


Maharashtra Committed To Strengthening India-Vietnam Ties: CM Fadnavis **2**




Odisha Plans For Dedicated TV Channel To Promote Jagannath Culture **3**



IOC Lifts Restrictions On Belarussian Athletes **7**



3 Yoga exercises to maintain healthy kidneys **6**



## Operation Sindoor Completes One Year: PM Modi Changes X Display Picture, Salutes Armed Forces

NEWDELHI: Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Wednesday marked the first anniversary of Operation Sindoor by changing his display picture on X and paying tribute to the Indian Armed Forces for their courage and precision during the military operation. The updated profile image features a black background with the words "Operation Sindoor" alongside the Indian national flag, symbolising remembrance and national resolve against terrorism. In a message shared on X, PM Modi praised the Army, Navy, and Air Force for carrying out successful precision strikes against terror infrastructure across the border following the deadly Pahalgam terror attack in Jammu and Kashmir in 2025. He stated that the



armed forces gave a "fitting response" to those responsible for attacking innocent civilians and reaffirmed India's strong stand against terrorism and threats to national security. According to the Prime Minister, Operation Sindoor showcased India's unwavering commitment to protecting its citizens and dismantling terror networks operating from across the border. Along with the Prime Minister, External Affairs Minister S. Jaishankar and chiefs of the Indian Army, Navy, and Air Force also updated their display

pictures on social media platforms to commemorate the anniversary of the operation. The coordinated gesture highlighted national solidarity and recognition of the armed forces' role in safeguarding the country. Operation Sindoor was launched by India on May 7, 2025, days after a deadly terrorist attack in Pahalgam claimed the lives of 26 civilians. The Indian military targeted multiple terror camps located in Pakistan and Pakistan-occupied Kashmir through coordinated precision strikes.

## Odisha Emerges As Eastern India's Industrial Leader At Gujarat Investors' Meet

Bhubaneswar (Correspondent): Odisha is ready to lead Eastern India's industrial transformation under the national vision of Purvodaya and Viksit Bharat, Chief Minister Mohan Charan Majhi said while addressing the Odisha Investors' Meet Roadshow in Vadodara on Thursday. "Western India has already led India's industrial rise. Now, for Viksit Bharat, Eastern India must rise and Odisha is ready to lead that transformation," Majhi said. He invited Gujarat-based industries to expand their operations in Odisha and become partners in the state's next phase of industrial growth. Positioning Odisha as the "Gateway to India's Fastest Growing Trade Corridors," the Chief Minister highlighted the state's strategic location



and its major ports at Paradip, Dhamra, and Gopalpur, which provide seamless connectivity to East Asia, South-East Asia, and Indo-Pacific markets. The Gujarat outreach, covering Ahmedabad, Mundra, and Vadodara, received an enthusiastic response from investors. The delegation, led by Chief Minister Mohan Charan Majhi, included Industries

Minister Sampad Chandra Swain, Chief Secretary Anu Garg, and Additional Chief Secretary Hemant Sharma, among senior officials. Odisha showcased its robust industrial ecosystem, marked by abundant raw materials, modern infrastructure, port-led logistics, policy stability, and swift project execution. The state is

transitioning from a resource-based economy to a value-added manufacturing and advanced industrial hub. Majhi particularly emphasised Odisha's growing strength in clean energy manufacturing, including solar cells, modules, and integrated value chains. He also underlined the state's emergence as a railway manufacturing and

supply-chain hub with opportunities in engineering, fabrication, wheels, axles, and components. The roadshow witnessed over 132 high-level meetings, including one-on-one B2G sessions and four sectoral roundtables. Two investment promotion events in Ahmedabad and Vadodara attracted more than 700 participants. Sectors that drew keen interest included Metal Downstream, Chemicals, Pharmaceuticals, Rare Earth Value Addition, Green Energy Equipment, Infrastructure, Logistics, Food Processing, Apparel & Textiles, IT & ITES, ESDM & Semiconductor, Lab Grown Diamonds, Plastics, Tourism, Aerospace & Defence, Capital Goods, and Power.

## Newly Sworn-In Bihar Ministers Thank NDA Leadership For Cabinet Opportunity

Patna: After being sworn into the Cabinet headed by Bihar Chief Minister Samrat Choudhary on Thursday, NDA leaders expressed gratitude to their respective party leaderships for the opportunity and pledged to work with honesty and dedication to fulfil their responsibilities towards the people. Former Chief Minister Nitish Kumar's son and JD-U leader Nishant Kumar, who was among the new entrants in the Cabinet, said: "I will try to live up to the trust that the senior leaders have reposed in me." "I have the blessings of the



people and the support of party workers. I have been entrusted with a responsibility and will work with pure intentions and complete honesty," he told IANS. After taking oath as a minister, BJP leader Ram Kripal Yadav thanked his party leadership, the National Democratic Alliance (NDA) leadership, Chief Minister Samrat Choudhary, Prime

Minister Narendra Modi, and Union Home Minister Amit Shah for entrusting him with what he described as a "great responsibility". He said: "Earlier, I had worked in the state's Agriculture Department. I will once again work towards fulfilling the responsibility of whichever department is assigned to me." Former Bihar BJP president Dilip

Kumar Jaiswal, who had also served as a minister earlier, said the party's central leadership had once again entrusted him with ministerial responsibility. "The priority of the Bihar government, under the leadership of Chief Minister Samrat Choudhary and the guidance of Nitish Kumar, with the blessings of Prime Minister Narendra Modi, is to fulfil the dream of a developed Bihar," he said. He added that the new government's priorities would include employment generation for youths, infrastructure development, and maintaining law and order in the state.

## Governor Dissolves Bengal Cabinet, Mamata Out as CM

Bhubaneswar (Correspondent): Governor RN Ravi dissolves Bengal cabinet, ending Mamata Banerjee's tenure as Chief Minister. In a dramatic turn of events, West Bengal Governor RN Ravi dissolved the state assembly today, formally ending the Trinamool Congress government's tenure. The move, executed under Article 174 (2)(b) of the Constitution, marks the conclusion of Mamata Banerjee's role as Chief Minister. The dissolution came a day after the government's term expired, leaving the



Governor to assume interim charge until a new administration is sworn in. Banerjee, however, refused to resign voluntarily,

alleging that the BJP's victory was marred by vote looting, EVM tampering, and collusion by the Election Commission. With the

cabinet dissolved, Bengal enters a transitional phase as political focus shifts to the formation of the next government.

## WHO Confirms 5 Hantavirus Cases, 12 Countries Informed

New Delhi: Amid the global alarm, the World Health Organization (WHO) on Thursday confirmed five hantavirus cases linked to cruise ship outbreak, while three additional cases remain suspected. WHO has now informed 12 countries whose nationals disembarked the cruise ship MV Hondius earlier during the voyage at the remote British territory of Saint Helena in the South Atlantic Ocean. Those 12 countries are Canada, Denmark,

Germany, the Netherlands, New Zealand, Saint Kitts and Nevis, Singapore, Sweden, Switzerland, Turkey, the United Kingdom and the United States of America. WHO chief Tedros Adhanom Ghebreyesus said in a media briefing in Geneva that the agency currently expects the outbreak to remain "limited" if appropriate public health measures are implemented quickly and effectively. He, however, warned that additional cases remain



possible as authorities continue tracing exposed passengers and contacts across

multiple countries. WHO said around 2,500 hantavirus diagnostic

kits are being shipped from laboratories in Argentina to five countries.

There are 149 people on the MV Hondius, the ship's Dutch operator Oceanwide Expeditions told the media. There are 23 nationalities on board. Meanwhile, two suspected hantavirus patients evacuated from the cruise ship MV Hondius remained aboard a grounded air ambulance in Spain's Canary Islands while awaiting a replacement aircraft following a technical malfunction, Spain's Health Ministry said. The aircraft had departed from Cape

Verde and was originally expected to refuel in the western Moroccan city of Marrakesh en route to Amsterdam. However, according to Spanish media reports, Moroccan authorities did not authorise the landing. "During the refuelling stop, the plane's doctor reported a failure in the patient's electrical support system," Spain's Health Ministry said in a statement. Earlier, Spain announced that it will receive the hantavirus-linked vessel MV Hondius in the Canary Islands in accordance

with international law and the spirit of humanitarianism, the Spanish Health Ministry said in a statement on social media. The European Centre for Disease Prevention and Control (ECDC) is conducting a comprehensive assessment of the situation on board to determine which individuals require urgent evacuation in Cape Verde. The remaining passengers and crew will continue to the Canary Islands, with arrival expected within three to four

## Husband-Wife Duo From Manipur Held With Arms And Grenade In Assam

Guwahati: A joint operation by Assam Police and the Assam Rifles led to the arrest of a husband-wife duo and the recovery of arms and explosives from a rented house in Assam's Silchar town, officials said on Thursday. The operation was carried out at Tarapur 6th Block near Ramnagar under the jurisdiction of Silchar Police Station following intelligence inputs and technical surveillance. According to police, the arrested individuals were identified as Laishram Tiken Meitei and Monalisha Chanu, both residents of Churachandpur district in neighbouring Manipur. Additional Superintendent of Police (Crime) Rajat Kumar said the accused were traced through mobile phone location tracking before being



apprehended during an overnight raid. "By tracing their mobile locations, we apprehended both of them last night. The operation was jointly conducted by Assam Police and the Assam Rifles," the officer said. During the search of the rented accommodation, security personnel recovered a 9 mm Italian-made pistol, five live rounds of ammunition, and a

Chinese grenade. Officials said the recovery of sophisticated weapons and explosives from a densely populated residential locality had triggered concern among residents and prompted security agencies to intensify surveillance in surrounding areas. Local sources claimed that the couple had been staying in the rented accommodation for nearly one-and-a-half

months and had maintained a low profile in the locality. Investigators are now probing whether the arrested duo had links with any banned militant outfit or underground network operating in the Northeast. Police suspect that the recovered arms and explosives may have been intended for unlawful activities, although the exact motive behind their possession is yet to be established. Security agencies are also examining the couple's movements, communication records, and possible contacts in Assam and Manipur as part of the ongoing investigation. Officials said both accused were currently being interrogated in custody and further arrests or recoveries could not be ruled out.

## ED Raids: Akali Dal Seeks Probe For 'Cash Rain' Into Punjab CM's Aide

Chandigarh: The Shiromani Akali Dal (SAD) on Thursday demanded an independent probe into the manner in which confidants of Punjab Chief Minister Bhagwant Mann's OSD had collected money from builders, besides running illegal sand mining and liquor rackets. Former Cabinet minister Bikram Singh Majithia said the manner in which the confidants of the Chief Minister's OSD, Rajbir Ghuman, had thrown bagful of money in the air after their ninth-floor apartment was raided by the Enforcement Directorate, had blown the lid off the loot and its resources. He added, "Only a thorough probe could uncover the kingpins behind these rackets." Majithia said the OSD and his associates, along with senior officers, were



involved in acquiring land for cheap from farmers and selling off the same to builders for kickbacks. Besides, members of this "gang" were also guilty of allowing illegal sand mining to be done on multiple lots without any sort of clearance. "These same persons are also involved in running a liquor mafia dealing with illegal liquor," he said in a statement. The SAD leader said the people whom the ED had raided on Thursday were Nitin Goyal, Birdevinder Singh and

Pritpal Dhindsa, who were close associates of CM's OSD Ghuman. "All three persons are joined at the hip with Rajbir Ghuman and even use each other's cars, phones, homes and offices." Asserting that the money being looted from Punjab in this manner was being parked in Australia and Canada by conducting 'hawala' transactions, Majithia said, "It is clear that Ghuman is the kingpin of this racket. He has amassed so much wealth that he has built a bunker inside his home

in Gharachon village. The OSD's residence, as well as all his properties, as well as those of his aides, should be searched to recover their ill-gotten wealth." He also demanded that a lookout notice should be issued against the OSD and his associates so that they would not flee the country. Majithia also demanded that the financial status of Ghuman and his associates should be probed to ascertain how persons who did not have scooters earlier were now driving Land Cruisers. He said the charge that these people were indulging in 'hawala' transactions on behalf of the Chief Minister and AAP should also be probed. "The probe should also go into the properties and land purchased in Australia and other countries through these transactions," Majithia added.

## Maharashtra Committed To Strengthening India-Vietnam Ties: CM Fadnavis

Mumbai: Maharashtra Chief Minister Devendra Fadnavis on Thursday said the state was ready to act as a reliable partner in strengthening ties between India and Vietnam. He reaffirmed the state government's commitment to deepening cultural, economic, and people-to-people relations with Vietnam. Addressing the India-Vietnam Business Forum during Vietnamese President To Lam's one-day visit to Mumbai, Fadnavis invited Vietnamese entrepreneurs to invest in Maharashtra. Chief Minister Fadnavis congratulated Prime Minister Narendra Modi and President To Lam for elevating the



India-Vietnam partnership to an "Enhanced Comprehensive Strategic Partnership". Highlighting Maharashtra's rich Buddhist heritage, he referred to the significance of Nagpur, where Dr Babasaheb Ambedkar gave Buddhism a modern foundation. He also

invited Vietnamese investors and tourists to visit the UNESCO World Heritage Sites of Ajanta and Ellora. He proposed the establishment of a dedicated Buddhist tourism circuit, the launch of direct flight services between Chhatrapati Sambhajnagar and Ho Chi Minh City, and the

organisation of an annual Maharashtra-Vietnam Business Council meeting alternating between Mumbai and Ho Chi Minh City. Noting the similarities between Mumbai and Ho Chi Minh City, Fadnavis welcomed the recent agreements signed between the two cities. He specifically highlighted a proposed \$6.5 billion investment in Maharashtra by Vietnamese conglomerate VinGroup, describing it as the largest investment proposal from Southeast Asia. "Mumbai and Pune's pharmaceutical sectors are world-class. Maharashtra has the capacity to become a reliable supplier of

affordable generic medicines and vaccines to Vietnam," the Chief Minister said. He further invited investments in sectors such as energy, information technology (IT), pharmaceuticals, healthcare, tourism, infrastructure, and manufacturing hubs located in Mumbai, Pune, Nagpur, and Gadchiroli. President To Lam said both nations must take the lead in industry, technology, infrastructure, and trade to further strengthen their comprehensive economic partnership. Recognising Mumbai as India's principal economic and industrial centre, he emphasised the need to provide a fresh direction to bilateral relations.

## Hyderabad Woman IPS Officer Goes Undercover at Night, Approached by Over 40 Men During Safety Operation

NEW DELHI: In a remarkable undercover initiative highlighting concerns around women's safety, Sumathi, the Police Commissioner of Malkajgiri, reportedly spent nearly three hours alone on the streets of Hyderabad after midnight to personally assess how safe the city is for women. The senior IPS officer reportedly carried out the operation in plain clothes between 12:30 am and 3:30 am by standing alone at a bus stop like an ordinary commuter without visible police protection.

The initiative has drawn widespread attention and appreciation for its hands-on approach toward understanding women's safety concerns. According to reports, more than 40 men approached the officer during the three-hour operation. Police sources said some individuals appeared intoxicated, while others allegedly attempted

inappropriate conversations or misbehaviour. The men reportedly did not realise that the woman they were interacting with was a senior police officer conducting a covert assessment. The operation aimed to evaluate real-world experiences faced by women travelling alone late at night rather than relying solely on official complaints and statistics. Officials said the experiment was designed to understand the psychological fear and vulnerability many women experience while navigating public spaces after dark. For many women, concerns about safety begin even before any direct incident occurs — whether through anxiety while walking alone, taking public transport late at night, or waiting alone in isolated areas. The undercover exercise reportedly sought to capture these realities from firsthand experience. After the operation, authorities

reportedly identified the individuals involved through surveillance and follow-up investigations. Instead of making immediate arrests, police sources said the accused individuals were called for counselling sessions and issued strict warnings regarding inappropriate behaviour toward women.

Officials indicated that the approach focused not only on punishment but also on behavioural reform and preventive policing. The unusual operation has sparked widespread praise from citizens and social media users, particularly women, who described the initiative as empathetic and proactive. Many observers said the commissioner's decision to personally experience the risks faced by women demonstrated a deeper commitment to public safety and policing beyond administrative procedures.

## NIA Files Charge Sheet Against Inter-State Arms Smuggler

Patna/New Delhi: The National Investigation Agency (NIA) filed a chargesheet in a Special NIA Court in Patna against an arms and ammunition smuggler in an inter-state illegal ammunition trafficking case with footprints spread across Bihar, Uttar Pradesh and Haryana, an official said on Thursday. Parvez Alam is the ninth accused to be charged in the case RC-01/25/NIA/PAT, said the official in a statement. Charges have been filed against him under various sections of the BNS and Arms Act before the NIA Special Court in Patna (Bihar). A total of 11 persons have so far been arrested in this case, and eight of them, who were charged in February this year, continue to be in judicial custody facing trial.

## TN Guv Wrong To Deny TVK Chance To Prove Majority: Shivakumar

Bengaluru: Karnataka Deputy Chief Minister and State Congress President D. K. Shivakumar on Thursday criticised the reported decision of Tamil Nadu Governor Rajendra Vishwanath Arlekar to deny actor Vijay-led Tamilaga Vettri Kazhagam an opportunity to form the government and prove its majority in the Assembly, calling the move undemocratic. Speaking to reporters at Vidhana Soudha in Bengaluru, Shivakumar said the Governor had no authority to prevent a party from staking a claim to form the government if it had the numbers. "The Governor of Tamil Nadu has no authority whatsoever to prevent Vijay from forming the

government and proving his majority. The Governor's conduct is not right," he said. Drawing parallels with earlier political developments in Karnataka and at the national level, Shivakumar noted that Governors and Presidents had previously allowed the single largest parties to form governments and seek a trust vote in the Assembly or Parliament. "In Karnataka, too, former chief minister B. S. Yediyurappa was allowed to form the government. Former Presidents K. R. Narayanan and A. P. J. Abdul Kalam had also followed the same approach. Even Atal Bihari Vajpayee was allowed to form the government and prove a

majority on the floor of the House," he said. He maintained that Tamilaga Vettri Kazhagam should similarly be given a chance to demonstrate its majority. "This is democracy. One vote can decide the majority or the minority. If they fail to prove the majority, then the next option can be considered," Shivakumar added. The Deputy Chief Minister Shivakumar also stressed the need to respect the mandate and sentiments of the people of a state. "One must respect the sentiments of the people of the state," he said. Speaking on civic infrastructure in Bengaluru, Shivakumar said proposals had been received for

constructing a new Bengaluru North Corporation office at three to four different locations and that a final decision would be taken after inspecting the sites. "Ministers and Members of the Legislative Assembly have expressed different opinions. We will decide after the site inspection," he said. When asked whether the proposed office would come up at the University of Agricultural Sciences, GKVK, Shivakumar clarified that there was no such proposal at present. Responding to questions regarding a meeting with Ministers Satish Jarkiholi and Lakshmi Hebbalkar, he said the discussion was related to irrigation projects in Belagavi district.

13001/397/2627

**ଓ଼ିର ପରିଷଦ କାମ୍ୟାଳୟ, ଫୁଲବାଣୀ**  
**Office of the Municipal Council, Phulbani, Kandhamal**  
Tel.No. 06842-253619, Fax. 06842-253619  
E-mail: municipalcouncil.pb@rediffmail.com  
Letter No. 2560 / Date: 06/05/2026

**QUOTATION CALL NOTICE**  
Sealed quotations in prescribed format are invited for rate invitation from eligible manufacturers, authorized dealers, suppliers, agencies, firms, companies or individuals for submission of following project having valid statutory clearances for:

<b>Name of Work:</b>	Item-wise rates Supply, installation, Testing and Commissioning of 7.0 Mtr Long Decorative Pole with 120 watt LED Light fitting in all complete Set proposed to be executed under different developmental projects of Phulbani Municipality.
----------------------	--

**Availability of Documents:**  
From 08.05.2026 to 20.05.2026 up to 1.00 PM during office hours (excluding Govt. holidays) on payment of Rs. 5,000/- (Non-refundable) in Cash/DD at the office of the undersigned.

**Important Dates:**

- Last Date of Submission: 20.05.2026 up to 1.00 PM
- Date of Opening: 21.05.2026 at 11.00 AM
- Venue: Municipal Conference Hall, Phulbani Municipality
- Submission through Speed Post / Registered Post / By Hand only.

**General Terms & Conditions:**

- Rates shall remain valid for a minimum period of twelve (12) months from the date of approval.
- This NIQ is only for rate finalisation and not for immediate execution or supply.
- Rates quoted shall be inclusive of transportation, loading, unloading, handling and incidental charges but exclusive of GST as applicable.
- Conditional quotations shall be rejected.
- Lowest rate will not automatically guarantee approval.
- Final adoption of rates shall be subject to approval from tender committee of Phulbani Municipality.
- The Executive Officer, Phulbani Municipality reserves the right to accept or reject any or all quotations without assigning any reason thereof.

OIPR-13001/13195/1/26-27/0002

**Executives Officer**  
**Phulbani Municipality**

# 13 professional gamblers arrested from Hotel Mahavir Galaxy, Rs 19 lakh seized

Cuttack (Correspondent): Information was received that a large-scale gambling den was operating at Mahavir Galaxy Hotel on Bajrakbati Road in Cuttack late on Wednesday night. Based on the information, a team of the Police Commissionerate raided and arrested 13 professional gamblers. About Rs 19 lakh, several mobile phones, vehicle keys, cars, etc. were seized from them. Information about the incident was given on Thursday (May 7) by the Bhubaneswar-Cuttack Police Commissionerate. According to information, a raid was conducted on the gambling den operating in room number 110 of the hotel. From here, 13 professional gamblers from Cuttack, Puri, Bhadrak, Berhampur



etc. areas have been arrested. The arrested persons are - Hemant Kahali (44), Chintu Dalai (30) and Tapan Sethi (46) of Cuttack Mangalabagh, Ajit Ojha (35) of Cuttack Malgodam Dassahi, Shyam Sundar Sahu (39) of Berhampur Kalupatra Sahi, Kishna Rao (48) of Cuttack Malgodam, A Santosh Kumar (32) of Berhampur Badabazar, Ram Chandra Behera of Bhadrak Old Bazaar, Manoj Kumar Mohanty (35) of Bhadrak

Madhav nagar, Ranganath Sahu (61) of Cuttack Chauliaganj Rath Lane, Maheswar Santa (40) of Khurda Jatni Deulabastar, Jogeswar Rao (49) of Cuttack Sikharpur Maththa Sahi, Jagbandhu Behera alias Tulu (36) of Puri Dolagobindpur. 18 lakh 30 thousand 730 rupees cash, 60 plastic round tokens, 10 keys of various vehicles, 14 mobile phones, 4 bundles of cards, 2 cars and 8 vehicles have been seized from them. The arrested Hemant Kahali, Krishna Rao, Chintu Dalai, Tapan Sethi have several criminal cases registered in various police stations. It is reported that the details of the previous criminal history of the other accused are being investigated. The accused was produced in court today (Thursday).

# Sangram's Show of Strength in Jajpur Thousands of Youth Join BJP Victory Celebration, Political Buzz Intensifies

JAJPUR (Correspondent) : Following the Bharatiya Janata Party's remarkable success in the Assembly elections in West Bengal, Assam, and Puducherry, a grand victory celebration was held in Jajpur town. A massive bike rally organized under the leadership of young BJP leader Sangram Keshari Patra created a vibrant political atmosphere across the town. The huge turnout and enthusiasm of young supporters sparked widespread discussion, with many asking whether Sangram's growing presence could reshape the political equation in Jajpur. The rally began near N.C. College and passed through Medical Chhak, Gandhi Chhak, Badabazar, Gariapur, and Jodikua before reaching Kusuma. A large public meeting was later held at a nearby ground in



Kusuma, where Sangram Patra addressed party workers and supporters. Hundreds of bikes, party flags, drums, and chants of "Bharat Mata Ki Jai" turned the entire town into a festive scene. According to the organizers, more than 5,000 workers and supporters participated in the rally. Among those present were State Mahila Morcha President Dr. Aishwarya Biswal, District Vice-President Sushant Sahu, District Executive Member Abinash Nayak, along with several district and town leaders. However, the central attraction of the

event remained young leader Sangram Patra. Crowds gathered along both sides of the roads to welcome him enthusiastically. Addressing the gathering, Sangram Patra said that the BJP's success in West Bengal, Assam, and Puducherry was not merely an electoral victory, but a reflection of the people's faith in nationalist ideology, development-oriented politics, and the leadership of the Prime Minister. He described the party's success in West Bengal as "a new chapter in restoring India's pride." Sangram further stated that the BJP organization in Jajpur is now reaching

every household and that support for the party among the youth is steadily increasing. He expressed confidence that the BJP would perform strongly in the upcoming Panchayat and Municipal elections. Taking a swipe at the opposition, he said, "The people of Jajpur now want change, and the youth will lead that change." The gathering witnessed immense enthusiasm during Sangram's speech, with slogans and energetic chants echoing throughout the venue. Political observers are viewing the rally as a major "power show" by Sangram Patra.

## Woman Seriously Injured In Bear Attack In Mayurbhanj District

Bhubaneswar (Correspondent): A woman was seriously injured after a bear gouged out one of her eyes inside her village in the Udala forest range area. The incident occurred at Kusalda village under Udala block in Mayurbhanj district. The victim, identified as Damayanti Barik, was stepping out of her house onto the road when the bear suddenly entered the village and attacked her. As per reports, the bear violently struck her face, completely damaging her left eye with its claws. She was immediately rushed to Udala Hospital in critical condition. Later, due to the seriousness of her injuries, she was shifted to Baripada for advanced treatment. On receiving information, the Forest Department team reached the spot and initiated efforts to track the bear and drive it back into the forest.

# Canadian High Commissioner Christopher Cooter Calls On Dy CM KV Singh Deo

Bhubaneswar (Correspondent): Canadian High Commissioner to India, Christopher Cooter, accompanied by his wife, paid a courtesy call on Odisha Deputy Chief Minister Kanak Vardhan Singh Deo at Lok Seva Bhawan on Thursday. The meeting focused on strengthening bilateral cooperation between Canada and India, with special emphasis on Odisha. Discussions centred on agriculture exports, technical cooperation, bilateral trade, and opportunities for foreign direct investment (FDI). Deputy Chief Minister Singh Deo, who also holds the Agriculture and Farmers Empowerment portfolio, highlighted Odisha's rich mineral resources. He informed the Canadian delegation that the state holds 92% of India's total chromite reserves and possesses



abundant rare earth environmentally sustainable development. Senior officials present at the meeting included Additional Chief Secretary, Energy Department, Vishal Kumar Deb, and Principal Secretary, Forest, Environment and Climate Change Department & CMD, Bhaskar Jyoti Sharma. Later, Deputy Chief Minister

Kanak Vardhan Singh Deo shared on X (formerly Twitter): "Had a pleasant courtesy meeting with Christopher Cooter, High Commissioner of Canada to India. Our exchange of greetings and constructive dialogue reaffirmed the importance of nurturing strong, enduring partnerships that transcend borders and strengthen Odisha's global connect."

# Odisha Plans For Dedicated TV Channel To Promote Jagannath Culture

Bhubaneswar (Correspondent): In a significant move, the Odisha government has initiated concrete steps to launch a dedicated television channel dedicated to Lord Jagannath, the revered Lord of the Universe and the spiritual heartbeat of millions of devotees worldwide. A high-level meeting, chaired by Law Minister Prithviraj Harichandan, was convened today at the Law Department conference hall in Lok Seva Bhawan to deliberate on the establishment of this exclusive Jagannath TV channel. The discussions centred on developing a comprehensive framework for the channel, which aims to broadcast the daily rituals, grand festivals, and rich cultural heritage associated



with Shree Jagannath, while spreading the deity's divine message across the globe. Describing the initial talks as "highly positive and promising," Minister Harichandan stated that the proposed channel would serve as a dynamic platform to introduce Jagannath culture to a global audience, promote scholarly research and meaningful dialogue, and authentically capture the deep devotion and emotions of millions of followers. He added that the state

government is approaching the initiative with strong enthusiasm and that a detailed roadmap will be prepared in the coming days. The meeting saw active participation from senior officials, including Shree Jagannath Temple Chief Administrator Dr. Arabinda Kumar Padhee and senior bureaucrats from the Law Department. They contributed valuable inputs on creating a balanced mix of devotion, culture, education, and entertainment through the channel.

# Temperatures Drop Across Odisha Amid Thunderstorm Activities

Bhubaneswar (Correspondent): In a major relief from the scorching heat, temperatures across Odisha have dropped significantly following widespread thunderstorm activities. Several parts of the state recorded maximum temperatures below 40 degree Celsius on Thursday. According to the latest observations, Malkangiri recorded the highest maximum temperature of 39.8 degree Celsius, while Hirakud, Sambalpur, Titilagarh, Jharsuguda and Phulbani hovered around 39 degree

Celsius. The India Meteorological Department has issued thunderstorm alerts for several districts in the afternoon and evening hours. Thunderstorm accompanied with lightning and gusty surface wind reaching 40-50 kmph is very likely to occur at one or two places over Mayurbhanj, Keonjhar, Sundergarh, Nabarangpur, Kalahandi, Kandhamal, Nuapada, Sambalpur, Jharsuguda, Deogarh, Bargarh, Angul, Sonepur, Boudh and Balangir. Thunderstorm accompanied with lightning and gusty surface wind reaching

30-40 kmph is very likely to occur at one or two places over Balasore, Bhadrak, Jajpur, Kendrapara, Cuttack, Jagatsinghpur, Puri, Khurda, Nayagarh, Dhenkanal, Ganjam, Gajapati, Rayagada, Koraput and Malkangiri. On Friday, thunderstorm accompanied with lightning and gusty surface wind reaching 40-50 kmph is very likely to occur at one or two places over Mayurbhanj, Keonjhar, Balasore, Bhadrak, Sundergarh, Ganjam and Gajapati. Thunderstorm accompanied with

lightning and gusty surface wind reaching 30-40 kmph is very likely to occur at one or two places over Rayagada, Koraput and Malkangiri. Residents in the affected districts are advised to remain cautious of lightning, strong winds, and possible localized damage to loose structures. Farmers and outdoor workers should take necessary precautions during the afternoon and evening hours. The thunderstorm activity is expected to provide further relief from the heat in the coming days.

**TPCODL**  
TP CENTRAL ODISHA  
DISTRIBUTION LIMITED  
(A Joint Venture of Tata Power and Government of Odisha)

**Registered Office / Corporate Office : Power House Square, Unit - 8, Bhubaneswar - 751012**

**PUBLIC NOTICE FOR EMPANELMENT OF VENDORS**  
**(Under PM-Suryaghar: Muft Bijli Yojana)**

TP Central Odisha Distribution Ltd. (TPCODL) invites applications from eligible Agencies/Firms/Companies for empanelment as vendors under the PM-Suryaghar: Muft Bijli Yojana, a flagship Government of India initiative aimed at promoting rooftop solar installations for residential consumers and enabling affordable, clean energy access.

- Detailed empanelment guidelines, application forms, document checklist etc. are available at [www.tpcentralodisha.com](http://www.tpcentralodisha.com)
- Applications and other required documents should be put in a sealed envelope and to be dropped in the designated drop-box available at **Renewable Energy Cell, TPCODL, Power House Square, Bhubaneswar.**

**For Details Contact - 1912**

## EDITORIAL

### The Water That Flows in Vain Must Be Put to Use

Understanding the Value of Every Drop in an Age of Water Crisis

Water is the foundation of life on Earth. Human beings, animals, plants, agriculture, industries, and entire civilizations depend upon it. Without water, life cannot exist. Yet, despite knowing its importance, humanity continues to waste enormous amounts of this precious resource every day. Across cities and villages, clean water flows unnecessarily from leaking taps, broken pipelines, overflowing tanks, and careless usage. At the same time, millions of people struggle daily to find enough clean drinking water.

This contradiction reflects one of the greatest challenges of the modern age: water scarcity amid water wastage. As climate change intensifies, populations grow, and groundwater levels decline, the world faces an urgent need to conserve and wisely utilize every drop of water. The water that flows in vain must no longer be ignored; it must be saved, reused, and managed responsibly for the survival of future generations.

Water: Nature's Most Precious Gift

Water is not merely a natural resource; it is the essence of life itself. Although nearly 71 percent of the Earth's surface is covered with water, only a tiny fraction is available as fresh and usable water. Most of the planet's water is salty ocean water, while a large amount of freshwater remains trapped in glaciers and ice caps.

As a result, the amount of clean drinking water available for human use is limited. Unfortunately, pollution, overuse, urbanization, industrial expansion, and climate change are rapidly reducing even these limited freshwater reserves.

Many rivers are shrinking, lakes are drying up, and groundwater tables are falling to alarming levels. In several regions of the world, people already face severe droughts and water shortages. Experts warn that future wars may not be fought over land or oil, but over water.

In such circumstances, allowing water to go to waste is not only irresponsible but dangerous for humanity's future.

The growing global water crisis reminds us that water is not an unlimited resource. The water that flows in vain today may become the cause of suffering tomorrow. Therefore, conserving, reusing, and wisely managing water is one of the greatest responsibilities of our time.

Every drop saved is a step toward a safer future. By adopting sustainable habits, improving infrastructure, embracing modern technology, and spreading awareness, humanity can protect this invaluable gift of nature.

## Red Cross: The Lifeline of the World in Times of Crisis



**Yogesh Kumar Goyal**

The Red Cross was founded by the great humanitarian Jean Henry Dunant. Therefore, to

commemorate his birthday, May 8 is observed annually across the globe as 'International Red Cross Day', with efforts made to acquaint the common man with the organization's activities. Established in the year 1863, the International Red Cross Society functions as a guardian of the fundamental principles of the Red Cross movement while expanding its reach to every country in the world.

Born on May 8, 1828, Dunant was deeply moved by the plight of wounded soldiers during the Battle of Solferino (Italy) in 1859, as there was no medical system available to treat those lying on the battlefield. Based on his bitter experiences of the painful conditions of these soldiers, he wrote a book titled 'A Memory of Solferino' and formed the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC) in 1863. It was due to Dunant's persistent efforts that the 'International Red Cross Movement' was established under the Geneva Convention in 1864. During the war in Italy, Dunant witnessed a horrific scene of bloodshed where many wounded soldiers suffered heart-wrenching agony in the absence of medical aid. He raised his voice regarding the need for permanent committees to assist such victims, which eventually showed results. Subsequently, a commission was formed to study means of improving the condition of the wounded in war. In 1863, the fundamental principles of the Red Cross

were determined at an international meeting in Geneva, emphasizing the creation of national committees worldwide to organize aid for wounded soldiers and war victims.

Due to the intervention of Napoleon III, the international committee succeeded in persuading the 'Swiss Federal Council' to convene a conference in Geneva on August 8, 1864, which was attended by representatives from 26 countries. This conference led to the Geneva Convention, where the white flag with a Red Cross was approved as a symbol of protection—a symbol that remains the hallmark of the Red Cross globally today. Initially, the role of the Red Cross was limited to transporting sick and wounded soldiers and prisoners of war to safe locations and providing medical facilities; however, the scope of its responsibilities has expanded continuously. Dedicated to humanitarian service, the Red Cross played a vital role during the First and Second World Wars, setting an exemplary standard by assisting numerous wounded soldiers and civilians. Whenever an earthquake, flood, landslide, or any other natural or man-made disaster occurs in any part of the world, the teams of the 'International Red Cross Society' are the first to arrive and engage in relief work. Known as a symbol of peace and harmony, this organization has carved a unique identity not only in India but across the world through its diligent, dedicated, and dutiful volunteers. Currently, the Red Cross is active in more than 190 countries. In India, the Red Cross Society was formed in 1920 under the 'Indian Red Cross Society Act'. Nine years after its establishment, recognizing its commendable activities, the International Red Cross Society granted recognition to the 'Indian

Red Cross Society'.

In the early years of the Red Cross in India, the Vice President of India served as its President. However, through an amendment to the Red Cross Act in 1994, the President of India was made the ex-officio President and the Union Health Minister was made the Secretary. At present, more than 750 branches of the Indian Red Cross Society are working wholeheartedly in the service of humanity across the country. The Red Cross is a voluntary organization that plays a significant role in saving and providing relief to victims of natural or man-made disasters; the number of dedicated volunteers joining it continues to grow. There are approximately 17 million Red Cross volunteers worldwide, which is why Red Cross Day is also referred to as 'International Volunteer Day'.

The Red Cross inspires people to donate blood and collects a massive quantity of blood every year through blood donation camps organized across the country via its various branches. For several decades, this organization has been consistently collecting blood and ensuring its timely availability to those in need. In fact, it is the world's largest single organization for blood collection, saving thousands of lives of people battling fatal diseases like cancer, thalassemia, and anemia. On the initiative of the Red Cross, the world's first blood bank was established in America in 1937, and currently, the majority of blood banks worldwide are managed by the Red Cross and its partner organizations. The Red Cross continues to play a vital role in saving and providing relief to victims of human or natural disasters in any part of the country. The main objective of the Red Cross is to protect life and health and to ensure respect for every human being.

## The True Purpose of Education



**Dr. Arundhati Devi**

The day a new born child is born and is cut from its mother, it learns how to

breathe all by itself. As time passes, it learns how to walk, talk, read, write and do many new things. Learning has always been an integral part of us. From the need to learn, springs the field of 'Education'. What needs to be taught and when, is decided through this system. Hence Education becomes a medium for learning and the knowledge acquired then can be used to improve many people's lives.

While learning 'a b c d' we had never thought that one day we would be specializing in a field and learning words like 'sphygmomanometer' or 'catharsis'. Education has shaped us into who we are today. It has broadened our perspective and

helped us into forming our beliefs and opinions on various topics. It has made us aware of the happenings in the world. Education has helped us reach to the moon, create artificial cornea to help people see better, build buildings, use different languages and to make miracles happen.

Education has helped us appreciate the beauty of nature as bestowed upon us by God. It is only through Education that 'aesthetic aspect' and 'social responsibility' are awakened in a citizen. He becomes cautious of his responsibility as a citizen and takes better care of his surroundings along with appreciating it. An educated person would know whom to call in an emergency and what all procedure to follow. Hence education is for life and one should retain whatever one has learnt so that it can be used when needed.

India has always been the land of knowledge. 'Sanskrit' has been a native

language and it was the language in which pupils were taught by their 'Gurus' under a tree. This ancient language gave way to many new languages. Due to the changing history of India, its Education system also got affected. From education being provided under a tree for free to Modern school academies being set up with hefty fees, India has come a long way and so has its Education system.

While such questions remain unanswered, let us search for them in our past. Albert Einstein, Steve Jobs, Ellen DeGeneres and Oprah Winfrey are some of the personalities who are college drop-outs. What does education mean? Is it a highway to success? No. Life itself is a teacher that educates us with all the lessons we need to learn. Education is not received in classroom, but outside it. It comes to those who have a thirst for it. So learn as much as you want to because education is eternal.

## Understanding the International Red Cross Society and Its Activities



**Dr. Simant Kumar Nanda**

The International Red Cross and Red Crescent Movement is one of the world's largest and oldest

humanitarian networks. It works to protect human life, reduce suffering, and provide help during wars, disasters, epidemics, and emergencies without discrimination of nationality, religion, race, or political belief. Today, the movement operates in almost every country and helps millions of people every year. The idea of the Red Cross movement began after the famous Battle of Solferino fought in 1859 in northern Italy, where thousands of wounded soldiers were left on the battlefield without medical care. A Swiss businessman named Henry Dunant witnessed the suffering and organized local villagers to help injured soldiers of both sides without discrimination. He later wrote a book titled 'A Memory of Solferino', describing the horrors of war and proposing the formation of voluntary relief societies. His ideas led to the creation of the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC) in 1863 at Geneva, Switzerland. The symbol of the Red Cross is a red-colored cross on a white background, actually the reverse of the Swiss national flag, honoring Switzerland's neutrality and the role of Swiss citizens in founding the movement. Later, some Islamic countries preferred a red crescent instead of the cross, giving rise to the International Red Cross and Red Crescent Movement. Today,

both the Red Cross and Red Crescent are internationally recognized humanitarian symbols protected under international law. The movement has three major pillars. The International Committee of the Red Cross mainly works in war zones and conflict areas, with major activities including protecting prisoners of war, visiting detention camps, helping civilians trapped in conflicts, reuniting separated families, providing emergency medical care, and promoting international humanitarian law. It plays a crucial role during armed conflicts such as wars and civil unrest. The International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies coordinates disaster response and health programs worldwide, handling earthquake relief, flood and cyclone response, pandemic and epidemic support, first aid training, blood donation awareness, community health programs, and climate and disaster preparedness. It supports national societies during natural disasters and public health emergencies. Almost every country has its own national society; in India, it is the Indian Red Cross Society, established in 1920. Its activities in India

include blood banks and blood donation camps, disaster relief during cyclones and floods, first aid and ambulance services, health awareness programs, youth Red Cross activities, and assistance during pandemics and emergencies. States like Odisha have often witnessed the active role of the Indian Red Cross during cyclones, floods, heatwaves, and public health emergencies. The movement follows seven important principles: humanity, impartiality, neutrality, independence, voluntary service, unity, and universality. These principles help the organization

work even in politically sensitive and conflict-prone regions. The Red Cross became globally respected mainly because of its humanitarian role during wars. It treats wounded soldiers irrespective of nationality, helps exchange messages between separated families, ensures humane treatment of prisoners, and supplies medicines and food in war areas. The organization also works under the framework of the Geneva Conventions, which define humanitarian rules during war. Whenever major disasters occur, Red Cross teams are often among the first responders for earthquakes,

tsunamis, cyclones, floods, droughts, and epidemics. Relief materials generally include food, drinking water, medicines, temporary shelters, clothing, and psychological support. In India, the organization has worked extensively during the Odisha Super Cyclone (1999), Indian Ocean Tsunami (2004), COVID-19 pandemic, and frequent flood and cyclone situations.

One of the most visible activities of the Red Cross in many countries is blood banking. The organization conducts voluntary blood donation drives, maintains blood banks, promotes safe blood transfusion, and organizes health camps. The slogan "Donate Blood, Save Life" is closely associated with Red Cross humanitarian work.

Millions of volunteers work under the movement worldwide. Youth programs teach first aid, disaster preparedness, social service, health awareness, leadership, and teamwork. Many schools and colleges have Junior Red Cross or Youth Red Cross units. The Red Cross movement has received the Nobel Peace Prize multiple times

for its humanitarian work. The ICRC received it in 1917, 1944, and 1963, while Henry Dunant himself received the first Nobel Peace Prize in 1901. The Red Cross movement receives support from governments, public donations, international agencies, corporate and charitable contributions, membership fees, and fundraising campaigns. Volunteers also contribute immensely through service and community participation. Interesting facts about the movement include the Red Crystal, a neutral symbol introduced besides the cross and crescent for countries preferring neither religious nor cultural association; family message services that help separated family members reconnect during wars and disasters through tracing services; and the neutral humanitarian identity that allows Red Cross workers to enter dangerous conflict areas where many others cannot safely operate. In today's world of wars, climate disasters, pandemics, migration crises, and humanitarian emergencies, the role of the Red Cross movement remains extremely important. Its work reminds humanity that compassion and service rise above political, national, and religious boundaries. The movement stands as a global symbol of humanity, relief, neutrality, hope, and service to suffering people. The International Red Cross and Red Crescent Movement is not merely a relief organization; it is a humanitarian philosophy built upon compassion and human dignity. From battlefields to disaster zones, from blood banks to refugee camps, the movement continues to serve millions across the globe. More than 160 years after its birth, the Red Cross remains one of humanity's strongest symbols of mercy and collective responsibility.

# Awareness and Sensitisation Programme on R. P. WD Act, 2016 held at Subarnapur

SUBARNAPUR (Correspondent)- On Thursday, an awareness camp on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities Act 2016 was organized at the Subarnapur District Culture Bhawan by the District Social Security Department under the chairmanship of Collector Dr. Nruparaj Sahu. State Disability Commissioner Bratati Harichandan attended the camp as the chief guest. Resource Person R. K. Sharma informed the district level officers and persons with disabilities present about the law and discussed how to implement it. The Odisha government implemented this law in 2018. It was made



aware in the camp that there are 21 types of disabilities. Out of which 14 types of disabilities are employment and job-related. 4 percent have been kept for employment-related reasons. Apart from this, 20 minutes of additional time is given in every hour to answer questions in the exam. If self-help groups are formed for persons with disabilities,

a group of 5 people will be formed. There is a relaxation of up to 10 years in the age limit for applying for any job. Apart from this, if any person violates the PWD Act, he will have to pay a minimum of 6 months imprisonment and a financial fine of Rs. 10,000. It was felt in the camp that a PWD Rights Committee meeting should be held

in the district once in 1-3 months. In this committee meeting, PWDs can express their problems. All the officials present in the camp were requested to take necessary steps so that PWDs can reach their offices easily. Additional District Magistrate (Revenue) Rajendra Majhi, Additional District Magistrate (General)

Anjalina Pradhan, Sub Collector Sonepur Dr. Soumyarupa Rath, CDM & PHO Usharani Das, OSD of State Disability Commissioner Debi Prasad Barik, District Social Security Officer Govinda Ballab Sarangi, Sign Language Interpreter Debashish Panda along with officers of various departments and representatives of various NGOs related to disability empowerment were present. The camp was conducted by Tarbha Block Social Security Officer Prabhakar Kumar. Finally, Sub-Divisional Social Security Officer Anjulata Mishra proposed the vote of thanks.

# Two lovers dead body rescue from tree, Both commits suicide due to failed love

SUBARNAPUR (Correspondent)--- Love does not respect caste or religion | Love does not respect obstacles. They had dreamed of being together. But the rules were different. Both had dreamed so much to build a world of gold. But everything fell apart. Home and family did not give permission for marriage. Lovers hanged themselves from a tree. The hanging body of a young man and a young woman was found on a tree branch on Gulunda Silati road under Binika police station in Subarnapur district. The police reached the spot and started an investigation. Later, a scientific team from Balangir reached the spot and conducted a detailed investigation. Later, the family of the girl and the family of the



boy reached. The young man is Ritesh Jhankar (22) of Bajikhola village under Lachhipur police station Rengali panchayat of Subarnapur district and the girl is Jharana Dharua (14) of Binika block Meghla panchayat Kanardera. Ritesh has a relative in Bajikhola village, and when Jharana went to that village, they had a love affair. When both were going to get married, the boy did not agree to it because the girl was 18 years below

young, so the two lovers ran away to Tamil Nadu. Yesterday, when they came from Tamil Nadu, the boy's family asked them to take the girl to Meghla and leave the girl at her mother's house, but the lovers did not agree and ran away at night and committed suicide in a tree, the family informed. Today, it was found that the bodies of the two people were dismembered. A case has been registered in this regard with Binika police.

# CMMajhi Orders Strict Action In B alianta Lynching Case

Bhubaneswar (correspondent) Chief Minister Mohan Charan Majhi has expressed deep grief over the murder of a youth in the Baliaanta area of Bhubaneswar and directed the police to conduct a thorough investigation while taking stringent action against those responsible.

The Chief Minister spoke directly with Director General of Police Y.B. Khurania regarding the incident. He instructed the police to ensure a swift and impartial probe and to take the strictest possible measures against the culprits. Majhi also emphasised the need for heightened vigilance to prevent recurrence of such mob lynching incidents and directed the force to firmly uphold the rule of law across the state. So far, the police have arrested four individuals in connection with the case and the investigation is underway. CM Majhi also held a conversation with State Women's Commission Chairperson Shobhana Mohanty about the incident. It is learnt that Chairperson Mohanty will visit Baliaanta tomorrow to personally interact with the women who have alleged abuse during the event, in order to ascertain the complete facts and understand all aspects of the case.

# Adulterated Food Factory Busted In Bargarh

Bargarh (correspondent) : In a major crackdown on food adulteration, the Bargarh district administration raided an illegal factory in Barpali that was manufacturing various adulterated food items and supplying them to the local market.

# Allegation of two persons being appointed as asst professors in the School of Education for 4 years without educational qualifications

Gopalpur, (correspondent) A former professor working in the department of self-financed courses run under the School of Education, has alleged that two persons without the required qualifications were appointed as asst professors for the past 4 years by taking a bribe of lakhs of rupees. According to the complaint, Bibhu Kalyan Samant was working as a asst professor in the School of Education

department, but a few months ago, an assistant professor demanded Rs 4 lakh and told him that he would not be re-appointed unless he paid the money. Since he was unable to pay the money, he was not appointed again. But for the past 4 years, two persons have been working without educational qualifications. It is alleged that one of the man is a relative of a professor but has only an MA in education, while another woman is a relative of a former

vice-chancellor but has only an MA. It is worth noting that while there are guidelines for appointment as a teacher in the School of Education department that a person should have an MA in education along with NEET or PhD and MED, how has the University of Berhampur been making such appointments for the past four years? It has also been alleged that these teachers were receiving a monthly salary of Rs 35,000 and were teaching students

who were studying BEd despite not having any educational qualifications. When contacted, the Vice-Chancellor of Khallikote University, Professor Amita Sahu, who is currently acting as the Vice-Chancellor, informed that if any irregularities are found in the appointments, action will definitely be taken. Therefore, it remains to be seen what action the acting Vice Chancellor will take regarding this incident, according to the opinion expressed in the intellectual circles.

# Minister of Health & Family Welfare paid visit to Kalahandi

Bhabanipatna: (Correspondent 6) In order to boost to the rural healthcare facilities in Odisha especially hinterland Dr. Mukesh Mahaling, Minister of Health & Family Welfare, in his day long visit to Kalahandi district extensively extending the health care facilities has inaugurated CHC Building and closely reviewed various issues related health and hygienic issues of this district. In previous day though he paid visit Kalahandi for several times, perhaps it seems to be known that, his repeated care to this district Kalahandi is under his special focus. Chairing the meeting at Bhawanipatna's collectorate conference hall in his day long visit, he has reviewed, the taken health and family welfare activities in entire district of Kalahandi with district level official after he went on to interact with both the public and health officials especially the Lanjigarh block's Biswanathpur CHC. As well as gracing the communities of Borda he has inaugurated CHC building there.



# Pregnant woman murdered in Hinjili Kharida village



Gopalpur (correspondent) The Leader of the Opposition Naveen Patnaik, has provided Rs 1 lakh as assistance to the surviving 3-year-old child in the murder of a pregnant woman in Hinjili Kharida village. A delegation of the party visited the Ukral

Balashram in Berhampur, where the child was staying, and provided this assistance. The Balashram authorities were informed to keep this amount in the form of a fixed deposit in the bank in the name of the child. The BJD delegation

included former MP Chandrashekhar Sahu, working president and former MLA Purna Chandra Swain, Dr. Ramesh Chandra Chaupattanayak, Mayor Sanghamitra Dalai and Sulakhana Gitanjali Devi and party workers are present.

# MLA Das assumes office as DPC chairman

Jagatsinghpur, (correspondent) the state government has constituted the District Planning Committee [DPC] and appointed its chairman. MLA Amarendra Das has been appointed as Jagatsinghpur DPC chairman. On Thursday, MLA Das assumed office at the collector's office here, where the Sub-collector and ADM Jagatsinghpur performed the legal formalities and oath of office. Legislator Das reached the collector's office grounds in a rally that began from



Charpolia, covering the entire Jagatsinghpur town with thousands of BJP supporters, where MLA Das addressed the gathering and spoke about the DPC and its function in the district. DPC consolidates development plans from Panchayats and urban bodies for

creating a unified district plan. Among others, the other prominent persons and BJP leaders present were Devidatta Mohanty, Prasanna Swain, Laxmikanta Swain, Jagannath Das, Srikanta Choudhury, Susanta Swain, and others.

# Lok Adalat and Special Camp for TPSODL Consumers on May 9

Gopalpur (correspondent) TP Southern Odisha Distribution Limited (TPSODL) will organize the second National Lok Adalat and Dispute Resolution Camp on May 9. This camp is being organized to resolve cases related to unauthorized electricity consumption and power theft by consumers. Long pending cases will be resolved simultaneously here. These Lok Adalat and Dispute Resolution Camps will be held simultaneously in Gajapati, Kandhamal, Boudh, Koraput, Rayagada, Malkangiri and Nabarangpur districts as well as in the divisions, sub-divisions,

section offices, Dispute Resolution Offices and designated courthouses of TPSODL. Similarly, consumers can resolve their pending dispute cases conveniently and transparently at the Special Dispute Resolution and Dispute Resolution Camp to be organized on the same day in Ganjam district. These camps will be open from 9 am to 5 pm. Consumers can reach within the stipulated time and get guidance and assistance. Such initiatives of TPSODL will promote responsible electricity consumption and help in streamlining the resolution of implementation-related

cases. Transparency and regularity in electricity consumption can be maintained and a consumer-friendly system can be established. A special team comprising enforcement officers, legal experts and consumer support staff will be present at the Lok Adalat and provide related assistance to the consumers. Detailed information about the Lok Adalat, such as district administration, classification of eligible cases, step-by-step guidance, etc., will be available at the TPSODL office. Consumers can contact the company's Customer Contact Centre (CRC) for

additional convenience. Similarly, consumers can get all the information in this regard through TPSODL's toll-free number 1800-2026 or 1912. TPSODL appeals to all its customers to avail this opportunity. Consumers can get quality electricity services by resolving their cases in Lok Adalat. This will ensure consumer friendly and safe electricity service provision across South Odisha. The company is committed to promoting a culture of consumer-centric service and legal electricity consumption through this Lok Adalat camp.

# National Lok Adalat on May 9

Cuttack : The second National Lok Adalat will be held on Saturday, 9.05.2026 at 10 am at the premises of Cuttack District Legal Services Authority and all Taluk Legal Services Committee. In this National Lok Adalat, all types of pre-trial and sub-trial litigations such as solvable traffic violations, plea bargains, motor vehicle accidents.

PANCHYAT SAMITI, RANGELUNDA, KONISI							
ANNEXURE-A							
BID IDENTIFICATION NO-01/2026-27							
NIB NO 3339 Dated 06-05-26							
List OF WORKS PUT TO Off-Line mode only							
Name of the Project	Estimate Cost Put to Tender (In Rs.)	Estimate Money Deposited @ 1% of Tendered Value In (Rs.)	Class of Contractor	Cost of BID document (Non-Refundable)	Cover Type	Period of Completion	
2	3	4	5	6	7	8	
Repair and Renovation of Ishneswar Temple at Golanthara	16,54,443.00	16544.00	"C&D" Class	Rs.6,000.00	Single Cover	06 Calendar month	
Repair and Renovation of Dabhaleswar Temple at Golabandha, GP, Golabandha	16,16,720.00	16167.00	"C&D" Class	Rs.6,000.00	Single Cover	06 Calendar month	
Construction of Community Kumbhar Sala at Chikarada, GP- Chikarada	12,00,000.00	12000.00	"C&D" Class	Rs.6,000.00	Single Cover	06 Calendar month	

By the Order of Block Development Officer  
Panchayat Samiti, Rangilunda

OIPR-19001/19424/1/26-27/0001

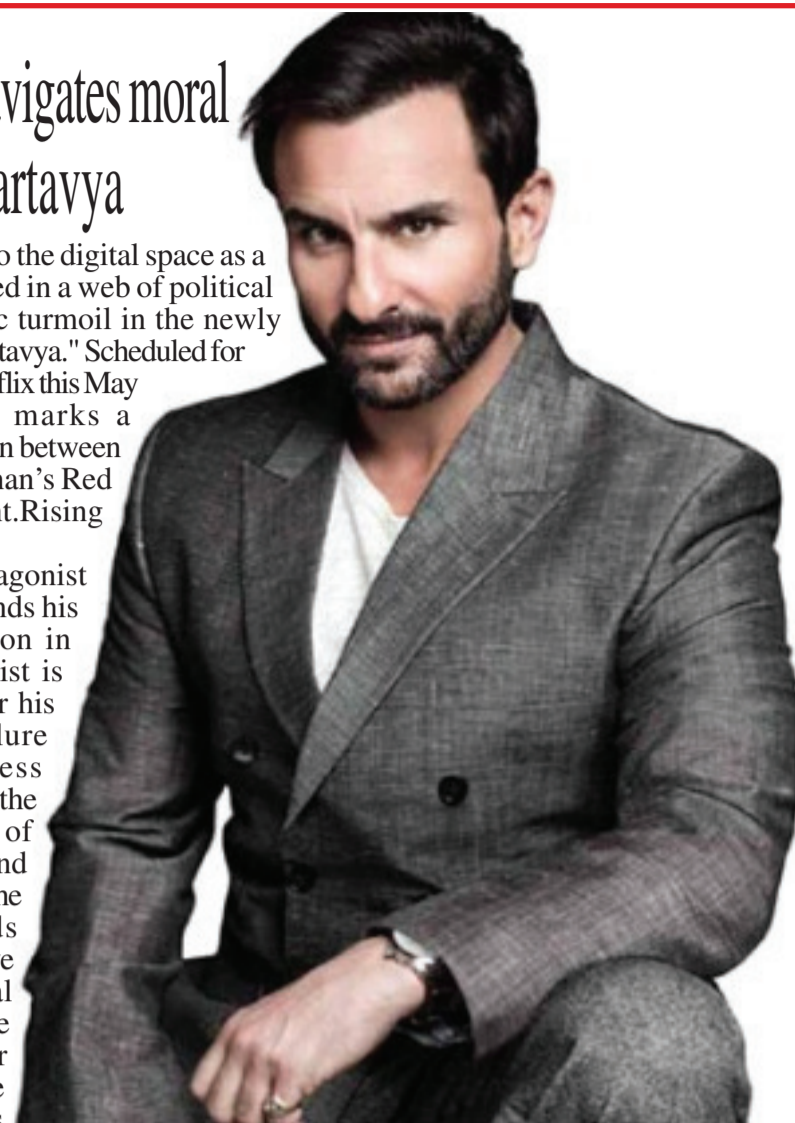
## Sarke Chunar' row: Nora Fatehi apologises, pledges support for orphan girls' education

Actor-dancer Nora Fatehi appeared before the National Commission for Women (NCW) on Thursday in connection with the controversy surrounding the song 'Sarke Chunar'. Speaking on the issue, the actor addressed the media and issued an apology, saying she intended no offence through the song. Speaking to reporters, Nora Fatehi said, "I apologise as I have to be responsible as an artist. There was no intention to offend anybody. After this matter, I have decided to sponsor the education of orphan girls." The NCW had scheduled the hearing for May 7 at 11:30 am after summoning Fatehi in connection with allegations of "obscurity" and "vulgarity" linked to the song 'Sarke Chunar Teri Sarke'. Earlier in March, the Commission issued summons to Nora Fatehi, actor Sanjay Dutt, lyricist Raqueeb Alam, producer Venkat K. Narayana, and director Kiran Kumar after taking suo motu cognisance of media reports concerning the song. In an official statement issued at the time, the NCW said the content of the song "appears to be sexually suggestive and objectionable," adding that it could amount to violations under provisions of the Bharatiya Nyaya Sanhita, the Information Technology Act, and the Protection of Children from Sexual Offences (POCSO) Act."



## Saif Ali Khan navigates moral grey areas in Kartavya

Saif Ali Khan returns to the digital space as a police officer entangled in a web of political pressure and domestic turmoil in the newly launched trailer for "Kartavya." Scheduled for a global premiere on Netflix this May 15, the production marks a significant collaboration between the actor and Gauri Khan's Red Chillies Entertainment. Rising Tension in the Manhunt Pawan, the lead protagonist portrayed by Khan, finds his professional reputation in tatters after a journalist is murdered while under his protection. This failure triggers a relentless investigation, pushing the officer into a world of systemic corruption and hidden agendas. While the department demands swift results, the narrative suggests that the real danger lies within the corridors of power rather than just the streets. Personal Stakes and Family Ties Conflict extends beyond the precinct as Pawan's family becomes a target. A dispute involving his brother forces the officer to choose between his legal oath and his blood relatives. Director Pulkit, who previously collaborated with Red Chillies on "Bhakhshak," focuses on the human cost of these choices. By situating the drama within the complexities of Indian law enforcement, the film echoes the gritty realism often seen in Mumbai-based crime procedurals that have gained global popularity over the last decade. Support for Khan comes from a highly respected roster of talent, including Rasika Dugal and the veteran Sanjay Mishra. Actors like Zakir Hussain and Manish Chaudhari further bolster the cast, ensuring a performance-heavy experience.



## 5 kinds of diets that can turn fatal if you go overboard

Vegan raw food influencer Zhanna D' Art who was passionate about raw vegan cuisine and designed recipes out of it passed away after her prolonged struggle with starvation and exhaustion. Zhanna was on exclusive exotic fruit diet, and she believed it was a healthy lifestyle choice and would keep her youthful. However, experts say such strict diets can have their own side-effects as a balanced diet and proper nutrition is important for body functions and preventing illnesses. A diet that is extremely low calories, doesn't have all nutrient groups, doesn't make you feel full or energetic, interferes in your productivity or causes fatigue and weakness can



be dangerous and must be avoided support or long-term sustainability. Relying on unbalanced meal plans or excessive elimination of food groups can deprive your body of essential nutrients, potentially leading to malnourishment or other adverse effects.

be dangerous and must be avoided

### 1. Extremely low-calorie diets

Extreme calorie restriction can lead to nutrient deficiencies, muscle loss, weakened immune function, and even organ damage if sustained for extended periods. It's crucial to ensure that your body's energy needs are met while maintaining a balanced intake of essential nutrients.

### 2. Fad diets

These diets often gain popularity due to their promise of quick results, but they may lack scientific



### 3. Detox diets and cleanses

Detox diets can be deadly if followed without supervision and extended for more than a few days. While the idea of removing toxins from your body may sound tempting, many detox diets are low in calories and lack evidence-based scientific backing.

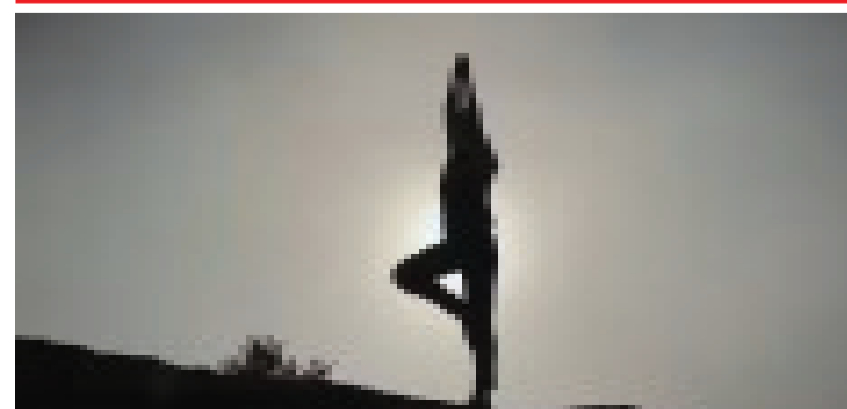
### 4. Ketogenic diet without medical supervision

The ketogenic diet, when done without proper guidance and monitoring, can cause nutrient deficiencies, electrolyte imbalances, and potential damage to vital organs like the liver and kidneys. It's advisable to consult a healthcare professional or registered dietitian before attempting a ketogenic diet.

### 5. Diets promoting excessive supplements or medications

Diets heavily relying on supplements or unregulated medications can be dangerous, as they might lack proper scientific testing or oversight. Your overall health should never be compromised by unproven or potentially harmful substances.

## Yoga exercises to maintain healthy kidneys



The kidneys play a vital role in maintaining overall health and it is important to take care of them since the kidneys are responsible for various bodily functions including regulating fluid levels, filtering wastes and toxins from the blood, regulating blood pressure, activating vitamin D for healthy bones and producing the hormone that stimulates red blood cell production. Chronic kidney disease (CKD) occurs when the kidneys do not function properly, leading to the buildup of wastes and extra water in the body, which can cause health problems such as heart disease.

## Paschimottanasana - Seated Forward Bend:

Method: Start in Dandasana, with your legs stretched forward and ankles together. Bend slightly at the knees while keeping your legs straight. Extend your arms upward and keep your spine erect. Exhale and empty your stomach of air. Bend forward at the hips, bringing your upper body onto your lower body. Try to bring your stomach closer to your thighs while keeping your back straight. Lower your arms and grip your big toes with your fingers. Try to touch your knees with your nose while placing your stomach on your thighs. Hold the pose for a while.

### Benefits:

- Aids in digestion and relieves constipation.
- Calms the brain and promotes relaxation.
- Relieves stress, mild depression, and fatigue.
- Stimulates the liver, kidneys, ovaries, and uterus.
- Improves digestion and relieves menopausal and menstrual discomfort.
- Soothes headaches, anxiety, and high blood pressure.

## Quenching thirst to controlling blood sugar; many benefits of water apple



Crunchy and sweet water apples are a storehouse of flavonoids that offer anti-inflammatory properties. Having them regularly can control chronic diseases.

"Move over ordinary fruits and make way for the extraordinary water apple/sugar apple or bell fruit. This tropical delight not only tantalizes our taste buds, but its unique health benefits are worth raving about," says Nutritionist Lovneet Batra in her recent Instagram post.



Have powerful antihyperglycemic properties, which means they lower blood sugar levels in patients with diabetes. Jambosine is a bioactive crystalline alkaloid present in water apples that suspends the conversion of starch into sugar thereby regulating the sugar level, especially in diabetic patients.

An excellent choice for quenching thirst, even effective at releasing the sunstroke and removing harmful effects of dehydration proving its usefulness in dispelling summer heat. Packed with antioxidants like quercetin, gallic acid, and tannins, water apples help neutralize harmful free radicals, reducing oxidative stress and inflammation in the body. It possesses the ability to inhibit cell proliferation and induce apoptosis. The water-soluble polysaccharides present in the fruit caused significant reduction in the tumour volume and improved the body weight.

# ISL 2025-26: SC Delhi Look To Maintain Unbeaten Home Record Against Odisha FC

New Delhi: SC Delhi will hope to maintain their unbeaten home record when they face Odisha FC in the Indian Super League (ISL) 2025-26 in a clash between bottom dwellers at the Jawaharlal Nehru Stadium in New Delhi on Friday. The two teams are positioned closely in the lower half of the standings, with SC Delhi in 10th place with 10 points, while Odisha are just one place above the relegation spot with seven points from 10 matches. Both sides have had a tough start; Delhi have failed to win eight of their ten games and are winless in their last three, though they remain unbeaten at home. Meanwhile, Odisha are on a six-match winless streak that includes four consecutive away defeats, having kept just one clean sheet all campaign. SC Delhi will aim to build on their recent performances following a resilient 0-0



home draw against Punjab FC last Saturday, a result that kept their unbeaten home record intact with one win and three draws in four matches. Despite remaining unbeaten at home in their four ISL matches this season (W1, D3), SC Delhi have struggled to close out games, with three of their last four home fixtures ending in draws. In their most recent outing, they absorbed significant attacking pressure, relying on a

disciplined defensive display anchored by centre-back Rafael Ribeiro to secure a clean sheet. However, missed golden opportunities from Matija Babovic, Joseph Sunny, and winger Sourav highlighted their ongoing struggles to find a cutting edge in the final third, preventing them from securing a positive result.

A much-needed victory would take them to 13 points, strengthening their position and boosting

squad morale. For the hosts, top scorer Matija Babovic, who has four goals to his name, alongside creative left winger Mohammed Aimen, who has registered two goals and a team-leading three assists, and centre-forward Joseph Sunny, who has contributed three goals and two assists, will be key players to watch in the attacking third. Defensively, the Delhi side will continue to rely heavily on the heroics of goalkeeper

Nora Fernandes, who currently ranks first in the entire league for saves per match (3.6), and Rafael Ribeiro, who proved instrumental in neutralising attacks in their last game. Head coach Tomasz Tchórz underscored the fixture's significance, acknowledging the threat posed by their relegation-battling opponents while confirming the team will stick to their fluid three-at-the-back formation despite recent defensive injuries. "Odisha are a very experienced team. They are led by their captain, Delgado, and I expect them to be very competitive. They have fewer points than us and are fighting to stay in the league, so they will be very strong for sure," he explained. "We started this season playing three at the back, and we will continue the same. The structure is very fluid, and we expect whoever steps into that defensive position will provide us with a strong performance."

# Asian Boxing U15 & U17 C'ships: U-17 Indian Girls Confirm 12 Medals With Dominant Display In Tashkent



Tashkent: India's U-17 girls continued their dominant run at the Asian Boxing U15 & U17 Championships 2026, with 12 medals confirmed, underlining their strong presence at the continental stage in Tashkent, Uzbekistan, on Thursday. Leading the charge, Rakhi (46 kg) delivered a composed performance to secure a 5:0 victory over Chinese Taipei, while Khushi (48kg) showcased her aggressive intent with a first-round RSC win

against Korea. Mamta (52kg) added to the tally with a strong RSC win in Round 2 against Jordan. Among other standout performances, Laxmi (54kg) registered a third-round RSC victory over Mongolia, while Navya (57kg) outclassed her Chinese opponent with a dominant 5:0 win. Ishika (60kg) continued the winning momentum, sealing an RSC win in Round 2 against Mongolia. The Indian contingent witnessed a series of emphatic

finishes in the later bouts as well. Harnoor (66kg) and Himanshi (70kg) both secured first-round RSC victories against Chinese Taipei, while Jyoti (75kg) advanced following a disqualification win against Turkmenistan. Gurseerat (80+kg) rounded off the wins with a solid 4:0 victory over Kazakhstan. In the only setback of the day, Ovi (50kg) was involved in a closely contested bout but went down narrowly 2:3 against Uzbekistan.

# IPL 2026: Marsh's Century Powers LSG to 209 vs RCB in Rain-Hit Clash

NEW DELHI: Lucknow Super Giants finally found their spark in IPL 2026 as Mitchell Marsh produced a breathtaking century to power his side to 209/3 in a rain-curtailed 19-over contest against Royal Challengers Bengaluru at the Ekana Cricket Stadium. After RCB opted to bowl first, Marsh unleashed a flurry of boundaries, racing to a 20-ball fifty in the powerplay and later converting it into his second IPL hundred. His aggressive strokeplay dismantled RCB's attack, with support from Rishabh Pant and Nicholas Pooran, who added crucial late runs. Rain interruptions shortened the game, but LSG's batting fireworks ensured a daunting target



on a traditionally slower Lucknow pitch. Hazlewood dismissed Marsh to provide RCB some relief, while Rasikh Dar and Krunal Pandya chipped in with timely break throughs. For RCB, the chase is a test of their depth and resilience. Virat Kohli, Rajat Patidar, and Mukul

Choudhary will be key to countering LSG's momentum, while Bhuvneshwar Kumar's form with the ball could tilt the balance. With LSG desperate to revive their playoff hopes and RCB aiming to consolidate their top-two position, the clash promises high drama under lights.

# IOC Lifts Restrictions On Belarusian Athletes

Bern: The International Olympic Committee (IOC) has recommended that all restrictions be lifted for Belarusian athletes competing in international events, the organisation said in a statement on Thursday. The IOC Executive Board no longer recommends any conditions on Belarusian athletes, including teams, competing in events governed by International Federations and international sports event organisers. The lifted measures include the protective restrictions first introduced in February 2022 and later updated on March 28, 2023. The IOC cited the need to navigate an increasingly complex geopolitical landscape,



including a rising number of conflicts, and to uphold its mission of preserving a values-based sporting platform that provides hope to the world, Xinhua news agency reported. The decision aligns with the "Fit for the Future" process, an initiative launched by IOC president Kirsty Coventry in September

2025, which reaffirmed the fundamental right of athletes to access sport and compete free from political interference. "The IOC reaffirms that athletes' participation in international competition should not be limited by the actions of their governments, including involvement in a war or conflict," the IOC said

in a statement. Since the 2023 recommendations were issued, athletes with Belarusian passports have competed as Individual Neutral Athletes (AINs) in numerous international events, including the Paris 2024 Olympic Games and the Milan-Cortina 2026 Winter Olympics. The IOC noted that the

qualification period for the Los Angeles 2028 Olympic Games and the Dolomiti Valtellina 2028 Winter Youth Olympic Games begins this summer. Regarding Russia, the IOC said the situation remains different. The ROC is still suspended while the IOC Legal Affairs Commission continues its review, whereas the National Olympic Committee of Belarus is in good standing and complies with the Olympic Charter. In a separate move, the IOC Executive Board said it had decided in September 2025 to propose lifting restrictions on youth athletes from both Russia and Belarus in international youth events, allowing them to compete under their national flags, anthems and team uniforms.

# Ricky Ponting Furious After Punjab Kings' Costly Catching Collapse Against Sunrisers Hyderabad

NEW DELHI: Ricky Ponting could barely hide his frustration after Punjab Kings suffered another fielding meltdown during their IPL 2026 defeat against Sunrisers Hyderabad. Punjab Kings dropped three crucial catches during the match at the Rajiv Gandhi International Cricket Stadium, ultimately losing by 33 runs and slipping from the top position in the IPL points table. Ponting Calls PBKS Catching Problem a "Virus" During a live mid-innings television interview, Ponting openly expressed concern over Punjab's

recurring fielding struggles. The former Australian captain described the issue as "a virus" affecting the team throughout the season. According to Ponting, the repeated dropped catches have become a major concern despite the squad working extensively on fielding drills during training sessions. Missed Chances Prove Costly for Punjab Kings. The first major opportunity went down when Cooper Connolly dropped Ishan Kishan in the eighth over. Kishan capitalised on the reprieve and went on to score a crucial



half-century for Sunrisers Hyderabad. Soon after, Shashank Singh failed to hold onto a catch offered by Heinrich Klaasen off the bowling of Yuzvendra Chahal. Ponting defended Shashank, noting that the player had recently returned from a hamstring injury and had been working

hard to regain match fitness. However, the frustration escalated further when Lockie Ferguson dropped another catch of Ishan Kishan in the 11th over, again denying Chahal a wicket. Reacting live on air, Ponting admitted he was "pretty close to throwing the microphone on the field" after witnessing the third

missed opportunity. PBKS Struggling With Catching Efficiency. Punjab Kings have emerged as one of the weakest fielding teams in IPL 2026 based on catching efficiency statistics. The team currently has a catching success rate of just 73.6 per cent, with only Delhi Capitals performing worse this season. The dropped catches proved extremely costly as Punjab failed to chase down Sunrisers Hyderabad's massive total of 236 runs. Third Consecutive Defeat Hurts Playoff Push. The loss marked Punjab

Kings' third straight defeat after previously enjoying a seven-match unbeaten run earlier in the tournament. It also extended PBKS' miserable record in Hyderabad, where they have now lost nine consecutive IPL matches against Sunrisers Hyderabad—a new IPL record. The previous unwanted record belonged to Royal Challengers Bengaluru, who had suffered eight straight defeats against Chennai Super Kings at Chepauk. With the IPL playoffs approaching, Punjab Kings will now face increasing pressure to improve their fielding standards and regain momentum quickly.

# Pat Cummins Set for Massive \$12 Million Cricket Australia Deal Amid IPL Franchise Interest

NEW DELHI: Pat Cummins is reportedly set to receive a staggering \$12 million contract extension from Cricket Australia as the board moves aggressively to keep its star players committed to international cricket. According to reports, the proposed agreement would pay Cummins nearly \$4 million annually over the next three years, ensuring the Australian captain continues prioritising national duty, especially Test cricket, until 2029. The move comes after reports emerged that an unnamed Indian Premier League franchise had attempted to lure Cummins away from international cricket with a massive long-term T20 franchise deal. Reports from Australia claim that an IPL franchise approached Cummins and fellow Australian star Travis Head with an offer worth nearly \$10 million to become full-time franchise cricketers. The proposal reportedly required the players to reduce or step away from international commitments in favour of global T20 leagues. However, both players are said to have rejected the offer and reaffirmed their commitment to Australian cricket. England fast bowler Jofra Archer was also reportedly linked to a similar franchise approach. Cricket Australia Determined to Avoid West Indies-Style Decline. Cricket Australia's aggressive contract strategy reflects growing concerns about the increasing financial influence of franchise cricket around the world.

## JLR INDIA ANNOUNCES REPRICING OF RANGE ROVER CBU MODELS IMPORTED FROM UK

Mumbai: In anticipation of the India-UK FTA, JLR India today announces the repricing of Range Rover CBU models imported from UK. The key models benefiting from the FTA are Range Rover SV and Range Rover Sport SV. As part of this announcement, the Range Rover SV has been repriced from ₹ 425\* lakhs to ₹ 350 lakhs. The Range Rover SV value proposition is significantly elevated with the addition of SV Ultra Metallic paints in Gloss and Satin finishes, now offered as standard for the first time. Also, Range Rover Sport SV



has been repriced from ₹ 275\* lakhs to ₹ 235 lakhs, significantly strengthening its market positioning. The revised prices reflect the new duty structure enabled by the FTA and will be effective immediately. Mr. Rajan Amba, Managing Director, JLR India, said: "In anticipation of

the India-UK FTA being implemented, we are pleased to extend its benefits to our clients. The updated pricing of Range Rover SV and Range Rover Sport SV underscores our customer-first approach and commitment to building long-term relationships with our clients. We're confident

that this FTA will allow more clients to experience the highly desirable and aspirational SV portfolio, and further strengthen the JLR India growth story." Prices of locally manufactured models, including Range Rover, Range Rover Sport, Range Rover Evoque, Range Rover Velar and Discovery Sport, will not be impacted by the U K - I n d i a FTA. Defender and Discovery will maintain their current pricing structures as they are manufactured in Slovakia, Europe and hence do not fall under the purview of the UK-India FTA.

## Fire Safety Awareness Week Successfully Concludes at Paradip Port Authority

Paradip, (Correspondent): The Fire Safety Awareness Week, organized across Paradip Port Authority (PPA) with the objective of strengthening a awareness and preparedness for fire-related emergencies, concluded successfully with enthusiastic participation from various sections of society. The week-long programme, which commenced on April 14, 2026, was organized by the Paradip Fire Department in collaboration with CISF, local organizations, educational institutions,



industries, and community volunteers. The initiative aimed at educating residents, employees, businesses, and institutions on essential fire prevention and emergency response measures. This year's theme, "Safe School, Safe Hospital and Fire Safety Aware Society – Together for Fire Prevention", highlighted the importance of collective

responsibility and proactive measures in ensuring safety and minimizing fire hazards. During the week, several awareness and engagement activities were conducted, including: The valedictory function was held at Jayadev Sadan in the presence of Heads of Departments, senior officers, employees, CISF personnel, participants, and

members of the public. Addressing the gathering, Shri P. L. Haranadh, IRTS, Chairman, Paradip Port Authority, emphasized the importance of community participation in fire safety awareness. During the closing ceremony, Paradip Port Authority reaffirmed its commitment to maintaining world-class safety standards with the vision of transforming Paradip into a premier "Fire-Safe Port." The Chairman highlighted that Paradip Port remains the only port in India where the CISF Fire Wing is entrusted with complete fire safety operations.

## IBM and Yotta Announce Plans to Deliver Agentic AI Platform for Indian Enterprises

NEWDELHI: IBM (NYSE: IBM) and Yotta Data Services Private Limited ("Yotta") today announced plans to enter into a strategic partnership to deliver an Agentic AI platform for enterprises and government organisations in India. The platform is proposed to be built using IBM watsonx Orchestrate and deployed on Yotta's Shakti Cloud, to help organisations scale AI adoption while meeting evolving requirements around data residency, security, and regulatory compliance. As enterprises move from AI experimentation to operational deployment, there is increasing demand for platforms that can orchestrate AI-driven workflows across business functions while



maintaining governance and control. The proposed platform will enable organisations to deploy and manage AI agents across IT service management, HR, finance, procurement, and customer support. As part of the collaboration, IBM and Yotta also intend to bring IBM Sovereign Core onto Yotta's Shakti Cloud. IBM Sovereign Core, now generally available, is a software platform

designed to help organisations build and operate AI-ready sovereign environments - delivering continuous compliance monitoring, verifiable control, and governed AI execution across data, operations, technology, and AI. Together, the two offerings are intended to give Indian organisations a complete foundation for deploying agentic AI at scale, without compromising on compliance or control.

## Tata Steel Foundation Helps Restore Vision of Susama Sahoo Through Project Drishti

Dhenkanal, (Correspondent): Through its Project Drishti, Tata Steel Foundation helped restore the eyesight of 70 year old Susama Sahoo from Nuagaon Panchayat in Hindol block of Dhenkanal district. This timely support and community based care have made a meaningful difference in her life, showing how early intervention can bring hope and better health. Susama had been living with bilateral cataract compounded by an advanced pterygium in both eyes-conditions that had gradually pushed her into a state of functional blindness. Unable to recognize faces or carry out basic daily activities, she had become entirely



dependent on her family, leading to isolation, vulnerability, and a loss of confidence. Despite earlier diagnosis, financial constraints had prevented her from undergoing the necessary staged treatment. Her case was identified during a

community screening drive under Project Drishti and categorized as a high priority. However, initial hesitation due to fear and previous setbacks posed a challenge. The field team of Project Drishti undertook sustained counselling, involving both the patient and her family,

to build trust and confidence around the treatment process. Recognizing financial barriers, the Drishti project team facilitated coordination with a partner hospital, ensuring that the cost of pterygium surgery was waived. With logistical support including transportation, scheduling and pre-operative preparation, Susama underwent a successful combined procedure involving pterygium excision and cataract surgery with intraocular lens implantation. Post-operative care included structured follow-ups through field visits and telephonic monitoring, ensuring adherence to medication and recovery protocols. The impact has been

promising. Susama has regained her independence, resumed daily activities and reconnected socially with her surroundings. The restoration of vision has also significantly improved her psychological well-being and reduced risks associated with impaired mobility. Reflecting on her journey, Susama shared, "There was a time when I couldn't recognize faces or take care of even the smallest daily activities on my own. I became completely dependent on others. Today, I feel as if I have been given a new life. I thank the timely intervention of the Drishti Team and for giving me back not just my sight, but my life."

## Sensex, Nifty End Marginally Down Amid Mixed Sectoral Trends

Mumbai: Indian benchmark indices ended largely flat on Thursday after trading in a narrow range throughout the session, even as broader markets outperformed and auto stocks witnessed buying interest. The Nifty slipped 4.30 points, or 0.02 per cent, to close at 24,326.65, while the Sensex declined 114 points, or 0.15 per cent, to settle at 77,844.52. Commenting on technical outlook, experts said that technically, the 24,400-24,500 zone continues to act as an immediate resistance band, and a sustained breakout above this range could revive momentum toward the 24,600+ levels. "On the downside, the 24,100-



24,000 zone remains a key support area, which is expected to provide stability in case of renewed selling pressure," an analyst stated. Among the top drags on the Nifty were Hindustan Unilever, Tata Consultancy Services, and Titan Company, which weighed on the

frontline indices. Despite the muted performance in benchmark indices, broader markets remained upbeat. The Nifty MidCap index advanced 1.20 per cent, while the Nifty SmallCap index gained 0.97 per cent. On the sectoral front, the Nifty

Consumer Durable, Nifty IT, and Nifty FMCG indices underperformed, whereas the Nifty Auto index emerged as the top sectoral gainer during the session. "In the near term, markets will remain highly sensitive to headline risk with volatility contingent on

developments out of the Gulf, most critically Iran's response to the U.S. peace proposal and the potential reopening of the Strait of Hormuz," an analyst stated. Meanwhile, global crude oil prices witnessed a sharp decline. Brent crude futures dropped 2.74 per cent to \$98.50 per barrel after reports suggested that the US and Iran had reached an agreement aimed at ending the blockade, paving the way for the gradual reopening of the Strait of Hormuz. "Rupee traded stronger near 94.24 against the dollar, gaining around 15 paise, as improving sentiment around ongoing US-Iran talks supported risk appetite.

## India Clocks 4.6 Per Cent Growth In Exports Despite Global Turmoil

New Delhi: India's total exports of merchandise and services increased by 4.6 per cent to a record high of \$863.11 billion during the financial year 2025-26, compared with the corresponding figure of \$825.26 billion for the previous fiscal year, despite the US tariff turmoil and uncertainties triggered by geopolitical tensions, the latest figures compiled by the Commerce Ministry showed. Merchandise exports registered a 0.93 per cent growth to \$441.78 billion during the financial year, up from \$437.70 billion in 2024-25 in a difficult year marked by disruptions in ship movements and demand uncertainties in foreign markets.

Services exports recorded a robust 8.71 per cent growth to scale a lifetime high of \$421.32 billion in 2025-26, up from \$387.55 billion in the previous financial year, reflecting the sustained global demand for India's IT services, business solutions, and professional expertise. Meanwhile, overall exports increased by over 20 per cent year-on-year for the first three weeks of April compared to the same period of the previous year, despite the supply chain disruptions and uncertainties in global markets caused by the Middle East conflict, according to a statement issued by the Ministry of Commerce

and Industry on April 30. The major products for which the exports have significantly increased during the period from April 1 to 21 are petroleum products and electronic goods, the statement said. Petroleum products such as diesel and jet fuel are exported from the coastal refineries in India and appear to have found an increased demand due to the disruption caused by the closure of the Strait of Hormuz through which the Gulf countries export a major chunk of their exports. The disruption in supply has triggered a rise in prices of both crude oil and petroleum products in global markets.