ministry said. In addition, a Letter of

Intent (LoI) on cooperation in quantum science and technology was signed between the Cabinet Office of Japan and the Department of Science and Technology, opening new avenues for collaboration in next-generation

technologies. The government has highlighted that engagement builds on the outcomes of Prime Minister Narendra Modi's visit to Japan in August 2025, during which both sides agreed to expand cooperation under the

India-Japan Science, Technology and Innovation Partnership across sectors, including industry and startups. Addressing the meeting, Singh said that India and Japan share a natural synergy in science and technology, with Japan's advanced technological capabilities complementing India's vast pool of skilled human resources. He noted that India's expanding national missions in quantum technologies, cyber-physical systems, electric mobility, clean energy and advanced computing are creating new opportunities for joint research, co-development and industrial partnerships.

India Soaring Ahead As Centre Of Innovation And Growth In World: Vietnam President To Lam

New Delhi: Vietnamese President To Lam on Wednesday hailed India's rise, describing it as a "centre of growth and innovation in the world", while stating that India and Vietnam give high priority to their bilateral ties. Addressing a joint press meet with Prime Minister Narendra Modi following their talks here, To Lam said: "I am very impressed, and I would like to congratulate India for its leaps and bounds progress. India has been soaring ahead as a centre of growth and innovation in the world. Mr Prime Minister and I have had a very successful discussion. We attach great importance to the outcomes of the 50 years of relations as well as the 10 years of the comprehensive strategic partnership, and we would give high priority to our bilateral relations." "We also shared our vision on the

region and the world, and we reached a high level of mutual understanding as to how important the relationship between India and Vietnam is to both countries. We would link together our strategic vision and development strategies to better address the turmoil of the situation in the world today," he added. The Vietnamese President announced that he and PM Modi agreed to elevate defence and security cooperation to become a "strategic pillar" for contributing to strengthening an environment of peace and stability. "Given this foundation, we agreed to continue to upgrade bilateral relations to an enhanced CSB in the spirit of sharing vision, strategic convergence and substantive cooperation and bring relations between the two countries into greater depth in the following ways. First,

we agreed to continue to further deepen political trust, step up high-level engagement and increase the effectiveness of existing cooperation mechanisms. Second, we will elevate defence and security cooperation to become a strategic pillar to contributing to strengthening an environment of peace and stability," he said. He stated that science, technology, innovation and digital transformation will be a new driver for cooperation between India and Vietnam. He announced that two nations will bring a change in economic cooperation, trade corporation and investment corporation through value chain connectivity, removing barriers and expanding market access. To Lam announced that India and Vietnam agreed to work closely together at regional and

international forums, contributing to the maintenance of peace, stability, security and development in the region and the world. He thanked PM Modi and the people of India for extending a warm welcome to him and his delegation. "We would strengthen people to people to cultural to educational relationship and religious connection to bring about a strong social foundation for bilateral relations. We have also agreed to work closely together at regional and international forums, contributing to the maintenance of peace, stability, security and development in the region and the world on the foundation of respect for international laws, the UN charter and the fundamental principles of international law to protect the legitimate rights and interests and ensure the voice of the developed

countries that they shall be heard." He expressed Vietnam's support for India assuming a greater position and role at multilateral forums and working closely with New Delhi to address common challenges faced by the region. "Vietnam supports India assuming a greater position and role at multilateral forums and we would like to work more closely together with India in addressing common challenges facing the region and the world. We also reasserted the importance of the maintenance of an environment of peace, stability, ensuring security, safety and freedom of navigation over flight, addressing of disputes through peaceful means on the basis of international law, including the UNCLOS 1982."

SC Flags 'Egregious Error' In Granting Bail In Dowry Death Case

New Delhi: The Supreme Court has cancelled the bail granted by the Allahabad High Court to a man accused in a dowry death case from Uttar Pradesh, terming the relief "not sustainable in law" and cautioning courts against taking crimes against women "very lightly". A Bench of Justices J.B. Pardiwala and Vijay Bishnoi allowed the appeal filed by the father of the deceased woman and directed the accused husband to surrender before jail authorities within one week, failing which coercive steps may be taken. The case relates to the death of a woman, who was found dead under suspicious circumstances at her matrimonial home in Ghaziabad on July 11, 2024, within seven years of her marriage solemnised in February

2019. An FIR lodged by the deceased's father alleged that despite spending over Rs 30 lakh at the time of marriage, including an i20 car, cash, jewellery and household articles, the husband and his family continued demanding an SUV and an additional Rs 10 lakh as dowry. According to the complaint, the woman was subjected to physical and mental harassment, beaten, abused, and threatened with death over the dowry demands. The FIR further alleged that shortly before her death, the deceased had informed her father over the phone that her in-laws had been assaulting her and threatening to kill her. Investigation in the case culminated in a charge sheet against the husband and his parents under various provisions of the Bharatiya Nyaya Sanhita, 2023, and the

Dowry Prohibition Act, 1961. The Allahabad High Court had granted bail to the accused husband in August 2025, observing that the cause of death was "asphyxia as a result of ante-mortem hanging" and referring to an alleged delay in lodging the FIR. Setting aside the bail order, the Supreme Court said the Allahabad High Court committed an "egregious error" while exercising discretion in favour of the accused in such a serious offence. "When bail is prayed for, the High Court is expected to consider the nature of the crime and a prima facie case. The allegations levelled by the father in the FIR do disclose more than a prima facie case," the Justice Pardiwala-led Bench observed. It added that the deceased had died in her matrimonial home within seven years of marriage

ACF Jeypore KL Division Inspects Kendu Leaf Procurement Across Bissamcuttack Range

Rayagada (Correspondent): In a move to ensure transparency and efficiency in forest produce operations, the Assistant Conservator of Forests (ACF), Jeypore KL Division, conducted a detailed inspection of Kendu leaf procurement and transportation across multiple phadis under the Bissamcuttack KL Range. The inspection covered key sections including Theruvali, Bissamcuttack, Muniguda, and Ambadola. During the visit, the ACF reviewed the ongoing

procurement process, interacted with field staff, and assessed the quality and storage conditions of the collected Kendu leaves. Special attention was given to verifying whether standard procedures were being followed during collection, bundling, and transportation. Officials were instructed to maintain proper records and ensure timely payments to pluckers, many of whom belong to tribal and rural communities dependent on Kendu leaf collection for their livelihood. The ACF emphasized the



Inspection of Kendu leaf procurement and transportation across multiple phadis under the Bissamcuttack KL Range. The ACF emphasized the importance of transparency in procurement practices and directed staff to avoid any irregularities. The transportation system was also examined to ensure that leaves are

being safely and efficiently moved from phadis to designated storage points without damage or delay. Necessary guidelines were issued to streamline logistics and minimize losses. Local stakeholders welcomed the inspection, expressing hope that such proactive monitoring would strengthen accountability and improve income opportunities for collectors. The forest department reiterated its commitment to supporting forest-dependent communities while maintaining sustainable practices in Kendu leaf trade. The inspection is part of ongoing efforts by the department to enhance governance and ensure smooth functioning of Kendu leaf operations in the region.

RTI Row Escalates: AAP Leader Moves High Court Against PWD Division-II, Berhampur, Ganjam

Goplapur (correspondent): A controversy has erupted over alleged irregularities in developmental works in the Goplapur Assembly constituency, as Aam Aadmi Party (AAP) MLA candidate Nilakantha Reddy has approached the High Court against the Public Works Department (PWD) Division-II, Berhampur, Ganjam. According to sources, MR. Reddy had filed multiple applications under the Right to Information (RTI) Act seeking details of various ongoing development projects in the Goplapur constituency. However,

he alleged that the department failed to provide the requested information despite repeated efforts and following due legal procedures. Reddy has accused officials of deliberately withholding information to conceal large-scale corruption and irregularities in construction works, including road projects and other infrastructure developments. He claimed that if the information is disclosed, major scams and misuse of public funds would be exposed. "The officials are knowingly denying information to hide corruption. There are serious irregularities in

almost all developmental works in the constituency," Reddy stated. Demanding transparency and accountability, he emphasized that development projects must be executed properly and free from corruption. He also warned that if the authorities continue to remain unresponsive, he will intensify his protesting in a strong move. Reddy has now knocked on the doors of the High Court seeking justice. He has further cautioned that he may stage a gherao (siege) of the concerned department office in the coming days if his demands are not addressed.



Shri Vijay Chand has assumed the additional charge of Regional Executive Director (ER-II) with effect from 06 May 2026. He is presently serving as Head of Project (HOP) Talcher Thermal.

MAHENDRA MELA PREPARATIONS GAIN MOMENTUM AT MAHENDRAGIRI

Paralakhemundi, (Correspondent): The Odisha Government has intensified preparations to successfully organise the annual Mahendra Mela at the mythologically significant Mahendragiri, popularly known as the "Himalaya of Odisha." The week-long spiritual fair will be held from June 2 to 9 with grand celebrations and elaborate arrangements. Commerce

and Transport Minister Bibhuti Bhushan Jena visited Mahendragiri to inspect preparations and review facilities. Lakhs of devotees from Odisha and outside the state, along with saints and spiritual leaders, are expected to participate in the fair. Major religious events including Kalash Yatra, Maha Yajna, Anna Yajna, and round-the-clock Naam Sankirtan will be organised during the festival. To ensure

smooth conduct of the mela, the government has formed various committees and assigned responsibilities to officials and local representatives. A high-level review meeting was also held with participation of district officials, public representatives, social workers, BJP leaders, and RSS functionaries to discuss measures for making the event a grand success.

Panchdash Samiti Meeting Held at Rayagada Block

Rayagada, (Correspondent): The Panchdash Samiti meeting of Rayagada Block was held at the local Sadbhavana Hall under the chairpersonship of Ms. Tuni Huika. Among those present on the dais were Vice-Chairman Har Prasad Hepruka, MP's representative Bhushan Bidika, MLA's representative Satyaban Mandangi, BDO Sujit Kumar Mishra, ABDO Kalu Charan Nayak, Assistant Executive Engineer Samir Kumar Rath, and Zilla Parishad Member Padmabati Mandangi. The meeting began with the Chairperson welcoming all members. Officials from various departments including Health, Education, Welfare, Women & Child Development,



Agriculture, Watershed, Animal Husbandry, Fisheries, Labour, Rural Development (RD), Minor Irrigation, Silviculture, Supply, Social Security, Drinking Water, Livelihood Mission, Housing Schemes, and Electricity were present. They presented departmental updates and addressed issues raised by public representatives. The Assistant Group Education Officer, Chhabil Singh, informed that efforts are ongoing to enroll school dropout students into hostels in the

new academic year to bring them back into the mainstream. He also stated that steps are being taken to continue teaching through online platforms during the summer vacation. Concerns were raised by a committee member from Kumbhikota regarding delays in issuing death certificates by the Community Health Centre, and necessary action was urged. Keeping the summer heat in view, discussions were held on identifying villages facing drinking

water scarcity and ensuring arrangements under mega drinking water projects. The BDO urged elected representatives to take necessary steps for the full utilization of last year's funds. Members also expressed concern that despite many roads being handed over to the RD department, only a limited number of works have been taken up so far. GPDO Smruti Rekha Nayak presented the minutes of the previous meeting, and the session concluded with a vote of thanks by ABDO Kalu Charan Nayak. Senior officials including Raj Kishore Dash, along with staff members Bikash Behera, Mamina Tripathy, Bikash Bag, and other block officials extended their cooperation during the meeting.

On one hand, welcome to JSW, on the other hand, Congress's Gandhipath Nyaya Yatra

Paradip: (Correspondent) :- There are no factories in the Dhinkia Charidesh area under Paradip. The locals used to earn a living by fishing and farming. POSCO came in 2005, but after it left in 2017, the people of Dhinkia Charidesh area are giving great support to the establishment of JSW Utkal Steel. If the industry is established here, people will get jobs and also get compensation. If the company is established, our children will get jobs, and our region will develop rapidly. While many intellectuals, regardless of party affiliation, have been supporting the establishment of JSW Utkal Steel, on Wednesday, the Pradesh Congress Committee, led by state president Bhakta Charan Das, opposed the establishment of the company by hundreds of people. In this regard, the Gandhi Nyaya Yatra has started from Dhinkia. Congress has never been anti-factory, but has said that this is a fair journey to pay fair price to

the displaced. The intelligent people of the local area have opposed this. In the past, they used to oppose good companies like POSCO for vested interests. Now, it has been expressed that they are opposing a good company, JSW Utkal Steel. Regarding this, former Sarpanch of Dheenkia Grama, Shishir Kumar Mahapatra, said that all the companies that have come to Paradip have been given employment to local people after the establishment of the industry. But before the JSW Utkal Steel Company project was started, Dheenkia had already employed 150 people from four countries. After the project started, the process of employing children with technical degrees from our region has started. Before the factory was built, Dheenkia had been doing various people-oriented work in its CSR fund in four countries and was working on education, health, transportation, women empowerment, self-reliance of farmers, etc. BJD brought JSW

Utkal Steel, why are BJD and BJP not opposing it. Locals are not so stupid. Where the factory construction is going on in full swing. Where will the locals go? Since people have gathered within a hundred meters of the ground, it will not have any effect. Paddy has been harvested in the fields, chillies and mangoes are growing on the poles, so who is going to live? People are seeing that the work is progressing at a fast pace. No other company has paid so much compensation for government land in the whole of India. 50 thousand rupees have been given for each paan barge. Shri Mahapatra said that the establishment of JSW company will lead to rapid progress in our region. To know more about this, we contacted the company authorities and found that about 150 locals are engaged in contract work, more than 500 people from 3 local panchayats have been employed as supervisors, office assistants, and qualified personnel.

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MAN DROWNS IN POND AMID KALABAISAKHI

Paralakhemundi, (Correspondent) A 55-year-old man, Rabindra Patra of Mahadeipur village under Gosani block in Gajapati district, died after slipping and drowning in a pond during a sudden Kalbaisakhi storm on Tuesday evening. According to reports, he had gone to the pond to wash the body after defecation when heavy rain and strong winds caused him to lose his balance and fell into the water. A fire services team from Paralakhemundi later recovered the body from the pond.

Behind closed doors of Barpali: Secret factory making fake snacks and oil shut down"

Bargarh (Barpali): Health scare erupts after a counterfeit food factory is uncovered and shut down; the owner mysteriously escapes. In a dramatic raid, authorities uncovered a hidden operation in Barpali town, Bargarh district, where a clandestine factory was secretly churning out fake chocolates, biscuits, soft drinks, edible oil, and "chura." Operating

openly in a busy market area, the illegal unit produced cheap, counterfeit snacks and oils and sold them to roadside vendors and small shops, endangering unsuspecting consumers. The factory, situated along Barpali's bustling weekly market road, was an alarming sight—equipped with mixing vats, industrial blenders, packaging machines, and massive

stocks of counterfeit products ready for sale. Authorities found the oil to be reused or substandard "poha tadka" that had been falsely rebottled and relabeled. At the same time, some "chura" was made from paper-based or inferior starch mixtures designed to mimic popular brands. Raw materials, unmarked packaging, and unlicensed stock were seized for lab testing. Led by Barpali tehsildar Rukma Meher, a team

including Bargad food inspector Parameswar Naik, sanitary inspector Tej Bhanu Sahu, MTC officer Sujit Mallik, and police officials, including Barpali inspector Pramod Kumar Sahu and Bargad town inspector Chittaranjan Meher, conducted a midnight raid, catching the factory in the act. The owner mysteriously vanished, with the premises cordoned off and sealed by authorities under the

Food Safety and Standards Act, 2006. Public health officials have issued serious warnings: avoid suspiciously cheap snacks and oils, and always verify that products carry FSSAI marks and batch numbers. Samples are now undergoing testing, and stricter surprise inspections across Bargad are underway to protect consumers and crack down on food adulteration.

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GOVERNMENT OF ODISHA
DEPARTMENT OF P.R. & D.W
INVITATION FOR BIDS (IFB)
IDENTIFICATION No: - GONDIA BLOCK- 03 / 2025-26
E-mail address: - ori-gandia@nic.in

Sl. No	Name of works	Approx. Value of work (Rs. In lakhs)	Class of contractor	Bid Security (Rs.)	Cost of documents (Non-refundable)	Period of completion
1	Construction of Kalyan Mandap at Khandabandha	45.87	'B'	45875.00	6000.00	Six Calendar months

For detailed information, please visit the website <https://dhenkanal.odisha.gov.in>

Sd/-
OIPR-19001/19418/1/26-27/0001
Block Development Officer, Gondia

13001/372/2627

OFFICE OF THE NOTIFIED AREA COUNCIL, KONARK

e-mail: nackonark@gmail.com
Phone No. 06758-236826

AT/PO: KONARK, DIST: PURI, ODISHA.

Quotation Call Notice No.: 1451 Date: 04-05-26

Sealed Quotations in the prescribed format are invited from the Authorized Companies/Dealers/Firms/Agents/Shopkeepers having GST/PAN for supply of Bleaching Powder, Phenyl and other Sanitation materials, etc. to Konark N.A.C for the 1 (One) year, i.e., 2026-27. The quotation should reach the undersigned on or before the date. 14.05.26 up to 12.00 P.M. through Regd. Post / Speed Post / Courier, and the same will be opened on the date. 15.05.26 at 10 A.M. In the presence of the bidders or their authorized representative. The quotation paper will be available at N.A.C office / Office Website nackonark in w.e.f 05.05.2026 to 14.05.26 up to 12.00 P.M. during office working hours on submission of non-refundable cost of paper Rs. 2,000.00 in the shape of Cash / B.C / D.D in favour of E.O Konark N.A.C. The quotation should also be enclosed E.M.D. for Rs. 10,000.00 (Twenty Thousand) only in the shape of DD/BC in favour of E.O Konark N.A.C, along with sealed quotation papers in time, failing which the quotation cannot be considered. The Authority reserves the right to cancel any or all quotation papers without assigning a reason thereof.

OIPR-13001/13174/1/26-27/0002

Execulive Officer
Konark N.A.C

EDITORIAL

Medical Education Beyond NEET: Opportunities You Should Know

In the field of medical education, the demand for pursuing MBBS is on the rise in almost all the countries around the world and aspirants are desperate to get into an MBBS college.

No matter how much efforts they put, it is extremely difficult to secure a medical seat in your preferred medical university because of several reasons due to which aspirants loose hope and get depressed as their sole aim is to become a doctor.

Moving ahead, there are some aspirants who choose an alternative career option if not MBBS, in the medical field, for which the scores of NEET entrance exam is not considered. So, aspirants there are variety of career opportunities after 12th if not MBBS and that do not require NEET.

Aspirants who are not aware about these courses might really be excited after reading this. Yes, you read it right and if your dream is too just get into the medical field in any domain of the profession then you can choose the following mentioned medical career opportunities, if not MBBS as it even require less efforts and will not take a toll on your health without worrying whether the seats are available in your preferred university.

Medical aspirants are aware of the fact that the NEET (National Eligibility cum Entrance Test) that was earlier known as AIPMT (All India level pre-medical entrance test) is the most competitive medical entrance examination in order to pursue undergraduate medical courses such as MBBS, BDS, BAMS, BUMS, BHMS, etc. in Indian government and private institutions and for those aspirants who are planning to pursue MBBS from Abroad.

It is mandatory that the aspirants who are planning to pursue medical courses need to complete 12th from science stream with Physics, Chemistry and Biology and also qualify NEET exam if they want to pursue MBBS in India and Abroad.

There are various opportunities in the medical and paramedical courses which are available for all the candidates who are interested in pursuing different medical courses apart from MBBS because of India's fastest growing health care sector, through which you can also acquire best salary packages and various opportunities after pursuing 12th. On the other hand, medical aspirants are always in search of alternate career opportunities in medicine without NEET, as the level of competition of NEET exam is on the rise.

West Bengal: From Fear to Trust



Prof. Mahesh Chand Gupta

The results of the West Bengal Assembly elections, which gave a massive majority to the Bharatiya Janata Party, have

marked a decisive turning point in the state's politics. After spending nearly fifteen years under the shadow of fear, insecurity, and political violence, West Bengal now appears to be entering a new phase of hope and trust. This mandate is not merely about a change of government; it reflects the people's clear anger against the political culture of the Trinamool Congress, which, according to many, pushed the state away from the mainstream of development. An important question arises here: Did Bengal suddenly reach this condition? The answer lies in understanding that the state's decline did not happen overnight. Bengal was once considered the pioneer of India's cultural, intellectual, and industrial progress. It was the land of great personalities such as Rabindranath Tagore, Swami Vivekananda, and Aurobindo Ghosh, and was often regarded as the soul of India. However, post-independence politics gradually weakened this glorious legacy.

During the Congress era, the administrative system slowly began to weaken. Later, when Left governments came to power, they promoted an economic mindset in the name of workers' welfare that made industrial and technological growth appear suspicious. Their opposition to the computer revolution became one of the strongest examples of this approach. At a time when the world was moving ahead by embracing technology, Bengal kept moving backward. As a result, industrial confidence weakened and investments slowly began shifting out of the state.

This trend became even more evident when Ratan Tata came to Singur with the ambitious Nano car project. It was a historic opportunity for Bengal that could have re-established the state on India's industrial map. However, political opposition, protests, and an atmosphere of confusion forced the project to move elsewhere. This was not merely the destruction of a major industrial initiative; it also damaged Bengal's credibility and sent a message to investors across the

country and abroad that the state lacked stability and trustworthiness. When the Trinamool Congress came to power under the leadership of Mamata Banerjee, people hoped the state would finally return to the path of development. But the situation, critics argue, did not improve. Instead, allegations of "cut money," syndicate culture, and appeasement politics worsened matters further. Administrative systems weakened and law and order deteriorated. Naturally, this had a direct impact on the economy. Industries continued to leave the state, investments declined, and employment opportunities shrank. The Marwari business community, which had played a crucial role in Bengal's economic structure for generations, also gradually began moving out of the state. Delhi and Haryana became preferred destinations for many of them. This reflected the growing perception that Bengal's business environment was no longer dependable. Today, industrial growth in Bengal is said to have fallen below three percent, whereas it once touched sixteen to seventeen percent. Major industrial houses such as the Tata and Birla groups had once expanded across India from Bengal, but over time, they too shifted elsewhere. The common citizen, meanwhile, continues to struggle under economic pressure. Farmers and laborers in rural areas face severe hardships, while the lack of jobs has forced many young people to migrate to other states in search of opportunities. For a state that once provided industrial direction to the nation, this situation is deeply concerning. Law and order has also remained a major issue during the Mamata Banerjee government. Concerns regarding women's safety repeatedly surfaced. Critics argue that despite having a woman chief minister, incidents involving crimes against women raised serious questions about the government's priorities. When a large section of society feels unsafe, no development plan can truly succeed on the ground. In this context, a statement made by Prime Minister Narendra Modi during the election campaign becomes relevant. Modi said that the current condition of West Bengal was a matter of concern. According to him, the migration of youth due to unemployment and the fear surrounding women's safety were both alarming signs for the state. His words reflected the pain of seeing a region that once led India's industrial development reach

such a condition. This electoral mandate could prove to be a defining moment for West Bengal, giving the state an opportunity to reclaim its lost glory. However, the BJP will now have to fulfill its promises and demonstrate that the change is not limited to slogans alone but can be translated into reality.

The journey "from fear to trust" is expected to begin with the swearing-in of the new government on May 9. Its success will depend on the government's political will, clear policies, and transparent administration. The BJP has inherited a state where administrative structures are considered weak and economic activities have slowed significantly. Therefore, the party will not only need to repair the damaged system through consistent efforts but also deliver on the promises made to the people. Although the strong mandate symbolizes a fresh beginning, it also brings enormous responsibility. Restoring public trust will perhaps be the biggest challenge before the new government. For years, people in the state have struggled with unemployment, weak law and order, economic stagnation, and migration. Solving these problems will not be easy. At the same time, the government will need to create a clear and sustainable path of development so that Bengal can once again move confidently toward progress.

After the election results, Narendra Modi described the BJP's victory as the beginning of a new era and declared that Bengal's "bright future" had begun. But this vision will require strong policies and effective implementation, not just political declarations. People naturally expect the new government to ensure equal opportunities for all sections of society. Reviving industries, attracting investment, and creating employment opportunities are likely to remain among its top priorities. In particular, stopping the migration of youth and ensuring a safer environment for women will require immediate and meaningful action. This historic mandate is being seen as a "new dawn" for the BJP, but the significance of this moment goes beyond politics alone. For the people of West Bengal, it represents the possibility of a fresh beginning — one filled with hope, expectations, and aspirations for a better future. The real question now is whether the new government will truly be able to live up to those hopes and expectations.

Noise Pollution on Human Health



Narayan Chandra Biswal

The word noise is derived from the Latin word 'Nausea', which means sickness in which one feels the need to vomit. Noise is the unpleasant and

undesirable sound which leads to discomfort in human beings. The intensity of sound is measured in decibels (dB). The faintest sound that the human ear can hear is 1 Db. Due to increasing noise around the civilizations, noise pollution has become a matter of concern. Some of its major causes are vehicles, aircraft, industrial machines, loudspeakers, crackers, etc. When used at high volume, some other appliances also contribute to noise pollution, like television, transistor, radio, etc.

Types of Noise Pollution, Following are the three types of pollution: Transport Noise, Neighbourhood Noise, Industrial Noise.

Causes and Sources of Noise Pollution Following are the causes and sources of noise pollution: Industrialisation: Industrialisation has led to an increase

in noise pollution as the use of heavy machinery such as generators, mills, huge exhaust fans are used, resulting in the production of unwanted noise. Vehicles: Increased number of vehicles on the roads are the second reason for noise pollution. Events: Weddings, public gatherings involve loudspeakers to play music resulting in the production of unwanted noise in the neighbourhood. Construction sites: Mining, construction of buildings, etc add to the noise pollution. Effects of Noise Pollution on Human Health. Noise pollution can be hazardous to human health in the following ways: Hypertension: It is a direct result of noise pollution which is caused due to elevated blood levels for a longer duration. Hearing loss: Constant exposure of human ears to loud noise that are beyond the range of sound that human ears can withstand damages the eardrums, resulting in loss of hearing. Sleeping disorders: Lack of sleep might result in fatigue and low energy level throughout the day affecting everyday activities. Noise pollution hampers the sleep cycles leading to irritation and an uncomfortable state of mind.

Cardiovascular issues: Heart-related problems such as blood pressure level, stress and cardiovascular diseases might come up in a normal person and a person suffering from any of these diseases might feel a sudden shoot up in the level. Prevention of Noise Pollution. Some noise pollution preventive measures are provided in the points below. Honking in public places like teaching institutes, hospitals, etc. should be banned. In commercial, hospital, and industrial buildings, adequate soundproof systems should be installed. Musical instruments' sound should be controlled to desirable limits. Dense tree cover is useful in noise pollution prevention. Explosives should not be used in forest, mountainous and mining areas.

Noise pollution was not considered to be a major issue earlier. Its impact was not even this severe few decades back. But due to urbanization the issue of noise pollution is increasing and has now become a major concern. Serious measures need to be taken for the prevention of noise pollution to avoid the adverse effect of it on the lives of human, wildlife and environment.

Bail Cannot Become Punishment



Bruhaspati Samal

In a democracy governed by the rule of law, the grant of bail is meant to secure liberty—not to impose humiliation. The recent intervention of the Supreme Court of India in the matter concerning Sijimali activists from Odisha has reaffirmed this foundational principle with rare clarity and moral force. By striking down degrading and legally untenable bail conditions imposed by lower courts—most notably, directing accused persons to "clean police stations"—the Court has not only corrected a grave judicial error but also issued a wider constitutional warning against the misuse of discretion in the criminal justice system.

The controversy arose from arrests linked to protests in the Sijimali hills, a region spanning Rayagada and Kalahandi districts, where tribal communities have mobilised against proposed mining activities. When some of the arrested activists were granted bail, local courts attached conditions that had no nexus to the alleged offences. Requiring individuals—many from Scheduled Tribe and Dalit backgrounds—to perform menial and stigmatizing tasks such as cleaning police premises was not merely irregular; it was an affront to constitutional morality.

The Supreme Court's response was swift and unequivocal. It described such conditions as "abhorrent," "cruel," "degrading," and "unknown to law." These are not casual adjectives; they reflect a deep constitutional anxiety about the erosion of personal dignity and the distortion of judicial purpose. Bail, the Court reiterated, cannot be converted into a tool for moral correction, social messaging, or worse, symbolic punishment.

At the heart of the judgment lies a robust

reading of Article 21 of the Constitution—the guarantee that no person shall be deprived of life or personal liberty except according to procedure established by law. Over decades, the Supreme Court has expansively interpreted Article 21 to include the right to live with dignity. By compelling accused persons to perform humiliating tasks unrelated to their case, the lower courts effectively violated this guarantee. The Court's intervention thus restores the centrality of dignity even at the stage of pre-trial liberty.

Equally significant is the reaffirmation of Article 14, which mandates equality before the law and protection against arbitrary state action. Bail conditions must be reasonable, proportionate, and connected to the objectives of securing the accused's presence during trial or preventing interference with evidence. When courts invent conditions that bear no rational nexus to these objectives, they slip into arbitrariness—precisely what Article 14 forbids. The Sijimali order serves as a reminder that discretion, however wide, is never unfettered.

The ruling also resonates with Article 23, which prohibits forced labour. While the bail conditions in question may not fit the classical definition of bonded labour, compelling individuals to undertake unpaid, stigmatized work as a condition for liberty treads dangerously close to constitutionally prohibited territory. The Court's strong language signals that any judicial directive resembling coercive labour—especially when targeted at vulnerable communities—will not pass constitutional muster.

beyond the text of the Constitution, the decision engages with a deeper ethical concern: the persistence of caste and class biases within institutional practices. That such conditions were imposed on tribal and Dalit activists is not incidental. Historically, these communities have borne the burden of "unclean" labour, enforced by social hierarchies. By mandating similar tasks in a judicial

order, the lower courts inadvertently echoed these oppressive structures. The Supreme Court's condemnation, therefore, is also a repudiation of practices that reproduce social discrimination under the veneer of legality.

The judgment must also be situated within the broader jurisprudence on bail. Indian courts have long maintained that "bail is the rule, jail is the exception." This principle is not a mere slogan; it flows from the presumption of innocence and the recognition that pre-trial detention is a serious deprivation of liberty. Conditions attached to bail are meant to be facilitative—ensuring attendance, preventing tampering of evidence, or safeguarding the investigation. When conditions become punitive or theatrical, they invert the very logic of bail.

There is, in recent years, a discernible trend of lower courts experimenting with "innovative" bail conditions—ranging from community service to public displays of contrition. While some of these may be well-intentioned, they often lack statutory backing and risk crossing into judicial overreach. The Sijimali ruling draws a clear boundary: innovation cannot come at the cost of legality and dignity. Courts are not social reform laboratories where accused persons can be made instruments of moral pedagogy.

The implications of this judgment are far-reaching. First, it sets a binding precedent that will guide subordinate courts across the country. Judicial academies and training programmes would do well to incorporate this ruling into their curricula, emphasising the limits of discretion in bail matters. Second, it offers a measure of protection to activists and dissenters, who are often at the receiving end of coercive legal processes. By ensuring that bail conditions remain within constitutional bounds, the Court has strengthened the procedural safeguards available to those who challenge state policies.

Third, the ruling underscores the need for clearer statutory or judicial guidelines on bail conditions. While the Code of Criminal Procedure grants courts the power to impose "such conditions as it considers necessary," this phrase cannot be a *carte blanche*. A structured framework—perhaps articulated through future judgments—could help standardise practices and reduce arbitrariness. Such a framework should insist on three tests: legality (is the condition authorised by law?), relevance (does it relate to the case or trial process?), and proportionality (is it reasonable in scope and impact?).

Finally, the decision carries a broader message about the role of the judiciary in a constitutional democracy. Courts are not merely arbiters of disputes; they are custodians of rights. When they stray into practices that undermine dignity, they erode public confidence in the justice system. Conversely, when the highest court intervenes to correct such deviations, it restores faith in the constitutional order.

The Sijimali case is, in that sense, more than a dispute about bail conditions. It is a reminder that the Constitution speaks even in the smallest details of judicial practice. A seemingly minor directive—asking someone to clean a police station—can carry within it the weight of historical injustice and constitutional violation. By recognising this, the Supreme Court has reaffirmed a simple yet profound truth: liberty cannot be purchased at the cost of dignity.

As India continues to navigate complex questions of development, dissent, and rights—particularly in resource-rich, tribal regions—the need for a constitutional conscience within institutions becomes ever more urgent. The message from the Supreme Court is clear: the majesty of the law lies not in its power to command, but in its commitment to justice. Bail, stripped of dignity, ceases to be justice at all.

Veteran Physician of Nabarangpur Passes Away

Nabarangpur (Correspondent): Renowned physician and retired government doctor Dr. Sridhar Rao passed away at the age of 86 while undergoing treatment in Delhi on Tuesday. His demise has cast a pall of gloom across Nabarangpur district, where he was widely respected for his dedicated medical service and compassionate nature. After retiring from government service, Dr. Rao continued serving patients through his private clinic at Keuta Sahi in Nabarangpur town. Even at an advanced age, he remained committed to attending critically ill and bedridden patients, often visiting their homes with his trademark medical bag in hand.

Drinking Water Supply Minister visits Nabarangpur

Nabarangpur correspondent :- Rural Development, Panchayati Raj and Drinking Water Supply Minister Ravi Narayan Nayak visited Nabarangpur district today and participated in various programs. He dedicated the mega drinking water supply project built at an estimated cost of Rs 14682 lakhs to provide drinking water to 22 panchayats of Tentulikhunti and Nandahandi blocks of the district. Along with this, he laid the foundation stone for a 14 km bituminous road from Nandahandi to Nabarangpur Basic School to be constructed at a total cost of Rs 2072.40 lakhs at Koiguda in Nandahandi block. He visited Tentulikhunti Block and inaugurated the GP Facilitation Center and CSP Plus Unit built at a cost of Rs. 10 lakh at Lamtaguda Gram Panchayat Office. He also laid the foundation stone for a 3.10 km bituminous road from Photaguda to Pansaduka to be constructed at a cost of Rs. 371.86 lakh. He visited the Deopalli Dam and Floating Jetty of the Upper Indravati Hydroelectric Project at Khatiguda. The Chief Minister laid the foundation stone of 32 roads and 4 bridges worth a total of Rs. 267.27 crore under the Road and Bridges Scheme. He also laid the foundation stone of various schemes.

Jan Akrosh Women's March in Khaprakhol

Patnagarh (Correspondent) Jan Akrosh Women's March was held on Wednesday by Khaprakhol BJP Mandal. On this occasion, BJP workers and women first gathered in front of the khaprakhol party office. On this occasion, they first offered floral garlands to the photo of Bharat Mata and sang a bandhmoharam. Later, they reached the prahari mandap in the middle of the village in a large march raising various



slogans. On this occasion, they shed light on the Women's 33% reservation and Protection Act and women's protection. On this occasion, women leaders Sasmita

Sahu, Damayanti Barha, Asamati Pod, Santoshini Bariha delivered the keynote address, while Mandal President Umakant Pradhan, Deputy Chief Minister's Block

Representative Padma Kumar Singh Bariha, Satyanand Sendriya, Narayan Dandasena, Sitaram Bagh, Sudeep Pradhan and hundreds of women and men participated. Similarly, a Jan Akrosh Women's Padayatra was also held at Telenpalli on behalf of the Lathore Mandal under the chairmanship of Mandal President Vikas Behera. In-charge Bhave Prashant Meher joined while hundreds of women and men joined.

Neglected Children's Park Raises Serious Safety Concerns in Jajpur

JAJPUR (Correspondent): A children's park located near the official residence of the District Collector in Jajpur, once a lively space filled with laughter and play, has now turned into a zone of fear and danger. What was meant to be a safe recreational area for children now stands as a stark example of administrative negligence. Constructed with much fanfare with the support of Jindal Stainless Limited, the park today presents a dilapidated picture due to a lack of maintenance. The iron entrance gate is broken and hangs precariously in a half-collapsed condition, temporarily supported by stones placed underneath. At any moment, it could collapse and cause a serious accident. Children



playing in the park are exposed to constant risk. Overgrown grass and unchecked wild vegetation inside the premises have increased the likelihood of the presence of venomous reptiles, making the environment even more hazardous. A space meant for joy and safety has now become a potential danger zone. Local residents have voiced clear concerns: while the park received attention and grandeur during its construction, it has been completely ignored when it comes to upkeep. This silence

from the administration is not just indifference—it reflects a serious lapse that could lead to an unfortunate incident in the future. The pressing question remains: will the administration act only after a mishap occurs, or will it take responsibility in time?

Residents have demanded immediate repair of the broken gate, proper cleaning of the park, and strict safety measures. If the situation continues to be ignored, this children's park may soon transform from a place of play into the site of a tragic incident.

Form filling for Matric supplementary examination will start from May 8

Cuttack (Correspondent) : Form filling for Matric supplementary examination will start from May 8. Form filling process will continue till May 18. Students who failed in the last High School Certificate examination can take this opportunity for supplementary examination. Similarly,

candidates who are dissatisfied with the Matric examination results. If they want, they can apply for rechecking or addition. For this, applications can be made from May 11. Students can apply online through the website of the Secondary Education Council. For which a

specific fee will have to be paid. The board has issued a notification that this application can be made till May 22. It is worth noting that the Matric examination results were published last Saturday. This year, the pass rate is 95.33 percent. 2,456 candidates passed in A1 grade. 15,681

candidates passed in A2. 43,565 candidates passed in B1. 86,103 candidates passed in B2. 1,29,813 candidates passed in C grade. 1,46,152 candidates passed in D grade. 95,481 candidates passed in E grade. 3,310 schools achieved 100% results.

Rabi paddy procurement to start from May 22 in Subarnapur district

SUBARNAPUR (Correspondent) : Rabi paddy procurement will start from May 22 in Subarnapur district. In this regard, a meeting of the District Level Paddy Procurement Committee (DLPC) for the Rabi season 2025-26 was held today at the Collectorate Conference hall under the chairmanship of Collector Dr. Nruparaj Sahu. The meeting discussed the issues of protecting the interests of farmers and making the paddy procurement process clean and orderly and how to resolve them in the coming days, keeping in mind the various problems that arose during paddy procurement last year. According to reports, the District Level Procurement Committee has decided to start Rabi paddy procurement from May 22. For the current



KMS 2025-26, the price per quintal of common paddy has been fixed at Rs. 2369 and Rs. 2389 for 'Grade-A' paddy. A total of 42,702 farmers have registered for Rabi 2025-26. This year, 66 PACS will participate in the district for paddy procurement. 19 women will join the self-help groups (WSHGs). 55 millers will be involved in the paddy procurement process this season. The procurement will be done through P-PASS (Real Time

Procurement on Online Mode). For this, a central token will be issued and an SMS will be sent to the farmer's registered mobile. Paddy will be purchased by confirming Aadhaar authentication through iris scanner. The price of paddy (MSP) will be deposited in the farmer's bank account in online mode within 24 to 48 hours and reminder messages will also be sent every 7 days. The paddy collection center will be equipped with digital moisture meters, weighbridges, analysis

kits, polythene tarpaulins, etc., and arrangements will be made for waiting rooms, drinking water, lighting, toilets, CCTV, etc. The Collector said that everyone's cooperation is needed for the smooth collection of paddy in the Rabi season in the coming days. The need for adequate space in the district for storing paddy has been emphasized. He directed the departmental officers to ensure that there are no complaints about shortage of warehouses, genuine farmers do not face any problems in selling paddy and necessary ancillary facilities are available in the mandi. RMC staff and farmers have been asked to be vigilant so that the paddy coming to the mandi does not get damaged due to the possibility of Kalbaisakhi. Satellite

survey has been taken to bring cleanliness in paddy collection. It was informed in the meeting that plots where paddy was not cultivated but falsely registered have been identified and cancelled. In this meeting, MLA Birmaharajpur Er. Raghunath Jagdala, MP representative Sananda Meher, District Chief Supply Officer Nirad Das, MLA, Sonepur Representative Madhusudan Ota, Zilla Parishad Chairperson Mrs. Supara Thela, In-charge District Chief Development and Executive Officer Kalia Mallik, District Chief Agriculture Officer along with other administrative officers, workers of District Farmers Organization and Millers representatives were present and participated in the discussion.

District-level felicitation ceremony for 10th board passers

Malkangiri correspondent : Today, a district-level felicitation and felicitation ceremony was held at the District Council Hall by the District Education Office, Malkangiri, in which the District Magistrate felicitated 32 passers in the 10th annual board examination with certificates, mementos and bouquets. On this occasion, in the presence of the Additional District Magistrate, Chief District Health Officer, Additional District Superintendent of Police, District Welfare Officer, District Education Officer, the District Magistrate provided a support amount of Rs. 20000 for the future education of Divyang Laxmi Khemundu, who successfully passed the 10th examination by writing in her leg handwriting and setting an example for the whole of Odisha. The event was organized by Additional District Education Officer Manjulata Bhoi and District Science Inspector Jagannath Prasad Behera, and HMs, teachers, guardians and students of various schools were present.



Odisha Vigilance Nabs Bargarh DRP in Rs 30,000 Bribe Case

Bargarh correspondent: In a dramatic crackdown, Odisha Vigilance apprehended Rakshi Meher, the District Resource Person (DRP) under GM, DIC, Bargarh, for allegedly demanding and accepting a hefty Rs 30,000 bribe from a local beneficiary, linked to the Pradhan Mantri Formalisation of Micro Food Processing Enterprises (PMFME) scheme. The scandal revolves around a covert effort to secure a subsidy for a forklift loan, officials revealed. Sources disclose that the beneficiary had secured a loan of Rs 8,64,000 on March 15, 2026, to establish a bakery. Despite the loan's clear release, the beneficiary was repeatedly

pressured by the accused to expedite the subsidy, which amounted to 35% of the loan and was calculated at Rs 3,02,400. Instead of processing the subsidy, the official allegedly demanded a secret payoff of Rs 30,000. The plot thickened as the official allegedly instructed the victim to deposit the bribe directly into her bank account, even sending the account details via SMS. When the beneficiary refused to meet the illegal demand, she turned to Odisha Vigilance. Following a thorough investigation, a sting operation was executed—culminating in the arrest just as the beneficiary transferred the bribe into the official's account. During the

operation, officials seized her mobile phone and the bank receipt confirming the Rs 30,000 deposit. Multiple searches are underway at three linked locations to probe potential assets beyond income. In a related case, Sambalpur Vigilance has registered Case No. 05, dated May 5, 2026, under Section 7 of the Prevention of Corruption (Amendment) Act, 2018. The investigation continues. Summary: Odisha Vigilance has nabbed Rakshi Meher in Bargarh for accepting a bribe of Rs 30,000 to fast-track a bakery loan subsidy, with subsequent searches yielding more clues. The case is hotting up as authorities dig deeper.

"Shri Ajay Singh Yadav Takes Charge as Head of Project at NTPC Talcher Kaniha

Talcher correspondent : Shri Ajay Singh Yadav has taken over the charge of Head of Project (HOP) at NTPC Talcher Kaniha, the third largest power generating station of NTPC Limited, the Maharatna company of Govt of India. With a cumulative experience of more than 36 years in NTPC, Shri Yadav brings strong technical expertise and leadership acumen. His professional journey in NTPC started on 5th September 1989 as an Executive Trainee in the Mechanical stream. Sh Yadav holds



a Bachelor of Engineering degree in Mechanical Engineering from Jiwaji University, Gwalior, and a Post Graduate Diploma in Management from Management Development Institute (MDI), Gurgaon. During his

illustrious career, he has worked in various technical and non-technical domains such as fuel handling, operations and maintenance functions, project management and corporate planning. He has served at major NTPC stations

including Korba, Anta, Khargone and Tanda as well as at the NTPC Corporate Centre in New Delhi. He has also served as Head of Project, Talaipalli Coal Mining. Shri Yadav is known for his focus on safety, efficiency and planning. He has also attended several inhouse and external training programs in leadership, risk management, safety systems. In his new role at NTPC Talcher Kaniha, his primary focus would be to strengthen operational performance with sustainability and build stronger relationships with the external stakeholders and the community."

Kangana Ranaut's 'Bharat Bhhagya Viddhaata' to release on June 12



The makers of 'Bharat Bhhagya Viddhaata' have locked June 12, 2026, as the film's theatrical release date, unveiling a striking poster that pays tribute to unsung heroes who chose duty over fear during a night of terror. Starring Kangana Ranaut, the edgy true-story thriller shifts focus from conventional depictions of violence to the quiet resilience and humanity displayed inside government hospitals during a crisis. Inspired by real events, the film spotlights the courage of hospital staff who stood firm while chaos unfolded outside. Set against a backdrop of terror, the narrative places its nerve centre within hospital corridors and wards-spaces defined by pressure and urgency, where fear was met with compassion, presence of mind, and collective resolve. The story chronicles how nurses, ward boys, cleaners, lift operators, security staff, and administrative workers came together to protect lives. While terror claimed lives outside, inside Cama Hospital, 400 lives were saved, underscoring a night when humanity rose above fear. Reflecting on the film, Kangana Ranaut said, "We usually celebrate big, dramatic acts of heroism, but real courage is much quieter, it steps in, stays back, and does what needs to be done. Bharat Bhhagya Viddhaata tells an untold story of courage, sacrifice, humanity, and unity, of ordinary people who stood between terror and life itself. This is desh bhakti in its truest sense, where duty turns into action. I feel proud to be part of a story that pays tribute to those who held the city together in its toughest moments, and I'm excited for audiences to watch it on the big screen on June 12." Producer Jayantilal Gada of Pen Studios emphasised the film's core message and said, "At Pen Studios, we've always believed that the spirit of the country lies in its people. Bharat Bhhagya Vidhaata brings that out through a story of a vulnerable time and strong women. We trusted Manoj's vision and Kangana's performance to do justice to it, and we're proud to present it on June 12." Writer-director Manoj Tapadia described the film as more than a thriller.

Nick Jonas gives romantic 'Princess Diaries' nod to Priyanka Chopra, fans call her "queen"



Delighting the fans across social media, singer-actor Nick Jonas shared a throwback video featuring wife-actor Priyanka Chopra from their Golden Globes 2026 appearance, offering a glimpse into their off-carpet chemistry. Taking to Instagram, Jonas posted a reel from a hotel room where the couple were seen getting ready for the prestigious event. The video is set to the iconic dialogue from the 2001 film 'Princess Diaries': "Princess, look out the window, and welcome to Genovia." The line was dedicated to Priyanka, who appears in the clip standing by a window in a blue gown, while Jonas captioned the post with a simple blue heart. The couple had turned heads at the Golden Globes 2026, arriving together and making a striking impression on the red carpet. Priyanka wore a blue off-the-shoulder tiered Dior gown paired with Bulgari jewellery, while Jonas complemented her look in a classic tuxedo and bow tie. Soon after Jonas shared the video, fans flooded the comments section with affectionate messages.

Brinjal and Beetroot Chips Recipe



Ingredients

250 gms brinjal
250 gram beetroot
Sea Salt to taste
1/2 teaspoon spices as per your taste
Olive oil

How to Make Brinjal and Beetroot Chips

1. Wash the brinjal and beetroot and dry them completely with a kitchen towel.
2. Cut thin slices of the dried vegetables like chips.
3. Put them in a bowl, drizzle some olive oil and toss it.
4. Lay them flat on a baking tray lined with baking sheet.
5. Sprinkle some sea salt on top as per taste. You can also sprinkle it with some powdered spices for extra flavor.
6. Bake at 120°C for 60 to 70 mins [may vary a minute or two depending on your oven.

Is Date (Khajoor) Sugar Better Than White Sugar?

In today's time, everyone's trying to cut down on sugar. Whether it is switching to stevia, honey, or jaggery, the hunt for healthier alternatives is ongoing. Among these, dates have become a favourite - used in smoothies, desserts, and even savoury recipes to add sweetness without guilt. But there's another date-based sweetener that has gained substantial popularity among health-conscious people - date sugar. This is a more natural, nutrient-packed option that can sate your sweet cravings. However, how healthy is it as compared to regular white sugar?

What Are The Health Benefits Of Dates? Before we learn more about date sugar, let's find out the benefits of its source fruit.

1. Great for Digestion: Dates are packed with fibre, which keeps your digestion smooth and prevents bloating or constipation.
2. Rich in Nutrients: They are loaded with vitamins and minerals like potassium, magnesium, and B vitamins that keep your energy levels up and your body healthy.
3. Natural Energy Booster: Thanks to its nutrient-rich profile, dates provide a quick and steady energy release. This makes them a great pre-workout or mid-day snack.
4. Improves Skin: The vitamins C and D work on your skin like wonders. These nutrients help recover your skin if you are suffering from any problems.
5. Supports Bone Health: With minerals like calcium and magnesium, dates help keep bones strong and reduce the risk of osteoporosis.

What Is Date Sugar? Date sugar is exactly what it sounds like - powdered dried dates. It is made with dehydrated dates and unlike refined sugar, isn't exactly stripped of nutrients. It uses whole, pitted dates, so you might also feel the taste of fibre as it

won't dissolve in your hot beverages or baked goods. Plus, the caramel-like flavour makes it perfect for

baking, sprinkling on breakfast cereals, or sweetening smoothies. **Can Diabetics Have Dates?** As per Dr. Mukta Vasistha, H.O.D, Nutrition and Dietetics, Sir Ganga Ram Hospital, everyone can eat dates. Not one but at least two to three, depending on your blood sugar levels. The reason why diabetics are asked to avoid high-sugar foods is because it might shoot their blood sugar levels. In fact, diabetics can benefit from dates since they are high in fibre. However, make sure to consume it in moderation. So, **Is Date Sugar Healthier Than White Sugar?** To understand whether or not regular white sugar is healthier than date sugar, let's first find out the calorie content in each. As per nutritionist Amita Gadre, nine grams of regular table sugar gives us about 20 calories - a high glycemic index of around 65 and spikes blood sugar quickly. The same quantity with date sugar - which has a similar calorie count of 15 to 20 calories - has a lower glycemic index usually around 42 - meaning it won't cause as sharp a blood sugar spike as regular sugar. However, the nutritionist also warns that just because something has a low glycemic index, doesn't mean it can be consumed without any moderation.



Moderate Egg Consumption May Improve Your Heart's Well Being

Eggs are one of those things that we include in our daily diet. We can easily make tons of dishes from eggs. Be it for breakfast, lunch, or even dinner, eggs are the ultimate dish to relish. While you just may like to have eggs to gain protein or keep yourself healthy, did you know that moderate egg consumption can increase the number of heart-healthy metabolites in the blood? In a recent study published in the journal 'eLife,' scientists from China found out about the same.

Eggs have a lot of dietary cholesterol, but they also include a lot of other nutrients. A 2018 study published in the journal Heart indicated that people who ate eggs daily (roughly one egg per day) had a significantly lower risk of heart disease and stroke than people who ate eggs less frequently. To better understand this link, the authors of this study conducted a population-based study to see how egg consumption affects markers of cardiovascular health in the blood.

Lang Pan, MSc at the Department of Epidemiology and Biostatistics, Peking University, Beijing, China, told ANI, "Few studies have looked at the role that plasma cholesterol metabolism plays in the association between egg consumption and the risk of cardiovascular diseases, so we wanted to help address this gap."

Pan and colleagues chose 4,778 people from the China Kadoorie Biobank, 3,401 of whom had cardiovascular disease and 1,377 of whom did not. They measured 225 metabolites in plasma samples collected from the individuals' blood using a technique called targeted nuclear magnetic resonance. They found 24 metabolites that were linked to self-reported egg intake levels among these metabolites.

Their findings revealed that people who ate a moderate number of eggs had more significant amounts



of apolipoprotein A1 in their blood, a component of high-density lipoprotein (HDL), generally known as 'good lipoprotein.' These people had a higher concentration of big HDL molecules in their blood, which assist remove cholesterol from blood vessels and prevent blockages that can lead to heart attacks and strokes.

In addition, the researchers discovered 14 metabolites connected to cardiac disease. Compared to those who ate eggs more frequently, those who ate fewer eggs had lower levels of good metabolites and higher amounts of toxic ones in their blood.

"Together, our results provide a potential explanation for how eating a moderate amount of eggs can help protect against heart disease," said author Canqing Yu, Associate Professor at the Department of Epidemiology and Biostatistics, Peking University to ANI. He also added, "More studies are needed to verify the causal roles that lipid metabolites play in the association between egg consumption and the risk of cardiovascular disease."

"Current health guidelines in China suggest eating one egg a day, but data indicate that the average consumption is lower than this. Our work highlights the need for more strategies to encourage moderate egg consumption among the population, to help lower the overall risk of cardiovascular disease," he concluded to ANI.

U20 Men's Football Nationals: West Bengal, Manipur Enter Last Eight

Narainpur (Chhattisgarh): West Bengal and Manipur secured themselves a spot each in the Swami Vivekananda U20 Men's National Football Championship after the former drew with Odisha, while the latter defeated hosts Chhattisgarh at the Ramakrishna Mission Ashrama in Narainpur, Chhattisgarh, on Wednesday. Odisha drew with West Bengal 2-2, with Shankha Shekhar Hembram (28') and Barial Tudu (73') scoring for them, while Sahil Kar (60') and Tanbir Dey (65') struck for the latter. Ground 2 at the RKM Ashrama experienced a see-saw battle between the two eastern neighbours, which finally ended in a



2-2 draw that confirmed West Bengal's progression to the quarter-finals from Group E. Odisha needed a win to go through and began with intent, taking the lead in the 28th minute through Shankha Shekhar Hembram. West Bengal roared back in the

second half, Sahil Kar and Tanbir Dey scoring one each around the hour mark. While Barial Tudu pulled one back in the 73rd for Odisha, the draw was all but secured Bengal's passage to the knockout stage. West Bengal finished atop the three-team group with four

points from two matches, followed by Karnataka with three, while Odisha could only muster a single point. Over in Group B, Manipur secured their quarter-final progression with a 5-1 rout of hosts Chhattisgarh on Ground 1 at the RKM Ashrama

on Wednesday. Salam Swamichandra Meitei netted a hat-trick, while Thounaojam Robertson Singh scored two for the north-eastern side, and Indrajit Roy converted a second-half penalty to score the only goal for Chhattisgarh. Manipur finished Group B with a perfect record – three wins in as many matches. Chhattisgarh and Nagaland finish with four points apiece, while Dadra & Nagar Haveli and Daman & Diu lost all their games. In the other match of the day, Nagaland defeated a 10-man Dadra & Nagar Haveli and Daman & Diu 8-1 on Ground 1 at the RKM Ashrama, though both teams' chances of progression to the knockouts were already over.

Wang Leads China's Comeback Win Over Romania At ITTF World Team Table Tennis C'ships

London: Wang Chuqin claimed two wins as China rallied to beat Romania 3-1 on Wednesday and reached the men's team quarterfinals at the 2026 ITTF World Team Table Tennis Championships Finals at the Wembley Arena in London. China fell behind early when Liang Jingkun lost 11-5, 11-7, 11-6 to Eduard Ionescu, the highest-ranked player in Romania's lineup. "I was a bit tight at the start, and he performed better. After he had some excellent shots, my mentality was impacted, and I failed to catch up with him afterwards," Liang said. "As I don't have much advantage technically and tactically, I need to go all out against every

opponent," he added. Wang, the world No. 1, restored parity by beating Iulian Chirita in straight games. He took the first 11-5, then recovered from a 5-1 deficit in the second to level at 8-8 before edging it 12-10. He closed out the match 11-5. "I prepared fully for this match. After trailing in the second game, I managed to turn the tables, which boosted my confidence in the third," Wang said. Lin Shidong put China ahead with an 11-9, 11-6, 11-4 win over Ovidiu Ionescu in the third match. The 36-year-old Romanian called two TTR reviews in the second game, but both decisions went against him, reports Xinhua. "The third

match was quite crucial, but I didn't think too much about it. I was just focused on every point," Lin said. "I felt that I didn't truly brace for high-intensity competition in the group stage. Hopefully, I will be more pumped up in the upcoming matches," he added. Wang then sealed the tie against Eduard Ionescu. He led 8-2 in the opening game before the Romanian closed to within one point, but Wang held on for an 11-8 win. Ionescu took the second 11-8, but Wang responded to win the next two games 11-3, 11-4. "Eduard is a strong player, and I expected it to be a tough match. Due to Lin's win in the third match, I felt more relieved on the court," Wang said.

Asian U15 & U17 Boxing: India Confirm 27 Medals With Multiple RSC Wins In U-15 Category

Tashkent: India's young boxers have officially guaranteed an astonishing 27 out of 30 possible medals in the U-15 category at the Asian Boxing U15 & U17 Championships 2026 in Tashkent, Uzbekistan. Showcasing absolute dominance, the U-15 girls' contingent secured 14 out of 15 possible medals, while the U-15 boys nearly matched the feat by confirming 13 out of 15 medals, setting the stage for a historic overall podium finish for the country. Following this massive medal confirmation, the Indian boys delivered another day of ruthless performances, marked by a flurry of RSC (Referee Stops Contest) victories. Sastha Vasanth Ashok Kumar (37kg) and Parshant (49kg) led the aggressive charge, both stopping their respective

UAE opponents, Mohammed Albannai and Mayed Alyammahi, via RSC in the very first round. Nitin (40 kg) and Harshvardhan Jeena (55 kg) further displayed India's attacking prowess, securing second-round RSC wins over Kazakhstan's Sayat Mengdibay and Tajikistan's Muhammad Fozilov, respectively. In the closely contested bouts, Yash Kumar (33kg) and Rohit Pothina (35kg) navigated tough opponents with tactical brilliance to secure hard-fought 4:1 split decision victories against Tajikistan's Rasuljon Karimov and Mongolia's Temuulen Munkhbayar. The squad also registered a series of flawless unanimous decisions, asserting their technical superiority. Samir Bohra (43kg) outclassed Thailand's

Chutinan Yaram 5:0, and Nongpoknganba Meitei Oina (46kg) delivered a similarly convincing 5:0 win over Mongolia's Munkh-ochir Ganzorig. Rounding off the perfect day, Mohd Yasser (58kg) impressed the judges to secure a 5:0 victory against Kazakhstan's Meirlan Beissekhan. With 27 medals officially in the bag and the boxers displaying unmatched power and skill across weight divisions, the Indian contingent has firmly established its supremacy in the grassroots ranks of Asian boxing as the championships progress. Earlier in the U-15 boys' competition, Nongpoknganba Meitei Oina (46kg) secured a convincing 5:0 victory over Kazakhstan's Abdurakhman Vushanlo, while Parshant (49kg) mirrored the result with a dominant 5:0 win against Bakdaulet Akhmet.

IPL 2026: Klaassen, Kishan Fifties Guide SRH To 235/4 Against Sloppy PBKS

Hyderabad: Heinrich Klaassen's 69 and Ishan Kishan's 55 after yet another terrific Power-play from openers helped Sunrisers Hyderabad post 235/4 in 20 overs against the Punjab Kings in the 49th match of the Indian Premier League 2026 at the Rajiv Gandhi International Stadium, Uppal, in Hyderabad on Wednesday. Abhishek Sharma and Travis Head set a strong tone with another explosive opening partnership as Sunrisers Hyderabad got off to a fast start, continuing their dominance in the powerplay.



With an impressive collective strike rate of 210 this season and a Power-play scoring rate of 11.75 – the best in the tournament – the duo wasted no time. Abhishek started with a six off just the second ball he faced, launching Arshdeep Singh over extra cover. There was

little movement for the bowlers, and SRH quickly capitalised, racing to 11/0 after the first over. The onslaught intensified in the second over as Abhishek attacked Marco Jansen. He hit a six over long-on, pulled a ball to fine leg, and crushed another six straight down the ground, keeping SRH's pace relentless. By the end of the third over, with Head joining in by pulling Arshdeep for consecutive sixes, SRH had surged to 48/0,

leaving PBKS searching for answers. They reached the 50-run mark in just 3.2 overs, highlighting SRH's aggressive strategy. However, Lockie Ferguson provided a key breakthrough. After being hit for a six by Abhishek, Ferguson responded immediately, dismissing him as he popped up a catch. This offered a brief respite for PBKS amid an otherwise unstoppable start. Despite the wicket,

Head kept up the offensive, confidently handling both pace and short-pitched deliveries. SRH finished the powerplay at a strong 79/1, scoring at over 13 runs per over—well above their already league-leading average. The momentum briefly shifted after the Power-play when Yuzvendra Chahal struck. The leg-spinner outsmarted Head with a googly, leading to a mishit that was safely caught at long-off. Yet, PBKS failed to capitalise on this breakthrough, suffering from a series of costly fielding mistakes. Ishan Kishan, who came in after Head's dismissal, was fortunate during his innings. He was dropped twice—once by Cooper Connolly and later by Ferguson—and even survived a missed stumping chance by Prabhsimran Singh. PBKS' fielding issues persisted, bringing their total of dropped catches this season to 16, with a poor catching efficiency of 71.43%. Kishan took full advantage of these chances, scoring a valuable 55 off 32 balls. While not the smoothest innings, he switched gears effectively, hitting Vijaykumar Vyshak for three consecutive sixes—over fine leg, straight down the ground, and over wide long-on—to reach his half-century in just 28 balls.

Elena Mishra Claims Sole Lead in Dr Debendra Pradhan Memorial Chess to Outshine Rivals

Bhubaneswar: Bhubaneswar's PRO-CHESS-TA facility turned into a battlefield for young minds as five rounds of the 1st Dr. Debendra Pradhan Memorial Odisha State Under-7 Chess Championship wrapped up. This event serves as a critical scouting ground for the state, with the final results determining who will represent Odisha on the national stage in Maharashtra this June. Reyansh Raj from Khordha and Virabhadra Brahma representing Mayurbhanj currently sit at the top of the leaderboard. Both players maintain a flawless record with 5



points each. Behind them, Prayansh Kumar Dash, Jigyansa Kumar Sahoo, and Shivansh Mohanty remain within striking distance, each holding 4 points. The strategic depth shown by these seven-year-olds highlights the growing

chess culture in Odisha, a state that has consistently produced Grandmasters like Padmini Rout and Debasish Das. Elena Mishra has captured the spotlight in the girls' division. At just four years old, the

Khordha native holds a perfect 5-point score, establishing herself as the clear favorite. Devanshee Sahoo and Gareema Swain are trailing by a single point, keeping the pressure high as the tournament enters its final phase.

IPL 2026 Playoffs Schedule Out With Major Shift for Final Venue

NEW DELHI: Narendra Modi Stadium in Ahmedabad will host the Indian Premier League (IPL) 2026 final on May 31. This decision follows a sudden venue reassignment by the Board of Control for Cricket in India (BCCI), moving the marquee event away from Bengaluru's M. Chinnaswamy Stadium. While the reigning champions, Royal Challengers Bengaluru, were originally expected to host the summit clash at their home ground. Due to operational and logistical challenges forced the cricket governing body to pivot to the world's largest



Cricket Stadium in Mullanpur, New Chandigarh. This fresh venue will host both the Eliminator on May 27 and Qualifier 2 on May 29. The tournament then reaches its conclusion in Gujarat for the fourth time in five years. BCCI

officials cited requirements from local authorities in Bengaluru that fell outside established protocols as the primary reason for the shift. Punjab Kings currently lead the standings with 13 points, closely followed by a tight pack including Royal Challengers Bengaluru, Sunrisers Hyderabad, and Rajasthan Royals. With seven teams still mathematically in the hunt for a top-four finish, the upcoming week of league matches remains critical for determining who travels to Dharamshala and Chandigarh for the knockout stages.

ABD's Integrated Manufacturing Facility at Rangapur bags the Best Factory Award

NEWDELHI: Allied Blenders and Distillers Limited (ABD), the largest domestic spirits company by volume in India, has been awarded the Best Factory/Management Award for its integrated manufacturing facility at Rangapur, Wanaparthy district, Telangana. The recognition was conferred by the Labour, Employment, Training & Factories Department (LET&F), Government of Telangana, during the Labour Day celebrations held on 1st May 2026.

ABD's Integrated Manufacturing Facility at Rangapur is one of the company's key production hubs,



comprising an ENA distillery, an IMFL bottling unit, and a PET bottle manufacturing plant which was recently commissioned in September 2025. This integrated infrastructure grants the organization enhanced oversight of production cycles, cost structures, and supply chain logistics. The facility's capabilities are set to expand with an upcoming malt distillery,

a strategic addition designed to bolster ABD's premium portfolio and establish robust single malt production capabilities. The facility has a total workforce of approximately 1,500 and stands out for its strong gender diversity, with women constituting around 50% of the workforce. Industrializing a large-scale, formal industrial presence here, ABD

has opened new pathways to skilled and semi-skilled employment for local communities, providing stable livelihoods and expanding economic opportunities in the region.

Instituted as part of the district-level May Day awards and anchored in the Government of India's Skill India mission to build a workforce-ready, compliance-driven manufacturing ecosystem, the recognition follows a rigorous evaluation across safety standards, statutory compliance, employee welfare, and CSR contributions.

L&T Secures (Large*) Order to Reinforce India's Energy Security Through Coal Gasification

Mumbai, :L&T Energy Hydrocarbon Onshore has won a large order from Bharat Coal Gasification and Chemicals Ltd (BCGCL), a joint venture of Coal India Ltd (CIL) and Bharat Heavy Electricals Ltd (BHEL), for a Coal-to-Ammonia-Nitrate project in Odisha. The order encompasses the development of the Nitric Acid and Ammonium Nitrate Plant, to be executed on a Lump Sum Turnkey basis (LSTK Package-4) with single-point responsibility. Once operational, the facility will enable the conversion of coal into

ammonium nitrate with a planned production capacity of 2,000 tonnes per day, supporting the growing requirements of India's mining, infrastructure and industrial sectors. The scope of work includes process licensing, basic design, detailed engineering, procurement and construction, encompassing mechanical completion, pre-commissioning, commissioning, sustained load and performance guarantee test runs, overall project management and final handover of the plant and its facilities. This order underscores

BCGCL's confidence in L&T's proven capabilities, particularly in executing complex, technology-intensive projects under challenging conditions, while maintaining highest standards of safety, quality and execution excellence. Under the Aatmanirbhar Bharat initiative, India has set an ambitious target of achieving 100 million tonnes of coal gasification capacity by 2030. This mission aims to convert high-ash domestic coal into value-added products such as ammonium nitrate, methanol, ammonia, Synthetic Natural Gas and

fertilisers, thereby reducing import dependence and strengthening India's industrial self-reliance. Commenting on the order win, Mr Subramanian Sarma, Deputy Managing Director & President - L&T, said: "This large order strengthens L&T's presence in the gasification and downstream chemicals EPC space. Indigenous gasification infrastructure will play a pivotal role in India's energy transition, and this order reinforces our ability to deliver complex, technology-intensive projects at scale".

Odisha AM/NS India Gymnastics High Performance Centre hosts National Championships

Bhubaneswar Correspondent): The Odisha AM/NS India Gymnastics High Performance Centre (HPC) proudly hosted the Junior & Senior Artistic Gymnastics National Championships 2026-27 from April 25 to May 3, 2026, at Kalinga Stadium, Bhubaneswar. Athletes from the Centre delivered outstanding performances, winning three gold and two bronze medals across different categories.

In the Senior Men Artistic Gymnastics (MAG) category, representing the Odisha team, Tapan Mohanty delivered an outstanding performance by securing gold in the All-Around event with an outstanding score of 73.433, showcasing remarkable consistency and skill across every apparatus. Adding to



the success, Tapeshwaranath Das, representing the Railway Services team, earned a bronze medal in the Vault event. In the Senior Women Artistic Gymnastics (WAG) category, representing the Odisha team, Tannu clinched the gold medal on Uneven Bars, while Karishma, representing the Railway Sports Promotion Board (RSPB), secured gold

in both the Senior WAG Floor Exercise and the Team Championship. Additionally, Priyanshi Bansal added to the medal tally with a bronze medal in Balance Beam. In the team events, women's team comprising of HPC athletes - Tannu, Priyanshi Bansal, Adita Mondal, Pritti Jhankaar, and Ritika, and the men's team

comprising of HPC athletes - Tapan Mohanty, Sumit Dhali, Azad Laskar, Mrutyunjay Pattanaik, Mohid Kumar, and Debasish Reddy Das, helped Odisha's teams deliver strong performances. The men's team finished fourth with a score of 208.167, while the women's team also placed fourth with 119.635. Both teams qualified for the finals, showing Odisha's growing strength and competitiveness in national gymnastics.

The closing ceremony was graced by Shri Suryabanshi Suraj, Hon'ble Minister, Sports & Youth Services, Govt. Of Odisha, Shri Sambit Patra, Member of Parliament, Puri, Ms. Dipa Karmakar, Olympian and Padma Shri awardee, Shri Bishweshwar Nandi, Dronacharya Awardee,

Shri Sudhir Mittal, President, Gymnastics Federation of India, Shri Yeddula Vijay, Director, Sports & Youth Services, Govt. Of Odisha and Dr. Vikas Yadvendu, Head-CSR, AM/NS India along with senior officials from the Department of Sports & Youth Services, Odisha, and officials from AM/NS India.

The Odisha AM/NS India Gymnastics High Performance Centre brought together the country's finest Artistic Gymnastics athletes and proved itself once again as a leading hub of excellence. With world-class infrastructure, scientific training, and strong institutional support, the Centre has become a driving force in India's gymnastics ecosystem, helping athletes achieve success and raising the overall standard of the sport.

The Royal Government of Bhutan and the World Bank Sign Financing Agreements for the Dorjilung Hydroelectric Power Project

THIMPHU- The Royal Government of Bhutan and the World Bank today signed financing agreements totaling \$515 million for the 1,125 MW Dorjilung Hydroelectric Power Project, which will account for about one-third of the Kingdom's total energy generation, drive economic growth through access to affordable electricity and clean energy exports, and create new jobs. "The Dorjilung Hydroelectric Power Project is a cornerstone of Bhutan's 13th Five-Year Plan and will be the Kingdom's largest hydropower project developed under a public-private partnership. This transformational investment will supply clean energy, spur economic growth, and advance our carbon-negative commitment,"



said Dasho Tshering Tobgay, Prime Minister of Bhutan. "This project is a testament to our strong partnership with the World Bank Group and our shared vision for a sustainable and prosperous future for Bhutan's people." The project, located on the Kurichhu River in eastern Bhutan, will generate over 4,500 GWh of clean electricity annually, closing Bhutan's seasonal energy gap during the winter months and providing surplus power for export to India in the summer and rainy seasons. The hydropower plant is expected to increase

Bhutan's GDP by 2.4%. It will generate economy-wide benefits, create direct and indirect jobs as well as entrepreneurial opportunities for Bhutan. It will boost manufacturing, tourism, and small businesses by supplying reliable and affordable electricity, with the revenues from energy exports available for reinvestment in essential services such as health, education, and infrastructure. It will also have an important regional impact by displacing 3.3 million tons of CO2 annually and facilitating clean energy trade.

Professor Receives Honorary Doctorate

Bhubaneswar Correspondent): Dr. Ashok Kumar Nayak, Head of the Department of Political Science at Birupa Degree College, Indupur, Kendrapara, has been awarded an honorary doctorate by the Magic Book of Records, recognized by Magic and Arts University, for his contributions to education and social welfare. Dr. Nayak is the son of late Krishna Chandra Nayak of Alapua village in Kendrapara district and the son-in-law of late Natabar Biswal of Penthapala village. He has dedicated this achievement to his mentor and teacher, Dr. Padma charan Dhal.

Sensex Surges 940 Points, Nifty Tops 24,300 Amid US-Iran Deal Hopes

Mumbai: Indian equity benchmarks staged a strong late-session rally on Wednesday, with both the Nifty and the Sensex closing sharply higher as global cues turned favourable following a steep drop in crude oil prices. The Nifty climbed 298.15 points, or 1.24 per cent, to settle at 24,330.95, while the Sensex surged 940.73 points, or 1.22 per cent, to end at 77,958.52. Commenting on Nifty technical outlook, experts said that the markets staged a strong rebound, with Nifty closing above the immediate resistance at 24,300 levels. "The index has established a strong support zone around 24,000, which aligns with both the 21-DMA and 50-DMA," an analyst stated. "Additionally, Nifty has broken out of a symmetrical triangle pattern on the daily chart, indicating a positive shift in the short-term structure with potential upside towards 24,500 levels," as per the expert. The rally gathered momentum in the second half of the trading session after reports suggested a potential breakthrough in diplomatic talks between the United States and Iran. On the equities front, gains were led by heavy weight stocks such as InterGlobe Aviation, Tata Motors Passenger Vehicles, and Shriram Finance, which emerged as the top performers on the Nifty index. Broader markets mirrored the upbeat sentiment, with the Nifty MidCap index advancing 1.76 per cent and the Nifty SmallCap index rising 1.93 per cent.

Adani DAV Public School Hosts 4-Day Summer Camp & Parents' Orientation Programme

Dhamra, Correspondent): Adani DAV Public School, Kuamara, Bhadrak witnessed a joyful blend of learning, creativity and enthusiasm as a four-day Summer Camp and Parents' Orientation Programme was successfully organised from 02.05.2026 to 05.05.2026. The programme was inaugurated by Mr. Minumaya Kumar Manna, Project Officer, the Chief Guest of the occasion, who inspired students and parents to make the best use of the learning opportunities offered during the camp. Conducted daily from 7.00 a.m. to 10.00 a.m. on two separate



platforms, the programme created a lively ambience of activity and interaction for both students and parents. The Summer Camp engaged students in a wide range of co-curricular activities such as Drawing, Painting, Palm Painting, Origami, Mask Making, Balloon Bursting, Clay Modelling and Plantation. They also enjoyed sessions on Fun with Music,

Community & Patriotic Songs, Alankar & Taal and energetic Jumble Dance, which filled the mornings with joy and rhythm. For physical fitness and mental freshness, students actively participated in Yoga, Meditation, Pranayam and indoor-outdoor games like Hula Hoop, Football, Chess and Carrom. At the same time, a good number of K.G. Wing parents

attended the Parents' Orientation Programme where important topics like CBSE Curriculum Guidelines under NEP-2020, Parenting Style, Power of Art, Low Cost Teaching Aids, Activity Based Learning, Communication Skills and the Socio-Emotional, Cognitive and Psychomotor Development of Children were discussed. Parents also participated enthusiastically in several joyful and innovative activities such as Water Scavenger Hunt, Pick and Stick, Nature Bracelet, Musical Math, Let Us Write with Magic, Emotion Tree, Freeze Dance, Hit the Target, Healthy & Unhealthy Basket and

many more, making the orientation highly engaging and practical. The Principal of the school, Mrs. Krishnapriya Sarangi awarded all top performers with excellent prizes. The entire programme was efficiently coordinated by Mr. Arun Kumar Lenka and Mrs. Gayatri Mahapatra on two different platforms. In her inspiring address, the Principal, Mrs. Krishnapriya Sarangi urged all participants to implement the valuable takeaways of the camp for better growth and learning in the coming days. The four-day programme concluded with grand success, leaving behind happy memories, enriched minds and a renewed spirit of joyful learning.